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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting From West Central Colorado

© Issue No. 372 April 13, 2020

DMEA BOARD SIGNS OFF ON \$88.5M EXIT FROM TRI STATE *Guzman Energy will replace Tri State as the DMEA power supplier*



DMEA CEO Jasen Bronec. Courtesy photo.

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-Following a couple of technical issues, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Special Meeting to review and discuss the Guzman Wholesale Electric Service Contract took place on Thursday, April 9. All eight board members were present; one board seat remains vacant.

DMEA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec gave a brief introduction to the meeting, "Since last July [2019] we've had a withdrawal agreement to replace our wholesale power supplier [Tri State]. I'm pleased to report we are getting closer and by tomorrow we should be able to move forward and sign it. We will be looking for a resolution from the board when we convene out of executive session."

The virtual meeting on Zoom began at 3:05 p.m. and following the call to order, determination of a quorum, and approval of the agenda the board went into an executive session which lasted almost three hours. Executive sessions are not open to

the public. However, any action or votes taken on the contract occur outside executive session after the board reconvenes the public meeting.

The board came out of executive session and a motion was made by Jock Fleming,

Continued pg 15

SMALL MONTROSE MARKETS BRING FRESH CHOICES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As visits to major supermarkets grow increasingly complicated, Montrose's smaller markets have remained open, and in some cases added products to give local shoppers fresh alternatives.

Carneceria Sonora market (347 North First Street) remains open for those seeking fresh cuts of meat, produce and a variety of grocery items, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. As noted by one recent Facebook reviewer, "They have amazing carne asada for grilling, as well as pollo amado. Both are marinated very well. I lived in Sonora, Mexico for many years and I absolutely love the store, it brings back so many memories of growing up in Mexico."

At the Straw Hat Farm Market & Kitchen Store (514 South First Street) owners Chet and Karen Byler have added items to better serve customers. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

When the *Mirror* spoke with Karen Byler last week, she was expecting a shipment of fresh goat cheese from Cedaredge; also, "People are stocking up on 25 to 50-pound bags of whole grains and beans," she said. "I'm expecting another palette today."



Like other small grocers in Montrose, the Straw Hat Farm store at 514 South First has added items to better serve shoppers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued pg 11

in this
issue

Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!

Sudden expenses
Add to shutdown stress!

Public Health Officials take the
lead in Dysfunctional Ouray County!

Regional news briefs!
Letters to the Editor!



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Ridgway Old West Fest is seeking unusual animals/critters for an exhibit Saturday, Sept 26, 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Young, miniature, exotic, unusual or rare breeds - hairless dogs/cats, fancy chickens, Flemish Giants, other deluxe rabbits, baby alpacas, snakes, tarantula, etc. Endangered species will not be allowed. Please contact Angela Allen at RidgwayOldWestFest@gmail.com.



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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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CITY TO HOST SPECIAL VIRTUAL WORK SESSION



City offices are closed to the public, but citizens may attend the special virtual city work session on April 13.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will

of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem; and Annex-
ation Hearing for 4152 N. Townsend Addi-

convene for a special virtual work session on Monday, April 13 at 11 a.m. Discussion items will include updates on the following: City of Montrose Business Operations; COVID-19 Emergency Response; and Small Business Retention and Relief Efforts.

Items to be considered in future Council meetings or work sessions include:

April 21-Oath of Office for Newly Elected City Councilors; Selection

tion.

As yet unscheduled are the Montrose Dermatology Business Expansion Project and a DMEA Update to City Council. No packet was included with the work session.

To join the April 13 webinar, which can also be viewed on Channel 191 and Channel 970, the following information is provided: Please use the link below to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/781539081> Or iPhone one-tap : US: +16699009128,,781539081# or +13462487799,,781539081# Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 781 539 081 International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/781539081>

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SCHOOL CLOSURES, SUDDEN EXPENSES ADD TO STRESS OF SHUTDOWN

Governments, agencies have resources that can help



UVWUA offices (above) are now closed to the public, but for those who have questions or concerns, Manager Steve Anderson can still be reached on his cell phone at 970-596-0845.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Some impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic response are immediately obvious, others have taken time to emerge. But local governments and agencies have resources that can help.

When RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell spoke last week about the cancellation of in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, he reminded local parents and students to continue remote learning while students are home; “This is not a blow-off time.”

Though his intentions were good, the reminder comes as an added responsibility just as local parents face the loss of childcare, the ability to congregate, and in many cases, their livelihoods.

For families, the sudden life changes have been overwhelming. Social media is currently filled with despairing comments from moms and dads trying to cope with the dual demands of work (or sudden unemployment) and full-time childcare, and

from young people who miss their friends and regular activities.

For one local mom, the pandemic comes at the end of a medical leave from her essential job. She hopes to be cleared to return to work shortly.

“I’ve been battling other medical issues that took me out before the lockdown began,” said Betty Summarell of Montrose. “We are doing well, only going to the store if we have to.”

Though it has been a long five weeks without her own paycheck, Betty said she and her husband have what they need to keep their four children safe and fed. The sudden end of the school year reinforces the family’s decision to put their kids in online classes next year because of bullying issues with RE-1J schools.

“These last few weeks having all the kids home has been nice,” Summarell said.

“We are working with manners and respect and attitudes.

“We are planning on all the kids being in

Connections Academy next year so this is going to make that transition a little easier for them, I think,” she said. “The kids are a lot happier they aren’t getting bullied every day or told to kill themselves. I know they miss their friends, but we have a couple of their friends’ parents on Facebook so they can video chat.”

For those who need assistance with meals, rent, or other essentials, the [City of Montrose](#), [RE-1J schools](#) and [Montrose County](#) all offer an array of resources on their web sites.

For homeowners, unexpected situations can cause panic because local agencies are closed to the public. And for senior citizens on limited budgets, unexpected expenses can add to the stress.

One local subdivision resident told the *Mirror* that she was not sure what to do when a letter arrived concerning her irrigation water. Dated April 8, the letter from Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) stated that a lien could be placed on the resident’s property unless she paid \$819.02 in unpaid irrigation water assessments, interest and attorneys’ fees by April 10.

“I was very upset as I don’t have a pump and I am unable to use the ditch water,” the resident told the *Mirror*.

Though UVWUA offices are now closed to the public, Manager Steve Anderson responded quickly to the *Mirror’s* phone call. He said that no more interest will be charged on the assessment until May 1, and UVWUA will work with property owners who do not intend to use their shares of irrigation water.

“If people will call us, we will work with them, even up to the point of releasing their shares,” Anderson said. “Even though you don’t use it, that water that is tied to your land has some value.”

Those who need to reach him to discuss similar situations can call 970-596-0845, he said.

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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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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ALL OF A SUDDEN...

Editor:

All of a sudden our world has changed. Perhaps in the near future folks will refer to the terms "BC" (before COVID) and "AD" (After detention). No matter the terms we use, our lives have changed forever. From now on:

People may refrain from shaking hands and hugging. We also may avoid large crowds and social events.

Hand sanitizer will be a staple in purses and pockets. We'll all become germ freaks.

We may turn the trend of moving to large cities and instead will move to smaller towns with less people and pollution.

Folks may avoid mass transit and prefer to use their own cars. The use of automated vehicles will skyrocket.

We may no longer shove our parents into nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Arrangements will be made to help them stay in their own homes.

We may resist from going to sporting events sitting shoulder to shoulder and breathing in viruses from the guy sitting next us. Ultra-highly paid athletes will diminish as fans lose their enthusiasm for crowds.

More online education options will be available. Especially colleges where distant learning can be easily accomplished

at a fraction of the cost.

Straws at restaurants will be popular as diners won't want to drink from a glass handled by food servers.

Travel and vacations will change forever with fewer flights and hotel stays and more online video conferencing.

And finally, folks will be better prepared for the next time, just like our grandparents that lived through the depression. People will have a month's worth of hidden cash, and 6 months of expenses saved for an emergency. And plenty of staples – food and toilet paper stored for the next time we have a crisis.

Jim Elder, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

UNITED WE STAND

Editor:

Congratulations to the winners of the April 7th Montrose City Council municipal election. I believe Montrose will be served well. Also, I want to thank those that supported my campaign and for your words of encouragement post-election. Your support was immeasurable. And to the other seven candidates that ran, thank you for your campaigns as well. We certainly had differing views on many topics. I applaud you for having the courage to take a stand in supporting your beliefs. One thing this COVID-19 fight has brought to light is, we as citizens are able to unite toward a common cause. We will be successful in our resolve to defeat this scourge that has forced us to rethink how we live our lives. After it passes, I ask that we stay united and continue to strengthen the community for a better Montrose. Although this campaign ended in way different from what I envisioned I will continue to stay involved in a manner that supports my neighbors and the broader community. I will continue to be optimistic about our future. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Dave Stockton, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

A BROKEN SYSTEM OF INJUSTICE

Editor: I am not an attorney nor do I engage with our judicial system except as an observer and concerned citizen. However, I do know injustice when I see it, and I do recognize an ineffective institution that for multiple reasons rarely serves our communities. Upon reading the article in the Montrose Daily Press regarding former Ouray County undersheriff Richard Herman's plea agreement, I am incensed and discouraged that this former law enforcement officer who allegedly propositioned a teenager, falsified the facts during an interview with law enforcement, and was indicted by a grand jury has received a one-year unsupervised probation sentence and will not even be listed as a sex offender. ...And why? Because the traumatized teen victim was unavailable to testify.

I would argue that something is terribly wrong and dysfunctional with a process that requires survivors of crimes – especially those of a sexual and/or violent nature – to take the stand in a courtroom in the presence of the alleged perpetrator. As an advocate for youth mental health, I am grateful that minors rarely testify. My heart goes out to the teen and his family. I applaud the survivor's courage as he contacted law enforcement immediately after the alleged incident and cooperated with identifying his assailant in a photo line up in January 2019. I completely honor and respect the teen's decision to not testify. Our courts rarely favor or protect the dignity of survivors during judicial proceeding. In the face of all the evidence against Herman – the location of Herman's phone at the time of the incident, the surveillance video of the truck that matched the survivor's description of the vehicle, the determination that the vehicle was owned by Herman, and on the day of the alleged crime, driven by Herman as identified by the teen in the photo line up – coupled with all the false statements that Herman made about his whereabouts on the date of the incident; the various details about the use, location and ownership of the truck; and the license plate "art," why was Herman not prosecuted?

