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Issue No. 405 Nov. 30 2020

CITY OF MONTROSE BUYS HOUSE, RENTS TO FORMER EMPLOYEE



The City of Montrose purchased the house at 1628 East Oak Grove on Oct. 9. The home is now rented to a former City employee.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Throughout history government (at all levels) has either claimed land via eminent domain, or purchased land for various infrastructure projects, revitalization, and other various uses. On Oct. 9, the City of Montrose purchased a home on East Oak Grove Road for \$225K, according to information on the Montrose County Assessor's Eagle Web site.

I contacted Mayor Barbara Bynum to ask why the City purchased the house, what the plans were for the property, and when this was discussed and approved by the council, as I don't recall ever hearing about it in work sessions or council meetings.

Bynum said that the property, located at 1628 East Oak Grove Road, was purchased as part of the Woodgate realignment

Continued pg 19

'THE GOAL IS TO SAVE LIVES, AND SAVE JOBS TOO'

By Caitlin Switzer

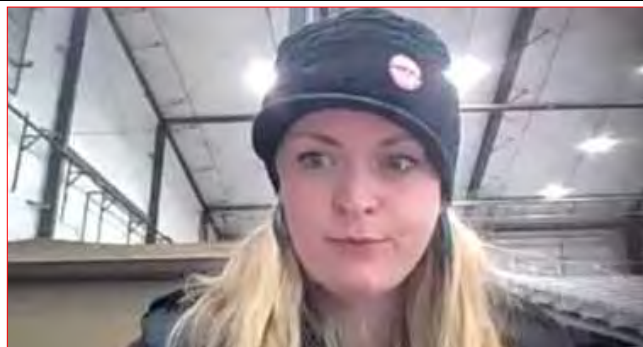
MONTROSE-The Montrose County Board of Public Health met for an update via Zoom call on Tuesday, Nov. 24. Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and Board of Health Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the session; the Board voted to approve the Minutes of their July 20 meeting.

County Public Health Director Jim Austin said that Medical Advisor and Pandemic Emergency Medical Specialist Dr. Joseph Adragna had prepared a comprehensive Pandemic Response Update for the Board of Health. The update focuses on testing, Adragna said, which has been an area of interest to the community.

"I want the Board of Health to be up to date on where we stand."

"...Montrose County currently has five different ways for the community to obtain COVID-19 testing," Adragna said, reviewing the document's Executive Summary. "These can be obtained by order of public health, a medical professional, the medical director of a long-term care facility, an occupational health department of an employer, or by the consumer."

Continued pg 21



Montrose County Assistant Public Health Director Allison Howe gave an update from the testing location at the Montrose County Event Center, above, during the Nov. 24 meeting of the Montrose County Board of Public Health.

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Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

['Stay Open Safely'
Business Update!](#)

[Local Events Calendar!
MCA Welcomes two new shows!](#)

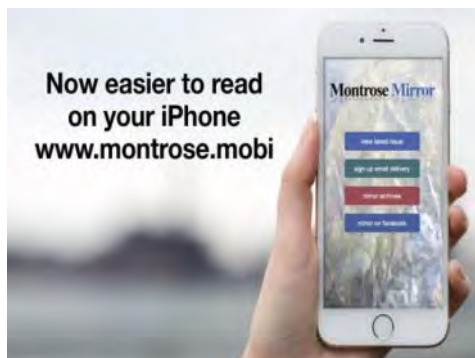
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

6300 ROAD CLOSURE BEGINNING NOV. 24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Road and Bridge is closing 6300 Road between Jay Jay Road and Jade Road will be closed beginning tomorrow for a bridge replacement. Please use an alternate route. Motorists are advised to use alternate routes. The closure is expected to last through the end of December depending on the weather.

For more information about Montrose County Road and Bridge Department, please visit: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/918/Road-and-Bridge-Montrose>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

POLICE DEPT REPORTS COVID-19 CASES, ADJUSTS OPERATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Positive COVID-19 test results have been reported among the Montrose Police Department and its staff. Affected staff members are following all quarantine protocols recommended by both the local and the state health departments.

The City of Montrose and the Montrose Police Department are working in close coordination with Montrose County Public Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and will follow their guidance for the health and safety of the Montrose community and city staff.

“Due to the personal interactions with the public and between staff that are intrinsic to law enforcement operations, the police department has anticipated the possibility of positive COVID-19 cases in the department and is prepared to work

proactively to adjust its operations to ensure that it is fully equipped to continue to provide the highest level of service to Montrose residents while also protecting the health and safety of staff and the public,” Police Chief Blaine Hall said.

In an effort to further limit in-person contacts, only one customer at a time will be allowed to interact with front desk staff at the Police Department lobby, located at 434 South 1st Street. Signage will be posted outside the PD entrance to indicate this adjustment.

Additionally, the PD is asking for the community's cooperation in limiting in-person contact by accepting phone calls from officers for certain non-emergency reports. On-duty officers will still be available to take reports 24 hours per day and will respond to emergency incidents as normal. Recent developments at the PD provide an important reminder of the

need for continued diligence in taking appropriate measures to protect the health of ourselves and our neighbors. The Montrose Police Department encourages community members to continue to make safe choices, especially as we enter the holiday season.

More information and updates about adjustments to the city's operations during the pandemic are available at CityofMontrose.org/COVID19. Other important COVID-19 public information sources are listed below:

- Follow the City of Montrose and Montrose County on social media for immediate information updates
- Montrose County Public Health COVID-19 hotline: 970-252-4545.
- Montrose County Public Health website: www.MontroseCounty.net/COVID19.
- For public meeting notices: www.CityofMontrose.org/NotifyMe

I'm Retiring!

TIFFANY, ETC. IS CLOSING!

It's true! Tiffany, Etc's historic Main Street building has sold! Retirement is the new chapter for Glee Westcott after 38 years as Tiffany, Etc. I hope you have only fond memories of your shopping experience at Tiffany's, and I thank you all! With that being said, our new chapter begins November 23rd at 9 A.M., starting a Total Liquidation Sale!

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY ALLOCATES \$200K MORE FOR REGION 10 SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS



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Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE COUNTY-Good news! The Board recently allocated another \$200,000 for small business grants administered by Region 10 LEAP, Inc. There are grant awards up to \$20,000 for small businesses impacted by the pandemic. This grant is first come, first served until Tues, Dec 15.

Apply today at <https://region10.net/businesses-resources/access-to-capital/>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE PLANNED 1890 DEVELOPMENT

Dear Planning Commission:

We strongly object to the planned 1890 Development by Matt Miles for a number of reasons:

1. This area could never handle the traffic starting with the construction. It would be unbelievable. One thousand more residents!
 2. A large number of senior citizens live in Cobble Creek who would be extremely negatively impacted from the construction process on.
 3. The projected population is far greater than this area can possibly handle. It would overwhelm the current traffic infrastructure.
 4. Turning left off of Chipeta onto 550 is already very dangerous much less waiting in a line of 50 cars! Are you at all aware that there have been many instances, particularly in tourist seasons, where vehicles driving south on 550, completely miss that the right lane slows down and turns right. These vehicles go right through, remaining in the right lane, at 60 miles an hour. It's a miracle that there hasn't been a deadly accident there.
 5. We strongly object to taxpayer dollars being spent on this development in this location.
 6. It is inevitable that millions more in taxpayer dollars will be required to completely three-lane Chipeta from West Main to 550.
- These are only a few of the reasons that we are vehemently opposed to this development. Other residents have covered other aspects of our strenuous objections to this development.

There are many, many empty large tracts of property all around Montrose that would be *much* better suited to this type of housing. *Please* use critical thinking in decision making for this project. Please reject any mass development off of Chipeta, 6450 and Cobble Drive.

Sincerely,

Jeanette and John Ritchey, Montrose



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OPINION/ EDITORIAL:LETTERS

BELIEVE IN THE PROCESS

Dear Editor:

The free spirit of American patriotism has many colors and definitions, and the magnificence of our nation shines brightest in the protected right of each true American voice to be heard, as we navigate our futures. People have fought and continue to fight and die for this right - all over the world. Recently women everywhere, regardless of party affiliation, united to remind us of the suffrage marches 100 years ago. But without integrity in the process that provides this sacred right, the system crumbles. At this stressful time we urge our community, and our nation, to step back and support each other. No laws define concession, rather an expeditious process to determine an outcome. But every complaint has a *right* to be heard; and to recall Bush v Gore, it required 37 days to settle the disputes of just one state. Believe in our rule of law for equal protection, the nature of civil litigation, and let the processes play out. Integrity is a virtue people seek, admire and strive for; standing for truth, trust and honesty. No matter who wins or loses, the integrity of the process remains a critical factor in maintaining a robust republic. Our great country should demand no less.

Montrose Conservative Women, Montrose

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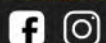
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

'60 IN 60' CAMPAIGN HELPS PARTNERS WEST HELP LOCAL YOUTH

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Join Partners Mentoring to help local kids. Sign up once to have a monthly impact with the "60 in 60" monthly giving campaign. Sign up today by contacting Lisette@partners-west.org.

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Partners Mentoring serves hundreds of children in Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties by providing one-to-one mentoring, life skills, and activities at no charge.

