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the Montrose Mirror

Thank you to grocery and retail workers across the United States, for your courage

Issue No. 369 March 23, 2020

FRANTIC TOILET PAPER BUY-UP CONTINUES



Toilet paper. Mirror file photo.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Local shoppers hoping to restock on toilet paper or cleaning supplies will have to be patient—or very, very quick.

On Saturday, March 21, shelves were empty of toilet paper at Kroger's City Market stores, and staff are unsure when the next load will come in.

"We have none at the moment," a Downtown City Market grocery staffer said Saturday. "We're expecting a truck tonight, but we're not 100-percent sure we will get any. They are limiting what they send to each store; we are not allowed to order paper products or cleaning supplies—they are just

[Continued pg 3](#)

MATT & MARCI MILES TO SUSPEND APRIL RENTS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Matt and Marci Miles, owners of three manufactured housing developments on the Western Slope, will suspend rents in their developments for the month of April. This impacts approximately 1,000 home sites located at Midlands Village in Grand Junction, as well as Cimarron Creek Community and River Meadows in Montrose.

The average manufactured home site rent is \$500. Matt said, "We'll take a hit, but we're all in this together. We can't forgo rents indefinitely, but we can for the month of April. We went through 2008 [recession], it was tough. When people need help, we've got to help them. It's time for everyone to work together. These people can probably pay their rent, but if we help them, they can help others."

The Miles' hope to spark others in the community to pull together during the COVID-19 outbreak. Matt said, "When we work together, we can do in minutes what it takes the federal government to do in months. We're hoping to get others onboard. It's time for everyone to work together."



Above, Cimarron Creek, one of Matt & Marci Miles' developments.
Photo by Gail Marvel.

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issue

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES: CALL FIRST

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- Delta County Human Services is requesting individuals who are seeking to apply for public assistance, first call and make an appointment at 970-874-2030. If you have a completed or signed application, you can drop it off between 8:30am – 4:30pm at our Delta office located at 560 Dodge Street, or at the North Fork Annex located at 196 W. Hotchkiss Avenue, in Hotchkiss. All other paperwork can be submitted via the drop box located outside the main entrance of each location.

Applications can still be processed if submitted from the PEAK internet site: <https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/?fs=y> Applications for Medical Assistance can be submitted by calling the Medicaid Hotline at 1-800-221-3943.



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FRANTIC TOILET PAPER BUY-UP CONTINUES From pg 1

sending us what they can.

"We did get four palettes on the last truck."

At WalMart, staff never know what will come in a shipment.

Still, a staffer told the *Mirror* Saturday that though shelves were presently empty, toilet paper has been arriving regularly.

"We've been getting some in, but as quick as we get it, it's gone," she said.

At Montrose Safeway, Store Manager Scott Pfeiffer said that while shelves were empty of toilet paper at the moment, grocery trucks do arrive regularly on Tuesday, Saturday, and Thursday nights.

"Everybody seems to know that already," he said.

"Whatever we get, we put out. Usually it is gone in less than an hour—the last load

took less than 10 minutes—which I don't get.

"There has got to be enough toilet paper by now to TP the whole City of Montrose three times over."

VOTE TO ELECT

BILL BENNETT

FOR CITY COUNCIL

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

Decision Time Is Here!

BALLOT



DAVID WHITE – District 3

- **No frills... just common sense
LEADERSHIP**
- **Fiscally responsible; extensive
business experience**
- **Encourages citizen participation**
- **Supports non-subsidized growth
and development**
- **Responsive to actual community
needs**

Paid by Committee to Elect David S.White

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY TRANSITIONS TO REMOTE OPERATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— In an effort to prevent the anticipated spread of COVID-19 in Montrose County, the Montrose County Board of Health has closed all county buildings to the public effectively immediately. This closure currently excludes Montrose Regional Airport and the Justice Center which remain open. All events at the Montrose County Fairgrounds and Event Center are cancelled until further notice.

All county services remain active and are being served by staff working remotely and/or utilizing amended schedules. Continuity of county operations is critical at this time. We are making every effort to

assure that the county workforce remains healthy and is able to provide ongoing services to the public.

The public is asked to conduct any county business via phone or email if at all possible. Please continue to utilize your usual county contacts during this closure. Contacts for county divisions are available on montrosecounty.net. Ongoing updates will be made available through standard channels of communication as well as the Montrose County website at montrosecounty.net.

The county strongly encourages any individuals that are feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms to remain home if at all possi-

ble.

We urge those who believe they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to call the Montrose County Public Health Line at 970-252-4545. If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment info line at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911, for answers in many languages, or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English. Please remember, 911 should be used for medical emergencies only. For updates on COVID-19, please visit montrosecounty.net/covid19 or <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR COVID-19

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) in collaboration with Delta County, will be relocating the COVID-19 Test and Collection Center east of the Grand Mesa Building (Oncology building) and creating a COVID-19 Call Center.

"It is critically vital that we collaborate with our County partners," said Robbie LeValley, Delta County Administrator. "With our combined efforts in the implementation of the County Call Center, as well as the Testing and Collection Center, our goal is to provide an outlet where Delta County citizens can get timely and up to date information, as well as easier access to the public Testing and Collection Center."

The Testing and Collection Center will be open from 8:00am to 11:30am, Monday

through Saturday only to Delta County residents and hospital employees. It is recommended to bring identification and insurance cards.

"In an effort to give Urgent Care unabated access to urgent care patients and their needs, we have decided to move locations," stated Jody Roeber, Chief Clinical Officer for DCMH. "We have great staff and working closely with the County to provide the best care and access for our community."

"As of now, all tests are still being taken to the state lab," stated Jacque Davis, Public Information Officer and Marketing Director for DCMH. "A lab courier comes only once a day at noon to collect the tests Sunday through Friday."

The Testing and Collection Center will also be staffed with a provider who will be tri-

aging patients to determine if they need to be tested, treated, or given other instructions. COVID-19 test have been taking multiple days to be resulted.

"The Call Center will be staffed with volunteers from 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Saturday, for now," stated Darnell Place-Wise, Delta County Public Information Officer.

"This will be another tool for the community to gather information on COVID-19, testing information, as well as additional community resources as this situation continues to evolve."

DCMH alongside Delta County say they are confident in the preventative measures they have taken thus far to protect the community and to provide them with timely information.

Delta County Call Center: 970-874-2172.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONFIRMED CASE OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) and Montrose County Public Health has confirmed that one person in Montrose County tested positive for novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 on March 20, 2020. The individual is a 39-year-old male and is currently in quarantine at his residence. The testing process is overseen by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and was conducted by Montrose County Public Health Department.

"This individual is currently in self-isolation. CDPHE staff, in conjunction with Montrose County Public Health, are monitoring the person who may have been exposed and investigating any additional contacts this individual may have had with community members," said Lisa Gallegos, Montrose County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Communicable Disease Specialist. "We hope this individual recovers quickly and that there limited spread in Montrose County. Systems are in place to address the needs of the affect-

ed individual."

Montrose Memorial Hospital has implemented temporary visitor restrictions. As such, people with respiratory symptoms are not permitted to visit (symptoms include cough, sore throat, aches, fever). Children under the age of 18 are not allowed in the patient care areas. Additionally, only one visitor will be allowed per patient and lengths of visits may be limited.

"Montrose County Public Health and community partners have been preparing for this circumstance, and we want to reassure the community that the county is in constant communication with both the CDPHE and CDC regarding this incident and future preparedness measures," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "I am asking that Montrose County residents help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by following guidance from the CDC to include social distancing, hand-washing, and self-isolation when experiencing mild symptoms."

If you are feeling ill with symptoms simi-

lar to those associated with COVID-19:

- Manage your symptoms at home the same way you manage other cold symptoms. We want to reduce the risk of transmission, so to the extent possible, people with flu-like symptoms should remain at home.
- If you need medical care, contact your primary care provider via phone. Let them know that you are concerned you might have COVID-19.
- Only contact 9-1-1 for emergencies requiring immediate life-saving care and let them know if you are concerned you might have COVID-19.
- Restrict visits to the hospital emergency room or urgent care - only individuals needing immediate care should visit these facilities. If you must visit an ER or urgent care facility, call ahead and let them know that you are concerned you might have COVID-19. Please note that Public Health was notified about this case after 4pm, as such the state's website and interactive data are updated daily at approximately 4pm.



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

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

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

DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2020

COUNTY BUILDING CLOSURES PROMPT REMINDERS FROM CLERK TRESSA GUYNES

MONTROSE-Currently and in an effort to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in our public facing areas, the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder's Office is open to the public 8:30am to 9:30am, then 11am to 3pm Monday–Thursday to accommodate those who must have in-person transactions conducted. We are closed to the public Friday. We are striving to accommodate your needs. We do strongly urge residents to use online services, over the phone, or by email. Although closed to the public during certain hours, Clerks are working normal hours of operation **8am–5pm**. Please call or email us to let us know your needs – see contact information regarding subject matter below. If you have ADA accommodations needs, please call and make an appointment.

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
During this time, the CO Department of Revenue is allowing these additional online transactions:

Submit a first-time registration

Replace license plates

Email: VR@montrosecounty.net

Phone: 970-249-3362 Ext 1

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 pur-

chase 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.

Email: Recording@montrosecounty.net

Phone: 970-249-3362 Ext 2

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.

Email: Elections@montrosecounty.net

Phone: 970-249-3362 Ext 3

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

Montrose
Resident
Since 1996

Vote for YVONNE MEEK

AT-LARGE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SEAT

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY I PLAN TO VOTE FOR ROY ANDERSON FOR CITY COUNCIL

Dear Editor,

I have resided in Montrose County for over 50 years and recently moved into the city. I have watched politicians in both the city and county come and go.

In the city council race for District III, there are two candidates: Roy Anderson, the incumbent, and David White, a former county commissioner with a partial term on city council. In Roy Anderson's favor, I have seen a talented engineer with good experience, knowledge, and integrity. He has been instrumental in promoting the fiber optic system, which is now installed in many areas of the city and which helps keep Montrose on an even playing field with the larger cities in Colorado.

Roy spends the time to investigate what he is voting on, and we have all benefited from his competent approach. As mayor, Mr. Anderson ran effective meetings that were transparent and designed to keep the public informed.

When I look at David White's record, the first thing I see are huge lawsuits between

the county and neighboring organizations. It was a real relief to hear shortly after the new County Commissioners were sworn in, that they had settled the long, protracted, extremely expensive lawsuit with the hospital. Lawsuits also occurred at the airport, over an access to the runway, and additionally over disputes with the fixed base operator's contract. An additional lawsuit was related to a wrongful termination of a pregnant employee.

Many millions of taxpayer funds have been spent on these frivolous endeavors. Two terms (8 years) of that nonsense has been enough.

I plan to vote for Roy Anderson as a positive builder of our community rather than David White, whose actions have led to real problems throughout his term of office.

Sincerely presented,
Dan Beshoar, Montrose

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BEING HACKED TO DEATH

Editor:

The 50 year old Congressional Declaration of National Environmental Policy is being hacked to death by the current administration. The latest attack is a proposed rule to dismantle some key features of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). One such change is the elimination of the requirement for analysis of cumulative effects in regard to activities on public lands. This is in reality a work-around to proper management of the public's lands and resources. A few other proposed changes involve allowing proponent control of analysis rather than wise ecosystem management. Please forward your concerns to your governmental representatives.

Wayne Quade, Montrose



VOTE FOR

Charli Oswald

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE

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



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Find me on the web
at: www.DeltaMontroseCountyRealEstate.com



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

SUPPORT MONTROSE POLICE EFFORTS BY COOPERATING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH REQUESTS, CHIEF HALL ADVISES

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Like other City staff working to prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 in Colorado, Montrose Police officers have not had a day off in weeks. The Department has joined forces with other agencies, including the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, to keep the community safe as the number of cases in the state continues to grow. The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Montrose County was announced last week.

"We have a good plan, and we're all in this together," Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said. "There are essential services we have to protect; so that essential operations can still function, we have limited human contact."

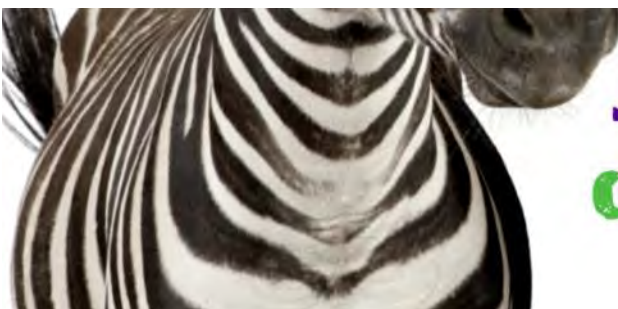
Non-emergency calls will be taken over the phone rather than in person, Hall said. "To some degree, that makes things harder," he noted. "We're used to being able to talk face-to-face."

The public can support law enforcement by cooperating with public health requests, Hall said.

"Please cooperate as we all try to limit the spread of the virus," Hall said. "Do what you're asked to do; follow the social distancing guidelines handed down by the State."

