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the Montrose Mirror

This issue is dedicated to Colorado's front line service and health care workers. Thank you.

Issue No. 368 March 16, 2020

RE-1J APPROVES CONTRACT WITH VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL; CONNOR IMUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED



At the Board of Education Meeting on March 10, Western Slope Youth Vote Interns Cassandra Ramirez (Olathe High School) and Mia Bartschi (Montrose High School) talked about encouraging the senior student body to vote.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Two high school leaders presented information on youth voter outreach at the regular meeting of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education March 10.

All directors were present for the meeting except District G Director Stephen Bush.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Western Slope Youth Vote Interns Cassandra Ramirez (Olathe High School) and Mia Bartschi (Montrose High School) talked about encouraging the senior student body to vote, using slides and visual aids and including a youth issues report developed and prioritized by students.

West Slope Youth Vote Program Director Jeriel Clark was present to introduce the students, "They are doing some amazing work," Clark said. "Not just helping to register students, but with activation,

[Continued pg 21](#)

SHORTAGES ARE 1ST SYMPTOM OF VIRUS IN MONTROSE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Shopping for groceries in Montrose lately has been a near apocalyptic experience, as waves of anxious shoppers scavenge empty shelves for scarce food and household items. With shortages of toilet paper observed at most local stores early last week, even potatoes were non-existent in produce aisles by Saturday.

For months, national and international news sources have released a steady flow of information on the worldwide coronavirus outbreak. The news has hit home like a bomb in recent weeks. Supermarket shelves in Montrose seem to be consistently empty. Event after local event has been cancelled. And Re-1J Schools are closed through April 12 out of caution.

At Montrose Regional Airport, custodial staff has been increased since last week.

[Continued pg 14](#)



First, they came for the toilet paper. By week's end, however, shortages were obvious in all areas of local supermarkets and grocery stores. Above, City Market North on Tuesday.

in this issue

[City of Montrose Holds Emergency Work Session!](#)

[Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!](#)

[Regional news briefs! Calendar of events!](#)

[National Guard Arrives in Telluride for virus testing!](#)

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR WESTERN SLOPE SENATE REPRESENTATION?

Editor:

A historic Colorado vote recently took place approving a bill to repeal the death penalty. Western Slope State Senators Don Coram and Ray Scott were both "excused" from the vote. Regardless of one's individual opinion on the bill, almost 300,000 West Slope residents were not represented by the Colorado State Senate during this monumental vote.

Scott Damman, Montrose

VOTE TO ELECT

BILL BENNETT FOR CITY COUNCIL

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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE LIBRARY CLOSES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Due to COVID-19 Montrose Library District buildings will close as of 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

We are diligently exploring ways to deliver library services to our patrons. In the meantime, please avail yourself of our many electronic services. Due dates for materials you already have checked out will be adjusted to a time when we reopen. The District will not be accepting any donated books at this time. Please continue to check our website for further updates.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer, to a readership of over 13,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher. For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL GUARD ARRIVES IN TELLURIDE FOR TESTING

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-The National Guard has begun to arrive in Telluride to conduct surveillance Covid-19 (coronavirus) testing to help state and local health officials continue to make decisions in the best interest of the public. Please do not be alarmed by their presence; Public Health and healthcare providers in the region welcome this visit from the National Guard and appreciate their assistance in administering these tests.

Testing will occur this Tuesday at a designated location in Lawson Hill outside Telluride for persons who are symptomatic and have doctor's orders for the test. The Telluride and Uncompahgre Medical Centers are working to identify and contact appropriate patients. If you are experiencing a cough, fever, and shortness of breath, call your provider to discuss testing possibilities and details. You will not be permitted to show up and request testing in person. Thank you for your cooperation.



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DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2020

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL ANTAGONISTS INSULT COUNCIL, AREA VOLUNTEERS

Editor:

For months, a few verbal anarchists have spread distrust, suspicion and misinformation about the Montrose City Council on social media and electronic news. Opposing the Rec Center, the Fire District, the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) and Council's efforts to bring new business to Montrose, they spew their venom indiscriminately, while offering no positive options. They oppose the inclusion of food in the PSST, to assist the destitute, but food stamp recipients don't pay that tax. Council held a public meeting to show the

error of that position and the devastating consequences on Montrose residents should an exemption for food be enacted but the facts are ignored. Candidate Bill Bennett is one of those malevolent opponents of all of the positive efforts of the current City Council. Unlike David Stockton, a candidate for District IV who attends nearly all Council meetings and offers positive input, Bennett and his ilk add nothing to benefit Montrose residents. According to the Antagonists, surely there must be hidden monetary benefits to serving on the Council. In fact, like

the hundreds of community volunteers, current Council members devote huge amounts of time and energy each month, not for a paltry compensation but to improve the lives of every resident and visitor of Montrose and the surrounding community.

I urge you to know the issues and the candidates before you vote. A vote for Anderson, Bynum and Stockton will continue the current positive future for Montrose. A vote for the 3 Anti's, White, Bennett and Meek, could derail the current progress for a return to the mistakes of the past. I assure you, the prevailing voters will get the future they deserve, for good or for ill.

John W. Nelson, Log Hill

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES NAMED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On March 12, Montrose County School District Re-1J successfully chose three finalists from 12 applicants for the Superintendent position tonight. They hope to secure the position by April 1, 2020 with a July 1, 2020 starting date.

The school board, using screening criteria established through focus groups conducted with staff, parents and community members, selected the following candidates as finalists to be interviewed on March 28, 2020.

Gerald Chandler, Lumberton Independent School District, TX

Dana Nolan, Rapides Parish Schools, LA
Carrie Stephenson, Douglas County School District, CO

The board will include opportunities for staff and community members to interact and ask questions of the candidates at a Meet and Greet function scheduled on Friday, March 27 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. It will be held at the MCSD Boardroom located at 930 Colorado Avenue.

VOTE FOR
Charli Oswald
MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE



As We Grow...

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



PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CHARLI O

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

SPECIAL EVENTS

LET'S TALK! Montrose City council candidate **Yvonne Meek** wants to know what you, the taxpayer, think are the important issues Montrose city council needs to address.

Let's Talk ... about the future of Montrose!

Thursdays at The Lark Venue, 511 East Main Street from 7:30 to 10 am

The one and only Colorado Mesa University Montrose Campus Student CLUB Write Club presents: **FREE-DOM WRITERS-FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO WRITE**, a public reading event. It takes place March 31 at 6:30 pm at CMU Montrose Cascade Hall. CMU Write Club members will be reading original pieces in a variety of genres with an opportunity for the attendees to ask questions and get answers from each writer. This is sure to be a great time, refreshments will be available and donations are accepted with free admittance. Don't miss this chance to hear some of the great up and coming writers of our community and support local culture and art- not to mention the budding Montrose Student life thanks to Write Club.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J SCHOOLS CLOSED THROUGH APRIL 12

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District (MCSD) has made the decision to close all schools in the district effective March 13 through the end of Spring Break, April 12. The status of the district will be re-evaluated by that time to determine if school can resume.

This decision was made in part out of an abundance of caution for our students, staff and community as at this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Montrose County. This decision was made in collaboration with Montrose County Public Health, Montrose County Commissioners, Montrose County Sheriff, The City of Montrose and Montrose Police Department to ensure that all of our community stays healthy and safe.

Continue to watch the District web site (www.mcscd.org) and Facebook page as well as the Montrose County Public Health Department web site (www.montrosecounty.net/940/Public-Health) for updated information.

Additional information will be reported on Tuesday, March 17 on next steps.

Does something here look unbalanced?

City Tax Spending

'Niceties'

- Amphitheater
- Tesla Supercharging Station
- \$\$\$ to speculative businesses
- Reserve Funds to private groups
- Financial incentives-apartments/hotel



Necessities

- Fiscal responsibility
- Sound City infrastructure
- Timely street repairs
- Responsive to citizens' needs
- Dealing with housing & homeless issues



How do YOU want YOUR tax dollars spent??



Vote **DAVID WHITE** for responsible City government.

Paid by Committee to Elect David S.White

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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.

- ★ FISCAL CONSERVATIVE
- ★ PRO SMALL BUSINESS
- ★ PRO SMALL GOVERNMENT
- ★ BUSINESS OWNER
- ★ HONEST
- ★ HARD-WORKING

UPDATE ON NW COLORADO WOLF PACK

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-A group of wolves has again been verified in Moffat County. It is likely that the latest sighting is the same pack previously seen in that area.

A member of the public spotted the wolves on Tuesday, March 3, providing a credible sighting report of seven wolves. District wildlife managers were able to investigate and visually verify six wolves in the reported area on Wednesday, March 4. The location of this sighting was several miles south of the January sighting location. Over the past few weeks, wildlife managers have heard from area residents about howling, carcasses, and tracks but actual sightings remain rare. Wolves travel over large distances, especially when establishing new home ranges, so the movement and new sightings are not surprising.

As a federally endangered species, wolves in Colorado remain under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Colorado Parks and Wildlife works closely with federal partners to monitor wolf presence in Colorado. The wolves migrating into Colorado are likely from larger populations in Wyoming, but could be from populations in Idaho and Montana.

CPW reminds members of the public that killing a wolf in Colorado can re-

sult in federal charges, including a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison, per offense. Instead, the agency requests that the public give wolves space, and report any sightings to CPW as soon as possible. For more information, visit the CPW website



Wolf tracks from Moffat County, taken January 19, 2020. CPW courtesy photo.

**Always digging for
spot on news.**



The Mirror

now weekly

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

**MONTROSE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
MEETING**



**BOCC BOARD ROOM
161 S TOWNSEND AVE
MONTROSE, CO**

**MARCH 18TH 2020 AT 9:30AM
MONTROSE BOCC BOARD ROOM**



Watch
Online!

WWW.MONTROSECOUNTY.NET

The location of the Board meeting scheduled for March 18th in Olathe has been changed to the Montrose Board Room.

CITY CANCELS REGULAR WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING; REGULAR MEETING STILL ON

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council will convene for a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m. The City Council work session scheduled for Monday, March 16, at 10 a.m. and the special City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at 5 p.m. have been cancelled due to concerns over coronavirus.

REGULAR MEETING

According to the current meeting packet, City Council and Youth Council will issue a proclamation in support of Census Day. Council will hear a report from Youth Council.

Council will consider Ordinance 2495 on second reading regarding the City's Noxious Weed Management Program; Ordinance 2496 on second reading, designating the Missouri Building at 347 E. Main Street as a City of Montrose Historic

Property; Ordinance 2497 on second reading, designating the Block Building at 345 E. Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property; 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, 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; and Ordinance 2499 on first reading, vacating three rights of way deemed surplus. Also to be considered are Resolution 2020-05 approving the filing of a grant application with the History Colorado State Historical Fund in order to fund rehabilitation of the Montrose Potato Growers Associa-

tion Building; Resolution 2020-06, a Resolution of the City of Montrose adopting an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the implementation of an "E9-1-1-" Emergency Telephone Service; Resolution 2020-07, setting April 21, 2020, as the hearing date for the 4152 N. Townsend Addition Annexation. Council will consider awarding a contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$191,051.30, including a 10-percent contingency, for construction of the Connect Trail West Main Underpass decorative shotcrete wall; and a contract for providing the professional service of Owner's Representative for all phases of the new Police Department Project to Dynamic Program Management for a total of \$404,341. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RECREATION DISTRICT CLOSES FACILITIES THROUGH MARCH 21

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-At the recommendation of state and local health organizations, MRD recreation facilities are closed as of Saturday, March 14, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The closure impacts the Community Recreation Center and the Field House. The closure is expected to stay in place through **Friday, March 27**. Board and staff will continue to monitor the situation and continuously re-evaluate.

The closures allow MRD to deep clean facilities and help prevent the spread of disease, as well as to implement emergency protocols and to prepare for impacts to

future recreation activities. Please note that there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Montrose Recreation District boundaries at this time. This closure is being made out of an abundance of caution.