I find it unconscionable that our system, designed to promote "justice," would, under the circumstances, even need the

physical presence of the survivor in the courtroom to secure a conviction, especially given that the District Attorney's office knew, and with permission, revealed that the survivor is experiencing post-traumatic stress. If, given all this evidence, the prosecutor determined the District Attorney could not win this case in court, at a minimum, why was the lenient plea bargain not rejected or amended by the judge and a more severe plea agreement negotiated? The case began with a charge of a class 4 felony (criminal attempt to commit inducement of child prostitution) plus a class 1 misdemeanor (child abuse) with a possible sentence of 4-12 years in prison and mandatory registration as a sex offender. A grand jury indicted Herman indicating probable cause to proceed to trial. The case ended with a plea agreement of two counts of harassment (misdemeanors,) unsupervised probation, and no record of sexual offense!! I don't know at what point the process collapsed. Was a thorough investigation conducted? Could the prosecution have made different decisions? Could the judge have been more scrutinizing? Could someone along the way have held the defendant accountable? Regardless, another alleged sexual perpetrator is basically allowed to resume his life. Though Herman's Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certificate will be revoked given his sentence, he is eligible to request a variance and potentially have his POST certification restored. Whereas, according to the Colorado POST website, "An individual convicted of any felony is ineligible for POST certification and cannot request a variance."

The decisions and plea bargain related to Herman's case are particularly disturbing to me as this case is one of a handful of cases pertaining to alleged sexual perpetrators with ties to Ouray County in recent years. The other cases have resulted in at least one dismissed case that I know of, a verdict of "not guilty" in spite of DNA evidence, a restraining order, a short-term probation, and a plea bargain. If history is any indication of the future, I have little reason to believe that the current sexual assault case against Ouray business owner

John Warren will result in an outcome different from these past cases. It continues to alarm (though not surprise) me, with each passing case, that patriarchy, white supremacy, class status and the condoning of sexual misconduct pervade our judicial system. For the record, I am not a proponent of our current penal system that punishes and incarcerates offender. I advocate for restorative justice, which holds offenders accountable for their actions and actually seeks to repair the harm caused by the perpetrator through an accountability process with victims and the community impacted. It is a justice approach that works to restore the community after a crime has been committed. However, that is another conversation.

I do not know if this current incident involving Richard Herman is his first offense or if it will be his last. I know enough about the statistics regarding sex offenders to state that these crimes are rarely isolated incidences. Moreover, I am concerned for the physical safety and emotional health of our residents and visitors. Having even one alleged perpetrator amidst us (especially given the strong evidence against him) does not provide me with the sense of security I desire in our small community.

So I ask, "What can I do? What can concerned community members do?" Perhaps we are vigilant about incidences of sexual violence in our community – in our homes, in places of employment, in our houses of worship, in our schools, in our neighborhoods. We watch. We pay attention. We do not turn away. Perhaps, we report... again and again and again... until perpetrators understand their actions are neither welcome nor tolerated here. Perhaps, in whatever way possible, we exude a zero tolerance for such criminal behavior and we do not condone rape culture as the norm. What I know for sure is that we unconditionally support every survivor with kindness and compassion. We believe them. We validate their reality. We honor their dignity in a world that rarely acknowledges survivors' stories or their suffering.

Robyn Cascade, Ridgway

CITY OF MONTROSE SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PACKAGE

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

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- Limited graphic design available
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*Contact Chelsea Rosty
crosty@cityofmontrose.org
970.250.2189*

WAYS TO STAY IN THE LOOP:



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cityofmontrose.org/COVID19
montrosecounty.net/COVID19

SMALL MONTROSE MARKETS BRING FRESH CHOICES From pg 1

The Bylers are also milling their own flour right now. "While white flour sources have dried up," Karen said, "We have been milling our own whole grain flours."

Shoppers can find fresh, locally grown lettuce and plenty of fresh eggs at the Straw Hat Farm Market, she said, "And yeast is selling like crazy."

If you're ready to plant your own garden, you can find seeds here as well, from Laura Parker's High Desert Seeds and from Hi Mowing Organic Seeds.

"We're selling lots of seeds," Byler said, "And we have baked goods, prepared foods, and local beef and pork."

"Business is good," she said. "We appreciate everyone for coming in."

For a tempting variety of fresh, pasture-raised, local meat, Kinikin Processing (located at the San Juan Bypass and North Park Avenue) is your destination. Hours

are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Along with a fully-stocked selection of meats, you can even find fresh lard for tamales here.

Kinikin General Manager Ben Deltonto said, "We are carrying a few extra items now--flour, eggs, sugar, pasta, rice, potatoes, onions, and yeast."

Call ahead for faster service. "Our drive-through window makes it convenient," Deltonto said. "People have been ordering online, and a lot of them are paying ahead with a card. When they get here, our guy just walks around and throws it in the car."

"We're still up and running, and we're happy to see the community," he said.

"We're glad to be getting so much business."

For fresh fish as well as meat, Divine Fish and Meat (1544 Oxbow Drive in the Tower Building) is still open six days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We get different fresh fish in every other day," Owner Toby Vogt said, "We're fully stocked, and we are offering curbside pickup for those who request it." Though he has not added other grocery items, the store is doing well. "We're busier than ever," Vogt said.

Finally, the Montrose Farmers Market, which is still on winter hours, will continue to operate outdoors in Centennial Plaza on alternate Saturdays. However, City Manager Bill Bell clarified that the market may not sell the kind of merchandise carried by local businesses that have been forced to close under the Governor's order.

"The 'agricultural and food product' exemption applies to the farmer's market, but other 'non-ag' products normally sold there would not be exempted from the Governor's Orders," Bell said.



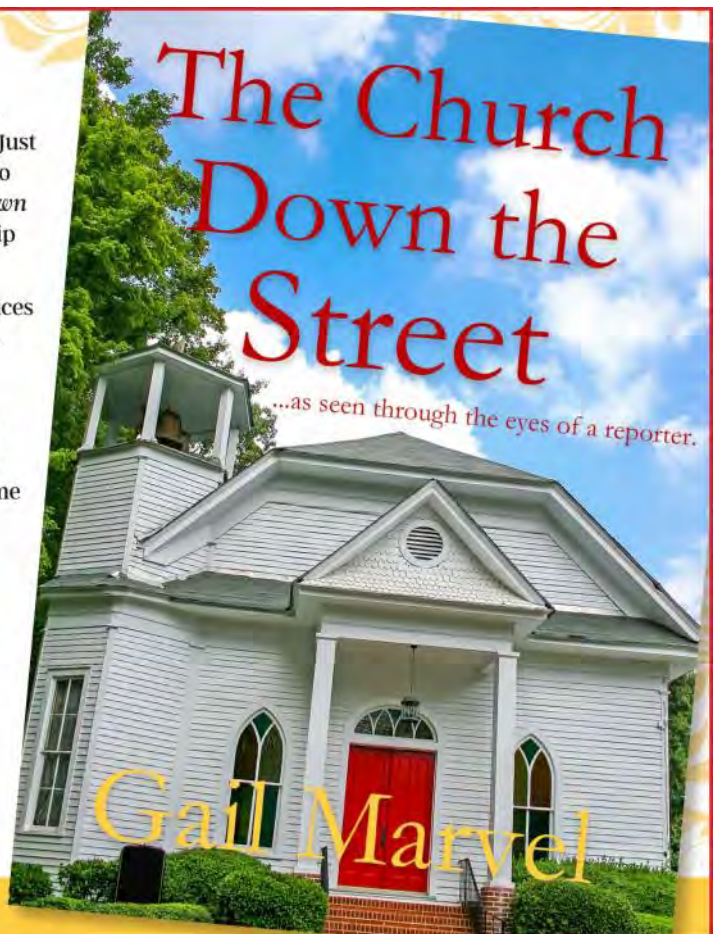
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HINDSIGHT IS 2020: PERSPECTIVE ON MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Editor:

Doing some math ... on the city council "unofficial" election results for at-large seat.

Oswald = 400

Ulibarri = 796

Arbogast = 218

Meek = 1022

====

Total = 2436

Vs.

Bynum = 2438

Looks like a 2-point spread to me ... and a dismal 41% voter turnout.

This is what happens when political parties and their propaganda machines split

votes in 'nonpartisan' municipal elections. Remember MDPRESS' Dennis Anderson's "assessment" of the candidates for the At-large seat? I do!

In his esteemed and, of course, unbiased opinion, he had Oswald (the obvious local Republican GOP pick) as the front runner behind incumbent Bynum ... with barely a mention of Meek (and quite derogatory at that).

Remember the "accidental" misplacement of Meek's candidate bio/photo on page 2 of MDPRESS' early election coverage? Again, I do!

"Just a mistake," Anderson assured Meek. Right?!

All I can say is ... who got the most votes of the challengers to Bynum's seat?

Followed by my next question ... how many people voted to oust Bynum?

And my last question ... was this a set up to keep Bynum in her seat for two more years?

TAXPAYERS ... looks like a pretty close race to me regardless of which challenger may have won.

Every vote counts!

#LookDeeperMontrose

MDPRESS is MDPravda!

#ReinInMontrose

Blessings,

Yvonne Meek, Montrose

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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

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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
(press option "2") M-F 8a-6p

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Colorado Now

HelpColoradonow.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Montrose

cityofmontrose.org/community



DMEA BOARD SIGNS OFF ON \$88.5M EXIT FROM TRI STATE

From pg 1



The parking lot at Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) headquarters in Montrose remains empty as customers practice social distancing to protect themselves from the COVID-19 outbreak. Photo by Gail Marvel.