"Be aware of your surroundings, and limit human contact," he said. "Maintain a six-foot distance, and lots of hand washing."

COVID-19 information can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>.



**Journalism of a
different stripe.**

montrosemirror.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (DAVID WHITE, RON HENDERSON, GARY ELLIS)/STEPHANIE BARNETT LAWSUIT

Dear Editor,

Stephanie Barnett began her employment for Montrose County in 2007 and was promoted to head of the Internal Services Department in February 2011. Mrs. Barnett has a Certificate in Public Management and a Masters of Public Administration. In February 2013 she informed her supervisor, County Manager Rick Eckert, that she was pregnant and requested that her hours be reduced to lower her stress during the pregnancy; however, she was willing to continue working full time if necessary. Nine days later she was fired by Mr. Eckert, who stated that her services were no longer needed and that her position had been eliminated. Five days after her termination, she suffered a miscarriage.

At the time, the Board of County Commissioners consisted of David White, Ron Henderson, and Gary Ellis. Mr. Ellis was out of town when the process to terminate was commenced, but upon his re-

turn, he met with the county manager and indicated he was in favor of Mrs. Barnett's request for a part-time position. Nevertheless, on March 15, 2013, Mr. Eckert terminated Mrs. Barnett's employment.

Mrs. Barnett subsequently filed suit against the Montrose Board of County Commissioners in U.S. District Court in Grand Junction. The trial was held with a 12-member jury from July 13 to July 15, 2015, and they ruled unanimously that the Montrose County Board of Commissioners had discriminated against Stephanie due to her gender and pregnancy, both violations of federal law.

The jury awarded Mrs. Barnett \$306,400 in back pay, compensatory damages, and special expenses. In addition, judges awarded her \$689,164, primarily for lost future pay and attorney fees, for a total of \$995,564. That figure does not include what the taxpayers had to pay in defense of the Board of County Commissioners, and it was a sizeable number. The real

issue here, however, is not the numbers but what happened as a result of actions of that Board of County Commissioners through the county manager.

I want to emphasize that I applaud the current Board of Commissioners. They settled a lawsuit with the hospital initiated by the previous board, have developed good relationships with staff and with the city, and operate in a transparent manner.

Readers must form their own opinions about this case and the jury's unanimous finding of gender and pregnancy discrimination, as well as the subsequent awards by the judges. My opinion is that I have seen enough of David White in public office, and I intend to vote for a knowledgeable, careful, honest individual, Roy Anderson, in the Montrose City Council election.

Respectfully,

Bob Nicholson

Former Mayor and Council Member,
Montrose City Council

VOTE FOR DAVID WHITE TO IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF MONTROSE

Editor:

I have worked with David White a number of times in the past and have found him to be conservative and trustworthy. His concerns are for the people of Montrose and he does not believe in wasting taxpayer money on unnecessary things that do not actually benefit the citizens. I would encourage you to cast your vote for David White to represent District 3 and improve the future of our City.

Cheryl Young, Montrose

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The Mirror
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D'Medici Footwear & Clothing

8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



HERE WE ARE IN MONTROSE, MARCH 2020

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EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!

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8-YEAR ANNIVERSARY SALE!**

Only at 316 EAST MAIN STREET, IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE



OUR TOWN MATTERS WILL MOVE TO MAIN & SAN JUAN



Our Town Matters Business Center, a full-service marketing and event firm with Business Alliance, will relocate to 1245 East Main in Montrose. The new location is the former Century 21 Real Estate building. Photo by Gail Marvel.



Tonya Maddox of Our Town Matters. Courtesy photo.

By Gail Marvel
MONTROSE—Our Town Matters Business Center, a full-service marketing and event firm with Business Alliance, will relocate their office to 1245 East Main in Montrose. Owner and Chief

Executive Officer Tonya Maddox said, “Basically we are a business incubator who offers affordable space. We are not offering shared space, but individual office space. Each office has a door that can be locked.”

WiFi and utilities are included, and lessees share the reception area, conference room, kitchen and breakroom.

Phase I of the remodel has five offices. Maddox said, “We will open May 1st, with the Grand Opening scheduled for June. With Phase II we will include three more

offices and we should be up and running in August. There is also a suite possibility upstairs.”

Cost for individual office space is \$300 - \$350 a month. Maddox said, “When I started Our Town Matters a year ago, I couldn’t find office space for less than \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month. There is definitely a need for affordable office space in Montrose. We are also located in an Opportunity Zone, so if people are looking for a tax break, tenants get a tax break. Start-up businesses can invest in their business, rather than spending so much on rent.”

Maddox feels the key to successful marketing today requires a personal touch that builds relationships. She said, “We are opening the center up to the entire community. The lobby will be equipped with both high and low tables. People can use the reception area and the conference room. We offer free WiFi and coffee. I think our business will bloom because we

are personalizing and building relationships. We want to support entrepreneurship and offer tangible solutions that help launch and grow local business.”

Once the space officially opens, Our Town Matters Business Center hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Maddox can be contacted through the Our Town Matters web site; by phone 970-293-7929, or email tonya.maddox@ourtownmatters.net.

When asked about the biggest mistake people make in marketing, Maddox said, “Devaluing their business. They don’t put enough value on their business, or on their brand.”

This week Maddox will participate in a conference call to discuss the effects of the COVID-19. She said, “This will be with a statewide organization trying to evaluate the response to the virus and the impact on small businesses.

“I’m honored to be asked to be a voice for rural America.”



COMMUNITY OF MONTROSE

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MEDICAL ISSUES

- If you have symptoms and you are otherwise healthy, self-isolate for 14 days and treat your symptoms.
- If you have symptoms and you are high-risk call your provider
- If you are asymptomatic but have had contact with someone who is sick, you will not be tested and you do not require medical care. Instead, self-isolate for 14 days
- If you are asymptomatic, you will not be tested and do not require medical care.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit montrosecounty.net/covid19 or contact the Public Information line at 970-252-4545.

COMMUNITY FOOD - DRIVE THROUGH & DELIVERY

Montrose County School District - Available to all students, includes 1 lunch & 1 breakfast per bag

- Monday - Friday, 11 am-1 pm
- Visit cityofmontrose.org/covid19 and click 'Community Resources' for pickup locations and/or to order delivery to your door

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Montrose Business Update Zoom Call

- Wednesdays @ 8:30am

We are the Lunch Crowd

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

Montrose Dines In

- Take-out your order on Fridays!

Montrose Buys Local

- Pickup/Delivery/Order Online your favorite items from local businesses on Saturdays!

More information on registration, business resources and programs at cityofmontrose.org/covid19 under 'Business Resources' or follow [@montrosedart](https://www.facebook.com/montrosedart) on Facebook & Instagram for details

CASH & FOOD ASSISTANCE

Food assistance - SNAP

Enrollment: call 970-252-5000 or for Eligibility: call 970-252-5070

Food Assistance - WIC

Enrollment: call 970-252-5088

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY

Text TALK to 38255

from anywhere in the USA, anytime, about any crisis.

The Center for Mental Health

Call 970-252-3200

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Statewide Information

covid19.colorado.gov/

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Help Line

303-389-1687 or 877-462-2911 or email COHELP@RMPDC.org

Mental Health Crisis

970-252-6220 or text 417417

No Primary Care Provider?

Call 970-252-4545
(press option "2") M-F 8a-6p

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Colorado Now

HelpColoradonow.org



MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETS TO HEAR UPDATE, CONSIDER RESOLUTION ON COVID-19



Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen can be seen heading for the office on Sunday, March 22. Commissioners also serve as the Montrose County Board of Health.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Monday, March 16, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened as the County's Board of Health to hear an update from County health officials and consider as individual commissioners a **Resolution Concerning COVID-19**.

Public Health Director Jim Austin shared the latest information, including the location of the State of Colorado's Public Education website, where cases are listed along with County of origin. "It relieves us of the burden of having to update documents," he said.

If a patient suspects COVID-19, but has symptoms that mimic the flu, County medical advisors have advised testing for flu first, Austin said.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Communicable Disease Specialist Lisa Gallegos said, "We have tested ten individuals in Montrose County...we are waiting for those results to come back...it can take three to four days to get those results."

People have asked how to get tested, she said. "We are following CDC criteria and CDPHE...we have to make sure they fall into a certain category to get tested." Only those who meet criteria are to be tested, she said. An outside testing location will be set up at the PIC Place at 87 Merchant

Drive.

No vaccines are available, those with symptoms are urged to stay home. Those who believe they have been exposed should self-quarantine for 14 days. The County has opened an emergency operations center and is working with other entities and medical providers to coordinate efforts. "We're working together so we can take care of as many in the communi-

ty as we can," Gallegos said. "Once we figure out who needs to be tested, we are sending nurses to test those people." The Board of Health is in touch with the Basin Clinic in the West End as well.

"Generally, we need people to stay home," Commissioner Sue Hansen said. She asked Austin how responsive the County has been to the COVID-19 crisis.

Said Austin, "I think we've been very responsive. We've been in constant contact with our partners in the State Health Department, our regional partners for emergency preparedness...there was the meeting last Thursday of all the stakeholders; there must have been 50 people in the room, and I was quite encouraged by the awareness and the fact that people are taking this seriously."

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch spoke as well. "Over the past three weeks, the County has been preparing for the potential of a remote work or work-from-home situation," he said.

"We've been very diligent in rolling out...access that will County employees to access the County server from wherever they may be," he said, "at home or elsewhere. That has all gone very well to date, and we are prepared to keep the County in business should the Board of Health vote to close public spaces, which is part of the resolution being considered today."

Waschbusch urged the public to use their normal County contacts as needed. "We are going to continue to do business, just in a different way than we normally do...the County web site and all normal channels of communication will be excellent venues for gathering information as things develop...we will continue to put information out as it becomes available...we've prepared, I am glad we've prepared, and we are going to put those plans into effect."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy asked about impacts to Montrose Regional Airport.

"What are we doing with that?"

"The airport is open for business; airlines are continuing to operate flights," Waschbusch said, noting that ski resorts are closed and travelers will be leaving the area.

"We are continuing with aggressive sanitation and cleaning of the terminal as we have been for weeks," Waschbusch said. "...we expect to see those out-of-town visitors on outbound flights for the remainder of the week...the volume of passengers should be decreasing significantly as folks leave the region that were traveling and skiing."

Caddy said that extra custodial staff are working at the airport, and Delta Airlines has provided cleaning assistance as well.

Hansen asked about impacts to the Clerk & Recorder's Office. Despite COVID-19, elected officials like the Clerk & Recorder have the ability and flexibility to make appointments and keep limited hours to serve and accommodate the public as needed, Waschbusch said, noting that 2020 is an election year. "Every county in the state is dealing with the same issue; counties nationwide are dealing with the same issue."

Hansen said, "I think that just from a public safety prospective, it's our job to keep the community safe...so that everybody lessens the risk of transmission."

"I think a little common sense will go a long ways with this," Caddy said. "Keep your social distancing, wash your hands when you go out, and if you can avoid

Continued next pg

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH CONVENES

From previous pg

going out, avoid it. If you go to work, make sure you keep your social distance and wash your hands. And if you feel sick, stay at home."

Every County department and every elected official has a plan, County Manager Ken Norris said. "We've developed a very strong team approach to this...I think we're very well prepared for it."

Courts will be open for business on a limited basis, Caddy said. "As far as I know it's business as usual at the courts."

Rash asked about messaging to local vet-

erans. County Veterans Service Officer Sheldon Smith said that the Warrior Resource Center, where he has an office, has closed for several weeks, but he remains available by phone and online. "...We should still be able to work just fine...I have been working with Jon to ensure that we are set for assisting veterans with whatever they need."

Hansen commended public health staff for their efforts. "You guys have been working around the clock...a special shout out, and how proud we are that we have

such a dedicated team of professionals taking care of the community. People should feel safe."

Said Rash, "The county's in good shape, we'll get through this, the biggest thing is, don't panic."

He reminded those with symptoms to call their health care provider.

Austin read the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration into the record; Caddy enacted the Declaration, which was properly noticed and ratified at the Wednesday, March 18 BOCC meeting.

COLORADO

NEWS BRIEFS

PUC ADVISES PASSENGERS TO CHECK WITH TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Customers of transportation companies that provide regular scheduled service in Colorado should check with the carrier to ensure that the service is operating as scheduled.

Passengers of common carriers such as shuttles, sightseeing services, charters or other scheduled service providers should be aware that carriers may experience interruptions of service due to restrictions associated with COVID-19.

Transportation carriers providing scheduled service that experience interruptions of 24 hours or more in a continuous period are required to post a notice on their website and notify the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in writing via E-Filings, fax or email.

To ensure that trips are being made as scheduled, customers should call the transportation provider or check the company's website before a scheduled trip. Customers experiencing difficulty in getting in contact with a carrier may reach out to the PUC for assistance at 303-894-2000, option 4.

MONTROSE COMPETITIVE YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL



IN LIGHT OF RECOMMENDED RESPONSES TO COVID-19, THE CITY OF MONTROSE WILL POSTPONE THE START OF THE SEASON.

