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CITY TO HOST VIRTUAL WORK SESSION, MEETING, HUB SKETCH PLAN REVIEW



ONLINE NEWS

Graphic from the sketch plan for the HUB at Montrose Crossing. Courtesy image.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-On Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, Montrose City Council will host a <u>virtual work session</u> at 10 a.m. On Tuesday, Jan. 5, City Council will host a <u>regular, virtual meeting</u> at 6 p.m.

Also this coming week, the City of Montrose Planning Commission <u>will meet virtually</u> on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 5 p.m., to review and discuss 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.

WORK SESSION The work session agenda

Continued pg 10

DOUBLE BARREL TACO COMPANY BRINGS TASTE OF THE SOUTHWEST TO MAIN STREET MONTROSE

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Another Taco place in Montrose? That is a question owner Ray has had, but what Double Barrel Taco Company (345 Main Street) offers is different from what you will find elsewhere. Ray classifies what they do as a Barbeque-Mexican fusion. And the menu is simple, with a few sides and nine different tacos. Smoked Brisket, Blackened Shrimp, Smoked Sausage are just a few of the choices to make your mouth water. All the sauces and queso are made fresh in house as well.

Double Barrel Taco Company just opened their doors a week ago and response has been good, with more people coming by to try their offerings, many



Street corn and Jail Bird taco. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

already becoming repeat customers. I stopped in and had the Jail Bird, which is Smoked Chicken, Shredded Lettuce, Shredded Cheddar, Tomatillo Cream and Pico, and a piece of Street Corn, and while I admit I am no foodie with a sophisticated pallet, it was absolutely delicious. No doubt I will be going back to try more of their offerings.

Ray said this is a starting point, that they hope to grow and by summer move to a bigger location, hopefully with a patio. You can find them on Facebook <u>@doublebarreltaco</u>, check out their website at <u>http://www.doublebarreltaco.com</u>, or give them a call at 970-901-7367. You can currently dine in or carry out and can order online from <u>their website</u>.

Get out and give them a try; you're going to love it.



Regional News Briefs! Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!

<u>Montrose City Youth Council</u> <u>Buries Time Capsule!</u> <u>Bob Cox:</u> <u>I'd Rather Be Fishing!</u>

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: EMPLOYMENT

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROTECT THE PEOPLE, NOT SCRATCH BACKS OF THE CHOSEN FEW

Montrose City Planning Commissioners and Council Members:

Private property rights and the ability to develop property are something that needs to be respected as long as they are done in accordance with well thought out public comprehensive plans and complement existing housing developments, without creating the potential for severe traffic issues. Developers should be expected to pay for all infrastructure costs without taxpayer subsidies and not be perceived as benefiting from a "good old boy" relationship with those who serve the greater public good.

We understand that objecting to the Hub at Montrose Crossing project might be perceived as a "not in my back yard" complaint, however, we would welcome a single family housing project that would be a much better match with the existing community and not cause traffic issues that high density apartment complexes would incur. Our property values and quality of life should be as important to the city council and planning commission as the need for work force housing. Our taxes should not be used to subsidize something that will eventually decrease the potential taxable value of our property.

Work force housing is a problem that needs to be addressed. We feel that there are other locations more suitable to spend our tax dollars to achieve this goal. Government is supposed to protect the people and not scratch the backs of the chosen few. Please consider the long term effects of this project in this particular location and allow a more suitable and complimentary PUD for this developer and land owner.

Respectfully, Pete and Kristy Jouflas



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION SERVICE BEGINS JAN 4

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The city's annual Christmas tree pickup begins Jan. 4 and continues through Jan. 15. City crews will take pick up requests beginning Jan. 4. From Monday, Jan. 11, through Friday, Jan. 15, the city will conduct a street by street, citywide sweep to collect trees.

Trees must be placed behind the curb in front of your home. Frosted trees or trees with tinsel, tree stands, and/or ornaments will not be collected. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 970.240.1480.