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CITY TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ORDINANCE



Though former Mayor Judy Ann Files (second from right) has retired, and City Councilor Dave Frank has joined Council, the City of Montrose web site still features the above Council photo seven months after the municipal election. Courtesy photo.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 30 and for a virtual, regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/WorkSession-11-30-20>. The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website, www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Council will conduct interviews with Planning Commission applicants Phoebe Ben-

ziger and Jan Chastain.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion items include the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Montrose Recreation District; Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation Update; and Supplemental Budget Ordinance.

UPCOMING

Items to be considered in upcoming Council work sessions and meetings include: Dec. 14-Geyser Systems Update; Introduction of New City Employees; Designation of Official Posting Place; Dec. 15-Planning Commission Appointments; Rainbow Trout Addition Annexation Ordinance; Hilltop Addition II Annexation Hearing; New Fermented Malt Beverage License Application - Maverik, Inc. #616; New Beer and Wine License Application - Sommelier Secrets Wine School; New Brew Pub License Application - San Juan Brews; Jan. 5-Lynch Addition Annexation Hearing; New Fermented Malt Beverage License Application; Hangin' Tree Travel Plaza.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically and can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/CityCouncil12-1-20>."

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ORDINANCE

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2519 on first reading, amending Ordinance No. 2490 which appropriated funds

for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2020; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

UPDATES TO CITY CODE

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2520 on first reading, updating Title 6 Chapter 1, Miscellaneous Offenses and Title 6 Chapter 6, Open Burning, of the City of Montrose: repealing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 10 (6-1-10) regarding Unlawful Entry; repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 11 (6-1-11) regarding Trespass; repealing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 12 (6-1-12) regarding Window Peeping; adding Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 6 (6-1-6) regarding Culpable Mental States; repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 1 Section 15 (6-1-15) regarding Indecent Conduct; and repealing and replacing Title 6 Chapter 6 Section 1 (6-6-1) regarding Open Burning.

ZONING DISTRICT DESIGNATION AMENDMENT

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2518 on second reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Britney Boundary Line Adjustment from R-3A, Medium High Density District, to RL, Rural Living District. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE IMPLEMENTS INCREASED PRECAUTIONS FOR STAFF/FACILITIES

Special to the Mirror

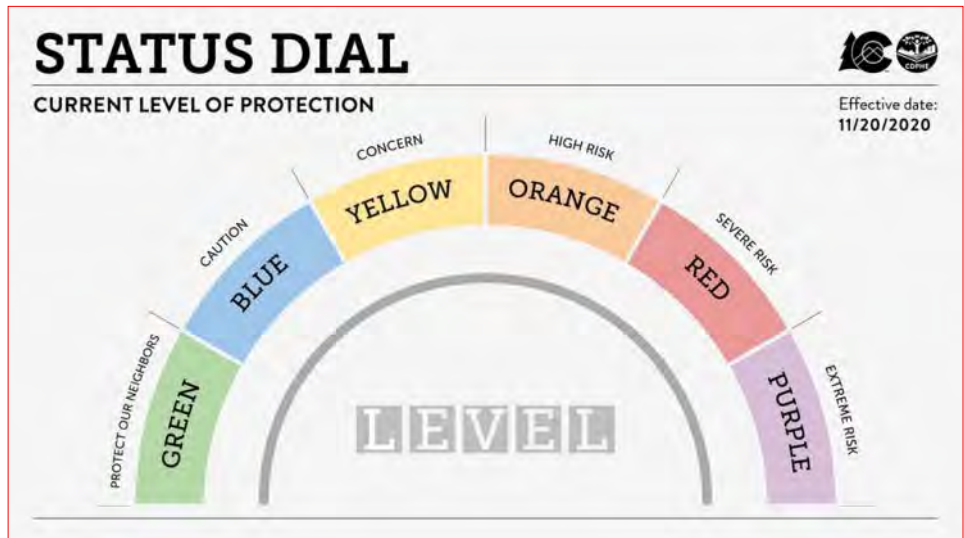
MONTROSE— As cases of COVID-19 increase in Montrose County, the State of Colorado shifted Montrose County to Level Orange on the state's COVID Dial on Monday, Nov. 23. Level Orange is labeled as "High Risk" and indicates that increased precautions to reduce the spread of the virus are needed. Remote work for office workers is strongly encouraged at this level.

As a result, many City of Montrose staff will begin working remotely on Tuesday, Nov. 24. Staff will continue to provide departmental services and can be reached by phone and email. Other staff will continue to work at city facilities and in the field in order to provide essential services that cannot be done from home. In these instances, staff will adhere to social distancing best practices and will implement increased precautions.

- See MontroseCounty.net/COVID19 for up-to-date, local COVID information.
- See CityOfMontrose.org/COVID19 for up-to-date COVID information as it relates to city operations.

The following modifications will be in place at city facilities beginning November 24 at 7 a.m.

- Essential city services including water, sewer, trash/recycling, and law enforcement will continue normal operations.
- The City Hall lobby will be open to the public, with customer service staff working behind glass. Other staff who usually work at City Hall will be working remotely. All department services will continue and the public is encouraged to contact staff by phone and email.
- The Police Department lobby will be open to the public. Customer service staff will be working behind glass.
- The Animal Shelter will continue operations, serving one customer at a time due to space restrictions. Adoptions will continue by appointment only. Animal control officers will respond to complaints and continue proactive operations.



• The Public Works building will be open to the public by appointment only. The green waste site continues to be open to the public.

• Visitor Center in-person services and merchandise sales are unavailable at this time. Email, phone, and online services at VisitMontrose.com are available. Staff is working remotely and available by phone and email.

• Municipal Court offices will be open regular hours Monday through Thursday. Municipal Court will be held weekly with increased precautions.

• The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open (weather dependent) with ongoing precautions.

• City Council, Planning Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission will meet virtually as scheduled. Meetings are open to the public via live virtual participation.

The public may join the meeting using the link provided and interact in the same manner as if the meeting were in person. Phone-in options will also be available for those without online access. Virtual City Council meetings will be recorded and posted on the city's YouTube channel as soon as possible. Information regarding meetings will be posted online and on social media and can also be received by

signing up for email notifications at CityofMontrose.org/NotifyMe.

• City parks will remain open. Maintenance staff may be working and will not be interacting directly with the public during this time.

• The Pavilion Event Center is open to the public (event dependent) with continued implementation of precautions and state regulations pertaining to capacity limits.

• The city encourages bill payment online or via credit card over the phone.

More information about these arrangements is available at CityofMontrose.org/COVID19

The City of Montrose is continuing to closely monitor direction from Montrose County Public Health and state and federal agencies and will follow their guidance for the health and safety of the Montrose community and city staff.

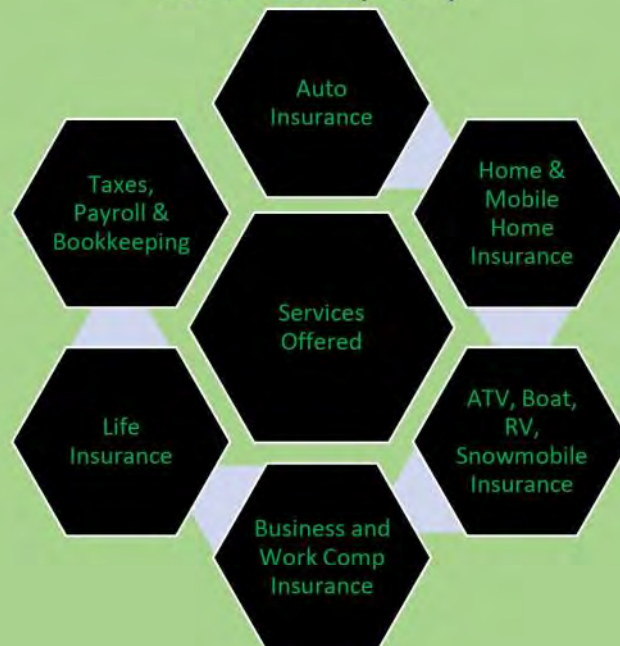
Important local COVID-19 public information:

- Follow the City of Montrose and Montrose County on social media for immediate information updates.
- Montrose County Public Health COVID-19 hotline: 970-252-4545
- Montrose County Public Health website: www.MontroseCounty.net/COVID19
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MONTROSE 'STAY OPEN SAFELY' BUSINESS UPDATE

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE—There was a joint informational Zoom meeting Wednesday, Nov. 25, open to the public, that featured County Commissioner Sue Hansen, County Director of Public Health Jim Austin, City of Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum, and the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART)'s Kate Adams. The focus was on how small businesses can successfully navigate COVID 19.

Commissioner Hansen opened up with, "Before we get started, I just wanted you to know that the stress that small business is under is not lost on us. We understand that there is an awful lot coming at you." Hansen said the County fully supports small businesses and that they are the backbone of the community.

Montrose County and the City are encouraging business owners and families to make a plan in case any workers or family members test positive, or even if an employee tests negative but still has symptoms. They suggest having a primary care doctor before you potentially get sick, planning an area to isolate and quarantine if you do get sick, and planning out who can take care of chores and daily needs when someone is sick. In addition, the County and City recommend all the things that we have heard about for months on end: distancing, masks, and handwashing.

