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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting From West Central Colorado

Issue No. 373 April 20, 2020

TRUE COST OF DMEA EXIT CLIMBS TO \$136.5M

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) and Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) have finalized the agreement to part company and go their separate ways.

Each entity put out its own press release:

Tri-State press release excerpt:

"DMEA to pay Tri-State \$88.5 million, including \$26 million for purchase of facilities, and forfeit \$48 million in patronage capital."

DMEA press release excerpt:

"Guzman Energy will be paying

\$62.5 million to Tri-State for the right to take over DMEA's power supply agreement



Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Chief Executive Officer Jasen Bronec looks forward to Guzman Energy becoming the cooperative's power supplier. He said, "This is a new day for DMEA. This will allow DMEA to grow and prosper." Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Continued pg 7](#)

RE-1J SETS GRADUATION DATES, AGREES TO ONE-TIME \$500 PAYMENT FOR STAFF Centennial Music Teacher Lund to Retire; Beth Kusar tapped as OES Principal



After 32 years with the RE-1J School District, Centennial Middle School's Instrumental Music Teacher Shawn Lund (standing) has retired. Pictured at the 2019 CMS Veterans' Day Assembly, above, Lund established a reputation for excellence.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All directors were present for the regular, virtual meeting of the Montrose County School District RE-1J at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. Though the meeting was conducted via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook, the directors recited the Pledge of Allegiance together prior to approving the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Assistant to the Superintendent Laurie Laird informed the Board of Education that on March 5 Oak Grove Elementary School received a \$1,000 Donation from the San Juan Mountain Runners for the Turkey Trot.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District A Director Jeff Bachman gave an update on the Olathe Track Project. "Things are going right on schedule," he said. The high jump will be poured on April 22, pouring for the track will take place April 24-25. Those who want to observe should first check in at the office for a

[Continued pg 25](#)

in this
issue

[City of Montrose
Holds Virtual work session!](#)

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

[Fresh, local meat photos....
a visit to Kinikin Processing!](#)

[Volunteer Feature by
Sieglinde Carpenter!](#)

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

RIDGWAY OLD WEST FEST SEEKS UNUSUAL ANIMALS

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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We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.

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ONLINE NEWS
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QuaranTEAM STRANTZ - GAYLE AND JOHN OF MONTROSE

By Sieglinde Carpenter

MONTROSE—"We are here for such a time as this," simple Godly words spoken by John, a tech-savvy man of 74 years as he shares why he sews 40-50 hours a week making specifically designed respiratory masks for the doctors and nurses in Montrose and Delta. John, the man behind the machine, says with a grin, "this is my wife's fault," but as I watched him demonstrate how to make a mask, it was obvious he was driven by a deeper passion. His love of sewing came from his grandfather, a skillful upholsterer, who taught him many important lessons in life besides sewing and serving.

According to John, "When you take a piece of fabric and make it into something useful with purpose and then give it away to those in need, it becomes your gift of love and time. Busy hands are happy hands," and by the look on his face, John is in his "happy place" serving his community. Who knew a Craftsmen tool chest could house all of your sewing notions?

Gayle and John met when they were teenagers and after 55 years of marriage, two daughters, two son-in-loves, 12

grandkids, 35 years of missionary service, and 30 years as marriage counselor mentors, they know how to quarantine well together. Gayle came across an internet notice request from Sue Hansen, Montrose County Commissioner, enlisting the help of individuals to sew respiratory masks for the hospital and other health organizations. Knowing how much John loved to sew, she volunteered his services. However, Gayle wasn't prepared for the amount of time it took away from their time together. Feeling a bit left out, she asked John if he needed help. Not being a sewer, John patiently and lovingly taught her how to cut patterns and painstakingly iron stripes of fabric for the tiebacks. Though it wasn't as complicated as the sewing, it sped up the mask making process, but more importantly, it meant they were doing this together. As Gayle puts it "Love comes forward to serve. This is important to John, so it's important to me." Together they've produced more than 60 masks and counting, with joy and thanks-



Gayle and John. Photo by Sieglinde Carpenter.

giving. In speaking with Sue Hansen, "We are thankful for the hundreds of individual sewers in our community who have answered the call by donating their resources and talents in providing thousands of masks. Our first priority is to provide pocket-filtered respiratory masks to the hospitals and healthcare organizations." The Montrose Christian Church has a large contingency of sewers, Joann Fabrics is donating materials and there are a variety of mask patterns on the internet. Material needs to be a tightly woven 100% cotton. You can drop off completed masks into the bins out front of the County Administration, 317 S 2nd St, Montrose.

Ranch home with a full basement on 90+ acres \$1,350,000



This 3 Bed, 2 Bath secluded single family home sits back off the road with Buttermilk Creek flowing throughout the property. With its huge back deck you will be able to enjoy listening to the creek and nature at its finest. Home has 2400 square feet on the upper and lower level. Basement is partially finished with a walk out. MLS 766901



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Close to the Golf Course without all of the fees, this home is 3 bedrooms, 2 & 1/2 baths with a 3-car garage. This home has vaulted ceilings, and so much more! Trex decking on the back porch with great views! The Pella windows are triple-pane with shades built in! Space for parking an RV & no covenants!

Bedrooms: 3

Bathrooms: 3.0

2,014 sq. ft.

Year Built: 1994

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Are you ready to move into the perfect home before summer? Here it is. This 3-bedroom 3 bath Ranch level sits on an acre and a half. It is zoned county with the surrounding properties in the city! Custom built by Chris Sjoden. Feel welcomed just as soon as you enter the home. The kitchen is charming with its oak cabinetry, granite counters and a gas range. The separate dining room provides a space to sit and reflect on your day as you enjoy dinner. The bedrooms have ample space as well as storage. Just like the rest of this home, the interior as well as the exterior have been impeccably cared for. In fact, the pristine carpet has never even been walked on with shoes! The magnificent outdoor patio beacons entertaining. What a great space to gather with all those dear to you. Looking to relax? Relish the evening and take in breathtaking view of the mountains. This home is low maintenance and efficient with Pella triple pane windows as well as a no maintenance brick exterior. What a great space. There is plenty of room to garden, put in a Volleyball court or a private orchard. Or all three and more! If golfing is more your style look no further. Cobble creek golf course is within walking distance! Play the course without the monthly dues! Don't wait! Call for your showing!



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TRUE COST OF DMEA EXIT CLIMBS TO \$136.5M From pg 1

and to sell power to the co-op at a more competitive rate. In addition, DMEA is purchasing \$26 million in transmission assets from Tri-State that will be used to service their members going forward."

In each narrative Tri-State will receive \$88.5 million. In addition, the Tri-State press release noted that DMEA agreed to forfeit \$48 million in patronage capital; however, this information was not included in the DMEA press release.

Zoom Interview

On April 14, DMEA CEO Jasen Bronec and Guzman Energy CEO Chris Riley were interviewed by the *Montrose Mirror*.

Guzman Energy is the private, for-profit, full-service wholesale power provider. Guzman will replace Tri-State, a not-for-profit cooperative of 46 members, as the power supplier for DMEA. The target date for transition from Tri-State to Guzman Energy is July 1, 2020.

Bronec said, "We had three main goals that were acceptable with our membership. The first is rate stabilization and fixed pricing. That will allow us to plan and have certainty. The second is local development and the third is to take advantage of new

technology. This is a new day for DMEA. This will allow DMEA to grow and prosper."

Stabilization of rates does not mean members can expect rates to be lowered. Bronec said, "Rates will not be raised because of the buyout and we don't plan to raise rates. [Of course] There is always the possibility of some event happening that would have an impact. It's a huge accomplishment to stabilize rates. DMEA loads have decreased [coal mines, Russell Stover]."

In the area of tangibles that could be seen by DMEA membership Riley said, "At least 10 megawatts of new local generation are planned right now. We are focused very heavily on keeping local development. This is the first wave of what we are doing. The construction is a real thing that people will be able to see and it will bring major benefits to the community. And there will be an increased tax base into the community."

Tri State patronage capital is paid back to their 46 cooperative members on a rotation system. Addressing DMEA's agreement to forfeit \$48 million in patronage

capital Bronec said, "It's not cash. I think it's an 18 year-rotation. It's not cash, but cash in the future. There is no way of knowing if we would ever get that back."

The relationship between DMEA and Guzman is contractual. Guzman will not serve on the DMEA Board, nor will DMEA have representation on the Guzman board. Bronec noted that having a seat at the table doesn't always pay dividends. He said, "We had a seat at the table with Tri-State and gained nothing. Changes of policy at Tri-State did not help DMEA."

When asked if there would be any changes in DMEA board meetings and executive sessions, DMEA Chief Operating Officer (COO) Virginia Harman responded in an email, "Guzman does not have any authority or voting rights on the DMEA board. They will only attend executive sessions when invited by the board to update the board on confidential subjects. Guzman may attend board meetings (virtual or in person) to update the board on joint development projects, power supply activity, or general status of the industry from time to time."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TIMBERLINE BANK SECURES \$102,576,550 IN COMMUNITY SBA PPP LOANS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Timberline Bank is pleased to celebrate the success we have had securing \$102,576,550 dollars in SBA PPP Loans, to be injected into our community small businesses. This is HUGE win for our communities. Our team has worked tirelessly since April 2, 2020-to secure this money for the communities we serve. Here are some great facts:

With the recent exhausting of the \$350B Payroll Protection Program. Timberline would like to thank the business community for trusting our local community bank for assisting you with this process. Our impact is as follows:

659 Loans Approved

\$102,576,550.00 dollars injected into our community

12,000 Western Slope Households Benefited*

32,000 Individual Jobs Benefited*

*Estimated based on census data

We would like to thank our dedicated team members for working tirelessly to help their community.

We would also like to thank the patience and understanding of our excellent customers while we have focused 100% of our efforts on the PPP Loan Program. This understanding has allowed Timberline to help many new customers through this difficult time.

We would like to thank our amazing depositors who have helped us to invest in the communities of the Western Slope.



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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

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Our Town Matters

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – Celebrate National Park Week through April 26 with fun and innovative digital experiences. While parked at home, journey to national parks through a variety of online activities including virtual tours, scavenger hunts, trivia contests and junior ranger programs.

“Although much has changed in recent weeks, an assortment of fun and engaging digital National Park Week events can help people connect to our shared heritage and natural landscapes,” said **David Vela, National Park Service Deputy Director, exercising the authority of the Director.**

The Find Your Virtual Park page on NPS.gov provides resources that feature the sights and sounds of parks, games, videos, webcams and kid-friendly activities. The National Park Foundation offers a series of virtual escapes as well as suggestions for home-based park experiences.




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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IMPORTANT OURAY COUNTY WATER PLAN NEARS FINALIZATION

Editor:

The Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Protection and Enhancement Plan is a document that is intended to guide future decisions about the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries, Ridgway Reservoir, and other water resources in Ouray County.

The county government has been working on the plan and a related water supply study for five years, and is now finalizing the plan's content including alternatives for addressing water shortages.

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

(UWP) was one of 10 funders, and has been a steering committee member during the research and development of the plan since 2018.

UWP was informed by the county staff on April 14 that the final draft is complete and the deadline for comments is April 28. As the local nonprofit focused on the protection and improvement of the watershed, we believe this plan deserves careful review to ensure that it protects water quality and includes alternatives that are scientifically and environmentally sound.

