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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Free People!
Issue No. 429 May 17, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION TOURS OUTDOOR CAMPUS, PARENT ASKS TO BEGIN CONVERSATION ON STUDENT MASK REQUIREMENTS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Members of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education toured the new outdoor learning campus (currently under construction) during the work session of Tuesday, May 11. “We are seeking innovative ways to engage our families,” Instructional Services Director Jessica Beller said.

Following the tour, led by Beller and Superintendent Carrie Stephenson, the board gathered in district offices for a regular meeting.

BOARD MEETING

In attendance were Board President Gayle Johnson, Vice President Sarah Fishering, District B Director Jacob Suppes, District A Director Jeff Bachman, District D Director Shawn Carroll, and District F Director Eric Kelley. Director G Director Stephen Bush was not present.

Continued pg 19



Instructional Services Director Jessica Beller (center) spoke as the RE-1J Board of Education toured the new outdoor learning campus Tuesday. Expected to be useable by August, the nine-acre site will include three teepees and two yurts, as well as an amphitheater/learning space.

BIKE TO WORK, EARN BUCKS EVERY DAY WITH NEW MABA PROGRAM

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Like enthusiastic bicyclists everywhere, the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance (MABA) is in great shape. Launched in 2009, the non-profit organization remains fit and active in 2021, operating at peak efficiency without any paid staff.

Current board member Jeff Rice said that this year, MABA will sponsor four Bike to Work days, to take place on third Thursdays from May through August. This month, Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 20, and riders can enjoy a free breakfast burrito as well as drip coffee at San Juan Brews.

“We are focused on utilitarian biking,” said Rice, who notes that, unlike automobile commuters, bicyclists do not have to search for the increasingly limited parking spaces Downtown.

And when it comes to parking your bicycle, you have more options than ever. MABA



The Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance (MABA) has a new program that will pay those who ride their bikes to work in the City of Montrose.

Continued pg 7

in this
issue

RE-1J and UVEA to resume negotiations Monday!

A visit to the Project 7 Water Authority!

Student advisory Group Parade of Hope photos!

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DON'T MISS MONTROSE DAY AT THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON MAY 22

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-May 22, from 10 am to 2 pm is Montrose Day at the Historical Museum. Come and learn about the town of Montrose, through the pioneer exhibits and stories. There will be hands-on activities of grinding wheat like the Native Americans did hundreds of years ago, washing laundry with a washboard, and gold panning. There also will be a photo scavenger hunt with a prize. You will be able to see how the farm machinery worked when horses or men were the only power, with the new QR codes with YouTube videos. It is a self-guided tour so you can spend as much time as you would like to read or just browse through time.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROSY LANE CAMPGROUND WATER SYSTEM CLOSED FOR 2021 SEASON

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Due to scheduled repairs and upgrades, the Rosy Lane campground water system will be unavailable for the 2021 camping season. Alternate sites for water collection are North Bank and Lodgepole campgrounds. These alternate sites have hand pump operations that are not equipped with hose connections for RV fill up. Be prepared and bring your own water collection container. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this closure.

Please also be aware, with record-breaking levels of visitation, there is more demand for developed campsites, resulting in a limited number of available sites each weekend. Please do your part and know before you go.

Campers who want to camp in non-reservable developed sites should plan ahead and arrive early for their best chance at obtaining a site. Always have a backup plan—Have several camping options to choose from in case the first option is full.

Pack It In and Pack It Out—Garbage facilities are limited. Do not pile trash next to trash bins, leave it in your campsite or burn it in your fire pit. Campground trash receptacles are intended for campground

guests, only. Please take your garbage home with you for disposal, and always adhere to Leave No Trace Principles.
·Be respectful—Don't crowd your neighbors, drive slow in campgrounds, pick up after your pet, follow quiet hours and don't walk through other campsites.
·Do not leave your campfire unattended or abandoned. Make sure to use the drown, stir and feel method. Ensure your campfire is DEADOUT!

·Please be safe out there this summer.

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Lisa Martinez
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BIKE TO WORK, EARN BUCKS WITH NEW MABA PROGRAM From pg 1

has helped to bring additional bike racks to the community through a partnership with Montrose High School welding students.

In addition to the popular Bike to Work Days, Full Moon Cruiser rides, and the bike racks, MABA is now launching a new program, Bucks for Biking (to work).

"We will reward you every time you ride to work—just go to our [web site](#) and log in with your name and email," Rice said.

MABA will track each participant's mileage and announce weekly progress, Rice said. Riders will earn two dollars for each day that they ride their bikes to work during the month of June. The top male and female riders will each earn a free tune-up for their bike. Details are available online; participants must work within the Montrose City limits.

Cyclists who are new to the area or need an updated map of bicycle routes can download the [MABA bike map](#) as well.

With just two members currently serving on the Board (Rice and Kevin Davis) MABA hopes to make an outsized impact for those who rely on their bicycles to get around the Montrose area. Individuals and businesses who wish to help can donate to MABA through the [web site](#). Current sponsors are listed there.

"We're going to make a difference," Rice said.

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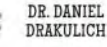
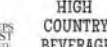


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR



*Laura Taylor, Youth of the Year.
Courtesy photo.*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - In April, the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) had the pleasure of awarding long time member, Laura Taylor, the honor of BCBGC Youth of the Year for 2020. Laura wrote an essay on why they felt they should be Youth of the Year and presented that essay to the BCBGC board, staff, fellow members, and their family at an awards ceremony on April 21.

In the essay Laura described the experiences they have had at the BCBGC and their hopes for future members.

Laura also has the goal of becoming a Junior Staff member in the future. We are all very proud of Laura and all that they have accomplished this year! To check out the award ceremony and Laura's speech, subscribe to the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club YouTube channel.

For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT CREWS TO PERFORM SHOULDER WORK ON US 550 SOUTH OF MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE & OURAY COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform shoulder work on US Highway 550 north of Ridgway next week. This section of US 550 is located just south of the Montrose County line, mile points 113-116. The four-day road maintenance operation will take place Monday, May 17 through Thursday, May 20 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

Motorists will encounter one-lane, alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel. Travelers can expect delays up to 15 minutes. A speed reduction of 40 MPH will be in place and drivers should slow down

and use extreme caution when approaching the work zone. Motorists are urged to be aware of work crews and heavy equipment.

Highway shoulders are an important part of the roadway system, providing a number of important functions including space for maintenance activities, law enforcement activities or disabled vehicles. Shoulders also provide a safe and stable recovery area for drivers who have left the travel lane. Lastly, road shoulders also provide necessary storm drainage, preventing water from spreading onto the travel lanes. Regular maintenance of shoulder areas is needed because shoulder material can settle or erode. Maintenance work can

involve replacement and rebuilding of lost material, smoothing of ruts, and clearing and removal of weeds and other vegetative growth.

Travelers are urged to “know before you go.” Gather information about weather forecasts and 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

Check avalanche conditions at CAIC:

www.avalanche.state.co.us

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MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: NOTICES

“PIZZA & POLITICS” SPECIAL EVENT in TORTILLA FLATS

WEDNESDAY, May 19, 2021

**Protecting & Enhancing
Our Historic Hispanic Community - Tortilla Flats
Affects the City of Montrose and All Residents**

******EVENT LOCATION******

**Turn of the Century Saloon
121 N. 4th Street, Montrose, Colorado**

Learn Why You Should Care about Tortilla Flats – a “Montrose” Neighborhood
Learn How the Issues Affecting the Tortilla Flats Community affects all Montrose RESIDENTS
Tortilla Flats is Squeezed between Conflicting Entities – Colorado Outdoors Project & Chemical Tanks
Learn How to be an Active Advocate to Improve Tortilla Flats and the City of Montrose

What is the Future for Tortilla Flats and Montrose if Issues Are Not Corrected???

