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the Montrose Mirror

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© Issue No. 397 Oct. 5, 2020

AS NEED EXPLODES IN MONTROSE COMMUNITY, THE SHEPHERD'S HAND SEES VOLUNTEER SHORTAGE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On any given night there are homeless people in Montrose, seeking shelter where they can. They may not be who you think they are, however. According to one local expert, the most visible “homeless” people are often those who are just passing through, stopping to panhandle along the way. The ones you may not notice are those who have been here all along, local residents quietly taking shelter where they can, often with children.

“There are between 125 and 175 homeless people in this community,” said Garey Martinez, founder of the Shepherd’s Hand non-profit. “Montrose is a community that has a large homeless population. People need to be aware that there is a real issue in this community with homelessness and those at risk being out in

[Continued pg 2](#)



Volunteer/Board Member Carolyn Hickerson and Shepherd's Hand Chair Garey Martinez in the non-profit's pantry. Courtesy photo Shepherd's Hand.

KEEPING FAITH: AREA PASTORS DISCUSS IMPACTS OF COVID-19

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE In the midst of COVID-19, temperature checks are the norm for a determining a healthy community. Similarly, the temperature and pulse of the local church is needed for a healthy, faith-based community.

Church on the Hill, Pastor Mike Lundberg

Pastor Mike Lundberg reported the attendance for his congregation is on the rebound. He said,

“Yes, we’re almost up to where we were before COVID. We may still be down 10 percent. Some people fear catching COVID and they’re just not comfortable with getting together.”

In March churches were severely limited to the number of people who could meet in a group. Lundberg said, “We had [in-person] worship services upstairs and live-streamed the service

[Continued pg 28](#)



A mask cannot silence the Word of God. Photo by Gail Marvel.

in this issue

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

[Bob Cox on the century old influenza epidemic!](#)

[A Fresh Point of View with Jack Switzer!](#)

[Letters to the Editor; Regional News Briefs!](#)

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND SEES VOLUNTEER SHORTAGE From pg 1



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the elements."

Though outdoor temperatures in the low 40's may not seem so cold to those who are housed, "If you are out in the middle of the night, that's cold," Martinez said. "People are coming in for sleeping bags and tents."

In January of 2020, Shepherd's Hand was buying and distributing 2,500 to 3,000 lbs of food per week. Today, the non-profit is distributing 5,500 to 6,000 lbs of food per week. Between the closure of the Russell Stover Candy Factory and loss of service industry jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local community is struggling, Martinez said. "It's not just the homeless and low-income people, it's everybody," he noted. In addition to helping to feed hungry locals year-round, Martinez works with the non-profit Light-house Shelter during the winter months, helping to feed shelter guests. "We are looking to open November 1," he said. "That's just a few weeks away." Last year the shelter dorm opened early to accommodate demand, he said. This season, the bed count may be reduced due to COVID-19. Although financial donations have mostly kept pace with need, "We are struggling when it comes to volunteers," Martinez said, noting that many of those who volunteered with the Shepherd's Hand prior to the pandemic were senior citizens, a high risk group for COVID-19. "We always need financial assistance, but we have a critical need for volunteers right now," he said. "And we can always use donations of tents and sleeping bags."

To learn more or to obtain food or services, contact the Shepherd's Hand online by emailing shepherdshandmontrose@gmail.com, or call 970-433-3690.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PRESENTS ASK AN ATTORNEY OCT. 26-30

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The 7th Judicial District is pleased to announce that as part of the Colorado Judicial Branch's Pro Bono Week, it will be facilitating a local Ask-An-Attorney event during the week of Oct. 26-30, 2020. Participants will be matched with a local attorney who specializes in their case type for a free consultation. Availability may be limited, so participants are encouraged to register early. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, consults will be limited to telephone or online formats. To register or for additional information please call 970.252.4312.



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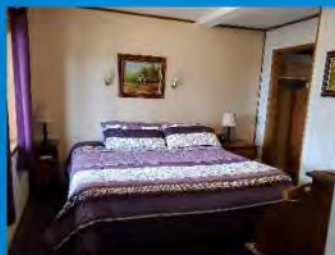
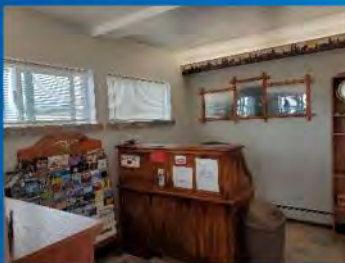
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FALL CLINICS RECOGNIZE FIRST RESPONDERS AS LOCAL HEROES



Photo caption: (From left to right) Fire Chief Tad Rowan, Montrose Fire Protection District, Undersheriff George Jackson, and Montrose Police Dept. Chief Blaine Hall. Courtesy photo.

wan, Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard (represented by Undersheriff George Jackson), and Montrose Police Dept. Chief Blaine Hall accepted an award from the Fall Clinics Committee on behalf of all first responders.

The award, given last Friday at the Fall Clinics event, recognizes first responders for their willingness to put themselves at risk to help others. With the emergence of COVID-19 in the community, the committee determined first responders were the appropriate award-ees given their dedication to their community through

selfless acts.

According to the Fall Clinics Committee, the annual award "honors individuals in

our community who provide outstanding service to the Hospital and/or community." Last year's award went to Ken Jenks, a retired physician assistant who practiced for more than 15 years at the Basin Clinic in Naturita.

The Fall Clinics is an annual educational conference for medical professionals, attracting providers both local and out of state. Topics for this year's event included presentations on medical marijuana, sleep apnea, structural heart disease, and various other clinical topics. In order to allow for social distancing, the number of in-person attendees were limited. Certain sessions were available online to help improve access for those who could not be at the event in person. The Fall Clinics event strives to improve physician competence and performance, patient outcomes, and personal and population health in the community.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — In recognition of their service to our community, Fire Chief Tad Ro-

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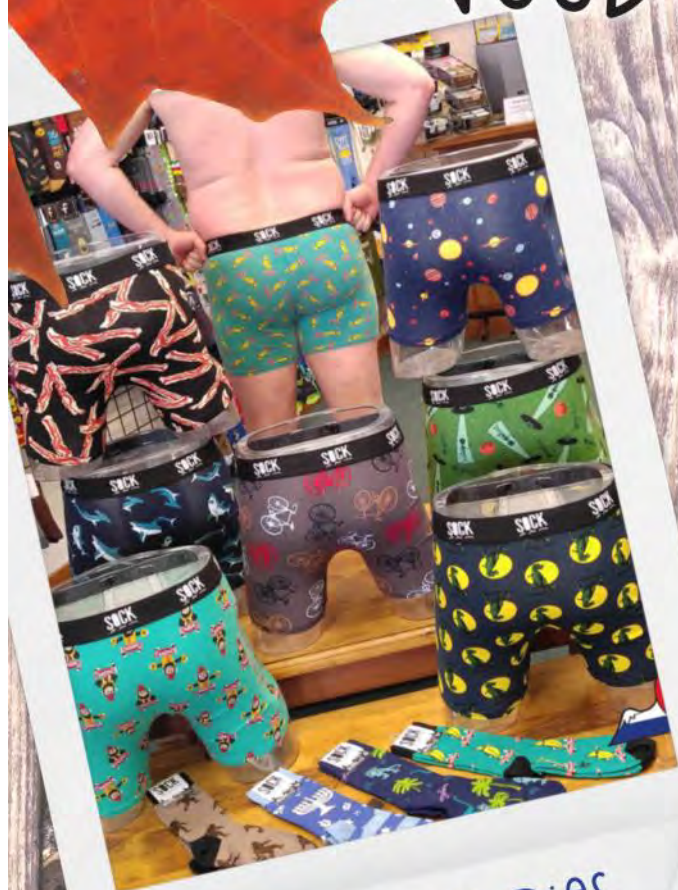
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

INITIAL REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BELOW 5,000 FOR WEEK ENDING SEPT. 26

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- Today the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported that 4,840 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending Sept. 26. There were also 2,413 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Since mid-March, a total of 563,465 regular unemployment initial claims have been filed and a grand total of 725,919 claims, including federal PUA benefits.*

For the week ending September 19th, a combined total of 238,326 continued claims were filed, including 143,177 from regular UI, 64,066 from PUA, and 31,083 from Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.**

The Department also announced that

through the week ending September 26th it paid a total of \$311 million in Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) unemployment benefits. LWA is a federally-funded program that provides up to six weeks of additional benefits to all claimants who were eligible for unemployment benefits for the weeks July 26 - September 5th and who were eligible for at least \$100/week in unemployment. Regular UI claimants must certify by Saturday, October 10th to receive these benefits and will not receive LWA payments without required federal certification that their unemployment status was due to Covid-19. Claimants can certify by phone or online at coloradoui.gov.

Benefits paid since March 29:

Regular UI \$1.96 Billion

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

(gig workers/self-employed) \$639.8 Million

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(\$600/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants) \$2.46 Billion

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation

(extends unemployment benefits by up to 13 weeks) \$67.5 Million

State Extended Benefits

(extends unemployment benefits an additional 13 weeks) \$513,700

Lost Wages Assistance

(\$300/weekly UI benefits to eligible claimants) \$311.0 Million

Total \$5.44 Billion

Claims by industry and benefits paid

Benefits paid: Regular UI

Week ending Sept. 26: \$54.6 Million

Top 10 industries with highest initial claims for week ending September 12th
#1 Construction: 435 (12.5% of claims for week)

#2 Manufacturing: 416 (12.0%)

#3 Healthcare and Social Assistance: 360 (10.3%)

#4 Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services: 342 (9.8%)

#5 Retail Trade: 341 (9.8%)

#6 Accommodation and Food Services: 325 (9.3%)

#7 Professional and Technical Services: 257 (7.4%)

#8 Transportation and Warehousing: 137 (3.9%)

#9 Wholesale Trade: 126 (3.6%)

#10 Education Services: 116 (3.3%)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ONE IN MHS COHORT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Oct. 1, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) determined that an individual in a Montrose High School (MHS) scheduling cohort tested positive for COVID-19. At this time, MCSD has notified anyone affected and Montrose County Public Health (MCPH) will provide testing to all students and staff connected to that cohort.

As a result of contact tracing this event, the CRT confirmed that twelve students and one staff member in an MHS Cohort B class section meet the definition of close contact and therefore need to seek testing and quarantine through Oct. 11.

MCSD and MCPH reminds the community that quarantined individuals must stay home and not co-mingle with members of other classroom cohorts. If individuals disrupt the cohort system by interacting with individuals who are required to quarantine, schools are at a much greater risk of campus-wide closures.

