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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting From West Central Colorado

Issue No. 371 April 6, 2020

MONTROSE OXYGEN SUPPLIERS ADAPT TO CHANGING MARKET AFTER COVID-19



Air Options (Aerocare Holdings, Inc.). Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has resulted in new protocols for local oxygen suppliers. Sid Hartman, of Hartman Brothers Medical, said, "We are a retail store and our doors are locked, but we do delivery to swap cylinders and we have curbside sales out front. When cylinders come back, we disinfect all of them with ozone."

Hartman has yet to see a huge spike because of COVID-19. He said, "We have set up a couple of people with oxygen, but we don't have enough PPEs [Personal Protection Equipment]. When we do an oxygen set-up, we try to do it at the door rather than going inside a home. We stay at a distance. We stand outside the

Continued pg 3

'BE SAFE, BE CAREFUL, LET'S TRY TO FLATTEN THE CURVE,' MONTROSE BOCC HEARS UPDATE FROM HEALTH DEPT.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-BOCC Chair Keith Caddy reminded all watching that it was Census Day, as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a virtual regular meeting on Wednesday, April 1.

"Please go online and fill out your Census papers," Caddy said. "...This will give you something additional to do instead of watching Netflix."

All commissioners were present for the meeting; County Planning & Development Director Steve White delivered the invocation.

COUNTY MANAGER

County manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously. Resolution 15-2020, 16-2020 and 17-2020 were assigned to items 3, 5, and 6.

Continued pg 22



County facilities remain closed to the public, but officials continue to work long hours. County Commissioner Sue Hansen, above right, was observed taking a break on the steps of the administration building on Saturday, April 4.

in this issue

Montrose—City & County Government!

Cow Creek's Elusive Gold & Silver by Bob Cox!

Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!

A Fresh Point of View With Jack Switzer!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSED, OFFERS DIGITAL ACTIVITY CONTENT FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) two Units in Montrose and Olathe are currently closed in accordance with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The BCBGC will follow the timeline the Montrose County School District (MCSD) has set to determine when both Units will reopen. With that, registrations for the two summer sessions is currently on hold. In the meantime, the Club staff is still diligently working to provide programming for our members...just at a distance! Staff has put together activity backpacks for our members for the next four weeks in addition to developing some wonderful digital activity content for Club members which is available at www.bcbgc.org/covid. For additional updates on the Club, you can check out the Club website at www.bcbgc.org or e-mail Executive Director, Bud Taylor, at btaylor@bcbgc.org.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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HAPPY EASTER

OXYGEN SUPPLIERS ADAPT TO CHANGING MARKET From pg 1

door and tell them how to use the equipment. If we have to go in, we'll wear PPE gear. It's got its challenges, but we're handling it right now."

Hartman said, "Many people now have concentrators in their home, so cylinder usage is down and not growing."

Hartman Brothers Medical is located at 531 East Main and can be contacted by calling 970-240-9556.

Air Options (Aerocare Holdings, Inc.) Office Manager Tina Hall said, "It's harder to get equipment and supplies can be harder to come by, but Aerocare is a national company and they order in bulk. A couple of years ago we went to a Home Fill System. There is an attachment on concentrators and now most of our patients fill their own tanks. We do have a couple of elderly patients who are unable to fill their own tank and we deliver to them, but we have very few we have to worry about."

Aerocare provides oxygen to COVID-19 patients who are in self-isolation. Hall said, "For the last two weeks we've had COVID patients and we're here to serve them. Our technicians wear protective clothing and deliver equipment to the patient's door and then we notify them and do a virtual set-up."

Currently Aerocare maintains a soft-close with office doors locked; however, staff and technicians are either working from home, or in the office. Hall said, "People call and sometimes just come by and leave notes on the door. We're still



Hartman Brothers Medical. Photo by Gail Marvel.

working 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m."

Aerocare is located across the street from Montrose Memorial Hospital at 843 South 3rd Street and can be reached by calling 970-252-0212.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SECRETARY OF STATE ENACTS REMOTE NOTARIZATION EMERGENCY RULES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Secretary of State's Office has set up a process that will enable Coloradans access to notary services without in-person contact. "Stopping the spread of COVID-19 while still providing the services Coloradans rely on has been our main focus over the last two weeks," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "Remote notarization is the latest of these important services." Governor Polis has issued an Executive Order that ordered the temporary suspension of the personal appearance requirement before notarial officers to perform notarizations due to the presence of coronavirus disease in Colorado.

Today, Secretary Griswold has issued emergency rules that outlines the procedures and requirements for remote notarization in Colorado during this state of emergency. For the Notice of Temporary Adoption for the Colorado Notary Program Rules (8 CCR 1505-11), please click [here](#). For an unofficial copy of the notary rules as adopted and effective 3/30/2020, please click [here](#).

For more information, please visit www.sos.state.co.us.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

AMERICA'S WEALTHY SHOULD BE HELPING FELLOW CITIZENS

Editor:

As I hear the many horror stories of those seeking unemployment benefits and getting nowhere with hours on the phone and no resolution, I can only think this is and will be the defining moment and times with regards to America's richest individuals. The richest 5% probably could fund all of America's unemployment claims. Will they? So far, all I have heard is, for one example, a rich person hunkering down on his yacht. I have to tell my fellow Americans, if the rich don't come forward and help people, the political revolution embodied in the likes of Bernie and Elizabeth may turn into a real revolution!

Douglas Crawford, Montrose

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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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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW: JACK SWITZER



Walking the dog may be a good way to get some solitary exercise, but I would much rather be hanging out with my friends.

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-Corona virus (or COVID-19 if you like being the smartest one in the room) has made my life a living nightmare in only three weeks. It went from being something I could do a presentation on in school and nobody would care because it was only in China, to making me stay home and fester in my own loneliness (Yes, I have family here. But none of them are 16).

I've done nothing besides sit at my computer, watch movies, and play games for three weeks. The mental toll it has taken on me has shown me many new things. First, you cannot sustain yourself on chocolate bars and soda. You don't feel very good after three or four days of that. Second, people lose their minds over things you would never expect them to.

If you had asked me two months ago what would fly off the shelves first in a pandemic, I probably would have said "food and water." However it's obvious

now that people think wiping your backside is a number one priority, and would choose a king size pack of toilet paper over a roasted chicken dinner any day.

Still, the people scrambling to swipe up all the toilet paper aren't the only buffoons in the world right now, as teenagers on social media have also taken up licking toilets and doorknobs all for the sake of internet popularity. Gotta say, this is where I really hope that thing called "natural selection" starts to kick in. Especially when it comes to the people who decide to socialize even though there is a pandemic. This virus is not a "hoax" and has already infected thousands of people. It's not something you can just ignore and dance around. It's a serious health matter and by ignoring the risks, you are also putting others at risk.

With that being said, I really hope this quarantine ends soon. I'm running out of funny old horror movies and when that happens I'm not sure what I'll do.



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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY CONFIRMS 1ST CASE OF COVID-19, ISSUES HEALTH GUIDANCE REMINDER

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-The Ouray County Public Health Agency (OCPHA) announced the first confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Ouray County last week. One resident, a male in his 50s was reported to be in home isolation and recovering well. Health officials are identifying and contacting all close contacts. Everyone should consider themselves at risk from exposure to COVID-19 and should adhere to the

Governor's Order to Stay-at-Home as much as possible. While at home, everyone should monitor themselves for fever and remain alert for cough, shortness of breath or sore throat. Testing is not indicated for persons who are mildly ill or are not showing signs of illness. This helps conserve personal protective equipment and reduce possible exposures to healthcare workers. Testing priority is

given to hospitalized patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness, for example pneumonia. The Ouray County Unified Command and all community partners are working diligently on our community-level response to COVID-19. Your adherence to public health guidance is imperative to keeping you, your family, our healthcare providers, first responders and other essential staff safe.

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers Incorporated are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the involved parties who committed a burglary in the 2000 Block of North River Road in the unincorporated area of Montrose County. Between January and February of 2020; individuals entered a residence where they proceeded to take construction equipment, such as Ryobi brand electric saws, several antiques, and other identifiable items. The individuals appeared to have left in a vehicle, due to the vast amount of items missing from the residence. Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility. MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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MONTROSE SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY LOAN FUND

- Business must have suffered significant loss due to COVID-19
- Up to \$5,000 available per business
- 0% interest, no closing costs
- 12 months no-repayment
- Applications will be selected based on need

SALES TAX DEFERRAL *90 Day Sales Tax Deferral for Montrose Small Businesses*

- Businesses with \$2M or less in gross annual revenue are eligible
- Businesses must continue to report

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financemail@cityofmontrose.org
for details*

COOPERATIVE MARKETING GRANTS

- Three businesses must work together
- City of Montrose will pay up to \$1,000 of marketing expense for campaign that includes three businesses
- Limited graphic design available
- Applications will be selected on need and ability to work together as a business community

*Contact Chelsea Rosty
crosty@cityofmontrose.org
970.250.2189*

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cityofmontrose.org/COVID19
montrosecounty.net/COVID19

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

LETTER TO COMMUNITY FROM MONTROSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS

To our patients, families, neighbors, friends, and community,

Please know in this time of crisis that we care deeply about you and your family's health. We are doing our best to protect and serve you and our community. As you know, we are facing a public health emergency and predict that many people in our region may become critically ill over the next several weeks. As a community, it is important that we prepare ourselves as thoroughly as possible. During this troubling time, we want to maintain open lines of communication. This letter is to open those lines of communication about what changes may be expected in the care you and your loved ones may receive. Additionally, as information and recommendations are changing so rapidly, we want to update you on the things you can do to prepare and protect yourselves and your family and to let you know the things we are doing to reach the same goals.

Unfortunately, we know that some people will become extremely sick and be very unlikely to survive their illness even with aggressive treatment in the ICU with the use of a ventilator. Data from around the country and the world have shown that people who are less likely to survive this severe level of illness include people with underlying lung disease, heart failure, advanced kidney or liver disease, metastatic or terminal cancer, or moderate to advanced dementia. When aggressive treatment is determined to be unlikely to result in improving a person's chance of survival, we will talk with you and your family about the other options for care. We will consistently strive to prevent suffering and ensure comfort.

If, at any time, you or your family decide that aggressive ICU care or life support isn't in your best interest, we will offer to provide alternatives that focus on dignity and comfort. This can include pain control, comfort measures, and the opportunity to meet with palliative care and

hospice agencies.

What care may be changing:

One vital change in how care is being provided across the country is related to the supply and availability of medical resources. As more people become seriously ill, one resource that may become limited is live-saving and life-prolonging equipment such as ventilators (breathing machines). If too many people develop serious lung damage from the infection, our supply of ventilators may become overwhelmed.

If a person is already in poor health and not likely to be able to survive being placed on a ventilator, they will be provided supportive and comfort-focused care to avoid the trauma of treatment that, unfortunately, would be very unlikely to help them survive and recover.

If a person is placed on a ventilator, regular detailed assessments will be made to ensure that the ventilator is improving their probability of recovering. If the ventilator is not helping after a reasonable period of time, we may have to remove that person from the ventilator to allow it to be used for another person who may have a better chance for survival.