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Program starts at 6:30 and ends at 8:00 PM. Pizza & Beverage provided – 2 slices and 1 beverage maximum per guest.

**** Pizza & Politics is a program of the Montrose County Republican Party a.k.a. Montrose County GOP. All guests, visitors, and attendees shall accept full and complete responsibility of the potential risks in attending this public event during Covid-19, and attendance is by free will and choice. Thank you!**

CITY TO WELCOME 7 NEW EMPLOYEES, CONSIDER HISTORIC STATUS FOR FIREHOUSE NO. 1

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 17 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "Public participation for this meeting will be in person in the City Council Chambers and via Zoom at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_DMDUvmPET3Ov3pj_FHuyYQ." The meeting can also be viewed on Cable Channels 191 and 970.

Seven new employees will be welcomed at the work session:

Police Officers Andrew Bradnock, Jason Bresett, Curtis Dunlap, and Wes Imhof; Competitive Sports Program Coordinator Ben Grant;

Accounts Payable & Special Projects Accountant Cheryl McKenrick;

Black Canyon Golf Course Grounds Superintendent Don DeSchepper.

Discussion items will include a Project 7 Water Authority Presentation; Municipal Court Annual Report; Updates to Municipal Code Title 4 Chapter 4 Section 8.1 (4-4-8.1) and Section 8.2 (4-4-8.2; Disconnection from City Limits - 16763/16765 6725 Road; Special Events Alcohol Permit for FUNC Fest; Fireworks Display Permit for July 4.

Topics for future City Council discussions

will include:

June 1 Work Session-City Council District II applicant interviews; Revisions to Municipal Code Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 19; *June 1 Regular Meeting*-City Council District II appointment.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting agenda states, "Public participation for this meeting will be in person in the City Council Chambers and via Zoom at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_Dw2blvxLTDO0svecKLwN_A." The meeting can also be viewed on Cable Channels 191 and 970.

Council will hear a report from the City of Montrose Youth Council. Council will consider approving water and sewer tap and connection fee abatements totaling \$14,200 for Montrose Ford Nissan at 100 Merchant Drive.

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



Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 17 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. Mirror file photo.

adopting Ordinance 2542 on first reading, designating Montrose Fire Department No. 1, 24 S. Uncompahgre Avenue, Montrose, Colorado, as a City of Montrose Historic Property Pursuant to § 4-15 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

Council will consider a lease agreement between the City of Montrose and Montrose County School District RE-1J for property located at 703 S. 9th Street; and a commercial lease agreement between the City of Montrose and Straw Hat Farms LLC for the building located at 514 S. First Street.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH STRENGTHENS ITS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Last week Delta Health participated in a mass casualty exercise that brought together Delta County first responders and hospital employees. -

"Last week we hosted a small functional exercise with our regional partners involving the scenario of a boiler fire and explosion," said Jillian Emmons, RN, CCRN, Interim Director of the Emergency Room and Trauma Nurse Coordinator for Delta Health.

"We try to have events like this at least once a year, and we do these to practice different scenarios to test our responses while trying to improve our overall communication and care."

Delta Health partnered with the Delta County Ambulance District, Delta County Dispatch, Delta Fire, Delta Police Department, Delta Emergency Management and the Western Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council Coordinator for the exercise.

Various Delta Health staff also assisted by acting as the hurt or injured patients in the emergency and had fake wounds and injuries that the staff had to tend to.

The drill took place from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

on the north side of the Delta Health Oncology and Hematology building at 100 Stafford Lane.

It started with a fire alarm that sounded throughout the building and the emergency alert was called on the overhead speaker that there was a fire and explosion in the boiler room.

Staff from the building evacuated to the designated areas and the emergency response began.

"While not complicated, [the] scenario allowed the hospital and first responders to work together and test the ability of agencies to collaborate, utilize incident command training, triage patients, surge the emergency room, practice radio communications and identify critical gaps in training and response plans," said Kris Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Delta County. "Thank you to all the responders and staff who made this training scenario possible."

The drill tested aspects of emergency responsiveness and preparedness. Each year Delta Health participates in these types of drills to improve their emergency responsiveness.

Following the event, there was a de-



Delta Health Emergency staff and Delta County Ambulance District practice treating mass casualty patient. Courtesy photo.

briefing that took place with the community partners, and an after-action plan was done to discuss areas where they excelled and areas that needed improvement.

"We will continue to expand this scenario with future training events over the next year which will involve hospital staff, administration and first responders from local and regional agencies to ensure [they are] all prepared for the next emergency," said Stewart.

For more information about Delta County Emergency Management, visit del-tacounty.com/EM. To learn more about Delta Health, visit deltahealthco.org.

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR YARD SALE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Are you spring cleaning and do not have time for a yard sale? Or do you have some great items left over from a sale? Please consider donating to the yard sale for the Montrose County Historical Museum at 21 North Rio Grande. We accept donations m-f 10:30am to 3:30pm and Sat. from 10:30am to 1pm. For information please call 970-249-2085 and the sale is June 4-5. Thank you for supporting history.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE'S SECOND EDUCATIONAL SESSION ON WOLF REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS SET FOR MAY 20

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission as well as the public are invited to attend CPW's second online educational session related to wolf reintroduction efforts on Thu., May 20 from 6 - 8 p.m.

The purpose of the educational sessions is to provide the Commission and members of the public with a common understanding of what went into the considerations and the logistics for the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone and Central Idaho in the mid-1990s. The presenters will share their real-world experiences about establishing and managing wolves in the Northern Rockies.

Session 2: Reintroduction Logistics and Lessons Learned

Speakers will include:

Ed Bangs (retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will describe the logistics of planning for and reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone and Central Idaho.

Mike Jimenez (retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will present biological lessons learned from the reintroduction.

Pre-registration is required for those who wish to see the presentation live by clicking this link. Upon registering, participants will receive an email with a link to access the session. All sessions will be recorded and available for members of the public who wish to view the sessions later.

There will be one more educational session in June. This presentation will cover livestock conflict management.

Stay informed on CPW's wolf management efforts by visiting our website and signing up for the Gray Wolf Reintroduction eNews

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BOARD OF EDUCATION TOURS OUTDOOR CAMPUS, PARENT ASKS TO BEGIN CONVERSATION ON STUDENT MASK REQUIREMENTS *From pg 1*

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Seventh Grader Kiera Iversen has made history as the first District Spelling Bee Champion to come from Olathe. At the Board meeting, Iversen shared her love of literature with the Board of Education. "I love to read long novels," she said, noting that she is presently reading *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, and has filled a trundle compartment below her bed with additional books.

Also, "I am just proud of myself, that I pushed myself and achieved my goals," Iversen said.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District F Director Eric Kelley gave an update on the facilities master plan assistance team. The community representation is excellent, Kelley said. Data is being collected for a matrix. "You'll have a matrix where you'll be able to push on a room inside the facility, and it will pull up a list of what may be deficient, and alternate ways to use the space."

COMMUNITY INPUT

Parent Alexis Cassidy addressed the Board of Education. She thanked them for their service and said she hoped to begin a conversation about student mask requirements.

"...our masks have really become a staple in our lives," Cassidy said. "I did notice that at the last board meeting you all were not wearing masks...when can our kids stop wearing masks...I have noticed a big difference in my kids...I think that we all need to return to normalcy."

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Superintendent Carrie Stephenson gave an update on the strategic planning process. "We are at a point where we have gathered a lot of feedback together," she said, "and we are working on some next steps." The plan has been titled "Take it to the Limit," Stephenson said. "...We are trying to figure out, how do we climb to the next level and bring the District to the most amazing place that we absolutely can."

Phase I of the planning process is complete; Phase II has begun. The District will focus on three strategic themes--culture,

instruction, and systems.

"These are the three strategic themes that we are going to be focusing on moving forward," Stephenson said. "All three of those together contribute to the success of our students."