As with all MCSD community COVID-19 communications, anyone affected by this event will have already been contacted prior to publication.

COUNCIL TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR YOUTH COUNCIL, HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Both sessions will be held in a "hybrid" format, with council and key staff in chambers and the public and media allowed to attend virtually.

WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_mKBy-A1EQausdJUL6HZ70g. Additional meeting access details are available at the end of the agenda. The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website, www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council will interview Youth Council applicant Harrison Hall, and Historic Preservation Commission applicants Kenneth Huff, Patrick Dwyer, and John Elloe.

Council will discuss the Adamson Family Trust #1 Gap Parcel Disposal. Items to be considered at upcoming City work sessions and meetings include:
Oct. 19-Workforce housing incentives report;

Oct. 20-Youth Council appointments, Historic Preservation Commission appointments;

Nov. 3-New hotel and restaurant liquor license application, Sidelines Sports Bar, first reading of Budget ordinance;

Nov. 30-Planning Commission applicant interviews;

Dec.15-Planning commission appointments.

A report from the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning is included in the work session packet.

REGULAR MEETING

Council will issue the 2020 Mayor's Water Challenge Announcement.

YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

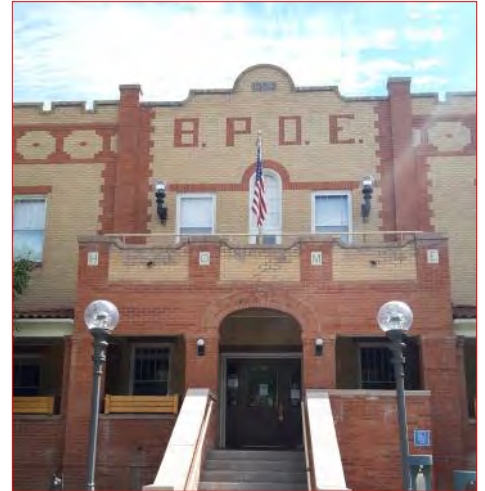
City Council will interview applicants for the City of Montrose Youth Council for the 2020-2021 term.

RESOLUTION 2020-20

Council will consider approving Resolution 2020-20 setting Nov. 3, 2020 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Woodgate Addition No. 4.

UNREIN ADDITION II ANNEXATION

Council will hold a hearing on the annexation of the Unrein Addition II, and will consider adopting Resolution 2020-21, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Unrein Addition II and approving Ordinance 2509 on first reading for the annexation of



Montrose City Council will meet for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Mirror file photo.

the Unrein Addition II. Council will consider adopting Ordinance 2510 on first reading, zoning the Unrein Addition II as a "B-2", Highway Commercial District.

2020 SANITARY SEWER CURED IN PLACE PIPE BID AWARD

Council will consider awarding the bid for cured in place lining of sanitary sewers to Insituform Technologies, LLC for the not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000.

Following staff reports and general comments, Council will adjourn.



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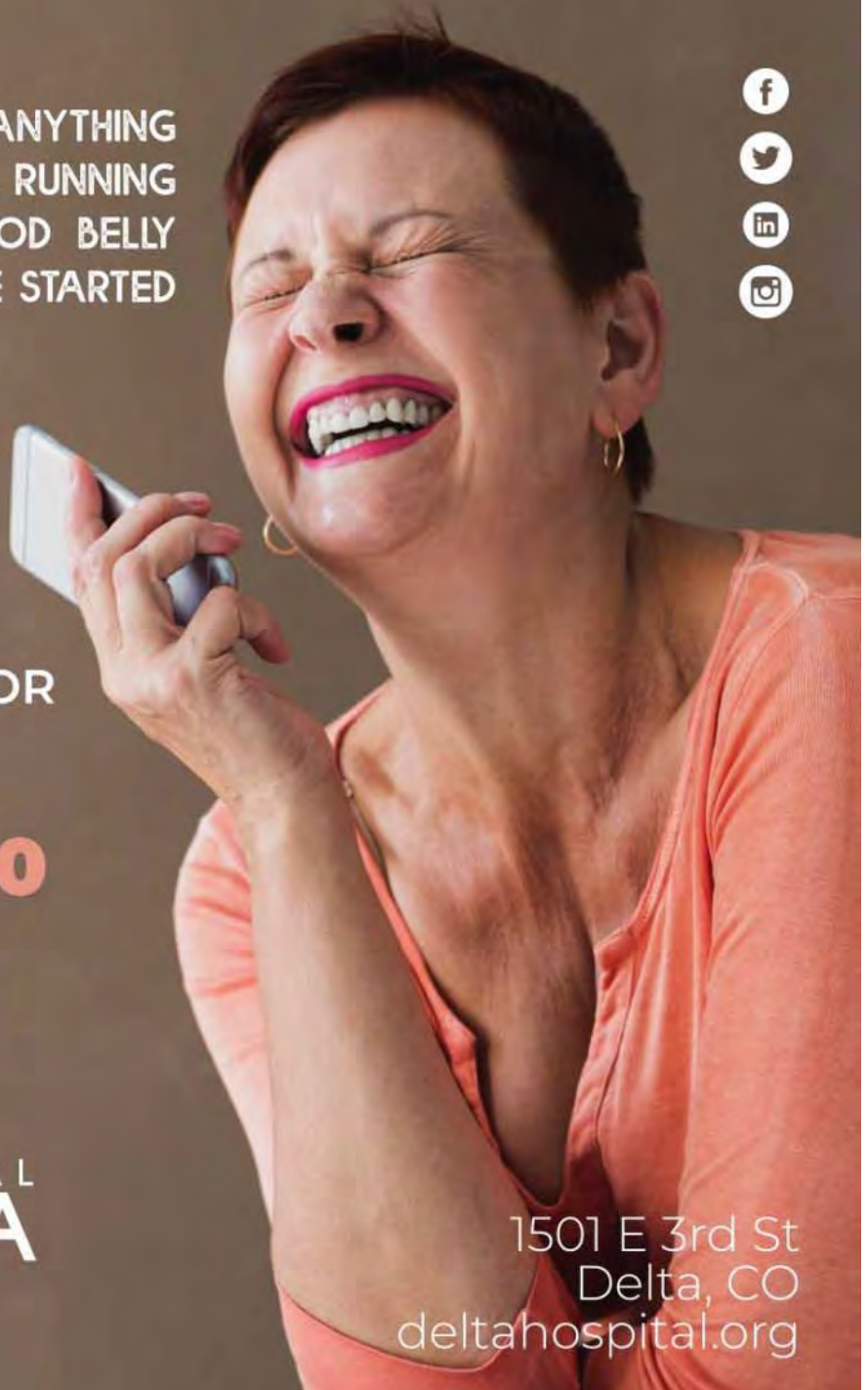
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SCOUTING ON THE WESTERN SLOPE OF COLORADO IS ALIVE & ACTIVE

Editor:

Scouting on the Western Slope of Colorado is alive and active. Even with the virus scare, many Scout units continue their outdoor activities with recognized safety considerations. Besides some regular outdoor meetings, there has been unit camping trips, hikes, and outdoor ceremonies. The three day Fall Rendezvous held at the Gunnison Wildlife Refuge the weekend of Sept. 25=27 is one such event. Scouts from various communities, including Montrose, Olatha, Delta, Grand Junction, and Gunnison, camped by troop and participated in various skill station activities. Montrose was represented by two separate groups of the Montrose Elks Troop 491 and a troop sponsored by the Montrose Hellfighters (a wildland fire fighting company).

Among the various theme related skill stations, meant to both challenge and teach skills, were rifle, black powder shooting, archery, tomahawk throwing, shelter building, and first aid. All of these added both Scout skills and adventurous experiences to a healthy outdoor environment. Youth need such healthy and active outdoor activities such as these under proper guidelines. More information can be obtained locally (417-7962).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY FIRE RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Sheriff Gene Lillard has lifted fire restrictions effective Friday, Oct. 2 at 12:01 am. The decision was made alongside partner agencies including federal lands, weather partners, and surrounding counties in order to avoid confusion when recreating in the region. This affects land within unincorporated Montrose County, and now allows residents to burn as necessary. The decision was based on fuel moisture measurements in vegetation, predicated weather, and the amount of current fire activity in the county. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use caution when burning.

"Even though fire restrictions have been lifted, I am strongly urging community members to use caution when burning. Please make sure to have water and shovels readily available when burning and always call dispatch at [970-249-9110](tel:970-249-9110) before burning," said Sheriff Lillard. "This year has been a challenge for firefighters and firefighting resources across the nation and I want the public to be mindful of limited resources available due to major fires in both Colorado and the western U.S."

Please know before you go and visit westslopefireinfo.com for information on restrictions in surrounding areas and the latest fire-related information. To learn more about campfire safety, please visit www.smokeybear.com.









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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-- To highlight the current and potential contributions of Coloradans with disabilities to the state's economy, Governor Jared Polis has issued a proclamation declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Increasing Access and Opportunity, Celebrating 30 Years of the ADA," chosen to emphasize the essential role of people with disabilities in the workforce. During Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will present the fourth annual Shining Stars of Disability Employment Awards. The awards recognize businesses and individuals who make exemplary efforts in the intentional recruitment, hiring, retention and advancement of individuals with disabilities.

The Governor's proclamation is meant to highlight the employment contributions from the 10 percent of working age Coloradans who have some type of disability. Despite comprising a large portion of Colorado's adult population, people with disabilities who want to work face many barriers to employment.

"I hope Disability Employment Awareness Month inspires the state's employers, businesses, and industries to recognize the talents and skills of Coloradans with disabilities," said Joe Barela, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

Barela also noted that, generally speaking, people with disabilities experience an unfounded stigma when it comes to employment. He also emphasized that they also often have high levels of poverty, a factor that lowers people with disabilities' chances of getting and keeping a job.

His observations are borne out by statistics provided by the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, which notes that nationally 26 percent of people with disabilities live in poverty, compared to approximately 11 percent of the able-bodied population. The same report found that only 37 percent of people with disabilities are employed, nearly half the employment rate of people who are able-bodied (77.2 percent).

To view the Governor's proclamation in full, [click here](#).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DO NOT ALLOCATE PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS TO SUPPORTERS OF VIOLENT ORGANIZATIONS BENT ON DESTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY

Editor:

Any public subsidies considered for allocation by any level of government in the name of "economic development", deserve more scrutiny by elected officials now, than at any time I can recall. Across the country many corporations, small businesses, and downtown family owned stores are expressing open support for violent organizations such as BLM, Antifa, and the radical left that are bent on the destruction of our country.