If you are interested in the Upper Uncom-

pahgre Basin Plan and reading it to understand its findings and alternatives for addressing water shortages, you can find it at:

<https://ouraycountyco.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=318>.

If you wish to file comments about the plan, please send to Pete Foster, Wright Water Engineers

at pfoster@wrightwater.com no later than Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Sincerely, Tanya Ishikawa

Communications Director, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

SHAVANO WILDLIFE...A RAPTOR'S GAZE



John Nelson of Shavano Valley shared this photo of a hawk spotted near his home.



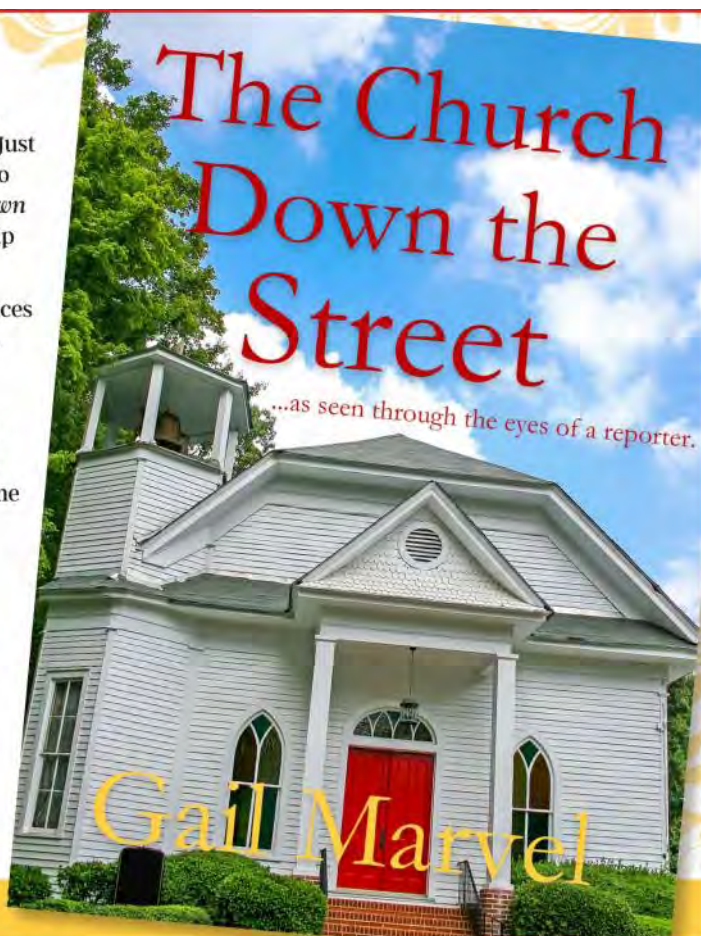
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



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CITY OF MONTROSE

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OPENS COVID-19 UNIT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In an environment that already featured significant financial challenges for rural hospitals, Montrose Memorial Hospital has taken on one more important challenge: fighting COVID-19. MMH recently opened a COVID specific unit to care for patients with this diagnosis – in addition to continuing to care for patients in our Emergency Department, ICU, Med/Surg, Family Center Units and all other areas of the hospital. The COVID Unit provides care for both critically ill ventilated patients and those with minimal need for respiratory support.

In addition, the MMH specific Emergency Operations team is meeting twice daily to discuss patient care issues, conservation and resourcing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), monitoring pharmaceutical availability, resourcing employees appropriately, county resources and support, employee health concerns and communications for staff and the community and so much more. The award-winning Environmental Services team is working hard to clean and keep the environment safe for all and Food Services is feeding staff and patients as per usual. The billing, accounting staff and other departments continue to work from home. Others are joining the “resource pool” to take on new tasks, such as working entry checkpoints, assisting with employee health, or taking on other duties as needed.

While the hard work is continuing around COVID, MMH is also working behind the scenes on the hospital’s long-term sustainability after this crisis is over. Rural hospitals nationwide were already under duress before COVID-19, with over 165 rural hospital closures in the U.S. since 2005. Over the past few weeks, MMH has experienced significant drops in patient volumes and revenue as a result of COVID



Montrose Memorial Hospital. Courtesy photo.

-19. On March 23, 2020 MMH suspended elective surgical procedures and in addition, many outpatient facilities, clinics, and departments have had to close – resulting in a significant loss of income. The hospital is currently pursuing many options to provide financial support during this time to provide access to funds. “MMH began the application process to seek reimbursement for COVID related expenses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is in the process of applying for the Medicare Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program. We plan to apply for the Public Health and Social Services’ Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) once the application documents become available, said Yvonne Wigington, MMH CFO. “In addition, leadership is taking pay cuts until elective surgeries are reinstated, we are closely reviewing and re-negotiating all contracts and asking Department Directors to evaluate their budgets and evaluate new reve-

nue generating opportunities.”

Kjersten Davis, MMH Board Chair added, “The salary cuts that many of our employees are taking shows how dedicated and compassionate our employees are. I am proud and honored to work with these people who are our front line of defense during this Pandemic and also our community health safety net, long term.”

“I am so impressed by our staff and provider’s commitment to our patients, their tremendous sacrifice and hard work. MMH has served our communities since 1949 and we will do all we can to stabilize our financial position and protect our culture so can continue to be your healthcare system of choice. They truly make a difference and together, we can overcome these challenges,” said James Kiser, MMH CEO. “Our priority will continue to be providing our front line with the resources they need, while we work to ensure that we will be here for our Friends and Family in the future.”



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND MUST REMEMBER WHO WE ARE

Editor:

I was upset today after reading this morning's edition of the Montrose Daily Press. Between the unconscionable, hateful comments made by our City Manager Bill Bell about revenue generating golfers and our gad about town mask counting elitist Ms. Morris, I kept asking myself when is this insanity going to end and we return to our normal, caring community. Well my prayers were answered this evening when a caravan of decorated vehicles drove by honking to celebrate a birthday. Every honk, hoot, streamer and balloon was a reminder of what's truly important. Montrose, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER and must remember who we are! Happy birthday Ashley!

Becky Wolford, Montrose

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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT

CITIZENS PROTEST LOSS OF LIBERTY, LIVELIHOODS



Photo by Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Saturday at noon various citizens held a protest against the forced shutdown of 'non-essential' business. There was a lot of cheering, waving and honking by most driving by the intersection. Neither TV or Print 'news' media was present to cover the dissatisfaction citizens have with what they see as a policy that is far more crippling than the statistics show the COVID-19 virus to be.

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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO SELECT NEW MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEM

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City council will convene for a regular, virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21.

Council will consider approving minutes of the March 24, 2020 special City Council meeting, the March 31, 2020 special City Council meeting, and the March 31, 2020 regular City Council meeting as presented.

Outgoing Mayor Dave Bowman will recognize Councilor Judy Ann Files for her contributions to the City of Montrose. Bowman will also preside over selection of a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

The newly-appointed mayor will then recognize Bowman for his contributions as Mayor of the City of Montrose from 2020-2021.

Council will consider adopting Resolution 2020-08, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the 4152 North Townsend Addition; and approving Ordinance 2501 on First Reading, for the annexation of the 4152 North Townsend Addition.

Background: A memo to Council from Planner II Amy Sharp notes, "The 4152 N Townsend Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 10.16 acres in size. The parcel is located northwest of the intersection of Highway 50 Frontage Rd. & Progress Ln. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the Menoken Water

Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area...The owner would like to subdivide the single-family house on the northwest portion of the property from the rest of the property. The City-County IGA gives the City the option to annex properties within the IGA. The area is urbanizing and more than 1/6 of the perimeter is contiguous to city limits. These factors support annexation. There will be no development that will require sewer or other utility connection. The purpose of this annexation is to subdivide the property."

Council will consider Ordinance 2502 on first reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, providing for the zoning of the 4152 N. Townsend Addition as a "B-3" General Commercial District.

Council will consider awarding a fuel and oil contract for to Parish Oil of Montrose. *Background:* A memo to Council from Public Works Manager Jim Scheid states, "The City's Fuel and Oil contract expired early this year and was issued as an RFP to renew our contract and to allow for competition in the award process. The Fleet Division received three bids, one of the bids did not provide prices for all items requested. Only Parish Oil and Master Petroleum bid on all items. Petroleum



Montrose City council will convene for a regular, virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 21. Mirror file photo.

Traders bid only on fuel. The RFP that was issued was clear that the City was interested in one company to provide fuel and oils due to the cost savings and efficiencies of doing so." Council will consider approving a change order to a contract with ARC Abatement for asbestos abatement at 430 S. First Street and 439 S. Second Street. The total amount of the change order is \$9,050. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn. Zoom Meeting Details <https://zoom.us/j/96318650389> or join by phone (669) 900-9128 (346) 248-7799 (646) 558-8656 (253) 215-8782 (301) 715-8592 (312) 626-6799 Webinar ID: 963 1865 0389 International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/96318650389>



249 8500

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CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

COMMUNITY OF MONTROSE

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MEDICAL ISSUES

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

For more information on COVID-19, please visit **montrosecounty.net/covid19** or contact the Public Information line at 970.252.4545.

COMMUNITY FOOD - DRIVE THROUGH & DELIVERY

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

- Monday - Friday, 11 am-1 pm
- Visit **cityofmontrose.org/community** to order delivery to your door

BUSINESS RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

CASH & FOOD ASSISTANCE

Food assistance - SNAP

Enrollment: call 970.252.5000 or for Eligibility: call 970.252.5070

Food Assistance - WIC

Enrollment: call 970.252.5088

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY

Text TALK to 38255

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

The Center for Mental Health

Call 970.252.3200

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Statewide Information

covid19.colorado.gov/

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Help Line

303.389.1687 or 877.462.2911 or email COHELP@RMPDC.org

Mental Health Crisis

970.252.6220 or text 417417

No Primary Care Provider?

Call 970.252.4545
(press option "2") M-F 8a-6p

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Colorado Now

HelpColoradonow.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Montrose

cityofmontrose.org/community



LA COMUNIDAD DE MONTROSE

COVID-19 RESPUESTA DE EMERGENCIA

TEMAS MEDICAS

Si tiene síntomas y se siente que está sano, Aislarse por 14 días y tratar sus síntomas.

- Si tiene síntomas y es de alto riesgo, llame a su doctor.
- Si es portador del virus, pero ha tenido contacto con alguien quien está enfermo, no será examinado y no necesita atención médica. En lugar aíslese en su hogar por 14 días.
- Si usted es portador del virus, no será examinado y no requiere atención médica.

Para obtener más información sobre COVID-19, visite montrosecounty.net/covid19 o contacte a la línea de Información Pública al 970.252.4545.

COMIDA COMUNITARIA – SERVICIO A SU VEHICULO

El Distrito escolar del condado de Montrose:

Tiene disponible para todos los estudiantes, 1 almuerzo y 1 desayuno en cada bolsa

- Lunes a viernes de 11 am a 1 pm
- Visite cityofmontrose.org/covid19 y haga clic en Recursos Comunitarios para ubicaciones de recogida y / o pedidos de entrega a su puerta.

RECURSOS PARA NEGOCIOS

La ciudad de Montrose ahora ofrece un paquete de alivio comercial completo que incluye:

Aplazamiento del impuesto a las ventas de 90 días para todas las empresas con \$ 2M o menos en ventas brutas anuales

Fondo de préstamos para pequeñas empresas disponible para aquellas empresas que enfrentan dificultades severas. Los préstamos no tendrán interés y no requieren reembolso por 12 meses. Programa de subvención cooperativa de marketing. Hasta \$ 1,000 por Grupo corporativo disponible. Marketing cooperative grant program. Up to \$1,000 per business group available.

