

Like us on Facebook!
Visit us online at
montrosemirror.com!
Please Support our Advertisers!



the Montrose Mirror

Free news for fresh people!
Issue No. 408 Dec. 21 2020

RIDGWAY LOVE STORY COMES TO A CLOSE: AN ERA ENDS WITH PASSING OF PETER DECKER



Deedee and Peter Decker, together. Peter passed away Dec. 12 at age 85, after a lifetime spent on the couple's Ridgway area ranch. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

RIDGWAY-From the viewpoint of 2020, 1970 can seem like a world far, far away. To some however, 1970 was just yesterday.

1970 was the year that a young public television producer from Boston met and fell in love with a rising academic star in New York City. 1972 was the year that a small notice appeared in the Sept. 17 *New York Times*, entitled "Peter Decker Weds Deedee Morss." A college roommate of Deedee's brought the couple together. "She wanted me to find the right man," Deedee Decker told the *Mirror* on Friday. "She introduced me to Peter."

Though their lives were flourishing on the East Coast, by 1974, the Deckers had decided to go West. "We both loved ranches," Deedee said. "We had spent time on them growing

Continued pg 45

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS, HOSPITAL

By Caitlin Switzer

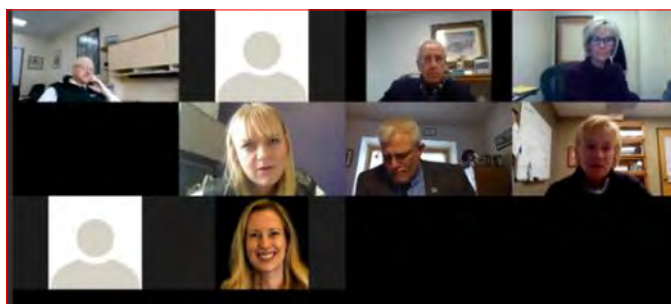
During the regularly scheduled Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting of Wednesday, Dec. 16, the BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health.

Public Health Director Jim Austin presented an agreement with Montrose County School District RE-1J, formalizing the participation of the School District in assisting Montrose County Public Health with contact tracing of COVID-19 for students and staff of the district.

"We will provide training for those volunteers," Austin said, "This is a very generous offer."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said, "I think this is a great idea. I appreciate the school district doing this and helping us out on this big project."

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked, "How many additional volunteers are we going to have?"



The Montrose County Board of Health discussed agreements with both Montrose Memorial Hospital and with RE-1J schools at the meeting of Dec. 16.

Continued page 10

in this
issue

*Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!*

*Richard Harding on Christmas
Past & Christmas Present!*

*A Fresh Point of
View with Jack Switzer!*

*Annual Public
Official Salary Survey!*

SUPPORT PARTNERS MENTORING...

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE your friends, family or enemies to wake up to a yard full of ducks for the day? We can help!



In lieu of our Ducky race, we will be happy to Ducky yards or an office at \$1 a Duck. Please call Partners Youth Mentoring at 970-249-1116 to get someone Duckied today!



Now Accepting Service Appointments Online
ANY Make, ANY Model!

All-New! Simply Click <https://www.montrosefordnissan.com/xtime-schedule-service.htm>
Now, you can tap or click on any device to schedule your next service appointment live online.

Of course, we're always here for you - if you'd like to discuss any Service-related issue, please call us at 970-252-3673. The choice is yours - click or call!

We will not be undersold on tires! Backed by Ford's National Network of Dealers

**LOW PRICE
TIRE GUARANTEE**



**Why buy tires anywhere else,
when Montrose Ford offers all of this:**

- 😊 16 major name brand tires
- 😊 30-day price guarantee
- 😊 All makes and models
- 😊 FREE Alignment Check

Valid on dealer-installed retail purchases only. Requires presentation of competitor's current price ad/offer on exact tire sold by dealership within 30 days after purchase. For online quotes, guarantee applies only to new tires sold on retailer websites. Excludes tires sold by third parties on marketplace sites and any resellers. See participating U.S. dealership for details through 12/31/2016. (With tire purchase or your next set of tires.)

Voted BEST in FIVE different categories!

- **BEST New Vehicle Sales**
- **BEST Used Vehicle Sales**
- **BEST Oil Change Center**
- **BEST Tire Center**
- **BEST Auto Repair**



se habla español



970-252-3673
MontroseFordNissan.com

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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

For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

Editor@MontroseMirror.com

970-275-0646

www.MontroseMirror.com

www.Facebook.com/MontroseMirror

www.Instagram.com/MontroseMirror



**ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION**

Copyright © 2010-2020. All rights reserved. Content may not be reprinted, distributed, or re-used without the permission of the publisher.

MONTROSE MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

CEDAR POINT HEALTH- MEDICAL ASSISTANT

CEDAR POINT HEALTH- MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Do you have a passion for caring for patients? Full-time M-F Medical assistant needed, experience is a plus. Please send your resume to amanda@cedarpointhealth.com



Holiday Home Sale

Great Gifts For Everyone On Your List

DOORBUSTER STOCKING STUFFERS



STOREWIDE SAVINGS



Bedroom Furniture
Save up to
25%

Lamps
up to
30%
Off

Area Rugs
up to
50%
Off

TV STANDS



12 Months - 0% Interest

FREE DELIVERY!

HOT BUYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Ask your Santa for something special...a gift for the home!

STORE HOURS
9:30 am-6:00 pm
Monday-Saturday



the FURNITURE CONNECTION

1842 South Townsend • Montrose • 249-2288

MONTROSE MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

COME & PRAY! WEDNESDAYS @ NOON *Everyone Is Invited!*

The Association of Montrose Churches warmly invites you to join your neighbors in the Montrose area in praying for spiritual revival in our community, our nation and our world—for one hour, every Wednesday at 12 noon,

All Saints Anglican Church
2057 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO
(across from Taco Bell)



Catering Services for your holiday gatherings

Contact Carla today

(970)-240-1590

www.camprobber.com



*Last
days until
Christmas!*



*Make it magical
with a cozy warm
pair of boots from*

D'Medici
Footwear & Clothing

*Gift Certificates
Available*

Visit Us at
316 E. MAIN
MONTROSE
970-249-3668



*Men's & Women's Clothing • Shoes • Bags • Shoe Repair • Accessories
High-Quality • Fashion • Performance • Active • Casual • Handmade Goods*

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DEPT OF LABOR & EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-On Thursday, Dec. 17 the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported that 19,854 regular initial unemployment claims were filed the week ending December 12th. There were also 20,621 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims filed for the same week. Since mid-March, a total of 682,362 regular initial unemployment claims have been filed and a grand total of 916,915 claims, including federal PUA benefits.*

For the week ending December 5th, a combined total of 255,671 continued claims were filed from the regular UI (97,108), PUA (83,656), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (74,907) programs.



MULTIPLE JOB OPENINGS, NO FEES HIRING NOW

Express Employment Professionals has a variety of positions and zero fees to applicants.

Call, come in, or go online to learn more.

Positions include:

- General Labor
- Construction
- Welding
- CDL Driver

(970) 249-5202
525 East Main Street
Montrose, CO 81401
ExpressPros.com

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS



#1

SMALL HOSPITAL IN COLORADO

as rated by the Lown Institute



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHOTS FIRED, ONE PERSON TRANSPORTED IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-At approximately 9 a.m. Dec. 19, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Fire Protection District EMS were dispatched to the 16000 block of Shavano Valley Road for a possible gunshot wound. Upon arrival, first responders discovered a female victim with a gunshot wound. She was immediately transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital. Officials do not believe there is any threat to the public safety at this time. The case is currently under investigation by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Colorado Bureau of Investigations, and any additional details will be released as they become available.



Watch your distance

Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!

You Delta County Realtor for

Farm & Ranch



Residential



Vacant Land



Macht-Liles Real Estate Group
645 S. Grand Mesa Drive
970-856-4425
linda@lindacharlick.com



Linda Charlick
Realtor® Of the Year 2019
Serving all Your Real Estate needs since 2003
Quarterly Proceeds go to the local Food Pantry
970-209-3668



I'm using Homesnap to connect with my clients.
Join me on the link below to see all Homes for Sale:
<http://www.homesnap.com/real-estate-agents/Linda-Charlick>
Find me on the web at: www.DeltaMontroseCountyRealEstate.com



Providing all your insurance and personal planning needs under one roof.

Call or come by today.



Michelle Martinez

1140 S Townsend Ave Montrose, Co 81401

970-240-1831

www.skytanllc.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE BOCC OBJECTS TO ANY EFFORTS TO SHORT CIRCUIT, ABANDON PLANNING WINDOW PROVIDED BY PROP 114

Editor

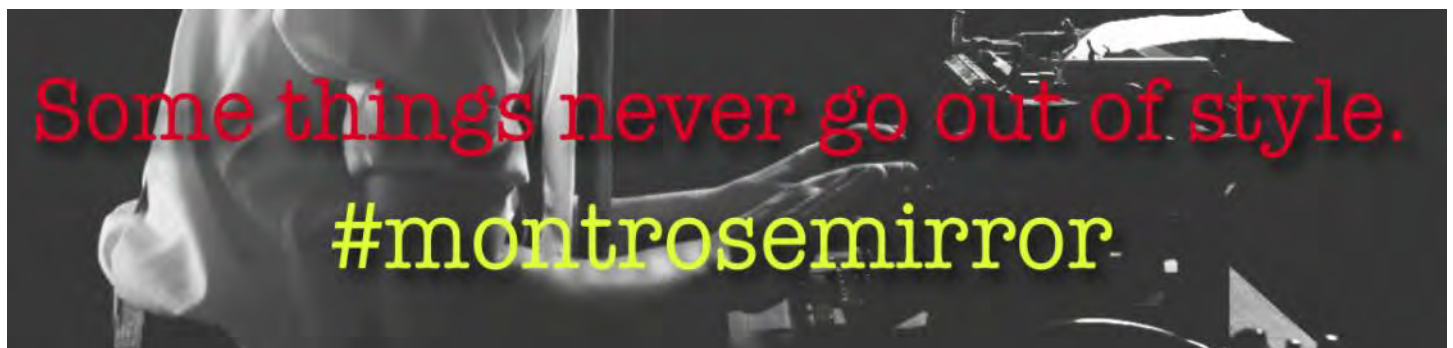
Once again, out-of-state special interests have funded a ballot initiative (Proposition 114-wolf introduction) to manage wildlife in a manner that is neither scientific nor in the best interest of wildlife or the citizens of Colorado. As you may recall the spring bear hunt ballot measure has resulted in disastrous consequences for the bears, as well as the wildlife experts that manage bears, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Now, we are doing it all over again with wolves. It creates grave concerns when we hear wildlife commission members advocating to fast-track wolf introduction (releasing wolves in 2021); foregoing adequate time to develop a comprehensive management plan. Proposition 114 requires CPW to “take steps necessary to begin reintroduction of gray wolves by December 31, 2023.” Our county strongly objects to any efforts to short-circuit or abandon the planning window provided by Prop 114 that interferes with public input, transparency, and that jeopardizes the safety of our communities and economies. Montrose County is in support of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) submission of a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request to determine if, indeed, CPW and the Governor’s office are working to accelerate the development of a plan and limit public and stakeholder input on this important matter.

Proposition 114, requiring the reintroduction of gray wolves on designated lands in Colorado WEST of the continental divide, passed by a narrow <2% margin in November. It is not hard for urban voters to support such a measure when it doesn’t impact them. The measure states the General Assembly, “Shall make such appropriations as are necessary to fund the programs authorized and obligations, including fair compensation for livestock losses ... but cannot be paid from moneys in the wildlife cash fund...” Because our state budget is already strained, it is going to take a considerable amount of time to identify and allocate funding to pay for the implementation and ongoing costs of wolf management. Wolves have been naturally migrating into Colorado for some time, but now we will spend millions of dollars on an unnecessary recovery program at the expense of education, transportation, health care and any number of State priorities.

Hunting licenses, particularly in the northwest portion of the state, substantially support the entire wildlife program for the State. Each wolf will take approximately 22 ungulates each year just to survive which could lead to radical reductions in hunting licenses, ergo radical reductions in available funds for all wildlife programs. As elected officials, we are charged with the health, safety, and welfare of our constituents as well as visitors to our commu-

nities. The language passed by voters in Proposition 114 indicates a lengthy planning period to address concerns. The ballot measure calls for statewide hearings to gather information needed to develop a plan for reintroduction. Information to be gathered includes scientific, economic, and social considerations as stated in the ballot language. We call on the Governor, his administration, and CPW to engage in a robust, transparent, and effective discussion through public hearings across the State, to develop a plan that will accomplish the directive of Proposition 114. This planning process should not be rushed. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado’s wildlife specialists, should thoughtfully, and inclusively, lead this planning effort as they led the development of the current wolf migration plan. We ask our citizens to join us in demanding an open and robust process providing the opportunity to address the concerns this initiative invokes. Our residents voted against this measure and as stakeholders as well as the people in Colorado most directly impacted by wolf introductions, we should be very involved in the development of a plan that will have far reaching and long-lasting consequences to our citizens, communities, wildlife, and economies.

*Montrose County Board of Commissioners
Keith Caddy, Chair District 1
Roger Rash, Vice Chair District 3
Sue Hansen, District 2*



COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVES AGREEMENTS From pg 1

Assistant Public Health Director Allison Howe said that roughly 20 to 25 volunteers will be trained on Jan. 4, 2021, both virtually and by facility. The volunteers are made up of District health clerks and front office staff who regularly call families for other notifications, Howe said.

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the agreement with RE-1J.

Also approved was an agreement with Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc. for COVID-19 specimen collection for outbreak sites.

Austin said, "Since we needed a COVID-19 testing site for outbreaks and the hospital is able to provide that, it would at a drive-through facility actually located on hospital grounds, this is for calendar year 2021."

The County's responsibility is to provide clerical support, he said. Also, beginning Jan. 2, 2021 the hospital has agreed to collect specimens for two hours each day, Monday through Friday. Montrose Memorial Hospital will be compensated with Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) funds, at the rate of \$1,000 per week per the agreement.

Austin and Howe presented a public health update. Austin reminded the BOCC and the public of the importance of having a COVID-19 plan and a primary care pro-

vider in place, as well as best practices to prevent the spread of the virus. The County's status on the State Health Department dial was presently orange.

Since taking over Vital Records a year ago, the department has scored 100 percent on the most recent audit, he said.

Howe discussed HIPAA training, which went well, and contact tracing efforts. Capacity for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing has been increased, with case investigation assistance from Quality Health Network. Between 30 to 120 new cases positive cases per day can be processed.

"As long as we've got a good contact number, we've been able to reach new cases within 24 hours," Howe said, "And contacts within 48 hours."

"Right now, we're managing ten active outbreak sites, the majority of them are long-term care," she said. To assist, two additional staff are being trained in outbreak management.

Howe also discussed Testing Decentralization and vaccine distribution. While summarizing the roles of the partners involved in the decentralization efforts, she said, "I cannot overstate how wonderful the school district has been to work with. They've given a lot of time, a lot of effort to assist us in this work.

"...We've worked hard to get them on with curative labs," Howe said, "So they're doing all their own collection now for all of their outbreaks...that takes a big burden off of the hospital, a big burden off my staff."