It's certainly ironic that the supporters of the demise of our way of life have no qualms about openly seeking or accepting public subsidies from the very governments they endorse for destruction.

It matters not if it's big corporations or local merchants seeking what amounts to public welfare, it adds up to the same thing. Tax dollars are being utilized to subsidize businesses which openly endorse policies and candidates that will lead to the downfall of our Constitutional Republic.

In my mind any such business seeking/accepting public subsidies is morally corrupt!

Considering the timbre of conversations today, it shouldn't be surprising that this very scenario has already played out right here in our little river town. We should all encourage our elected officials in being much more diligent in the allocation of public tax dollars in the name of "economic development".

Dee Laird, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 TESTING RELOCATION POSTPONED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – In order to ensure the best care possible for the community, plans to relocate COVID-19 testing to the Montrose County Event Center have been postponed due to a technical issue. The move, which was going to take place October 5, will take place later in the month of October.

Currently, COVID-19 testing for symptomatic people is taking place at Montrose Memorial Hospital's designated drive-thru location at 800 S. 3rd St. This will continue to be the testing site until the relocation takes place later in October. The relocation will allow for sample collection during months associated with harsh weather conditions.

Times and days for COVID testing will not change with the move: Individuals needing a COVID test can receive their test Monday-Saturday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on a first-come, first-serve basis. Testing will only be done during this time frame. Participants must have a provider's order for the test.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS ALONG THE GUNNISON RIVER

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office announced today the recent acquisition of the Hallock Homestead property in Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The 134-acre property stretches for approximately one mile along an alluvial bench of the Gunnison River. This section of river is listed as critical habitat for two federally endangered fish species, the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. In addition, the property contains known occupied habitat for the threatened Colorado hookless cactus, along with other riparian, scenic, and recreation values.

“Under the Trump Administration, the BLM has prioritized and been successful in its efforts to expand access to our public lands,” said **BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley**. “It is particularly exciting to increase the recreational opportunities available in the Grand Junction area, near the Bureau’s Robert F. Burford national headquarters.”

“This acquisition will ensure continued protection of the recreation setting for boaters along a 24-mile stretch of the Gunnison River,” noted **BLM Colorado State Director Jamie Connell**. “We are pleased to be able to increase recreational access in the area, including opportunities for hunting and fishing.”

Funding for this BLM acquisition was approved in Fiscal Year 2017 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Just last month President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act into law, permanently funding the Land and Water

Conservation Fund. This significant piece of legislation reflects a commitment to safeguard natural areas and water resources, such as the Hallock Homestead property, as well as our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. Western Rivers Conservancy purchased the property in 2013 as part of its broader effort to conserve additional lands within the National Conservation Area.

“Western Rivers Conservancy set out to conserve the Hallock Homestead because of its tremendous importance to fish, wildlife, and the Gunnison River and to improve the integrity of the Dominguez-

Escalante National Conservation Area as a whole,” said **Dieter Erdmann, WRC’s Interior West Program Director**. “The BLM is an outstanding partner, and we are proud to be able to work together to improve recreational access while adding these high-priority riverlands to the NCA.”

For information about the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, please visit the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/office/dominguez-escalante-national-conservation-area>. For information about the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, visit: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3422>.

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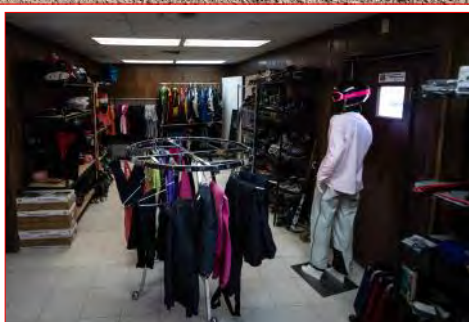
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970 SPORTS REWIND REOPENS IN NEW LOCATION



Along with equipment, 970 Sports Rewind plans a half-pipe, vert ramp, and climbing wall just outside the store. Photos by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Many know 970 Sports Rewind as a great place for used sporting equipment, that used to be located on main street. You may have driven by and thought they were gone. Not gone,

just moved.

They are now south of town (17656 Highway 550), in a bigger location. More room allows them to offer more for their customers. The new building is divided up

into different rooms (such as the snowboard room, skate room, etc). In addition, they are doing ski equipment rentals with a separate room for fitting.

They are planning on a half-pipe, vert ramp and climbing wall just outside the store, to provide more opportunities for the youth of Montrose.

For more information you can check out their website at <https://www.970sportsrewind.com/>

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COMMERCIAL DIVISION

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES RESCIND STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices; National Park Service (NPS), Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will transition out of all current fire restrictions effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2.

Fire Managers based their decision on specific conditions such as fuel moisture measurements in vegetation, predicted weather and the amount of current fire activity in the area. Using the best available science, recent measurements and predictive models have shown an improvement in these conditions leading to a decrease in wildfire risk.

Although fire restrictions have been lifted, fire managers would like to remind visitors to continue to be attentive of their actions and surroundings especially in areas with dry vegetation or dead trees by practicing smart wildfire prevention behavior while recreating and hunting on public lands.

Recreational users on public lands should keep a few things in mind that can help prevent an unintentional wildfire. To reduce wildfire risk, please consider the following:

Practicing proper vehicle maintenance; ensuring that tow chains are secured, and a vehicle has no dragging parts, check tire pressure and properly maintaining your breaks. Even chains dragging along the ground, such as those on ATVs, can spark fires.

When target shooting taking a few simple precautions can prevent devastating results: place your target on dirt or gravel, switch to paper targets, avoid incendiary targets and exploding ammunition, bring a shovel and fire extinguisher, and report any fires by calling 911.

Fireworks are never permitted on public lands.

Never leave a fire unattended and make sure that you completely put out your campfire before leaving your campsite. Practice the drown, stir, feel method when extinguishing your campfire.

Use water or dirt to douse the fire, stir the ashes and if necessary continue to add water or dirt until the fire is smothered.

When smoking, always dispose of cigarette debris in an ashtray.

Avoid driving and parking in tall grasses. Exhaust particles and hot exhaust pipes can start grass fires. Park your vehicles/trailers and off-highway vehicles away from dry grass or brush.

For more fire-related information on Colorado's Western Slope please visit: <http://www.WestSlopeFireInfo.com/>

Even an accidental fire start can result in the individual being held responsible including fines and/or jail time. Visit One Less Spark (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prevent-Wildfire/>) for more great tips on how to prevent wildfire and be prepared for fire season.

To learn more about campfire safety visit www.smokeybear.com. Before heading outside, be sure to "Know Before You Go!" Helpful information about planning your

trip can be found on the "Know Before You Go" [webpage](#).

Regulations vary between land management agencies, learn what is permitted before you use fire.

Adhere to the [Leave No Trace Principles](#) of outdoor ethics to leave your favorite spot ready for the next visitors to enjoy.

Keep yourself safe while recreating outdoors by checking the weather before you go, taking the appropriate equipment including maps, carrying enough food and water, letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back, and utilizing suggested or required safety equipment.

For more information on regulations for DFPC please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc>

For more information on regulations for the BLM-Uncompahgre Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/uncompahgre-field-office>

For more information on regulations for the BLM-Tres Rios Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/tres-rios-field-office>

For more information on regulations for the NPS, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/blca/index.htm>

For more information on regulations for the Curecanti National Recreation Area please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/cure/index.htm>

For more information on regulations for the GMUG please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/home/?cid=STELPRDB5420083>

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WHOLENESS MASSAGE & BODYWORK NAMED OCTOBER 2020 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



For the month of October, all Wholeness Massage & Bodywork clients who mention Member of the Month promotion will receive a complimentary aromatherapy add-on for their massage session. Courtesy photo.



Wholeness Massage & Bodywork is owned by Melissa Countryman, above. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Wholeness Massage & Bodywork as October 2020 RACC Member of the Month.

Wholeness Massage & Bodywork is owned by Melissa Countryman, and located at 640 Sherman St, Suite J, Ridgway, in the Silver San Juan Building, above Tacos del Gnar and Rogers Realty. Specializing in integrative, nurturing, restorative massage, massage and bodywork sessions are directly tailored for each individual, including prenatal and postpartum clients. "Massage can provide a much-needed respite from the daily grind. With so many

of us in today's world experiencing such large amounts of stress, overwhelm and challenge, massage can offer us the opportunity to rest our bodies, hearts and minds. Massage can support us in our physical, mental, emotional and social well-being by decreasing pain and muscle tightness, reducing stress and tension, and offering a deep sense of connection and wholeness," said Countryman.

In light of the pandemic, she has made a handful of adjustments to her practice. She now asks a series of pre-screening questions and takes temperatures before sessions begin. Masks are required for both herself and her clients for the duration of the session, her cleaning protocols have been increased, and thus, she has

decreased the number of clients she sees per day.

"The biggest change was that I utilized an outdoor office from June through September for all sessions; this was quite lovely! As I transition back into my indoor office, the main difference clients will notice is my air purifier and my 'walk right in' policy (no use of waiting room area)," she said. For the month of October, all Wholeness Massage & Bodywork clients who mention Member of the Month promotion will receive a complimentary aromatherapy add-on for their massage session. Additionally, ongoing specials include 50% off for all first-time clients and a loyalty program (receive 10 massages and 11th session is complimentary).