She discussed the objectives for each theme.

Board Vice President Sarah Fishing said that the best strategic planning efforts continue to grow and incorporate feedback throughout the process.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

RE-1J Director of Finance Emily Imus presented the most recent Enrollment Report. Current enrollment is 5,730, down 14 students from April.

QUARTERLY FINANCIALS

Imus presented the quarterly financial reports, including fund and investment balances, and discussed quarterly projections for the Fourth Quarter.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC) UPDATE

ECC Director Penny Harris gave an update including data dashboard. Fall enrollment is expected to be close to full, Harris said.

GRADUATION GUIDELINES UPDATE

Beller introduced Stem and Postsecondary Coordinator John Steele, who presented an update on graduation requirements to be implemented in 2022.

There are far fewer jobs than there used to be for students with only a high school diploma, Steele said. Still, while it is harder to graduate from high school than it used to be, today's graduates will be better prepared. Students are choosing a pathway earlier. With the new guidelines, students must demonstrate graduation readiness with competencies in Math and English and accumulate the required 25.5 credits in high school.

Steele presented a variety of the options that will be available to students, depending on the pathway that they choose toward graduation.

Board President Gayle Johnson said, "I am



During the Student Spotlight, Olathe 7th Grader Kiera Iversen, RE-1J Spelling Bee Champion, spoke with the Board.

totally impressed. You answered my questions as you went along."

OLD BUSINESS

Fishing presented revised Board policies for approval:

DJB-E, Purchasing Procedures - updated all language

DJE, Bidding Procedures - purchase value adjusted;

JLCDB, Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students - minor language changes;

JLCDB-E, Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students - new exhibit recommended by CASB.

The revised policies were approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report, were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Fishing presented two new board policies for review:

FB, Facilities Planning - updated replacement of policy FA, Facilities Development Goals/Priority Objectives;

FB-R, Facilities Planning - new regulation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education entered executive session to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f).

The Board of Education will meet again on June 8 in District offices at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUB PROJECT RAISES PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERN

Editor:

There is only one way to get out of Cobble Creek, and that is via Chipeta Road.

There is NO other access to get away from a wildfire. We can't get out behind us or across Sunset Mesa, we have to go on Chipeta. I don't believe this has been considered as far as the developer's pending project. There was an out of control burn earlier this spring where helicopters were brought in near where Cobble Creek has a RV storage area. There have been other fires in our area the past few years, especially with the strong winds we experience in the spring. We are in a severe drought and if there is a fire with our location, under the Plateau, how do we get out? With the developers plans to add 500 apartments, there could be 1,000 or more vehicles trying to escape a wildfire via Chipeta Road. How could firefighting vehicles get in during such a scenario? How could that possibly work? It seems like a recipe for disaster.

Is the developer's project more important than the public safety and lives of our residents?

Ginny Price, Cobble Creek

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS-Let the Town of Hotchkiss and the Hotchkiss Marshal's Department buy you a coffee on Saturday, June 12, from 8 am to 10 am and meet members of various agencies that protect our town with a smile. We will be celebrating our newest Hotchkiss eatery, Drive Brew Coffee and Blends, located adjacent to High Country Car Wash. Stop by on your way to the Pioneer Days Parade. Let the kids visit the fire truck and patrol cars from Hotchkiss, Paonia, Delta County Sheriff, Montrose County Sheriff, Gunnison County Sheriff and Colorado State Police.

ROLLANS PARK WEED PULL & CLEANUP, SATURDAY, MAY 22, 9AM-NOON

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Join the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Ouray County Vegetation Management team to remove invasive plant species as well as litter from park area surrounding the Uncompahgre River at Rollans Park, 257 Sherman St., Ridgway. A few goodies provided for volunteers as thanks for your participation. All ages welcome. For info: <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/rollans-park-weed-pull-cleanup/>. Or just email us to let us know you will be there (so we can plan for volunteer numbers): jkolb@ouraycountyco.gov.



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MIRROR IMAGES: PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Project 7 Water Authority was established on Sept. 29, 1977, pursuant to the provisions of Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 1973, 29-1-203.2, as a separate governmental entity to effect the treatment of raw water and transmission of finished water. To highlight the importance of clean drinking water to all humans and animals, the Mirror took a tour of Project 7 last week. Project 7 serves the following communities:

The City of Montrose

The City of Delta

The Town of Olathe

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District

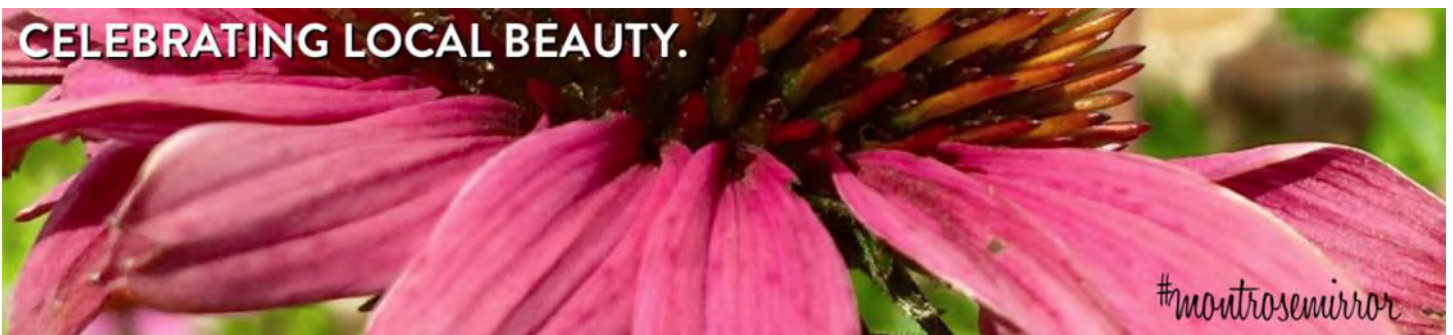
The Chipeta Water District

The Menoken Water District

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HUB PROJECT

Editor:

We are strongly opposed to The Hub @ Montrose Crossing Project. We have been part of the Planning & Zoning Board zoom meetings earlier this year. There were three different meetings covering twelve plus hours and all of the public comments received by both e-mail and zoom calls were opposed to this project. The opposition came not only from Cobble Creek, but Spruce Point and surrounding areas. This is simply the wrong location for a project of this size and scope.

The Montrose Planning Commission voted 3-1 to approve the HUB project with conditions.

The major condition being limiting density to 7 units/acre. This would reduce the size of the project to approximately 240 units from the original plan of 500 units.

Unfortunately, the Planning Commission recommendation never came to a vote of

the City Council.

Instead, the developer has withdrawn his original HUB Planned Development application and intends to move forward with a "use by right" project that could eventually reach 500 + apartments.

The developer believes he can proceed with the HUB project solely "use by right". However, City Code (4.7.1 A) requires that a development must be in accordance with the Master Plan (Comprehensive Plan), so it's not a suggestion but rather required by statute. This new project in no way meets the plan tenets.

Since the HUB remains an apartment only project, it's size and scope are non compatible with the surrounding area. An inarguably huge complex located in a semi-rural area accessed by a minor county arterial road simply isn't justifiable.

The Hub Project would force many millions more in improved area infrastructure

that would be much lower if the project were located elsewhere.

The proposed \$2.34M incentive is both unprecedented and inappropriate. Incentives should be allowed only for permanent job creation, transforming blighted areas and enhancing the city core and downtown areas. The HUB Project does not meet these criteria as it's a for profit housing only development that needs to pay it's own way, as noted in the Comprehensive Plan.

Ominously, if granted, it opens the possibility that every housing only builder will demand incentives.

We believe that the reasons stated above constitute adequate rationale to prohibit proceeding with the HUB Project as currently described. We urge City Council to advise the City Manager accordingly.

