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# the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 406 Dec. 7 2020

## CITY OF MONTROSE HOUSE PURCHASE-UPDATE

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Prior to publishing my Nov. 30 story on the City of Montrose purchasing the house on Oak Grove Road, I reached out to the city with several questions. The response I got from City Manager Bill Bell was that he wanted to set up a Zoom call or meet in person rather than answer questions in email. Bell said, "We are too busy at the City to do a back and forth email exchange with many questions upon questions."

I did find through a CORA request that the City did lease the house on a month to month basis for \$1,300. I was unable to find where that money shows up on City income sheets. I was contacted by City Engineer Scott Murphy, who wanted to talk about the Woodgate project as well as the property purchase. According to Murphy, after consulting with traffic engineers it was determined the planned realignment would cause more traffic and backups at the East Oak Grove and South Townsend intersection. This meant the plan, as



*Continued pg 5* Woodgate Project. Courtesy image.

## CITY RELEASES AMPHITHEATER RFQ, CLOSES PUBLIC RESTROOMS

### City Manager, Councilor poke fun at employee's mustache



*A City contractor places "closed" signs on the public restrooms at Centennial Plaza on Thursday, Dec. 3.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council met for a regular, virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday,

Dec. 1. The meeting was accessible by Zoom call and on cable channels 191 and 970. All councilors were present, with Chyanne

Storrs representing the Montrose Youth Council. Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the meeting. Storrs said the Pledge of Allegiance.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Nov. 17, 2020 regular City Council meeting as presented.

### SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ORDINANCE-FIRST READING

Also approved unanimously was Ordinance 2519 on first reading, which was discussed previously in work session. No comments were received during a brief public hearing. Ordinance 2519 amends Ordinance No. 2490 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose,

*Continued pg 12*

in this issue

*Reader photo Spotlight With Deb Reimann!*

*Bring Home the Fun- Amazing Glaze Art!*

*"It's Mine and I Want it Back," by Historian Bob Cox*

*Regional News Briefs! Letters to the Editor!*



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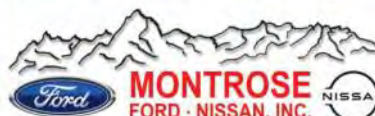
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Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer to a readership of over 13,500 residents of Western Colorado.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-STATE TO REFUND \$30 MILLION IN PATRONAGE CAPITAL TO MEMBERS FOR 2020

#### Special to the Mirror

**WESTMINSTER**—In a decision that once again showed the benefits of cooperative membership, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's board of directors today approved the return of \$30 million in patronage capital refunds for 2020 to its members.

Patronage capital represents each member's ownership and investment in Tri-State, and is an accumulation over the years of the net margins earned by and allocated to those members. Including 2020, Tri-State has returned \$130 million to its members over the past five years.

"The return of patronage capital truly represents the strength of the cooperative business model and the benefits of belonging to Tri-State.

This refund provides a significant return of investment and inflow of cash for our

members, strengthening their balance sheets and contributing to their overall financial strength," said Rick Gordon, chair of the Tri-State board and director of the Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colo.

In early October, Tri-State's board of directors also approved the power supply cooperative's 2021 budget, with no proposed wholesale rate change.

Tri-State continues to provide long-term rate certainty for its 42 utility members in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and New Mexico. Tri-State noted that wholesale rates for utility members would not change for the fifth year in a row.

Also in October 2020, Tri-State's board of directors announced a goal to reduce its wholesale rates to members by 8% by the end of 2023.

Tri-State's wholesale rates provide for the

long-term, firm delivery of power to the cooperative's members.

The wholesale rate includes all of the services required for delivering power, including energy, capacity, ancillary services, transmission, and a wide range of other products and services.

Tri-State board sets budgets, and rates are set annually for power and services to the cooperative's utility members.

Tri-State is subject to wholesale rate regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), similar to other wholesale power suppliers nationwide.

"Our efforts to maintain stable rates and control costs, even during the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, upholds our mission of providing a reliable, affordable and responsible supply of electricity, in accordance with cooperative principles," Gordon said.



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## ***CITY OF MONTROSE HOUSE PURCHASE UPDATE From pg 1***

available for public review, had to change. The new intersection needed to be moved further east, including a potential roundabout that would encroach onto the

property at 1628 East Oak Grove. Since the property was on the market it was determined in executive session that it should be bought. Part of the plan was to



**1628 East Oak Grove Road.**

change the property boundary as needed, then resell it once construction on the Woodgate realignment is complete.

Because the city has had problems with potential new employees relocating here due to difficulties in finding housing, it is possible the property could eventually serve as temporary housing for new city employees while they find permanent housing in Montrose, rather than selling the property after completion of the Woodgate realignment.

Plans for the Woodgate realignment have been changed but are not finalized (so not released) but should be available for viewing by the end of the year.

**CORRECTION**-An incorrect email address was included in an op/ed last week for City of Montrose Senior Planner Amy Sharp. The correct email is [asharp@ci.montrose.co.us](mailto:asharp@ci.montrose.co.us).

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## **OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS**

### **CITY HAS SHOWN PROPENSITY FOR TAXPAYER DOLLAR GIVEWAYS**

*Editor:*

For several years now, the City of Montrose, under the leadership of Bill Bell, has shown a propensity for taxpayer dollar giveaways to “select” companies as “incentives”. The latest is the HUB project on Chipeta, a 500-unit multifamily proposal that is clearly incompatible with the area. Prior to any taxpayer scrutiny, the City has already promised a whopping \$2.3 million “incentive” of our tax dollars, which is but the tip of the iceberg of total taxpayer cost exposure! As in other such incentives, if you look closely, you can find the shadowy fingerprints of Bill Bell on the baton that has directed the project. A highly questionable rezoning, absent full neighborhood disclosure, has opened the door for this proposal to proceed.

As with City Council meetings, the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 9 will be held virtually. This issue of great public import, in my opinion, should be held publicly in the Event Center arena, with ample space for observing COVID protocols. Unfortunately the City seems to have been using COVID as an excuse to avoid face to face meetings with taxpayers.

Sadly, this project seems to be all but a done deal! The real losers here are Cobble Creek/ Spruce Point, all residences in the Chipeta corridor, and most importantly the taxpayers of Montrose. This is but one more issue that seems to highlight the lack of full transparency at the highest level of City management.

*Dee Laird, Cobble Creek*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CSP TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR TROOPER POSITION

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – The Colorado State Patrol is currently accepting applications for the Trooper career path. If you or someone you know has an interest in joining law enforcement, now is the time to apply online at [CSP Cadet Announcement](#). The window for applications is set to close on Dec. 18, 2020, at 5 PM. An HR Analyst will review all online applications against the state's minimum qualifications (MQ's) for the job and the Preferred Qualifications (PQ's) for the job. After a review of MQ's/ PQ's, you may potentially be invited to test. The applicants that make it through the extensive selection process are expected to begin training in Sept. 2021 at the Colorado State Patrol Training Academy in Golden, CO. The career of a Colorado State Patrol Trooper is rewarding, challenging, with numerous opportunities to work in a variety of specialty fields. The mission of the Colorado State Patrol is to provide a safe and secure environment for all persons by providing professional law enforcement services that reflect our core values of Honor, Duty, and Respect. We are seeking those with a desire to serve the citizens of the State of Colorado for many years to come.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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*Special to the Mirror*

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# BOCC HEARS ANNUAL ROAD REPORT; BOARD OF HEALTH ADJUSTS REGULATION OF BODY ART ESTABLISHMENTS



*On Dec. 2, the Montrose BOCC heard the annual Road and Bridge Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Report for 2020 and five-year plan for 2021 through 2025. Letter grades are applied to road conditions; according to Engineer Keith Laube Montrose County is close to achieving a 3.0 road "GPA." Pictured above are an "A" road (left) and a "D" Road.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular, virtual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2. BOCC Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the session. All commissioners were present, and joined staff in saying the Pledge of Allegiance together via Zoom, with mixed results.

"That's a mess," Commissioner Sue Hansen said.

"We got it done," Caddy said.

"...Technology can't keep up with humans, that's the problem."

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

## COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were accepted as presented.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the Off-Airport Ground Transportation Agreement with Tazco, Inc., dba Sunshine Rides.

Said Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold, "Sunshine Rides is a taxi service here in Montrose. We historically have had taxi services come and go, so we're happy to have Sunshine Rides on board." He recommended approval of the agreement.

Public Works Director Keith Laube presented the annual Road and Bridge Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Report for 2020 and five-year plan for 2021 through 2025.

The document will be posted on the web site, Laube said, and reviewed the report. The County maintains 1,379 miles of roads. Of those, 295 miles are paved, 482 miles are gravel, and 602 miles are primitive surface. The report also includes the County's gravel pits and system of applying letter grades to road conditions—Montrose County is close to achieving a 3.0 road "GPA," Laube said. "That's really our goal."

Since 2008, Montrose County has improved 143 miles of roads by asphalt overlay and by paving high-traffic gravel roads. With 32.64 miles of paving overall in 2020, "This is our biggest paving year probably ever," Laube said. "We probably won't do that much again, but never say never."

In 2021, the County plans to pave about

25.55 miles of roads.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "Outstanding job to you and your crews again. It's pretty amazing the amount of work we can get done. Thank God we have that sales tax that helps us achieve this."

"I hope the public sees that their tax dollars are being applied to the ground...Thank you."

Caddy said, "...Thank you, thanks to all the crew, I would like to say thanks to the citizens of Montrose County for the PSST sales tax. I don't say it enough...we're making it work for everybody in the County."

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The BOCC voted to approve the Uchiro Court Road Easement Vacation proposal to vacate a road right-of-way, as well as the Battifora Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 15.750 acres lot into two lots at 67864 Wildcat Trail.

Also approved was the Scott Minor Subdivision Proposal to Amend plat note for further subdivision on a collector road at 6063 5600 Road.

## MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The BOCC closed the regular session to convene as the Montrose County Board of Public Health. The Board voted unanimously to adopt Board of Health Resolution 20-01, pertaining to body art establishments and body artists within the unincorporated areas of Montrose County.

