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the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 407 Dec. 14 2020

RE-1J REALLOCATES FUNDS TO UPDATE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education Vice President Sarah Fishing asked a questioned during the board meeting of Dec. 8.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education gathered for a meeting at District Offices on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The meeting was open to the public (with temperatures taken and social distancing measures in place) and could be viewed as well on Facebook Live. All directors were present for the session along with key staff. Board President Gayle Johnson opened the meeting, and all joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Though the first scheduled item was the annual auditor's report, the auditor had not yet arrived. Secretary to the Board Laurie Laird presented information on community partnerships. "We have three donations," Laird said,

[Continued pg 40](#)

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION TO DISCUSS SKETCH PLAN FOR HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Due to technical difficulties, the City of Montrose Planning Commission's virtual meeting scheduled for Dec. 9 was postponed and rescheduled for 5 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2021.

The previously scheduled agenda item was:

SP20-0073 – "THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING"

SKETCH PLAN REVIEW. This is a review and discussion of the Sketch Plan for The Hub

at Montrose Crossing Subdivision, a multi-family and senior living development on a 35.791-acre parcel bordered on the south by Cobble Drive, on the west by 6450 Road and on the north and east by Chipeta Drive. The applicant is Matt Miles, Leadership Circle, LLC.

The agenda for the rescheduled meeting will be posted on the City website by the



Hub at Montrose Crossing. Courtesy graphic.

[Continued pg 9](#)

in this
issue

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

[City & County
Government!](#)

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

[Deacon Speakin'
With Deacon Dwight Harp!](#)

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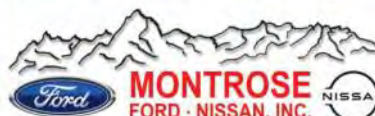
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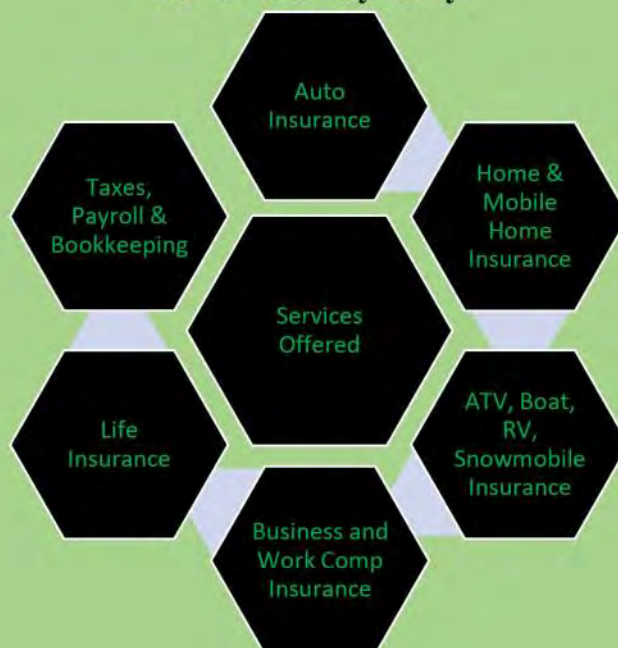
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONTINUOUS CRITICAL CARE DURING COVID-19 FOR URANIUM & DOE RETIREES

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Nuclear Care Partners remains committed to continuous care and reducing the risk of exposure for our patients. Now more than ever, Nuclear Care Partners' in-home care services play a critical role in the health and safety of former Department of Energy and uranium workers—a vulnerable population filled with many who are facing various lung diseases and cancer as a result of their workplace exposure. "To continue this needed in-home care, our care teams are taking extra safety precautions and have been equipped with the necessary critical supplies to lessen the risk of transmission and keep our patients as safe as possible," said Lori Shanks, local Community Outreach Manager. "We are well-staffed and pre-

pared with the proper personal protective equipment to care for our patients, whether they are COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive. We will continue to stand by our patients and care for them in their greatest time of need." Our care teams can help keep former atomic workers safe, healthy, and limit their exposure by: Monitoring Patients' Health
Our care teams routinely monitor patients' health and record any new symptoms, quickly reporting any major changes to their physician(s) and helping coordinate care without the patient leaving the house, if possible.
Breathing Exercises
Our nurses help our patients perform breathing exercises to keep their lungs as healthy as possible.
Educating the Family

Making sure patient families are educated on the best practices to keep our patients safe is a key role of our nurses.
Ordering Medical Supplies & Medication
Our staff can help arrange for the delivery of necessary medical supplies, medications, and other durable medical equipment related to our patients' approved conditions.
Continuity of Care
Our care teams coordinate with other medical providers and doctors to ensure continuity of care. We are committed to consistency and will maintain regular home visits based on our patients' level of need. Former Department of Energy and uranium workers can call (970) 361-3289 to see how Nuclear Care Partners can help keep them safer at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

3 NEW MONTROSE POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN DEC. 7

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The Montrose Police Department officially welcomed three new police officers to its ranks Dec. 7. Officers Joseph Adkin, Zebediah Schoemaker, and Benedict Willey were sworn in during a virtual ceremony.

Police Chief Blaine Hall and Commander Tim Cox hosted the ceremony in the City's Centennial Room.

All three officers are recent graduate of the Western Colorado Peace Officer Academy, WCPOA, which is hosted through Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction

Hall told each officer, before officially swearing them in, to hold themselves to the highest personal standards both on and off duty. Their job as police officers, Hall said, was to earn and uphold the trust of the citizens of Montrose while protecting lives, property, and the community.

Friends and family were present, participating in socially distant ways, to observe as a badge was pinned on each officer's uniform.

. Hall said the new officers were backfilling a number of open positions in the department.

Following the ceremony, the officers were dismissed to begin additional training within Police Department headquarters.

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CITY PLANNING COMMISSION TO DISCUSS HUB From pg 1

the end of next week. Information can be found at: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/126/Planning-Commission> and click on "Most Recent Agenda."

Members of the City of Montrose Planning Commission are:

Karen Vacca
Anthony Russo
Chad Huffman
David Fishering
Greg Easton
Jan Chastain
Phoebe Benziger



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OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

OPENING UP THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (ANWR) TO OIL AND GAS LEASING DESTRUCTIVE, UNNECESSARY

Editor:

I am writing today to express my concerns about opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas leasing. I'm appalled that opening the door to such potential of unmerited destruction is directed at a highly unique and valuable national wildlife refuge.

Not only is the premise faulty, that we need to develop our oil and gas resources for energy independence, jobs, and the economy, but the permanent destruction of legacy wildlands, sensitive ecosystems, and endangered wildlife make this an unconscionably destructive decision. We are currently living in a world of an increasing climate degradation in which we must rapidly transition off fossil fuels. The development of more fossil fuels is short-sighted and ridiculous.

Further, these wildlands are both a part of our legacy to future generations and a necessary preserve for many wild species. It is hazardous to even permit any mechanized entry into ANWR, let alone oil and gas vehicles and infrastructure, with such a fragile ecology.

With all this in mind, I request a termination of this destructive and unnecessary project, until at least the next Congress looks at it.
Wayne Quade, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT RELEASED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — The Colorado Workforce Development Council today released the seventh annual Colorado Talent Pipeline Report, which analyzes issues related to the supply and demand of talent in Colorado.

The report offers a collection of strategies, investments, and policy recommendations in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Talent Pipeline report identifies:

- Leading industries and occupations,
- Key features of the current labor force
- COVID-19 impact and response
- Strategies to align supply with industry demand
- Top jobs

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the future of work trends and highlighted inequity in the state's education and workforce systems. In order to build back stronger, Colorado must focus on its talent pipeline in order to facilitate an equitable economic recovery that creates more opportunity for prosperity throughout the state. The 2020 Talent Pipeline Report recommendations outline what is possible to facilitate economic advancements in the coming year. This collection of strategies, investments, and policy recommendations formulates a bold response to the COVID-19 pandemic that will stimulate growth by stabilizing, accelerating, and preparing all segments of the labor force for the immediate and long-term future. The data and recommendations provided in previous Talent Pipeline Reports have led to the Colorado State Legislature passing more than 50 bills to support talent development.

The Colorado Workforce Development Council produces the Talent Pipeline Report in partnership with the Colorado Departments of Higher Education, Education, Labor and Employment, and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, with support from the Department of Human Services, Regulatory Agencies, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the State Demography Office at the Department of Local Affairs, along with other partners.

For the complete 2020 Talent Pipeline Report, please visit: [https://](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cwdc/colorado-talent-pipeline-report)

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CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS



Montrose City Council will meet for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 14 and for a regular, virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will meet for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 14 and for a regular, virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

WORK SESSION

The Work session agenda states that due to the COVID-19 emergency, the meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/WorkSession-12-14-20>. The meeting can also viewed at www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

Six new employees will be introduced at the work session. Joining the City team are Police Officers Joe Adkin, Zebediah Schoemaker, and Benedict Willey; Part Time Guest Services Assistant Cory Cavello; Public Works Team Leader (Streets) Joseph Aguilar, and Planner 1 William Reis. Discussion items will include a Geyser Systems Update and Designation of the Official Posting Place.

REGULAR MEETING

Council will consider reappointing Janet Chastain and Phoebe Benziger to the City of Montrose Planning Commission for

terms that begin on Jan. 1, 2021 and expire on Dec. 31, 2024.

Council will consider approving a new Fermented Malt Beverage license at 1140 N. Townsend Avenue for Maverik, Inc., doing business as Maverik, Inc. #616, for consumption off the licensed premises.

Council will consider approving a new Beer and Wine liquor license at 324 E. Main Street for Top Frog, LLC, doing business as Sommelier Secrets Wine School, to sell beer and wine for consumption on the licensed premises.

