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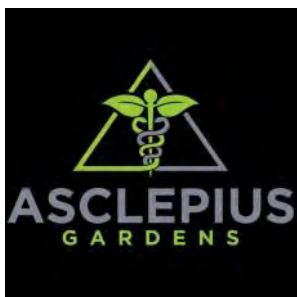
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Issue No. 440 Aug. 2 2021

WILD MUSHROOMS ABOUND AFTER MONSOONAL RAINS

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-This year's plentiful monsoonal moisture has brought cloudy afternoon skies but has also brightened the outlook for Western Slope mushroom hunters.

Most sought after locally are the king boletes and chanterelles, and like the high country hunting grounds, local social media sites have witnessed a sudden crop of fresh, shiny boletes and golden chanterelles.

According to Colorado State University (CSU), wild harvest remains the largest source of commercially important mycorrhizal species (such as truffles, chanterelles, and morels), despite scientific advances in domestication. In other words, if you want to collect some of the most delicious fresh produce of the season, you will probably

[Continued pg 12](#)



San Miguel County "Shroompa" Art Goodtimes and his granddaughter on a mushroom expedition in the Sheep Mountain meadows. Courtesy photo Art Goodtimes.

CITY TO CONSIDER MURA PHASE II PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGE ORDER NO 1



Council will consider a change order to the MURA Phase II Public Infrastructure contract.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 2, and for a regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Both sessions will be held in Council Chambers.

WORK SESSION

Discussion items will include:

-**MURA Phase II Public Infrastructure Change Order Number 1**- Consider the award of a contract change order in the amount of \$94,668 to Mountain Valley Contracting for piping of the Rice Ditch within the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Phase II Public Infrastructure Construction Project;

- **Montrose Public Safety Complex Construction Contract Amendment**- Council will consider the authorization of a \$1,830,805 amendment to the authorized funding to be used toward the construction of the

[Continued pg 4](#)

in this issue

[Link to Ginny Price XCAPE xeriscape planting guide!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey visits Ted's Steakhouse!](#)

[DMEA Faces Financial Debacle as Elevate underestimates Cedar Mesa Project!](#)

PUBLIC NOTICES/LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE:

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC. NOTICE OF DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Directors of Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community non-profit corporation, is accepting applications for positions as Directors of that Colorado community non-profit corporation. Application packets are available for download at www.montrosehospital.com, by email request to BODapplications@montrosehospital.com, or pick up at the Montrose Memorial Hospital Administration office, located at 800 South 3rd Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The deadline for return of completed applications is Friday, August 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the MMH Administration office. Interviews will be conducted the week of August 23, 2021, and August 30, 2021. Elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October, date to be announced.

*Sarah Abbott, Chairperson
Nominating Committee
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CITY TO CONSIDER MURA PHASE II PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGE ORDER

From pg 1

Montrose Public Safety Complex (MPSC); and
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding- The City of Montrose's total allocation of ARPA funds is \$4,972,200.85. ARPA funds are distributed in two tranches. The city has received its first tranche of \$2,486,100.43 and anticipates receipt of the second tranche in May/June 2022. All funds must be incurred by Dec. 31, 2024 and expended by Dec. 31, 2026.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will consider approving mobile

home park permit applications for Cottonwood Mobile Home Park, San Juan Mobile Home Park, and Green Acres Mobile Home Park along with requested financial contribution;
Council will consider authorizing a \$1,830,805 amendment to authorized funding to be used toward the construction of the Montrose Public Safety Complex (MPSC);
Council will consider approving Resolution 2021-12, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file a Vic-

tim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant through the 7th Judicial District Victims Assistance Board for the total of \$28,000, authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as required, and authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police, and Finance Director to sign the grant application and reporting documents;
Council will consider adopting Ordinance 2548 on second reading, vacating a portion of Orchard Road within the City of Montrose;
Council will consider approving the Waterfall Canyon Subdivision Filing No. 5 Final Plat;
Council will consider approving Resolution 2021-13, setting Sept. 7 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Riverbend RV Park Addition II;
Council will hold a public hearing and will consider approving Resolution 2021-16, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Riverside Park Addition III; and
Council will consider approving Ordinance 2551 on first reading, for the annexation of the Riverside Park Addition III, and Ordinance 2552 on first reading, zoning the Riverside Park Addition III as a P, Public District.
Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEARCH WARRANTS LEAD TO ARRESTS, FEDERAL CHARGES FOR SUSPECTS IN ILLEGAL MARIJUANA GROW OPERATIONS

Delta County Sheriff's Office

DELTA-On Monday, July 26, 2021, the Delta County Sheriff's Office assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the 7th Judicial District Drug Task Force in executing search warrants at 4490 Sundown Road in Delta and 126 Meeker Street in the City of Delta.

Search warrants for the properties were obtained after investigators conducted a several month investigation into a large illegal marijuana grow; which evidence indicated was being operated by an Asian Cartel cell. Upon executing the search warrant at the Sundown Road address, federal agents seized approximately 1,800 mature marijuana plants with an estimated value of three million dollars.

Investigators located and arrested multiple suspects at the Meeker Street address along with two illegal firearms. According to investigators, this Asian cartel cell is believed to be responsible for several large illegal, marijuana grow sites across Western Colorado and the country.

When asked about the search warrant and investigation, Sheriff Taylor said, "I am happy we were able to identify this group and work together with our federal, state and local partners to rid Delta County of this illegal marijuana grow operation." Sheriff Taylor also added that there have been several groups such as this

one, which are associated with illegal cartel organizations, that have moved into our communities over the past few years to illegally grow and sell marijuana. Unfortunately, these operations also bring in other crimes to the County such as credit card fraud, illegal narcotic distribution and more.

Federal agents arrested Sang Bang, age 36 and Qjongqiong Lin, age 34 on federal arrest warrants. The two suspects were transported to the Mesa County Jail where they are currently being held on federal charges, including charges from another prior illegal marijuana grow operation in Mesa County.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FREE ENTRANCE TO COLORADO STATE PARKS FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS IN AUGUST



Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – As a thank you to U.S. military members, Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers active duty military, veterans and the National Guard free admission to all state parks for the month of August.

Military members and veterans, resident and nonresident, can pick up a free August Military Pass at any Colorado state park or CPW office by showing proof of service.

Passes become available on Aug. 1, 2021. The free park pass provides a chance to experience Colorado’s state parks and the diverse wildlife and landscapes the state provides.

All other park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-highway vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses. The pass is also not valid for accessing State Wildlife Areas.

To help plan a unique Colorado adventure, visit the CPW park finder. State park outdoor recreation activities include:

Water sports- boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming

Wildlife and wildflower viewing, bird-watching and tours with naturalists

Hiking, horseback riding, biking and rock climbing

Stargazing and geocaching

Accessibility programs are available to people with disabilities

CPW offers several additional military benefits to active duty military, veterans and disabled veterans. Programs include free admission to state parks on Veterans Day, year-round free entry to all state parks to residents with Colorado Disabled Veterans license plates and free small

game and fishing combination licenses for qualified disabled veterans. CPW also offers a Columbine Pass which offers reduced park entrance fees to disabled Colorado residents.

For more information about Colorado’s state parks, visit the CPW website.

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STATE PATROL TROOPER TIPS: DON'T GET SWEEP AWAY



By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO-With all of the fires Colorado has had over the past few years we are starting to see a real problem with flash flooding affecting our roadways in burn areas. Recently, I-70 near Glenwood Springs has been shut down multiple times due to mudslides covering the roadway. I thought this would be a good time to go over some of the safety tips we need to do to make sure our travels are done as safely as possible.

If you are planning on traveling, make sure you check two items before leaving your home. First, has there been recent fire activity in the area you are planning to travel, and second, is there any predicted rainfall.

By checking these prior to travelling, you can avoid the dangers of possibly being involved in a flashflood. Remember, the

rain doesn't always have to be directly at the place you are located. It can be raining somewhere away from you and the water can travel to your location.

If you come across an area of the road that has had barricades put up, don't drive around them.

Find an alternative route. If you do come across water on the roadway never drive through an area that is flooding. It only takes 6 inches of water to reach the bottom of most passenger vehicles which can cause loss of control and possible stalling of your vehicle.

Twelve inches of water will float most vehicles, and 2 feet of rushing water can sweep away most vehicles which includes SUV's and pickups.

Along with the water there is often debris mixed in it which can include boulders, trees, and sometimes even remains of

building structures which can push your vehicle into even further danger. If there is extremely high, fast-moving water going under a bridge, consider finding another route. The water can have debris and may suddenly surge over the bridge.

Depending on the bridge condition and the amount of debris against the bridge, it could crumble under the extreme pressure it is enduring.

If your vehicle is swept away try to remain in your vehicle. Unless water is rising in your vehicle that could be life-threatening, it is safer inside until rescue personnel arrive.

It always comes down to trying not to press your luck and always take the safest route. Do this and you will always be better for it in the end.

As always, safe travels!



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BELIEVE IN FREEDOM, NOT FREEDUMB

Editor:

Just last week I read the following from an unknown source:

"So the voters can't be trusted, the poll-

workers can't be trusted, the voting machines can't be trusted, the media can't be trusted, Bill Barr can't be trusted, the guy who was in charge of election security

can't be trusted, the lower courts can't be trusted, the appellate courts can't be trusted, and the Supreme Court can't be trusted.

But Donald Trump can be trusted.

Roll that around in your head for about 3 minutes (took me 3 seconds) and realize how incredibly mind-bogglingly stupid that sounds."

We constantly hear about the loss of our freedom in our country. If voting laws are drastically changed, as many states are presently doing, it will make your right to vote all that more difficult. There are other countries who cherish the right to vote more than we do. India, for example, will send a vote counter out to a village no bigger than Pea Green just to insure the ability of their citizens to vote. Remember our troops in Iraq protecting voters at voting booths? The Iraqi's proudly held up their thumbs with purple ink, as their proof of voting in defiance of the Taliban. Colorado's voting system works. But other states are trying to make it harder to vote based on what again? Oh yes, Trump saying the election was stolen.

Another freedom I do not want to lose is my ability to live a life as it was pre-pandemic. To be able to visit friends and family, travel at will, and go about life enjoying restaurants, movies, concerts, ball games, and activities as yet unexplored.

I believe in FREEDOM, not FREEDUMB. Get vaccinated, wear a mask when recommended, be considerate of others and let's end this reluctance to do what is right.

Jon Sering, Montrose



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WILD MUSHROOMS ABOUND AFTER MONSOONAL RAINS

From pg 1

need hiking shoes and a sturdy bag.

Former San Miguel County Commissioner Art Goodtimes serves as shroompa, parade master, and poet-in-residence for the Telluride Mushroom Festival, which takes place this year from Aug. 18-22.

Goodtimes is also an avid and knowledgeable forager of edible fungi.

“Ironically 2021 is turning into an epic mushroom year during what has been the worst drought in over a hundred years,” said Goodtimes. “At least up on Lizard Head Pass near Telluride. King boletes, chanterelles and hawkwings — all edibles — have been coming up in profusion. The monsoon rains here have created the largest fungal flush in ten years or more.”

Said one local forager, who declined to divulge his name--or hunting grounds-- “This is a pretty darn good season. The mushrooms are fruiting earlier this year

than in normal years.

“Last year there were none,” he said.

“This year they are plentiful--it’s too bad that the fly amanitas are not edible, because they are prolific this year.”

Also known as fly agaric or amanita muscaria, the brightly colored but poisonous mushroom contains hallucinogenic properties.

For those not familiar with Colorado’s wild mushroom varieties, experts advise caution.

The CSU website notes that despite their appeal, “Wild mushrooms should only be consumed under the guidance of a trained mycologist or mushroom expert who meets criteria required for wild mushroom identification by state or local health departments. Cooking or drying cannot reduce the toxicity of poisonous mushrooms.”



Coral mushroom. Courtesy photo.



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- There is a large variety of direct sown veggies in our massive garden.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW DOES NOT REQUIRING UNIVERSAL MASK WEAR IN OUR SCHOOLS 'ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF?'

To the Editor:

In an article entitled "Masks not required in Montrose schools this fall" in the July 30, 2021, edition of The Montrose Daily Press, Montrose County School District RE1J spokesperson, Matt Jenkins, was quoted as saying "We're going to make sure that whatever plans that we compile are going to ensure the health and safety of all of our students and staff". That is the policy that would be expected from school district personnel. However, that statement is in disagreement with the announcement that students and staff will not be required to wear masks when school convenes.

To not require students and school staff to wear masks ignores some very clear recommendations from well-informed sources with regard to combating the current threat from the Delta Variant of the COVID 19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended universal mask wear in all non-domestic indoor settings. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended universal mask wear in school for all students and

staff. One wonders upon what well-informed authority our School District is relying in ignoring these recommendations.

To not require students and school staff to wear masks also ignores some important FACTS. The COVID virus is transmitted from person to person primarily through the air. The Delta Variant is far more transmissible than the original virus. Masks are very effective in limiting transmission of the virus. There are no health risks to wearing a mask. (All surgical personnel wear masks full time in the operating room with no side effects.) An immunized individual can contract, harbor, and transmit the Delta Variant, while having no symptoms. She/he is much less likely to transmit the virus if wearing a mask, and, if those in the proximity are wearing masks, they are less likely to contract the virus.

Only 43% of eligible Montrose County residents have been immunized against COVID 19.

About 65% of County adults have been immunized. That means that somewhat

less than 43% of students aged 12 to 18 have been immunized.

