



**City of Cortez**  
123 Roger Smith Ave.  
Cortez, Co. 81321

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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December 14, 2021

The following are the top four topics for the previous two weeks:

1. The Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a grant from the Invasive Tree project funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) in partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association, in the amount of \$28,350 and will include a saw crew for three weeks. The department will use these funds to abate some of our invasive tree problems at Denny Lake, Geer Natural Area, and Carpenter Natural Area.
2. Parks & Recreation and Public Works Director Positions –
  - a. It is my pleasure to announce that Creighton Wright has been selected to serve as the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Creighton Wright – Started his career in Queen Creek, AZ where he served in several positions culminating in a position as Asst. Parks and Rec Director. He served as Director of Parks and Recreation in Pueblo, CO and most recently in American Canyon, CA. He earned both his BS degree in Recreation Management and Master of Public Administration degrees at Arizona State University. Creighton is working on his housing arrangements, but we anticipate he will start no later than the first week in February.
  - b. Brian Peckins has been selected to serve as our Director of Public Works - Has worked for the prestigious U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civilian employee since 1981. He is a licensed Engineer has worked in various locations and assignments around the world on both micro and major scales. Although he hails from Northern Virginia, he is currently stationed in Low Angeles, CA. He earned his BS degree in Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech, Master of Civil Engineering and Water Resources from Utah State University, and a Master's degree from the National War College. Brian is anticipated to start on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. We will be kicking off the selection process for the new Community and Economic Development Director position next week. We currently have three applicants.

## **EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT**

Sandy Burge has been an employee of the City of Cortez for 21 years. She has truly been an unsung hero and shining star for the Parks and Recreation Department and more important, the entire community. The landscaping designs and maintenance of all of the parks and city properties including downtown are her handiwork. She often rises under the radar as her day begins long before most of us have even had our first cup of coffee. Her most recent accomplishments are her many xeric designs and installations around town including the main street medians as well as the pockets of landscaping adjacent to Southwest Printing and the beautiful space on South Linden across from Slavens. The vast horticultural knowledge she brings to the table has been invaluable and her designs showcase the commitment she has to our water conservation efforts and a tribute to her dedication. She is truly appreciated by the City of Cortez and a huge asset to our community. We can't thank her enough for all she does.