Más información sobre como registrarse, recursos comerciales y programas en cityofmontrose.org/covid19 bajo 'Recursos de Negocios'

Ayuda de Alimentos y Ayuda de Dinero en Efectivo

Asistencia alimentaria - SNAP

Inscripción: llame al 970.252.5000-para

Elegibilidad: llame al 970.252.5070

Asistencia Alimentaria - WIC

Inscripción: llame al 970.252.5088

SALUD MENTAL Y RECUPERACIÓN

Enviar un texto a TALK al 38255

desde cualquier parte de los Estados Unidos, en cualquier momento, sobre cualquier crisis

El centro para la salud mental

Llame al 970.252.3200

PREGUNTAS GENERALES

INFORMACION ESTATAL

covid19.colorado.gov/

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Help Line

303.389.1687 or 877.462.2911 or

email COHELP@RMPDC.org

Crisis De Salud Mental

970.252.6220 or text 417417

No tiene doctor?

Llame al 970.252.4545

(oprima opción "2") L-V, de 8a-6p

CÓMO PUEDES AYUDAR

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RECURSOS DE LA COMUNIDAD

City of Montrose

cityofmontrose.org/community





We are **"Forever Thankful"** to the everyday heroes in our communities who are keeping us "Safer at Home".

Those who work in our markets, pharmacies, hospitals, along with our first responders and military doing what they can to keep us "Safer at Home" during this time.

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Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

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RE-1J SETS GRADUATION DATES, AGREES TO ONE-TIME \$500 PAYMENT From pg 1

hard hat. "...We're going well and right on track," Bachman said.

Board President Gayle Johnson (District C) and Vice President Sarah Fishing (District E) both serve on the finance committee. "We have paid off some additional monies—we paid off some computer leases early," Johnson said.

"Due to some expeditious planning and careful thoughtfulness, the District has managed to pay off some leases early, which saved the District money," Fishing said. "Kudos to the team that's managed to do that; it's always great to see savings when we can have them."

COMMUNITY INPUT

There was no community input.

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell gave an update on nutritional services. Though school facilities are closed and in-person instruction has ended for the year, the District has continued to provide meals to those who need them.

"Today was an amazing number of meals," Schiell said. "It was actually the highest number of meals we have served in the District; 1,735 meals were served today. That doubles up to 3,400—they get a breakfast for the next day too.

"...we've been averaging 1,427 meals," he said. "Our community definitely has a need."

Food service staff have been champs, Schiell said.

Bagged meal service will continue through the end of the school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

RE-1J has requested and received permission from the Colorado Dept of Education (CDE) to change the closing day of the 2019-2020 school year to Friday, May 15.

"That's two and a half days less than what would be on the calendar, but with getting equipment back from students, doing it in a social distancing that's going to be needed, as much time as we can to get things wrapped up at the end," Schiell said.

Also, RE-1J Schools will hold graduation ceremonies Aug. 2 at 1pm in the Montrose Events Center for OHS. MHS will be following at 5pm with their graduation. PEAK Academy will hold a graduation ceremony on Monday Aug. 3rd at 6:30 pm at the Pavilion if it is safe to gather

due to COVID-19.

"That's something that I am sure a lot of our seniors are happy about," Schiell said, but noted that If COVID-19 continues, holding graduation ceremonies could be unsafe. "We really do want it to happen, I know the board does, I know the students do, I know parents do, and I know our principals and all their staff, they all want to have graduation for our seniors as well," Schiell said.

He reminded seniors to get their work done, "It's not a blow-off time, so get your work done so you can graduate and go across the stage."

Fishing asked whether high school seniors had been notified; Schiell said that notification would begin the following day.

OLATHEMIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL TRACK PROJECT UPDATE

RE-1J Property Services Director Philip Bailey gave an update on the project and on donations received, with a spreadsheet provided as a visual aid. The project was originally estimated to cost nearly \$600, he said. Total out of pocket cost is now expected to be around \$323K.

"We've had a number of donations come in...in a nutshell, we're at a good budget spot based on what we originally got," he said. "We've had some really good donors. "...Everyone wants to be a part of helping this be a successful project," Bailey said, "and it's been very exciting."

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

Schiell presented information and attachments on behalf of ECC Director Penny Harris.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board approved the following revised policies, as reviewed and explained by Fishing:

GCE/GCF-R, Licensed Staff Recruiting/Hiring - updated language per CASB recommendation

GDE/GDF, Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring - updated legal references

GDE/GDF-R, Support Staff Recruiting/Hiring - updated language per CASB recommendation

IHBIB, Primary/Preprimary Education - updated legal reference

IHCDA, Concurrent Enrollment - updated language per CASB recommendation

IHCDA-R, Concurrent Enrollment - updated language per CASB recommendation
JLCD, Administering Medications to Students - updated language per CASB and District Nurses recommendation
JLCE, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care - updated language and legal reference per CASB and District Nurses recommendation

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, including an updated Personnel Report. Of note are the retirement of Centennial Middle School Instrumental Music Teacher Shawn Lund, after 32 years with the District, and the hiring of Beth Kusar as new Olathe Elementary School Principal as of July.

NEW BUSINESS

Also approved was a one-time payment of \$500 for all employees, part-time and full time. This will be a separate payment to be made by April 17, 2020.

"...the board knows how hard it is out there right now for folks," Schiell said, "And we do care about our employees. We're very fortunate that we're able to do some things.

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented specifics of the proposal. "The District has consistently worked over the last five years to reduce our lease obligations," Imus said. "We have a unique, one-time savings this fiscal year. We want to thank our employees for all of their hard work during these challenging times."

Fishing said, "The Board of Education recognizes that while our teachers and Montrose County staff may have stayed on payroll, and we've been able to keep them on board, we also recognize that many of our families have situations where they may have gone down to single income unexpectedly here, in a way they could never have predicted and for a length of time that they could never have planned for."

Teachers have been asked to move outside of their comfort zone in many cases with the implementation of online learning, Fishing said. "We're asking our whole team of people to pivot quite fast and provide a whole other level and different kind of method of teaching in a really difficult, quite

Continued next pg

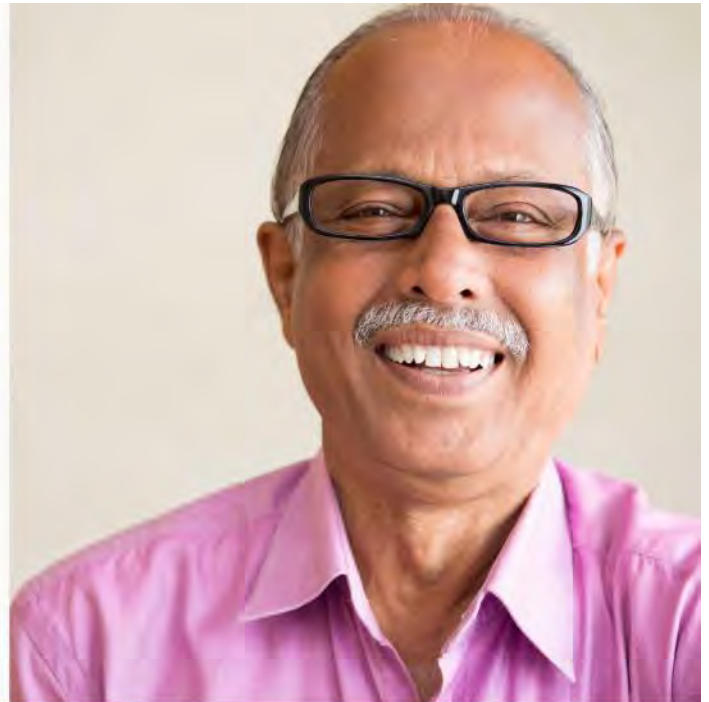
RE-1J SETS GRADUATION DATES, AGREES TO ONE-TIME \$500 PAYMENT From previous pg

stressful situation...we really do appreciate what they are doing for our students and our district...our community is really going through a tough time. I personally hope that this helps mitigate that in some way." Suppes said, "We need to thank the administration and Mr. Schiell and his group of people in being diligent in paying this off...this is important to help out our teachers and employees as much as possi-

ble." Board Treasurer Stephen Bush (District G) said, "I was real impressed when they came to me and said this was an idea, we had the money, and we could do this because of the way we've been fiscally sound over the last few years...I think it's really going to help our employees." District F Director Eric Kelley called the proposal a great idea. "...What kind of precedents do you want to set yourself up

for...being diligent, saving the money, I think at this point in time it's great to give it where the rubber meets the road."

"I think it's a great idea," District D Director Shawn Carroll said. "I'm super excited about it..." The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 12. Johnson said, "We'll see you all hopefully in person!" With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



WE ALL NEED HELP FROM TIME TO TIME

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

Find out if you qualify for:

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

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BOCC WILL DISCUSS POPULAR VOTE REPEAL RESOLUTION @ WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a virtual, regular meeting on Wednesday, April 15. BOCC Chair Keith Caddy delivered the invocation. "...Watch over our leaders at the federal and state levels as well as the local level, give us strength to carry through with this crisis that we're in."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mesa County Commissioner and Head of the National Popular Vote Repeal Movement Rose Pugliese addressed the BOCC about repealing a Colorado law passed in 2019 that joins Colorado to the national popular vote interstate compact.

"This is really important for Western Colorado, that we push back," Pugliese said, adding that agriculture is vital to the region's economy. "Who is going to protect Colorado's water?"

The law would allow more populous

states like California to trample on the rights of smaller states and rural areas, she said.

Pugliese asked commissioners to consider a resolution stating opposition to the national popular vote and supporting repeal of the Colorado law.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash thanked Pugliese for her efforts. "It is very important that we protect our voting rights," he said. "...I think it's despicable what the Democrats and the Governor did to us...I agree that we need to do something to stand up against it, and say we don't like this and we're not going to take it."

Pugliese said that just under 125,000 signatures were needed to get on the November ballot, but more than 228,000 valid signatures were obtained. "Clearly it's an issue people are engaged in," she said.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy noted that if the national popular vote is passed, larger states will have no reason to negotiate with smaller states. "The way I look at it... now, though we are a minority, we do have some representation."

The matter will be considered at work session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-WATER COURT LITIGATION STIPULATION

Commissioners left regular session to convene in an unrecorded executive session with staff, for legal advice 24-6-402(4)(b)



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a virtual, regular meeting on Wednesday, April 15. "It's like we're on Hollywood Squares," Commissioner Sue Hansen noted after the meeting.

pertaining to proposed settlement of water court litigation- 2018CW3051 and 2019CW3061. The BOCC returned to regular session at 9:57 a.m. with a proposal to settle both cases by stipulation. The County will agree to give Tri State Generation & Transmission an opportunity to lease some of the exchange potential on the Tuttle Draw, and both parties will stipulate to the others' decrees, County Attorney Marti Whitmore said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proposed stipulation.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned. In parting, Commissioner Sue Hansen noted that the gallery format of a Zoom virtual meeting has a familiar quality.

"It's like we're on Hollywood Squares."

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Western Colorado Properties



3708 Scarlet Court
Montrose, CO
Lock and leave patio home
\$395,000 | MLS# 759047
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2
1,922 sq. ft.