Due to potential spread of the virus and risk to community members and hospital employees, the policy for visitors at the hospital has changed. At the present time, ER patients, women in labor, hospitalized children, and patients nearing the end of life will be permitted only one visitor at a time. Unfortunately, all other hospitalized patients will not be permitted to have visitors, including family members.

If a pregnant woman who is sick with COVID goes into labor, we will discuss her options. Currently, the CDC recommends separation of the mother with COVID and her newborn until the mother has recovered. At this time, we have no plans to force separation of a mother and her baby. We will certainly be open to discussing concerns with individual families.

What you can do:

Let us know what your goals are for your care. Talk to your loved ones about what type of care you would want to receive or not want to receive (including use of a breathing machine or CPR) should you become seriously ill and tell your medical team and EMS responders what those wishes are. Alert the medical care staff if you or your ill family member have a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR), a Do Not Intubate (DNI) order, a preference to Allow Natural Death, or other advance directives.

If you come to the hospital, let us know your medical conditions. Upon arrival, tell the staff of any current medical conditions or important medical information. Consider preparing a written list of this important information regarding your health to bring to the emergency room with you. Consider making a telehealth appointment with your primary care provider (or establishing with one if you do not currently have a set relationship) to discuss your wishes for medical care. We are here to help.

No matter your age or usual health, now is a good time to discuss with your loved ones and decide who is your "medical power of attorney". This is the person who would make decisions for your health if you were too sick to do so. At this time, the CDC estimates 20% of hospitalizations for COVID-19 are in patients under 44 years of age.

What we will do:

We will tell you if a doctor believes that you or your family member needs aggressive care in the intensive care unit (ICU) and/or use of a ventilator. We will communicate clearly with you about what to expect – including the chances for recovery.

We will tell you if we have exhausted our capacity with hospital beds, life-saving resources, or equipment, both locally and with our transfer partners/medical centers and if we must prioritize who will receive

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LETTER TO COMMUNITY FROM MONTROSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS *From previous pg*

these limited resources. We will explain the process and protocols that will be used uniformly throughout the hospital (based on national standards) to provide the most equitable care possible.

We promise that if we do have to proceed with following national protocols and criteria for who should get limited resources, they will NEVER be based on race, ethnicity, gender, health insurance status, ability to pay, sexual orientation, employment status, language spoken, or

immigration status.

We will do our best to honor your choices and follow your advance directives, and provide the care most consistent with your goals.

What you can do to protect yourselves and our community:

Continue to practice physical distancing. Maintain a six-foot distance from other people.

Continue to practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands after any possible con-

tamination with soap and water for at least twenty seconds.

Continue to stay at home.

Always talk to your medical provider before trying any medications meant to treat this or other infections.

Our community is strong; we will get through this together.

Sincerely, Dr. Sarah Judkins, MD,

*For Your Montrose Medical Community,
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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/community to order delivery to your door

BUSINESS RESOURCES

The City of Montrose is now offering a full business relief package including:

90-Day Sales Tax Deferral for all businesses with \$2M or less in gross annual sales

Small business loan fund available to those businesses facing severe hardship. Loans will not have interest and do not require repayment for 12 months.

Marketing cooperative grant program. Up to \$1,000 per business group available.

More information and applications available at cityofmontrose.org/covid19 under the Business Resources button

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

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The Center for Mental Health

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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
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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Colorado Now

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Montrose

cityofmontrose.org/community



MIRROR IMAGES: MONTROSE PPE DRIVE



Inside photo (L to R) Kristy Barrett, Phyllis Wiesner and Phoebe Benziger by Gail Marvel.

Cars photo- Phoebe Benziger

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The community came together on March 31 with a PPE drive, organized by Phoebe Benziger, in the front parking lot of Montrose High School. Phoebe said, "We have had a steady flow of donations. The Montrose community is so giving." Donations can still be taken to the county.



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.



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

At Volunteers of America senior living and care communities, the health and safety of our residents, staff and extended community is of utmost importance. We're working around the clock to monitor the situation, following the current recommendations of the CDC and other state and local health officials on response efforts and reinforcing our policies and procedures.

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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT-TWILA WEISZBROD



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-From reader Twila Weiszbrod-

"J & Y Towing and Go Big Banners helped me put together a great surprise for my husband's birthday with hardly any notice! They are amazing!"

J&Y did not charge to display the banner, which was created by GO Big Banner for Weiszbrod.

"We then donated the banner to the tow company so they could bless other people in the community," she said.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CHAINSAW ARTIST SAYS SCULPTURE DEPICTS 'MONK WITH HOOD'

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Neighbors have expressed frustration with Montrose chainsaw carver Ken Davis, whose latest sculpture appears to depict something that some consider inappropriate.

Davis at first declined to speak to the Mirror about the sculpture, other than to say that it is a "monk with a hood."

However, after learning of the attention his sculpture has gotten on social media, Davis has released a statement.

"What is a frustrated, retired chainsaw carver to do when a new neighbor moves into the neighborhood and within two months, half of the lot owners receive a covenant demand letter on things that they don't like and want changed? Their harassment continues. My monk is there to pray for our frustrated neighbor.

Thank you, Ken."

Submitted photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT LINE AVAILABLE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Center for Mental Health (The Center) in Montrose, Colorado is reinforcing its message to the Western Slope community that behavioral care professionals are available for current clients and for those needing mental health counseling. As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread, individuals may have an increased need for counseling as anxiety, depression, addiction issues, and feelings of isolation increase.

The Center now offers **The Center Support Line @ (970) 252-6220** -- a phone line available 24-hours a day, seven days a week for those seeking someone to talk to for extra support during this difficult time.

The Center Support Line is staffed by trained health care providers who can offer immediate support or direct individuals to other resources. As appropriate, callers may be connected directly to the front desk to learn about services and scheduling. Those individuals who need to simply schedule their regular sessions or those seeking new mental health services are encouraged to call The Center's main number, (970) 252-3200 during business hours to learn more.

The Center Support Line is an extension of The Center's crisis line and is staffed by mental health professionals who have been specially trained to answer support calls. "Physical isolation and uncertainty can initiate feelings of despair, so we want

to be available to help people cope," said Amanda J. Jones, Chief Clinical Officer for The Center. Since Covid-19-related "stay-at-home" and physical-distancing mandates went into effect, the calls to The Center have increased. "Based on the increased number of calls we have been receiving, it became apparent that our six-county region needed an additional resource to access behavioral health care."

In order to meet the needs of the community, The Center is actively offering same-day, in-person appointments for new clients in Montrose, Ridgway and Delta, or via teletherapy. Teletherapy includes telephone and online video sessions to maintain physical distancing guidelines. "It's important to note that although teletherapy is a different approach from in-person therapy, the care is administered by The Center's trained professionals. Our teletherapy services are secure, personal, compassionate and effective," says Jones. Due to stay-at-home mandates, all CMH offices on the Western Slope now offer teletherapy to their current clients and to those in the community who recognize they may need help. "The health of our clients and those who need to access behavioral healthcare is paramount right now," said Shelly Spalding, CEO of The Center for Mental Health.

"In spite of the challenges of the day, the continuity of care is important, and we are

working to meet the needs of our community."

In the interest of public health, The Center has swiftly transitioned to these virtual care options (telephone and video-based) for most services, including care management, individual and group outpatient therapy, and/or psychiatry.

The Center is committed to following guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as mandates by Governor Polis. As a provider of essential healthcare services, it will remain open and dedicated to serving both new and existing clients.

For those who are in crisis and need immediate care, the Crisis Walk-in Center at 300 N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose is available 24-hours, seven days a week and remains open.

"It is critical that all residents on the Western Slope have access to behavioral health support," emphasized Spalding. "Regardless of how difficult the current situation may be, we will continue to create innovative methods to care for our community."

The Center for Mental Health is a non-profit organization seeking to promote mental health and well-being.

It provides behavioral health services across 10,000 square miles including Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.

Visit www.centermh.org to learn more.



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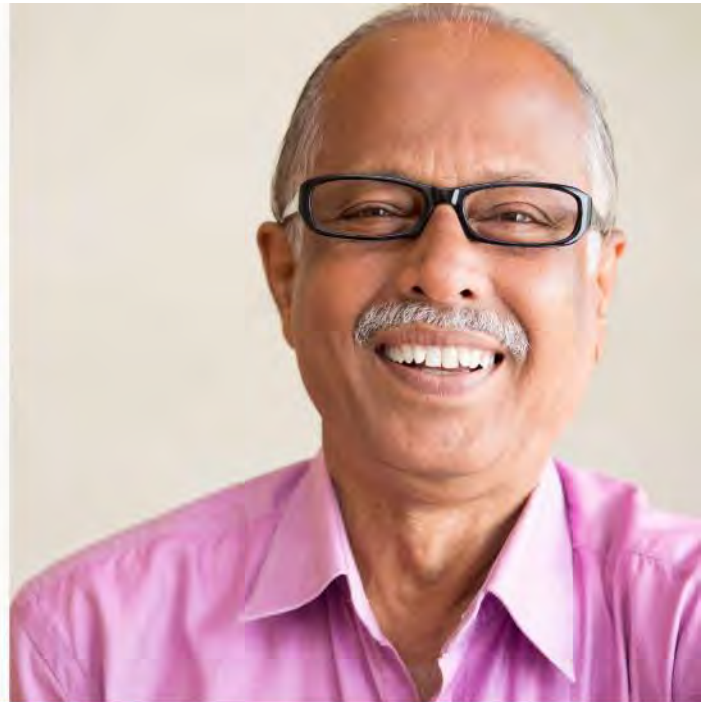
17TH ANNUAL MONTROSE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Mark your calendars because, at this time, the 17th Annual Montrose Wine & Food Festival, presented by Alpine Bank, is still on for Saturday May 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Bridges Golf and Country

Club in Montrose! Featuring live music, over 40 beverage and food vendors, a silent auction and more, it is an event not to be missed. Tickets and sponsorships are available and can be purchased online at www.blackcanyontickets.com by search-

ing for 2020 Montrose Wine & Food Festival. All proceeds from the event benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club of Montrose and Olathe. For information visit www.montrosewinefestival.com or www.bcbgc.org.



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'BE SAFE, BE CAREFUL, LET'S TRY TO FLATTEN THE CURVE,' MONTROSE BOCC HEARS UPDATE FROM HEALTH DEPT. From pg 1

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners unanimously approved Item D-1, ratification and extension of the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration.

The Board had previously declared an emergency and ratified the declaration, County Attorney Marti Whitmore said, but had not extended it. The original March 16 Declaration is now continued through April 30.

Public Health Director Jim Austin gave an update on COVID-19. "It has been busy over the last two weeks...this has been a real exercise in teamwork between several county departments."

He thanked County Medical Advisor Dr. Joe Adragna for going far, far beyond the normal services provided, as well as Posse members who have volunteered to answer the public information line.