Closing as the Board of Health, the BOCC returned to regular session.

Caddy thanked City Councilman Doug Glaspell for attending the meeting. "Thank you so much Doug for being here."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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## ***CITY RELEASES AMPHITHEATER RFQ, CLOSES PUBLIC RESTROOMS From pg 1***

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.

### **ORDINANCE 2520-FIRST READING**

Council heard from Assistant City attorneys Matthew Magliaro and Rachel Allen, presenting updates to Municipal Code as Council considered approving Ordinance 2520 on first reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, 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.

The Updates were intended to address certain enforcement issues and were previously reviewed in work session. Magliaro reviewed the Executive Summary in detail, including changes to the language concerning Open Burning and Recreational Fires. Language was added to reflect the common practices of the Montrose Fire Protection District, Magliaro said.

Mayor Bynum thanked Magliaro and Allen for their hard work; Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2520 on First Reading.

### **ORDINANCE 2518-FIRST READING**

Council voted unanimously to approve 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.

### **STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid gave an update. Christmas lights are now up, with special attention paid to the area outside City Hall. It was the last week of the fall leaf pickup. "We are on pace to beat our record of last year and we are at almost 5,000 leaf bags so far," Scheid said.

"Thanks for the Christmas decorations around town," Bynum said. "They look really awesome and I've heard some really positive comments...kudos to our public works department for all their hard work."

City Engineer Scott Murphy complimented Scheid's facial hair. "That is a nice-looking mustache you have there."

Scheid is a top contender in the City's No Shave November epic mustache contest, he said. "Proud to say that we have 19 participants, male and female," Murphy said, "the results of that will be distributed soon amongst the city folks for voting to see who the true champion is." The winner will receive a bucket of Braun, he said.

No Shave November began as a way to raise awareness of cancer, he said. "Happy to support that and get that word out."

Mayor Bynum said she appreciated the lighthearted mustache contest. "That's a good thing to be aware about. To all of the men in my life, and all of you guys, take care of your health and take care of yourself and do your annual cancer screenings. It's important." She expressed a desire to vote in the contest.

Murphy said that City Councilor Dave Frank was a competitor. "Nice job Dave, looks good."

"The hard part was leaving all the gray part and not having all the nice brown hairs," Frank said, and suggested a special prize for the female contestants.

City Manager Bill Bell said that Murphy has generated "engineering" style instructions for the contest. "...there's actually diagrams, and if you follow the step by step approach, there's a good chance you're gonna win the contest. If you can't follow that, if you can't put Legos together, that kind of thing, like Blaine (Chief of Police Blaine Hall)—I just want to throw him out there—other people have a great chance...it's great."

The timing was right for a contest to improve morale, Bell said. "...Everybody's been kind of down in the dumps, including the community members, and everybody's working really hard...it doesn't matter what it is that Scott Murphy does, it is 110 percent. I can't say enough good things about him." Murphy gave a brief project update; highlights include that Cerro Reservoir will finish filling in the spring, pipe bursting would begin that

week, and that the City's final walk-through for the Maverick Station would be next week. Councilor Frank asked about the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Cerise Park Amphitheater. "How is that going?"

"It is out on the web site right now for GC qualifications," Scheid said. "We'll be reviewing those next week." A selection will be made in two weeks, he said.

"Excellent. Thank you," Frank said.

Bell said that the City has seen an increase in vandalism to public restrooms; he urged the public to be the City's "eyes and ears."

"...There seems to be a heightened level of random vandalism...People experiencing homeless are lighting fires, doing things like that...if we don't know about it, we don't know about it," Bell said.

"We're looking at closing down a lot of our public restrooms and replacing them with portable toilets for that reason, and to make sure they're sanitary due to COVID conditions...when I came back I learned that the last few weeks it has kind of been a heightened issue."

Those who want to report non-emergency incidents can call 970-249-9110, Police Chief Blaine Hall said.

Hall said that porch pirates are also a problem right now and suggested that those who have packages coming while they will be away should make arrangements with a neighbor to bring the packages inside. Youth Council Representative Chyanne Storrs gave an update; Zoom meetings have been going smoothly, and Youth Council has been working on plans for a new time capsule. "It's really fun."

Prior to adjournment, Councilor Frank poked fun at Chief Hall, who is clean shaven, for his lack of a mustache.

"I want to compliment Chief Hall on his mustache," Frank said, during the time allotted for general commentary at meeting's end. "It's twice as long as I've ever seen it!" Other councilors laughed.

Hall, who was required to attend the session as staff, responded to Frank's comment. "I've received a lot of wonderful criticism and comments about my mustache," he said. "Thank you, Councilman Frank, for pointing that out in a public meeting." With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - Medicare beneficiaries and their families need to be aware that the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period will end on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. People needing help with enrollment and sorting through the options available can call 800-MEDICARE, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Open enrollment is the time when more than 60 million eligible individuals with Medicare across the country can review their coverage choices and decide on the options that best meet their health needs for the next year.

During Open Enrollment, Medicare beneficiaries can compare coverage options like Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, and choose health and prescription drug plans for 2021.

Why is it important to compare plans for next year? Medicare health and drug plan costs and covered benefits can change from year-to-year, and a person's health care needs or situation may have changed too.

"Time is running out," said Kimberly Latta, Director of the Colorado State Health Insurance Assistance Program (Colorado SHIP). "And with the new choices available in Medicare this year, we are encouraging people to not wait any longer."

As Always, Watch Out for Scams and Identity Theft

Colorado SHIP urges people with Medicare to practice safety measures to guard against identity theft during open enrollment. Beneficiaries should not give their Medicare card or Medicare number to anyone except their doctor or people they know should have it.

People can report any suspected Medicare fraud to the Colorado Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at 800-503-5190.

Don't wait until the last minute. Call 800-MEDICARE and get help in finding a plan that's best for you.



**WHO'S ON YOUR  
COVID CARE TEAM?**  
**BE PREPARED. MAKE A PLAN  
MONTROSE COUNTY!**

**¡HAGA UN PLAN,  
CONDADO DE MONTROSE!**







# HAVE A COVID CARE PLAN

## MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

It's important to be prepared for any emergency, and it's never too early to prepare to protect your family in case of illness. From healthcare to childcare, use this checklist to prepare your family's COVID Care plan!



## WHO IS YOUR DOCTOR?



It is important to find a doctor to care for your family right away, before anyone gets sick. Then, if you or a family member becomes ill, you can simply **call your doctor** rather than filling out paperwork with a fever.

## PREPARE A COVID PLAN NOW:



### Create an at-home plan to avoid the spread.

Encourage your household members to maintain everyday preventative actions like washing hands frequently and avoiding touching eyes, nose, & mouth as much as possible.



### Know your workplace policy.

Talk with your supervisor to determine the most effective steps necessary if you should become sick, and never go to work when you are feeling ill.

## PLAN AHEAD:



### Create a sick room.

This will help contain the virus as much as possible and prevent other household members from getting sick. Include basic need items like water and fever-reducing medicine, cleaning supplies, and disposable masks and gloves. Have disposable protective gear available for the caregiver.



### Create your COVID Care Team.

Coordinate with your family and friends to provide support to one another if a family member gets sick. Ask for family members or friends to safely deliver groceries to your household so you can effectively quarantine and prevent the spread.



### Centralize medical information.

Create a folder with your family's necessary medical information. Have your primary care doctor's phone number on hand.



### Mask up. Make good choices now.

Wear masks in communal areas you share with people outside the family to help prevent the spread to household members.

Preparing your household ahead of time will alleviate much of the stress that arises if a family member gets sick with COVID-19. Make a plan and prepare now to keep your family and your community safe and healthy.



For more ways to make a plan, visit [www.montrosecountyjic.com](http://www.montrosecountyjic.com)





## TENGA UN PLAN DE ATENCIÓN PARA COVID

### ¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!

Es importante estar preparado para cualquier emergencia y nunca es demasiado pronto para prepararse para proteger a su familia en caso de enfermedad. Desde atención médica hasta cuidado de niños, use esta lista de verificación para preparar el plan de atención para COVID de su familia.

### ¿QUIEN ES TU DOCTOR?

Es importante encontrar un médico que atienda a su familia de inmediato, antes de que alguien se enferme. Luego, si usted o un miembro de su familia se enferma, simplemente puede llamar a su médico en lugar de tener que completar el papeleo con fiebre.

### PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



**Cree un plan en su casa para evitar la propagación.**

Anime a los miembros de su hogar a que mantengan acciones preventivas diarias como lavarse las manos con frecuencia y evitar tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca tanto como sea posible.



**Conozca la política de su lugar de trabajo.**

Hable con su supervisor para determinar los pasos necesarios si se enferma y nunca vaya a trabajar cuando se sienta enfermo.

### PREPÁRATE AHORA:



**Cree una habitación para enfermos.**

Esto ayudará a contener el virus tanto como sea posible y evitará que otros miembros de su casa se enfermen. Incluya artículos de necesidad básica como agua y medicamentos para reducir la fiebre, artículos de limpieza y máscaras y guantes desechables. Tenga equipo protector desechable disponible para el cuidador.



**Cree su equipo de atención para COVID.**

Coordine con su familia y amigos para apoyarse mutuamente si un miembro de la familia se enferma. Pídale a su familia o amigos que le entreguen alimentos de manera segura en su hogar para que pueda poner en cuarentena de manera efectiva y prevenir la propagación.



**Centralizar la información médica.**

Cree una carpeta con la información médica necesaria de su familia. Tenga a mano el número de teléfono de su médico de atención primaria.



**Usar una máscara. Tome buenas decisiones ahora.**

Use máscaras en las áreas comunes que comparte con personas ajenas a la familia para ayudar a prevenir la propagación a los miembros de su casa.

Preparar su casa con anticipación aliviará gran parte del estrés que surge si un miembro de la familia se enferma con COVID-19. Haga un plan y prepárese ahora para mantener a su familia y su comunidad seguras y saludables.

Para más formas de hacer un plan, visite [www.montrosecountyjic.com](http://www.montrosecountyjic.com)



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



# Wear your mask

Thank you for doing your part  
to keep CO safe!