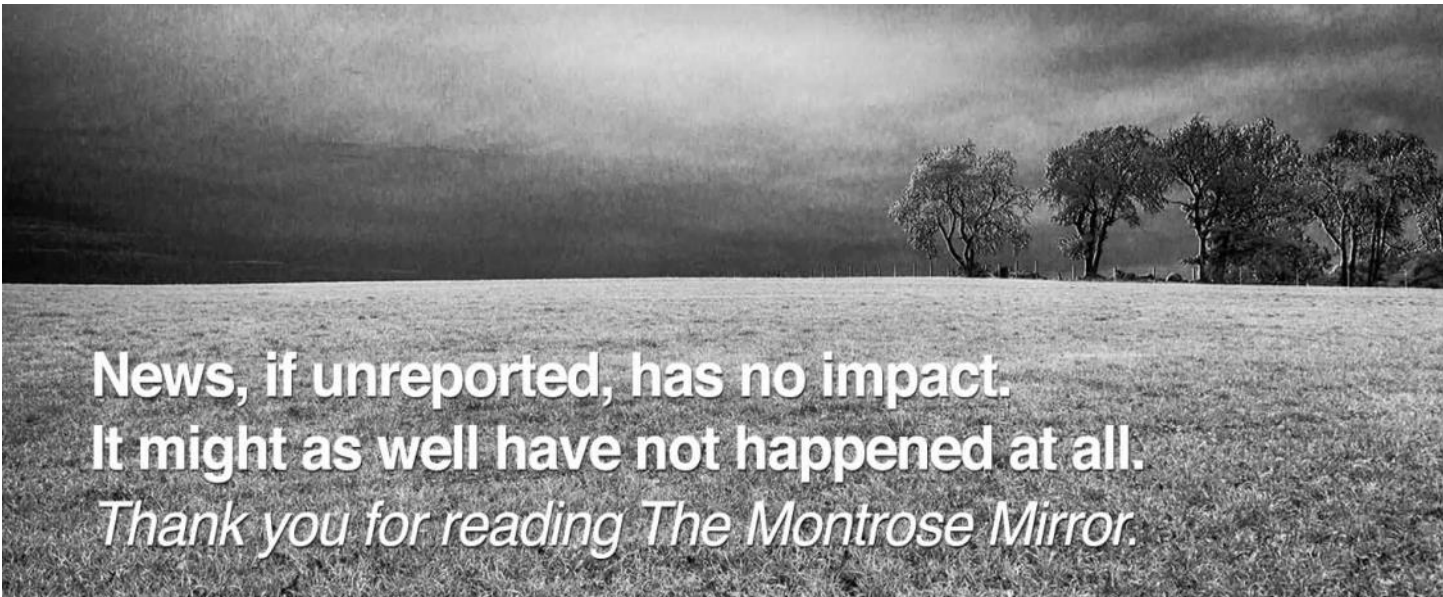
That also means that the great majority of our School District students have not been immunized and are susceptible to contracting the virus, let alone carrying it and transmitting it.

Universal mask wear in schools would go a long way toward protecting all of those unimmunized students.

Which raises the question: How does NOT requiring universal mask wear in our schools "ensure the health and safety of all of our students and staff"?

I strongly recommend that all parents send their students to school with instructions to wear their masks at all times in school or on school buses and all school staff members wear their masks whenever they are in school or on school buses. I would trust that School District administration would welcome students and staff with masks and would take all necessary steps to prevent and discipline any efforts by unmasked students and staff to discredit those who are masked.

Louis H. Winkler, MD, Montrose



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

PUBLISHER'S CORNER: COMMENTARY

'A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND'

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

During the Illinois Republican State Convention, in June of 1858, Abraham Lincoln said "A house divided against itself cannot stand." The nation was very much divided at the time, war came, and eventually things improved. But do we now stand at a time where we are even more divided, and at risk of the whole house collapsing? I think so.

The difference is, in my opinion, we have much less to be divided about now than we did then.

Back then we had slavery, women could not vote, child labor, and conditions in manufacturing were far worse and more unsafe. We have fixed these issues, through war, and legislation and federal codes, and some may argue the change was too slow, but progress towards a better society has never been an overnight occurrence.

So why does it seem the divide is greater than ever before? And why does it seem that America may never recover from it this time? It seems to be the tendency of most people to point a finger at one thing, usually the easiest to 'deal with.' But the reasons and answers are usually never so simple.

Of course, there is the political divide, driven by politicians, biased news media, and partisans, but that is the easy target when pointing a finger. There is no doubt that it is a massive problem, pitting citizens against each other, sowing distrust against each other, painting a false target on each side as the problem, while those in power do what they want while you are distracted.

There was a time when you could disagree in a civil manner, discuss things and work towards solutions. Now we have the two parties that seemingly live in two different realities, unwilling to listen or engage in any sort of civil manner. Perhaps this is due to decline in education, teaching critical thought or to question things including one's own beliefs, or per-

haps it is a disconnect because of our digital age, where you can watch more people in a bar or restaurant looking at their phones than talking to each other.

People have reached a point where they put their politics before even family and friendships, and that is pathetic. I know a lot of people that this happened to, even disowned by their own family because their beliefs differed. My mom and dad had a couple that were friends for over 40 years, always visiting, always in touch, but one election they decided they did not like my mom's choices on her ballot, so they voiced their disapproval and then disappeared, never making contact again. Just like that, 40 years of friendship written off. Is this the America we want?

There are certainly a few other things that seem to feed into this problem, which is one of communication. The first is that most people have their beliefs set hard in their head, so when listening to any opposing opinion, they listen to respond, not to understand. It is purely defensive, to protect what they already believe.

Another is what seems to be a desire to be right above all else. Everyone must agree with what I think, or something must be wrong with them. It doesn't matter if you must resort to horrid logical fallacies or childish name calling, throwing any rational thought to the wind in favor of emotionally charged language. You must win.

Even outside of the political aspect, people do not spend the time to make connections anymore. Take almost any neighborhood in America. People quite often do not even know who their neighbors are. You are living a life around people and have no idea who is right next to you? We cannot live well in such isolation, or the little bubbles people currently stay in. I have seen it numerous times where people have a gathering in their backyard and friends over, and the neighbor calls the police to complain about noise. It both shocks and outrages me,

that society has come to that sort of thing, rather than knowing who lives around you, and being able to walk out and say, "hey man, I know it's the weekend, but I have to be up early so can you just bring it down a notch, thanks." Is this the America we want?

If America is ever to recover, to heal the divide, this stuff needs to end. Because to be honest, from the viewpoint of an unaffiliated voter, you Democrats and Republicans are BOTH going to be responsible for our collapse. Both parties are so blatantly hypocritical, screaming about the other people doing this or that, but not saying a word when their own people do the same. We, the unaffiliated, the silent majority, we see it every day, and we are tired of it. It is time to put family, friends, and fellow citizens above your party.

I urge people to slow down, to actually listen to others to learn and understand each other, to question everything, most importantly your own beliefs. Quit demonizing those that are not like you in lifestyle or thought, they are people just like you. You don't need to agree with the choices, lifestyles, or beliefs of others, but treat them as a human, not as an enemy. As I have said in other pieces, we are far more similar than we are different, with some of the same basic desires in life, so quit letting politicians or a political party tell you any differently. We are a nation of people, but we have let politicians and partisans take over, and have forgotten the need for genuine human connection, and put politics ahead of our humanity, and that needs to change. If it does not, this grand experiment will end, and it will not be pleasant.



Paul Arbogast. Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL 1ST RESPONDERS HOST NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG. 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are hosting a free, community celebration on Tuesday, August 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., in Cerise Park as part of a nationwide effort to promote community policing. National Night Out is an annual, community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

The event is free to the public. Other agencies involved include the Montrose and Olathe Fire Departments, Olathe Police Department, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Police officers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters, wildlife officers, and other first responders will be hosting a community barbecue with free hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks.

Various pieces of law enforcement and public safety equipment will be on static display for the public to see. A bike rodeo is planned along with other activities for kids. Please note that children participating in the bike rodeo need to bring their own bicycles and helmets.



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MMHI Board of Director applications are now being accepted

Application deadline is August 13.

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DATES

Saturday, August 7

4H Event Center, Ridgway • 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Walk-ins allowed; make appointment for faster service

Tuesday, August 10 - Friday, August 13

Montrose Pavilion, Montrose • 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 14

Montrose Pavilion, Montrose • 6:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Social distancing in effect at all events to help protect our Friends & Family

Registration required. No Walk-ins at Montrose Pavilion events except for Saturday, August 14 after 8:30 a.m.

SCREENINGS

HealthScreen (Chemistry) & Lipid Panel \$50

Hemoglobin A1C \$38

PSA for Prostate Health \$42

CBC (Complete Blood Count) \$25

Vitamin D \$45

Vitamin B12 \$45

Male Testosterone \$45

Advanced Lipid & Heart Health Panel \$85

hsCardioCRP \$40

• 12 hour fast required. Drink lots of water!

• We will NOT bill your insurance. Cash, checks, credit, debit, HSA and FLEX cards all accepted!

• Next year's events will take place August 2022



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONNECT-YOUR LIFE MATTERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Sept. 18th at the Montrose Elks Club from 11-4 NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is proud to sponsor our first suicide prevention and awareness event. This event will be an uplifting series of activities designed to remind attendees that “Your Life Really Does Matter” and that sometimes we just need to remember to connect with those we love and our community. It’s an event with something for all ages, a classic car show, great music by Dave’s Fault Band, wonderful BBQ, a memorial wall, and a butterfly release for those who want to honor loved ones. Vendors will be there, and mental health providers will be on hand to talk about how they may be able to offer support. And its FREE!!!

September is Suicide Awareness Month. Montrose has a new NAMI group and we wanted to offer an event that offers an opportunity for fun, education and reflection for a topic that is generally very dark and difficult to talk about. When our team met to discuss what to call the event; we talked a lot about the impact of suicide, the issues behind suicide and some ways to hopefully prevent suicide. We came up with “Connections and Life Matters”, if we all stay connected and remind each other that our lives matter and that there is always something or someone to live for; maybe we can reduce the suicide rate.

90 percent of people who die by suicide have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255

One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness One in 20 U. S. adults experience serious mental illness

17 percent of youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder

There are ways to reach out and get help-

-talk to health care professional

-Call the NAMI helpline at 1-800-950-6264

-Connect with friends and family

-Join a support group-NAMI has a family support group in Montrose at PIC Place that meets from 530-7 the 3rd Wednesday of each month call 520-282-9060 for more information.

DMEA FACED WITH FINANCIAL DEBACLE: ELEVATE UNDERESTIMATED SCOPE OF WORK REQUIRED FOR CEDAR MESA



On July 27, Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors held their regular meeting at 3 p.m. Discussion on the Grant Zone Make Ready Budget Amendment was led by (L to R) acting Elevate President Kent Blackwell and acting CEO Virginia Harman.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- The July 27, 2021 the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, held in the Black Canyon Board Room, was called to order at 3 p.m.

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments, which are scheduled for 5 p.m. All board members were present in person or by Zoom. Board member Bill Patterson exited the meeting at 4 p.m.

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

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum and approval of the consent agenda (Membership Report and approval of minutes from the June 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the July 2021 Special Board Meeting).

Note: The Special Board Session held via Zoom on July 8, 2021 had only one agenda item, which was slated for Executive Session. The topic of discussion was the “CEO Search” and the action item following the Executive Session was “Resolution re: CEO Search”.

In a DMEA press release dated July 13, 2021 the member-owned electric cooperative officially announced Alyssa Clemens Roberts as the new CEO for DMEA and as President for Elevate.

Roberts will take over the new positions on Aug. 23, 2021.

Roberts replaces former CEO Jasen Bronec, a seven-plus year DMEA employee, who took an abrupt leave of absence on March 12, 2021. It was confirmed that an internal/external investigation was conducted. However, details of the investigation, the reason for Bronec’s severed employment, and information of a settlement package from the co-op to Bronec have not been released to the membership.

Board Committee Items

Board President Kyle Martinez said,

“June expenses for everyone on the board are being passed around and you can review everyone’s expenses.”

Finance – Audit – Rate Committee – Brad Harding, Chair.

Harding said, “We had a meeting on June 16th that we covered at the June 22nd board meeting. We have not met since then.”

Discussion on the CoBank Loan Facility action item was led by CFO Wade Pynes. Pynes said, “The last resolution was from 2015. It’s outdated and this will update it formally. This is a \$15M facility that is close to an update and with the new CEO on board...”

Jock Fleming questioned the wording of the documents. He said, “It looks like each board member can obligate DMEA to a loan [borrow money]. Is this standard?”

Pynes said, “Yes, they are able to do that with CoBank, but it would be unethical if they did.” Noting that there were safeguards in place Pynes said, “No one would be able to draw money.”

Brad Harding said, “There are a lot of pieces to go through. Single authorization on documents is a normal practice.” Resolution 2021-20 for the CoBank Loan Facility was approved unanimously.

Discussion on the Audit Engagement Letter action item was led by Pynes. He said, “We felt this was a good time to switch auditors.”

Harding said, “This is a very standard type of agreement.”

Pynes said, “This is the same fee. It has not been raised for the last few years. It’s around the \$40,000 mark.”

Note: The previous auditor is retiring and this resolution will name a new partner from the same firm.

Enno Heuscher said, “I don’t understand why we picked her.”

Harding said, “Generally organizations change auditors every two to three years. If you go past five years it’s time to make a change. It gives you new eyes.”

Fleming said, “This is an estimate of \$40,000. Do you have a schedule fee in case it comes in higher?”

Pynes said, “They have never charged me

DMEA FACES FINANCIAL DEBACLE: ELEVATE UNDERESTIMATED SCOPE OF WORK FOR CEDAR MESA From previous pg

extra for anything. A lot of firms will nickel and dime you, but they never have." The Audit Engagement Letter was accepted as presented.

Engineering – Construction – Energy Services Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair.

Hauck said, "We have not met since the last report."

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "We have not met."

Executive Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "There are a few items since our last meeting. With the full board [attending the committee meeting], everyone should have an understanding."

Acting CEO Virginia Harman said, "We'll go on a few weeks back. Extend out the contract with Lightworks [Fiber and Consulting] for 10 months and one week from today. It will be the same pricing under the contract. Resolution 2021-21, Fiber Construction, was approved unanimously.

Discussion on the Grant Zone Make Ready Budget Amendment was led by acting CEO Virginia Harman and acting Elevate President Kent Blackwell.

Background: DMEA and its subsidiary company Elevate have the same board of directors. DMEA/Elevate, referred to by a board member as "the posterchild for State grants in broadband," was awarded grant funds for fiber buildout in the areas of Beaver Hill and Cedar Mesa. However, DMEA/Elevate underestimated the scope of work that needed to be done and underbudgeted the funds needed for the Cedar Mesa buildout.

It was discovered that the current electric poles in the rural area of the Cedar Mesa Grant Zone are not adequate to hold the additional weight needed for fiber. Initially DMEA forecast expenses to be \$137,000; however, the latest projection for expense is \$850,000 above the original budget. What was previously approved by the board as an \$1.8 M project is now estimated to cost \$2.65 M.