Austin discussed business closures, including chain retailers that operate across multiple states. "We're getting some clarification from the State Health Department to be able to give very clear guidance on the conditions for being a critical business."

Those who call the Public Information Line with case specific questions are being asked to call their medical provider. If a medical advisor's opinion differs from that of Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), the County can be more restrictive but not less, Whitmore said.

Montrose County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Communicable Disease Specialist Lisa Gallegos discussed testing efforts, contact tracing efforts, and results to date. "I am working one-on-one with the hospital to continue to get that information," Gallegos said, "So we can reach out to the cases who have been tested and let them know where they stand...it continues to grow every day."

Contract tracing for each case takes an average of one day, Gallegos said. Getting negative results back has been challenging. "It's been going really well; I have four people from the county working with me."

The isolation period is 14 days; still, symptoms generally appear within four to five days.

Caddy asked what has been done to increase the speed of turnaround for test results.

"We've gone to a commercial lab, it's called GenPath," Gallegos said. "And they have guaranteed us results in 48 hours. They have been really good about keeping up with that...we have been able to get those quicker."

She added, "Dr. Adragna is our medical director and he's an amazing person and I am glad he is working with us on this."

Following further discussion, BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash asked, "Are we looking at our individual towns so we can spot a hot spot?"

"We're trying to do that right now," Gallegos said. "First we need to get the names back so we can figure out where they live...we'll work on getting that for you."

Montrose County Public Health Nurse and Deputy for Medical Operations Laura Lenihan spoke. Lenihan has been conducting COVID-19 tests at the Montrose County Event Center.

"I have an average of about 25 people that I've been testing throughout the day," Lenihan said. "We receive those orders from the EOC...I get quite a few during the day that they have their order in hand..... as well as phone calls Lisa funnels to me."

Citizen attitude has been very positive, she said. "They're very appreciative."

The Event Center location is safe, private, and out of the elements. "The Event Center is perfect," Lenihan said. "I would like to remain out there for the duration of the testing."

All COVID-19 testing subjects are maintained in a database just as flu patients are, she said.

"Everything's going great over there," Lenihan said. "Thank you for your support."

"Thank you for what you're doing," Hansen said. "Talk about a rock star."

"Thank you so much...we did start about three weeks ago on this operation," Caddy said. "We seen it coming, and we have such a dedicated, professional group that we realized what was coming at us. We started early, and I am very pleased with how things are working out."

"I think we are on the right track to keep the damage to a minimum to our community," Caddy said.

Rash said, "I want to thank you guys. It is a true pleasure to work with such outstanding professionals...everybody working together...the list of people that are stepping up and doing what needs to be done to protect our citizens."

"These guys aren't reacting," he said. "They're trying to get proactive and get ahead of the curb...these folks have just really busted their tails getting stuff done."

Rash thanked the National Guard for helping with testing as well and urged everyone to follow safe practices and social distancing. "Keep up the good work," he said. "Thank you everybody out there in the public that's working as well to help us do this."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

To allow the public to attend in person if possible, the BOCC continued Item E-1, deliberation and decision on the Blow Fly Shooting Group Special Use [SU-19-0065] proposal to develop a shotgun shooting range, until 9:30 a.m. on May 6.

Also moved to May 6 at 9:30 a.m. was the Summers Rezone [RZ-19-0086], a proposal to rezone General Residential (R) to General Business (B) at 49 6400 Road (Northwest Corner of 6400 Road and Buffalograss Drive).

Said Caddy, "I've been talking to Dr. Adragna...I know people out there are running out of disinfectant and wipes...there are ways of protecting your family. Create a solution of four teaspoons of bleach to one quart of water in a solution, or five tablespoons of bleach to one gallon of water."

"There are ways around the disinfectant problem to keep yourself and your family

'BE SAFE, BE CAREFUL, LET'S TRY TO FLATTEN THE CURVE,' MONTROSE BOCC HEARS UPDATE FROM HEALTH DEPT. From previous pg

safe, and your environment clean," Caddy said.

He reminded people, "If you need to go to the grocery stores, try to get all your groceries at one time...please be aware of your surroundings and your environment; as much time as you can spend at home isolating and quarantining yourself that would be great."

Rash said, "Please look at our county web site, we also have a Facebook page...there's all kinds of information out there."

Hansen said, "I want people that are watching to know that the County has one priority and that is safety...I want you to keep in mind that we are working on your behalf."

Social distancing is imperative, she said. "That's the only way to contain this. We are in control of being able to keep this to a minimum spread...be safe, be careful, let's try to flatten the curve while we can."

Caddy reminded citizens to be counted in the Census.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

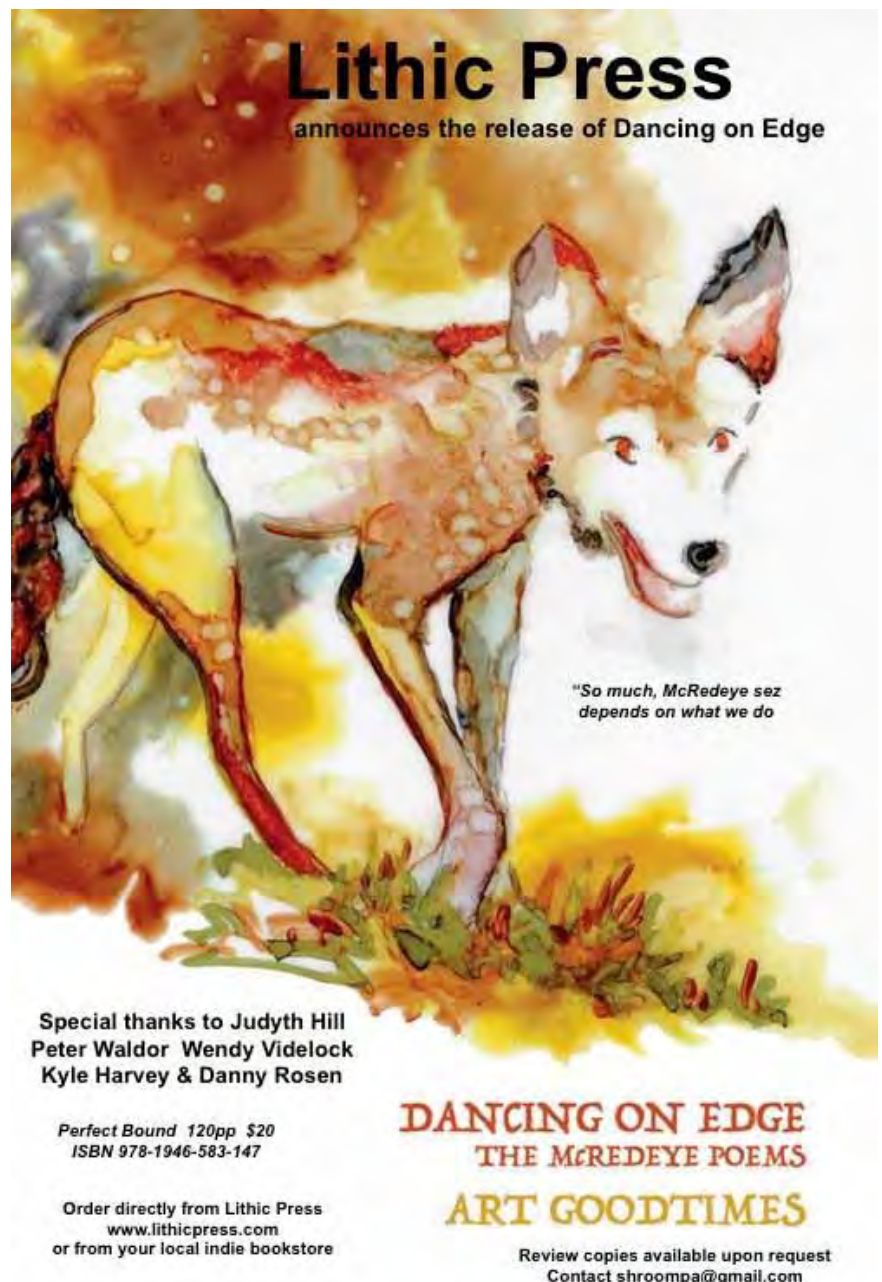
MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

REGIONAL-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the involved parties who committed a burglary near the 16000 Block of Transfer Road in the unincorporated area of Montrose County. The 16000 Block of Transfer Road is commonly used by outdoor enthusiasts who may have seen suspicious activity during this time.

On March 28, 2020, multiple individuals cut a fence to a property, drove a vehicle onto the property and entered the locked residence, as well as outbuildings and vehicles. The residence was then ransacked, prior to involved individuals taking items belonging to the homeowner.

Additionally, three different sets of shoe prints and vehicle tire tracks were recovered from the scene. Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility. MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHY I'M RUNNING AGAIN FOR COLORADO'S 58TH STATE HOUSE DISTRICT

By Seth Cagin

I wasn't planning on running for the second time for public office as a Democrat in a heavily Republican district. My 2018 campaign was the experience of a lifetime. I knocked on over 8,500 doors and made a lot of new friends, but it was hard. And I lost. That means it should have been somebody else's turn to try to flip Colorado's 58th House District blue in 2020.

I decided to run again this year because I learned at my virtual San Miguel Democratic Party County Convention last week that nobody else planned to challenge State Rep. Marc Catlin.

I decided to run because Democratic voters in Southwestern Colorado should be able to cast their votes for a candidate who represents their values: Someone who will fight for social and economic justice, and environmental protection.

Last time I ran because I thought it was important for Democrats to run even in districts where we are a minority. I fo-

cused on our common ground. I still believe that the majority of Democrats and Republicans and Unaffiliated voters and non-voters – all of us – have more in common than we have that divides us. But my focus has evolved, because it is crystal clear after three-plus years of Trump that the philosophies of today's Republican Party are a threat both to democracy and to the sustainability of life on this planet.

We know this because we know that the Republican response to COVID-19 is just a preview of how they will continue to respond to the even bigger threat of climate change. They will respond with denial, up until and even after catastrophe is upon us.

We know that Republicans will never enact policies to reduce the income inequality that has impoverished millions, or to make health care available to everyone. Republicans will never vote to adequately fund public education.

All this leaves Democrats no choice but to

challenge Republicans everywhere, at every opportunity, with every ounce of energy and resolve we can muster. We have to try to defeat Republicans up and down the ballot, in every district, in every race.

I don't plan to go door-to-door this cycle, not only because of COVID-19, but also because a new strategy is called for. This cycle I will campaign primarily using social media. I will challenge Marc Catlin at debates and forums.

This is not a very political thing for a candidate to say, but it is reality: I don't expect Trump loyalists to vote for me. I am speaking to everyone else. Everyone else is a lot of people. It could even be a majority, even in Southwestern Colorado.

This could be the year we Democrats beat Congressman Scott Tipton.

This year, the voters of the 58th might even elect a Democrat to the State House of Representatives.

