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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting From West Central Colorado

Issue No. 375 May 4, 2020

REOPENING JUST IN TIME FOR SOME, TOO LATE FOR OTHERS



It was back to business May 1 at Kimberly McGehee's SheShe Boutique (340 East Main Street), with masks lending an air of mystery. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On April 28, a news release from the Colorado Secretary of State's office stated what appears to be obvious; "...the rapid onset of COVID-19 impacted every facet of Colorado's economy." Here in Montrose, the impacts are visible on Main Street. Even the strongest retailers have suffered major losses, and for some, the timing could not have been worse.

Debbie Blanchard of D'Medici Footwear (316 East Main Street) and Colorado-ology (328 East Main Street) said that her normally strong sales plummeted as soon as masks were announced. "Even a week before we were told to close, there was no business," she said. The closures have been especially hard on Colorado-ology, which is meant for

Continued pg 36

DIRECTOR JOCK FLEMING BREAKS WITH DMEA BOARD ON PURSUIT OF PPP FUNDS FOR COOPERATIVE

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, which was a Zoom webinar, was held at 3 p.m. on April 28.

Practicing social distancing, the board and staff participated from their homes. During introductions and Member Comment segments, members are afforded an opportunity to speak; however,

during the meeting itself the microphones of those who are not on the board or on staff are muted.

In general conversation prior to the meeting, Chief Operations Officer (COO) Virginia Harman spoke about the upcoming board election. "As of today, there is one [candidate] for each district."

Continued pg 31



The public parking lot at Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) remains empty as customers continue to obey stay-at-home guidelines. Customer Service Representatives (CSR) work from home, but are available by telephone to answer questions.

Photo by Gail Marvel

in this issue

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

[Bawdy Houses & Booze Parlors by Bob Cox](#)

[Photojournalist Paul Arbogast Visits Montrose businesses](#)

[Letters to the Editor!](#)

MIRROR IMAGES...A MINUTE AFTER MIDNIGHT

GETTING A HAIRCUT, CELEBRATING CIVIL LIBERTY



Photos by Paul Arbogast

When he scheduled a haircut one minute after midnight on May 1 at Tim's Barber Shop on West Main, Montrose Developer Matt Miles invited others to come along, including the sculpture he commissioned in 2012, the Montrose Mouse. Pictured in the barber's chair is Larry Bovard. Photos by Paul Arbogast.



THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer to a readership of over 13,500 residents of Western Colorado.

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAY 4 NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR 2020 DMEA BOARD ELECTIONS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL— Due to the State of Colorado’s recent Stay-at-Home order, as well as Delta-Montrose Electric Association’s current pandemic response, the co-op’s nomination process for the 2020 Board of Directors Election is taking place electronically.

This year, District 6, District 7, and the North Region board seats are up for election. Eligible members who live in these districts may run for the DMEA Board of Directors. Unlike previous years, members cannot pick up a physical nomination packet at their local DMEA office. All nominations must be submitted online. Members interested in running for an

open board seat should visit www.dmea.com/ selfnomination starting April 3, 2020, to begin the process. Members can confirm in which district they live by calling 877-687-3632.

Key Dates:

Friday, April 3, 2020: Self-nomination packets become available online at www.dmea.com/selfnomination.

Monday, May 4, 2020: Deadline to return and/or complete all steps of the self-nomination process.

Monday, May 25, 2020: Ballots, along with the candidate backgrounds, will be mailed to DMEA members.

Thursday, June 18, 2020: The DMEA An-

nual Meeting: Due to the current threat of COVID-19, details for this event are not yet available.

All members are encouraged to vote by mail in the event the Annual Meeting must take place virtually. The results of the 2020 election will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

This move to an online nomination process follows DMEA’s previous pandemic response efforts, which include but are not limited to:

Virtual board meetings until further notice
Suspension of service disconnects for non-payment until further notice

Offices closed to the public, with employees telecommuting until further notice

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Hello there!

My name is Fiona. I am a 3-year old-gal and proud to be a long hair tortoiseshell. I am sweet and love people. I was raised with three dogs, but I don't interact with other cats. I don't get into conflicts. I am just not interested. I love , love, love to be brushed, I have been spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. For more information about, you know, me, please call Pat at Katmandu Fostering (970)527-3424



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMH OUTPATIENT LAB PROCEDURES RETURNING TO MMH MAIN CAMPUS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE– Effective Monday, May 4, Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) will return outpatient lab procedures to MMH Main Campus to better serve patients.

The hospital is continuing extra precautions for patient and visitor safety, including limiting visitors and requiring each person to wear a mask upon entry.

Outpatient lab procedures have traditionally been performed on-site at MMH - however with the emergence of COVID-19 in Montrose county, MMH temporarily moved these services offsite out of an abundance of caution.

If your doctor instructs you to receive your labs from Montrose Memorial Hospital, please visit Montrose Memorial Hospital at 800 S. 3rd St. Examples of outpatient lab procedures include weekly "INR" draws for patients on blood thinners, thyroid tests, Complete Blood Count tests, and other blood tests ordered by your provider.



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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER COVID-19 UPDATE, PAVEMENT & CRACK SEALING CONTRACT AWARDS



On May 4 Montrose City Council will host a virtual work session at 10 a.m. On May 5, Council will hold a virtual regular meeting at 6 p.m.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-On Monday, May 4 Montrose

City Council will host a virtual work session at 10 a.m. On Tuesday May 5, Council will hold a virtual regular meeting at 6 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Four new employees will be introduced to Council. Joining City staff are Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jackie Bubenik; Assistant City Attorney Matthew Magliaro; Competitive Sports Program Coordinator Public Safety Chris Iversen; and G.I.S. Systems Analyst Zachary Musick.

Discussion items will include:

An Update and the potential public health future for the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic in Montrose County; a contract award recommendation for pavement marking; a contract award recommendation for crack sealing; and budget meeting dates for

2021.

Items scheduled for future City Council meetings and work sessions include:

- The Montrose Dermatology Business Expansion Project
- DMEA Update to City Council
- Bureau of Land Management Update to City Council
- Youth Council Manual Update

REGULAR MEETING

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2501 on Second Reading, for the annexation of the 4152 North Townsend Addition; and Ordinance 2502 on Second reading providing for the zoning of the 4152 N. Townsend Addition as a B-3 General Commercial District. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

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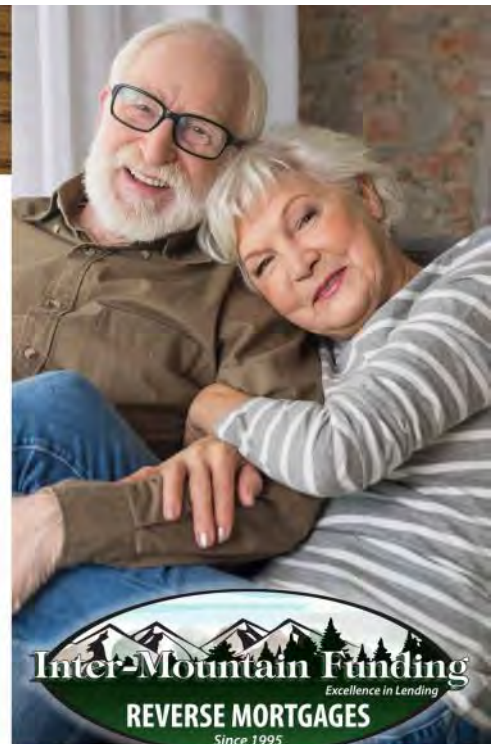


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AS MONTROSE RE-OPENS, CITIZENS URGED TO STAY AWARE, PROTECT SELVES & OTHERS



Warm weather and spring blossoms have arrived, above, but citizens are still urged to protect themselves and those around them from COVID-19. Photo by B. Switzer

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With 11 COVID-19-related deaths recorded in Montrose County to date, these are serious times, as Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum recently said. Still, the reopening of Colorado has begun, with the implementation of Governor Jared Polis' *Safer at Home* order.

Recent weeks have brought signs of hope along with the spring weather. On May 1, retailers and personal services were once again allowed to open, with adherence to best practices, and on May 4 non-critical offices were allowed to re-open with adherence to best practices and lower density. Montrose County has opened public portions of county buildings, subject to ongoing guidance and limitations as determined by the Montrose County Public Health Director.

On May 11, the City of Montrose will reopen the Municipal Animal Shelter (970.240.1487) by appointment only, though all transactions will still take place outside.

Still, many establishments remain closed, including gyms, theaters, and the seating areas of brick and mortar food and beverage establishments.

Citizens are still urged to follow best practices themselves, including wearing masks in public settings, remaining at home if you are at-risk, and limiting public gatherings to ten or fewer.

For some of those critical workers who have continue to serve the public throughout the pandemic, relief has not yet set in. Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said last week that the Montrose Police Depart-

ment has established protocols intended to protect officers as well as the public. All but patrol staff have been working from home, and those who have remained on-site have worn masks and established distance between themselves. Commanders have alternated working from home to ensure continuity of command, Hall said. And calls are handled without public contact whenever possible.

"This has changed the way we look at certain things—we're getting used to having these in-camera meetings, where we used to huddle around a conference table," he said. "We're using video even though just a wall separates us."

Though some restrictions have been lifted, citizens are urged to remain aware of COVID-19 and continue to take common sense precautions, like handwashing.

"We live in a society where we absolutely have freedoms that we need to protect," Hall said. "But this is a virus...that is very different from the flu and seasonal respiratory illnesses we are used to."

The rate of infection in Montrose County has outstripped even Mesa County, which is much larger. "It's been a challenge," Hall said. "I want people to see that we take it seriously. I am impressed with City Council—that there's a plan, and that we're going to take it slow."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2020 SMPA BOARD CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED- SMPA ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-At the April 28th San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Meeting, the candidates for the upcoming SMPA board election were announced. In district #1, which includes Parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, and Slick Rock, candidate and sitting board member, Doyleene Garvey will be running unopposed and will be deemed re-elected per SMPA bylaws.

In District #4, which includes Parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and a portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride, candidate Tobin Brown is also running unopposed and will be deemed elected per SMPA bylaws.

Anyone who purchases power from SMPA and resides within the SMPA service territory is a member. SMPA Board Directors are members who are nominated by the membership of their Board District. Because neither of this year's elections are contested, no ballots will be mailed to members this year.

Board election results are usually announced at the Annual Meeting of members. However, due to restrictions associated with the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak, the SMPA Annual Meeting has been cancelled. An Annual Report containing financial and operational updates will be published in June for interested members.

To learn more, please visit www.smpa.com or call (970) 626-5549.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J TO CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2020 WITH DRIVE-THROUGH COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County School District RE-1J will celebrate the Class of 2020 with vehicular procession drive-through commencement events on Sunday, May 17 (Noon at Olathe High School and 2 PM at Montrose High School) in lieu of previously planned August ceremonies.

The School District is working with public health and law enforcement to ensure the health and safety of all participants. Principals will be providing more event details soon. Congratulations to our graduating seniors.

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The Church Down the Street

...as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

Gail Marvel

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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

The presence of a reporter in the worship services produced mixed reactions. While many church leaders were grateful for the publicity and exposure for their congregation, others were uneasy. One pastor said, "The minute I saw you I knew this wasn't my best sermon!" Another pastor said, "We didn't like everything you wrote...but we've made some changes." One elder defended his congregation's lack of friendliness, "Maybe no one spoke to you because of the perfume you were wearing."

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

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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CPW COMMISSION REQUIRES A VALID HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE TO ACCESS ALL STATE WILDLIFE AREAS AND CPW-LEASED STATE TRUST LANDS



Special to the Mirror
DENVER – A valid hunting or fishing license will be required for everyone 18 or older attempting to access any State Wildlife Area or State Trust Land leased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, beginning July 1.