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4H ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR 2021

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Colorado State University Tri-River Area Extension has announced that 4H Enrollment for the 2021 year is now open through Feb. 1 for returning members and May 1for new members. Important for returning members **you want to meet the deadline as late fees may apply**. Those who need assistance getting signed up please contact TRA 970-249-3935. Look for few new projects offered this year in the project list<u>. Click to learn</u> <u>more.</u>

At right, courtesy image CSO TRA Extension.



TESTING UPDATE

Effective January 1st, 2021, COVID-19 tests are available through primary care providers in Montrose County.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms Please call your primary care provider.

If you do not have a primary care provider

Please contact one of the medical providers listed on www.montrosecountyjic.com/testing.

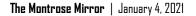
If you are part of a work site outbreak

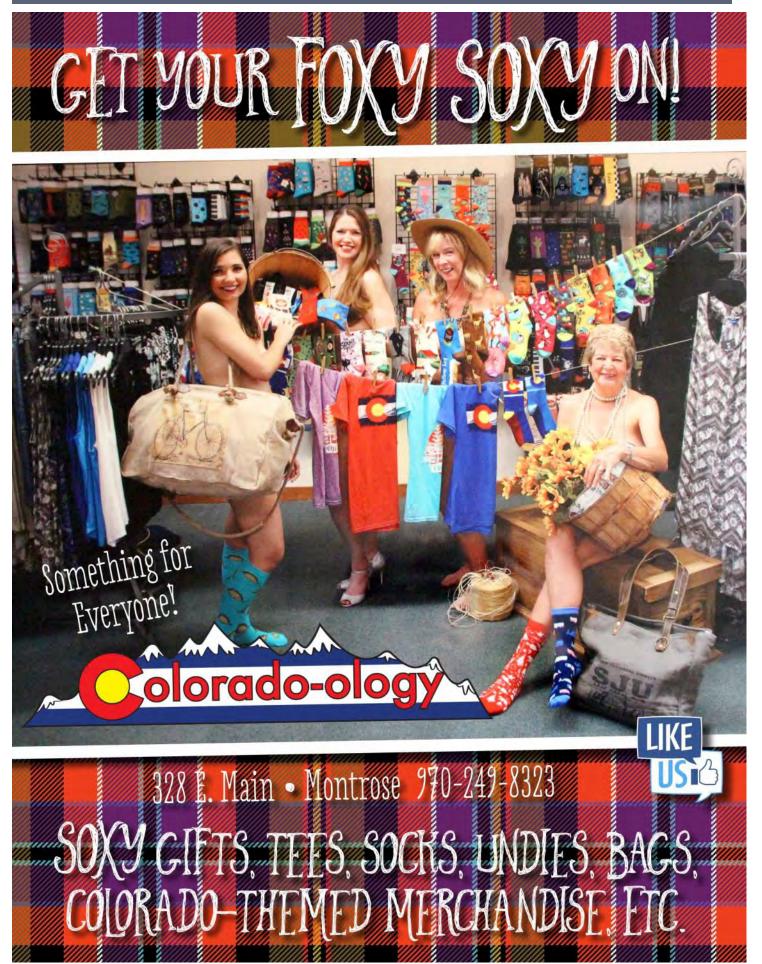
Please contact your supervisor or human resources office for details about testing.

Need help or have questions?

Call the Public Health Hotline at (970) 252-4545 or visit www.montrosecountyjic.com







OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONCERNED ABOUT HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING

Editor:

I am writing about my concerns about The Hub at Montrose Crossing. We attended a meeting 2 years ago where Matt Miles lied to us about keeping the area like Spruce Point, he would make the Cobble Creek people happy, he wouldn't do apartments, and we would be pleased with what he did. APPARENTYLY NOT!!!

The amount of Apartments, houses, etc that he wants to put there is ridiculous. An entry on Cobble Drive. NO!!!!! And the City is giving him 2 million dollars, Wow I want to be in the good old boys club. Who authorized that???? Don't you think all the small businesses that are struggling to make it in this Covid era could use that money more wisely. Matt Miles has numerous other projects that apartments would fit much better in their neighborhoods. Waterfall Canyon, etc.