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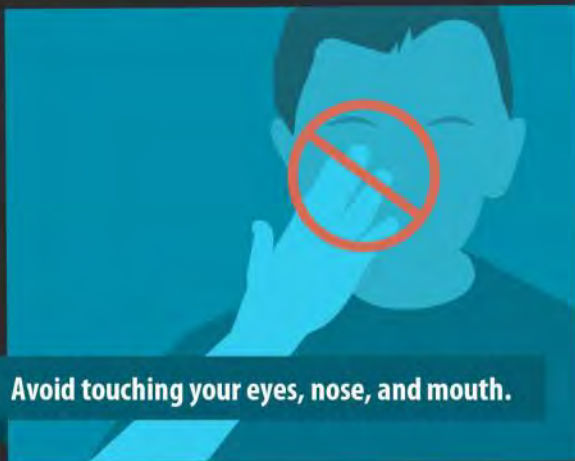
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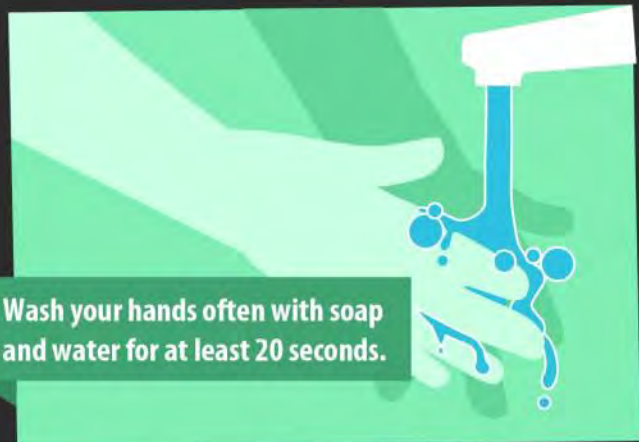
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Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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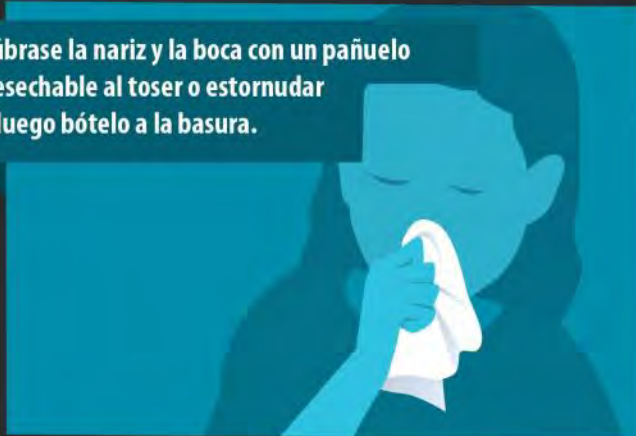
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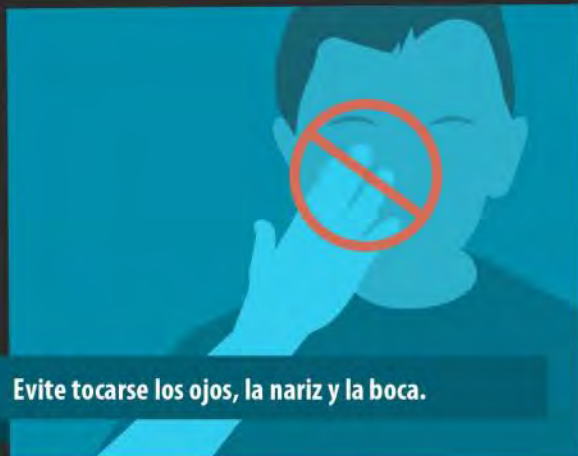
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CITY HEARS MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT, OPENS PORTA-POTS & HAND WASHING STATIONS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE TO USE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose convened for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 30. Though work sessions are normally held on first and third Mondays, the April 6 Council work session was moved ahead because of the April 7 Municipal Election. All Councilors were present for the work session.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT

After a brief wait for Councilor Doug Glaspell to join the meeting, Municipal Court Judge Dick Brown and Court Clerk Emily Boyko provided the Annual Municipal Court Report. In addition to Brown and Boyko, Court staff includes Assistant Court Judge Anna Cooling and Deputy Clerk Jodi Stewart. Brown said he has issued several administrative orders, the latest in response to the City's Tier 4 Emergency Declaration.

"Basically, we've continued all the cases as such for eight weeks," Brown said. Three pending trials have been continued until late May, he said. Those with bench warrants are being asked to call in within three business days for a date.

"We're respecting the jail too; we don't want to put more people in jail unless we absolutely have to," Brown said. "It doesn't mean the police department would not arrest somebody if they actually needed to, but this certainly gives them a lot of flexibility."

Brown presented highlights of the Annual Report. There were 1,550 cases filed in 2019. Court collections for the year amounted to \$169,745.19. To meet Useful Public Service requirements, the Court allowed defendants to buy food for Sharing Ministries; animal food and supplies for the Animal Shelter; or credit for Animal Control at local veterinary clinics. A total of \$200 in food was given to Sharing Ministries, \$5,187 to Chow Down Pet Supplies to be credited to the Animal Shelter, and \$800 in credit for Animal Control at local veterinary clinics.

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum asked how organizations can get on the list for Useful Public Service donations. Recipient organizations must be non-profits, Brown



Hand washing stations and portable toilets have been placed in areas where homeless people tend to congregate.

said. "We use a lot of the same people the District and County courts use."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that he recently spoke with a young lady doing her Useful Public Service at the Montrose Recreation Center. "She was doing a pretty good job of it, and I pointed out to her that one of the positives of it was all the young boys that were coming in and out," Glaspell said. "She decided that wasn't too bad."

Teen Court was going strong, Brown said, but the year was cut short because of COVID-19.

The complete report is included in the work session packet.

Mayor Bowman thanked Judge Brown for presenting. "Thanks for being with us this morning, good luck, stay safe, stay at home, and keep us updated on anything Council can do to help the Court."

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PHASE III

Though Council had originally scheduled consideration and approval of a proposal from American Classic Sign Manufacturer (ACSM) for fabrication and installation of Wayfinding signage phase III in the

amount of \$175K., Councilors discussed delaying the project until the budgetary impacts of COVID-19 can be assessed, and removing it from the agenda for the March 31 Council meeting.

Said City Manager Bill Bell, "City-wide we are looking at the budget, for projects that can be postponed."

FUEL CONTRACT AWARD

City Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed a recommendation for a fuel contract award. A memo prepared by Scheid for Council notes, "The City's Fuel and Oil contract expired early this year and was issued as an RFP to renew our contract and to allow for competition in the award process. The Fleet Division received three bids, one of the bids did not provide prices for all items requested...the RFP that was issued was clear that the City was interested in one company to provide fuel and oils due to the cost savings and efficiencies of doing so."

Low bidder Parish Oil has had the contract for the past three years and the City has a very good relationship with them, Scheid said.

Continued next pg

CITY HEARS MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT, OPENS PORTA-POTS & HAND WASHING STATIONS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE TO USE From previous pg

The contract award will be placed on the April 21 meeting agenda for Council approval.

CHANGE ORDER/ASBESTOS ABATEMENT
Scheid discussed a change order request in the amount of \$9,050 by ARC Abatement.

Background-A memo prepared by Scheid for Council notes that while undergoing asbestos abatement at 430 South 1st Street and 439 South 2nd Street, the project contractor uncovered additional asbestos hidden beneath existing building finishes that was not visible or noticeable during the assessment.

Because the City had hired a private consultant to perform an assessment prior to bringing in the asbestos removal contractor, they had not included a contingency in the contract, Scheid said, but will do so in future. "We should have included a contingency to cover additional work like this."

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Police Chief Blaine Hall provided an update on the department's activities. "The Police Department hasn't slowed down," Hall said, noting that the previous weekend was "very, very busy." Many of the individuals with whom police interacted were symptomatic for COVID-19; officers used personal protective equipment (PPE), which is now mandatory. If a breach in PPE protocol is discovered officers will receive priority status for testing. Officers have been quarantined as needed but all are back on the job now, Hall said.

Officers also engaged in directed patrols throughout the prior weekend. "We are trying to encourage the public to self-police," Hall said. "Some people gather when they shouldn't."

Police have inventoried local businesses to ensure that those mandated for closure by order of the Governor have actually closed.

Director of Business Innovation & DART Chelsea Rosty said that the City has been in touch with many local businesses throughout the COVID-19 crisis and is personally contacting those businesses that remain open in violation of the Governor's

Order. "It's quite the shift in duties," she said. The City's Emergency Small Business Loan Fund will be ready to go as soon as approved by Council.

Communications efforts are going well, though information is quickly outdated in the current environment. "This thing moves fast," she said.

"You've done an excellent job of putting out current information in a really timely manner," Bowman said. He asked about interest in the City's small business loan package.

People have been reaching out and asking questions, Rosty said.

City finance Director Shani Wittenberg also gave an update. "We are still working through what we think the impact is going to be and how much we think we need to reduce our 2020 budget by," she said.

"Currently we are actually trying to get some communication out to the businesses that have not filed their sales tax returns for February."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said. "The City has been partnering and working with non-profits in our community as they are working to respond to needs in our community."

Hilltop Community Resources has applied for a \$25K Hunger Relief program to provide and deliver meals for local students over Spring Break. The City has been receiving electronic building permit plans and sets, she said, and has been able to issue them. "We're getting some efficiencies in our process that we will bring back with us when all is said and done."

Information is available on the City's web site under the [COVID-19](#) tab.

City Manager Bill Bell also spoke about efforts to ensure local businesses are in compliance with the Governor's order. The majority of interactions with business owners have been positive, he said. "We want as many critical and essential businesses to stay open as possible at this time...there are always going to be a handful that don't want to comply with anything."

Bell reminded all that the Governor's Order provides a detailed description of the

type of outdoor recreation currently allowed, which is mostly solitary. "You shouldn't be out running around all over the community."

Council spent time talking about golf; with Grand Junction allowing courses to remain operational, Montrose has been getting some kickback for being in compliance with the statewide order, as well as from other local golf courses on the fact that golf carts are no longer allowed.

Bell said, "Every community is different in how they are responding...the way we're treating it here in our community is you can go out and walk and golf by yourself and continue to walk and recreate without congregating."

Group activities and team sports are not allowed.

"We want to be sure that our community is as healthy as possible and that we get back to normal as quickly as possible," Bell said.

Councilor Files said that shared equipment can be a source of virus transmission for those who engage in team sports. "The shared equipment makes the difference."

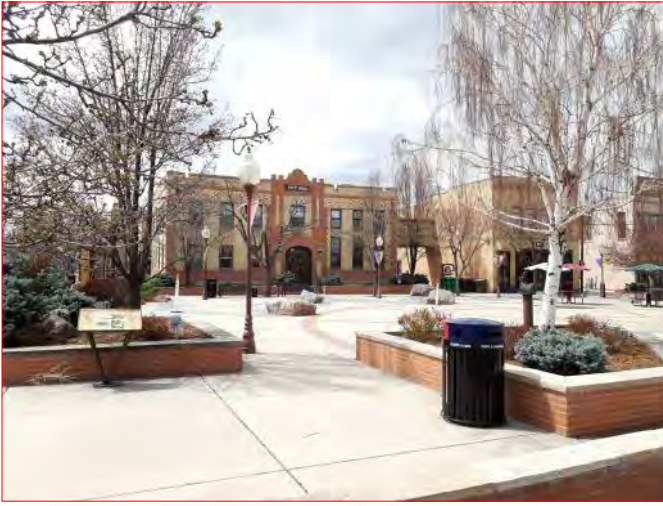
Councilor Doug Glaspell mentioned the closure of playgrounds.