*Doug & Georgia Chaney
Cobble Creek Residents*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY MANAGER SAYS CITY NOT HURT BY PANDEMIC:

After 11 years on the job, Bell should understand basic math



Publisher Paul Arbogast
Courtesy photo

By Paul Arbogast,
Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE-In a recent article on the City of Montrose budget process that appeared in the local daily, there were several comments from

City Manager Bill Bell—who has held the job since 2011—that I found interesting.

Bell said that the city saves up money for big projects, so the city is basically debt free. I had previously looked at the budgets, so this statement did not ring of truth to me.

In 2017, because of aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance projects, as well as the creation of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA), the city borrowed \$10 million from Vectra Bank. The loan will not be paid off until 2037. They have been paying it off since then, but currently the remaining principal as of April 2021 was \$8.7 million with about \$1.8 million in interest to be paid.

The public safety tax (that was only passed by 65 votes) was used to borrow from UMB Bank. Just shy of \$16 million for the new public safety complex was borrowed. The city budget shows it will be paid off in 2049. The total the city will pay on that with interest is \$26 million.

I know government makes little nit-picky rules about how they do math, and what they count as debt, but to any American who pays bills, owes on a house or a car,

or has debt on a credit card, that's \$27 million owed as debt.

While Bell said about 85 percent of the city's revenue comes from sales tax, he also cited other sources of income for the city, including the Black Canyon Golf Course.

Data in previous budgets, going back to the audit of the 2015 budget, show revenues for the golf course of negative \$28 thousand dollars. Looking at each budget from then on, the estimates of costs and revenues appear to be incorrect when the next audit comes about. The 2021 budget shows that in 2020 they projected a negative \$90 dollar revenue for the year, but we do not have a recent audit of the city so current numbers remain hidden beyond the view of the citizens. Again, I am neither a mathematician nor an accountant, but claiming the golf course as a revenue source when it is often in the red, or barely in the black, is misleading at best.

In the 2021 business operations budget (non-grounds related) the projected costs only went up \$20 thousand over the previous year. But we now know the city is running a restaurant out there. Perhaps they made the budget before they decided to kick out the old tenant and go into the restaurant business. If so, the actual expenses will be far more than the budgeted amount, which will most likely leave the golf course deeper in the red at the end of the year.

Bell also stated in the article that the COVID-19 pandemic did not hurt the Montrose economy. That bit confused me. I know a lot of businesses that had to

run at severely reduced capacity or shut down, several for good. I know a lot of people who had massively reduced work hours or lost their jobs. I have talked to many business owners who have lost hundreds of thousands because of shutdowns and restrictions. That does not sound like an un-hurt economy to me.

Perhaps what Bell meant was that the pandemic has not hurt the city government, because he goes on to mention tax revenues. Of course, no matter how hard hit the citizens are, the government collects taxes. With the public safety sales tax, the City keeps the burden on those hurt most by restrictions and shutdowns by taxing even essentials that every human needs to survive, such as food purchased for home consumption.

Such thinking strikes me as quite crass. How can those 'in charge' be so out of touch when it comes to the impacts the pandemic has obviously had on most of the working class of the city? But perhaps I should not be surprised. I have noticed a long history of the 'in charge' and well off in this town looking down their noses at those who fix their cars, serve their food and drinks, fix their plumbing, and provide all of the other services in this town. Still, if it were not for these hard working people, Montrose would cease to function. Citizens deserve not only to NOT be looked down upon and ignored, they deserve to be understood and heard, as they are the heart of the economy. They are the ones who will tell you that the pandemic very much hurt them, and hurt the Montrose economy as well.



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PRINCIPAL WHEELS IN A TOUCH OF HUMOUR AS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ROLL ON

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Employees of Montrose County School District RE-1J like to say it's all about the kids, but sometimes it's about the kid in all of us.

During two long days of contract negotiations between the School District and the Uncompahgre Education Association (UEA), Pomona Elementary School Principal Chris Lehman found time—and a bicycle—to bring in some needed levity.

After finding an abandoned bike near the river, Lehman commandeered the bumper of fellow school district employee Jessica Beller for transport.

Beller, who is the District's Instructional Services Director, laughed and said, "Chris is always messing with my truck!"

After two days, the Joint Negotiations Teams were unable to get through their agenda and complete the contract negotiations, which are being facilitated by retired educator Rusty George.

The teams will reconvene on Monday, May 17, beginning at 9 a.m. for another day of negotiations.



A small, found bike appeared on Dr. Beller's bumper during contract negotiations, which resume Monday, May 17. Photo by Gail Marvel.

A large black bear is the central focus, sitting on a wooden log. It is holding a smartphone in its paws and looking at the screen. The background is a scenic mountain landscape with green forests and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEVELOPMENT NOT IN ACCORD WITH CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Editor:

I have read that Matt Miles intends to proceed with the development of the property formerly called the "Hub at Montrose Crossing" as a "Use by Right". This may be his intention, but there are limitations on any so-called "Use by Right". It is not an absolute right, as the city can still impose limitations as they see fit during the permit and approval process. The biggest issue is the conflict between "Use by Right" and the city's own Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, like our Zoning laws, is statutory. Therefore, both the Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan need to be looked at in order to determine the best use of a property. You cannot rely on the Zoning alone, as Mr. Miles seems to think is the case.

The proposed development is simply not in accord with the Comprehensive Plan. It is not compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods, which are all single family residential. To even consider placing 500 plus apartment units (larger than any existing apartment complex in the State of Colorado) in this location is simply ludicrous. It is too dense for the surrounding area, and there is a clear lack of adequate infrastructure in place to support it. The Planning Commission spent many hours of deliberation to reach just that conclusion, and they were right in limiting the size of a proposed development in that location and placing numerous conditions on it. Speaking of infrastructure, it is unfathomable why the city would waive fees to the tune of \$2.34 million for this project. A

careful reading of the Comprehensive Plan indicates that "for profit" projects should pay their own way. The \$2.34 million that the developer should be required to pay would go a long way toward the necessary infrastructure improvements required by such a development. Waiving those fees imposes the burden of the development on all city taxpayers, while further enriching the developer. That is not only patently unfair, it is sheer folly from a fiscal standpoint.

I urge our city council to look at all of the factors involved, especially density, infrastructure, and fees required, before granting any approvals and permits for this project.

*Sincerely,
Ron Sobieck, Cobble Creek*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL SHOULD REMEMBER GROWTH SUPPOSED TO PAY ITS OWN WAY

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council

The HUB is a for-profit private development. As such there should be no more than minimum incentives provided. I understand that major incentives have been allocated to the HUB in the City's annual budget which was proposed by the City Manager and reviewed and approved by the City Council. A budget is a guide and a tool for planning expenditures. Needs can change. Is there really a need for a 500 plus unit rental development in our relatively small community? By comparison to several other major cities, this proposed development is a giant. So why do we need such a large development and why would taxpayers fund the infrastructure? I understand that we need "affordable housing". This proposed development is NOT "affordable housing". It is advertised at market rates which are

significantly higher than low income families can afford. The citizens of Montrose deserve an open and real explanation of this proposed expenditure. This is a "for-profit" undertaking. The City's precedent has always been that growth pays its own way. So we plead with City Council members to remember this and act accordingly.

Cobble Creek residents and others in the neighborhood argued that this monster development not be built in a semi-rural area. It is incompatible with prior developments and adjacent future plans. The City Planning Commission recognized that the size in this location was way too much. Even though the structures themselves were changed in the current proposed plan, the size which the Planning Commission objected to did not change. Please consider your Planning

Commission's arguments.

As to traffic, the study was done during the pandemic when we were all staying home. It in no way represents reality. Chipeta is a heavily traveled two lane minor arterial with little or no shoulders. It is the only way out going south or north for current and future residents of the area. Additionally, Chipeta's intersections with Hwy. 550 to the south and Spring Creek Blvd. to the north will become overwhelmed.

