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the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 370 March 30, 2020

Thank you to Health Care workers across the United States and around the world.

RULES OF ORDER 1ST CASUALTY FOR VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council convened online for a virtual "Zoom" webinar format meeting on Tuesday, March 24. Mayor Dave Bowman opened the meeting by noting that it was 6 p.m. Still, Council and staff spent more time working on the Zoom setup and attempting to connect to Councilor Doug Glaspell.

"Welcome to the March 24, 2020 City Council meeting," Bowman said. "We are doing it virtually this evening; this is the first time we've done it like this, so please be patient as we all sort of learn together."

[Continued pg 25](#)



Grower Glen Ahlberg at the Farmers Market March 28; the market has moved outside due to the COVID-19 related closure of City facilities, but will remain open.

DMEA MOVES SMOOTHLY TO ONLINE MEETING FORMAT; CEO BRONEC ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, which was a Zoom webinar, was held at 3 p.m. on March 24, 2020.

DMEA staff described the webinar, "Zoom is designed such that anyone who joins the webinar will be able to see whatever we are presenting and then the video of the person speaking at the meeting. The display that you see as a participant may switch back and forth between materials being presented and the person who is speaking, that is how Zoom works."

Practicing social distancing, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec and a few staffers participated from the boardroom at DMEA headquarters. Other staff members and eight board members (one board seat remains vacant) joined the meeting electronically on their computers from home. Although there was a bit of a learning curve for board members with the webinar, the meeting itself was conducted professionally and went smoothly. During Member Comments, members are afforded an opportunity to speak; however,

[Continued pg 7](#)

Colorado State Law requires Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) to have open meetings. In order to meet that requirement, and also practice social distancing, the March 24 meeting of the DMEA Board of Directors was conducted through Zoom webinar. Photo by Gail Marvel.

in this issue

[Cow Creek's Elusive Gold & Silver, by Bob Cox!](#)

[Montrose Community Comes Together to Fill a Need!](#)

[RE-1J Announces New Superintendent!](#)

[Letters to The Editor!](#)

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AUTO FATALITY MARCH 25 @ TOWNSEND AVE. & OGDEN ROAD

Montrose County Coroner release

MONTROSE-In the late afternoon of Wednesday, March 25, 48-year-old Donald James Grosheim of Montrose was killed in a single-vehicle accident at Townsend Avenue and Ogden Road. The case is under investigation by Montrose Police Department and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation. The cause and manner of death are pending the results of the autopsy.



✓ Re-elect

ROY ANDERSON

FOR CITY COUNCIL

Moving Montrose Forward

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*Vote before
April 7th!*

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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VOTE TO ELECT

BILL BENNETT FOR CITY COUNCIL

**For Transparent, Accountable
& Affordable City Government**

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE IMPLEMENTS REMOTE NOTARIZATION

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE-After working closely with the Governor's office, stakeholders, and the legal community, the Colorado Secretary of State's Office will implement a remote notarization process. Remote notarization will assist Coloradans and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are committed to maintaining important services for Coloradans during this national health crisis," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "Remote notarization will enable Coloradans and businesses continued access to notary services while observing the social distancing guidelines that keep us all safe."

Governor Polis issued an Executive Order today, which states in part: "Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701 et seq. (Act), I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order ordering the temporary suspension of the personal appearance requirement before notarial officers to perform notarizations due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado."

Secretary Griswold will issue emergency rules on Monday, setting forth the procedures and requirements for remote notarization in Colorado during this state of emergency. These rules will address implementation of the remote notarization process while including protections against identity theft and fraud.

For more information, please visit

www.sos.state.co.us.

VOTE FOR

Charli Oswald



MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE

As We Grow...

- Nurture Our Roots
- Protect Our Resources
- Trim Excesses
- Promote Healthy, Balanced Growth



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PPE DRIVE MONDAY, MARCH 30 & TUESDAY, MARCH 31



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Create your ideal work environment in the new Our Town Matters Business Center. We are the perfect solution for all of your office needs. We offer a cost effective office environment alternative to any traditional or co-working space. With options for businesses of all sizes, we feature private offices, collaborative team workspace arrangements, shared and temporary officespace options. Convenient, cost effective and flexible.



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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – A Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) drive will take place March 30 & 31 to collect supplies for local healthcare providers. Donations will be accepted from 2-4 p.m. in the parking lot by the old gymnasium at Montrose High School. Please enter the parking lot off Townsend avenue by the Baseball/ Softball fields. We are happy to accept unused products in unopened boxes to ensure they are appropriate for use by local healthcare providers. Items accepted include:

- Eye protection and goggles
- Face Shields
- Surgical Masks
- N95 Masks
- Sterile and non-sterile gloves
- Disposable gowns
- Biohazard Bags

Event Organizer Phoebe Benziger would like to thank the Montrose County School District for their gracious offering of an appropriate venue for this helpful event. Personal Protective Equipment is in short supply for healthcare facilities nationwide. Items will be given to MMH for distribution among our healthcare providers. For questions, contact Phoebe Benziger at (970) 209-9598.



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CITY TO CONSIDER MOVING FORWARD WITH CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION, SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND



In the March 31 virtual regular meeting. City Council will consider approving Ordinance 2498 on second reading, authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$16,000,000 principal amount of certificates of participation.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose will host a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 30, and a virtual regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31.

WORK SESSION

Discussion items will include the Municipal Court Annual Report; a contract award for

wayfinding sign installation; a recommendation for a fuel contract award; and an asbestos abatement contract change order.

Reports are included in the packet from the Region League for Economic Assistance & Planning and the Montrose County Housing Authority.

Items to be considered in upcoming work sessions and meetings include: April 21-Oath of Office for newly-elected city councilors; Selection of mayor and mayor pro-tem; Annexation hearing for 4152 N. Townsend Addition.

As yet unscheduled are the Montrose Dermatology Business Expansion Project and a DMEA Update to City Council.

REGULAR MEETING

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2498 on second reading, authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$16,000,000 principal amount of certificates of partici-

pation, series 2020, in connection therewith; authorizing officials of the City to take all action necessary to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby; and related matters.

Council will consider Ordinance 2499 on second reading, vacating three rights-of-way deemed surplus.

Council will consider establishing a Small Business Emergency Response Fund using dollars from the City's existing Greater Montrose Opportunity Loan Fund, Downtown Opportunity Loan Fund, and remaining Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Operational Account monies, for a total of \$300,000, to be made available to small businesses who have suffered significant negative impacts from the COVID-19 emergency, with amounts up to \$5,000 per loan, 12 months of deferred repayment, at zero-percent interest.

Council will consider awarding a contract for the fabrication and installation of Phase III of the Wayfinding Signage Project to American Classic Sign Manufacturer (ACSM) for the total amount of \$175,000.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



Thoughtful: *Thinks about complex issues and the ramifications of decisions.*

Principled: *Acts with integrity and honesty, has a strong sense of fairness for individuals and community.*

Fiscal Conservative: *Dislikes deficit spending, advocate for a balanced budget.*

**DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2020**



CITY OF MONTROSE

CITY OPERATIONS

**ALL CITY CAMPUS BUILDINGS
ARE CLOSED, BUT MANY OF US
ARE STILL WORKING FROM
HOME**

Please see
cityofmontrose.org/COVID19
to get contact information for all
departments

TRAILS ARE OPEN

- Maintain 6-foot distance from others
- Pedestrians have the right of way

SUNSET MESA SPORTS COMPLEX

Baseball & soccer fields are
CLOSED until further notice

BLACK CANYON GOLF COURSE

Clubhouse & restrooms are closed

Golf course is open | Walking only
Please reserve a tee time at
blackcanyongolf.com
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players with reservations in the
order of arrival and group size.

All play will begin on the front 9

PLEASE respect the golf course,
other players, and our staff.

PLEASE KEEP A 6-FOOT SOCIAL
DISTANCE DURING PLAY

Please see **CityofMontrose.org/COVID19**
and **MontroseCounty.net/COVID19**

DMEA MOVES SMOOTHLY TO ONLINE MEETING FORMAT; BRONEC ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

From pg 1

the microphones of those joining the webinar are muted during the meeting itself. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening meeting prayer.

General Business.

Consent Agenda

The Membership Report and the Minutes from Regular February Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

COVID-19 Response Resolution - Virginia Harman, COO.

Pandemic plans are in place and the resolution reaffirms the actions to the plan. Harman said, "We have as many as possible working from home, about 50 percent of our employees. Business offices are closed and CSRs (Customer Service Representatives) are home. Field workers are reporting from the field. They are taking their vehicles home with them and reporting from the field. We have staggered start times to prevent crossing crews. Dispatchers are still in the office. Accounting staff is half and half working from home. Crews are doing business as usual." The orders from the governor are to shelter in place and stop disconnects for non-payment. Harman said, "Members can call and we can work through it with them on a case by case basis."

Approved unanimously.

Finance – Audit – Rate Committee – Brad Harding, Chair

The audit is complete and the date set for the review is April 6 at 3 p.m.

Discussion on 2020 budget amendments was led by CFO Wade Pynes. He said, "I don't know if we need to make decisions and have discussion today. This is a very variable year because of COVID-19, the governor's late fee, reconnect fee, increases in bad debt, and the larger amount of uncertainty around the State."

Suggesting the April meeting might be a time to look at the budget Bronec said, "We may need to go back to the drawing board. What we anticipated with sales and bad debt, we'll probably end up tightening our belt."

Harding said, "Unpredictable times when we made the 2020 budget. From my perspective to speculate on how COVID-19 will affect DMEA, it's a lot of work to adjust. When we exit from Tri State we will have to amend the budget. I think we should keep the item on the agenda and keep putting in information and have it reflected in an amended budget." The board agreed to flag item.

Engineering – Construction – Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair

Hauck said, "There was no activity."

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair

The Annual Meeting Election Update was given by Harman. She said, "Normally [candidate] packets go out on April 3rd, but we are making this an online process. They can mail it to us, or submit it electronically. Fifteen [petition] signatures are required. They might be able to submit those electronically, or have people email their support. As long as we are closed, we need to do online. Date and location of the candidate forum will be scheduled, but we may have to do it virtual. For the Annual Meeting we will wait for at least a month before making any changes." Candidate petitions must be returned by May 4, 2020.

Review Electioneering on DMEA Property

DMEA board members were reminded about Board Policy 2-11 which restricts DMEA, or board members, from endorsing any candidate in the two months preceding the election. Candidates cannot use DMEA logos or signs. Harman said, "We cannot support or endorse any incumbent or a candidate."

Crisis Fund

Bronec said, "We've allocated \$10,000 into the Crisis Fund to assist needs from our members. I'm requesting we increase that fund another \$10,000, for a total of \$20,000." The staff is also keeping an eye out for the Governor's Office Assistance Fund.

Martinez said, "We need be careful how we word our marketing. We don't want people to hold out paying their bill hoping

to get assistance.

Jock Fleming said, "I disagree. I don't want people having to decide between buying food or paying their electric bill. It should be advertised that we are not going to cut people off."

Bronec said, "We have advertised that. We have talked about waivers on some fees associated with COVID-19. Operation Round-Up and the Crisis Fund are tools in our toolbox. We have some discretion on who this applies to and how much we give out case by case." The Crisis Fund is funded through the General Fund.

Harman said, "We will be validating the need and get to the people with the most need. We don't want people trying to take advantage of the fund. If people are having trouble, we can help them so they won't wind up with a huge debt."

Harding said, "This will probably not be the last time we visit this."

The motion to bump up the Crisis Fund to \$30,000 was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair

Patterson said, "We did not meet."

Safety and Occupational Health Report – Virginia Harman, COO

Harman said, "We had one injury to an employee's groin area, but the employee is okay." We've had training sessions, six additional crane certifications, worked on the pandemic plan, yard and substation inspections, and a few inspections on trucks." Report accepted unanimously.

Financial Report with Variance Report – Wade Pynes, CFO

Pynes said, "We started off the year, January and February, on good footing. The rest of the year we should expect to see some declines. Italy saw 18-21 percent reduction with the total lockdown. For some [entities] all that demand will jump back up. For us we won't see that. We should be prepared. Sorry for the bleak outlook."

Martinez said, "Deferred Revenue is our piggy bank to help us through this. It's our savings for a rainy day." Report accepted unanimously.

Continued next pg

DMEA MOVES SMOOTHLY TO ONLINE MEETING FORMAT; BRONEC ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

From previous pg

CEO Report – Jasen Bronec, CEO

Bronec said, “As the month started out, we were heavily involved in legislative activities. We had quite a bit of time in Denver, with CERA and our lobbyists. HB 1225 is up for final approval and on the governor’s desk. It is an insurance policy for us moving forward as we exit from Tri State. We had some good work done by everyone. Some good traction.”

Bronec reported on his involvement with the One Delta County Economic Transition Team. He said, “There is a lot of baggage with economic development in Delta County. There are some who want to put a knife in DCED (Delta County Economic Development) and never speak of it again. My recommendation is they not move too quickly, or they could miss out on grants. They wouldn’t have a qualified organization for grants. They really struggle with legal support and we [DMEA] might have to help them with some legal support because they don’t have the horsepower to move forward. I’m asking for direction from the board.”

Harding, who was a former DCED President, said, “They have been devoid of leadership the last few years. With your feedback you can be the voice of reason in that group.”

Bill Patterson said, “I feel this fits with our charge to you. We want to get more involved in economic development.”

Martinez said, “I fully support your being involved in some other things in the community.”

Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) postponed their Annual Meeting; however, Bronec was elected to serve on the MEDC Board. Bronec said, “I will be active on that board as well.” Report accepted unanimously.

February 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report

Bronec said, “Nothing really to report, we’re tracking where we were at in 2019.” Report accepted unanimously.

Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, “COVID has given us new questions to ask in co-ops. State law says we have to have open meetings, Zoom is one of those [resources]. A large number of co-ops said they never have members, or the press, at their meetings.” Hurd noted DMEA’s responsibility to deliver safe and reliable power, the interaction of line crews with others, and employees being in public places. He said, “I’ll discuss more in executive session.”

Tri State Report – Kyle Martinez.

Martinez said, “We had a meeting 13 days ago. Life has changed in 13 days. The biggest thing is a resolution allowing for a Class B member. You lose your board seat if you go Class B. There will be an open-season and you can elect to move up to 50 percent of your load. There is a buy down calculation, but no firm number out there yet. They hope to hold the rate steady and not have a rate increase, but this will eat through their deferred revenue. Looking at their budget they assume DMEA will be the last member to leave.”

Referencing COVID-19 Martinez said, “So now we go from two-day meetings to five hours on the phone. There is a concern if they go into executive session [by conference call], they don’t know who is in the room.”

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

Fleming said, “We did not have a meeting. They cancelled the April meeting and moved it to the end of May. I’ll have a report for you in June.”

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

Lockhart said, “I sat in on the Policy Review Committee. The Budget Committee is responsible for By-Law changes and they wanted a change from 120 to 180 days for a co-op to be able to withdraw from CREA. The gist was trying to make sure CREA wouldn’t be held captive by people dropping off. Some wanted to strike the By-Law change. In every instance [entities] stayed and paid their dues, there was no history that it had happened.”

Review Telephone Consumer Protection Act Compliance

DMEA has never adopted a policy because they have not seen a need. DMEA does not do robocalling and staff recommended no policy change at this time.

Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Executive Session followed the regular meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2020.

DMEA Board Members

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, kennethwatson@gmail.com
 Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, 1ch@haucks.cc
 Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com
 Dist 7 -
 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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO FILL A NEED



There will be a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) drive Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31 from 2-4pm at MHS by the old gym (enter the parking lot off Townsend Ave by the baseball/softball fields). Courtesy photo.

By Bailee Phillips, MHS Senior

MONTROSE-As the world faces the pandemic of COVID-19, many are scared and are uncertain of the future. Shortages run rampant across the country, and fear is everywhere. But, in these times of fear, the community of Montrose always comes together in order to help those in need.