"Playground equipment is shut down everywhere," Bell said, and addressed the need for public restrooms for homeless people to use. "The homeless population is the concern we have heard," he said. "...We don't feel comfortable opening our public restrooms because we can't have enough people there to maintain the sanitary conditions. We've beefed up our janitorial contract as much as we can, but we also have to look out for our contractors as well and our police, and the general public."

Previously, homeless people had taken over the public restrooms entirely, Bell noted. "We all think that would happen again if we were to open those."

Instead, local providers were persuaded to place hand washing stations and portable toilets in areas where homeless people tend to congregate, such as Riverbottom Park, Centennial Plaza, and La Raza Park, Bell said. "To try to encourage

CITY HEARS MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT, OPENS PORTA-POTS & HAND WASHING STATIONS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE TO USE *From previous pg*



Normally a hub of activity on spring weekends, Centennial Plaza was eerily quiet on Saturday.

them to wash their hands."

Keeping the units stocked has been a challenge for providers, Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said. Toilet paper and

count it," she said.

Files noted that other communities have had problems with citizens flushing items other than toilet paper and asked if Mont-

rose had experienced similar issues. paper towels are now hot commodities. "Toilet paper disappears as soon as they put it in there," Scheid said.

Bynum asked City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo to remind voters where to drop off ballots for the Municipal Election and where to find replacements. DelPiccolo said that ballots may be dropped off in the drop box in front of the old County Courthouse. "If we don't have your ballot by 7p.m. on election day, we can't

rose had experienced similar issues.

Utilities Manager David Bries said that people are strongly discouraged from flushing anything but toilet paper down the sewer line. The first section of pipe from the home is the customer's responsibility to maintain.

Further discussion focused on business closures, and possible budgetary impacts. Bell said he has asked every City department for a list of projects that can be delayed to save money.

The next work session is scheduled for April 20; Bynum suggested that Council schedule another in the interim. Files and Bynum thanked staff for their hard work and for putting in extra hours because of the pandemic. Bowman echoed the sentiment and thanked all who participated in the work session and reminded of the virtual regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday at 6 p.m.



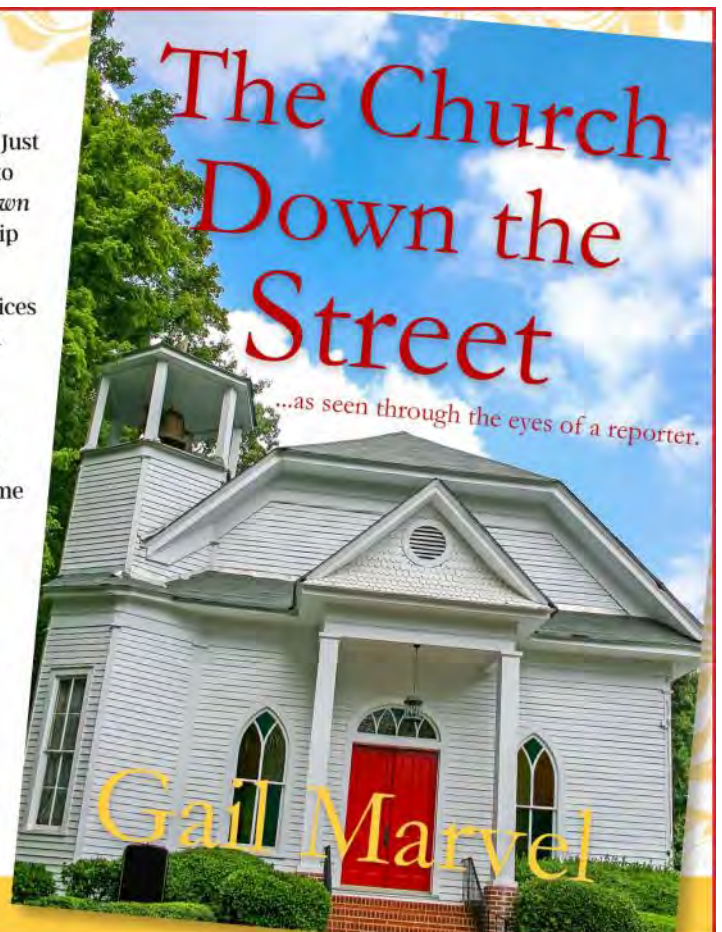
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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.



Available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [WingedPublications.com](https://www.WingedPublications.com)

FILES SAYS FAREWELL; COUNCIL VOTES TO APPROVE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT PACKAGE DURING COVID-19

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Attending her last full session, Councilor Judy Ann Files said goodbye at the Montrose City Council virtual meeting of March 31. All councilors were in attendance; Youth Council Representative was Catherine Borner. The meeting convened at 6 p.m.; Council spent time waiting for Doug Glaspell, who was experiencing technical difficulties, to log in.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum asked that Item 10, award of a contract for fabrication and installation of Phase III of the Wayfinding Signage Project to American Classic Sign Manufacturer (ACSM) for the total amount of \$175,000, be tabled as previously discussed in work session. Mayor Bowman acknowledged and affirmed the request.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments heard on non-agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 17 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Council voted to approve the minutes of the March 17 meeting as they waited for Glaspell, who joined shortly after.

ORDINANCE 2498-SECOND READING

Council considered Ordinance 2498 on second reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, authorizing and approving a site lease and lease purchase agreement between the City and UMB Bank, N.A. (solely in its capacity as trustee); approving not to exceed \$16,000,000 principal amount of certificates of participation, series 2020, in connection therewith; authorizing officials of the City to take all action necessary to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby; and related matters.

The packet include a link to financial documents pertaining to the issuance, which will help fund the new police facility.

City Manager Bill Bell introduced Kyle from D.A. Davidson, who spoke about recent changes to financial conditions and shared a presentation from his desktop. With COVID-19, "Once the stock market



With local businesses forced to close due to COVID-19, the City of Montrose has created a Small Business Emergency Response Fund, with loan approvals based on need.

started to have significant declines and values, we saw significant changes in the bond market as well," Kyle said. "We had massive spikes...the market, in terms of new issuance, really shut down...it's been a wild few weeks in our marketplace as we adjust."

Following further discussion, City Manager Bill Bell noted that the police department is now fully staffed, and law enforcement needs have not gone away.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo took a roll call vote; Council voted to approve Ordinance 2498 but changed the not-to-exceed interest rate to 4 percent.

Mayor Bowman said, "Fantastic! One step closer to building that police station."

ORDINANCE 2499-SECOND READING

Council voted to approve Ordinance 2499 on second reading, vacating three rights-of-way deemed surplus as previously discussed.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaller said the site plan for the new police facility has not been determined yet; the right-of-way vacations will provide more flexibility.

SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RESPONSE REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Council voted to establish a Small Business Emergency Response Fund using dollars

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

"On a case by case basis, everything is up for negotiation," he said, "depending on the needs of that particular business." Application will be based on need.

The loan fund is a partnership with the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning (Region 10), Bell said, and is part of a small business package that also includes a 90-day sales tax payment deferral and cooperative marketing grants for businesses willing to team up in groups of three or more.

Files asked about accountability; Bell said that the loan review committee will include City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg, City Director of Business Innovation & DART Chelsea Rosty, local business owner David Fishing, and Region 10 Loan Fund Director Dan Scinto.

Bynum, Glaspell, and Anderson spoke

FILES SAYS FAREWELL; COUNCIL VOTES TO APPROVE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT PACKAGE DURING COVID-19 *From previous pg*

against allowing councilors to serve on the loan committee.

Mayor Bowman recalled questions that arose over the processing and approval of loans through the former Downtown Development Authority (DDA) loan fund. "What can you say to me to convince me that all our ducks will be in a row and stay in a row?" Bowman asked.

Bell said that all members of the loan committee will be required to sign off on all loan approvals.

"I know what we're doing is a great idea, I want to be sure all the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed so somebody can't come back and say that we played favorites or anything like that," Bowman said.

Council discussed whether to prioritize loans based on need, benefit to the community, or on a first-come, first-served basis. Bynum suggested developing a rubric with point values to "grade" loan applications. "I don't think simply being the first means you get it."

The grant application will serve as a rubric, Bowman said. "We've got great professionals looking at the information, evaluating the information...my feeling is we're going to have to trust their judgment."

Bell suggested a rolling application period and promised to keep Council posted on the number of applications received.

Councilor Roy Anderson called the Small Business Emergency Response Fund a "great step forward to help our community."

STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief Blaine Ball gave a Public Information Officer report. With positive cases of COVID-19 on the rise, Montrose Memorial Hospital, the County's Public Health Department, and local medical providers are preparing for a possible surge in patients, and seeking alternative sites, he said.

He thanked the 95 percent of businesses that have voluntarily complied with the Governor's orders to close. "It's very

difficult for us as a City staff to have to reach out to some of these businesses and inform them that they are not exempt under the Governor's order."

Individuals observed using closed sporting facilities during the outbreak have been contacted. "You really shouldn't be out," Hall said. "This is serious. We need to stay at home. You can use parks, trails, try to exercise around your home, but you really shouldn't be out...what the State, City, County is trying to do is flatten the curve right now...we need to be home."

Rosty mentioned the weekly support phone call for small business and "Takeout Fridays."

"We appreciate the community support...we are seeing some really incredible things happening as silver linings in all of this." She thanked Montrose County for sharing resources and working with the City to release timely information to the public.

Youth Councilor Catherine Borner said that students have not been able to meet since the COVID-19 crisis began. A planned Habitat Build Day was no longer possible at this time, she said.

Bowman thanked first responders, hospital workers, city employees, and everyone who has stayed home "doing the right thing." He reminded all that the Black Canyon Golf Course is free and open to the public. "There are no green fees at the Golf Course, it is free and open to the community, you might want to call for a tee time, it was pretty crowded today.

"...Stay at home, but at the same time, safely recreate," Bowman said.

"Staff has done a great job under these conditions," Glaspell said.

Anderson thanked City IT Director Greg Story, and staff who worked on the loan program. He thanked youth council members for their contribution to the community.

Bynum thanked City staff for providing portable toilets and hand washing stations

during the closure of public restrooms. She urged constituents to call or email with questions and concerns.

JUDY ANN FILES SAYS FAREWELL AFTER EIGHT YEARS ON COUNCIL

"As this is my last complete

City Council meeting, I am taking the opportunity to say thanks to all of you," she said, "Council, staff, and community. This has been an amazing ride for me."

"...I never could have imagined that my last meeting could be me, sitting in my own living room, by myself," Files said. "...I enjoyed almost every moment of it."