THOUGH WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE PLANS TO CANCEL THE 2020 SEASON, WE ASK THAT YOU FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (MONTROSEYOUTHBASEBALL), AS WELL AS CITYOFMONTROSE.ORG/BASEBALL FOR UPDATES.

**CONTACT: ALEXIS FORAN
970.240.1402
AFORAN@CITYOFMONTROSE.ORG**



INFORMATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS

FROM THE CITY OF MONTROSE

EVENTS EVERY WEEK UNTIL THE DISASTER IS OVER

WEDNESDAYS 8:30 AM

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

Montrose Dines-In (With Take-Out) Night

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

SATURDAYS

Montrose Buys Local

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

Encourage over the phone payments or online ordering

WE ARE THE LUNCH CROWD

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

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



@montrose_colorado
@cityofmontroseco



@montrosedart
@montrosedart



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TOWN OF RIDGWAY DECLARES EMERGENCY, TAKES PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO MITIGATE COVID-19 SPREAD

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY - The Ridgway town manager has implemented a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency effective immediately. This is a proactive measure to slow the potential spread, impacts, and damage of COVID-19 and will assist the Town of Ridgway in securing regional, state, and federal resources, if necessary.

Town staff is working with the Town Council to schedule a special meeting within the next several days for the Town Council to consider a resolution that would extend the declaration indefinitely through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Ouray County Public Health, at this time there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ouray County, but there are confirmed cases in some neighboring communities. The Town of Ridgway is continuing to closely monitor direction from Ouray County Public Health and state and federal agencies and will follow guidance for the health and safety of the Ridgway community and Town staff.

Ridgway Town offices will be closed to the public beginning March 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. This closure will extend through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period. All Town services remain active but with the following modifications:

Marshal's Office - Remains open with no public access. Officers will be on duty and responding to calls. In the event of an emergency, please dial 911. Town Clerk's Office - Closed to public access. Will operate through email and phone. Please call 970-626-5308, ext. 211, or email pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us. Stay tuned for more details on interacting with this department. Town Parks - Remain open but all public restrooms are closed for the duration of the emergency declaration. Public Works, Community Development - Closed to public access.

Stay tuned for details on interacting with these departments.

Contact information is available at www.colorado.gov/ridgway. All modifications to Town services and operations will be posted to the Town's website,

www.colorado.gov/ridgway, as soon as possible.

Town staff continues to work to put individual department response plans into place with the aim of specifically addressing continuity of operations as they modify operations to prioritize critical/essential operations.

The Town greatly appreciates your patience and understanding as we work to address this unique, rapidly evolving situation and the challenges that come with it. The Town requests that the community remain calm yet vigilant regarding hand washing and face touching, and asks that if community members feel any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they immediately call their primary care physician before going to the doctor, urgent care or hospital to limit any potential spread, especially into a medical facility that is overseeing multiple patients.

For questions or more information, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308 ext. 212.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

QUESTIONS FOR EXISTING CITY COUNCIL

Editor:

About four years ago, likely at the invitation of the city council, Mr. Dragoo's company was enticed to come to Montrose. After some deliberation at least one city councilman was sent to California to presumably be wined and dined by the Dragoos and came back with a glowing report. In spite of considerable public objection a deal was signed between various parties from which, in short, Dragoo got 6.75 million dollars, who knows how much land and all kinds of municipal favors from our fair city. Ostensibly there is a 25 year note (I presume a mortgage) at 4% in existence and I presume it called for payments to begin the next month.

1. Is payment on the note up to date?

The note is supposed to be fully collateralized

Question # 2. What is the collateral? Who valued the collateral? What are the terms for default of the loan and loss of the collateral?

At the time of the 'deal' we were told essentially that some 50 well-paying jobs would come to Montrose as a result and that Colorado Outdoors would receive something like \$50,000 per job.

Question #3. How many jobs have come to Montrose as a result of this 'promise'?

Question #4. What are all the other conditions of the note and have they been met? On time?

I believe one of the guarantees was that Mr. Dragoo would bring a Marriott Motel/Hotel to town. (Marriotts do not 'grow' in

towns of 20,000).

When is Marriott coming to town? Will it be happy to be across the street from the county jail which is due to expand? Sheriff's office? Municipal Courts? Behind the Ford dealership and a defunct funeral home? They were supposed to do it four years ago and they are not here yet. Oh yes! He promises 100 high paying jobs. When 50% of them will be chambermaids?

Fast forward to now. Rumor has it that Colorado Outdoors is not current in its payments or its employment promises. But of course, we are told by Mr. Dragoo that all is fine and that the 8 to 10 million dollars we, the people of Montrose, have spilled on his company is a great investment for the City. I think that that is arguably a pile of dung.

Both he and the city keep referring to a PARTNERSHIP between the two entities. Are both of them ignorant of the implications of claiming each other as a partner? My law book definition says a partnership makes each partner 'responsible for each other's losses'. Our city government should NEVER engage in such an agreement.

How did his real estate investment get to be \$25,000,000. I bet he did not put up that for that

land he now owns and contests the real estate taxes on. He couldn't get the county to relieve him of some or all of the taxes (how much relief was he seeking?) so now he has sued the county in three separate

suits at state level for relief. More Montrose money being spent to defend itself against this 'partner' of the city, the 'savior of the city', Mr. Dragoo.

This reminds me of the lash-up that was trying to horn into our airport by competing with Black Canyon Jet Centers. They went away but only after we exposed their less than decent financials and the folks that they associated with. I think that the airplane company that tried to come here to build airplanes was the same sort of an arrangement. Why are we paying so much tax money, our money, when we can't find out what the money is used for, where it went and when the numbers we have don't add up. What the city council blew on Colorado Outdoors would have paid the needs of the Police Department for two years without taxing your groceries, and done it four years ago. While we are at it, since Colorado Outdoors is an LLC and Montrose is a public city I think that we should see a complete list of the partners and their ownership interests in the LLC. Just an Idea. Mr. Dragoo claims that he is all for Montrose. As long as Montrose continues to enrich him, and by that I don't mean by buying his fishing poles. There is far too much more to this operation than fly rods. It is time to cut him off the city nipple and make him fish for his fortunes elsewhere. ELECT BENNETT, MEEK AND WHITE AND THEY WILL DO JUST THAT. You will get your town back.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IMPLEMENTS VISITATION & ENTRY RESTRICTIONS FOR OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) is implementing additional patient safety guidelines due to the extended respiratory season, including checking individuals before entry. All individuals seeking to enter MMH will be checked at the front entrance area to ensure patient safety beginning Tuesday, March 17. All individuals will also be checked at MMH clinic sites prior to entry.

To reduce the risk of exposing others to COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses, individuals presenting respiratory symptoms are asked not to present to the hos-

pital's Emergency Department unless you need immediate emergency medical care. Per the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 should call a medical care provider to determine if they meet testing criteria and to explore how to obtain care and testing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) symptoms can include cough, sore throat, aches, and fever. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed in patient care areas. Healthy hospital visitors must follow these guidelines below:

-Clean your hands before and after visiting a patient

-Always cover your cough and use a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze

-Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing.

Per guidance from the World Health Organization, masks should only be worn by individuals showing symptoms of coughing and difficulty breathing so they do not spread disease to others.

For questions relating to COVID-19, please contact the Montrose County Health Information Line at (970) 252-4545.

NATIONAL GUARD TESTING PRE-SCREENED COVID-19 PATIENTS MONDAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has selected Montrose County for a surveillance site to collect COVID-19 (coronavirus) testing data and have enlisted the help of the Colorado National Guard. Tests will be conducted Monday, March 23, at the Montrose County Event Center. One hundred county residents are being carefully selected to be tested based on various risk factors, symptoms, and state requirements for data collection. Local providers and public health experts are coordinating in the selection process.

Please note: you may not request the test in person at the testing site, everyone needs to be pre-screened. Please contact your primary care provider to be pre-screened if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

"We are doing our best to provide as many testing resources as possible to our community," said Incident Commander Scott Hawkins. "The pre-screened tests will allow our most vulnerable and potentially ill residents to be tested in an effi-

cient manner and provide timely results.

If we could test more people we would, but testing is very limited at this time. Thank you to Montrose Memorial Hospital for assisting with this effort and working diligently to protect the public health of our community."

"It's important to remember that 80 percent of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have mild or no symptoms," said Montrose County Public Health Medical Adviser Dr. Joe Adragna, M.D., M.H.A., M.G.H., FAAFP. "None of these results will change our clinical management, but will provide valuable public health data. If you have a cold, cough or a fever, please self-isolate for 14 days, and treat your symptoms."

-If you have symptoms and you are otherwise healthy, self-isolate for 14 days and treat your symptoms.

-If you have symptoms and you are high-risk (over 65 years-old, have a pre-existing condition such as heart, kidney or lung disease, or are immune-compromised), call your provider (or use patient portal if one is available).

-If you are asymptomatic but have had

contact with someone who is sick, you will not be tested and you do not require medical care. Instead, you should self-quarantine for 14 days to see if you develop symptoms. If you are asymptomatic, you will not be tested and do not require medical care. Avoid contact with sick people, limit exposure in public places and continue best practices to do your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The Montrose County Event Center was selected as the testing site by Incident Command due to the National Guard requirements for size and safety.

"There is no threat to public health or safety," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "Now is a time to remain calm and come together as a community."

Approximately 70 people from CDPHE and the National Guard will arrive in town Sunday to begin setting up for testing.

There will also be increased law enforcement presence on Monday as testing is in progress.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit montrosecounty.net/covid-19 or contact the Public Information line at 970-252-4545.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUSPENDED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Neighborhood Watch monthly meetings for April and May are suspended due to Covid-19.

GMUG SEEKS COMMENTS ON SWAMP CANYON PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests', Norwood Ranger District is seeking public comments for the Swamp Canyon Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closure Project. This project proposes to close as many as four abandoned mine openings located between Waterfall Creek and Swamp Canyon, approximately one mile southeast of Ophir. The closures will eliminate high-risk safety hazards to backcountry visitors, while preserving natural and cultural resources.

The historic mine openings are isolated, remote features. Work crews will access the vicinity using existing mine roads, then transport supplies and equipment by foot or pack animals to the mine locations. Handwork, backfill, bulkhead and polyurethane foam closure methods will be used to secure these dry openings. Bat-friendly closures with steel grates will be installed at sites considered potential bat habitat. The Swamp Canyon project is currently planned for the summer of 2020. The 30-day comment period will begin on March 16, 2020. All comments must be submitted to the GMUG by April 15, 2020. Comments:

Mail to: Norwood Ranger District, Attention: Spencer Haley – Swamp Canyon AML Physical Safety Closure Project Comments, 1150 Forest Street, Norwood, CO 81423.

E-mail: comments-rocky-mountain-gmug@fs.fed.us

Fax: 970-327-4854, Attention: Spencer Haley – Swamp Canyon AML Physical Safety Closure Project Comments.



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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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONSIDER USING LIBRARY'S ONLINE RESOURCES DURING COVID-19 CLOSURE

Dear Friends,

After careful consideration, The Board of Trustees of the Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) recommended closing our doors to the public as COVID-19 continues to affect communities throughout the United States.

During this closure, we will continue to work to serve you. You can get answers by phone at 970-249-9656, on our website at www.montroselibrary.org, and through the Montrose Regional Library Facebook page.

We will continue to listen to your recommendations and ideas and will work together to wisely proceed throughout the next weeks. In the meantime, consider taking advantage of our online resources: downloadable e-books, audiobooks, and movies; free language learning with Mango; and the Universal Class free continuing education courses, to name a few.

Let us continue to encourage one another to make choices that support the health and well-being of our community.

Be well and take care of one another,

Caroline Evans, President Board of Trustees MRLD

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA MOVES TO MAIL-ONLY BALLOT ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- Delta County's Clerk and Recorder's Office has made the difficult decision to move the upcoming Municipal election to a *mail-only* ballot election.

"The safety and welfare of the residents of Delta County, my volunteers, and my staff are my highest priority," said Delta County Clerk Teri Stephenson, "We are taking the necessary steps to minimize the potential for any exposure of COVID-19 Coronavirus in our Polling Centers."