In conclusion, incentives are not warranted, the development is too big for Montrose and is not compatible with the area in which it is proposed. Thank you very much for your attention. Please make a decision that is best for the community that you represent for now and in the future.

Tom Kearney, Montrose

CITIZEN OPPOSITION TO THE HUB PROJECT

Editor:

Doug and Georgia Chaney wrote in to the MDP "Your View" column concerning their opposition to the HUB project. If what I have read so far is correct, the development is opposed by a significant number of citizens, not only those in Cobble Creek as well. However they are not making their presence felt either in person or in numbers. Well Doug and Georgia, the only way to possibly sway the city council is to pressure them with numbers. You all must mobilize those opposed and show up at the now open public meetings of council and have every one of the many opponents exercise their right to their three minutes of oral comment on the project. And at the end of that exercise, deliver a petition to city council indicating the massive opposition to the project. This effort, well executed and politely done, may well have absolutely no effect upon their decision but at least with that result you will know exactly what your city council thinks of you, majority rule and the citizens of Montrose in general.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S FIND A WIN-WIN SOLUTION FOR ALL ON HUB PROJECT

Editor:

The May 4 Montrose Daily Press said Leadership Circle LLC (Matt Miles owner) has revised building plans on HUB's site starting with a 160 apartment building with build out scope currently uncertain.

With other apartments being built / planned overbuild seems a real possibility. It also seems apartment renters would select those with more ambiance or located in much more convenient areas like proximity to downtown, schools, shopping areas etc.

City reviews will be at best difficult since it's doubtful the City Code authors envisioned cramming people into one 160-unit building. This density should prompt the City to insist that safeguards against infectious disease spread (e.g. COVID) are incorporated - an emerging nationwide trend. Critical would be sufficient firewater capacity to handle large multiunit fires and efficient emergency responder access.

The developer would use a zone conforming use by right approach. Some believe use by right is the sole determinant to proceed with development with minimal City management oversight. That could be possible if there was no Comprehensive Plan but there is - by statute the City Code

requires that developments are to be in accordance with that Plan. The revised project changes little from HUB in terms of density etc., so HUB's non-compliances with the Plan apply to it also.

Even zoning regulations dictate that developments are to be compatible with the surrounding area. HUB was, and the revised project is, outrageously incompatible with the surrounding single-family homes. Access is a minor road needing very costly improvements including the safety of roadside walkers and bikers. If the project actually proceeds and ends up as 500⁺ apartments in one location it'll be larger than those in big population areas like Denver, San Antonio and dwarfs Grand Junction apartment complexes. It's doubtful anyone in Montrose wants that, or something the developer wants to pursue given the risk of a destroyed public image.

The public must trust that development projects are objectively evaluated. If a bias toward a developer is perceived City management and staff credibility will be seriously damaged. Consider the negative effects of the posting (later removed) of the HUB virtual site tour on the Planning Commission's home page that many con-

sidered a sales pitch for the project and the City Manager's February 17 Montrose Press article that berated legitimate citizen objections to HUB.

City management and staff must also not disregard the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the HUB project. Hopefully the City Council agrees and will ensure that the City Manager and staff clearly understand that use by right in no way permits ignoring, or minimizing, the importance of the Master Plan and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

It's unclear if Leadership Circle is counting on a \$2.34M City incentive. Incentive candidates should only be those that bring value to the City, such as reclaiming blighted areas and creating significant permanent jobs.

On top of that if the City still intends to provide the incentive other housing only developers would have a legitimate case to demand similar incentives.

All Montrose citizens should demand that incentives, in any form, not be provided for this project.

Maybe there's a win-win scenario somewhere out there that works for all. Let's find it.

Matt Goldasich, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CLARA GALLEGOS

Aug. 12, 1926- May 6, 2021



CLARA GALLEGOS, 94, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, May 6, 2021. She accomplished her wish to pass in the house her mom passed in. She was born on Aug. 12, 1926 in Chimayo, NM to Agapito and Juanita Martinez. They moved to Montrose, CO when Clara was very young, and she spent her life here in Montrose and attended Montrose High School. On Nov. 6, 1948, Clara married the love of her life Mike A. Gallegos in Montrose, Colorado. She and Mike were inseparable and were married nearly 70 years. They spent a short time in Climax



when Mike was working in the mines. They also enjoyed assisting at the Okay Café owned by his parents here in Montrose.

She loved talking with her family and her many loving friends, gardening her flowers, fishing, hunting and being in the mountains. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She loved her family dearly.

Clara is survived by her son, David Gallegos of Montrose, CO. Her daughter,

Carla (Jim) Gallegos-Fox of Montrose, CO.

Two grandchildren Cayla (Richard) Santa Cruz of Montrose, CO and Sean Byers of Denver, CO and three great-grandchildren, Antonio, Alaina and Alivia Santa Cruz, all of Montrose, CO, as well as numerous loving nieces and nephews. Clara is preceded in death by her husband; Mike A. Gallegos her parents; Agapitos & Juanita Martinez, her sister; Margarita (Martinez) DeAgüero and four brothers; Richard Martinez, Joe C. Martinez, Thomas Martinez, and Frank Martinez.

A funeral mass will be held on Friday, May 14 at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 10am with burial to follow at Valley Lawn Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hopewest Hospice of Montrose at 725 South 4th Street, Montrose, CO 81401.

Arrangements are under Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.crippinfuneralhome.com

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

GEORGE CHARLES KUBIN

April 19, 1932-May 9, 2021



GEORGE CHARLES KUBIN, longtime resident of the Olathe / Montrose area, passed away on Sunday, May 9, 2021, at the age of 89.

George was born on April 19, 1932, in Crosby, Texas to Joseph Charles and Helen (Machala) Kubin. His earliest memories of farming were trying to keep up with his older siblings while picking cotton.

When he was seven years old, his family moved to Washington. He attended Catholic schools and remembered working as a kid in the orchards. The family later purchased a small farm in Ontario, Oregon. George graduated from Ontario High School in 1950. He joined the United

States Air Force in January of 1951, and he served until he was honorably discharged in January of 1955. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was stationed in Germany.

Following his discharge from the Air Force, he joined his parents on the family farm in Olathe. They later purchased a farm on North Mesa in Montrose, where they raised sugar beets, malt barley for Coors, alfalfa hay and corn. George also fed cattle. He was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Accomplishment in Soil Conservation from the Shavano Soil Conservation District in 1966. He served on the Holly Sugar Beet Board as well as many years on the Uncompahgre Valley Waters Users Board. After Holly Sugar and Coors pulled out of the Valley, he started a commercial cow/calf operation. He owned a Forest Service permit in Hanks Valley and ran cattle on the same permit as the Appelhanz Brothers.

He also started a registered Hereford cattle herd in the 1970s and grazed them in the summers on Horsefly. In the 1990s, he began raising registered Angus, as well. He won many awards for the quality of his registered cattle herds.

On December 1, 1962, he married Mary Josephine Appelhanz at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose. They had three children, Rosemary, John and Mary. They enjoyed 46 years of marriage, until Mary Jo's death in September of 2009.

George was a very devoted family man and faithful Catholic. He has been a longtime member of Saint Joseph Traditional Roman Catholic Church in Olathe. He was an extremely hard worker and skilled farmer and rancher. He loved spending time with his family, fishing, agriculture, keeping up with current events, watching sports – especially the Denver Broncos. He very much enjoyed participating in the local tractor pulls that were held at the fairgrounds in the 1970s and won trophies every year. George was a patient, kind and quiet man that was always willing to listen and help. He was very mindful of the importance of good character and being a good example.