"I would move that the board, having reviewed a Guzman power supply agreement in substantially final form, authorize Jasen as CEO to finalize negotiations and with Guzman and sign the Guzman Wholesale Electric Service Contract." The motion was seconded by Chris Hauck and the board unanimously approved the motion.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

The board did not take up the resolution, or act on a withdrawal agreement from Tri State which was previously mentioned by Bronec. When questioned, Chief Operating Officer, (COO) Virginia Harman said, "The only thing discussed was the Guzman contract."

Guzman Energy will replace Tri State as the DMEA power supplier.

Harman said, "The contract with Guzman

and the withdrawal from Tri State are on parallel tracks. Tomorrow afternoon [April 10] we will file with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)."

Update-Full Cost of Tri State Exit is \$88,500,000

On April 10, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association filed with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) for the withdrawal of Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) from Tri State.

Once filed, the cost to DMEA members for the withdrawal becomes public information.

Excerpts from the 56-page document, Section 2 Payment (2.1), page 2-3 (emphasis added):

"...DMEA shall pay, or shall cause the New Supplier to pay, to Fidelity National Title, National Commercial Services or another escrow agent that is mutually agreed upon by Tri-State and DMEA (the "Escrow

Agent") pursuant to an escrow agreement to be entered into by the Parties and New Supplier ("Escrow Agreement"), payment for the performance of each Party's obligations hereunder of **Eighty-Eight Million Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$88,500,000.00)** (such amount, the "Full Payment") in immediately available funds, which payment shall consist of (a) **Sixty-Two Million Five-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$62,500,000.00)** paid to Tri-State by the New Supplier as consideration for the assignment of the WESC (the "Contract Acquisition Fee"), and (b) **Twenty Six Million Dollars (\$26,000,000.00)** paid to Tri-State by DMEA for the purchase of certain assets and facilities pursuant to the Purchase Agreement ("Asset Acquisition Fee")."

The effective date of the withdrawal is June 10, 2020.

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449,

bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124,

kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kennethwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, 1ch@haucks.cc

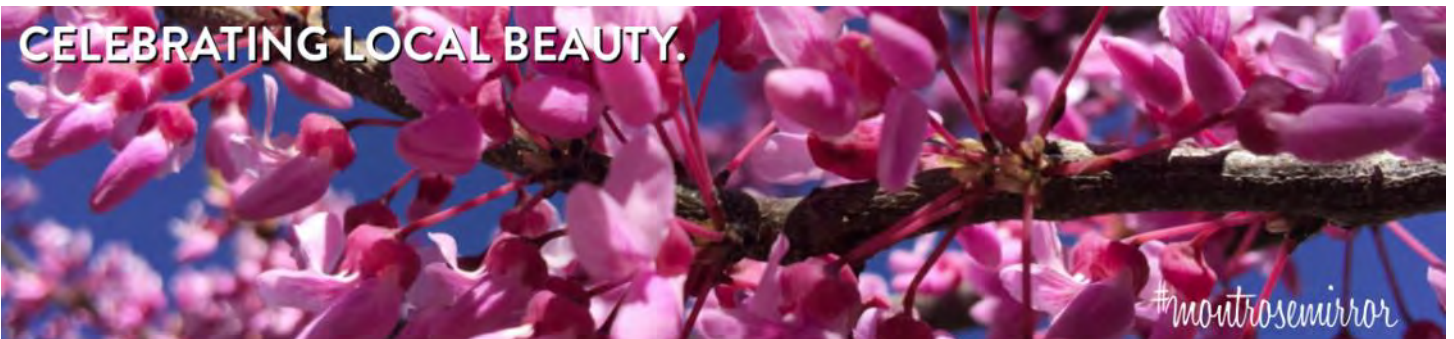
Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 -

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES BAN ON BURNING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Public Health has released a public health order that temporarily bans burning in the unincorporated areas of the county. The order takes effect Sunday, April 12, at 12:01 a.m. All outdoor burning, other than the non-commercial cooking of food in enclosed devices is banned until April 30. After discussion with Montrose Fire Protection District and Montrose Memorial Hospital, county public health officials determined this was necessary for both medical reasons and concerns for resources needed for response.

"This is the smart thing to do, the safe thing to do, and the right thing to do," said Montrose Memorial Hospital Emergency Department Medical Director Dr. David Dreitlein, M.D. "Respiratory symptoms can be caused and worsened by the presence of smoke in the atmosphere. These symptoms can include shortness of breath, nasal congestion, sneezing and cough, and sore throat—this can mimic symptoms of COVID-19. Also, the presence of added smoke can cause an asymptomatic carrier

to start sneezing and coughing, which promotes viral spread."

At this time, testing resources are limited to patients who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (with a doctor's order). The presence of increased smoke could have a negative impact on testing resources as well as recovery for positive COVID-19 patients.

"This was not a decision to be taken lightly. We understand that agriculture burning is part of the culture and necessity of access to water in Montrose County," said Commissioner Keith Caddy. "The water has been in the canals since the beginning of April, and we asked public health to delay this order to give our producers time to continue with spring preparations. We have come to a point where this order is critical to the public health of our community and the Board of County Commissioners is supportive of this action to protect the health and well-being of Montrose County residents during this pandemic." The public health order, signed by Public Health Director Jim Austin, cites emergency declarations from the federal, state,

and local level to show the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The order permits non-commercial cooking of food in enclosed devices such as metal fire pits and backyard barbecue grills.

"I am supportive of this order," said Montrose Fire Protection District Chief Tad Rowan. "While there is limited risk of wildfire due to current conditions, the fact of the matter remains that we are in a pandemic; a large response will put an unnecessary burden on fire and medical resources. This order improves the district's ability to keep resources available for responses to medical emergencies and other emergencies that occur in our jurisdiction."

This order only applies to land in the unincorporated area of Montrose County and does not include federally managed public lands. Please know before you go as some public land agencies have enacted fire restrictions. Visit westslopefireinfo.com for more information regarding fire restrictions. To view the public health order, please visit montrosecountyjic.com.

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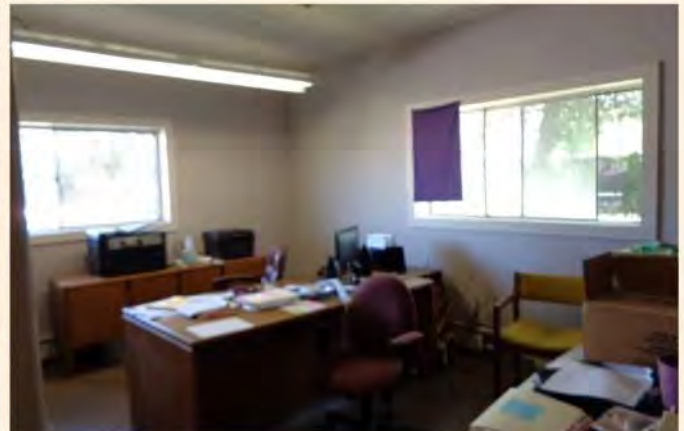
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CSP TROOPER TIPS: LIVING IN A NEW WORLD



**Master Trooper
Gary Cutler.**
Courtesy photo.

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler
COLORADO- As the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic continue to hit not only the United States, but the entire world, I know that it is affecting everyone's mental health. It's hard not to focus on anything but what is

plaguing us. But there are still things going on that have nothing to do with Covid-19 that we still have to deal with.

My articles are about being safe on the roadways, and they still need to be. What we need to remember now during all of this is keeping our minds focused when driving, and believe me there is a lot on everyone's mind. So even though you may not be on the roads as much, there is still some traffic out there.

In the recent weeks, the State Patrol has seen an increase in speed, as well as cars going through stop signs without stopping to name just a couple of driving issues. Even though this may not seem as important to some since there isn't much traffic, some of the worst injury and fatal crashes I've had to investigate in my career have been where there have been

only two cars on the roadway. You never want a crash, but it is especially true now. Any trip to the hospital creates a higher risk of contracting Covid-19.

Please make sure you are driving just as carefully as you did prior to the pandemic. You may think it is okay to be a little more lax now that there are less cars on the roadway, but it really isn't. It also means being more observant of other vehicles breaking the law so you don't get hit.

As they have told us, we're all in this together. The pandemic has brought the state closer together. We now look out for our elderly a little more. We check to see if our neighbors are okay. We are a little more polite to strangers. I'm glad to see that positive reaction to this, so we should include that in our driving, but we still have some that try to take advantage for themselves.

The state has had an increase in reports about police impersonators. So that you know, the State Patrol is not conducting road blocks or pulling cars over randomly to check if you should be out. We also don't check for papers to see where you work. We do want you to be safe though. So we continue to ask that you don't travel unless absolutely necessary, just as the Governor has said in his Public Health Order.

We do continue to pull over traffic violators. We have marked patrol cars as well as unmarked. We will most times be in uniform, but there are occasions when we will not be. Those times we're not in a uniform, we will still have a badge and ID. We will always tell you why you were stopped and are not upset if you ask to see our ID. If you ever have a doubt you have been pulled over by someone other than a true police officer take the following steps: If you have already stopped and the person is not answering basic questions to why they stopped you, what agency they work for, not offering ID, and a badge that doesn't have their agency on it, then roll your window up and call 911.

Prior to stopping if you have a car with flashing lights behind you, but doesn't look quite right, slow your speed, activate your hazard lights, and call 911 to verify it is an actual police officer. Even if it is not our agency, we have the ability to check if another agency is trying to make a stop in that area. The dispatcher will direct you what to do in the situation. We can then send a law enforcement officer to the scene to check.

Be safe out there, and take precautions to get through this pandemic safely.

As always, safe travels... if it's absolutely necessary!