Council will consider approving a Brew Pub liquor license at 512 E. Main Street for San Juan Brews, LLC, doing business as San Juan Brews, to sell malt, vinous and spirituous liquor to the public for consumption on the license premises and to sell malt liquor beverages manufactured on the licensed premises and packaged in sealed containers for consumption off the licensed premises.

Council will hold a hearing on the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II; consider adopting Resolution 2020-28, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II; and will consider passing Ordinance 2521 on first reading, for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II. Council will consider approving Ordinance 2522 on first reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition II as an R-4, High Density District.

Council will hold a hearing on the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition; consider adopting Resolution 2020-29, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition; and will consider approving Ordinance 2523 on first reading, the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition. Council will consider approving Ordinance 2524 on first reading, zoning the Rainbow Trout Addition as a P, Public District.

Council will consider adopting Ordinance 2519 on second reading, amending Ordinance No. 2490 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 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.

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

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

I'm Retiring!

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

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WHO'S ON YOUR COVID CARE TEAM?

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- 1 Busque un médico "dentro de la red" ☒
- 2 Llame o visite la oficina para convertirse en paciente ☒
- 3 Complete todo el papeleo ahora ☒
- 4 Guarde su número para emergencias ☒

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL OPENS 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 December 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 September 2021 at the Colorado State Patrol Training Academy in Golden, CO.



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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



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

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT BEGINS UPDATES TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS IN SUMMIT COUNTY



Wear
your mask

Thank you for doing your part
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Special to the Mirror

SUMMIT COUNTY - The Colorado Department of Transportation is updating signal timing at intersections along US Highway 6, Colorado Highway 9 and Colorado Highway 91 in Summit County. Work will take place at 30 intersections in Silverthorne, Dillon, Frisco, Breckenridge and near Copper Mountain Resort. New traffic signal timing is part of an effort to improve safety along the US 6, CO 9 and CO 92 corridors. Signal improvements will reduce delays, stops and travel time, and will be able to take into account seasonal traffic changes. Motorists can expect to see CDOT vehicles and personnel changing equipment in traffic signal cabinets near stop lights. CDOT crews will also observe traffic on the highway corridor in each community. The identified signals have had the same programming for several years, whereas traffic patterns and signal technology have changed. Newer model controllers, or "brains," will be installed at signals in order to bridge that gap and provide for more flexibility. After the upgrade, CDOT will be able to adjust timing for high season or off season traffic patterns. Improvements will also mean motorists will get green lights more often--or for longer--when driving during non peak times.

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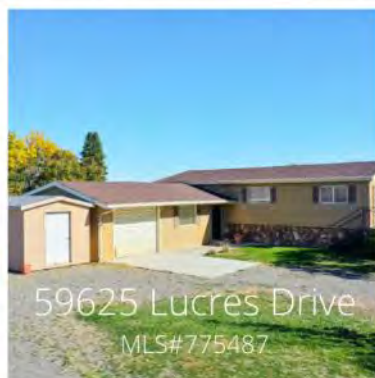
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Letters to Santa

All is Bright



DEC 11 - DEC 24

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Small Business Saturdays

DEC 19

Spend \$50 in ANY downtown business and get a \$10 Montrose Bucks check at businesses participating as pick-up locations on Saturdays while supplies last.

Tour of Lights

DEC 11 - DEC 31 (TOUR & VOTE)

Tour the city using the Tour of Lights map and vote for the best displays!



CityofMontrose.org/Holidays

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHOOSES NEW MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- After careful consideration, the Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors elected to contract with Community Hospital Corporation (CHC), which is a nonprofit management company who shares a similar vision with Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH).

Members of the Board of Directors looked for leadership from a management company who knows the importance of maintaining the independence and financial viability of the hospital. The Board will retain all authority and control over business, policies, operation and assets of the hospital. "We are excited about CHC and their ability to make us an even better hospital. The Board feels it is a great fit for the MMH culture and their enthusiasm and expertise will bring a boost to our hospital," said Dr. Kjersten Davis, MMHI Board Chair.

MMH has had a management agreement with Quorum Health Resources, LLC (QHR) since 1989. The Board members elected to review other opportunities that were available in the areas of management and shared services and submitted a Request for Proposals to interested parties. Six companies responded and after extensive interviews, Community Hospital Corporation was chosen. The mission of CHC is; *To guide, support, and enhance the mission of community hospitals and healthcare providers*, and their vision is; *To be the nation's preeminent resource in advancing community healthcare*. In addition to their mission and vision, one of their top priorities is preserving and protecting independent community hospitals like MMH.

The Board expects a seamless transition and looks forward to the new opportunities this partnership will bring.

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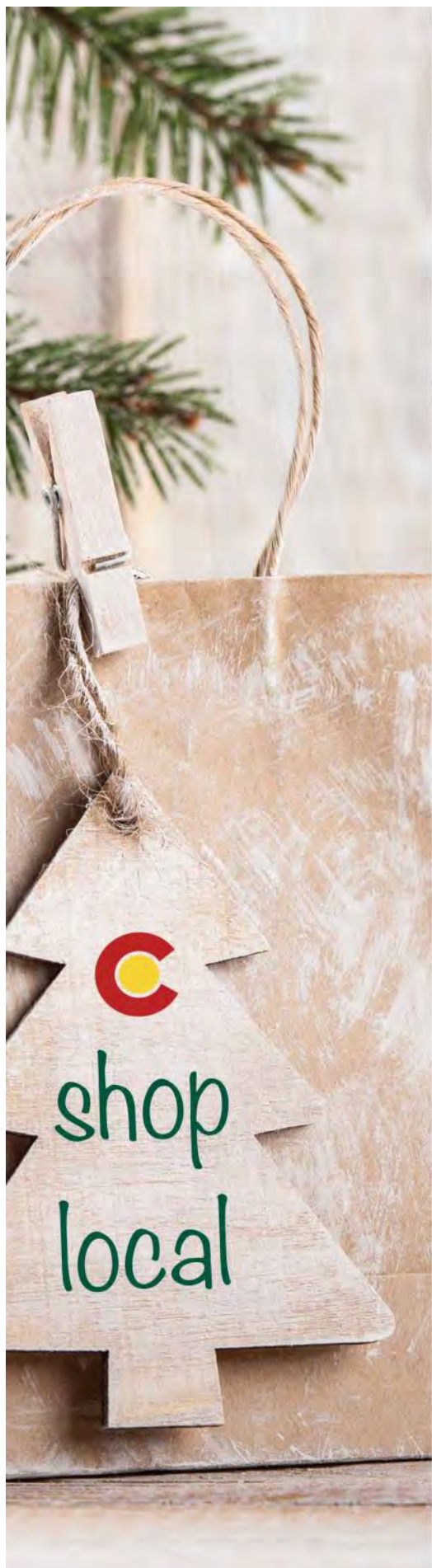
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¹Humana Inc. First Quarter 2020 Earnings Release May 1, 2020

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE IS TURNING INTO STRIP MALL/BIG BOX/DRIVE-THROUGH CITY

Dear Montrose City Council and Planning Commission,

My wife and I grew up in Cedaredge in the 60s and 70s, when going to Montrose was a date night. We have been in Houston and San Antonio, Texas for our working careers. As we started planning retirement, we chose to invest and live in Cobble Creek subdivision in Montrose. One of the attractions to Montrose was a comprehensive plan for development of the city. City planning is almost unheard of in Texas, and we see the results of no zoning (Houston) and liberal zoning variances (San Antonio). The results of serial short-term decisions are not good. We were shocked to learn that the City was considering, and partially subsidizing, what is essentially a zoning variance to the developer of the HUB project. It seems totally inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhoods and the City's own plans for the City. Each member of the Council and Commission should go visit the Woodgate Trails behind City Market on Odelle Road and imagine 25 such buildings and 500+ cars crammed into the HUB projects site off Chipeta road.

Traffic congestion, especially in the summer, is Montrose's biggest problem. (See, the City's Community Surveys). Approval of this variance also seems certain exponentially exacerbate the traffic congestion on Chipeta and 550. In the near term, it will be because of the HUB project construction. In the long term it will be because of the road widening construction along Chipeta. I've walked and biked along both sides of Chipeta and I really don't see how it can be turned into a 4-lane road like you'll need. After that, it will be gas stations and convenience stores along Chipeta, a stoplight at the Chipeta/550 intersection, and further congestion on both roads.

I would respectfully suggest that if you are going to grant incentives to the HUB project developer, you encourage him to move the apartment place down to the Colorado Outdoors area, which is already planned for apartments. (I understand the City recently condemned land near there.) This would be a huge help the downtown and west end businesses

which, in my opinion, really could use some strategic planning and development assistance. Montrose is quickly turning into a strip mall/big box/drive through city with less and less character and charm, all due to the emphasis on southward retail development. I really hate to see it, especially given its unique location and opportunity to be a destination place.

In my opinion, approval of this variance basically helps only the developer and people working in Ouray and Telluride. And what does Montrose get out of it? Folks working in Ouray and Telluride are already driving to Montrose for their retail needs, so the costs to the city to support

the HUB project seem to outweigh the benefits, if any. I would ask that you reconsider this variance, and use the incentive money to help the developer build in Colorado Outdoors or nearer to the downtown area in order to revitalize downtown. The developer can still build single family homes on the HUB development site. He knew the City's plans for that land when he bought there, so his use of the land consistent with the City's plan and surrounding neighborhoods can be no surprise or lost opportunity.