Harman said, "There are 985 total poles; 20 percent of the poles out there need to

be changed out. They are undersized for fiber; 202 poles need to be changed out."

Blackwell said, "That's \$525,000 in materials, about \$850,000. We only budgeted about \$150,000. Do we make a budget amendment?"

Heuscher said, "Why aren't we doing more field work on the budget?"

Blackwell said, "Typically we do not go to the design process [before the budget]."

Harman said, "There needs to be better communication between the two organizations [DMEA and Elevate] before we apply for grants."

Note: The State grant has specifications, requirements, and a timeline that DMEA must adhere to. Staff noted that making cost estimates in more densely populated areas has held the test of time, while in more rural areas there is less room for fiber. Putting fiber underground in extreme rocky terrain is not an option.

The \$1.8 M State grant is funded at \$1.2 M. Stacia Cannon said, "Kurt, can we go back to the State on the grant without forfeiting the grant?"

Martinez said, "What is recommended from staff?"

Blackwell said, "Upsizing poles, there is some benefit there. There is nothing we could change for the electrical side. We would not change at that time."

Harman said, "If we re-run the grant, would that be too much for the State?"

Martinez reminded board members, "This is the DMEA board, not the Elevate board."

Cannon said, "I am not comfortable with increasing the [DMEA] budget by that amount."

Harman said, "If we are going to move forward, time is of the essence."

Harding said, "This is a cooperative decision; forge ahead and make tough decisions to get to the further reaches of the [broadband] area."

Heuscher said, "I think this would be a huge PR mistake."

Cannon said, "But it's a black eye. A black eye is better than a bad financial decision."

After a brief discussion on how much it would cost for each property Fleming said, "That's 244 people [in Cedar Mesa], or 26,000 people [DMEA membership] who will be saying 'Why are you spending the money?'"

Damon Lockhart said, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander. It has to be equitable."

Referring to obtaining grants Blackwell said, "We have had more success with State money than Federal money." Staff noted it would be difficult to go back to the State and ask for more money and that DMEA's reputation could be at risk.

Weighing the ramifications of turning grant money back to the State Fleming said, "What is this going to do to our reputation and the other applications that are in the hopper?"

Harman said, "I don't want to blow it up. We can tiptoe through to see if we can amend [the State grant]."

Martinez said, "Can we wait until the next board meeting?" Staff cited the need to make a decision before the next meeting because of the 10-month window attached to the State grant and the four to six weeks needed to get the poles ready.

The board directed Harman to discuss the situation with the State. Following her report, they will determine if a Special Meeting is warranted.

DMEA must amend their budget or the fiber cannot be built for Elevate in the Cedar Mesa area; however, the Beaver Hill buildout can move forward.

The majority of the board voted to table the vote on the Grant Zone Make Ready Budget Amendment. Martinez voted against tabling the vote.

Financial Report with Variance Report -



Chris Hauck.
Courtesy photo.

DMEA FACES FINANCIAL DEBACLE From previous pg

Wade Pynes, CFO.

Pynes said, "You have a link to the report. The financials remain strong." Pynes briefly highlighted six items which included an uptick in residential usage because of hot weather, the PPP [Paycheck Protection Program] Loan Forgiveness which was received for both DMEA and Elevate, and an equity table which is a reoccurring item.

CEO Report – Virginia Harman, acting CEO.

Harman said, "You guys have it in front of you, but I'll highlight a couple of areas. I attended a Delta Economic Development event. We discussed typical things we hear in the community. We met with Guzman in Denver now that COVID has lessened. On Colorado legislative issues I attended the signing of SB 72. On September 8 and 9 we will meet with the lobbyist, Kathy and Steve. I think we need to put that out for bid. I don't know other lobbyists, but we could put out a 2022 RFP [Request for Proposal]." Harman also discussed wildfire concerns, her appointment to serve on the State Electrical Board of Colorado, and the only remaining franchise agreement needed for Orchard City.

Harman said, "In our tree effort our new program manager gave his two-week's notice. He started six-months ago."

Discussing the Charge Point Charging station Hauck said, "Tesla is opening up to everyone. Will it affect us?"

Harman said, "There will be price competitiveness here in Montrose."

Hauck laughed and said, "I don't recommend you put your charge station right next to a Tesla station."

Heuscher said, "It's not happening until 2023. This is competition built right next to one another."

Background: The Montrose City Council made Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations a priority and in doing so made a substantial investment to bring a Tesla charging station to Montrose. At the same time the city and DMEA partnered to establish their own EV charging station, Charge Point, which is located adjacent to Tesla.

Harman continued with her report. "We are four-weeks out on design. The workload is really high. All over the State peo-

ple are using the same contractors."

June 2021 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.

Harman said, "There were eight-minutes in June. [In July] there was lots of lightening and outages. Last Friday night there was a five-minute spike."

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

Hurd said, "I'll defer my report to Executive Session."

Representative Board Reports

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

Fleming said, "We have not met since the last [DMEA] meeting. I sent out the newsletter."

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

Lockhart said, "I sent the minutes out for the June meeting. The audit report has gone out. There is a postage increase. The next meeting is August 27th."

Other Business, Informational items

South Canal Hydro Drops 1 & 3 Contract/Reserve Fund

Chief Power Supply Officer Jim Heneghan presented the review of the South Canal Hydro Drops 1 & 3 Contract/Reserve Fund.

Heneghan said, "We have a contract agreement with the Water Users that anytime there is a profit it would be shared [50/50]. The reserve fund balance, because we didn't know if we would make a profit, became a rainy-day fund. In 2019 it grew higher than expected. The ceiling is \$2.5 M. Anything over that we share. Currently the fund is \$2.6 M. If we split the profit that would leave it at \$50,000 each."

Heneghan scheduled an appointment with the Water Users; however, his recommendation to the DMEA board was to not split the profit at this time because of issues with Drops 1 & 3.

Board Education Review

In this quarterly review, Executive Assistant Amy Taylor reminded the board of the continuing education classes that are available.

Review Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund

In this quarterly review Taylor updated the board on the use of funds for scholarships, Operation Round-Up, and the up-

coming purchase of 4-H animals at local county fairs.

Future Meetings

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 23 at 3 p.m. A strategic planning meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1.

Member Comments 5 P.M.

There were no member comments.

Executive Session:

Privileged Legal Report: Privileged Corporate, Litigation, and Regulatory Matters

FERC Settlement on Tri-State Transmission Issues - The board unanimously adopted resolution 2021-22 re: FERC settlement issues.

Board Compensation Review – The board took no action.

Real Estate Valuation/Purchases - The board unanimously adopted resolution 2021-24 re: a budget amendment for a potential real estate purchase.

Interim Executive Compensation Matters

- The board unanimously adopted resolution 2021-23 re: interim executive compensation.

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kenethrwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, lch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com

Condolences to the family of Chris Hauck, a valuable member of the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors who passed away unexpectedly the night of July 29, 2021.

Hauck, who was the DMEA Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and the Chair of the Engineering-Construction-Energy Services Committee, attended and actively participated in the DMEA July 27th board meeting via Zoom.

Friday Fun at MCA

LoneCone photography

Natalie Heller *A Midwesterner's Dream*

Opening Reception 5-7 pm

First Friday at MCA - August 6th



Food, drink, Music Artist talk, 6:15 pm

Montrose Center for the Arts. 11 S. Park Ave. mc4arts.com

No Matter What, Keep Laughing Friday, August 13th, 6 pm

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Stephanie McHugh



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ISLAND BOAT RAMP AT VEGA STATE PARK CLOSED FOR SEASON DUE TO LOW WATER LEVELS

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION – Declining water levels forced managers at Vega State Park to close the Island Boat Ramp at the end of the day on July 29.

“The reservoir will still be open to hand-launch watercraft and boats requiring an



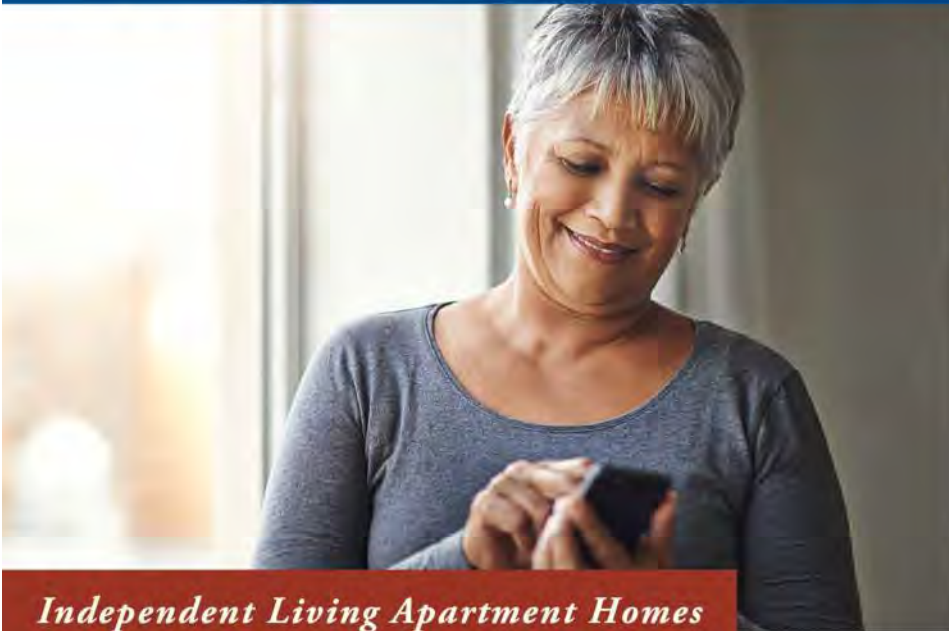
Vega State Park entrance sign. Courtesy photo.

Aquatic Nuisance Species inspection can have them completed at the park’s visitor center,” said Vega State Park Manager James Masek. “We had hoped to keep the ramps running through Labor Day weekend but the dry conditions have made that impossible this year.”

Vega State Park is a year-round park located in western Colorado on the slopes of the Grand Mesa. The park is located above the town of Collbran. The lake is operated as an irrigation reservoir and the land around the lake is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to provide recreational opportunities in the area.

Visit [CPW’s website](#) for more information about Vega State Park.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH HOTCHKISS CLINIC WELCOMES NEW WALK-IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta Health is excited to welcome Joe Jones, Physician Assistant, to the West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic. Jones brings over 17 years of experience and will be providing walk-in care needs to patients in the West Elk communities.

“We are thrilled to have Joe Jones as a new member of the Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss team,” said Vickie Schauster, Executive Director of Clinic Operations. “He brings years of expertise and will do an excellent job providing quality, compassionate care to our patients.”

Jones’s medical start began in 2004 when he joined the United States Army/National Guard and became a Green Beret Medic. After several deployments to Afghanistan and serving eight years in the military, Jones decided to continue his career in medicine.

“I enjoyed medicine so I transitioned into Physician Assistant School at the University of Colorado,” said Jones. “They have a specialty rural track where you receive additional training to have a medical career in rural Colorado. [Working in rural medicine was] a vision I always had for myself as a practitioner and for my family.”

For three years Jones worked at Clinica Family Health in Denver working primarily with Hispanic and Spanish-speaking patients where he learned medical Spanish. He was then part of a mobile urgent care company called Dispatch Health where urgent and hospitalist care was brought to people in their homes.

“When this opportunity came up [at Delta Health] I immediately applied, and I’m happy to be here as a resource to provide

medical resources to folks when they need it quickly,” said Jones. “My background is in emergency medicine with the army, and I’ve always enjoyed ER medicine. I am trained as a general practitioner and have done family practice, but I enjoy higher acuity medicine.”

Jones’s care philosophy focuses on partnering with patients on their journey to health.

“I believe in learning from patients,” Jones said. “I have [information] to offer, but I believe finding health for anyone is a partnership between me and that person I’m working with. I believe that we have a lot of things to teach each other.”

Originally from rural Pennsylvania, Jones grew up on a dairy farm and experienced rural, healthcare clinics firsthand.

“I love rural healthcare because I come from a very rural background,” said Jones. “I went to very small clinics that were very understaffed, so I have a heart for being a person that can step in to fill that gap because I know manning small clinics in rural areas can be very challenging.”

Jones is looking forward to working at the Delta Health West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic and being a part of the community where he will be providing services. He is excited to learn the system, get to know the other medical professionals and learn how he can contribute overall to Delta Health.

“It’s been an extremely welcoming community ever since we moved here,” said Jones. “My family and I are excited to make friends and to learn from the people in the community.”

Life outside of work is busy for Jones, his wife and his children who are 11 years old, eight years old and three years old. They



Joe Jones, Physician Assistant, West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic. Courtesy photo.

live in Hotchkiss and have plans to grow their small farm with a few chickens, turkeys, beef calves and eventually pack llamas. Jones’s wife is originally from Gunnison and he says they are looking forward to being back on the Western Slope and close to family.

“We are very much into the outdoors as a family, and we love to camp, fish, hunt and love to ride mountain bikes and off-highway vehicles,” said Jones. “We’re very excited to be here in Delta County and on the Western Slope.”

Jones is currently seeing patients at the West Elk Hotchkiss Clinic. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Providers will also be available on-call after regular clinic hours 7 days a week to better serve the community.

For more information, call 970.872.1400 or visit deltahealthco.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW BOARD-CERTIFIED WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER JOINS DELTA HEALTH FAMILY MEDICINE CLINIC



Kimberly Walker, board-certified women's health nurse practitioner, joins Delta Health . Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Kimberly Walker, board-certified women's health nurse practitioner, joins Delta Health to provide comprehensive women's health services and infertility evaluations and treatments.

Patients do not need to have Walker as their primary care provider to utilize her services.

"We are thrilled to have Kimberly as part of our care team at Delta Health Family Medicine," said Vickie Schauster, Executive Director of Clinic Operations. "Her background, education and experience

will provide comprehensive primary care services to women of all ages in Delta County."

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), Walker went to Dallas and worked for five years in the labor and delivery unit at Parkland Hospital where they delivered 13,000 to 15,000 babies each year.