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020, Delta County eligible voters are still able to obtain a ballot and / or update voter registration from 7 am – 7 pm at the Delta County Courthouse, located at 501 Palmer St., Suite 211, in Delta; none of the other Delta County Polling Center Locations will be open. 24-Hour Ballot drop boxes are still available effective immediately at the following locations:

Delta County Courthouse – 501 Palmer St., Delta, CO

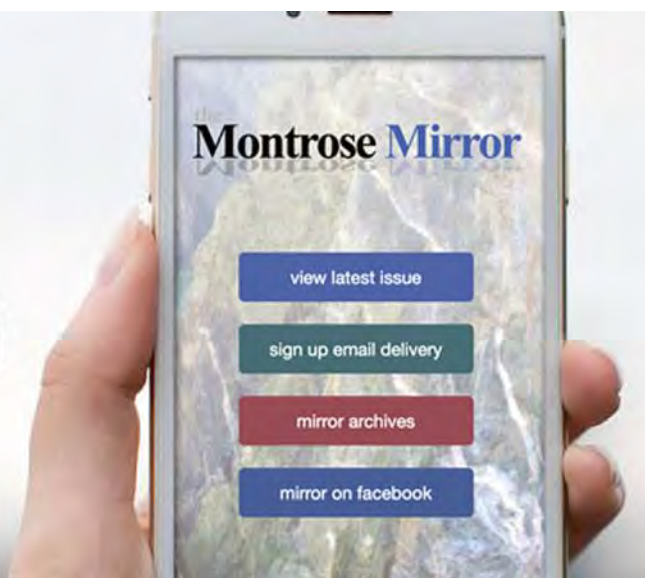
North Fork Annex – 196 W. Hotchkiss Ave., Hotchkiss, CO

Cedaredge Library – 180 SW 6th Ave., Cedaredge, CO

Paonia Town Hall – 214 Grand Ave., Paonia, CO

Ballots for the April 7, 2020 Municipal Election are being mailed this week; if you do not receive your ballot, or have questions, please contact Delta County Clerk and Records Office at 970-874-2150 or via email at elections@deltacounty.com

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS DURING TEMPORARY SHUTDOWNS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced assistance for workers and employers during temporary closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance includes information for employees filing for unemployment insurance claims, as well as information on programs available for employers.

Workers who have a reduction in hours/wages may file an unemployment claim at coloradoui.gov. A list of resources and FAQs on how to file is available on CDLE's website at colorado.gov/cdle and clicking on "Coronavirus Information and Resources."

The Department is also taking steps to reduce the impact of these claims on employers who have had to temporarily lay off staff due to closures or slowdowns. CDLE encourages all employers to utilize paid leave and telework options for employees before utilizing temporary layoffs. Employers can also consider alternatives to laying off staff through CDLE's Work Share Program. More information at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/node/23616> or by email at cdle_employer_services@state.co.us.

Unemployment insurance claims:

If you are laid off due to business closures related to COVID-19, you can receive unemployment benefits, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. File a claim online at coloradoui.gov/fileaclaim. Indicate you expect to return to work and are job-attached to your last employer.

CDLE will process unemployment insurance payments to ensure payment will continue to be paid in a timely manner.

For more information, visit colorado.gov/cdle and click on "Coronavirus Information and Resources" Updates will be released as they become available.

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>

Montrose County Sheriff's Office

Due to the unprecedented situation facing our country, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office will not be responding to CONTAINED stray canines and RESIDENT OBSERVED/REPORTED stray canine complaints for the foreseeable future. All other concerns regarding animal issues of a public safety concern, such as aggressive/vicious dogs, bite complaints, and welfare concerns will be addressed appropriately. This decision has been difficult but based on current protocols, it is the place we find ourselves.

For those who are not aware, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office has a contract with the City of Montrose to provide sheltering services for those canines we cannot return to their owners when found running at large. The City of Montrose Animal Shelter is currently closed to the general public and shelter management has also been forced to make the difficult decision to not intake stray animals due to concerns over space available inside the shelter. Not knowing how long we will find ourselves in this situation dictates preserving the precious space available within the shelter.

At this time, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office is requesting all routine stray canines observed by residents be left alone and not contained. We appreciate your understanding during this time and we hope to resume normal operations as soon as possible.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS, WORKER RESOURCES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has provided updates on the impact of the Coronavirus on unemployment claims and demand for services. Just as all labor departments are feeling increased requests for assistance, the Colorado Labor Department has seen a surge in unemployment claims from 400 on March 7th to more than 6,800 on March 17th.

CDLE experienced unprecedented traffic to the unemployment call center and file-a-claim website, causing slow processing

times for applications. The department is implementing system maintenance to accommodate unprecedented demand and increase capacity and stability.

The department is also encouraging workers who are experiencing a temporary or permanent reduction in hours or wages to consider part-time employment in other industries seeing an increase in demand for goods or services, such as delivery, logistics, transportation, healthcare or retail such as grocery stores and warehouses.

The department plans to work with these

industries directly over the coming days to identify opportunities to match workers who are unemployed with hiring employers.

More information and resources for workers is available at coloradoui.gov. Employers can contact 303-318-9100 or cdle_employer_services@state.co.us for information on programs on workforce reductions and other assistance.

The state's Rapid Response program can also assist employers with a variety of resources <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/layoffassistance>



Just in thyme for spring ...

The Mirror

Homegrown content with flavor.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NOW IS THE TIME: REIN IN MONTROSE!

Editor:

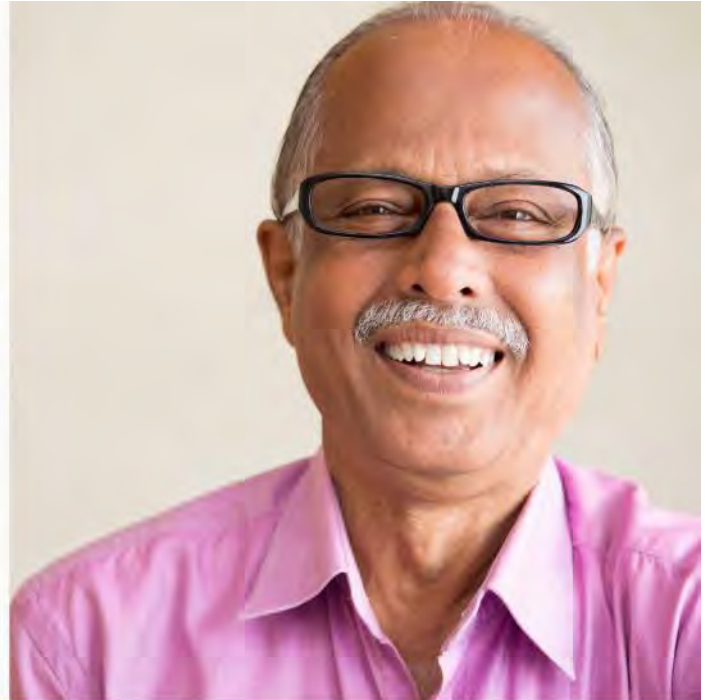
Less than a month ago our economy was robust and local employment rates were high. Suddenly the Corona pandemic has brought all of that to a screeching halt. Businesses are virtually shuttered, our neighbors are losing their jobs and

critical income. Panic buying and hoarding have depleted store shelves, placing undue strain on those surviving on fixed incomes. No one knows how long this situation will last, but voters in the City municipal election might want to reflect on the fact that four of the eleven candidates

[Anderson, Bynum, Frank, & Stockton] happily supported an 18% increase in the City sales tax rate, that in turn has greatly increased the cost of what groceries you are able to find.

REIN IN MONTROSE!

Dee Laird, Montrose



WE ALL NEED HELP FROM TIME TO TIME

Contact one of our Care Navigators to learn about in-home services available to individuals aged 60 and above.

Find out if you qualify for:

- **Homemaking • Personal Care • Transportation**
- **Meals/ Nutrition • Caregiver Respite • Companions**

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 **voa4you.org**

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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties
Don Bailey
Broker Associate
970-209-8257
donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com
www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com



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
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HESS, KOCH ARRESTED FOR SELLING BODY PARTS, ENTIRE BODIES WITHOUT CONSENT



Federal agents conducted an early morning raid on the Sunset Mesa Funeral Parlor on Feb. 6, 2018. Photo by Gail Marvel.

U.S. Department of Justice

DENVER — United States Attorney Jason R. Dunn announced March 17 that the operators of Sunset Mesa Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado, were arrested for illegally selling body parts or entire bodies without the consent of the family of the deceased. The two operators, Megan Hess, age 43, and her mother, Shirley Koch, age 66, appeared virtually before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Grand Junction, where they were advised of their rights and the charges pending against them. The Denver Field Office of the FBI and the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General joined in today's announcement.

According to a recently unsealed grand jury indictment, from 2010 through 2018, Hess and Koch operated Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors (SMFD), which purported to provide burial and cremation services. Hess, and at times Koch, would meet with families seeking cremation services, and would offer to cremate the decedents' bodies and provide the remains back to the families. SMFD would charge \$1,000 or more for cremations, but many never occurred.

In 2009, Hess also created a nonprofit called Sunset Mesa Funeral Foundation, d/b/a Donor Services, a body broker service operated out of the same location as SMFD.

In at least dozens of instances, Hess and Koch did not follow family wishes, and neither discussed nor obtained authoriza-

tion for Donor Services to transfer decedents' bodies or body parts to third parties. In the few instances where families agreed to donation, Hess and Koch sold the remains of those decedents beyond what was authorized by the family, which was often limited to small tissue samples, tumors, or portions of skin. Hess and Koch also delivered cremains to families with the representation that the cremains were that of the deceased when, frequently, that was not the case.

Hess and Koch would also ship bodies and body parts that tested positive for, or belonging to people who had died from, infectious diseases, including Hepatitis B and C, and HIV, after certifying to buyers that the remains were disease free. These shipments would be through the mail or on commercial air flights in violation of Department of Transportation regulations regarding the transportation of hazardous materials.

This investigation was complex and involved a detailed forensic review of evidence. At a later date, the U.S. Attorney's Office will be conducting a victim-only meeting to provide additional information and answer victim questions.

Both defendants have been charged with six counts of mail fraud and three counts of illegal transportation of hazardous materials. If convicted of mail fraud, each defendant faces up to 20 years in federal prison, per count. If convicted of transportation of hazardous materials, each defendant faces up to 5 years in federal

prison, per count. They each also face up to a \$250,000 fine, per count.

"The defendants are charged with committing a blatant fraud on many, many victims. This betrays a fundamental trust during one of the worst times in a person's life — having to make arrangements for a deceased loved one," said U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn. "It is hard to imagine the pain and worry of those who used Sunset Mesa and not knowing what happened to their loved ones' remains."

"I also want to recognize the hard work of the men and women of the FBI who conducted this investigation," added U.S. Attorney Dunn. "This was an extremely complex case and would not have resulted in charges absent their dogged work."

"Let today's actions serve notice to those who would commit such self-serving acts of callous greed, we will diligently and tirelessly work to bring you to justice," said FBI Denver Assistant Special Agent in Charge Dameon Hutto.

"Today's indictment stemming from the illegal transportation of hazardous materials is a clear signal that such illegal acts will not be tolerated," stated Lisa Glazzy, Acting Regional Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (DOT-OIG). "Working with our law enforcement and prosecutorial colleagues, we will continue to protect the public's safety from those who would seek to circumvent DOT-related laws and regulations."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeremy Chaffin from the U.S. Attorneys Grand Junction Office and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Neff in the Denver office. The information provided, as well as the information contained in the indictment, are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Judge Marcia Krieger will conduct a Status Hearing April 16, 2020, 03:30 PM at Wayne Aspinall Federal Building, U.S. District Court, 400 Rood Avenue, Room 323, Grand Junction, CO 81501 for Hess and Koch. A trial is scheduled before Judge Krieger on April 20, 2020, 10:00 AM at the same venue, but is likely to be continued.

COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE **19**

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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

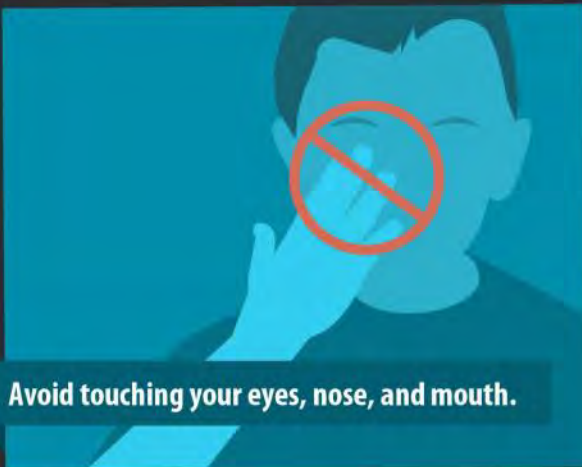
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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
ENFERMEDAD DEL
CORONAVIRUS
19

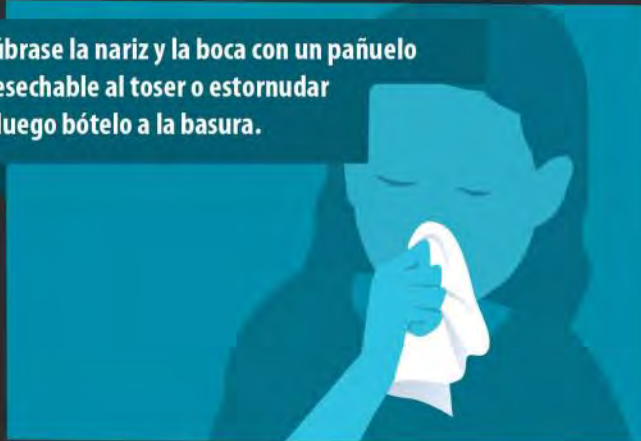
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

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

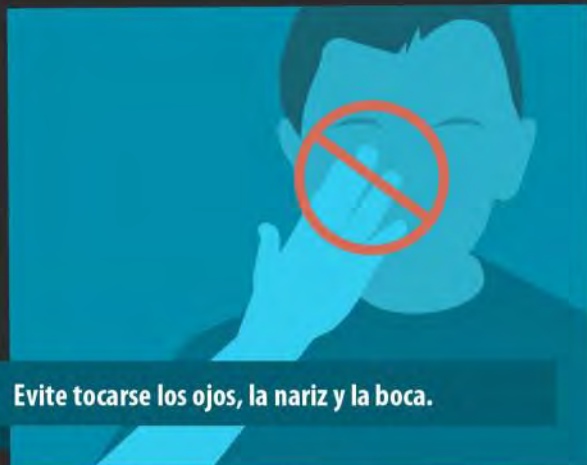
Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



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



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



Limpe 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

BOCC RATIFIES LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION, ENACTS MORATORIUM ON PERMIT FEES FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners. Mirror file photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The public was encouraged to attend via livestream as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18. All commissioners were present for the meeting; Pastor Jeff Bachman of Harvest Community Church delivered the Invocation.