Once the presentation concluded, the meeting was opened for questions and comments.

One of the first questions asked at what point can people get tested without a referral. Hansen responded, "Montrose County is not supporting testing without referrals." The County Board of Public Health had a meeting Nov. 24 in which the County's Pandemic Response Advisor unveiled a new testing protocol and focus on prevention (see related story in this issue)



Stay Open Safely Campaign

Shop Local Safely and Stay Open Safely for both businesses and customers.

- Promote the Basics
 - Wear a Mask
 - Stay Home if Sick
 - Keep Your Distance
 - Wash your Hands
- Apply for the county and Region 10's Grant Program.
- An ambassador will stop by with guidance
- How else can we help support?



A joint informational Zoom meeting held Nov. 25 was targeted at helping small businesses successfully navigate COVID 19. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

Another question was asked about any plans the County has for distributing the vaccine when it is available. Austin said, "All the states submitted to the Center for Disease Control, back in mid-October, their drafts for distributing a COVID vaccine statewide, so it will be driven at a state level, and the state has a list of all the pharmacies, doctors—all the sources for dispensing."

Storm King Distillery owner David Fisher echoed comments that I have heard from many small business owners, "We are headed towards red and God forbid we get to even worse than that and actually go back to staying at home. If we go to red and we are shut down, there is no way on earth we are going to survive through the winter." He suggested a more proactive approach would be appreciated by small businesses, rather than just passing along information from the state.

Hansen said they are looking into the variance program like Mesa County has had in place. "We will do anything in our pow-

er that will help you all maintain a customer base," she said, "We want to be your partner, not your parent." Austin addressed some of the things that would happen if the County went to Red status, which would include shutting down in-person dining in restaurants. Hansen said, "It would be my desire to not have to do that. I don't know how you guys are going to survive if we keep closing and opening and closing and opening."

She added, "We are...trying to respect what's going on at the state and understand what's happening at the state, but also managing for our county... when you live in a rural county the rules are a little different than they are in the city and so we are really making sure we walk that fine line to make sure we keep our community safe but...it's as important for our economy to stay safe too."

"...I'm not even sure what is worse, a virus or an economy that collapses, we don't want that either." For information on the current status of the County, check Montrosecountyjic.com.

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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MONTROSE-How would you like your friends, family or enemies to wake up to a yard full of ducks for the day?

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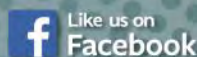
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CITY OF MONTROSE BUYS HOUSE ON EAST OAK GROVE From pg 1

project. In addition, she said it was discussed, “in a special meeting on September 15, 2020, in executive session as provided by Colorado Revised Statute Section 24-6-402(4)(a). The open meeting law allows a state public body to go into executive session under certain statutorily prescribed circumstances including property acquisition and disposal when premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.”

While council is indeed allowed to go into executive sessions for certain issues, why privacy was needed to discuss buying a property that had already been sitting on the market for more than two months (listed 7/9/2020) was never fully explained.

As I followed up with Bynum I learned that while it was stated that the purchase was part of the realignment project, no specifics were given as to what part this purchase played in the project as, “the design for the Woodgate realignment is still in process.”

The city has now rented the house to a former City employee who needed short-term housing prior to leaving the area. Following this short-term arrangement, Bynum said, “I believe the plan is to continue to rent the house out going forward.”

I was told the funding for this was in the annual supplemental budget. City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg pointed me to the work packet for the council work session of Monday, Nov. 30 to find it. Work sessions are where council discusses items that come up in later council meetings to be voted on; the Supplemental Budget will come before City Council for approval at the regular meeting of Tuesday, Dec. 1.

I asked several follow up questions which Mayor Bynum said would be better answered by City Manager Bill Bell.

As of this writing I have received no response from him; as additional information is received the story will be updated.

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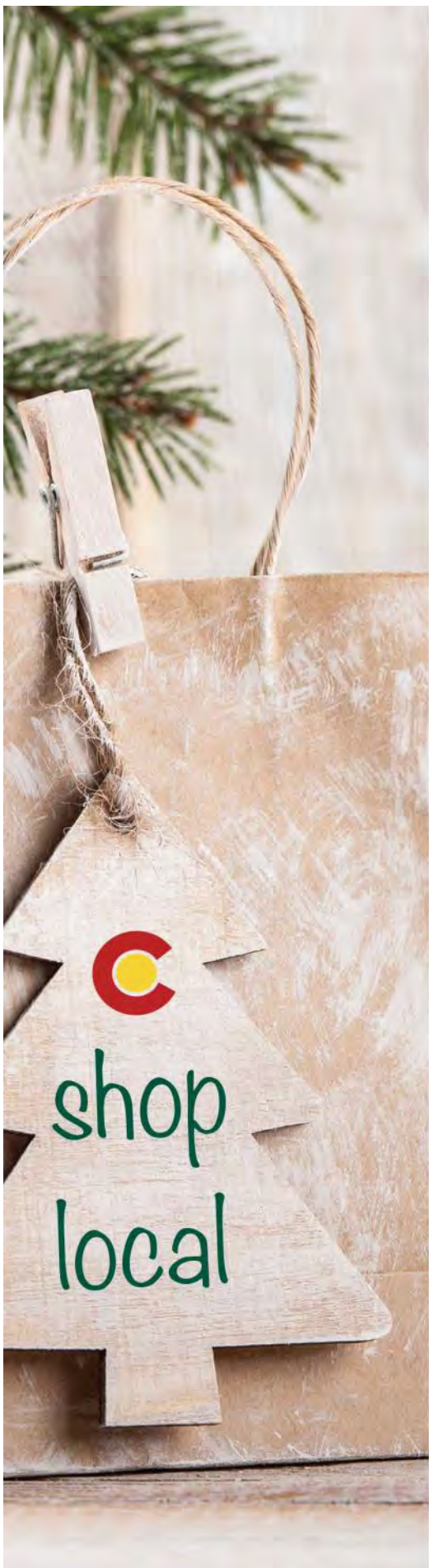


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'THE GOAL IS TO SAVE LIVES, AND SAVE JOBS TOO'

From pg 1

After Dec.30, the Montrose County Event Center location will no longer be available for testing-related specimen collection, Adragna said. Collection will transition instead to a de-centralized model, available through area clinics and health care providers.

Adragna continued to review the update's Executive Summary, "...A non-test-based best prevention strategy is the most effective for reducing the negative impact of this pandemic on Montrose. In select populations, a frequently administered surveillance testing program may be appropriate...testing frequency does not correlate with fewer hospitalizations...Montrose has a relatively low testing rate, relatively low case rate, and low hospital census."

Said Adragna, "We must depend on our medical community to support any pandemic response. The most effective public health intervention is prevention followed by mitigation and containment. Continuing to message, model, educate, and enforce the basics will lead to the greatest spread reduction.

"Testing will complement those efforts to prevent spread in high-risk populations," Adragna said. "...it is not a substitute for distance mask use."

Following the presentation, Board of Health and BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "I want to thank you for the outstanding document that you produced...we have to keep working on this and get the education out to folks...I hope

our public understands that we rely on you and your judgment very much."

Adragna said that with a 14-day turnaround, the State of Colorado has absolutely failed to deliver timely test results, and Montrose County will switch to a new lab. "I am disappointed in the lack of ability of our state to support us in that way," he said, noting that if results are not received within four days, contact tracing can be ineffective.

Montrose County has now contracted with Curative Lab, which offers a 48-hour turnaround time.

Caddy asked how the Board of Health can support Public Health efforts.

Adragna said the County has supported Montrose Memorial Hospital with Cares funding and helps with public information efforts as well.

He said, "We all need to practice those good efforts that we know will decrease the spread, so that we can maintain critical workers in all of our critical infrastructure."

He asked the Board to continue to "message as you have been, and to follow the five basics to public health intervention for COVID, which is to maintain social distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, stay home if you're sick, and stay home if you're exposed to somebody that's sick."

The Health Department is prepared to dispense vaccines when they become available, he said.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore asked about masks. "I was in City Market the

other day, the man behind me did not have a mask on," she said, "and he was starting to crowd in. I asked him to back up to six feet since he didn't have a mask, he really took umbrage notwithstanding the notices everywhere that you're supposed to wear a mask."

Whitmore asked for ways to convince people to wear masks in public.

"I know it's a real struggle for the businesses...if a business asks you to wear it, it's the courteous thing to do."

"It's just a respectful thing to do for other people..." Adragna said. "The question comes down to...should your beliefs force me to wear a mask?"

"No," he said, "I don't think they should. I think you should stay home if you don't want to wear a mask. And don't come outside until the mask mandate's over."

"The debate about masks and the science is over," Adragna said, "It's been decided."

He urged members of the public to be prepared by having a primary care provider in place.

County Media Relations Director Katie Yergensen gave an update on outreach and communications efforts; Assistant County Health Director Allison Howe gave an update from the testing station at the Montrose County Event Center and spoke in support of the new testing concept.

As the meeting wound to a close, Montrose County Commissioner and Board of Public Health member Sue Hansen said, "The goal is to save lives, and save jobs too."

Now more than ever...

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TAXPAYERS WILL INCUR COSTS, BEAR BURDEN OF INCREASED TRAFFIC FOR HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING

Planning Commission & City Council:

Marcia & I are writing to express the following concerns regarding this project.