For more about the company and its service, go online to <http://ridgwaywholenessmassage.com/>, email melissa@ridgwaywholenessmassage.com, and call 303-726-2807. To read the full interview about Wholeness Massage & Bodywork, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/october-2020-racc-member-of-the-month-wholeness-massage>

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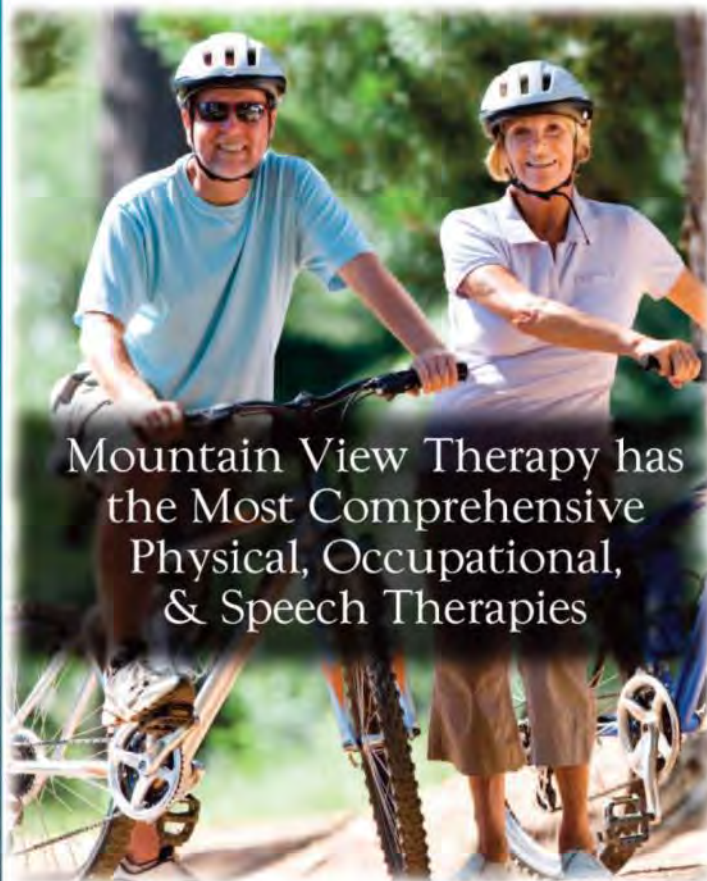
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A NO VOTE ON PROPOSITION 113 WILL PROTECT WESTERN SLOPE VOTERS

Editor:

I was severely disappointed to read the opinion piece by Jan Edwards in the Sept 28, 2020 edition of the Montrose Mirror. As President of the Montrose County League of Women Voters, it is concerning that a "non-partisan" organization would disseminate information which will ultimately hurt Western Slope voters. Ms. Edwards tried to make a case to support Prop. 113 but she left out many important details. While the National Popular Vote (NPV) doesn't affect how we elect members of Congress (yet), it will *intentionally* change forever how we elect our President.

Here's why: Those in favor of the National Popular Vote (NPV) claim that it is necessary to protect the vote of the individual. Is that really true? The Electoral College does not take away the importance of our individual votes. **Rather, it protects our votes.**

There were important reasons our founders created the Electoral College in the first place. They knew that larger cities and more populous states would drown out the voices of rural voters like those on the Western Slope.

The National Popular Vote (NPV) compact in Colorado requires that all nine of Colorado's electoral votes be given to the NATIONAL popular vote winner even if a majority of Coloradans vote for another candidate. Did you catch that? The "national" popular vote winner, not the Colorado winner. The NPV is an interstate agreement to elect our president. This is why it is essential that you research this topic well and stop listening to organizations like the ones represented by Ms. Edwards.

Here is the actual bill: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-042> Take time to read all of the language in this bill. Again, the word "national" vote doesn't mean "state" vote. It means that whatever "national" voters choose, Colo-

rado is required to go along with that choice. How does that protect your vote as a Colorado voter? It doesn't.

FYI: The National Popular Vote (NPV) movement was started by John Koza, an extremely liberal California multi-millionaire who is one of the top contributors to the Democrat party at large. (See Mother Jones 400 list). Colorado Democrat politicians and leaders jumped right on board because they know the desired endgame: to implement a *nationwide* direct popular vote which would eliminate the Electoral College entirely without a needed Constitutional amendment. The vote here in Colorado is merely one step in the process to completely change our representation.

Our Constitution was meant to protect us -- and rural voters. Prop. 113 seeks to take away our proper and fair representation. If we allow the Electoral College to be eliminated, states like California, New York and Illinois -- those states with much larger populations -- would determine our president. How long until other offices are included in this travesty? The votes and voices of Western Coloradans will become irrelevant, drowned out by national voices.

A NO vote on Prop. 113 will protect the Western Slope and its voters. This is an excellent explanation of why we need to keep the Electoral College strong: <https://paget-wo.completecolorado.com/2019/01/28/natelson-the-electoral-college-is-still-right-for-america/>

Further, it is important to note that when Gov. Jared Polis elected to sign an executive order to eliminate the Electoral College in our beautiful state, he may have violated our own state constitution.

D.U. Law Professor, David Kopel, has explained that there is a provision in Colorado's Constitution which says the National Popular Vote statute violates our existing

constitution. Please read:

<https://paget-wo.completecolorado.com/2020/09/06/national-popular-vote-statute-violates-colorado-constitution-says-du-law-professor/>

Here's another piece to help you start your own research: <https://paget-wo.completecolorado.com/2020/09/25/hillman-no-on-prop-113-national-popular-vote-wrong-for-colorado/> This additional link is helpful for general information. [https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado-Proposition_113,_National_Popular_Vote_Interstate_Compact_Referendum_\(2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Colorado-Proposition_113,_National_Popular_Vote_Interstate_Compact_Referendum_(2020))

It's easy to see who has spent millions of dollars trying to rob Americans of their vote on this particular resource. There is so much good information out there -- do your homework and stop listening to those vocal voices who are misleading you.

Should Colorado blue voices continue to support a party that thinks it's OK to violate our existing constitution, a party that often feeds misleading information to a vulnerable public? A party that thinks it is OK to ride roughshod over laws created to protect each and every American no matter the party? It doesn't sound like a good idea to me. Perhaps Democrat leaders they think that the American public isn't smart enough to research, but I believe they are.

I urge every voter in Western Colorado to remember that we don't want the population of the Front Range to represent the Western Slope.

We don't want "national" voices to represent Colorado either. Coloradans deserve to have their votes protected by preserving the Electoral College.

Vote a big NO on Prop 113 -- because we love the Western Slope. Let's preserve it.
Kathy Bergman, Montrose

KEEPING FAITH: AREA PASTORS DISCUSS IMPACTS OF COVID-19

From pg 1

downstairs. The county now has us at a Level 1, which is less restrictive. We can have up to 75 percent of [building] capacity."

When asked which segment of the membership seemed to suffer more from the restrictions the pastor said, "We stayed connected through worship services and Bible Studies going on in the church, but I think those who suffered the most were the youth. We were in the process of building up our youth before COVID struck. Even though youth like social media, it's not the same as meeting in groups. Without meeting in person, they seem to have lost their connection." The church is happy to report that Children's Sunday School is once again in full swing.

For Lundberg one of the most difficult things to deal with is maintaining social distancing. He laughed and said, "We have to maintain social distancing while working with the maskers, the non-maskers and everything in between."

Evangelism is a big component in every church. Lundberg said, "We've not figured that out well; other than personal evangelism. We have actually grown with new people, but they are coming by people inviting them. Fellowship dinners have been suspended, but we did have a picnic lunch outside."

This year the Church on the Hill's annual baptism event at Ridgway Reservoir was cancelled. Currently they have not made plans for Christmas season celebrations.

As for the long-term effects of COVID on the church Lundberg said, "For this year I don't think we will get back to traditional worship. And we may never get back to worship as we have known it. We have to reinvent, do things differently and find creative ways to worship."

When asked how COVID effected his sermons and their content he said, "When I did just livestream, I cut the message to about 25 minutes. It's hard to keep people's attention for any longer. I'm now back to a 30-minute sermon." He laughed and said, "Right now I'm doing a sermon series on Joy from the book of Philippians,

but with all the politics going on not many people are feeling it."

Rosemont Baptist Church, Pastor Rolland Kenneson

Pastor Rolland Kenneson reported on their attendance, "We've had a strong return. We're not yet back to pre-COVID numbers, but we're about 70 percent back from where we were. In order to stay connected we ask our small group leaders [Sunday School leaders] to call every member of their class each week. Everyone in the church got a call once a week and then they reported back to me. A couple of our folks are still doing that."

Rosemont used all forms of social media at their disposal (livestream chat, CD's, YouTube) including having a phone-in Sunday School class. He said, "We still have some older folks who are house bound that use that. A few of the members are not fearful, but they are respectful of the virus."

In terms of who in the membership has suffered the most from COVID restrictions the pastor said, "We have several people who are in assisted living and they have been isolated. They can't see anyone. They don't get a hug on Sunday mornings, which may have been the only in-person contact they get all week they get."

As to the most difficult COVID-related issues to deal with Kenneson said, "There are several, but one is sorting out the political from reality. We are a body, but everyone thinks differently. If we are going to move forward as believers, we have to set aside our rights, our preferences, and our passions for what really matters. At some point the church will have to draw a line in the sand with what we cannot comply with from the government, but that line is not the mask. We will be compliant where we can."

When COVID first hit, Rosemont suspended everything but online worship services. Kenneson said, "We are back with in-person worship services, two services on Sunday, but we're not yet back to Sunday School in the church. We've had prayer time in homes throughout COVID.

We are now having several visitors each week; some are new people moving to town."

When discussing evangelism and fellowship the pastor said, "Our church is pretty friendly and loves to be together, but the church is not Sunday mornings from 10:45 a.m. to noon. The church is the people and that has been amplified and become real for some. The church is people being together." Early on the church tried some community outreach and partnered with Peak Family Practice to do temperature checks; however, there was little community interest.

At the first of the year the church had developed a new mission and strategy which became fortuitous once COVID arrived. Kenneson said, "We encouraged people to pick out one person for the year, pray for them and share the Gospel with them. We called it, 'Remember who is your one.' When COVID came we were already set up to reach out to others and take care of 'our one.'"

When asked to predict the long-term effect of COVID on the church Kenneson said, "The church in general, not just our church, will come back, but not as it once was. The people who come back will be those who are surrendered to Christ and understand that gathering together is commanded by God. Some will stay away because they don't understand who the church is. The true nature of the church shows you that you don't go to church — you are the church."

Considering scheduled activities for the remainder of the year the pastor said, "We've decided that we are moving forward with ministering during the holidays. Starting in October we will have Trunk or Treat. There are safe ways to do it. Our plans for Christmas are tentative, but we will have a live drive-by nativity, a play, and Christmas Eve services. We can be safe even if we still have to wear masks."

Speaking about his sermon content Kenneson said, "Early on I preached messages that would bring peace at the time and had more application to COVID. Now I

KEEPING FAITH: AREA PASTORS DISCUSS IMPACTS OF COVID-19

From previous pg

occasionally mention it in a sermon, but our folks are tired of hearing about it."

Montrose Christian Church, Co-Pastor Spencer Powers

When asked if worship attendance has recovered over the last eight months Pastor Spencer Powers said, "Not really. In March we were averaging 220ish. Now we're pretty steady at 135-150 a week. At first, we tried to stay connected over the phone and through email, but Bible study face-to-face is huge. We encouraged people to do church in their home with their family and friends. Many people responded well to the laid-back atmosphere of home church."

In terms of where the church has suffered the most Powers said, "Probably the social breakdown, there is so much disconnect. It seems the seniors are the ones who really recognize the need for social contact. The congregation is frus-

trated. For me personally there is an apprehension of how do I approach you. I'm constantly looking for what to do and wondering if my approach is OK [hug, elbow bump, fist bump.] I want to be appropriate, but each person is different."