Tbd Cedar Road
Delta, CO
Prime Hemp Location
\$1,150,000 | MLS# 766932



14847 6175 Road
Montrose, CO
No Covenants!
\$179,000 | MLS# 767917
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 1.0
1,100 sq. ft.



6031 5800 Road
Olathe, CO
Completely remodeled!
\$259,990 | MLS# 765990
Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 2.0
1,064 sq. ft.



16989 6450 Road
Montrose, CO
\$485,000 | MLS# 767906
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 3.0
2,014 sq. ft.



4225 Waterfall Drive
Montrose, CO
Build your dream home
\$49,990 | MLS# 764109



2919 Outlook Road
Montrose, CO
Immaculate home
\$529,990 | MLS# 762945
Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 3.0
2,765 sq. ft.



3031 Fortress Circle
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opportunity awaits
\$34,990 | MLS# 759397



59215 Spring Creek Road
Montrose, CO
Spring creek property!
\$109,000 | MLS# 766918



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties

Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

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Jeff@MontroseColorado.com and www.montrosecolorado.com

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MIRROR IMAGES...MEAT UP @ KINIKIN!



As large meat processing facilities across the nation close because of COVID-19, Montrose is fortunate to have a clean, fully-stocked meat market that brings locally-raised, antibiotic-free meat to Montrose tables. Kinikin Processing recently started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program as well. Photos by Gail Marvel.



Above, shoppers can watch butchers at work through a large glass window. Below left, longtime Kinikin staffer Shelley Spiers welcomes shoppers. Reach Kinikin Processing at 970-240-4829.

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POLICE CHIEF REMINDS CITIZENS TO STAY HOME; APRIL HAS BEEN 'HUGE' FOR GOLF COURSE, MAYOR DAVE BOWMAN SAYS



The Black Canyon Golf Course is busier than ever, Mayor Dave Bowman said. Photo by B. Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a special, virtual work session at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 13. All Councilors were present for the Zoom format work session.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

City Manager Bill Bell gave an update on City operations. "We are still trying to put out communications based on the input we are receiving from all of our partners," he noted, "...provide necessary services, trash and recycling is still going on. The cleanup site for green waste is still going on."

Bell said that City Department heads and supervisors continue to look internally for ways to be frugal and will not hire as many seasonal employees as budgeted for 2020. The change will result in a savings of \$100K to \$120K per year, he said.

"We're not going to be maintaining things in our community as much we have in the past, or in the same fashion," Bell said. With a goal of reducing maintenance levels to save money, "We're going to do a little bit less irrigation than we usually do. We're going to go to a reduced maintenance schedule that means mowing less often...we're going to purchase \$5K worth of tools and small equipment...so we can have individuals doing grounds maintenance throughout the park system by themselves."

"...Our goal is to reduce our maintenance to a level that saves us a little bit of mon-

ey, protects our employees...but not reduce our maintenance so much that it causes us long-term problems."

Staff have been adhering to mask rules, Bell said. He thanked Public Works Manager Jim Scheid and new Parks Division Superintendent Jackie Bubenik.

Bell also updated Council on the City's Black Canyon Golf Course, which remains open but with a prohibition on carts.

"It's not business as usual," Bell said, "so we don't want it to look like business as usual."

The City had hired a competitive sports coordinator, Chris Everson, but the competitive baseball program will not take place as before.

"Instead the coordinator will be helping at the golf course," Bell said, allowing people to use the course in a "stabilized, non-chaotic fashion." Also assisting Golf Pro Tom Young will be a Utilities division worker who had been staying home during the shelter-in-place order.

Bell thanked Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler for coming up with the idea. Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke, with an update on COVID-19 cases and testing. Montrose has emerged as the second most impacted community on the Western Slope after Gunnison based on case data, Hall said. "It is really, really important...we should be wearing masks if we absolutely have to go out for essential travel," he said.

After a recent visit to Target, "I was kind of appalled at all the individuals that were leisurely shopping around Target, not wearing masks," Hall said. "...a lot of members of our community aren't getting the message."

The Police Department has ramped up use of PPE and added rules on distancing to protect officers. "We have dealt with some individuals who are dispatched positively."

Councilor Judy Ann files asked about recent reports of discontent and rudeness at the Golf Course. "Is there anything we can do to help with that?"

Bell said that issues should be resolved with the addition of extra staff at the

course. Still, "Honestly, golfers at every course in Montrose have been very difficult." A handful of members at every course have not been supportive of efforts to protect citizens from COVID-19, he said. "They've been verbally abusive to City staff."

"...If you're over 75 years old and you're asked not to go out in your golf cart for the next three weeks, it's not the end of the world for you. It's an inconvenience," Bell said. "But don't follow social distancing, and you could have many more issues to deal with than not being able to drive your cart around."

"...For me...the most difficult thing to work with has been golfers from all of the courses, not just ours."

Pros at all courses have been very supportive, Bell said.

"Doug (Glaspell) and I were out Wednesday playing," Mayor Dave Bowman said. "Wednesday was as crowded as I've ever seen Black Canyon Golf Course...a lot of people are going out and using the golf course...with a couple more people out there starting today I think the problem will take care of itself."

April has been huge for the golf course, Bowman said.

More than 90 rounds of golf were played on a recent day, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said.

Players are now being asked to book rounds online, she said. "That's a new thing for members...it's one of these efficiencies that we're learning about that some people now enjoy doing," Morgenthaler said, "because they can get all that settled before they show up...we think that we have better help there for now...as we transition through the different tiers we'll be able to bring more staff back."

There is a fee to play a round of golf, Bell said, which can also be paid online. "It seems to be working, and hopefully we're able to capture a little bit of revenue."

Councilor-elect Dave Frank said that new and better signage planned for the course will encourage social distancing.

"It seems like every day we're creating more signage for all our different public-

POLICE CHIEF REMINDS CITIZENS TO STAY HOME; APRIL HAS BEEN 'HUGE' FOR GOLF COURSE, MAYOR DAVE BOWMAN SAYS From previous pg

facing divisions," Bell said, noting that citizens appear to be disregarding playground closures. "...we're continuing to put more signage up to encourage that social distancing."

City Director of Business Innovation & DART Chelsea Rosty said that loan applications for small businesses have been coming in. "For the most part it's been a really smooth process. Marketing grant applications have also been coming in. "We're seeing that take off." Business owners have been grateful, she said.

A mural project update is in the community input stages, she said, with a preference for local artists. The finished mural will be covered with an anti-graffiti

coating.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that crack sealing is taking place, along with pothole repairs and patching as needed.

City Engineer Scott Murphy said the new bridge is now open, and replacement sidewalks were added to the project. The East Miami water line is finished; the project was completed under budget.

The Cerro Reservoir project is full steam ahead; Riverbottom Parkway will be open by April 24, Murphy said, plus or minus a few days. The City's new Parks Division Superintendent Jackie Bubenik is a great help and is getting along great with the team, he said.

Attorney Matt Magliaro has joined the City, Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. "He's going to be a big addition to us, he's really going to help Blaine and the Commanders out a lot."

A focus in recent years on preventive maintenance for water and sewer infrastructure is greatly appreciated now, City Utilities Manager David Bries said.

Morgenthaler thanked City Clerk Lisa Del-Piccolo and her team for running the April 7 municipal election. "They did a ton of work."

Following more comments and discussion among councilors, Mayor Bowman ended his final work session as mayor from his home. "All righty then, I'll say goodbye."



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COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE **19**

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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

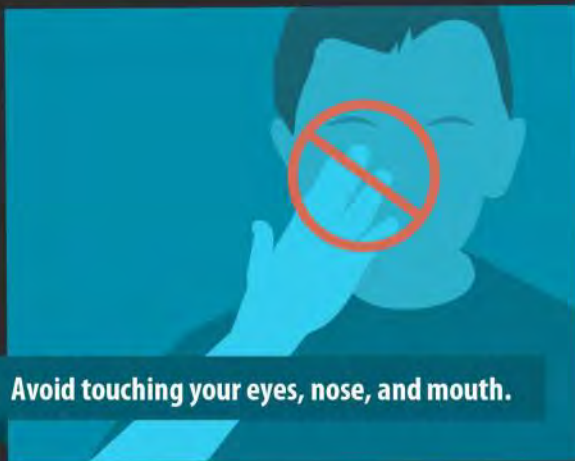
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



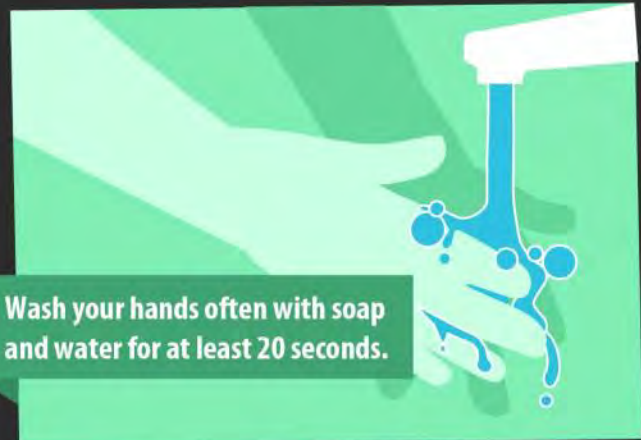
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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



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



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

COVID
ENFERMEDAD DEL
CORONAVIRUS **19**

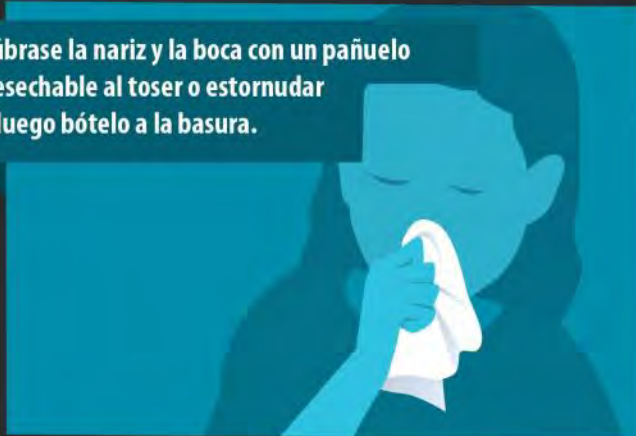
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

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

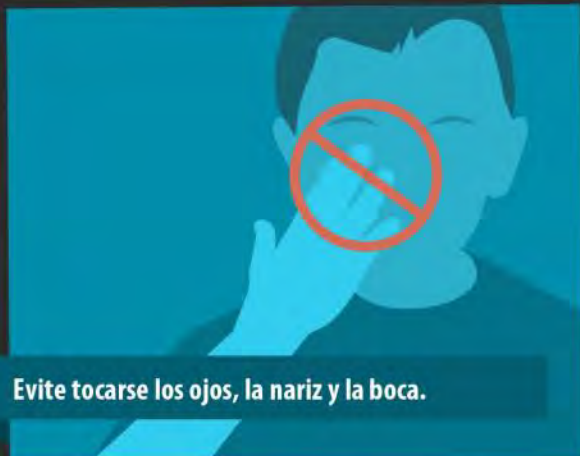
Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



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



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



**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

Stop Germs! Wash Your Hands.

When?

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



How?



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



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



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



Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

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

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CLEAN HANDS



www.cdc.gov/handwashing

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



CS310027-A

¡Detenga los microbios! Lávese las manos

¿CUÁNDO?

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



¿CÓMO?



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



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



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



Enjuáguese bien las manos con agua corriente limpia.