"Give them great leadership, Father, give them great knowledge....bless each one of them and their families Father, they have taken a place of leadership in this county...not as paid, but as volunteer and coming in just to serve," Bachman said, as he asked blessings on the commissioners.

"Welcome everybody," BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said, and apologized for the County's Granicas system becoming overwhelmed during a Health Department meeting Monday. The video can be accessed online.

Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen said that though the public is encouraged to practice social distancing and not attend BOCC meetings in person, "We are taking comments...they can send comments to pr@montroscounty.net, they can email them in advance, they comment on our livestream...and I will speak them into the record."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were heard from the public. COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris asked that Item C-3 be pulled from the Consent Agenda, consideration and possible action on the Off-Airport Ground Transportation Agreement with Telluride Car Services, LLC d/b/a Alpine Luxury Limo.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as amended; Resolution No. 12-2020 was assigned to Item C6, regarding an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning the Implementation of

an E9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service; Resolution No. 13-2020 was assigned to Item C-17, concerning the Declaration of Surplus Property Disposal of Miscellaneous Equipment through advertisement, trade, auction, online auction, or scrap.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners unanimously adopted Item D-1, a proclamation declaring **March as National Social Workers Month**. Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen read the Proclamation, which was prepared by local Social Worker Amiessa Jutten, into the record. Assistant County Manager Jon Waschbusch read a statement from Jutten, who is the Western Slope Region Representative of the National Association of Social Workers, Waschbusch said.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the County," Jutten wrote, "Social workers in our rural area work hard for citizens every day in so many specialty areas...we appreciate the proclamation and this meaningful acknowledgment from the County."

Social workers are often taken for granted, Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "I don't know that we really recognize how critical they are for almost every area that we look at...I am proud of the social workers we have working in our community."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "I just want to thank you folks that work in this industry; it's huge.

"As someone who grew up in a safety net system as a kid, I know how important it is to these families that are receiving these services," Rash said. "...It changes lives. It changed my life and it helped us out of poverty...thank you all for what you do. You're outstanding folks."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said, "Thank you so much, you're the front line that keeps societies what they are today; you protect a group of people out there that aren't protected without your help. And you make our areas and our community a much better place to live in," Caddy said.

Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-2020, to enact a one-year moratorium on special use permit fees for specific applicants who will be providing childcare in Montrose County, provided that all other special use permit requirements are met. Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood presented information on the moratorium.

"This is a resolution that would help waive costs for our childcare providers that live within the county that have an opportunity, the willingness, and ability to expand to more children," Sherwood said, "and open up more slots.

"Especially in this time, it would be great to allow those individuals who are willing to provide more care and to assist them by not burdening them with fees that they may not be able to afford," Sherwood said.

The current permit fee is around \$900, Hansen said.

"In this environment, in which we have not enough childcare facilities to house all the kids that need it, we thought it would be a good idea to put a moratorium for a year on the permit fees," Hansen said. "...This might be one small way we can keep the door open for those folks."

Commissioners also voted to ratify the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration, as adopted at the Board of Health Meeting by BOCC Chair Keith Caddy.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL TO DISCONTINUE COMMUNITY TESTING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) announced today that effective immediately it will no longer facilitate the COVID-19 Testing and Collection Site. This difficult decision comes after a guideline update from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

"We will be limiting our testing to high-risk, hospitalized inpatients, essential and symptomatic healthcare workers and individuals on a case-by-case basis," said Jody Roeber, Chief Clinical Officer for DCMH.

"Delta County residents should contact their primary care providers and get instructions about what to do if they think they have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19," said Roeber.

"Decisions about residents' best course of action will have to do with the nature of your symptoms and your underlying medi-

cal conditions if any."

"COVID-19 testing isn't a treatment, it's a tool for us to understand and track the spread of the virus," said Roeber. "We will continue screening everyone when they come into the Hospital and at all Hospital Clinics."

If residents experience severe symptoms such as shortness of breath or low oxygen, call 911 or go to the emergency room. If residents drive to the Emergency Room (ER), they should stay in their car on arrival and call the ER at 874-2221; let the staff know that the COVID-19 virus is the concern so that they can take appropriate precautions. Delta County is continuing with the Call Center for residents to obtain information, resources and to get their questions answered. It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and can be reached at 970-874-2172. Addi-

tional resources can be found by calling the Colorado State Health Department at 303-389-1587 or 877-462-2911 and by emailing questions to CO-HELP@RMPDC.org. The CDPHE is constantly updating their website with information at www.covid19.colorado.gov. The DCMH website is updated regularly with resources and information for residents. It can be found at deltahospital.org under the Novel Coronavirus blue tab. Residents can also follow updates on the DCMH Facebook Page.

"We remain dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of our patients, visitors, community and staff," said Roeber. "We will continue to work together with Delta County and the Public Health Department to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will remain a resource for the Delta community."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NON-URGENT ELECTIVE SURGERIES CANCELED TO MAXIMIZE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Effective Monday, March 23, Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) will be canceling non-urgent elective surgeries until further notice to help conserve supplies that may be needed in the fight against COVID-19.

In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the American College of Surgeons, and now an Executive Order by Colorado Governor Jared Polis, MMH will be canceling surgeries that involve otherwise healthy patients. Some examples of cases/

surgeries affected include carpal tunnel surgery and screening colonoscopies.

"To best meet the potential health needs of our Friends & Family during this unprecedented time, we are choosing to follow the safest possible guidelines available," said James Kiser, CEO, Montrose Memorial Hospital. "This move will help to ensure that vital resources are available in the event they are needed."

This change does not impact patients in need of urgent surgeries: life-saving operations will still take place as needed. This effort is the same or similar to most hospi-

tals across the region and the nation.

The change is expected to help the organizations conserve Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other resources that could potentially be needed to address the impacts of COVID-19.

The novel corona virus, COVID-19 is one of seven types of known human corona viruses. Over 2,900 people have been tested in the state of Colorado, with only two deaths. On March 19, Colorado Governor Jared Polis issued a three-week halt to "elective and non-essential" surgeries between March 23 and April 14, 2020.



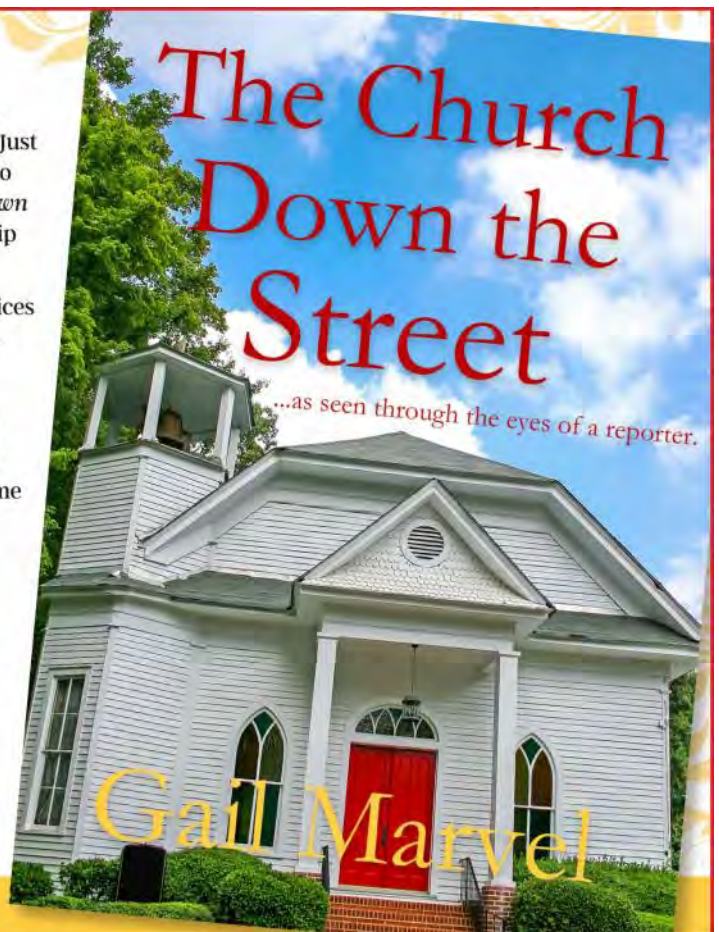
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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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12951 Minerich Road | Paonia, CO 81428

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

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

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO EXTEND CITY MANAGER'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION THROUGH LIFE OF PANDEMIC



Public Works Manager Jim Scheid discussed the noxious weed management program.



City Manager Bill Bell, center, asked Council to extend the emergency declaration.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--“Good evening, welcome to the irregular City Council meeting,” said Mayor Dave Bowman, as the Montrose City Council convened for a regularly-scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 17. All Councilors were present for the meeting, and a handful of City staff. Youth Council Representative Josie Coulter was present by phone and could be heard joining in as Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The public was encouraged to attend the meeting by livestream; also in attendance were the *Mirror* reporter and *Montrose Daily Press* City Reporter McKenzie Moore. A planned presentation by Montrose Youth Council on Census Day has been postponed. There were other changes to the original meeting agenda; Mayor Pro tem Barbara Bynum reviewed the postponements and deletions.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Individuals wishing to address Council for three minutes during the time for public comment were encouraged to call 970-240-1404 or email

cityclerk@cityofmontrose.org. Mayor Bowman read the rules for public comments into the record.

“We’ll wait for a minute or two to see if anybody wants to address us then we’ll move on,” Bowman said.

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT TO CITY COUN-

CIL-POSTPONED

The regular Youth Council Report to City Council was postponed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 3, 2020 Special City Council Meeting and the March 3, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting were approved as presented.

ORDINANCE 2495-SECOND READING

As previously discussed and approved on First Reading, Council approved Ordinance 2495 on Second Reading, regarding the City’s Noxious Weed Management Program. Residents who wish to get on the City’s No-Spray List can call 970-240-1480.

ORDINANCE 2496 & 2497-SECOND READING

Approved as presented were Ordinance 2496 on second reading, designating the Missouri Building at 347 E. Main Street as a City of Montrose Historic Property, and Ordinance 2497 on second reading, designating the Block Building at 345 E. Main Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property.

Both ordinances have been discussed previously in work session and on First Reading.

“One of my earliest memories in life, when I was three or four, was of being in the dentist’s office which was up above on the corner there (in the Missouri Building),” Councilor Judy Ann Files said.

Mayor Dave Bowman said, “I’m gonna really miss Maggie’s Books here in a couple months. Sara’s given it a valiant effort; it will be missed Downtown.

“Sorry to see it go.”

ORDINANCE 2498-SECOND READING-POSTPONED

Though it was approved on First Reading, Ordinance 2498 on second reading was postponed. Ordinance 2498 authorizes and approves 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.

ORDINANCE 2499-FIRST READING

Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2499 on first reading, vacating three rights-of-way deemed surplus. The vacation was previously discussed in work session, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said, and would accommodate a larger site to allow flexibility for design of the new Montrose Police Facility.

Mayor Dave Bowman opened a public hearing. Councilor Files asked the meaning of the word “vacation,” and City Attorney Stephen Alcorn explained that vacated right-of-way reverts to the original property owner, in this case the City.

City Manager Bill Bell said that while a decision has been made to close South Uncompahgre between South First Street and the alley, the decision to close South First Street has not been finalized.

“There’s a lot of different things it gives us the flexibility to achieve,” Bell said.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2500-ADDED

Council considered Emergency Ordinance 2500, an emergency ordinance that would extend the City Manager’s March 16 declaration of a public health emergency. The declaration would end on March 23 if not extended by City Council.

“...We’re just asking City Council to extend the State of Emergency throughout the life of the pandemic, and then we will close that at the appropriate time,” Bell said, noting that the City has already begun to partner with other entities such as

Continued next pg

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO EXTEND CITY MANAGER'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION THROUGH LIFE OF PANDEMIC From previous pg

the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning, the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to pursue funding.

"It gives us the flexibility to help residents and businesses and really anyone in our community by having that State of Emergency been declared," Bell said.

Bynum asked when the State of Emergency ends and who has the authority to end it.

"It's a similar process to declaring it," Bell, "...It's a Council-Manager form of government...I declare the emergency, you can extend it for a longer period of time, but then I would close the emergency as well...at this point we're all a team."