The rule change was adopted unanimously April 30 by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

“By policy, state wildlife areas are acquired with hunter and angler dollars, and

are intended specifically to provide wildlife habitat and wildlife-related recreation,” Southeast Regional Manager Brett Ackerman told the commission at its meeting. “This rule is aimed at curtailing non-wildlife-related use of these properties.

At the meeting, Ackerman presented examples from across the state of the increasing use of state wildlife areas inconsistent with their purpose, including set up of temporary residences, vehicular use on big game winter range, vandalism, and other uses detrimental to wildlife and wildlife-related uses.

“There’s certainly an impact on staff and resources, potential public health impact, degradation of habitat and displacement of wildlife,” Ackerman told commissioners. “There is a pattern of non-wildlife related issues we’re seeing out there.”

Beginning on July 1, 2020, anyone entering a state wildlife area or state trust land leased by CPW must hold either a valid hunting or fishing license in Colorado. Ackerman emphasized that, “As with all new regulations, especially one as far reaching as this, our policy is to first educate. Especially when talking to constituent users of state wildlife areas, we want to help people understand why we’re taking this action. We’re not seeking to catch people off guard and write them tickets. We want to curtail non-wildlife use of these properties and return them to their original intended purpose.”

MAY NATIONAL **women's** HEALTH MONTH

As a woman, you have unique health care needs. It only makes sense to seek health providers, who are uniquely equipped to meet your individual needs - through every stage.

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 AMBER ANGLES, MD DCMH Family Medicine	 HENRY LEWIS, III, MD Premier Women's Healthcare of Delta	 MICHELLE REED, DO Internal Medicine Associates	 SEAN REA, DO DCMH Family Medicine	 CHRISTI ANDERSON, NP DCMH West Elk Clinic Hotchkiss

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), is kicking off a month-long campaign to educate people about mental and behavioral health parity.

In conjunction with this campaign, the DOI is highlighting its new online resource, [“Mental / Behavioral Health and Insurance.”](#) This site is a resource for Coloradans who run into health insurance roadblocks in accessing mental / behavioral health services or having those services limited in some way by their insurance companies.

Mental Health Parity

The [“Mental / Behavioral Health and Insurance” site](#) is particularly focused on parity in mental / behavioral health services. What does parity mean? Federal and Colorado State parity laws prohibit health insurance plans from being more restrictive in providing mental health, behavioral health, and substance use disorder benefits than they would be for medical and surgical benefits.

Parity is about equal and fair treatment for people who need mental and behavioral health care.

The site has six sections to help consumers understand their rights under health insurance parity laws, know when those rights may have been violated and where to turn for help and assistance when that happens.

- What is Mental Health Parity?
- Is your health insurance required to provide Mental Health Parity?
- How is Mental Health Parity enforced?
- Red Flags for Potential Parity Violations
- Have you been unfairly denied mental / behavioral health benefits?
- Additional Resources

Mental Health Awareness Month

Throughout May, the Division will focus on specific aspects of the intersection of mental / behavioral health and insurance in its messaging through DORA’s [Facebook](#)

and [Twitter](#) accounts. We will also highlight various Colorado partners and resources working on improving access to mental / behavioral health. Please share, comment or ask questions as those messages appear throughout the month.

Week of May 4 - Telehealth and Mental / Behavioral Health

Week of May 11- Is your insurance required to provide mental health parity? / How is mental health parity enforced?

Week of May 18 - Red flags for parity violations / Have you been unfairly denied mental / behavioral health benefits?

Week of May 25 - Additional Resources

Added Commissioner Conway, “Through our new website, this campaign and our work with partners, we want people to develop a better understanding of how mental and behavioral health services should be treated by their health insurance under Colorado and Federal law.”

Contact the Colorado Division of Insurance if you have questions about your health insurance, its mental / behavioral health care coverage or you want to file a complaint - 303-894-7490 / 800-930-3745 / DORA_Insurance@state.co.us - or visit the [“Ask a Question / File a Complaint” page](#) of the DOI’s website.



Commercial Possibilities

There are commercial real estate opportunities awaiting your ideas. Have you always wanted to be the boss and have your own business? Here are a few properties that may be of interest to you.



Spring Creek Road, Montrose
MLS #748728
\$149,000

- 1.24 Acres B-2 Zoning
- High Traffic Count
- Fronts Hwy 90 & Marine Rd.
- Signaled Intersection



931 N. Park Avenue, Montrose
MLS #762788
\$349,900

- 7,560 Square Feet .85 Acre
- Zoned Light Industrial
- Opportunity Zone Location
- Manufacturing, Fabrication, Office & Warehouse spaces



TBD E. Main Street, Montrose
MLS #748708
\$199,000

- 1.04 Acres B2 Zoning
- High Traffic Count & Visibility
- Hwy 50 Frontage Road
- Signaled Intersection



B-2 Zoning Includes:

- Rental Storage Units
- Retail Building Materials Supply
- Child Care Facility,
- Convenience Store
- B-1 uses
- Plus Conditional Uses



Light Industrial Zoning includes:

- Food Processing
- Metal Finishing & Fabrication
- Paper, Plastic, Wood or Fabric Mfg
- Warehouse & Wholesale Distributing
- Government, Utility, Energy
- Plus Similar Activities



B-1 Zoning Includes:

- Multi-Family Residential
- Retail Store
- Professional Service
- Offices
- Restaurants
- Plus Many Other Uses



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SMALL PLANE CRASH REPORTED AT BLAKE FIELD IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—On Sunday, May 3, 2020 at approximately 11:12 am, the Delta County Communications Center received multiple reports of a small plane that had crashed while trying to land at Delta’s Blake Field airport. Officers with the Delta Police Department, Deputies with the Sheriff’s Office, the Delta Fire Department, Delta County Ambulance District and CareFlight

of the Rockies all responded to the scene. Upon arrival, first responders located the wreckage of a small, single occupant, possibly home-made plane off the east end of the runway, but still on the airport property.

Upon arrival, emergency crews confirmed that the sole occupant of the plane, the pilot, was deceased. The Delta County Coroner’s Office was notified and is notify-

ing next of kin.

Pending notification of next of kin, no additional details are available at this time about the pilot. The Sheriff’s Office has notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the crash and Investigators with the FAA/NTSB will be responding to the airport in Delta on Monday, May 4th to begin their investigation. No additional details are available at this time.

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BACK TO WORK...MAY DAY IN MONTROSE



Photojournalist Paul Arbogast visited (clockwise from left) Classics Barber Shop, the Lion's Mane salon, and the Color Connection as local salons and barber shops were once again free to serve customers after the extended COVID-19 business shutdown ordered by Colorado Governor Jared Polis. Photos by Paul Arbogast.



STAY APART IN PUBLIC



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SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER LATER

16989 6450 Road
Montrose, CO 81403

Just Listed!



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

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Year Built: 1994

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16989 6450 Road
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Just Listed!



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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Western Colorado Properties

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR FOREST SERVICE ROADS WHILE ASSISTING US IN PROTECTING YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-We ask visitors to please assist us in protecting natural resources. During this time of year, please stay off wet roads and respect road closures, which will decrease long-term and costly damages to the roadway.

-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests are experiencing the transition from winter to spring. Snow is melting and the temperatures are comfortable for exploring Forest Service roads.

-As the snow melts its runoff naturally chooses the path of least resistance, which is typically the ditch line on either side of Forest Service roads. When there is still snow in the ditches, the water tends to flow down the road instead. Forest Service roads are designed to handle the additional moisture during this time, although the water saturating into the roadway causes soft roadbeds.

-When vehicles drive on soft roadbeds, they cause rutting. The ruts allow water to flow freely down the roadway causing both seen and unseen damage to the road.

-Protecting the road until it is dry enough to prevent damage is a primary reason for gate closures during April and May. During these closures we monitor the roadway regularly to ensure the gates are closed for the minimum amount of time needed.

-Ongoing damage to roads can lead to a variety of negative outcomes including erosion, wildlife habitat damage and a loss of access due to travel becoming too hazardous or rehabilitation closures.

-For information on current conditions and road closures visit the GMUG National Forests' website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmug/home> or call your local Forest Service office.

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**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
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Western Colorado Properties



606 Spring Creek Rd- Montrose, Co 81403

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! This is a cute little fixer upper in a business district with UNBEATABLE access and location. Included in this property is a large 3 bay detached garage with 220amp service. Live and work at home! The possibilities are endless with this one.

Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 1

1075 sq. ft. on .34 acres | Year Built: 1945

\$230,000 MLS# 768265




CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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Colorado Properties
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Michelle Martinez
970-901-9733



Tami Distel
970-596-2845



Stephanie MacFarlane
970-964-7023



Lisa Martinez
303-525-3726



Patricia Martinez
303-718-6679



420 N Nevada Ave Montrose, CO 81401
\$129,900 – 1 Bed – 1.5 Bath – 898 SqFt
Listing Agent: Michelle Martinez



4882 Colorow Rd Olathe, Co 81425
\$470,000 – 3 Bed – 2 Bath – 2,526 SqFt
Listing Agent: Michelle Martinez

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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RISKS OF COVVAX VACCINE DEVELOPMENT SITE FAR OUTWEIGH ANY BENEFITS

Dear Montrose City

Council and City Manager,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the discussion of a vaccine development site in our town. My husband and I moved to Montrose 4 ½ years ago and have found it to be a safe a beautiful place to live. In fact, my parents followed and bought the house next door. My mom has dementia and we loved that she was able to go to Senior Daybreak program. Sadly, due to the insane response that our country and most of the world, except Sweden, had to this virus, that program will not reopen even after the restrictions are relaxed. Sadly, this town may never fully recover from recent events. And much to my dismay there is now discussion of allowing a vaccine development site to be housed 5 minutes from my home. I sent this letter to the County Commissioners yesterday, and was redirected to this group. Since there is the Montrose Regional Council of Governments, it seems like my concerns could have been brought from those who represent me in the county, to you, who I do not get to vote for in the City, but to cover my bases, I'm reaching out to you as well. Boundary lines are interesting things. I live off of Marine road, and the neighbors who live on the other side of Marine live in the city, but across the street I live in the county. Regardless, this proposed facility is 5 minutes from my piece of Western Slope heaven.

Regarding this proposed facility the biggest obvious concern is how might a bio-sample of a virus escape into our town one day in the future? Mr. Reese declares there will be no live viruses now, but that does not mean there will not be in the future when you are no longer in your current positions. There will be no guarantee that this statement will remain true for the future citizens of Montrose. Reese is concerned that, "The resulting logistical hurdle is having to truck cargo from plane to facility instead of being able to unload it directly at the facility, which would save critical time as well as reduce handling of

sensitive materials." Any serious consideration of this risky proposal must include a definition of "sensitive materials".

Mr. Reese declared that their company is affiliated with Chinese entities. How many people will be flying to and from China to our beautiful town? Many of us do not trust China, nor its current leader. The practices of Chinese companies are lacking both environmentally and ethically, and Mr. Reese's affiliation with Chinese companies is very, very concerning. Seeing as the current pandemic was fueled by international travelers, do we want Montrose to be the doorway for future viruses to impact the entire globe?

For the citizens of Montrose, please consider how vaccines are developed. How does COVVAX do research without having these pathogens present? Consider how they can grow this business one day -- expanding their services and research, and then at that time needing live virus and bacteria to be housed on site in the future. Is this what you want for your children and grandchildren?