Thank-you ,

Ben Bingham,

San Antonio, Texas and Montrose



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UNDER CONTRACT

3518 Jefferson Circle
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\$549,990

Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 2.0
2,577 sq. ft. on 0.516 acres
Year Built: 2020

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY CONVERTS SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY LOANS TO GRANTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose administration is pleased to announce that small business emergency loans, administered by the city to help local businesses during the COVID pandemic, have been converted into grants. The city was recently notified that CARES Act funding administered by the city could be used to fund the loan program. As a result, the city will no longer require businesses to repay the initial loan amounts. Those businesses that have already repaid their loans will be issued refunds.

To date, the city has provided about \$100,400 in local grant assistance to businesses in Montrose. More information about the loan forgiveness arrangement will be published when it becomes available. The city appreciates the important role that businesses have in our community and recognizes the significant challenges

that many, especially those in the food and beverage industry, are experiencing during the pandemic.

In addition, the City of Montrose's Office of Business and Tourism is contacting local business owners in the community to inform them of recent state legislation that could provide them with much-needed financial assistance to help relieve the financial strain for businesses that have been particularly hard-hit during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Colorado House Bill 20B-1004 allows bars, restaurants, and mobile food vending businesses that have been impacted by public health measures imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic to retain up to \$2,000 of state sales tax collected from Nov. 2020 through March 2021.

While details for implementation of the legislation are still being developed by the state, today the city will begin sending out

materials to inform local businesses. City leaders are grateful to local business owners for their cooperation with measures that have been taken to protect public health.

Please note that the legislation does not apply to sales taxes collected for the City of Montrose. Montrose businesses should continue to collect and remit city sales tax according to the normal process.

For questions regarding sales tax collection information, contact Becky Scriffiny at bscriffiny@cityofmontrose.org.

Questions regarding the city's small business grant program can be sent to City Manager Bill Bell at wbell@cityofmontrose.org and Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer at kcramer@cityofmontrose.org.

Additional information specific to Montrose businesses is available at CityofMontrose.org/COVID19.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE HUB AND FREE ENTERPRISE

Editor:

There is no one that thinks the proposed location for 500 high density apartment units next to Cobble Creek is a good idea except our city government. The rationale seems to be that since it is intended for housing for Telluride workers placing it at the south end of town will enable them to get to Telluride faster. For this we turn Cobble Creek into a transit corridor?

More than that however, I question how it is that our ultra-conservative city feels it is appropriate for government to subsidize private development. We gave Colorado Outdoors a ton of money, and we've promised Fairfield 800,000 if they will build a hotel here. This is the 'free enterprise' we claim to support? Government money as a honey pot for private development? It can also be asked; if we are awash in so much money why did we raise the sales tax?

One reason Russell Stover left was that we gifted them the land for their plant. By leaving they get to sell a valuable piece of property and pocket millions of dollars. With no recapture provision we actually gave them an incentive to leave town. They took it, and likely will get another government handout wherever they move their plant to.

Not only is Matt Miles one of the more affluent citizens of Montrose, but with his track record as a developer, and with interest rates at historic lows, there would be no problem for him getting financing for "The Hub At Montrose Crossing" on his own. Instead we are gifting him 2.35 million dollars. Not bad for a city of 20,000 people.

That of course is only the start. We're going to be spending a considerable amount more on other infrastructure needs and problems the "HUB" will bring.

Let me propose another possible use for this 2.35 million dollars rather than lining Mr. Miles' pocket. How about if the city uses part of that money to offer interest free loans to our local businesses to help them through this very difficult time. Help local businesses with local employees. We've already had some significant businesses close, and more will probably fold in the next months as we weather the covid-19 crisis. How about if we help them rather than an out of place development.

Paul Janzen, Montrose



What A View

Open space surrounds this home giving you views of the San Juans and Grand Mesa. Fresh new look with laminate wood floors and soothing paint colors. Your covered front porch looks to the south with breathtaking views. The home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths upstairs with living, dining and kitchen. Downstairs offers a large gathering room with built ins for storage and TV space, a storage room, laundry utility room and two other rooms presently being used as bedrooms (non-conforming). Oh and don't forget that heated shop with plenty of room to park your vehicles and recreational vehicles. Covered carport on one side and a storage area on the other. A place for the dogs too! There is also a campfire pit all on 5.1 acres for you to enjoy!



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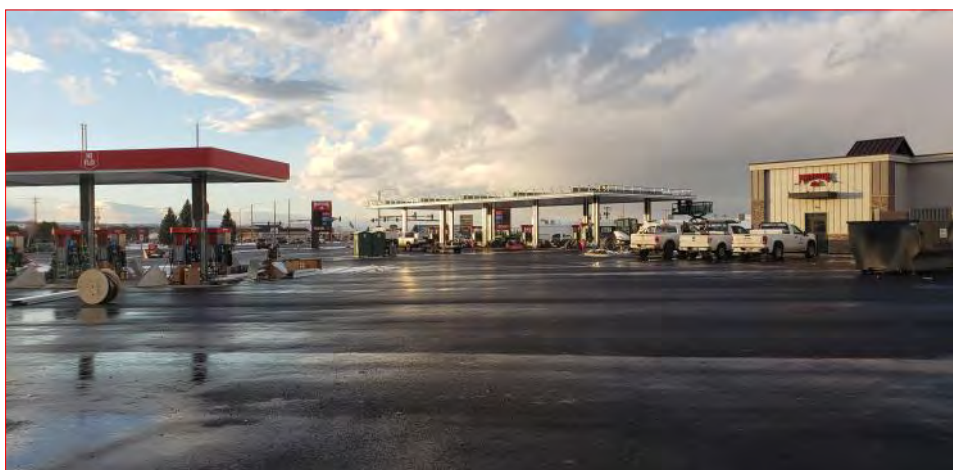
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MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE FUELS UP



Above, the Maverik Station at 1140 North Townsend Avenue nears completion, with an application to sell fermented malt beverages coming before Montrose City Council this week. At right, electric vehicle charging stations now abound in Montrose. Photos by Gail Marvel.



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Jiminers - 970-252-1227
Stone House - 970-240-8899
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLUMBINE MIDDLE AND COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY COHORTS QUARANTINE DUE TO COVID

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Dec. 9, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that students and staff at two school sites tested positive for COVID-19.

Through contact tracing, the CRT determined that:

-As a result of one Cottonwood Elementary School (CES) staff member testing positive for COVID, three CES staff members and 28 CES students need to seek testing and quarantine.

-As a result of two Columbine Middle School (CMS) Cohort B students testing positive for COVID, six CMS staff members and 71 CMS students need to seek testing and quarantine.

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.

Starting tomorrow, MCSD will no longer issue press releases for each individual quarantine event; based on rising viral prevalence in Montrose County and worsening rates of COVID positivity, it is likely we will continue to experience an increase in classroom cohort quarantine events and COVID positive students and staff.

Moving forward, please visit the MCSD COVID Dashboard located at

www.mcscd.org to view updated daily numbers of COVID positive school individuals and quarantine numbers by district and site.

We will continue to issue press releases for other COVID communications such as remote school closures, instructional plans for the start of next semester, and other important coronavirus community notifications.

The district remains committed to transparency and providing the public with vital school health and safety information. We continue to be able to minimize school spread, despite the significant increase of the novel coronavirus in our region.

As noted in the MCSD Dashboard far more students are able to access in-person instruction versus the fraction

needing to quarantine and every effort will be made to ensure that MCSD students can learn in-person as much as possible. As we have throughout the pandemic, we remind all members of our commu-

nity to wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, and take viral precautions seriously in order for schools to stay open and in-person instruction to continue.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ONLY THE RICH PLAY POLO...

Editor:

The City budget as distributed with our water bills is a faulty creation Mr. Bell made to influence the unknowing public with 'magic and mirrors'. There are many significant flaws but I will address my comments to only seven. I will elaborate more at a later date.

1. A budget begins with an amount of money available and then allocates all of it, as accurately as possible, by priority. Bell's version begins with (rounded off) \$78 million dollars. It only allocates about \$44 million. This leaves about \$34 million unbudgeted. Where, oh where, and to whom is the other \$34 million going?

2. Where are the personnel salaries and fringe benefit costs listed?

3. Where is the proposed 'incentive' to Matt Miles listed for his 'near Cobble Creek' development? Where is the incentive you probably already promised to MURA?

4. The Rec District is included in the budget. It should not be; it is a separate taxing district which when the Rec Center tax increase was passed several years ago was supposed to be self-supporting. Rec District gets a separate mil levy on our city real estate tax bills; sales tax revenue and NOW will get stipend of who knows how much either because it is being poorly managed or the viability estimates sold to us by their board were incompetently or intentionally mis-estimated. It matters little which it was, fact is now one could easily say that they cannot meet their financial obligations and the city whose mayor is Ms. Bynum, a former member of that board, is apparently coming to the rescue. What does matter is that if the Rec Center cannot meet its financial obligations it is essentially bankrupt and should rise or fall on its own merits, not

the city's tax base. Further, because the Rec District slipped a fid to the non-city residents in passing the Rec District mil levy increase and Rec Center revenue, now those residents are slipping it to the city residents for having done it to them. What goes around comes around, does it not?

5. Street maintenance is budgeted at \$750,000 in paragraph 11 and \$3 million in paragraph 8. Now just what is budgeted for streets? The city has grossly under-budgeted street maintenance by around \$5 million dollars per year for the past ten years. Just like the Police Department which was grossly shorted adequate funding for at least 8 years. It took the PSST to pull the cops out of the hole; can we expect another one of those gyrations (PSST II) to repair the streets in the next few years? Our fabulous council and their employee Bill Bell (who the council apparently lets run the show) spends all this under-budgeted money to fund things like Colorado Outdoors who sold Mr. Bell and the council a bill of goods and now is back at the table after four years of non-performance on their contract, begging for more money (after \$9 million already put forth by the city) and more time to get a faulty plan going. Short of a recall, they will probably get it!