### RIDGWAY SNOW REMOVAL PLAN ONLINE

*Special to the Mirror*

**RIDGWAY-** The Ridgway Public Works Department coordinates snow and ice control operations in conjunction with CDOT within the Town of Ridgway. Public Works will typically plow when there is greater than 4 inches of snow fall on hard surfaces. Since all streets cannot be addressed at the same time, the priority is to keep transportation routes and main thoroughfares drivable, especially school streets. Once these streets are safe and passable, equipment is assigned to businesses, residential streets, and then critical public sidewalks. Public Works does its best to clear priority routes before the schools start and business doors open, while also taking advantage of the limited cars in the downtown area early in the morning. For more information regarding policies and procedures in place when it snows in the Town of Ridgway, please contact the Public Works Department at 970-626-5308 x 221 or click [HERE](#). The Town of Ridgway greatly appreciates your patience and understanding this winter season!

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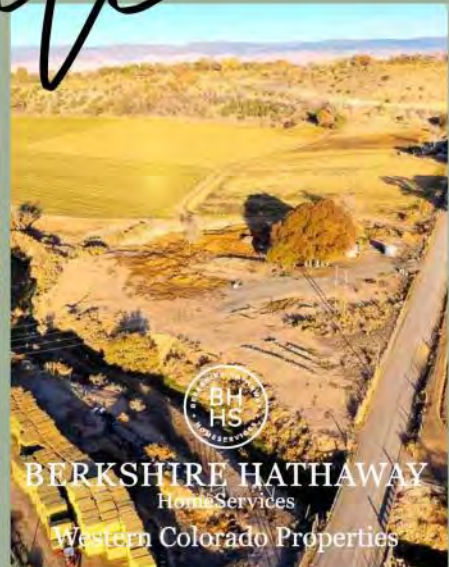
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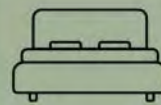


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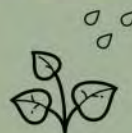
2 bedrooms



1 bathroom



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11.90 total irrig. acres



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*Letters to  
Santa*

**12.11.20 - 12.24.20**

Drop off your letters to Santa at the mailbox located in front of City Hall (433 S 1st Street)



[CityofMontrose.org/Holidays](https://CityofMontrose.org/Holidays)



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### 3 SCHOOLS QUARANTINE CLASSROOM COHORTS AFTER POSITIVE COVID RESULTS

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that students at three school sites 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.

Through contact tracing, the CRT determined that:

As a result of a Centennial Middle School (CtMS) Cohort B student testing positive for COVID, four CtMS staff members and 30 CtMS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Tuesday, December 15th.

As a result of two Olathe Elementary School (OES) students testing positive for COVID, six OES staff members and 38 OES students need to seek testing and quarantine through Tuesday, December 15th.

As a result of two Johnson Elementary School (JES) students testing positive for COVID, five JES staff members and 53 JES students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, December 16th.

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.

Viral prevalence is rising in Montrose County.

Families must take all necessary COVID precautions through the coming weeks and months in order for our community to avoid widespread school closures; 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 COVID-19 in our area.

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<sup>1</sup>Humana Inc. First Quarter 2020 Earnings Release May 1, 2020

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## Senior CommUnity Meals

seniorcommunitymeals.org | 970-874-7661



On Colorado Gives Day, this December 8 and beyond, you can help us continue to provide nutritional home delivered meals to older adults in Western Colorado. Last year, we prepared a whopping 53,878 meals. This year, we adapted to Covid-19 public gathering restrictions by creating meal drive up/pick up sites to substitute for our eight community dining programs.

***Give once or give every month. Donations can be made year round.***

Please help your most vulnerable neighbors who are experiencing food and nutrition hardships.

Schedule your donation today at

**[www.coloradogives.org/seniorcommunitymeals](http://www.coloradogives.org/seniorcommunitymeals)**



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### LEAVE OUR PEACEFUL COMMUNITY THE WAY IT IS

*To the City of Montrose Planning Commission:*

As residents of Spruce Point at Cobble Creek, we HIGHLY OBJECT to the authorization to build this complex!!!!!!

Approval of this project seriously puts the area in jeopardy of reduced home values, reduced real estate desirability, increased traffic flow hazards, increased crime, and destroys the amenities that Cobble Creek area offers.

We have lived in the developments that Matt Miles created here in Montrose. They have turned into very low-maintained, overgrown, crime-ridden, nature-destroying, noisy, polluted, non-family-oriented neighborhoods. Why would this new development of his be any different? Have you looked into these properties to see his track record?

It is the reason we left and moved to the Cobble Creek area!!!! Now he's bringing another one of his poorly-maintained and POORLY-managed "developments", to our peaceful and beautiful, golf-course community.

There are SEVERAL valid, legitimate reasons to seriously consider, before approving such a large and oppressive infrastructure, in the Cobble Creek area. If the City of Montrose is considering the need for 500 apartments, there are far better options to build on. Leave our peaceful community the way it is, and the way the city planning commission promised to keep it, when it was developed.

*Thank you for your consideration,  
Charles and Sonja Anderson, Montrose*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CDOT FINALIZES DESIGN FOR I-70B 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET & GRAND AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

#### Special to the Mirror

MESA COUNTY - The Colorado Department of Transportation invites Grand Junction community members to view safety improvements in the final design for the I-70B 1st and Grand Avenue Improvements Project. Residents, stakeholders, motorists, and others are invited to view the project update video, PDF, images and other materials available Dec. 1 for viewing on the [project website](#).

The project started in 2008 with an Environmental Assessment and the team has hosted a series of public meetings over the last several years to gather public input on safety, mobility and access concerns at I-70B near 1st St. and Grand Ave. in Grand Junction. The project is supporting future roadway, sidewalk and access improvements in the area and will improve safety, congestion, and multi-modal opportunities. Specifically, the project area includes the I-

70 Business Loop (I-70B) from Mulberry Street to Rood Avenue, and Colorado Highway 340 (Broadway) from Mulberry Street/Rice Street to 2nd Street. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2021 and is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2022. Further information on construction timing and phasing will be announced once a contractor is on-board.

Due to current limitations on public events during the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), CDOT is providing virtual opportunities for public engagement on the final design for the I-70B 1st and Grand Avenue Improvements Project. Information about this project is shared and updated on the [project website \(click here to view\)](#). Virtual public engagement includes, but is not exclusive to, the following process:

- Public notification in local newspaper
- Press release announcement for local media

-Emails to project stakeholders

-Public notification on CDOT's Facebook and Twitter pages

All methods will alert the public and stakeholders to the opportunity to review the project details and how to provide feedback. To send feedback on this project, please email

[dot\\_170BInfo@state.co.us](mailto:dot_170BInfo@state.co.us). Comments during this virtual public engagement period will be received until Dec. 15. CDOT will document, record and review comments. CDOT encourages public input on all projects.

If members of the public do not have access to the internet or are unable to access the virtual engagement video and online comment form, or need the information in Spanish, please call the project hotline at (970) 416-4434. More information about the project is online at <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i-70-b-1st-street-and-grand-avenue>.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# HUB AT MONTROSE IS TOTALLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING AREA

To the Montrose City Council members:

We were dismayed and upset to learn in a newspaper article that at an August 31, 2020 city council work session, a developer announced plans to develop 34 acres adjacent to Cobble Creek and Spruce Point into a "three-phase multi-family housing development" initially called "1890 Homestead Apartment Development Project" and now called "The Hub at Montrose Crossing." What is most disconcerting is that the city had been working with this developer on this project for "quite a long time" before August 31, 2020. *Montrose Mirror*, Issue No. 393, pp. 33-34. While housing may be "a huge issue in Montrose," (*Montrose Mirror*, Issue No. 393, p. 33), this development is not the answer.

"The Hub at Montrose Crossing" (formerly known as the "1890 Homestead Apartment Development") violates the spirit of Title IV, Section 4-4 of the city's municipal code, stating the purpose of establishing residential districts within the city of Montrose. Section 4-4-4(A) states that the city established residential districts "to promote stability in residential neighborhoods; to protect such property from incompatible land uses; to protect property values; and to encourage the appropriate use of such land." Just because high density, "multifamily residences" are permitted for this piece of land under its zoning designation of R-3A does not mean that they are appropriate in this instance. This proposed development is totally incompatible with the surrounding area, which consists entirely of low density, single-family homes. This proposed development is totally incom-

patible with the immediate vicinity, which consists entirely of upscale, low density, single family homes. Despite the Comprehensive Plan recommending significant buffering between high density, "multifamily homes" and low density, single-family homes, no such buffer is included in the plans for "The Hub at Montrose Crossing" (formerly known as the "1890 Homestead Apartment Development") between the development and Cobble Creek and between the development and Spruce Point.

This proposed development will result in a dramatic increase in traffic on roads ill-equipped to handle it. Cobble Drive, one of the planned "main entrances" to the development, was never designed to handle the volume of traffic that will come from it. The proper "main entrance" should exclusively feed off Chipeta Road. Regardless, added traffic from this development entering Main Street from Chipeta Road will exacerbate an already heavy traffic situation in town, where eastbound cars routinely back up as far as Grand Avenue at the Townsend intersection each morning. Added traffic from this development entering Highway 550 from Chipeta Road, deemed "a very challenging intersection" by the city engineer, will result in more accidents because there are no plans to address any safety measures due to limited funding (see *CDOT Updates Councilors on 550 Access Control Plan*). Added traffic from this development traveling along Chipeta Road will also cause significant backups at Oak Grove Road, which is currently a three-way stop.

"The Hub at Montrose Crossing" (formerly known as the "1890 Homestead Apartment Development") will result in a significant decrease of the value of our home at the expense of this development, violating the spirit of § 4-4-4(A) of the city's municipal code establishing "residential districts" to protect property values.

We also question the propriety of the city already approving \$2.35 million in free and clear incentives to this developer, given its decreased revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially because this development is only adding housing but no new permanent jobs. Such action in these times is fiscally irresponsible.