What kind of chemicals will they be putting in our groundwater, air and water? The air inversion of this valley happens often which means we will breathe any output from their lab. We already have enough to deal with regarding burning ditches and chemical spraying on crops. Our river has already had its own struggles from mining, etc. Due diligence on every aspect of the production needs to happen, and this takes time. The "rush" aspect of this proposal is very unsettling. Homeland Security seems to be required for this decision. Security is obviously required because there is a RISK. If there were no threat to our town, then Homeland Security would not be advising this situation. If, as Arnold said, "There also needs to be a security plan approved by the Department of Homeland Security,"....., please do NOT underestimate what can happen with this lab down the road. In other words, these things are dangerous. There is a reason that Homeland Security has to be involved. There are

reasons they want to limit the travel of the things they will be transporting. They are dangerous. In my opinion any potential benefits DO NOT outweigh these risks. Will this really increase jobs here?

Doubtful. How many viral and bacterial scientists do we have sitting idly around in Montrose? More likely is this scenario: they will import outside scientists for most of these jobs and use a very small fraction of existing citizens for blue-collar labor. The suggestion that displaced Russel Stover workers could transition to vaccine development jobs seems very unlikely. We aren't fooled by this false narrative. This was the most obviously false and laughable potential benefit stated. I would like you to hold an open meeting for the citizenry to see who has interest in working in a lab developing vaccines, with deadly, or as is yet to be determined, "sensitive" materials.

Consider Mr. Reese's words, "However, "the big sticky wicket" is that the company is flying planes every day with equipment, staff, tests and serum, he said. The ideal situation would be the ability to unload the products directly at a facility, as opposed to landing the planes, unloading them, and trucking the products to a facility. There's a very logistically intense undertaking. It's even more intense because we're dealing with a pandemic," Reese said." (Montrose Daily Press). And where are these materials coming from? China? Will the proper Customs procedures be followed? Will this be a "Belgian chocolate" facility, where vaccines actually from China will go through this facility to receive a "Made in the USA" label? This is the only way it seems this facility could be "developing" vaccines without live viruses.

How might the increased traffic and noise in the airport and on our already crumbling roads hurt our vacation income and those who have to navigate potholes daily simply by living here? Will people be willing to come to a town where they experiment on viruses and vaccines, especially knowing that viruses DO escape from

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS Continued

RISKS OF COVVAX VACCINE DEVELOPMENT SITE FAR OUTWEIGH ANY BENEFITS *From previous pg*

labs. You should consider this paper. This might happen in the future. <https://armscontrolcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Escaped-Viruses-final-2-17-14-copy.pdf>

How will this company use the airport? How will normal flight patterns be affected? They have declared it will not affect normal travelers, but is that really the case? Will tourist really want to fly into a town that is housing a site with dangerous pathogens?

This is not good for Montrose.

Whether we like it or not, viruses and bacteria are now being considered modern bio-weapons, especially by China. Do not believe this is not possible. Do we really want to participate in that kind of research? Do we really want our town to be

the center of that next event? Is the next step a higher military presence here? Ironically, I was catching up on my news intake last night and read, in the Montrose Mirror April 27th edition, about the 3rd facility to have a Covid outbreak, the Prairie Dog Antlers facility. Our City Manager Bill Bell pushed for a zoning change that allowed for the factory to be located in a residential neighborhood, even though the minutes from the Nov. 5, 2012 meeting reflect that the City's Planning Commission recommended denial. Neighbors objected to this, Planning Commission denied it, yet it went through. Bill Bell emphasized that this rezoning would not adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the community. Aside from the fact that in 2018 a subsidiary was found to

be dumping raw chicken parts in an Olathe neighborhood, now we have a Covid 19 outbreak at this facility. So, has the health, safety and welfare of the community been impacted by this allowance? Should the City Manager be making assurances like this? Now this is small potatoes compared to what a vaccine development site could bring.

In these trying times, please do not sell out our town thinking that this will save us. Yes, Russel Stovers is leaving, but do not try to replace their revenue loss with this venture.

The risks far outweigh any benefits. Montrose has been a beautiful and safe place to live. Bringing this business here will change all of that.

Andrea Vijverberg, Montrose



With the low inventory of homes on the market, have you considered purchasing vacant land and building your dream home? Some of my parcels for sale are below! Click a photo to see the virtual tour.



**Lot 23 Pine Drive
Ridgway
8.34 Acres
Log Hill Village
\$139,900**



**Lot #3 7250 Road
Montrose
4.51 Acres
Buckhorn Heights
\$99,000**



**Lot 1 Buckhorn Road
Montrose
5.1 Acres
Painted Hills Minor Sub
\$95,000**



**Lot 41 Divide Road
Montrose
4.48 Acres
Horsefly Subdivision
\$74,900**



**Lot 63 Barnes Point Drive
Montrose
35 Acres
Horsefly Tracts
\$67,500**



**3169 Silver Fox Drive
Montrose
.35 Acre
Fox Park
\$59,000**

**If you are in the market to buy, I am happy to do a personalized search for you.
If you are considering selling, contact me for a free market analysis and property evaluation.**



As your local real estate advisor, I offer personalized service and professional expertise. If you are looking to sell or buy in Montrose or surrounding communities, I can help you through that process. When results count - put my experience and knowledge to work for you.

Don Bailey
Broker Associate
donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com
970-209-8257
www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO BIKE TO WORK DAY POSTPONED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colorado Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Denver Regional Council of Governments, is rescheduling this year’s annual Bike to Work Day, from Wednesday, June 24 to Tuesday, Sept. 22.

“To maintain the health of riders and of our communities, we believe it’s best to delay Bike to Work day due to the current situation,” said CDOT’s Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Scenic Byways Section Manager Betsy Jacobsen. “Although this event celebrates physical fitness, social distancing would be more challenging this year if we have additional people traveling in closer proximity to each other on our bike paths and local streets.”

June is designated as Bike Month in Colorado, with Bike to Work Day falling on the fourth Wednesday. Thousands of individuals throughout Colorado use that day to show their support for the fun and ease of bicycle transportation by riding their bikes to and from work.

The date for this year’s Bike to Work Day in Colorado was selected to coincide with the same event held by the League of American Bicyclists.

DineOutMontrose.com

Jimmer’s Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Stone House
970-240-8899

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Horsefly Brewing
Full Menu & Growlers to Go
970-249-6889



Rio Bravo
970-964-4477

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Cold Stone Creamery
970-252-8014

Rib City
970-249-7427

Dunkin’® Donuts –
Baskin Robbins
970-964-3306

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADANS URGED TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK



Spring Creek Fire. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – With fire seasons becoming longer, more intense and more damaging over the last few decades in Colorado, state and federal agencies that manage wildfires and forests are urging residents to join in efforts to reduce wildfire risk, while following stay-at-home and safer-at-home directives. With about half of all Coloradans – about 3 million people – living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), it’s important for people to take action to reduce the risk wildfire poses to their homes and create more fire-adapted communities. The Colorado Division of

Fire Prevention and Control anticipates an average wildfire potential into mid-summer, but that does not mean Coloradans should be lax in preparing for fires. During an average year, Colorado will see about 4,500 wildfires that burn around 168,000 acres, including several large fires. With the coronavirus creating challenges for firefighters this year, including less flexibility and fewer resources, residents should do what they can now to ease the burden on first responders if a wildfire poses a threat to their community. Wildfire knows no boundaries; it does not recognize jurisdictional responsibilities. A single wildfire often crosses private, county, state, tribal and federal lands and threatens communities across all landscapes. “The number of people at risk of wildfires in Colorado continues to increase,” said DFPC Director Mike Morgan. “Approximately 3 million people live in Colorado’s wildland-urban interface – compared to 2 million people just five years ago. We encourage landowners and communities to become aware of their level of risk and be a part of the solution.” Homeowners living in the WUI can do a

number of practical activities to protect their residence from fire while staying home and practicing social distancing. The Colorado State Forest Service recommends the following wildfire preparation activities: Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves 5 feet from the home, as well as under decks, porches, sheds and play structures. Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters. Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material. Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from the house, preferably uphill. Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area. Cover any exposed eave or attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening. Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street. Contact your local Office of Emergency Management to register for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same. Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood other than the one most commonly used and be prepared for potential evacuation requiring the alternative route. For more information visit csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation.



**MONTROSE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

NEEDS YOUR HELP TO FIGHT COVID-19

**WASH
YOUR
HANDS!**



COVID-19 INFO AT WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM



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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
Montrose, CO
opportunity awaits

\$34,990 | MLS# 759397



59215 Spring Creek Road
Montrose, CO
Spring crrek property!

\$109,000 | MLS# 766918



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties

Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

970-209-3825

Jeff@MontroseColorado.com and www.montrosecolorado.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL TO RESUME SOME ELECTIVE SURGERIES APRIL 29

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) announced that starting April 29 some elective surgeries will resume based on physician discretion for conditions that are non-life-threatening. There will be strict precautions to ensure the safety of patients and staff. DCMH has been and will continue to perform all urgent and emergent procedures while ensuring personal protective equipment (PPE) and other hospital resources are maintained in adequate supply to meet the critical care needs of the community.

“As a rural hospital, we were not mandated to postpone elective surgeries, however, Delta Hospital chose to delay non-critical and non-emergency procedures to allow our medical system to prepare for new demands as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and to conserve our PPE,” said Matthew Heyn, CEO for

DCMH. “As we begin to reintegrate core health care services, all patients will be COVID-19 tested prior to having a procedure performed.”

DCMH recommends patients isolate for up to 10 days prior to elective surgeries and asks that patients wear a mask upon entering the hospital. Protocols such as verbal screenings for all persons prior to entering the Hospital and Clinics will also remain in place as well as pre-operation testing on all patients and certain visitor restrictions with exceptions.

DCMH will continue to prioritize COVID-19 testing resources toward hospitalized, critically-ill patients, healthcare personnel appropriate for testing and those on a case-by-case basis. Patients can be tested when recommend by their Primary Care Provider. COVID-19 tests are now being performed at DCMH primary care clinics. “We are confident that these continued

precautionary measures will keep our patients, staff and community safe as we move forward,” said Heyn. “As we move into the Safer-at-Home guidelines in response to COVID-19 we want our community to know that we have been and are prepared to continue adapting to the new phases of the pandemic.”

Per the CDC’s recommended precautionary measures, DCMH still encourages residents to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid close contact with people who are sick, avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, wear a mask and stay home if you can. “Our hospitals and clinics are still a safe and accessible place to receive healthcare,” said Heyn. “We want you to know that we are here for you. Our doctors, nurses and clinic staff will continue to support you and to provide you with safe, accessible, high-quality care.”

My Mask Protects You



Your Mask Protects Me



MONTROSE COUNTY COVID-19 INFORMATION AT WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM



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all shoe repair needs.*

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In Historic Downtown Montrose*



DIRECTOR JOCK FLEMING BREAKS WITH DMEA BOARD ON PURSUIT OF PPP FUNDS FOR COOPERATIVE From pg 1

It was noted that board member Kyle Martinez would be in and out of the DMEA meeting as he was concurrently participating in a virtual meeting with a governor's task force.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer and determination of a quorum.

ACTION ITEM: Consent Agenda

-Approval of Membership Report

-Approval of Minutes from Regular March Board Meeting

-Approval of Minutes from Special April Board Meeting

Approved unanimously.

Finance – Audit – Rate Committee – Brad Harding, Chair

Harding said, "We met April 6th and discussed the Audit Review, the management letter and the payment of the PPP loan (Payment Protection Plan). There is a good deal of doubt about how the program works. Was the co-op eligible? We're still working on it, in general the group said no. Also, on COVID-19 there was good discussion on how we act. The meeting was an hour and 20-minutes."

Harding continued, "In the Management Letter there were three-pages showing we are performing well. There were five small recommendations in the letter. It was straight forward. There was not a problem with the audit recommendation from FAR [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] to the broad group." The audit review was accepted unanimously.

Action Item:

Normally the board does not take action on Form 7 (annual deliverables). Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec said, "This is a good representation on how we track with our budget and the function of our subsidiaries. It's good for the board to see, and see if they have any questions." Harding said, "From a banker's perspective I think we are performing well." Approved unanimously.