Russell Stover, Penney's, other businesses have closed, where is this big need for so many units in Montrose. What about over by Colorado Outdoors? There's plenty of room there????

If he wants this so bad, then he can make the entry on Chipeta Dr., Not Cobble Dr.

We are writing because we moved to Cobble Creek and enjoy a smaller community. Maybe we should look into some of the legalities of kick back the City and Planning Commission are receiving from this.

Thank you for your time.

Joel and Peggy Murphy, Montrose



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CITY TO HOST VIRTUAL WORK SESSION, MEETING, HUB SKETCH PLAN REVIEW From pg 1

states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/WorkSession-1-4-21...The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website,

www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970." Discussion items will include Montrose Arroyo Flood Mitigation Project Background; Public Safety Complex Contract Amendment Recommendation; the 2021 City Owned Property Disposal List; and 2021 Vehicle Purchase Recommendations.

A report from the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning is included in the <u>work session packet</u>. Items to be considered in upcoming city meetings and work sessions include: Jan. 5-Lynch Addition Annexation Hearing; a new fermented malt beverage license application for Hangin' Tree Plaza; Jan. 19-Contract award for the Amphitheater CM/GC; Crack Seal Machine Purchase; 2021 Annexation Plan; Woodgate Realignment Project.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be

held electronically and can be accessed at: https://tinyurl.com/CityCouncil-1-5-21." Council will consider an application for a new Fermented Malt Beverage license at 17250 S. Highway 550 for Hangin Tree Travel Plaza LLC, doing business as Hangin Tree Travel Plaza, for consumption off the licensed premises. Council will consider approving Ordinance 2521 on second reading, for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II.

Also to be considered are Ordinance 2522 on second reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition II as an R-4, High Density District; and Ordinance 2523 on second reading, for the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition; and Ordinance 2524 on second reading, zoning of the Rainbow Trout Addition as a P, Public District.

Council will hold a hearing on the annexation of the Lynch Addition; consider adopting Resolution 2021-01, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Lynch Addition; and will hold a hearing and consider approving Ordinance 2525 on first reading, for the annexation of the Lynch Addition. Council will consider approving Ordinance 2526 on first reading, zoning the Lynch Addition as a B-2 Highway Commercial District. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

PLANNING COMMISSION

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, the City of Montrose Planning Commission meets virtually at 5 p.m. to continue to review and discuss 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 Planning Commission Agenda states, "Due to our current circumstances, the City Council Chambers are currently closed to the public. The public can attend the meeting virtually. JOIN BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: https:// us02web.zoom.us/s/86984213546 JOIN BY PHONE (Dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 813 4217 1101 International numbers available: https:// us02web.zoom.us/u/kCiFcWrp."

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CATTLE AND FORAGE GROWER UPDATE

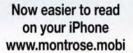
Special to the Mirror REGIONAL-The Update, a program for producers in Western Colorado, will be held virtually Jan. 26 and 28 from 10am to 12pm. Registration will be free. Program topics include rancher perspectives on wolf reintroduction and outcomebased grazing as well as expert talks on leasing, marketing, wildfire, agronomy and weather. For more immediate information please contact Seth Urbanowitz at 970-874-2197.

2021 WESTERN COLORADO SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE

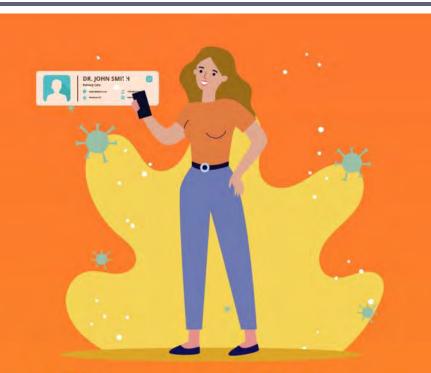
Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Western Colorado Soil Health Conference will be held virtually this year on Feb. 11.⁻ As pressure on agricultural production increases, soil health practices can insure that agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability. <u>Click here to learn</u> <u>more »</u>

Virtual Conference hosted via Zoom Colorado Mesa University, University Center, 1100 North Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501









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

¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!





OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONCERNED ABOUT TAX INCREASE DUE TO HUB HOUSING PROJECT



Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!

Right, Crown of an Avalanche that killed a backcountry skier. Courtesy image.

Editor:

I live on the east side of Montrose but am concerned about raised taxes I will need to pay because of the Matt Miles housing HUB. I estimate approximately 500 cars (twice a day) will be driven on Chipeta all the way to West Main Street. The County will need to widen Chipeta and who pays for that? ALL taxpayers in Montrose.

Donna King Granere, Montrose



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Page 14

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS ACROSS COLORADO

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY OFFICIALS USING COVID LOCKDOWN TO HIDE FROM CITIZENS

Editor:

FELLOW CITIZENS OF MONTROSE---Happy New Year. Our town is under a form of lockdown. That is important because it reminds us all of the dangers of this virus. Most masks do not even slow down covid which is a 'filterable' virus. "Filterable' means that the virus will

sail right through filters. But apparently the masks do well for us regarding the flu virus. At least the Japanese think so as they wear them all winter long.

So the unintended consequences of all this might treat us well.

Several months ago I attended a public meeting in Montrose. There were at least two hundred people in attendance. The attendance was recorded and apparently there was no covid transmitted as none of us ever heard a whisper. Virtually no one had a mask on.

This brings me to the issue of this 'opinion'. My personal opinion about this HUB thing is of no concern in this discussion. My opinion aired here is about the undemocratic, autocratic, belligerent and preemptory (in fact bullying) manner in which the city council behave and treat a significant portion of their constituents and my fellow citizens.

Just why, is it that when a significant number of citizens from Cobble Creek want an open public meeting with the city manager and his city council that it 'cannot' be done because of covid restrictions? Where there is a will there is a way!

Just why, when several months ago a BIG meeting was held in a confined space without masks, is a town hall type meeting that has been requested, has been denied?

Just why, can't there be an open meeting when there is a 'huge' venue available for such and open public forum where social distancing and the citizens could be easily accommodated? (the fairgrounds) Just why, is this issue not important enough for proper knowledgeable deliberation by all parties?

Just why are the city manager and his council hiding behind the covid lockdown? Just why, are the three recently elected councilors, who pledged OPENNESS, AC-COUNTABILITY, ACCESSABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY permitting the two others (incumbents) to foist this baloney off on their fellow citizens? Is it because once elected, these councilors are no longer 'fellow citizens'? Just why, is there such a 'rush to approval'? Is haste more important than a more deliberate equitable approach? Would it not be better if the council could at least appear to be fair and just?

To be quite blunt the answer is, "It is because the fix is in, the decision has been made" and these socialist publicly elected and paid for councilors don't give a darned what the public thinks, or what is best for the community nor do they want to be challenged on this or any other matter. AND THE COVID LOCKDOWN IS A MOST CONVENIENT EXCUSE, INDEED to keep the public from putting forth their concerns and reasons in a public forum for all of Montrose to hear and for the attendees at the forum to see their elected officials (flunkies), their less than adequate public officials,

SQUIRM!!!!!!!!!! Like worms on a hook. The covid lockdown is supposed to protect the public, NOT MAKE THEM VIC-TIMS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT!!!!! To the city council: "ask your county if you can use the indoor arena at the fairgrounds for the open public meeting." To the residents of Cobble Creek, "Get a petition going for the citizens of Montrose to recall the entire city council! Have it ready for the sixth with all of Cobble Creek signed on. To the body politic of Montrose: start to have public demonstrations every time these 'yard birds' on the council and your employee Bill Bell try to spend city money on gifts to so called developers, MURA and the like.

And again to Cobble Creek---get started NOW because this simple six you call your city council that you are trying to negotiate with KNOW IT ALL! They know what they want and if they have their way, and they will if you do not stop them, they will have their way.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



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, deaning supplies, and disposable masks and gloves. Have disposable protective gear available for the caregiver.