George is preceded in death by his wife Mary Jo, his parents Joe and Helen Kubin, his brothers Ed and Joe Kubin, his sister Cecilia Hansen, his wife's parents John and Mary Appelhanz, his brothers-in-law George, Tony and Albert Appelhanz, Robert Schlauger, his sisters-in-law Shirley Appelhanz and Nora Kubin.

George is survived by his daughters Rosemary and Mary, son John (Amanda), grandsons Brian, Nicholas, Stephen, Logan, Joseph and Isaiah. His sisters Mary Traub in Washington and Helen Linson in Texas, his brothers-in-law John E. and Ed Appelhanz of Montrose, sisters-in-law Eleanor Schlauger of Grand Junction, Marion Appelhanz of Montrose, Kathy Appelhanz of Olathe and Evelyn Kubin in Washington, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



#montrosemirror

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DALE CRAIG AURE

December 4, 1946-May 7, 2021

DALE CRAIG AURE died peacefully at his home in Montrose Colorado on 5/7/2021. Dale was born to Martin C. Aure and Joy (Lundee) Aure on 12-4-46 in Flint Michigan. He attended Flint area schools and after several years working at General Motors, he headed West and never looked back.

He married his wife, Laurie (Corrado) Aure in Denver in 1978. They left Denver for the Western Slope in 1979, and that's when the adventures started! Rarely home on weekends, they experienced every outdoor opportunity available—skiing, rafting, fishing, boating, hunting, hiking and riding ATVs. Over the years they made their homes in Grand Junction, Montrose, Wisconsin, Montana, and Rifle. Unable to stay away from the Western Slope, they returned to Montrose 20 years ago and have called it home since then.

Dale was a man of many talents. His working career included general contractor, owner of DCA Construction, owner of Penson TourCampers, and co-owner of a Ski-Doo Dealership. Although he enjoyed it all, his most artistically rewarding work was building custom vintage Harley Davidson motorcycles. His passion for riding and building motorcycles was lifelong. He won his first motorcycle build award in a Detroit, Michigan bike show in the mid-1970s. Several of his bike builds were featured in magazines.

In the late 1980's, Dale built an "off the grid" home on the Uncompahgre Plateau where he and Laurie lived for an adventurous 5 years. Of necessity, snowmobiles were introduced into their lives and Dale became a certified Ski-Doo mechanic. He co-owned the local Ski-Doo dealership in the early 90s and he worked in other dealerships, in different states.

Returning to Montrose in 1999 and



mostly retired, Dale started building custom Harleys and working on snowmobiles. While he snowmobiled several areas in and out of state, his heart was on Grand Mesa when the winter season started. Many hours and days were spent on the Mesa with Laurie and friends both new and old.

Summertime found them traveling via motorcycle extensively in the United States; East Coast, Canada, the southern states, Wyoming, Montana and one epic trip from Canada to Mexico on the western coastal highways—Washington State, Oregon and California all the way down to Mexico. He attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for many years, searching for vintage parts for his projects and enjoying the riding as well as looking at all the custom, and sometimes strange, bikes.

Fall season brought hunting on the Plateau, and a time to renew friendships with the regular hunting group that spent every season together for over thirty years.

Dale believed in keeping his word and expected others to as well. He felt a handshake was every bit as binding as a contract, and if he shook your hand on a deal he kept his end of the bargain. His nickname was "Almost Perfect" and he could drive you crazy with his constant striving for perfection. However, if he was working on your machine you were glad of this trait! He was a mechanical wizard, and was known to diagnose a motor or engine problem by listening to it over the phone.

He loved his wife, mountains, hunting, riding anything with a motor, ice cream, and Colorado bluebird days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Jack and Larry.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Laurie, his daughter Tina, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, many nieces, nephews, and dear friends across the country. The world will be a bit more broken without the "Fix-It" man. Ride it like you stole it, Dale. You will be missed and loved forever.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

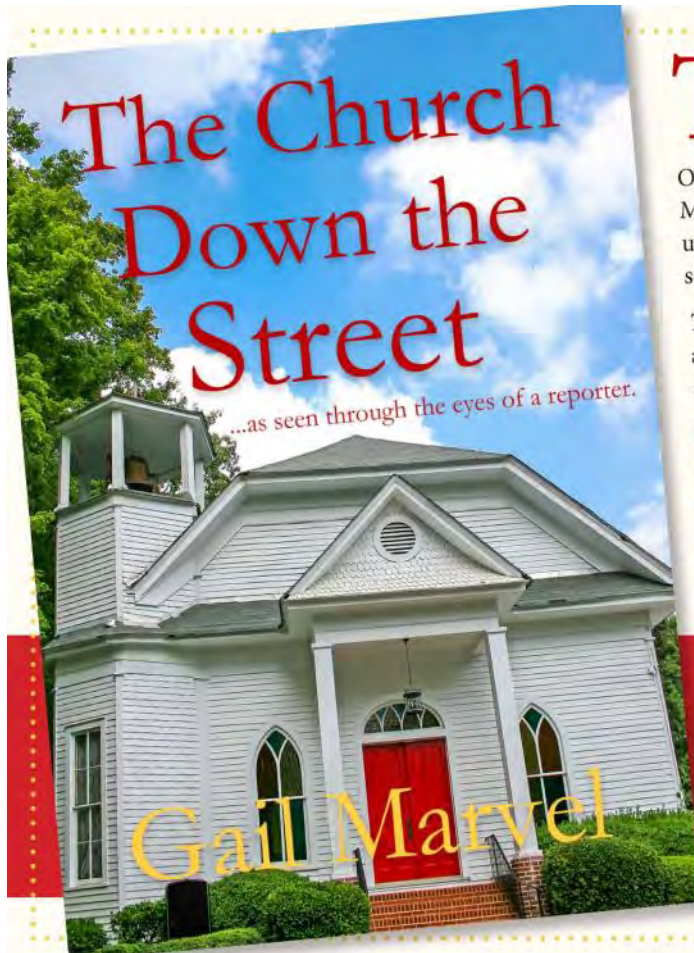
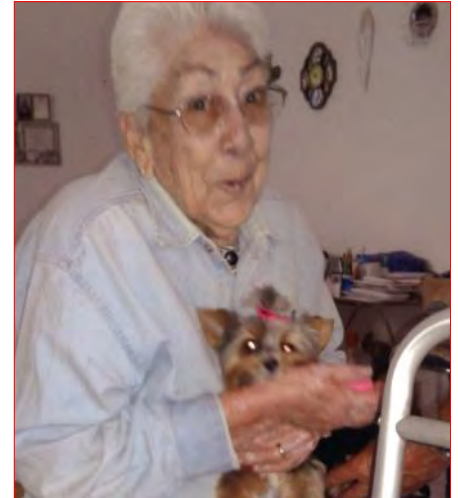
AVELINA G. MARTINEZ

April 29, 1925-May 11, 2021

AVELINA G. MARTINEZ, 96, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on May 11, 2021. Avelina was born on April 29, 1925 in Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico. She married Silvano Martinez on September 22, 1951 in Rifle, Colorado. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, Great-nieces and nephews, and Great-Great-nieces and nephews. She was the last survivor of her generation. Her favorite saying was "I hate to cook, but I sure like to eat!"