6. A \$3.2 amphitheater. Shades of Greeks but an item unusable six months or more out of the year at this altitude and latitude. We have a public theater, a Recreation Center, a High School gymnasium, a Rodeo ground, a Golf Course and an Events Center. What more does a town of 20,000 need for entertainment? Is this just another venue for one of our city councilors to use for his personal business? Maybe we should see the profit and loss statements for the last three years for the theater, the Rodeo grounds

and the Event Center fully paying their way before even considering another target for graffiti and sleepovers.

7. Oh yes, the Golf Course. I know every time the development of that land is considered half the town turns out. But it is not fair to charge \$55 per head on everyone's tax bill, that is man, woman and child, so SOME residents can play golf on the cheap! I pay \$110 just so some schnook can play pasture pool. Either our staff is inefficient, there are not enough rounds played or the greens' fees are too low (maybe all three) but the Montrose Municipal Golf Course is a deep green hole-in-one into which the city is pouring huge quantities of publicly owned greenbacks. I believe that we have two really nice, challenging courses in Montrose open to the public. If they cost too much for the municipal course players, those people should find another sport or play half the number of games at twice the price. Poor folks don't play polo!

Of the above 7 items I question, three are entertainment related. They are not the only wastes of funds the city undertakes, just the three I picked out. More in the future. But they do represent over \$5,000,000 that do not have to be spent. In short our city council is out of touch with reality---both the reality of the economy and the reality of the population they represent. Their behavior is out of control. The City of Montrose should get out of the entertainment business and the business of providing subsidies to private enterprise. The City of Montrose and our so called elected leaders should get on with the business city government should be in---Pubic Safety, decent roadways and public health.

Unless something drastic is done, they will not!

Bill Bennett, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A BUSINESSMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIS BUSINESS WITH HIS OWN MONEY, NOT MINE

*Montrose City Planning Commissioners
Montrose City Council Members*

The more I hear about the proposed 500-unit apartment development adjacent to the single-family home developments of Spruce Point and Cobble Creek, the more my ire rises.

First, City Council has committed \$2,350,000 in public funds to subsidize a single developer, Matt Miles, to build a highly dense apartment complex with no strings attached. No payback terms. Why? Are the Montrose city coffers overflowing with an abundance of excess funds?

In this time of pandemic, when citizens are losing their employment, unemployment benefits are running out, small businesses are on the verge of imploding, home mortgages and rental agreements are at risk for non-payment, and the likelihood of shriveled federal and state funding for local governments is on the horizon, why, oh why, are you ready to give away taxpayer dollars that could help alleviate the pain local citizens and businesses are experiencing or will experience within the next year? Two words come to mind: cronyism and favoritism. A businessman should be able to establish his business with his own money, not mine. He takes the risk, he takes the reward.

Secondly, this proposed development does not meet the intent established by YOUR Comprehensive Plan in which the

Miles project offers no significant buffering between two-story apartments and the adjacent single-family home developments. The developer's plan uses Cobble Drive as an entry to his 500-unit complex, adding upwards of 500 or more cars, each with six to eight trips per day, onto an interior subdivision street. Have you forgotten that in addition to the 300-plus homes already built in Cobble Creek using Cobble Drive, you approved that developer's build-out plan to include almost 500 more single-family homes – which will put a minimum of 500 more cars, along with their six to eight trips a day each, onto Cobble Drive? This street has a mix of golf carts, bikers, and walkers, in addition to cars. Overload it with more traffic and congestion and it becomes a highly dangerous mix. What are you thinking?

It's been bandied about in newspaper coverage that Montrose needs moderate housing to the tune of 500 more units. Where are these folks coming from? I have not heard about a Costco, auto parts assembly plant, meat packer, or fulfillment center coming into town. We just lost J.C. Penney and Russel Stover and their employees to economic forces. What are you thinking?

Oh, perhaps Hub at Montrose Crossing will become a bedroom community for the hospitality workers needed in Telluride! I think that charming destination should find housing for those employees a

little closer to home, without Montrose citizens subsidizing their housing. No matter who the tenants are, this development will be an ongoing drain to community resources that the developer will walk away from: police, fire, utilities, school, roads, etc. What are you thinking?

Have you examined the Hub development's impact on school expansion and Chipeta Road, and the safety of young people who will want to spread their wings to recreate? Retention ponds in Cobble Creek will be a mighty attractive and possibly deadly diversion to unsupervised children. There is no shoulder or sidewalk along Chipeta Road for walkers or bikers to reach the walking trail that leads to downtown parks. The intersection of Chipeta and 550 is cringe-worthy when making a left-hand turn there, the most efficient way to reach Cottonwood School, which already has mobile classrooms. Just where will the influx of kids go to school? Perhaps the money you're ready to hand over to Matt Miles should be used to expand Cottonwood and eliminate the mobile classrooms.

Questions, questions. What are your answers as to why you have anointed this developer and his high-dense development in this most unlikely of places? We will be watching and waiting for them on January 6 at the planning commission meeting.

Connie Pitz, Montrose, CO



**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY TRANSITIONS TO REMOTE THROUGH DECEMBER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Dec. 11, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that additional students at Northside Elementary School (NES) tested positive for COVID-19.

Through contact tracing, the CRT determined that the number of staff who now need to quarantine make it necessary for NES to transition to temporary remote

instruction through the last week of the semester. Presently, in-person instruction is planned to resume on Jan. 5, 2021 at the conclusion of Winter Break.

Montrose County School District has contacted all individuals impacted by today's NES quarantine event and also notified all NES parents of the remote transition, prior to this public communication.

Please visit the MCSD COVID Dashboard located at www.mcscd.org to view updated

daily numbers of COVID positive school individuals and quarantine numbers by district and site.

In order for in-person instruction to be possible and to minimize the number of staff and students needing to quarantine, please take all COVID precautions seriously. Wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, and be mindful of worsening viral conditions in our region.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MHS TRANSITIONS TO REMOTE FOR REMAINDER OF SEMESTER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Dec. 7, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) received confirmation that students and staff at Montrose High School 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 Cohort B Montrose High School (MHS) student testing positive for COVID, five MHS staff members and 37 MHS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Wednesday, December 16th.

-As a result of a Montrose High School (MHS) staff member testing positive for COVID, three MHS staff members and 28 MHS students need to seek testing and quarantine through Saturday, December 19th.

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.

Starting Tuesday, Dec. 8, Montrose High School will transition for the remainder of the semester to remote instruction and learning. As we have experienced throughout the first semester, school spread remains minimal, but the impact of staff quarantines make it such that supervision and classroom coverage is no longer feasible through the remaining two weeks of the MHS semester.

MCSD factored into the decision a number of current conditions such as current minimal substitute staff levels able to provide coverage, the number of MHS staff presently in quarantine, pending staff and student COVID test results, as well as the likelihood that additional staff will be required to quarantine through the next two weeks.

Having spent the semester using a hybrid model, Montrose High School is prepared to finish the semester remotely and teachers will work with MHS students to complete semester final exam preparation and completion.

Please visit www.mcscd.org to view our MCSD COVID Dashboard, which lists im-

portant 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.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

VOLUNTEERS MAKE WREATHS FOR LOCAL VETERANS



By Gail Marvel

Photos by Gail Marvel and Paul Arbogast
MONTROSE-The mission of National Wreaths Across America is to Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at the graves of Veterans. In preparation for National Wreaths Across America Day (Dec. 19, 2020), American Legion Post 73 Riders teamed up with Camelot Gardens to make Christmas bows, a scaled down version of the wreath. On the morning of Dec. 12, approximately 30 volunteers met at Camelot Gardens to make the bows and then distribute them to the graves of Veterans buried in our three local cemeteries.



Volunteers at Camelot Gardens put together Wreaths. Photo by Paul Arbogast.



Photo by Paul Arbogast.



Photo by Gail Marvel.



Photo by Gail Marvel.

OPINION/EDITORIAL LETTERS

MURA: TWO MORE DAUNTING CONCERNS COME TO LIGHT

Editor:

Mr. Paul Arbogast's informative article in the December 7, 2020 MONTROSE MIRROR, pg.42: "MURA AND COLORADO OUTDOOR, TIME TO REASSESS?" Directly addresses several concerns and economic development issues tied directly to the MURA project. The MURA board of directors I am sure are painfully aware that four years into this project there has been several requests for additional funding from the property owner and presentations setting up a proposed timeline for lot development that in my opinion may be a method to keep the project to appear to be viable and continually funded by the MURA board and by extension the taxpayers in the millions of future dollars.

CONCERN #1. VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT IN REAL TIME?

Starting with the questions of building permits that have not as reported been issued yet and obtaining the certified financial documents to determine the owner/builder's financial capabilities to complete the projects listed below are in question? A complete review of this matter by the MURA board is recommended to be needed prior to proceeding with any further development funding.

Note: Proposed buildout start dates.

The ANDERSON ANALYTICS, LLC NOVEMBER 9, 2020, "UPCOMING PROJECTS IN 2021-2022. (AA pg.4).

1. PHASE 1 APARTMENTS: 96 UNITS (Q2 2021-Q2 2022).
2. HOTEL 1 -FAIRFIELD: 90 ROOMS (Q3 2021 TO Q3 -2022).
- 3.Wedge Brands: 77,000 sq. ft. (Q1 2021 to Q2 2022).
- 4.Flex/industrial 1: 27,500 sq. ft. (Q2 2021 to Q1 2022).
5. Flex/industrial 2: 27,500 sq. ft. (Q2 2021 to Q1 2022).
- 6.Project Canvas: 30, 000 sq. ft. (Q2 2021 to Q2 2022).

CONCERN #2. ANTICIPATED HORIZONTAL IMPROVEMENT PAYMENTS. (AA REQUEST PG.16).