Long term care facilities will continue to perform their own surveillance and testing among patients and staff.

Local clinics have also been developing plans for testing, she said.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "...I want to thank Allie and Jim and all the work that they do; it's really been a big task.

"I also want to thank Montrose Memorial Hospital for what they do," Rash said. "Especially seeing as how (MMH CEO) James Kiser is leaving, I would like to thank him for the work that he's done. This has been a very trying year, and we have great partners...I wish James good will in his ventures forward.

"I hate to see him go."

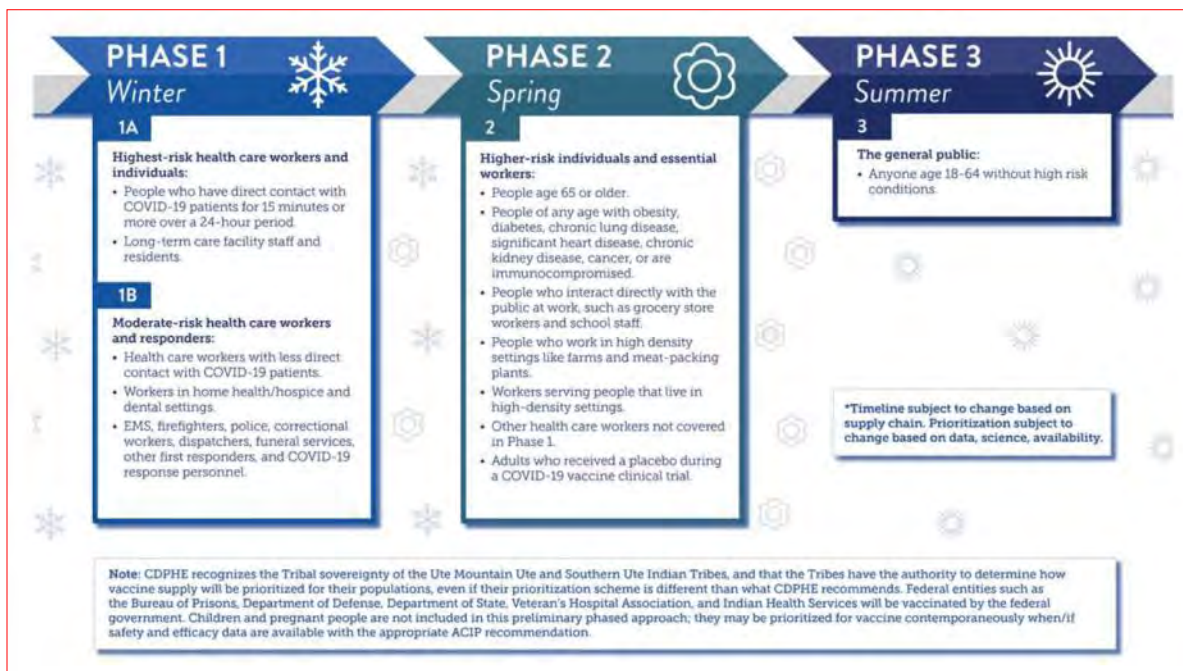
A Public Health Vaccine Task Force has been formed, and the Vaccine will be administered in three phases, according to the prioritization plan (see graphic).

"What we've been slated to receive is 900 doses of the Moderna vaccine, next week," Howe said. "...Everything moving forward with vaccines is going to be just

fast and furious. Our team is meeting weekly now, but we'll probably move next week to daily meetings, because information changes so rapidly.

"We're anticipating receiving vaccine every week, but we don't know the number of doses," Howe said.

"Thank you so much for the presentation, I appreciate it," Caddy said. The Board of Health meeting was closed and the BOCC was reconvened (see related article in this issue).



GET YOUR FOXY SOXY ON!



328 E. Main • Montrose 970-249-8323

SOXY GIFTS, TEES, SOCKS, UNDIES, BAGS, COLORADO-THEMED MERCHANDISE, ETC.

*All is
Bright*

*Letters to
Santa*

DEC 11 - DEC 24

Drop off your letters to Santa at the mailbox located in front of City Hall (433 S 1st Street). Leave a return address to hear back from Santa!



*Tour of
Lights*

DEC 11 - DEC 31

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

Map: tinyurl.com/TourOfLightsMap

Vote: tinyurl.com/MontroseVote



CityofMontrose.org/Holidays



WHO'S ON YOUR COVID CARE TEAM?

BE PREPARED. MAKE A PLAN

MONTROSE COUNTY!



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




Asegure a su proveedor de atención primaria

- 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

STRUCTURE FIRE REPORTED IN RIDGWAY DEC.16

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY - At 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 16, the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to 540 Clinton Street for a reported structure fire. Fire crews arrived on scene to find a local thrift store, The Vault Vintage and Consignment, with heavy smoke and fire conditions.

The fire was reported to be out at 5:30 a.m. There were no occupants of the building at the time of fire. Tenants of a nearby residential building were evacuated around 3:30 a.m. No injuries were sustained by firefighters. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department was assisted by firefighters from Ouray Volunteer Fire Department, Montrose Fire Protection District and Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department, as well as the Ridgway Marshal's Office and Ouray County Emergency Medical Services.

OPEN
for Business

**It's Your
Business!**

**Let's Grow Together.
Advertise with
The Mirror!**

**Highly Effective & Unique Ad
Opportunities, including Print,
Email, Online, Facebook,
and more.**

editor@montroseMirror.com

970-275-0646

Airport Industrial Park TBD Industrial Drive, Montrose, Colorado

*Outstanding
Opportunity!*



2.195 ACRES VACANT LAND ZONED GENERAL INDUSTRIAL

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

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

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



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties

COMMERCIAL DIVISION

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2020 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J WORKS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INVESTIGATE FINANCIAL FRAUD AND THEFT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Friday, Dec. 11, Montrose County School District (MCSD) concluded an internal investigation that resulted in the termination of MCSD Director of Technology Robert “Steve” McEwin, who was subsequently arrested by the Montrose Police Department (MPD) for Second Degree Forgery, use of a forged academic record, and felony theft. The total amount McEwin embezzled is still under criminal investigation but may exceed \$400,000 based on forged financial records MCSD uncovered.

A personnel performance evaluation of McEwin began in September, which uncovered suspicious activity, questionable expenditures, and potential financial impropriety. Along with fraudulently altered expense receipts and use of district credit cards for personal expenses and travel, McEwin falsely claimed he had completed a doctoral program for which he received additional compensation.

The district immediately referred the evidence to the MPD. Together, the school district and law enforcement partnered for a two-month investigation that led to McEwin’s termination and criminal apprehension. The school district appreciates the efforts by the Montrose Police Department, who have investigated these allegations. As the case progresses, we are committed to cooperating with law enforcement authorities.

While Montrose County School District cannot comment on an ongoing investigation, we feel it is in the public interest to know that there is no place in our organization for fraud or illegal conduct and MCSD will refer anyone responsible for criminal action to be arrested and prosecuted.

Montrose County School District is committed to leading with integrity, transparency, and the highest ethical standard, focusing on the success of our students. We are currently evaluating every district organizational system to ensure appropri-

ate oversight is in place. While this incident represents a challenging situation,

we are dedicated to accountability at every level.



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

With both Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology, the San Juan Cancer Center offers complete cancer care close to home.

Meet our expert Medical Oncologists:



Steven P. Emmons, M.D.
Medical Oncology
and Hematology
Board Certified



Virginia Tjan, M.D.
Medical Oncology
and Hematology
Board Certified



Michael K. Bergen, M.D.
Medical Oncology
and Hematology
Board Certified

SAN JUAN
CANCER CENTER
A DEPARTMENT OF MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



MEMBER SHOOTS TRANSFORMER, DMEA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH JAN. 1 DUE TO COVID-19



The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Director meetings continue to be held virtually. For the Dec. 15, 2020 meeting, Chris Hauck was absent and Bill Patterson participated intermittently. All other board members were present. Co-Op members who wish to receive log-in information prior to meetings can contact Amy Taylor via e-mail at amy.taylor@dmea.com. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Dec. 15 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, a Zoom webinar, was called to order at 3 p.m. Members who wish to receive log-in information prior to meetings can contact Executive Assistant Amy Taylor via e-mail at amy.taylor@dmea.com.

Practicing social distancing, the board and staff participated on computers from offices and homes, where facemasks were not required.

DMEA co-op members are afforded an opportunity to speak during Member Comments; however, during the meeting itself microphones of attendees who are not on the board or on staff are muted.

During the meetings the board of directors give verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities; however, neither the co-op membership nor the media have access to the written reports

submitted for board approval.

The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum, and approval of the consent agenda (Membership Report, Minutes from the regular November Board Meeting and Minutes).

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Nov. 17 meeting. However, board member Jock Fleming interjected that he took exception to the *Mirror's* report of that meeting and requested a correction be written in the *Mirror* concerning the RFP (Request for Proposal) on a solar project that he had forwarded to his daughter. Fleming said, "What's written in the [DMEA] minutes is what is correct." The minutes referenced by Fleming had yet to be approved and therefore were not available to the public. Once approved, minutes from DMEA meetings are posted on the website and available

for public viewing.

Because of a prior commitment, board President Bill Patterson was unable to attend the entire meeting and the chair duties were turned over to Vice President Kyle Martinez. Due to illness board member Chris Hauck was absent; all other board members were present. The agenda was approved as amended.

Board Committee Items

Finance – Audit – Rate Committee (FAR) – Brad Harding, Chair.

Harding said, "We've not met since the last meeting, I have nothing else to share."

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

In the absence of Hauck, Martinez said, "There has not been a meeting."

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "Member Relations has not met."

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson,

Continued next pg

MEMBER SHOTS TRANSFORMER, DMEA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH JAN. 1 From previous pg

Chair.

Patterson said, "The Executive Committee has not met."

Safety and Occupational Health Report - Virginia Harman, COO.

Harman said, "There was one employee injury. A lineman twisted his ankle when he was crossing a ditch. There were a couple of near misses. Meter cabinets labeling was wrong, but it came that way from the factory. It was reported and the problem fixed. The second was a member shot a transformer. There were no PCB's [polychlorinated biphenyls], so no environmental damage. We just changed out the transformer, it could have leaked oil. Some training has been completed. The safety director did the program for next year."

Martinez said, "A member shot a transformer? Do we have their name?"

Harman said, "We don't have their name. If we did, we would bill them according to the damage to our system." Martinez noted that it might not be considered a "near miss" since the shooter actually hit his target.

Financial Report with Variance Report - Wade Pynes, CFO.

There were some audio issues as Pynes gave his report. Pynes said, "There were a couple of variances in January and Guzman is helping to reconcile. We are still making correction with Tri State. We should know about the debt forgiveness [associated with the Paycheck Protection Program] within the next month. Federated [Insurance] will no longer cover hydro property. We've talked to them and they are extending [the policy] for another year. We will have to have an engineer inspection when we go to renew the policy next time."

Stacia Cannon questioned the policy premium increase; however, the amount of increase was still unknown.

CEO Report - Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec said, "You have the written report. Some highlights — COVID continues to have the offices [Montrose, Read] closed until after the first of the year. We

are going to target the first part of the year to reopen. We are not an outbreak site, but we have seen some employees test positive. We continue to test and take measures like social distancing, cleaning [sanitizing] and masks. I'm not sure we will be in line for vaccines even though we are considered essential workers."

Bronec continued, "Charge Point [electric vehicle charging] ribbon cutting will be December 17th. We are up and operational. Tesla had a little delay because of COVID."

Jim Heneghan said, "I have an update. By the end of the week they expect Tesla to be operational."

Bronec said, "RTO [Region Transmission Organization] meetings about the integration of imbalance markets in the west [have been attended]. The best projections were RTO's were five years out. [Now] there is a fairly aggressive target date of less than five years. We assessed it is a good thing for an RTO to come into our area, we're walking through that. In the operations department we have a plan in place for PCB's. We'll move forward to test transformers that need to be tested, we'll identify transformers that need to be pulled out of service." Other items covered in the CEO report included the Idle Service Policy, CSR (Customer Service Representatives) working from home, increased use of My Pay (DMEA's pre-pay system), and the Powering Forward Program with Guzman.

November 2020 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.

Bronec said, "To date the outage minutes are not of concern. We are tracking where we've been before."

Legal Report (Non-Privileged Legal Report) - Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "We've had contract and easement discussions. I'll reserve the bulk of my report for executive session. Contractual matters we'll take up in executive session."

Representative Board Reports

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

Fleming said, "We'll not have a meeting until January. I have nothing."

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

Lockhart said, "We've had a couple of meetings." Lockhart's verbal report included legislative activities, CREA's approved budget, rate increases for dues, the industry magazine's transition to a more digital format, and wildfire safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Other Business Review Unclaimed Capital Credit Fund Balance

Bronec said, "We want to get this in front of the board again."

Pynes said, "We are in the process. It should be done by year end."

Bronec said, "What is the dollar amount?" When Harmon noted that the dollar amount was at the bottom of the report Bronec said, "There's \$1.3M."

Review Third Party Organizations

Bronec said, "This is a review of what entities we are members of."

Cannon said, "What are we getting from Touchstone?"

Harmon said, "The marketing branch and softer services. There are a variety of their programs we don't participate in. There is a lot of marketing material we don't use. It's worth what we pay in dues. On the website we use [Touchstone] for DMEA and Elevate. We priced it out a few years ago. We might save a couple thousand a year, but we'd have to convert to another platform."

Future Business

Vote on Club 20 Membership

Bronec said, "A number of years ago we rejoined Club 20. The reason we joined was to understand and monitor broadband; to understand politically and understand what happens at the legislative level."

The board acknowledged that membership in Club 20 has been controversial in the past, but they determined that membership in the organization was worth \$600 in yearly dues. Cannon will continue to serve as the DMEA representative at Club 20. Approved unanimously.

MEMBER SHOOTS TRANSFORMER, DMEA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH JAN. 1 From previous pg

Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

Future Meetings

There will be a special meeting on Jan. 14, 2021 at 3 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2021.

Executive Session:

When the board goes into executive session, virtual attendees must exit the Zoom meeting.

Privileged Legal Report

Review Guzman Agreement

Power Supply Update

Review Privileged Information Request

Other Action Items (from Executive Session)

Resolution regarding Guzman Agreement

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Executive Assistant Amy Taylor wrote

in an email, "The Board exited executive session at 6:42 p.m. The Board did not deviate from the executive session topics noted prior to executive session.

Upon motion from Director Patterson, seconded by Director Fleming, the Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing CEO Bronec to enter into an additional contract contemplated in the April 2020 wholesale electric service contract between Guzman and DMEA.

Upon motion from Director Cannon, seconded by Director Lockhart, the Board unanimously approved a resolution that would authorize an update to DMEA's application for the USDA ReConnect grant and certain associated corporate actions by DMEA.

"The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m."

DMEA Board Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

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

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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNITY CAN ENCOURAGE HOSPITAL STAFF WITH NOEL NOTES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Memorial Hospital has a new tool for the community to send notes of encouragement to hospital providers and staff this holiday season.

Called Noel Notes, the community can visit MontroseHospital.com/NoelNotes and quickly submit a note that will be shared with hospital staff.