Action Item:

Bronec addressed the Revenue Deferral Resolution. He said, "This is a very important financial tool. It helps us with

overall rate stabilization. It was put in place many years ago and the audit recommends we refresh."

According to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Wade Pynes, the IRS requires deferred revenue to be allocated or recognized within five years or less of the deferral. He said, "It's really just housekeeping, the numbers do not change." A net amount of \$3M will be added to deferred revenue in 2019. Approved unanimously.

Review and Discussion on 2020 Budget Impact Estimates

NRECA produced a fact sheet on the financial effects of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives across the country. Bronec said, "They set out what is typically a five-percent decline. Same impact for DMEA. We've opted not to readjust our budget, but try to control expenses." The staff is looking at how to manage delinquencies and where they can cut back in the 2020 budget (i.e., training, travel).

Pynes said, "It's speculative. We have yet to see the impact of COVID-19. The caveat, March financials do not reflect COVID. We've put together what we can anticipate. Sales are down seven and a half percent, dollars down about five and a half percent. Small commercial will be hit hardest. Residential may even be up because of the shelter-in-place. Large commercial is 10 percent down." With the July 1st exit from Tri State on the horizon Pynes hopes spending can be cut significantly.

Board member Jock Fleming said, "What we have control over is \$1,492,275 and the margin impact is \$1.8 million."

It was suggested that cost savings can be made in the board's budget. Executive Administrative Assistant Amy Taylor said, "You can save \$3,000 just in mileage at the committee level, with meals \$2,500 for the rest of the year. No annual meeting shirts for the board or staff. Travel could be limited to the person who has the vote. Strategy session this year, if we don't have a mediator. The Christmas party. If we have a couple more Zoom meetings, we could have some savings of \$6,000 in mileage and food for the year.

Summer/Winter school is \$6,000. All the trainings are very important, but we could see quite a bit of savings."

Fleming was not in favor of Zoom meetings. Harding estimated the board cuts until the end of the year could amount to \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Board member Damon Lockhart noted he is doing Zoom for the CREA committee meetings rather than going to Denver every month.

Action Item:

Harding said, "The Payroll Protection Program (PPP) is ever evolving. We've had 60 loans [applications] at our bank."

Bronec said, "It's complicated and at times frustrating processing the eligibility. There's an open door and then the door shuts with all the certifications that would apply. We've talked to Senator Bennett on how cooperatives would be eligible to receive funding. If you take the money and don't need it there are [penalties] up to and including imprisonment for the person signing the documents. We want more clarification. There was a co-op in Montana that got funding and had to call it back. We're keeping in touch with Bennett's office for determination."

The proposed resolution would allow Bronec to make the decision to seek eligibility when DMEA had all the information.

Pynes said, "There is not enough clarity. It's the SBA's (Small Business Administration) interpretation that matters. [At issue is] if you have access to other forms of capital. There is a layer of risk that I'm not comfortable with. We'll continue to monitor it; the situation changes by the day and by the hour. It has more negative risk than positive risk at this time."

A motion was made to approve the resolution; however, Fleming said, "I have a concern of applying for it whether we are eligible or not. If we take money from a small business in our community and they can't pay their electric bill."

Bronec said, "They have two or three rounds. If we get the funds we can use those funds to help with their electric bills."

DIRECTOR JOCK FLEMING BREAKS WITH DMEA BOARD ON PURSUIT OF PPP FUNDS FOR COOP From previous pg

Fleming said, "We end up getting funds and they [small businesses] don't. I do not want to take funds if it's needed for small businesses. I'd rather not apply. Could deferred revenue be used for COVID?"

Pynes said, "That's not what it is intended for, but we could use it."

Board member Chris Hauck said, "By the time we get around to it everyone who has a shot at it will have taken it. We can't make it definitive that if we get the money it would put someone out of work."

Bronc said, "When federal money is available if you don't take it, another community will take it. We want as much as we can secure for our members if it goes across to all organizations."

Fleming said, "I have a personal issue with it."

Board member Ken Watson said, "A very small Mom & Pop company can do it [make application] if they are organized."

Harding said, "This lives in the definition of grey. SBA needs to provide clear guidance, but I don't think that is coming soon. We're not getting timely information.

There are 100 reason why we should apply and 100 reason why we shouldn't apply. It's intended to protect paychecks and keep people on payroll. People who should be applying for it aren't applying."

It was noted that in recent meetings Colorado Governor Jared Polis encouraged everyone in Colorado to apply, or else the money will go to other States.

The proposed resolution passed with a vote of seven yea and Fleming voting nay.

Engineering – Construction – Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair

Hauck said, "We did not meet. We need a meeting in May. The construction work plan is a large item, it's fluid at the moment. And we have the vegetation management which will extend the regular meeting when we report on it."

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair

Martinez was unavailable and the report given by Virginia Harman, COO. She said, "We did not meet in April. On May 7th we'll discuss the annual meeting and the election. We'll see how to hold a virtual

meeting if necessary."

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair

A meeting was scheduled for May 21st with three discussion items — The City of Montrose Franchise Agreement, Water Users Agreement, and strategic planning.

Safety and Occupational Health Report – Virginia Harman, COO

Harman said, "We had a review of the cell phone policy, a presentation to CSR [Customer Sales Reps] on general safety and a Jeopardy game safety meeting. We are working on updating the drug and alcohol policy. There were no accidents and no injuries." Board accepted the Safety and Occupational Health Report.

Financial Report with Variance Report – Wade Pynes, CFO

Pynes said, "This is March finances. There is no effect of COVID until April. Sales are close to what was budgeted. There is a \$99,000 write off of obsolete inventory. A major clean-up of items."

CEO Report – Jasen Bronc, CEO

A written CEO report was submitted. Bronc said, "I don't know where the month of April went. Transitioning from Tri State to Guzman, COVID-19. We are working many hours to make sure things are taken care of. I'm impressed with our employees and how they adapted to work from home. We are getting ready to do refunds for Net Metering Accounts. Some are sizable. There is a total of 776 Net Meter Accounts. I don't feel like we have slowed down, just doing it remotely. All the systems we put in place for the convenience of our customers are working."

DMEA has a list of places people can get help and Hauck suggested adding the Montrose Council of Churches to that list. The board unanimously accepted the CEO report.

April 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report

Bronc said, "I haven't seen a lot of outages. We're tracking better than April last year. So far so good for the first three months of the year."

Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd reported on the exit withdrawal

documents related to Tri State (\$62.5 M and \$26 M), the filings with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and the power supply agreement that takes place July 1st. Hurd said, "The rest of my report is for executive session."

Tri State Report – Kyle Martinez.

Martinez said, "The biggest thing at the moment is FERC firming up their membership, in particular at the State level. We have our membership with Tri State for the next 30 days. Their load declined five percent, but it is nothing too huge at the moment." Martinez reported changes on the Tri State board and the methodology for entities wanting to exit. He said, "They have a model made with you, and a model made without you."

WUES Report (Western United Electrical Association) – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "I sent you the financials. This is the best March they have ever had. I think they are going along as well as they can be. They have glowing financial reports. High margins and capital credits being given back."

Patterson said, "There is always some question as how they pay the sales people and give out high bonuses."

Fleming said, "They have no debt at all and they are building a building in Broomfield and a new building in Utah out of operating margins."

Lockhart said, "The compensation goes throughout a large portion of the workforce, from the top down. It's unique."

Fleming said, "Changing compensation won't change the cost of supplies [to DMEA]."

CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association) – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, "We've had a couple of policy meetings. Legislative and taxes are always a topic. I sent a private email to the board with notes attached. Cory Gardner [Senator] said there is a five to five and a half percent drop in co-ops across the state. We heard that 19 to 23 co-ops did receive PPP. They cancelled the Youth Tour Program. There are a lot of cancellations, still doing some safety things. They passed policy housecleaning type items.

DIRECTOR JOCK FLEMING BREAKS WITH DMEA BOARD ON PURSUIT OF PPP FUNDS FOR COOP From previous pg

Nothing significant on that side of it.”

COVID-19 Impact Data - Virginia Harman, COO

Harman said, “The impact to accounts, kiosk use increased and payments in droboxes. There is an increase in money orders. In the category of being 60 days in arrears there are 350 accounts. We’re not sending out reminders. It could be people under financial strain. Eighty-eight prepay accounts are delinquent. Some people are behind on their payments. We’re facing a few morale issues, some of it is challenging. We are sending reports to the State which was requested by the Department of Energy. We are sending the information they requested. We’ve had trouble getting stuff [personal protection equipment], orders delayed and some of it cancelled.”

Watson suggested reaching out to the city, “They could access county supplies through Chelsea Rosty [at the city].”

Report on Governors’ Energy Committee

– On March 20, 20 Colorado Governor Jared Polis established a Governor’s Council on Economic Stabilization and Growth, which has a membership of about 76 professionals and industry leaders. Under that umbrella is a 16-member Energy Committee chaired by Federico Pena. Pena invited DMEA board member Kyle Martinez to join the Energy Committee. Martinez said, “We make policy recommendations and give policy ideas. We’ve met [virtually] five or six times this month. There are a handful of folks in oil and gas that need help mostly with regulations and the governor can do thing through executive order.” The governor has been responsive to the recommendations offered by the Energy Committee.

Rate Hearing

A small number of members are impacted by the rate hearing and the staff has left messages with all account holders and have received some comments.

Patterson opened the rate hearing for public comment.

Betty Suerth, City of Delta staff, submitted an email letter to DMEA; however, because the board had not yet received it, Suerth gave a brief summary.

Suerth said, “We discovered the rate change last week and found that Devil’s Thumb Golf Course will have a 25 percent increase in charges for the golf course. That will affect our operating funds. There was no notice when we budgeted in 2019 for 2020. I’m requesting giving the city time to submit comments. I can’t speak for city council.”

According to staff, Tri State offered a peak period price for some larger commercial accounts. As DMEA transitions to Guzman Energy, that rate structure is no longer available and will be eliminated. Two DMEA members, Devil’s Thumb Gold Course and West Elk Mine, will see an increase of approximately 25 percent; however, the Delta Correctional facility will have a two percent decrease, or stay at par.

Suerth said, “I suggest in moving forward that the staff work with the city to mitigate the cost associated with the rate hearing.”

Fleming moved to set aside the hearing for a month, “We need to make sure our members are aware of what is going on.” The rate hearing was tabled.

Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

Patterson noted there were several comments sent electronically. Staff explained those comments are generally placed on the website and not read into the regular meetings.

Action Item:

Three people were appointed to the Operation Round Up Board

District 7 – Norma Miller, who lives in Cedaredge.

District 3 - Betsy Marston, who lives in Paonia.

District 5 – Gordon Russell, who lives in Montrose.

Approved unanimously.

Future Meetings:

The next regular DMEA board meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on May 26.

The board took a 10-minute break before going into Executive Session.

Executive Session Agenda

General Counsel Legal Update.

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

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

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

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

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

Dist 7 -

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

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO BUSINESS FILINGS DECLINE, REFLECT CORONAVIRUS SLOWDOWN

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado business filings were undercut by COVID-19 in the first quarter of 2020, according to The Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report published today.

[The Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report](#) is prepared by the Leeds Business Research Division (BRD) at CU Boulder in conjunction with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

The latest report shows 33,848 new corporations, nonprofits and other entities filed initial documents with the Secretary of State's Office in the first quarter of this year.

However, the rapid onset of COVID-19 impacted every facet of Colorado's economy, including new entity filings and renewals.