Councilor Doug Glaspell how the City's Declaration ties in with Montrose County's Emergency Declaration.

"Really, they're two totally separate things," Bell said.

After more discussion between Council and staff, Police Chief Blaine Hall discussed working with the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, staffing of a joint information center, as well as general advice to the public. Also, "We are encouraging the public, if they feel they've been exposed or have the symptoms that go along with COVID-19, they are to call their health care provider," Hall said.

There is a COVID-19 testing site set up in a parking space at PIC Place.

Public comment was accepted. "I oppose this; City Council is representative of their constituents; this would take representation away," said City Council Candidate Charli Oswald in an email. "It should be a decision of the entire Council."

For the Emergency Declaration to pass, it must be a unanimous vote, Mayor Bowman said.

Emergency Ordinance 2500 was approved unanimously.

"...all councilors will be signing this emergency declaration, from here on out until we change that, we are totally, officially, under an emergency designation," Bowman said.

RESOLUTIONS 2020-05, 2020-06, AND 2020-07

In other business, Council voted to adopt 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 Association Building; Resolution 2020-06, adopting an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the implementation of an "E9-1-1" Emergency Telephone Service; and Resolution 2020-07, setting April 21, 2020, as the hearing date for the 4152 N. Townsend Addition Annexation.

CONTRACT AWARDS

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to award 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 to provide 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.

STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the regular Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report; she also noted that the City currently has debt of \$11M.

Bell said that the City has been proactive in releasing information and keeping platforms updated during the COVID-19 outbreak. Staff has been reassigned to outreach efforts following the closure of the Visitor Center.

Anyone seeking City updates can visit <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/731/COVID-19-Information>, he said.

Almost all City services remain operational, Bell said. "With anything like this there's always rumors and speculation, and just people talking," he said. "...The City of Montrose is trying to get through this with the least amount of impact on our customers as possible.

"Almost all of our city services are still available, they just might be delivered in a

different way than our customers are used to."

Rather than accessing City Hall, customers can pay utility bills through a newly-installed glass window in the Visitor Center Building. "We're able to do municipal court operations right there, where people can come in and handle their payment of fines and those types of things," Bell said. Even tourists will be able to stop in for self-service resources, he said.

Meetings are being held virtually.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said that ballots for the [April 7 Municipal Election](#) have been mailed; those who do not receive one should call her directly. "We want to have high participation even in these difficult circumstances." Ballots can be mailed or placed in the drop box on South First Street near the County Courthouse.

Election results will be posted on the City web site and on the door of City Hall. There will be no public gathering to announce election results this year.

Black Canyon Golf Course remains open, and City water is safe to drink, Bell said.

"Please continue to drink City water... we're going to keep that service up," he said. "...Your sewer, hopefully, your toilet is still flushing, the sewer system's still operating, we're not cutting those services, and the wastewater Treatment Plant is going to be operating."

Trash and recycling services will continue, but green waste is now being collected at the old green waste facility for the time being, Bell said. That site is located beside Kinikin Meats on South Park Avenue.

"Please know it's only temporary," he said.

Bowman asked Bell to explain the reasoning behind the postponement of Ordinance 2498.

Bell said that D.A. Davidson had asked for the postponement until March 31 because of market fluctuations after First Reading that had resulted in higher borrowing rates. "They are hoping that reactionary impulse kind of levels out and corrects itself by March 31," he said. "It's just buying us a little more time; it doesn't delay the sale timeline at all."

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO EXTEND CITY MANAGER'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION THROUGH LIFE OF PANDEMIC From previous pg

Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked staff for putting physical and electronic signage out.

"I know you guys are putting in a lot of hours. It's looking great out there."

"I just want to commend Bill and the whole staff for this enormous effort you've put in to deal with this unfortunate situation," Councilor Roy Anderson said, and wished all a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Bynum noted that programming for the senior forum discussions on Wednesday mornings has been suspended.

"...Thanks to everybody who is part of the Forum and who looks forward to it," she said. "I'm going to miss seeing you all, but we'll be back stronger than ever at the right time."

Youth Councilor Josie Coulter said, "We had a Rock the Rec; our upcoming one we are cancelling due to the COVID-19 situation." Youth Councilors will be assisting with the Census, she said.

Bowman said, "...It's good to see a lot of people have taken it upon themselves to stay home, and be with their family, and not be out and about, and help each other stay safe...Sunday afternoon my wife and I went for a walk on the Connect Trail and

there were just lots of people spread out, bumping elbows," he said.

"It's really wonderful that we have the parks system, and the trail system that we have in Montrose 'cause a lot of people had a lot of foresight.

"Stay home, but you know, if it's a nice day don't feel afraid to get out and take a walk, walk the dog, whatever, enjoy the sunshine.

Bowman said he took his grandkids golfing Monday.

"Montrose Black Canyon Golf Course is open for business, it will stay open for business, there's gonna be some difference at the pro shop...we're doing everything we can to keep everything open...but the Golf Course is open...go out and enjoy it," he said, "It's a great way to be spread out.

"So I thank the community for your support and your diligence in this time of intense situation," Bowman said.

Said Glaspell, "I've seen you play golf. In the areas you're in, there's very seldom any human contact."

Bynum mentioned a City call-in meeting for local businesses; Bell discussed City efforts to find creative ways to serve local

business during the coronavirus closures. There will be a Zoom video conference every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., he said.

The next work session will take place Monday, March 30 at 10 a.m., the next meeting will be Tuesday, March 31 at 6p.m., he said.

Files said that she appreciated the emails from City Director of Business Innovation and Tourism Chelsea Rosty.

"It made me start thinking about some other things that I personally can do to keep from being totally bored being home with my husband for however long this is going to be."

Bowman had the last word, "I just would like to thank staff.... I know you guys have worked Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, just all kinds of hours to prepare our community so we can handle this situation to the best we can, help our businesses. But I really I want to accolade all of City staff, you guys really, really have stepped up, worked hard, I know you have a great plan to help us all, and I really appreciate it and I know all of Council does.

"Thank you very much."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



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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.

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CLEAN HANDS



www.cdc.gov/handwashing

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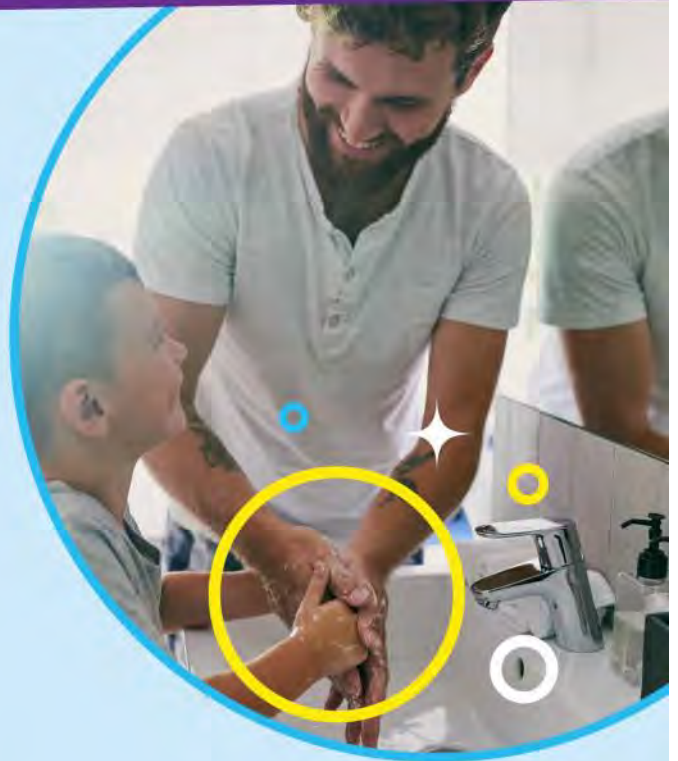


CS310027-A

¡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 enjabóñese 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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY OPENS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TO PROVIDE ENHANCED RESPONSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On March 16, the Montrose Emergency Operations Center opened to support the county's response to the COVID-19 situation impacting the western slope and Montrose County. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open to support a unified command effort led by Montrose County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Gallegos and Montrose County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins.

"Surrounding counties have presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, and we are doing our best to take preventative measures to limit the impact that this could have on Montrose County. As of right now, there are no current cases in Montrose County and we want to limit this virus' ability to spread," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "We are asking the public to join us in this aggressive approach by practicing social distancing, washing hands, and treating each other with kindness and respect." The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the hub of coordination and support for incident management activities. Additional, the

EOC will house the Montrose County COVID-19 call center. The Montrose County EOC adheres to Incident Management System (IMS) response; this is a temporary, formal organizational structure that is activated to support a response, adjusted to meet the rapidly changing demands on that response, and then scaled back and closed as needed at the end of the response. "Rest assured, the county and partners train together year-round with the incident management system to support a response of this magnitude," said Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins. "The opening of the EOC allows the county to better plan and access resources. This is a coordinated effort, and bringing all the players together streamlines processes."

"This is a time for community," said Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Gallegos. "And this is when our community shines. I know people are worried, but know that we are here for you. We are a part of your community and will do our very best to protect the community we all love." If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your primary

care provider by phone first. The provider will be able to determine if you meet the criteria necessary for the test and often will be able to perform the test at their practice. If you do not have a primary care provider, please reach out to the Public Information line at 970-252-4545 and press option "2" to be connected with public health. The call center will be able to determine if you meet the criteria for a test and can direct you to resources at that time. Please note that calls will be answered from 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday. For calls outside of that time frame, please reach out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for general questions regarding COVID-19 at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911, for answers in many languages, or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English. The state hotline cannot provide testing results, order testing, or clear individuals for work. Please remember, 911 should be used for medical emergencies only. For updates on COVID-19, please visit montrosecounty.net/covid19 or <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.



ANONYMOUS

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COVID-19 TESTING IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Due to a shortage of COVID-19 testing capacity across the US, and especially in Southwest Colorado, there have not been enough tests conducted in Montrose County to definitively conclude that COVID-19 is not circulating in our community. “We understand that our community is concerned and we want to be as transparent as possible throughout this incident. We know residents are worried about testing and we want to provide as much information as we possibly can,” said Commissioner Roger Rash. “These are trying times and we need to pull together to stay healthy and help out each other.”

Therefore to protect your health, Montrose County is operating as if COVID-19 is present and circulating in our community now or will be very soon. We are emphasizing social distancing strategies to slow its spread. Try to maintain a distance of six feet when interacting with other individuals outside of your immediate family. Ex-

amples of social distancing include:

- Staying home.
- Not shaking hands. Instead, bump fists or elbows.
- Increasing distance between people to six feet to help reduce spread.
- Reducing the number of large group gatherings or activities.
- Keeping children and teens from gathering in other public places.

There has been an increase in inquiries to the public information line, and we want to let you know the number of tests that have been collected from this area. Based on the information made available to us, so far this number is approximately 42 as of this morning. Some of these tests are still being processed. We are working as hard as we can to bring more testing to this community.

CALL FIRST: If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your primary care provider by phone first. The provider will be able to determine if you

meet the criteria necessary for the test and often will be able to perform the test at their practice if supplies are available. If you do not have a primary care provider, please reach out to the Public Information line at [970-252-4545](tel:970-252-4545) and press option “2” to be connected with public health. Please note that calls will be answered from 8am to 6pm Monday through Saturday at this time. For calls outside of that time frame, please reach out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for general questions regarding COVID-19 at [303-389-1687](tel:303-389-1687) or [1-877-462-2911](tel:1-877-462-2911), for answers in many languages, or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org for answers in English. The state hotline cannot provide testing results, order testing, or clear individuals for work. Please remember, 911 should be used for medical emergencies only. For updates on COVID-19, please visit montrosecounty.net/covid19 or <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT OFFICE TO CLOSE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – In response to guidance from state health officials and experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Gunnison County Health Department, the Gunnison Ranger District will be closed effective March 20. By closing the Gunnison Ranger District office, the USDA Forest Service is taking necessary measures to safeguard the health of employees and the public, in alignment with the Gunnison County Health Department Public Order.

“In response to the health emergency facing our community and to do our part in reducing the spread of COVID-19, the Gunnison Ranger District office will closed to walk-in traffic and will not be scheduling in-person meetings until further notice,” said Matt McCombs, Gunnison District Ranger. “District staff have transitioned to a virtual environment and will be working from home to ensure essential services are maintained during this time,” McCombs continued. “Public inquires to the district can be made by calling (970) 641-0471 and leaving a message. The appropriate staff will return calls as soon as possible. Most employees can be reached daily via email throughout the office closure.”

The health and safety of employees and the nearby communities is always our top priority at the USDA Forest Service. As we work through an unpredictable and rapidly changing situation, health and safety is our number one priority. We are committed to continuing to support our communities and fulfill our mission as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19. For the most current and accurate information, contact your local health officials or visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests appreciates your patience and understanding as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO DIVISION OF INSURANCE ESTABLISHES SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD *Uninsured can enroll in individual health coverage from March 20 - April 3*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), and Connect for Health Colorado today announced that Emergency Regulation 20-E-02 will establish a special enrollment period (SEP) for uninsured Coloradans to get health insurance.