Staff continues to evaluate impacts to recreation programming. For patrons who have memberships, or already signed up for classes, programs or camps, credits will be issued and extended for later use. Information on credits for programs, classes and camps scheduled during this time will be sent to registrants in the upcoming days. Please check www.montroserec.com

for further updates.

Additionally, Pursuant to C.R.S. §24-33.5-709, and in response to, and in attempt to, slow the spread of COVID-19, Montrose Recreation District Executive Director Mari Steinbach has declared a local disaster within the Montrose Recreation District. The declaration is effective Saturday, March 14, 2020, and will continue for seven (7) days, through Saturday, March 21, 2020 unless amended or extended by the Board of Directors. Please see our website at www.montroserec.com for more information.

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSURE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-After careful consideration regarding concerns with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and taking into account other community actions regarding this concern, the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) has made the difficult decision to close both Club Units in Montrose and Olathe effective immediately. The Club closure will follow the planned closure schedule of the Montrose County School District and will be effective through April 12, 2020. The Board of the BCBGC and the Executive Director are aware of the increased burden that will be placed on families and are working with local community leaders to see if the Club can provide assistance to those who need it, in particular regard to meals. If you require assistance, please reach out to Bud Taylor at btaylor@bcbgc.org. Thank you for your understanding.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

'ANDERSON – CHARGING TAXPAYERS TO CHARGE TESLAS'

Editor:

The citizens of Montrose have an opportunity to make things right and put the city on the path to long-term solvency and measured, sustainable growth with equality for all citizens – without self-appointed arbiters of tax dollars being handed out indiscriminately to whomever they singularly pick on speculation of being future Winners, or per chance, Losers. As one of many examples of Mr. Anderson's govern-

ance proclivities, let's examine one of his pet projects, Tesla Charging Stations. When the subject has been examined in city council meetings (Dec. 2019), he became quite agitated when he received push-back from his detractors on the subject – even from fellow council members. At the time of this exchange, there were numbers floated at a mere \$75,000 and \$125,000 funding by the City, or maybe the city's alter ego organization, DART.

First, Anderson doesn't care that there are several existing charging stations in Montrose that may or may NOT be attracting those big spenders to town. Second, he doesn't have any statistical data to support his vague and fluffy fantasy that "if we build it, they will come" and will be like a cataclysmic magnet to ALL the very few numbers of Tesla owners and they in turn will be parking scads of millions on our local businesses – especially downtown! Third, researching the Tesla website, there is an interesting document under the title scripted the same as the link attached hereto. <https://95rockfm.com/montrose-may-be-getting-a-tesla-supercharging-station/>. Read up for yourself, but a couple highlights are that "... , Tesla approached the city with the offer given that in order for it to be possible, **Montrose would have to fork over \$150,000.** This didn't sound terribly attractive to the city, as they've counter-offered to contribute closer to \$25,000." (emphasis added). The article is dated Dec 2019 so the counter of \$25,000 by City of Montrose is A. by what authority? and B. Why isn't city council on the same page? Certainly not Anderson. Interestingly, the balance of the article discusses the near absolute absurdity of a small western slope town wanting to do this and is replete with discussion of the real trophy, TELLURIDE being the real destination for Tesla owners. Anderson did receive positive affirmation on the scheme from his fellow councilor Ms. Bynum, of course. I have a suggestion for a Roy Anderson campaign slogan. "Anderson – Charging Tax Payers to Charge Teslas." And that my friends, is why those two need to go back to being just like the rest of us, ordinary, harmless citizens. Please vote David White, Yvonne Meek and Bill Bennett. Our town depends on it.

R.L. Michaels, Montrose



You may be wondering why City Council is considering the area of South Uncompahgre and South First as a location for the new Police Department headquarters.

The city purchased the old Wells Fargo drive-through and former Traveler's Hotel sites many years ago to plan for the possibility of building a new Police Department building sometime in the future. City Council is considering this downtown site for the new Police Department because:

- The city owns the land
- The site is centrally located within city limits and thus maintains equity in response times
- Proximity to City Hall increases direct communications with other city departments that police services interact with on a daily basis
- Cost savings surrounding all of the above items

No formal decision has been made regarding permanent street closures on South First Street or Uncompahgre Avenue. A decision on the matter will carefully weigh the potential costs and benefits that changes will bring to the surrounding area.



@CITYOFMONTROSE.ORG

SHORTAGES ARE 1ST SYMPTOM OF VIRUS IN MONTROSE From pg 1

Three individuals are busy cleaning Airport surfaces and bathrooms on weekdays, and on Saturday there are four at work, Aviation Manager Lloyd Arnold said. "We're using the CDC recommended solution for keeping the terminal as sterile as possible," Arnold said.

The airport remains open, he said. Still, "Many airplanes are cancelling, airlines are reducing their flights...we are not impacted yet, but that's changing by the hour."

Under direction from the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), all Montrose and Olathe spring sports practice and games and CHSAA sponsored activities were suspended through April 6 by Montrose County School District RE-1J, which has also deployed a proactive communications effort, releasing online the

District's [Emerging Infectious Disease Plan](#), [cleaning plan](#), and [links to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment \(CDPHE\) information on coronavirus](#).

The District held a press conference March 10, releasing a detailed statement signed by RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell and Director of Safety and Security James Pavlich. "...We have increased our disinfecting and deep cleaning of schools," the statement noted. On March 13 however, Re-1J officially closed all schools through the end of Spring Break, April 12. More information can be found on the District web site (www.mcsd.org) and on

the Montrose County Public Health Department web site (www.montrosecounty.net/940/Public-Health).

Meanwhile, food and household goods remain scarce. At WalMart in Montrose, one staffer summed up the situation Friday. "There's a lot of people in here, panicking," she said. "They're making me scared. And we don't have any toilet paper at all. We're expecting a truck any day, but as soon as they put it out, it's gone." As of publication time, no [confirmed cases of coronavirus](#) have been reported in Montrose County.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GET HELP APPLYING FOR BIG- GAME HUNTING LICENSES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Do you have questions about how to apply for a big game hunting license? If you do, you can get help from Colorado Parks and Wildlife from 5-8 p.m., March 18 at the Montrose CPW office, 2300 S Townsend Ave. (U.S. Highway 550). CPW staff members will be available with their computers to assist hunters who are applying for limited licenses for big game. Hunters need to bring their CID number, driver's license and the password for your CPW shopping account. Also, bring a credit card to pay for any licenses you buy.

CPW staff will be able to explain the different seasons, game species, hunt codes, preference points and basic information about hunt planning.

For more information call 970-252-6000. You can also go to the CPW web site at: <https://cpw.state.co.us/>.

You may have heard that the City Manager was given a new Chevrolet Suburban with a MSRP price of \$65,000 for personal use.

The City Manager drives a 2016 Chevy Suburban purchased locally for \$47,000. About seven years ago, the City Council asked the City Manager if he would be willing to give up his contractual vehicle allowance of \$350 per month, and IRS mileage reimbursements, in exchange for the use of a city-owned vehicle. The vehicle is also used to transport city employees to meetings around the community and region.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE WHISTLE BLOWER SEEKS FIRSTHAND INFORMATION

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL Are you involved in a local government and have 1st hand knowledge of any of these?

- Suspicious transactions
- Established policies or procedures being ignored or broken
- Unethical behavior or official misconduct
- Violation of the Oath of Office or Charter
- Attempts to silence employees from speaking out
- Favoritism or discrimination demonstrated by persons of authority
- Time to speak up!
- Send your written information to *Whistle Blower, 236 S. 3rd St #260, Montrose CO 81401*. Include-
- What specifically occurred, when, and where did it happen. Specific details!
- Who is the person of authority
- How do you know this
- 1st hand knowledge only, no hearsay

CITY OF MONTROSE HOSTS EMERGENCY SATURDAY WORK SESSION TO ASSESS EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



The City of Montrose held an Emergency City Council Work Session on Saturday, March 14 to discuss the city's emergency protocols in response to COVID-19. The meeting was facilitated by Chief of Police Blaine Hall (far left) and City Manager Bill Bell Center). Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose held an Emergency City Council Work Session on Saturday, March 14. The meeting, which was facilitated by Chief of Police Blaine Hall and City Manager Bill Bell, was called in order to discuss the city's emergency protocols in response to COVID-19. Approximately 35 people were in attendance, which included city staff, city council and council candidates, as well as the general public. Unlike other work sessions, Mayor Dave Bowman allowed questions and discussion from the floor.

Time is of the essence; hence the City Emergency Team planned to meet Sunday at 10 a.m. to formulate the city's pandemic response, with department heads meeting Monday morning to start implementation.

Hall explained a four-tier, color-coded response status. Montrose is currently classified as Tier Three (orange) which is described as, "Pandemic has reached the

United States and there are reported cases in the State of Colorado. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization, State and Local Public Health officials have issued warnings and are taking preventative measures to arrest the momentum of the virus spreading. The Emergency Operations Center is activated and staffed with appropriate personnel." When Montrose County has confirmed cases of the virus the city will go to Tier-4 (red).

Hall said, "There are no known cases that have come back positive. This is a Bell Curve and we want to flatten the curve. As the pandemic grows, if you are proactive and limit social interaction, we'll flatten the curve and make it better for the community."

Bell said, "We talked to the fire chief this morning and he is in full support of our decision today. We are looking at some city staff working from home."

Hall said, "We are limiting our [PD] re-

sponse to non-emergency. We'll take those calls over the phone."

Monday the city will close off the lobby at City Hall. Bell said, "People will be sent to PD for paying bills. That is the only place where we have protective glass [to keep customers separated from clerks]. We'll be ready to go Monday."

Hall said, "People can mail their payment, use the drop-box, pay on-line. There are several options for conducting city business."

Mayor Dave Bowman said, "Will we have some flexibility on [paying] water bills?"

Bell said, "We're talking about that."

Council woman Barbara Bynum asked about the animal shelter and golf course; Councilman Doug Glaspell inquired about municipal court and the Brown Center. Bell indicated these would all be taken into consideration at the Sunday planning meeting. Bowman suggested the council meet as few times as possible and council opted to

Continued next pg

CITY OF MONTROSE HOSTS EMERGENCY SATURDAY WORK SESSION TO ASSESS EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

From previous pg

postpone the city attorney evaluation. However, the council will not cancel all meetings because, according to Bell, "We have contracts to consider."

In his position as city manager Bell has the authority to implement, "A Declaration of the City of Montrose, Colorado, Declaring a Public Health Emergency." However, in order to keep the declaration in effect, the council must ratify it within seven days. In essence this is a check and balance of authority. The council is expected to ratify the declaration following a public hearing during the regular council meeting on Tuesday. Bell said, "This [the declaration] officially starts the clock ticking for state and federal reimbursement. It will allow us to make decisions on the fly."

The city will close the doors to tourists at the Visitor's Center, which will allow staff to work in other areas and be pro-active in communication with citizens.

Hall said, "We are trying to get the staff working in an entirely different environment. We are moving as quickly as we can and that is why we are bringing people in on Sunday."

City attorney Stephen Alcorn brought up the subject of public comment at

meetings. The concept of citizens using a phone to call-in for public comment is possible, but according to Bell, "It's cumbersome."

Alcorn said, "We want to keep as many services going as we possibly can, but it will look differently."

Through March 22 events scheduled for the Pavilion have been canceled, not by the city, but by event organizers. Referencing the city owned Black Canyon Golf Course Bell said, "A lot of our golf members are in this vulnerable age."

Effective Monday morning, March 16, all public restrooms will be closed. Bell said, "We can't keep them sanitized enough, plus people are stealing toilet paper."

Council candidate Dave Stockton ask that his email question be read. Stockton wanted to know if the city is working with the county and the State on rationing food and hygiene items. Bell said, "No."

Stockton's wife Lynn Stockton asked for further explanation on Tier-4 and named President Trump, who she said was too slow to respond; and House Speaker Pelosi, who she praised for passing recent legislation in the house. In both instances Mayor Bowman said, "We need to keep this to Montrose issues."