The note can be addressed to the entire hospital, a department, or a particular employee.

All notes will be viewable by staff for their encouragement. Employees right now are facing various challenges related to the impacts of COVID-19 – sometimes facing it in their daily work.

Individuals who send a Noel Note can share a special image on their social channels to show they have participated and can encourage their friends to do so.

For more information, visit MontroseHospital.com.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.





BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Western Colorado Properties

FOR SALE

THIS PROPERTY IS RIFE WITH POTENTIAL! ALREADY THROUGH THE INITIAL SUBDIVISION STEPS. MAKE THIS PROPERTY PROVIDE FOR YOU BY MAKING THE FINAL STEPS WITH THE COUNTY, OR KEEPING IT AS ONE! FARMING IT, EARNING INCOME OFF OF THE WELL-KEPT MANUFACTURED HOME OR LIVING IN IT! MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE WITH THIS PROPERTY TODAY!!



14984 & 14888
SHAVANO VALLEY
MLS #776762

PROPERTY FEATURES
1 BED
2 BATH
840 S.F.
15.057 TOTAL ACRES

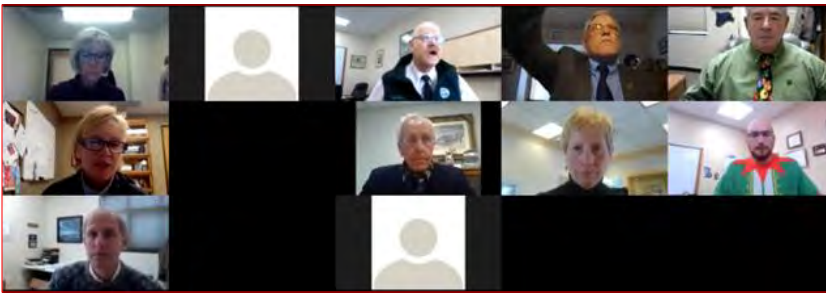
OFFERED AT \$379,000



Kerri Noonan-Jada

Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices Western Colorado
Properties
970-275-1378
kerri@montrosehometeam.com
www.montrosecolorado.com

BOCC HEARS SHERIFF LILLARD'S ANNUAL PSST UPDATE



A snapshot of the Dec. 16 BOCC Zoom meeting.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the Dec. 16 virtual, regular meeting, and County Public Health Director Jim Austin led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, via Zoom.

All commissioners were present for the meeting.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented an Ordinance Concerning Prohibited Activities on County-Leased Property Known as the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area. Prohibited activities will include overnight use and camping; Discharge or use of firearms and other weapons; No excavation, construction, disturbance, or other alteration of the Property may occur unless approved in writing by Montrose County in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management; use of fireworks; and Campfires and open burning shall be prohibited but grills and contained devices for cooking purposes may be allowed subject to local restrictions and fire conditions.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked whether there would be signage. The restrictions would be posted on site, Waschbusch

said. Rules will be enforced by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).

The BOCC voted unanimously to approve the Ordinance.

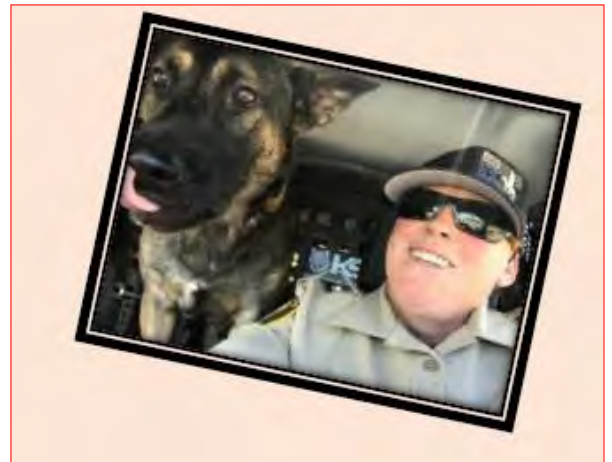
County Engineer Keith Laube introduced a public hearing that was continued from a previous meeting, consideration and approval on a variance to the Montrose County Standards and Specifications for Roads and Bridges to allow a second driveway. At the regular BOCC meeting of Nov. 18, the applicants noted that the second driveway has been in use since they purchased the property ten years ago. The driveway came to the attention of the County last spring. The Nov. 18 hearing was continued to allow more time for research and site visits.

The applicants were present by Zoom call but declined to speak again. "I think pretty much everything was said at our November meeting," Applicant Martha Countryman said. "I would just ask you to consider that this is not a four-way intersection...we're at your mercy. I hope you will consider that driveway has been in use...We've owned the property ten years and it was being used long before that."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said that the original access permit does not show the second driveway as a legally permitted access. "I think we need to look at it as a safety issue," Rash said,

"It is pretty close to that intersection," Hansen said. She noted that while the access seems safe now, future growth could make it less safe.

Caddy expressed concern over ingress/



The Montrose County Sheriff's Office has a new K9 team in the West End, K-9 Jocko and Deputy Savage. Courtesy Photo from the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Report.

egress taking place so close (within 180 feet) to an intersection.

Both Kinikin and Pahgre are well traveled roads, Caddy said.

Caddy closed the public comment period; Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the application for variance.

ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX (PSST) REPORT FOR 2020

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard presented the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Report. The presentation covered the history of the PSST, which generated \$6,525,000 in 2020, as well as allocations, expenditures, statistics, and a Personnel Management Summary.

The Summary lists highlights of 2020 including the new K-9 team, Deputy Savage and Jocko. "They've made a huge impact in the West End," Lillard said.

Operational Efficiency improvements include AXON body and in car cameras; the High Impact Target team has been a success. The Drug task Force has brought 14 Federal indictments.

MCSO Goals for 2021 include:

- Complete full study of crime mapping to better ensure coverage in higher risk areas.
- Continue to concentrate on quality assurance, keep training up to P.O.S.T. standards;

BOCC HEARS SHERIFF LILLARD'S ANNUAL PSST UPDATE

From previous pg

Category	2018	2019	2020
Traffic Contacts (total)	1794	1517	1726
Model Traffic Code Citations	464	273	165
DUI	42	37	32
Domestic Violence	73	78	83
Civil Matters	542	523	548
Civil Process	2088	2017	1785
Agency Assist	1782	1741	1710
Warrant Arrests	655	690	490
Criminal Mischief	53	63	85
Homicide	1	0	0
Death Investigation	32	41	40
Assault	107	110	117
Theft	132	120	165
Sex Offense	21	19	29
Burglary	73	61	30
Criminal Trespass	217	166	140
Child Abuse	24	36	27
Motor Vehicle Theft	27	9	33

Crime statistics from the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Report.

- Continue K-9 and Deputy training in the East and West ends;
- Update six Patrol Vehicles to Chevy Tahoe's;
- Start a five-year strategic plan;
- Jail remodel--late 2021 or early 2022.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The BOCC voted unanimously to adopt **Resolution No. 55-2020**, amending the Montrose County Zoning Resolution to revise or create the following sections: Section III, Definitions (Dwelling Unit) General Agricultural District: Section IV.A.2.r (2) (Accessory Use), IV.A.5.f - Development Standards (Density), and General Residential, Section IV.B.2.k(11) (Accessory Use), IV.B.5.e (Development Standards- School Fee/Density).

Planning & development Director Steve White opened a public hearing for a special use permit for a wireless broadband tower in the West End, the resolution for the Coventry Hill Project Special Use proposal to construct a 100 foot wireless broadband tower by Clearnetworkx. The tower is already constructed, White said, and was intended to increase broadband service to area school children as they

a photo.

After further discussion Caddy closed the public comment period of the hearing. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

"Doug you don't have to tear down your tower, you're in business," Caddy said. "Thanks for putting that in place for the school, we do appreciate it."

As County Planner Talmadge Richmond presented a **special use proposal by Wizard's Paradox** to develop a campsite with an organic farm at 4210 HWY 90, Paradox, there was a brief Zoom outage which disconnected all commissioners except Rash. The meeting resumed as all quickly rejoined, and the discussion of the Special use Permit continued.

The proposal by property owner Mark Goldfogel includes sites for 16 RV's on a five-acre parcel. Though Richmond noted that concerns would be addressed by imposed conditions, including updated septic facilities, neighbor Rebecca Every expressed her opposition to the project. Goldfogel said that he has owned the property for 12 years. He said, "There really is a tremendous dearth of available

continue education during the 2019-2020 school year through distance learning. No complaints have been received, White said.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "In my view, the folks over in the West End...are highly motivated to increase broadband over there...I appreciate (Clearnetworkx CEO) Doug Seacat sticking his neck out and building this structure not knowing whether he was going to be able to keep it standing...as of now I have not heard anything negative. I am sure those people and their children are very appreciative of getting that extra broadband width over there."

Seacat was present to via Zoom to answer questions about the tower and shared

anything in the West End of Montrose County...and for 12 years I have really suffered from the ability to get anybody to do anything...the Wizard's Paradox grew out of that. And grew out of a desire to allow not only myself but a potential for other people to live and survive in the West End of Montrose County.

"Financially, you could not paint a much more dire picture for that area."

Neighbor Rebecca Every said that she was under the impression that the project would be much different that it has turned out to be. "I was in shock when I got the email with the proposal of what it entailed," she said. "I was under the impression it was going to be more of a permaculture type campground...to help hold the integrity of the canyon and that unique, special area."

"...When I saw the plot with all the RV sites, I was in shock...I feel like I was misled a bit," She said.

Fires have been a concern all along, Every noted. "...Not good if there were fires to break out," she said. "I bought this property in 2015, I just paid it off...I have numerous concerns...it's upsetting considering what it was when I purchased it. I didn't foresee this coming into play."

The canyon is narrow and noise echoes, she said. "There is no level ground on his plot except where his house is...water is also a concern...I don't know that there would be any economic benefit to the area...other than to Mark himself."

"They potentially would have access to my property...it's close. Even when he had his tent camping down in the area...I felt it was a little bit invasive...I'm really bummed," Every said. "...my concern is his tent camping bumps up right close to my area where I spend the most time...there's no privacy."

County Assessor Brad Hughes noted the possibility of changes to the property's taxation rate, "We're having an issue where these special use permits are being issued, and then the owners are unfamiliar with the tax liability changes."

"I just want to make sure this owner is aware that this becomes a mixed-use property with a substantial commercial

BOCC HEARS SHERIFF LILLARD'S ANNUAL PSST UPDATE

From previous pg

value behind it and a larger tax burden," Hughes said. "...I just want to make sure that the planning department is directing these folks to the Assessor's office when they're taking on these commercial endeavors, to find out what business personal property tax is going to be, and how the assessment rate is going to change on their land as well as the additional value of the improvements."

Increased tax liability can make a significant difference on larger projects, he noted.

Hansen asked for more time to review the proposal.

"There's a lot of things we can do here," Caddy said. "...I'm going to make a drive over there and look at the whole layout...I would like to actually put boots on the ground and look at what we need to do, where we're going to go with this..."

Balancing one person's property rights against those of another is an ongoing responsibility for the BOCC, Rash said. "...We can take a drive over there individually and take a closer look at it," he said, and suggested that tent camping could be moved further away from the property

line, and that a fence or vegetation could shield the neighboring property from impacts.

"It helps if we put our eyeballs on it," Hansen said. "Just making sure all the plans are in place would be prudent." Commissioners voted to continue the public hearing until the next BOCC meeting of Jan. 6 to allow more time for review.

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health.

(See related article)

Commissioners left the Board of Health meeting to reconvene as the BOCC.

Hansen said that it was the final meeting of 2020. "...We've had stellar performance from all our departments...I just want to thank the staff for hanging in there with us and doing the part they need to do to make this organization as great as it is."

To her fellow commissioners, Hansen said, "You guys are awesome to work with, and I think that we have a really cohesive board, and it's been a pleasure...I just want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas."

Caddy wished county staff and all citizens of Montrose County a very Merry Christmas.

"We've had enough excitement this year," Caddy said. "I hope things will go out with a very, very, quiet Holiday season."

Rash said that 2020 was a trying year. Still, "What a difference it makes having a strong team," he said. "... what a privilege it is to be able to serve with you two...we don't always agree, but we always respect each other."

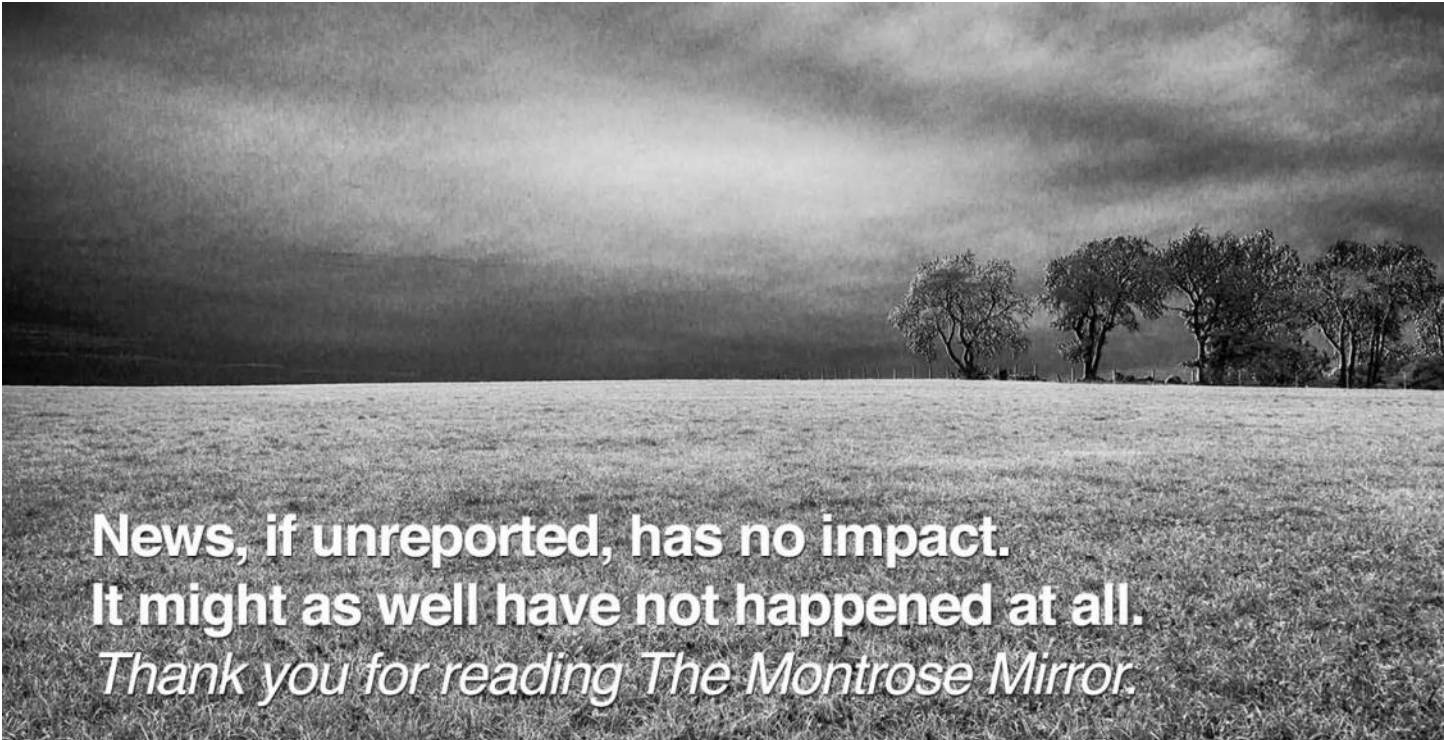
He thanked the citizens of the County for trusting the board.