Avelina is preceded in death by her parents Juan and Francisquida, two brothers; Manuel and Art Garcia, four sisters; Sara Martinez, Piedad Sanches, Mary Samora, and Grace Fernandez. Avelina was cared for by her niece Maria Blea, and then by Joe and Lena Martinez. A viewing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 5p.m. to 8 p.m. at Crippin Funeral Home. A Memorial Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, Colorado.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. 970-249-2121



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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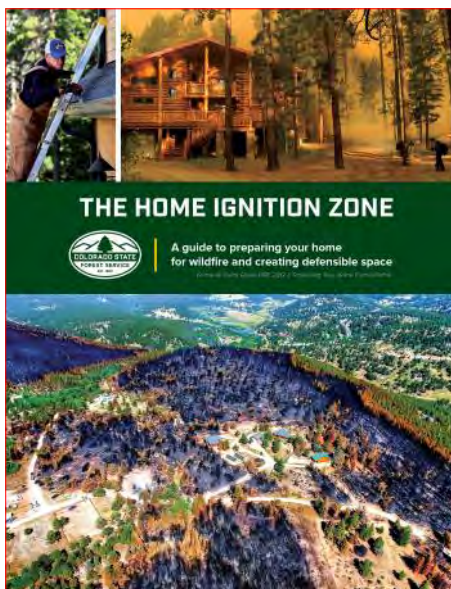


For more information, call 1-844-862-4968 to speak with a Care Navigator

ISSUE 316 MAY 17

ART & SOL

UPDATED GUIDE HELPS HOMEOWNERS PREPARE PROPERTY FOR WILDFIRE



Home with good defensible space survived the 2016 Cold Springs Fire near Nederland. Photo courtesy of Boulder County Wildfire Partners.

Special to Art & Sol

FORT COLLINS—More than half of all Coloradans live in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), where homes and other structures meet wildland vegetation, and are at some risk of being affected by wildfire. An updated guide from the Colorado State Forest Service can help these residents prepare their home and property for wildfire with practical steps and guidance.

The guide informs homeowners on how to address the home ignition zone, or the structure and the area around it. Wildfires play a natural role in Colorado's environment and residents can increase the likelihood their home survives a fire by minimizing the ability for it to ignite, in part by reducing nearby fuels.

The Home Ignition Zone offers updated

guidance from the CSFS, which is the lead state agency on providing wildfire mitigation assistance to residents of Colorado, on how residents can prepare their home for wildfire. The guide includes an overview of wildfire mitigation concepts, information on wildfire risk in Colorado, and easy-to-follow steps and checklists to address vulnerabilities with the home and reduce fuels to create defensible space. Coloradans are encouraged to review the guide and work to reduce their wildfire risk. As the guide states, "Firefighters always do their best to protect residents, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to

protect your property and investments from wildfire." The guide also can be a valuable resource for homeowners associations, fire departments, insurance agents, local governments and others who work with residents and communities to reduce their wildfire risk. To get the guide, or for further assistance preparing for wildfires, contact your local CSFS field office, or download a digital copy from the CSFS website at bit.ly/COHomeIgnitionZone.

More information about wildfire mitigation also is available at csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation.

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J PARADE OF HOPE 2021



Parade of Hope photos by B. Switzer.




NEW GRADUATES CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2021




By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On May 14 three high school students graduated from Colorado West Christian School. Following pomp and circumstance, a reception in the Fellowship Hall was held honoring the Class of 2021. (L to R) Abigail Lynn, Liberty Metzger and David Marvel.





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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS: PERFORMING ARTS

COLORADO'S RED MOUNTAIN BOYS TO RELEASE NEW MUSIC EVERY MONTH OF 2021

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO SPRINGS-The Red Mountain Boys have been creating and releasing music for decades, individually. Now, they have a wealth of offerings to share together.

Comprised of four renowned bluegrass musicians, Alan Begley, Jeff Daugherty, Lewis Mock, and Jon Murphy, the Red Mountain Boys are a Colorado supergroup that had just begun to light up the Pikes Peak region of Colorado when all live music came to a grinding halt in the Spring of 2020.

At that point, the band had already written enough songs to fill an album by any measure. With the stay-at-home year that most musicians experienced in 2020, their cache of music continued to grow.

Working during the 2020 lock-down, much of the new music was recorded via individual, physically-distant sessions. For a group accustomed to the close physical dynamic of performing single-mic style, this presented a challenge, but one that the Boys were eager to meet.

The songs were written and arranged by the Red Mountain Boys and the tracks were produced, recorded, and mastered by mandolinist Jeff Daugherty, who is enrolled in the Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music for audio engineering. Jeff spent a good portion of the pandemic meticulously working each track until he was able to achieve the true sound of the Red Mountain Boys.

Just as quickly as each track was complet-



One Monday each month, the Red Mountain Boys are releasing a new EP. Courtesy photo.

ed, however, new recordings were coming in. The Red Mountain Boys were building themselves a mountain of music. They soon realized that they couldn't sit on this much creativity and needed to share it with the world.

The result is Red Mountain Mondays.

One Monday each month, the Red Mountain Boys are releasing a new EP. So far they have been three-song collections, but as Jeff Daugherty says, "They'll always be at least two songs, maybe five sometimes? We might even drop a full-length LP for the ones paying attention!! We have loads of music waiting!"

And the 'loads of music' represent a true labor of love for the Red Mountain Boys. This music was all created, not for a label,

not to promote a tour, but because they couldn't stop the flow and needed to harness and share it.

While a full-length vinyl is in the works, for now, all of the music is being offered to the fans free of charge, through all of the available streaming platforms. With the number of accumulated songs, Red Mountain Mondays look to continue each month through the remainder of 2021.

"We're doing this mainly to keep the fans engaged and listening," says Daugherty. "Why not just give the listeners the music? It doesn't do us much good sitting on it indefinitely!" Fans can [Follow Red Mountain Boys on Spotify](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date on all of the Red Mountain Monday releases.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DAN DEUTER'S CRITIQUE SESSIONS PRESENTED BY MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Having problems with your painting? Composition, palette, color values and/or creating depth got you down? Dan will be available at MCA to work with you to find the answer.

He will be available at the Center the 3rd Thursday of each month to work with you on your painting. The first session will be Thursday, May 20 from 6 – 8PM at the Center.

Bring your problem piece with you if possible. Dan will also bring his latest project to help you visualize the solutions. Keep in mind that although Dan is an Oil Painter, many of the art problems you may encounter are independent of media.

Montrose Center for the Arts is located at 11 S. Park Avenue

Call MCA at 970-787-9428 with Questions.

Please consider giving a \$10 donation for the session. Thank you.

Pictured at right, Dan Deuter. Courtesy photo.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST ANNUAL MONTROSE HELMET DONATION DRIVE WILL BE MAY 22

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Tracie Bearden, Speech Language Pathologist and owner of Neuro-based Speech Solutions LLC of Montrose and Danielle Musser, the Certified Adapted Physical Education Specialist for the Montrose County School District have partnered to give away over 300 bicycle helmets to children in need. The first annual Montrose Helmet Donation Drive, presented by Alpine Bank, is taking place on May 22nd at McNeil Fields from 9am-12pm.

The goal of the helmet giveaway is to increase helmet use in youth in the Montrose community, but also to inform families on the dangers of traumatic brain injuries that could occur in a bicycle accident. "Over 80 percent of severe traumatic brain injuries incurred on bicycles can be prevented by wearing a helmet. When a child sustains a Traumatic Brain Injury it not only impacts the skills they've already acquired, but it also impacts their ability with learning new skills later on as they continue to develop," Bearden, a Certified Brain Injury Rehabilitation Specialist and Speech Pathologist reports. Per statistics from the Colorado Department of Transportation, bicycle related crashes increased 18.3 percent from 2007 to 2012. Even worse is the number of fatalities increased by approximately 88 percent from 2011 to 2012. It's realistic to think these numbers have increased in recent years.