1. The HUB site plan doesn't adhere to the spirit of the Comprehensive Plan, which recommends significant buffering between multifamily apartments from single-family homes.
2. The plan has two story apartment units along both Cobble Drive and 6450 Road with no buffer.
3. We bought in Cobble Creek/Spruce Point expecting the city to honor its own Comprehensive Plan, believing that our lifestyle and property values would be protected.
4. HUB main entrance is proposed to be off Cobble Drive, which was not designed for this volume of traffic. We are requesting the main entrance the HUB enter/exit on Chipeta Dr.
5. The development will result in a dramatic increase in traffic all along Chipeta Dr. and burdens the intersections of West Main St., Cobble Drive and Hwy 550 South.
6. Taxpayers will incur costs for roads, schools, water, sewer, and various services for this development, so why should the city give the developer \$2.35 million in incentives free and clear?

Thank you for allowing us to express our concerns.

Dick Allison, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COBBLE CREEK HOMEOWNERS EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER HUB PROJECT

Editor:

Jim Anderson's November 23rd Montrose Mirror article concerning the City investment in Colorado Outdoors reflects similar concerns we have regarding the HUB at Montrose Crossing, specifically housing projections and incentives.

HUB is a proposed 500 apartment complex project south of town, across the street from Cobble Creek and Spruce Point developments. The word around City offices is that it has been sold internally, and it is a "done deal." How can a deal be done before the city even listens to residents affected for the project? Those residents will state their legitimate concerns at a December 9, 2020 Planning Commission hearing, and also at a subsequent City Council hearing where the fate of the project, as now proposed, will be determined. Disturbingly, the City Council has already approved \$2.35M in incentives ultimately for the developer.

This amount is unprecedented, as since 2013 the City provided \$1.27M incentives - 97% to businesses. Some were loans now repaid. HUB's single incentive is almost double these other incentives, and is for housing only, which doesn't bring in or protect permanent jobs. No payback is required from HUB. In contrast Colorado Outdoors, which is also building housing, repays its infrastructure costs via dedicated real estate taxes and also through business sales tax revenue. Colorado Outdoors is also unique as it meets several economic development goals of urban renewal: primary job and business creation, housing development, tourism, as

well as local tax generation.

We believe that incentives should only be for adding permanent new jobs / job retention / revitalization projects. Colorado Outdoors qualifies within that category, yet HUB does not. Providing incentives for housing only projects sets a bad precedent, as if they are granted to HUB, we should expect that every new subsequent housing builder will demand incentives.

Further, the \$2.35M HUB incentive is the minor end of the total project expenses due to its location and size. Total city and county costs will be much greater to provide water, sewer, roads, policing services, school expansion etc. in perpetuity.

Smaller, versus large, apartment projects spreading throughout Montrose is best, as investment risk is less, they reduce infrastructure impacts, and optimize City services efficiencies. City incentives shouldn't be needed and constructing more to the south of town does little to revitalize the north part of town and downtown.

From a housing demand standpoint, HUB's scope relies on a "preliminary study" of Montrose housing needing 250 apartment units before vacancies reduce rent prices. Factual "study" data has not been shared, yet we believe it includes housing for Telluride employees. Telluride's reluctance to build more housing for their employees should not be inflicted on Montrose.

Phase 1 construction (early 2021) for both Colorado Outdoors and HUB is about 250 units. Build out for both projects is about 790 units, which far exceeds the 250 units. We're not seeing strong growth in

primary businesses e.g., basis manufacturing. Main population growth appears to be big city escapees who can work from home and retirees wanting single family homes. This puts into question HUB's apartments focus and \$2.35 incentive. Colorado Outdoors is building apartments, townhomes and single family homes, which gives newcomers a good choice.

We believe apartment only projects should stand on their own merits. Given accurate housing demand, low financing rates and market rent pricing, apartment projects should give developers acceptable returns. The City Comprehensive Plan supports this notion - "The General public strongly believes that growth should pay its own way and that providing infrastructure to support growth must not place a financial burden on current residents".

At a recent meeting regarding Colorado Outdoors, City officials reasonably questioned both uncertain growth projections and the City providing \$2.8M more in loans. It's our perception that similar discussions regarding HUB have not occurred. Citizens who share our viewpoint should contact the City Planning Commission and City Council to request that it does not provide incentives for apartment only projects like HUB.

You can send emails to Montrose Planning Services Senior Planner - amysharp@ci.montrose.com.

It's your money they're spending... we believe it's better used for more deserving projects.

Cobble Creek Homeowners Association



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MULTIPLE COHORTS QUARANTINE AFTER POSITIVE COVID RESULTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Nov. 23, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that several staff members and students tested positive for COVID-19. MCSD has worked with Montrose County Public Health (MCPH) to contact trace any staff and students with whom the individuals had prolonged close contact.

As a result of multiple different exposures, the CRT determined that:

- Ten Montrose High School (MHS) staff members and 21 MHS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Monday, Nov. 30.
- Five Columbine Middle School (CMS) staff members and 67 CMS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, Dec. 2.
- One Centennial Middle School (CtMS)

staff member and 30 CtMS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, Dec. 2.

- One Peak Virtual Academy (PEAK) staff member and three PEAK students need to seek testing and quarantine through Tuesday, Dec. 1.

- Three Pomona Elementary School (PES) staff members and sixteen PES students need to extend their original quarantine date from last week and seek additional testing due to a later exposure; two new PES staff members and 27 new PES students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, Dec. 2.

- One Northside Elementary School (NES) staff member and 18 students need to seek testing and quarantine through Saturday, Nov. 28.

Montrose County School District has contacted all individuals affected, prior to

public notification, and no other students or staff cohorts are affected at this time.

At this time, MCSD still plans to resume in-person instruction on Nov. 30 at the conclusion of Thanksgiving Break. The CRT will process additional COVID cases at the conclusion of this week, and we plan to notify the community of any additional quarantines or the potential need to transition to remote learning at any sites as soon as possible.

Families must take all the necessary COVID precautions; failure to do so will seriously jeopardize our ability to maintain in-person school operations during the pandemic.

Wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, and recognize the rising rate of viral transmission in Montrose County.

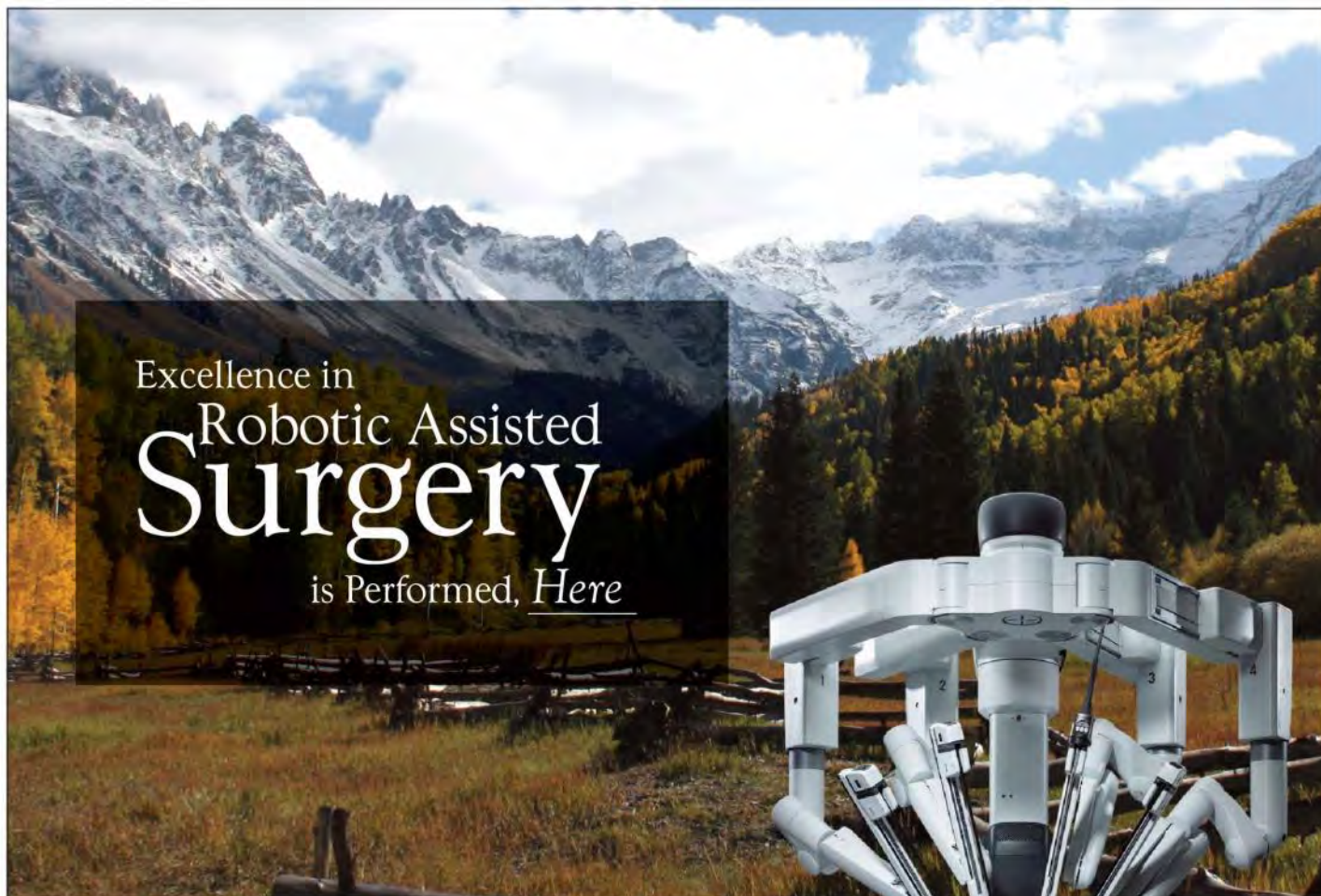


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY SAFER AT HOME PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER ESCALATED TO STAY AT HOME LEVEL RED

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-San Miguel County Public Health has implemented a new public health order moving the county to Stay at Home Level Red Severe Risk as of Thursday, Nov. 26.