Montrose, Colorado is known for its community values, and in times of need our community shines the brightest. It is shining now as our community comes together in an effort to help those keeping us safe. With surgical mask shortages all over the United States, Montrose found a way to help hospitals in need.

Many volunteers and one of our County Commissioners have put together a group that makes surgical masks and gives them to hospitals that are running low on masks. There are currently over 100 vol-

unteers helping in this effort in Montrose, and the numbers are growing.

Sue Hansen, County Commissioner, is one of the people organizing the creation of masks, which are being donated to hospitals, doctors' offices, and nursing homes. "People don't realize how many different organizations need medical masks," Hansen said. Though Hansen encourages everyone to make masks to help the need, she also urges those wanting to contribute to get the correct pattern for the masks so they are usable within hospitals and doctors' offices. If you have masks you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the County Administration office at 317 S. 2nd Street. Masks will be cleaned and readied for donation.

There are also many businesses around Montrose helping with the mask drive in a variety of ways. Joanne's is helping by

giving out kits to make masks. Though these kits are not the exact masks doctors and hospitals need, they can be made and given to nursing homes. Montrose Christian church has also played a major role in helping create masks. The church has so far made about 100 masks and plans to continue to do so.

Even residents that did not know about this group saw the need for surgical masks and took it upon themselves to help with the effort. Ali Waltrip, a senior at Montrose High School, has been making masks for doctors, nurses and senior homes. "I didn't know there was a group doing that. I just came up with the idea yesterday morning and threw myself into it," Waltrip said. Helping the community seems to be in the blood of Montrose citizens, as Waltrip is not the only one taking the time to create protective masks.

Hansen may be the head of the effort, but there are many volunteers in the Montrose area that have gone above and beyond. Another person who has been actively involved is Phoebe Benziger. Benziger is hosting a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) drive Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31 from 2-4pm at Montrose High School by the old gym (enter the parking lot off Townsend Ave by the baseball/softball fields). Benziger asks that if you have medical supplies in unopened boxes, please drop them off during that time. Our community is in search of eye protection and goggles, face shields, surgical masks, N95 masks, sterile and non-sterile gloves, disposable gowns, and biohazard bags. Social distancing measures will be taken during the drive-through PPE drive.

This just goes to show, through crisis and fear, our community does not fall apart, but rather we come together to fill a need. Montrose community takes care of its people, and this is a perfect example of how it does just that.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE RE-ELECT BARBARA BYNUM TO MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

Editor:

Since 2011 I have worked with Barbara Bynum, first on the campaigns to build a community recreation center and then on the Recreation District board. Since she became a City Councilor in 2017, I have continued to work with her and the rest of City Council and City Staff to improve the quality of life for Montrose citizens as President of the MRD.

The City and the MRD have completed the Connect Trail project and are improving the safety of the access to Baldridge Regional Park with the reconstruction of Riverbottom Drive and Holly Park. These

projects happen because of leaders who value cooperation between local government entities and leveraging local dollars to obtain grant funding. I want you to know what a pleasure it has been to work with Barbara, who cares deeply about making government work for the people she represents.

I appreciate her approach to decision making, as she always tries to view every situation from all perspectives in order to make the best decision possible. Barbara is an excellent communicator and strives to help people understand how local government works and why decisions are

made. It is because of her thoughtful approach to her position that I can wholeheartedly endorse her re-election to the at-large City Council position.

If you have enjoyed watching your City, County, School District, and special districts (MRD & MFPD) work well together during recent years, I would also recommend you re-elect Roy Anderson to City Council.

During this time of unprecedented crisis, having local government officials that take their job seriously and work together to improve Montrose is good for us all.

Jason Ullmann, Montrose

COMPLIMENTS TO OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EMERGENCY PREP

Dear Editor:

Wow, it has been quite the ride over the past two weeks. In the midst of uncertainty, an unprecedented economic shock, and signs of panic within the public, our two local governing bodies have done a very nice job administering. Compliments to County Manager Ken Norris and City

Manager Bill Bell for directing their respective teams and doing their part to stay proactive and maintain a calm environment. Some of the core roles of local government is protecting the welfare and safety of the community, and I think we are seeing that leadership today. In addition, compliments to Montrose Memorial

Hospital CEO James Kiser for getting our local hospital in a best case scenario position to help manage the healthcare side of this virus.

As unpredictable and debatable of a state we are in right now, if feel the Montrose Community is in good hands.

Scott Damman, Montrose



Montrose Resident Since 1996

Vote for YVONNE MEEK

AT-LARGE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SEAT



I have been involved in the heart of Montrose downtown for many years. I participated in the City of Montrose Leadership program in 2009, worked for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, and have served on the Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA). I have also volunteered and served in local churches, music/arts, and civic organizations. My business experience include Meek Ranch Inc and The Lark & Sparrow Venue LLC. I desire to see all of Montrose thrive through the economic challenges of today.

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★ **PRO SMALL GOVERNMENT**

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★ **HONEST**

★ **HARD-WORKING**



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Macht-Liles Real Estate Group
645 S. Grand Mesa Drive
970-856-4425
linda@lindacharlick.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES: ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Editor,

May I address the candidates for City Council, and the voters who will elect them?

The Montrose Comprehensive Plan committee has held discussions, and made recommendations to the Planning Commission and City staff, since January, on where, and sometimes how, Montrose is going over the next twenty years, with emphasis on the most immediate ten years. The meetings are advertised and the public is invited. Current members of the City Council, including candidates Roy Anderson and Barbara Bynum, in addition to Doug Glaspel, Judy Ann Files, and Mayor Dave Bowman, have been in attendance.

Why haven't you?

The topics we discussed in each of the two hour sessions included Housing and Neighborhoods, Transportation and Mobility, Land Use and Growth, Parks, Trails and Open Space, Recreation and Tourism, Economy and Opportunity, Health and Environment, and Downtown. We are now finishing up on the implementation recommendations. If you want to lead the City, you need to see where the City is going.

City Council work takes a lot of time and education on the issues. It also takes teamwork. Are you up to the challenge?

Carol McDermott

Montrose resident since 1971

INFORMATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS

FROM THE CITY OF MONTROSE

EVENTS EVERY WEEK UNTIL THE DISASTER IS OVER

WEDNESDAYS 8:30 AM

Sign up for the Business Update Zoom Call through our Facebook Event

Labor/employment, business relief, and local economic boosting ideas

A sheet of resources emailed to registered attendees each week, recorded for later viewing

FRIDAYS

Montrose Dines-In (With Take-Out) Night

Encourages locals to get take-out or delivery on Friday nights

SATURDAYS

Montrose Buys Local

Encourage locals to buy one product or service or a gift card from a local business every Saturday


Encourage over the phone payments or online ordering


WE ARE THE LUNCH CROWD

Large local employers to work with local restaurants to order boxed lunches on a regular schedule

Things are changing moment by moment and we will try to keep the information flowing. Social media is the quickest way to get information from the city.





 @montrose_colorado

 @cityofmontroseco



DART
Development and Revitalization Team

 @montrosedart

 @montrosedart



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE MEDIA BIAS PLAYS OUT LIKE A 3-STRING BANJO

Dear Editor:

First off, I wanted to thank you for making the Montrose Mirror available to this community. The biased reporting, lack of reporting, and orchestrated stories coming out of the Montrose Daily Press is a disservice to this community. The Montrose Daily Press bias first appeared on my radar during the 2A Public Safety Sales Tax discussion and has hit a new level with the pending City Council election. Without the Montrose Mirror it would be challenging for this community to learn about the other side of the coin. And, more than likely, the true side. Now I understand why, when I first moved to this area, many people told me the Montrose Mirror is where you find unfiltered local news.

Within the past week we have watched the local media machine at work. Let's kick it off with Colorado Outdoors LLC, who in my opinion is feeling the heat from City Council candidates and social media discussion, calling into question the over \$8M of tax-payer money going into their private real estate development. Does feeling some heat make good timing for some positive public relations?

Colorado Outdoors LLC donated about \$3500 towards helping some of our kids as part of the school lunch program. I (really) wish I could celebrate this donation and an act of good will. Was it? If it was a genuine donation, why was it immediately followed up by a City of Montrose official press release? (and, why would the press release not come from the Montrose County School District?) Why did that City of Montrose press release immediately end up in the Montrose Daily Press? (not even reported but a verbatim reprint of the press release).

No doubt, in a distressed time like this, acts of kindness are very important, but in my opinion what I see here is a calculated public relations ploy to buy good will in a very troubling time. To add, pulling the children into the ploy should leave many shaking their heads. Of course, the big

Sunday Montrose Daily Press opinion column was written by the ownership family of Colorado Outdoors LLC, more propaganda and a host of questionable statements. Fast forward to Wednesday's edition of the Montrose Daily Press where the rambling column called The Notebook gave another plug to the generosity of the Colorado Outdoors LLC group (the same column recently ripping those working to help working-class Montrose save money by eliminating the city sales tax on groceries), and then publisher Dennis Anderson gave ample coverage in his column to discredit candidate David White. What is rather interesting is that when the Montrose Daily Press covered the League of Women Voters candidate forum, do you know how many of Mr. White's words on what his policy plans are if elected were reported? Zero.

Folks, I had stayed away from writing any opinion pieces related to the upcoming City Council race, and I do not have any endorsements to share, but I hit a tipping point this week where information needs to be written about and shared. The orchestra leaders and Montrose Daily Press reporting bias is reminiscent of the 2A Public Safety Sales Tax (like Yogi Berra said: "Déjà vu all over again"), but this time there is more at stake and more to lose for certain individuals. I am a Montrose County unincorporated resident, business owner in the city, and am concerned about what I have researched and watched play out.

Anyone else in the Montrose Community who share concerns about certain policies that have been recently enacted in the City of Montrose should be extremely grateful that numerous individuals have stepped up to the plate and stuck their necks out to run for City Council. Without this pool of candidates, the various fresh opinions and approaches would have been missed. Personally, I have now had the opportunity to meet these new faces running for council, listen to their thoughts,

and feel pretty darn encouraged that residents got engaged. The fact that the Montrose Daily Press, an active participant in the City Hall spin cycle, took extra time this week to discredit one candidate in particular, Mr. White, along with jabs pointed to other candidate, tells me those who have the most financially to lose are nervous. As a concerned Montrose community member, I am grateful that certain candidates have started a dialogue on some of these more complicated issues and exposed the facts around a URA deal like Colorado Outdoors LLC. I am grateful that candidates have taken the time to research the layers of taxes residents are exposed to, and double taxes (i.e. utility bill fees, and then a city sales tax over the fee). I am grateful that candidates have challenged the status-quo and proposed eliminating the city sales tax on a family essential like groceries. I am grateful that these candidates have been standing up for the important issues that working-class Montrose faces every day. Many of these candidates have been tackling the real issues and have been talking about the exposure to financial burdens for months, way ahead of our current crisis.

Colorado Outdoors LLC has emerged as a hot policy issue. The local propaganda machine celebrated the \$3400 lunch donation program and offered layers of free press to this speculative development. Where is the reporting on the rest of the story? Where is the story about how the fresh \$600,000+ of taxpayer funded incentives helped land a Fairfield Inn & Suites deal that just closed, the part where Colorado Outdoors LLC just sold under 3 acres of land for over \$900,000? Does anyone think that land deal would have closed if the City of Montrose did not kick in a big pile of your money? Please keep in mind, this hotel incentive is after millions of taxpayer monies had already been spent to prepare the land for the private developer (streets, utilities, landscaping, company parking lot...). Colorado Outdoors LLC gets

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE MEDIA BIAS PLAYS OUT LIKE A 3-STRING BANJO

From previous pg

gets their property tee'd up on the backs of working-class Montrose and keeps the property sale revenue. Heck of a deal they negotiated with city leadership. This standard is in the name of economic development?

My tipping point? Where is the story of after the millions given to Colorado Outdoors LLC, they have since appealed their commercial property taxes all the way to the State of Colorado level? These are the taxes that fund a significant part of the Montrose County School District budget. I wonder how much of the fight Colorado Outdoors LLC is putting towards contesting and reducing their commercial property taxes affects the revenue that goes to our local schools? A free lunch sure can take on a different meaning.

Scott Damman, Montrose

"Tough times are here...but together, we are tougher."
David White

A Thriving Montrose



Photo: By Visitmontrose - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0.



"The two most important tasks before us are helping our citizens and community through these difficult times and preparing to meet the future when the crisis has passed. I hope you will allow me to be involved in these crucial tasks as a member of the Montrose City Council."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

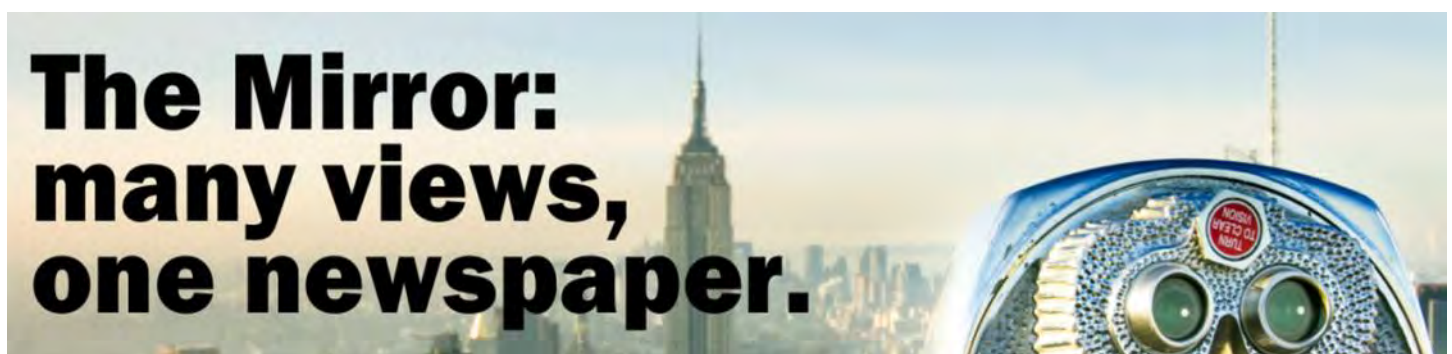
THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED MY CANDIDACY

Citizens of Montrose,

During the past year I have endeavored to bring to your attention to numerous issues that are of great concern about the governance of our city. By now you are well aware of those issues therefore I will not reiterate them. Instead I will just remind my readership that our current city leadership (if it can be called that) and their supporters have not resolved them. Any of them. In many cases they have absolutely refused to address those issues at all.

As we approach the closing days of this election, I offer my thanks to all who have supported my effort to become one of your councilmen. I look forward to your continued support as a member of the Montrose city council.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

PR CAMPAIGN CAN'T HIDE FACT THAT THE CITY HAS DRIFTED WELL OFF COURSE IN IT'S FUNDING PRIORITIES

Editor:

Folks who have been around Montrose for 15 years or longer will surely recall the boondoggles surrounding the JetAway and Extra Aircraft fiascos, back then, respectively touted as the next best thing in "economic development". It would be just a matter of time until the next good deal materialized. For those unfamiliar with JetAway and Extra, some research into those events might just give you an insight into understanding current concerns of many in Montrose, regarding the latest "economic development" scheme that's sucking up our tax dollars with no end in sight.

Make no mistake, promoting local economic development should be a major goal, but it has to be finely balanced with other priorities. The sale of Montrose's Ross Reels to the Dragoos [Mayfly] opened the door to our latest "economic development" next best thing. Understanding that the Dragoos, principles in Mayfly, were highly astute businessmen and negotiators, several local retired business people urged the City Manager and then Council members to proceed with caution because what was being considered had the potential to put millions of tax dollars at risk.