"We've still got a ways to go, we gotta get through this vaccination process...we will be on the other side of this thing hopefully in a few months," Rash said, "and we'll get back to some sort of normalcy so we don't have to do these Zoom meetings."

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"I think we see a light at the end of the tunnel," Caddy said, "and I hope it's not a train."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT



The Crawford Historical Sign, above, was (possibly intentionally) damaged by an unknown vehicle. Courtesy image.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the in-

involved person or persons who vandalized property in the 21000 block of Highway 550. Sometime last week, the Crawford Historical Sign was (possibly intentionally) damaged by an unknown vehicle. Photos

of the sign and damage are included in the alert.

Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity and location of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via [P3tips.com](https://p3tips.com). Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers

. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.


8500
ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS**


/ MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



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

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN



Wear
your mask

Thank you for doing your part
to keep CO safe!

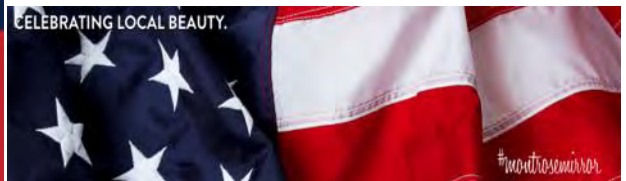
Editor:

America is back! It is time to "Make America Great Again". Now that our Disrupter-in-Chief is on the way out the door, we can re-engage with the world again, demonstrating leadership, re-engaging alliances, addressing world-wide problems, and regaining world-wide respect among nations.

For too long we have lost respect around the world for our disruptive foreign policy, breaking alliances, and showing the world a xenophobic immigration policy. We now have the opportunity to show world leadership by re-engaging a climate policy, promoting human rights, promoting alliances, and fostering goodwill.

This is what it really means to "make America great again".

Wayne Quade, Montrose



FROM NAPA VALLEY TO NEW YORK CITY
WE STAND OUT FROM THE REST WITH
QUALITY & PRECISION
AWARD-WINNING CUSTOMER SERVICE
VOTED BEST OF THE VALLEY 13 YEARS RUNNING
SCOTT'S PRINTING & DESIGN
IS A SMALL PROFESSIONAL
PRINTING & DESIGN
FIRM BASED IN MONTROSE, COLORADO
WITH THE TALENT & TECHNOLOGY
TO HELP YOU PUT IT IN PRINT.



scott's

printing & design solutions

Like us on Facebook

SINCE 1978

[tel] 970.249.2611 :: [fax] 970.249.7068

Look for the time and temperature sign at 315 South 12th Street – or visit us online at www.scottsprinting.com



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Western Colorado Properties

Tranquility at it's best...



SO MUCH TO OFFER!

67437 Oak Leaf Drive
Montrose, Colorado 81401

\$1,449,000

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 3.0

5,276 sq. ft. on 1.5 acres

Year Built: 2019

Nestled perfectly in the heart of Montrose, this Colorado Dream home is waiting. Spanning over 5200 feet this home is designed for relaxation and entertainment in mind. As you step inside the grand entrance, an oversized living room welcomes you. Take in the warmth of the spring sun, while gazing out the picturesque front windows. Open the doors from the walkout basement and let the fresh summer breeze in. This is the home you have been waiting for whether you are a winter sports lover or a summer outdoor enthusiast this. It's the perfect home for every season.



Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

970-209-3825

Jeff@MontroseColorado.com

www.MontroseColorado.com



Kree Christie, ABR, SRS

Associate Broker

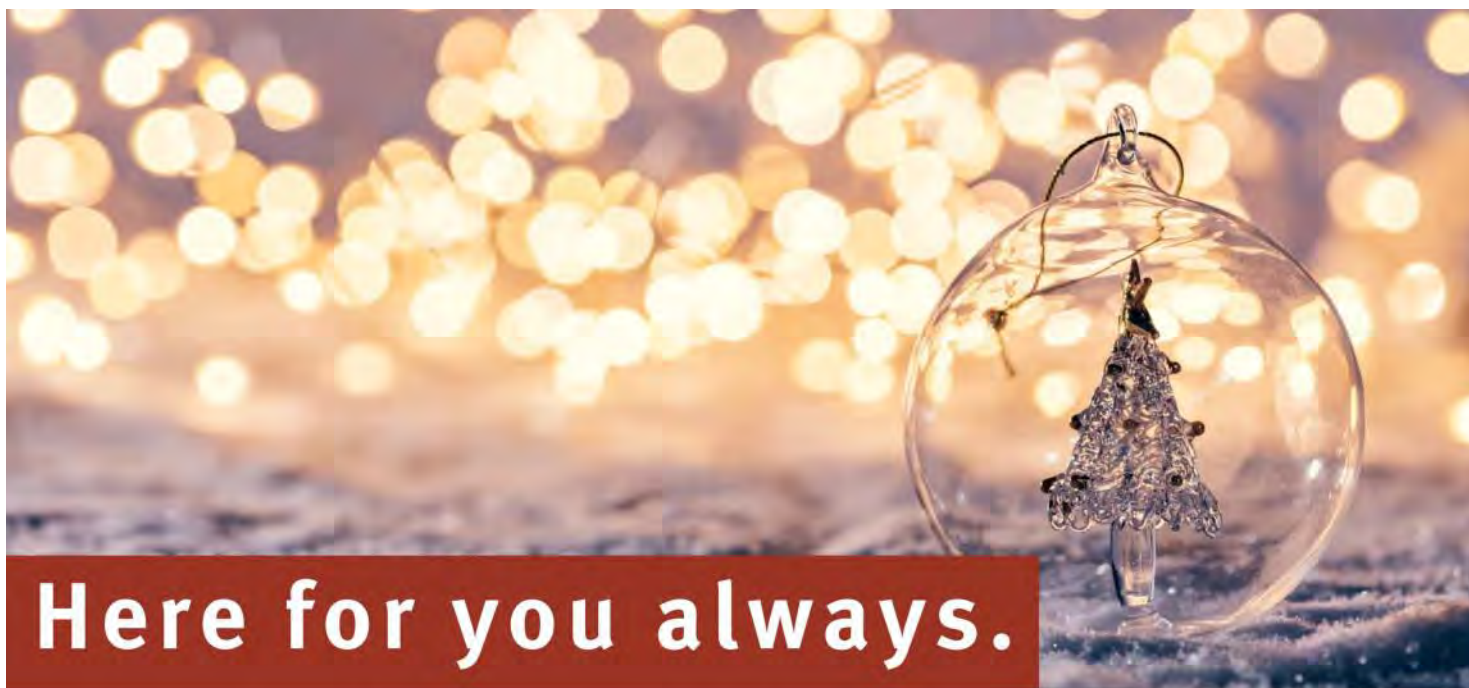
970-275-3153

kree@montrosecolorado.com

455 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2020 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. CO Lic# BR.100002044





Here for you always.

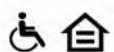
Service to the health of the greater community is of utmost importance today and always. During the pandemic, our caregiving teams have worked diligently to keep our community and program participants healthy, safe and connected to those they love---and at times, stepped in when family members could not.

Your ongoing support has been so appreciated. The patience, commitment and love you have shown to us during the pandemic is deeply moving and felt by our entire organization. We appreciate how special the holiday season is to you and your loved ones and we wish to make this year's holiday season as joyful and festive as possible.

To make a tax-deductible gift, please visit voa.org/donateseniors



Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization.



Home Health of Western Colorado
The Homestead at Montrose
Valley Manor Care Center
Horizons Care Center
Senior CommUnity Meals
Senior CommUnity Care PACE
AdvantAge Health Resource Center



Visit voaseniorkiving.org for a comprehensive listing of local and national services.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

430 PETITIONERS AND 100'S OF EMAILS ARE FROM COBBLE CREEK, SPRUCE POINT, CHIPETA POINTE & CHIPETA ROAD RESIDENTS OPPOSING THE HUB!!!!

Editor:

A December 9th Planning Commission hearing, regarding The HUB at Montrose Crossing, was postponed to a later date due to the City's Zoom subscription limit of 100 participants prevented all who wanted to participate in the virtual meeting.

The next day Josue Perez of the Montrose Press said that "several" Cobble Creek and Spruce Point residents had previously voiced their displeasure with the 500 apartment unit project. We believe that 430 petitions and over a hundred emails (as of Dec.1 and still counting) are way more than "several."

The article included the developer's repeated assertions about the high quality of the project. That's somewhat satisfying, but irrelevant given the project is based on a very weak and suspect justification. Emails and press articles highlight the developer's disregard of adjacent subdivisions and the City's Comprehensive

Plan; Chipeta Road traffic and hazard concerns; additional yearly city services costs; and the unnecessary intrusion into Cobble Creek, Spruce Point, Chipeta Pointe and other area housing.

Of additional concern is the developer's refusal to consider our reasonable project reconfiguration that would mitigate adjacent subdivision concerns and, of course, the unconscionable \$2.35M city incentive that has no pay back requirement.

We keep emphasizing the importance of the Comprehensive Plan, because it's the right way to do things and helps all of us avoid unscrupulous development. The Comprehensive Plan states that our City, and the communities within it, can be better shaped to meet desired goals and objectives as the Comprehensive Plan becomes a constant part of every land use decision for Montrose.

The success of the Comprehensive Plan depends upon the will of public officials, the development community, staff,

and the general citizenry to follow through with its implementation. In contrast, the developer's proposal merely says that the project meets the Comprehensive Plan because it's located within Growth Area 1. Actually, Growth Area 1 consists of essentially all of Montrose.

The issues surrounding projects like The HUB at Montrose Crossing will surface again as Montrose grows.

We hope many will join the next Planning Commission's virtual meeting on January 6th to hear more about our objections to the project as it's currently proposed and to hear if the City justifies its \$2.35M in incentives to the developer.

You can access the link to this virtual meeting at <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/126/Planning-Commission> and click on "Most Recent Agenda." The link to the meeting will be posted there on December 30th.

Board of Directors

Cobble Creek Homeowners Association



These days, photography is practiced by anyone with a smartphone, but it's mastered by few.

When it comes to those once-in-a-lifetime moments—when you've got ONE shot at getting it right—you better make sure the person behind the camera is a proven professional photographer.

There's no greater proof than when the letters 'CPP' follow a photographer's name. They designate a **Certified Professional Photographer**, someone who is putting in the extra work to stay above the rest.

They assure you of the photographer's professional knowledge and experience, while also declaring the photographer as one who has achieved and maintains a higher standard.

To schedule an in-person consultation or for more information about scheduling a session, please contact me at no charge to see how I might best be able to help you create the images that you want.

Paul Arbogast
PHOTOGRAPHY **CERTIFIED**
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

PAUL ARBOGAST PHOTOGRAPHY

(970) 318-1062 • WWW.PAULARBOGAST.COM

arbophotos@gmail.com • @paularbogastphotos

PORTRAIT, FAMILY, SENIOR, FASHION, PRODUCT, BOUDOIR, AND EVERYTHING ELSE... THE PHOTOS YOU WANT.

FOCUS ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS.



We understand you'd rather be outside spending time with friends and family. With Alpine Bank's mobile app*, you can bank at your convenience, which means more time for everything else.

*Alpine Bank does not charge you a fee for using AlpineMobile®; however, your wireless carrier's standard web access and text message rates may still apply. Mobile deposit limitations apply. Please see product terms and conditions.



Alpine Bank

INDEPENDENCE • COMMUNITIES • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY • LOYALTY

ALPINEBANK.COM | MEMBER FDIC

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS ACROSS COLORADO

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PLEASE CONSIDER ISSUES AND VOTE TO DENY HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING

Montrose City Council &
Planning Commission,

I am writing in opposition to The Hub at Montrose Crossing. Many residents in and around Cobble Creek, Spruce Pointe, Chipeta Pointe and along Chipeta Road have expressed their serious concerns regarding this 500 unit apartment complex "spot-zoned" directly across the street from established neighborhoods.

There have been many concerns that you have already received, and many others have been published in the Daily Press and Montrose Mirror. The following are just a few of the major concerns I hope you will address:

- The location of a 500 unit apartment over 3 miles from the center of Montrose is of major concern. Just think of all the issues that create

- The location of the main entrance to HUB off of Cobble Drive instead of Chipeta Road may seem like a good idea to the developer due to costs, but it should raise a huge red flag to the Montrose City Council and County Commissioners.

With the future build out of Cobble Creek, Cobble Creek West and Spruce Point projected to be 1046 single family homes

(there are currently only 366 single family homes in Cobble Creek and Spruce Point) and then a 500 unit apartment development with their main entrance on Cobble Drive, how can the City and County officials not be concerned NOW about the future traffic impact to Cobble Drive, Chipeta Road and all intersections that would be impacted.

- It has been brought to my attention that the HUB site plan has "under" the required 20% open space "required" by the City Code. Hopefully, the Planning Commission would require the developer to adjust the development site plan to meet this city requirement.

- The HUB developer has made note of the fact that Spruce Point, just across the street from his proposed developed, is also zoned R-3A, which allows duplexes, condos, and apartments. What he fails to point out is that there are no duplexes, condos or apartments at Spruce Point and that it is being developed in the spirit of the Comprehensive Plan.

- When Spruce Point was zoned R-3A, the development plan review process resulted in the Planning Commission limiting the apartment density in Spruce Point to no

more than 269 apartments on their 80 acres, which results in a density of 3.35 units per acre. HUB's 500 apartments density 32 acres a density of 15.6 units per acre.

Shouldn't the Planning Commission limit HUB to the same limit of 3.35 units per acre, reducing the HUB apartment density to 107 units to stick with the precedent already establish across the street from the HUB?

The \$2.35M incentive being offered to the HUB developer by City Council, free and clear, is totally unprecedented and an insult to Montrose taxpayers. With the financial impact the pandemic has had on local small businesses, why not offer this money to them? It would do more to keep and create jobs than the build out HUB will do.

I sincerely request the Planning Commission to seriously consider all of these issues and vote to deny the HUB development or accept with changes addressing the above concerns. I also appeal the City Council to retract their \$2.35M incentive offer to the developer.

Respectfully

Jodine Broskovak, Cobble Creek



249 8500

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something



VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

WESTERN COLORADO NETWORK OF SERVICES



125 YEARS STRONG

For 125 years, our national presence and expertise places us at the forefront of aging services. Our health care communities and programs are designed with your highest levels of health, activity and independence in mind — helping each individual live the life that makes them happiest.



ESTABLISHED ROOTS & STEADY GROWTH

Recognized as a Great Place to Work™ organization, Volunteers of America is a respected name in health care for older adults and we're dedicated to creating thoughtful, caring and flexible work environments for our staff and volunteers. Apply online at careerswithvoa.org.