Ms. Stockton asked questions of Councilwoman Barbara Bynum whose husband is a doctor. Bynum could not answer her questions on the hospital with respects to their supplies, or their preparedness. Bynum recommended Stockton call the hospital.

Hall said, "The fire department (EMT's), rather than PD will be the first responders. If you think you have COVID-19 you should call your doctor."

Audience members also asked:

"Are you working with other agencies?"

"Are you working with the private sector?"

"Can you help feed school kid's meals? Is there any way you can help?"

"What about All Points service?"

After responding to all questions Bell said, "The Emergency Management Team will be working on these things. Once we do the declaration, we'll have more authority to meet those in the private sector. This is going to require a huge volunteer participation. We have had people call to volunteer."

The city will make a concerted effort to keep citizens informed.

The regular work session scheduled for Monday was cancelled.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

ALL ACTIONS TAKEN BY CITY ARE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT

Dear Montrose,

It was my deepest desire to not write this letter. I truly wanted to refrain from political bickering. Yet, I find myself having to defend my honor.

There has been some mis-characterization, on social media, of who I am and my history and intent with respect to City Council. Yes, I am a candidate for District IV and yes, the three districts up for reelection are hotly contested. It was my hope that we would have campaigns based on the issues at hand. Apparently, some of the candidates feel threatened by those like me who are strong viable candidates.

Without naming names, there are three candidates mired in the darkness of mistrust, misdirection and a general sense of desperation. It's my belief they would love to get a controlling voice in City Council in

order to undo all of the positive things we have enjoyed over the past few years.

They also want to disrupt the endeavors underway for revitalization taking place in northwest Montrose. They offer no solutions to perceived problems with City management other than replace everyone.

I've always been an optimist. I tend to have faith in people and trust that they have good intentions. I'm not so naïve as to believe there aren't bad people out there that will take advantage of you when opportunity presents itself. I just don't see that happening within the Montrose City government.

All actions taken are open and transparent. Yes, there is a breakdown somewhere along the communication channel. But the city is attempting to get the word out through newsletters, social media and

YouTube Videos.

The budget is audited every year and it viewable at any time by anyone.

So, unlike those that prefer to live in darkness, I choose to live life knowing the sun will come out tomorrow.

I make the following commitment to you: To always be thoughtful on any issue that comes before council.

To weigh the pros and cons and make the best decision possible based on the facts available.

I will ensure your tax dollars are spent in a manner that meets the need of all Montrosians, current and future.

Finally, the keynote of my campaign and more importantly to me as a person is to always act with a strong set of principles. Those principles include integrity, honesty and a sense of fairness for all.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

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.



Alpine Bank



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<https://www.premiererealtyllc.com/listings>

RE-1J APPROVES CONTRACT WITH VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL From pg 1

with activation, really getting them out to vote."

"We want to connect with our peers on the issues that are most important to them," Bartschi said. "...Just being able to see firsthand what's happening at the state capitol is life changing."

"Our goal is to make the kids have a voice on the issues important to us," Ramirez said, "We want them to see that they can change those."

Among the issues that impact young voters are school safety, access to higher education, and mental health.

RE-1J Administrative Assistant Deann Balash presented information on recent donations to the District. The Connor Imus Memorial Scholarship Fund has been set up at Montrose County School District by Matt and Emily Imus in the amount of \$63,860, Balash said. The fund is made possible by all the generous donations in memory of Connor Imus from family, friends, schools, and businesses in the local Montrose and surrounding communities and southern California.

Montrose Memorial Hospital is donating four to six mannequins and replacement lungs to student RNs for CPR training. The estimated value of each mannequin is \$600.

Oak Grove Elementary School Principal Dana Carpenter recognized Oak Grove third grade teacher Nancy Schwartz and Secretary Cindy Thaute. Schwartz has been teaching at Oak Grove for 25 years. She has high expectations for students and herself. "She's the kind of teacher I need to let her do her thing and get out of the way," Carpenter said, noting that Schwarz focuses not only on academics but on character education. Thaute is the heart of the school; "She truly loves Oak Grove and it shows," Carpenter said.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District A Director Jeff Bachman spoke about the Technology Committee. IMacs must be updated at several schools, iPads at secondary schools will need refreshed. Though iPads were sold to teachers at a discount last time iPads were refreshed, there were issues with teachers bringing those units back to the district for repairs. The district will sell the used units in bulk

to another institutional user this time.

District B Director Jacob Suppes attended a Safety Committee meeting on security cameras for Centennial Middle School.

Board of Education President Gayle Johnson gave an update on the Olathe track project. By July 14 the project will be substantially complete. Donations are being sought to help offset costs of the Concession Stand and sprinklers. The flagpole has been donated and delivered by the American Legion.

Johnson is on the Allergy Committee as well; the group is developing a brochure for local schools on the subject of allergies.

COMMUNITY INPUT/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No comments were heard from the public. There was no Superintendent's report.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Enrollment Report. District-wide enrollment is 6,171, down one student since last month and 42 students since last year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT UPDATE

District STEM/GT Coordinator John Steele discussed updates to graduation requirements. Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has created a one page graduations guidelines fact sheet, inspired by the changing economic landscape and different career options. "There's a lot of different ways students of various abilities can meet graduation requirements," Steele said.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

RE-1J Early Childhood Center ECC) Director Penny Harris said that Federal review will take place the week of April 13. Harris shared the ECC's most recent Data Dashboard.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Education Vice President Sarah Fishing gave a detailed review and recommendation to approve revised board policies, noting, "We touched on these a few weeks ago." The following revised board policies were approved as presented:

ADE-R, Innovation in Education - Minor language change

BC-R, School Board Member Finance Dis-

closure - Changed the dollar amount of gifts for required reporting

BEC, Executive Session/Open Meetings - Updated to reflect changes to executive session purposes

BEDA, Notification of Board Meetings - Minor language changes

EF-E1, School Meal Payments - Language updates

GCHA/GCHB, Mentor Teachers/Administrators - Language updates per CASB recommendations

GCKA, Instructional Staff Assignments and Transfers - Language updates per CASB recommendations

GCOE, Evaluation of Evaluators - New policy; replaces GCOC

GCOC, Evaluation of Administrative Staff - Deleted; replaced by GCOC

GDFA, Fingerprint Requirements - Deleted; covered in GDE/GDF-R

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT

Vista Charter School Principal Emily MacNiven was present as the Board of Education voted to approve the District's contract with Vista Charter School.

The contract negotiations were "A bit of a journey," Fishing said. "The District is very happy to have (Vista) as an option that we can offer our students locally... thank you for everything you and your staff do."

MacNiven expressed gratitude for the opportunity, "We value your partnership...it's another way to get students to graduate in our community."

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION/SALARY SCHEDULE-- IRRIGATION TECH

There is a need for a dedicated irrigation technician position in the District. "We're not adding an FTE (Full-time equivalent) we're aligning one of our FTE's with the job description," Human Resources Director Michelle Pottorff said. The job description, salary, and personnel report were unanimously approved.

REVIEW OF REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Fishing provided a detailed review of the following revised board policies on

Continued next pg

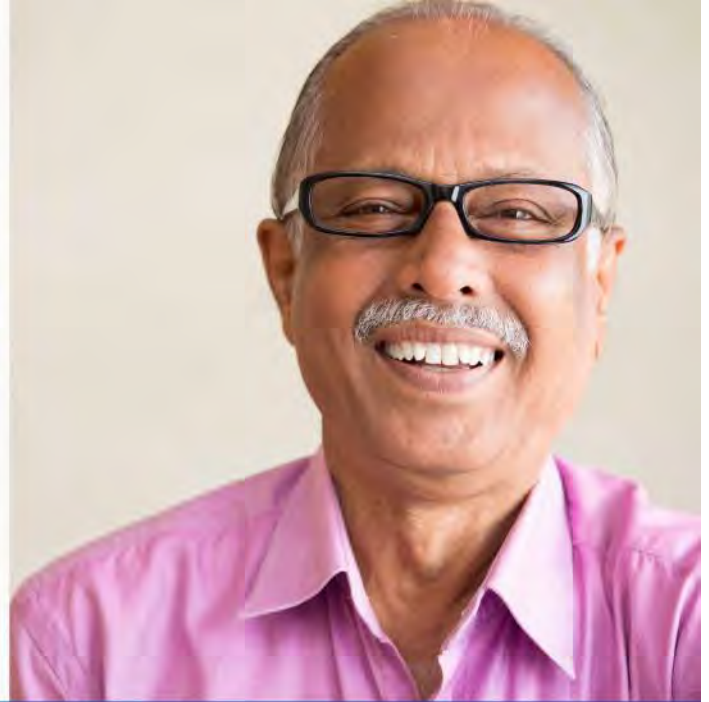
RE-1J APPROVES CONTRACT WITH VISTA CHARTER SCHOOL From previous pg

First Reading:

GCE/GCF-R, Licensed Staff Recruiting/
Hiring - updated language per CASB recommendation
GDE/GDF, Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring - updated legal references
GDE/GDF-R, Support Staff Recruiting/
Hiring - updated language per CASB recommendation

ommendation
IHBIB, Primary/Preprimary Education - updated legal reference
IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment - updated language per CASB recommendation
IHCDA-R, Concurrent Enrollment - updated language per CASB recommendation
JLCD, Administering Medications to Students - updated language per CASB and District Nurses recommendation

JLCE, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care - updated language and legal reference per CASB and District Nurses recommendation
With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SPRING SPORTS PRACTICE AND GAMES AND CHSAA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In response to recent developments with the COVID-19 situation state and nationwide, and under direction from the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), all spring sports practice and games and CHSAA sponsored activities are suspended through April 6. You may view the notification [here](#).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

UNEDITED VIDEO RECORDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS SHOULD BE ARCHIVED AND AVAILABLE

Mirror staff editorial

MONTROSE-At one time both the City of Montrose and Montrose County live-streamed the regularly scheduled commissioner's meetings and council meetings.

Montrose County continues this practice, which allows constituents to watch local government proceedings in real-time without actually attending meetings. The videos of these meetings are then archived and can be accessed at a later date through the county website.

However, in 2019 the City of Montrose discontinued live-streaming unedited city council meetings, which were seen on Montrose TV channel 191, and opted to put edited council meeting videos on

YouTube at a later time instead.

It's understandable for the city to use all available media platforms for civic engagement to reach as many constituents as possible. However, our research shows that the council meeting of June 17, 2019, seen on Montrose TV Channel 191, had 878 views; while current council meetings seen on YouTube average between 25-50 views.

With YouTube as the single source for city council meetings, Montrose citizens without access to the internet, or those who are not skilled in navigating the medium, are disenfranchised.

To their credit, the City of Montrose now videotapes work sessions as well as coun-

cil meetings. However, the importance of regular council meetings being viewed in real-time and unedited, where counselors take official votes, cannot be understated.

Physical attendance for city council meetings is normally sparse and the Coronavirus has the potential to impact participation even more.

We would not suggest that the current city council, or those elected in April, abandon YouTube; but ask that they reinstate the use of Montrose TV Channel 191 as before.

Video recordings of city council meetings should be archived and available on the city website, just as Montrose County meetings are.



COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE **19**

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

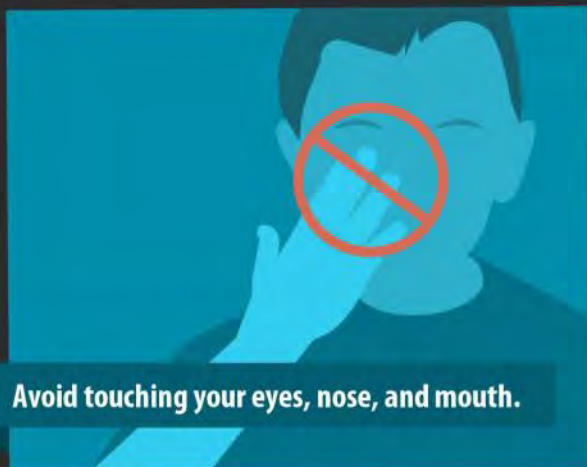
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



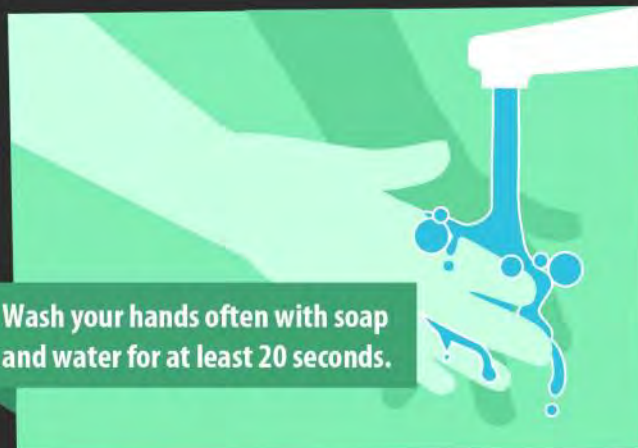
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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

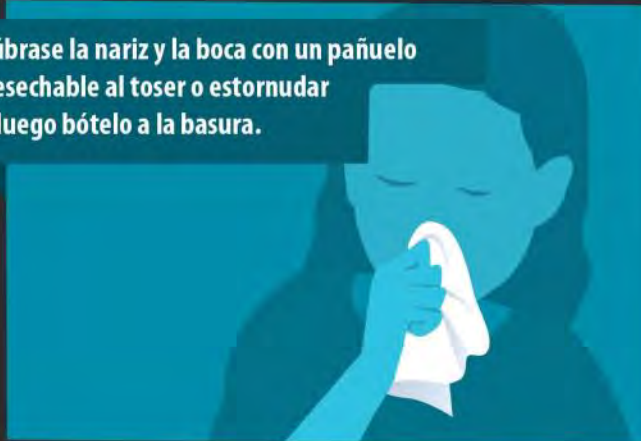
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

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 bótelos 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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COVID-19 PROMPTS REMINDERS FROM CLERK TRESSA GUYNES

By Tressa Guynes,

Montrose County Clerk & Recorder

MONTROSE-As a community, we are learning daily about best practices with respect to COVID-19. Although the risk of being affected by the illness here in Western Colorado is relatively low at this point, social distancing has been suggested.

Here in our public facing areas, we ask that you practice social distancing ANYTIME you are not feeling well.

However, at the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder's Office this does not mean you can't accomplish your business needs!

We have many remote options that are always available to you. Please know we remain committed to supporting your needs.

Elections

From election results to updating or initiating your own voter registration – you can find the information and handle those processes at the Secretary of State's website: www.govotecolorado.gov.

If needed, please call our office at 970-252-3360 ext 3 or email us at Elec-

tions@montrosecounty.net.

Recording – Public Records/Marriage License

You can search the public records and actually purchase, download or print that document from the comfort of your home or business by going to <http://landmarkweb.montrosecounty.net>. There

is no charge to register and conduct your search – you only pay for the documents you download or print. You can also purchase a monthly subscription, if needed.

If you will be getting married in Montrose County within 30 days, you can complete the Marriage License Application online at <http://landmarkweb.montrosecounty.net/marriagekiosk>. Although, both parties to the marriage will still need to come into the office to get the actual license, completing the application before arriving will greatly reduce your time in our public spaces.

As always, you can call us at 970-252-3362 ext 2 or email us at Record-ing@montrosecounty.net, before coming in, to see if a trip is necessary.

Vehicle Licensing

There are many Vehicle Licensing transactions that you can now accomplish online by going to the CO Department of Revenue's website: mydmv.colorado.gov and Skip the Trip!

Renew Your License Plates

Request a Duplicate Title

Request a Duplicate Registration Card

Estimate Registration Fees

Change Your Address

Report Release of Liability (if you sold a vehicle)

Replace Tabs

Apply for a First Time Disability Placard

There are many processes you can accomplish over the phone - simply call 970-252-3362, Ext 1, and a fully trained technician can help you. Your patience is appreciated – hold times may be a bit longer as call volumes rise.

There is nothing more important than your health and the health of our staff.

Be well everyone...Thank you,

Tressa Guynes,

Montrose County Clerk & Recorder

COLORADO'S YOUNG VOTER TURNOUT STRONG FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-For the first time in state history, eligible 17-year-old Coloradans were able to vote in a primary election, and they enthusiastically responded, casting more than 10,500 ballots in Tuesday's record-setting Presidential Primary.

"As the youngest Secretary of State in the country, it is important to me that young people's voices are heard in Colorado elections," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "That is one of the reasons I supported the 2019 Colorado Votes Act, which enables 17-year-olds who turn 18 by the General Election to cast a ballot in the primary. And we saw real results:

eligible 17-year-olds cast over 10,500 ballots in Colorado's Presidential Primary!

"To see young people so engaged from their first opportunity to vote gives me great hope that our state will continue to be the gold standard in election turnout for decades to come."

Colorado is one of 18 states and the District of Columbia to allow 17-year-olds to vote in a primary as long as they are 18 by that year's General Election, and Colorado's young people turned out in force. So far, 10,634 out of 23,504 active registered 17-year-old voters cast ballots, for a turnout rate of 45.24 percent. Among those voters, 6,841 cast ballots for the Demo-

cratic Primary, 3,235 for the Republican Primary, and 558 are still in process.

Colorado's counties continue to count ballots, including late-arriving military and overseas ballots, through Wednesday, March 11. As of Monday, March 9, the state's overall turnout for the Presidential Primary among registered voters is 45.5 percent. Eligible 17-year-old Colorado voters will have two more opportunities to exercise their right to vote in 2020 with the State Primary coming up on June 30 and the General Election on Nov. 3.

For complete Primary Election Day results and data, please visit www.sos.state.co.us.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE 2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS IS COMING! IT'S EASY! IT'S SAFE! IT'S IMPORTANT!

Everyone in Montrose County Counts!

Editor:

The US Constitution mandates the federal government to conduct a census every ten years in order to generate an accurate count of all persons living in the United States, Puerto Rico, and all other US territories.

The census data is used to:

- Reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Redraw congressional, state, and local district boundaries ---redistricting
- Determine the need for new roads, hospitals, schools, and other public sector investments
- Distribute more \$675 billion in federal funds for states and local communities
- Inform businesses about the changing needs of the U.S. population

What's new in 2020? The 2020 Census will be the first to be completed largely online ---to help save taxpayers money---but there are four ways to respond: Internet, Phone, Paper, and In-Person.

Basically, what the census form wants to know is who is living in your household as of April 1, 2020, the official census date. The Census Bureau does not ask for a Social Security number, bank account information, or information about political party affiliation. The census form will not include any questions about a person's religion or citizenship status.

Taking part in the census is our civic duty. It is a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!" For more information, go to 2020census.gov

Nancy Ball, Montrose

Montrose County League of Women Voters

and member of 2020 Montrose County Complete Count Committee

CITY KICKS OFF DEMOLITION EFFORTS FOR NEW POLICE FACILITY



MONTROSE-The City of Montrose has demolished the old Wells Fargo drive-thru on South First Street as they prepare to build a new police facility. Photo by Gail Marvel.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY CLAIMS ARE DISINGENUOUS AND DECEPTIVE

Editor:

It's interesting to see how the City continues to try to convince the taxpayers how lucky we are to have an overall retail sales tax of only 8.53% ,after fostering an 18% increase on us last November. If you noticed in last week's Mirror, there were two taxpayer funded ads by the City Beat [wonder who authorized those?] , one of which compared the overall sales tax rate in Montrose with 10 other towns, and the second ad tried to convince us that the City really had not increased its sales tax by 18%.

In comparing the current overall sales tax rate in Montrose of 8.53% to 10 other towns, only Delta [the lowest at 7.9%] has comparable socio-economic conditions. With Montrose perched dead center of the list at #6 out of 11 towns, it certainly

ly seems the message is "be thankful we're not higher". Also shown in that ad are the 8 towns [again each of which has entirely different socio-economic conditions] that also have a property tax in addition to a sales tax. Again the subtle message seems to be , "look how fortunate we are". Comparing the Montrose tax rate to towns all over the Western Slope seems to cut no ice with tax payers here, whose main concern is only what rate we pay here.

The second ad claimed, "you might have heard that the overall sales tax rate in Montrose has risen by 18%" and went on to point out the "overall" rate changed from 7.95% to 8.54% [7.3%].

This is disingenuous and deceptive on the part of the City. No one that I know of has claimed an 18% OVERALL RATE IN-

CREASE! What has factually been pointed out is that effective January 1, the CITY OF MONTROSE INCREASED ITS INDIVIDUAL RETAIL SALES TAX RATE BY 18% on everything you buy, including food.

Prior to January 1 our overall retail sales tax rate was 7.95%. The composition of that rate was: 3.30% City of Montrose, 1.75% County of Montrose, and 2.90% State of Colorado. On January 1 neither the County nor State rate changed. The City rate, however increased by .58%, which is in fact the 18% rate increase that was applicable to the 2A vote in November. I know advanced math can be troubling for some, but , if you divide the rate increase [.58%] by the previous rate [3.3%] , you get the actual percentage increase [18%].

Dee Laird, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

THE 2020 CENSUS IS READY FOR COLORADO TO RESPOND *Respond Online or By Phone Today*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- It's time to respond to the 2020 Census. Starting today, March 12, Colorado mailboxes will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Our goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Most invitations will arrive in the mail before April 1, 2020 and will include instructions for responding online or by phone. The invitation will include an ID number that is tied to a physical address. Coloradans are encouraged to go online (with the ID number) to respond to the Census.

-The 2020 Census is a short questionnaire that asks about who lives in your house-

hold. One person should respond for an entire household.

-Plan to include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1.

-You can self-respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in 59 languages.

-On March 20, use this map to track the daily 2020 Census self-response rates.

-Those who do not respond online or by phone should also expect to receive a paper questionnaire in April.

-After a series of reminder mailings, if the household has not self-responded (online, by phone, or by mail), the Census Bureau plans to send census takers door-to-door

to collect responses in May.

-The 2020 Census is a massive undertaking. It requires counting a diverse and growing population in the United States and the five U.S. territories.

-The 2020 Census is important because it will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade.

-Responding to the 2020 Census is safe and secure. Individual responses are confidential and protected by law.

-The Census Bureau is committed to making the 2020 Census quick, easy, and safe.

-Take the 2020 Census HERE



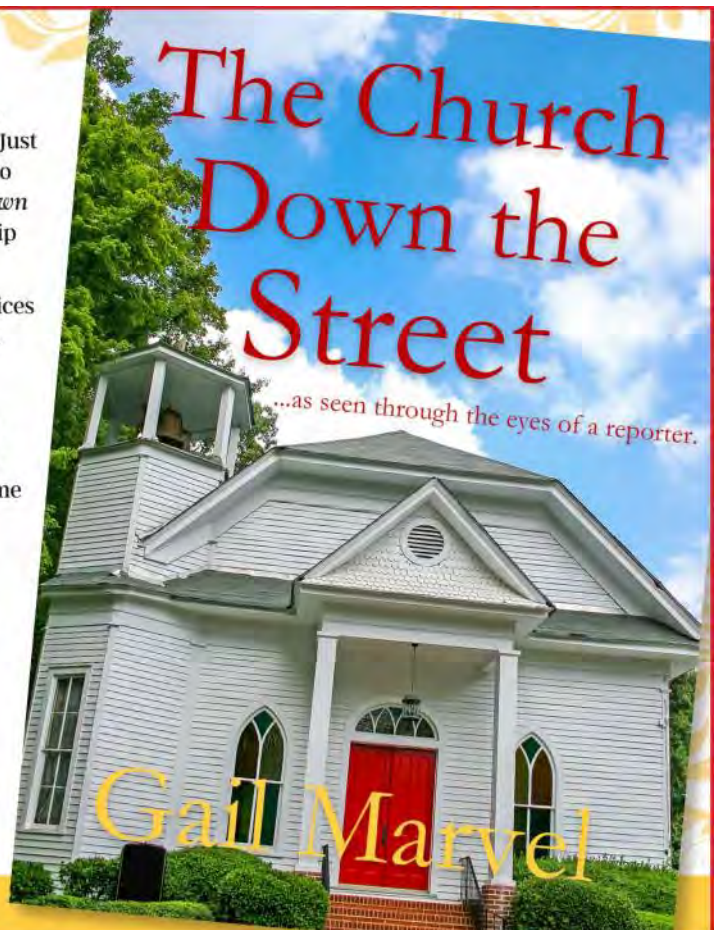
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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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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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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: LETTERS

AS IF IT WASN'T INSULTING ENOUGH THE FIRST TIME...