Centralize medical information.

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

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.

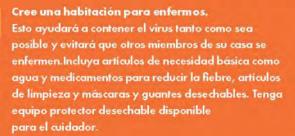
PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



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:



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. 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.

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



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

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.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL SHOULD BE ASHAMED, CITIZENS ALARMED

Editor:

After carefully checking out several Colorado towns on the Western Slope for retirement purposes a few years ago, it was an easy decision for us - Montrose! It is the right size, people are friendly, the scenery is gorgeous, has four seasons and more importantly, follows a proven comprehensive plan to control growth. The Chipeta corridor appealed to us with its pastoral surroundings yet convenient proximity to downtown.

Finally, we moved from South Dakota to Cobble Creek last August. Immediately, people we met in public areas - when discovering where we live - expressed their sympathy and concern for what the City Council and Matt Miles are planning for this area. Many of them lived or still live in and around other subdivisions built by Miles and stated that because of his failure to provide the promised upkeep to their neighborhoods, they have experienced great loss of home value. Sadly, in the case of the Chipeta corridor, loss of home value is not the only thing residents can expect. It has been historically proven that building medium to high density rental housing affects neighborhoods by increasing crime, noise and light pollution, plus overcrowded roads that will undoubtedly cause road rage and accidents.

Residents, at least those who can afford to, will move. Usually those moving are the upward mobility type that cities can ill afford to lose.

And for all these "gifts" from Mr. Miles, we - the taxpayers- will pay him over \$2.3 million dollars? And this unprecedented incentive was approved in the 2021 budget before being voted on by the City Council? Seriously?

A thorough investigation of the highly questionable, dangerous, immoral and possibly illegal actions by the Council and Matt Miles is sorely warranted. You should be ashamed, Mayor and Council! Is this the heritage you wish to leave behind from your years of service? Service that your code of ethics states should first be for the welfare for all residents, and not wealthy special interests! You should be alarmed, Montrose Citizens! Remember this during the next city election. Perhaps though we should not wait so that they have time to do more damage to our beautiful Montrose. Recall them now!

Sher Edstrom, Montrose

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MONTROSE YOUTH CITY COUNCIL BURIES NEW TIME CAPSULE



Members of the Montrose Youth Council collected items for a new time capsule.

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-Back in October the City of Montrose held a ceremony to dig up and open a 50-year-old time capsule buried outside of City Hall. The Montrose Youth City Council has been busy over the past couple months running around getting items to fill another capsule, and on Dec. 28, 2020 they buried a new one to be opened in 2070.



Youth Councilors add items to the capsule prior to the ceremony.

The Montrose Youth City Council would like to thank all the local businesses that donated items for the capsule, as well as public works and facilities.

Montrose Public Works brought in some newer technology that allowed them to fuse the caps on the new capsule, so it is perfectly water-tight, unlike the last capsule, where several items were damaged. Gunnison Clamp of the City youth council said it has been exciting to work on the



Montrose Public Works employees helped bury the capsule. Photos by Paul Arbogast.

project, and he looks forward to being around when it is opened in 50 years. "It is satisfying to see if finally put in the ground."

The Church Down the Street seen through the eyes of a reporter. Readers will:

he Church Down the Street, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

The Church Down the Street contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

- · See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- · Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book. The Church Down the Street, is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.

> GAIL MARVEL Montrose Author & Reporter



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED AS CURRENTLY CONCEIVED

To the Editor:

On Monday afternoon, December 7, I passed the unnerving scene of yet another multi-vehicle crash at the intersection of U.S. Highway 550 and Chipeta Road. It was a striking and timely reminder of one of the most important reasons the proposed Hub at Montrose Crossing should not be approved as it is currently conceived.

The Access Control Plan for US 550 in South Montrose (adopted jointly in 2019 by the city, county, and CDOT) recognizes that the intersection may "in the future" require a signal or other restrictions if "safety or operational issues develop," and anticipates that the county and city will cooperate in the funding of any resulting project. Such a project surely will cost millions of taxpayer dollars and will require prolonged process, planning, and construction.