A MINISTRY OF SERVICE

We provide services that are designed locally to address specific community needs and seek to serve the needs of the whole person (mind, body and spirit). Our ministry is one of service, providing assistance to people of all faiths.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA IS A NATIONAL, NONPROFIT, FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION AND A DEDICATED MINISTRY OF SERVICE FOUNDED IN 1896.

VISIT [VOASENIORLIVING.ORG](https://voaseniorliving.org) FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.



For more information, call 1-844-862-4968 to speak with a Care Navigator

OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

DISCUSSION IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT DISPARAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND OTHER LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The proposed Matt Miles development, The Hub at Montrose Crossing, has generated public interest and an outcry of foul from residents of Cobble Creek.

Protecting one's neighborhood is a shared value. I appreciate lively discussion and debate from the community and I respect each person's right to publicly state their opinion. Regardless of where we live, we all have a concern with increased crime, traffic, and trash in a developing community.

However, I do take issue with people who disparage individuals, businesses and other local neighborhoods as a means to bolster their argument of, "Not in my neighborhood."

Letter writers to the *Montrose Mirror* have suggested the proposed development would be better suited within the boundary of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (Colorado Outdoors). It is not lost on locals that the areas being compared to one another are the upscale Cobble Creek and an area in close proximity to a part of town lovingly known as Tortilla

Flats.

It has been suggested that Recla Metals (recycling center), portrayed as a community eyesore, would be a good site for re-development. Recla Metals, which was established in 1974, is a huge economic driver for Montrose and is a valuable asset to the community.

Another area deemed unsightly is the salvage yard on the north bypass. Automobile salvage yards have been prominent in Montrose since the 1950's and they have proved to be successful businesses. It's unfortunate when anyone's business, career and livelihood are publicly devalued by being labeled unsightly.

By all appearances Matt Miles, a home-grown local, is a successful developer. His contribution the community, as well as his continued investment in the community, cannot be understated. Although Miles is not a resident of Cobble Creek, it is not lost on me that his personal residence is in close proximity to the proposed The Hub at Montrose Crossing.

It has been suggested that the City of Montrose is "lining the pockets" of Miles because the city is providing infrastructure

for the proposed development. It must be noted that the Cobble Creek development has also benefited from city infrastructure buildout.

The City of Montrose Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting at 5 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2021. We can only hope that that the meeting facilitator will keep participants focused on the agenda item itself, rather than disparaging their neighbors.

On the agenda is **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 meeting will be posted on the City website by the end of next week. Information can be found at: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/126/Planning-Commission> and click on "Most Recent Agenda."



BUYING OR SELLING IN MONTROSE OR SURROUNDING AREA

Autumn Barrett

The perfect real estate professional whether you're putting your home on the market or looking for your dream home. Give her a call today!

970-318-0708

autumnbarrettrealtor@gmail.com

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado
Properties



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties



Photo taken from corner of driveway and Pine Drive

Lot 23 Pine Drive | Ridgway, CO

\$129,900 | MLS# 762967 UNDER CONTRACT

AWESOME 8.347 Acre Parcel in Loghill Village. Borders open space. Wooded parcel with Incredible views. Private & secluded. 1,000 sq.ft. minimum home living area



Lot #3 7250 Road | Montrose, CO

\$89,500 | MLS# 768385 Reduced \$10,000!

Scenic beauty and serenity with Awesome mountain views from this 4.5 acre lot in an exceptional location, BLM borders subdivision. Lot borders large ranch.



Lot 1 Buckhorn Road | Montrose, CO

\$95,000 | MLS# 764338

5.1 ACRES with 360 views, minimal covenants and no HOA. 1,200 sq. ft. minimum home living area. Close to BLM



Lot 5 Ranger Road | Montrose, CO

\$149,900 | MLS# 775094 Reduced \$10,000

FOREVER VIEW LOT 4.69 acres Private and Secluded Spring Creek Mesa location in upscale subdivision with fabulous views of the mountains, valley and city lights at night.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties

Don Bailey, Broker Associate

970-209-8257

donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com

www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2020 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity.



COMMUNITY SALARY SURVEY 2020

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Each year the *Montrose Mirror* publishes a Community Salary Survey. The survey of those who earn top salaries in local non-profit and governmental organizations not only helps constituents keep their finger on the pulse of the community, but offers a level of transparency. Salaries listed do not include benefits.

Montrose County

Airport Manager - \$140,130
Deputy County Manager - \$131,872
Public Works Director - \$129,101
County Manager - \$120,200

Montrose School District RE-1J

Superintendent - \$165,000
MHS Principal - \$107,686
Director of Curriculum and Instruction - \$103,642

Montrose Fire Protection District

Fire Chief - \$136,578
Battalion Chiefs - \$92,448
Deputy Administrator - \$86,698

City of Montrose

City Manager - \$170,000
City Attorney - \$156,000
Finance Director - \$110,123

Montrose Memorial Hospital (data taken from 2019 Income Tax Form 990)

Physician - \$649,182
Physician - \$643,683
Physician - \$642,066

Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA)/Elevate salary data taken from the 2019 Income Tax Form 990 combines salaries derived from both DMEA and Elevate)

Chief Executive Officer - \$353,606
Chief Operating Officer - \$205,083
Chief Financial Officer - \$199,975

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA)

SMPA did not respond to the Mirror's request for salary information. Their website shows that since 2017 they have not publicly posted an Income Tax Form 990.

Montrose Recreation District (only two salaried employees)

Executive Director - \$100,000
Recreation Manager - \$67,600

Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning

Region 10 did not respond to the Mirror's request for salary information by deadline, nor could salary information be found posted on the [planning and management region's](#) website.



ENHANCED ASSISTED LIVING CARE
AT

THE LOFT

Special Features:

- Compassionate, trained staff 24/7
 - Intimate care neighborhood
- Private room with half-bath for each resident
- Complete medication management
 - Respite care stays available
 - Life Enrichment program
 - and more

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

(970) 964-3400

THE HOMESTEAD AT MONTROSE
A Volunteers of America Senior Living and Care Community
1819 Pavilion Dr Montrose, CO 81401
homesteadatmontrose.org



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE APPROVES TRANSPORTATION & ACCESS PLAN FOR PUBLIC LANDS IN ARCHULETA, LA PLATA, MONTEZUMA COUNTIES

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office has approved a comprehensive transportation plan that will provide improved public, commercial, and administrative access across approximately 100,000 acres of BLM-administered public land in Archuleta, La Plata and Montezuma counties in southwestern Colorado (Travel Area 1).

"The BLM recognizes that a well-conceived road and trail network and good parking access on public lands provide numerous personal and social benefits," said Tres Rios Field Manager Connie Clementson. "This plan reflects extensive community involvement in determining how travel will be managed on area public lands and supports a shared vision for the area's future."

The decision designates 78 miles of roads and trails in Travel Area 1 and approves the construction of an off-highway vehicle

play area, along with the construction or improvement of six parking areas. In addition, e-bikes are authorized on 25 miles of single-track trail, as well as on roads and trails approved for off-highway vehicles.

Effective travel planning in support of BLM's multiple use mission provides for a variety of user experiences and access for natural resource development, while minimizing impacts to wildlife habitat and sensitive resources, reducing the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, and lessening potential conflicts between diverse recreation uses. In 2018, recreation activities on BLM-administered lands in Colorado supported 5,077 jobs and generated over \$652 million, the highest net return of any BLM recreation program.

The groundwork for the travel plan was laid in 2015–2016 when the BLM inventoried existing transportation routes throughout the Tres Rios Field Office and then provided the results and an extensive

public review and comment period in 2017, using an interactive online map. Open houses were held in Cortez, Durango, and Mancos during this period to provide information about the process and discuss external proposals received. A 30-day public scoping period ran from April through May 2019, followed by a 30-day public comment period for the Preliminary Environmental Assessment from September through October 2019. Travel planning for BLM lands in San Miguel, Dolores, and Montrose counties is currently scheduled to begin in 2021.

Additional project information, decision documents, and maps are available on the BLM ePlanning site at <https://go.usa.gov/xE6ZU> and at the Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO. Information on BLM travel management can be found online at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-programs/travel-and-transportation>.



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!

MLS 776527 \$375,000 3358 Pheasant Rich, Delta, CO



Linda Charlick
Realtor® Of the Year 2019
Serving all Your Real Estate needs since 2003
Quarterly Proceeds go to the local Food Pantry
970-209-3668

I'm using Homesnap to connect with my clients.
Join me on the link below to see all Homes for Sale:
<http://www.homesnap.com/real-estate-agents/Linda-Charlick>



Macht-Liles Real Estate Group
645 S. Grand Mesa Drive
970-856-4425
linda@lindacharlick.com
www.DeltaMontroseCountyRealEstate.com



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CONSUMER ADVISORY: GETTING A REAL TREAT FOR THE HOLIDAYS? *Make sure your homeowners/renters' insurance is updated*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Someone is treating you to a big-time gift this holiday season. Or maybe you're splurging for an expensive gift for the family. But however that expensive or valuable gift ends up in your home, know that to protect it properly, you may need to update your homeowners or renters' insurance. The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), reminds people to not overlook this important step. Anytime your possessions significantly change you will want to review your homeowners or renters insurance. Remember, homeowners insurance doesn't protect just the structure, but also the contents of your house, while renters' insurance is typically *only* focused on your possessions. And know that your homeowner or renters' policy may provide coverage that a warranty or protection plan will not. So when those big ticket items come into the home - think big televisions, gaming systems, bikes, computers, tablets, smartphones, expensive jewelry, art or valuable collectibles - you'll want to make sure your insurance coverage is sufficient if those items get damaged or

stolen.

"The holidays are typically when people get these more expensive items," said Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "Then the new year arrives, these things become a part of their lives and they don't think about their insurance coverage, until something bad happens. That 'something bad' is why it is critical to make sure your homeowners or renters' insurance is up-to-date."

Most homeowner policies include coverage limitations for certain items such as computers, art, bikes and jewelry, so it might be time to add coverage to your existing policy to ensure these items are insured for their actual value. Or you can get a personal inland marine or a personal articles policy to cover these items. Don't let the name mislead you, as inland marine insurance doesn't have to do with water, but instead can provide a specified amount of coverage for a specific item and/or provide coverage beyond limits or sub-limits that may be in your policy. This may be a good time to take a look at your policy or talk to your agent about the limits and sub-limits for your personal property coverage.

All of this doesn't just apply to those new gifts. When was the last time you had your jewelry appraised for insurance purposes? When you're taking out the fancy china and silverware for the holidays, you might want to consider if you have enough insurance on these items or other family heirlooms or antiques, which can be quite valuable. Ultimately, you want to be sure the coverage amount you list with your insurance company or agent is current and reflective of the actual value of your items.

Such changes may very well impact your premiums, but not always. But if you don't make your agent or insurance company aware of such items and their value, you likely won't get their full value in a claim if they are damaged or stolen.

If you need help understanding your homeowner or renters' insurance, figuring out what questions to ask about it, or just want some help decoding the language of your insurance, know that the Division of Insurance is a consumer resource for all things insurance. Contact the DOI Consumer Services Team at 303-894-7490 / 800-930

3745 / DORA_Insurance@state.co.us



Excellence in
Robotic Assisted
Surgery
is Performed, Here



Because You Deserve
the Most Advanced
Care Available

Cardiology Services
Joint Replacement Center
Complete Cancer Care
Robotic Assisted Surgery
Family Birthing Center
and much more!

#1
SMALL HOSPITAL
IN COLORADO

★★★★★
Five Star Hospital

MONTROSE 
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
www.MontroseHospital.com

YOUTH COUNCILOR GUNNISON CLAMP PRAISES CITY MANAGEMENT AT FINAL MEETING OF 2020

December 15, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting



Youth Councilor Gunnison Clamp had the last word at the regular City Council meeting on Dec. 15. "It was a tough year, there were definitely some bright sides to it though," Clamp said. "...Definitely fortunate to live here this year. On every level of city management, it went very smoothly, and everyone did very well."

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15. All councilors were present for the meeting; Youth Council Representative Gunnison Clamp was also in attendance. The session was broadcast live on a Zoom feed; though meetings are available on Cable Channels 191 and 970, viewers of Channel 970 at 6 p.m. heard several minutes of what sounded like a vacuum cleaner followed by a number of loud, thumping sounds. The cable broadcast finally began at 6:08 p.m.

A note now posted on the City of Montrose Youtube channel states, "Please note: due to technical issues the meeting's first 7 minutes and 32 of audio seconds was not recorded. City staff tried to fix the recording but was unsuccessful. Meeting minutes can be found at [CityofMontrose.org/ArchiveCenter](https://www.cityofmontrose.org/ArchiveCenter)."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments heard from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Dec. 1, 2020 regular City Council meeting as presented.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINT-

MENTS

Council voted unanimously to re-appoint 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.

"On behalf of all of Council, we really appreciate you stepping up," Mayor Barbara Bynum said.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVALS

Two liquor license applications came before Council, beginning with 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. Company representative Crystal Porter, who supervises nine local stores, answered questions posed by City Attorney Stephen Alcorn and Council. "It's a one-stop shop for your adventure," she said.

Prior to Council's vote to approve, long-time liquor license petitioner Max Scott of Oedipus, Inc. said that 93 percent of those surveyed favored the issuance of the Maverik license.

Scott also said that the on-premise liquor industry has been hit hard by the pandemic.

"The alcohol industry for on-premise licenses is going right into the toilet, it's

circling the bowl right now," he said.

"Hopefully you don't have restaurants that are going out of business. Lots and lots of my clients have gone out of business here in the Denver Metropolitan area...this is what happened when Carter was President. The only applications that are probably going to be filed are off-premise licenses. People don't stop eating and they don't stop drinking, it's where they buy it," he said. "...I hope you folks make it ok through the coming year.

"It's scary all these family-owned businesses are going broke," Scott said.

"Merry Christmas to everybody, Happy New Year," he said.

A proposed application for 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 was pulled from the meeting agenda.

With owners John Pope and Kevin McHugh present to answer questions, Council voted unanimously to approve an application for a new 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

Continued next pg

YOUTH COUNCILOR GUNNISON CLAMP PRAISES CITY MANAGEMENT AT FINAL MEETING From previous pg

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.

The space, which formerly housed Intrinzik, has been remodeled and will include garage style doors to allow bar style seating on Main Street. The Brew Pub will have coffee and food available as well.

HILLTOP ADDITION ANNEXATION

Following a presentation by Senior Planner Amy Sharp and a public hearing on the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II, Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-28, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II and approved Ordinance 2521 on first reading, for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II. Council approved Ordinance 2522 on first reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition II as an R-4, High Density District.

Background- A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The Hilltop Addition II is a proposed annexation approximately 0.45 acres in size. The parcel is located north of Locust Rd and consists of the west side right-of-way of 6600 Road. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the Tri-County Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. Annexation of this property will clean up an orphaned parcel of land which consists of county road right-of-way adjacent to the recently annexed Hilltop Addition (July 2020). The City of Montrose is applying for this annexation on behalf of Montrose County."

RAINBOW TROUT ADDITION

Sharp reviewed the annexation schedule, and Council held a hearing on the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition. Councilors voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-29, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition. Also approved was Ordinance 2523 on first reading, the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition, and Ordinance 2524 on first reading, zoning the Rainbow Trout Addition as a P, Public District.