Séquese las manos con una toalla limpia o al aire.

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

LA VIDA ES MEJOR CON LAS

MANOS LIMPIAS



www.cdc.gov/lavadodemanos

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.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE RELEASES FACILITY-LEVEL OUTBREAK DATA

Cases confirmed at Colorow, San Juan Living Center

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will release more information about confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care and other facilities weekly. This is a change aimed at promoting transparency, protecting the public, and providing more insight into the extent of COVID-19 outbreaks statewide.

A confirmed outbreak means there are two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a facility or (non-household) group with onset in a 14-day period. The information will be available on the state's website at covid19.colorado.gov/outbreak-data on the [COVID-19 website](https://covid19.colorado.gov). Information will be updated weekly on Wednesday by the end

of the day.

Facilities included in the outbreak report will include:

Health care settings

Including long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, independent living facilities/senior communities that offer healthcare, inpatient rehab facilities, and long-term acute care hospitals.

There are currently 231 nursing facilities, 706 assisted living facilities, and 21 intermediate care facilities in Colorado.

Correctional settings

Including state prisons, county and city jails, community corrections, detention settings, and work release facilities.

Other settings:

This could include factories, workplaces

with crowded work conditions, camps, schools, child care centers, and independent living facilities/senior communities that do not offer health care.

Each Wednesday, CDPHE will report the following detailed outbreak data:

Facility name.

Facility type.

Date the outbreak was confirmed.

Total reported cases (confirmed and probable).

Residents and staff in health care settings. Residents/inmates/detainees/staff correctional settings.

Total reported deaths (confirmed and probable).

Continue to stay up to date by visiting covid19.colorado.gov.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: MORE THAN 100,000 INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FILED APRIL 5 - APRIL 11

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced there were 104,217 initial unemployment claims filed the week ending April 11. This is 55,000+ more than the week prior (week ending April 4). Over the past four weeks 231,610 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:**

Accommodation and Food Services: 21,124

Healthcare and Social Service: 9,717

Retail Trade: 7,400

Other Services:*** 5,914

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: 4,080

Online payment requests made since March 16: 150,000+

Benefits paid for week ending April 11: \$62.0 Million

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.

* Initial claims are those claims filed to establish benefit eligibility. Initial claims are considered a reliable leading indicator of economic activity. All applications filed are those applications for benefits filed with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and may not have been through various eligibility determination e.g. wage verification, etc.

** Most recent industry-level claims data is for the week ending March 28th.

*** Other services include personal services like nail and beauty salons, barbers, etc

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDLE UPDATES UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR SELF-EMPLOYED, OFFERS MORE ACCESS TO CLAIMANT SUPPORT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced that effective Monday, April 20, it will begin taking unemployment benefit applications under the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), paying the additional \$600 per week in unemployment benefits and launch other new points of access for unemployed workers to obtain information. "Colorado's Unemployment Insurance program - like all UI programs across the country - has been under unprecedented strain for the last month," said Joe Barela, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment during a press conference announcing the new benefit rollout, which includes unemployment to self-employed and independent contractors.

"On Monday we will be able to begin accepting applications for these new worker groups who previously were not eligible for regular unemployment, while we will also begin paying the extra \$600 benefit provided under the CARES Act," said Barela.

The Department stood up a brand-new online application system to begin taking these claims under the CARES Act. By leveraging an existing system in development, Colorado will be among the first group of states to accept applications and

pay benefits.

"We don't know what the volume will look like into our new system because not only do we not know how many gig workers are out there, we don't know how many of them will apply for unemployment. But we have expanded tools and on Monday will have systems in place to begin taking these applications and provide other resources," he said.

There are several provisions within the CARES Act that provide enhanced or extended unemployment benefits for workers. All of these new benefits are paid for by the federal government and eligible claims will be backdated so claimants will not lose out on benefits due to the waiting period to submit an application (see below).

New claims that fall under one of the **new allowed situations for unemployment under the CARES Act** will be taken through a new system. Claimants will submit claims, manage their benefits and request payment through this new online system.

This includes gig workers, independent contractors, self employed and those who are out of work because of a number of reasons directly related to COVID-19 including caring for a child whose school is closed or someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Regular unemployment benefits will con-

tinue to be processed through the existing systems so anyone currently on unemployment does not need to take any action.

The CARES Act also provides an additional \$600 of unemployment benefits per week on top of a claimant's weekly unemployment benefit. This additional benefit, known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or FPUC, does not require a claimant to take any action, is retroactive to March 29th and will begin hitting active claimants accounts as soon as next week for weeks of unemployment prior to April 15th.

"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 Barela.

The Department also announced a new call center to take these new claims and a Virtual Town Hall to answer claimant questions. A new 80-person remote call center will go live Monday, April 20th, to help manage claimant questions and overflow from the existing call center by addressing questions directly related to CARES Act benefits. Additionally, two Virtual Town Halls will be offered on Monday, April 20th - one at 9:15 AM and one at 11:30 AM specifically for Spanish speaking claimants. Registration for both Virtual Town Halls is available at coloradoui.gov.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CEDAREDDGE WELCOMES NEW POLICE CHIEF, JOE ROBERTS



Cedaredge Police Chief Joe Roberts.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
CEDAREDDGE-The Town of Cedaredge is pleased to welcome Joe Roberts as the new Chief of the Cedaredge Police Department. Chief Roberts began his duties on April 13, and brings over 38 years of law enforcement experience to the department.

Chief Roberts came to Cedaredge most recently from Log Lane Village, Colo., which is a small suburb of Fort Morgan, with a population of about 1,100. He served as Chief there as well as in Simla, Colo. He spent several years in law enforcement in Fort Carson, working his way up from working in the emergency operations center up to serving that agency as Chief as well. Before that, Chief Roberts served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years as a military police officer. He has been to every continent except for Australia and Antarctica, and was deployed 16 times in his Army career.

Currently, Chief Roberts serves as the secretary/treasurer for the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, in order to lend the small, rural perspective to statewide policing initiatives.

His military career and training definitely shapes how he leads a police department. "When I was in leadership school in Washington, D.C., the instructors told me I was like an M&M - hard on the outside but all soft on the inside," he laughed. "I equate that to all my time in the military. There are times to be tough and times when you don't need to be. I believe in treating everyone fairly and in treating everyone the same. I don't care if you're the wealthiest person in town or the person living in a box under a bridge, the law applies equally to both of them, and they need to be treated the same. That's my philosophy."

In each community he's worked, Chief Roberts has strived to do more than simply police the community - he likes to be actively involved. "I love working as a chief

in a small community where I am also able to become part of the community," he said. In his past agencies, he has hosted Thanksgiving potlucks at the police department, Christmas activities for kiddos, and even the occasional Super Bowl party at the police department. He already has plans for the staff and officers of the Cedaredge Police Department to construct and stage a haunted house for kids at Halloween. "I've worked in a lot of rural communities, and I know we have to provide safe, low-cost activities for our kids," Chief said. When he and his team staged a haunted house in Simla, the event grew from 50 kids his first year to over 300 by year three - pretty impressive in a town with a population of just over 600! "I had families drive over an hour just to bring their kids there," he said. He said he also loves to attend high school sporting events, and has a soft spot for both football and volleyball. "I love to walk around and talk to people, but I really love to watch a good game!" he said.

Of course, it's more than just a haunted house or a volleyball game - it's all part of Chief's methodology behind community building and community policing.

"To me, if you get to know the kids and the elderly in the community, then everybody in the middle comes along. Those are the two groups that are most vulnerable to almost everything, and if you work with those groups, they quickly see the value of good law enforcement officers, and their friends and family respect the way their loved ones were treated."

Just a few days on the job in Cedaredge, and Chief Roberts has already been working with officers to stop while they're out patrolling and speak with people. "It's all about community interaction," he said.

"I've already told the guys, stop and talk to people. Be friendly. You don't always have to be the tough cop." Of course, Chief Roberts and all officers of the Cedaredge Police Department are working hard to maintain appropriate social distancing measures while they're out patrolling and working with the community, and

encourage the community to do so as well. "Wear your mask when you go out!" Chief said.

Other than that, Chief Roberts is taking his time to learn what works well with the Cedaredge Police Department and has no sweeping change of plans in the works.

"My plan right now is to review everything," he said. "I don't make changes just for the sake of changing. A change either has to be for the betterment of the officers or for the community."

One thing he does not plan to change is the commitment to ongoing training for officers.

"I'm impressed with the department's well-trained officers and the training program already in place," Chief said.

"Knowledge is power, and we want well-trained officers who are up to the correct level. Cedaredge should be proud of their officers."

Including Roberts, the Cedaredge Police Department has five officers on staff. Roberts will be a working chief, handling both administrative duties as well as picking up patrol duties, which, he said, suits him just fine.

"I hate sitting in an office!" he said.

When he isn't working, Chief Roberts loves to be in the outdoors. He grew up around the water and loves boating and fishing. He also likes to take his two dogs, Inky and Lulu, for walks and hikes.

"One of the first things I fell in love with of Cedaredge is just how beautiful it is," he said. "Since I got here I've been driving around saying, 'Let's see where this road goes,' and each road I turn down is prettier than the next. This place is a dream."

"I'm really looking forward to learning more about Cedaredge and getting to know the people," Chief Roberts said.

Instead of a traditional meet-and-greet with Chief Roberts, the community is invited to join an online video call to meet him. That call will take place on Wednesday, April 29 at 4 pm. In order to join the call, please email Town Clerk Kami Collins for login credentials at kcol-lins@cedaredgecolorado.com.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT-HELP LOCATE STOLEN VEHICLE

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

REGIONAL-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Montrose Police Department, and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers Incorporated are seeking the help of community members to locate a vehicle that was stolen from a residence in the 800 block of North 2nd Street. The theft occurred between 6:30pm on Thursday, April 16th and 7:00am on Friday, April 17th.

The vehicle is a 2011 Toyota Camry, white, with Texas license plates MJR1988. There are two stickers in the rear window with the names "Jake" and "Sarah." A stock photo is attached.

Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.



Crime Stoppers courtesy photo.

DELTA COUNTY BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-In the wake of businesses being required to close their doors due COVID-19, Delta County moved quickly to put together a Business Recovery Center (BRC) to support local businesses. The primary focus of the BRC is to increase communication and coordination between agencies and organizations supporting business and economic development. The group will work to ensure Delta County businesses have timely accurate access to information about available resources to help with business recovery, and is led by Elyse Casselberry, the Community Economic Development Director for Delta County.

Delta and Montrose Counties have combined forces to provide information and resources to the business community; and are currently hosting several calls each week for retail, service, food, and tourism

& hospitality industries.

"We knew right from the beginning that Delta County businesses would get hit hard, based on what we were seeing in the areas who were affected by COVID-19 before we were," said Delta County Administrator Robbie LeValley, "Getting a jump on the planning, with the right people in place, is what has allowed us to get a head start on providing the resources, and funding that will be needed as we come back on line, in Delta County."

Delta County Commissioners recently approved \$250,000 for a Delta County COVID-19 Business Loan Fund that Delta County businesses will be eligible starting Monday, April 20. "Small businesses are the lifeblood of every community in Delta County," said Delta County Commissioner Chair Mark Roeber, "We want to do everything we can do to help them survive.

These are our friends, these are our neighbors."