We appreciate the need for having "workforce housing" in the community, but the city is already addressing that issue through the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's "Southern Multi-Family Housing Project," which will bring four apartment buildings with 96 units in the Colorado Outdoors development in its first phase. Statistics show that people moving to this part of the city are retirees and people such as myself who are from cities and work remotely, not people commuting from other places to work for businesses in town.

We ask you to reconsider this planned development.

Simply put, in its present form, it is a bad idea.

What would be more suitable are single family homes along the lines of the ones in Riverstone.

*Robin & Paul Lerg, Montrose*





## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### 1890 HUB APARTMENT COMPLEX ON CHIPETA IS NOT WELCOME

Dear Planning Commission, Mayor Bynum and Council Members,

The empty, ready to develop land that you suddenly need to build apartments, is ready and waiting on Grand Avenue.

You stated that that land was to be used to build public or otherwise, housing.

Doesn't the city have a great deal of money invested in that land? Use it.

On Hwy 50 By Pass there is a very large amount of land across from the Event Center.

There is an unsightly junk yard on it currently. How about having Miles buy that, eliminate an eyesore and build as many apartment buildings as you like?

There are many more solutions than those two.

Your 1890 HUB apartment complex on Chipeta is not welcome. Come up with a better plan. The proposed location is extraordinarily poor planning.

It's blatantly obvious to the most casual observer, that planning for Montrose has been historically disregarded. There must have been a policy of "anything goes" which can no longer stand for a city trying to develop into something decent and slightly attractive.

It's amazing that the river was disregarded and could have provided lots for beautiful houses-instead it's awful.

Particularly the metal works industry dumping crud into the river.

Think of the revenue lost on all of that river front land.

And allowing property of 1 acre or more to have junk and trash all over is disgusting.

You have a lot more planning to do to bring this little town up to standards of decency. Start with choosing a far better location for Matt Miles 1890 HUB development.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Ritchey



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### HUB AT MONTROSE IS A TELLURIDE WORKERS HOUSING PROJECT

Dear Planning Commission,

We are even more opposed to this development after learning that it is a Telluride workers housing project. We will not stand quietly by and watch our Cobble Creek neighborhood destroyed.

Montrose taxpayer money being spent to enable Telluride to not have to build housing for their employees is untenable. UNTENABLE! So....this is actually some underhanded move by Telluride billionaires who are backing this development so that they don't have to sully their pristine area with apartments and workers!

Hey, wake up Montrose! These are your taxpayer dollars that will multiply into millions of dollars spent on Chipeta Road widening and much more infrastructure to accommodate 1000-2000 more residents. This is insane lack of planning- Planning Commission. Who is getting money under the table?

Move this project 10 miles south of Montrose! I for one, am shocked that such a slap-in-face to Cobble Creek and Montrose residents can take place. And as for it being a done deal-it darn well better not be. An investigation needs to take place immediately.

Sincerely,

Jeanette and John Ritchey

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY 7%+ CAP RATE






**\$350,000**  
204 W. S. 1st Street Montrose, Colorado 81401  
2.0 Bathrooms | 3,520 Square Feet | Year Built: 1984

Great investment opportunity! Two units both with long term rental history. Unit A has an office space, main floor warehouse and loft. Unit B has 2+ office spaces, main floor warehouse and loft. Each unit has it's own bathroom. With one unit currently at a discounted rate for family, the property is still bringing a Cap Rate of 7.59. Both leases switch to month to month starting July 1, 2021.



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Western Colorado Properties

Share this with someone:



CO Lic #: ER.100002044

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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# 8500

## ANONYMOUS

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# MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

*see something, say something*



## Airport Industrial Park TBD Industrial Drive, Montrose, Colorado

*Outstanding  
Opportunity!*



### 2.195 ACRES VACANT LAND ZONED GENERAL INDUSTRIAL

Located in Airport Industrial Park across highway from the airport and right next to FEDEX terminal. Parcel borders 45 acre Taviwach Park with ponds, trails and river access. Irrigation water rights. All utilities available. Elevate Fiber Optic internet will be available soon.

- Highway Visibility with High Traffic Count
- Federal Opportunity Zone Tax Credits
- Colorado Enterprise Zone Tax Credits
- City, County & OEDIT Incentives and credits

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Western Colorado Properties

COMMERCIAL DIVISION



# Welcome Home to your own Private Oasis



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**Don Bailey**  
Broker Associate  
970-209-8257  
donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com  
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**\$399,000**  
MLS# 773508



3151 6200 Road | Olathe, CO

LOG HOME ON 40 ACRES BORDERS BLM Your own personal oasis offering privacy and seclusion with no HOA or Covenants. 2 Bedrooms + Loft, 2 baths, built in 1993 and recently remodeled. Plus Log Cabin studio; could be workshop or guest quarters. Year-round pond. Horse set-up w/ electric fence, corrals, loafing shed. Root cellar, greenhouse, garden beds, drip system, xeriscaping. Awesome views. Room for shop, equipment, livestock, 2nd Home and all your toys. Sub-dividable. Off the beaten path, away from the crowds. but not too far from town.

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CONSUMER ADVISORY: DON'T LET THE GRINCH STEAL THE HOLIDAYS

### Special to the Mirror

DENVER - With Black Friday and Cyber Monday behind us, the holidays just around the corner and COVID-19 restrictions still in place, online shopping looks to be even more important this year for sending and receiving gifts. But all that online activity means more deliveries, which means more people will be on the lookout to steal these gifts - for tis the season for those grinchy porch pirates.

While we can all do what we can to stop these folks from stealing our holiday purchases, there will be some thieves who do make off with someone's online loot. In light of all of this, the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), is encouraging Coloradans to review their homeowner and renters' insurance.

Once those online gifts hit your doorstep, they are your property, which means that the theft of these items is likely covered under your homeowner or renters' insurance policy. However, the theft will likely be subject to your deductible. That means that smaller or less expensive items may fall below your deductible, while the big ticket items, like electronics or jewelry, could have a higher dollar value than your deductible.

The claim process would be similar to having something stolen from inside your home, yard or garage. Specific requirements in filing a claim will likely vary by company, but will probably require some kind of confirmation of delivery (e.g., delivery confirmation from the company, a photo of the package, or a video from a "Ring" type doorbell system).

Typically, you should be able to find information about this coverage in the policy declaration page of your homeowners insurance policy, which includes your coverage limit and deductible amount. Consumers can also ask their insurance company or insurance agent specifically about coverage for theft and the deductibles that would apply. These are likely questions that can be answered simply, however it may present you with the opportunity to review your coverage with your


agent or company. Is your current coverage what you want and need? Are the deductibles right for your home, your contents and your financial situation?


And for you renters out there, now is the time to consider renters' insurance for the property inside your rental. Your stuff can be damaged and stolen too - porch pirates don't care if you rent or buy - and if you don't have renters' insurance, you don't have protection. Do some research online or ask your agent or insurance company (for the other insurance you have, like auto) for information on renters' insurance. Now is the time to take a look at

your insurance needs.

Contact your insurance agent or insurance company to make sure your home, its contents (whether you are a homeowner or a renter) and automobiles are properly insured as you do not want to risk being underinsured.

If you need help understanding your homeowner or renters' insurance, figuring out what questions to ask about it, or just want some help decoding the language of your insurance, contact the Division of Insurance Consumer Services: 303-894-7490 / 800-930-3745 / [DO-RA\\_Insurance@state.co.us](mailto:DO-RA_Insurance@state.co.us).









**JUST SOLD**

**\$385,000**


6091 5800 Road | Olathe, CO 81425

With 5 acres of irrigated land, a large shop/garage and a newly updated home, this place is ready for you to move right in! New flooring, brand new forced air furnace and A/C system, updated bathrooms and fresh paint; front and back covered porches, a wood-burning stove, a skylight, built in the bedrooms, and a jetted tub in the Master bath, this one has it all.

**Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0**  
**1,478 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1981**



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### MONTROSE NEEDS 5-STAR VARIANCE PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS

*Dear Editor:*

I manage a local Montrose business and am aware that the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has created a 5-star variance program for businesses to follow in order to keep their communities and businesses thriving during the pandemic. Not only has Governor Polis endorsed this program, but also challenges other communities to implement their own programs that will allow our local businesses to flourish. Montrose is quickly approaching the Red Stage on the COVID-19 dial put out by the state, and without an active Chamber of Commerce, I call on the City Council, through DART or the Montrose County Commissioners in conjunction with our local health department to implement such a program. We must not let our businesses fail! This program would be a great tool to keep more local businesses open by providing safety standards. The Teepees are certainly a great step in helping the restaurants in town. But we also need a program in place for all businesses in town.

We need leadership from our Montrose elected officials to step up to the plate and guide our community.

Sincerely,

*Lars Erickson, Montrose*

## CALL US, WE'RE HERE

**If you are 60+ and need assistance with:**

Housekeeping

Personal Care

Transportation to Medical Appointments

Caregiver Respite

Home Delivered Meals

**Find Out if You Qualify**

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Health Resource Center



**1-844-862-4968**

[WWW.VOA4YOU.ORG](http://WWW.VOA4YOU.ORG) / [ADVANTAGE@VOA.ORG](mailto:ADVANTAGE@VOA.ORG)

NOSOTRAS HABLAMOS ESPANOL





## 1790 Roubideau Street, Delta, CO

**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!**

**\$59,950 | MLS# 776369**

This lot has all of the amenities, including water tap, underground irrigation water, electric, natural gas, phone, cable and sewer. With a great view of Grand Mesa, in a fully developed wooded area, this lot is ready to build on.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties

**Jeff Keehfuss**

Broker/Owner

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# CITY DISCUSSES 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, REC DISTRICT IGA, COVID RELIEF FUNDS AT WORK SESSION

Backup for Ordinance # 2519 which appropriates additional funds and supplements the original appropriating Ordinance # 2490  
A supplemental budget is necessary to appropriate funds for projects, grants, and other unanticipated expenditures that occurred during the fiscal year which are deemed necessary for the public health, peace or safety of the city's residents.