Files said that she takes pride in recalling the All-America City Designation earned by Montrose during her first year in office.

"I take joy in seeing that we continue to display the emblem. I take pride when I drive on the improved streets, and when I walk and bike ride on the additional trails," she said. "The Montrose Community should also take pride and celebrate the accomplishments of the past eight years."

Council and staff have worked together for the betterment of the community, she said, to applause.

Council discussed holding a special work session on April 13; there was discussion as to whether or not to invite the newly-elected City Councilors, with Candidate David Stockton commenting that Councilors should be sworn in prior to attending work sessions in an official capacity, and Candidate Dave Frank noting that at that point, the new councilors would be elected officials.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



City Councilor Judy Ann Files said goodbye after 8 years. Courtesy photo.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SEE LOCAL TRAILS AND TRACK CLOSURES ON THE COTREX APP

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado Parks and Wildlife has launched a new trail closure tracking feature on the [Colorado Trail Explorer \(COTREX\)](#) app to enhance the outdoor recreation planning experience for our community. With help from our local, state, and federal partners COTREX is now monitoring trail-related COVID-19 closures across Colorado on a daily basis. For the first time, closures and alerts are now visually represented with symbols on the COTREX map when viewing details about a trail, trailhead or visitor center. CPW understands how important outdoor recreation is to your physical and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, staying close to home and limiting travel for recreation is essential to prevent the spread of the virus in our state. At this time, we encourage all Coloradans to stay close to your home and use local trails and parks for outdoor recreation. Limiting travel for recreation helps minimize the strain of visitors on small mountain communities and creates less burden for our search and rescue and emergency responders.

To find new trail opportunities in your community, use the free [COTREX](#) app on both web and mobile. COTREX is a valuable resource that allows users to discover more than 45,000 miles of public trails in Colorado. The trail filter allows you to customize your search based on location, recreational activity, vehicle type, or trail needs like wheelchair accessibility and dog-friendly trails. The app also gives you the ability to create and share custom routes



Staying close to home and limiting travel for outdoor recreation is essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Colorado. Courtesy photo.

that show distance, elevation, steepness and navigation to the nearest trailhead. COTREX plans to track closures related to trails, parks, open spaces, visitor centers and campgrounds. COTREX does not plan to report closures for public recreation facilities not associated with trails, such as playgrounds and recreation centers. While our goal is to update COTREX daily, please make sure to check with your local land manager for additional guidance on how and where to recreate responsibly. CPW reminds Coloradans to practice [trail safety etiquette](#) while recreating outdoors and to visit parks responsibly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay at home if you are sick.

Participate in the [Colorado Mask Project](#) and wear a non-medical mask when you go outside to protect yourself and our community.

Spread out on trails and follow social distancing guidelines.

Avoid creating crowds around trailheads. Adjust your outdoor recreation plans and use COTREX to find another local trail option.

Avoid dangerous outdoor activities that can result in a hospital visit.

For more information about Colorado's state parks and outdoor recreation, visit the [CPW website](#).



Brain food. Feed your starving mind.

The Montrose Mirror

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HEAD-TO-HEAD DETOUR BEGINS ON I-70 IN GLENWOOD CANYON

Special to the Mirror

GARFIELD COUNTY & EAGLE COUNTY –

The Colorado Department of Transportation asks Interstate 70 Glenwood Canyon travelers to plan for additional travel time beginning Thursday, Apr. 2 when the head-to-head detour between Hanging Lake Tunnel (mile point (MP) 125) and No Name Tunnel (MP 117.6) was scheduled to begin. Westbound traffic will be shifted onto the lower, Eastbound traffic deck where one lane of traffic will be open in each direction.

Motorists should anticipate intermittent stops on I-70 Eastbound and Westbound for crews to install the head-to-head detour.

Significant delays are anticipated through the detour route. "Delay times will vary depending on travel volumes in the canyon. Plan for an additional 30 minutes to your travel time, especially during morning and evening peak hours," said CDOT

Region 3 communications manager, Elise Thatcher.

To help with some of the uncertainty that comes with travel in the Glenwood Canyon, CDOT is piloting new smart work zone signage that will provide live travel time estimates based on real-time traffic volumes. "It's important for CDOT to provide the best information possible for motorists," said Michael Goolsby, regional transportation director for northwest Colorado. "This is an innovative approach to providing up-to-the-minute conditions for drivers in a location where cell service and other communications are limited."

Smart work zone signs are placed in three locations outside Glenwood Canyon: on I-70 Eastbound near Glenwood Springs (MP 116), on I-70 Westbound near Dotsero (MP 133) and on Westbound/Northbound CO-82 near the Glenwood Springs city limits.

Usual weekday travel peak hours are

when motorists are commuting to and from work, approximately 7-10 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.

For estimated travel times, motorists can also call or text the project information line at 970-618-5379.

Motorists should use both lanes to the merge point, also called a zipper merge. CDOT asks travelers to be aware of posted speed limits throughout work zones, to keep both fellow motorists and crews safe.

Grizzly Creek (MP 121) and Shoshone (MP 123) Traffic Impacts

Beginning concurrently, the Westbound on-ramp at Grizzly Creek will close for construction access.

Westbound motorists departing from Grizzly Creek will use the Eastbound I-70 on-ramp and continue to Bair Ranch (MP 129) for access to Westbound I-70.

This traffic pattern is anticipated to be in effect until late-June.

PUC ADOPTS EMERGENCY RULES LIMITING RATES OF NON-CONSENSUAL TOWS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has adopted emergency rules limiting the rates of non-consensual tows from private property. Based on the economic impacts of COVID-19, the limitations on rates are designed to provide relief to the public during this time.

Under [Executive Order D 2020 017](#) and the subsequent [Public Health Order 20-24](#), critical services may be provided by towing companies to support other critical

functions, such as law enforcement and hospitals. The PUC recognizes that towing companies are impacted during this time, which is why the emergency rules, effective April 2 through April 27, are temporary and focus on the fees that towing companies collect for non-consensual tows from private property only.

Towing companies are allowed to collect the base tow rate for a non-consensual tow, in most cases \$180, but are prohibited from collecting mileage, fuel surcharge

and storage fees.

The temporary changes will allow towing companies to continue to operate and perform non-consensual tows that are necessary to preserve the safety of the public but prevent those non-consensual tows from presenting undue financial hardship on the public without addressing safety.

Law enforcement directed non-consensual tows are unaffected by the emergency rules.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY STAY-AT-HOME PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER EXTENDED

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY -- San Miguel County Department of Public Health and Environment extended and refined its Public Health "Stay at Home" order to begin midnight April 4 to midnight May 1.

The order formerly known as "Shelter in Place" which is in effect through April 3, was changed to "Stay at Home" to align with Colorado State terminology. Public health is also changing the social distancing language to physical distancing to offer people the opportunity to socialize while maintaining at least 6 feet of distance in groups no more than ten.

"We realize these measures are difficult for all of us at some level. But our strategies are working, and they need to work if we have any hope of mitigating against this devastating disease," Grace Franklin, Public Health Director said.

Other specifics of the order include:

- Visitors/tourists are prohibited from staying in San Miguel County.
- Non-residential homeowners are discouraged from coming to their county home. If they do, they must do so prepared to follow the public health order of a mandatory 14-day quarantine (see below for definition).
- County residents are discouraged from leaving the county unless they have essential need to do so.
- County residents who leave the county for 2 days or longer must be prepared to follow the public health order of a mandatory 14-day quarantine (see below for definition).
- County residents who leave the county should practice physical distancing and excellent personal hygiene at all times.
- Cannabis and restaurants orders now align with Colorado State orders. Restaurants may serve "to-go" alcoholic beverages, but they must not be con-

sumed in public and there is no loitering.

- Essential business now includes moving to a new residence as necessary.
- Construction and real estate are still considered non-essential business.

-Use of playground equipment is prohibited to help prevent germ spread. Playgrounds themselves remain open for use.

Dr. Sharon Grundy, County Medical Officer said, "We've learned that travel and close contact with community members is what spreads this disease. These orders help us put knowledge into power, and we all need to do our part."

Franklin said this data is the driving force behind extending and adjusting the order. "We must be vigilant in our stay at home and physical distancing behavior now, more than ever before."

Public Health Officials also emphasized the importance maintaining good personal and household hygiene practices including frequent hand-washing and avoiding touching your face.

Quarantine is used to separate people believed to have been exposed, in this case, to COVID-19 in the event they are infected. Quarantine is used so people who had this exposure do not spread the virus. People who are asked to quarantine are to remain home for 14 days from the time of exposure.

This means no trips to the post office, grocery store, etc. It also means only brief time outside the home when absolutely necessary, such as letting a dog out. In cases like this it is imperative that the person severely restrict their movement and stay at least 6 feet away from anyone else.

They should contact their healthcare providers if they develop symptoms such as a cough or fever.

They should contact 911 if they experience worrisome shortness of breath.

Self-isolation is even more strict than quarantine in that the sick person not only stays home, but is isolated, that is completely separated from all persons in the household who are not sick.

If other members of the household are sick, this measure is more like quarantine. Self-isolation is 14 days from the first day the person has symptoms.

-People who test positive on the PCR Swab tests are to self-isolate for 14 days from when their symptoms first started. This is a Public Health Order.

-People who are sick but have not been swabbed are to self-isolate for 14 days from when their symptoms first started. This is a Public Health Recommendation.

-People who test positive on the first or second BLOOD TEST AND have symptoms are ordered to self-isolate for 14 days from the first day of their symptoms.

This is a Public Health Order.

-People who test positive on the first or second BLOOD TEST AND DO NOT have symptoms are ordered to quarantine for 14 days from the day of the first positive blood test result. This is a Public Health Order.

It is recommended that everyone in San Miguel County make appropriate plans in the event you or someone in your household gets sick or is exposed to someone who is sick.

You should have a two-week supply of food, medicine (prescriptions and over-the-counter fever reducers), pet food and other essential items.

If people need assistance with groceries or essentials, please contact Tri-County Health Network at 970-708-7096 or go to tchnetwork.org.

For up to date coronavirus information visit: <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus>.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT: MORE THAN 60,000 INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FILED MARCH 22-28

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Last week the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) announced there were 61,583 initial unemployment claims filed the week ending March 28, 2020. This is more than three times the number of initial unemployment claims filed the week ending March 21, 2020, which was 19,745. The initial claims numbers are those weekly claims that are reported to the U.S. Department of Labor every week for the week prior and do not reflect all applications filed for unemployment.*

For historical reference, during the Great Recession, the week with the highest initial claims was during 2010, with 7,749 claims the week ending January 9. Today's release of initial claims is eight times greater than the peak period during the Recession.

While today's release shows the dramatic workload increase to the State's unemployment insurance program, the full economic impact of COVID-19 may not be fully presented until March or April jobs numbers, according to Ryan Gedney, Senior Economist for CDLE. March data will be released Friday, April 17 at 8 am.