Uninsured people will be allowed to enroll in individual health insurance plans (meaning plans NOT from an employer) from March 20 through April 3, 2020.

Coverage will be effective starting on April 1, regardless of when someone enrolls during that window. Only people who are currently uninsured are eligible to enroll, as this is not a period for people with coverage to change plans. Uninsured spouses and children will also be allowed to enroll at this time, even if one spouse or a child's parent may already be insured. "Many people are unaware that they are eligible for financial assistance to help

lower their premiums," said Michael Conway, Colorado Insurance Commissioner. "We encourage everyone who is uninsured to use this opportunity to visit Connect for Health Colorado, check what assistance they may be eligible for, and enroll in coverage."

Coloradans who lose their job, or who may lose their job in the coming weeks, and thus lose their employer-based health insurance, are reminded that loss of such coverage allows them a 60-day window to enroll in individual coverage, whenever that might happen throughout the year. See Connect for Health Colorado's "When can I buy insurance?" page for details.

"We're ready to do our part to help protect the health and well-being of as many Coloradans as possible," said Connect for Health Colorado® Chief Executive Officer Kevin Patterson.

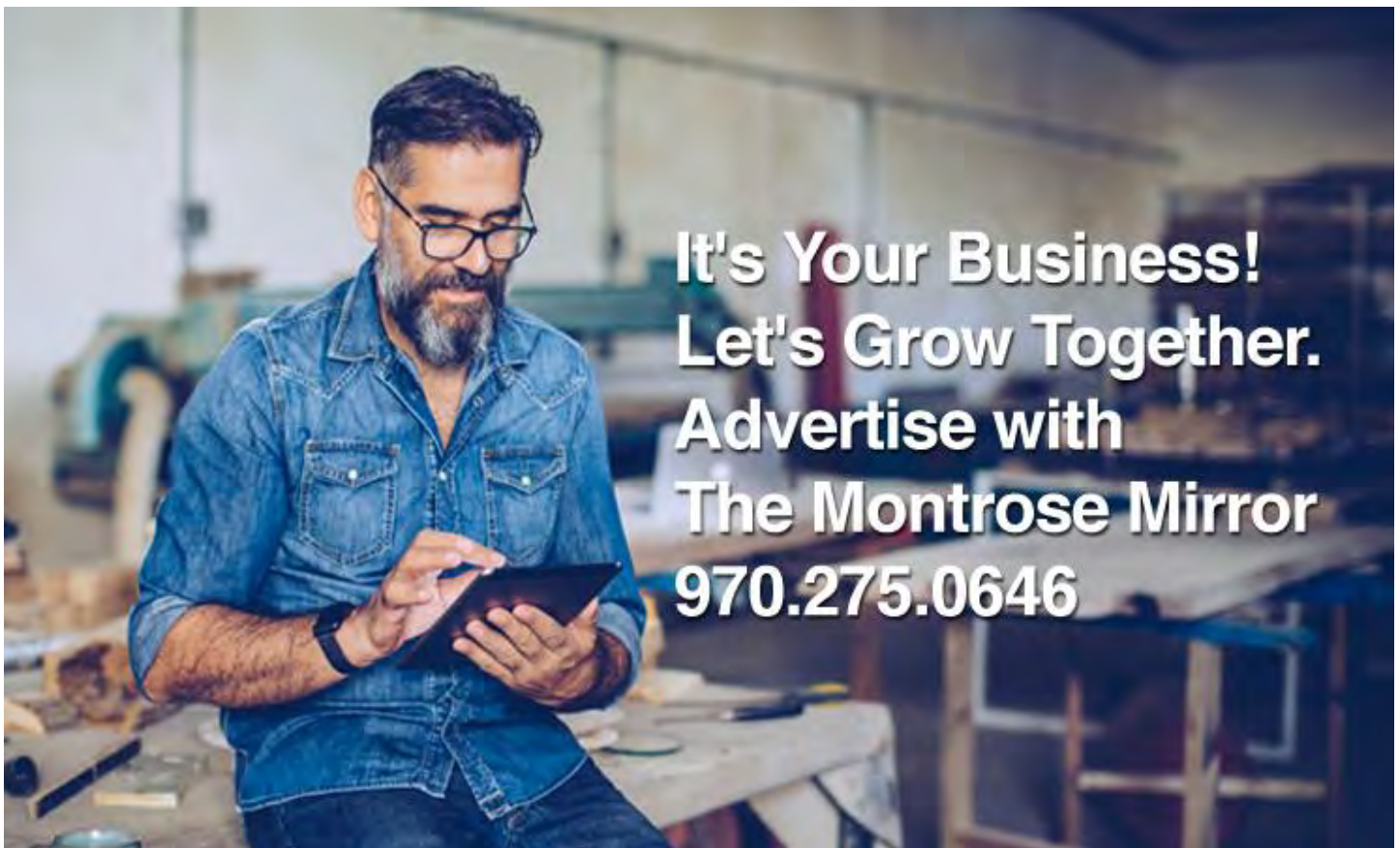
"It is our mission to increase access to health insurance, and I am pleased we can

make it easier for people to get the coverage they need at this critical time. I encourage all uninsured Coloradans, especially those who are newly uninsured, to enroll now by reaching out to Connect for Health Colorado."

Colorado consumers are encouraged to enroll through our state's exchange, Connect for Health Colorado. Financial assistance for those who qualify is only available when enrolling through Connect for Health Colorado.

Contact Connect at 855-752-6749 or find in-person assistance through their statewide network of certified experts at connectforhealthco.com/person-help, including appointments with a broker or assister by phone.

In addition, Connect for Health offers tools such as the Quick Cost & Plan Finder that can help check eligibility for financial assistance while finding plans that fit consumers' needs.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

URA'S AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Editor:

We'd like to ask residents of our community to take the time to truly understand and learn how our community is working for economic development. Much that has been said publicly, mostly by potential new City council prospects, is absolutely incorrect. We believe it is imperative the local community clearly understand these facts including all of the benefits this work will provide every member of the Montrose community.

Urban Renewal Authorities (also known as a URA's) are commonly used in nearly all 50 states. URA's are public-private partnerships, and have become the most popular choice for economic development in our country. URA's are a critically important means to ensure economic and social vitality of our communities. URA's main tool is called tax increment financing, or TIF.

TIF plays a role in many projects around the nation, such as Amazon's HQ2 in Arlington, Virginia, as well as in smaller-scale neighborhood improvements including attainable housing and infrastructure projects like those in Montrose. In 2020, Durango is setting up a URA, inspired in part by the success of Montrose.

In today's highly competitive world, it may help residents to think of our City as a *business*. This business has the job of leading our community, including our public safety, maintaining critical infrastructure, and developing proper regulations to improve the livability and economic vitality of our neighborhoods. Businesses all across the country survive based largely on their ability to withstand what is often fierce competition. Montrose isn't immune to this dynamic. Countless communities from across Colorado and the U.S. compete aggressively to attract new businesses. For our community's future, it is absolutely essential that we compete in this marketplace to stay vibrant.

At Colorado Outdoors, we have always believed in making Montrose better than we found it. We also believe in paying our way. We are actively investing millions of private capital in purchasing vacant land along the Uncompahgre river corridor. The

land sat unused for decades and became blighted. Colorado Outdoors gave (through a deed) all of the land for the roads, trails, and river corridor back to the City. As part of this effort, the City of Montrose *loaned* \$6.75 million to the local URA for improving the property, mainly through general road construction, upgrades to the main sewer line in our City, and major electrical upgrades. Many of these improvements would have been required even if the project was never envisioned.

Of particular note, this loan for infrastructure development carries a 4% interest rate in favor of taxpayers. Thus, over the duration of the 25 year loan, taxpayers will yield just over \$3,900,000 in incremental dollars that will go directly back to the City. The loan is fully collateralized in partnership with the URA to keep taxpayers in a strong position.

This loan was not a gift to us. Most importantly, the City is making an investment with taxpayer dollars for taxpayer property. Specifically, all of the new roads, new sewer infrastructure, and most importantly, the brand new river trail through the project that connects to Riverbottom Park. *All* of these are now owned by the citizens of the City of Montrose – for now, and for many generations to come.

We have a full-time recruitment team that proactively prospects and vets businesses to relocate to our community. Sometimes, these businesses don't even relocate to the Colorado Outdoors but still decide to relocate here. In our eyes, this is great news. A win for Montrose is a win for everyone. We received incentives and you can too - In the spirit of transparency, Colorado Outdoors *has* indeed received benefits from partnering with the City of Montrose in this project. If any business is interested in learning more about how to apply for these benefits, please reach out to Chelsea Rosty, the Director of Business Innovation and Tourism with the City of Montrose. These benefits exist to spur prosperity across any of our City's qualifying businesses who are expanding and investing. All URA decisions related to the project

have been guided by independent research and an independent board of directors. In 2017, the URA contracted with Andersen Analytics located in Colorado Springs to execute an economic impact study designed to model the project over a 25-year period. The findings of that study helped to guide the URA's decisions in structuring the public/private partnership. All decisions have been through public meetings, which anyone is welcome to join. Colorado Outdoors, fishing tackle manufacturer Mayfly Outdoors, and the new Marriott hotel represent nearly 100 new jobs that didn't exist in Montrose a few years ago. Jobs that currently pay, on average, nearly double the average annual City wage. In the coming months you will see additional announcements of new or expanding companies moving to our community.

Western Slope - The State of Colorado makes it a high priority to attract thriving businesses to our state. In turn, the state makes available millions of dollars to communities that support this mission. These dollars are universally extended in the form of grants and tax credits. When Colorado awards funds, a vast majority of those dollars are issued to entities on the Front Range. We strongly believe the Western Slope deserves a greater share of Colorado's economic development funds. While these dollars do come with a long list of criteria, there is one criteria in particular that is important: In most cases, any applicant must be ready and willing to provide matching funds equal in amount to those extended by the state. Put another way, to not participate in public/private economic development, is to turn our back on potentially millions of state funding.

Thanks to the progressive vision of our community leaders, Montrose is now open for business. Throughout Colorado, we now have a seat at the table, and we are widely recognized as the Western Slope's leader in economic development. We are proud to be a business in Montrose.

David Dragoo

President, Colorado Outdoors, LLC

MONTROSE ANIMAL SHELTER CLOSES DOORS TO VISITORS, ADOPTION, OWNER SURRENDERS DURING COVID-19



Montrose Animal Shelter Manager Mike Duncan. Courtesy photo.

Mirror staff report MONTROSE—Among the facilities now closed to the public because of COVID-19 is the Montrose Municipal Animal Shelter. Since March 17, a notice has been posted on the [Shelter's Facebook site](#), though

not on the agency's voicemail.

"...Until further notice, the following services will be altered, the Facebook notice states.

"The shelter at this time is closed to the public; the shelter will not be accessible for visitation, adoption, owner surrenders or volunteer signup; stray animals picked up and brought to the animal shelter by the public or pet owners needing to re-

claim their animals need to call 970-240-1450 and a staff member will assist on a case-by-case basis; we are encouraging pet owners to keep their animals contained and not bring animals into public places."

The Montrose County Sheriff's Office, which contracts with the City facility to provide shelter for at-large dogs, has asked that all routine stray canines observed by residents be left alone and not contained while the shelter is closed.

Former Montrose shelter volunteer Jan Chastain was concerned enough over the closure that she called Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman to ask questions.

"He didn't even know about it," she said.

Other West Slope Animal Shelters, like the Surface Creek Animal Shelter, are adopting pets and accepting strays by appointment-only and focusing on separa-

tion and sanitization to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Second Chance Humane Society in Ridgeway continues to serve the region as a no-kill shelter, and has posted on its web site, "Those interested in adopting or fostering pets please email animal-care@adoptmountainpets.org to learn more. We are anticipating an increase of pets needing care in the coming weeks and, as the Montrose Shelter is unable to receive stray pets at this time, we are working toward supporting a community foster care network for our tri-county region."

"The Montrose Shelter is way behind the curve," said Chastain, who now volunteers for Second Chance Humane.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for all local animal care organizations, "Other shelters have figured it out," Chastain said.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL TOO BUSY FEELING IMPORTANT TO DO THEIR JOB OF LOOKING OUT FOR ALL THE CITIZENS

Editor:

I hope that this message is all that goes viral!

Montrose city government has never been under more scrutiny by the citizens of our town than it is today. Rightly so! In the last 20 years we have not had such a spendthrift council led by such an autocratic city manager. Nor have we ever paid so much for that privilege! And when a citizen asks questions, what does he get? STONEWALLED, that is ignored. Enough said, we all have had that experience. So much for Transparency, Accountability and Affordability. Montrose just does not have any.

No one and no city can borrow or spend its way out of debt. Montrose council thinks they can.

And our governing six have been asleep at the wheel. They let the RR do their chemical tank without even making the RR pony up with some answers BEFORE doing the work. An injunction in a local court, written and filed by the city mouthpiece (attorney) would have likely stopped it in its tracks. A mandatory indemnification to property owners and the city if the tank leaks would have been good. Why did they not? I will tell you why, first Tortilla Flats is on the 'other side of the tracks' and second, your city council is too busy feeling important to do their job of looking out for ALL the citizens.