City Council 12/1/2020

Fund #	Fund Name	Original Budget Ordinance 2019	Final Budget Ordinance 2020	Difference	Other Funding	Explanations
Fund #	Fund Name	Budget	Final Budget	Appropriation for	CARES Act	
100	GENERAL FUND	\$ 23,961,771	\$ 25,671,771	\$ 1,710,000	\$ 890,000	Property Purchases: Cerise Park, Woodgate Road realignment and All Points Transit; Business Incentives and CARES Act Sponsorship of grants for other entities: Center for Mental Health Roof project and RE1-J for the playground at Centennial Middle School
202	CDBG Pass thru Grants	\$ -	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	Crosswalk improvements, APT window wrap and business loans due to COVID-19
220	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000		Business loans due to COVID-19
222	DOWNTOWN OPPORTUNITY LOAN FUND	\$ 10,000	\$ 72,400	\$ 62,400		Business loans due to COVID-19
224	MONTROSE OPPORTUNITY LOAN FUND	\$ 40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000		Business loans due to COVID-20
260	MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY	\$ -	\$ 825,000	\$ 825,000	\$ 350,000	Uncompahgre River improvements Amphitheater Design
270	SPECIAL BENEFIT FUND	\$ 91,728	\$ 100,000	\$ 8,272		Public Safety Certificate of Participation interest payment
370	GENERAL DEBT SERVICES	\$ 627,847	\$ 948,474	\$ 320,627		Montrose County fee to collect payments on improvement Districts
440	SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS REVOLVING	\$ 700	\$ 1,400	\$ 700		New Public Works Facility conceptual design, traffic and environmental studies
470	FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 27,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 35,000		Cerro Reservoir improvements and treated water purchases from Project 7
500	WATER FUND	\$ 6,574,840	\$ 6,694,169	\$ 119,329		New truck and employee added in 2020 due to growth
550	TRASH & RECYCLING	\$ 1,705,452	\$ 1,805,452	\$ 100,000		CARES Act Expenditures
605	INFORMATION SERVICES FUND	\$ 1,805,791	\$ 1,691,291	\$ 85,500	\$ 80,000	CARES Act Expenditures
615	FACILITY MANAGEMENT FUND	\$ 1,230,814	\$ 1,263,666	\$ 32,852	\$ 32,852	CARES Act Expenditures
		\$ 35,875,943	\$ 39,925,623	\$ 4,049,680	\$ 1,952,852	

**City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the 2020 Supplemental Budget on Nov. 30. "It's a large Supplemental Budget, and a lot of it has to do with the CARES Act," she said.**

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council met for a regularly scheduled virtual work session on Monday, Nov. 30. Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the online session, which could be viewed via Zoom or Cable TV channels 191 or 970. "...We appreciate you tuning in and watching and seeing how your local government works," Bynum said.

She advised that while discussions are held no votes are taken in work sessions.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Council welcomed Planning Commission applicants Phoebe Benziger and Janet Chastain, both of whom have previously served.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said, "We're so thankful for these volunteers who give their time in order to do these very important duties for our city and all of our community."

Mayor Bynum asked the applicants to

share their reasons for wanting to serve.

"I am just getting my feet wet," said Benziger, who was appointed recently to fill a vacancy on the commission. "I have enjoyed it a lot, I have learned so much. The learning curve is steep...I look forward to actually serving a full term." No Planning Commission decision is made lightly, Benziger said.

Said Chastain, "It's not as simple as one might think, there's a lot of dynamics involved...I am very impressed with (City Planner) Amy Sharp...I think we are all really committed to the Community of Montrose and the part we play in that."

"...we're always balancing the local community, with Amy's input, and with our own commission questions."

Said Councilor Roy Anderson, "This is an incredibly valuable role that you play for our community, and I appreciate both of you...reupping and being committed to this."

"Thank you so much for the work that you're doing on behalf of the City and the citizens," Bynum said, noting that a formal vote on the applications will held at the Council meeting of Dec. 15.

## INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT-MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT

City Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented the updated IGA with the Montrose Recreation District for 2021. In the past the IGA has come before Council early in the new year. "This year we've gotten it to you earlier," Cramer said, noting that there are very few changes. A red-lined version is included in the work session packet.

As part of the agreement, the City will now be responsible for all weekday and weekend restroom cleaning at Cerise Fields. Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that the Rec District did not end up using the fields at Cerise this year. "It is our property, our facility...it makes sense for our contractor to clean it."

The City will provide trash and recycling services to Rec District locations; the cost of the services (an annual value of \$7,230.76) will be credited toward the annual Rec Center pass payment for City employees and councilors. Likewise, the City will administer sales tax revenues for the Rec District. The cost of those services (an annual value of \$2,700) will also be credited toward the annual pass payment for City employees and councilors.

Mayor Bynum said, "Thank you so much for your work. I especially appreciate that this year we're looking at it before it begins, instead of looking at it in January....I appreciate that these kinds of intergovernmental agreements and shared services really benefit the taxpayers in the end."

## CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUNDS UPDATE

Cramer also presented information on the Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation Update.

**Background-**A memo prepared for Council by Cramer states that the City of Montrose was allocated \$1,100,419.83 through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs

*Continued next pg*



## ***CITY DISCUSSES 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, REC DISTRICT IGA, COVID RELIEF FUNDS From previous pg***

(DOLA) Corona Virus Relief Fund. "To-date, the City of Montrose has incurred approximately \$826,361.32 in CARES Act expenses, which includes \$456,868.94 in grants provided by the City through the COVID-19 Nonprofit and Child Care Assistance Program, a direct distribution of \$104,765.00 to the Montrose County School District RE-1J to assist with distance learning measures, and \$264,727.38 in internal COVID-19 related expenses," the memo states.

"...City staff anticipates utilizing approximately \$89,000 in remaining funds for internal expenses including technology purchases, additional PPE and cleaning supplies, a grant match for the South 1st Street Plaza, and small business assistance efforts, such as teepee installation and outdoor furniture. The remaining CARES Act dollars will be distributed to nonprofit and childcare organizations that are eligible to receive additional funding through the city's grant program. Most grant applications were not funded in full due to the

uncertainty of knowing how many organizations would apply to the program. The program has funded 34 nonprofit or childcare organizations."

Only the Police Chief position qualifies for reimbursement of salary for substantially dedicated staff, Cramer said.

Council discussed the possibility of converting some of the City's small business loans to grants. Finance Director Shani Wittenberg said that there were 23 loans of varying amounts given out, totaling \$177K.

City Manager Bill Bell said that the City will expand the Montrose Bucks promotion. "I gave them the go-ahead to add another \$10,000," he said.

Councilor Dave Frank asked for a list of the non-profits and childcare providers that have benefited from the City's support. Cramer said that he has received letters of thanks from non-profits and childcare providers that have received assistance.

### **2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Wittenberg discussed the 2020 Supplemental Budget Ordinance. "2020 is definitely one of those years that—it's a large Supplemental Budget, and a lot of it has to do with the CARES Act."

She discussed line items in detail. (graphic)

Mayor Bynum thanked Wittenberg for the thorough presentation.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthau said, "City Hall is still open right now, so if people want to come in...to pay water bills or ask a question...but most of our staff are working remotely. We are all available by email and phone.

"City operations have not changed or ceased," she said, "we're just working a little differently right now."

Visit Montrose Brochures are available, though the Visitor Center is not open for services; information is available on [www.visitmontrose.com](http://www.visitmontrose.com) Staff contact information is available on the City's web site, [www.cityofmontrose.org/covid19](http://www.cityofmontrose.org/covid19).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS-COVID-19

# DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

### *Special to the Mirror*

Delta County is reporting 53 new positive cases for a total of 767 with 291 active and 465 recovered. We currently have 14 individuals hospitalized.

Delta County Health Department, in conjunction with Project Protect Promotora Network, Delta County Memorial Hospital, and Mako Medical Laboratories, will be conducting mobile COVID-19 testing on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 and Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 from 9am – 1pm. Friday, Dec. 11, the mobile test site will be at Delta County Memorial Hospital's Oncology parking lot, located at 100 Stafford Lane. Saturday, December 12th the mobile test site will be located at the Delta County Fairgrounds located at 403 S. 4th St., in Hotchkiss.

Appointments are not necessary as there will be onsite registration during the mobile test days; if you are symptomatic or have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive; this is an excellent option for testing.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has informed Delta County Health Department of additional outbreak sites. For additional information on outbreak sites in Delta County and throughout Colorado, visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid19-outbreak-data>. As a reminder, an outbreak is defined as 2 positive cases at the same location, within a 14 day period. A coordinated investigation team including Delta County Public Health and CDPHE worked to identify the positive cases, and immediately began contact tracing. According to CDPHE guidelines, outbreak resolution is defined as 28 days after the onset of symptoms of the last case.

Hellman Chevrolet Buick  
Delta County Health Services

Delta County Human Services

Delta County Correctional Facility (State Facility)

Delta County School District Bus Barn

In addition based on CDPHE guidelines and protocols, these locations fall under the following definition - Classroom/cohort outbreak: Two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff from separate households with onset within 14 days in a single classroom or cohort.

Cedaredge Elementary School

Cedaredge High School

Delta High School

Delta Middle School

Garnet Mesa Elementary

Hotchkiss High School

Lincoln Elementary School

Delta County School District is following all CDPHE guidelines regarding school closure; an "outbreak" is a label that is used by the state to report out where cases are, it doesn't mean close the school. Here are the CDPHE guidelines for a schools' closure; Five or more classroom/cohort outbreaks (defined above) occur within a 14-day period. Length of closure: 14 days. OR Five percent or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period (minimum of 10 unrelated students/staff). Length of closure: 14 days. (For pre-K and child care facilities, attendance may vary significantly day-to-day due to non-illness-related factors, including variability in the number of drop-in attendees. Therefore, attendance-based criteria for outbreak determination should not be utilized in child care and pre-K settings. These settings should nevertheless take note of unexplained periods of decreased attendance and communicate with local or state public health authorities if illness among attendees is suspected.) OR

Additional time is needed to clean the school before students/teachers/staff return. Length of closure: time necessary to complete cleaning. OR Additional time is needed to gather student/teachers/staff illness data and confer with public health. Length of closure: time necessary to gather student/teachers/staff illness data and confer with public health. OR

A school cannot operate because a large number of students/teachers/staff are absent. "Large number" is determined by the school/district. Length of closure is determined by the school/district. Click [here](#) for information about Classroom/cohort outbreaks based on CDPHE guidelines. For additional information on COVID-19 active cases in Delta County School District visit their website at [deltaschools.com](https://deltaschools.com).

