



Focus:
Future uncertain for local farmstead
B1



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MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

Marriott Coming to Montrose

Colorado Outdoors development drew quality hotelier

- Montrose currently short on lodging options
- 100-room hotel will offer extended stay suites
- Highly-visible hotel will offer easy connection to outdoors, downtown

BY TESSA CHEEK
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Editor's note: The Montrose Daily Press first broke this story Saturday morning online. This is an updated story making its debut.

In addition to new parks, homes and businesses in the forthcoming, river-centric Colorado Outdoors development, Montrose residents can now look forward to a new hotel — a 100-room Marriott Town Place. Colorado Outdoors and Renfrow Realty worked for a year to seal the deal.
“I’m very excited,” said Mayor Judy Ann Files.

“We’ve been trying for two or three years to get another hotelier to come to Montrose and for various reasons it hasn’t worked out until now. Marriott is a quality flag, I’m so pleased they’re coming and it will definitely fill a need ... We’re running a full house right now when it comes to hotels and lodgings and this new facility will allow us to book bigger events at the event center, too.”

In addition to offering more rooms, the new Marriott will also give visitors to Montrose a new kind of lodging option, according to Deputy City Manager Rob Joseph, who also is the director of the Montrose Office of Business and Tourism.

“Marriott Towne Place is known for its spacious suites that can accommodate one to six guests to a room,” said Joseph, who on Saturday morning confirmed with the Montrose Daily Press the hotel announcement. “This offers an alternative for visitors who may be staying for an extended period of time

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A mock-up of the 35,000 square foot Mayfly Headquarters offers a sense of the modern aesthetic that will unify the Colorado Outdoors development. (Submitted photo/Colorado Outdoors)



John, Jim and Adam Renfrow stand outside the Renfrow Realty office on South Townsend Friday. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

Like father, like sons

Renfrow Realty built on foundation of family, love

- Renfrow Realty formally opened in 2009
- Father enjoying working with sons
- Renfrow sons call father ‘amazing’

BY MATT LINDBERG
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Jim Renfrow was a self-proclaimed “work-a-holic” in his younger years, but he decided to make a change when his two boys, John and Adam, were teenagers.

“John was about 14, and I don’t think I missed another sporting event of theirs ever again,” Jim said.

Jim had an impressive career in engineering that took him all over the country, before the Texas native who grew up in Delta moved back to the Montrose area and got started in real estate. But, he has always taken the most pride in being a family man first. And

it has come full circle, as today he works with his two sons at Renfrow Realty.

“It’s unbelievable,” Jim said. “I think we all have a mutual respect for one another and are like-minded. We want to serve with honesty.”

Renfrow Realty specializes in commercial and residential land/building sales, as well as commercial property management. But for the two brothers and father, it’s about family and honesty above everything else.

John is the owner of Renfrow Realty, 1832 S. Townsend Ave., while Jim works as a broker and Adam handles marketing.

“You look at society, it’s very uncommon to have family as close as we are working together,” John said. “It has been a real special gift.”

The business officially formed less than a decade ago, but the family name has been familiar to Western Colorado since the early 1930s. Now in its fourth generation in the Montrose-Delta area, the Renfrow family

has been trusted for appliance and furniture sales before the family name became known for real estate and development sales in 1986.

Jim oversaw many Bray Real Estate offices in the local area after a successful career in engineering that brought him and his family all over the country. He eventually partnered at Bray with John, who transitioned from a career in engineering to real estate like his father in the early 2000s.

“I just got burned out on the corporate way,” John admitted.

But things changed in the late 2000s when they learned Bray was closing down some of its offices in the area, and so John decided it was time to use the family name for a new business, his first.

After 31 years in real estate, Jim decided to pass on ownership to simply support his son’s endeavor. And so on July 14, 2009, the two’s collective

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Police quantify crime, staffing stats

- Increases seen in robberies, vehicle thefts
- Former mayor calls for action
- Chief: Vacancies being filled

BY KATHARHYN HEIDELBERG
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The statistics are dramatic: A 400-percent increase in robberies within the city limits as of the end of April, compared with the same period last year. Another category of crime, vehicle thefts, is up by 150 percent.

But actual case numbers, while reflective of serious crimes, provide important context.

The 400-percent increase in robberies, for instance, equates to four robberies handled by the Montrose Police Department as of April 30, compared with zero by the same time last year, Chief Tom Chinn explained.

There had been 83 assaults (felony and misdemeanor) by end of April of this year, compared with 56 for the same period in 2016. While commercial burglaries are up, the department tracked a 14-percent decrease in residential burglaries — 21, as of end of April of 2016, compared with 18 for the same period this year.

“If we’re just given the percent, it sounds like we’re riddled with crime,” Chinn said. Percentages can be deceiving, however, people need to remain alert, he went on to say. “Our guys and ladies (officers) are extremely busy. ... People just need to be vigilant. If they see things that are suspicious, call us.”

The statistics are alarming, said business owner David White, a former Montrose County commissioner and former Montrose mayor, whose company was broken into in April. “Four robberies is probably four too many,” White said.