"I've always loved women's health and taking care of women through all stages of life and helping to give them a quality of life," said Walker. "I am looking forward to working at Delta Health and providing as much comprehensive women's healthcare as I can. "

Walker received her Master's from Texas Women's University in Dallas and specialized in Women's Health. After that, she moved back to Colorado and started working in infertility at a private practice in Denver for five and a half years.

In May 2021 Walker also completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from UCCS to grow her knowledge and to become a leader in the medical field as a Nurse Practitioner.

"I take pride in spending time with my patients," said Walker. "I listen to my patients' symptoms, their desires and what they want out of daily life. Whether they need to improve quality of life, quality of

relationships or just want to overall feel better – I try to provide individualized care."

Walker chose rural healthcare because she wanted to serve the women in the community that she lives in. She wanted to be part of a community where women would see her on the street and in the office and would know that she has their best interest at heart.

At the start of 2021 Walker, her husband and their two-year-old son moved to the Western Slope of Colorado. They enjoy the outdoors, paddle boarding, hiking, camping and doing CrossFit.

"My family and I are thrilled to be here," said Walker. "I am [excited] to working as a team with the other providers at Delta Health to provide comprehensive care for women. [Whether] it's helping women in their menopausal years or women looking to start their families – I am looking forward to being part of this community."

Walker is currently seeing patients at the Delta Health Women's Center Clinic until Aug. 30, 2021, when the clinic closes.

Starting in September 2021 Walker will be seeing patients at the Delta Health Family Medicine Clinic.

To make an appointment with Walker, call the Delta Health Family Medicine clinic at 970.874.5777 or visit deltahealth-co.org/delta-family-medicine/.

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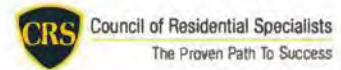


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE DO NOT PAINT A MINION ON THE WATER TOWER

Editor:

PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT PUT A MINION on this as it will make Montrose Look Like Children run the city. Please hire a professional seasoned painter and paint the background with mountains and pastures and a horses and eagle and cattle on it to depict the beautiful scenery of the surrounding area. It will be much more pleasing to the eye and then tourists will know how much we care about our beauty we live in.

Jan Harvey, Montrose

REFUTE MY POSITIONS ON ISSUES, DO NOT ATTACK ME PERSONALLY

Editor:

I welcome letter writers who challenge my opinions. However, if they want to have any credibility, I suggest they not simply call me a liar or attack me personally, but attempt to refute my positions on issues. For example, if I write “You have the double standard of the anarchists that have rioted, murdered, and torched our cities going free, while those caught up in the capitol protest are being prosecuted with the full force of the DOJ,” provide information that shows that not to be true. If you simply say that is a lie, or worse yet, twist my statement to say I condone the capitol protest, I will conclude that you have no clue what you are talking about and are unable to defend your own opinions.

It should be obvious that without the fair and consistent application of laws and rules, a society cannot exist. When due

process is ignored in favor of politically selective prosecution, our country is on its way to ruin. Unfortunately, this once-great nation now has a two-tiered justice system: one for Democrats in which there are no rules, and one for everybody else where the full weight of the federal government will be used to destroy you if you disagree. Being a Democrat now comes with a “get out of jail free” card.

The crimes committed by Hillary and the once-trusted FBI during the Russian hoax, a virtual witch hunt in search of a crime that wasn't committed, remains un-addressed, much less the Clinton Crime Foundation's money laundering schemes. Likewise, the corrupt media successfully swept Hunter Biden's crimes under the rug long enough for “the big guy” Joe to get elected, and now the Biden Justice Department is ensuring that justice will never be served. And there is no obvious

corruption in Hunter's paintings valued at a few hundred dollars at best now selling for hundreds of thousands, right ?. Good thing his name is Biden and not Trump. And those Democratic governors who caused thousands of elderly deaths by forcing nursing homes to take sick COVID patients ? No need for the DOJ to investigate that. But Dems do need a totally partisan “investigation” (another witch hunt) of the lone conservative protest – January 6th, with zero protester-caused deaths and little damage. They need something to distract from the disastrous effects of President Biden's actions thus far. They can't provide a list of Biden's policies and actions that have helped and not hurt working class Americans versus making big government more powerful – because there are none. So, they have to divert attention and continue lying.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BLUE MESA RESERVOIR WILL RECOVER

Editor:

The Colorado River Compact signed in 1922 was the work of many hours of forward-thinking men representing the several states affected by the river. Even in the early 20's they could see the impact of taming the wild, raging, flooding Colorado River. Economic value in life sustaining food production, hydroelectric power generation, as well as unforeseen industries were the goals of the compact. The compact was the teeth needed to get federal help in controlling the river. Hoover Dam was a dream, completed in 1931! Many storage projects followed, with one of the

last the Ridgway Reservoir Dam in 1987. The purpose was to develop a consistent supply of water throughout the growing season, provide affordable electric power for homes and industry and to control flooding along the course of the river and its tributaries.

Recreational use such as fishing and boating were a byproduct of the construction of the storage system. It became a contributing factor to several local economies. The reservoirs were designed large enough to store water in heavy wet years and to share water in drought years. It has taken almost 100 years to see the

latter take place.

Climate change does not mean climate stop. There will be winters in the future, supplying water to the storage units along the Colorado River.

The rate of return to normal storage may be less than we expect, however allowing the system to work the way the early engineers designed it seems cruel to those in our home state, those men could and did see the future with clear eyes. Be patient, Blue Mesa and the entire system will recover.

Kenn Huff

Montrose County Historical Society

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2021 MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR PARADE



The 2021 Montrose County Fair & Rodeo began with a parade down Main Street on Monday, July 26.



Photos by Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher



2021 MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR



Photos by Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOTALITARIAN 'UTOPIA' EXCLUDES ALL BUT MARXIST ELITES

Editor:

Karl Marx spent all his time teaching that workers (the proletariat) would overthrow the owners of capital (capitalists) and establish communism – a “workers’ paradise.” Unfortunately, Marx wrote nothing about how this “utopia” actually works – what replaces capitalism after the revolution?

History gives us a very clear and simple answer: It doesn't work -- period. Marx taught that following the revolution, there would be a temporary reign of the “vanguard of the proletariat” – that small, highly educated, elite group that would benevolently rule in the interests of the workers until they were capable of ruling themselves.

However, wherever a Marxist revolution occurred, the “vanguard” decided their reign was permanent, and literally enslaved the workers. In communist Russia, China, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela,

small groups seized power and refused to cede it – and imprisoned or shot anyone daring to protest.

It's understandable why the “proletariat” in some of these countries favored a communist revolution. Cuba was ruled by a not-so benevolent dictator. Russia was ruled by the Czars- and the people suffered tremendously. China was ruled for centuries by imperial family dynasties. These people had no way of knowing that the solution would be much worse than the problem – that millions of people would be murdered and the remaining people permanently enslaved in a system much worse than before the “revolutions.”

Today's Marxist sympathizers not only choose to ignore history, but they also want to destroy democratic capitalism, the most successful and humane system in all of history. They are more deluded than the peasants in pre-communist Russia or

China. Marxism's goal is to enslave others to enrich themselves and show their own superiority. Stalin, Mao, Castro, Pol Pot, etc. all sacrificed ordinary people and masked their brutality by promises of a workers' paradise.

Because everything President Biden has done thus far is destructive to this country and its people, critical thinkers must conclude he is intent on the destruction of our democratic republic.

There isn't a single major problem this country is currently mired in that can't be directly traced to the actions of Democrats. Not a single one. Democrats' attempts to divide the American people against themselves (“oppressor” vs. “oppressed”, etc.) is a Marxist strategy to turn us into a totalitarian communist state (where everyday Democrats, as well as us deplorables, would not be part of the elite ruling “vanguard”).

Chanda Ouimet, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO--Fort Lewis College hosted its first in-person commencement in a year with multiple outdoor ceremonies celebrating nearly 400 graduating seniors. With a backdrop of the La Plata Mountains and a mix of blue and blustery skies, FLC's stadium filled up with raucous applause and heartfelt remarks from speakers.

Seven small commencement ceremonies took place over two days on Dennison Memorial Field. About 60 graduates were recognized during each ceremony with some friends and families seated in the audience. The stadium guest allowance was limited but other supporters of graduating seniors were able to tune in to a live-stream on Facebook-and some honked and cheered from the parking lot.

President Stritikus, Provost Cheryl Nixon, student body President Carson Ingram, student body Vice President Sophie Schwartz, and faculty commencement speakers addressed the graduates. Multiple speeches touched on persevering through COVID-19, but what imbued each ceremony with triumph was the acknowledgment of how much growth, learning, setbacks, and successes seniors experienced in their time at FLC.

Graduates in the 2021 Spring Commencement ceremony received Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Education degrees, as well as certificates in Pre-Health, Geographic Information System, and Digital Marketing.

Tabitha Andersen of Nucla (Writing) Kourtney Keltz of Montrose (Business Administration)

Zane Sauer of Montrose (Computer Engineering)

Sierra Vigil of Montrose (Biology and Pre-Health Certificate)

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MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT OFFICE RELOCATES

Special to the Mirror

GRAND VALLEY — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce the relocation of the Grand Valley Ranger District office. The new office is located at 1010 Kimball Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81501. Beginning Aug. 9, hours of operations will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The current district office will be closed Aug. 2–6 to allow for employee relocation. The office will reopen at the new location Aug. 9. Grand Valley Ranger District phone lines will be shut off July 30 at close of business and are scheduled to come back online Aug. 9. The phone numbers will remain the same. Members of the public will be able to purchase forest product permits, maps, literature, and America the Beautiful passes and get information about trails, roads and campgrounds at the new location.

In person visitor services will not be available during the relocation. Maps may be purchased online here: [Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests](#)

- [Maps & Publications \(usda.gov\)](#). Recreation passes and permits may be purchased online here: [America the Beautiful - National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Passes | USGS Store](#). Forest products permits are available at the following vendors:

- The Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center
Monday through Saturday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
440 N Palmer Drive, Delta, CO
(970) 874-8349
- Valley Ranch
Monday through Saturday 6 a.m.–6 p.m.;
Sunday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
57454 Hwy 330, Collbran, CO
(970) 487-3000
- Paonia Flower Shop
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.;
Saturday 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
201 Grand Avenue, Paonia CO
(970) 527-4664
- Desperado General Store
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Sunday 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
40486 D Road, Crawford CO
(970) 921-5665

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“We’re trying to minimize the impact on the public,” said Bill Edwards, Grand Valley Ranger District, District Ranger. “With walk-in business and phone service — we’re doing our best to keep that interruption as short as possible. The most important thing about the new facility is that the location enables us to provide better customer service,” Edwards said. “It will be easier for the public to find and access.”

For additional information or questions please contact Grand Valley Ranger District at (970) 263-5800.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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Natalie Heller

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JOHN VASTAG BRINGS INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP IDEAS AND STRATEGIES TO COMMUNITY OPTIONS, INC.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Community Options, Inc. is pleased and proud to announce that its Board of Directors has selected John Vastag as the new Executive Director for the organization. According to Darcy Arnold, Board President and head of the Search Committee “John rose to the top of the field of candidates like cream in a jar of fresh milk”.

John Vastag is a native of Hebron, North Dakota and a graduate of Minot State University with a degree in Special Education. John comes to Community Options, Inc. with a strong background in the Human Services field. Most of his career has been focused on serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most recently, John served as CEO of Development Homes, Inc. a large nonprofit organization serving individuals with intellectual disabilities in Grand Forks, ND. He has also been the Director of Health & Medical Transformation for Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND, and Director of Legisla-

tive Affairs for Sanford Health of Fargo, ND.

John has always been community service oriented and participated with many associations in the communities where he lived and worked.

He has recently extended “Meet and Greet” invitations to local dignitaries and looks forward to becoming an integral part of the Montrose and Delta communities.

Away from the office, John enjoys spending time with his family. He is devoted to his lovely wife Char, and together they have two children and four grandchildren. Travel will definitely be a part of their new lifestyle, as their son Tyler and daughter-in-law Becca, with children Susie and Nathaniel live in North Dakota. Their daughter Miranda and son-in-law Kyle, with children Luca and Liam reside in California.

John likes to explore his creative talents in his woodworking shop and appreciates the great outdoors through hiking, fishing and hunting. The recreation opportunities

available on the Western Slope of Colorado were a definite part of the decision to move to Montrose.

John succeeds Tom Turner, who served as the Executive Director of Community Options, Inc. for 26 years. When Tom announced his retirement in January of 2021, the Board of Directors acknowledged there would be many challenges in finding a new leader. Tom’s legacy of extraordinary leadership and commitment left a tremendous vacancy that was not easily filled.

“John is clearly the best person to be the new leader of Community Options, Inc, and he has the unanimous support of our Board,” Arnold stated. “During the selection process, the Board took the painstaking, thorough approach that our clients, employees and partners expected and deserved.”

Community Options, Inc., established in 1972, provides and coordinates services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IS MONTROSE MUCH DIFFERENT THAN OTHER MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES?

Editor:

FYI, this article is my opinion. I am not a real estate professional. Responding to the MDP article : " Frenetic real estate market exacerbating teacher shortage". First, I do not believe Montrose is an inexpensive place to live. Although home interest rates remain low not everyone can be painted with the same financial brush. So, I recently looked at the Denver home buying market. Colorado Springs seemed similar, and, in both cases, it appeared to me that there is a shortage of resale homes on the market. Trying to get into a new construction home in Denver seems almost prohibitive and is a story unto itself. I also looked at what a \$425,000 home resale might look like in Denver. Of course, I cannot describe all the details that go into house valuations but what I found is that \$425,000 can be a 50-year-old house, not in the best of condition. The \$425,000 price was the asking price and then the competitive bidding kicked in. It did not seem unusual in the Denver market to get 10 to 30 offers over a weekend depending on the details the new listing had to offer.