The Business Loan fund was put together in conjunction with Region 10 and Uncompahgre Development Company, and allows for Delta County businesses to apply for a 3-year business loan of up to \$5,000. The loan has 0% interest for the first year, and 1.5% interest in year two and three. The business loans will be administered by Region 10; applications will be available starting Monday, April 20, and be found on Delta County's website at deltacounty.com. For additional information, or to connect into the BRC contact Elyse Casselberry at businesssupport@deltacounty.com or join us on Facebook: Delta-Montrose County COVID Business Support Group. Additional State resources for businesses can be found at: <https://choosecolorado.com/covid19>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY COMMITS TO 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY AT ALL TOWN OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY – On March 11, the Ridgway Town Council committed to 100% renewable electricity at all Town operations and facilities. The Town was able to reach 100% renewable energy through participation in San Miguel Power Association's (SMPA) Totally Green Program.

Through the Totally Green Program, the Town will pay a premium for 100% renewable electricity, which is accounted for by retiring Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from solar, wind and hydro-electric projects. Many of these renewable projects are local, like the Norwood IQ Solar Array, or the Coal Creek Hydroelectric plant. The Program uses RECs to provide account holders who opt in the program 100% renewably sourced electricity. RECs

are the legally recognized method of accounting for renewable power generation. When account holders participate in the Totally Green Program, they own the RECs, which represent the clean environmental attributes from those renewable power sources. They are essentially the certificates that prove a given quantity of power SMPA supplies comes from 100% renewable sources.

The cost to participate in the Totally Green Program is \$0.01 per kilowatt-hour and the bill adjustment automatically tracks electricity use and makes the appropriate investment in renewable energy each month. The net proceeds from the Totally Green Program are exclusively used by SMPA to support new, local renewable power generation.

The Town of Ridgway encourages all SMPA account holders to learn more about the Totally Green Program, which is an easy way to go 100% renewable. Participation in the program can help meet established statewide goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The reduction targets set forth in House Bill 19-1261 are a 26 percent cut in GHG emissions by 2025, as well as a 50 percent cut by 2030 and a 90 percent cut by 2050.

These statewide goals are based on the levels of GHG emissions that existed in 2005.

For more information on the Totally Green Program, visit www.smpa.com/content/sign-totally-green or contact SMPA at memberservice@smpa.com or 970-626-5549.

COLORADO OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPROVES \$18.25 MILLION PENALTY FOR FIRESTONE TRAGEDY

The funds will be used for projects that will increase public protections

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) today announced it has approved the \$18.25 million penalty against Kerr-McGee, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum, at an Online Special Hearing. The Commission considered COGCC staff's Administrative Order by Consent (AOC), as a part of the enforcement process, and heard from Kerr-McGee and Mrs. Erin Martinez, who lost her husband and brother when her home was destroyed on April 17, 2017.

"I want to acknowledge Mrs. Martinez, for her commitment to improve the safety and the lives of all Coloradans. You are making a difference. While none of this will ever make up for your loss, your courage through this tragedy has been an inspiration to me, and everyone," said Dan Gibbs Executive Director, Department of

Natural Resources and Chair of the COGCC Commissioners. "What our Commission can do is to continue to hold oil and gas operators accountable and be forever vigilant to ensure this type of tragedy never happens again."

On March 12, the Commission issued a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) of four of COGCC's rules and sought an \$18.25 million penalty.

This amount is the maximum dollar amount possible and included, for the first time, the 'aggravating factor of death.' This aggravating factor increased one of the penalties from \$3.6 million to \$5.4 million. Because of the loss of lives, this is the largest penalty ever by COGCC, by more than 11 times.

"We thank Mrs. Martinez, the Commissioners and COGCC staff for their work that will ensure the state of Colorado's oil

and gas operations are conducted in a manner that is protective of the public's health, safety, welfare, wildlife and the environment as directed by SB 19-181," said COGCC Director Jeff Robbins.

"Over the next few months, the COGCC will be focused on developing new rules that reflect this commitment to protect Coloradans in oil and gas operations.

"Also, I'm pleased to announce that COGCC will honor Mrs. Martinez' family by naming the public projects funded by this penalty to 'The Mark Martinez and Joey Irwin Memorial Public Projects Fund,'" said Robbins.

In November 2019, the COGCC increased the protections to the public through stronger and more transparent flowline rules.

To learn more about the COGCC, visit our website: www.colorado.gov/cogcc.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHARGES FILED AGAINST TREVOR LEDESMA IN MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-A Complaint and Information was filed on 04/10/2020 against Trevor Ledesma (dob 05/15/2001) with the following charges:

Count 1 : Vehicular Homicide by Reckless Driving causing the death of Gannon Hines, in violation of C.R.S. section 18-3-106(1)(a).

This offense is defined as a class 4 felony, with a presumptive range sentence of 2 to 6 years in prison (up to 12 years in prison if extraordinary aggravating circumstances are proven beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury);

Count 2 : Vehicular Assault by Reckless Driving causing serious bodily injury to Dairo Aiden Barrios Oelke, in violation of C.R.S. section 18-3-205(1)(a). This offense is defined as a class 5 felony, with a pre-

sumptive range sentence of 1 to 3 years in prison (up to 6 years in prison if extraordinary aggravating circumstances are proven beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury); and

Count 3 : Vehicular Assault by Reckless Driving causing serious bodily injury to Shad Lewis, in violation of C.R.S. section 18-3-205(1)(a). This offense is defined as a class 5 felony, with a presumptive range sentence of 1 to 3 years in prison (up to 6 years in prison if extraordinary aggravating circumstances are proven beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury).

The first court appearance for Trevor Ledesma is scheduled for 06/03/2020 at 09:00 a.m. in Division A of the Delta Combined Court.

A Summons to appear in lieu of arrest has been issued by the Court. In part, this is

warranted because of the current COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Trevor Ledesma is a resident of Delta County.

These charges were brought after an extensive investigation by the Colorado State Patrol and Delta County Sheriff's Office of a roll over motor vehicle crash that occurred 11/09/2019 on E Road in Delta County, Colorado.

The investigation included an analysis of the crime scene, use of electronic and other data from the involved vehicle, and interviews with victims and witnesses.

Our condolences go out to the family of Gannon Hines for the loss of a son/family member; and we express our hope for the complete recovery from the serious injuries suffered by Dairo Oelke and Shad Lewis.

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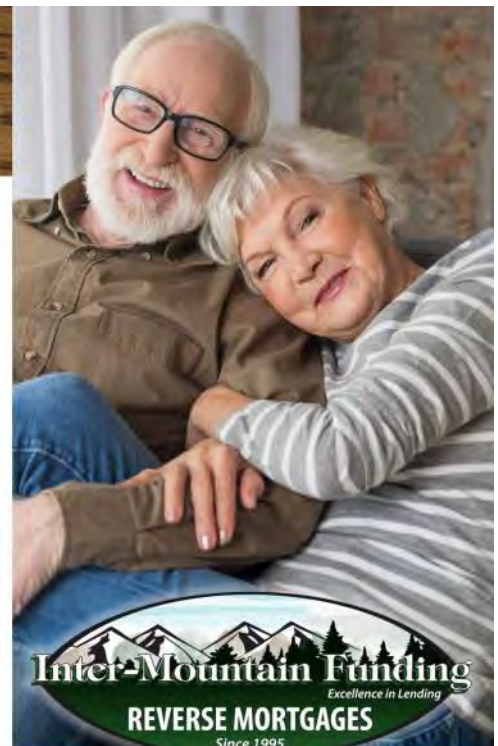


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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE, DMEA ENTER INTO MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

-DMEA to pay Tri-State \$88.5 million, including \$26 million for purchase of facilities, and forfeit \$48 million in patronage capital.

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER-The Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will terminate its membership in Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association on June 30, 2020, subject to certain conditions and approvals, including approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The parties have entered into a membership withdrawal agreement in accordance with a [July 2019 settlement agreement](#). As part of the membership withdrawal agreement, DMEA or a third-party will pay \$88.5 million to Tri-State, and in addition, forfeit \$48 million in patronage

capital. The agreement was the product of a negotiated settlement and is unique to DMEA. "The withdrawal agreement aligns with our settlement and is a negotiated agreement unique to DMEA," said Duane Highley, chief executive officer of Tri-State.

The agreement provides for the purchase of certain assets and facilities by DMEA from Tri-State; termination of certain existing contracts between DMEA and Tri-State; and assignment by Tri-State of its wholesale electric service contract to a third-party provider. The \$88.5 million includes \$26 million for the purchase of certain as-

sets and facilities. Tri-State and DMEA also will enter into certain new contracts for the continued operation of transmission and telecommunications systems. The forfeiture of the current balance of DMEA's patronage capital, including that for 2019, is not included in the payment. All Tri-State members have a patronage capital account, which represents each member's ownership in the Westminster, Colo.-based generation and transmission association. The withdrawal date is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of certain conditions and receipt of certain approvals.

DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION AND GUZMAN ENERGY MARK A NEW ERA IN POWER SUPPLY

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors has announced a new 12.5-year wholesale power supply partnership with Denver-based Guzman Energy. In addition, the parties launched a joint effort to immediately begin developing at least 10 megawatts of new solar generation projects in the Delta-Montrose territory.

This joint development is in addition to significantly expanded local generation opportunities for DMEA over the next 12.5 years.

"Our partnership with Guzman aims to ensure DMEA remains a competitive, reliable, and cost-effective co-op in the years to come," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA's Chief Executive Officer.

"This power supply agreement better positions DMEA to maintain stabilized rates and it allows for the development of diverse and low-cost local energy," he

added.

The partnership initiates an innovative model for serving communities in a rapidly changing energy landscape. The agreement emphasizes local development, something the members of DMEA have requested for years. After a hard-fought separation from its incumbent provider, DMEA is now positioned for the future and for greater energy independence.

"We are elated about this transaction and partnership. Our partnership with Guzman will only strengthen our community and membership," said Bill Patterson, DMEA's Chairman of the Board.

Guzman will begin serving DMEA later in 2020 once DMEA's incumbent provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, obtains required approvals at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In exchange for the ability to exit, DMEA will pay \$62.5 million to Tri-State plus will forfeit their patronage capi-

tal with the G&T. In addition, DMEA purchased from Tri-State certain transmission assets that will be used to service their members going forward.

"It's rare to have the opportunity to form an alliance that both lowers wholesale prices and creates investment opportunities within communities. We are excited to partner with DMEA on this and look forward to moving into a new era together," said Guzman Energy CEO Chris Riley.

By partnering with Guzman energy, DMEA is expected to eventually bring its local generation above 20 percent.

DMEA was capped at 5 percent local generation under its previous power supply agreement.

"These community projects will result in cost-effective renewable energy being built and used right here in our own service territory and would not be possible without our partnership with Guzman," added Bronec.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RECREATE CLOSE TO HOME, BE AWARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO-- Everyone looking for recreational activities in Colorado is reminded to stay close to home and to know the local county and municipal restrictions on travel and access before heading out.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife properties are open for recreation with a few exceptions for seasonal restrictions. Visitors should observe Governor Polis's Stay-at-Home Order, and social distancing order and face-covering recommendations as well as local restrictions and property regulations. Currently, camping is not allowed in any state park or state wildlife area. The federal government has also placed camping and recreation restrictions on U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and BLM lands.