ANONYMOUS

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see something, say something

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

APRIL 22 MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

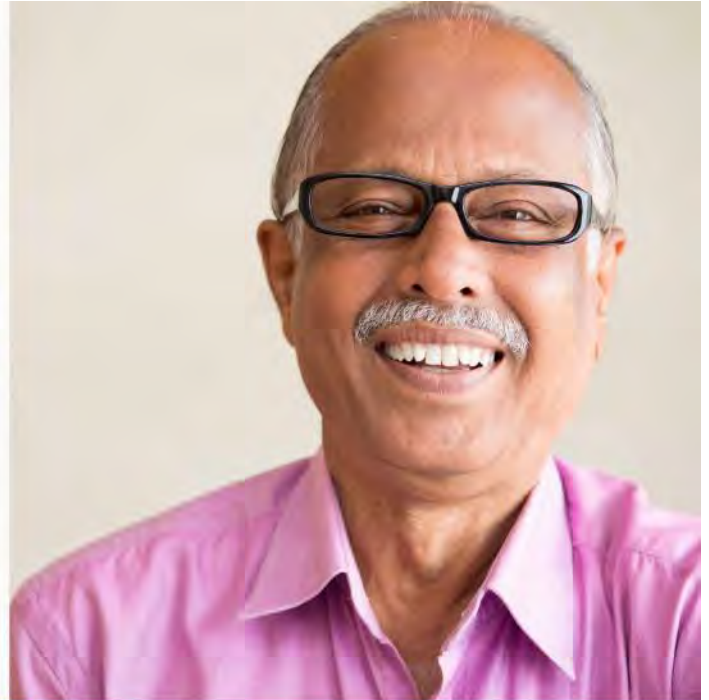
Editor:

Wednesday, April 22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Fifty years ago on this day 20 million (10% of the U.S. population at the time) rose up to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward.

The theme of our 50th anniversary of Earth Day is Climate Action, identified as the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and our life-support systems. Today our global health crisis concern doesn't mean the climate crisis is slowing down, but it is offering us a look at a small example of

what a mass disruption can do.

I'm sorry so many of us are home-sequestered right now, but don't forget this important anniversary. Let us take stock and plan the actions we will take to address this most world-wide crisis,
Wayne Quade, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHY THE STAKES ARE HIGHER THAN EVER FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

By U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)
 COLORADO-The outbreak of COVID-19 has challenged Colorado like no event in living memory. Although its impact on our health care system, schools, and social services has rightly received the most attention, we cannot take our eyes off another issue affecting them all: the 2020 census.

Since our founding over 230 years ago, Americans have stood up to be counted in times of war and times of peace, amidst dustbowls and depressions, and during moments of collective fear and hope for the nation. They stood up in difficult moments like our own, not only because the Constitution requires it, but because democracy depends on it. The Founders understood that you cannot represent the people if you do not know who and where they are.

In our time, the 2020 census is critical for Colorado because it helps determine the federal representation and resources we receive.

It has direct influence over our voice in Washington. Every decade, census data informs how many congressional districts

each state receives. Some states gain seats while others lose them. After years of booming growth, Colorado stands an excellent chance to gain a seat and strengthen our influence in Washington – but only if we count everyone.

Similarly, census data also influences nearly every federal and state dollar our communities receive. That could mean more money – or less – for essential state and county programs including Medicaid, housing vouchers, free or reduced school meals, grants for community projects, and support for our farmers and transportation projects.

Given the stakes, all of us need to stand up and be counted. The good news is that, in 2020, it's easier than ever to do so. This month, every household will receive an invitation by mail to respond to the census, as they have in the past. However, you will now also have the option to respond online, by mail, or by phone. These expanded options mean that, despite Colorado's stay-at-home order, you can still easily participate. In fact, the extra time at home gives us the perfect opportunity to gather with our families and re-

spond. As you do that, it's important that you have the right information. Like the pandemic, there has been a lot of misinformation about the census. Here are the facts: any personal information you provide to the census will remain strictly confidential and will not be shared nor used for any other purpose. Everyone can and should participate, including immigrants. There is no question on the census about citizenship status.

I recognize that, in this unsettled moment, completing the census may feel like a distant priority. But we should ask ourselves what will happen if we fail to count everyone in our state. It would mean less funding for our schools, hospitals, and social services, which need our support now more than ever. It would mean a weaker voice in Washington for our priorities and our values as Coloradans. Finally, it would mean that we would not receive the representation and resources we deserve. That outcome is entirely in our hands.

Like generations of before us, let's step up even in this difficult time and count everyone in 2020.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MOTORCYCLE DEATH IDENTIFIED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In the late afternoon of Sunday, April 5, 2020, Paul Hershberger, a 67-year-old male from Delta, Colo., died in a single vehicle motorcycle accident on Highway 141 at mile marker 83.4 in Naturita. The case is under investigation by the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations and the Colorado State Patrol. The cause and manner of death are pending the results of a scheduled autopsy.

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE EXTENDS CHARITY FILING DEADLINES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has issued emergency rules extending certain filing deadlines for charities to August 15, 2020. These rules will address the filing deadlines for charity registration renewals and solicitation campaign financial reports. They will not affect the filing deadline for new solicitation notices, which must be filed at least 15 days prior to the commencement of a solicitation campaign.

"Like the IRS, we are extending some filing deadlines for charities," said Secretary Griswold. "This will enable charities to focus on providing vital services to Coloradans during this time of need."

Last year, Coloradans donated over \$4.6 billion to 7,321 Colorado-based charities. With the extension, charities are required to file their financial statements, Form 990s, and state financial forms to the Secretary of State's by August 15, 2020. These extensions were granted in light of the IRS extension of certain filing deadlines, which also impacts charities and their ability to prepare documents needed for filings with the Secretary of State.

For the Notice of Temporary Adoption for the Colorado Charities Program Rules (8 CCR 1505-9), please click [here](#). The notice includes the adopted rules, a statement of basis, and statement of justification. For an unofficial copy of the charity rules as adopted and effective on April 3, please click [here](#). For more information, please visit www.sos.state.co.us.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J SUPERINTENDENT LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

April 8, 2020

Dear Montrose County School District community,

Today we announce the difficult decision to end in-person instruction on all our physical campuses for the remainder of the school year. Together with our School Board members and District Leadership team, we make this decision to keep all students, staff, and families safe.

The decision to end in-person instruction is informed by the predictions and modeling of local, county, and state Public Health officials, all of which suggest the impact of COVID-19 may peak in the final week of April, just as the Governor's present school-closure order expires. We cannot ask Montrose County students and staff to physically congregate while Coronavirus hospitalizations and positive cases reach their apex.

Along with our neighbors in the Gunnison Watershed District, as well as almost twenty other Colorado school districts, in-person instruction will end for this semester as we transition to Phase Two of our remote learning plan.

Montrose County School District is deeply committed to remote learning and Phase Two will begin Monday, April 13th; we will now transition to a home-based instructional model for the remainder of the school calendar.

If we can safely reschedule and delay graduation ceremonies until later in the summer, we will announce plans to do so in the coming weeks.

Meal service will continue throughout the remainder of the school year.

Please remember that we are all in this together. School will look differently over the next two months, but the people of Montrose County will work together through this current crisis, knowing that sometime soon we will all be back together on-campus to learn.

I encourage you to email me with any questions you may have and include your phone number if you prefer a telephone call.

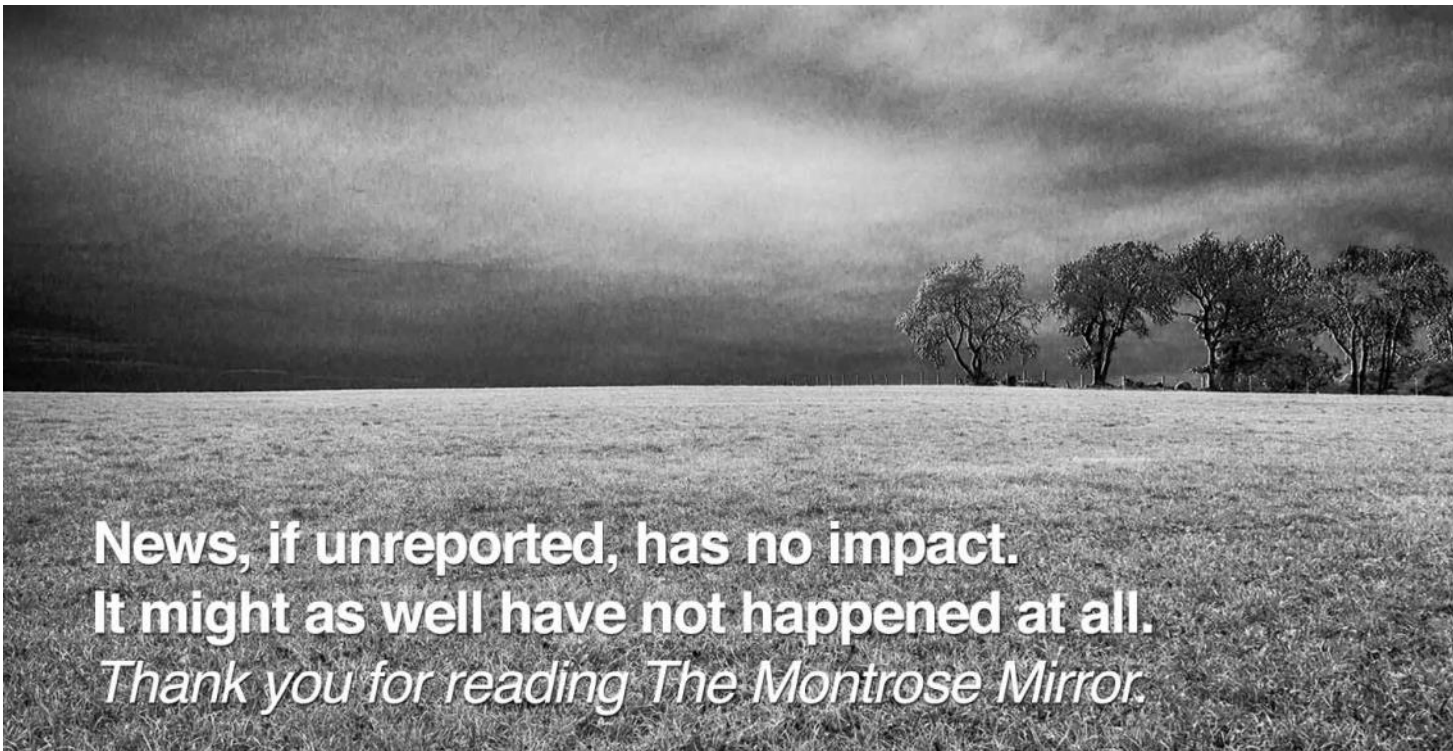
Please stay safe and healthy,

Stephen Schiell

Superintendent

Montrose County School District

stephen.schiell@mcsd.org



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

**COVID
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CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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