What does all this mean to our Montrose real estate market? Some of our houses in our market may be considered to be a bargain compared to the same house in Denver and other cities to an out-of-town buyer from "anywhere USA". Depending on the individual's equity position the buyer may be able to pocket a lot of money in the price difference. Other issues also may be a factor when buying a house. Generally, younger first-time home buyers starting out struggle to get into a house no matter where they live. Market based rents are just as competitive as anything else and have their own pluses and minuses. In general, most investors will try to get the " Highest and Best "prices the market will bear. We also have other factors such as the availability of outdoor activities and skiing within driving distance. Montrose population demographics and associated income sources may also be a huge factor. Is Montrose much different than other mountain communities? As far as school district salaries go, I think a published chart of "all positions" including administrative staff, secretaries, teacher salaries, and benefits would be another story in itself and be a shocker that not everyone is paid poorly in the continuing saga, "As Montrose Turns". As always what we know is important. House valuations have increased. What we do not know can be both critical and enlightening.

Jim Anderson, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FEMALE INMATES ARE LITERALLY CRYING FOR HELP AS THEY ARE BECOMING PREY OF MALE PRISONERS

Dear Editor;

Just when Americans thought they have heard and seen all the radical and obscene tricks and insane craziness from the Left wing mob of the Democrat regimes, the Democrats in California have now come up with another unexpected, unexplained, stupid, and mentally discorded dictatorial demand. Hold on to your pants now because this is off the charts relevant to any sanity. This idea would be impossible to make up and discuss in any sane group discussion. But in California, Democrats have passed a law and signed into law by California Democrat Governor, Gavin Newsom, that allows for "transgender women" (i.e., men who identify as a woman, but have all the male working parts) to be transferred to women's prisons! That's right. Female inmates are literally crying for help as they are becoming prey of male prisoners. Now, the Central California Women's Facility has been providing "new resources" for women including condoms and abortion pills.

After the law went into effect in January, there have been 255 requests filed from male prisoners asking to transfer to women's prisons. The law allows that a person's gender identity is "self-reported" meaning anyone can apply if they think there is a chance to have sex with a woman. It is now feared the prisons will see violent fights from men fighting over women and women trying to fight off men who might not like sex from men. Then if

a woman becomes pregnant she and her baby are going to be provided with parental vitamins, low bunk housing accommodations, ability to apply for community-based programs, newborn care, and the endless list goes on and on to include all the benefits of a single mother. Already prison officials know some prisoners that have already been transferred have HIV positive and have had sex with some of the women. And the women have been warned there are more men coming with despicable criminal records. So where are the hero protectors of the left-wing feminist organizations like the Women's Liberation Front? Since those left-wing organizations are cradled in the Democrat party this will be ignored. The hypocrisy is atrocious.

Last week Ron Sobieck wrote a criticism of Ed Henry accusing him of attacking an opinion that he disagrees with and "spewing outright lies". I also read Mr. Henry's article and I can't agree more with the common sense judgement and accurate information Henry spoke about. After all, Mr. Sobieck, isn't that his Constitutional right to express his opinion just as you did? Or is the Constitutional protections only for the left-wing extremists? Sobieck accused Henry of "outright lies". Sobieck, how is it a lie to say Democrats are destroying our country by unpatriotically letting in millions of invaders from all over the world across our southern border? This present president is in violation of his

oath of office not protecting America from "foreign and domestic" enemies. Patriot President Trump was stopping that! Lets hope when Republicans regain the House and Senate next year they will impeach Biden and try him for treason. Problem is, his replacement is just as bad. Sobieck also chastised the "right wing" media. Right wing Newsmax TV at least gives the honest truth from it's hosts, unlike the usual leftist networks. And everyone is fixated on "Jan. 6" where the only one killed was a Trump supporter shot by someone wearing cuff links on his shirt cuff.

The leftists are trying to say it was a cop, but I have never seen a cop wearing cuff links on his shirt while on duty. In fact Pelosi and her ilk are keeping it a secret who the shooter was which is an admission her ilk is most likely responsible for the murder. The only other death was a Capital hill police officer who died from natural causes, not a fire extinguisher the extremist leftists lied about. By the way, President Trump asked for his group to "peacefully" approach the Capital. He said nothing to incite their famous insurrection claim. In fact no one has ever proved the ones unruly were actually Trump supporters or imposters from the Antifa rioter gangs just wearing Trump hats. President Trump only wants elections where people can't cheat. You're right, Mr. Sobieck, TRUTH does matter, try harder please.
Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



Ridgway State Park Summer Program Series:



Friday August 6th, 7:30pm

Moose of Colorado!



By Alyssa Kircher, CPW Terrestrial Biologist. Join us for an evening of learning about these beautiful and majestic creatures!

(Visitor Center, Dutch Charlie Entrance).

Saturday August 7th, 9:00 – 11:00am

“Hunger Games” Archery. Kids ages 8+, (Smaller equipment for those under 8.) Join us to learn a new skill or practice what you know!

(Visitor Center lawn, Dutch Charlie entrance)



Saturday August 7th, 7:30pm

Wild Mustangs of Disappointment Valley!



TJ Holmes, a BLM volunteer, runs a mustang sanctuary for the Serengeti Foundation in Disappointment Valley, adjacent to Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area. **Plus,** extra guest, Kathryn (Kat) Wilde, author of the recently published memoir, “Desert Chrome”

(Visitor Center, Dutch Charlie entrance)

Sunday August 8th, 9:30 – 11:00am

Nature Detectives: Raptors!

Kids...look at some study skins, talk about different raptors, and make a talon key chain to take home! (Elk Ridge Camper Services Building, Dutch Charlie entrance).



Sunday August 8, 1:30 – 4:30pm

Touch Tables: Rocks and Fossils!

Look at various rock and fossil specimens.

(Swim beach shower/picnic area)



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BOBBY R. JOHNSON, SR.

January 5, 1940 – June 28, 2021



Bob may not have changed the world, but he impacted lives.

After returning to his hometown some months before, Bob slipped his earthly bonds, the age of 81 with Paty, his wife of 39 years and his loved ones by his side. Bob and his twin sister Betty Pixler were born January 5, 1940, to Chester (Chet) & Buena Johnson in Montrose, Colorado. He grew up in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School in 1958. He married Phyllis Millard and together they had three children – Jennifer, Bobby, Jr. and Tommy. In 1982 Bob married Patricia Dodson who added her two children, Christo-

pher and Erin, to the Johnson family.

As a very young man Bob learned to work and take on whatever challenges and responsibilities, he encountered to be successful. Bob never backed down from a challenge. He was a selfless man, who even in his final days would say to his loved ones "just look after Paty." Bob was intelligent, creative and innovative. Throughout his life these traits enabled him to experience a variety of careers and interests. Including everything from plumbing, electrical, building rockets for the Titan and Gemini Space programs and later building maximum security prisons in Virginia, enjoying the National Parks, canoeing the Snake River, photography, flying and many, many more activities. His mind was always working. One of Bob's greatest passions was serving on the Montrose Volunteer Fire Department from 1964-1979. He was one of the first three certified EMT's in the department. He also served on the Montrose Volunteer Ambulance Service from 1973 through 1982. He was the organizer for the 55th Annual Fireman's Convention; Due to his leadership and the great success of the convention, he was given the "Key to the City." He was also a member of the Elks Club for over 25 years. Based on his various careers, he and Paty were able to travel and experience many adventures in their different locations.

He was a beloved family man who enjoyed life & spending time outdoors,

jeeping, camping, hunting, fishing and cooking with his family and friends. He loved cooking breakfast for his family and always cooked dinner when camping out for pleasure or in hunting camp. He loved to dance, and it was said he could "cut quite a fine rug." Bob enjoyed the company of his and Paty's many cats, especially Cracker who stayed by his side, made him smile and lifted his spirits during his final days. Bob is survived by his wife Paty of Montrose, CO; twin sister Betty Pixler, Montrose, CO; brother Bill Johnson, Ridgeway, CO; children Jennifer Rodriguez (Jorge), Cedaredge, CO; Bobby Johnson, Jr. (Linda), Hixson, TN; Tommy Johnson (Britta), Montrose, CO; Christopher Dodson, Aurora, CO; Erin Dodson, Tokyo, Japan; seven grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren; numerous family and friends. A memorial gathering will be held the 4th of September 2021 from 11-5pm with a catered BBQ at: River Bottom Park, Montrose, CO, all family and friends are welcome. Come to share memories and photos. There will be a memorial table and 4 memory boards where photos can be displayed. Please RSVP for catering purposes - text or call Paty Johnson at (276) 608-7087, email mu23176@gmail.com or mail 901 6530 Rd. Unit 3205, Montrose, CO 81401. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Montrose Fire Protection District (Victims Fund) 441 South Uncompahgre Avenue Montrose, CO 81401.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

TOM GARCIA (PAPA, SPEEDY)

June 18, 1949 - July 22, 2021

Tom passed away at his home in Montrose, surrounded by his loving family.

Tom Garcia was born in Pagosa Springs, CO. Tom met his wife Hazel when he was 14 years old. They were married April 11, 1970.

They were together in marriage for 51 years. Tom and Hazel had 2 children, Tisha and Tommy.

Tom's family meant the world to him. They always came first to him. Tom's grandkids knew him as Papa. Tom had a unique sense of humor, he loved teasing and messing with everyone.

Tom was able to take a cruise with his family, he enjoyed every minute of it. He went ziplining and was able to take lots of priceless pictures with the ones he loved the most. Memories of this trip his family will cherish forever.

Tom loved his grandkids. He couldn't wait for Christmas because he knew how much his grandkids loved his homemade gifts he made for them. They all loved how he wore Santa shorts along with a Santa hat. Tom was very blessed to be able to meet his first great grandchild. And loved him with all his heart. God blessed him with that.

Tom served in the Army from (1967-1978) SSG Miguel T Garcia C. Company 227 AHB, 1st Cavalry Div. Tom served in Vietnam from (1967-1968) as a Crew Chief pilot and gunner. During his time there he received several medals, some of the medals

he was awarded were:

3 Bronze service stars

Army Commendation medal/ Vietnam Service medal.

Air Medal with V 1st Oak Leaf Cluster/ Air Medal

1st-36th Oak Leaf Cluster

After his time in Vietnam Tom served in Korea for 13 months.

Tom played a big role in bringing the Vietnam travelling memorial wall to Montrose, CO as well as the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.

After leaving the Army, Tom became a hard rock miner in Silverton, CO at Sunny-side mine till its closing. He then worked for Sysco and after that he worked for Saralee until he retired. When Tom retired he bought his dream Harley.

Tom and Checho (what Tom called his wife Hazel) travelled cross country on his Harley. Tom had a lot of hobbies. He was an amazing mechanic and could fix almost anything. He loved speed, he was always driving fast. He loved fast cars and motorcycles. Tom loved being outdoors, he enjoyed taking care of his yard. Riding four wheelers and snowmobiles was something he really loved. He enjoyed hunting, teaching his family how to hunt.

Tom loved fly fishing he even made his own fly fishing rods and he used to tie his own flies. He enjoyed camping and boating. And of course, riding his Harley. Tom also enjoyed going for coffee and



donuts with other Veterans. Tom had a great passion for life.

Tom is survived by his loving and devoted wife Hazel, his two children daughter Tisha (Chris) Bennet and his son Tommy Garcia. His six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Three brothers and one sister. Predeceased by his parents Rudy and Eva Garcia, his brothers Paul and Andy.

Memorial Contributions may be made to: Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.

#montrosemirror

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KATHERINE GRACE CHURCH

July 13, 2021

KATHERINE GRACE CHURCH left this world on Tuesday, July 13 to be with her husband Clellie Frederick Church in heaven.

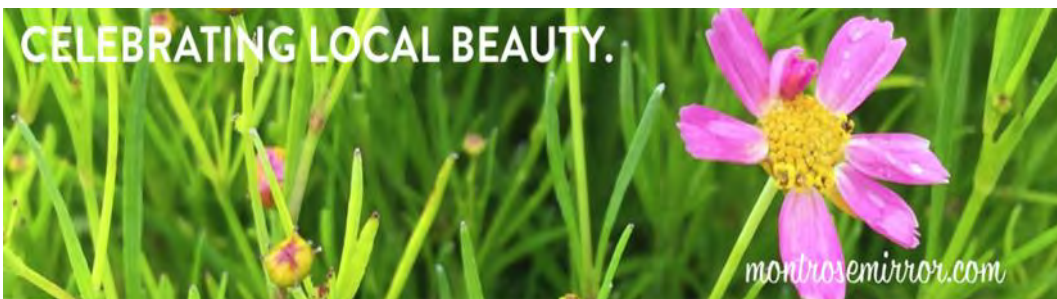
Katherine, daughter to departed Rev. Gottfried Naumann and Katherine Naumann was the beloved sister of William, Walter and Vicky; a dear mother to Bill, Matt, Natalie and Jon; loving grandmother to Kali, Caitlyn, Madalynn, Tabitha and Tristan; and great grandmother to Hayden, Ryker and Elayna.

Kathy was a generous and giving woman who trained and worked most of her life as a registered nurse. She was strong, independent and fierce and yet the most loving and kind person you could meet. She always had time to listen or share her wonderful humor. Her light and smile will be missed, we love you Mom.

Condolences can be sent to the Church Family 67751 Sunshine Rd. Montrose Co. 81401.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OPEN HOUSE FOR MARGE KEEHFUSS

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held for Marge Keehfuss Saturday, August 7, 2021, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Rd. Light refreshments will be served.



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 327 Aug. 2



HAPPY BIRTHDAY COLORADO



Courtesy image.

By Bob Cox

COLORADO-Colorado just celebrated its 145th year as a state. Perhaps 'celebrated' is not the best term to use. The fact is that Colorado really does not celebrate much now, and for that matter there was not much celebration when it became a state. Congress passed the organic act that resulted in Colorado becoming a territory. President James Buchanan signed the bill on February 28, 1861. The United States

of America at the time was in turmoil and several southern states were threatening to secede from the Union. There were those who had pure political motives to move Colorado to statehood status almost immediately after its recognition as a territory. Prior to the 1864 presidential election, Republicans controlled congress and the leaders of the Republican Party wanted to keep that control.

Prior to 1913, state senators were ap-

pointed by the state legislators, and leading up to that all-important 1864 election, the addition of two likely Republicans from Colorado would have been a major victory, in that Colorado would carry three more electoral votes for President Lincoln. Colorado voters, however, were not that enthusiastic. Only about 6,000 of the 35,000 citizens of Colorado voted for statehood. At that time there were actually three political parties represented in the conventions to discuss statehood. In addition to the Republicans and Democrats, a very vocal Sand Creek Vindication party proved to have much to do with Colorado remaining a territory.