"CPW wants people to get outside and exercise but to do it safely and within the rules," said Cory Chick, Southwest Region manager for CPW. "People also need to understand that local governments have the authority to close certain roads and trails that provide access to recreation areas." For example, some counties have closed county roads that lead to state

wildlife areas where people might go to fish, hunt or hike. Local law enforcement will enforce those road closures and violators could be ticketed. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is reminding anglers, hunters and all other outdoor recreationists that it is your responsibility to research and understand the specific guidance, ordinances and restrictions in place for any planned local recreation activities.

Please, know before you go.

People should not venture far from their homes and must remember that Colorado's rural areas are being affected by the corona virus just like bigger towns and the Front Range metro areas.

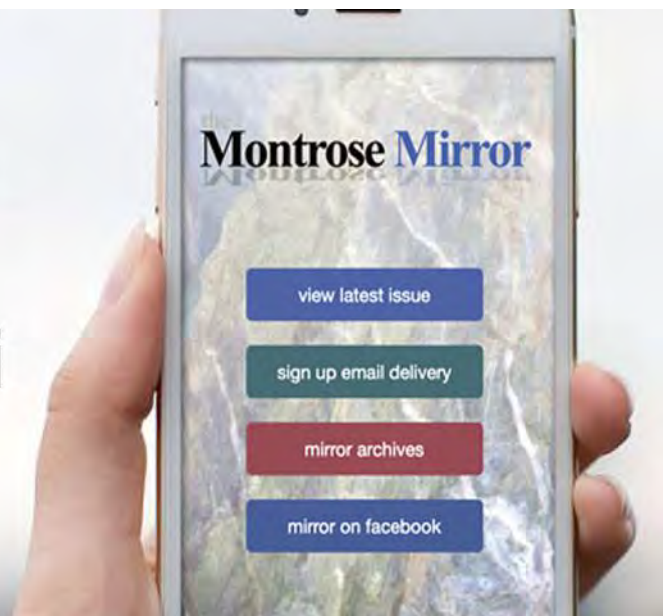
"We are asking people to be considerate of rural areas that have their own vulnerable populations and lack the healthcare resources that might exist in more populated areas," said Rick Basagoitia, area wildlife manager in the San Luis Valley. "Please, take the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order seriously." CPW is regularly updating information regarding recreation, hunting and fishing on its website, cpw.state.co.us. You can also check the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Facebook



During the corona virus pandemic, please recreate close to home, maintain physical distance and know the local regulations and restrictions. Courtesy photo.

page and on Twitter - @coparkswildlife.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S NOT ABUSE OF POWER WE SHOULD FEAR, BUT POWER TO ABUSE

Editor;

The Democrat hypocrisy continues without shame. New York city Democrat Mayor DeBlasio and Governor Cuomo had designated the city and state a sanctuary in defiance of federal orders saying it's not the fed's business what they do in their jurisdictions. Now they blame the federal government for not supplying all their hospital needs. So now suddenly they want to relinquish their responsibilities and claim the federal gov. is responsible for conditions in their jurisdictions. These same leftist politicians were willing to endanger New Yorkers by grabbing all power and now they take no blame for their lack of preparedness and supplies.

When President Trump outlawed flights from China, Iraq, and Iran in January he was accused of "racism" by the usual democrat crowd of Pelosi, Biden, and their ilk. They said the virus cannot pass person to person. Instead of helping President Trump find solutions to the virus, they spent the entire month of January trying to impeach him. So did they care about the virus? They demanded multiple officials leave their posts to testify about a silly phone call whom nobody had any first-hand knowledge of. Then when the virus became devastatingly infectious, democrats blared why didn't Trump shut the country down earlier? But "earlier" was when Schiff and Pelosi had Trump and Congress bottled up by the despicable impeachment charade. Were they concerned about the virus? Democrats were

so totally engrossed by the evil intoxication of their Trump derangement syndrome(TDS) that they put their power and politics above the American people.

But the question is how did the virus get to America? Some 328 illegal Chinese were caught jumping the U.S. border the first two months this year. Last year estimates are upwards of 12,000. Homeland Security acknowledges coronavirus carriers could sneak into the country via the border. "I respect no borders and cannot be contained by any walls."...Democrat Joe Biden. Radical leftist Bernie Sanders wants to stop all deportations and grant full welfare access to all illegal immigrants and welcome a MINIMUM of 50,000 "climate migrants" in the FIRST year of a Sanders administration! And of course Biden and Sanders would be in jack-booted lock step on that endeavor. And while Mexico had 5 confirmed cases and 21 possible cases of the virus, Democrat Rep.Val Demings chastised Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf for revealing that fact.

One has to wonder what Democrats are willing to risk for the sake of pursuing a political agenda that makes a complete mockery of the Rule of Law. With democrats' ideological bankruptcy they want open borders for illegals, drug cartels, human traffickers and the sick, all with the intention of buying votes with the aid of no background checks and same-day voter registration from instant drivers license acquisitions.

The last thing border states need are infected illegal aliens blending into our population and spreading the disease to health care workers, all fifty states, and in sanctuary cities, but Democrats aren't concerned. If unvaccinated American kids aren't allowed in public schools why would we import millions of unvaccinated migrants?

Now Democrats are holding the latest Payroll Protection Program(PPP) hostage to push their Green New Deal agenda. And all from Nancy Pelosi's multi million \$house and in front of her \$24,000 freezer full of exotic ice cream! Think she's worried about unemployed Americans? They want to amend the PPP Bill to allow illegal aliens to draw from those funds!

Several Democrat-led cities have already allowed illegal aliens to tap into their own coronavirus assistance programs, but now demand the federal government make illegal aliens eligible for federal PPP relief. Of course all four members of the Democrat "squad" are pushing this. They want government issued pre-loaded debit cards for every "individual" in the country. (notice the designation "American" was not used!).

Nothing in their demands does anything for the military or veterans.

We owe illegals nothing---we owe our veterans everything!

A wise old saying: It's not the abuse of power that we should be concerned with, but rather, the power to abuse.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



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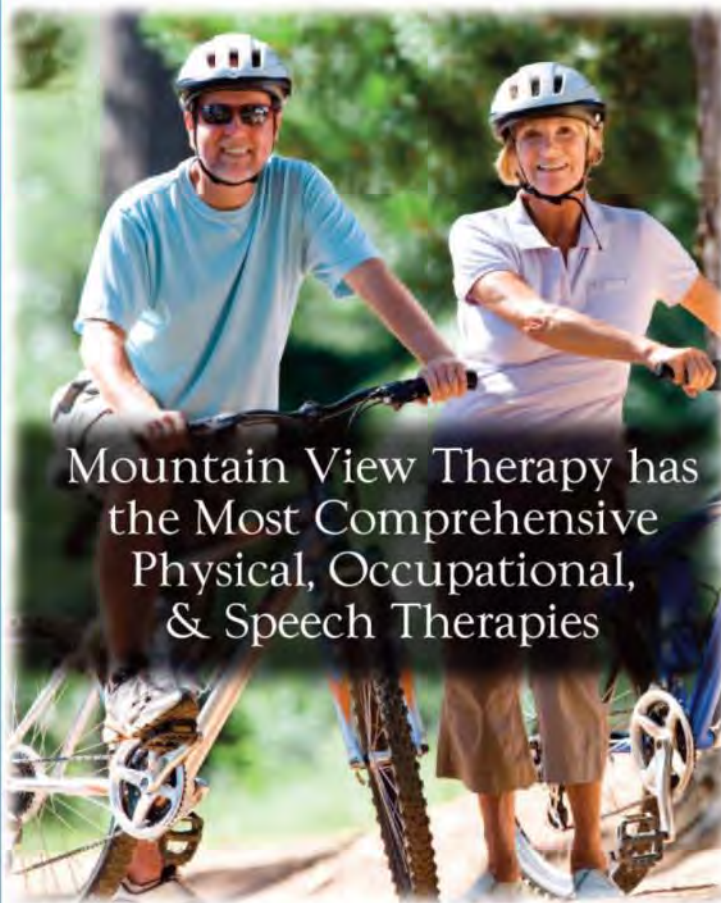
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THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

Magic Circle Players To Live Stream 'War Of The Worlds'



Magic Circle Players will perform a reenactment of the 1938 radio play *War of the Worlds* via a free live streamed broadcast on Friday, April 24 at 7pm. Courtesy photo.

By Patti Powel

MONTROSE-With the stay-at-home order, you can't go to Magic Circle Theatre but, in the tradition of the stage, the show *must* – and *will* – go on as Magic Circle Players bring the thrill of live theatre directly to you in your homes.

Via a live stream, Magic Circle Players will perform a reenactment of the infamous 1938 radio broadcast play of *War of the Worlds* on Friday, April 24 at 7pm.

This free live-streamed event will use the script of the original 1938 radio drama but

will be presented with actors in costumes reading their parts in a vintage television-style format. The play will be streamed from Magic Circle's Facebook page via Zoom, a video conferencing platform that allows the actors to come together on a virtual stage from their own homes. Viewers can join from anywhere on any device making this Magic Circle's first potentially worldwide performance.

The easiest way to see the broadcast is to go to the Magic Circle Players' website at www.magiccircleplayers.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the small "f" which is the Facebook icon.

Someone in your household will need to have a Facebook account to log onto Facebook. Then, just click on the *War of the Worlds* poster.

"It has been my intention in organizing this production to provide something to the community that shows Magic Circle is in no way put out of commission by Covid-19," said Casey Dukeman, the show's director. "As some crazy author once wrote long ago, '*All the world is a stage.*' I am certain he would agree that the world he was referring to also includes the World Wide Web."

Dukeman emphasized that this is a free broadcast but viewers who want to support Magic Circle can make donations via

a link on the Facebook page or at magiccircleplayers.com.

Based on H.G. Wells' classic novel and written as a radio script by H.E. Koch, *War of the Worlds* was adapted, directed and narrated by Orson Welles for broadcast during a time when radio was a prime source of news and entertainment.

The original hair-raising 1938 radio presentation of *War of the Worlds* created wide-spread national panic when listeners thought what they were hearing was actual news coverage of an invasion by aliens. "Whether you are familiar with the impact of the original broadcast or not, we are proud to bring this historic broadcast into your homes with an amazing local cast of Magic Circle performers," added Dukeman.

The troupe of Magic Circle veteran actors involved in this unique presentation of *War of the Worlds* include Peter Ambrose, Scott Pollak, Kacy Pollak, Kevin Innarelli, Kim Santich, Kevin Cohenour, Bill Bottomly, Chris Walsh, Kate Roth, Amy Lucskai, Jane Vale and Anthony Rodarte.

"Magic Circle Theatre may be dark right now," said Theatre Manager Lisa Rediger, "but our passion, our creativity, and our drive is still center stage. We hope to complete our 60th season, and look forward to bringing back the joy of live theatre."

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is inviting Colorado residents to participate in International Dark Sky Week April 19 - 26, 2020 by helping to monitor light levels in their area. This year, Dark Sky Week begins Sunday, April 19, and runs through Sunday, April 26, 2020.

CPW's Resource Stewardship Program started the Dark Skies Monitoring citizen science project last year, encouraging Coloradans to measure the quality of the night sky.

"It's important because, at high intensities, light pollution can have a variety of impacts on wildlife, including plants, animals and humans," said Citizen Science Technician Audrey Spencer. "For instance, it can impact the migration patterns of nocturnally migrating birds as well as the hunting behavior of bats."