Editor's note: We are running this letter again because a section was accidentally omitted last week.

Editor:

It's interesting to observe city council give themselves high marks on the over-used terms of "transparency" and "communications" after yet another grand, "blue ribbon" public meeting performance. The word communication usually implies that the "communication" goes both ways. The one this past week at Anciano Towers, like the one January 20th (on rescinding the grocery tax), where Montrose City officials orchestrated an absolutely controlled meeting complete with a presentation (that takes up a lot of meeting time) and thereby minimizing the actual amount of quality Q & A answer time that would be constructive for the attendees and minimizing the amount of "ok, we'll get back to you on that". God forbid that the misdirection offense of the city would be circumvented by a real give-and-take forum wherein they would actually be held to account for their position on certain matters. AND, the "we'll get back to you" means that ALL of the participants won't be able to get the benefit of ALL of the questions and subsequent answers, which would have stimulated additional Q and A during the meeting. As in the January 20th meeting, we sat there for an unnecessary 'presentation' and made to feel like

we were a bunch of neophytes and that we were incapable of engaging in serious conversation. Well wasn't that nice for the city – defuse your audience into following a totally scripted and nearly closed dialogue. All the while, the city can claim that they have been totally transparent and communicative. Yeah, right.

And in case anybody failed to notice, the usually vociferous city manager has opted to leave the master of ceremony duties to his subordinates to execute the potentially volatile and combative elements of a less-than-welcoming audience. That 'audience' is regularly referred to and insinuated in the City Pravda newspaper as the "torches and pitchfork crowd" (yellow journalism code-word for "you unappreciative, stinkn' tax payers") simply because a large number of the populace has awakened from dormancy after noticing that the tax and spend city council led by their Hail Caesar-City Manager can't sleep at night without fantasies of the next city sales tax to be enacted. You know, those pesky things that pop up overnight because a city government is incapable of planning and forecasting expenses like law enforcement, streets and sidewalks, etc., when you are blinded by the important and really expensive entertainment promotion facilities

(amphitheater), and multi-million dollar economic development addictions (MURA) that you just can't kick. After all, government is always reinventing itself into doing so much more than just that boring, unchallenging stuff like law enforcement, health and safety and infrastructure.

These government types go into this line of work aka public sector, because they are very proficient at working one side of the financial ledger because they think they have the luxury of knowing that the TAX PAYER will take care of the REVENUE SIDE which will in turn allow them to take victory laps and slap each other on the back for all of the tax payer money they just blew on a giant, speculative private sector scheme. Maybe you-the tax payer should line up outside Bill Bell's office with your speculative business plan and demand your "piece of the proverbial pie".

April is *We the People's* opportunity to turn this ship back to mature, pragmatic, principled and 'left brained' government as opposed to this progressive insanity that has befallen the City of Montrose. Please, if you live in the city, vote by marking your ballot for David White, Yvonne Meek and Bill Bennett.

R. L. Michaels, Montrose



Yes, WE'RE OPEN

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Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

When?

- After using the bathroom
- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- 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.



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH

CLEAN HANDS



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.

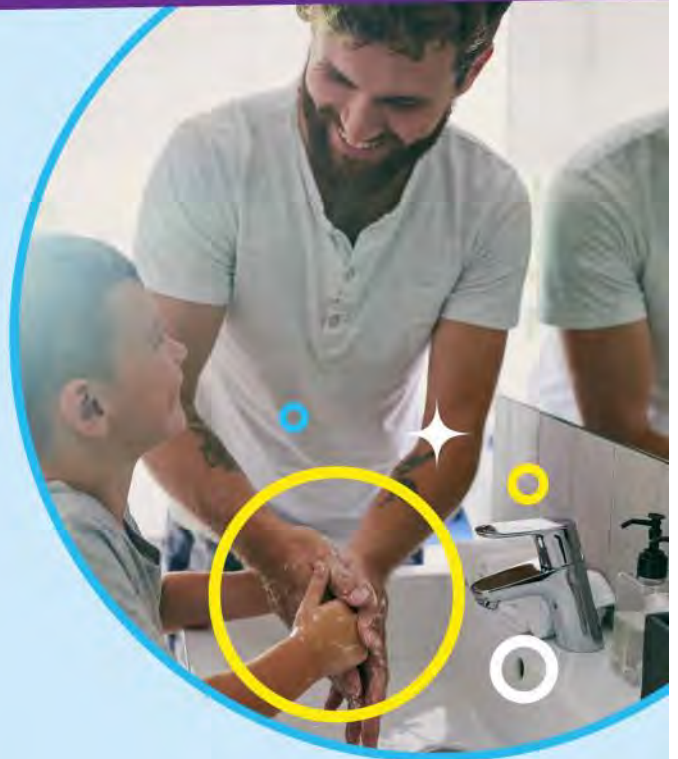


CS310027-A

¡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.

LA VIDA ES MEJOR CON LAS

MANOS LIMPIAS



www.cdc.gov/lavadodemanos

Este material fue elaborado por los CDC. La campaña La Vida es Mejor con las Manos Limpias es posible gracias a una asociación entre la Fundación de los CDC, GOJO y Staples. El HHS y los CDC no respaldan productos, servicios ni empresas comerciales.



CS310027-A

FOR SALE!

Spacious updated home on a large lot



1526 Leeds Avenue | Montrose, CO 81401

This immaculately maintained and updated 2,850 square foot Montrose home is nestled in a convenient location, very near shopping and trails, and is just a few minutes from Montrose downtown and amenities. The stunning curb appeal in the front yard finishes off the first impression with a spacious covered porch. Beautiful interior finishes, loads of space, and an amazing back yard - make this your HAPPY home today!

Bedrooms: 5 Bathrooms: 3
2,850 sq. ft. on 0.29 acres | Year Built: 1992
\$365,000 MLS# 763574

CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Kerri Noonan-Inda
 Real Estate Professional
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kerri@montrosehometeam.com
www.montrosecolorado.com



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT RELEASES EMERGENCY RULES ON PAID SICK LEAVE FOR COVID-19

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has published emergency rules which temporarily require employers in certain industries to provide a small amount of paid sick leave to employees with flu-like symptoms while awaiting COVID-19 testing.

The emergency rules take effect today for 30 days, or longer if the state of emergency declared by the Governor continues.

"Colorado is acting swiftly to contain the spread of this virus. These steps are important for individuals who work with vulnerable populations like older Coloradans and people with underlying health issues. When workers who might have Coronavirus lack paid sick leave, it poses a great risk to our ability to protect the public," said Gov. Polis. "People want to do right by their fellow Coloradans and stay home when they are ill. But they shouldn't be forced between doing what's best for our community or missing rent. I am asking the entire private sector of Colorado to voluntarily offer paid sick leave pending Coronavirus testing results so that we can collectively do our part to contain the spread of the virus."

On Tuesday, Governor Polis declared a state of

emergency for Colorado in response to COVID-19. Included in the Executive Order were directives for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to 1) engage in emergency rulemaking for temporary paid sick leave and 2) identify additional supports and wage replacement such as access to unemployment insurance.

The Colorado Health Emergency Leave with Pay Rules ("Colorado HELP" 7 CCR 1103-10) requires up to four days of paid sick for employees being tested for coronavirus COVID-19 in select industries which include: leisure and hospitality; food services; child care; education, including transportation, food service, and related work at educational establishments; home health, if working with elderly, disabled, ill, or otherwise high-risk individuals and; nursing homes and community living facilities.

The requirement is not on top of sick leave an employer already provides and does not cover wage replacement should an employee test positive and require quarantine resulting in lost work time and wages.

Workers are covered regardless of pay rate or method (hourly, weekly, piece rate, etc.); the daily pay during leave is either their estab-

lished daily rate or, if their pay fluctuates, their average daily pay for the past month.

These emergency rules only speak to paid leave for the four-day period required for testing.

Other wage replacement options, including unemployment insurance, are still under review by the department to determine the specifics for compensation for those who test positive. Under current state law, unemployment insurance benefits are only available to workers who have become unemployed through no fault of their own. The Department is currently reviewing options to expand eligibility under existing rules.

Under Colorado wage and hour law, CDLE's Division of Labor Standards and Statistics (DLSS) has authority under existing state law to promulgate rules when "[t]he welfare of the state of Colorado demands that workers be protected from conditions of labor that have a pernicious effect on their health and morals, and it is therefore declared ... that inadequate wages and unsanitary conditions of labor exert such pernicious effect" (C.R.S. 8-6-101(1)).

FAQs and resource pages for both workers and employers can be found at coloradolabor-law.gov



ANONYMOUS

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CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HUNGRY AND FRAIL OLDER ADULTS IN NORWOOD AND NUCLA COMMUNITIES RECEIVE GRANT SUPPORT

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Volunteers of America and Senior CommUnity Meals (SCM) is pleased to announce SCM is the recipient of a collaborative grant from the Telluride Foundation in the amount of \$15,353.

SCM provides nutritious meals and safety checks to homebound, frail older adults in Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties, Colorado. The funds will be used to reduce food insecurity in Norwood and Nucla by supporting the program in providing "congregate" community site noon-time meals and home delivered meals to those

individuals who are no longer driving.

SCM will also allocate fund to offer community nutrition education, assist with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program outreach, provide an annual "Blizzard Box" of four-meal, shelf-stable foods for emergency use, and offer nutrition counselling to participants of the home delivered meal program.

Program director Brian Dickerson said, "I expect these funds to help us positively impact the lives of over 50 seniors living in the Nucla and Norwood communities. We are extremely grateful to the Telluride

Foundation for their continued support of these very necessary services."

The Telluride Foundation grant benefits several organizations, including Senior CommUnity Meals, under the West End Senior Services Partnership, a collaborative managed by Region 10 Area Agency on Aging.

For more information about Senior CommUnity Meals, please visit www.seniorcommunitymelas.org or call 970-874-7661 to see if you or a loved one qualifies. To donate to the program, visit www.coloradogives.org/

DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Health Department would like to confirm that there are no positive cases of Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) in Delta County. The Delta County Health Department continues to work closely with regional and state partners, following federal guidance, to monitor the situation and is committed to protecting the health and safety of individuals in Delta County.

The risk to most Coloradoans from COVID-19 is low. New information is coming out frequently, so it's important to stay informed from reliable sources, and know the facts. Not all coronaviruses are COVID-19. There are many different kinds of common coronaviruses that are currently circulating in Colorado and the U.S, that can cause respiratory illnesses and influenza viruses that cause the flu.

Public Health Officials advise residents to stay informed, take simple disease prevention measures, and prepare.

-Practice good hygiene. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. In the absence of soap and water, use hand-sanitizer; use your elbow or sleeve to cover coughs and sneezes.

-Stay home if you're sick; keep your children home if they are sick.

The illness can last for many days so make preparations now to work from home if possible.

-We advise Delta County Residents to always be prepared for an emergency-- like a large snowstorm-- and have a plan for your family.

Make sure to have 72 hours of key supplies on hand like medications, infant formula, diapers, pet food, etc. FEMA guidance for pre-pandemic COVID-19 preparedness is available on Ready.gov.

Stay informed with reliable, up-to-date information.

-Delta County Health Department's hotline 970-874-2172 will be updated with the latest information on any Delta County

cases that test positive at the state lab.

-People who have general questions about COVID-19, can call the state's help line, CO HELP, at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911, or email COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English and Spanish (Español).

For additional information on COVID-19, please visit the following resources:

-Colorado Department of Health and Environment page at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

-Centers for Disease Control page at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

-For Regional Resources visit Mesa County Health Department's page at <https://health.mesacounty.us/news/>.