At that time City Council held a public meeting to "answer questions" about a pending deal with Mayfly. but that meeting was short on having public concerns addressed and long on being nothing but a presentation of a Mayfly marketing plan. [There is a video of that meeting in the City archives, but it may take a CORA request to wrench it loose] That meeting was chaired by Bob Nicholson, who pronounced me "out of order" for asking my probing question. Other concerns were also ignored . It was quite clear that, like the PSST question on 2A, the outcome and direction Council would take was a foregone and predetermined conclusion.

Moving ahead into an "economic development" relationship with Mayfly , the first of many tax dollar incentives began to accrue to the Mayfly balance sheet. As noted above, the Dragoos are astute and savvy businessmen, quite adept at business negotiations. Unfortunately our City team was short on such experience, and many feel the City has been played like a five string banjo, and out maneuvered / negotiated at every turn.

With a few years under our belt in this relationship and between \$8-10 million and increasing, in tax dollar commitments being made to Colorado Outdoors LLC in a massive speculative development plan, it seems the City has become the equivalent of Aesop's goose that laid the golden egg. Just a week or so ago, the Dragoos paid off the lunch balances for elementary and early childhood programs. Instead of an announcement from the School District with an amount donated [\$3,400 & change], the announcement came via the City public Information office. From the accolades on Facebook, it sounded like Bill and Melinda Gates had stepped in to help. Retiring those lunch debts was certainly a classy move, but, was it just that, or part of a parallel public relations effort?

In Sunday's Daily Press and in Monday's Montrose Mirror, Dragoo had an Opinion piece to "set the record straight" on URA's and the importance of this economic development plan and how it is a win win for everyone. Unsaid was how it is also a big win win for Colorado Outdoors LLC too. Purely an informative piece, or part of a parallel public relations effort?

As evidenced by the slim 69 vote margin in November on the move to increase City sales taxes by 18% with 2A, it's plainly obvious that half the City electorate feels the City has drifted well off course in it's funding priorities. With an unprecedented eleven candidates running for three Council seats, and the very real chance the goose that lays those golden eggs will

have it's wings clipped, maybe we really are seeing a high profile public relations campaign.

In the Sunday/Monday opinion piece, Dragoo stated," At Colorado Outdoors we have always believed in making Montrose better than we found it. We also believe in paying our own way."

Really? He admits to investing millions along the river corridor, but nary a mention of how hard they are fighting right now to avoid paying their "fair share" of real estate taxes for 2019. In all likelihood, the general public is totally oblivious to this reality, while the City, fully cognizant of that fact, commits another \$816,000 + in taxpayer dollars toward the hotel site.

According to the Assessor office, all parcels at Colorado Outdoors LLC were originally assessed for 2019 at \$20,103,420, reflective of the "millions" claimed invested. Unhappy with that assessment, the Dragoos, as is their right, appealed that amount to the Assessor. Their concerns obviously held water, because the Assessor reduced that original amount to \$14,345,640 , what most would agree was a generous reduction of \$5,757,640 [29%]. Still not satisfied, the Dragoos exercised their right to present their case for further reduction of assessment to the County Board of Equalization, which found the revised assessed value of \$14,345,640 to be an appropriate value for tax purposes. Not happy with a 29% adjustment, the Dragoos have appealed to the State Board of Adjustment seeking an overall reduction of 72%, down to \$5,580,000! Does that sound like they really believe in paying their fair share?

Looking a bit deeper, the first lot sold by Colorado Outdoors LLC was Lot 1, a 2.56 A parcel for the new hotel. That parcel was County assessed at \$352,610, but was recorded sold at \$903,279, a retail value of roughly \$8.10 per SF. On top of this, the City has committed another \$816,000 in infrastructure that trickles down to the

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PR CAMPAIGN CAN'T HIDE FACT THAT THE CITY HAS DRIFTED WELL OFF COURSE From previous pg

Colorado Outdoors LLC bottom line. If you project out the current market value, the entire 115.936 A owned by Colorado Outdoors LLC / Black Mountain Capital LLC is today worth over \$25 million.

On the one hand, Colorado Outdoors has been willing to accept millions in tax dollars proffered by a more than generous City, that obviously will lead to a more than handsome payday. But, on the other hand, they balk at paying taxes on land value created by the very tax dollars it received. Does that sound like wanting your cake, but eating it too?

The real truth is, you can't have it both ways! I find no fault with the Dragoos

trying to wring the very best deal they can out of this development. I can, however, find fault with the City's less than desirable negotiating skills and an increasing recklessness with our tax dollars.

Everyone now is rightly concerned with the increasing spread of the Corona virus, but the April municipal election is one thing that will not be postponed. Many voters have become concerned with the very clear "progressive" drift away from well balanced priority funding by the City.

The election is a clear cut choice between what amounts to the status quo, full speed ahead spending crowd, or a tighter

rein in direction and more judicious use of our tax dollars. Choose wisely! Rein in Montrose!

Dee Laird, Montrose

Footnote:

A condensed version of this opinion exposing a different side to the Dragoos / Colorado Outdoors LLC article last week, was offered to the Montrose Daily Press, but was denied publication.

Apparently my research and observations are contrary to the narrative they adhere to, once again showing that the best source of local unfiltered news and information is the Montrose Mirror.

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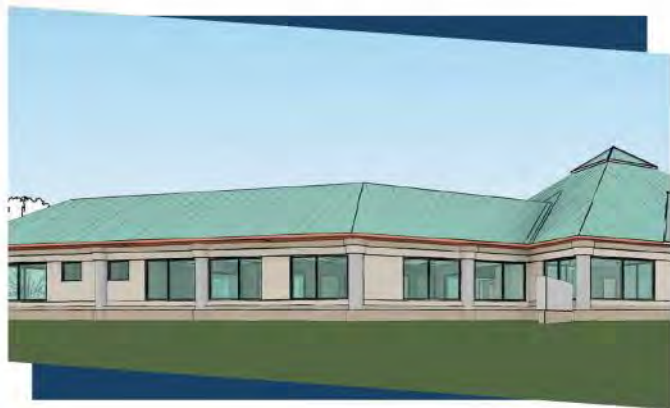
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Alpine Bank Montrose brings one-stop banking to expanded South Townsend location



Alpine Bank Montrose is excited to announce the expansion of its south branch on Townsend Avenue which will provide one-stop banking for customers there by the end of 2020. "The timing of the project could not be better, the bank as a whole, and locally in Montrose, is coming off of several record-breaking years," stated Tyler Dahl, president of Alpine Bank Montrose.

Currently, some bank functions are split between Alpine's south branch and its east branch on Main Street in Montrose, requiring some customers to make two stops to do all of their banking. The east branch will close once consolidation of the bank's services is complete at the expanded south branch.



"We look forward to having all of Alpine's Montrose employees working together in a larger and more efficient and comfortable setting for them and our valued customers," said Dahl. "We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service, and these changes will ensure we can take even better care of our customers in the future."

All Alpine staff currently working at the east branch will work from the expanded south branch; there will be no reduction in the friendly staff who customers know and appreciate after the construction dust settles.

Dahl understands that the east branch is a more convenient location for some customers, and he and his team are committed to making the transition as easy and convenient as possible. The closure will be gradual, with an anticipated closing date of June, 2021.

"Alpine Bank's commitment to providing excellence to our customers and our commitment to support our community are and will remain our highest priorities," Dahl said.



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RE-1J SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT CARRIE STEPHENSON



On Saturday, March 28, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education announced that Carrie Stephenson will be the new Superintendent of Schools. Courtesy photo.

Mirror staff report
 MONTROSE-A planned March 27 meet & greet event for RE-1J Superintendent candidates was cancelled due to COVID-19, but members of the Montrose County School District RE-1J board of Education moved forward with finalist interviews on Saturday, March 28, assisted by members of the

selection committee and the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB).

In a virtual Zoom meeting held Saturday afternoon, the Board of Education entered into executive session to discuss Confidential Documents per C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(g). All directors were present for the meeting. Upon returning to regular session, the Board voted to enter into negotiations with Candidate Carrie Stephenson for the job of Superintendent of Schools, and shortly thereafter announced that Stephenson will take over the position July 1. A news release issued by the District quoted School Board President Gayle Johnson. "The School Board was privileged to have three qualified finalists to consider for the position. We feel that Dr. Stephenson will bring a unique set of qualities and characteristics to our district. We look forward to continued growth and improvement under her leadership," Johnson said.

Stephenson is Executive Director of School Leadership at the Douglas County School District. She has been in education for 30 years, she has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and executive director of schools and has been with Douglas County Schools for 26 years. Other finalists for the position included Dr. Gerald Chandler and Dr. Dana Nolan.

In other business Saturday, the Board of Education voted to approve Revised Board Policy BEAA, regarding electronic participation in school board meetings, and Resolution 03-2020, Granting Emergency Powers to the Superintendent.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMH OUTPATIENT LAB PROCEDURES MOVING TO NEW LOCATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Effective Wednesday, March 25, Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) will move outpatient lab procedures to a new location to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Outpatient lab procedures will now take place at the site of Mountain View Therapy Pediatric Rehabilitation, located at 645 S. 5th St. across from San Juan Cancer Center. Operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Outpatient lab procedures have traditionally been performed on-site at MMH. With the emergence of COVID-19 in Montrose county, MMH will use this location until further notice in order to help protect patients and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The move is being made out of an abundance of caution for the community.

If your doctor instructs you to receive your labs from Montrose Memorial Hospital, please visit the new location at 645 S. 5th St. The new site includes Admissions personnel, which allows for lab patients to come directly to this location to receive services. MVT Pediatric Rehabilitation patients are currently not coming to this site for services as the hospital works to conserve resources and strengthen infection control measures.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY OF MONTROSE IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE

Dear Editor,

I've recently been walking along the newly developed sections of the trail that connects the north end of town with the recreation center. I enjoy seeing the new areas along the river and realize what a great addition to our parks and our community this trail is. It serves casual strollers and families as well as runners and cyclists.

The trail and parks are a good example of how our city council and city administrators and staff have been planning and improving our city. The February 2020 issue of the *City Beat* newsletter notes that the city today is running with 11 percent fewer staff than it had before 2008, but, even so, it appears that it is doing more and serving us better. A fine accomplishment!

Several individuals now running for city council would stop all the momentum that has been gained in the last 10 years. They don't really seem to understand what it takes to run a city like Montrose and appear determined to dismantle a well-run organization.

Incumbent councilors Roy Anderson and Barbara Bynum would continue to direct the city according to a reasonable plan and thus build on the progress the city has made. Both Dave Frank and Dave Stockton seem to have a similar vision for the city. I urge you to vote for candidates who want to make our city a desirable place to live.

Respectfully, Karen Nicholson



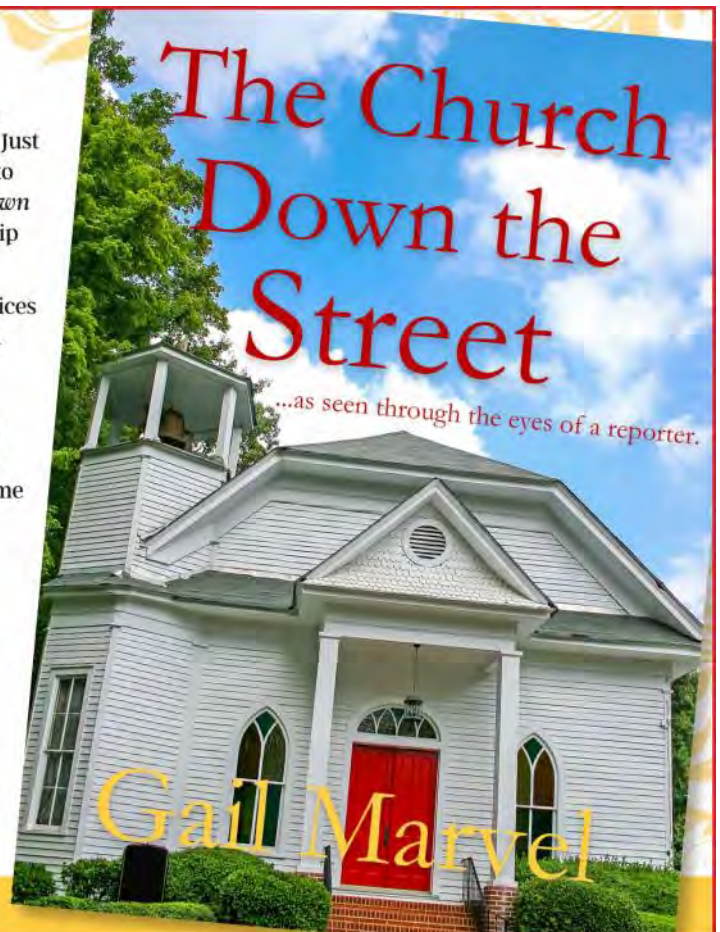
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESCHEDULES MONTHLY MEETING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In compliance with Montrose City and County mandates and due to the fact Montrose County buildings are closed to gatherings of 10 or more, Montrose County Historical Society will not hold its monthly meeting April 1, 2020. The Society will make every endeavor to hold the May meeting, May 6, 2020.



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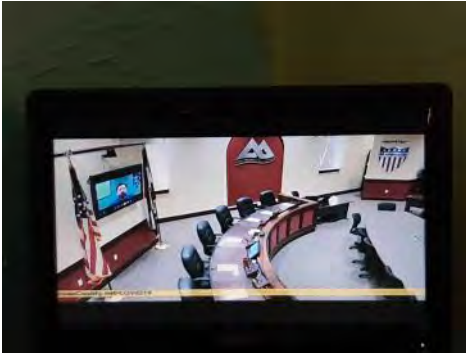


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RULES OF ORDER 1ST CASUALTY FOR VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL

From pg 1



City Channel 191 showed the virtual special meeting broadcast to an empty Council Chamber.

All councilors were present for the meeting. On the City's Channel 191, which broadcast the meeting live, Business owner Bill Glasscock of Montrose Kayak & Surf appeared at times to be featured on the "dais" along with Council. Glasscock could be heard loudly cursing as the meeting began; City Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty reminded all attendees to please mute their mics.

Bowman said, "So I think we're waiting for Doug to chime in. If there's anyone else in the audience who would like to talk to Council, this would probably be a good time."

City Council candidate Dave Frank spoke, "...People are not understanding, that there is a disconnect between the social distancing in workplace vs. social life. My wife just went down today to the park and there were groups of 15 or 20 people sitting around in the park in very close proximity, and yet we have employees in our workplaces that are not understanding and that are demanding a ten-foot separation.

"I think some clarity on that issue might be beneficial."

Mayor Bowman said, "Would you go ahead and introduce yourself." Frank complied.

A stretch of silence ensued.

"Hey Robyn Shank!" Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said, speaking to an attendee. "I see your mouth moving but we can't

hear you! If you're trying to make a public comment you've got to start over."

Shank said, "Okay Barbara Bynum! I just wanted to tell you guys thank you. Thank you for everything that you're doing. I'm sure you don't hear that enough in the work you are doing for us, but a lot of people are very grateful for your service right now and I am one of those people."

"I know all of Council appreciates that, and all of staff does. People are working really, really, hard right now," Mayor Bowman said, adding, "I think we're doing a good job in Montrose!" At times during the special meeting, Bowman's wife Kathy could be seen and heard whispering to him.

Police Chief Blaine Hall provided an update. "We just finished our 5 p.m. EOC briefing...I don't have a lot of new information to report...there are now three confirmed COVID-19 cases in Montrose County. I do expect that number to rise..... We have 137 people that have been tested in Montrose County; 113 of those tests are still pending."

The low number of confirmed cases should not give anyone a false sense of security, Hall said. "I do think that there will be more."

People who have contracted COVID-19 can be asymptomatic for eight or nine days, Hall said, and reminded everyone to practice the six-foot rule of social distancing. With police facilities now closed to the public entirely, "It seems like it's going really well," Hall said. "Remote meetings are working very well...we're trying to limit contact with the public." Governor Polis has issued guidance that law enforcement and jail personnel should limit public contact, and has asked grocery stores to add staff, offer delivery and pickup services, and expand hours for high-risk populations like seniors, Hall said.