There are presently no plans for the par-

cel, which is listed as river/greenway/ regional park in the future land use map, Sharp said.

Youth Councilor Gunnison Clamp asked why the City-owned parcel was named the Rainbow Trout Addition. "As a fisherman, I'm curious about that," Clamp said. "Will there be developed on the property at any point any sort of fishing access...I'm wondering if this is a planned use for this property?"

Assistant City Attorney Ann Morgenthaler said that the parcel consists largely of wetlands, so would not be built on. Still, "We purchased that parcel as part of our plans for the river rehabilitation project that's underway...it's really excellent for the City to have ownership of that parcel."

Background- A memo from Sharp to Council states, "The Rainbow Trout Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 2.82 acres in size. The parcel is located north of Spring Creek Road, west of Mayfly Drive and the Uncompahgre River, and northeast of Marine Road. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, Tri-County Water Service Area, and West Montrose Sanitation District. Annexation of this property will clean-up an orphaned parcel of City-owned land adjacent to the Uncompahgre River. The Council Resolution to set a hearing date is not required for this annexation as it is City-owned property."

SECOND READING APPROVALS

As previously considered in work session on First Reading, Council voted unanimously to adopt 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 Jan. 1, 2020; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Council also voted unanimously to adopt 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.

MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT IGA

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Montrose and the Montrose Recreation District regarding shared services.

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the most recent Sales, Use & Excise tax report.

Clamp gave a report on Youth Council activities. Youth Council has been working on a time capsule project; there are three item-collection locations. The capsule will be similar to the 50-year time capsule recently retrieved by the City.

As Councilors wished one another well during the last meeting of 2020, Bynum said, "...I hope everyone enjoys the holidays and stays safe and stays warm and keeps your immediate family close to you and keeps your further family in your thoughts and that you can talk to them on the phone or see them on Zoom...I haven't seen my parents in over a year, and I think that is the longest time in my life that I haven't seen my parents," she said. "...I just want everyone to know that we are thinking about them, and that as your city leaders we are doing our absolute best day in and day out to take care of our city and to take care of the job that we signed up for when we took on City Council.

"None of us knew it would involve a pandemic," Bynum said. "But I commend not

YOUTH COUNCILOR GUNNISON CLAMP PRAISES CITY MANAGEMENT AT FINAL MEETING From previous pg

only the staff but my fellow councilors for rolling up their sleeves and working really hard. I know that they all have the citizens of this community in their hearts."

As Bynum prepared to adjourn the meeting, Youth Councilor Clamp seized the opportunity to speak again, "Yeah it has definitely been a weird year...but as someone who is in contact with the City through Youth Council and down at the Visitor Center, I'll just say like other Councilors before me just indicated, the City really came through it well," Clamp said.

"I think the whole pandemic situation was managed well," he said. "We managed to do what was safe, what was right, while still keeping our economy afloat, keeping our businesses Downtown thriving and healthy."

Clamp said that he was pleased to see the 2021 budget. "That was really encourag-

ing, all the collections up, sales up," he said. "All of that's really good to see...One big benefit of not being able to travel a lot this year, people may have been more inclined when they did their shopping, to do it right here, benefitting all of our great local businesses."

"It was a tough year, there were definitely

some bright sides to it though," Clamp said. "...Definitely fortunate to live here this year. On every level of city management, it went very smoothly, and everyone did very well.

"Here's to a better 2021," Clamp said. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY 7%+ CAP RATE



\$350,000

204 W. S. 1st Street Montrose, Colorado 81401

2.0 Bathrooms | 3,520 Square Feet | Year Built: 1984

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



Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

970-209-3825

Jeff@MontroseColorado.com

www.MontroseColorado.com



Autumn Barrett

Associate Broker

970-318-0708

autumnbarrett.montrosecolorado.com

MontroseColorado.com



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties

Share this with someone:



CO Lic #: ER.100002044

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2020 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified



OPEN
for Business

**It's Your
Business!**

**Let's Grow
Together.
Advertise
with
The Mirror!**

970-275-0646

Welcome Home to your own Private Oasis



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Western Colorado Properties

Don Bailey

Broker Associate

970-209-8257

donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com

www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com

\$399,000

MLS# 773508



3151 6200 Road | Olathe, CO

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

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2020 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity.



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY TO CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1 for New Year's. Police Department offices will be closed on these days, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. Montrose City Hall, Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, Black Canyon Golf Course, and City Shop will be closed. The adjusted trash collection schedule for Dec. 25 will be as follows: Trash collection schedules will be adjust-

ed for both holidays.

For residences with Thursday, Dec. 24 collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, Dec. 22, and Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Dec. 23. Trash collection for the New Year's holiday is as follows:

For residences with Thursday, Dec. 31 collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, Dec. 29, and Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Dec. 29. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Recycling collection for customers will not change for both the Christmas and the New Year's holidays.

CALL US, WE'RE HERE

If you are 60+ and need assistance with:

Housekeeping

Personal Care

Transportation to Medical Appointments

Caregiver Respite

Home Delivered Meals

Find Out if You Qualify

ADVANTAGE
Health Resource Center



1-844-862-4968

WWW.VOA4YOU.ORG / ADVANTAGE@VOA.ORG

NOSOTRAS HABLAMOS ESPANOL

RIDGWAY LOVE STORY COMES TO A CLOSE; AN ERA ENDS WITH PASSING OF PETER DECKER From pg 1



Peter and Deedee Decker. Courtesy photo.

up.”

They looked first at ranches in Sheridan, Wyoming, where Deedee had family, but didn't find what they were looking for. So Deedee's cousin offered to show the couple some properties in the Southwest, “In a place you never heard of.”

That place was Ridgway, a town Peter first came to love as a graduate student, when his car had broken down there while he and two friends were en route to San Francisco to conduct research for his Ph.D. So he toured four different ranches in the Ridgway area with Deedee's cousin, and made an offer on one. A day later, the

couple got the news.

“Suddenly we were ranch owners,” Deedee said. “We moved bag and baggage from New York City and moved into our house in Ridgway.”

Though it uprooted their lives, Deedee said that the decision to pull up stakes was the right choice.

A full-time Professor at Duke University by then, Peter was asked how he could give up a promising academic career to own and live on a ranch in Colorado.

“I'd rather look at the hind end of a hundred heifers than go to another faculty meeting,” was his response.

Over the decades, the Deckers left their mark on the Ridgway community. In 1985, Deedee built the now iconic True Grit Café. “I wanted a place for local people to go,” she said. She also commissioned the first bronze sculpture by the late Sculptor Michael McCullough, an Eagle that in years past greeted visitors to the old Ridgway Fire House. And she worked with the Ouray County Historical Society for years.

While serving on the Planning Commission in the 1980's, Peter helped to craft

the Ouray County Master Plan, a document that has served the community well ever since and which remains in effect.

And the Ridgway ranch where they spent so much of their lives is now preserved in an easement through the Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust.

It was 2020--specifically Saturday, Dec. 12, when Peter Decker passed away in Denver, at the age of 85.

He leaves a legacy not only in the land he loved, but in the works that he completed during his lifetime. He published a number of books, including *Fortunes and Failures: White-Collar Mobility in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco* (1978), *Old Fences, New Neighbors* (1998), *The Utes Must Go!* (2004), *Saving the West* (2010), *Red, White & Army Blue* (2014) and *The Go-Backer* (2017).

Decker, who also served as a staff assistant in Senator Robert Kennedy's office between 1967 and 1968, was Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture from 1987 till 1989.

For Deedee Decker, still in denial at the sudden loss of her husband, the journey that led two young people to leave everything behind came full circle in Ridgway.

“It's been our home,” she said, and expressed not a single regret.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

BOWMAN RAISES CONCERNS OVER CITY'S CONTRACT AFTER BIZARRE UPDATE FROM GEYSER SYSTEMS



Geyser Systems Owner Jonathan Ballesteros, bottom, gave an update to City Council.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a virtual work session on Monday, Dec. 14; all councilors were present for the Zoom session. Mayor Barbara Bynum said, "We have a rather short agenda this morning, but some really neat things on our agenda."

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Six new staff members were introduced during 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.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced the new police officers, all recent graduates of the Western Colorado Peace Officers Association. "They've already completed their administrative week of training with the police department; we are very thankful to have them," Hall said.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Willey said he had been interested in law enforcement since age 14. He came to the United States as a youth and has lived all over the country. "I settled on Montrose for a reason," he said, "it ticked all the boxes for me."

Adkin is originally from the United Kingdom as well, where his father was a police

officer. He moved to Houston, Texas in 2017, where he met and married his wife. The couple honeymooned in Montrose. "We decided we wanted to get out of the big city...I just loved Montrose," he said. "The City just has a lot to offer...I wanted to work for a smaller agency...I can't see myself living anywhere else."

Born in Detroit, Schoemaker later moved to Arizona where he spent most of his childhood riding horses and packing hunters into remote areas. He served in the Marine Corps, and he and his wife discovered Montrose while driving through the Rockies on their honeymoon. "We just loved it. Everyone would wave at you as you're driving down the road...I just hope to keep serving my community."

"Fantastic," Mayor Bynum said. "And there's some anecdotal evidence that people do indeed fall in love with Montrose when they're on vacation and end up moving here."

City Manager Bill Bell introduced Part Time Guest Services Assistant Cory Cavello, who is working as guest services assistant at the Office of Business & Tourism. "He's been a great addition to the team," Bell said.

Originally from Connecticut, Cavello said he took the job because it is part-time and he is working to build a photography business. "For me it's an opportunity to...help

tourists or guests coming over here to find places that they need to go...with my experience around the area over the past five years I would really like to help other people find where they need to be."

Public Works Director Jim Scheid introduced Aguilar, who served two tours in the military and worked in the oil fields before coming back to Montrose. "I was able to join the City of Montrose and find that work-life balance...I am in competition with nobody but myself, simply just trying to be better than I was yesterday."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler introduced Reis, who has not yet moved to Montrose but is working remotely from New York.

Reis was raised in upstate New York and now lives in Manhattan. He has done historic preservation work at Ellis Island. "...I really miss all of the natural environment and scenery that Manhattan doesn't really have to offer...I can't wait to get out to Colorado, hopefully next month."

"Welcome to the team if not to Montrose quite yet," Bynum said, noting that she toured the hospital at Ellis Island.

"Welcome, we're glad to have you."

GEYSER SYSTEMS UPDATE

Background-Information on the City of Montrose web site notes that In February of 2020, the City of Montrose partnered with Geyser Technologies, which sells a heated portable shower that uses less than one gallon of water. Geyser Technologies launched the flagship product in all 240 REI Co-op locations in 2020. At the time the company employed eight.

Per the agreement, Company founder Jonathan Ballesteros agreed to move the Geyser headquarters from Texas to Montrose. In return the agreement with the City of Montrose provided Geyser with \$155,000 of operating capital to be paid back to the city through performance in the way of job creation. Each time the business created and maintained a job meeting the minimum salary threshold of \$42,285 as set by Colorado's Office of Economic Development and International

Continued next pg

BOWMAN RAISES CONCERNS OVER CITY'S CONTRACT AFTER GEYSER SYSTEMS UPDATE From previous pg

Trade, the city agreed to forgive a portion of the loan. In addition, the Office of Business and Tourism would make \$40,000 available to Geyser within the next five years for marketing.

Geyser predicted 98 new manufacturing and administrative jobs would be created and maintained in the Montrose community within six years.

City Manager Bill introduced the Dec. 14 update. "(Geyser) had come before the City Council after working with some of us at Colorado Outdoors and the URA...just trying to promote their entrepreneurship efforts to get their business started. They had a great contract with REI...the City decided to help with some job creation, those types of incentives to get them started, help them be successful here in our community."

For the next 30 minutes, Ballesteros presented a rambling monologue that provided no specifics as to jobs created or product sales.

"We are altering the course of what is possible for new businesses," Ballesteros said. "We're becoming known as the leading innovators in water conservation."

Still, the next year's REI contract presents challenges. "We're currently growing beyond the limitations of our working capital...we're going to have a hard time keeping up and hiring with the growing demand."

Ballesteros said that some employees were recently let go to avoid bankruptcy but added that he foresees hiring a "couple more" within the next year.

"In three years, I aim to have a campus here in Montrose," he announced, "We're going to be exporting products that are going to change the world."

"Let's just keep making good things happen together," he said.

Ballesteros finally stopped speaking.

City Councilor Dave Bowman asked what the company's pay rate is and how many employees the company currently has. The pay ranges from \$13.75 to \$15 per hour, the company now employs five.

"We did have more employees at a certain point...of course, circumstances require us to be versatile to ensure that we're not going to run our company to a point of bankruptcy," Ballesteros said, noting that he helped one employee find a job with "another business leader."

"As a business leader if I can't continue employing someone, I'm going to find an employer here that she or he is a good match for."

"I would say that's an outstanding business leader move," Ballesteros said, adding that he has not cut back on pay or hours for the remaining employees despite COVID-19. "...I am really inspired by our team, manufacturing from their homes."

"We had a very challenging year this year, and I would say we did a great job all things considered," Ballesteros said.

Bowman said he had seen none of the quarterly reports mandated in the contract since April. "...We haven't seen second quarter figures, we haven't seen third quarter figures...you have certainly been given money to get through the pandemic, which I am sure is hard on everybody...we do have some goals within the contract. I notice you never mention the contract."

"I hope within the allotted time that you can fulfill the contract with the City of Montrose," Bowman said. He reminded Bell that he had specifically asked to see all quarterly reports.

Council asked Bell for documentation of the performance metrics that Geyser is expected to meet.

"It's basically a forgivable loan," Bell said. "...It's the first time we've done it this way, where we gave the money up front." He promised to send a copy of the agreement with Geyser to Council and to touch base with City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg concerning the company's quarterly reports.

Bynum thanked Ballesteros for the update. "...It's nice to circle back around and see how the City's investment is working

or not working, and how we can move forward on that partnership."

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL POSTING PLACES

City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo said that the Colorado Open Meetings Law requires the annual designation of an official posting place. She suggested the same posting places as in prior years; items are posted on the City's web site as well as on the two bulletin boards at City Hall, one outside and one in the entry way to City Hall.

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Bowman mentioned short-term rentals; he said that he was on vacation the previous week and noticed a room tax on the bill. "It sort of clicked in my mind, how are we doing here in Montrose," he said.

Bell said he would have updated numbers at the next Council work session.

Councilor Dave Frank asked about the spending of CARES ACT funds.

Bell said that he would present information at the next work session. "We're in contact right now with all of the businesses in Montrose that received loan funding through our processes in early spring," Bell said, "and forgiving those." Those who have paid loans back will receive refunds.

Loan funds will be replenished Bell said, and can be used to assist other businesses. "That compounds our ability to help small businesses in Montrose," he said.

Bynum said the City would host a Small Business webinar on Wednesday.

Bowman asked City Attorney Stephen Alcorn a question. "Last week I sent you an email letting you know my daughter and her family own a home in Cobble Creek, and I needed to know if this was a conflict of interest that would prevent me voting on this issue when it finally hits—if it hits Council," Bowman said. "Your answer was 'I would probably say yes because the public's going to see it as such.'"