Tracie and Danielle have teamed up with the physical therapists from Cedar Point Health Wellness Center to provide training to assist families with proper helmet fitting techniques. Bicycle helmet give-



Over 80 percent of severe traumatic brain injuries incurred on bicycles can be prevented by wearing a helmet, reports Tracie Bearden, Speech Language Pathologist and owner of Neuro-based Speech Solutions LLC of Montrose .Courtesy image.

ways are proven to be more effective when paired with hands-on learning. Danielle explains, "Teaching my students with disabilities how to bike safely is a huge priority in the MCSD Adapted Physical Education Program. This might be the only mode of transportation my students and their families have access to. I want them to be as safe as possible while doing it." Bicycle accidents are on the rise in Colorado and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can be a devastating result of these accidents. In a report from Centers for Disease Control, out of the approximately 564,000 children in this age range that are seen in a hospital Emergency Room for a TBI and then released, over 25 percent of those children have persistent deficits from the TBI. "These numbers are staggering and there are many students in the Montrose County School District that have this diagnosis. I want to help prevent other chil-

dren in the Montrose community from sustaining injuries like these." said Danielle. Brain injury continues to be the most common cause of death and disability in children, ages 0-19 per the CDC. Tracie states, "Colorado currently ranks 13th in the nation in hospitalization due to TBIs. These are statistics that cannot be ignored. That is why we are trying to change that here."

Tracie and Danielle would like to thank their presenting sponsor Alpine Bank for their very generous donation to make this event possible.

They would also like to thank their gold level sponsors: Pavilion Family Medicine and Alexander Orthodontics, as well as their silver level sponsors: Montrose Elks Lodge, Pediatric Associates, Montrose Surf and Cycle, J Pilates, Hypoxia, Montrose Family Dentistry, the Martin Law Firm, and the Montrose Memorial Hospital.

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April 12, 19, 26
May 3, 10, 17, 24

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

May 19-Pizza & Politics @ Turn of the Century Saloon, 121 N.Fourth Street, 6 p.m.

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

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

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

May 22-from 10 am to 2 pm is Montrose Day at the Historical Museum. Come and learn about the town of Montrose, through the pioneer exhibits and stories. There will be hands-on activities of grinding wheat like the Native Americans did hundreds of years ago, washing laundry with a washboard, and gold panning. There also will be a photo scavenger hunt with a prize. You will be able to see how the farm machinery worked when horses or men were the only power, with the new QR codes with YouTube videos. It is a self-guided tour so you can spend as much time as you would like to read or just browse through time.

May 22-Join the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Ouray County Vegetation Management team from 9 a.m. to Noon to remove invasive plant species as well as litter from park area surrounding the Uncompahgre River at Rollans Park, 257 Sherman St., Ridgway. A few goodies provided for volunteers as thanks for your participation. All ages welcome. For info: <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/rollans-park-weed-pull-cleanup/>. Or just email us to let us know you will be there (so we can plan for volunteer numbers): jkolb@ouraycountyco.gov.

May 23-Graduation Ceremonies Montrose/Olathe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DENVER 5TH GRADER WINS 2021 COLORADO ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

Special to Art & Sol

BROOMFIELD— A panel of judges from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) has selected Selby Dolan, a fifth-grader from Creativity Challenge Community (C3) in Denver, as the winner of its 2021 Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Selby's poster, which depicts the importance of trees and how they benefit communities, competed against posters from 28 schools participating in the contest this year.

The schools selected one poster to enter into the statewide contest, so the five finalists in the contest represented hundreds of fifth-grade students and their posters.

The panel of judges from the CTC selected Selby's poster as the winner after two close rounds of virtual judging earlier this month.

As the statewide poster contest winner, Selby will be awarded a framed copy of her winning poster, a \$250 Visa gift card and prizes from the CTC. Selby's art teacher, BJ Kittleson, also received a free online professional development training from Colorado Project Learning Tree.

In addition, Selby's poster was the winner of a separate contest through the City and County of Denver.

As a Denver poster contest winner, both Selby and Kittleson will receive gift cards from Meininger Art Supply, and Denver



The 2021 winning poster by Selby Dolan. Courtesy image.

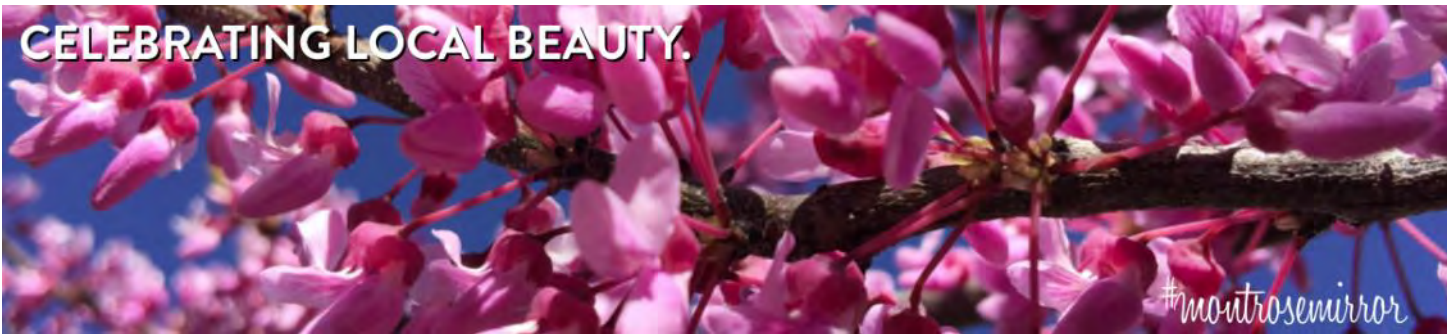
will plant a tree in her honor. Following social distance protocols, Selby, her parents Jeff and Kim Dolan, and Kittleson may have the opportunity to be present at the tree planting.

The CTC thanks *all* students, teachers and parents for their support of this fun and educational contest recognizing Colorado's urban and community forests. The beautiful trees that grace our streets, parks, yards and open spaces provide economic, social and ecological services that

we all can enjoy!

The Colorado Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by Above & Beyond Services, ArborScape Tree Services, the CTC, Denver Parks and Recreation's Office of the City Forester and the Colorado State Forest Service.

For more info on the contest, please contact Kyle Sylvester, open space manager for the City of Brighton and chair of the CTC's Arbor Day Poster Contest, at (303) 655-2089.



MIRROR IMAGES: ARTS & CULTURE

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-On Saturday, May 15, Montrose Piano teacher Maggie Kleeves held a recital for her students at the Celebration Church. The grand finale was a performance that drew the other students from their seats, as Lucas Chapman played Beethoven's Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2 (Moonlight Sonata) Movements 1, 2, and 3.



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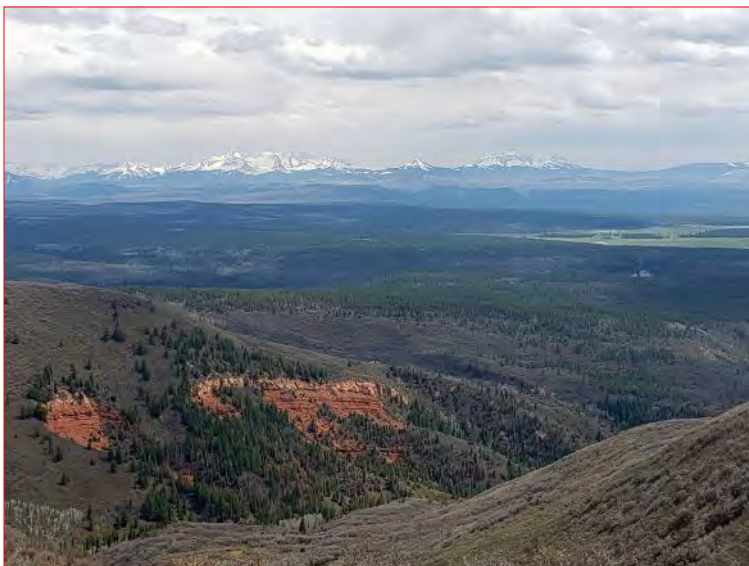
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*Photo taken at Big Dominguez
Canyon at right, by Diane
Sutton.*



Colorful Red Canyon with Wilson Peak, below, photo by Deb Reimann.



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