Common sense argues that the proposed addition of 500 new households on the southern segment of Chipeta Road would increase the risk of collisions at the 550– Chipeta intersection, a crossing that city engineer Scott Murphy has called "very challenging." The Hub would aggravate that challenge to a critical degree and require urgent action.

Mitigation at the 550–Chipeta intersection would be only one of many infrastructure burdens to result from building a 500-unit apartment complex nearby on Chipeta Road. Certainly the developer of such a large project should be required to help fund the necessary infrastructure improvements, particularly those that affect public safety. However, rather than secure such a contribution from the developer, the Montrose City Council has offered him \$2.35 million in no-strings incentives, a gift that dwarfs any precedent.

As a result, taxpayers would in fact fund a part of this private real estate venture, in addition to paying for all of its impact on public services, public safety, schools, and roadways. As proposed, the cost to the community from this development would be out of proportion to any conjectural benefit. At the very least, the city and county should calculate and budget the necessary expenditures up front and make them fully known to citizens prior to further discussion of the project. If a residential community at the proposed Hub site is unavoidable, it should be on a smaller scale consistent with established residential patterns and sustainable infrastructure growth in the neighboring area. In addition to its impact on services and roadways, a high-density apartment project is inappropriate for the following reasons:

-Its scale will exceed the expected need for apartment-style housing, meaning that rents will be lower than projected, construction quality and maintenance will be short-changed, and the complex will soon become a blot on the landscape. -The proposal is in conflict with the city's comprehensive plan, particularly by its incompatibility with nearby land use and its failure to include the required transition to established neighborhoods. The developer makes a mockery of the very concept of comprehensive planning with his intention to exploit a questionable zoning exemption to the fullest. -Because the Hub as proposed would be massively higher in density than the adjacent neighborhood, locating its main entrance on Cobble Drive will severely overburden a roadway designed for much lighter usage.

-Central Montrose has many locations that are well situated for apartment developments scaled to actual need. A well designed and realistically sized apartment complex could be an asset to its neighborhood and help sustain nearby property values. Apartments more central to city services, amenities, and jobs could be a boon to working families. Siting a highdensity, 500-unit project in south Montrose, on Chipeta Road, accomplishes none of that.

The center of a city is where density belongs.

The outskirts are not the place for density that would be unreasonably high, indeed, for *any* location in Montrose.

Planning in twenty-first century cities and towns isn't done by random and unconditional zoning exemptions. That's what leads to the sort of haphazard growth that too many Western towns struggle to overcome as they strive to appeal to new residents and industries. It is not what Montrose needs at this time in its history. It is true that I live in Cobble Creek and am concerned about traffic congestion. It is true that I am concerned about the impact on property values from an incongruous, high-density project plunked down adjacent to a neighborhood that has been evolving in quite a different way. Still, my personal interest does not make any of the concerns I've expressed any less objectively valid and consequential. Please join me in asking the City Council and Planning Commission to reject the Hub project as proposed and require that any subsequent proposal for the site be aligned with the intent and spirit of the Comprehensive Plan.

You may send your concerns to asharp@ci.montrose.co.us, ideally by noon on January 6, the date of the next Planning Commission meeting on the matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Brisson, Cobble Creek

'60 IN 60' CAMPAIGN

Special to the Mirror

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

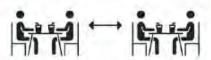
Give the gift of change by donating in another's name and we'll send them a lovely card announcing their gift. Partners Mentoring serves hundreds of children in Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties by providing oneto one mentoring, life skills, and activities at no charge.