Bowman expressed dissatisfaction with Alcorn's response. "...Got a little problem with 'probably'...how can Council get maybe a better update on where we declare a

BOWMAN RAISES CONCERNS OVER CITY'S CONTRACT AFTER GEYSER SYSTEMS UPDATE From previous pg

conflict of interest and when we don't? "...Your answer left me a little cold," Bowman said. "It doesn't give me much direction."

Said Alcorn, "That's because it's up to you. If you look at the charter, it says that you will vote on all matters that come before Council unless you have a conflict of interest. In the last Charter update it also allows you to recuse for the appearance of impropriety. It's up to you as a councilor to make that determination."

"So if I make the wrong decision does that affect the City's liability in any way?" Bowman asked.

Alcorn said that Bowman himself bears the responsibility for his own decision.

"Excuse me?!" Bowman said. "So I should

get advice from my own lawyer? Now I'm even more confused. Are you saying that If I make the wrong decision the City won't represent me?"

Alcorn said, "No that is not what I said. But I am saying it is your individual responsibility to make a determination. I also don't think getting legal advice in a public forum is particularly the best way to go."

"That's why I sent you an email," Bowman said.

"And I responded," Alcorn said. "And it's going to be up to you to make a determination if you feel you need to recuse or not. Would I? Yes. But that is me, and I am not in the position you are in."

Mayor Bynum asked Senior Planner Amy

Sharp for an update on the HUB at Montrose Crossing project.

Sharp said the sketch plan review will go before the Planning Commission Jan. 6, 2021 in an informal, non-binding, meeting. The developer will then submit a preliminary planned development application and preliminary plat.

After further discussion, Alcorn advised Council to avoid ex parte communications. Mayor Bynum said she would like the City to support early childhood education; Councilor Frank said he would like to see the City facilitate the COVID-19 testing process. Bynum closed the work session with a reminder of the regular Council meeting scheduled for the following evening, Dec. 15.



Camp Robber - 970-240-1590
Remington's - 970-252-1119
Jiminers - 970-252-1227

Stone House - 970-240-8899
Fiesta Guadalajara - 970-249-2460
Rib City - 970-249-7247
Light House Eatery - 970-964-4424

Need Catering? *DineOutMontrose.com*

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS



COLORADO STATE PATROL: TROOPER TIPS

WHAT'S AROUND THE BEND?

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

I hope everyone has been enjoying the holidays this year. It's been a hard and difficult year for a lot of people. With that being said, people don't need anything else sad happening to them. The last thing I want for anyone is to get that knock on the door and being told a loved one has been killed in a crash.

So, this time we are going to talk about safety when it comes to curves. We have a lot of them throughout the state so I know everyone has experienced them, but a lot of us are not doing it properly.

When approaching a curve, road signs usually suggest we slow our speed. The suggested speed you should slow down to usually depends on how sharp the curve is. But don't just rely on signage to deter-

mine your speed. There are other factors you need to look at. You should ask yourself how familiar are you with the area, how comfortable or skilled you are at driving, and what are the road conditions like. Something I see a lot is when someone navigates a curve and they wait until they are in the curve before they apply the brakes. This is not a safe way to negotiate curves. If you need to slow, do it prior to entering the curve and release them before the curve starts. When you apply brakes in the curve you may cause the vehicle to skid. This is particularly important during winter months. Whether you are going too fast or you brake during the curve, the area may have snow, ice, or dirt on the surface causing the car to lose traction and slide when hitting it. This can

be magnified when braking around the curve. Look at how wide the lanes are, is there a shoulder, what kind of traffic volume is on the road, is your field of view restricted. Also, don't hug the center line. Give yourself room in case you or oncoming traffic crosses it. Another reason for going slower around curves is the unknown. Is there an animal, cyclist, or debris on the roadway just out of sight? There could be a car going slower than you or broken down ahead of you. There may be times when you have to use your brakes in a curve. If you do, try to gently use the brakes and try to avoid hard braking. Remember though, it's better to have finished the braking prior to entering the curve.

As always, safe travels!



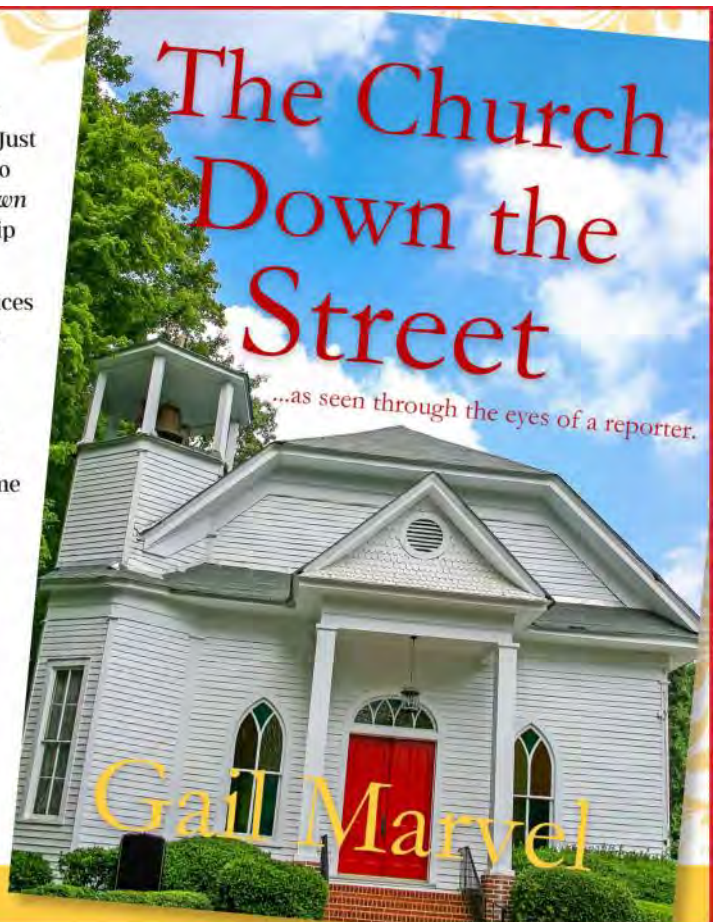
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

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

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

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

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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-With the holidays upon us, it's important that we all take personal responsibility to do what we can to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 in our communities, so as not to overwhelm our healthcare system. For information on Holiday guidance visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/winter-holiday-tips>; here are some tips that can help keep not only you and yours healthy, but those around you, as well as our hardworking healthcare heroes:

- Only interact in-person with people from your household (defined as those who normally live and sleep under the same roof).

- Refrain from traveling. Celebrate virtually with the people who don't live with you.

- Avoid crowded stores. Find local Delta County businesses to support and have your items delivered or pick them up curbside.

- Wear a mask and keep your distance whenever you do leave your home.

Delta County continues to see COVID-19 cases rise and as of Dec. 18, Delta County is reporting 29 new positive cases for a total of 1229 with 325 active and 884 recovered. We currently have 17 individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 3 additional deaths this week bringing the total to 20; we send our deepest condolences to each

family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

Delta County Memorial Hospital has begun administering the first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 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 one additional outbreak site, Willow Tree Care Center. 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.

Mental Health Assistance:

We know that the holidays can be a particularly difficult time, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, quarantining, and limiting one's time outside of their household, the

mental health of many individuals is truly being tested in ways like never before. If you feel depression, despair, anxiety, grief, or hopelessness during this holiday season, know that you are not alone. There are many resources available to help you get through this time. There are many people who want to help, and many things you can do to help you cope. Please reach out to one of the following resources:

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.



WAKE UP...

and smell the ~~coffee~~ **NEWS!**

The Mirror is the regional leader when it comes to business, fresh news and feature stories! Read the latest today ...

www.montrosemirror.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DCMH FRONTLINE HEALTH CARE WORKERS MAKE HISTORY, FIRST IN DELTA COUNTY TO RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE



Above and center, Gwen Eslinger, Surgical Tech at Delta County Memorial Hospital, prepares to receive the first COVID-19 vaccine in Delta County. Courtesy photos.



pressed her relief and excitement at the historic moment.

"I'm glad [to have gotten the vaccine]," said Eslinger. "It's been stressful for the people that work [at DCMH], and it's important that we get this done so that we can stay here and take care of our patients. It means a lot to all of us and it's giving me hope."

Eslinger was one of 175 frontline health care workers at DCMH who signed up for this first round of vaccines being administered over the next week. Doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, environmental service workers and other medical units dedicated to caring for COVID-19 were among the staff that received the vaccine.

"This is an exciting day for DCMH," said Matt Heyn, CEO for DCMH, in a speech before the first vaccine was given. "We are one of the first hospitals on the Western Slope that is able to offer this very important vaccine so that we can start to eradicate this pandemic and COVID-19. Today we are starting our vaccination process for our frontline employees, practitioners and those who are in direct patient care." The first delivery of the Pfizer vaccine provided roughly 46,800 vaccine doses to Coloradans and DCMH was allocated



Gwen Eslinger, Surgical Tech at Delta County Memorial Hospital, receives the first COVID-19 vaccine in Delta County. Courtesy photo.

330 doses of the vaccine. At mid-morning on Wednesday, December 16, the vaccine was delivered by the National Guard to Cari Dillon, Director of Pharmacy for DCMH. "The first thing I want to do is to tell everyone here that has shown up over the past year – thank you," said Jean Ceriani, Chairman for the DCMH Board of Directors. "You are all my heroes; truly you are. And I see this as the beginning of the end of COVID as we know it. I am very excited."

In addition to hospital employees, DCMH will be reaching out to non-DCMH medical clinics and ambulances in Delta County to administer vaccinations to their frontline health care workers.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Frontline health care workers at Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) made history Thursday morning, as the first people in Delta County to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

It was an uplifting and festive moment when Gwen Eslinger, a DCMH Surgical Tech, received the first vaccine. Eslinger was met with a room full of applause after the vaccine was administered and ex-

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J PUBLISHES SEMESTER TWO INSTRUCTIONAL PLANS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Friday, Dec. 18, Montrose County School District finalized instructional plans for the upcoming Jan. 5, 2021 start of the semester; a Matrix with details is included in this release.

MCSD is committed to providing in-person learning opportunities for all students as much as is safely possible; partnering with Montrose County Public Health (MCPH) and the Montrose County Joint Information Center (JIC), the plan was developed using Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) updated guidance, factoring in local public health conditions and Montrose County's present COVID-19 color dial metrics into our decision making.

Information regarding in-person school operations, instruction, school lunch, athletics, and a range of other plan details are differentiated based on the Orange and Red COVID-19 dial metrics determined by CDPHE.

Key considerations include the criteria listed on Montrose County's COVID-19 color dial found at <https://www.montrosecountyjic.com/covid-19-data-dashboard/>, updated daily (most notably the percent positivity rate, cases per County population, and hospital census).

All MCSD elementary (grades PK-5) and secondary schools (grades six through twelve) will begin the semester in the attached Red column, with the exception of Olathe Middle High School (OMHS). In order to move from the Red to Orange columns, the JIC COVID-19 dial metrics must remain consistent for a minimum of two weeks. Starting January 5th, OMHS will begin 100% in-person, all other secondary schools will remain in hybrid (with increased in-person support for vulnerable student populations), and all elementary schools will continue 100% in-person. The MCSD 100% Online program will continue through the end of the school year.

Families with grade six through twelve special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and students struggling with in-home internet access should expect to hear from secondary schools during the week of January 5th, 2021 regarding increased in-person instructional support.

Please continue to visit the MCSD COVID School Dashboard located at www.mcsd.org to view updated daily numbers of COVID positive school individuals and quarantine numbers by district and site, along with the JIC dashboard for updated color level metrics. These two sites will drive the level of in-person operations at MCSD schools through the second semester.

MCSD needs your help to move the dial metrics from Red to Orange; stay safe by wearing a mask, exercising social distance, washing your hands, staying home if you are sick, and taking viral precautions seriously.



Yes, WE'RE
OPEN

**It's Your Business!
Let's Grow Together.
Advertise with
The Montrose Mirror**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO AVALANCHE INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-ACCIDENT SUMMARY-On Dec. 18 A solo skier (Skier 1) was buried and killed in an avalanche on the northeast end of the Anthracite Range, in an area locally referred to as Friendly Finish. On the ridge prior to descending, Skier 1 spoke with another group of two skiers (Skiers 2 and 3) about their respective descent plans. Skiers 2 and 3 completed their descent and returned to their parked snowmobile, only to find Skier 1's snowmobile still

parked without any sign of Skier 1. Skier 2 and 3 snowmobiled to a place where they could get a view of Skier 1's planned descent route and they saw a fresh avalanche. They skied up to the scene of the avalanche, and located Skier 1 with a transceiver search. They extricated Skier 1, but he tragically did not survive the event. Local volunteers and Crested Butte Search and Rescue facilitated the recovery and extrication. Our sincere condolences to all the friends and family of the victim.

Accident Summary-PRELIMINARY: Two

backcountry skiers were reported overdue on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 19. The pair had planned to ski in an area locally known as the Battleship, southeast of Ophir Pass. In the dark from a helicopter, rescuers could see a large avalanche and ski tracks.

The two skier were later found buried in the avalanche debris. San Juan County Search and Rescue and other agencies recovered the bodies on Dec. 20. Our sincere condolences to all the friends and family of the victims.

'60 IN 60' CAMPAIGN HELPS PARTNERS WEST HELP YOUTH

Special to the Mirror

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

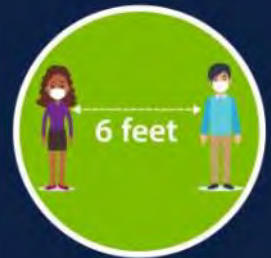
Give the gift of change by donating in another's name and we'll send them a lovely card announcing their gift. Partners Mentoring serves hundreds of children in Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties by providing oneto one mentoring, life skills, and activities at no charge. Our goal is to sign up 60 people in 60 days for the monthly giving campaign.



Wear
your
mask



Wash
your
hands



Watch
your
distance

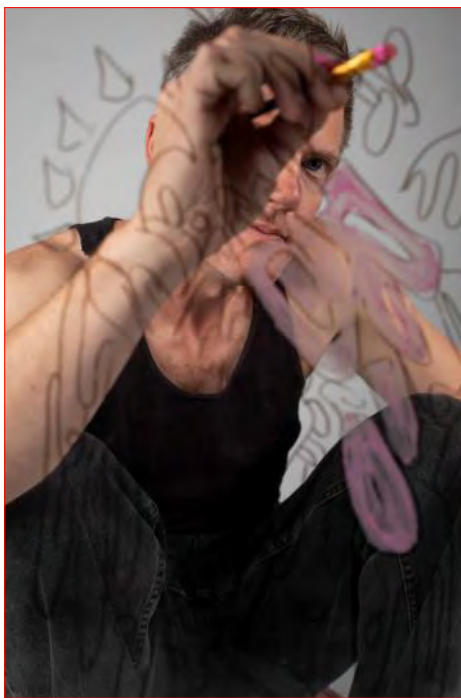
**Thank you for doing your
part to keep CO safe!**



ISSUE 295 Dec. 21, 2020

ART & SOL

LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: WILLIS TOONS



Drevon Phaos at work. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-In a year where people have been divided and forced to distance, I believe music and art are more important than ever. These are things that bring people together, and they are much needed after all we have been through and continue to go through this year and who knows how much longer.