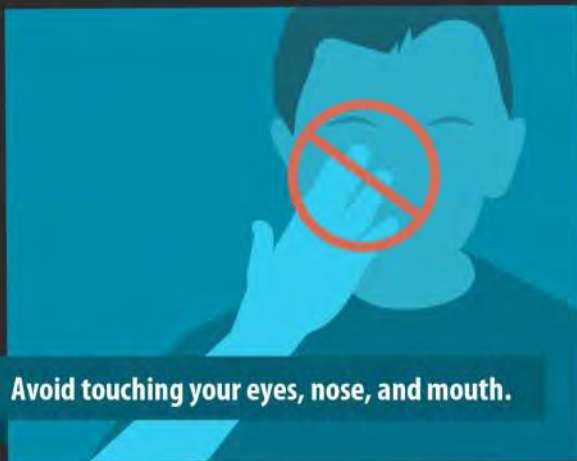
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



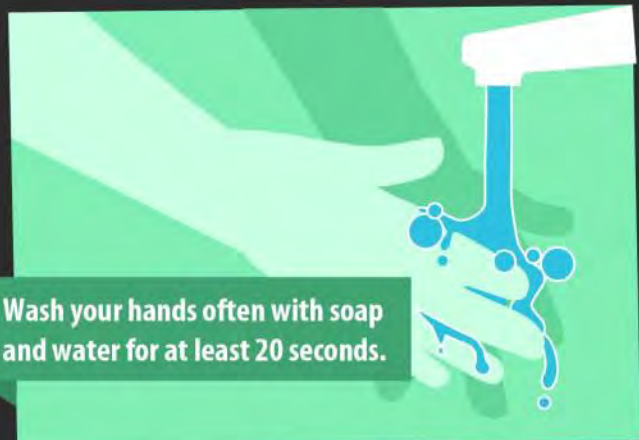
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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



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



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

**COVID
19**
ENFERMEDAD DEL
CORONAVIRUS

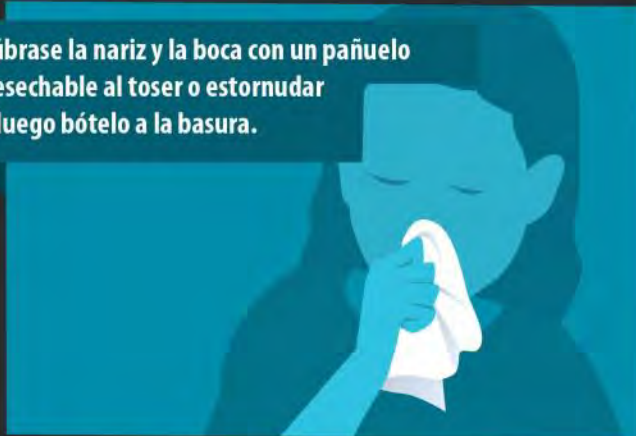
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

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

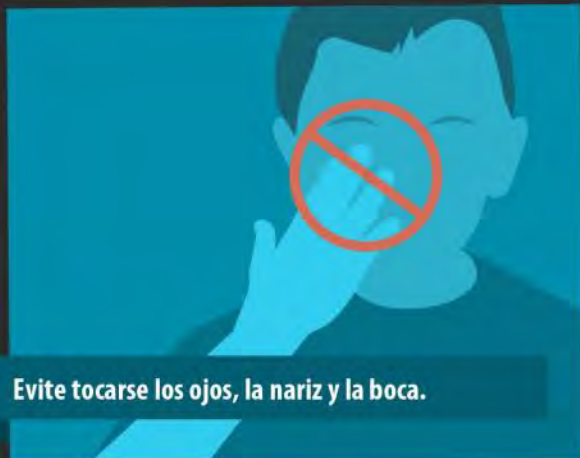
Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



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



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



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



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



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



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

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR TAKES THE LEAD IN DYSFUNCTIONAL OURAY COUNTY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Ouray County's most recent public health order is not intended to keep Montrose locals from visiting Ridgway businesses (pictured above), or vice versa, Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery told the Mirror last week, but to prevent the arrival of second home owners during the pandemic. Photo by Sue Williamson.

By Caitlin Switzer

OURAY COUNTY—Given the level of dysfunction apparent in recent headlines from Ouray County, it's no surprise that with the arrival of COVID-19, public health officials have emerged as leaders here.

OURAY COUNTY INCIDENTS HIGHLIGHT GOVERNMENTAL DYSFUNCTION

Recent news stories have raised concerns over issues of law enforcement and transparency.

Ouray County Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald now faces a recall election after several alcohol and abuse-filled incidents landed him on the wrong side of the law. Fitzgerald's Undersheriff, Richard Herman, was indicted for attempted inducement of child prostitution in 2018 and ultimately found guilty of misdemeanor harassment. In Ridgway, several high-profile rape cases a few years ago brought to light an on-

going lack of crime data reporting on the part of the Ridgway Marshal's Office—which has been a revolving door since the retirement of longtime Marshal DJ "Scotty" Scott in 2017. (In fact, Ridgway watchdog Sue Williamson reports that neither the Ouray Sheriff or Ridgway Marshal's office has reported crime data to the CBI in the past 15 years.)

At around the same time, a trusted local doctor was found to be practicing medicine without a license—and writing prescriptions.

Dysfunctional, yes. And it's not just Ridgway.

Ouray Police Chief Justin Perry has also been serving as City Administrator since January of 2019, when the Ouray City Council fired then administrator Katie Sickles with no cause and no explanation.

The Ouray Plaindealer has reported recently that former Montrose Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph was hired to serve Ouray as Assistant City Manager, but then turned down the job after a dispute over mileage reimbursement.

And on March 29, members of the Ouray Tourism Office (OTO) received a letter from the organization stating that the City of Ouray would be taking over operations of the Ouray Visitor Center and running it themselves.

"Obviously, if the City runs the Visitors Center during the same hours and at the same staffing levels as they were requiring of the OTO, the expense will rise significantly due to the much higher pay and benefits that all City employees enjoy," the OTO letter states.

"This has the potential to absorb much more of the already limited LOT funds and divert them from destination marketing.

"This concerns us."

A report archived on the City of Ouray web site notes that as of Dec. 2019, year-to-date LOT funds totaled \$474,121.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS TAKE THE LEAD DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic first made news in Ouray County, Ridgway Mayor John Clark initially appeared to weigh the

competing imperatives of local commerce vs. public health. "...canceling events and changing our 'social distancing' behaviors will affect local business," Clark wrote in a letter to constituents in mid-March.

Still, shortly thereafter on March 17, Ridgway Town Manager Preston Neill implemented an immediate Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency in response to statewide orders and local concerns.

Ouray County Public Health has since issued a number of public health orders in accordance with those issued by Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

There were four cases of COVID-19 officially confirmed in Ouray County as of this writing; Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery issued his latest order on April 7. The order states, "Effective at 4 PM on April 7, 2020 until April 30, 2020, all Non-residential Homeowners and/or Seasonal Residents are discouraged from traveling to Ouray County. If such persons enter the County, they shall follow a mandatory 14-day Quarantine."

Though the order does state that, "Visitors to Ouray County are directed to return home immediately upon the issuance of this Order by the fastest and safest available means, and persons considering visiting Ouray County shall remain home and not travel to Ouray County," the order is not intended to keep Montrose locals from visiting Ridgway businesses, or vice versa, he told the *Mirror* last week.

"It's for our second homeowners, wherever they are coming from," Kingery said.

Kingery was also interviewed last week by *Kaiser Health News*, a national health policy news service owned by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Large-scale testing was not an option for Ouray County, Kingery said, due to budgetary impacts and PPE requirements.

With Colorado's statewide stay-at-home order already in place, "If you're having symptoms or feel sick stay home," Kingery told *Kaiser Health News*.

"That guidance doesn't really change if you have a positive test."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE RELEASES 2020 ELECTION RESULTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—With the largest field of candidates — 11 — since 1978, City of Montrose voters returned 5,007 of 12,204 ballots issued for the municipal election. The return rate for the spring election was 41 percent, the highest return rate since 2014.

In the City Council District 3 race, Councilor Roy Anderson retained his seat earning 2,999 votes over David White, who earned 1,782 votes.

In the City Council District 4 race, Dave Frank won the seat with 1,740 votes. Other

candidates in the district, William Bennett earned 1,090, Merri D. Brennecke earned 1,079, and Dave Stockton earned 793.

In the City Council's At Large race, Councilor Barbara Bynum retained her seat with 2,438 votes, Yvonne Y. Meek earned 1,022, Ed Ulibarri earned 796, Charli Oswald earned 400 and Paul Arbogast earned 218.

The District 3 and 4 seats are each four-year terms and the At Large seat is for a two-year term. Councilors will be sworn in at the April 21 City Council regular

meeting, and a new mayor will be selected by vote of the council as provided by the City Charter.

Ballot measure 2A, City of Montrose referred measure granting a franchise to Black Hills Colorado Gas Inc., passed with 3,280 in favor and 906 opposed.

Election results will become official after the canvas of votes is completed. A notice of the official election results will be published in the *Montrose Daily Press* after the abstract of votes is completed.

Visit CityofMontrose.org/Election for additional election information.

TEMPORARY DEVELOPED RECREATION SITE CLOSURES & FIRE RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Acting Regional Forester Jennifer Eberlien has announced and signed an order to temporarily close developed recreation sites and an order to implement fire restrictions within the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region to align with local, state and federal orders and guidelines to protect public health and safety. The region includes 24 national forests and grasslands across Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. "While we know that going outside provides forest and grassland visitors needed space, exercise and satisfaction, we are taking the risks presented by COVID-19 seriously," said Eberlien. "We are providing some recreation opportunities where we can while protecting and keeping employees, the public and our communities safe from the virus, as well as protecting and keeping communities and natural and cultural resources safe from unwanted human-caused wildfires."