As to evangelism and fellowship Powers said, "We're kind of more in survival mode right now. We'll step back and see what's next. Calling on people is tough; you don't want to talk through a window. We can't make hospital or nursing home calls. We will come back, but with adjustments. People have realized that they need each other. The Bible reminds us that it is not good for man to be alone."

Montrose Christian Church has made adjustments with spacing, seating, and serving communion.

The pastor said, "We're planning on Christmas as usual and we're making plans now."

Pastor Powers is not concerned with the church rebounding. He said, "We're not in a panic. We know that this is not 'our' church, it's God's church. He will rebuild as he wants to rebuild. There is freedom in understanding it's God's church."

Speaking to the long-term effects of COVID on the church, Powers said, "I think people will be more mindful of others. There is still a bit of [wishful] thinking, 'when things get back to normal.' Life may never again be normal, but maybe it will become more familiar. [The book of] Hebrews reminds us we are not to neglect assembling together (Heb 10:25)."

The topic of COVID still comes up in Powers' sermons.

He said, "I refer to it on occasions. It's like the elephant in the room. We're preaching through [the book of] Luke right now and we're focused on what God's Word has to say."



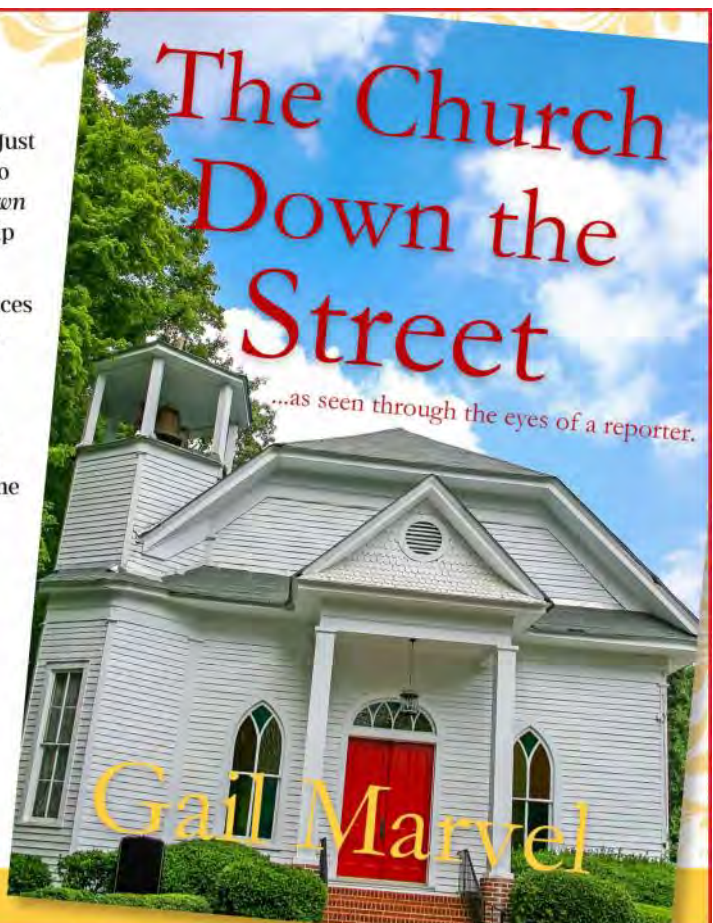
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA AND CITY OF MONTROSE BREAK GROUND ON MONTROSE EV FAST CHARGING STATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Oct. 1, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) and the City of Montrose broke ground on Montrose's first DC fast charging station for electric vehicles (EVs). Located at the corner of North First Street and Uncompahgre, the charging station will feature two models of EV chargers: a Tesla Supercharger and a ChargePoint Dual Platform (CCS & CHAdeMo) fast charger.

"Electric vehicles might not be considered mainstream—at least not yet. High-powered charging stations, like these ones, that offer a quick turnaround and the ability to charge almost all EV models, are essential to easing some of the public apprehension that still exists. EVs are easy to use, more affordable to operate, and perfect for everyday driving," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA Chief Executive Officer.

"The City of Montrose is thankful to all of our partners for investing in this downtown parking lot. We look forward to sharing this resource with our community and welcoming electric vehicle drivers to the Montrose downtown," said Ann Morgenthauer, Assistant City Manager.

The all-inclusive charging station was



On Oct. 1, officials from Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) and the City of Montrose broke ground at North First and Uncompahgre for a DC fast charging station for electric vehicles (EVs). Courtesy photo.

made possible thanks to the cooperation of the City of Montrose, DMEA, Tesla, ChargePoint, and a grant from the Colorado Energy Office Charge Ahead Program, which funded approximately 80 percent of the project costs. The City is hosting the

site free of charge at their public parking lot. DMEA is donating the in-kind labor and materials to upgrade the electric service and will also own and operate the ChargePoint equipment. Construction is expected to be complete by year's end.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY LIFTS STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County, effective immediately, will lift Stage 1 Fire Restrictions in Delta County. On Wednesday, September 30th, Governor Jared Polis' Executive Order and state-wide fire ban expired according to the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC). Fire officials from county, state and federal agencies had their weekly Montrose Area Dispatch Area Fire Coordination Call on September 30th and during the call, fire officials felt that it was appropriate for fire restrictions to be lifted in the West Region. Fire managers based their decision on specific conditions across the region such as fuel moisture measurements, weather forecasts and availability of fire resources.

This morning, October 2, 2020, Sheriff Mark Taylor briefed the County Commissioners on the decision by the State, GMUG Forest, BLM and other counties to lift fire restrictions. The Board of County Commissioners agreed it is in the best interest of the county to remain consistent with other local, state and federal partners and allow hunters who will be camping to have a campfire for cooking and heat as we head into fall and freezing temperatures return. Commissioners passed Resolution 2020-R-024 to officially rescind open fire restrictions that were adopted August 19, 2020. While fire restrictions are being lifted in Delta County, the County Commissioners, Sheriff's Office and Emergency Manage-

ment would like to remind all residents and visitors to Delta County, especially those to the GMUG National Forest, to exercise extreme caution with campfires. Campers should use established campfire rings that are in areas void of dry grasses, leaves and debris and ensure any fire is dead out by drowning with water, stirring and ensuring it is cold to the touch before leaving. Also, never leave a campfire unattended.

Fire-related information for the Western Slope can be found at <http://www.WestSlopeFireInfo.com>. As fall settles in, we hope everyone can enjoy the cool weather, changing leaves and hunting season responsibly by exercising fire safety!

DELTA COUNTY HAS NAMED THE NEW ONE DELTA COUNTY MANAGER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County is pleased to announce that an offer was extended and accepted for the open position of Manager of the economic alliance One Delta County; please help us in congratulating Greg Pope.

Greg comes to One Delta County with an extensive background in business. A Delta County resident for over 30 years, Greg has work experience which in part, includes developing new business and restructured existing operations in diverse sectors including commercial/retail banking, business management, economic de-

velopment, domestic and foreign investment as well as non-profit.

"We are excited to see what Greg does in his new role with One Delta County," said Delta County Administrator Robbie LeValley, "It's clear from his passion for business and Delta County, that the One Delta County board made the right choice; his experience offers him the ability to move things along and get some quick economic development wins for the County."

Greg also feels strongly about giving back, and has contributed to Delta County and Western Colorado by serving on multiple economic development boards, the

Western Colorado Workforce Board Chairman, the Colorado Workforce Rural Consortium, Rotary International, and 4-H. One of Greg's most beloved ways to give back is to coach and administer the Delta Panther Youth Football 5th and 6th grade tackle football program. Greg has been married for 40 years, has two grown children, and two grandkids. Greg is an avid outdoorsman and loves to farm and hunt. He also enjoys snow skiing and going to Lake Powell. Greg's love for horses runs deep; he continues to ride and train horses and was a Professional Rodeo Cowboy in another life.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

JOHN HICKENLOOPER'S PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Editor:

John Hickenlooper has a proven track record of service to Colorado as mayor of Denver from 2003-2011 and governor from 2012-2018.

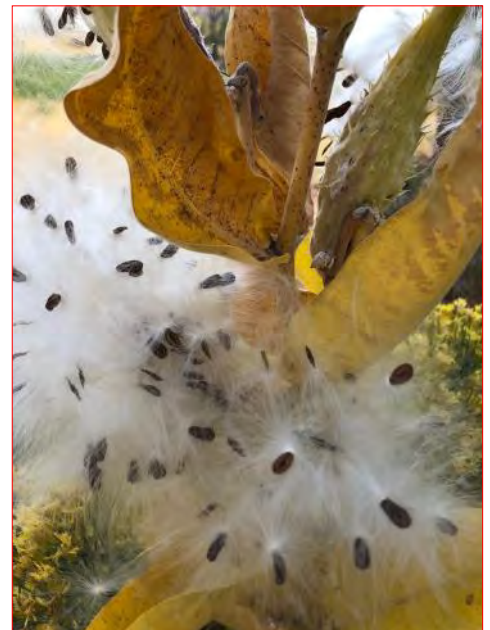
As governor he:

- * took Colorado from the 40th in the nation in job creation to the #1 economy in the nation
- * established Connect for Colorado which enrolled 500,000 Coloradans for health insurance, bringing the uninsured rate from 14.3% to 6.5% in 2017
- * signed bill expanding Medicaid to 400,000 helping 12 critical access hospitals survive.
- * implemented Colorado Family Planning Initiative providing 30,000 women with Long Active Reversible Contraception, reducing the unintended pregnancy rate by 54% and saving taxpayers estimated \$70 million.
- * expanded Family and Medical Leave Act to cover same sex partners.
- * granted in-state tuition for Dreamers
- * enacted universal background checks
- * supported Extreme Risk Protection Order in 2018 which became law in 2019
- * supported climate change creating first methane capture regulation
- * opposed privatizing of public lands by stopping oil and gas drilling on 200,000 acres of the Thompson Divide
- * In 2014 funded Rural Economic Development Initiative with \$2.7 million for rural job creation

Hickenlooper has proven himself to be a trustworthy steward of Colorado's economy, education, health and safety and deserves to continue serving Colorado in the United States Senate.

Scott Johnson MD , Loveland

MIRROR IMAGES...SEASONAL COLOR



Bright blooms at the Coffee trader II, Mirror staff photo; a milkweed plant, by B. Switzer.