Due to COVID-19, a decade of job-growth in Colorado has come to an end with a spike in jobless claims of 105,073 for the week ending on April 11. The cumulative total of 301,177 jobless claims during the last five weeks is equivalent to the number of jobless claims over the previous three full years combined. The latest unemployment data shows Colorado's un-

employment rate increased from 2.5% to 4.5% in the month of March alone. Colorado's unemployment rate is now higher than the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.4%. "Before the pandemic, Colorado's economy was outperforming the nation. Now, unemployment more than doubled in a month and many small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open," said Secretary Griswold. "The federal stimulus packages passed are a start, but Congress must take additional action focused on small businesses and everyday people immediately."

Colorado's economy overall was growing, at a slightly slowed down rate from 2019, before the COVID-19.

First quarter dissolution filings increased 6% from the first quarter of 2019. They fell 11.5% from the previous quarter. Trademarks (-15.7%) and trade name (-9.3%) filings also dropped sharply.

Entities in good standing declined 1% from the fourth quarter of 2019.

Colorado's economy in 2020

"Business filings are often an early indicator of job growth," said Rich Wobbekind, senior economist and faculty director of the Leeds Business Research Division.

"The data clearly illustrates the deterioration in Colorado's economic growth caused by this pandemic. How badly its affected will depend on how long this goes on."

Economic data lags the fast-moving real world scenario COVID-19 is presenting. While the most recent U.S. and Colorado gross domestic product (GDP) numbers reflect growth (2.1% and 3.4% year-over-year, respectively), projections for the future predict a double-digit drop. Colorado business confidence for the second quarter of 2020 is at an historic low, according to the latest Leeds Business Confidence Index (LBCI). Though the LBCI does recover somewhat looking to the third quarter of 2020, indicating confidence in the strength of Colorado's economy going into the crisis and its ability to rebound.

Building permits decreased 1.6% year-over-year in February, according to the report, though the value of building permits increased 1.1%.

March numbers aren't out yet, so it's difficult to tell at this point the impact of COVID-19 on construction, but permits are expected to lag in the coming months.

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REOPENING JUST IN TIME FOR SOME, TOO LATE FOR OTHERS

From pg 1



Above, Debbie Blanchard, owner of D'Medici Footwear and Colorado-ology, chats with a customer after her businesses were allowed to welcome shoppers on May 1. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

tourists, but D'Medici Footwear has also suffered. "On days that I should be doing \$2,000 in sales, we were doing \$200," Blanchard said.

As a business owner who has spent years paying sales tax, Blanchard noted that if there is ever a class action lawsuit against the State of Colorado over the closures, "I'm going to be there in a heartbeat."

Small businesses have been completely taken advantage of, she said, adding, "This isn't even about business; it's about liberty."

Now that her businesses are once again able to welcome customers through their

doors, "Come in and shop," Blanchard said. "We're open."

Despite a faithful clientele, the Intrinzik nightclub (512 East Main Street) closed its doors forever during the shutdown. The venue's official announcement expressed thanks to patrons, but said, "...Keeping a venue open during normal times is challenging enough and now that we are facing an unprecedented event, the financial situation is simply too great."

Said Intrinzik Partner Paul Arbogast, "It can take years for a business to be profitable. I feel we were just hitting our stride and we were just about at the 'make it'

point. Without the shutdowns, we would have been around for endless years."

When asked if the shutdown experience changed his attitude toward entrepreneurship, Arbogast said, "There is certainly less chance of risking money and sweat and tears to build a business when you see how easy it is for shutdowns to destroy all you have built."

While Montrose has other places to enjoy an alcoholic beverage, Intrinzik had carved out a niche. Among those who performed there regularly were the performing artists of Western Slope Burlesque. Though the troupe may resurface at Turn of the Century Saloon in the future, "We're sad to lose our first home," Burlesque organizer and instructor Sara Doehrman said. "We had the ability to block off the windows; it was a place for the girls to be safe." For now, even her burlesque classes are on hold. Still, "We're so ready to come out of quarantine to do a show that's fun for people," Doehrman said.

Since closing its doors, the owners of Intrinzik have heard from many who appreciated the quality of the nightclub. "Intrinzik will forever be a source of pride," Arbogast said. "We offered something Montrose needed, and the feedback on our closure has showed us how much we meant to so many people. I have received PM's from bands and individuals expressing how much we meant to them. A few individuals talked about how the positive vibe and music and how we treated everyone as family brought them out of very dark places in their lives. "That means the world to us."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA'S HEART FOR SERVICE, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2020



Phil Ellsworth, VOA Volunteer of the Year for Delta County. Courtesy photo.



Therald Estes, VOA Volunteer of the Year for Montrose County. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL—Volunteers of America and its senior living programs in Western Colorado are proud to announce the winners of its annual Heart for Service - Volunteer of the Year Award for Montrose and Delta Counties. Each year this award is given to outstanding volunteers who have made exceptional contributions to uplifting the lives of vulnerable older adults in one of the organization’s programs. This year’s winners are Therald Estes, a volunteer with Senior Community Meals in the West End (Montrose County) and Phil Ellsworth, a volunteer at Horizons Care Center in Eckert (Delta County).

Each Volunteers of America program that utilizes volunteers made a single nomination based on the volunteer’s

amount of involvement, motivation, and positive impact to the program and residents. Judging was based upon length of service, character, and most importantly do they exemplify the faith-based, mission and vision of Volunteers of America.

The Heart for Service award was created to acknowledge the enormous impact volunteers have on the residents and their families at Volunteers of America programs and senior living communities in Western Colorado.

Mr. Estes has delivered meals to home bound older adults in the West End – Nucla, Naturita, and Norwood - for the past two years.

“No matter what the weather conditions are, Therald never misses a delivery day,” Program Director, Brian Dickerson said. “He volunteers three times a week to help provide meals to 21 older adults who can’t

leave their home. More than a meal delivery, he provides the only human contact and well-being check some of the participants will have.

Therald always has a smile on his face and has never met a stranger; this is why he has such a positive effect on the home bound meal recipients. He is a tremendous asset to the meals program and we appreciate him beyond words.”

Mr. Ellsworth has been a volunteer at Horizons Health Care for approximately 10 years. Phil is a veteran of WW II who served in the Army. He enjoys playing his harmonica for the residents and staff at the long term care facility’s Veterans Day events. Phil is also a Rotarian and writes his own poetry.

Kathy Meehan, Life Enrichment Assistant said, “Phil comes to visit us at Horizons once a week to spread joy in our Memory Support. He has been a consistent, positive light for our residents. Everyone looks forward to his visits and he blesses us with his many talents.”

Volunteers of America is a church without walls. Since 1896, we have answered God’s call to transform lives by reaching and uplifting America’s most vulnerable through our ministry of service. The organization’s healthcare professionals seek to serve the needs of the whole person (mind, body and spirit) by bringing together human services and the church. We provide assistance to people of all faiths. Volunteers of America’s work has been and continues to be motivated by God’s love.

To learn more about Volunteers of America’s programs in Western Colorado and across the country, visit voaseniorking.org. To learn how to become a volunteer, contact a local care navigator at 1-844-862-4968.

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



Recent activity in your neighborhood...

The real estate market in western Colorado is alive and well. Increasing property values and low interest rates are creating a vibrant atmosphere for both sellers and buyers. Here are a few properties that may be of great interest to you.



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TBD Sunshine Road, Montrose
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SALE PENDING

539 S 3rd Street, Montrose
 Beautifully remodeled bungalow!
 Undeniably Charming!
\$245,000



SALE PENDING

1776 S Apple Drive, Delta
 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Irrigation Water
 Meticulous! Views of Grand Mesa!
\$200,000



JUST LISTED!

620 Main Street, Ouray
 Investor Opportunity!
 Only one tenant since the 1960's!
 The US Postal Service.
\$925,000



JUST LISTED!

734 Main Street, Ouray
 Ouray Commercial Historic District
 Zoned C-1, Commercial/Residential
 Owner Carry with 25% Down Payment
\$229,900



JUST SOLD!

1881 Natalia Way, Montrose
 List price \$284,900
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST HOSPICE CARE AND GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICES CONTINUE DURING THE 'SAFER AT HOME' ORDER

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-HopeWest is continuing to provide compassionate hospice care amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the country. We have made all the necessary adaptations of programs and care delivery protocols to assure safe practice for all staff and all patients.

Right now, more than ever we want people to know we are "open" and can respond quickly to assist patients with enrolling in hospice care.

Often people wait to "see their doctor" to get a referral to hospice. Right now, people are not going to the doctor and many are adhering to the "Safer at Home" advice. We want people to know we can come to them. All they need to do is call, 970-241-2212.

Our "access team" is prepared to respond to any call for information regarding hospice care. They can make a visit to the home of the patient and assess whether hospice or one of HopeWest's other programs can be of assistance. If they feel hospice is the best course, they will reach out to the person's health care provider for a formal referral.

The Ferris Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction continues to provide care when it is difficult to care for a hospice patient at home, or a patient needs symptom management and wants to avoid hospitalization.

All safety protocols are in place and the staff are outfitted with personal protective equipment. All visitors, staff and vendors are screened prior to entry, according to

current guidelines.

HopeWest is still responding to patient/family needs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The team of nurses, physicians, counselors, social workers, certified nursing assistants are still delivering care. Some care is being provided "virtually" and telephonically such as the patient care volunteer visits. Patients and families are all called prior to visiting to check for any symptoms the staff need to prepare for.

Grief support services are still being provided through one on one counseling by phone or virtually. Support groups and face to face counseling are on hold for now but may be resuming soon with specific precautions in place as the Western Slope opens.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO OUTDOORS ANNOUNCES \$1MM OPPORTUNITY ZONE INVESTMENT

Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund News release

MONTROSE-The Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund, LP announced April 30 that it will invest \$1MM dollars from its newly-formed, qualified opportunity zone business fund into outdoor industry holding company, Wedge Brands, LLC.

Wedge Brands, LLC is led by Jarka Duba of Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Duba is also the CEO of ZG

Holdings. Prior to ZG Holdings, Jarka ran sporting goods company POC USA until its acquisition by Black Diamond Inc.

Wedge Brands recently added Xcel Wet-suits to its growing portfolio of outdoor industry companies, which also includes ownership in Level Gloves USA, North-wave USA, Koda Nutrition USA, Elevenate

Inc., KAR Direct, and Briko USA.

With the acquisition, Wedge also announced plans to build a 76,000 square foot distribution and third-party logistics center on the Colorado Outdoor campus in Montrose, Colorado. Wedge Brands will be investing an estimated \$14MM in this new facility. Construction is likely to begin in 2020 with a completion date of 2021.

Wedge intends to bring several new jobs to Montrose over the next 10 years.

“We were very encouraged to work with the Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund. The Pearl Fund should be a great partner for Wedge Brands as we continue to grow and acquire brands,” said Jarka Duba.

“Opportunity Zone venture investing is key right now because unlike OZ real estate investing, OZ venture capital can go

right to work into companies that are thriving during these times. No permits, or construction delays are happening with OZ venture investing,” said Brian Phillips, Co-Founder and Partner of The Pearl Fund.

“We are excited about the new brands coming into the Montrose, Colorado Opportunity Zone and are committed to delivering on the promise of OZ to drive attractive tax-free returns for investors, real job creation and a Made in America pride for rural Colorado,” said Doug Drago, General Partner of the Colorado Outdoors Pearl Fund. “Opportunity zones will be the vehicle to bring back economic recovery. The Colorado Outdoors QOZ is one of the first to invest in these turbulent times.” added Drago.

GUNNISON COUNTY “PAY IT FORWARD” COVID-19 LOAN FUND

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-Gunnison County, in partnership with Region 10, established its “Pay It Forward” COVID-19 Business Emergency Loan Fund to help assist businesses located in Gunnison County that have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Approved loan applications submitted by businesses and non-profits will be eligible to receive one-time loans of up to \$7,500. The application process will open April 30, 2020.