The Republicans also had their naysayers. A prominent Republican, Henry Teller, opposed statehood. His opinion was that it would actually result in more Democrats in office. He later turned Democrat himself.

In 1866 statehood advocates launched another major push. President Andrew Johnson returned a bill in May of that year, saying Colorado did not meet the standards. That bill was still under consideration when Congress forwarded still another bill. Johnson gave a full-fledged veto of that bill and forwarded a lengthy message to the Senate explaining his actions. The missive began:

To the Senate of the United States:

Continued next pg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY COLORADO

From previous pg

I return to the Senate, in which House it originated, a bill entitled "An act to admit the State of Colorado into the Union," to which I can not, consistently with my sense of duty, give my approval. With the exception of an additional section, containing new provisions, it is substantially the same as the bill of a similar title passed by Congress during the last session, submitted to the President for his approval, returned with the objections contained in a message beating date the 15th of May last, and yet awaiting the reconsideration of the Senate.

A second bill, having in view the same purpose, has now passed both Houses of Congress and been presented for my signature. Having again carefully considered the subject, I have been unable to perceive any reason for changing the opinions, which have already been communicated to Congress. (From MESSAGES AND PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS Volume VI.)

The bill was once again vetoed

The proposals for admission again gained some momentum in 1874, but many territory residents did not favor statehood. In January of 1874 petitions were being circulated. The *Pueblo Chieftain* reported that support was not favorable.

On June 18, 1874 the *Chieftain*, while seemingly complimenting the efforts of Jerome Chaffee, the delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the territory's at large district, pointed out the convoluted method by which politicians were pandering. In part, the article read:

The former moves in the game are easily recapitulated; the Chaffee party have McCook removed and Elbert appointed governor of Colorado; the McCook party have Elbert superseded by McCook; the Chaffee party bring charges to defeat McCook's confirmation by the senate; the McCook party are too strong for the opposition, and are likely to have the nomination of their candidate confirmed; and now

to cut to the short the reign of McCook in Colorado, the Chaffee party hope by an excellent piece of strategy to have our territory admitted as a state.

On July 23, 1874 *The Trinidad Enterprise* printed the following editorial/article: *Some of our contemporaries think the question of the admission of Colorado as a state will be the prominent question at issue in the approaching canvass for delegate to Congress. In southern Colorado, that question will be treated only as an immaterial issue. Statehood would not be peculiarly desirable to us, as our present condition is not such as to create a wish for a change. All the advantage we can see in a state, at this time, would be the possession of three votes in Congress, and we would ask, What are they among so many?*

By January of 1875 things were looking up for the promoters of statehood, but the miners in many western towns were still holding out. They feared tariffs and higher taxes, but many admitted that the mines would continue to be worked, just as the farms would continue to be plowed and the cattle herds would multiply, whether Colorado continued as a territory or became a state.

The *Denver Daily Times*, in the January 29, 1875 edition printed the following notice: *Colorado Democrats will write to Democratic United States Senators if they wish to see Colorado admitted as a state. If any considerable number of Republicans vote against the bill, and the Democrats go solid that way, there'll be no hope for it.*

Early in 1875 Congress, by act, authorized the inhabitants of the state to form a state government. J.B. Chaffee remained in the forefront of statehood efforts. On May 20, 1876, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* published a short article that was reprinted in several other newspapers:

Hon. J. B. Chaffee, of Denver, who has been making the tour of Europe during the

last year, has returned to his home, where he received a hearty welcome. The News very justly says of him:

Few men who have made their mark in the world have been so successful to be so little the cause of repining in others, and today in the entire Territory, there is not a public man who is so deservedly popular for good and sufficient reasons as he who got Colorado admitted as a State.

Then finally, on August 1, 1876 President Grant made it official:

Presidential Proclamation

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, president of the United States of America, do, in accordance with the provisions of the act of congress aforesaid, declare and proclaim the fact that the fundamental conditions imposed by congress on the state of Colorado to entitle that state to admission to the Union have been ratified and accepted and the admission of the said state into the Union is now complete.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy six, ...

It was not until early 1907 that Governor Henry Buchtel, the 17th governor of Colorado, proclaimed August first to be Colorado Day. The *Montrose Enterprise* was less than impressed. They opined in the March 15 edition:

Gov. Buchtel has signed the bill making August 1, the day of admission as a state, Colorado Day, and one more holiday is added to the list.

Today, Colorado Day comes and goes without much fanfare. Banks remain open and some businesses attempt to capitalize by offering specials, but there are no parades and few display the Colorado State Flag. Note: Bob Cox can be contacted at coxbob@charter.net. He hosts a YouTube channel, [coxnones](http://coxnones.com).

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THE MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET CELEBRATES FARMERS MARKETS' RESILIENCY FOR NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK 2021

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Summer markets for 2021 will continue every Saturday from 9am-1pm until October 30th

The Montrose Farmers Market joins markets across Colorado in celebrating National Farmers Market Week from August 1-7, 2021. Every Saturday we have live music, kids games, food trucks, along with our vendors and local groups like the historical society, area quilters, CSU Master Gardeners and the animal shelter.

In the midst of a global pandemic, farmers markets — like all other small businesses — have innovated to continue operations for the farmers and communities that depend on them. Market managers have been at the forefront of adapting rapid solutions and innovation to protect staff, customers, and community. When conventional food supply chains failed at the start of the pandemic, farmers markets and local food systems clearly displayed the resiliency of short supply chains and interest in local foods spiked nationwide. Now, farmers markets are headed into another year of building resilience in our community and bringing people together.

The Montrose Farmers Market is a proud member of the Colorado Farmers Market Association, a membership-based non-

profit organization that supports farmers markets across Colorado through training, technical assistance, and network-building. National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition. This year, the campaign is centered around the essential role that farmers markets play in our local food systems and in developing local resilience in communities as hubs for connection.

The Montrose Farmers Market located in Montrose Colorado began in 1978, and currently hosts multiple farmers/ranchers selling a wide variety of products, including peaches, corn, peppers, greens, heirloom tomatoes, meat, chicken, and eggs and all the seasonal produce available on the Western Slope. This year, Covid-19 has created a number of challenges including the migration of our winter market due to spacing requirements and the lack of customers due to financial strain. In collaboration with the City of Montrose we were able to rent outdoor tents and space heaters to continue our market outdoors comfortably. For the 2021 summer season we have seen a drastic increase in our customers as well as the community spirit that the market creates while maintaining a healthy outdoor experience for our customers and vendors.

Julie King, the current Market Manager, has been a staple to the Montrose Farmers Market with the ability to pivot and remain flexible in the face of challenges presented. Julie believes that the Montrose Farmers Market allows us to “come together over food and community” and should become part of your Saturday routine. Our Farmers Market is proud to currently host 5 food access programs through our market. These programs include SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, and WIC. In addition to these state and local programs, the market also accepts Market Bucks which are vouchers purchased and distributed by Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans. We also host our Local Pharmacy Rx program, giving participants \$50 per class attended to supplement their fruits and vegetables consumption.

“In the last year farmers market operators have gone to herculean lengths to keep their markets open and to protect their communities,” said Ben Feldman, Farmers Market Coalition Executive Director. “Throughout National Farmers Market Week 2021, we will be highlighting the vital work of farmers market operators across the nation that provide a space for communities to come together around shared values and work together to change our food system.”





Iconic Montrose Restaurant

TED'S STILL BEST PLACE TO FIND TRADITIONAL AMERICAN MEAL

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE -- There's a reason it's so hard to get a dinner reservation at Ted's Steak House.

This iconic Montrose eating place has been around forever and has steadfast customers who return time after time. One of the reasons so many come back is the hospitality Ted (he's right there) shows his guests.

My son Ian and I met at Teds as I hadn't been for awhile since the pandemic. It is still going strong and was packed last Saturday evening.

Ted's offers a wide variety of meals; everything from beef; pork; chicken and seafood.

I was hungry tonight and suggested to Ian we start with a shared appetizer. So many great choices! We picked bruschetta for \$7.

Appetizers here run from \$14 for oysters Rockefeller to \$7 for a cheese quesadilla and the delicious bruschetta.

Bruschetta arrived quickly with tomato, basil garlic and olive oil on toasted baguette slices topped with parmesan cheese sprinkles. Yum!

Must say this appetizer tasted very yummy while I sipped my "dirty" martini with olives. Nice bar set-up at Ted's also.

Ian was in the mood for a good piece of meat and he ordered a beautiful slice of

prime rib, medium rare, thank you, and perfectly cooked. For 10 ounces (\$35) it was served with au-jus and a spicy creamy horseradish. It also comes in 14 ounces (\$38). Ian loved it; I took a bite and thought maybe next time that's my choice. Juicy and tender.

All meals come with a choice of potato (baked, mashed, fries or sweet potato fries); rice or pasta plus veggies and a salad or soup of the day.

Ian had fries (very crispy) and green chile soup, all of which he pronounced delicious.

Me, I ordered a grilled chicken breast (\$15) and added Oscar (crab/asparagus bearnaise for \$6) to it. Totally the best! Had a baked potato with butter/sour cream (you can also get it loaded), and a salad with bleu cheese dressing.

My dinner went into a box for another meal after I'd eaten my fill. Yeah, I get to experience it again although no ambience in my living room. Ted's is pretty laid back décor wise, very woody and tables and booths. We enjoyed our little booth.

I am so happy to be able to go to restaurants again, as it appeared everyone else at Ted's was.

This iconic restaurant has many choices on the menu. Ask for a kid's menu if you bring the little ones. I'm guessing whatever you order at Ted's will come with many

compliments.

Light dinner selection you can choose between:

Prime rib sandwich (\$18); the burger (\$15); grilled chicken sandwich (\$13) or portobello stir-fry (\$18).

Beef:

All Certified Angus beef:

Eight-ounce sirloin (\$27); grilled 7-ounce fillet (\$38); 13-ounce rib eye (\$38); chicken fried steak (\$20); the prime rib Ian enjoyed, either 10 ounces or 14 (\$35) (\$38).

Pork:

BBQ baby back ribs: half rack (\$25) or full rack (\$28).

Chicken:

Grilled breast or add blackened seasoning (\$15); chicken Alfredo primavera (\$19); chicken fried chicken (\$19); Tuscan stuffed chicken (\$23).

Seafood:

Walleye (\$25); salmon fillet (\$22); wild-caught Gulf shrimp (\$22) either sauteed in butter/garlic or deep fried; Lobster tail (\$40); Stuffed salmon (\$27).

Soups and salads:

Garden salad (\$18) topped with either shrimp, chicken, steak or salmon. Side salad (\$5) or soup of the day (\$5)

Ted's Steak House is located along Hwy 50, at 103 Rose Ln, Montrose, CO 81401 call [\(970\) 252-0262](tel:970-252-0262).

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CHRIS TOMLIN TO HEADLINE RISE UP 2021 ON SEPTEMBER 11

Spend More Quality Time Together!



Assisted Living Apartment Homes

Feeling anxious about moving your loved one to senior living? The health and safety of our residents is our top priority, so you can feel at ease knowing your loved one is getting that care needed to thrive and allows you to focus on spending quality time together.

**Call today to arrange a visit.
We look forward to meeting you.**

Lease by June 30 and enjoy half off July rent!



The Homestead at Montrose

1819 Pavilion Drive
Montrose CO 81401
970-964-3400
homesteadatmontrose.org

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

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY- Praise Him ministries is proud to announce Grammy® winner, Chris Tomlin will headline Rise Up on September 11. Rise Up, hosted by Praise Him Ministries, is bringing together some of the most popular Christian Bands: Chris Tomlin, Danny Gokey, & Jordan Feliz for a night of praise and worship on the Western Slope. Former U.S. Navy Seal Chad Williams, author of the book, SEAL OF GOD will also share a special message as we remember a significant date and time in U.S. History. "This distinctive and timely event will bring the Christian community together to remember and to celebrate what God has done to restore our country and honor His presence in our lives," said Jorge Hernandez, Praise Him Ministries executive director.

The event will be held at the Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park in Grand Junction. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. with the event starting at 5 p.m.

NEW SERIES OF LUNCH & LEARN WORKSHOPS BEGINS AUG. 8

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The first in a new series of Lunch and Learn Workshops will be presented on Sunday, Aug. 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Lion's Park Community Building, 604 North Nevada, sponsored by the Spiritual Awareness Center. The Five Wishes booklet and the importance of having a will is the topic of this free workshop. Reservations are suggested at 970-252-0908.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose
CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu 9AM - 12PM
Contact Information:
970-249-4732,

inform@fpcmontrose.com,
www.fpcmontrose.com
In Transition-Currently:
Howard Davidson
Paul Parsons
Merle Bierma
Worship Service times:
9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM
We strive to encourage, challenge and support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world.
We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716,

office@montroseumc.org, montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Lisa Petty
Worship service times: 9:30 a.m. Casual Contemporary Worship & 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:30 - Social/Devotional Time
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
Phone: 970.249.4887
website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm,
Home Office – 970-252-0908
Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,
www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister; Rev. Catharine Gates, Associate Minister. Spiritual counseling available.
Worship service times: Unity Service at 11 a.m., Adult Discussion at 9:30 a.m., Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m.