Then they try to decorate their incompetence with a 'town meeting' at Tortilla Flats AFTER they were caught ignoring those citizens. Shameful! Just another white-wash job like the 2A town meeting. All after the fact. Where have I heard that kind of reasoning before? "We have to pass it so we can see what is in it?" Yeah, right. A 25,000 gallon tank full of vile fluid which, if the tank breaks, will flow into gardens, basements, living rooms of a fine community and into the Uncompahgre River. You can thank the INCUMBANTS and their ILK who are running for council

for that.

With all of our concern (?) about the environment and our city allows that?

A similar nap was taken by the 'sleepy-six' prior to Russell Stover announcing its closing. It might have been nice if the city manager and the council had recognized that possibility and tried to work something out before the announcement. Maybe it would have been a 'no-go' but a try would have been appropriate. Even a year's extension would have helped. No, no the sleepy-six were in true form once again.

So now the word is out that they are entertaining signing a release to Russell Stover for any Environmental Impact of that 26 acres that the town owns. No one really knows because the governor announced that there would be no public meetings. Guess what, he just made their secret meetings (socials) somewhat legal. The group of 8 can do as they wish without us knowing. One would have thought that maybe those meetings could have been televised. But nobody except them know what they have planned on this one.

Lost: 400 good paying jobs while Mr. Dragoo promises a hundred (largely custodial jobs) with his pipe dream.

The cleanup of Russell Stover, if asbestos and fuel oil are involved will cost Montrose a fortune if the rumor is true. How will we know? This, fellow citizens, is why transparency in government is ABSOLUTELY required, besides finding out who on council is getting funds for relatives' and friends' projects and who on council is collecting commissions for booking shows, we need to know what benefits are being given to private enterprise BEFORE THE GIFTS ARE GIVEN!. While neither might be absolutely illegal, neither have the slightest appearance of being ethical, honest or forthright.

These things are conflicting interests!

Who knows what other 'crackpot schemes' are cooking on the stove in city

hall. Another motel? Another FBO? Another apartment house? Another airplane company? At a half million dollars for each we can blow \$2,000,000 in a heartbeat especially with the no public meeting rule in effect. And for what? No or few new jobs in town at all. Sure!

We certainly need the grocery tax rescinded. I have suggested how that could be done in my article last week. It is so simple that if our city council was not so bent on proving citizens wrong and shutting them out of the process and proving themselves the righteous all-knowing prophets of the community. Well, they could have thought of that. Why didn't they? Because the advisory committee on police funding was told what they should recommend.

Last week I suggested that encouraging retired folks to move here was a win, win, win situation for the town, the people and the labor force. It was not a new idea, I had suggested it to council nine years ago. The idea never got the slightest discussion in council. But with other growth, making Montrose a retirement community insofar as money, jobs, stability, peace and quiet it is an absolute winner. It is all cash in and no cash out. The best of all worlds. Oh there is no glory in it but it is a cash cow that never dries up. Would our council ever think of it, no less propose it. Hell no, they would not. It is not spectacular enough to get the city manager a raise or one or more of them elevated to the State Assembly.

Look and see that your tax dollars are being used to promote the advancement of certain individuals and their lifestyle. I ask you to recognize that if I have two ideas such as I have mentioned, that my two running mates have equally great ideas and I would venture that none of these ideas will cost the taxpayer a cent.

I venture that if you elect Bennett, Meek and White to your city council, that you will be well rewarded. Your grocery tax

Continued next pg

CITY COUNCIL TOO BUSY FEELING IMPORTANT From previous pg

will evaporate. Mr. White has suggested that we are all being double or triple taxed on most of our utility bills. I would suggest that the three of us will really cut this illegal, redundant taxation. And that is just for starters. We have discussed other methods of reducing the city debt and making your tax bills less by a good deal. We understand why Montrose is approaching bankruptcy and we have ideas as how to slow it down and possibly stop the process.

Have you heard the others talk like this? Has any other candidate even suggested a solution to the sales tax on groceries. All

you hear them suggest is more incentives to enrich millionaires and MAKE YOU PAY MORE TAXES. They offer more bond issues or some other means of building our city debt? No you have not, and if you are feeling the pinch and know you are being screwed why would you want to put the same spendthrifts, wastrels and know-it-all elitists or their ilk, into office?

One thing for sure, you cannot believe a politician. Well I am not one of those. I at least have ideas and I promise nothing except to do the best job possible for Montrose. Please give Meek, White and me your vote. I feel sure you will not be

disappointed. Thank you.

We can't find out. That is why Transparency is mandatory. Council and city are shut up tighter than a clams' backside. We want to know BEFORE this council sells us out.

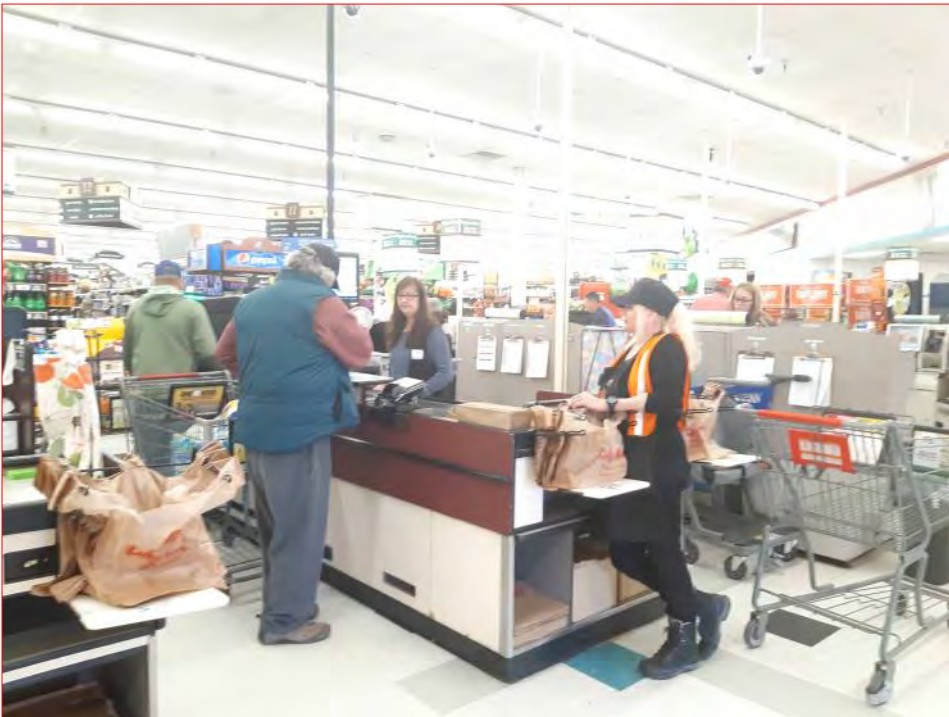
This crowd, along with their incumbents and the manager will hang on long enough in Montrose to clean us out.

Then they will leave.

Doctor Bynum will find a more lucrative place to practice, the kids will be out of high school and she will head off to the Assembly.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

GROCERY WORKERS BRAVE THE CROWDS, MAKE HISTORY AS THEY STAY ON THE JOB



Mirror staff Photo

MONTROSE-"I can't feel my hands...we're making history right now...we're still at work!" With upbeat words and laughter, City Market grocery checker Cindy McKee and courtesy clerk Sandi Schlauger began another day of serving an anxious community March 18.



**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**



ISSUE 255 March 23, 2020

ART & SOL

JOIN AUDIOBOOK WIZARD RICHARD RIEMAN FOR HIS GUIDE TO AUDIOBOOK CREATION IN APRIL WEBINAR



Judith Briles, the Book Shepherd.
Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER— Judith Briles, the Book Shepherd, and Richard Rieman, the Audiobook Wizard, will be partnering to bring to writers the ultimate guide to creating audiobooks for independent and self-published authors in a webinar that will cover every aspect of creating an audiobook. This webinar will be conducted on April 4 from 10am-noon.

The webinar will go into nearly every aspect of how audiobooks are changing the publishing landscape and how to navigate it. Rieman and Briles will use their expertise in the publishing industry to give



Richard Rieman, the Audiobook Wizard.

authors a peek into the intricacies and importance of producing audiobooks to survive in today's publishing world. From how to avoid predators looking to take advantage of authors, to covering the cost of producing audiobooks through crowdfunding, any author looking to expand their market into audiobooks will have something to gain from this \$11 webinar.

"For today's author, creating an audiobook is essential," Dr. Briles said. "It's the

fastest growing segment of the publishing industry. Wise authors create books in a print format, an e-book format, and now an audiobook format. Richard Rieman is the wizard of creating audiobooks and anyone who attends will discover the power of voice and print together."

Everyone that checks in will also receive a free copy of Rieman's book, *The Author's Guide to Audiobook Creation*.

Richard Rieman, known in Denver as "The Audiobook Wizard," is an acclaimed authority on indie audiobook publishing. He has narrated and produced hundreds of Indie-published audiobooks and is a 2019 Gold Medal National Ben Franklin Independent Book Publishers Assn. (IBPA) Award Winner for Audiobook Nonfiction, and a 5-time winner of the EVVY Award for audiobook narration and production. Judith Briles has published 37 books and has a lifetime of experience within the publishing industry, having experienced the pitfalls and benefits of both self-publishing and traditional publishing.

To register for the webinar, go to www.AuthorU.org and click on the events tab.

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CAN'T GO OUT TO EAT? NO PROBLEM!

Make this yummy Mediterranean dish at home

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Dear friends. Instead of reviewing another restaurant which you can't enjoy due to the current viral state of our world, I've decided to share a few of my absolutely favorite recipes from world-renowned restaurants. We'll just call them elegant dishes for shut-ins. This week I'm featuring Petite Marmite Restaurant's Eggplant Provencal. This dish is a real favorite, as it fits right into the Mediterranean diet and is sooooo good. This Eggplant Provencal recipe serves two but can easily be increased by a third to feed six. Remember, no more than 10 can gather at one time; I've added the additional ingredients needed for 6 servings. The directions are the same.

Be sure to serve this with a wine of your

choice! Delish!

INGREDIENTS:

1 medium eggplant (3 medium eggplants)
 ¼ tsp salt (½ tsp)
 4 TBs olive oil (¾ cup)
 ½ garlic clove minced (1 clove garlic)
 3 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped (8 tomatoes)
 ½ tsp oregano (1 ½ tsp)
 ¼ tsp salt (½ tsp)
 a pinch – freshly ground black pepper (1/4 tsp)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Trim eggplant and cut in half lengthwise. Cut several gashes in eggplant pulp, being careful not to pierce the skin. Sprinkle with salt; place eggplant, cut side down on paper towels and let stand 30

minutes. Wipe dry.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees

Dip eggplant halves in 1 TB olive oil to coat well. Place halves, cutside up, on a baking sheet and bake in preheated oven 20-30 minutes until tender

Meanwhile prepare tomato mixture: heat remaining oil in skillet. Add garlic and cook for a moment.

Add tomatoes, oregano, salt and pepper; cook, stirring occasionally, until all liquid has evaporated and mixture is thick. (about 5 – 10 minutes)

Spread mixture evenly over hot eggplant halves. Sprinkle with capers and enjoy.

Total prep time: 1 hour

Now, wasn't that easy?

Watch this space for another yummy offering. Stay in, eat hearty, stay healthy!

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

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



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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND PARK ENTRANCE FEES

Special to Art & Sol

WASHINGTON – After careful consideration, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt directed the National Park Service (NPS) to temporarily suspend the collection of all park entrance fees until further notice.

"I've directed the National Park Service to waive entrance fees at parks that remain open. This small step makes it a little easier for the American public to enjoy the outdoors in our incredible National Parks," said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

Other states and municipalities have implemented similar policies waiving fees to parks in an effort to support social distancing.

"Our vast public lands that are overseen by the Department offer special outdoor experiences to recreate, embrace nature and implement some social distancing," Secretary Bernhardt continued.

At a majority of park locations where it is currently possible to adhere to public health guidance, outdoor spaces remain open to the public, while many facilities will be closed.

The Department of the Interior and NPS continue to urge visitors to do their part when visiting a park to follow CDC guidance by maintaining a safe distance between yourself and other groups; washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze; and most importantly, staying home if you feel sick.

Specifically, the CDC recommends high-risk populations, such as the elderly and people with underlying conditions, take extra precautions to be best protected against the spread of coronavirus. _

Updates about the NPS response to the coronavirus will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Please check with individual parks for specific details about park operations.



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



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

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

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

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

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

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

MONTHLY-

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

CANCELLED-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.

CANCELLED-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.

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

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

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

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Photographer Deb Reimann took this picture a few years ago, of the Cimarrons under storm clouds with a rainbow. "To me, the Cimarrons bring peace and the rainbow brings hope," she said.

A black bear sitting on a wooden bench, holding a tablet computer, with a mountain landscape in the background. The bear is looking at the tablet. The background shows a lush green valley with mountains in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds.

*Save a tree –
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