A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

By Jack Switzer, 17

MONTROSE-My eyes slowly force themselves open, almost as though rust had been keeping them shut. It feels as though time had been stopped for years, from the moment I had laid in my bed. Now, as my memories return, so does the world I know. I can hear the enraging melody of my alarm telling me it's time for school. I stand up, let my brain turn itself on, and move to the computer. I join the zoom call, say hello, and get to work. And as I sit there half naked trying to type up an essay, my brain decides school is no longer a necessity. I wake up an hour later with drool falling down my face, and realize I am sitting alone in an empty zoom call.

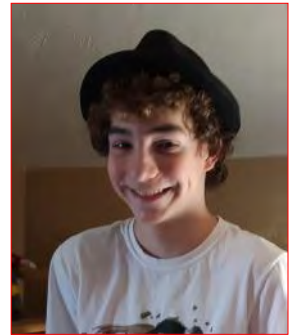
Because of stinkydumb-19, I haven't been able to attend school in person since

last spring, which has thrown a giant wrench into my motivation and progress. With everyone having to adjust to the new system, having to catch up on work I couldn't do last spring, and no longer having a reason to wake up at 8:30 a.m., it has only become harder to do school work and to stay focused. Especially when there's nothing to stop me from exploring the wonders of the Internet while one of my teachers drones on about history for what seems like 200 years.

Still, while online school is a pain and definitely a drag to get used to, it certainly has some benefits. For instance, I can submit my work whenever I want, with nothing to stop me. You can attend class at pretty much any time because teachers are always online to help students and assist with work, and you can work at

your own pace, which is something I have certainly found enjoyable. It has never been easier to get school-work done than it is today.

On another note, I saw a couple of birds sitting on a telephone wire last week. At the same time and place was a small child wearing a spiderman helmet riding a bicycle down the street. As he rode underneath the birds, they promptly let loose upon the poor child. Unfortunate, yes, but perhaps a metaphor for our time?



Jack Switzer, 17.



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ISSUE 284 Oct. 5, 2020

ART & SOL

THE CENTURY-OLD INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-As today's headlines are saturated with Corona Virus catch phrases, the historic Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 has faded into history. Only a search of the old newspapers and walks through cemeteries will remind one just how devastating that epidemic was.

According to most sources, the epidemic started in 1918 and continued well into 1920. There were an estimated 50 million deaths world-wide, including 675,000 Americans at a time when the population of the United States was just over 100 million.

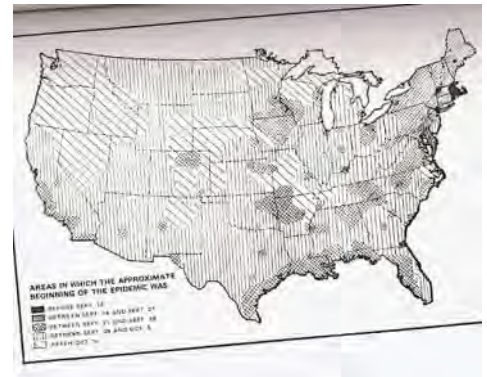
According to a Stanford University study, the 1918 Influenza Pandemic was responsible for more deaths than was the Great War, (World War I). The influenza mortality rate was extremely high.

Surgeon General Rupert Blue issued an official health bulletin in October of 1918, downplaying the use of term 'Spanish Flu.' In part, it read: *Although King Alfonso of Spain was one of the victims of the influenza epidemic in 1803 and again this summer, Spanish authorities repudiate any claim to influenza as a Spanish disease. If the people of this country do not take care the epidemic will become so widespread throughout the United States that soon we shall hear the disease called "American Influenza".*

One California doctor, Dr. Goorgo S von Wedelstaed, who was referred to as "well-known," opined that the influenza was not a germ-based disease at all. In January of 1919, Montrose County Sheriff J.H. Gill forwarded an article from a California newspaper to the *Montrose Daily Press*. They reprinted the piece and created somewhat of a stir. Von Wedelstaed claimed that the flu was not flu at all, but rather the result of "...hurling of particles of human bodies from the European battlefields of Europe by explosions of untold millions of high power shells..." The doctor was further quoted as saying, "These explosions have hurled these atomic particles miles and miles into the air. Long periods of successive explosions have caused these particles to become suspended in the superimposed atmosphere over the battlefields."

The "well-known" doctor then explained that the particles were atomic in size and that the superimposed atmosphere did not rotate with the earth, but stayed aloft while the earth rotated under it. The particles then fell at various locations around the world.

The first signs of the Spanish Influenza in Colorado occurred in the northeastern part of the state. It hit Boulder and Weld counties hard beginning Sept. 21, 1918. One week later the



A map included in a government financed study of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic shows the areas of the U.S. where the flu first erupted. The earliest outbreaks in Colorado in the fall of 1918 were in the northeast part of the state. Source: National Archives

scourge hit the entire western slope of Colorado. Ouray was credited with having some of the most stringent quarantine rules in the area. Everyone who came into the city on the train was taken immediately to the St. Elmo hotel where they were held for up to five days.

In an article of October 25 in the *Montrose Press*, the quarantine was referred to as a "detention camp," and the fact that City Marshal Earl Hoskins and Mrs. Mary McDonald came down with the flu was attributed to, "...a few 'bugs' apparently floated over the top of the range from Telluride."

Continued next pg

THE CENTURY-OLD INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

From previous pg

At the time, it was the practice of most newspapers to report, not only who died from the epidemic, but also who was diagnosed. They printed names, and in some cases, the addresses of the afflicted. On November 29, 1918 the *Montrose Press* reported that 13 cases were reported in the previous 24 hours. The article pointed out that the total of cases reported in Montrose and the surrounding area stood at 388 and that there was a total of 41 deaths. The article went on to name the latest diagnosed persons and the address of their homes.

Similar articles appeared in almost every newspaper in Colorado. The *Delta Independent* used a filler in the Dec. 6, 1918 issue: *The Invariable Comeback* - "Folks all well?" "Yes" "Haven't got the flu yet?" "How are you this morning?" "I feel bum." "Got the flu?" "Jones is sick at home today." "Got the flu?" In the same issue they reported the influenza-related death of an eight-year-old girl and a Denver minister who was well known among the members

of the Delta First Baptist Church, along with the death of a young bride in Grand Junction.

Often newspapers and health officials were accused of skewing the data to meet their own purposes. The *Denver Post* ran an article in January of 1919 citing the statistics of Colorado flu cases. *Montrose Daily Press* responded with a severe rebuke. The headline of the January 31, 1919 edition proclaimed, **INFLUENZA DOPE IN POST A FARCE**. Those from the Press claimed that the numbers in particular for Montrose County and San Juan County were drastically understated: *According to the report Montrose County had 5 deaths and 35 cases of influenza up to January 1. We wish it were that small instead of 70 deaths and 1150 cases. San Juan County had 77 deaths, according to the report, and Ouray County 1. In reality San Juan County, in which Silverton is located, had 145 deaths and Ouray County about 30 deaths. Mesa County is listed with 25 deaths, whereas 125 died in that*

county. The report is so unreliable it is laughable.

An ad placed by the Ouray Drug Co. in the *Ouray Herald* on Nov. 27, 1919 reminded people that no cure was yet found for the flu and stated that medical authorities expected another epidemic to occur.

While there was no cure, the ad suggested several treatments including taking a "THORO CLEANSING, PURIFYING LAX-ITATIVE," bathing one's feet in hot salt water, and drinking a warm cup of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea before going to bed. Some children, according to the Stanford study mentioned above, had a unique awareness of the epidemic. They had taken to reciting a poem in jump roping cadence that went as follows:

*I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza
I opened the window,
And in-flu-enza.*

Bob Cox may be contacted for comments or suggestions at coxbob@charter.net. Please use "Mirror" in the subject line.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE MONTH



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) Youth of the Month for September 2020 is Madison!

Madison was chosen by staff to be Youth of the Month because of her outstanding attitude and willingness to help her peers.

Even with all the changes happening currently, Madison has maintained a great attitude and always stays positive.

During homework time, she has been helping the younger members in her group with their homework and reading with them.

She is an awesome kid to have at Club. Way to go Madison! For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS TO BE HELD AT LIONS PARK

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-All animal lovers and their pets are invited to the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m., at Lions Park, 604 N. Nevada. All donations will go to the Montrose Animal Protection Agency (MAPA).

"This ceremony is different than most blessing ceremonies for animals, as the owners are asked to make a commitment to take good care of and love their pet companions," explained Rev. Arlyn Macdonald, of the Spiritual Awareness Center, who is sponsoring the event. "After the

ceremony, blessing certificates will be handed out and treats will be given," she added. Animals should be on a leash or in a cage for their safety.

All pet owners should wear a mask, and practice social distancing for their safety. Photos of larger animals, deceased animals, or "cantankerous" animals will also be blessed. Children may bring their favorite stuffed animal. This worldwide annual event is usually held around the birthday of St. Frances of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, who believed that animals have much to teach us. He was often seen out

in nature surrounded by birds. St. Frances is credited with creating the first live nativity scene, adding live animals in 1223 AD.

The Montrose Animal Protection Agency is the recipient of the donations given at these blessing ceremonies. The community is invited to attend the ceremony or make a donation in the name of their pet companion to MAPA to help with the spay and neuter program. Donations may be sent to MAPA, P.O. Box 2009, Montrose, CO 81402-2009.

For more information about the Blessing of the Animals, call 970-252-0908.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WHEN COVID-19 HITS HOME

By Pastor Mike Lundberg
Church on the Hill, Montrose

MONTROSE—At 9 pm last Friday, I received a phone call from the wife of one of our worship team members. She said, “Mike, I just wanted you to know that Pete (name has been changed) has just tested positive for COVID-19. The doctors told him he has a 95 percent chance of COVID and they have placed him in the hospital.” I thanked her for her phone call prayed for Pete and her and told her we would get Pete on the prayer email for our church. Then my head started spinning.

What are we going to do for Sunday? It is less than two days away. Like most churches on the Western Slope, we were back worshipping together and have done so all summer. We had our first Sunday together in May for an outside worship and it was a wonderful reunion. Even though we had set up for and encouraged social distancing for family groups around flags 12-feet apart, after the service it was like a swarm of bees around the hive. They all hugged and greeted one another. Obviously, Facebook live, and zoom are poor replacements for being together. So I thought, well . . . now we have to go backwards.

In the morning I called our worship pastor and told him the grim news. Pete came to practice Wednesday evening not feeling well but told us he was on an antibiotic prescribed by his physician. At first as we discussed the exposure, we thought we would go ahead and have worship together at church but the more we thought about it and involved our leadership in the discussion, we decided to cancel church for Sunday. We did an online only worship and it was only the sermon. I tell you I just hate going backwards. Since nine others and myself had been exposed to Pete the previous Wednesday at worship practice, they all needed to be informed. Then we moved forward as planned, online only.