Loan payments and interest will be deferred for six months, after which date a low 1.5% fixed interest rate will apply. As an incentive to borrowers, loans repaid within the six-month deferral period will be eligible to receive a 10% loan refund in the form of Butte Bucks or Gunnison Greenbacks. For example, a business borrowing \$7,500 will receive \$750 in either Butte Bucks or Gunnison Greenbacks if the original loan balance is repaid within the first six months. “We know that this is an extremely difficult time for businesses across Gunnison County who have put community above self to help address the public health crisis we face. The goal of this program is to provide short-term emergency assistance to these businesses,” said Gunnison County Commissioner John Messner.

The Pay It Forward loan program was created and funded by Gunnison County with an initial investment of \$250,000, and loans will be managed by Region 10. To inquire about applying for a loan, please contact dan@region10.net



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

17TH ANNUAL MONTROSE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL CANCELLED

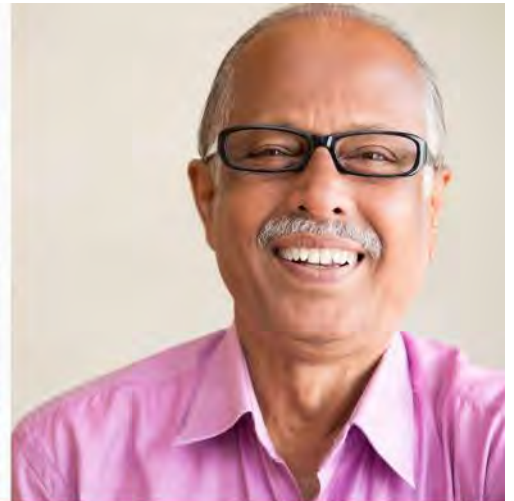
Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-It is with a sad heart that the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) has to announce the 17th Annual Montrose Wine & Food Festival, sponsored by Alpine Bank, scheduled for May 30, 2020 has been cancelled. After much discussion between the Festival committee, the Festival venue and major sponsors, and the BCBGC board and staff (the non-profit who benefits from the Festival), it was determined with the unclear future of what social distancing precautions will be in relation to COVID-19 and the nature of the Festival, which typically draws several hundreds of attendees (with a Festival record of 1,000 people in 2019), there was no feasible way to hold the Festival in May or even determine a viable postponement date. As this Festival is the largest fundraiser of

operational funding for the BCBGC, this decision was not made lightly but the safety of our community is of the utmost importance.

All previously purchased tickets will be refunded. With that, it was previously stated that the Festival's mini-event, A Taste of Colorado, originally set to be held in early April 2020 was postponed to a TBD date this summer. This event has also been officially cancelled. Both events are set to resume in 2021. You can learn more about the festival, including details on past years, at www.montrosewinefestival.com.

As the Festival has been cancelled, we encourage those who are able to donate to do so to help with Club operational costs once it is able to resume programming. As the BCBGC relies solely on grants, donations, and local fundraising to operate (as no financial assistance is provided by Boys & Girls Club of America) a donation in any amount can help the Club to continue to help make great futures start here. You can donate today at <https://www.coloradogives.org/BlackCanyonBoysGirlsClub/overview>. You can find out more about the BCBGC at www.bcbgc.org.



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April 28, 2020

Dear Montrose County Voter,

As we continue to adapt and strengthen ourselves through the recent events of COVID-19, it is important to know we are all in this TOGETHER.

Montrose County Elections will continue to ensure that your vote is counted. As states throughout the country scramble to figure out the mail ballot process, know that Colorado has been a leader in mail ballot elections since 2013 when it became state law that all registered, active voters receive a ballot in the mail.

In the 2020 March Presidential Primary Election, 98% of all votes cast from Montrose County voters were received by mail ballots. For the upcoming June 30th Primary Election, the Secretary of State may require that we eliminate all of our Voter Service and Polling Centers (VSPC) for in-person voting. If they require us to close our VSPC, we will be prepared to comply with their instructions.

In order for Montrose County to have a successful election, it will require responsibility and diligence from everyone involved, including all of its 29,400+ registered voters. We want to ensure everyone receives their ballot in the mail and is given the opportunity to participate in the election process. Please take the following actions to ensure you receive your ballot in a timely manner.

- Go to www.govotecolorado.gov to register to vote, check the status of your voter record and/or make any necessary changes that may be needed.
 - Once on the site, click "Find my Registration" to get started.
 - Make sure your registration status is ACTIVE. Inactive voters are eligible to vote, but will not automatically receive a ballot in the mail. Contact our office for clarification.
 - Check your registration address. Most people will receive their ballot at their place of residence. If you plan to be out of town or will not be at your place of residence when ballots are mailed, update your mailing address so you receive your ballot at your location.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Ballots are NOT forwardable. If you have a forwarding address with the USPS, your ballot will be returned to our office as undeliverable.
 - Remove a mailing address if it is no longer valid or has expired.
 - Check your Party Affiliation to make sure you receive the correct ballot style. For PRIMARY elections, such as the upcoming June Election, you will only be able to vote on *your* party's ballot. Unaffiliated voters will receive both major party ballots if you have not selected a party preference, however, you will only be eligible to vote one (1).
 - **IMPORTANT:** Make any necessary changes as soon as you are able, it may be too late for you to change your affiliation by the time you receive your ballot.
- Visit www.montrosecounty.net/elections periodically for upcoming important election dates and information.
- Please contact our office by one of the following methods if you have ANY questions.
 - Phone: 970-249-3362 ext. 3
 - Email: elections@montrosecounty.net
 - Mail: 320 South 1st Street, Room 103, Montrose, CO 81401

Together we will continue to show the rest of the country how mail ballot elections are successfully conducted. Together we live, together we survive, and together we vote!

Thank you,

Montrose County Elections Team

Tressa Guynes, Clerk & Recorder

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET'S NOT INCREASE CORONAVIRUS CASES IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Dear Editor:

As of Saturday, Montrose County had 102 reported cases and eleven deaths. Our neighbor, Mesa County, has forty-seven reported cases and no fatalities. What are we doing wrong? Second only to California, our state stands second in the West with the number of Coronavirus cases.

First, I am saddened by the way our current administration is handling the pandemic. Pushing a malarial drug as a cure with no testing as to its effects. Placing blame on everyone else when basically nothing was done in the month of February to address the crisis. Downplaying the severity of this virus. Then actually saying we should study the use of disinfectants being administered internally into one's body? All of this is nonsense.

Added to that is a president who refuses to set a positive example for the American people. He stands up at a press conference and says the CDC recommends wearing masks and keeping a minimum six-foot physical distance from other people. Then he follows up by saying that he won't wear a mask.

The vice-president visited the Mayo Clinic and was the ONLY one not wearing a mask. Why? He said he gets tested weekly and doesn't think he can infect anyone. He also said he wanted to be able to talk to people and "look them in the eye." Masks cover your mouth and nose, they don't cover your eyes. All Pence had to do was look around him and say, "Why don't you give me mask please." It's amazing. If Trump or Pence goes to a factory or coal mine, what do they always put on? A hard hat. They want to look just like the workers. But they can't wear a mask and support our health care workers?

Then I went from saddened to sickened. I believe in the First Amendment allowing for free speech. But when I saw the news

coverage of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing being overrun by protesters, with no social distancing and the majority unmasked, I was appalled. Then I saw that several of the protesters came armed with an AR-15 or other assault-type rifle, and I became angry. It is acceptable to voice your views. But there is no reason to voice your views while carrying a weapon, other than solely to intimidate.

A photo shows Michigan State Police officers lined up, wearing masks, being screamed at, inches from their faces, by unmasked protesters. As the caption on the photo read, "And just like that, Blue lives didn't matter anymore." And did Trump do anything to diffuse the situation? Just like at Charlottesville with the white supremacist rally, Trump tweeted about the armed Michigan protesters, "These are very good people, but they are angry." Semantics aside, Trump posting that the states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia needed to be "Liberated" only serves to incite these protesters.

Does any of us really like the "Stay-At-Home", or now "Safe-At-Home" orders? Do we enjoy wearing masks when we go shopping for groceries, many of which are in dwindling supply. Do we enjoy having take-out at restaurants that we once enjoyed dining in with family and friends? Do we miss the movie theater, gathering together in a park or an outdoor concert?

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness does not mean that you can take away the rights of others for your personal gain. Freedom of religion is not being prohibited. You can still believe and worship. You don't need to be in a building, shared by others, to practice your religion. As my wife said, if you choose to not wear sunscreen, you are not affecting other people. But if you refuse to wear a mask while shopping, or fail to physically distance

yourself from others, you may be affecting or even infecting others.

The mayor of Stillwater, Oklahoma recently rescinded a declaration which required customers to wear face masks inside businesses. He did not want to, but customers were threatening physical violence and spouting verbal abuse on employees. He changed his order to read that it is "strongly recommended" that customers wear masks. How is having to wear a mask, inside a store where all the employees are wearing masks, unconstitutional? Our freedom comes with responsibilities. And now the ultimate slap in the face by our president - as we avoid travel, as we isolate and stay "Safe-At-Home" - he can't stand the "cabin fever" and heads off to Camp David. Additionally he now is planning a trip to Arizona, another to Ohio, and to attend a fireworks display at Mt. Rushmore. As of Saturday, there are over 1.1 million cases of Coronavirus in the United States. There are almost 67,000 deaths. That is more than all the names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. And he hasn't shown an ounce of sympathy, empathy, or concern for those who have been affected directly with the Coronavirus; neither the victims nor their families.

Yes, we are in a rural area and we are blessed with our surrounding public lands where we can get out and breathe. But consider the workers at our grocery stores, pharmacies, Target and Walmart, delivery people, and most of all our health care providers.

Be respectful. Be safe, not just for you and your family, but for all of those in our community. Respect everyone's life, their liberty, and their pursuit of happiness and let's not increase our numbers in Montrose County.

Sincerely,

Jon Sering, Montrose



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ISSUE 261 May 4, 2020

ART & SOL

BAWDY HOUSES AND BOOZE PARLORS

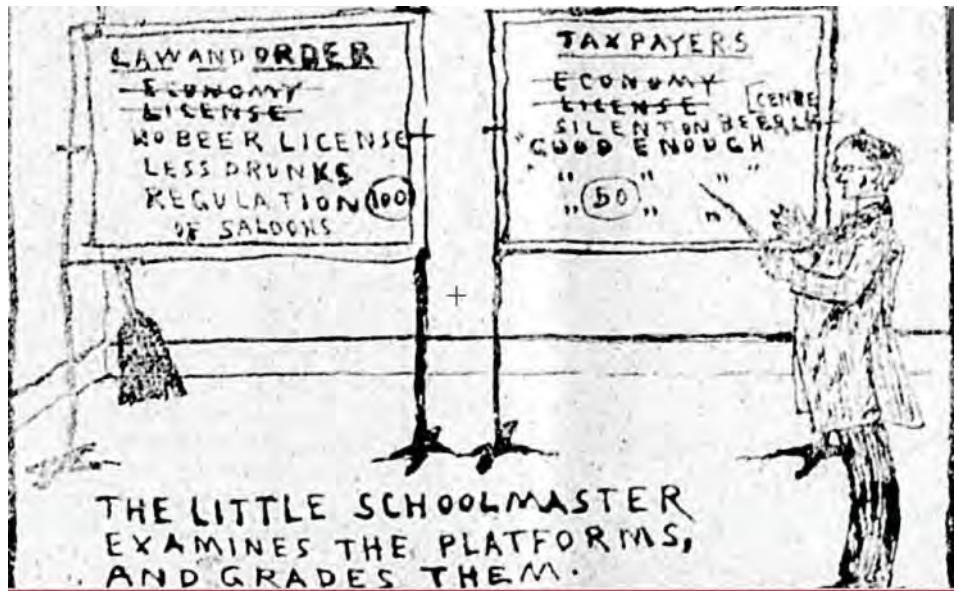
By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-What Shall We Do About It?
That was the heading for a scathing editorial that appeared in the January 21, 1899 edition of the *Montrose Enterprise*.