As positive cases continue to surge across the county and tourism season begins, mitigation efforts have become critical to containing the spread and limiting strains on regional hospital capacity.

Restrictions are in place as follows:

- Lodging will be reduced to 50-percent maximum daily capacity limited to a single household per lodging unit including hotels and short-term lodging. A household is defined as the person or persons who live together in a single residence. This applies to all lodging stays including established reservations. Owners and/or entities responsible for the booking and renting of short-term lodging units must confirm the identity of all renters upon arrival to ensure all individuals are arriving from the same residence.
- Restaurants and bars that have adapted to serve food will close to indoor, in-person service. Curbside takeout and to-go offerings will be allowed including, where the towns allow, takeout beverage

es. Outdoor service is permitted with six feet of social distance between parties.

Last call will be moved to 8 pm Mountain Standard Time.

- Critical and non-critical retail will be limited to 50 percent capacity at all times and will establish hours for senior and at-risk populations to shop exclusively. Online or call-in offerings with curbside pickup are highly recommended.

- Offices should move exclusively to remote work where possible. If office attendance is essential, capacity is limited to 10 percent with masks on indoors at all times.

- Gyms, fitness, and indoor recreation are limited to a 10 percent capacity indoors or 10 people, whichever is fewer. If taking place outdoors, capacity is limited to no more than 10 participants.

- Schools will implement remote, in-person or hybrid learning as appropriate and in consultation with Public Health.

- Group sports and camps are not allowed indoors, virtual collaboration is recommended. If group sports take place outdoors, capacity is limited to no more than 10 participants.

- Places of worship are limited to 25 percent capacity or 50 people, whichever is

fewer and as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained.

- Indoor personal gatherings are prohibited.

- Indoor events are prohibited including but not limited to weddings, theatre performances, live music, and conferences.

Outdoor guided services are limited to 25 percent capacity or 10 participants, whichever is fewer. "Local data has made clear that this virus is not slowing down but, rather, increasing as the winter season sets in," said Public Health Director Grace Franklin. "We have heard a great deal of feedback from the community and our data supports this move to strict restrictions in order to protect our community, keep our schools open and limit strain on our regional medical centers and area hospitals." Public Health has confirmed twenty new positive cases of COVID-19 from test results received Nov. 20 through 24 at 11 a.m. MST. Of these cases, 14 are residents and six are nonresidents. All twenty positives are currently in isolation. There have been 182 total COVID cases among residents to date with 14 active cases. To learn more about the County's current COVID-19 metrics, please visit the [County COVID-19 dashboard](#).



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OBITUARIES

ERICA PEARL DRUKENBROD 1993-2020



Erica Pearl Drukenbrod. Courtesy photo.

ERICA PEARL DRUKENBROD, 27, of Brookville passed away at home on Friday, November 20, 2020.

She was born in DuBois, Pennsylvania on April 10, 1993, a daughter of Jon Eric Drukenbrod of Canton, Ohio and Sharon Engle of Brookville, Pennsylvania.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Brookville.

Erica was a 2011 graduate of Brookville High School. Following high school she attended and graduated from Lock Haven University, from there she went on to earn her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Ms. Drukenbrod was a Physical Therapist at Phoenix Physical Therapy in Brookville.

She had a warm and caring heart for serving others. She took part in Mission trips to Haiti and Morocco, where she used her Physical Therapy skills to help many people.

Erica always had a big smile, she was vibrant, energetic and very loving. She will be dearly missed by many who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her parents, one brother, Robert "Bo" (Keshia) Marshall III of Brookville; three sisters, Jamie (Lee Friend) Marshall, Jettie (Ryan) Dush, and Joanie (Benjamin Verbitskey) Marshall all of Brookville, nieces and nephews, Addilyn, Robert IV, Zephyr and Sterling; her paternal grandmother Barbara Drukenbrod of Canton, Ohio; the love of life, Seth Herman; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

There will be no visitation. A private funeral mass will be held at Immaculate Conception, celebrated by Father William Laaka

Memorial donations may be made in Erica's memory to Shumaker Funeral Home, 115 East Union Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767. Because Erica loved the outdoors, the donations will be used for a memorial bench along the Brookville Rails to Trails.

Online condolences may be made at www.shumakerfh.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FARMERS INSURANCE® AGENT JEREMY GAY OPENS OFFICE IN MONTROSE; READY TO SERVE MONTROSE AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

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MONTROSE— Farmers Insurance® agent Jeremy Gay is celebrating the opening of his office in Montrose, Colorado.

"As a Farmers Insurance agent, it's a privilege to be able to offer customers and the community first-rate customer service, industry-leading insurance products and competitive rates," said Gay.

The office is located at 1541 Oxbow Drive, Suite #1050, Montrose, CO 81401. Gay's office will also enable him and his team to become even more involved in the local community.

Gay will combine his insurance understanding and know-how with a personalized and straightforward approach to help make consumers more knowledgeable about their insurance coverages and options. A key component of his years of training and experience is the commitment he feels for the community of Montrose, which he serves on a daily basis.

The Jeremy Gay Farmers Insurance Agency is open five days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., as well as evenings and weekends by appointment. The agency offers bilingual services, as well. The office is accessible via phone at 970-765-8941, or on the web at agents.farmers.com/jgay.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE SHOWS CASES ON THE RISE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County continues to see COVID-19 cases rise, with cases nearing nearly 20 positive per day. As of Nov. 25, Delta County has reported 523 positive cases with 240 active and 273 recovered. We currently have 11 individuals hospitalized and sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting that two Delta County residents have passed away from COVID-19; 2 females aged 75-84. This brings our total deaths to date to ten (10). Delta County sends our condolences to the families and asks that the community at large respect their privacy.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has also notified Delta County Health Department that Delta County will move to Level Orange/High Risk on the State of Colorado's COVID-19 status dial effective Monday, November 30, 2020.

Some of the changes, in moving to the Orange phase are (but aren't limited to): Indoor dining - 25% capacity up to 50 people

Bars that don't serve food must be closed
Offices are limited to 25% capacity, with remote work strongly encouraged

Gyms/indoor recreation is limited to 25% capacity or up to 25 people

Entertainment and indoor events/

meetings - 25% capacity up to 50 people

with 6ft. of physical distancing between parties

Outdoor events are limited to 50% capacity or 75 people (whichever is fewer)

Childcare facilities may remain open with standard ratios

Pre-school -12th grade – in person learning suggested

Click [here](#) for additional information regarding the COVID-19 dial.

"This is an incredibly difficult time, especially for our Delta County business community. Never before have they faced such adversity, as they carry the brunt of each change to the dial that Delta County faces; we know it's not fair and that everyone should take personal responsibility in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said Delta County Board of Commissioners Chair Mark Roeber, "Our local businesses need our support now, more than ever; Delta County fully supports businesses staying open, and will do all that we can to fight for them." Order take out from one of your favorite restaurants for lunch or dinner. With the holidays upon us, buy gift certificates, or order online or via phone, and pick up curbside. Our local businesses are the backbone of the County; they are our friends and neighbors, we need to help them through this ongoing crisis!

The holidays, by nature, are an extremely

stressful time of year. With the COVID-19 pandemic on top of the holidays, we want to remind Delta County residents that it's OK to reach out if you need help, or if you just need someone to talk to. Keeping Delta County healthy includes focusing on our mental health, in addition to physical health.

Mental Health Assistance:

Center for Mental Health: 970-252-6220 or text "Talk" to 38255

A KIDZ Clinic: 970-874-2753 or Text: 970-901-0445

Families Plus: 970-874-0464 or Text: 970-433-6835

Colorado Crisis Hotline: 844-493-TALK (8255) or Text "Talk" to 38255

Delta County has two community test sites: **Delta County Health Department**, located at 255 W. 6th St., in Delta. Tests are by appointment only Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Call 970-874-2172. You can also get tested at **North Fork EMS**, located at 110 E. Hotchkiss Avenue, in Hotchkiss. Appointments are Mondays and Wednesdays only. Call for an appointment at 970-778-7426.

COVID-19 Resources

For additional COVID-19 resources, click [here](#) to see Delta County's COVID-19 resource page and [here](#) for the State's COVID-10 resource page.