DORA'S PUC/OCC ADVISE UTILITY CUSTOMERS TO AVOID SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), two divisions within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), are helping to raise awareness about scams being perpetrated on utility consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Unfortunately, scammers haven't taken a break during this public health crisis, and utility customers may be especially vulnerable. It is important for consumers to know that, in response to Gov. Jared Polis' March 20, 2020 Executive Order D 2020 012, all Colorado electric and gas utilities have ceased disconnections during this time. If a utility customer receives any call threatening an immediate shutoff, it is a scam.

Colorado consumers can obtain information about their specific utility provider's policies in response to COVID-19 at this link: Statewide Utility Measures Undertaken in Response to Executive Order. Signs of a Scam:

Disconnection Deception: Scammers call threatening disconnection of your utility service, demanding immediate payment by prepaid cards purchased at a local re-

tail store (or credit card, debit card, bank draft, wiring money, etc.) and insisting you call them back. This may also be done in person or via email.

Contractor Con: Scammers posing as utility workers or contractors affiliated with your utility may knock on your door claiming to be employed or hired by the utility company to read, upgrade, reset, repair, replace, or inspect your utility meter or other utility-related device.

Bogus Bills: Scammers send suspicious emails that appear to be a bill sent by your utility company, potentially featuring your utility's logo and color scheme.

How Customers Can Protect Themselves: Customers should never purchase a pre-paid card to avoid service disconnection or shut off. Legitimate utility companies do not specify how customers should make a bill payment and always offer a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail, or in person.

Utilities do not demand immediate payment over the phone. Further, companies never send a single notification one hour or less before disconnection.

At this time, utilities are not sending employees into homes to read in-home me-

ters in an effort to promote social distancing to prevent further spread of the virus. Anyone claiming otherwise is not legitimate.

Do not click on any links or attachments in any email unless you have verified the sender. You may be directed to a scam website designed to steal your personal information or you might install malicious software onto your computer without ever knowing it. Utility companies typically send bills via mail, unless you have opted to receive your bill electronically.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact, should alert local law enforcement authorities immediately.

The Federal Trade Commission is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information. The Colorado Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Section also provides consumer protection information for victims of fraud. The Utilities United Against Scams ("UUAS") released an alert focused on scams in the time of the COVID-19 crisis. <https://www.utilitiesunited.org/-/media/Files/UNITED/Documents/UUAS-overview-Covid-19v2.ashx>

Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

When?

- After using the bathroom
- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage



How?



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



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



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



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

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

LIFE IS BETTER WITH

CLEAN HANDS



www.cdc.gov/handwashing

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



CS310027-A

¡Detenga los microbios! Lávese las manos

¿CUÁNDO?

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



¿CÓMO?



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



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



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



Enjuáguese bien las manos con agua corriente limpia.



Séquese 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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CS310027-A

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST MONTROSE COUNTY COVID-19 DEATH ANNOUNCED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Public Health and Montrose County Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield M.D. announced the first death of a Montrose County resident associated with COVID-19. The individual was 61-year-old female who died on April 2 and had tested positive for COVID-19. She had been receiving medical care for underlying conditions for an extended period. The case is under investigation by Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations and Montrose County Public Health.

"We are deeply saddened by the news that we've dreaded since the earliest days of this pandemic," said Montrose County Public Health Medical Adviser Dr. Joseph Adragna M.D., M.H.A., M.G.H. "Our thoughts are with this patient's family and loved ones in mourning her loss and honoring her memory."

Yesterday, Montrose County saw an increase in 12 positive cases of COVID-19 and an additional six positive cases are reported today. County officials are seeing an increase in community spread and encouraging the public to stay home and save lives.

"We know these are trying times, and we cannot stress enough the importance of staying home," said Montrose County Emergency Preparedness and Communicable Disease Coordinator Lisa Gallegos. "Everyone has a part to play in public health—by staying home and limiting your contacts, you can save lives."

For information on COVID-19 in Montrose County, please visit www.montrosecounty.net/COVID19.

GMUG SEEKS COMMENTS ON SMPA RED MT TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests and the San Juan National Forest (SJNF) are seeking public comment regarding a proposal by San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) to reconstruct an existing 16.2 mile transmission line system known as the Red Mountain 44 kilovolt (kV) line. This includes approximately 12 miles of transmission line located on federally managed lands, primarily adjacent to U.S. Highway 550 in Ouray and San Juan Counties.

If approved, the project would provide increased service, reliability, and a backup power source for the communities of Ouray and Ridgway along with the surrounding rural areas. In addition, a fiber optical ground wire would be added to the new line and would have spare fibers which could be used for commercial purposes such as expanding broadband service.

Additional information on the proposed action, including the project map, can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57912>. The 30-day comment period begins on April 6, 2020. Your input will be most helpful if received by May 6, 2020, and can be submitted via:

-Mail to Ouray District, Attn: SMPA Red Mountain Rebuild, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

-Email to brittany.duffy@usda.gov

-Fax to (970) 240-5367, Attn: SMPA Red Mountain Rebuild



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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW EXTENDS EXP DATE FOR STATE PARK PASSES, OHV REG RENEWALS



CPW Director extends expiration dates for annual park passes and vehicle registration renewals due to COVID-19 pandemic. Courtesy photo.

DENVER - On March 25, 2020, Governor Jared Polis signed an [executive order](#) authorizing the Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to extend the expiration date of certain licenses, passes, permits, certificates and registrations for up to 30 days.

To better serve our customers, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is extending the expiration date for the following products, effective immediately: Off-highway vehicle (OHV) registrations and permits scheduled to expire March 31, 2020 are now valid

through April 30, 2020.

State Park annual passes, annual family passes, Aspen Leaf annual passes and Columbine annual passes are valid for 30-days after the initial expiration date.

For example, passes that expire in April 2020 are now valid through May 31, 2020. This 30-day extension is limited to passes with an original printed expiration date of March 2020 or April 2020. These extended expiration dates are intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the

need for public travel and in-person interactions at CPW offices. While working through these unprecedented times, we are working to adjust our regulations to better accommodate the needs of our customers.

OHV, boat and snowmobile registrations can be renewed online at CPWshop.com. If you have trouble registering your vehicle or vessel online, please email:

DNR_wildlife.cpwinfo@state.co.us. Our staff will need your name, date of birth and registration number.

Non-individual accounts must be processed in person at a [CPW office](#); we encourage those customers to take advantage of this extension and minimize interactions with others during this public health pandemic.

If a customer needs a replacement for their annual park pass, they can download the [replacement pass form](#) and mail it to CPW with the required documentation and payment via check or money order. Replacement park passes will be mailed to the mailing address provided on the form. Temporary park passes, annual park pass kiosk receipts and pass vouchers are not replaceable.

CPW products are available for purchase on CPWshop.com or call 800.244.5613.

For additional registration questions, call the CPW Call Center at 303-297-1192 (Monday- Friday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. MST) or visit our [website](#).



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/ MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SHOULDN'T WE ALL BE ON THE SAME PAGE RIGHT NOW ?

Dear Editor:

To paraphrase the president of the White House Correspondents' Association, half of our country does not believe what the president and White House says, and nearly half the rest of our country does not believe the scientists or the news media. This not only is deeply troubling and dangerous, but is a matter of life or death. Colorado is bordered partially by three states; Utah, Wyoming, and Nebraska, which do not have "stay-at-home" edicts. There are at least five other states that also do not. And some of the reasons?

"We are not New York City," says the governor of South Dakota, and adds that the decision to stay at home is not within her powers. The Iowa governor said, "I can't lock the state down. People also have to be responsible for themselves." The North Dakota governor said, "It's important that we exercise individual responsibility." And in Nebraska, the governor was quoted as saying, "We are much earlier in the epidemic curve than New York." These are elected officials? Incredible.

And what does the president have to say regarding a stay at home order? He said that option, "is pretty unlikely, I would think, at this time."

As a country, we need to initiate the Incident Command System (ICS), to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. The ICS is a standardized approach to command, control, and coordination of an emergency response for a wide range of incidents. Most of us in the West are familiar with the ICS being used in fighting our wildfires. What the process enables is the ability to adjust and adapt to changes in the incident. Law enforcement, the military, and other medical emergencies, all use forms of the ICS. For example, a wildfire might start out

small and in a remote location. So a team, of smokejumpers or a hotshot crew might perform an initial attack. Changes such as extreme drought or high winds, might cause a small fire to suddenly jump fire lines and create it's own weather. A larger team is brought in, maybe even a national team with firefighters from all over the United States and all working under an Incident Commander under the ICS. The ICS has five primary functions; command, operations, planning, logistics, and administration/finances.

We do not need to keep hearing from politicians as to their theory on the Corona virus. We do not need Jared Kushner gaslighting us about the national medical stockpile. Nor do we need to hear television hosts pushing "hail Mary" miracle drugs until we find out what actually works against the virus.

We do not need to hear a president say that maybe we should all wear masks, but he won't because he can't imagine meeting, "presidents, prime ministers, dictators, kings, queens," in the Oval Office while wearing a mask (should he really be meeting any of these people now?).

There are times in our Nation's history, when the Federal government needs to step up and exercise it's power and its ability to unite the United States. During World War II, we manufactured more warships than we could man with a crew. The same with aircraft and pilots. States can be more restrictive than the Federal government, but not less so.

The president needs to issue a stay at home order for all fifty states and our territories if the governors themselves will not. Implement the Incident Command System and use it to move supplies/health care workers/temporary hospitals to loca-

tions when and where needed.

Also end the one-two hour Trump daily press conference. On April 1st, when we're all waiting to hear the latest news on the virus, he instead talked about drug trafficking along the border. He treats these daily updates as "Trump Rallies" and congratulates himself as being number one on Facebook. This has to stop. We have had two months of inactivity from the president and the White House in dealing with the pandemic. Excuses have been offered, such as the Impeachment took time away from dealing with the crisis. It was the fault of the CDC and China. It was a hoax perpetuated by the Democrats.

And then the president himself said he actually knew about the Corona virus and that it would be a pandemic. "I knew everything. I knew it could be horrible. I knew it could be maybe good. I don't want to be a negative person."

Let us unite.

This is NOT a decision to be made in the political arena or by non-experts spouting their "gut feelings" on TV. It is definitely not, nor should it be, partisan politics.

It is time for science and medicine and research to bring us forward.

It is time for leadership with strong guidance, and yes at times orders, from the Federal government.

Dr. Anthony Fauci stated that it's not his decision for a federally mandated directive to stay at home, but said, "scientifically, doesn't everybody have to be on the same page with this stuff?" Yes, shouldn't we all be on the same page right now and do all we can to get through this?

So we can get healthy physically, mentally, and economically?

Jon Sering, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO LTE RESPONDING TO SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Editor:

I reread the LTE and could not say it better. ALL TEN QUESTIONS asked in the LTE need to be answered completely and in public--- BY OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

Our city councilors and our city manager have no credibility and no accountability. So Mr. Bell pushed Mr. Dragoo to the forefront to justify what the two of them did when the city gave Mr Dragoo \$10,000,000 of your money. It is Mr. Bell's favorite trick of late---push the other guy into the line-of-fire to protect himself. That is because the public does not like him or believe him. He did the same thing with his assistant, Ms. Morganthaler, at the 2A and Tortilla Flats meetings. A so-called leader who will not stand up for his own actions is no leader at all. Just what are we paying him for?