Recreation Closures

Developed recreation sites are temporarily closed while dispersed camping, hiking and river uses are allowed, although discouraged. Closed developed recreation sites include campgrounds, day-use areas, picnic areas, and any other constructed facility amenities — such as potable water stations, fire rings/grills, picnic tables, restroom facilities with flush or vaulted toilets, and trashcans and trash collection

services. Parking facilities, trails and trailheads remain open. Dispersed camping includes camping on a national forest or grassland where recreation facilities or services are not provided.

Forest and grassland visitors camping in dispersed recreation sites, hiking or embarking on river activities are encouraged to adhere to the following safety and responsibility guidelines.

Stay close to home to keep other communities safe.

Stay 6 feet apart from others.

Avoid crowding in parking lots, trails, scenic overlooks and other areas.

Take CDC precautions to prevent illnesses like COVID-19.

Prepare for limited or no services, such as restroom facilities and garbage collection. Prepare to pack out trash and human waste.

Fire Restrictions

Effective immediately until rescinded, the following is prohibited:

Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood-burning stoves, and shepherd's stoves.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.

The following persons are exempt from fire restrictions:

Persons with a Forest Permit, Form FS-7700-48, specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order in the areas listed

above.

Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty is exempt from Prohibitions.

Persons using pressurized liquid or gas devices (stoves, grills or lanterns) with shut-off valves in an area at least three feet from any flammable materials are exempt from Prohibition #1.

Residents, owners or lessees within the areas listed above who are using a fire in a permanent dwelling with an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrestor, are exempt from Prohibition #1. Fire restrictions enhance public safety, protect natural and cultural resources and help prevent human-caused wildfires. Several criteria are used to determine when to implement fire restrictions, including fire activity levels, current and predicted weather, fuel moisture and the availability of emergency and firefighting resources. Additional restrictions may be required if conditions warrant. Entering upon closed areas or igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or smoking on national forests and grasslands is a violation of Federal law and may result in consequent fines and possible jail time. All offices are conducting business and providing virtual services. For specific forest and grassland information, please visit the region's forest and grassland directory.

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Continued next pg

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY STATE PARK OPEN FOR HIKING, BIKING, BOATING; OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY— Colorado Parks and Wildlife wants everyone to get outside for exercise and fresh air and a good place to do it is Ridgway State Park which is open for hiking, picnicking, boating and biking.

"People are taking advantage of the great spring weather but some park users are under the misunderstanding that entry fees at Ridgway and all Colorado State Parks have been waived. That's not the case," said Kirstin Copeland, park manager. "Parks must continue to have income to pay for staff, maintenance, cleaning, access and patrols. Colorado State Parks do not receive general tax funds, we depend on user fees to operate."

The daily price to enter the park is just \$9

per vehicle. An annual pass is \$80, \$70 for seniors 64 and older. Payments can be made at stations located at park entries. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Annual passes can be purchased through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at cpwshop.com.

The park, located about 20 miles south of Montrose, is open for day-use activities. However, campgrounds and kids' play areas are closed. Those who wish to paddleboard are reminded that they must wear a PFD or have one on the board.

Once in the park, visitors are urged to be mindful of social distancing. Stay six feet away from other visitors and if you're in a group please wear protective masks. On hiking trails, please step away when you

see others approaching and allow plenty of room to pass. CPW also recommends that people carry hand sanitizers.

Those bringing boats into the park should stay in their vehicles; inspectors will come to you to collect information. If your boat needs to be decontaminated, please call the park in advance to make an appointment. That will help boaters get on the water more quickly.

Boaters are asked to please respect the work of the inspectors and maintain an appropriate social distance. The inspectors are highly experienced and complete their work quickly.

The visitors' center office is closed to the public. For information, call the park at 970-626-5822.

OURSTREETS SUPPLIES LAUNCHES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON, DC- OurStreets is an award-winning, community-driven data platform that empowers users to report and analyze real-world issues.

Launched in January, OurStreets allows users to report dangerous driving and shared mobility issues. Now, OurStreets is launching a new tool in response to the current public health crisis: OurStreets Supplies is an intuitive reporting tool that gives users the power to track and report essential supplies at neighborhood stores, making shopping trips more efficient to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The app is simple: an interface for shoppers and retailers to update stock levels, and a search feature for shoppers and regulators to better understand the supply level of essential goods in their communities. Customers who consult the app can make necessary trips only to stores with stocked essentials, enabling proper social distancing and minimizing the risk of contact for retail workers.

Retail partners can integrate their existing inventory software with OurStreets Supplies infrastructure to keep customers up to date. Municipal partners can gain data

insights into demand and shortages across communities.

For the launch of OurStreets Supplies, OurStreets has two exciting partnerships: Data Society, a data science education company, and Union Kitchen, a food accelerator that operates groceries, commercial kitchens, and distribution services.

"We're excited to share this new app function to help people stay safe and healthy during this public health crisis," says OurStreets CEO Mark Sussman.

"Together, we can make it easier and safer for our communities to get the essential goods they need."



Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

When?

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



How?



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



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



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



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

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

LIFE IS BETTER WITH

CLEAN HANDS



www.cdc.gov/handwashing

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



CS310027-A

¡Detenga los microbios! Lávese las manos

¿CUÁNDO?

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



¿CÓMO?



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



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



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



Enjuáguese bien las manos con agua corriente limpia.



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

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

LA VIDA ES MEJOR CON LAS

MANOS LIMPIAS



www.cdc.gov/lavadodemanos

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



CS310027-A

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDLE: THERE WERE 46,065 INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FILED WEEK ENDING APRIL 4

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced there were 46,065 initial unemployment claims filed the week ending April 4. Over the past three weeks 127,393 initial claims have been filed. 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.*

**Claims by industry and benefits paid
Top 5 industries with highest claims (for the week ending March 21st)****

Accommodation and Food Services:
12,411

Healthcare and Social Service: 2,560

Other Services:*** 1,672

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation:
1,415

Retail Trade: 1,014

Payment requests made since March 16:
60,000+

Benefits paid for week ending April 4: \$29.8 Million

Average 2020 weekly benefits paid for weeks prior: \$8.7 Million

Recession comparison of benefits paid:
During the height of the Great Recession

(2009-10), \$19 million in benefits were paid out on an average weekly basis. \$102.8 million in benefits were paid out in May 2009, the highest monthly total on record.

CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Update

There are several provisions within the recently passed CARES Act that provide enhanced or extended unemployment benefits for workers. All of these new benefits are paid for by the federal government. The Unemployment Insurance Division is currently reprogramming its systems to administer these new benefits. All eligible workers will receive these benefits backdated and will not lose out on any benefit amount to which they were entitled.

"We are working as quickly as we can to get these benefits into the hands of people who are in need during these unpredictable and unprecedented times," said Joe Barela, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

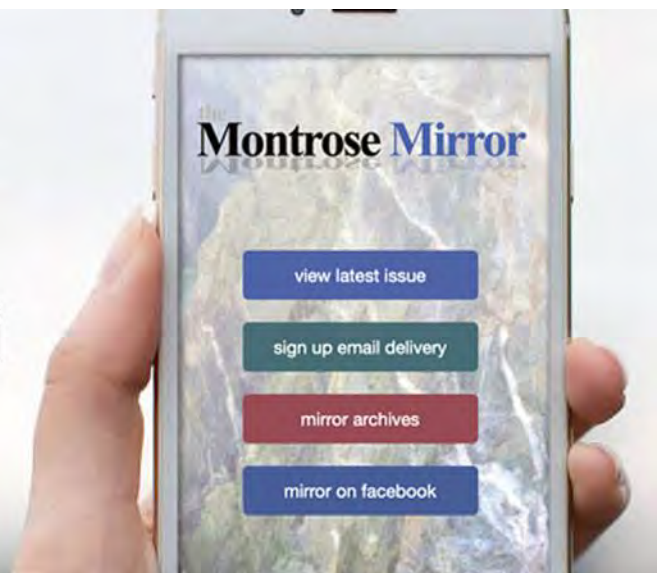
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or PUA, is the program that will provide unemployment benefits, up to 39 weeks, to those not ordinarily eligible for them. This

includes gig workers, individuals who are self-employed or contract employees, those who cannot telework while obeying a shelter order, and even those who have exhausted regular unemployment insurance benefits. It also includes workers who were directly impacted by COVID-19, such as needing to care for a child whose school is closed or a dependent who tested positive for COVID-19 ([see worksheet](#)). This benefit is retroactive to January 27, 2020.

The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, or FPUC, provides \$600 per week to any individual eligible for any of the Unemployment Compensation programs. This benefit begins March 29, 2020.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, or PEUC, provides for an additional 13 weeks of benefits beyond the standard maximum of 26 weeks for traditional (regular) unemployment benefits. Workers who believe they may be eligible for these benefits can begin gathering income statements and other documentation that might be required to file, but the Department is asking them to wait to file until the systems are ready to begin accepting claims.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY'S COVID-19 SECOND ROUND TESTING DELAYED

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-The San Miguel County Department of Public Health and Environment recommended to the Board of County Commissioners April 7 that the second round of COVID-19 blood tests be delayed indefinitely due to United Bio-medical Inc.'s (UBI) considerable reduced ability to process the tests due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will continue to evaluate whether or not it makes sense to pursue the second round of testing given the unexpected obstacles UBI's lab is facing," Grace Franklin, Public Health Director said.

The Board of County Commissioners issued the following statement Tuesday morning: "We accept and support our Public Health Director's decision to delay the second round of testing at this time. We understand the public concern and disappointment likely to stem from this announcement. The foundation of our approach to fight COVID-19 continues to depend on community-wide adherence to our current Public Health Orders. We remain confident this is the most effective approach."

The County entered a partnership with UBI to provide free, voluntary blood antibody tests in mid-March. The tests were considered a welcomed tool in the fight against COVID-19 by both county health, and given nearly 6,000 participants in the first round, most of the community.