Then I thought about contact tracing. The pianist that was exposed on Wednesday leads a Thursday afternoon Bible study for older ladies and Pete’s wife was

in attendance as well. While the Bible study ladies were not technically exposed, as were the piano player and Pete’s wife, they were at risk. A month ago, the pastors and Christian leaders I meet with planned 10 days of prayer for the community and I was at the first gathering of 50 people Thursday morning. So Monday I had to inform those I was in contact with that I had been exposed to COVID. On Friday morning, again before learning of the exposure, I attended our Men’s Bible study and they too needed to be informed. Then, I visited my wife Mary at school on Friday afternoon and was around all the kids. So we had to inform the principal and he asked Mary to stay home Monday and Tuesday as a precaution.

I hope you appreciate the chronology. We were exposed to COVID on Wednesday and found out about it on Friday evening. In just two days all the above people, hundreds of them, had the potential of being exposed, and we live in a small community. As of Sept. 18, 2020 CDC now recommends getting tested when exposed to COVID and self-quarantining for 14 days or until you have a negative result. So, on Monday I was tested, and my test result hopefully would come back tomorrow.

In the meantime, we were wondering if we should have worship practice tonight for this coming Sunday. No one exposed is showing any symptoms. After our online service from the church last Sunday, my wife and I cleaned and disinfected all the music, stands, microphones, speakers, etc. on the stage and the restroom Pete used. But tonight’s practice would only be day eight since exposure, so we were contemplating cancelling worship practice and worship for the second time. Sunday would be day 12 since exposure.

As mentioned, one person testing positive literally effected 100s of people and adjusted the future plans for our church. As our worship pastor reminded me, “Mike we are doing this to show we care for people.” I had to agree.

So today (Wednesday) we still had no

definitive results from Pete’s longer COVID test. Just like my test, it takes at least three days to get the results. So I called Pete and asked him to call his doctor. He did and the results they received this morning came back NEGATIVE. Praise the Lord! He never had COVID-19 even

though the initial test was 95 percent positive. I breathed a huge sigh of relief. Now we could have worship practice, worship together on Sunday and safely attend Bible studies and small groups.

The number one lesson we learned is that no matter what happens, we need to care for people. We need to think of their best interests first. I remember the apostle Paul telling that to the Philippians in Php. 2:3-4. Along with that, we learned that if we are not feeling well, it is best to stay at home, even if under the care of a physician, because inadvertently exposing others has huge ramifications. Third, this is not about me even though I was thinking this way. To stay at home when sick or to wear masks and social distance while in public is really for the other person. It shows you care. It reflects your desire to protect them. It displays grace.

Please give this some thought. One exposure can lead to the cancellation of a whole host of plans. Is it worth it? Since our county has done of good job of opening safely, we want to be good neighbors not wanting anything to threaten that.

I believe COVID will be with us a long time. It will not be over in a few months. The new normal is care for the other person. That way we can continue to reflect Christ while carrying out his mandate to love God and love others as we seek to make them followers of Jesus. Do I like this change? Not really. Can I adapt? Absolutely as lead by our Lord. And do you know we might even be more effective as good neighbors as a result.



Pastor Mike Lundberg.
Courtesy photo.

Montrose Elks Lodge #1053

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October 6, 2020 6:30

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**Doors Open at 5:00 PM, Early Bird starts at 6:30 PM.
Main Bingo Session starts at 7:00 PM**

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CRAB CRACK 2020: STAY IN YOUR SHELL EDITION

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) 6th Annual Crab Crack fundraiser, presented by Elevate Internet, is scheduled for November 20, 2020.

The event will be a little different this year to comply with COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and will be the "Stay in your Shell" edition.

This means the BCBGC will not be having an in-person event at a specific venue but,

rather, Crab Crack will be delivered to you at the location of your choosing in Montrose!

A land and sea feast of crab, shrimp, Andouille sausage, corn, potatoes, and dessert with wine (with all the eating supplies you need) delivered to your door.

There will be no individual ticket sales this year but sponsorships are available. There will also be an online benefit auction where you can bid on and fund items the

Club members' need. The link to this auction will open on the Club's website (www.bcbgc.org) on November 20th.

We appreciate the support as this is the only operational fundraising event the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club will be having with the cancellation of the 2020 Montrose Wine & Food Festival.

Please contact Bud Taylor at btaylor@bcbgc.org or at 970-249-5168 for sponsorship inquiries or event questions.

MONTROSE OKTOBERFEST 2020 MOVES TO OKTOBERFEST AT HOME OCT. 24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE -- The 15th Annual Montrose Oktoberfest, benefitting All Points Transit, will be moving to a new date and format for this year. *Oktoberfest At Home* will take place Oct. 24, 2020. The event is presented by TEI Rock Drills in conjunction with the Montrose Homebrewers Association. Sponsors and general ticket holders will pick up 'party packs' to host a beer tasting experience for close friends and family from the comfort of their own homes. Party Packs will include beer tastings for two, tasty snacks, and festive party supplies. Tickets will be available on Saturday, October 3 on the All Points Transit website or www.montrosebeerfest.com. Sponsorships are also available.

Oktoberfest has been a staple of the Montrose fall calendar for 15 years, and it

is the key local fundraiser for All Points Transit. This year, out of an abundance of caution and a careful consideration of the pandemic mandates, All Points Transit has decided against a large crowd event. Instead, we are bringing the festivities to YOUR homes! We hope to give our community a fun way to celebrate the changing season with *Oktoberfest At Home*, as well as bring in some much-needed fundraising dollars for our organization. Sponsors to date include TEI Rock Drills, David and Gaynelle Mize, Alpine Bank, Bank of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Restorative Medicine, Alpine Archaeology, Hot Water Productions, Dalby Wendland and Company, Mike and Phoebe Benziger, ThinkSharp! Consulting, Delta County Memorial Hospital, Timberline Bank and Western Group Insurance.

All Points Transit is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has been consistently serving the community for over 30 years, and services have continued throughout the pandemic.

All Points Transit provides safe, reliable, and convenient transportation to seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public in communities throughout four counties on the western slope of Colorado.

Their vision is to develop, deliver, and operate a transportation system in our service area that emphasizes safety, quality, cost-effectiveness and efficient movement of people. The system will enhance economic vitality and demonstrate sensitivity to the environment.

More information about Points Transit or to make a donation, visit www.allpointstransit.org.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

APEX TRANSPORTATION TO HAUL THE 2020 U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER – The holiday season will be a little brighter this year with the help of Apex Transportation, as it takes on the role of transporting the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C. An annual gift to the nation, the 2020 tree will make its way to the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol building from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests in Colorado.

Apex Transportation was chosen as the hauler for this year's tree at the recommendation of Great West Casualty Company and based on industry reputation in Colorado, according to Bruce Ward, president of Choose Outdoors, the non-profit partner that assists USDA Forest Service with coordinating the annual public engagement initiative. The tree will be harvested in early November before making the in-state and cross country journey, arriving at the U.S. Capitol in late November. The tree will be decorated with thousands of ornaments made by Coloradans and will light up the nation's Capitol throughout December.

Opening its doors in 1996, Apex Transportation had humble beginnings with four trucks, a handful of employees, and

ambition. With more than 65 trucks and nearing 90 employees, Apex maintains its success by remembering those early days creating strong relationships within the industry and nurturing a family-like atmosphere that keeps us rolling. With locations in Denver and Pueblo, Colorado, Apex serves the state of Colorado and surrounding states with the ability to go anywhere they are needed. It has been recognized with numerous awards from the Colorado Motor Carriers Association, along with the Pinnacle Assurance Workplace Safety Award and Great West Fleet Safety Awards.

"Being selected to be a part of such a high profile and important symbol for the American people is truly exciting beyond words for us at Apex Transportation," said Walt Schattinger, president of Apex Transportation. "We are humbled by the graciousness of those who chose us and value their belief and trust in Apex with this incredible adventure. We are deeply honored to have the opportunity to represent the beauty of our state, the integrity of our company and tradition of our country."

The tree will be in great hands with two Apex employees who will ensure the pre-

cious cargo is safely delivered. The-ron Schmalzried has 42 years and 4 million miles of experience under his belt. He has received numerous awards during his 23 years with Apex, the most recent being the Long Haul Driver of the Month in September 2019. William "Butch" Hanna has been driving for 41 years, including 17 with Apex Transportation. With more than 105,000 hours, he also has numerous internal awards, including Short Haul Driver of the month in October 2019.

Kenworth Truck Company returns for a seventh year as a sponsor of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree program. A specially decal'd Kenworth T680 will transport the 50th U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree provided by the USDA Forest Service.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit the GMUG National Forests website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug>. Follow along the tree's journey at www.uscapitolchristmastree.com.



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Montrose Elks Lodge #1053

801 S. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401

Winter Collection for Veterans

Montrose Elks Lodge is collecting items for Veterans in need until October 23, 2020; distribution day.

Items being collected include:

- * Cold weather apparel (coats, hats, gloves)
- * Blankets and Sleeping Bags
- * Hand Warmers (in packets)
- * Wool Socks (most asked for item)
- * Dry snacks (like crackers in packets)
- * Beef Jerky (in pkg)
- * Cat food, dog food (a lot of Veterans have an animal for protection or a helper animal issued for a disabled Veteran)



**38 homeless
Veterans in the
USA will die from
exposure every day
this Winter.**

***Some wonder, will I
survive the night?
Make a difference,
reach out and help!***



***Please check your closets and if you have an extra Winter coat,
deliver it to the Montrose Elks Lodge for distribution to Veterans.***

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIVER CLEANUP AT PA-CO-CHU-PUK (RIDGWAY STATE PARK)

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-On Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m., join the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Colorado Parks & Wildlife staff for a volunteer cleanup along the Uncompahgre River at the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area of the Ridgway State Park.

Did you know that fishing line takes up to 600 years to break down in nature?

Plastic beverage bottles take up to 450 years, aluminum cans up to 200 years, styrofoam cups up to 50 years, nylon fabric up to 40 years, and cigarette filters up to five years.

Pa-Co-Chu-Puk is Ouray County's most popular flyfishing location with fantastic trout habitat in the Uncompahgre River below Ridgway Dam and two ponds stocked with Rainbow trout. Staff from local fishing guide services and outfitters will make up our central volunteer crews and we welcome anyone else interested in helping their efforts. Thank you to Montrose Anglers, RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, and Telluride Flyfishers for supporting this event. Info & Signup: <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/unc-river-cleanup-at-pa-co-chu-puk/>

UPSTART PRESENTS "THE AMISH PROJECT" BY JESSICA DICKEY



Lindsey Pierce. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The pandemic has shuttered theaters all over the world, but in this tiny corner of Colorado, one professional theater company is still busy creating. UpstART Theater presents Jessica Dickey's one-woman show *The Amish Project*, a fictional exploration of the Nickel Mines Amish schoolhouse shooting and the path of compassion forged in its wake, November 5-8 at Ouray's Wright Opera House.