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THE MIRROR ALWAYS SATISFIES

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SELLING PERMITS TO CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Man-

agement (BLM) will be offering permits to cut your own Christmas tree on BLM-

administered lands in the Uncompahgre Field Office now through Dec. 24. Permits are valid for piñon pines or junipers and may be purchased in person for \$8 per tree. In an effort to promote forest regeneration and stand health, permits do not authorize the cutting of ponderosa pines.

"During a time when social distancing has become a big consideration, getting outside to cut a tree on your public lands is one holiday tradition that families can still safely enjoy," noted BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager Greg Larson.

To purchase a permit, call ahead to the Montrose Public Lands Center front desk at (970) 240-5300 and provide the requested information, including the number of permits you wish to purchase (up to five).

Bring cash, credit card, or check to the Montrose Public Lands Center, 2505 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Park in one of the stalls located near the information kiosk and flagpole and call to let the front desk know that you have arrived. A member of the inter-agency visitor services staff will process your payment and deliver your permit without having to leave your car.

Permit holders are reminded to keep your permit with you at all times while cutting and transporting your tree.

The BLM recommends taking a handsaw, eye protection, rope or twine, extra food, water, and blankets when heading out to cut your tree. Tire chains, a shovel, and emergency supplies are also advised. Watch the weather conditions and let someone know where you will be and when to expect you back.

Maps and information about cutting areas will be provided upon purchase of a Christmas tree permit.

For more information about cutting trees on BLM-administered lands in the Uncompahgre Field Office, call (970) 240-5300.

For information on obtaining a tree-cutting permit for U.S. Forest Service lands in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/home/?cid=stelprdb5345974>.



A diagnosis of cancer is stressful and overwhelming. We know you would prefer to stay home, surrounded by friends and family.

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Virginia Tjan, M.D.

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Michael K. Bergen, M.D.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW AVALANCHE CONTROL SYSTEMS IN PLACE FOR US 6 LOVELAND PASS, CO 145 LIZARD HEAD PASS



With traces of snow already on the ground, a crew is seen here installing one of five towers above CO 145 in southwest Colorado. CDOT personnel will use remote controlled technology to purposely trigger snow slides that could have the potential of reaching the highway below. Courtesy photo.



Taking advantage of new technology, CDOT continues to install new remotely controlled avalanche mitigation systems, like the one above, at several locations across the high country to help decrease the hazard of natural snow slides onto highways. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

SUMMIT, SAN MIGUEL and DOLORES COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation has installed two new avalanche control systems in preparation for the 2020 - 2021 winter season. The new technology and remotely controlled systems will ensure safer avalanche mitigation missions for CDOT maintenance personnel and more efficient, reliable and safer travel conditions for motorists.

LOVELAND PASS

The Avalanche Guard system was installed by contractor Outdoor Engineers above US Highway 6 to help control avalanches from the Professor and Widow slide paths. The paths are located across US 6 from the Arapahoe Basin ski area. The new sys-

tem is safer and reduces road closures that affect heavy ski traffic in the area. Fewer technicians are required to conduct mitigation, allowing more CDOT employees to focus on plowing and conducting other essential activities in the Summit County area. The new Avalanche Guard equipment will not affect the existing Gazex avalanche control system on US 6 Loveland Pass, which is located further north.

LIZARD HEAD PASS

Meanwhile in southwest Colorado, CDOT recently completed the installation of remotely controlled avalanche mitigation equipment above CO Highway 145 on the south side of Lizard Head Pass. Crews installed five towers on the mountain and ridgeline above the highway, about 1 mile north of Rico and 20 miles south of Telluride. The towers will be used for the con-

trolled triggering of avalanches at known snow slide paths in this area. CDOT's Avalanche Mitigation Program oversaw the installation of the units, performed by [Wyssen Avalanche Control of Switzerland](#). CO 145, via Lizard Head Pass, is the alternate route for travelers when the US 550 mountain corridor is closed for emergencies. The new avalanche mitigation system will help keep CO 145 open more readily, offering a higher, more dependable level of service for motorists, particularly when avalanche conditions are occurring in the San Juan Mountains during significant winter storm cycles.

CDOT currently operates more than 30 remote systems across the state at several locations on high mountain highways and the I-70 mountain corridor.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travelers are urged to "know before you go." Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include: CDOT winter driving tips downloadable flyer: [WinterWise Driving Tips](#)

Road conditions and travel information:

www.COtrip.org

Chain and traction law information:

www.codot.gov/admin/travel/winter-driving/tractionlaw

Sign up for project or travel alerts: bit.ly/COalerts

See scheduled lane closures: codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html

Connect with us on social media: Twitter [@coloradodot](https://twitter.com/coloradodot) and Facebook [face-book.com/coloradodot](https://facebook.com/coloradodot)

To slow the spread of COVID-19, CDOT is reminding the public to wear a mask, avoid in-person interactions with people from outside their household, and wash their hands frequently.



**Always digging for
spot on news.**

The Mirror

now weekly

Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE VALUE OF WORDS (A COMMENT ON THE BINKLEY/WICK PIECE IN WEDNESDAY'S MDP)

Editor:

A newspaper (the product itself), whether electronic or print is supposedly created to reduce the happenings in a given area and time into words in a story that can be read and understood by the readership as an accurate depiction of what happened.

I enjoyed Wednesday's MDP Binkley/Wick piece. Essentially it was about the 'end of print newspapers' and the reasons. Unfortunately three specifically sentences give away the modern interpretation of a newspaper's function. And perhaps the end of the newspaper industry as we knew it.

Historically, a person read articles and columns in the paper to find out what and how something happened with NO interpretation by the REPORTER who reported it. At the end of the 4th paragraph in the subject article we are told that, "Likewise we are not in the business of making newspapers. We are in the business of making the news".

Newspapers should be only in the business of "reporting what happened". What happened IS the news. Not MAKING NEWS. And unless I credit this quote to a slip of the 'quill', later in the article I find that " ... and we continue to produce news for those who depend on it." You are supposed to produce a newspaper, NOT THE NEWS.

I say, "Nay, Nay!" This might be what you are doing but that is "all what is wrong with the Fourth Estate today". You are supposed to write what happened and reserve all the opinions of your staff and reporters to the editorial and opinion pages. Readers are entitled to glean the facts from your pages and to form their own opinions and conclusions from them.

For the edification of Binkley/Wick, the staff of the MDP, my readers and possibly the whole of Wick Communications here are some unassailable definitions compliments of Mr. Webster, a close friend of mine:

-To make means: "... to bring into existence by shaping, changing or combining"

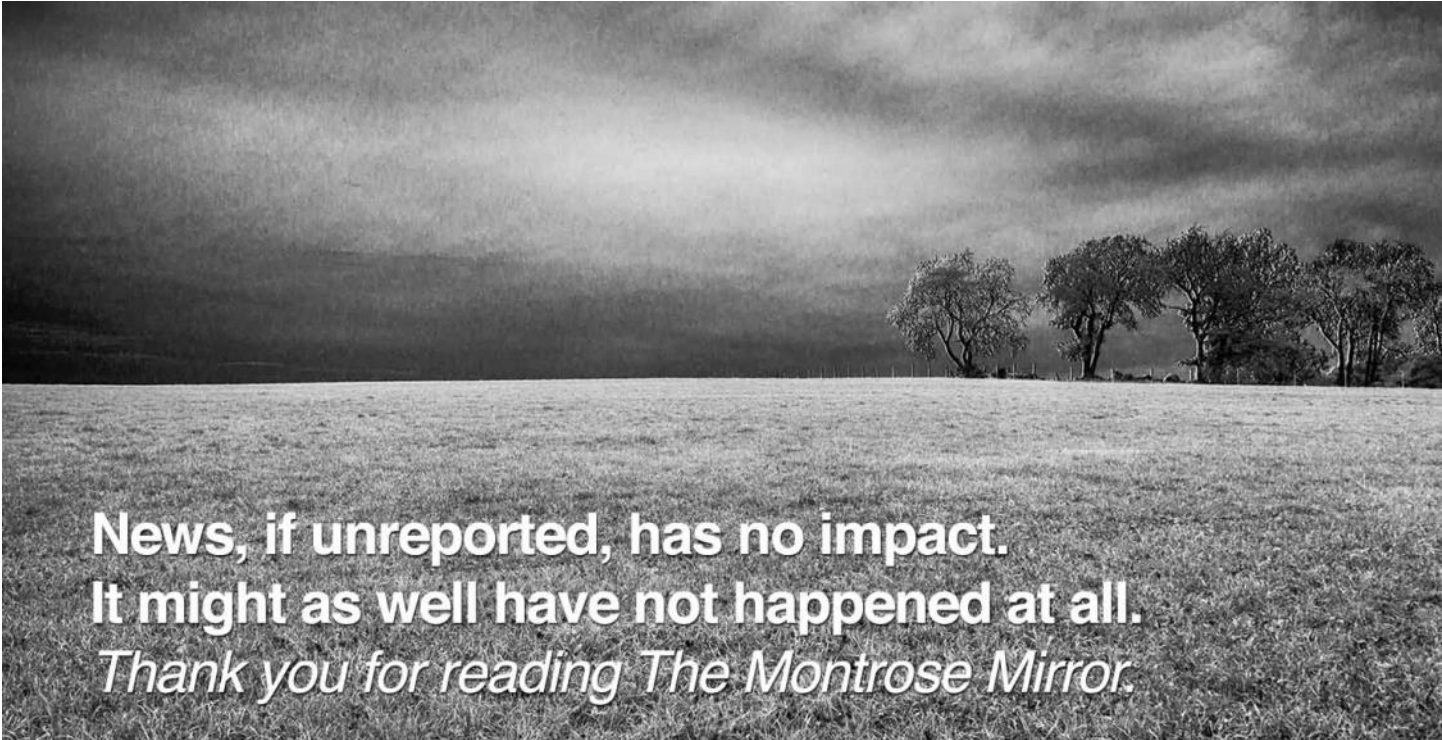
-To manufacture means: "1) to make or produce ... 2) to work up ... 3) to fabricate or concoct"

-To produce" means: "to cause to exist"
All of these definitions are contrary to a newspaper's function of 'REPORTING THE NEWS'!