"The combination of being able to acquire disease prevalence data and initiate early, effective public health measures could give us an opportunity to have a more informed process to recovery," Franklin said.

UBI told county health officials that unexpected delays in processing the first round

of tests is likely to continue as their lab is in "the epicenter" of the COVID-19 outbreak in NY. Company officials said their staff is down 40% and access to necessary supplies, including Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), has been compromised to adequately process thousands more tests within a clinically relevant time. Approximately 1,600 of the nearly 6,000 tests have been processed.

"This pandemic has created unprecedented strains on whole systems, from PPE, to tests, to healthcare staff, and this lab is a part of that crunch," Dr. Sharon Grundy, County Medical Officer said. "They are experiencing a bottleneck in their capacity to adequately process lab result in a reasonable amount of time."

UBI said it plans on processing as many as possible tests per day of the estimated 4,400 outstanding test results starting Thursday or Friday of this week.

"The delay in results is extremely disappointing, but it is not surprising when you consider the current state of our country due to this pandemic," Dr. Diana Koelliker, Director of Emergency Services for the Telluride Medical Center said.

Dr. Grundy and Dr. Koelliker said they stand by their original decision to recommend that the county partner with UBI to be the first county in the country to participate in the blood antibody testing. "We were and we will continue to aggressively explore testing opportunities that could be a useful tool for public health to help our community," Dr. Koelliker said.

Dr. Grundy said the although the results of the first round will be weeks late, they still have value. "The data will provide us with a better understanding of the prevalence of the virus in our community and how those who were exposed to COVID-

19 fared."

Franklin added, "These are circumstances beyond our control. We don't think it's in the county's best interest to invest in the time, manpower and supplies needed to retest nearly 6,000 people when there is tremendous uncertainty as to when and if we'd get those results back."

"Let's remember that testing is one of the tools we have in this fight. The foundation will always be our behavior – the stay at home and physical distancing measures, and best hygienic practices. We want to buy enough time for drug treatments or a vaccine to come down the pipeline," Dr. Grundy said.

Though UBI offered the test and processing free, the county incurred tens of thousands of dollars of expenses in manpower, supplies and associated expenses to execute the first round of testing. UBI is working with the county to cover as much, if not all of these costs.

"At the end of the day, what we can control is our behavior. It is imperative that people stay at home, maintain physical distancing and wear face masks in public," Dr. Grundy said. "I have confidence that our county will pull through this health threat if we all do our part."

"We want to let everyone know how proud we are of their extraordinary efforts to pull this enormous and unprecedented operation off in a very short window of time." San Miguel County Sheriff Bill Masters and Telluride Fire Protection District Chief John Bennet of Unified Command said.

"This proves that the people of San Miguel County will rise to the occasion to do what they believe needs to be done, and we are extremely proud of and grateful for them."



Just in thyme for spring ...

The Mirror

Homegrown content with flavor.

A white dog with black spots is shown from the side, digging its head into the sand on a beach. The dog's tail is raised and curved. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

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MIRROR IMAGES...BY SUE WILLIAMSON



At left, herons.

At right, a masked shopper loads bags Sunday at City Market South in Montrose.



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ISSUE 258 April 13, 2020

ART & SOL

WEST SLOPE MT LION PLAN FACEBOOK OPEN HOUSE



Mt. Lion resting in a neighborhood tree. CPW courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Colorado Parks and Wildlife is hosting an online public open house to explain proposed changes to agency management of mountain lions on the Western Slope. The DRAFT West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan will be presented in a Facebook open house on Thursday, April 16 at 3 p.m. Agency staff will remain available online until 8 p.m. to answer questions.

This unique, 5-hour long, online public

meeting will allow people to pop in when convenient, view an explanation video, ask questions, and learn how to submit formal public comments on the proposed West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan. Anyone interested in viewing the presentation and interacting with agency staff can tune in to the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Facebook page](#) anytime between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 16. You can also reach the page by searching "Colorado Parks and Wildlife Facebook"

from any search engine. A Facebook account is not necessary to view the video but is needed to ask questions during the open house.

A full copy of the draft plan and the public comment link will remain available on the [West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan web page](#) through Thursday, April 30. To allow the public more opportunity to comment, the public comment period has been extended from April 12 until Thursday, April 30. To gather public comments, [a short online form](#) has been created. Formal comments must be submitted through the survey link by midnight Mountain Standard Time on Thursday, April 30. Facebook comments and comments on other social media are not included in the official comments that will be compiled for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Mountain lions in Colorado have historically been managed in smaller, localized units similar to how deer and elk herds are managed. Recent research has shown that managing lions is more appropriate and effective on a larger landscape scale. Incorporation of the significant advancements in lion management published over the last 15 years into the West Slope plan is key to this new framework. CPW employs some of the leading researchers on mountain lions in the nation. By making this cutting edge, science-based change,

Continued next pg

WEST SLOPE MT LION PLAN FACEBOOK OPEN HOUSE

From previous pg

CPW will remain a leader and at the forefront of wildlife management. The proposed plan manages for a stable population of mountain lions across the West Slope of Colorado and establishes a special management area around Glenwood Springs to address increasing mountain lion conflict and management challenges in that area.

"We are looking forward to giving people across Colorado the opportunity to understand how we manage these dynamic animals across the landscape," said Matt Yamashita, Area Wildlife Manager for the Glenwood Springs area. "At first we were struggling to plan public meetings on the Front Range with the Governor's Stay-at-Home orders but, through technology, we're able to reach many more people and answer questions in real-time."

The Facebook session on Monday will be hosted by Yamashita and Montrose Area Wildlife Manager Renzo DelPiccolo, both lifelong Coloradans with education in wildlife biology and long careers managing Colorado's wildlife. Yamashita and DelPiccolo will be joined by more than two dozen other wildlife managers, biologists, and CPW staff who will work behind the scenes to answer questions for Facebook viewers during the 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. event.

"We have listened to the local residents across Western Colorado and developed a plan that meets their needs," said DelPiccolo. "Now we're excited to share the plan more broadly so that all Coloradans can know that mountain lions are being managed to keep populations stable throughout Western Colorado."


Viewers will learn about the science behind mountain lion management, including how population objectives are determined, how lions are studied, how lion hunting is regulated, and some of the challenges wildlife managers face.

At the end of the public comment period,

any necessary adjustments will be made to the West Slope Mountain Lion Plan before it is submitted to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for the final approval process. If approved by the Commission, the plan will be implement-

ed beginning in April 2021.

For more information or to view the West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan prior to the Facebook open house event, visit the [CPW Lion Population Management Plan web page](#)



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CEDAREGE GOLF COURSE WELCOMES NEW PRO

Course is open to the public with social distancing requirements



Ira Kramer and his wife Amy recently relocated to Cedaredge from Pennsylvania, along with their pups Gracie and Raya. Ira is the new PGA golf professional at the Cedaredge Golf Club. The Club is open to the public with strict restrictions in place in light of COVID-19. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

CEDAREGE-The Cedaredge Golf Club is pleased to welcome Ira Kramer, PGA, as the new golf professional at the Club. Kramer began work at the course on April 8. Kramer relocated to Cedaredge with his wife Amy from Lancaster, PA., where he served as the Director of Golf Operations at the Lancaster Host Resort, a position he held for 10 years.

Golf is more than a beloved hobby for Kramer – it's a family tradition. His father and one of his six siblings both have worked as PGA golf professionals, and he met his wife early on in his career, over 30 years ago, when she worked for him at a course. Most recently, Kramer was the PGA Director of Instruction at Lozano and Oso Beach Golf Clubs in Texas.

Kramer is a 32-year member of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, and said he especially loves coaching and teaching the sport of golf. He has coached

high school golf teams and is a Certified US Kid's Golf Coach.

Kramer said he is looking forward to getting to know the Cedaredge golf community and has some exciting plans coming. For those who are unfamiliar with the game or with the Club, he plans to offer complimentary golf clinics for men, women and youth. He also plans to offer golf camps, expand on the youth programs already in place, add a golf "school" for adults, and add a few more benefit golf tournaments in addition to several fundraiser tournaments the course hosts each season.

Kramer said he is also looking forward to working with the Men's, Women's, Birdies and Century Clubs, and crafting events and programs for those Clubs.

Ira and Amy have two grown sons. They are anxious to settle down in beautiful Cedaredge with their two Golden Retrievers, who, he jokes, don't golf but love to retrieve his golf balls! "We look forward to becoming part of the Cedaredge community and part of the Cedaredge Golf Club team!" Kramer said.

While his family gets settled, he has already jumped headfirst into operations at the Cedaredge Golf Club. Currently, the course is open to public play, with restrictions. The Town of Cedaredge and the Cedaredge Golf Club have continually monitored the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and have sought guidance on operations from the State of Colorado and Delta County Health officials.

Though the State of Colorado is under a Stay at Home order through April 27, outdoor exercise in a way that keeps everyone safe has been determined to be essential. The Cedaredge Golf Club will be open with approval from Delta County Health Department under the following restrictions:

Golfers must maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves at all times

No more than 4 golfers in any group
No congregating with other foursomes anywhere, including the putting green and parking lot

The course will only be available for walking and private carts. No cart rentals will be available. Private carts may be used but may only be used by the cart owner and his/her spouse or immediate family member. There will be no sharing of private carts.

Please leave the course promptly after completing your round

Everyone golfer, members included, are required to book a tee time by calling the pro shop. The pro shop will remain closed to the public so all payments must be made over the phone with a credit or debit card. The driving range and the bathrooms are also closed. All flag sticks, ball washers, trashcans and rakes have been removed from the course. All communication with staff must be over the phone or via email. Kramer can be reached at the pro shop at 970-856-7781 or ikramer@cedaredgecolorado.com.

"As everything is closed, please remember to bring a filled water bottle, sanitary wipes, and hand sanitizer with you to keep yourself safe and healthy while golfing," Kramer said. "I assure you, we wish to fully open the golf course with carts and practice facilities as soon as possible."