Frank asked whether the Governor or the State would incentivize grocery stores to offset the cost of those employees; Hall was unsure.

Bynum asked whether the Police Depart-

ment is maintaining the normal number of on-duty officers. "Has anything else changed?"

"We have the standard complement of officers right now," Hall said.

Detectives are now working from home; patrol officers are being asked to focus on directed patrols. "It's really important that the public sees our officers on the streets," he said. Animal shelter staff are currently inside the shelter caring for the animals that are presently there, he noted. Officers are responding to complaints involving vicious or injured animals but are accepting strays only on a case-by-case basis, due to the need to maintain space in the shelter. "Random strays are not being picked up...these are best practices we are following," Hall said.

Frank asked a question posed by City Council candidate and business owner Paul Arbogast, whose mic was not audible. Arbogast asked whether small businesses forced to close by the state would be able to accept donations and write them off. "That's a little out of my lane," Hall said, and suggested that City Manager Bill Bell could provide an answer. City Manager Bill Bell thanked Hall and the Montrose Police Department. "Thanks to Blaine and his team of commanders back in the police department while he works on bigger picture stuff."

Bell gave an update on the City's efforts to provide service during the closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is working well...some departments are finding it more difficult than others to continue providing the same level of service to citizens." Front line employees are most impacted, Bell said. Remote operations will be evaluated and fine-tuned this week, he said. "Everything can't be as perfect, but it can be done," Bell said. "We're asking the community to be more flexible...to be please be patient with us. Our goal is to keep our operations going...we are able to provide almost all of the essential services and some of the non-essential services."

Continued next pg

RULES OF ORDER 1ST CASUALTY FOR VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL

From previous pg

The City has a web page with regularly updated information on COVID-19, Bell said. City staff are no longer interacting with the public behind glass, but are not engaging in any direct interaction with the public. Utility billing staff are working from home.

"...Spirits are up," Bell said. "Employees are doing a great job of being creative and coming up with a lot of really solution-oriented ideas."

"I fully support the steps you are taking... it's just necessary for all of us to follow these guidelines," Councilor Roy Anderson said. "Thank you for looking out for the safety of our City staff as well as the whole community."

Bynum asked about building services. "There's so many construction projects going on around town; are we able to do those site inspections and building inspections?"

Bell said, "...Fortunately for us we had a booming economy in Montrose and it's still booming on the construction side of things." He said that Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler is overseeing the City's Building Services Division and working with Archie Byers there to implement virtual inspections when possible. Some on-site inspections will still be necessary. Housing construction has been labeled a critical industry in Colorado, he said. "We're going to do everything we can to keep the housing construction in our community going."

"It sounds like you've put together a great plan," Bowman said, "and staff is enacting that. It makes me feel real good that our city is moving even in this intense time. Good job."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler spoke as well. "(City Building Official) Archie met with some of the state inspectors today...they are all trying to work through a virtual process using some video equipment...there's some kinks to work out...we're all working together to try and keep these projects moving in a way that's safe for the contractor, safe for staff, and safe for the community...we're open to

any and all suggestions that people have."

Street sweeping will continue, Bell said, as drivers work alone and do not share equipment. Golf course and parks maintenance crews will perform duties and go home. Turf must be maintained at the golf course despite the closure, as neglect could cost millions of dollars, Bell said. The pro shop and cart rentals are closed.

Mayor Bowman said, "I was at the golf course today, people are playing. Things look like they're going really well out there. There's still a lot of water line construction going on too so Kyle and Dominick are getting things watered and doing the improvements that we need done at the golf course...I see 'em working and staying away from each other while they're working opposite ends of big pipes."

"Lot of good construction going on out there," Bowman said. "From what I can see from the people, everybody is very happy that the golf course is open...on a beautiful day like today there's no reason we can't have people out there; they certainly were there today!"

"...overall all the people that are out there are smiling and staying away from each other, we've been talking to each other, and the adults seem to think it's great that we have so many kids and teenagers out there playing together," Bowman said. "I can see that even the young people are staying away from each other as they play golf together, which isn't difficult to do."

Water and sewer crews are working on an on-call basis and responding to water breaks and sewer backups, Bell said. "Just call like you always would...there are no hiccups in our trash and recycling service."

Utility customers can pay bills online and over the phone; there will be no utility shutoffs during the pandemic.

Bell also said that the City will consider allowing a 90-day extension of the deadline for sales tax remittance for businesses that have sales under \$2M. "You still need to turn in your sales tax paperwork, you just don't need to send the money," Bell said.

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg reminded that businesses must continue to collect sales tax.

Rosty said that there will be a Zoom webinar business update every Thursday at 8 a.m. "Anybody can join."

She added that the City's Development & Revitalization Team (DART) had been focusing on "social movements" such as Takeout nights on Friday and ongoing Small Business Saturdays. Citizens are encouraged to purchase one local product or service every Saturday. DART will work with local partners to establish a marketing initiative. Food trucks can remain operational.

Montrose Kayak & Surf owner Bill Glasscock said that he will move forward with business as usual and expressed hope that the pandemic "will be quickly behind us."

"A lot of good things are happening!" Bowman said, and asked everyone to continue to support local business as much as possible during the pandemic. He had his wife Kathy bring him a bottle of hand sanitizer made locally by Storm King Distilling Co and held it up for the camera. "If you buy something from them, they will give you a bottle of hand sanitizer that's made right there!"

The Montrose Farmers Market is still operating but will be moving outdoors earlier than usual due to the closure of City Facilities, Bell said.

Bynum expressed thanks that the City had been allowing local gyms to hold classes in City parks. The City is working with RE-1J Schools, Montrose Rec staff, and All Points transit to serve meals from local sites and deliver meals to kids and homebound seniors; the City's COVID-19 information page has details.

Bell discussed a loan program for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 closures; \$300K remains available from the former Downtown development Authority (DDA) and several other funds, Bell said. No interest would be charged and no payment due for 12 months. The Region 10 League for

Continued next pg

RULES OF ORDER 1ST CASUALTY FOR VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL

From previous pg

Economic Assistance & Planning (Region 10) would perform credit checks and process the loans.

Though Bowman suggesting taking action immediately, Bell suggested that the loan program be placed on the agenda for the March 30 work session and March 31 Council meeting.

"I do not want to take a vote tonight," Councilor Files said. I want to know the details."

City Council candidate Yvonne Meek spoke, "I think it's a great idea. The small businesses are really going to need that kind of help--rent payments, maybe even

utility payments, are critical for them.

"But wait to vote on it."

Local business owners Chayenne Carter of 970 Sports Rewind and Kim Volk of Camp Robber restaurant spoke with Council to ask business-specific questions.

Following further discussion, Bell said, "My understanding is we have a majority of council that wants us to move forward, get this on the agenda for Tuesday for formal adoption...work through some of the details right away...and have something good that you can vote on Tuesday."

Bowman said, "Beautiful! Thank you very much." He thanked all who had tuned in

and asked them to share information. "... We're all here to help the community get through this...support small businesses where you can...get out and enjoy the sunshine, there are things you can do without having to be in a group, so take care of yourself. We're gonna get through this, I know we all can't wait at this point 'til we get back to normal and we will get back to normal." With no further business, Council was adjourned.

Bowman began to speak again, thanking City staff. City Attorney Stephen Alcorn thanked all who participated in the virtual special meeting.

Take Away - Curbside - To Go - Delivery - Take Away - Curbside - To Go - Delivery

Take Away - Curbside - To Go - Delivery - Take Away - Curbside - To Go - Delivery



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Coffee Trader
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970-787-9021

Stone House
970-240-8899

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

**Remington's
at The Bridges**
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DineOutMontrose.com

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Market activity in our area...

The real estate market in our area is alive and well. Increasing property values and low interest rates are creating a vibrant atmosphere for both sellers and buyers. Here are a few properties that may be of interest to you.



Pine Drive, Ridgway

8.347 Acres
Log Hill Village
Utilities & Water tap
Fabulous Views
MLS #762967
\$139,900



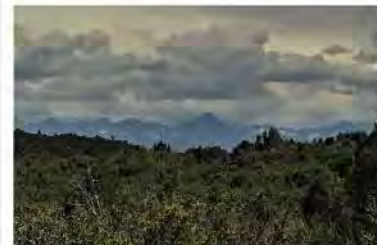
Divide Road, Montrose

4.481 Acres in the High Country
Borders National Forest
MLS #761583
\$74,900



Buckhorn Road, Montrose

5.1 Acres near BLM
Water tap & Electric. No HOA
MLS #764338
\$95,000



Barnes Point Drive, Montrose

35 acres near BLM & National Forest
Hunting & recreation
MLS#748714
\$67,500

This is a small sample of properties currently on the market, let me know what you're looking for and I'll help you find it!



As your local real estate expert, I bring local knowledge, world-class experience and professionalism to Montrose and surrounding areas. If you're looking to sell or are in the market to buy, I can help you through that experience.

Don Bailey

Broker Associate
donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com
970-209-8257
www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF BLAINE HALL



Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall. Courtesy photo.

Dear City of Montrose Residents and Business Owners,

As Police Chief for the City of Montrose, I have been assigned the task of managing the emergency operations and public health response the city is conducting in partnership with Montrose County Public Health. As part of that responsibility I received a briefing from a medical professional who is on the front lines with this virus in an adjacent Colorado community. They are now seeing their medical facility begin to fill with positive COVID-19 patients. They are very concerned about their ventilator capacity versus the number of patients being admitted into the ICU. The situation is daunting, like seeing a tidal wave coming and not being able to do anything about it. The medical professional's final statement to me was that this virus is unlike anything the medical community has ever seen, and one of the most highly infectious viruses they have ever known.

The recent Governor's Stay at Home Order and CDPHE Updated Guidance is in areas vague in its interpretation, and in other areas crystal clear. This is a feared enemy we can't see, and it is deadly. We are all good and empathetic people, and we know that the businesses in our community are suffering, however, I believe our city is one of the first in Colorado for coming up with an economic plan to help our small businesses through this tough time. It has been extremely difficult to hear the words of these business owners as they ask to remain open in violation of the Governor's orders, but we all must be reminded of what we are facing in this virus. The spirit of this order is to encourage our citizens to remain at home and not spread this highly infectious virus that we can't see, and has already killed thousands of individuals in our country.

We all empathize with our businesses in trying to remain open, but if in violation of the Governor's order, it is a detriment to the safety of our community. Thank you for your proactive cooperation as we work together to keep each and every Montrose resident safe.

Sincerely,

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall



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COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE **19**

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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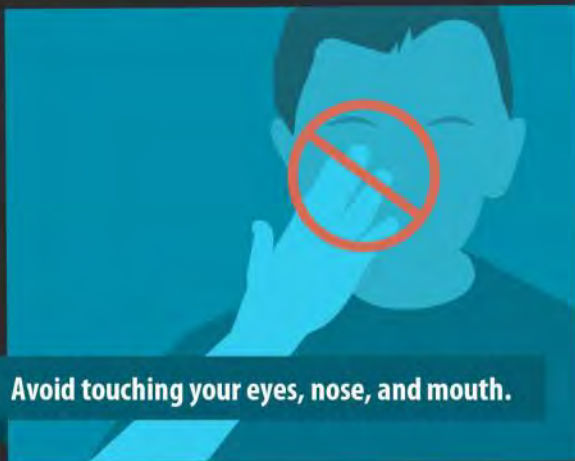
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue,
then throw the tissue
in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



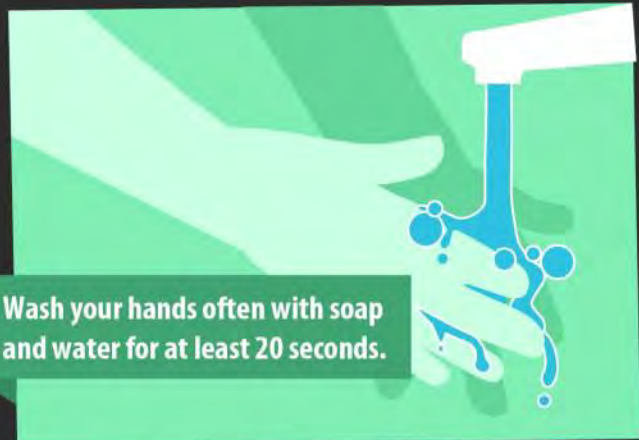
Clean and disinfect frequently
touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick,
except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

**COVID
19**
ENFERMEDAD DEL
CORONAVIRUS

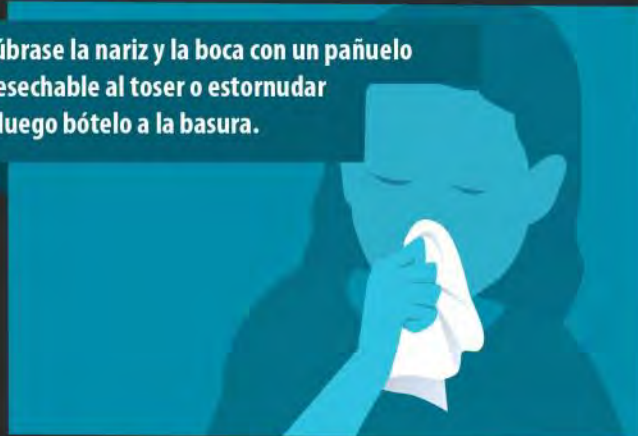
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

Ayude a prevenir la propagación de virus respiratorios como el nuevo COVID-19.

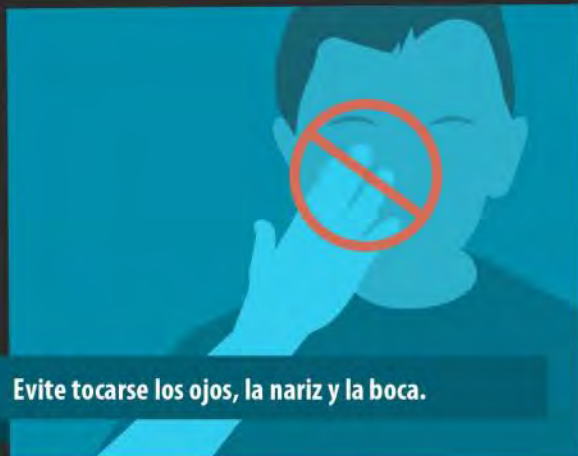
Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



**Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo
desechable al toser o estornudar
y luego bótelo a la basura.**



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



**Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las
superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.**



**Quédese en casa si está enfermo,
excepto para buscar atención médica.**



**Lávese las manos frecuentemente
con agua y jabón por al menos
20 segundos.**



Para obtener más información: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-es

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CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES NEW CEO



Matthew Heyn, MHA is the new Chief Executive Officer of Delta Hospital to start April 6.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Matthew Heyn, MHA as the new Chief Executive Officer to start April 6, 2020.

"The Board of Directors is excited about the addition of Matthew Heyn," said DCMH Board Chairman, David Lane.

"Heyn's extensive hospital financial and leadership experience will be a great addition to the already talented staff of DCMH."

Heyn is a Texas native with an admiration for Colorado. After graduating from the University of Texas with his Bachelor of Science, he went on to receive his Masters of Healthcare Administration from Trinity University. Heyn started in hospital finances as a Senior Financial Analyst and moved his way up to a Chief Financial Officer at Rangeley District Hospital in Colorado and at Central Kansas Medical Center in Great Bend, Kansas.

"From there I was the CEO for two different hospitals in Kansas," said Heyn. "First, I was at Pawnee Valley Community Hospi-

tal in Larned, Kansas and then AdventHealth Ottawa where I spent five and a half years. We saw growth in physician recruitment, quality scores, patient satisfaction, employee engagement and morale."

Coming back to Colorado and starting as the CEO at DCMH is something that Heyn is very much looking forward to.