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.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FIVE LOCAL CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL PROVIDERS EARN HIGH-QUALITY RATING FROM STATE OF COLORADO



*Pictured left to right are Luz McPeek, Babette Tafoya, Anna Carpenter, and Annette Munger. Not pictured is Marcella Pacheco.*

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Child Care Association announced last week that it has five providers who received superior ratings by Colorado Shines, the state's quality rating and improvement system for early care and learning programs.

**Luz McPeek, Anna Carpenter, Marcella Pacheco, Babette Tafoya, and Annette Munger** received 4,4,4,5,5 (respectively) Level ratings, a testament to its commitment to providing a high-quality learning environment that supports the development of Montrose's children. The Colorado Shines rating is one way that providers who are members of the Black Canyon Child Care Association demonstrate their quality and dedication to continually improving the services they offer. These five providers have been working for the past 2 years to improve their programs. They received coaching and quality improvement funds from Bright Futures, our local early childhood council.

Growing research shows that the early years are essential to child development. In fact, neuroscientists have shown that the first five years – in particular the first three – have the greatest potential for setting a strong foundation for lifelong learning and health. During that time, children's brains are developing at rapid rates

with 700-1,000 new neural connections being formed every second. This makes it important for families to connect with quality child care programs and preschools like those listed that support child development.

There is a statewide child care crisis in Colorado. The Black Canyon Child Care Association believes through its work toward professional-level certifications, it can create more child care spots in Montrose. These efforts will contribute to a more productive workforce and a stronger economy.

Colorado Shines is a free service offered through the Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Early Childhood. It rates Colorado's early care and learning programs, connects families with quality programs, and helps early care and learning programs improve their quality. The program looks at how early learning programs:

- Support children's health and safety.
- Ensure their early childhood professionals are well-trained and effective.
- Provide a supportive learning environment that teaches children new skills.
- Help parents become partners in their child's learning.
- Demonstrate strong leadership and busi-

ness practices.

The easy-to-use Colorado Shines website allows families to find quality child care and preschool programs such as those members of the Black Canyon Child Care Association. Early learning program information available on the site includes location, hours, licensing information and, most importantly, the Colorado Shines quality rating. To learn more, visit [ColoradoShines.com](https://coloradoshines.com) or [ColoradoShines.com/es](https://coloradoshines.com/es) (in Spanish).

Black Canyon Child Care Association (BCCCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support and guidance to licensed child care providers in our area. BCCCA provides training, education consulting, networking and legislative representation for owners, directors and administrators of child care facilities in Montrose, Delta, and Ouray counties. More information can be found at [blackcanyonchildcare.org](https://blackcanyonchildcare.org).

Bright Futures is a non-profit organization serving as the early childhood council for Montrose, Delta, Ouray, Gunnison/Hinsdale and San Miguel Counties. Bright Futures is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families. More information can be found at [brightfuturesforchildren.org](https://brightfuturesforchildren.org)



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

### MURA AND COLORADO OUTDOORS, TIME TO REASSESS?



**Paul Arbogast. Courtesy photo.**

*By Paul Arbogast*  
MONTROSE-In the most recent MURA board meeting on Nov. 9, board members met with Colorado Outdoors developer Doug Dragoo and representa-

tives from Anderson Analytics. Anderson Analytics gave an updated presentation with updated cost/revenue and timeline estimates.

To date, the project, which was started in 2017, has received funding that exceeds \$9.5M. Still, during the Nov. 9 MURA meeting the discussion turned to more financing for the project. City dollars have paid for a lot of infrastructure improvements at Colorado Outdoors, though only one building has been completed-- the Mayfly building.

MURA Board members Barbara Bynum, Dave Frank, and Brad Hughes and MURA Board Chair Tad Rowan all questioned the spending and the need for more money for the project. Several wanted more study and more accurate estimates of what was presented.

These MURA board members were cor-

rect to question the numbers. There is a lot of taxpayer money at stake, so the MURA board should be overly cautious and responsible with our money. The 158-acre project is planned to include housing, as well as retail and industrial. If there has not been an in-depth market study on how bringing retail to that area will affect already existing business in Montrose, perhaps it's time for that.

What shift in shopping habits has occurred due to small business closures and restrictions that might be detrimental to new brick and mortars? Will more closures happen, or how long will restrictions continue? While many say "but they can be open to 25 percent capacity" as a good thing, I question their knowledge of the expenses small businesses incur; most CANNOT profit at limited capacity.

The uncertainty of the future needs to be weighed into economic development, and currently at the City level, that uncertainty seems not to be slowing any development plans down.

Usually when such a project is undertaken, there are letters of intent from developers and businesses which show promised occupancy and move the momentum forward. The MURA board should accept no less than such agreements. Still, all the talk and numbers for three years has netted one business on the 158 acres, and

the cost/benefit of the loans so far is a negative return for the City.

I contacted Brad Hughes to ask if, as a member of the MURA board, he has seen any letters of intent from developers or companies to build and move into this project area. "I am unaware of any letters of intent to build or occupy any of these proposed structures," Hughes responded.

The housing projects for the Colorado Outdoors project are supposed to start in 2021 with 96 units. There is some confusion as to if they are 'workforce housing' or 'market rate', as the City has used both terms.

Workforce housing is typically rent controlled to a rate lower than market rate for a workforce that otherwise could not afford to live in that town/city. If the plan is to have market rate prices, it is not workforce housing.

At this point with Russell Stover and JC Penny gone, one could also wonder what workforce needs housing? Building more housing units brings construction jobs, but not jobs that are needed for people to move to the area.

It seems it is past time to get taxpayer dollars out of this project, or to at least stop funding further infrastructure until there are letters of intent and tangible buildouts and work done.

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



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WEEKEND POSITIVE COVID RESULTS LEAD TO COHORT QUARANTINE EVENTS

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that students and staff at multiple school sites 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. Through contact tracing, the CRT determined:

-As a result of three Montrose High School (MHS) staff members testing positive for COVID, four MHS staff members and 33 MHS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, Dec. 16.

-As a result of two Northside Elementary School (NES) staff members testing positive for COVID, two NES staff members and 128 NES students need to seek testing

and quarantine through Tuesday, Dec. 15.

-As a result of a Pomona Elementary School (PES) student testing positive for COVID, one PES staff member and sixteen PES students need to seek testing and quarantine through Tuesday, Dec. 15.

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.

Please visit [www.mcscd.org](http://www.mcscd.org) to view our MCSD COVID Dashboard, which lists important school COVID data and conditions. Although we continue to experience rolling quarantines, the majority of MCSD students are learning in-person rather than remotely, and far more students are able to access in-person instruction versus the fraction needing to quarantine.

Soon, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will provide schools with updated guidance regarding an earlier return for asymptomatic quarantined staff and students and MCSD may soon be able to reduce the number of students and staff forced to learn remotely from home. Viral prevalence is rising in Montrose County. Families must take all necessary COVID precautions through the coming weeks and months in order for our community to avoid widespread school closures; 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 COVID-19 in our area.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMEA EXTENDS OFFICE CLOSURE TO 1-4-21 DUE TO COVID-19

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Montrose and Delta counties, **DMEA's offices** will remain closed to the public until Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. In the event local COVID-19 infection rates improve, DMEA will reevaluate this decision. While no walk-in traffic is permitted, employees will continue to provide to all essential services.

During this closure, all employees who are able will work remotely from home, and field workers will be taking extra precautions to ensure that DMEA continues providing essential electric services. Members are asked to follow social distancing and mask recommendations if in contact with DMEA line workers and other field workers. These employees conduct regular maintenance, new service planning and construction, and respond to and repair power outages.



# Wash your hands

Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!



**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author  
& Reporter

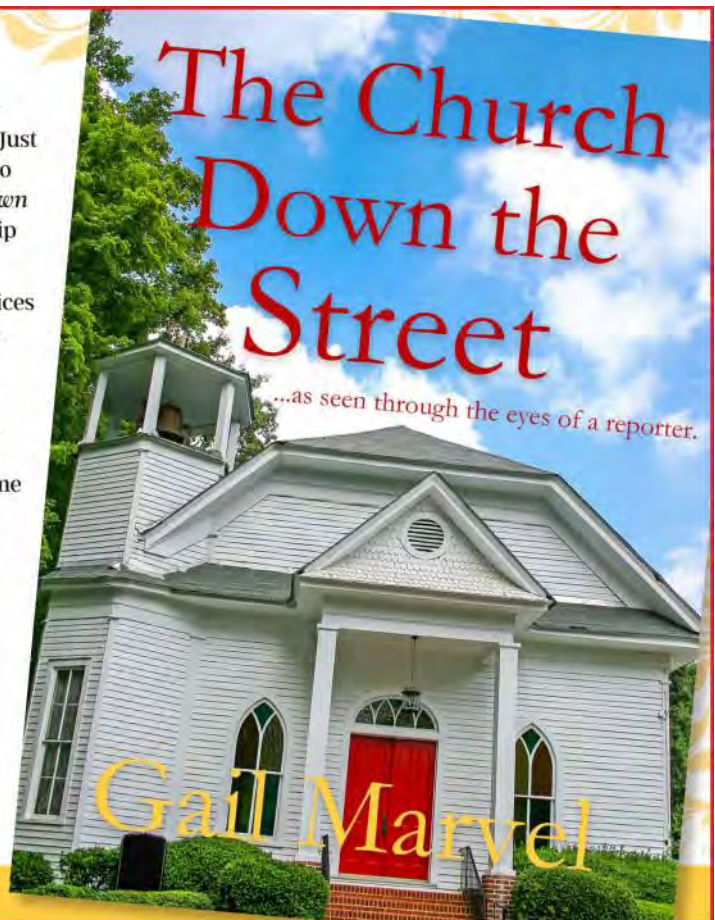
**I**t is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

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

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

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

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





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NEW STAKE PRESIDENCY SERVING IN WESTERN COLORADO

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Morgan J. Yost of Delta has been called to serve as president of the Montrose Colorado Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His counselors are Shad Saunders and Jonathan Osorio, both of Montrose.