As Montrose welcomed the last year of the 19th century, they found themselves building a community that some envisioned as being better if they could only rid themselves of the businesses that the writer of the editorial described as "businesses of drunkard making and prostitute breeding."

The debate seems to have started with a proposal to license businesses that sold alcoholic beverages. Some of those businesses also were considered to be "houses of ill repute." They were also described as 'sporting houses," "booze parlors" and "bawdy houses."

Both prominent newspapers of the time, *The Montrose Press* and the *Montrose Enterprise* were adamantly against licensing the business engaged in these activities. The assertion was that, by issuing liquor licenses, the city was actually endorsing the other activities. The *Enterprise* editorial further asked, "Shall we continue to use our influence and ballots to create conditions the legitimate and natural re-



An editorial cartoon that appeared in the March 31, 1905 edition of The Montrose Enterprise showed the political divide in Montrose in regard to liquor licensing and regulation of saloons. Source: Colorado Historic Newspapers

sult of which is treason to government, and a breeding place for notorious liars?"
The *Montrose Press*, in a similar editorial written by Abe Roberts, the owner and editor at the time, assailed the contingent that wanted to, in the editor's opinion, create income at the expense of morals.

He wrote, in part: "It can be clearly shown beyond a possibility of doubt that the saloon element, the liquor seller, the gambler, the prostitute and the whole hanger-on rabble that make up this element, bring no wealth into the community..." He contended that the closure of saloons in

Continued next pg

BAWDY HOUSES AND BOOZE PARLORS

From previous pg

Delta resulted in many people choosing to settle there rather than in Montrose.

Ultimately, the city government went ahead with the licensing and passed an ordinance that, in concurrence with state law, allowed a municipality to control those 'certain' businesses within the town and a three-mile radius around the town. But the perceived problem did not go away; in fact it held for many more years and was the focus of several election campaigns. In August of 1904, a woman who was planning on opening a business that appeared to some as being a bawdy house, applied for a license to sell beer. A petition was started to prevent both the city from issuing the license and the woman from opening her business. In fact, the *Montrose Press* suggested that the town board "...authorize the woman to move on."

The municipal election of 1905 once again saw the liquor sales and related activities as a central issue. John Gray was running for mayor and was lambasted for not taking a stand. Ads and comments in both papers separated the two opposing contingents as the Law and Order Party and the Taxpayers Party. The so-called Taxpayers party included Gray. The Law and Order Party claimed that Gray and his followers were walking side-by-side with those who wanted to continue licensing solely for the money it might generate. When he was elected in April of 1905, the *Enterprise* opined, "The selection places John Gray in a peculiar position elected by those who most profit by slack enforcement of the laws and most heavily backed by the saloon element..." The paper claimed Gray had promised a cleaner, healthier Montrose and would be obligated to drive out the bawdy houses, or revoke beer licenses in residential sections of the town.

Gray did lead his council to deny a beer

license to Carrie Linell, who was purportedly running a bawdy house. For nearly a year Linell was repeatedly cited for violating the ordinance, but she simply paid the customary \$50 fine and went on with her business. In February of 1906 Marshal Tillery gave notice to Linell that she had to close her business and dismiss her girls and get rid of all appurtenances of the business. She cancelled a contract with a local builder who was to build a brick addition to her establishment, but evidently did not actually quit. Just one month later Linell was subject to a complaint filed with District Attorney Hugo Selig. She was arrested and faced five charges relating to her violations of the city ordinance and state laws.

While Linell was evidently put out of business, similar business continued to crop up. In March of 1907, with another election coming up, the editorials and advertisements focused on the issue again, calling for the abolishment of private bawdy houses in the city and the suppression of gambling, wine rooms and slot machines. A notice for a non-partisan mass convention of voters was printed in both newspapers for the purpose of garnering support for getting rid of certain businesses and their supporters. As a result of that election, George Gilbert replaced John Gray as mayor.

In January of 1909 Mrs. Anna Scanlon purchased a piece of property from the Devore family. Her stated intention prior to the purchase was to use the property as a rooming house, but several citizens claimed her real intention was to open a sporting house. The building on the property was victim to an unexplained fire just one day after the purchase was completed. Two days after the Scanlon property incident, the *Montrose Press* reported that Margaret Bond opened a sporting house on the Rose Bennett property on North

First Street. The business was to be presided over by Irish Ann, a person of some notorious fame from Lake City.

In November of 1910, John Gray, who was then the Deputy District Attorney, issued a statement that the bawdy house, located in what was then Haskill Park (later became Arcadia Park) would be dealt with immediately upon complaint. Less than two weeks later, the Montrose authorities provided the complaint and the house was closed.

Chief Cooper of the Montrose Police Department told news people that he also intended to take action against a similar business being operated in the southeast part of the city.

Still, the problem did not go away. In July of 1911 Mayor J. F. Kyle demeaned the city council publicly, calling them "Mollycoddles," after they declined to support police action and even ordered the reduction of some fines imposed against two young men charged with attending a house of prostitution. More than a year later, the papers were still referring to the problem of prostitution and excessive alcohol abuses.

In 1912 there was a surge of prosecution of people on charges relating to prostitution. On September 19, 1912 the *Montrose Daily Press* reprinted an article that appeared in a Denver newspaper, calling attention to the prostitution problem in Denver and in the state.

The article called for a more religious solution to the problem and promoted higher wages for shop girls and young women. In effect, the article was a pure example of a hellfire and damnation sermon.

Up until the United States entry into World War I, local news frequently had references to the problem.

The war, however, did not rid the problem, it only changed the focus of the news.

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LEND A HAND TO HISTORY-SUPPORT YOUR MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Support efforts to preserve local history, by helping to raise funds at this challenging time for the Montrose County Historical Museum. Though the Museum itself remains closed, Museum Director Sally Johnson is now offering curbside service for those who want to enjoy a good book. The Museum is promoting the Montrose classic, *“Montrose Colorado: Take a Closer Look: A Walking Tour Guide,”* by Cathleen M. Norman and Marilyn S. Cox (Preservation Publishing 2006).

“It’s a good book to tote around and visit a neighborhood during this time of social distancing,” Johnson said. “I will be glad to meet them and give them their books.” People can call the Museum, or order online.

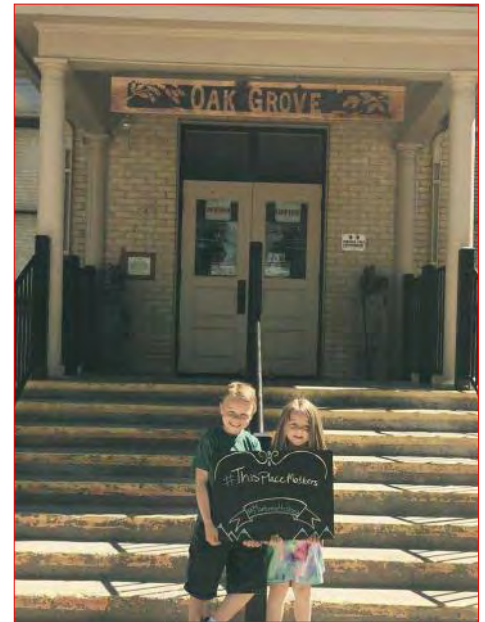
Because May is Historic Preservation Month, local kids are invited to enter a poster contest for “This Place Matters,” (see sidebar). “Take that snapshot, create a poster, and tag it,” Johnson said.

The Museum now has a fundraising cam-

paign on Facebook, and the Board of Directors is considering a GoFundme page as well. A new fundraising campaign is underway entitled, “Before and After,” with historic photos and up-to-date photos of landmark Montrose buildings by Dick Bushmiaer.

Finally, the Annual Museum Yard Sale has been postponed due to the statewide COVID-19 closures. Donations are welcome. “We’re accepting anything except electronics and clothes,” Johnson said. Donors can call the museum ahead of time for item drop-off.

As posted on the Museum’s Facebook page, “The Museum’s monthly operating expenses are still due, unfortunately without any of our normal sources of income. Please consider making a donation to the Historical Society and the Museum. We’d like to be here for you and able to continue meeting these challenges. If you would like to be one of our special supporters during these tough times, you can send us a check to MCHS P.O. Box 1882, Montrose, Co 81402 or by PayPal on our website www.montrosehistory.org.”



Courtesy photo Sally Johnson.

The Montrose County Historical Museum phone number is 970.249.2085. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/montrosehistoricalmuseum>.

MAY IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH-THIS PLACE MATTERS!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter. *This Place Matters* is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities, and the Montrose County Historical Society is excited to highlight the places that matter most to **YOU!** Preservation Month is the perfect time to share it with the world. The Montrose County Historical Society invites the community of Montrose to accept a challenge in putting on our Montrose some special places we love. It’s easy to share your favorite place in Montrose using these 3 steps. . .

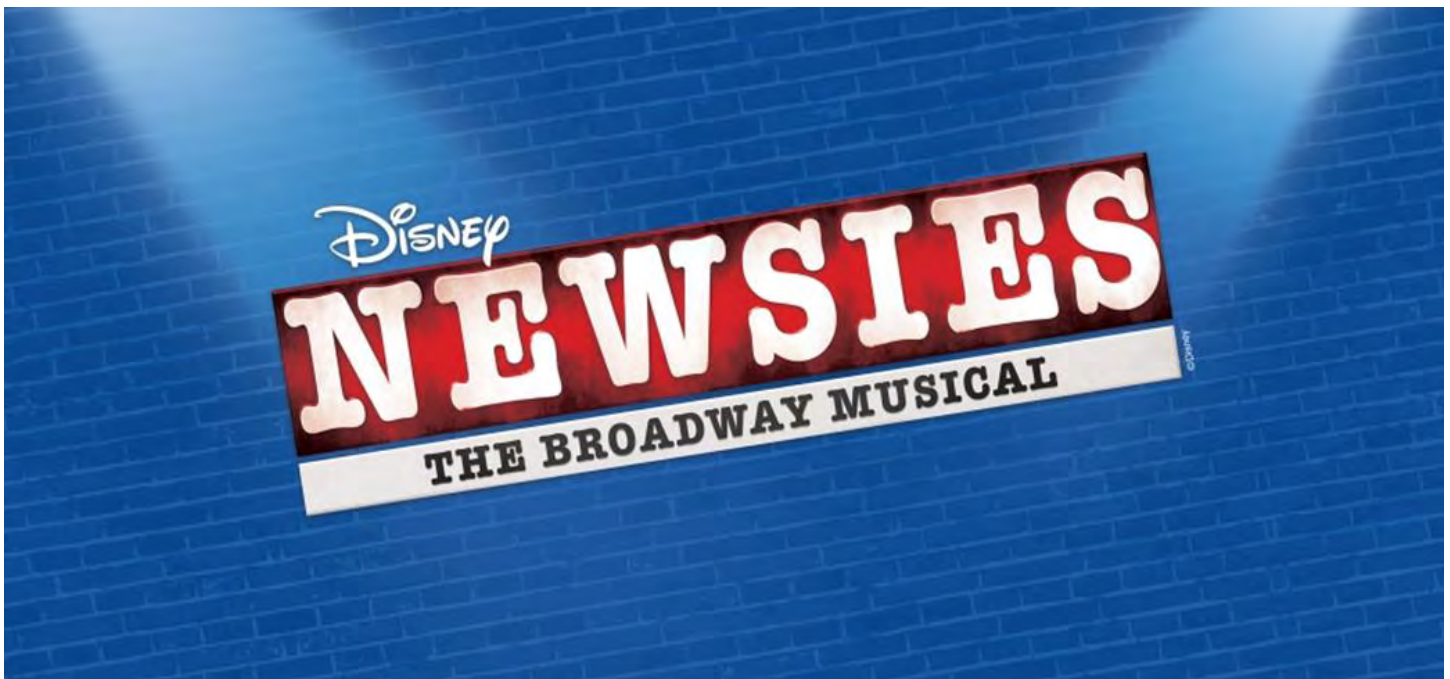
#1 Pick your Place – Any structure in Montrose County that holds a special place in your heart and you feel it’s important to preserve.