"In the day that I spent interviewing [in Delta County] I saw the energy that the staff brought and heard the questions they asked, I feel like everyone is hungry for engagement, culture and for growth," said Heyn. "Instantly it felt like a great match. When you have an organization that's primed for those types of initiatives and that is built on a good foundation, you've got two of the most important ingredients necessary to take a health system to the next level."

Heyn's goals for DCMH will be carved out once he officially starts, but said that using insight from his career will help guide his decisions.

"What I can say is that there will be a pretty significant cultural transformation

with employees to where they feel empowered and at liberty to discuss ideas on how to better care for patients. These will be aligned against organizational goals that will be developed in conjunction with the Board's strategic plan," said Heyn. The Hospital's goals should be lofty and those goals will be set in order for DCMH to reach a new level and bar that it hasn't otherwise been raised to in the past, said Heyn.

"It's not the CEO that does it; it's the front line employees that are making meals, passing trays and it's the environmental service techs that are cleaning rooms and keeping us safe from things like COVID-19 and other viruses" said Heyn. "It's those areas plus compassionate clinical care and physician leadership that helps the hospital provide remarkable care. We will likely touch on every aspect of the hospital, giving the greatest attention to the areas that need it most."

Heyn's family shares in his excitement about moving to Delta, Colorado and starting a new adventure. Heyn met his wife Melinda while attending the University of Texas and have been married for 17 years. They have two daughters together; Madison, 10 years old and Leighton, 8 years old.

"While exploring the community, my wife and I were delighted by the expansive mountains and beautiful scenery as well as the warmth of the community" said Heyn.

Heyn said that he and his wife spent time walking through local retailers and enjoyed hearing all of the positive words they had to say about Delta and neighboring communities.

"When we made the announcement to the girls that we were moving to Delta, Colorado, they were jumping up and down with excitement," said Heyn. "I think we're going to have a lot of fun as a family in Delta County. We're going to grow and experience a new journey and chapter."

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS BEEN WEIGHED, MEASURED, & FOUND WANTING

Dear Editor:

Following the successful crossing of the Delaware and victory at Trenton, New Jersey in 1776, then-general George Washington spoke to his soldiers whose enlistments expired on New Year's day. *"...you have done all I asked you to do and more than could be reasonably expected. But your country is at stake, your wives, your houses, and all that you hold dear... If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty and to your country which you probably can never do under any other circumstances."*

The men stayed.

We are at a similar crossroads as we face the Corona virus. We have been asked by experts in science and medicine, such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, to stay firm in our course of isolation. To practice social and physical distancing - small groups under ten in size - washing hands frequently - getting tested if showing any signs of the virus - and just staying at home.

Do we have a leader who calls upon us like George Washington did in the infancy of our nation, to sacrifice our personal preferences and desires to render service to our country in time of need?

We currently have a president who is more concerned over our economic well being, and his bid for re-election, than with the goal of stopping the Corona virus in it's tracks. Mr. Trump is seriously considering allowing the workforce to return to their jobs wearing masks and gloves. Complaining about Dr. Fauci, Fox News host Steve Hilton stated that an economic shutdown to prevent millions of people dying, was an example of the cure being "worse than the disease". Hours later Trump tweeted in all caps, "WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF."

The majority of conservative "news" hosts

are now all trying to play down the Corona virus. This should be a nonpartisan issue. It is not about Republicans or Democrats. The United States has now surpassed Italy in numbers of cases. We should be united, working together.

Mr. Trump is trying to portray himself as a "war president". He is NOT a "war president". From the beginning, rather than facing the crisis head on, he has made a series of claims that have proven untrue. He played down the virus by stating the flu was more dangerous. He said there were only fifteen cases and that number would soon drop to zero. He said it would all quickly go away. In January he stated, "We have it totally under control." Now he claims he knew it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic. He also referred to the virus as the Democrat's "new hoax". I hope none of us ever forget when he said, "No, I don't take any responsibility at all."

A "war president" would have immediately gathered together the best experts, formulated a plan, coordinated the needs of all the states, and taken the offensive. Personal protective equipment, ventilators, emergency hospital facilities established - all should have been initiated to be manufactured and/or created. Testing resources should have been a high priority.

When Dr. Fauci stands before the podium and says what we as a people must do to stop the pandemic - Mr. Trump pushes his theory of the malarial drug hydroxychlorine, as a "game changer" and "a gift from God". Now this drug, needed by patients with lupus and other autoimmune disorders, has been bought up and stockpiled by healthy people in turn causing a shortage. It may very well be an effective drug, but testing is needed before this is portrayed as a panacea. Now the president is pushing to return the workforce to their jobs by Easter. Yet Dr. Fauci has countered by saying, "You don't make the timeline,

the virus makes the timeline."

The president and our politicians need to step back and keep science and medicine in the forefront. Then they need to set positive examples. In every news conference, Trump is surrounded by several officials surrounding him. How is this promoting social distancing? And Trump continues to shake hands. Senator Rand Paul, gets tested for Corona virus, yet still goes to the Senate gymnasium to work out and swim. Colorado Congressman Ken Buck tells us we should treat this as nothing, go back to work and be socially active. The Lt. Governor of Texas recently came out and said we need to get our economy back on track. He stated that grandparents should be willing to give up their lives to Corona virus to allow their grandkids a strong economy again. He basically said 70 year olds should sacrifice their lives. So does he want all the 70, 80, and 90 year olds back working? Or just volunteering to die?

I hope the governors of all fifty states have more sense than to abandon our present policy of social distancing and isolation at home. Is this something we like to do? No, of course we don't like it. But sometimes we need to sacrifice as a united front. Listen to the scientists. Do not be influenced by the media who espouse the economy over our safety and our lives. Avoid politicians who are like snake oil salesmen promoting wonder drugs at a time we need to know the facts. As the Corona virus continues to affect our everyday lives, many people will become disillusioned. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Americans were extremely patriotic. But as the war dragged on, some people became distraught and started to swear their allegiance to Great Britain. Businesses and farmers stopped selling their goods to the Continental Army, instead sold their wares to the British. Why? Because the economy came before their freedom.

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS BEEN WEIGHED, MEASURED, & FOUND WANTING

From previous pg

People are trying to do positive things. Many restaurants are offering take-out and in other cases free delivery. A gas station in Durango has a pump that if you are over 65, beep your horn twice, they will pump your gas. Other gas stations have disposable gloves you can use. Some markets are offering senior shopping hours. Several distilleries, like Marble Distilling in Carbondale, are making hand sanitizer. Some landlords in our town are postponing rent payments.

The shoe company Crocs, is donating 10,000 shoes a day to health care workers nationwide. And in Portland, Oregon, out

of work strippers at a dance club, are now delivering take-out food (like GrubHub does) in their "costumes". That's American ingenuity!

Listen to Dr. Fauci and other health care professionals and scientists. They do NOT have a personal agenda other than to get us all through this crisis. This unlike many of our politicians.

In times like this we need a president who gives us confidence not confusion, compassion not criticism, and honesty not "gut feelings". People want to know what is working, what is not, and also that which we don't yet know the answer but are

striving to get.

I do not like to rail against a president during a crisis. But what we have is a president who thinks this is all about him. No, it is about a pandemic that he did not see coming and was not prepared to handle. Hopefully, with all the well-deserved criticism he has received, maybe he finally will mobilize the resources at his disposal.

In summary, to quote a line from the movie "A Knight's Tale", of Trump's leadership during his first major crisis, "You have been weighed, you have been measured, and you have been found wanting."

Jon Sering, Montrose

WHAT IS THE REAL STORY? COLORADO OUTDOORS – AN ENIGMA

Editor:

The opinion page article in last Sunday's MDP, "**SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT**" left me asking more questions.

Here's how, in my opinion, it works:

The city puts out a general survey question and the answer comes back from the citizens as expected a "yes"...we would like to have more economic development. Want to guess what happens next?

The answer becomes whatever they want it to be.

It's all in the details. Let's ask a few questions?

1. Do you, the individual taxpayer, have any idea how many millions of dollars have been spent on a speculative real estate development, "(Colorado Outdoors)"
2. How many of us, including past and current City Council Members have ever read the original Mayfly contract and the terms and conditions of that contract? What are the payouts obligations in that contract and how long, in writing, is Mayfly /Colorado Outdoors obligated to be in Montrose before it can sell out or leave?
3. What percentage should a company pay for their own expansion projects?
4. What is the Cap "X" value of the "Hotel" corporation coming in?
5. How many new jobs at Colorado Outdoors have been created over and above the original base line number?
6. What identified job positions are counted in these numbers? What is the payout cost for each position?
7. Has Colorado Outdoors met its job creation numbers during our recent prime economy? If not, have we received a full explanation as to why not?
8. What is the total payout to date to Colorado Outdoors both in kind and cash? What is the projected long term cost?
9. What is the exit strategy, and can the City produce a valid business plan from the company for the public to evaluate?
10. Has Colorado Outdoors paid property tax or is it disputing its tax assessment?

What we know is important. What we do not know can be even more important. Trust but VERIFY!

Jim Anderson, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE CANDIDATE YVONNE MEEK RESPONDS TO MONTROSE DAILY PRESS



Yvonne Meek.
Courtesy photo.

Editor:

On Monday, a reporter from the Montrose Daily Press reached out to the candidates requesting answers to a list of questions which will be published in a Candidate Q&A feature

before the April 7th Election. While I think it is important to provide concise answers to the questions, the issues at hand require a more thoughtful explanation than 30-50 words can convey. I have submitted my answers to MDP but feel it would be in my best interest to publish them in their entirety here.

Name: Yvonne Y Meek

Age, government experience: 57 (until October, and does that matter?), I'm a small business owner, a commercial property owner, and a TAXPAYER ... that's all the government experience I need. I have worked for the City of Montrose (The Pavilion), the Chamber of Commerce, the 7th Judicial District Combined Courts, the 7th Judicial District Probation Department, and the Division of Water Resources.

In two sentences (about 30-50 words) or less: You're kidding, right?! ☐ I'm a much better writer than speaker so I will be thorough yet as succinct as possible.

1. What's your plan to help replace jobs lost by Russell Stover? Considering we are in the middle of a global pandemic with our city management and governor recently shuttering Main Street America and non-essential small business, I think the more urgent question is "How do we hope to bring small business back to life after we've balanced on the edge of ru-

in?" Who really has the answer for that question?

2. What do you think about the Colorado Outdoors Project and MURA? We should write a book. I believe that we, the TAXPAYERS of Montrose (city and county), have been ensnared by the ambitions of the city manager, the city councilors, and a commercial developer. We need to be reminded that **Colorado Outdoors LLC is a private for-profit business owned by Doug and David Dragoo**, and/or any combination of several other business entities. By the county assessor's disclosure and documentation, this developer has disputed the property tax assessment several times and is still attempting to have it reduced through legal means, while selling lots and/or listing the entire property at an inflated market price.

As for the Montrose 'Urban Renewal' Authority (MURA), the claim that the property where **Colorado Outdoors LLC** is now located was ever considered 'blighted' and in need of 'urban renewal' is a stretch at best, if not an outright lie! Before the developer set his sights on it, the property was high flood plain, undeveloped river frontage. MURA, which consists of the city manager acting as executive director, the five city councilors, the county assessor, the fire chief, and a couple other community members, was specifically created to obfuscate the truth and help fund the **Colorado Outdoors LLC** development. There are several other areas in the northernmost limits of the city (Tortilla Flats, Northside Elementary area) which warrant 'renewing' but the city has chosen to continue to neglect those areas and expense \$8-10 million (in "undesignated" TAXPAYER funds) on a speculative commercial development.

3. What do you think about Montrose subsidizing its municipal golf course? While I do understand that some

citizens desire an affordable option for the leisure activity of golfing, I do not believe the burden of maintaining the golf course should fall on the backs of the majority of taxpayers who do not use it. From the city's own financials, the golf course does not break even let alone make a profit. It is subsidized out of the budget to at least \$450,000 annually.

4. Do you think the city should incentivize private businesses to move to Montrose? This is a complex issue that requires an equally complex answer; an answer which ties into the "Russell Stover" question. Large manufacturers or commercial developments should continue to be attracted by **MEDC** as they have been in the past. "Incentivizing" can be done in a variety of ways short of issuing a check or supplementing leases or wages for new employees of a new business. Startup businesses should exhaust all possible sources of financing first; self-funded, family, friends, angel investors, bank loans, SBA loans/grants, if applicable. I do not believe the city should incentivize or finance new businesses, specifically to get them to **MOVE** to Montrose. Nor do I believe the city should be granting funds for renovations or similar cash handouts. A Chamber of Commerce could once again take on the role of supporting new business in getting started and thriving.

5. Do you think Montrose should reassess its tax on groceries? In view of our current global pandemic, now would be the perfect time for the city to step up and remove the sales tax on groceries. In fact, I believe it should be removed at the county level as well. I believe that it is immoral and unethical to collect a tax on as basic a necessity as food.

6. What's the most important issue to you (not listed above)? All of the issues are important, each issue affects the other issues, and all of the

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CANDIDATE RESPONDS TO MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

From previous pg

issues are important, each issue affects the other issues, and all of the issues affect the TAXPAYERS who fund the city. **First**, give VOTING rights by city charter to full-time residents/property/business owners of unincorporated areas of Montrose on issues of taxation and the city council seats. **Second**, critical infrastructure (streets, railroad crossings, sidewalks, etc.) and beautification of parks are needed in many areas on the northside of town, specifically in the historic Tortilla Flats community and neighborhoods between Townsend/Main Street/San Juan Bypass. **Third**, and final, would be an online financial transparency website similar to that which Montrose County utilizes. TAXPAYERS should be able to LOOK DEEP-ER without a CORA request being filed.

7. What are your plans/ideas for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic? In addition to my comments to questions 1 and 5, and in light of the city's rush to limit most small business activity in our community before the Governor's lockdown, Montrose, as most other small communities in rural America, will suffer a recession or depression which will directly affect city sales tax revenue. Therefore, it

is NOW more critical than ever to cease all unnecessary spending on speculative projects so that the city of Montrose can help its own. Let's put the needs of citizen TAXPAYERS before TOURISTS.

~ End of questions ~

There are no easy answers to the challenges that face residents of the city and unincorporated areas of Montrose. But facing those challenges does require a team of city councilors truly interested in representing the interests of the TAXPAYERS of Montrose.

A team is made up of individuals who agree and disagree but find a way to work together and not use outside allies to discredit or slander those with whom they disagree. A team of individuals who are willing to listen to and govern on the behalf of ALL the citizens, all the TAXPAYERS of Montrose, not just those in a preferred social circle.

No, I'm not a politician, nor do I want to be. I am a taxpayer, a citizen. I have been concerned about the direction of this community since I worked for the Pavilion and Chamber of Commerce. And I have been rightfully angered as organizations

and committees which acted as a voice of citizens and small businesses have been systematically silenced and centralized under the city managers control. I have been speaking out about these issues since my time on the Montrose Downtown Development Authority in 2015. I have listened to other small business owner's frustration and discerned their fear in challenging the status quo.

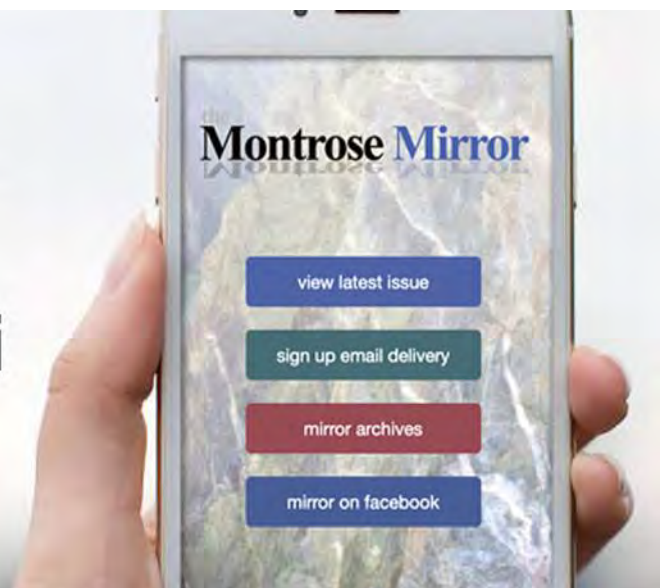
I am not running to win a popularity contest. There is nothing popular about being a voice of reason in a crowded room of sycophants telling the emperor that his invisible clothes look wonderful. I'm sorry Peeps, but the dude doesn't have any clothes on!