It helps to have the statistics provided in context, he indicated. “If the context is correct, we need to do something more as a community to get those numbers down. I’m not putting this all on the police department, by any means,” White said, referring also to the importance of residents being vigilant. “... It (statistics) causes people to be alarmed.”

Montrose Police Department case numbers show spikes and dips.

The biggest increase has been in motor vehicle thefts: The end of April this year saw 35 such cases, compared with only 14 for the same period in 2016. Chinn said investigators suspect many incidents could be linked, as could a number of the burglaries reported.

Other types of crime have decreased.

Homicide, for instance, is down by 100 percent — there was one police case classed as homicide last year, compared with none to-date this year.

Criminal mischief cases dropped to 148, compared with 155 by the end of April in 2016. Domestic violence calls also went down, from 92 to 84 reports.

Calls for service — which include non-criminal reports, medical calls, animal control matters and more, not just crimes — have climbed to 7,990 the



Chinn

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Published for the Uncompahgre Valley and Ronald Babcock of Glenvil



Board of County Commissioners Meeting
will now be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am. This change goes into effect for the second meeting of June on June 21st, 2017
A full schedule can be found on the Montrose County website www.montrosecounty.net

MARRIOTT

FROM PAGE A1

and want a full kitchen, work stations and ample closet space. We're seeing more and more business people come into town and stay longer, so this is a really good option for them."

Files said the new hotel will make some serious economic ripples.

"It will definitely bring economic development," she said. "We'll use that money to make quality of life even better for our residents ... The whole idea of Colorado Outdoors is to have a good portion of the development be city parks and public lands. Residents will be able to go down and bike along the river or fish. It'll be another great city park."

David Drago, president of Colorado Outdoors, said that walkability and immediate connection to nature will typify visitors' experiences of the new hotel.

"Folks will be able to park easily and get through to the river easily, as well as walk to restaurants," he said.

Jordan Scott, president of Glacier House Hotels, the management company the will be in charge of the hotel project, indicated that the ethos of the new development was important in their decision to come to Montrose.

"We are excited to be a part of the Colorado Outdoors' experience..." he said.

Construction on the hotel should begin sometime in 2018, shortly after Del-Mont Consultants breaks ground on the development's public infrastructure, according to Joseph.

Dragoo said the new hotel will be located on the north end of the Colorado Outdoors development forming an "anchor."

"They'll have good visibility off Townsend and they'll be one of the first buildings you see as you come off Grand Avenue," Drago said. "That's good for them, obviously."

He added the hotel's exterior will meet with the same aesthetic covenants as the rest of the development, blending seamlessly with its mountain-modern vibe.

"It's going to look like it belongs," Drago said.

It's estimated that the Colorado Outdoors project will cost \$83 million, according to a release Saturday. The development will integrate new restaurants, retail, hospitality and residences with large tracts of open space and trails along the Uncompahgre River on land northwest of downtown Montrose near the Justice Center, as previously reported by the Montrose Daily Press. Colorado Outdoors will also be home to a 35,000-square foot manufacturing facility for local, award-winning fly fishing manufacturing companies Abel Automatics and Ross Reels of Mayfly Outdoors.

"There are so many great things happening in our community and adding another high quality hotel to our list of community offerings will make Montrose an even better place to live, work and raise a family," said City Manager Bill Bell in a statement. "It is an exciting time to be in Montrose!"

Tessa Cheek is the news editor of the Montrose Daily Press and formerly reported for The Colorado Independent from the Colorado State Capitol. Follow her on Twitter @TessaCheek.

STATS

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first quarter, compared to 7,450 as of April 30, 2016.

White said a number of businesses and neighborhoods have experienced burglaries, thefts and trespass matters.

He's had fuel siphoned from his business vehicles and, on April 13, someone smashed his or her way into his business.

"We got broken into and had video. One of my employees happened to be in another part of the building and could've been killed by this guy," White said.

The MPD report on the incident states that on April 13, one of White's employees was inside working when he heard "rustling" noises and then saw a small-statured male running out the back door, with either a shirt pulled over his face, or a mask.

White questioned the city's priorities when it comes to spending; he indicated he is concerned not enough is being spent on law enforcement while money is being invested in amenities.

"I'm alarmed at what's happening," said White.

There are no excuses not to have a

fully staffed, equipped and trained police department, White also indicated in a letter.

"Today there shouldn't be any (excuses) if the role of government was confined to the public's health, safety and welfare first and foremost. The niceties can come later," the letter said.

Chinn said his budget of about \$7 million is adequate and while the department is down by nine sworn positions, he has eight prospective new hires to fill the vacancies.

"We're down because those people have left over the last 18 months," Chinn said of the former officers.

Some of his former officers departed for health reasons; others left for different jobs entirely.

"The budget is there," Mayor Judy Ann Files said. "The money is there. No way would we ever try to jeopardize what's in the police department budget or how we fill officers (positions)."

White maintained there is a need for prioritization.

"The number of uniformed patrol officers, to the best of my knowledge, hasn't risen dramatically since I was on council, and that was 13 years ago," White said.

"These are things that still need to be

addressed. I'm not going to back away from let's get our public safety, health and welfare house in order before we move ahead with all the niceties."