As you know horizontal improvements include such as things as funding the property owners' expenses for parking lots, sidewalk's, landscaping etc. In my opinion these expenditures are nothing more than a cover method to DIRECTLY TRANSFER CASH payments to fund the property owner's / developers' onsite development responsibilities. In the case of five of properties listed above the anticipated cash payout request comes to a staggering \$4,415,000 for an average of \$883,000 per building buildout. It is inconceivable to me the MURA board would ever consider horizontal expenditures for a private funded business and in my opinion, this proposed funding is completely out of line for any reason and must be specifically defined and eliminated.

Jim Anderson, Montrose



249 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

RE-1J REALLOCATES FUNDS TO UPDATE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

From pg 1

noting that the El Pomar Foundation's San Juan Regional Council has selected the Northside School-Based Health Clinic to receive a grant of \$5,000; Neal Platzer made a \$200 donation to help provide internet service for students without this service at home; and Walmart has donated \$2,000 worth of personal protection items.

The Montrose Education Foundation did not hold its annual event this year, Laird said, but did announce the winners of the annual \$10,000 Impact Award. The 2020 recipients are:

- Kathy Gaber
- Heidi Voehringer
- Brian Simpson
- John Steele

The project which this grant will help fund is an industry certification program entitled Certify for Success, which will be available to all 9-12 grade students and will provide a pathway toward earning industry-recognized certifications while they are still in high school.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District F Director Eric Kelley gave an update on a Consent Agenda item, a recommendation to approve the 2020/2021 District-Wide Reallocation of Funds in the Deferred Maintenance Budget, to support the development of a district facilities master plan.

Kelley shared key points that he learned from RE-1J Property Services Manager Philip Bailey.

The master plan will be a "living document" and will provide a 10-year roadmap for the future of District facilities, he said. "It will better position us to be able to get BEST grants and funding of that nature, to help us do what we need to do to maintain our facilities," Kelley said.

District A Director Jeff Bachman said, "At some point Phil's gonna be gone, and this gives us a plan to even move forward after he retires, after he's gone. We can continue with his expertise now, making that plan.

"I think it's a good move on our behalf."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson introduced a video created with contributions from District schools. "I sent a call out to principals to give me a quick 30-second video clip of great things that are going on in their school, and so we have compiled those together," she said.

Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins displayed the video for the Board and the viewing public.

Stephenson also discussed new COVID-19 mitigation strategies employed by RE-1J in response to recent guidelines from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). New strategies including additional screener questions, masks for all, seating charts, and K95 masks and eyewear for staff. Seating charts will allow the District to establish a 12-foot bubble around anyone who is found to potentially have COVID-19.

"That way we only have to quarantine the people within that 12-foot bubble," Stephenson said. "We are also waiting on another guidance from CDPHE, and we're hoping that they are going to endorse CDC's latest recommendation that shortens the quarantine period for asymptomatic individuals from 14 days to seven days with a negative test...that will also help us a bunch."

The District is presently working on several options for second semester, although nothing will likely be announced until the end of winter break. "It is my desire to get kids back in school full time," Stephenson said.

She asked the community to help contain the spread of the virus whenever possible. "Whatever anyone can do to help us combat this virus at the local level is helping schools stay in session...that choice may be taken away from us if local conditions deteriorate."

Stephenson asked Bailey to talk about the Reallocation of Funds in the Deferred Maintenance Budget to support the development of a district facilities master plan. There has been a strong response to a

Request for Proposals (RFP) released by the district, Bailey said. "This will be a very comprehensive report on efficiencies as well as code...in order to establish continuity and stuff we're going to be using our on-call engineers," Bailey said. "They know our schools better, they have a lot of the plans already installed...it's a very comprehensive road map of our facilities. "Our other master plan was really not very detailed or very good," Bailey said. "...This plan will take five years to get done. The RFP deliverables are going to be in our hands the 15th of November. So that would put us in a good position to really know...these are our primary targets...and it's a very long-term plan...it's a living document...so we'll be adding to this as we go and hopefully we'll be chipping away at it and reducing some of those inefficiencies we have and giving our kids a better environment to study in and our staff as well.

Though all master planning processes require public involvement, Bailey said, "...What's really unique about the way we are going to be doing this is we are going to be engaging our community. "They are going to be a part of this whole process. We're going to have community meetings; we want to hear from them...ultimately giving a voice to our community as to the direction they want to see us go...it's really important to bring them into this whole sequence."

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Enrollment report. December enrollment is 5,800, which is 22 students below the November student count and 439 students lower than this time in 2019, she said.

Final October Count numbers are on the Consent Agenda, she said. The final 2020-2021 student count is 5,659, which is 61 students less than originally budgeted for. The drop will result in a loss of State revenue and at-risk funding totaling \$762K (\$177K in Per Pupil revenue, \$585K in At-Risk revenue).

RE-1J REALLOCATES FUNDS TO UPDATE MASTER PLAN From previous pg

Risk revenue).

The District is very grateful for the receipt of CARES Act money, Imus said.

"Otherwise, we'd be in a much different financial position."

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC UPDATE)

ECC Director Penny Harris could not be present, but updated ECC information is in the [Work Session packet](#).

OLD BUSINESS

Board Vice President Sarah Fishering presented [Revised Board policy JEB for approval](#) concerning Entrance Age Requirement. Changes to the policy were discussed in the previous meeting; the Board of Education voted unanimously to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board voted unanimously to approve

[Consent Agenda items](#) as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Imus presented for Board approval the annual Certification of Mill Levies for the Property Tax Year 2020 for taxes to be collected in 2021. "The General Fund Mill Levy is 22.025, located on Line 7 and the Bond Fund Mill Levy is 3.387, located on Line 8 for a total mill of 25.412 located on Line 12," Imus said. As a reference point, she noted that last year's mill was 21.992 for the General Fund and 3.503 for the Bond Fund for a total mill of 25.495. The Gross Assessed Valuation was \$562,861,903 and is \$582,375,064 this year, which is a 3.47% increase in value.

"The mill levy would have been 92.080 without state funding," she said.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the annual Certifica-

tion of Mill Levies for the Property Tax Year 2020 for taxes to be collected in 2021.

Noting that the Auditor Appeared to have been delayed due to being caught behind a traffic accident, Imus also presented the [2019-2020 audited Financial Statements](#) for acceptance. She thanked her Finance Department staffers Mike Madden and *Margie Whitcomb* for their hard work. "I have an amazing team," Imus said.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The [next regular meeting](#) of the Montrose County RE-1J School District Board of Education will take place in District Offices on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021.

The Mirror:

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PROCEEDS FROM EDCC'S ANNUAL MEETING & EDIE AWARDS CEREMONY GO TO SUPPORT COLORADO'S RESTAURANTS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) organized a donation drive during its Annual Meeting and EDIE Awards Ceremony this past month, to support the Colorado Winter Outdoor Grant Program, a program the Colorado Restaurant Association has organized in partnership with the State of Colorado, Colorado Restaurant Foundation, Xcel Energy, and the Xcel Energy Foundation. Donations were made from several economic development organizations from around the state and have recently been donated to the Colorado Restaurant Association. Restaurants are vital to a bolstering economy. They attract visitors, revitalize neighborhoods, and are deeply rooted in their community. They often source local produce from nearby farmers, use ingredients from local producers, and create jobs that support the local economy. Restaurants help anchor other specialty stores along main streets. Investment in their growth will likely be a benefit to other local businesses near them. Our restaurants and local vendors need our help. Please consider donating to the Colorado Winter Outdoor Grant Program and #ShopLocalColorado this holiday season.



Wash your hands

Thank you for doing your part
to keep CO safe!



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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

The Church Down the Street

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



Gail Marvel

BOCC MEETS FOR SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING DEC. 10

2020 Levy Year 2021 Collections	Net Assessed Value (Net of TIF Valuation)	Gross Mill Levy	Temporary Credit Mill Levy	Net Mill Levy (Net of Credit Levy)	Property Tax Assessment	Abatement Mill Levy	Abatement Tax Levy	Total Property Tax Assessment
General Fund	\$ 601,175,569	20.528	(1.682)	18.846	\$ 11,329,769	0.037	\$ 22,467	\$ 11,352,237
Social Services Fund	\$ 601,175,569	3.000	0.000	3.000	\$ 1,803,527			\$ 1,803,527
Total	\$ 601,175,569	23.528	(1.682)	21.846	\$ 13,133,296	0.037	\$ 22,467	\$ 13,155,763

On Dec. 10, the BOCC established Mill Levies and levied property Taxes for the budget year 2021. Montrose County graphic.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a special, virtual budget meeting on Thursday, Dec. 10. County Finance Director Cindy Dunlap led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All commissioners were present for the session.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris asked that Consent Agenda Item No. 1 be changed; the date of the Minutes to be approved is 9-22-2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were accepted as presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Dunlap presented Resolution NO 52-2020, concerning the 2020 and Final Supplemental Budget Appropriation. Supplemental Appropriations total \$3,596,200, and include \$2,000,000-General Fund; \$32,200-Clerk's Technical Fund; \$136,000-Local Public Health Fund; \$740,000-Public Safety Sales Tax Fund; and \$688,000-Road & Bridge Fund.

Dunlap reviewed the appropriations one by one; Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution 52-2020.

Dunlap presented Resolution 53-2020, concerning the 2021 Budget Adoption and Appropriation of Funds for the budget year 2021. She read budget appropriations for each fund into the record.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked when the TABOR reserve would be appropriated. "It's just there in the event that we were to ever need to invoke that," Dunlap said. "You've already gone through the

process of approving that."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy thanked Dunlap and Finance Dept. staff for their work on the budget in a difficult year.

Hansen asked, "...Was the budget...easier to work through this year or more difficult?"