This is one reason I no longer subscribe to the Montrose Daily Press. Are you manufacturing the news to suit your firm's viewpoint and political stance? That is not what newspapers are for. Newspapers in dictatorships do that---for that you do not need or want reporters, you just need writers who follow instructions---puppets.

So just what are you fellas gonna do? Are you gonna change yer ways and have your reporters REPORT the news and let the readers sort it out? Or continue to make, manufacture and produce the news your company wants published?

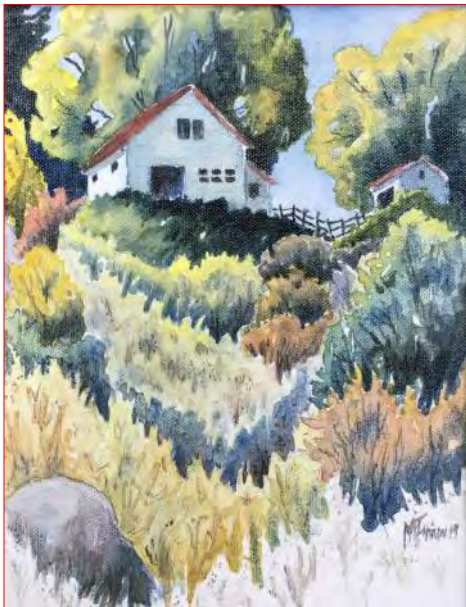
Bill Bennett, Montrose



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



MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS WELCOMES TWO NEW SHOWS



Acrylic painting by Mary Pat Ettinger.
Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Despite these challenging times, Montrose Center for the Arts is introducing two new shows for your viewing pleasure in December. MCA Member, Montrose Visual Arts Guild, will present a miniature show with 60 plus paintings, ceramic pieces and even a beautiful two-sided rock painting. These pieces represent artists throughout the local area, are for sale, and will make that special gift an affordable yet unique holiday gift. The



8x10 acrylic painting. Courtesy photo.

show is one of the Guild's annual fundraisers and looks to community support of their organization.

Also featured at the Art Center is Mary Pat Ettinger, an accomplished acrylic artist, who will show her work in the main gallery. Mary Pat draws inspiration from peaceful and tranquil scenes of flower gardens, quaint houses, canyons and mountains that she finds in her daily environment. She says, "My hope, as I paint, is that each piece will encourage and give hope...and a sense of serenity in the midst of turmoil and personal challenges that everyone faces." She paraphrases Elton John, "My gift is my art, and this one's for you." Shop at MCA's Holiday Art Mart for truly unique gifts and support your Art Center. In addition to gallery works of fine art, holiday items include hand-carved



3 dimensional wood picture - 8x10 Courtesy photo.

Santa's, ornaments, hand woven garments, jewelry, cards and pottery. Also, check out our Facebook page featuring a virtual gift shop and gallery. You can bid on auction items and artwork if you prefer to shop online. We really appreciate your support.

Montrose Center for the Arts will not have a formal First Friday Reception in December, but will be open with extended hours on Dec. 4 from 10 am -7pm. Shopping is available Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. All visitors are requested to wear masks and observe social distancing.

MCA, 11 S. Park Avenue, Montrose

www.mc4arts.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE, BOY SCOUT TROOP 476, SPONSORED BY GUNNISON ELKS LODGE



Submitted by Gary G. Davis

Photo by Margaret Cranor of Gunnison

REGIONAL-Scouting units in America have been conducting Community Service Projects since 1910, to help people in need. This year is no exception. The "Scouting for Food Drive" is in progress across America and probably around the world.

Local Scouts have recently collected at least 140 grocery bags containing over 1100 pounds of food, plus a \$16 cash donation. Boy Scout Troop 4777 donated 20 bags of canned goods and potatoes to the Crawford Food Pantry in Delta County. Boy Scout Troop 476 donated 60 bags with 500 pounds of food to the Gunnison Food Pantry. Then Cub Scout Pack 490 collected 59 bags containing 400 pounds of food, plus a \$16 financial donation, all donated to the Sharing Ministries in Montrose.

All these donations will be used locally to serve the needs of the people.

The Mirror:

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



"Rocky Mountain Cravings"

Carole Ann McKelvey, Food Editor



WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT TURKEY?



Carole Ann McKelvey.
Courtesy photo.

By Carole Ann McKelvey
MONTROSE -- I know, I know. It's the Monday after Thanksgiving and you've run out of exciting ways to put all that left-over turkey on the table.

No one is going to go out to a restaurant – what with the COVID and all. . . . that turkey. So I went on my go-to, Pinterest, to see what new ideas were in the offing. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm here to save your dinner:

HOW ABOUT TUSCAN TURKEY PASTA?!

This creamy one-pot orzo pasta recipe is great for using up leftover Thanksgiving/Christmas turkey. It is quick, easy, delicious and it's slimming friendly. By the way if leftover turkey is not in season this recipe works great with chicken

Recipe:

2 tbsp olive oil or olive oil spray for a slimming version
1 onion, finely diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, rinsed for slimming version
1 tsp garlic granules
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp paprika

1 cup dry orzo pasta
10½ oz leftover cooked turkey or chicken, diced small
2 tbsp white wine or stock to deglaze pan, optional
2 cups hot chicken stock (from a cube)
1 cup half fat creme fraiche or reduced fat sour cream or fat-free yogurt
2 cups fresh baby spinach
2 tbsp freshly grated Parmesan cheese to serve (optional)
Lemon zest, to garnish (optional)
Salt and pepper to season to taste

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 200C (400F). Heat a tablespoon of oil (from the sun-dried tomatoes jar for extra flavour) in a large casserole dish or Dutch oven. Use olive oil spray for a slimming version. Add the onion and stir to coat in the oil. Cover the pot and cook the onion over very low heat for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. You want the onion to soften but not color. Stir in the minced garlic, chopped sun-dried tomatoes, salt, garlic granules and paprika. Sauté for a few minutes. If the pan is getting a bit dry you can deglaze it with a splash of white wine (or vermouth / chicken stock) but that is optional. Add the orzo pasta and stir to toast in the oil and seasonings. Stir in the diced turkey (or chicken). Pour in the stock and bring to a simmer, scraping the bottom of the pan

(orzo has a tendency to stick). Add the creme fraiche (or sour cream) and stir to combine. Cover the pot and transfer to the oven and cook for 12-15 minutes, stirring halfway. Uncover the pot and use a wooden spoon to give it a good stir. The orzo should be cooked and the dish creamy and delicious. Add handfuls of fresh spinach, stirring into the creamy orzo until it wilts. Add the grated Parmesan and check the seasoning, adding salt and pepper if needed. Enjoy!

Or, how about **QUICK TURKEY ENCHILADAS?** 2 Cups diced Turkey 1 Cup Salsa 10 Corn Tortillas 2 cups shredded cheese 1 Can Enchilada Sauce Mix together Turkey and Salsa.

Next, divide amongst Tortillas, roll, and place into a casserole pan, opening down.

Cover with Enchilada Sauce, sprinkle Cheese on top and bake for 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

TURKEY CRANBERRY BRIE GRILLED

CHEESE 2 Slices Hearty Bread 2 T. Cranberry Sauce 3 Good slices of Brie Slices of Cooked Turkey Butter Spread butter on the outside of 2 slices of Bread.

Turn over and layer with Cranberry Sauce, Sliced Turkey, and Brie.

Close sandwich and grill until brown on both sides and cheese is melted.



THE BEST GIFT IS THAT
OF KNOWLEDGE

#montrosemirror

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ARIEL EXPANDS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE WITH RMHF GRANT

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Ariel would like to thank the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation for their partnership and generosity in providing mental health services for the youth of our community.

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation has awarded Ariel with a grant to make it possible for Ariel to expand their mental health services to provide over 150 mental health sessions to people who might not otherwise be able to access mental health care.

This grant allows us to support youth in our community that are struggling with mental health or difficulties coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. These youth may be homeless, without insurance, or have no mental health support otherwise.

Lisa Whalin, LPC the Clinical Program Manager, stated "we are now able to treat and serve youth that can't access treatment anywhere else in the community. Our schools and pediatricians are seeing a big increase in depression and anxiety in our youth and we wanted to help."



Wash your hands

Thank you for doing your part
to keep CO safe!