How to participate

No experience is needed and observations can be made with a smartphone. Volunteers can submit observations through the [Globe at Night](#) website or with the [Loss of the Night](#), a free app available for [Android](#) and [iOS](#). If cell service is not available, downloadable [star charts](#) can be printed in advance and written observations can be submitted online later. Spencer said observations can take place anytime throughout the year, at least one to two hours after sunset or before sunrise, when the moon is not above the horizon.

Resources

Dark Sky Monitoring

[About Dark Sky Monitoring](#)

[How to participate in Dark Sky Monitoring](#)

Light pollution map This interactive map shows the impacts of light pollution around the world.

Moonrise and moonset forecasting

The site at [timeanddate.com/moon](https://www.timeanddate.com/moon) provides a table of daily moonrise/set times, moon phase, illumination, and lots of other information (here's a helpful guide for interpreting the somewhat complicated

table: <https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/help>)

Clear Dark Sky (cleardarksky.com/csk)

Provides weather forecasting for astronomical viewing, including predicted cloud cover, temperature, air transparency, etc. The sky darkness line is calculated based on the position of the sun and moon as well as moon phase.

About International Dark Sky Week

Created in 2003 by high-school student Jennifer Barlow, International Dark Sky Week has grown to become a worldwide event and a key component of [Global Astronomy Month](#).

Each year it is held in April, from Sunday to Sunday, the week of the new moon – when skies are darkest.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND GRANTS NEARLY \$50,000 TO LOCAL NONPROFITS



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE— In just two weeks of its inception, the Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) has given out \$49,000 in grants to 13 local nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 protective measures, through its newly established Montrose Emergency Relief Fund. The Montrose Emergency Relief Fund was created to quickly and nimbly support local nonprofits that are working with communities disproportionately impacted by the economic consequences of this pandemic. Pending further funding, MCF plans to give up to \$25,000 each week through May to area nonprofit organizations as they navigate through these challenges, through the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund.

“As each week passes, the stay-at-home requirements are putting exponential strains on individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits in our community. Week by week we hope to address the needs of our residents served by our nonprofit organizations through this emergency relief fund,” said Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director of the Montrose Community Foundation. “This fund can only continue to support the greater Montrose community each week, through the kindness and generosity of our community.”

An anonymous donor has upped the ante with a \$50,000 matching grant. Any new donation made to the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund - April 1, 2020 through May 30, 2020 - will be matched 50-cents per dollar donated. This means \$100,000 needs to be raised in order to unlock an additional \$50,000 additional matching funds. Local businesses and community members have already stepped up in a big way to provide the first two rounds of funding. Alpine Bank of Montrose, Black Hills Energy, Montrose Women’s Association, San Juan Healthcare Foundation have donated to the Montrose Emergency

Relief Fund. Donations from individuals have ranged from \$5-\$5,000, and an anonymous donor helped jumpstart the fund with a \$10,000 donation. The Morgridge Family Foundation also granted \$20,000 to support efforts in the greater Montrose community.

“This pandemic has amplified the needs in this community: food insecurity being an issue we can address right now,” said Plumhoff. “Sharing Ministries has doubled its purchase of food from the Food Bank of the Rockies to not only feed people who come through their doors, but to deliver food boxes and partner with other organizations too. Organizations like Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club, CASA and Montrose Recreation District are adjusting their operations to help the Montrose County School District and Region 10 adjust to the increased number of seniors, families and at-risk youth in need of food and other basic needs.”

On March 25, the Montrose Community Foundation launched the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund with a request for donations on social media and through local media. Within days of its launch, nonprofit organizations were submitting applications online. On April 6, the first round of grants totaling \$23,000 was provided to five local groups. The following Monday, a second round of grants totaling \$24,000 was handed to seven additional nonprofits. A third round of grants will be decided and disseminated on April 20. As funds become available and are infused into the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund, a fourth round of grants will happen the following week, and so on. At present time, only a few applications have been forwarded to the next round for potential future funding, no application to-date has been disqualified. A committee made up of MCF Board members and community stakeholders has been tasked to vet and evaluate each application each week.

HOW TO DONATE: Contributions to the Montrose Emergency Relief Fund can be made on the Montrose Community Foundation website: www.montrosecf.org, via PayPal’s support a charity function, and by mail. Institutions, companies, private

foundations and other funders are encouraged to contribute to the Fund. All donations are considered a charitable contribution and MCF is not collecting administrative fees to manage this fund. One hundred percent (100%) of funds received will be distributed directly into the community. Checks should be made out to Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, Colorado 81402. If donors have questions about donations of securities or other assets, they should call 970-249-3900.

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

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

“We are all in this together. We need to work together to ensure our community stays safe, healthy and focused on the future,” said Plumhoff. “This foundation will continue to work with local groups and local and state leadership to ensure our nonprofits stay viable so that they can continue to do the great work they do. We hope you will do your part and stay smart, stay safe and stay healthy as well.”

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY CONNECTED WITH NATURE



Courtesy image.

Abram Herman, Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-There's a lot of uncertainty in the world right now. Your whole family may be feeling the stress caused by changes in your normal routine, not being able to see the people you care about, and the stress and uncertainty that comes with economic instability and social change.

Now, more than ever, it's important to stay connected with the calming influence of the natural world. But in these times of physical distancing, how can you and your family get out in nature while staying safe? Here are a few ideas for maintaining your mental and physical health in the outdoors turning adversity into opportunity during these strange times.

Explore Somewhere New

A lot of people are home from work right now and the usual standby trails and natural areas are often more crowded, even on usually-quiet weekdays and off-times. This is a great opportunity to find a new, out-of-the-way place to explore the great outdoors. Is there some tucked away trail or park (near home) that you've been meaning to explore, but just never made the

trip? Make that your destination for the day!

Remember, we shouldn't be traveling outside of our home areas at this time to avoid spreading COVID-19 to other places, but if there's a trail within an hour or so of your home base, that's a reasonable effort to make in order to get away from the crowds and find somewhere new to explore. You can find some of these trailheads on Friends of Youth and Nature's website under map resources: <https://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org/maps.html>

Find the Hidden Gems

Nature is everywhere, and even that overgrown open space near your home can hold a lot of interest and educational opportunity. Take the kids out for a grasshopper survey - how many different kinds can you find? What's the biggest one, or the smallest one, and why might they be different sizes? Which one is the most common? Why do you think that might be?

Take a small shovel and dig into the dirt to see what you find. Are there worms, or pill bugs? Are you finding more in one place than you find somewhere else? Why do you think that is?

How many different kinds of grass or plants in general can you find in the field? Do some have interesting smells? Are there certain plants that seem to have a certain kind of insect, and why do you think the insects like that plant?

Whatever you come up with, you'll be surprised at your children's imagination, and how much interest and entertainment can be found in a seemingly overgrown, "boring" plot of grass and shrubs.

Get Out in the Sunshine

It's no secret that a little sunshine can really turn around your mood. With a lot of stress in the world right now, make sure you take time to just simply get outside (and get away from the news headlines and computer!). Put on some sunscreen, and go out with the family into your backyard, even if it's just for thirty minutes or an hour. Reading in the sunshine is one of life's little pleasures. Are you home-schooling right now? Take your lessons outside for some fresh air. Plant a garden and discover more about plant life cycles. Throw a ball and see who can create the highest arc. Play fetch with the dog. Which item does "Fido" like to fetch the best? Wrestle in the grass; is it warmer or cooler at ground level? Be a big kid, have fun while you learn, and enjoy the free time you might have right now! Now's a time to make memories with your family, and help create some positive experiences that will last a lifetime.

It's too easy right now to stay glued to the news, watching and dissecting every little development. Pile that on top of being cooped up inside, and away from the friends and family you normally see, and you have a recipe for stress, strife, and negativity. Get outside! Have fun! Make the effort to maintain your connection with the natural world throughout this time, and your whole family will be happier as a result. It's up to you.

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

www.friendsofyouthandnature.org



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

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

MONTHLY-

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.

April 24--Via a live stream, Magic Circle Players will perform a reenactment of the infamous 1938 radio broadcast play of *War of the Worlds* on Friday, April 24 at 7pm. The play will be streamed from Magic Circle's Facebook page via Zoom, a video conferencing platform that allows the actors to come together on a virtual stage from their own homes. The easiest way to see the broadcast is to go to the Magic Circle Players' website at www.magiccircleplayers.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the small "f" which is the Facebook icon. Then, just click on the *War of the Worlds* poster.

April 25--Town of Ridgway Annual Clean Up Day (for Town Residents only) will take place Saturday, April 25, from 8 am to 2 pm (or until dumpsters are filled) in the parking lot for the Athletic Park, County Road 23. Please no dumping of appliances, furniture, toxic liquids, tires, or commercial trash.

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.

June 13--Adopt-A-Park Clean Up at Rollans Park, Ridgway, Saturday, June 13, 2020 @ 9 a.m. -- 12 noon. Join UWP for a volunteer work morning at Rollans Park, picking up litter and branches along the Uncompahgre River, to make it a great place to visit. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 Information: <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

July 25--San Juan Mountains Guided Wildflower Walk, Saturday, July 25, 2020 @ 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m. Walk among the native plants of the subalpine vegetation zone with guide Mary Menz. Co-author of *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains*, Mary will identify wildflowers, share historical uses of native plants, and talk about the role native plants play in the ecosystem—including areas with acid mine runoff. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 Information: <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

Aug. 2--RE-1J Schools will hold graduation ceremonies Aug. 2 at 1pm in the Montrose Events Center for OHS. MHS will be following at 5pm with their graduation.

Aug. 3--PEAK Academy will hold a graduation ceremony on Monday Aug. 3rd at 6:30 pm at the Pavilion if it is safe to gather due to COVID-19.

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. 12--Love Your Gorge--Sat., Sept. 12, 2020, Uncompahgre River Gorge. Volunteer with the Ouray Ice Park and Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership to make improvements to the riparian areas of the Uncompahgre River Gorge in Ouray. Then, enjoy a picnic and party to celebrate our efforts. Funded by the Frank L. Massard Trust. Contact to sign up: Tanya, uwpcommunications@gmail.com, 970-325-3010 Information: <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>

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.



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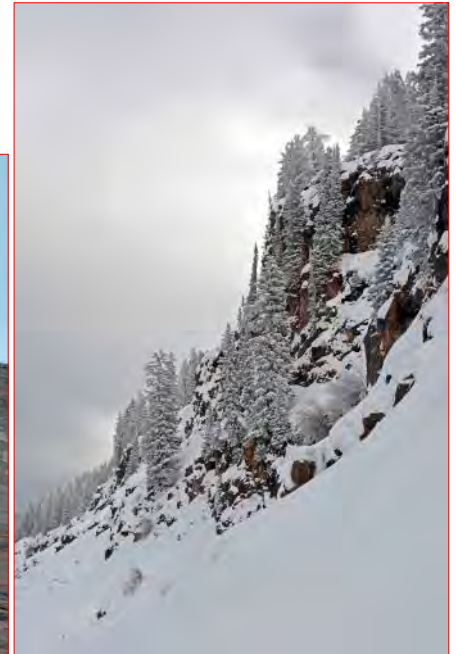
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

While sheltering at home, Photographer Deb Reimann shared this photo (below) that she took several years ago, of a family of bighorn ewes and lambs resting in the sun at the Colorado National Monument. She used a telephoto lens so as not to stress or change their natural behavior.



*Above, snow, rocks and trees on
Grand Mesa.*

A large black bear is sitting at a wooden picnic table, holding a tablet computer in its paws. The bear is looking at the screen. In the background, there is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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