Director Kate Kissingford said that she

"hoped to tell this story of tragedy, forgiveness, and compassion to serve as a beacon of light in a time of great division in our world." It was originally slated for April, until the pandemic closed theaters (and everything else!).

When the production was postponed, Kissingford said that she "questioned the wisdom of producing a play centered around a tragic

event during these troubling times. Shouldn't we be lightening the load and leaning into escapism to help our community take a breath?" In September, UpstART did just that, amusing audiences in Ouray, Ridgway, and Montrose with a production called *Shakespeare Sucks*, which they billed as "a No Holds Bard romp through a dozen Shakespeare plays."

Ultimately, however, Kissingford decided it was important to produce more contemplative fare as well, and she was committed to this particular

play. As she said, *The Amish Project* "shows us that we are capable of meeting ugliness and violence with compassion and kindness. This story, based on true events, is medicine for our fractured souls. It reminds us of the quiet, simple presence of love which is always there."

Lindsey Pierce, a long-time company member with both UpstART Theater and Boulder Ensemble Theater Company, will travel from her home in Denver to portray the play's dozen roles. "She is a marvelous actor," remarked Kissingford, "who so inhabits every role that you instinctively trust every word she says."

And the fact that the play calls for just one actress simplifies rehearsal and staging in a time of social distancing. Similarly, the Wright Opera House has taken intensive precautions, with limited seating in socially distanced, masked pods.

The Amish Project will be UpstART's third production of 2020, after February's *Tiny Beautiful Things* and September's *Shakespeare Sucks*.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ETHNOBOTANY WITH KIDS - LEARNING ABOUT TRADITIONAL UTE PLANT KNOWLEDGE



Father and daughter investigating native plants along the trail. Photo by Anne Janik.

By Anita Evans

Plants – we all have a relationship with them. This bond with nature is an integral part of the cultures of many indigenous people, and the use of native plants by the Ute People of Western Colorado is particularly engaging. This traditional use of plants for medicinal, cultural, and culinary purposes by native peoples is called *ethnobotany*.

The Ute people thrived for thousands of years in the harsh climate conditions of Western Colorado by moving from ecosystem to ecosystem as food became available. Many of plants they relied on are still commonly found on local public lands and are still used in traditional Ute Ceremonies. One such plant seen along the lower elevations of Grand Mesa and the Uncompahgre Plateau is the Banana Yucca. Its fruit, flowers, and stalks are edible and fibers stripped from the leaves were braided and made into twine. Every part of the common Utah Juniper also had a use. The Utes used its bark for sandals, thatching, woven bags, and rope. The leaves and berries are high in vitamin C, offering a natural boost to immune systems. The Coyote Willow grows commonly

along many of the creeks and rivers here in Western Colorado. Ute people made willow bark tea for headaches, fever, pain, and inflammation; it contains salicylic acid, the main ingredient of aspirin. Another plant historically used by the Ute people was the Pinyon Pine which offers both high calorie, nutritious nuts in the fall and pitch used for waterproofing

water baskets. A common desert bush, Mormon Tea, was used as a medicinal drink to treat a cough or cold and also as a stimulant similar to caffeine. And of course, the Big Sagebrush was used as a medicine for stomach problems and infection, and as a cleansing incense during spiritual ceremonies. It is a joy to share this special plant knowledge with young people, and there are several places on the Western Slope that provide easy access to learn about traditional uses of native plants: The Ute Museum in Montrose, the Ute Learning and Ethnobotany Garden in Grand Junction, and Colorado Canyons Association, the local education team for the Bureau of Land Management.

The Ute Museum, located at 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose, was established in 1956 near the ranch of Chief Ouray and his wife Chipeta. Open seven days a week, it has many award winning indoor and outdoor exhibits, virtual field trips, and “History Take Out” where their educational coordinator can bring lessons to the classroom. Included in the outdoor exhibits is a native plant garden that combines the plant knowledge of the Mountain Ute

Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah. More about the Ute Museum can be found at historycolorado.org/ute-indian-museum.

The Ute Learning Garden, also called the Clifford Duncan Memorial Garden, in Grand Junction is located at the CSU Extension office for the Tri-River Area at 2775 Highway 50. It is designed to familiarize students and visitors with native plants used by the Ute people, the movement of the Utes through various life zones, and the relationship between the Utes and the land. Working with the Ute Museum, the Ute Learning Garden was established in 2009 as part of the Ute Ethnobotany Project, seeking to preserve the traditional plant knowledge of the Ute people. A brochure about the Ute Learning Garden can be found at <https://tra.extension.colostate.edu/gardening-hort/>.

Colorado Canyons Association (CCA), in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, is developing a “Junior Ranger Program” for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and the McInnis National Conservation Area. Learners of all ages can earn badges by completing questions in the information packets, based on age. Each packet provided resources to use along the trail while learning about native plants, geology, and animal as well as human impacts on these public lands. More information can be found at cca.org. So, gather your young ones and share some valuable time together learning more about the original inhabitants of the Western Slope, the Utes, and their use of native plants through these amazing local resources!

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



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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Every Wednesday beginning Sept. 2, 2020, through April, 2021 - Community Bible Study live virtual meetings mornings and evenings: gospel of John. Classes for women and children. Call 720-635-0091 for more information or to register.

EVERY SATURDAY THROUGH OCTOBER-Ridgway Railroad Museum – free rides on RGS Motor 1 (Galloping Goose prototype) 9 am – noon. 200 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway.

THE MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more, on Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm, May 9 – Oct. 31 at Centennial Plaza, 433 S 1st St. in Montrose.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Hampton Inn conference room at Noon.

MONTHLY-

Oct. 1-11-The 3rd annual Original Thinkers Festival will take place virtually this year on Oct. 1-11, 2020, from Telluride, Colorado. With the digital version of the festival, Original Thinkers is excited to reach entirely new audiences this year who may not have been able to make it to Telluride in the past for the terrestrial event. Passes for the entire festival will be on sale at originalthinkers.com for \$50, and the dates of the event have expanded beyond the traditional four days to ten so that people can come and be part of Original Thinkers throughout this period. For additional information or to purchase festival passes, please visit originalthinkers.com.

Oct. 2-Montrose Center for the Arts will host the First Friday reception, Oct. 2, 5 -7pm. Come and meet our featured artists. We have also changed ALL the wall art in the gallery, so there will be new and exciting things to see. Masks are required. Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose

Oct. 6-City of Montrose City Hall 50-year time capsule opening, 11 a.m.

Oct. 7-Colorado State Patrol will host a community event "Meet your first responders" on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 from noon to 4pm. The event will be held at The CO Parks & Wildlife office, 2300 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. We will have troopers, dispatchers, wildlife officers, etc. on site to meet and greet our community members. We will also be handing out State Patrol swag.

Oct. 10-All animal lovers and their pets are invited to the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m., at Lions Park, 604 N. Nevada. All donations will go to the Montrose Animal Protection Agency (MAPA). The community is invited to attend the ceremony or make a donation in the name of their pet companion to MAPA to help with the spay and neuter program. Donations may be sent to MAPA, P.O. Box 2009, Montrose, CO 81402-2009. For more information about the Blessing of the Animals, call 970-252-0908.

Oct. 15-18-Telluride Horror Show 2020 Shelter-in-Place Edition, passes for the 11th Annual event available on the [festival platform](#).

Oct. 26-30-The 7th Judicial District announces that as part of the Colorado Judicial Branch's Pro Bono Week, it will facilitate a local Ask-An-Attorney event during the week of Oct. 26-30, 2020. Participants will be matched with a local attorney who specializes in their case type for a free consultation. Availability may be limited, so participants are encouraged to register early. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, consults will be limited to telephone or online formats. To register or for additional information please call 970.252.4312.

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.

Nov. 20-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) 6th Annual Crab Crack fundraiser will be a little different this year to comply with COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and will be the "Stay in your Shell" edition. This means the BCBGC will not be having an in-person event at a specific venue but, rather, Crab Crack will be delivered to you at the location of your choosing in Montrose! A land and sea feast of crab, shrimp, Andouille sausage, corn, potatoes, and desert with wine (with all the eating supplies you need) delivered to your door. There will be no individual ticket sales this year but sponsorships are available. There will also be an online benefit auction where you can bid on and fund items the Club members' need. The link to this auction will open on the Club's website (www.bcbgc.org) on Nov. 20. Please contact Bud Taylor at btaylor@bcbgc.org or at 970-249-5168 for sponsorship inquiries or event questions.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

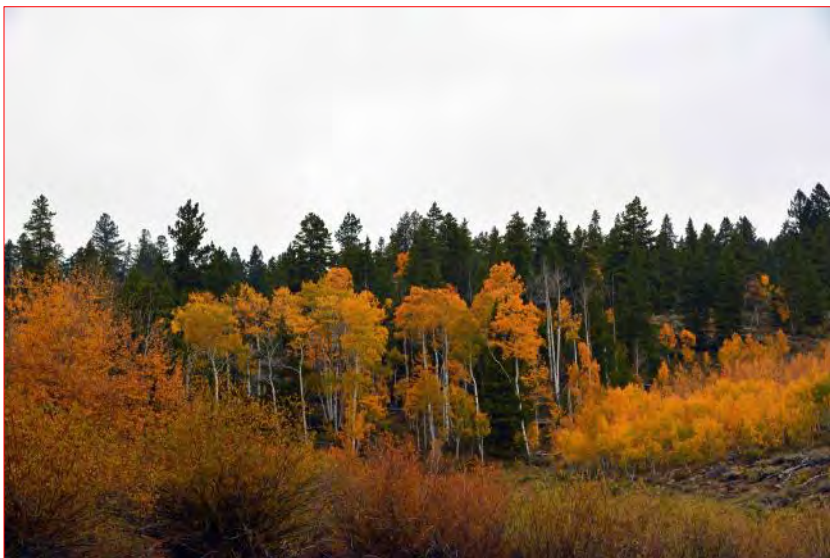
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB & GENE REIMANN



At left, "Can you See it?" a bighorn sheep near Saguache by Gene Reimann; below, Cow Gulch colors near Sargent's; at right, "Take the road Less traveled," stagecoach and toll road built in 1875 near Saguache, by Deb Reimann.



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