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

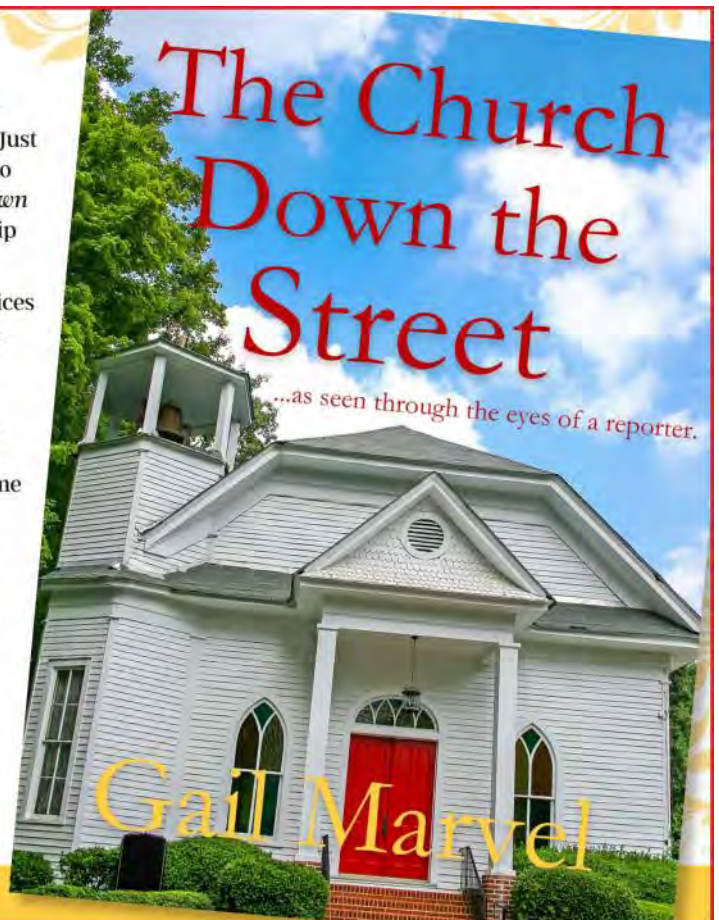
It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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

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

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

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



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

UPPER SAN JUAN RIVER PARTNERSHIP PLANS PROJECT NEAR PAGOSA SPRINGS



Boaters float the Upper San Juan River near Pagosa Springs. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

PAGOSA SPRINGS— Public access to recreation amenities is a priority for outdoor advocates in Southwest Colorado and a new project to greatly improve an access point for boaters on the San Juan River is in the planning stage.

A group of residents and organizations is working to build a safe and sustainable river take-out ramp about 12 miles south of Pagosa Springs along Archuleta County Road 500, also known as Trujillo Road. Boaters have rafted this section of the San Juan -- known as Mesa Canyon -- for years, but access has become crowded as more people use the area.

"This is the signature run in the Pagosa area, it's a beautiful section to float and it's become very popular," said Tobi Rohwer, owner of Pagosa Outside. "We'll improve the take-out and build a parking lot to get vehicles off the road."

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership, a regional stakeholder group that includes a variety of private and public organizations, is coordinating a fundraising effort for the project. Fundraising for the project is being directed by The Great Outdoors Fund, a national non-profit organization that helps raise money

for recreation and conservation.

"This is an important project for people in Southwest Colorado; The Great Outdoors Fund is happy to provide our expertise to help get this built," said Lori McCullough, founder and CEO of the Great Outdoors Fund.

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership was formed in 2018 to explore cooperative projects that meet multiple water needs in the Upper San Juan Basin and to advance the goals of the statewide Colorado Water Plan.

"The group is studying everything related to water in the upper San Juan River Basin, including recreation, agriculture and environmental needs," explained Ryan Unterreiner, a water resource specialist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The agency is a member of the watershed partnership.

Other members of the partnership include: the town of Pagosa Springs, Trout Unlimited, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Pagosa Outside, San Juan Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Mountain Studies Institute, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Banded Peak Ranch, the U.S. Forest Service, local irrigation companies and others.

The boat ramp project provides a great example of how local private-public partnerships can be built, Rohwer explained. Another ramp that had been used for years was on private land and the owner decided to close it a couple of years ago. So the Friends of the Upper San Juan approached another nearby landowner and asked if a take-out could be located at that site which is right next to the road. The landowner agreed and sold an acre of river property to the town of Pagosa Springs for just \$5,000.

Archuleta County officials have agreed to help with some construction materials and maintenance of the parking lot and a Pagosa Springs engineer, Chris Pitcher, is designing the eddy structure and take-out at no cost. Town staff is helping with planning documents and some site improvements and other organizations in the partnership are contributing expertise and helping with fundraising.

"Even a small project like this can be complicated," said Unterreiner. "But when people and organizations agree to work together for a common goal a lot of good things can happen that will benefit local communities."

The organizers plan to raise \$65,000 for the project.

Projects like these bring together a variety of partners and help promote collaboration among various water users, said Mely Whiting, a staff attorney for Trout Unlimited and a member of the regional watershed partnership.

"These are the kinds of efforts Trout Unlimited likes to support," Whiting said. "Today, partners help recreation, tomorrow agriculture, the next day the environment. And all of it benefits our local economy."

To find out more about the project and to make donations, go to The Great Outdoors Fund web site at: <https://thegreatoutdoorsfund.org>.

For more information about the project, send an email to ryan.unterreiner@state.co.us, or James Dickhoff, Pagosa Springs planning director at jdickhoff@pagosasprings.co.gov

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CITY ANNOUNCES "ALL IS BRIGHT" HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The City of Montrose is excited to announce the "All is Bright" community celebration, a month-long series of events to welcome the 2020 holiday season in safe, socially distant ways aimed at uniting the community.

The city typically sponsors and coordinates a full schedule of annual holiday activities. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, annual traditions like the Community Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights have been modified to adhere to state-mandated social distancing protocols.

City organizers are excited to offer the following events to help the Montrose community celebrate the holiday season. Find complete holiday event information at CityofMontrose.org/Holidays.

"Light Your Night" Tree Lighting

On the evening of November 27, from the comfort of your own home, join the City of Montrose in a special at-home tree lighting event, Light Your Night, at 5:30 p.m. On social media, we will share the virtual Montrose tree lighting to kick off the 2020 holiday season and we invite you

to plug your tree in with us to light up the night. Share photos and videos of your at-home tree lighting on social media and tag the City of Montrose to celebrate as a community.

Small Business Saturdays

Join us for not one, but four Small Business Saturdays this year on November 28, December 5, 12, and 19. Starting November 28 in Downtown Montrose, spend \$50 and get \$10 in Montrose Bucks at participating businesses while supplies last.

See a list of participating businesses at CityofMontrose.org/Holidays.

Tour of Lights

All is bright with the Tour of Lights in the City of Montrose. Spread holiday cheer from a distance this year. Light up your business, home, or neighborhood like Rudolph's nose then sign-up to be featured on a map with other decorating pros.

Join the contest by [registering online](#) through December 4, for a chance to win a prize and be featured in the newspaper. The Tour of Lights and voting will run from December 11 to December 31 with winners to be announced shortly

thereafter.

Letters to Santa

Children are invited to drop off letters in Santa's magical mailbox in front of City Hall to deliver their holiday wish lists this year. Drop off your letter from December 11 to December 24 and be sure to leave your return address to hear back from the man, the myth, and the legend.

Montrose Bucks

It's the season of giving and we've got a Montrose Bucks promotion for YOU! For every \$50 worth of Montrose Bucks purchased, get an additional \$10. There is a purchase limit of \$400 per household (which adds up to \$480 in Montrose Bucks)! Get a few extra gifts this year and support local businesses while doing it.

Purchase your Montrose Bucks gift card online and have it shipped right to your door. Purchase your Montrose Bucks [here](#).

Offer good through Dec. 31, 2020. Montrose Bucks Gift Card Program is issued by Metabank, National Association, Member FDIC. Find complete holiday event information at CityofMontrose.org/Holidays.



SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Saturdays 10 am-1 pm, first three weeks of November and December 2020, every other weekend starting Jan. 9th 2021

Location: Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompahgre Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

Cost: Free to attend

Curbside service is still available in the winter season!

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.

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-

Dec. 4-Montrose Center for the Arts will not have a formal First Friday Reception in December, but will be open with extended hours on Dec. 4 from 10 am -7pm. Shopping is available Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. All visitors are requested to wear masks and observe social distancing.

Dec. 9-Have any favorite holiday desserts? The winter season is a wonderful time to gather around friends and family to enjoy some tasty treats! Regardless of the holidays you celebrate, you're more than welcome to join us and discuss your favorite desserts for this festive season. All attendees will receive a written record of the recipes discussed. Email Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org to join this virtual event on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 6pm.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

MONTROSE-Deb took this photo of Sandhill Cranes several days ago. "I loved how the sunlight reflected off their beautiful and distinct wings against a blue-bird sky," she said. "They are some of the oldest birds on the planet. Their distinctive call brings to mind this quote from naturalist Aldo Leopold: 'High horns, low horns, silence and finally a pandemonium of trumpets, rattles, croaks and cries that almost shakes the bog with its nearness... When we hear his call, we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution.'" – Aldo Leopold,



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