#2 Create your Sign –

#3 Snap a Photo – Take a photo (selfies are totally OK) with your sign that clearly showcases the place that matters to you. Share your photos on social media. As you spread the word about Preservation Month, make sure to use the #ThisPlaceMatters and #MontroseHistory hashtags.

This campaign isn’t just about photography, after all. It’s about telling the stories of the places we can’t live without. Feel free to share the reasons your special place matters to you in your posts. Through *This Place*

Matters, we hope to encourage and inspire an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation in all of our lives that we hope lasts far beyond the month of May. We encourage you to contact the Montrose County Historical Museum to learn more about the historical significance of the places that matter most to you in Montrose. We’re ready to help you shine a spotlight on all the special places in Montrose County that are important within our community! For more information on the “*This Place Matters*” campaign, call the Montrose County Historical Museum at (970) 249-2085 or visit www.savingplaces.org/thisplacematters.



AUDITIONS AT MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

Disney Newsies, The Broadway Musical

By Lisa Rediger
Theatre Manager

MONTROSE-I can't remember the exact time and place I first saw *Newsies*, but there is a reel that whirrs in my head, flashing scenes from the 1992 film with Christian Bale. I CAN remember the way I felt as the band of misfits, with single dream, sang and danced their way into becoming one of my favorite musicals. I was born with theatre in my blood. Dressing up, make-believe, and playing pretend were my childhood favorites. I spent recesses at Menoken School, my zippered cape perched on my waist-becoming a skirt - so I could be Caroline Ingalls from *Little House on the Prairie*. As an 11-year-old, stretched out on the floor, in front of our TV in Goulburn, Australia, I saw my first musical. My life was changed. Acting, singing, dancing, costumes - all in one movie! *The Sound of Music* became my inspiration for creativity. I knew every word to every song and sang them incessantly. We had a marvelous staircase that lent itself to every Von Trapp family imagination. My young adulthood was busy with the dream of marriage and family, but in 2002, when my youngest was 2 years old, I was cast as Sister Margareta in

The Sound of Music. I stood on the stage, and sang "How Do Solve a Problem Like Maria?" Even as I write this, the absolute joy of that experience brings tears to my eyes.

My children had no chance of escaping musical theatre exposure! Grandma Kate shared her video of the *Newsies* movie, and we were hooked. Based on a true story, *Newsies* is based on the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899. The New York newsies - boys and girls who sold newspapers on the street - went up against two newspaper publishers, to fight for the chance to earn a livable wage. The unforgettable music and rousing dance numbers inspired our two daughters, and their ten girl cousins, and in 2015, the North Carolina cousins invited Colorado cousins to see *Newsies the Broadway Musical* in Charlotte. We heard about it in detail: the sets, the music, the actors, the dancing, the story, and the harmonies - it was everything they hoped it would be. In the spring of 2017, my parents, sister, sister-in-law and 5 grandchildren took up a row at the Buell and Grandma Kate's dream came true of seeing *Newsies, The Broadway Musical*.

A new dream was born in me; to bring

Newsies to Magic Circle Theatre. I've watched and waited for performance rights to be available to non- professional theatres. Now the time has come and I am thrilled to be directing, and opening Magic Circle Players 2020/2021 Season with *Disney Newsies, The Broadway Musical*.

Our production team has been dreaming, preparing and planning, and we are excited to invite the community to be part of this incredible production. Our scheduled opening is September 2020, and of course is dependent upon County and State mandates and the health of our nation. We have auditions scheduled May 26 & 27, and will follow all guidelines for auditions and rehearsals.

Audition packets can be found online at magiccircleplayers.com or in a drop box at the front door of the theatre. This is a large cast, and while we have a need for many young men, to fill singing and dancing roles, there are many other roles available. We will be casting female and male actors of varying ages, both singing/ dancing roles, as well as some non-singing/ non- dancing roles.

Come Audition With Us!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MORE THAN 1,500 TUNE IN FOR MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS LIVE STREAM

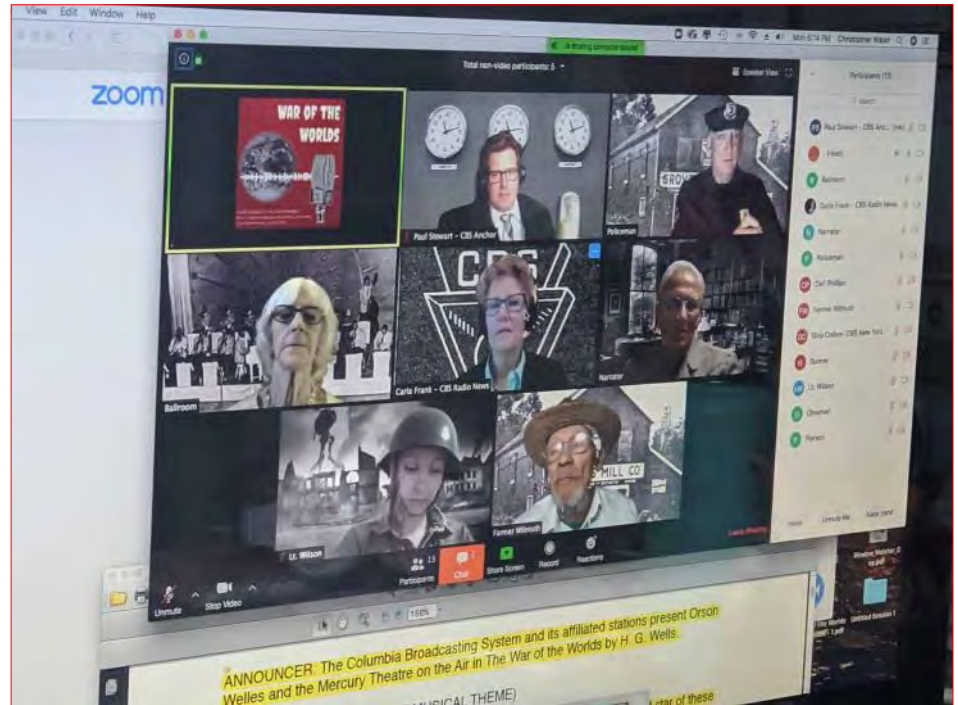
Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Magic Circle Players cast of "War of the Worlds" takes a group bow after live streaming the infamous 1938 radio play.

More than 1,500 viewers tuned in to either the live performance or the recorded production on Facebook. According to Director Casey Dukeman, the performance raised more than \$450 in donations.

"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."

Courtesy photo



MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING UPDATE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society general meetings will resume when the state, county and city guidelines for meetings and gatherings for more than 10 people are restored. Due to the space constraints, society membership and attendees at the meetings representing the most venerable age groups, the board of directors has taken this action. Public notice will be given just as soon as it is considered safe for larger groups to congregate.

UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS MORE THAN \$3.1M IN GRANTS FOR WORLD WAR II JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service is pleased to announce more than \$3.1 million in Japanese American Confinement Sites grants that will fund preservation, restoration and education projects throughout the country. The 22 projects funded will help tell the stories of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the nation of Japan in 1941.

“These grants help to preserve an important piece of our nation’s history, educating generations of visitors about the injustice of the World War II confinement of Japanese Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

“The National Park Service is dedicated to the preservation and protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources across the United States,” said David Vela, National Park Service Deputy Director. “Through these projects, we have the honor of educating our visitors about the strength and perseverance of the Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.”

“The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula does an incredible job of telling the story of our nation and Montana’s history,” said Montana Senator Steve Daines. “I’m glad to have supported this project and look forward to seeing it complete.”

“Located in Granada, Colorado, Amache serves as a stark reminder of a dark moment in our country’s history,” said Colo-

rado Senator Cory Gardner. “I’m grateful for the continued support from the National Park Service, and the Coloradans they partner with, which help ensure the site is preserved so we can remember the grave injustice committed against Japanese Americans during World War II and never repeat our mistakes from the past.”

“The internment of Japanese Americans was one of the most shameful times in American history. By funding preservation projects like these we can help ensure future generations will always remember in the hopes that we will never again treat Americans in this reprehensible way,” said California Congressman Jim Costa.

Japanese American Confinement Sites grants may be awarded to projects associated with the 10 War Relocation Authority centers established in 1942 and more than 40 additional confinement sites. The program’s mission is to teach future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement of Japanese Americans and to inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law. Successful project proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or “in-kind” contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

Over the past 11 years, the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program has supported a wide range of successful projects, including a memorial and exhibit to tell the lesser-known stories of Japanese Americans who were forced to leave their homes in Juneau, and nearby



The Amache incarceration site in Colorado, Dec. 12, 1942. Among the new grant projects, Colorado Preservation, Inc., will develop interpretive elements at the site to provide visitors with a better understanding of Japanese American incarcerated living conditions during World War II. Courtesy photo.

Alaskan communities during the war; the restoration of headstones and monuments at the Rohwer cemetery in Arkansas; and the construction of visitors centers in Utah and Wyoming to tell the history of the Topaz and Heart Mountain incarceration sites and the larger, national story of Japanese American World War II incarceration.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program in 2006, authorizing a total of \$38 million in funding for the life of the program. Today’s announcement brings the current award total to more than \$32 million.

A full list of the 22 new projects selected to receive funds in FY 2020 are identified in the table below. For more details about these projects, visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/internment/index.htm>.

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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-

May 17-Montrose County School District RE-1J will celebrate the Class of 2020 with vehicular procession drive-through commencement events on Sunday, May 17 (Noon at Olathe High School and 2 PM at Montrose High School) in lieu of previously planned August ceremonies.

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/>

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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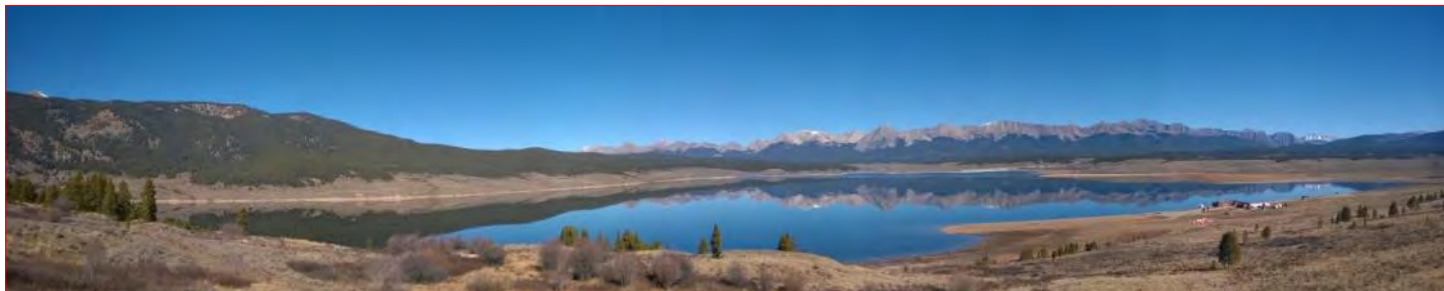
Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Beautiful Taylor Park...



"It was a calm, bluebird sky reflecting a Colorado panorama that makes you catch your breath and smile," Photographer Deb Reimann said, of this photo she snapped several years ago at beautiful Taylor Park.

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