While there are some great candidates with very different approaches and personalities for you to choose from, it does take three NEW councilors to make significant changes to the status quo. I am certain your votes for BENNETT, WHITE, AND MEEK will get those changes accomplished!

If you haven't cast your ballot yet ... please VOTE **Yvonne Y Meek** for At-Large City Council.

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- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage



How?



Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.



Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.



Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.



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www.cdc.gov/handwashing

This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOJO, and Staples. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.



CS310027-A

¡Detenga los microbios! Lávese las manos

¿CUÁNDO?

- Después de ir al baño.
- Antes, durante y después de preparar alimentos.
- Antes de comer.
- Antes y después de cuidar a alguien que tenga vómitos o diarrea.
- Antes y después de tratar cortaduras o heridas.
- Después de cambiarle los pañales a un niño o limpiarlo después de que haya ido al baño.
- Después de sonarse la nariz, toser o estornudar.
- Después de tocar animales, sus alimentos o sus excrementos.
- Después de manipular alimentos o golosinas para mascotas.
- Después de tocar la basura.



¿CÓMO?



Mójese las manos con agua corriente limpia (tibia o fría), cierre el grifo y enjabónese las manos.



Frótese las manos con el jabón hasta que haga espuma. Asegúrese de frotarse la espuma por el dorso de las manos, entre los dedos y debajo de las uñas.



Restriéguese las manos durante al menos 20 segundos. ¿Necesita algo para medir el tiempo? Tararee dos veces la canción de "Feliz cumpleaños" de principio a fin.



Enjuáguese bien las manos con agua corriente limpia.



Séquese Séquese las manos con una toalla limpia o al aire.

Mantener las manos limpias es una de las cosas más importantes que podemos hacer para detener la propagación de microbios y mantenernos sanos.

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MANOS LIMPIAS



www.cdc.gov/lavadodemanos

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CS310027-A

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ADJUSTS 2020 CENSUS TIMELINE

Respond TODAY online, by phone or by mail

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The U.S. Census Bureau has adjusted its operation timeline, which includes extending the last day to respond to the 2020 Census to August 14, 2020.

We encourage all Coloradans to respond to the invitation they received in their mailbox as soon as possible. It has never been easier to respond to the 2020 Census on your own, whether online, over the phone, or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker. Self-responding will minimize the need for the U.S. Census Bureau to send census takers out into the community to knock on doors. Tracking 2020 Census Self Response Rates To date, more than 24% of Colorado households have self-responded to the 2020 Census. Check out this MAP. It tracks response rates by state and will be updated seven days a week.

Remember, you don't have to wait for an

invitation to respond to the 2020 Census. You can go to 2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020 and cross it off your TO DO list today. Let's make Colorado the state with the highest 2020 Census self response rate in the nation!

Operational Adjustments

Households Using P.O. Boxes

The U.S. Census Bureau currently plans to drop off census packets (with an invitation and paper questionnaire) in April. Bureau employees will leave the packets at the door, without knocking or ringing doorbells.

Counting College Students

College students should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time, according to the Census Bureau's residence criteria.

College students should be counted where they live and attend college, even if campuses have closed or gone online tempo-

rarily for the remainder of the Spring semester.

Counting Group Quarters

The U.S. Census Bureau is working with administrators at nursing homes, college dorms, prisons and other institutional living facilities to ensure their residents are counted. Administrators have choices when it comes to counting their residents, such as eResponse or providing a paper listing. The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct this operation between April and June.

Counting Homeless Populations

The U.S. Census Bureau is working with service providers at emergency and transitional shelters and soup kitchens to count the populations they serve. We are contacting the service providers to ask them to provide a listing of census response data by May 1, 2020 for each person served or staying at the facility.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO CONSUMERS URGED TO BE DILIGENT ABOUT AVOIDING COVID-19 RELATED SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is urging consumers to take extra precaution to avoid scams that prey on fears and anxiety related to the spread of COVID-19. During times of emergencies or natural disasters, scammers seek to take advantage of vulnerable populations, and federal agencies are receiving reports about scams related to banking, financial services, insurance, healthcare services and more.

Scammers seek to get your personal financial or healthcare information, credit card information, social security number, or are seeking to sell you a false product. Below are some of the top COVID-related scams:

Banking/Financial Services Scams

Bank Deposit Seizures: Claims or assertions that consumer-insured bank deposits can be legally seized by banks is false. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) last week demand Newsmax media "stop and correct its misleading advertising that falsely claims consumers' FDIC-insured deposits are at risk of forfeiture" from a precious metals trader, Monetary Gold of Woodland Park, California. Federal law is clear that in the unlikely event of a bank failure, customers' insured deposits would be fully protected up to the \$250,000 limit.

Fake Calls from the Feds: Calls posing as employees from federal agencies, such as the FDIC, who ask for sensitive information like your social security number and bank account information, are scams. The FDIC or any other agency would never make unsolicited phone calls.

Student Loans: Calls or emails advising you that COVID-19 will have an impact on your student loans, urging you to contact a specific number or visit a website to determine your new payment, are likely a scam. These calls seek to gain your personal information, even when they call or

email from what they claim to be your own bank. If you need to verify or have questions about your loan, contact your financial institution with a phone number or email you've independently verified.

Investment scams: Scammers may call regarding money-making opportunities by investing in certain products or services of publicly traded companies that claim to prevent, detect or cure COVID-19. See a recent notice from the Colorado Division of Securities for more information.

Employment scams: According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), employment scams may kick into high gear surrounding the current COVID-19-related employment crisis. Read BBB's tips for avoiding employment scams.

Healthcare Scams

Fake Test Kits: COVID-19 test kits are not for sale. Any advertisement or call you receive that claims to offer free testing kits, asking for your personal information or health insurance details, is a scam. At high risk to this scam are those considered more vulnerable to COVID-19 complications, including diabetics, those on Medicare or Medicaid, and individuals over 60.

Threats to Treat Coronavirus: Reports are coming out of callers who pose as healthcare providers claiming they are treating a relative for COVID-19 and demanding immediate payment for treatment or threatening legal action if you don't pay.

Other

Charity Scams: With all the relief efforts taking place right now, you may receive calls or emails from fake charities. Scams like these disrupt legitimate charitable efforts, so if you receive any calls or emails to send cash donations by wire transfer or by gift card, this is a scam. If you want to donate to a specific charity, go directly to the organization's website or call them in order to make direct donation arrange-

ments.

Fake Online Stores: Scammers may create fake stores that appear in your social media feeds, the websites you visit, and via email addresses. They claim to sell medical supplies, test kits, cures or products that currently are in high demand. These fake stores may even use images of similar items or products you have searched for online. If you fall for a fake digital storefront and use your credit card for the "purchase," contact your credit card company immediately.

Phishing, Malware and Apps: Phishing and malware scams are used to gain access to your computer or to steal your credentials. Prevent loading malicious software or downloading apps by never clicking on an unsolicited email or text from a company or organization before verifying the source, even if initially the source appears trustworthy or legitimate. For example, scammers may pose as national and global health authorities, or your financial institutions, and send emails and texts designed to trick you into downloading malware or providing your personal and financial information. Additionally, do not download apps designed to track the spread of COVID-19. It may be a front to gain access to your personal information. Stick to visiting the official websites to get information and data regarding COVID-19.

The Bottom Line

Be overly cautious of emails, texts, apps, advertisements or social media posts that may be selling fake products or information about emerging coronavirus cases. Learn to recognize numbers, emails and texts that may be spoofs, and avoid engaging scam callers by promptly hanging up. Learn more about how to prevent, recognize, and report fraud and scams by visiting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Stop Fraud Colorado.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET MOVES OUTSIDE; SUMMER MARKET STARTS MAY 9

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-If it comes from a store, community members might want to check out the Montrose Farmers Market (MFM) operating April 11, 2020 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in Centennial Plaza under guidelines recommended by Colorado Farmers Market Association, the CDC, and others. Farmers Markets were recently deemed a Critical

Retail Infrastructure by the Department of Agriculture and Governor Polis. As a result, vendor booths will spread out for the next several weeks to facilitate recommended social distancing. The Winter Market operates every other week through the winter and will be moving outdoors this Saturday for the rest of the winter season. Approximately 10-15 Ven-

dors participate during the winter months and products vary each week. Because of COVID-19 guidelines only meat and produce will be available. The winter market will be open on the following dates: March. 28, April 11, and April 25, 2020. Beginning May 9, 2020, the Summer Market will operate weekly on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. MFM accepts SNAP (food stamps) and offers Double Up Food Bucks to SNAP recipients for use in purchasing fruit and vegetables. Market patrons are encouraged to dress for the weather. MFM will continue to operate subject to the City and County of Montrose, and the State of Colorado, according to CDC guidelines. Both vendors and patrons should engage in the following:

- MFM is committed to keeping this a safe experience for all; therefore we are asking that any Vendors or Patrons experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) to please stay home.
- Practice safe social distancing: at least 6 ft between Patrons and 12-15 feet between Vendors.
- Patrons are encouraged to primarily shop and not linger and socialize.
- Please use hand sanitizer or the hand washing station when entering and leaving the market. The Market Manager and most Vendors will have sanitizer available at their booths.
- Please use CDC guidelines of washing hands for 20 seconds, sneeze in your elbow, and don't touch your face. A hand washing station will also be available for Vendors and Customers.
- Please limit the use of cash and provide exact change if possible. Checks and credit cards are preferred. Please allow Vendors to sign "X" on your behalf.
- No samples will be available.
- Please point to your needs and allow Vendors to package items for you. If you touch it – you buy it!
- All Montrose Farmers Market operations are subject to change. Updates will be shared on the MFM website www.MontroseFarmersMarket.weebly.com and Facebook page.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AMID OVERLOAD

Special to the Mirror

Denver - The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's (CDLE) Unemployment Insurance (UI) system has been overwhelmed the last week due to an unprecedented increase in benefit demand as a result of COVID-19. CDLE is adding call center staff, implementing a new "last name" online filing system and revising web site content with answers to customer inquiries on filing errors.

"This morning alone, we had 186,000 attempts to contact our call center before we opened our phone queue at 8 a.m. That number a week ago was 9,000," says Joe Barela, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. "All of our systems are overloaded - as are UI systems across the country - and we know frustration and anxiety is high. We are doing the best we can to navigate these uncertain times and want claimants to know their benefits will not be reduced due to any filing delays."

On Monday, the department added 90 internal staff to the customer call center to provide immediate assistance. In addition, another 90 call center staff and document management staff will be increased over the course of the next two weeks through April 3rd. A new voluntary gating system that allows claimants access to file based on last name is now recommended, but will be mandatory later this week.

-Claimants with last names that begin with A through M may file a claim on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or after 12 noon on Saturday.

-Claimants with last names beginning with N through Z may file their claims on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays or before 12 noon on Saturday.

New **FAQs based on common questions and issues are also being updated daily**. Online filers are encountering two common errors: one, on the eligibility screen and another on the employer verification screen. Claimants should save their application throughout the filing process and can return to it at a later time.

More information will be posted at coloradoui.gov as it becomes available.



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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FERC ACCEPTS TRI-STATE RATE FILINGS AS COOPERATIVE'S BOARD APPROVES GREATER MEMBER CONTRACT FLEXIBILITY

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued orders accepting Tri-State's tariff filings, ensuring consistent wholesale rate regulation for the cooperative's member distribution utilities across four states.

Tri-State's market-based rates and open access transmission tariff were accepted by the FERC.

"This is a significant moment for our members, whose goals for cleaner energy and increased contract flexibility are greatly advanced by having FERC as Tri-State's wholesale rate regulator," said Rick Gordon, chairman of Tri-State and director of Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colo. "FERC regulation of our wholesale rates ensures greater certainty in our contracts and rate setting, as we increase members' self-supply and local renewable energy opportunities."

FERC's orders recognize that Tri-State became jurisdictional to the FERC on Sept. 3, 2019, when it added its first non-utility member.

FERC regulates the rates of almost all wholesale electric service and transmission providers, including Xcel Ener-

gy and Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM).

"Tri-State is grateful to FERC for its actions today and looks forward to working with FERC in a constructive manner for the benefit of Tri-State's members," said Duane Highley, Tri-State's chief executive officer.

For the first time, Tri-State is rate-regulated and is required to file proposed rates with the FERC, which will establish just and reasonable rates through its regular rate setting process.

Tri-State advances member flexibility for more self-supply and local renewable energy development

As part of Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan, Tri-State's members have additional flexibility for the self-supply of power and more local renewable energy development.

A new partial requirements membership option recommended by Tri-State's members was approved by Tri-State's Board of Directors at its March 2020 meeting.

"Our cooperative's members created greater self-supply and renewable energy options while preserving the benefits of Tri-State membership," said Gordon.

Partial requirements contracts address the concerns of some members that desire self-supply above the 5% provisions in their current contracts. Since June 2019, a Contract Committee of all Tri-State's members evaluated proposals for more flexibility, resulting in both the new partial requirements contract option and expanded opportunities for community solar projects. "Tri-State members worked together, debated options and built consensus around complex issues to arrive at an equitable solution for more flexibility," said Scott Wolfe, Contract Committee chairman and director at the San Luis Valley REC in Monte Vista, Colo.

Members of Tri-State can express their intent to transition to partial requirements contracts by participating in an upcoming open season period to allocate an aggregate 300 megawatts of system-wide member self-supply capacity. The open season capacity is 10% of Tri-State's system peak demand.

"With FERC's approval of our wholesale rates, and by delivering on our Responsible Energy Plan, we're meeting our members' goals for greater flexibility, more renewables and lower emissions," said Highley.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE HELPS COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUNDS IN FOUR STATES

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER-Donations totaling \$200,000 for Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming coronavirus relief and recovery efforts are being made by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association on behalf of its 46 member distribution cooperatives, public power districts and non-utility members.

“Concern for Community” is one of the seven Cooperative Principles that guide the not-for-profit cooperative business model. Electric cooperatives, which were formed by their members, have a long history of supporting their communities in times of crisis. Tri-State will re-allocate funds to be distributed to relief efforts in

all four states served by the association’s members.

“We are proud to support each governor’s efforts to provide relief in their state,” said Rick Gordon, chairman of Tri-State and director of Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colo. “Cooperatives know well that we are all stronger when we combine our resources and work together to serve our communities.”

Tri-State is working with the governors’ offices in all four states in which it operates to identify relief fund needs. Tri-State will donate to the Colorado COVID Relief Fund and the All Together New Mexico Fund, as well as funds designated for COVID relief in Nebraska and Wyoming.

Tri-State’s electric system is operating normally to deliver power to its members, and the wholesale power supply cooperative has implemented well-planned procedures to address pandemics that ensure reliable power and protect the health of its employees and its communities.

“Tri-State is focused on safely delivering power and ensuring the reliability of the regional power grid while protecting the health of our employees and the communities we serve,” said Tri-State CEO Duane Highley.

“Our employees continue to do the hard work of ‘keeping the lights on’ while taking good care of each other and their communities.”

DELTA BOCC DECLARES COVID-19 EMERGENCY DISASTER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta County Commissioners have declared an Emergency Disaster effective immediately, based on the information coming from the State level, on the suspected trajectory of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

“Delta County has been working as if we had already declared an Emergency for the past 10 days; we opened our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) early last week, and have taken the necessary steps to get the right people, processes, and protocols in place for when Delta County receives their first confirmed case of COVID-19,” said Delta County Commissioner Chair Mark Roeber.