It occurred to me that it would be a good thing to spotlight local artists from time to time, to bring light to them and their work, and allow the community to see and



Phaos with students. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

support them at a time where it is much needed. This is my first spotlight and the first artist is Drevon Phaos, of Willis Toons, LLC.

Phaos said while he started drawing at the age of five, "At the age of eight, my parents gave me a book that changed my life. It was a book of Boston Subway Graffiti Art. The characters painted alongside the lettering excited me."

He landed in Montrose in the Summer of 2019. "I fell in love with the town immediately. I enjoy the landscape and the people in it. I would love to see more creative avenues for creatives. We are in the be-

ginning stages of forming a monthly Creative Meet Up. This will be a place where Montrose artists can gather and share ideas, projects, processes and more. A place where we can explore ways the arts can help the families of Montrose. If you would like to get involved email us at willistoonsinaction@gmail.com," he said.

Now in his 40's, Phaos classifies himself as a Modern Cartoon Artist. His influences range from The Simpsons and Kim Possible to Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali, embracing the colors, styles, and symbolism of the 80's and 90's.

When asked about the importance of art he said, "Art can heal hearts and bring joy. I see a blank sheet of paper and pencils as endless possibilities. It allows my imagination to run free. It gives the ability to communicate how I am feeling. It gives me a way to escape. Art can also educate people on how to problem solve in a creative manner. Learn how to think outside the box." Phaos is the Founder and Lead Artist of Willis Toons, LLC, who's mission is to "Inspire Artist Impact." He currently teaches private art lessons at Precedence Music Academy (512 E. Main Street), and just launched a Patreon Art Membership page dedicated to helping families in need (https://www.patreon.com/willis_toons).

You can find his and other artists work on his social media, @willistoons on Facebook and Instagram, as well as contact him via social media or call direct at 970-234-8294.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: RECOGNITION

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED AS HOSPITAL SUPERHERO



Megan McBrayer, Infection Preventionist at Montrose Memorial Hospital, has been named a Colorado Hospital Superhero by the Colorado Hospital Association. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE— Megan McBrayer, Infection Preventionist at Montrose Memorial Hospital, has been recognized by the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) as a Colorado Hospital Superhero.

Montrose Memorial Hospital nominated Megan McBrayer as its Colorado Hospital Superhero for her key role in ensuring Montrose Memorial Hospital maintains a safe environment for the community, staff

and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The nomination states, "Through COVID, Megan McBrayer has tirelessly led our organization...With a level head, focus on best practice, and a listening ear, she has earned the respect of her colleagues, providers, the community and is highly respected by all those who work with her. Our organization and our community is fortunate to have such a dedicated leader guiding us through this time."

With the Colorado Hospital Superhero campaign, the CHA and American Sentinel University (ASU) are honoring extraordinary employees from hospitals around Colorado for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has introduced unimaginable challenges for health care workers who have endured the brunt of the pandemic from the beginning. This recognition honors those individuals who have gone above and beyond for their patients and communities as Colorado Hospital Superheroes. They have exhibited superhero traits during these difficult times, such as courage, a strong moral code, a fighting spirit and mental toughness.

"The employees at all of our hospitals have stepped up in a big way to care for our communities during this pandemic," said Chris Tholen, CHA president and CEO. "We as Coloradans owe our hospital workers a debt of gratitude, and through this program, CHA hopes to convey a small fraction of its appreciation for our superheroes on the front lines and behind the scenes."

As part of this recognition, each honoree will receive a special gift from CHA and the program sponsors ASU, Aya Healthcare and Corvel. These superheroes will also be entered into a drawing for a transferable, full-tuition scholarship for an advanced health care degree from ASU. CHA will be honoring these superheroes at a virtual appreciation event in early 2021. For a list of honorees, visit the CHA website.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

TOY DRIVE FOR HAVEN FOSTER CARE KIDS



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-The 7th Judicial District Community Corrections Board and clients of Advantage Treatment Centers raised \$740 with a Toy drive for Haven House foster kids to help buy gifts. The Toy Drive also received gifts totaling \$350, for a grand total of \$1,090. Clients donated a total of \$230 for the gifts, wrapped them, and delivered them to Haven House to be distributed to the kids.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AG CONFERENCE GOES VIRTUAL



Based in Africa and New Mexico, keynote speaker Allan Savory is an internationally recognized farmer and change agent whose paradigm shifting ideas on holistic management have been implemented worldwide on 32 million acres. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-The Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is going virtual Jan. 22-23, 2021.

Held online for the first time in its nine year history, the forum will bring together farmers, ranchers, and agricultural advocates to benefit from networking and agribusiness workshops focused on innovative soil, crop, livestock, and financial management practices.

Live Q&A sessions, a film screening and virtual happy hour continue the conference tradition of providing informal networking and dialogue opportunities. Sponsors and vendors will be showcased in virtual rooms. Registration enables flexible and long-term access to all workshops recorded via the online platform.

Facing stress from ongoing drought conditions, challenging labor issues, and the need to adapt to the Covid crisis, the theme of the 2021 Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is, "Ag Management that Works: People, Place, Planet."

The sessions highlight successful production practices that focus on how agriculture can be profitable and continue to feed the world, while stewarding the planet's ecosystems. Farmers, ranchers, ag-students, gardeners, and those interested in food issues will find sessions of interest.

"We are using this year's need to go virtual as an opportunity to not only learn from local and state experts but to also tap into a couple of international speakers we could not bring otherwise," says conference chair Harrison Topp.

Based in Africa and New Mexico, keynote speaker Allan Savory is an internationally recognized farmer and change agent whose paradigm shifting ideas on holistic management have been implemented worldwide on 32 million acres. He offers hope for humanity by outlining how agriculture can shift from being a contributor to climate change to playing a significant role in combating it through food security while regenerating communities, the environment and economies. Savory received the Buckminster Fuller Institute's award for work that has, "significant potential to solve humanity's most pressing problems," and Australia's International Bankers award, "for the person doing the most for the environment on a global scale." His keynote will address the crucial role holistic decision-making plays in the production of food through the complexity of institutions, nature and economies.

Livestock producers can explore how to increase stocking rates, profitability, soil health and biodiversity even in drought conditions, with Ian Mitchell-Innes of South Africa. He shares his years of experi-

ence in the session, "Utilizing Nature's Energy to Achieve Animal Performance." He describes how to efficiently use land and nature's solar panel to create diversity and stability in an operation.

Richard Perkins joins the conference from 59° N Sweden to share how key management and financial strategies can be profitable and debt free despite challenging economics, climate and regulations. His session, "Making Small Farms Work" details how sales, marketing, and a diversified set of enterprises can be integrated using key decision-making and financial planning tools.

Additional sessions focus on soil health, irrigation methods, dealing with climate change impacts, seed issues, and a workshop on pollinators related to creating regenerative food systems. ENGAGE and the Valley Food Partnership invite participants to weigh in on exciting regional food system developments.

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union hosts a panel discussion on the rise of heritage grains and the cooperative grain supply chain with special guest Liz Carlisle, author of the Lentil Underground. For a complete list of topics visit: foodfarmforum.org.

The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, ENGAGE, the Valley Organic Growers Association, Coldharbour Institute, and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, enrolled students, and beginning farmers and ranchers through an application process. To register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call Amanda Laban, Event Coordinator at (781) 264-1882.



THE OTHER SIDE OF CHRISTMAS...



The Author, as a youth.

By Richard Harding

OLATHE-Being born in the mid 50's into a large Catholic family was definitely an experience. I was number seven of eight, and the baby of the family for four years, accidents do happen!

My earliest memory of Christmas was a year I got a shiny new fire truck from Santa, or so I thought at the time. A knock at the door brought a different kind of surprise. I must have been about 6 at the time, my mother, holding my little brother, answered a knock at the door. A lady, holding a baby, and her husband were welcomed into the living room.

I got a sister I never knew about for Christmas, a brother-in-law, and to top it all off, I'm an UNCLE!

Things were kind of normal for a couple of years until a lady in church tapped my mother on the shoulder one Sunday and asked if she had ever considered putting me in commercials. Next thing I knew I was sitting in front of a camera just talking

to a nice man about all kinds of things. My big brother had gone off to the Air Force and all anybody could talk about was a bunch of pigs in a bay someplace.

My big brother, John, he was my hero! He was a football star and defended me against three other sisters who were really, really mean! Christmas just wasn't the same without him, but, that guy that I talked to in front of the camera picked me to be in a TV Commercial! I got to play being a big brother in a family moving into their new house with aluminum siding! Anybody who is old enough to remember when commercials were only played at the beginning and ending of a TV show, may remember; Alcoa Presents – The Ben Casey Show. There I was, just 8 years old and making more money than my father!

Well, one thing led to another, and, once again, Christmas took on a whole new meaning! Imagine getting every new toy that Kenner Toys made just for playing with it on camera. Seemed way better than getting a sister, at the time, and I got paid to do it, how crazy is that?

Doing commercials was kind of a regular thing until one of my really, really mean sisters hit me on the back of the head in a swimming pool and broke my front tooth, can't do commercials with a shiny silver cap on my front tooth! Being back in school with regular kids was kinda fun, except for being teased for being a movie star.

My freshman year of high school my father had a heart attack and stroke on my

15th birthday, he died two weeks later.

This would forever change both my birthday and Christmas.

When my father was a little boy, his little brother choked while stringing popcorn for a Christmas tree. We never had popcorn on our tree, but dad always made Christmas a big deal.

While searching for something to be able to grasp onto in my later years, kids grown, grandkids getting everything they could ever dream of, I found that giving was a whole lot more fun at Christmas than receiving. I found an old recipe for English Toffee a couple years back, made a few batches and surprised some unexpected friends.

Once again, one thing leads to another. I connected with some friends from 45 years ago and surprised them with my English Toffee. These folks don't want for anything, their excitement filled my heart with joy.

This year I also adopted a child and two senior citizens for Christmas, oh, and by the way, I went through two cases of butter, 30 pounds of sugar, 20 pounds of almonds and a bunch of chocolate just supplying the various departments at Delta Hospital and my other friends who have come to expect a little something from me at Christmas.

Giving, expecting nothing in return. Isn't that kind of what God is all about? He gave us his son that we celebrate at Christmas, and practicing giving has given me a whole new joy at Christmas!



A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER

SOMEWHERE, A BOT IS PLAYING MY CHRISTMAS PLAYSTATION 5



Jack Switzer, 17.

By Jack Switzer
MONTROSE-It had just started getting cold outside, and it had yet to snow for the first time, when the newest generation gaming console, the PS5 (Playstation Five) from Sony, dropped

in online stores across the globe. Friends, family, and strangers alike all flocked to their computers and web browsers to see if they could get their hands on one for themselves or as a gift for someone else. Moments later, every single one of them was disappointed. Universally, everyone who hadn't preordered a console months before was met with an out of stock notice, a mere few seconds after the online

drop. I was one of the many disappointed people, and I couldn't help but wonder what made the stock fly away so fast.

Turns out, it wasn't just the masses trying to get their hands on this new video game technology.

Technology itself wanted a piece of the action too. Behind the scenes, scalpers had been preparing in silence to use an automated system of online bots to immediately purchase every single ps5 worldwide. Scalper groups that had once used these bots to purchase new shoes, repurposed them to actively target these new consoles so they could re-sell them for nearly three times the price, if not more. Ps5's selling for \$499 at retail price were being re-sold for \$1,500 a piece by scalpers.

Still, this is not the first time in history scalpers have mercilessly attacked online

retail sites with bots like this, it has been going on for ten plus years, an eternal war between scalper groups in which whoever gets the most of a sought-after item wins. These groups will spend hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars on private internet servers that are closer to the server of a retailer website, so that their bots may purchase the stock a mere one second faster than the other scalpers.

The retailers themselves however, are either doing very little to fight off these bots, or flat out refuse to use their resources to shut them out.

For example Walmart, who despite being attacked online by people outraged by the bots buying out the new ps5 console, ignored the voices of the people and let the bots do it a second time when the second wave of consoles was dropped during black Friday sales.

The Mirror:

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



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CRAB CRACK 2020: STAY IN YOUR SHELL EDITION



Event Mascot Camy Crab delivers dinner to King Crab Sponsor Western Slope Orthopaedics. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) held its Sixth Annual Crab Crack fundraiser, presented by Elevate Internet, on Nov. 20, 2020.

The event this year, however, was the first ever "Stay in your Shell" edition of Crab Crack in order to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. A "Stay in your Shell" Crab Crack means the BCBGC delivered a land and sea feast of crab, shrimp, Andouille sausage, corn, potatoes, and dessert with wine (with all the eating supplies you could need) right to our sponsors doors! That way sponsors could enjoy a wonderful meal in a comfortable and safe manner.

Thank you to all of our sponsors who helped make this event a success: Presenting Sponsor - Elevate Internet; King Crab Sponsors - Timberline Bank, TEI Rock

Drills, Corks Fine Wines & Spirits, Next Home Virtual-Shawn Carroll, Mike & Phoebe Benziger, Montrose Oral Surgery Dr. Cayo & Dr. Boisen, Western Slope Orthopaedics, and Academy Mortgage; Snow Crab Sponsors - Polyone/Gordon Composites, Think Sharp! Consulting, Bank of Colorado, Alpine Bank, WealthSource Partners-Bob Tesch, American Family Insurance-The Dieter Agency, Cedar Point Health, Stryker & Company Inc., and the City of Montrose.

Thank you to all those who helped behind the scenes to make this unique Crab Crack possible: The Liquor Store, Camp Robber, Seattle Fish, Alexander Orthodontics, Touch of Care, and Black Canyon Tickets. All proceeds from the event went toward operating expenses for the BCBGC.

For more information on the BCBGC, please visit www.bcbgc.org.



Presenting Sponsor, Elevate Internet, mascot Gigfoot delivers dinner to the home of King Crab Sponsor Montrose Oral Surgery, Dr. Cayo and Dr. Boisen. Courtesy photo.



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 week-end 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

Jan. 22-23-The Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is going virtual Jan. 22-23, 2021. To register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call Amanda Laban, Event Coordinator at (781) 264-1882.



Wash your hands

Thank you for doing your part
to keep CO safe!

WHEN YOU NEED THE BEST

CALL TODAY!

970-240-1872

GREG'S TREE SERVICE

Pruning
Tree Trimming

Removals
Stump Grinding

WE DONATE ONE FREE TREE JOB EACH
YEAR TO SOMEONE WHO TRULY NEEDS IT.
CONTACT THE MONTROSE MIRROR
TO APPLY AT 970-275-0646.

FULL-SERVICE TREE COMPANY • PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED • FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

At right, Deb captured this picture of a beautiful black and white Northern Goshawk that was visiting her yard all week.



At left, look closely... the 'skeleton crew' hanging out near Ophir.

A black bear is sitting on a wooden bench, holding a tablet computer. The bear is looking at the screen. In the background, there is a mountain landscape with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The sky is blue with white clouds.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

**THE
MONTROSEMIRROR**
Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646