You give me \$10,000,000 and you can bet your sweet bippy that I will justify it----maybe not under oath----but I will justify it. Well, good enough for the 'daily blat', a paper that will not permit a well documented and well written article by a well educated highly respected citizen to challenge Mr. Dragoo's guest editorial with facts.

The sole question before the CITY COUNCIL is "Has the contract with Dragoo's company been fulfilled in every respect?" If not, why not? And what has been done about it?

The next renewal bill for my MDP subscription will come and go without payment at my house AND I recommend all citizens who want accountability, integrity, honesty and transparency in our city government to cancel theirs as well. If the MONTROSE DAILY 'PRAVDA' will not foster open discussion of city matters in their 'fish wrapper' then the honest citizens of Montrose should not support it.

Enough said!

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

MONTROSE COUNTY, CO

COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE

April 4, 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS

363 TESTS

POSITIVE CASES

34 CASES

NEGATIVE TESTS

245 TESTS

PENDING TESTS

80 TESTS

*4 INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS



ISSUE 257 April 6, 2020

ART & SOL

COW CREEK'S ELUSIVE GOLD & SILVER

Part Two of a Two-Part Series

By Bob Cox

COW CREEK-Notes from part one: Beginning in the late 1870s numerous mining claims were filed in the headwaters of Cow Creek. Some gold and silver was found, but the mother lode seemed to always be just beyond the reach of determined prospectors. The beginning of the 20th century saw many of those same people headed for the unfound riches. A sack of gold ore that was found in 1895 sparked renewed speculation in May of 1900 when it was determined that the ore might have come from Cow Creek.

Part Two

Whether coincidental or not remains unknown, but well-known miner Harry Scott was also prospecting in the Cow Creek area in May of 1900 when the new rumors first began to surface. His efforts evidently resulted in disappointing amounts of good ore.

A large fire in October of 1901 resulted in even more interest with prospectors hoping the fire might have exposed other promising outcroppings. Then, in February of 1902, Dick Byrd of Denver managed to stir even more interest when he found a large deposit of coal much lower in the Cow Creek drainage. By 1904 a temporary wagon road was constructed to get to Byrd's coal, but the road also created a



Cow Creek is renowned for its flooding. Rumors have surfaced many times of large boulders containing gold and silver found following flooding. Photo by Bob Cox

quicker access to the upper Cow Creek basin.

In December of 1904 Dick Byrd and Ed Fisher walked into the Security Gold Mining Company's claims on Cow Creek, but their reports were once again rather ambiguous.

On July 11, 1905, the *Montrose Enterprise* reported that W. A. Glimes sold several claims in Gunnison County for the 'a neat little sum of \$85,000 and intended to reinvest his money in some development work on Cow Creek. The Ridgway reporter, who penned the article, opined that

Continued next pg

COW CREEK'S ELUSIVE GOLD & SILVER

Part Two of a Two-Part Series-From previous pg

Glimes was likely the man who could properly develop the Cow Creek mining country.

Then, in August of 1905 W. F. Benson visited the *Montrose Enterprise* and displayed some samples of ore that were said to be rich in copper. He reported that the samples came from a claim owned by Com Teague and sons in the upper Cow Creek area. The samples were reported to also contain a significant amount of silver that assayed at between \$100 and \$200 per ton.

Discoveries of silver were reported on the Fred Bassinger ranch in 1907. Dr. Slick of Ridgway, according to reports, was in Ridgway showing off several samples of rich silver ore that he said came from the Bassinger Ranch. Slick reported that the sample came from a large boulder weighing as much as 200 tons and that it could not be very far from its source. Reports show that so-called mining experts surmised that this huge boulder came from the Dolomite lime deposits that Bassinger had been working for several years.

One of the most intriguing stories related to Cow Creek was the discovery of yet another large boulder that contained gold. Cow Creek is renowned for flooding, and during the summer of 1909 the area was

subjected to three major flooding events, one of which wreaked havoc on the Town of Ouray. This boulder (in some stories it was several boulders) was discovered in the creek well below the Ramshorn. Following that flooding similar rocks were found higher up in the canyon. Once again prospectors headed into the area. Stories about these gold bearing rocks can still be heard today, but their source has evidently never been found.

Rumors circulated again in 1911 and a supposed three feet of 'good grade ore' was reported. According to more than one report, that deposit was found in 1889 but not pursued at that time. Mining reports of 1912 show that William Jay, James McDonald and Orla Towers were cross-cutting a big lode of lead and quartz that showed 'promising' gold content. There seem to be no reliable reports of that vein actually producing any real value, but in the August 11, 1911 issue of *The Ouray Herald*, there appeared the following:

"...the writer knows beyond a doubt, having seen, in the hands of men whose integrity is beyond question, gold specimens that would make your eyes bulge, that came from the Cow Creek drainage area."

The 1911 activity even brought on speculation that a railroad branch line from

Ridgway up Cow Creek to the Ruby City mines was a distinct possibility. Those promoting the branch claimed they were doing so to enhance the shipping of coal from the several deposits in the area, but said the project would be further justified by giving shipping access to those soon-to-be profitable mining ventures further up the drainage.

In June of 1916, down lower on Cow Creek, in fact near the mouth, Charles Marlow found some gold while doing some experimental panning where the creek passed through his ranch. He reported to the *Montrose Daily Press* that he panned 17 colors (flakes) of gold from just a few shovels full of dirt.

After decades of looking, speculating, and reporting, the only real profits from the Cow Creek mineral deposits were not from gold or silver, but rather from the coal, and even that production went away as newer, larger, and better coal deposits were found elsewhere.

In an irony of sorts, the upper Cow Creek drainage is now part of the Uncompahgre Wilderness and once again off-limits to mining, and the hidden treasures, if there are any, in the hearts of Blackwall Mountain and Wildhorse Peak will only be processed through the mills of history.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TRUE GRIT CAFÉ IS APRIL 2020 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



**Tamme Tuttle
 Latham. Courtesy
 photo.**

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected True Grit Café as April 2020 RACC Member of the Month.

True Grit Café at 123 N. Lena St. (P.O. Box 2003) Ridgway is owned by Tamme Tuttle Latham and Don Latham. The restaurant has been in operation

next to Hartwell Park for 35 years.

“True Grit Café serves quality comfort food with a Southwest flair,” said Tamme. “We focused on locally sourced ingredients before it was even trendy. The steaks are from steers raised by my husband, pork from pigs in Montrose, peaches and apricots from an Olathe orchard, and the list of other produce and meats served fresh changes with the seasons and the years.”

The Grit, as many locals call it, sells more than 6,000 chicken-fried steaks a year. They are hand cut and breaded to order, then tenderized seven times. “So many dishes are popular that it’s hard to choose just a few, but the restaurant is definitely known for its burgers and pork green chili,” she added. Since the public health orders have restricted dine-in operations to slow the spread of COVID-19, True Grit Café continues to offer its entire menu for take-out, as well as new family meal options that are ready to heat and eat. Plus, customers can purchase groceries such as bread, soup and cheese. Delivery is available for all items, with a minimum \$35 order. The restaurant’s hours have also been modified, and it is now open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday through Wednesday. To learn more about True Grit Café, go online to <http://truegritcafe.com/>, call 970-626-5739, or email truegritcafe@rocketmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS' CLUB TEAMS UP WITH KIDS AID MONTROSE TO FEED LOCAL KIDS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Kids Aid Montrose weekend backpack program, normally distributed by the school district, provides backpacks of food for those kids who need some extra help with food over the weekend. With school no longer in session, the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) is helping to deliver these meals. On Friday March 27, the Club staff spent seven hours delivering meals to those kids in need within Montrose and Olathe. The food was provided by Kids Aid Montrose and packed by Kids Aid Montrose volunteers and helped to feed 190 kids for a weekend (and not just Club members!). The Club will continue to deliver the backpack weekend meals through the end of April. For any questions on the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club, please contact the BCBGC Executive Director, Bud Taylor, at btaylor@bcbgc.org. For any questions on the Kids Aid Montrose weekend backpack program, please contact Sue Bussing at 970-275-8270.



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INSIDE OUTREACH-CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

MONTROSE OUTREACH PROFESSIONALS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE DURING WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC



Caitlin Switzer.
Mirror file photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In recent weeks, the local individuals and teams responsible for COVID-19 communications response have shifted into crisis mode. Instead of promoting upcoming community meetings and events, outreach professionals are now tasked with keeping community members updated as a global crisis of historic proportions unfolds.

Despite the terrifying circumstances, it has been a pleasure to see the level of PR professionalism at work.

At Montrose County, Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen and her team shifted into high gear from the start, compiling and releasing a daily news brief for all media outlets and the public, including a daily count of confirmed local cases of COVID-19.

The biggest challenge? Time, Yergensen said.

"In all honesty, we truly appreciate our public," she said, "and are working to communicate in several different forms. I believe that our biggest challenge is meeting people where they are--whether they are on social media, traditional media, no media, several languages, Deaf or hard of hearing, and working to ensure they are seeing our messages."

The County's messages are included on a [COVID-19 web page](#) that is regularly updated.

At Montrose Memorial Hospital, Chief Marketing Officer Leann Tobin has weathered plenty of storms, having been on the job through the Post-911 years as well the 2008 economic downturn.

With COVID-19, "Our biggest challenge is the constantly changing information (from CDC, the government, etc.) and trying to stay on top of it all so we are giving accurate information to our staff, care providers and community," Tobin said.

[Official COVID-19 communications](#) from the Hospital can be found on their web site.

For some, the pandemic has come with a fundamental shift in focus.

The City of Montrose has created a dedicated web page and moved from promoting tourism to informing the public. "We've had to completely redesign the way we communicate, within 48 hours," said City of Montrose Director of Business & Tourism and DART Chelsea Rosty.

"Honestly though, the biggest challenge was pivoting so quickly."

Rosty has previously served in a supportive role when it comes to local businesses. Following the closure orders issued by Governor Polis, however, she has had to communicate with entrepreneurs that they must close.

It has not been easy.

"As someone who has spent years being an advocate, it just feels inherently wrong inside to tell a small business owner that they will have to close," Rosty said. "That's most of Main Street. It breaks my heart."

For updates and information from the City of Montrose, [visit the COVID-19 tab on their web site.](#)



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Editor's Note--Ongoing events are not included at this time due to the uncertainty of scheduling around COVID-19

MONTHLY-

April 7-2020 Municipal Election Day

Apr 20-31st Annual Partners ONLINE Auction. 8am-8pm-Online auction with great goods and services up for grabs! Restaurants, Stays, Gravel, Fertilizer, River Rafting and much, much more.

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

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

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

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

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

The Mirror:

*For coverage that never leaves
our readers out in cold ...*



www.montrosemirror.com

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this photo a few years ago, of a pretty Wilson Mesa meadow with cows and an old wormwood fence.



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