Serving as president since 2011 was Nicolas T. Taylor of Montrose. He and his counselors, Steven White of Montrose and Kevin A. Nelson of Gunnison, were released.

The changes in leadership were presented in a conference broadcast from the chapel of the stake center at 1521 Hillcrest Drive in Montrose.

The term "stake" is derived from Old Testament imagery in which the "tent," or church, is held up by supporting stakes (Isaiah 33:20; 54:2). A stake is organized into larger congregations called wards and smaller groups called branches.

The Montrose Colorado Stake involves nine wards and three branches. These units represent over 3,700 members of the Church in Austin, Cedaredge, Cimarron, Crawford, Cory, Crested Butte, Delta, Eckert, Gunnison, Hotchkiss, Lake City, Lazear, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Nucla, Olathe, Ouray, Paonia, Placerville, Redvale, Ridgway, Somerset, Telluride, and surrounding areas.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has over 16 million members in nearly 31,000 congregations in which 188 languages are represented.

(newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)

The Church is a worldwide faith centered on the belief that everyone on Earth is a son or daughter of a loving God, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, saved the world from sin and death. The Church teaches that Jesus Christ invites all God's children to come unto Him, to follow Him, and to become more like Him. "I look forward to serving the people of Western Colorado," said President Yost. "I am grateful for the friendships I share in this area. I am pleased to work side-by-side with other faith groups, civic leaders, and service organizations as we come together in these great communities."

Individuals in the Church are asked to be willing to accept inspired assignments that come through Church leaders. The Church is structured as an unpaid volunteer ministry for the spiritual and temporal support around the world.

The new stake presidency continues in their family responsibilities and vocations while serving in these ecclesiastical positions. Dr. Yost is a dentist, and Drs. Saunders and Osorio are physicians.

They invite Church members and friends to attend Sabbath Day meetings for spiritual learning and enrichment. Visitors are always welcome at Sunday services and weekday events.

Chapels in Montrose and Gunnison provide services in Spanish. Pandemic controls are in place in all locations.



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**\$319,990**

641 Willow Wood Lane Delta, Colorado 81416

4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,812 Square Feet  
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ISSUE 293 Dec. 7, 2020

# ART & SOL

## BRING HOME THE FUN-AMAZING GLAZE ART!



*Courtesy photos Amazing Glaze Art.*

shopping at the same time. Certificates can be used to purchase anything in the studio.

Amazing Glaze owner Cherie McPherson advises a visit to the web site, where you can select your canvas or ceramic design. "We are always changing—we always have new and different designs," she said. "You can find us on the web or on Facebook."

"I really feel people are looking for something to do," McPherson said. "We give people an option. You can paint at home, or you can paint in the studio, which is definitely a safe environment."

If you choose to come in person, expect a two-hour window to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. Class and workshops are currently half off, she said.

Susan Bony of the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning Small Business Development Center said that



she stopped by Amazing Glaze recently and was impressed to see McPherson teaching a class for home school students. "She also offers a take-home painting kit for COVID relief so people can have a home or zoom painting party—I'm doing that with my kids," Bony said.

After 16 years with Amazing Glaze and a decade as owner, McPherson's enthusiasm for her business still burns bright. Once the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have passed, expect a celebration.

"I wanted to throw a ten-year anniversary blowout," McPherson said, adding, "Once COVID settles down."

Call Amazing Glaze Art at 970-252-7225, or visit the web site at [www.amazingglazeart.com](http://www.amazingglazeart.com)

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE-What if you could drop by and pick up an order of fun to go? At Amazing Glaze Art (209 Main Street) the motto is, "Relax, Have Fun, Paint Pottery." Now, you can let the good times roll from your own location!

Along with being open for call-ahead reserved seating, Amazing Glaze offers painting and ceramic packages to go. "ArtVanGo" painting packages include canvas, brushes, and detailed instructions. Ceramic packages include colors and supplies; ceramic pieces are returned to the studio for firing.

Amazing Glaze Art also offers gift certificates, making it easy to do a little Holiday





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**Bathrooms: 3.0**

**5,276 sq. ft. on 1.5 acres**

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# "IT'S MINE, AND I WANT IT BACK!"



**Montrose as it was in about 1884, when J. C. Watson became a short-term legend. Photo from the files of the Denver Library digital collection.**

*By Bob Cox*

MONTROSE-Like a newborn calf trying to get its legs under it, Montrose and Montrose County were just fledglings in February of 1884, and they were definitely being introduced to the problems of new local governments.

The Town of Montrose became official in 1882. Joe Selig was president of the Town Company of Montrose and one of the biggest promoters of establishing an official town. Bob Murphy was the town marshal and a man (whose first name seemed to

elude all news reports of the time) named Edwards was the police magistrate.

Just two years later Gunnison County was split into other counties, including Montrose County. Joe Selig was named as the first county clerk, and as near as can be determined, housed the new county offices in his office near the present South 7th Street and Cascade Avenue. The new sheriff: Frank Mason.

In what became a story fit for the Dime Novels of the time, it started in July of 1883, when a young cowboy from Texas,

Joe Watson, became rowdy and was arrested by Murphy. According to news accounts, Watson was relieved of his revolver and 23 dollars in cash at the time of his arrest. He was released shortly thereafter, but his request for the return of his property was denied. A very slanted snippet in the *Solid Muldoon* claimed that Watson's last words to the Magistrate Edwards were, "It's mine and I want it back!"

Watson evidently returned to his job on a ranch in the North Fork. He held his grudge for several months and decided to seek his revenge on February 7, 1884. He returned to Montrose and found Marshal Murphy in one of the stores, called him out and shot him. Later that same day he shot Justice Edwards. Neither Murphy nor Edwards were fatally wounded. The *Delta Chief* reported the incident in their February 13, 1884 edition: *J.C. Watson shot Bob Murphy and Justice Edwards on the 7th in Montrose. Neither was killed. It seems that Watson had a grudge against both men, as he called the first from a store and shot him and rode away and, while a party were searching for him in one direction, he returned in another and ran across Edwards.*

The shooting received statewide coverage and the story was told in the *Sierra Journal* in Custer County, the *Gunnison Sun* and Lake City's *Silver World*, among others. On February 16, 1884, the *Gunnison Sun* editorialized: *The people of Montrose ought to organize a shooting club and practice at rapid shooting. They are not safe for an hour. Who knows how soon the festive cowboy Watson may return and storm the town again in order to make an angel out of Sam Baker. The brave men who reside at Montrose need practice. They had a battle last week, with a hundred men on one side and a single, crippled cowboy on the other, whom they failed to take, and who actually took the whole town and held it until he was fully satisfied, and then rode off unharmed, and cannot now be found. How forcible, now, appears the remark once made by Napoleon I, who said, 'I would rather fight an army without*

**Continued next pg**



## "IT'S MINE, AND I WANT IT BACK!" From previous pg

a general, than a general without an army.'

Again, Watson disappeared, but rumors were rampant as to where he went. The *Delta Chief* wrote: *The whereabouts of Joe Watson seems to be as unsolvable as the riddle of the Sphinx...It is rumored that Watson is boarding at the Mears house in Montrose under an assumed name.* The same paper reported that Delta was overrun by Montrose County deputy sheriffs looking for the man. The Montrose sheriff evidently put badges into the pockets and on the chests of just about anyone who claimed they could find Watson.

A self-described friend of Watson's, known only as Lost Charlie Ross, attempted to mitigate the problem by writing to the editor of the *Solid Muldoon*. In part, his missive read, *While sober, Watson is a very quiet, hardworking man and is not considered of a quarrelsome nature even when drinking, but highly capable at all times if taking his own part, even in a town like Montrose, where, as anybody knows, the male portion of the town far exceeds the demand for men in an honest calling. It is a well known fact that Montrose can produce more thorough 'dead beats,' 'skins,' 'bunko steerers,' old bums and pimps.' than any town of its size west of the 'father of waters.'*

Ross' letter claimed that Watson was bound over to the grand jury by Edwards and that Watson's request for his property return was 'Peremptorily refused, upon ground that they were harder up than he, consequently could put it to a more appropriate use.' He went on to describe that Watson attended a trial, stood his plea and paid his fine, but was still denied the return of his revolver and his cash; hence the grudge.

As late as April 26, 1884 Watson was still getting press in area papers. The *Sun* in Gunnison opined on that date that Watson was 'still hovering' near Montrose and that no one seemed to know the whereabouts of 'the lost cowboy.' They warned

that the men Watson wanted to kill had better keep quietly at home.

Then, in early June of 1884, Watson was found to be working on the Scott Ranch north of present day Cedaredge. Two men, Special Deputy Sheriff Arnold Howard and another man named Gray went to the Scott residence. Howard's wife accompanied the two men. When Watson was grabbed, he called for Scott, who entered the house and was shot twice by Mrs. Howard. The *Delta Chief* reported that one of Mrs. Howard's bullets hit Scott just over the heart and struck a large pocketbook filled with papers, causing nothing but a painful bruise. The other bullet struck a rib, but glanced off. Watson was taken to Delta and transferred to Montrose the next day.