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

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
Office hours: Varies
Contact information:
phone number: 970-275-7026
email address: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com
website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org
Name of current Senior Pastor: John DeSario
Worship service times: 9 AM for Sunday Worship, Monday Night Bible Study 6:30-8pm
Summit Church Montrose preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord.
Summit Church is a group of diverse peo-

ple, (widows, retired couples, families with adult children, families with young and school aged children, and recent high school and college graduates).
Our services are in English, but many in our congregation also speak Spanish, as we partner with Verdad Y Vida (a Spanish congregation meeting in the same building). We have a children's area we call "Base Camp" for children ages birth to Kindergarten during the Sunday Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist
Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

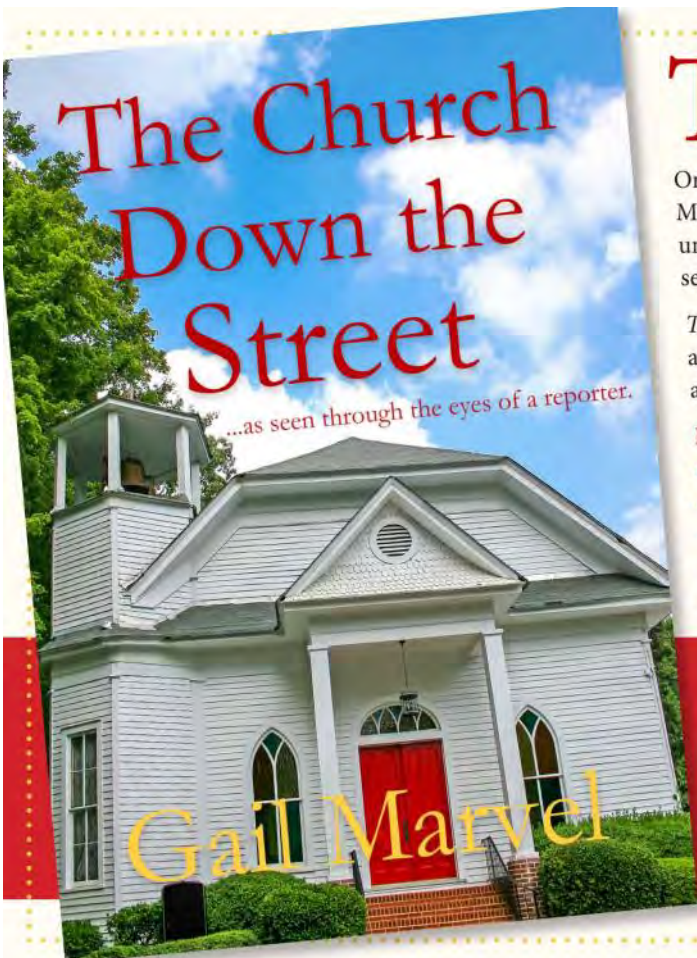
6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

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

Church Directory
Mirror Editorial Staff
MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory.
If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following information to the

Montrose Mirror:
Name of church
Denomination affiliation
Address
Office hours
Contact information (phone number, email address, website)
Name of current Senior Pastor
Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.
Please give a one or two sentence description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).
Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?



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

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

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

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

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





BINGO FUNDRAISER



6:30 PM
Thursday
August 26

Kappa Iota Chapter of
ESA and the Elks Club
are sponsoring BINGO
for the kids of
St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital.

Montrose Elks Lodge #1053
801 S. Hillcrest, Montrose, CO 81401



Interested in joining ESA?
Scan the QR code for
more information.

...MORE PHOTOS MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR 2021



Photos by Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher.



See you next year at the Montrose County Fair & Rodeo!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AWARD-WINNING PERFORMANCE POET, CLAIRE BLOTTER, WILL READ AT AUG 3 BARDIC TRAILS ZOOM POETRY SERIES



Claire Blotter. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Poet and performance artist, Claire Blotter, of California, will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, August 3rd at 7 p.m. A production of the Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Bardic Trails is an a free event open to any who pre-register. Register by Aug 2 on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go

to telluridelibrary.org/events.

Marin writer and director, Claire Blotter, performs poetry with movement and body percussion.

She has published three poetry chapbooks, and her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Rattle*, *Spillway*, the *Plant-Human Quarterly*, *CALIFORNIA FIRE AND WATER: A CLIMATE CRISIS ANTHOLOGY*, *Lilith* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among other magazines and anthologies. She has received two Marin

Arts Council Individual Artist's Grants in Poetry, the American Academy of Poets San Francisco State University Graduate Award and First Place Award in the Bay Guardian Poetry Contest. She was a 2018 Finalist for the Fischer Prize in Poetry and judged the competition in 2020. She represented San Francisco in National Performance Poetry Slams in Boston and Chicago. She has taught poetry writing and per-

formance at S.F. State University, John F. Kennedy University, Dominican University and the College of Marin. Currently, she teaches poetry to children and high school students in the CalPoets and Poetry Out Loud Programs.

Her poetry-videos were included in two Chicago Performance Poetry Video Festivals and the Chicago Art Institute Archives. Her award-winning video documentary, *WAKE UP CALL: SAVING THE SONGBIRDS*, about the decline of migratory songbirds has been screened in 11 film festivals from Mill Valley to Chicago. She directed the Bolinas Guerrilla Theater Troupe which riled things up from Northern California's Redwood Summer Protests to a keening ritual up Market St. in San Francisco to commemorate the casualties of the Iraq War. Following her reading, there will be a short Question and Answer session with co-hosts, Goodtimes and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer.

CHANDLER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

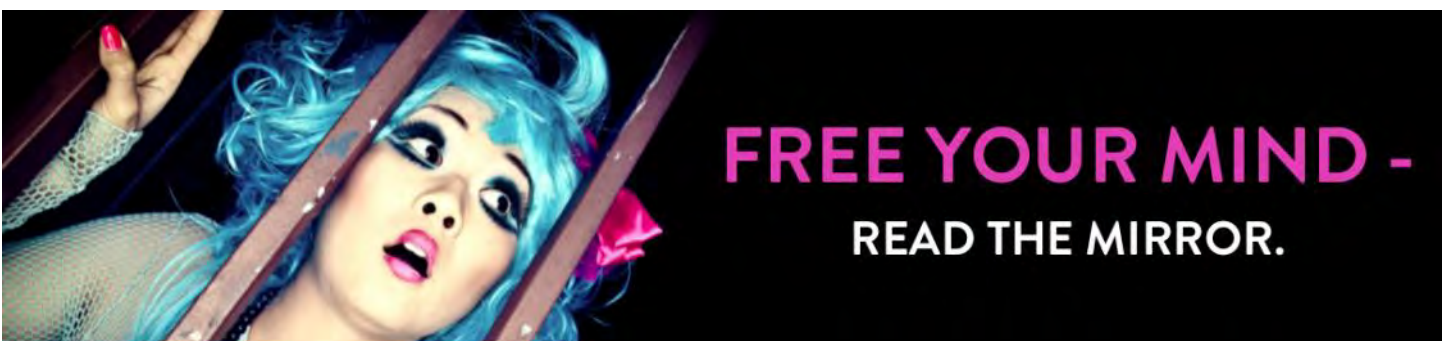
Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO- Madeline Chandler of Montrose was named to Fort Lewis College's Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester. Chandler's major is Environmental Studies. To be eligible for Dean's List, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.6 or better in no fewer than 15 credit hours of graded college-level work and have completed all

work for which they are registered by the end of the semester.

As the Four Corners' stronghold of academic excellence, Fort Lewis College blends small class sizes, engaged faculty, and unparalleled research opportunities to help students earn college degrees and chase dreams. Guided by real-world experiences and a bountiful landscape, our

students develop critical thinking and communication skills to fuel further studies or rewarding careers. A broad range of subjects and diverse student body weave cross-cultural knowledge throughout signature programs focused on environmental studies, education, the health sciences, creative arts, and business administration. Find an education to live by at FLC.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TOP OF THE PINES SELECTED AS AUGUST 2021 RACC MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Top of the Pines. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Top of the Pines (TOP) is the August 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) Member of the Month. This RACC program is an ongoing effort to provide the community and visitors with information about local businesses and organizations and promote shopping in the local area. At 8,600 feet in elevation and about six miles south of Ridgway off of County Road 5, TOP features the iconic Mount Sneffels Range as a majestic San Juan Mountains backdrop.

The nonprofit provides a regional educational facility with rustic outdoor recreational opportunities for the use of individuals, families, public and private groups or organizations, while preserving the land for open space, wildlife habitat and protection of its starry dark skies.

Originally a Girl Scout camp, the 175-acre property was purchased by the nonprofit Top of the Pines, Inc. in 2002. TOP trans-

TOP will be hosting a Dark Sky event August 9 to 12 to celebrate the starry sky in the area and Ridgway's designation as an International Dark Sky Community. Courtesy photo.

ferred ownership to Ouray County so it could be maintained as county open space for public enjoyment. The facilities and activities at TOP are managed, operated and funded by the nonprofit under a special use permit with county.

TOP has hiking and mountain biking trails, and last year added nine holes of disc golf with another nine holes planned later in 2021. TOP's tent campground includes potable water, tables, pit toilets, and charcoal grills. The majestic backdrop makes for a popular venue for educational and special events, retreats, and weddings. In winter TOP offers more than four miles of groomed cross country (Nordic) ski and snowshoe trails. TOP's pristine dark skies make for a perfect location for astrophotography, amateur astronomy and appreciation of the starry night sky unique to the area.

TOP will have an Open House and BBQ picnic on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. to showcase its facilities.

Also, TOP will be hosting a Dark Sky event August 9 to 12 to celebrate the starry sky in the area and Ridgway's designation as an International Dark Sky Community.

The Dark Sky program will feature workshops each evening followed by constellation tours and a Perseid Meteor Shower Watch, which peaks during that week. Both events are free, family friendly and open to the public. Learn more about Top at <https://www.topofthepines.org/>, visit TOP at 1035 Highlands Dr., Ridgway, CO 81432, and contact TOP at info@topofthepines.org. For information about nonprofits and educational organizations in Ridgway, go to on <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/museums-education>.

LIVE MUSIC ROUNDUP-WEEK OF AUG. 2

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

- Friday, Aug. 6, 4 – 7 PM – Tony Rosario

Horsefly Brewery:

- Wednesday, Aug. 4, 5:30 PM – Open Mic Night with Donny Morales

Mesa Theater,

Grand Junction:

- Wednesday, Aug. 4, 9 PM – Co-Op

- Friday, Aug. 6, 7 PM – In the Whale

- Saturday, Aug. 7, 7 PM – Cryptic Wisdom

Montrose Summer Music Series, @Elks Lodge:

- Friday, Aug. 6, 6 PM – AJ Fullerton Band w/ Jedi George

Monumental Beer Works, Grand Junction:

- Saturday, Aug. 6, 6:30 PM – Gerry Goodman

Olathe Sweet Corn Festival, Olathe High School:

- Saturday, Aug. 7, 8 PM – Neon Sky

Sherbino, Ridgeway:

- Thursday, Aug. 5, 5:30 PM – Doug & Heather

- Friday, Aug. 6, 5:30 PM – Kipori Woods

- Saturday, Aug. 7, 7 PM – Mary & The Pharaoh

Storm King Distillery:

- Thursday, July 29, 6 PM – David Nunn

Upstairs at Precedence:

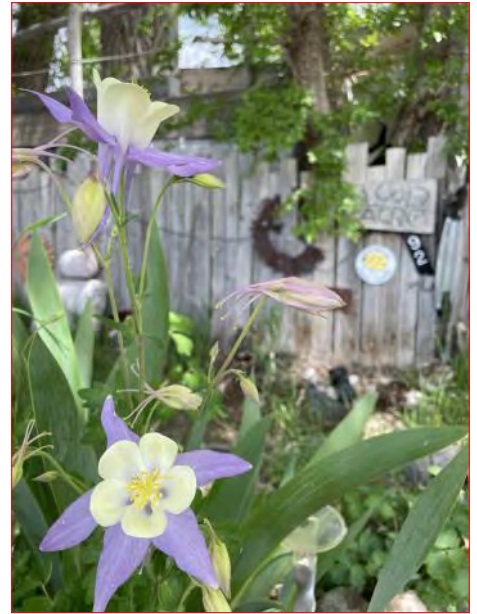
- Friday, Aug. 6, 4 PM – Take 5

Warehouse 25sixty-five, Grand Junction:

- Thursday, Aug. 5, 7 PM – Tracy Bird

- Friday, Aug. 6, 6 PM – Scotty McCreery

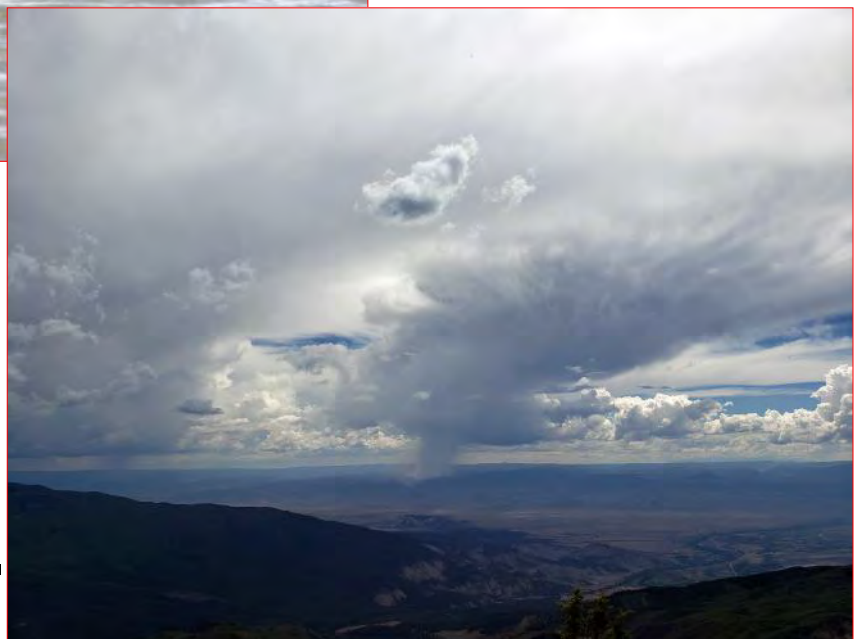
READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: SUMMER SIGHTS



Above left, Deb Reimann took this photo Friday on the Grand Mesa. "The Eared Grebe was another surprise with his crown and red eyes," she said. "The duration of his dives were quite impressive."

Deb also took the photo of a rain funnel and clouds over Escalante Canyon, below right.

At top right, Art Goodtimes shared this photo of Colorado Blue Columbines.



NATURE, YOUR BRAIN AND THE BENEFITS OF THERAPEUTIC GARDENS



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

REGIONAL-When I was a child and had hours and hours and hours of self-entertainment to manage at the San Diego Zoo while waiting for my dad to complete his bus driver/tour guide shift, I often either spent that time oil painting the landscape or hunkered down in the Scripps Flight aviary, at that time the tallest one in the world at 82' high, 150' long. As Anne of Green Gables is fond of saying..."It makes for plenty of scope for the imagination." And imagine I did, for hours. On some days, when there weren't too many other visitors to disrupt my 11-year old's magical reverie, only heat (it could get pretty warm in there on some days) and hunger could drive me forth. To this very day, I have a fascination with such-like places.