By in large, every agency struggles to hire people who are qualified, who are also willing to take the risks that come with the job, Chinn said.

"Every large and small agency across the country is struggling to hire people. ... The bottom line is, all the negative things concerning police officers these past years have probably had a huge negative effect on recruitment," he said.

"I do think this job is a wearing job. You have to like it to last a long time.

"It's always been a struggle to keep people. But we do have replacements. It will take a little while, but we'll be back in force."

White said more hires will go a long way to establishing more of a police presence. He plans to discuss his concerns with his city council representative.

"Community-wise, people just need to be more aware of what's going on," he said, also urging others to take precautions, such as by locking homes and vehicles rather than trusting others will just do the right thing.

What is ... ?

• **Robbery:** The unlawful taking of property from a person by the use of force, or threatened use of force.

• **Burglary:** The unlawful and unauthorized entry (with or without damage) of a building or the dwelling of another with the intent to commit a crime of any nature.

• **Criminal mischief:** Reckless damage to another person's property.

• **Trespass:** The unlawful and unauthorized entry of property or motor vehicle. In Colorado, trespass of a vehicle is only a felony if the entry is made with the intent to commit a crime therein. No damage need occur.

Source: 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

"These are things the public needs to be doing — don't set yourselves up," White said.

Katharhynn Heidelberg is an award-winning journalist and the senior writer for the Montrose Daily Press. Follow her on Twitter at @kathMDP.

FATHER

FROM PAGE A1

experience at GE, Harris, IBM, JDS Uniphase and Dialight Corporation allowed them to combine their business savvy and open Renfrow Realty.

The three Renfrow men acknowledged the business can be stressful at times, however, the family aspect keeps things in perspective.

"It's cool to be able to do this together," said Adam, who is also a professional counselor in town. "There is this whole personal thing we have where we can stop from working and have a little family pow wow if we want during the day."

Their collaborations don't stop at business, though. All three are actively involved with several nonprofit organizations, including Montrose Jail Ministries and The Shepherd's Hand,

investing their time and resources into trying to aid homeless people in the area.

"The real estate business is a front," Jim joked, opening a closet door inside the business and point to the sleeping bags inside that they give out to help those in need. "We love to serve with honesty and purpose."

Of course when they have a bit of "free" time, they enjoy outdoor recreation together, such as fishing, hiking and hunting.

The Renfrow men have always been a close-knit trio, with a bond that only grew stronger thanks in part to their business endeavors, and unfortunately, the loss of a beloved relative. Jim's wife and John and Adam's mother, Carol Renfrow, passed away in 2015 after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Jim had been Carol's primary caregiver as she battled

cancer, which forced him to drastically change his work schedule for several years to support his wife.

John and Adam said their dad has and will continue to be an inspiration.

"I would say our Dad was and is amazing," John said.

Adam said their father instilled in them the importance of faith, noting it has played a big role in their lives as people and fathers. Today, John is the father of four, Elle, 18; Abigail, 16; Isaac, 12; and Olivia, 10; while Adam has two boys, Jonah, 14, and Jeremiah, 12.

"I can't wear a shirt with buttons because they keep popping off," Jim said of his pride for the fathers and men his boys have become. "I think they're doing a better job than I did; I see it in my grandchildren. I'll just say it ... I have two amazing sons."

Adam and John immediately responded by offering praise for their father.

"I never thought this would happen," John said, noting that now even his and Adam's children contribute to the business. "We're going to support our dad's new life choices and changes, because he always has done that for us. I definitely enjoy the personal aspect of this. I love it."

Matt Lindberg is the managing editor for the Montrose Daily Press and an award-winning journalist. He's a University of Kansas graduate with years of experience in the news business, as well as a father of two and a husband. Follow him on Twitter @MattLindberg.

To comment on this story, visit montrosepress.com

- Montrose Jail Ministries is a Christian organization founded in 1994 to help provide a second chance to those whose lives have been marked by trouble and who have spent time behind bars.
- The Shepherd's Hand is a Colorado 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families in the Montrose community. Its goal is to provide a safe and friendly gathering place for delivering needed services to help make each day better.

Do you know...

there is another STREAM program June 19, 2017?

<p>Science Technology Reading Engineering Arts Math</p>	<p>This program is for children ages 8 to 12; from 3:30 to 4:30 the 3rd Mon of each month; Pre-registration is required. Space is limited The topic for June 2017 is Back in Time! Find out what job you would have had 150 years ago— dressmaking, flour milling, leather working, and more!</p>
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MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Correction

In June 15 newspaper incorrectly said Kevin Brooks lives in Montrose. He now lives in Grand Junction. The Daily Press regrets the error.

It is the Montrose Daily Press policy to promptly correct errors of fact that appear in our news reporting. Corrections and clarifications will appear in the paper as soon as possible after the error is called to our attention. You can report a factual error by letting us

know the date the error appeared and the article it appeared in. Contact the managing editor, Matt Lindberg, by calling (970) 252-7035 or emailing editor@montrosepress.com to report the error. You can also report errors by writing to: Matt Lindberg, managing editor Montrose Daily Press 3684 N. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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