Opening the EOC has allowed Delta County to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with a unified command structure, which includes and is being led by Delta County Administration, Delta County Health Department, and Delta County Memorial Hospital.

By declaring a Local Disaster Emergency Declaration, Delta County further protects public health and safety, and further protects the local economy.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your primary care provider by phone first. The provider will be able to determine if you meet the criteria necessary for

the test, and if so, will refer you to the hospital for testing.

Additionally, Delta County has opened a call center to assist you with determining if you meet the criteria for a test and can direct you to resources at that time; calls will be answered from 8am to 6pm Monday through Saturday and can be reached at 970-874-2172. For calls outside of that time frame, please reach out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for general questions regarding COVID-19 at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911, for answers in many languages, or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGION 10 OFFERS BUSINESS RESOURCES AS FINANCIAL STRAIN FROM CORONA-VIRUS DAMAGE GROWS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-There are more than 31 million small businesses in the United States today, responsible for more than 52 percent of employed workers in the private sector. This group is a vitally important sector of the US economy. During this Corona-virus crisis, each day local businesses ranging from dentists to pet boarding are wondering how they are going to stay afloat if they can't get customers in their doors within the next few weeks. Especially at risk are the low margin and new small businesses. Region 10 is here to help.

Region 10 has been serving the Montrose, Delta, Ouray, Hinsdale, San Miguel and Gunnison Counties since 1972 providing economic assistance focusing on business development and lending. "Our physical office is currently closed but we are still here answering phone calls and emails providing business support and leveraging community assistance where we can," said Region 10 Loan Fund Manager Dan Scinto.

Region 10's Small Business Resource Center provides assistance to businesses experiencing economic distress and/or disruption with SBDC business consulting,

technical assistance services, and loan fund assistance. Information regarding these and additional programs can be found on our website

www.info@region10.net.

For businesses with outstanding debt and reduced or no revenue coming in, making loan payments may be impossible. If you have a loan with Region 10, we will provide you with a 90-day Loan Extension. No questions; just fill-out our form and we will allow you to skip your loan payments for the next 90 days.

Additionally, we offer a business loan program designed specifically to assist economically impacted businesses with loans up to \$10,000 per business with flexible terms including a 90-day initial payment deferral. This program can quickly provide working capital or gap financing for other SBA Disaster Loan Programs that are available.

Businesses interested in either of these Region 10 loan programs should contact [Dan Scinto](mailto:Dan.Scinto) at 970-765-3126 or dan@region10.net

Businesses seeking individual business consulting or technical assistance regarding how to survive and recover during this

economic disruption should contact Nancy Murphy at 970-765-3130, or register for SBDC consulting through

www.info@region10.net.

Someone from Region 10 will contact you within two business days after registering online.

Additional assistance can also be found online in The Disaster Recovery and Continuity Guide for Colorado Businesses through the Colorado Small Business Development Center website (www.ColoradoSBDC.org).

Visit <https://www.coloradosbdc.org/covid/> to stay updated on the resources available for small businesses impacted by the COVID19 situation.

Businesses seeking emergency loans of more than \$10,000 should look into the SBA Economic Disaster Injury Loan Program (EDIL) which provides working capital loans for businesses.

For more information on this SBA loan program or to apply go to the SBA website at www.disasterloan.sba.gov

Region 10 continues to work with local and state partners for business assistance and will provide more information as it becomes available.



ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

Personal Protective Equipment Drive for Health Care Providers

HELP OUR FIGHT AGAINST COVID19

***Monday, March 30
Tuesday, March 31***

2:00 — 4:00 p.m.

Montrose High School

*Enter the parking lot off Townsend avenue by the
Baseball/Softball fields.*



WE ARE LOOKING FOR UNUSED PRODUCTS IN UNOPENED BOXES

WHAT WE NEED:



- * Eye protection and goggles
- * Face Shields
- * Surgical Masks
- * N95 Masks
- * Sterile and non-sterile gloves
- * Disposable gowns
- * Biohazard Bags



Questions? 970.209.9598

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE AWARDED TWO NEW GVTPR MMOF GRANTS

Special to the Mirror

(SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CO 3-30-20) – San Miguel County Parks & Open Space is pleased to announce that two new community projects will receive grant funding, including a planning grant/feasibility study for the proposed Down Valley Connector Trail and a bridge over Ingram Creek for the County's new Bridal Veil Creek Trail.

"We are thrilled that our region was able to secure these grants to further our efforts to expand and enhance local trails!" San Miguel County Commissioner Kris Holstrom said. Holstrom serves on the GVTPR Board and also as a County representative.

Both projects will receive Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) grants through the State's Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR), which has been allocated \$2.3M to be used in the region, San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask said.

"By leveraging grant funds to improve safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities, San Miguel County enhances the quality of life for all of our residents," Kask said. The Telluride Mountain Club has been instrumental with the Ingram Creek

bridge project. "They're matching funds and have hired an engineer to work on the bridge design," Kask said. "And they've been a driving force with fundraising."

Constructed in the fall of 2019, the **Bridal Veil Creek Trail** was a collaborative effort between San Miguel County, the Idarado Mining Co., the Telluride Mountain Club, and the Town of Telluride. The Telluride Mountain Club has identified the Bridal Veil Creek Trail as a "priority trail" in their Trails Sustainability Plan.

The Ingram Creek bridge will be located .3 miles up from the Valley View parking lot trailhead, with stellar views for an incredible hiking experience. Although the trail currently crosses Ingram Creek in a lower location, water levels can be high during peak runoff and unpredictable during the summer monsoon season. The new bridge location will divert the trail slightly from its current alignment.

The Ingram Creek Bridge will allow safe, consistent pedestrian use of the trail during high-water flows. Bridge engineering design has begun, and construction is slated for the Fall of 2020.

MMOF grant funds of \$60,000. have been awarded for the Ingram Creek Bridge, with

\$30,000 in matching funds provided by San Miguel County and \$30,000 provided by the Telluride Mountain Club, which held a fundraiser for the bridge last fall. The total project is estimated at \$120,000.

The **Down Valley Connector Trail** is a proposed, 3.4-mile trail that would add a necessary link between the Down Valley/satellite communities and Telluride.

There are many challenges with this trail project including, but not limited to, the physical grade of land along with private property and the need to obtain recreational trail easements.

If the feasibility study proves successful, the Down Valley Connector Trail would provide safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists from the Down Valley Park through Sawpit to the M59 trail to/from Telluride.

MMOF grant funds of \$75,000 have been awarded for the Down Valley Connector Trail planning grant/feasibility study; San Miguel County will provide a match of \$75,000 with a total project estimate of \$150,000.

For more information, please contact Janet Kask of San Miguel County Parks & Open Space at 970-369-5469.



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The Montrose Mirror**

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOUGH TIMES WILL MAKE US TOUGHER TOGETHER!

Editor:

I have been a business owner for over 30 years and have never, until last week, had to lay off any of my employees. Like many small business owners, decisions beyond our control are dictating how we run our businesses and live our lives. It is imperative for us to be creative in our thinking and actions in order to assist those in our community who are affected the most by present conditions.

As a community, we must use the funds available to us now and in the future (primarily tax revenues), to strengthen our community as a whole, ensure adequate resources to support & rebuild our business sector, and buttress our local infrastructure. It is time to embrace the concept of spending on necessities, not only to heal from this setback, but to be as strong as possible in the coming years.

Basic essentials may seem boring, but they are the backbone of our society, so evident now in our daily lives. If we learn one thing from this current economic and social crisis it's that we must be prepared for the unexpected in our personal, business and governmental lives. Living beyond our means is a recipe for disaster.

We will make it through this...together. I hope you will give me the opportunity to implement these ideas as a member of your Montrose City Council in the upcoming election on April 7th.

David White, Montrose

DEMOCRATS SHOULD GET OUT OF THE WAY

Editor;

Once again Congressional Democrats have proven their unpatriotic stance when they invoked their famous motto, "Never let a good crisis go to waste"! Senate Republicans introduced a Bill for unemployed and poor families to receive relief under the coronavirus crisis(there's their favorite word, "crisis", again!). Not missing their chance, Pelosi and her House Democrats attempted to slip in some of their favorite hammer and sickle demands; Wind and solar tax credits, full offset of airline emissions by 2025(would Nancy Pelosi's jet have to comply?), full publication and reporting of greenhouse gas statistics for individual flights, more power to the labor unions, elimination of the U.S. Postal Service debt and \$20 million to the Postal Service Pension Fund, same-day voter registration and early voting (how convenient for the border invaders to register and vote on the same day before they could be vetted!) and of course they would vote for the hand that feeds them, \$35 million for the liberal arts Kennedy center, retirement plans for community

newspaper employees, federal \$15 minimum wage, permanent paid leave, study on climate change mitigation efforts, publication of corporate pay statistics by race and race statistics for all corporate boards, restrict colleges from providing information on citizenship(there again, its easy to figure out why!), Up to \$10,000 free money for college loan payoffs, millions for Planned Parenthood.

On March 24 the New York Post advised Democrats to, pertaining to the coronavirus, "get out of the way". Their extreme left-wing unrelated agenda has nothing to do with fighting the coronavirus. Democrats' concerns are not on poor American families, only their leftist agenda. Democrat James Clyburn stated, "This is a tremendous opportunity to do some restructuring to fit our vision"! How about "fitting" the American voters' "vision"? Democrats held up this Bill for days to get their massive list of socialist demands. They even demanded a revival of the Obama free-phone plan to the tune of \$1 billion! These demands have nothing to do with helping Americans through the pan-

demic (crisis). That was despicable for Democrats to blackmail legislation by placing their extreme leftist demands above the needs of American families. Oh, but they preach they are for the poor! Watch their actions, not their mouth. None of these demands have anything to do with the virus. More proof their intentions are only on their extreme left-wing agenda and not on struggling American families. By the way, the Democrats also want a pay raise! They need to have it reduced.

Democrats also demanded release of incarcerated felons supposedly to prevent them from contracting the virus. Now that's just the opposite of the "shelter in place" order for all other Americans! So is this "shelter in place" just a phony experiment? Democrats are also working to reinstate felon voting rights. Get the picture?

To President Trump's credit some Democrats' demands were taken out before the Bill was passed, but far too much was left in because Trump did not want to delay help to American families.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

ISSUE 256 March 30, 2020

ART & SOL

COW CREEK'S ELUSIVE GOLD AND SILVER

Part One of a Two-Part Series

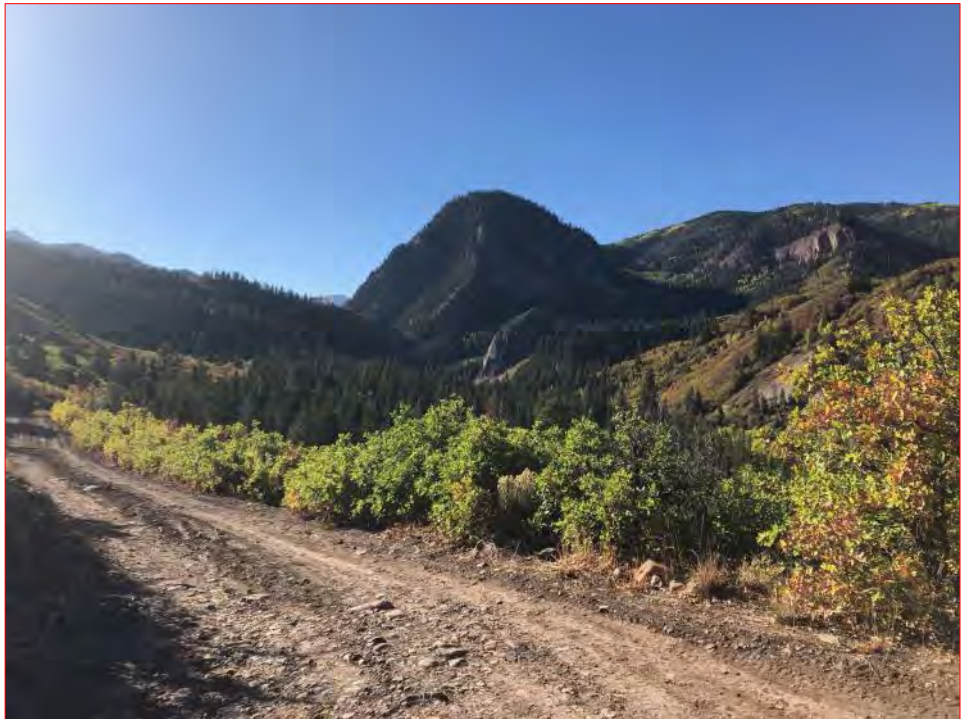
By Bob Cox

COW CREEK-Colorado history is profuse with stories of men who were always looking toward the massive peaks and following some inexplicable need to go to those peaks and seek their fortunes.

The San Juan Mountains tower above the valleys where rivers and streams flow heavy with the waters of melting snow and debris from slow moving glaciers, but unlike the riches found in California, the gold and silver is more often locked up in complicated rock formations, some of them deep within the earth. Every now and again the earth releases some of its treasure and those who hear the reports, or in many cases rumors, are always ready to start another gold rush.

Prospectors first roamed around in the San Juans in 1860, but valuable discoveries evaded their searches until about 1869 and those discoveries were in direct conflict with the Treaty of 1868, which placed those enticing mountains within a Ute reservation that included a very significant portion of Western Colorado.

The Treaty of 1868 was not destined to last long. Like so many treaties with natives of the land, the constant westward expansion of the United States and those promises of riches, whether real or imagined, provided for more and more desire



Ramshorn in the upper Cow Creek drainage stands as a sentry, protecting the riches and giving direction to those who seek those riches. Photo by Bob Cox

to build a nation and to build individual wealth in the process.

On September 13, 1873 several U. S. officials traveled to the Los Piños Agency where they met with members of the Ute Nation, including Chief Ouray. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize yet

another treaty that was ultimately approved on April 29, 1874 and became known as the Brunot Treaty. That treaty opened up much of the San Juans to legal prospecting. While most of the San Juan riches were actually found in the upper Uncompahgre, Red Mountain, Silverton

Continued next pg

COW CREEK'S ELUSIVE GOLD AND SILVER From previous pg

and Telluride areas, one significant little creek drew some notable attention over the years. As the 19th century was drawing to a close ambitious miners and prospectors refused to believe that Cow Creek did not have minerals comparable to all the other famed areas. In fact, in May of 1897 the *Ouray Herald* opined in an article that, *Cow Creek is perhaps one of the best sections of this county for prospecting for gold.*

Just eight months afterword the same newspaper reported that a group of mining claims in which Dave Wood was involved were being developed. It appeared

that an ore body resulted in some very positive tests. Formally known as the New York Group, the claims were being developed under the auspices of the Faith, Hope and Charity Group. Six months later Carl Blitzkie and J. C. Thone were working a claim in the headwaters of Cow Creek and reported that they had sunk a shaft of 33 feet and were on a 12-foot wide vein that was yielding as much as \$50 per ton of rock; maybe enough to justify a stamp mill and cyanide plant.

In mid-May of 1900 reports of a found sack of gold ore resulted in even more interest in upper Cow Creek. The sack

was actually found in 1895, at about the same time a man known as Old Man Finch died. According to people who claimed to know Finch, he told them about making a significant discovery of gold in the headwaters of Cow Creek. These acquaintances said they went with Finch on an early spring trip and had to shovel snow away from the spot he claimed to have found the gold. They found nothing and declared Finch to be "crazy." But, because the gold in the sack closely resembled gold found by Bob Ingersoll in the same vicinity, new rumors began to circulate and even more prospectors started looking at the Cow Creek drainage and headwaters.

Knowing that just one ridge separated the Cow Creek drainage from the area in which the profitable Bachelor Mine was located, prospectors refused to give up on Cow Creek. But the 20th century arrived and the mountains refused to give up the riches that so many believed existed.