Lastly, he added that as COVID-19 circumstances have been changing daily, Cedaredge Golf Club reserves the right to amend the schedule or close if social distancing guidelines are not maintained.

Instead of a traditional meet-and-greet with Ira, the community is invited to join an online video call to meet him. That call will take place on Wednesday, April 22 at 5 pm. In order to join the call, please email Town Clerk Kami Collins for login credentials at kcolins@cedaredgecolorado.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

OPEN CALL FOR WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE 'ART IN ISOLATION' EXHIBIT

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The Wright Opera House is announcing an open call for their new art exhibition called Art in Isolation: Coping with Quarantine that invites Ouray County residents and beyond to submit works expressing how they're dealing with the current health situation.

The WOH plans to print out the submitted artistic pieces in black and white on 8.5x11 paper and will install them in a free-standing frame in the Wright's picture window for display. They will also be shared in a virtual gallery on the WOH website in May.

In the time of social distancing we want to create a way for people to reconnect and share their experiences through art, and the goal is to make one large piece of artwork that consists of the individual submissions. We are all dealing with the current health, social and political situa-

tion facing the world differently, and we know that art is one of the greatest tools we have to share our own unique stories.

The call is open to all ages and levels of art making, and all forms of creative expression are encouraged.

You can submit photographs, digital art, paintings, drawings, printmaking, sculptures, installations, poems, writings, music, performances and more. Ultimately we just want you to have the opportunity to be creative during this uncertain and challenging time. For the purposes of the exhibit the WOH is asking that no physical works or objects be submitted, but that instead all works be submitted in a digital .pdf or .jpg file. The Wright reserves the right of refusal for any piece of art. Submission Deadline: 5 p.m. on April 20, 2020

Exhibition Dates: Starts May 1, 2020

How to submit work: Send up to

three .pdf or .jpg files of original works by 5 p.m. April 20, 2020

Email all files to alysa@thewrightoperahouse.org

In the subject line of the email write:

"Submission: Art in Isolation - Artist's Name, City and State"

Include a one to two sentence description of your work

Participants will be informed via email that their works will be part of the exhibit. We are grateful to be part of such a strong and uplifting community here on the Western Slope of Colorado and this open call exhibition is just one of the ways we can bring everyone together through art. Part of our mission at The Wright is to contribute to the cultural vitality of the Ouray area, and although we're all social distancing, we are determined to stay connected, even if it's from a distance.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BOSOM BUDDIES EXTENDS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Bosom Buddies announced that the deadline for scholarship applications has been extended to May 15. This extension applies to both new and renewing scholarship applicants.

"We decided that, due to the current health situation, it would be best to give more time for our graduating seniors and previous recipients to submit their applications," said Kim Jones and Lori Webb, co-chairs of the Bosom Buddies Educational Assistance Committee.

Bosom Buddies offers three scholarship opportunities to residents of Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. Scholarship funding is available to students enrolling in an institution of higher learning who are applying to Bosom Buddies for educational assistance for the first time. Continuing educational funding is also available to previous recipients. Students must apply annually but can re-apply for up to a total of four years.

Applicants must have a parent or guardian who, at some time, has been diagnosed

with breast cancer.

Funding is available for full-time and part-time students enrolling in a vocational, community college, university, or accredited on-line program. In addition, educational funding is available year-round to survivors of breast cancer.

Application forms for educational financial assistance can be downloaded from the Bosom Buddies website

www.bosombuddieswc.org. Instructions for submitting the completed applications are noted on the forms.

BLM ISSUES DECISION FOR UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today released the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). The plan responds to the needs of local communities by promoting access to public lands, sustainable energy development, economic growth and conservation stewardship.

"The BLM is excited to implement the RMP and move forward in a way that balances use, resources and conservation stewardship," said Greg Larson, Uncompahgre Field Manager. "Our partners and stakeholders were integral in this effort, and the BLM will continue to work hand in hand with them to support local economies while maintaining the quality of life and recreational opportunities we all enjoy."

Coordination with the State of Colorado through the Governor's consistency re-

view was completed in January 2020.

"We appreciate the productive dialogue with BLM, and the recent changes made to the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan to allow state wildlife managers the opportunity to provide input into mitigating the impacts of oil and gas development on sensitive habitat for elk, mule deer and bighorn sheep, as well as the inclusion of No Surface Occupancy protections for just under 33,000 acres of critical water and riparian resources, especially in the North Fork Valley in Delta and Gunnison counties near Paonia," said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources. "We also appreciate the BLM's commitment to undertake a future statewide planning effort to address related concerns with the density of development in sensitive big game habitat on BLM lands, which will bolster conditions for herds across the state. Public lands contribute immensely to the qual-

ity of life and economy in Colorado, and we'll continue to closely work with BLM and other key stakeholders to improve land management."

The plan updates and combines the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP and the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP, guiding public land use on approximately 675,800 acres of BLM-managed surface lands, and 971,220 acres of federal mineral estate in southwest Colorado. It incorporates a balanced level of protection, restoration, enhancement, and use of resources to meet natural resource management objectives and the needs of local communities. An estimated 950 jobs and \$2.5 billion in regional economic production could be generated annually from these public lands, including recreation, agriculture, and energy development.

The ROD, RMP and associated documents are available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xnpgD>.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE TAKES SIGNIFICANT STEP TO INCREASE MEMBER FLEXIBILITY, SETS CONTRACT TERMINATION PAYMENT METHODOLOGY

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER – Tri-State has achieved a significant milestone in its transition to be a more flexible and even cleaner power supplier through its transformative Responsible Energy Plan. The cooperative's board of directors, representing each utility member, approved a new partial requirements contract option that will deliver its utility members the flexibility to significantly increase local renewable energy development and the self-supply of power.

Tri-State's board of directors also approved a methodology to calculate the contract termination payment of an existing utility member that seeks to understand the costs involved with the early termination of its power contract with Tri-State. The methodology sets a standard approach, applicable to any utility member, should that member be allowed to withdraw early from Tri-State.

"As a cooperative, our members tirelessly worked together to deliver flexibility and real change to those members that want to supply more of their own power," said Rick Gordon, chairman of the Tri-State Board and director of Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colo. "We have taken significant steps on our Responsible Energy Plan commitments for cleaner energy, lower emissions, more flexibility and ultimately, lower wholesale rates."

"Tri-State members worked together, debated options and built consensus around complex issues to arrive at an equitable solution for more flexibility," said Scott Wolfe, Contract Committee chairman and director at the San Luis Valley REC in Monte Vista, Colo.

The membership's Contract Committee, which includes representatives from all utility members, met 11 times since June 2019 and made recommendations to the Tri-State Board of Directors. The board adopted all of the recommendations.

"Both the partial requirements contract option and the contract termination payment methodology approved by the board protect the interests of all Tri-State utility members by ensuring that one member's

action does not unfairly shift costs to the other members," said Duane Highley, Tri-State's chief executive officer. "With our board's action, our next steps are filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and implementing the other provisions passed by our board."

The new partial requirements contract structure and the contract termination payment methodology are subject to the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and will be submitted for approval. FERC regulates the rates and contracts of wholesale public utilities, including Tri-State.

While there is still work to do to implement the board's actions, including making filings to FERC, the approval allows Tri-State to move forward to develop the new contract options and related methodologies while awaiting FERC approvals.

Flexible partial requirements contracts, community solar provisions available to all utility members. When finalized, the new partial requirements contract option will give Tri-State's utility members additional flexibility for the self-supply of power and more local renewable energy development. Partial requirements contracts address the needs of Tri-State utility members that desire self-supply above the 5 percent provisions in their current all-requirements contracts. Utility members of Tri-State can express their intent to transition to partial requirements contracts by participating in an upcoming open season period to allocate an aggregate 300 megawatts of system-wide member self-supply capacity. The open season capacity is 10% of Tri-State's system peak demand. Under the new contract, utility members can self-supply up to 50% of their load requirements, subject to availability in the open season, in addition to the current 5% self-supply provisions and a new community solar provision. In late 2019, the board of directors approved the Contract Committee's recommendation to expand member opportunities for community solar projects.

In September 2019, Tri-State's Board of Directors assigned the membership's Con-

tract Committee to recommend a structure and methodology to calculate a utility member's contract termination payment, should that member be allowed to terminate its contract early.

Several Tri-State utility members requested information on their contract termination payments in the same time period Tri-State was considering elements of its Responsible Energy Plan. The ongoing development of the plan, including partial requirements contracts, significant increases in renewable energy resources and the retirement of coal facilities, needed to be completed to properly inform the contract termination payment methodology.

The contract termination payment methodology is premised on a "make whole" concept that if a utility member is allowed to terminate its power contract with Tri-State, the remaining utility members are not financially harmed. The methodology will be filed with FERC for approval.

Expanded clean energy and lower emissions advances

In addition to greater flexibility, the Responsible Energy Plan announced by Tri-State in January 2020 significantly expands renewable energy generation, meaningfully reduces greenhouse gas emissions and extends the benefits of a clean grid to cooperative members while ensuring reliable, affordable and responsible electricity. Tri-State will add eight additional renewable energy projects in Colorado and New Mexico by 2024, when 50% of the energy consumed will come from emissions-free renewables. Tri-State will have more than 2,000 megawatts of renewable capacity on its system, including 800 megawatts of solar power, 671 megawatts of wind power and 600 megawatts of large and small hydropower.

Tri-State is significantly decreasing greenhouse gas emissions to meet state laws and goals, and with the closures of all coal facilities it operates, will eliminate 100% of its greenhouse gas emissions from coal in New Mexico by the end of 2020 and in Colorado by 2030. Tri-State retired its Nucla Station coal plant in 2019.

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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 13--City of Montrose Special Virtual Work Session, 11 a.m.

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:

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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Photographer Deb Reimann captured this image of St. Mary's Glacier near Idaho Springs several years ago. "While it isn't officially a glacier but rather a snowfield, it's still a beautiful area to visit," Reimann said.

A black bear is the central focus, sitting upright on a rustic wooden bench. It is holding a tablet computer with its paws. The background is a lush green valley with a snow-capped mountain peak in the distance under a blue sky with clouds.

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