-Coronavirus Fact Sheet (English)

-Coronavirus Fact Sheet (Spanish)

-Coronavirus: How to Protect Yourself from COVID-19 (English)

-Coronavirus: How to Protect Yourself from COVID-19 (Spanish)



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Recognized as a Great Place to Work™ organization, Volunteers of America is a respected name in health care for older adults and we're dedicated to creating thoughtful, caring and flexible work environments for our staff and volunteers. Apply online at careerswithvoa.org.



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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCHOOLS NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS, ANSWERS FOR PARENTS

Editor:

Following local COVID-19 postings in our community, I can't help but remain shocked at RE1J's decision for a month long shutdown with only two days notice for working parents - and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Yes, it "makes sense" purely from the perspective that other school districts have been shutting down, and there was a sense that eventually it would be happening here too; but my observations and research thus far make this decision seem hasty and executed without time to consider the far-reaching impact on families from a functional and economic standpoint.

I see a mostly top-down or at least peer-related pressure to shut down school districts. I do not disagree with the world, federal, and state advisories to limit big gatherings, travel, events etc. while we come up with a strategy and plan to flatten the curve. They give our nation a chance to adjust and respond and stay ahead of this new viral threat. However, schools are way beyond non-essential social gatherings or entertainment events.

Yes, the sports and concerts and other large-scale socially interactive events can wait, but education and employment can and *should* be treated differently.

It almost feels like leadership has failed to recognize how much of a dual-income society our nation truly is. Schools are very important stitching in the fabric of our American economy and labor-force.

There will be big ramifications related to this decision; and they don't just stop at level of childcare and adequate work hours/wages.

How much discussion was allowed on the impact it will have on kids from families in poverty or with special needs?

Kids on school lunches immediately come to mind. Will kitchens stay open, or school districts provide a way to help these kids stay fed when their parents aren't prepared to provide that extra food (or can't - particularly when they're now going to possibly have impacted wages from miss-

ing work due to illness, closures, or reduced business)? And if so, how will the kids get there without bussing? Will they be delivered? Who is going to do that? Is there even a plan?

Kids with special needs are a huge concern as well; as there are much more severe reactions to routine changes. Are there enough trained care providers prepared to handle their specific circumstances and/or medical needs (physical, mental, etc.)? Are they prepared for the adverse effect of these kids behaviors when their whole day/week/month routine gets shuffled because those things weren't evaluated before closures were decided upon?

As of now, less than 24 hours after the school district's shutdown announcement, I still have yet to see any kind of publicly published summary of meetings that were held and considerations that were discussed in coming to this dramatic and sudden decision...

...And that should have been the **starting point** - *especially* in a modern era when meetings could be recorded and documented very easily with minimal planning and a little consideration toward public transparency.

Furthermore, the School District needs to provide information, suggestions, and answers for parents coming with some of the same questions and concerns I've touched on here (and those aren't even close to being exhaustive). Did they actually take any of this into account, or was the decision just made hastily and authoritatively without much thought, planning, or strategic design for our *specific* community and current local circumstances? And if so, where is that info - or at least, how quickly will we have access to it?

There are few things more dangerous than hasty, high-consequence decision making by leaders in positions of high influence and far-reaching impact; and COVID-19 definitely isn't one of them. We will struggle to weather storms like these if we don't make careful, thorough decisions using all the time our circumstances allow.

We need wise, tempered leaders who don't get swayed by sudden popular opinion - that have the experience and strength of character to wait, listen, and decide with confidence on the best course of action for the greatest number of people under their care and leadership. While during and afterwards make every available effort to keep citizens rightly and concisely informed using every channel and technology that is readily available.

Fear, stress, and anxiety are huge underlying factors that are affecting millions of Americans' health and wellness (physically, emotionally, and mentally) right now, and there is a mountain of scientific data and evidence which recognizes that. Unfortunately, that knowledge doesn't always seem to be translating in the delivery and timing of public press releases on critical decisions and during challenging circumstances such as these. We can, and *should*, do better.

Depression and suicide are currently far more fatal and dangerous already, **right now**, than COVID-19 is and may potentially ever be (given our medical advances), and the local Montrose community is unfortunately all too aware of that fact due to recent events in just the last couple of years related to youth depression and suicide. This should make our local legislators and leaders even *more* sensitive and keen towards communicating information in a way that mitigates fear, panic, and anxiety and instead promotes calmness, confidence, and level-headed decision making. Additionally, decisions that affect our family functionality and the youth of our nation should be of particular care and emphasis. Amid the scares and threat of Coronavirus, let us - **please!** - not lose sight of the bigger picture and the far-reaching consequences of our individual actions and decisions, especially those volunteering, elected, or employed in leadership positions that guide and govern our growing community.

Sincerely,

A patient but concerned citizen.

Alexander Wall, Montrose

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

REPORT TAKES REGIONAL LOOK AT FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS, CONDITIONS

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— The Colorado State Forest Service presented its annual forest health report to legislators at the State Capitol today, highlighting the current conditions of forests across Colorado and how the agency is improving the health of the state's forests.

New this year, the report takes a regional look at forest health, offering statistics, insect and disease trends, and successes in forest management specific to four quadrants of the state. As always, the report also offers a statewide outlook on trends in insect and disease activity in Colorado's forests.

"With field offices across the state, we are proud to live and work alongside so many great partners and community members to improve the health of our forests," said Mike Lester, state forester and director of the CSFS. "Together, we are protecting the many values our forests provide, from clean air and water to local jobs in the wood products industry to places to recreate outdoors. By taking a regional look at forest conditions, we can give those folks a more localized assessment of what's happening to their trees."

Around the State

The *2019 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests* focuses on "Celebrating the Diverse Regions of Our State," highlighting forest management successes in four regions of Colorado, which include:

- **Northwest Area:** To help protect residents from wildfire, over the last three years the CSFS has created fuel breaks on 1,150 acres of private and federal forests in the wildland-urban interface around

Steamboat Springs. This work not only reduced the risk of wildfire for residents, it created wildlife habitat, protected the Yampa River watershed and improved forest health.

- **Northeast Area:** Through the Heavens Project near Conifer, the CSFS and partners showed the collective benefits of private landowners coming together to achieve common goals. Working with members of the Upper South Platte Partnership, the CSFS removed woody fuels from over 350 acres across five adjacent properties. Through this project, the CSFS protected homes, forests and water resources from wildfire, while ensuring the harvested timber became wood products.

- **Southeast Area:** The CSFS is making the most of beetle-killed trees in Fremont County, ensuring dead Engelmann spruce on Waugh Mountain find new purpose as wood products. The CSFS worked with a contractor to harvest dead spruce from state land on the mountain, salvaging the wood and producing 1.3 million board feet of timber – enough to build 114 good-sized homes.

- **Southwest Area:** The CSFS is guiding landowners affected by the Spring Creek Fire through the long-term recovery process, including education about recovery options, site visits and technical advice. The 2018 fire – the third largest in state history – destroyed 147 homes and burned 108,000 acres in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and surrounding area.

Statewide Outlook

Along with the regional look, the 2019 report offers a statewide update on forest conditions. Statewide highlights include:

- Across Colorado last year, wetter, cooler weather helped tame wildfires and bolster defenses in trees to ward off invading insects. Ample precipitation helped trees produce enough sap to resist insects entering through the bark, providing a natural defense to insect attacks.

- The winter of 2018-19 brought a robust snowpack to the mountains of Colorado, resulting in an abundance of snow slides in high-elevation forests. Heavy tree accumulation at the base of these slides is now cause for concern about bark beetle-caused mortality in coming years.

- For the eighth consecutive year, Colorado's most widespread and destructive forest insect pest was the spruce beetle. A total of 89,000 acres of active infestations occurred in the state's high-elevation Engelmann spruce forests in 2019.

- Populations of roundheaded pine beetle, along with closely associated bark beetles, continued to affect ponderosa pine forests in Dolores County, with 22,000 acres impacted in 2019.

Each year, the forest health report provides information to the Colorado General Assembly and residents of Colorado about the health and condition of forests across the state. Information for the report is derived from an annual aerial forest health survey by the CSFS and U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, as well as field inspections, CSFS contacts with forest landowners and special surveys.

Copies of the 2019 report are available at all CSFS field offices. A PDF of the report, interactive map and insect and disease data searchable by county are available at bit.ly/COForestHealth2019.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

LEAVE MONTROSE TO SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS

Editor:

There is a guy in a neighborhood close to mine who drives around taking pictures of violations for his HOA. Everybody knows him for what he is---a nosey busybody. He doesn't do any good but nobody in the neighborhood talks to anyone else because they don't know whether the neighbor is a friend or a spy for 'snoopy'. The friends should not worry, most look at the 'photographer' as a do-gooder, nosey, useless busy-body who few talk to and even fewer respect.

Not so with Bill Bennett. If you know him you know whether he is your friend or

not. I would venture that if he had gotten some answers when he first began asking questions, that he would not have even thought of running for council or stirring the pot. But no, council circled the wagons and thought he would go away. But he was stonewalled by civil servants who work for all of us but who will not be transparent or accountable for their actions in public office. His criticisms are generally spot-on because he reads, he studies the problem and ponders the solutions. Oh yes, he lives in the City of Montrose and doesn't stick his nose in the politics of Ridgway or Ouray.

Nelson, you are a busy-body trying to run Montrose from out of town. Basically your comments have no place in the public sphere about Montrose. I would presume that since you have such a useless life, that you have so much time to spare, that you just have to stick your beak into someone else's soup. I would appreciate it if you would leave Montrose to solve its own problems, which because of folks like you and your ilk we certainly have enough of. Personally, as Doc Holiday was heard to say, "I think that you are a skunk of the first order."

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

AT WHAT PRICE ECONOMIC GROWTH?

Editor:

Let us review this week just past

Probably the loudest and dumbest question asked of the candidates was "Do you support economic growth?" The unanimous answer was, "Of course". BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS, "AT WHAT PRICE?" The answer to the incentive question was six against. Four for. And one wishy washy.

Montrose growth has been attempted and failed partly at the expense of TEN years of deferred maintenance on our city streets. Supposedly \$40,000,000 dollars. Oh where, oh where did the money go? Then there is the ten years of police department neglect and underfunding, with 2A and a bond issue used to catch up with that. Fact is, Montrose can never catch up! You have this city manager to thank--and the councilors he has conned into letting him do it. Or did council con him?

Part of that price was 2A wherein our 'slippery-six' pushed through a tax on groceries, a tax detrimental to the fifty percent of the less advantaged households in town whose children get aid for their lunches, weekend and summer food.

But this is ok, so say our council members BECAUSE their mismanagement has caused the council to NEED the money "so that they may continue their wasteful ways."

Together, the incumbents crowed that they could not stop the Mag Chloride tank at Tortilla Flats. That the railroad would not deal, would not answer questions, that they did not need a permit. Council should have petitioned the court for an injunction to stop work until the whole deal was studied by the city. The railroad would have answered that mail post haste! That is what the council should have done and what courts are for. The only reason besides bad information that it was not done is its location. OUR CITY FATHERS AND MOTHERS AND THEIR 'GUIDANCE COUNCILLOR' APPARENTLY DID NOT CARE.

In so far as the simple-six is concerned the issue is NIMBY! (Not In My Back Yard) If it were in their back yard SOMETHING WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE!

Then the question of Mr. Bell came up. Besides a year's worth of reasons printed in the Montrose Mirror, he is just too

darned expensive for a city the size of Montrose. His expensive ideas might better be served in a larger, more affluent town. His salary and benefit increases have outstripped little old Montrose. He has, by his own actions, killed the goose that laid HIS golden egg.

Maybe the reason that we have inadequate low income housing is because he 'incentivized' too many low income jobs to town. Just maybe?

We have four council persons who have never run a business or made a payroll. Why should we expect good government from them? Because someone says, 'they work hard.'