To be continued.

GMUG OFFERS VIRTUAL SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests is closing offices and implementing virtual services to protect the health and safety of employees and members of the public during the COVID-19 outbreak in accordance with guidance from federal and state authorities. Customers needing information, permits and maps are encouraged to call 970-874-6600 during regular business hours for prompt, customer service. "As we work through an unpredictable and rapidly changing situation, health and safety is our number one priority," said Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor. "We are committed to continuing to support our communities and fulfill our mission as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19." Visitors are encouraged to contact their local forest or ranger district (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/about-forest/offices>) for the latest office hours and availability.

MONTROSE DINES IN
— WITH TAKEOUT —
ON FRIDAYS

LET'S EAT AND STAY SAFE

MONTROSE COLORADO

MONTROSE DART
Development and Recreation Team

— LETS SUPPORT LOCAL AND STAY HEALTHY —

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CREATES COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS SERVING VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

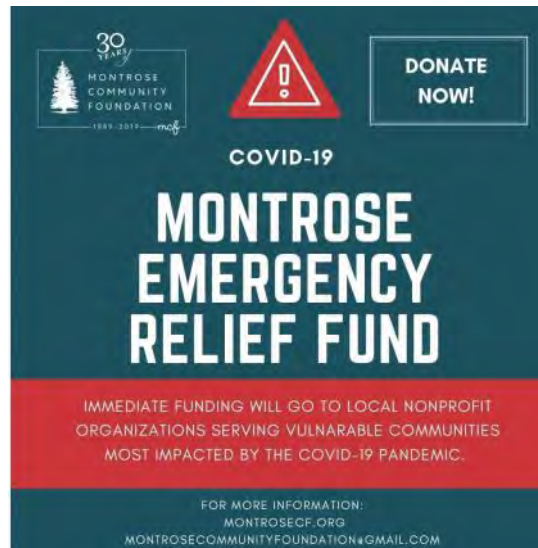
Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE - The Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) created the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund in response to the COVID-19 protective measures that are now in place. The Montrose Emergency Relief Fund will provide flexible resources to organizations in the greater Montrose County area working with communities that are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus-19 and the economic consequences of this pandemic.

"COVID-19 and all the mandated and necessary protective measures in place inevitably put our most vulnerable community members at immediate risk. As we move through this pandemic, more and more people will reach out to our local nonprofits for assistance. This emergency relief fund will be flexible and swift in its ability to help our nonprofit organizations and other service entities that continue to meet our community's needs," said Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director of the Montrose Community Foundation.

An anonymous local community member made an initial \$10,000 donation to the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund. MCF is diverting discretionary funds to add to the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund to get the fund started.

HOW TO DONATE: MCF is currently accepting financial contributions on its website www.montrosecf.org, via PayPal's support a charity function, and by mail. Institutions, companies, private foundations and other funders are encouraged to contribute to the Fund. All donations are considered a charitable contribution and there are no administrative fees to manage this fund. One hundred percent (100%) of funds received will be distributed directly into the community. Checks should be made out to Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, Colorado 81402. If donors have questions



about donations of securities or other assets, they should call 970-249-3900.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT: On March 30th, the grant application will be available on www.MontroseCF.org. Nonprofit organizations and other groups that might be eligible to receive a grant from the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund can apply for a grant at this time. The application process will be quick and straightforward. For more information please email grants.montrosecf@gmail.com.

SELECTION PROCESS: The Montrose Emergency Relief Fund committee will review grant requests and immediately make funds available to meet immediate needs in our region, including public health needs and economic impacts. Guidelines for funding priorities fall into three categories focused on Prevention, Impact and Recovery.

-Tier I Grant Funding - Community stakeholders will review applications from nonprofit and charitable organizations supporting access to appropriate healthcare and meeting essential human needs such as food access, rent and utilities assistance, health and emergency services for individuals and families impacted by the



virus.

-The next Tiers of Grant Funding (II and III) will be determined as needs arise but will likely be defined by services/program related to impact from the pandemic and recovery-longer term solutions.

INDIVIDUALS WHO NEED HELP: The Montrose Emergency Relief Fund is for nonprofit organizations on the frontlines of helping individuals in need and vulnerable groups & communities. Community members, households and individuals in need of assistance should contact the appropriate government entity or local nonprofit for help or send an email to MontroseCommunityFoundation@gmail.com to be referred to the appropriate agency. More COVID-19 related information can be found: State of Colorado: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/>, Montrose County: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/957/Corona-Virus-COVID-19>, City of Montrose: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/731/COVID-19-Information>

"We are all in this together. We need to work together to ensure our community stays safe, healthy and focused on the future," said Plumhoff.

"This foundation will continue to work with local groups and local and state leadership to ensure our nonprofits stay viable so that they can continue to do the great work they do. We hope you will do your part and stay smart, stay safe and stay healthy as well."

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY *Closures will be in effect until April 30*

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests has begun the orderly closure of developed recreation sites. This management action intends to protect public health and safety and align with state and local measures already in place to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

Safe and responsible use of forests and grasslands will reduce impacts to local communities who may be at risk from COVID-19. Closures will be in effect until April 30, 2020, at which point they will be re-evaluated.

Temporary closure of these sites will discourage dispersed recreation use by reducing congregation at trailheads, facilities and parking lots. The GMUG will not be charging day-use fees but will also not be providing public services, such as bathroom facilities, trash removal and parking lot maintenance.

Effective immediately, the following rental cabins are temporarily shut down and unavailable to rent via Recreation.gov:

- Lone Cone Cabin
- Matterhorn Cabin
- Jackson Guard Station

Notifications to renters will be made as soon as possible and refunds will be pro-

cessed.

As we work through an unpredictable and rapidly changing situation, health and safety is our number one priority. COVID-19 poses unique and unprecedented risks to our workforce, visitors and the communities we live in and support.

We are committed to continuing to support our communities and fulfill our mission as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19.

The GMUG will continue to coordinate its COVID-19 response in alignment with all federal, state and local guidance. Everyone is urged to take the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The most recent CDC guidelines are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>. Additional information is also available at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

Relevant GMUG recreation information:

- Broadly, Forest visitors will find limited access for roads, trails and recreation sites, which is typical on the GMUG for this time of year.
- Information about rental cabins has been updated on Recreation.gov. All GMUG campgrounds and visitor centers, as well as many trailheads and picnic areas, are

seasonally closed and will remain in that state indefinitely.

-Many National Forest System roads are impassable due to seasonal closures, snow drifts, waterlogged roadbeds, downed trees or other debris.

Wheeled motor vehicle users may not travel off designated roads and trails or through wet areas. Refer to Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps for routes that are designated open to motor vehicle travel [here](#).

The GMUG has moved to virtual services. Please visit us at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmug> and access our forest maps at www.fs.fed.us/ivm.

If you need immediate assistance or have any questions, please call the following Forest Service offices.

- Forest Supervisor's Office – Delta – (970) 874-6600
- Grand Valley Ranger District – Grand Junction – (970) 242-8211
- Ouray Ranger District – Montrose – (970) 240-5300
- Gunnison Ranger District – Gunnison – (970) 641-0471
- Norwood Ranger District – Norwood – (970) 327-4261
- Paonia Ranger District – Paonia – (970) 527-4131

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

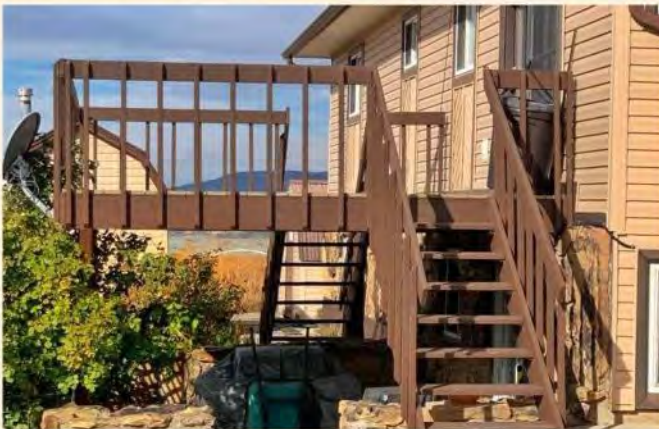
ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

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\$399,000
MLS# 764115

12951 Minerich Road | Paonia, CO 81428

What a spectacular home! This property is beyond compare with 2 acres of useable land plus 2,100 square feet of space, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. There is sufficient space outside to create your own hobby farm or build another garage. With the plenty of irrigation water and useable acreage, you could always start up that crop you've been wanting to plant. To the East of the home is a section of land, belonging to this property, that was once already designated for horses and is set up and ready for more. To the south of the property you'll find established raised garden beds ready to be utilized. Just a little further down the road is Lone Cabin Reservoir with hiking, biking, fishing and hunting.

Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms:
2,104 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1978

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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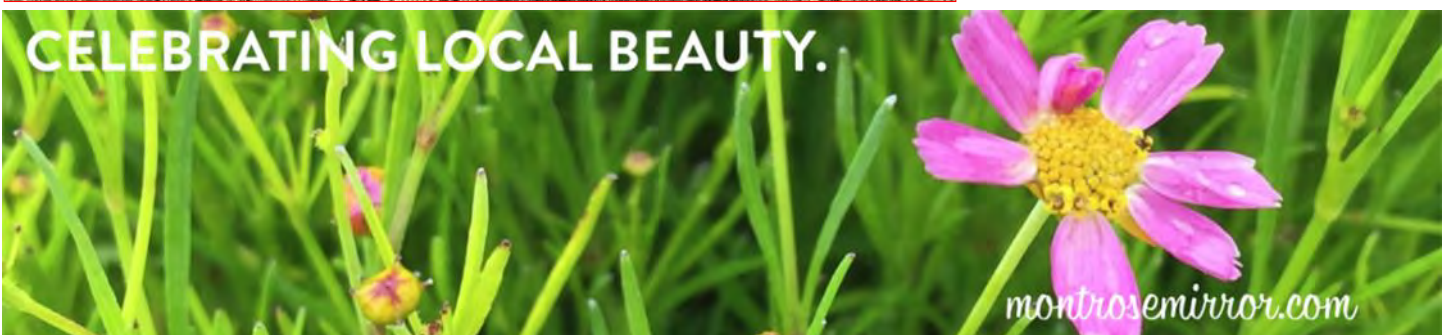
MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT



Above, COVID-19 impacts continue, but toilet paper has started to reappear on local grocery shelves. At left, Montrose Regional Airport is still open with United Airlines offering two flights a day. Passenger loads have been significantly lighter, but daily flights to Denver continue for those who must travel. Mirror staff photo.



Ignoring social distancing rules, turkeys flock along the Popular Road. By B. Switzer.



newPRICE

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Montrose, CO 81401**



**3 BR, 1.5 Bath
1,488 sq. ft.
Year Built: 1895
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Text: 878787
Message: Tour365**

If you've been looking for a classic Victorian in downtown Montrose, this could be the one! Located on a nice corner lot with large shade trees and off-street parking on both sides sits a home that has stood the test of time. Originally built in 1895, it has all of the classic architecture of its time. The fully enclosed back yard has a storage shed and gate access to the off-street parking. There's ample parking for boats, campers, etc. Many of the major features have been updated such as a metal roof and furnace, water heater and electrical all within the past 10 years. Could this be the home your family makes memories in?



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HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties
Linda Steil
Broker Associate / Luxury Collection Specialist
970-417-8082
linda@cohomechoice.com
www.cohomechoice.com

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

MONTROSE FREE THINKERS meet the first Sunday of each month. Call 417-4183 for more information & location.

BOSOM BUDDIES OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets every Wednesday from noon till 1 pm at 645 South 5th Street in Montrose. For more info email info@bosombuddiesswc.org.

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING-second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Montage Creek Senior Living, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM-"Montrose County Historical Society Presents" is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING 6:30 p.m. second Wednesday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-209-8173.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

MONTHLY-

April 7-2020 Municipal Election Day

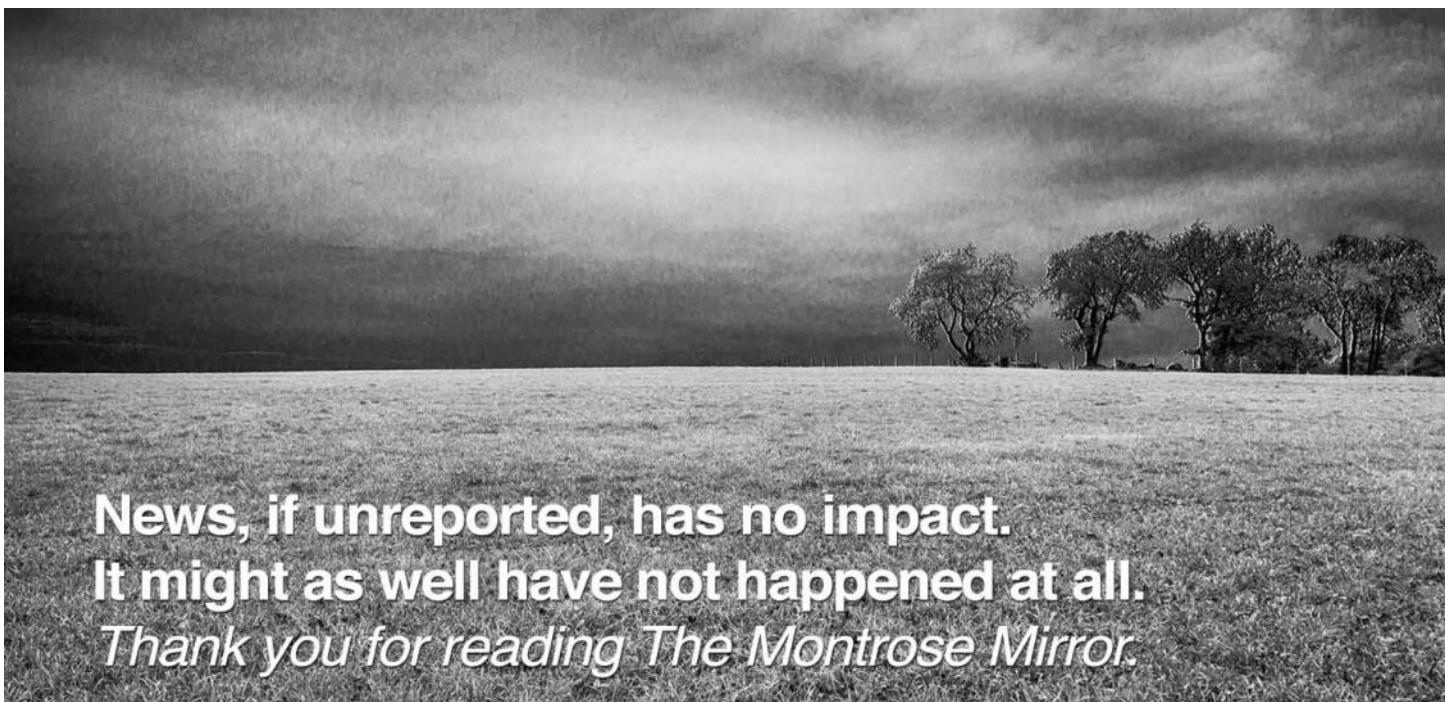
May 4--Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m.. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.

May 30-The 17th Annual Montrose Wine & Food Festival, presented by Alpine Bank, will be Saturday May 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose. Featuring live music, more than 40 beverage and food vendors, a silent auction and more. Tickets and sponsorships are available now and can be purchased online at www.blackcanyontickets.com by searching for 2020 Montrose Wine & Food Festival.

Aug. 3--Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.

Sept. 25-27-The Ridgway Old West Fest will be Sept 25-27, 2020

Nov. 2--Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.



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

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Rain spout over the Plateau, by Deb Reimann. "Every weather event showcases our beautiful and changing landscape in Montrose," Reimann said.

*Save a tree –
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