Dunlap said, "...I think the changes that we made to the process this year, we thought it went well...we were pleased with how it turned out."

"Everyone rose to the occasion and they did a phenomenal job," she said. "...it's definitely a team effort, we know that, so we're very appreciative of everyone and the teamwork that goes into this from all levels of the organization."

Norris said that County Department heads were pleased with the process and that it resulted in a good budget for next year, "...I think this is the smoothest it's gone, and we got a very good result."

County IT Director Don Varey echoed the sentiment in a chat comment made during the meeting.

"As a department director, I felt it went GREAT!" Varey wrote. "Well done, Cindy and the whole finance team! You guys rock!"

Said Hansen, "...Having a team that really is responsive to the constituents and also conservative in our approach to how we budget...that's what makes me the proudest. We're not looking at a lot of fat in these budgets."

Dunlap gave a shout out to her finance team; "They work really hard to pull this together every year. I couldn't do it without all of them, of course. Thank you to everybody."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said that the team approach to budgeting was "healthier and better for all of us."

"To get everybody to come together and work as a team and cooperate, it makes me proud too," Rash said, and thanked staff for their hard work.

Hansen credited Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch for coming up with an idea that changed the budget process.

"...He approached about a change in how the process could go...he's always looking for ways to streamline, and I think that turned out to be a really good thing...I just wanted to be sure we give appropriate credit where credit is due, just wanted to thank him."

Said BOCC Chair Keith Caddy, "We're in the middle of a public hearing, and now it's the public's time to comment if they so wish, so we're finished with all our accolades and everything, does anybody in the public wish to address this issue of the budget for 2021?"

With no comments from the public, commissioners voted unanimously to approve Resolution 53-2020.

Caddy said, "Thanks for all the hard work everybody. I'd like to thank all the department heads and the departments for their input in this year's budgets."

"I know that we were looking at some minor cuts, and at least holding the line on a lot of areas, and everybody stepped up to the plate and did it," Caddy said.

Commissioners also voted unanimously to approve Resolution 54-2020, also presented by Dunlap, to establish Mill Levies and Levy Property Taxes for the budget year 2021.

"Thank you for all your hard work Cindy and your finance department there," Caddy said.

"You guys do an amazing job."

With no further business, the special budget meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT GREEN WASTE



Photo by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose has announced that it will no longer accept green waste as of Jan. 1, 2021. A Dec. 11 news release states, "The processing of green waste, defined as lawn clippings, garden plants, weeds, leaves, hedge/tree trimmings, and tree branches, has proven problematic for the city."

In future, residents can dispose of green waste at Waste Management, located at 67999 Landfill Road, or during the City of Montrose's annual leaf collection and spring cleanup events.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT WARNS BACKCOUNTRY USERS: WATCH WHERE YOU PARK!

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — The Colorado Department of Transportation asks that vehicle owners take care when parking before recreating outdoors. Poorly parked vehicles prevent CDOT maintenance workers from safely clearing roads of snow and ice, and present safety hazards for motorists or commercial traffic on nearby roadways. CDOT urges vehicle owners to WATCH WHERE YOU PARK!

When searching for areas to park vehicles or trailers, the public is reminded to do so safely and lawfully. Anyone leaving a vehicle unattended on the side of the road runs the risk of breaking the law, being fined and having their vehicle towed away by law enforcement. Vehicle owners are urged to take heed of “no parking” signs. Parking areas need to be kept open with no vehicles or trailers so that plows and heavy equipment can be turned around safely by maintenance personnel.

Backcountry users should park only in clearly marked, designated parking areas. While some areas along the highway may appear to provide ample room to park, CDOT warns vehicle owners that they run the risk of being trapped with large snow piles pushed by plows. Vehicles left on the side of the road also make plowing operations difficult for road maintenance crews. Before heading into the high country, backcountry users should be aware of avalanche conditions. Visit www.avalanche.state.co.us for current snow condition forecasts. When parking, look for caution signs at avalanche areas



CDOT maintenance personnel recently met with law enforcement officers at the summit of US 550 Red Mountain Pass in southwest Colorado to discuss possible solutions to illegally parked vehicles along the shoulders of highways and mountain passes. The Colorado State Patrol and local sheriffs have the authority to tow and/or ticket vehicles that impede snow removal operations. CDOT Courtesy photo.

that indicate no stopping or standing at the location. These areas are prone to snow slides.

The slide areas are also often at locations where avalanche control operations may be planned. Never park vehicles or trailers on the side of the road at these potential avalanche sites. **OBEY THE LAW** Backcountry users are advised that when leav-

ing vehicles on the shoulder of the road, they are at risk of being fined and their vehicle being towed.

Owners who leave vehicles unattended on the side of the road are at risk of obstructing avalanche control missions and the operation of heavy equipment. Obstructing highway operations is in violation of state law.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County is currently unable to provide any case updates as the State's data set has substantial errors; we will update the dashboard as soon as the State has corrected the information. We currently have 7 individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 6 deaths this week; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

Delta County Health Department, in conjunction with Project Protect Promotora Network, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH), and Mako Medical Laboratories, will be conducting mobile COVID-19 testing on Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. at the Delta County Fairgrounds located at 403 S. 4th St., in Hotchkiss. While no appointment is necessary, you can pre-register at the following link: <https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=2413> DCMH had their COVID-19 mobile test event today; 216 tests were performed.

Upon approval by the FDA, Delta County Memorial Hospital will receive the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for Delta County, and will distribute those to frontline healthcare workers per the State of Colorado's COVID-19 distribution plan, which can be found [here](#). There is a precise rollout that has been predetermined; additional information can be

found at covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-faq.

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.

Delta County Administrative Building HopeWest

We want to remind everyone to sign your mobile phone up for COVID-19 exposure notifications. Exposure Notifications is a service developed in partnership with Google and Apple to help slow the spread of COVID-19. By opting in, your device will share anonymous tokens with other CO Exposure Notifications users using your phone's Bluetooth. If another user you've been near tests positive for COVID-19, they have the ability to share the anonymous tokens their phone has transmitted. Anyone they have exchanged tokens with in the 14 days prior to diagnosis will re-

ceive a push notification alerting them that they may have been around someone with COVID-19. Tokens contain no personal information or location data and everything is completely anonymous.

Knowing about a potential exposure allows you to self-quarantine immediately, get tested, and reduce the potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and community. For more information and detailed instructions on enabling CO Exposure Notifications, visit addyourphone.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.

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

OURAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-St. Daniel's Church, in partnership with Ouray County Public Health Agency, is reporting 2 confirmed COVID-19 cases detected this week that have, upon investigation, been determined to be classified as an outbreak. This makes a total of 132 cases of COVID-19 for Ouray County; 18 of which have been in the last 14 days. Conditions are met for a COVID-19 outbreak when there are two or more people who are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a workplace/facility, with onset within 14 days. "I want to thank Father Nat for cooperating with our team of COVID-19 contact tracers and case investigators" said Ouray County Public Health Agency Director, Tanner Kingery. "All cases and close contacts are contacted and assigned a case investigator as per protocol. For many, gathering together for worship is fundamental to what it means to be a community of faith. But as we have learned, gatherings, particularly indoors, present an increased risk for the spread of COVID-19. Avoiding swapping air with those who don't live with you is particularly important right now." Updates are provided on the Ouray County website: ouraycountyco.gov as well as Ouray County Public Health Agency Facebook page: Facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency

Ways that you can continue to protect yourselves, family members and community members:

- Wash your hands
- Practice social distancing
- Wear a mask
- Avoid crowds
- Stay home if you don't feel well

HELP PARTNERS MENTORING 60 IN 60 CAMPAIGN

Special to the Mirror

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

Give the gift of change by donating in another's name and we'll send them a lovely card announcing their gift.

Partners Mentoring serves hundreds of children in Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties by providing oneto one mentoring, life skills, and activities at no charge. Our goal is to sign up 60 people in 60 days for the monthly giving campaign.



Wear
your
mask



Wash
your
hands



Watch
your
distance



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**Thank you for doing your
part to keep CO safe!**

ISSUE 294 Dec. 14, 2020

ART & SOL

'THERE ARE VETERANS BURIED HERE AND IT IS SACRED GROUND TO US'



Ann Ryan (center right), co-organizer of the local effort for the National Wreaths Across America Day project said, "Families of Veterans appreciate that someone takes time to remember their service." Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, is National Wreaths Across America Day. The mission and significance of the day is to Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at the graves of Veterans.

Three years ago, retired Navy Chief John Boughton and Ann Ryan joined forces to bring a smaller version of the program to Montrose.

Ryan and Boughton, who is a member of American Legion Post 73 Riders, then teamed up with Sheree Wanner of Came-

lot Gardens to make a scaled-down version of the wreath — a Christmas bow.

On Dec. 12th some 30 volunteers met at Camelot Gardens to cut pine branches and assemble them into a bow tied with red ribbon.

Ryan said, "Last year we had more volunteers. I suspect we're down because of the weather, or maybe because of COVID. Last year we made about 500 bows."

Once completed, the bows were distributed to all three local cemeteries to decorate the graves of Veterans. Ryan said, "Families of Veterans appreciate that



The grave site of Chief Petty Officer Joseph Gerald Bergman was one of more 500 local Veteran's graves sites honored on National Wreaths Across America Day. Photo by Gail Marvel.

someone takes time to remember their service. The green branches last a long time and we'll pick them up post-holidays."

When asked how she became interested in the project Ryan said, "I've worked in suicide prevention. When I learned how many Vets have committed suicide, I was moved to get involved."

Valley Lawn Cemetery, whose maintenance and upkeep has fallen to volunteers, has been officially adopted by American Legion Post 73.

Because measurable snow had fallen the day before distributing the bows, members of the Legion did snow removal on each Veteran's marker.