Russell Stover's move came as a surprise to Mr. Bell and his council. Is following city contracts and contractors not part of the City Manager's job? I am not saying that they could have kept Russell Stover here BUT IN 2018 HE AND THEY SHOULD HAVE BEGUN TRYING. We should treasure the industries we have and quit ignoring them while we try to get more. Obviously both are necessary. Just what are the city's plans if ReclaMetals leaves town because they have no rail

AT WHAT PRICE ECONOMIC GROWTH? From previous pg

service?

Ed Ulibarri opined that we had about \$130,000,000 debt in Montrose. I bet no one really knows or keeps tabs on that. Added to that the council wants to or just approved \$10,000,000 more to replace the road money that they gave away in the past TEN years. That is \$7,000 of debt for every man, woman and child in Montrose. 'Children' half of whom get free lunch, etc. Runaway debt might be alright for the Feds since they can print more, Montrose cannot do so. Montrose should have no more than 25% of that number. Some klutz was heard to say that the council worked hard to do its job. Can't prove that by results! Hard work is not a guarantee of success and that, they have unequivocally proven. Work smarter, not harder.

I moved here 21 years ago and as close as I can calculate I have spent in excess of \$2,000,000 in Montrose or \$100,000 per year. Virtually no factory, store or any other business brought here by incentives will bring employees who will earn that much no less spend it. Maybe a couple of executives but not the worker-bees.

One hundred retired couples would bring between \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000 dollars per year to Montrose. They would buy 100 fairly expensive homes with the money from the sale of their last home, probably with cash. With an ad in a few retirement magazines this figure is reasonable and achievable and more so, achievable every year. Talk about growth. America will never run out of old people! We all pay taxes for the library, the rec. center, the fire department, etc. as well. These people would spend it all, enjoying life for their last 20-30 years. They might even make that municipal golf course LOSE LESS, go to movies, go to concerts, keep your restaurants open in the winter, buy cars, RVs, ATVs and the like. Relatives would visit and spend money. And then the old goats would go to the hospital, one of the largest businesses in town with over 700 high-income educated employees and spend their MEDICARE. They would hire gardeners, carpenters, plumbers, roofers and the like. How about Nurs-

ing Homes and Assisted Living? They would bring even MORE MONEY TO TOWN from Medicare. They have no school requirements, commit no crime and only use the county coroner at the end of it all. They would buy their plot and be buried. Their house would be remodeled and sold to another of the same ilk. It all starts over. Retired folks is a win, win, win proposition which in today's day and age would never even slow down.

A retired population is more than a 'CASH COW' it is a WHOLE HERD OF 'CASH COWS'.

But this "slippery six" that we have today would never think of this, no less try it. It is not 'flashy' enough for Ms. Bynum's run for the state house when her kids go to college. Show me a down side to Montrose becoming a retirement community. By the way, I wrote this up and sent it to Councilwoman Judy Ann Files a few years ago and got the 'bum's rush'. I guess Old Peoples Money is not good enough for Montrose.

Old folks volunteer. Your hospital would go broke and/or service decline if it were not for its volunteers.

Old folks support would support the 70+ churches in town. More volunteers at the soup kitchens and the food warehouse(s).

You cannot hear from the "slippery six" these days without hearing that they need the \$4,000,000 from the 2A tax on groceries. They do not even know how much of the 2A tax IS REALLY on groceries, but they know they need it. (The info is out there they just have not set about getting it). That is 'hard work' and it takes experience, intelligence and persistence. That they don't have. Information is required in order to make sound worthwhile decisions. A SOLUTION: If the tax on groceries is half of the needed \$4,000,000, remove the tax on groceries and double the rate on the other goods that 2A taxes. This simple action would eliminate the unfair repressive tax on the less financially advantaged in town and get the \$4,000,000 that the simple-six say they need.

My definition of 'ignorant' is "the refusal to learn".

So your choice is, stick to the people who

refuse to think, do research, to learn and who just follow Bell's lead or get a new crew into your city government who will clean house and achieve sound results thru their hard work. To reelect the same ones or the same sort that you have elected before EXPECTING a different result, is just downright stupid.

Conduct a complete review of city contracts, city financials and city expenditures.

Publish weekly in the newspaper, the city checkbook for ALL to see.

I want to be elected to the council to do my part in bringing Transparent, Accountable and Affordable government to Montrose. I bring with me honesty, integrity and experience. I need a team to serve with me and I chose Yvonne Meek and David White. Yvonne is a knowledgeable experienced businesswoman who knows what she stands for and has background with the merchants of Main Street. Everything she has she has worked hard to get. I have known David White for years. He owns and operates two very successful businesses and makes a payroll. He is well educated and knows research. Both of these candidates will serve Montrose well as will I. I have much experience with four different businesses that I have owned. In everything I have undertaken in life I have achieved significant results. I will serve one term only but with the three of us we will do what is right for Montrose and her citizens. VOTE BENNETT, MEEK AND WHITE when your ballots arrive and get a different set of results than the last eight years. We will end the shenanigans.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

P.S. Then our non-thinking elitist leaders don't consider the unintended consequence of sending youngsters home without considering their school meals or the consequence of having two working parents---because their folks have to both work because they are poor. Don't we pay these people to think? One of these parents will have to take the days off to care for them and there will be less food to go around. Doesn't the high priced help ever 'look before they leap'. Unconscionable!

ISSUE 254 March 16, 2020

ART & SOL

BROTHER CROWE BRINGS CELTIC AMERICANA SOUND TO OURAY

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-A fiddle, harmonica and banjo are ingredients for an entertaining evening with Detroit-based group Brother Crowe. *Brother Crowe* identifies as Celtic Americana with a New Indie/Bluegrass/Celtic influence. The concert is presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be at the historic Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street in Ouray.

The band was formed by two brothers influenced by their father's love of Folk and Celtic music. *Derek Wikarski is on lead vocals, harmonica, bodhran, mandolin and Paul Wikarski plays the guitar, banjo, bodhran, and also accompanies vocals. Steve Lesko from the Celtic group Cross-Bow, will be featured as the guest fiddler.* Paul is dubbed Brother Crowes' main songwriter. The duo works on music together, jamming out the skeletons of tunes until they're finished. "Derek will then fine tune some of the melodies and the lyrics a little bit," Paul says.

"He's the one singing them. There are a few things that he'll truncate or maybe he'll change a phrase up, add a half verse or a full verse from what I originally wrote. The songs definitely go through an ele-

ment where we pound them into shape."

The focus for Brother Crowe has been on original music, while trying to branch a tad outside of the box. Their music is going down favorably at local Detroit venues as well as well-attended festivals. That's where Brother Crowe is at their finest. "There's an element of spontaneity at festivals,"

Derek says. "We really engage the crowd. It's really fun that we don't ever play the same stuff twice when we do the gigs. People love it and we love it."

Advance tickets are \$18, \$20 at the door and \$5 for students (18 years and under). A cash bar will be provided by the Wright Opera House. More information and tickets may be found at ocpag.org. We encourage patrons who are not feeling well to stay home.



Brother Crowe. Courtesy photo.

Hand sanitizer and wipes for chair hand rests will be provided for concert attendees while at the theater.

The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is a not-for-profit organization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to the local area.

Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAYFLY OUTDOORS NAMED A SILVER BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESS BY THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The League of American Bicyclists recently recognized Mayfly Outdoors with a Silver Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) award, earning it a place alongside 1,366 businesses across the country contributing to the movement to build a more Bicycle Friendly America. Mayfly is just the third business on the Western Slope to earn the designation, and the first ever in Montrose.

By kicking off the New Year alongside 153 new and renewing BFBs, Mayfly joins local businesses, government agencies, and Fortune 500 companies in all 50 states and Washington, DC, in a commitment to transform American workplaces to be more welcoming to customers and employees who bike.

"When places make it easier for people to choose to bike, they are building safer, stronger, and better connected communities. The League of American Bicyclists is thrilled when organizations like Mayfly join us in this movement to build a more Bicycle Friendly America. When more people are biking to work or shop, life is better for everyone," says Executive Director Bill Nesper of the League of American

Bicyclists.

Mayfly recently partnered with the Montrose community to restore and enhance nearly 1.5 miles of the Uncompahgre river. The endeavor included the installation of nearly 2.25 miles of new river trails for families and outdoor enthusiasts, including over 40 acres of open space enhancement and wildlife preservation. "Montrose is really important to us, and our goal is to make it a better place," said David Dragoo, Mayfly's founder.

Mayfly encourages bicycling as an easy option for transportation and provides amenities such as employee lockers and showers as well as events such as Lunch n' Learns on bike commuting and Bike In Movie Nights.

Mayfly worked closely with the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance (MABA) throughout the application process. "As a Certified B[®] Corporation and honoree of The Civic 50 Colorado, this BFB designation is just one more way that Mayfly is showing their commitment to sustainability and the health of our community," said Tammy Zamoyski, Executive Director of the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance. "When the Founder & Executive Chairman of the



company commutes by bicycle on a regular basis, that sets a really good example for the rest of the staff and shows that the company values an active, healthy lifestyle. We are lucky to have Mayfly in our community."

Moving forward, Mayfly will have access to a variety of tools and technical assistance from the League to become even more bicycle-friendly. When employees bike, great things happen. We can decrease our carbon footprint, reduce healthcare costs, become more connected to the community and create a fun and healthy work culture.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LATE WINTER THE BEST TIME TO PRUNE TREES

Special to Art & Sol

FORT COLLINS— With spring around the corner, the Colorado State Forest Service is reminding residents that late winter is the best time to prune most trees. Trees are still dormant at this time of year and, unlike in early winter, wound closure will happen sooner if pruning occurs just prior to the time new growth emerges.

“Pruning trees during the late dormant season maximizes growth and allows the tree owner to spot problem areas and build strong structure for the long term,” said Vince Urbina, urban and community forestry manager for the CSFS. Urbina noted that although some elms, maples, birch and walnut trees may visibly exude sap if pruned in the late winter or early spring, this should not harm the tree.

The CSFS offers the following tree pruning tips:

Know what you want to accomplish before you start pruning. Don’t remove any living branches without a good reason or specific objectives in mind.

Remove any torn, dead or broken branches.

For shade trees, develop or maintain one dominant vertical top stem, or leader, and don’t cut off the tops of trees.

Space the main branches along the trunk, and prevent branches below the permanent canopy from growing upright or getting too large.



The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) provides professional forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise, and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. Courtesy photo.

Always prune just outside the branch collar, the point where one branch leaves a larger one (or the trunk), often discerned by raised or wrinkled bark.

Limit pruning of newly planted trees to the removal of dead, damaged or crossing limbs, or those interfering with the main stem.

Avoid removing too many of a tree’s branches in any one year, which puts un-

due stress on the tree. Consider recycling pruned limbs by having them ground into mulch. If a job requires running a chainsaw overhead or removing large branches or entire trees, Urbina said it is best to contact an insured, ISA Certified Arborist. A list of these professionals can be found at www.isa-arbor.com. For more information about urban tree care, go to csfs.colostate.edu.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

12TH ANNUAL RE-1J STUDENT ART SHOW @ MCA

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose and Olathe Art Teachers are proud to present their 12th annual student art show featuring art work created by K-12 students. Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) 11 South Park Avenue, Montrose, April 1- April 16. Opening Reception. April 03 / 5-7pm.



MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS



MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.

Bingo March 17, 2020 ELKS LODGE BINGO!! Time to party it up and play some Elks Bingo to win some cash!! It's good to hear laughter during Bingo at the Elks again. People in the Montrose area are amazing!

Join the fun during St Patty's Day Bingo dressed as your favorite Irish lass or Finnegan for a cash award for the best women's and men's costume.

In addition, we have 2 MUST GO JACKPOTS! Progressive Game 2 has reached status of Must Go, meaning \$500 will be awarded to the first person that reaches Bingo.

Progressive Game 4 has also reached Must Go status and \$1,199 will be awarded to the first person to reach Bingo.

Progressive Game 6 has a *decent Jackpot worth over \$6,000* and can be won by reaching Bingo in 53 numbers or fewer.