And although I didn't know it then, turns out that all of the characteristics of a therapeutic garden that is rich with biophilia and attention restoration opportunities (please refer to earlier articles in The Mirror) were baked into that one awesome aviary. The stunning rubber trees and exotic orchids are seared into my brain to this very day.

The idea that certain managed plant dominated spaces can lift one's spirits goes back even further than the golden age of Greece. The hanging gardens of Babylon and other such wonders are known the world over. It is said that Montezuma's aviaries, burned by Cortes, should rightly have been considered one of the seven wonders of the world. It is only recently, however, that the study of such spaces has caught the interest of the academic community in this country. But



A quiet alcove that invites meditation
Photo courtesy of Tim Cooper

we're catching up, and for the last 30 years interest in healing gardens has exploded, to the extent that many institutions that serve various populations have demanded information on how to effectively create their own nurturing garden space. Eighteen years ago, such guidance was offered.

The American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) produced a guide entitled Therapeutic Garden Characteristics, essentially a manifesto for what makes for therapeutic garden design successful. It states that the following elements represent current best practices for therapeutic gardens in institutional settings.

This guidance is targeted for institutions, rather than private parties, as can be told by the language. Within that set of institutions, their guidance is particularly germane for those with mental health issues. My hope is that readers who are doctors, nurses, administrators, and city and park planners will take inspiration from this guidance. I arranged them in an order that I consider most important.

1) *A profusion of plants and people/plant interactions: Therapeutic gardens introduce individuals to planned, intensive outdoor environments in which the conscious*

provisions of spaces and places for restoration, horticulture education, therapy, and for social exchanges are organized into legible and verdant, plant-dominated open spaces with simple patterns of paths and workplaces. A riot of color, and plants of varying shapes and sizes interspersed among sittable spaces with comfortable benches and shade coverings as needed are crucial elements.

2) *Well defined perimeters: Edges of garden spaces and special zones of activities within the garden are often intensified to redirect the attention and the energies of the visitor to the components and displays within the garden.* The use of a plant pallet that directs attention in both a vertical and horizontal manner is necessary, as are sunny spots interspersed with shady alcoves. Clearly defined paths with small berms at the edges will prevent users with poor eyesight, and impaired balance or mobility from taking a tumble into that aromatic Russian sage covered in bees that graces those sunny spots.

3) *Features modified to improve accessibility: Garden elements, features and equipment are all selected or modified to provide accessible places, activities and experiences to the greatest extent possible.*

4) *Therapeutic gardens are designed for the convenience and enjoyment for people with the widest possible range of conditions. As practical and pleasurable landscapes for people of all ages and all abilities, these gardens commonly stimulate the full range of senses including memory, hearing, touch, smell and sometimes taste as pleasurable alternatives to the visual experience of gardens.* Herbs are wonderful for this. Some can be planted as perennials, or as with rosemary, which often does not survive a Rocky Mountain winter, attractive containers can be placed at strategic intervals and then taken indoors for winter to brighten the hallways and dining areas. During summer their visual and aromatic qualities are an immediate balm to the heart if visitors are feeling depressed or distressed. And many herbs have additional qualities that make them a must for a therapeutic garden such as rosemary, which has been shown to enhance memory and mental alertness in patients with dementia.

Continued next pg

NATURE, YOUR BRAIN AND THE BENEFITS OF THERAPEUTIC GARDENS

From previous pg

5) *Benign and supportive conditions: Therapeutic gardens provide safe, secure and comfortable settings for people.* Garden design should consider the safety of all users, from little kids to their ancient gran-nies. For instance, remember that Russian sage mentioned above. That is one type of plant that should be planted away from the walkway, with other less bee attractive plants closest to the walkway. Further, the garden should offer richness while still offering good line of sight back to the facility, and walkways should loop, converge, or form a figure eight and seldom include a dead end or tight cul de sac. Depending upon the clientele, there may be a need for 'territorial' demarcations separating certain social interaction spaces from areas for withdrawal and privacy. For instance, a shady grotto with a fountain and only one bench can be that withdrawal space, while a separate sunny area with two or more benches can permit congregating for clients and staff.

6) *Recognizable placemaking: Therapeutic gardens are frequently simple, unified and easily comprehended places. An intensified recognition of garden patterns and garden experiences enhance the unique identity of a garden as a special place for the people it serves.* While this language is a little obscure, I believe they mean something akin to school spirit. The gardens should include sculptures and art works that are reminiscent of the community, its culture, and its environs. For the Montrose area, there is no shortage of bronze workers, painters, wrought iron workers and others to make the place unique. To craft a therapeutic garden like no other. Involving staff and clients in these endeavors heightens the perceptions of ownership and 'team spirit'.

nature, access to settings with the characteristics listed above can always be improved. For physicians and other health care providers, knowing how to evaluate the opportunities that do exist, or being able to knowledgeably provide input on new projects can help to strengthen com-



Nothing says placemaking like topiary. They are enchanting in winter as well. This lovely space has a clear line of sight, broad walkways, and unique objects as well as plenty of bird friendly, attractive vegetation, seating, and a pleasant water feature.

munity wellness quotients. Then, when appropriate, patients can be referred to local community and therapeutic gardening projects, perhaps even immediately adjacent to the main offices, residential halls, or clinics that are providing conventional healthcare.

In these spaces patients can wander in thought, engage in a project like potting and transplanting, or even meet with a trained in horticulture therapist who can help them find ways to better manage their medical issues or convalescence if they so desire. "Social prescribing" or "community referral", where doctors and wellness experts tell their clients to get their butts out into the garden is becoming more common every year. Part of its popularity seems to be grounded in the potential to improve the physical and mental health through promotion of self-care. And promoted as well, of course, through the benefits of connectedness to nature.

For instance, [in a study of post-stroke patients](#) engaging in a therapeutic garden-

ing study... "five main themes were identified from interviews and diaries: 1) the positive experience of nature, 2) therapeutic gardening as a protected self-expression space, 3) contact with nature as a boost for self-efficacy, 4) the plant as a catalyst of the patient-therapist relationship, 5) therapeutic gardening as a bridge between the hospital environment and the outside world."

Apparently, post-stroke patients who engaged in therapeutic gardening perceived it as a way to actively participate in their own healing, enabling a proactive and positive attitude towards disease management. Pretty cool. If interested you can look this and other studies up at healinglandscapes.org.

For my next contribution to The Mirror, I will describe ways that folks can transform their own backyards into healing gardens without breaking the bank.

Questions or comments about this article cheerfully answered as always by contacting me at agescapesnow@gmail.com. Be well and get outside.



THE MONTROSE ART SCENE

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE-County Fair Art Show. There were a lot of well-deserved ribbons in this. Many visitors said it was, “The best show ever!” The artwork—at all levels—was extraordinary.

In the Advanced Division, Robert LaRose took a Best of Show in Watercolor, with his “Showy Lowey” Studebaker. Virginia Blackstock took a First Place for her Watercolor.

“The Old Man at the Well,” Susan Humphrey got a First in Oils for an excellent horse portrait and sold it at the end of the show! All three artists are members of the Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA), as were many of the other exhibitors in the Advanced Division. MCA’s current featured artist, Natalie Heller, swept the board with her photographs of Western Lifestyles—see more of her work all month at MCA. Scotty Kenton got Best of Show for his photograph of an old barn, and we’re counting on him joining us at MCA soon.

Highlight of the Amateur Division was Olathe high school student, Tanner Carroll, who took a Best of Show, a First and a Second for her watercolors. Her black and white drawing and a ceramic piece also won ribbons.

Tanner will be the new Graphic Design intern for MCA!

Artwork for this division was so good, it was ---hard to distinguish from the pros in the Advanced group.

All four levels of the Student Division displayed some amazing work.



Top, Tanner Carroll. Bottom, Two of the winners in Student Division. Images, © K.R. Burke

These kids were good! —Clever, innovative, and talented. Especially interesting was some digital art by Piper Johnson. It

was a joy to hang this show, and we look forward to seeing what these kids come up with next year.

A photograph of a white dog with a black collar, seen from behind, digging its head into the sand on a beach. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear sky.

**Always digging for
spot on news.**

The Mirror

now weekly

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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE WILL CELEBRATE COLORADO DAY ON MONDAY, AUG. 2 WITH FREE ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS



Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER - Colorado Parks and Wildlife will celebrate Colorado Day, Monday, Aug. 2

by offering free entrance at all 42 state parks. Free entrance at the state parks is an annual Colorado Day tradition. Although the state celebrates its 145th birthday on Aug. 1, state parks will only offer free entrance on Aug. 2.

"Colorado Day is an opportunity for everyone to get outside and experience the diverse natural beauty and recreational activities that all of the 42 state parks have to offer," said CPW Director Dan Prenzlou. "This day is also the agency's opportunity to say 'thank you' to all of our residents and visitors who enjoy our state parks for

their continued support."

All other fees, including camping and reservations will remain in effect on Aug. 2.

Come play all day, enjoy a picnic and stay for the sunset.

This Colorado Day, be sure to get out to a state park for a fun-filled day that the whole family can enjoy.

CPW manages 42 state parks, more than 350 state wildlife areas, all of Colorado's wildlife, and a variety of outdoor recreation. Visit [CPW's website](#) for more information about Colorado Day and ideas on which park to visit on Aug. 2.

Click on this ad to
 Download your FREE copy
 of *Beyond Rock* today!

This Xeriscape Guide is
 made just for Montrose,
 put together by Ginny Price,
 Retired CSU Colorado
 Master Gardener/Small
 Acreage Assistant.

Courtesy of
THE MONTROSE MIRROR
Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Xcape
 Recommendations for Residential
 Xeriscape for Montrose, Colorado

By Ginny Price, Retired CSU Colorado Master Gardener/Small Acreage Assistant

Beyond Rock

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

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

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm.. **Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza . 81401 **Cost:** Free to attend.

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

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

MONTHLY

Aug. 3-National Night Out-The Montrose Police Department and the Montrose **County Sheriff's Office** are hosting a free, community celebration on Tuesday, August 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., in Cerise Park as part of a nationwide effort to promote community policing. Various pieces of law enforcement and public safety equipment will be on static display for the public to see. A bike rodeo is planned along with other activities for kids. Please note that children participating in the bike rodeo need to bring their own bicycles and helmets.

Aug. 3-Poet and performance artist, Claire Blotter, of California, will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. A production of the Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Bardic Trails is an a free event open to any who pre-register. Register by Aug 2 on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to telluridelibrary.org/events.

Aug. 4-Montrose County Historical Society is proud to have Rod Bunyard from the Ridgeway Railroad Museum. He will discuss the museum, its history, and future as well as the progress of the construction of a steam-driven locomotive. This presentation will be in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds, at 7 pm, open to the public and for no charge. Light refreshments will be available.

Aug. 4-The third annual Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) STEM fair is Wednesday Aug. 4 from 4-6 p.m. This year's fair is back in person (with a virtual fair last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and open to the public. Please join us at the Club, located at 2900 Sunnyside Rd. (inside Celebration Church) to see what the Club kids have been working on all summer and vote for your favorite project! For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.

Aug. 4-Montrose County Historical Society is proud to have Rod Bunyard from the Ridgeway Railroad Museum. He will discuss the museum, its history, and future as well as the progress of the construction of a steam-driven locomotive. This presentation will be in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds, at 7 pm, open to the public and for no charge. Light refreshments will be available.

Aug. 4-Wed. Aug 4. 1-4 pm. Watercolor Wednesday with Jodine Broscovak. \$35

Aug. 9-For the month of August, the Women's Giving Club will be having their meeting on the SECOND Monday (always held on the first Monday). August 9, 5:30 Remingtons at the Bridges.

Aug. 10-Mindfulness Matters, in the Montrose Library meeting room, 7 p.m. Erin Easton, the Founder of New Leaf Coaching and a Mindfulness Based Health and Life Coach, will present a two-hour class introducing what mindfulness is and some basic techniques. Learn how habitual reactions are created within the mind and how mindful awareness can help us break negative habits bringing more peace, purpose, happiness, and intention into our lives. We will also learn some basic mindfulness techniques to get us started on a personal practice.

Join us, in the library's Meeting Room, on Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 7pm.

Aug.12-Thur., Aug 12., 1-2:30 pm. Hedgehog Painting for Kids. Anne Hockenberry. Materials provided. \$20

Aug. 13-Friday. 6-8 pm. Doors 5:30 pm. "No Matter What, Keep Laughing." With Nancy Norton and Stephanie McHugh. At Montrose Center for the Arts. Link for Register Online: <https://mc4arts.com/product/08-13-21-event-keep-laughing/>

Aug. 17-Country Rocker FC Westcott and his band the Aficionados bring his unique traditional, yet hard driving country sound to Music in the Grapevines on Tuesday, Aug. 17. Arrive early with lawn chairs and perhaps a picnic dinner or appetizers for an evening in the shadow of Colorado National Monument. Wine is available for purchase. Gates open at 6 pm, music at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance at the Winery, The Art Center (7th & Orchard) and online at artcenterguild.org. All proceeds benefit the Art Center of Western Colorado.

Aug. 17-Tuesday. 1-4 pm. "Let It Flow, Intuitive Alcohol Ink Painting." With Jana Adams. At Montrose Center for the Arts.

Link for Register Online: <https://mc4arts.com/product/08-17-21-class-adams-let-it-flow-alcohol-ink-painting/>

Aug. 17-Tues. Aug. 17. Let It Flow, Alcohol Ink Painting. With Jana Adams. Materials Provided. \$40.

Aug. 18-History Wednesday: noon- 2 pm. Brown Bag lunch. With Zilla May Brown, *History of Montrose*. FREE

Aug. 18-Wednesday. Noon-2 pm. Doors 11:30. "History of Montrose." With ZillaMay Brown.At Montrose Center for the Arts. Link for Register Online: <https://mc4arts.com/product/08-08-21-program-zilla-may-brown-history-of-montrose/>

Aug.21-Sat., Aug 21. 193 pm/ Summer Leaf Painting Clay Soap Dishes. 1-3 pm. Materials Provided. René Fisher. \$10. Register online.

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

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

Aug. 28-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.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo during a visit to Grand Mesa Friday. "Near Crater Overlook we spied these red crossbills," she said. "We have waited our entire lives to see them."

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