On June 20, 1884 *The Solid Muldoon* reported that Watson gave bond for \$5,000, bode farewell and left the area. The publication surmised that Watson would seek a change of venue and would be acquitted. Whether that happened or not seemed to evade the queries of local journalists and Watson faded into history, but only after submitting a poetic farewell that was published in the *Delta Chief*. Other publications refused to publish the poem. While lengthy, it certainly tells Watson's side of the story. It read as follows:

*Farewell to the town where they tried to defame me.  
Farewell to the few who did not blame me  
For taking my own part.  
Farewell to adobe, alkali and sagebrush.  
Farewell muddy stream, with thy onward wild rush.  
Adieu with my heart  
Farewell to the scenes of last winter's battle.  
Where I routed the herd like stampeded cattle,  
When birdshot and buckshot round me did rattle,  
And through the town each warrior did rattle,  
And through the town each warrior did tattle*

How much he knew:

*Ye runners and gunners, adieu  
Farewell to the town of pistols and shot-guns,  
Blunderbuss, cannon, rifle and popguns.  
Farewell to the town where the men are all brave,  
Where the women are pretty and the Sol. Edwards rave.  
Farewell to the town of tin horns and gamblers,  
Lieing (sic) thieves and prostituted rambles,  
To the new town and the old town which the mob ran me through  
To Huskins and Nichols, and rest of the crew  
To Simmonds, "the shyster," with his hulla-boo.  
To this on-horse lawyer, I say adieu.  
Farewell to thee, Montrose  
Town of thunder, farewell to thee!  
I am legal plunder  
To be robbed and sot by any shark,  
But when I go under,  
The day will be cold, gloomy and dark.  
Farewell to the friends who have stood by me.  
Friends still, though other belie me.  
Farewell to the few who have shown me kindness,  
Who could see through others assumed blindness  
It grieves me to think that from you I must part  
Adieu, adieu! Farewell with my heart.  
To the jail where a pleasant lot has been mine,  
To the sheriff, the jailor and crazy O'Brine  
To the heavy barred window which he crawled through.  
Cross-bars, cell, locks and cages, a last adieu.  
To the merry children who brought us sweet flowers,  
May their path lead in sunshine to elysian towers.  
May they know health and wealth and happiness to;  
To those sunny prattlers a fond adieu.*

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### CHRISTMAS WITH THE BEATLES SHOW TO STREAM LIVE

*Special to Art & Sol*

SOLANA BEACH, CA--Christmas is coming, and nothing says joy and love like the Beatles, rocking live in your living room! After ten consecutive years of holiday concerts, Abbey Road – A Tribute to the Beatles plan to deliver the joys of the season even if it means pivoting for the pandemic. The award-winning band will bring their beloved Christmas with the Beatles show by way of a livestream event that you can

tune into from the safety and comfort of your own home.

LIVE from the legendary Belly Up stage in San Diego, California, see the band perform on Friday, December 18, featuring mash-ups of Christmas classics and Beatles faves. Livestream tickets are only \$12.

"COVID can't steal Christmas concerts," said Doug Couture, who plays "George" in Abbey Road.

"We took this show online to hopefully



*Courtesy photo.*

help people put the ugliness of 2020 behind them."

This electrifying livestream will bring some much-needed rockin' Christmas spirit to Beatles fans everywhere. Featuring all the Fab Four's top hits along with some great holiday tunes, Abbey Road's holiday concert show promises to be a night of reminiscent fun. From the Beatles' early days as mop-topped leaders of the British Invasion through their psychedelic Sgt. Pepper era, Abbey Road re-creates an authentic Beatles concert experience, complete with period-accurate costume changes and spot-on harmonizing.

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\$298,000 MLS# 774937

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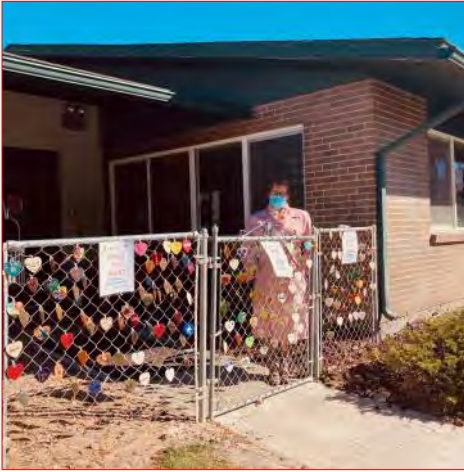
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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## HEART TO HEART, ART OF REFLECTION EXHIBIT HELPS MANY EXPRESS FEELINGS



Courtesy photos Volunteers of America.

### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE – Volunteers of America and its long-term care community Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose, Colo., focused on a unique community outreach project in October to support mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Named the “Heart to Heart, Art of Reflection Exhibit”, the project consisted of asking a variety of community organizations and the general public to take a three inch wooden heart, supplied by the care center, and paint, draw or decorate it in any fashion to best express their current, personal feelings around their experiences with the Covid-19 pandemic. The completed hearts were attached to a chain link fence outside of the care center so anyone driving or walking by could observe the various heart messages and artistic interpretations. Volunteers of America Regional Marketing Director, Erin Berge, saw a post on Facebook about a similar art exhibit in Minnesota and adapted it to fit the Montrose care center.

“I loved the outreach aspect of this project and thought it could also help us promote National Resident’s Rights Month which occurs annually in October,” Berge said. “Residents’ Rights Month is designated to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities. It is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect, and the rights of each resident. And art is a great vehicle to provide greater visibility to these things.” “The Minnesota Historical Society’s art

of community members at an historical time,” Berge said. “I have always loved making art and seeing how other people use art to express themselves. This felt like a good way to bring awareness to our local residents, their rights, support their feelings and mental health as well as the same for the greater community around all that has transpired since the beginning of the pandemic. The heart shape represents our feelings and symbolizes love, which is something we all could use a bit more of right now.”

Debra Hayre, Valley Manor Care Center’s Admissions and Marketing Manager identified several groups and organizations to present the idea to and deliver the blank, wooden hearts.

“I explained to each group to use this heart as a chance to say how you are feeling or illustrate your current state of mind,” Hayre said. “The pandemic has created a variety of emotions in us and anything you want to express is accepted here.” Decorated hearts were received from Colorado West Christian School, Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church, Pomona Elementary School, Heidi’s Chateau, Montage Creek Assisted Living, Pope John Paul School, The Center for Mental Health, Montrose Police Department, Delta Police Department, Veterans Administration, St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, HopeWest Hospice, Crossroads Senior Living, Senior Community Care PACE participants, the Cheezum family, the Vandenhoeck family and Valley Manor Care Center residents and staff.

“I was deeply touched by the many positive comments I received when picking up

the completed hearts,” Hayre said. “For example, the Delta Police Department staff said the exercise was one of the most meaningful things they had done for their mental health. As a team, it brought them closer together while decorating their hearts.”

The returned hearts were weather-proofed with spray sealant and attached with zip ties to the chain link fence on the north side of the care center. The project will remain on the fence until the end of the pandemic as a reminder of the many acceptable ways to feel when we are challenged with drastic change.

“Art can preserve a place in time and in this case will represent a variety of different individual’s perceptions and identities,” Berge said. “It illustrates how we as a collective whole are experiencing and interacting during this particular time. We hope many will have found it helpful and therapeutic.”

Hayre said, “We wish to give a big thank you to all who participated from the bottom of ‘our hearts!’”

Volunteers of America is a church without walls. Since 1896, we have answered God’s call to transform lives by reaching and uplifting America’s most vulnerable through our ministry of service. The organization’s healthcare professionals seek to serve the needs of the whole person - mind, body and spirit- by bringing together human services and the church. We provide assistance to people of all faiths. Volunteers of America’s work has been and continues to be motivated by God’s love. To learn more about Volunteers of America’s programs in Western Colorado and across the country, visit [voasenioreliving.org](http://voasenioreliving.org) or contact a local care navigator at 1-844-862-4968.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SAFER-AT-HOME, VIRTUAL, GINGERBREAD STABLE CONTEST!

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

GRAND JUNCTION— All are welcome to participate in the Safer-At-Home, Virtual, Grand Valley Horse Rescue Gingerbread Stable Contest.

Contestants are encouraged to share their journey from conception to finished product with their family, friends and guests virtually. Those not wishing to compete are welcome to catch the holiday spirit by viewing the entries and voting for their favorites.

Since the Grand Valley Horse Rescue (GVHR) is being started by eight children, ages 7 to 11, this will be a family friendly event. Both the 7 and under, and the 8 to 11 divisions will be allowed to use kits.

The other divisions include expanded children divisions, individual amateur, family, business or group and professional. The contest starts Dec. 12 and ends on Dec. 28 with voting starting Dec. 12.

Funds generated from this event will be used to lease property for 2021 and the seed money for property of their own, therefore, the children will be viewing the contest for barn ideas for their future home. For those of you not thrilled with creating a stable any gingerbread struc-



ture may be entered. The cost to enter the contest is \$10 for children and amateur, \$15 for family, \$20 for business or group, and \$25 for a professional. The winner will receive a trophy and places 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> will receive a handcrafted gingerbread contest ribbon.

GVHR's mission is to prevent cruelty to animals by rescuing horses out of the slaughter pipeline with the highest likelihood to be trained into children horses before being adopted out. To create a

green space, centrally located between Palisade and Mack, Colorado, for the rescue so the children of the community will have more affordable access to horses and to construct an equine cross-country course because the youth of Western Colorado and Eastern Utah are geographically limited in pursuing their Olympic dreams. To find out more information about the safer-at-home virtually gingerbread stable contest please go to [GVHR.org](http://GVHR.org).

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SUPPORT PARTNERS MENTORING-GET DUCKIED TODAY!

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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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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](mailto:tevans@montroselibrary.org) to join this virtual event on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 6pm.

**Dec. 18**-The nationally touring tribute band, Abbey Road, will livestream Christmas with the Beatles from the Belly Up Tavern on Dec. 18, featuring mash-ups of Christmas classics and Beatles faves. Livestream tickets are only \$12 and may be purchased online at <https://bellyuplive.com/abbey-road/>. The show starts at 7 pm PST.



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## **READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN**



*The iconic teepee at Ridgway State Park, with the beautiful San Juans. Photo by Deb Reimann.*

A black bear is sitting on a wooden bench, holding a tablet computer. The background shows a mountain landscape with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The text "Save a tree - Read the Mirror!" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, the logo for "THE MONTROSE MIRROR" is displayed, followed by the tagline "Your Source for Local Business News and Information". At the bottom, the text "Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646" is written in a white, cursive font.

*Save a tree –  
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