Bingo opens at 5 PM. Card sales begins at 6:00 PM and an "Early Bird" set of 5 quick games begins at 6:30. The main Bingo session of 8 games, including 3 Progressives starts at 7:00 PM. Cost for Early Bird is \$4 per pack and cost for the main Bingo session is \$10 per Bingo pack that includes all 3 Progressive Bingo games. Fresh turkey and cheese sandwiches, chips, and a soda are available from the Kitchen for \$6 at 6 PM. The Lounge will have drink specials and \$3 pints of beer. Make Montrose Elks Bingo your *destination* to get away and laugh with old friends or make new ones.

(Montrose Elks Bingo is open to the public.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL MARCH DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE-MHS
March Division Award winners are:
Left to Right- Jonah Johnson, Morgan Hammond, Hannah Lee, Yesenia Gonzalez, Aurn Deter, Miguel Medrano, Julian Leiby, Riley Kettell, Valerie Merritt, Rose Kelley, Cora Blowers, and Keagan Goodwin. Congratulations to all!



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PERDITA'S COFFEE SHOP TO OPEN IN GRAND JUNCTION ON APRIL 2

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-Ariel Clinical Services is expanding Charley's Cookies to include our new coffee shop, Perdita's, 2938 North Ave, Suite D in Grand Junction on Thursday, April 2, 2020. *Ribbon Cutting at 11:30 a.m.

Ariel Clinical Services provides a number of services in our community that focus on nurturing and supporting children, families and adults. The mission for Perdita's Coffee and Charley's Cookies is "Brewing opportunities, one cup at a time". We offer a comfortable atmosphere of inclusivity and employment support in our community.

Perdita's Coffee & Charley's Cookies will treat each customer as part of the family. We will serve the best quality coffee and cookies with special attention on locally sourced goods. Our inclusive environment will give opportunities to individuals that might otherwise have barriers to employment.

We have two private meetings rooms, will deliver with a \$10 minimum. We look forward to hosting your next meeting.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KAFM COMMUNITY RADIO ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF CYRENE JAGGER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Special to art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION – KAFM 88.1 Community Radio is pleased to announce that Cyrene Jagger has joined the station as Executive Director. She replaces Ramona Winkler who started with the station as a volunteer in 2004 and has served as Executive Director since August 2015.

Cyrene brings to KAFM an extensive background in the radio and music industries, having served at several stations in California and Colorado as Station Manager, Program Director, Morning Show Host, Newscaster, Account Executive, Production Director, and Music Director.

In addition to her radio experience, Cyrene was General Manager at McTrax International, a record label and multi-media firm. Prior to becoming General Manager, Cyrene was Publicity and Tour Manager for many successful tours in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Germany and Japan, including performances at Wembley Arena, Manchester Stadium, and the Isle of Wight Festival. She has also successfully managed her own advertising agency and taken two firms from pre-IPO to fully operational businesses. She has been Associate Producer for several award-winning TV

shows, voiced thousands of radio commercials, won awards as Executive Producer of infomercials and specialty TV shows, and authored many professional articles.

“Cyrene brings such a wealth of knowledge and experience to KAFM. We feel very fortunate to have someone of her talent joining our team,” offered President Joe Gudorf in making the announcement. “After celebrating our 20-year anniversary serving the Grand Valley, we believe Cyrene has the ability to build on the legacy that Ramona leaves and help us continue to grow in the coming years,” he added.

As Cyrene joins KAFM, Ramona Winkler moves into the key role of Corporate Development Director for the station. Ramona will be responsible for maintaining and growing KAFM’s underwriting support on the Western Slope and managing grants. In this role, she will continue to help the station grow, while maintaining continuity with KAFM’s underwriters, staff, volunteers, and members.

“Ramona has tremendous passion for the station. Her contributions over the past 4-1/2 years as ED have made KAFM stronger and better able to fulfill our mission. We

are grateful she will continue to be an important member of the KAFM family,” added President Gudorf.

KAFM is a member supported, volunteer oriented community radio station dedicated to excellence and diversity in musical, cultural, and public service programming. With signal strength of 300 watts KAFM 88.1 draws on the expertise of many volunteers to create a unique blend of music programming —Americana, Triple-A, singer-songwriter, bluegrass, rock, jazz, and blues—with some additional specialty shows. The station produces a daily community affairs hour Monday thru Friday, featuring information and discussion about area non-profit organizations and community issues. The station also operates the Radio Room, a 75-seat performance and meeting venue in the KAFM facilities at 1310 Ute Avenue in Grand Junction.

The station began broadcasting in March of 1999 after nearly seven years of planning and fundraising. Today, it has over 750 active members, more than 100 local underwriters and nearly 200 volunteers. For more information on the station and its operations, visit www.kafmradio.org.

ZEBULON MIRACLE TO PRESENT TALK ON HISTORICAL MAPS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Area historian Zebulon Miracle will present a talk about historical maps on March 18 at the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society meeting in Montrose. Maps are invaluable for understanding historical communities and sites. This talk will show hundreds of years of western Colorado history though maps included early exploration, General

Land Office surveys, and Sanborn maps. Each of these resources are available online and brief instructions and tips on using these databases will be given.

Zebulon Miracle is a historian and anthropologist who specializes in connecting audiences to the people, places, and events that make up the American West. A western Colorado native, Zeb was a curator at the Museums of Western Colora-

do for a dozen years before going to Gateway Canyons where he was the director of the Gateway Auto Museum and educational programs.

He is currently the Corporate Partner Manager for the Forever Our Rivers Foundation. The public is invited to the presentation which will be at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Street, Montrose.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SLEUTHING SNOW TRACKS FOR ANIMAL INTEL

By Anne Janik,

Friends of Youth and Nature

Like the pages of a book telling a story, the tracks, trails and impressions in the snow reveal the activities of animals in your neighborhood. Each type of animal has unique tracks which reveal a lot about their lifestyles and habits.

By discovering tracks, scat, and other signs of wildlife in snow, you can turn a winter hike into a treasure hunt for your child. Select a snowy area where you are likely to find an assortment of animal tracks, and keep the hikes short and leisurely. Fresh snow early in the morning is best, before tracks melt away. Imagination is key! Animal tracking combines science, creativity, and storytelling. You won't see the animal itself but the tracks they leave behind are pieces of the puzzle for you to solve. What kind of animal made the track, and what was it doing? Where did they come from, and where were they going? Prompt your child's curiosity and help sharpen their observation skills.

To identify a track start by counting the toes. If it has two toes, it's probably a deer, elk or moose. If it has four toes and a heel pad, it could be a bobcat, lynx, or mountain lion; it could also be a canine like a fox, coyote, or dog. The easiest way to tell a cat from a dog track is the presence of nails. Cat's toenails are critical for catching prey so they keep them retracted for protection when not in use. Most canine tracks, on the other hand, have visible nail marks above their pads. Five toes? It could be a raccoon, or another animal that uses its paws like hands.

Next, take a good look at the size and how deep the tracks are in the snow. A mouse is smaller than a squirrel. A smaller and lighter animal will leave a shallower impression. Show your child how much deeper your tracks are compared to theirs.

Among the big cats, a bobcat track is smaller (and likely more shallow) than that of a lynx or a mountain lion, with the mountain lions' being the biggest print – almost the size of an adult fist. Lynx tracks can be distinctive because their

tracks have hair impressions around the pads.

Dog and coyote tracks look similar, but coyote tracks are narrow and diamond shaped while dog tracks are rounder with more space between the pads. Fox tracks are shaped like a coyote but much smaller.

Another clue is the animals stride or the repeating pattern of their prints in the snow. Animals walk in four basic patterns: walking, galloping, bounding and pacing or waddling. Those patterns are influenced by the length of an animals legs and their overall body shape.

A walking pattern is characteristic of animals with long legs like a cat, dog, coyote, deer or elk. These animals are very efficient and will often place their back foot on top of where their front foot was. Their stride pattern is a series of single prints generally in a straight line.

Squirrels, chipmunks, mice, rabbits and snowshoe hare are gallopers because they leap from one location to another. Rabbits and squirrels are similar in that their larger hind paws land in front of the smaller front paws, making four distinct prints per track– two parallel long prints in front of two small round prints. Tracks of snowshoe hare are similar to rabbits but much larger. Look for the round toe impressions of rabbits compared with the long finger marks of squirrels.

Bounders are animals that have a bounding stride like weasels, mink and otters. Their front paws hit first and then their back paws land where their front paws were. Their tracks appear as two paws that fall side-by-side. Weasels often drag their tails, leaving a central furrow.

Pacers or waddlers are short-legged, heavy-set mammals (beavers, porcupines, raccoons, skunk, and bears) that have a distinctive track with four paw prints. They waddle, shifting their weight to the right so their left front/back paws can move forward, then shift their weight to the left so their right front/rear paws can move forward. You can't miss a bear track – its paws are huge with five rounded toes



Lincoln Elementary School students learn that each type of animal has unique tracks which reveal a lot about their lifestyles and habits. Courtesy photo.

and a wide heel pad.

Don't forget bird tracks. You can usually only see their footprints, but sometimes you can see the wing marks where one landed.

Take a look at the bigger picture surrounding a set of tracks. Look at the direction of the tracks, and where they end up. A good tracker will be on the lookout for other clues such as blood and/or wing marks indicating maybe a hawk caught something, a spot where an animal burrowed, seeds of a pinecone scattered about (squirrel lunch), or yellow snow– animals pee too!

If you want to expand your identification skills, there are apps to help you such as *iTrack Wildlife Apps* by Nature Tracking. All are easy to use, contain high resolution photos with detailed information and work offline.

Remember to be safe. If you spot the actual animal, give it space and an escape route. Always observe from a distance. If you are causing a change in their behavior, you are too close. Whatever tracks you and your child find are clues to an awesome winter treasure hunt, and will spark wonder and discoveries about the animals in your neck of the woods!

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. To learn more, visit:

www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

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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.

MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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-

CANCELLED-March 16-Montrose Toastmasters OPEN HOUSE.

CANCELLED-March 17-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club presents Nicole Fucigna

March 18-Area historian Zebulon Miracle will present a talk about historical maps on March 18 at the Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society meeting in Montrose. The public is invited to the presentation which will be at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Street, Montrose.

March 21-7:30 p.m. – Brother Crowe, Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray. Advance tickets \$15, \$18 at the door and \$5 students (18 and under) at www.ocpag.org.

CANCELLED-March 22-Music of Stage and Screen! Montrose Pavilion.

March 28-SOM Footwear (1006 North Cascade Avenue) will be open on the last Saturday of February and March from 9am until 5pm. Just give us a call to schedule a tour. The outlet store has some amazing discounted inventory that is only available for purchase in the store. If you have been thinking about SOM's but can never make it during business hours, now is your chance!

April 1-16-Montrose and Olathe Art Teachers are proud to present their 12th annual student art show featuring art work created by K-12 students. Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) 11 South Park Avenue, Montrose, April 1- April 16. Opening Reception. April 03 / 5-7pm

April 5-Quarteto Nuevo Jazz Road Tour Saturday, April 4/Sunday April 5: Blue Sage Center for the Arts, 228 Grand Ave., Paonia. The Saturday show is at 7:30 pm. The Sunday Family Matinee show is at 3 pm. <https://bluesage.org> Tickets: <https://bluesage.org/list-events/> 970-527-7243

CANCELLED-April 8-5th Annual A Taste of Colorado at the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose.

April 16-Filmed By Bike-This is a collection of short films with a theme of bicycle adventure. Thursday, April 16 5:30pm-8:30pm. Doors open at 5:30pm and the film festival starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance (montrosebicycle.org/event/film) or \$15 at the door.

April 18-On Saturday, April 18, celebrate 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with The Stupid Band. Intrinzik, 512 East Main Street, from 7 to 10 p.m.

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.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

"Don't we have the most beautiful skies in Colorado?" asks Photographer Deb Reimann, who captured this exciting cloud formation.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

A black bear is sitting on a wooden bench, holding a tablet computer. The bear is looking at the screen. In the background, there is a mountain landscape with green hills and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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