Boughton said, "There are Veterans buried here and it is sacred ground to us."

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL TOP STUDENT GAVIN LINDSEY NAMED COCA-COLA SCHOLAR SEMIFINALIST

Special to art & Sol

MONTROSE-Local high school senior Gavin Lindsey has been named a Semifinalist for the 2021 class of the Coca Cola Scholars Program, moving to the next round of the selection process to become a Coca-Cola Scholar and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship. A joint effort of Coca-Cola bottlers across the country and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2021 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 6,450 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$75 million in scholarships over the course of 33 years.

"We believe that identifying these young leaders throughout the country and encouraging their passion for serving others not only empowers the students, but also lifts up those around them." said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Foundation. "The Coca-Cola system is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve, and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is proud to be a part of that commitment."

In addition to receiving college scholarships, those students selected as Coca-Cola Scholars will be welcomed into a vibrant and growing family of alumni that have become a powerful force for positive change in the world. Through networking, collaborations, and friendships, the group strives to make a greater impact together. Recent initiatives include a podcast called The SIP, Coke Scholars Care (Coke Scholars doing good in the midst of the pandemic), and the fifth year of a coaching program that partners seasoned alumni with first-year Scholars as they transition to college. Every 5 years, all alumni are invited to a Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Summit. Semifinalists are now asked to complete

Phase 2 applications, which include essays, a recommendation, and transcripts. An independent selection committee will review the applications and select 250 Regional Finalists by the end of January to participate in online interviews. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars will be named in March to receive a \$20,000 college scholarship and participate in the Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Development Institute facili-

tated by program alumni.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation celebrates and empowers visionary leaders who are refreshing the world. With its 32nd class of Coca-Cola Scholars, the Foundation has provided more than \$72 million in scholarships to over 6,300 program alumni who together have become a powerful force for positive change. Learn more at www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND COUNTY'S PANDEMIC PLAYBOOK: TAKE IT OUTSIDE



Social distancing in Grand County, Colorado. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND COUNTY—It is undeniable. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended everybody's life and schedule. The world as we know it is radically different than it was last year—whether we are talking about work, school, or recreation. And there are plenty of messages about how to stay safe and sane. In Grand County, Colorado, the recreation and hospitality industries are taking all the recommendations and guidelines very seriously. And they have an easy prescription for the months ahead for staying safe and getting much needed recreation. Take it outside.

Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding

Winter Park Resort and Granby Ranch Resort have attracted skiers and riders for decades and both resorts are innovating and implementing strategies to keep children and adults happy on their snow-covered slopes. But there are dozens of other quiet trails and snowy meadows throughout the county where adults and families won't even know they are following the recommendations for social distancing as they play in wide open spaces. Granby Ranch Resort has a new management team in place for the upcoming sea-

son—Ridgeline Executives—and is scheduled to open Dec. 11. Bluebird Backcountry, near Kremmling is scheduled to open before Christmas.

Nordic and Cross-Country skiing

Backcountry skiing is an ideal way to escape the crowds and soak up some mountain serenity. Winter Park and the Fraser Valley are known as Mountain Bike Capital USA during the summer months and that extensive network of bike trails that rope their way throughout the valley are swiftly transformed into Nordic ski paths after a few winter storms. For beginners just looking for a gentle meander through the woods, there are options like the Fraser River Trail stretching from Fraser for six miles to Winter Park Resort. The Jim Creek Trail with its trailhead directly across from the Resort's main entrance offers an out-and-back moderate climb up a forested creek drainage. The Bamse and Travis Dog Loops at the YMCA of the Rockies about five miles outside Granby offer an easy and scenic loop on the northern section of their Nordic Center that allows skiers to bring their four-footed buddies along for the workout. And the Grand Lake Nordic Center, opening in December, has several

groomed and intersecting trails that allow skiers to do a variety of circuits of varying lengths.

Snowshoeing

Not so sure about kicking and gliding on cross country skis? Modern snowshoes that strap onto an individual's own waterproof winter boots open up literally hundreds of miles of trails throughout the Arapahoe National Forest. Groomed trails are purely optional with these claw-bottomed footwear devices that are both simple to use and sturdy underfoot. They can be used on both groomed and unpacked snowy trails, leaving much of Grand County's public forest lands accessible for exploring, or simply escaping.

The outdoor combination

The all-inclusive Latigo Ranch with its cozy and contemporary cabins in the midst of an outdoor playground is the ideal place to retreat and recreate. With 50km of groomed cross-country trails and more than 200 miles of ungroomed powder, it is easy to social distance while taking in abundant fresh air and giant vistas. Meals and rental equipment are included with the first guests checking in on Dec. 19.

Other options

Few things capture winter solitude and serenity the way ice fishing does. Fishing with Bernie in Granby or Spirit Lake Outfitters in Grand Lake can help novices get started in this unique winter pastime and assist with rods, bait, and how to punch a hole in the ice.

From there, the thrill of trying to catch either Rainbow Trout or Kokanee salmon begins with the potential of bringing home dinner. For a roaring good time, consider climbing aboard a snowmobile for a tour along Continental Divide tour with Grand Adventures in Winter Park or exploring trails that surround Grand Lake and skirt the edges of Rocky Mountain National Park. If there are kids in the crowd, snow tubing is a must with tow-rope service at Winter Park Resort and in the town of Fraser at The Tubing Hill. Grand County, Colo.

(<http://www.visitgrandcounty.com>)

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY OFFERS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Special to Art & Sol

CORTEZ –During a holiday season that involves fewer festivities and more social distancing, outdoor activities offer a safe and fun way to connect with nature and friends. Mesa Verde Country in Southwest Colorado welcomes visitors and their social bubbles to get out in the sunshine and fresh air of the Four Corners region. Moderate winter temperatures in this unique location provide opportunities to soak up nature amid the beautiful backdrop of Southwest Colorado. Biking, skiing, hiking and horseback riding are a few of the experiences that can be enjoyed while safely distancing.

When visiting, please remember to physical distance, cover your coughs and maintain good hand hygiene. If you aren't feeling well, please reschedule your trip. Since things are ever-changing with coronavirus restrictions, please visit

www.mesaverdecountry.com to check out the latest restrictions before visiting.

Fat Biking

For those who have not given fat biking a try, Mesa Verde Country is a great place for adventure that turns mountain biking into an all-season sport. Phil's World boasts 60 miles of well-kept trails and mountain views for both new and experienced riders. Visitors can rent bikes at Kokopelli Bike & Board in Cortez, which also offers full mechanic services for needed personal bicycle maintenance.

Snow Sports

Mesa Verde Country invites visitors to experience the special peace found while standing amid a snow-covered landscape – or opt to pump up the adrenaline. The neighboring slopes of Telluride, Hesperus and Purgatory are available to skiers who live for shredding the gnar. For those diving into this year's invitation to get out of their comfort zone, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling are wor-



Mesa Verde Country in Southwest Colorado welcomes visitors and their social bubbles to get out in the sunshine and fresh air of the Four Corners region.

thy pursuits.

Hiking & Horseback Riding

Cozying up to a horse is the cowboy's way to social distance while exploring the trails and wilds of nature in Mesa Verde Country. There are several riding stables in the area offering riding experiences. Rimrock Outfitters in Mancos also offers winter sleigh rides; BYO hot cocoa! For nature-lovers more comfortable with stallions at distance, wild horses can be spied in Mesa Verde National Park. The area's ancient archaeological sites are another inspiring spot to explore on foot.

Après Activity

After a day outdoors, the brews, wines and ciders in Mesa Verde Country are a well-earned warm-up. The area is home to several craft breweries – Dolores River Brewery, Main Street Brewery, Coyote J. Brewing Company, Mancos Brewing Company and the WildEdge Brewery in Cortez, which also features cider. Fenceline Cider | Outliers Cellars also has a taproom in

downtown Mancos featuring ciders made from local apples. For wine enthusiasts, Sutcliffe Vineyards serves up world-class wine in its estate vineyard's tasting room in Cortez.

There are plenty of food options to consider from farm-to-table and locally grown to fresh and sustainable cuisine. Most restaurants are offering in-person dining as well as take-out.

Lodging

To rest up before the next adventure, the area has many options ranging from cozy cabins and RV parks to Airstreams and yurts. Guest ranches, bed-and-breakfasts, and retro motels add to the list of places for a good night's sleep in Mesa Verde Country.

To learn more about winter adventure in Mesa Verde Country, go to www.mesaverdecountry.com to begin planning your trip.

About Mesa Verde Country

(www.mesaverdecountry.com)

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spot on news.**



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FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp.
Courtesy photo.

By Deacon Dwight Harp

Whew! My boss chose a good one when I asked for a topic suggestion. Children! More specifically what does Jesus say about them? (This specific question dealing with Jesus and children automatically makes the rest of this article Christian.) As an ordained vocational deacon in the Anglican Church in North America I relished the assignment.

I struggled, however, with this a lot. My mind flooded with thoughts, lots of them. This is a universal subject, and therefore it should be an easy one. It didn't work out that way initially.

Our kids are grown. Jesus loves grown children too.

Lots of us have children, and if we don't, we were or are kids now. The cacophony of thoughts made this assignment more difficult. Where do I start? What thought is most important? The key to this whole thing is love. We are all children of our Triune God. Jesus loves us all.

I'm pretty sure my boss wanted more than just the first line to a children's hymn

--"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..."

Like many seasoned citizens we have a "fur-kid." I'll bet Jesus includes them in His love too. The children thing got more focused in a heartbeat. Our "fur-kid" escaped. The fence was torn down by something much bigger than our 12-pound puppy.

Emotions immediately boiled over. We were a mess. Calls of "Karri!" every step or two were shouted. Thoughts of the worst filled our minds and hearts. A car whizzed by—Oh, no! We found our "fur-kid." She hadn't gone far. I rebuilt the fence.

These emotions manifested for a dog multiply exponentially when the lost is your "blood" child.

What might Jesus think about "lost" children? His lost children!

Jesus rejoiced at the recovery of a lost sheep. We are the sheep of His pasture. To further explore this statement I'll borrow from an article published earlier this summer in the *El Paso Times*—

"The book of Genesis reminds us that when God created the world, He created humanity in the 'Divine Image.' The soul imbued within each of us is equally divine and pure. The Jewish sages teach that this common ancestry reminds us we are all equal and worthy of the same dignity and respect. Jesus teaches us that God loves all people and is present for each of us."

We all love our children, even when they don't act as loveable as we'd like. Jesus loves us all too, even when we don't act as loveable to Him and His precepts and teachings as He'd like. His love for us, His

children, is therefore a given.

His love for children abounds in scripture.

Two examples:

-Psalms 127:-3 – "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him."

-Matt 19:-14 – "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them. The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."

In the Gospels-, we see God's tender heart for children, His willingness to devote time to them, His recognition of their life issues and accomplishments and His zeal for protecting their innocence.

I love children too.

My special area of love for children is in the middle school/high school years. For six years I was the sportscaster for all of the Delta Panther home and away games. At that time they were the smallest Triple "AAA" school in the state. We didn't win often but those young women and men won my heart.

The disciples wanted to know who among them had won Jesus heart. Whom did He LOVE? Matthew 18:1- "...the disciples came to Him and asked, '...who, then, is the greatest...?'"

Jesus answers that definitively only four verses later. Matthew 18:5- "...whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

The love simply explained in the children's hymn referenced earlier is so real and powerful. This love of children...ours and His is really simple. Don't overthink it--

--

"...Little ones to Him belong---they are weak and He is strong!"



COMMUNITY NOTICES

NOVEMBER 2020 COMMUNITY DEATH NOTICES

Compiled by Gail Marvel

Montrose resident, Coy Miller, passed away on Nov. 12, 2020, at the age of 95.

Montrose resident, Joan Ruth (Noble) Johnson, passed away on Nov. 8, 2020 at the age of 78.

Ridgway resident, Lois Marie Bryan, passed away on Nov. 5, 2020 at the age of 93.

Eckert resident, Gary D. Chism, passed away Nov. 28, 2020 at the age of 71.

Hotchkiss (North Fork Valley) resident, Elizabeth Olsen, passed away Nov. 20, 2020 at the age of 88.

Hotchkiss resident, John C. Cotten, passed away Nov. 16, 2020 at the age of 75.

Hotchkiss resident, Robert Bruce Lewis, passed away on Nov. 12, 2020 at the age of 87.

Delta resident, Terry Lynn Wilborn 61, passed away on Nov. 23, 2020 at the age of 61.

Delta resident, Lee Carl Martinson, passed away on Nov. 19, 2020 at the age of 82.

Paonia (North Fork Valley) resident, David Dorsey, passed away on Nov. 14, 2020 at the age of 75.

Delta County resident, Elwyn "Wynn" T. Mossler passed away Nov. 10, 2020 at Horizons Care Center at the age of 90.

Cedaredge resident, Daniel N. Finocchio, passed away Nov. 9, 2020 at the age of 73.

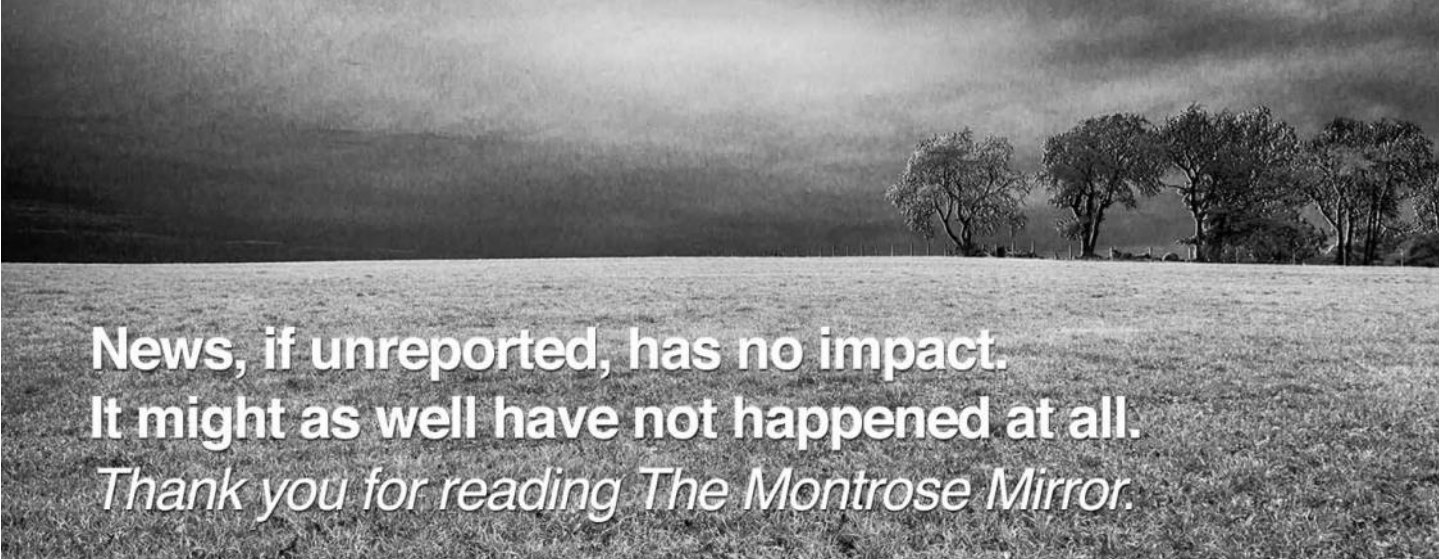
Delta resident, William Richard "Dick" Doherty, passed away Nov. 6, 2020 at the age of 92.

Delta resident, Nolan Keith Anderson, passed away on Nov. 4, 2020 at the age of 86.

Eckert (Horizons Care Center) resident, Anna Marie Rottinghaus Suppes passed away on Nov. 3, 2020 at the age of 104.

Cedaredge resident, Norman C. Morrow, passed away Nov. 2, 2020 at the age of 88.

Dove Creek resident, Johnny Lee Hemphill, passed away on Nov. 1, 2020 at the age of 83.



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

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS SUCCESSFULLY HOST FOOD DRIVES FOR DELTA COUNTY AND EMPLOYEES



DCMH Food Drive donations. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA— Delta County Memorial Hospital's (DCMH) 7th annual community Food Drive was a great success.

More than 4,000 pounds of food and 1,007 dollars were donated by the healthcare workers at DCMH.

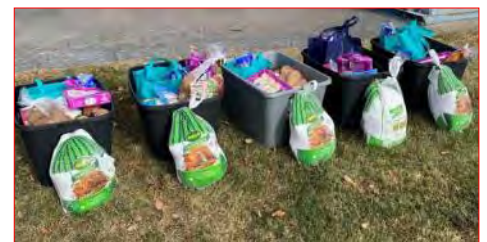
All of the food donations were distributed to the food banks located in Paonia,



DCMH Food Drive donations. Courtesy photo.

Hotchkiss, Cedaredge and Delta. Donations also went to the Abraham Connection, Tails and the Surface Creek animal shelters.

The DCMH Employee Food Drive has been a driving force in Delta County and is the largest food drive supporting the County's food banks. This year's food donations surpassed 2019's donations by over 1,000 pounds. Over the past seven years, DCMH has collected over 32,000 pounds of food and supplies and hopes to continue growing the number of food donations they



DCMH employees donated Thanksgiving dinners to five DCMH employee families. Courtesy photo.

bring in next year.

In conjunction with the DCMH community food drive, DCMH and the DCMH Foundation partnered together to hold their 2nd annual "It Starts at Home" (ISAH) Thanksgiving food drive from hospital employees to hospital employees. The food and money that was donated for ISAH provided Thanksgiving dinners to five DCMH employee families.

These small and large acts of kindness are what drives DCMH's mission to provide compassionate care and show that one small deed can go a long way during the holiday season.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a weekly gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Saturdays 10 am-1 pm, first three weeks of November and December 2020, every other weekend starting Jan. 9th 2021
Location: Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompahgre Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

Cost: Free to attend

Curbside service is still available in the winter season!

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

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

MONTHLY-

Dec. 18-Rosemont Baptist Church is inviting everyone to come and enjoy "The Wonder of It All" Christmas Musical on Friday, December 18th at 5:30pm. Guests will be treated to beautiful Christmas music and a narrated visual enactment of the first Christmas story. The church is located at 1598 E. Niagara Rd in Montrose, just a couple doors east of Townsend. This event will also be live-streamed on the church website at RosemontBaptist.org. Email questions to: office@rosemontbaptist.org or call (970) 249-4887.

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.

Dec. 24-- Everyone is invited to Rosemont Baptist Church at 1598 E. Niagara Rd in Montrose for Family Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th at 5:30pm. The candlelight service is always so beautiful and everyone enjoys singing Christmas songs. This event will also be live-streamed on the church website at RosemontBaptist.org. Email questions to: office@rosemontbaptist.org or call (970) 249-4887.



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Deb took this photo of Sheep Mountain near Telluride. "The cloud cover that day made the photo appear monochromatic," she said.

A composite image featuring a black bear holding a tablet. The bear is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right. Its paws are visible as it holds the tablet. In the bottom left corner, a person's hands are visible, holding the tablet from below. The background is a vibrant, colorful landscape of a mountain range with green slopes and snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with white clouds.

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