Our goal is to sign up 60 people in 60 days for the monthly giving campaign.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RESPONSE TO 12/21 EDITORIAL: DEVELOPMENT SHOULD PAY ITS OWN WAY

Editor:

I would like to have an opportunity to respond to claims regarding Cobble Creek in the Opinion piece in the December 21st issue of The Mirror:

The Mirror's editorial author, Gail Marvel, reports receiving letters from concerned people with disparaging remarks written "to bolster their argument 'Not in my neighborhood' "

People in Cobble Creek and Spruce Point didn't initially object to Matt Miles' development, The Hub at Montrose Crossing ("HUB"). At a meeting in April 2018, Mr. Miles told 100 residents his project would resemble Spruce Point, a single family home, townhome and patio home development. We are now objecting because Mr. Miles changed the project scope dramatically to an oversized 500 unit apartment complex that doesn't even remotely blend with the surrounding area of single family homes nor adhere to the city's Comprehensive Plan. The current Spruce Point development transitions housing density from single home units to higher density townhouses with a "feathering in" that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's guiding principles

(cityofmontrose.org/document enter/ view/38908/2008-comprehensiveplan20Mb). The plan is a bit of a read, but there are eight guiding principles included in the plan. To me the principles suggest a long-term vision rather than a quick and inappropriate fix.

We have suggested an alternate plan that includes apartments with "feathering in" from single family homes to higher density developments, but Mr. Miles rejected that approach.

The editorial author also opines that we are disparaging other individuals, local neighborhoods and businesses when suggestions have been made regarding other areas that may be better suited for high density development. We have made these suggestions based on the Comprehensive Plan that was designed for our

town.

When arriving in a small town people typically look for the downtown area. A vibrant downtown is a bellwether for the area and helps attract new businesses and home buyers. We applaud Montrose downtown business owners' efforts to retain its ambiance. The Comprehensive Plan encourages development in the downtown and immediately surrounding core area. Under Land Use the Plan defines various housing densities and objectives. High density is intended for downtown and core areas. Residents and businesses located in the Colorado Outdoors project will benefit and invigorate neighborhoods on the Northside and downtown. The infrastructure is already there. The schools are closer. There was no intended slam against the Northside neighborhoods, rather an appreciation for the vision of the Colorado Outdoors project and the associated long-term investment in that part of our city.

The editorial author states that the Cobble Creek development has benefited from city infrastructure build-out. This implies that Cobble Creek received infrastructure support from the city. Not so as Cobble Creek's developers paid for their own infrastructure - roads, water, power, sewers etc. - and turned them over to the city. There was no \$2.3 million incentive. The developer paid his own way. The sewer system was intended to be reserved for the Cobble Creek and Spruce Point build-out. Now the city is allowing HUB to tie into it. That means Cobble Creek, Spruce Point and the city will need to add sewer capacity in the future. Who will pay to eventually expand that capacity? You will, the taxpayer. You'll also get stuck paying to add city and county services to the area, to widen Chipeta Road, and to upgrade intersections at West Main and West Oak Grove. I bet CDOT might help with the new stoplight at Chipeta and 550 if we're lucky. We are not against the development of

new homes or subdivisions, but development needs to pay its own way for infrastructure (see Cost Effective Growth in the Plan) and not leave a mess for the city and county taxpayers to clean up.

New development should respect existing properties. The Plan defines densities, feathering, infrastructure, open space, etc. It is a comprehensive plan. It is a matter of trust that we must adhere to it. Every neighborhood and HOA in the city and county has a vested interest in the outcome of this development. Who are your neighbors in Cobble Creek and Spruce Point?

There have been some remarks about our neighborhood being "upscale." Some imply that teachers, policemen and firemen can't afford to live here and others think that we're intolerant because we want new development to "fit in" with the character and density of our current neighborhood.

So, who lives in Cobble Creek and Spruce Point? Me. I'm a blue-collar guy and a veteran. I retired after a 36-year career in the Air Force and Department of Energy. My family and I lived in other neighborhoods in Montrose before moving to Cobble Creek.

Many folks in Cobble Creek come from backgrounds similar to mine. I figure my neighbors with the bigger and pricier houses worked longer, harder, and smarter than me. I don't hold that against them at all. Many are transplants to Montrose who wanted to live in developments where you could be active, socially involved and develop friendships. Since moving to Cobble Creek in 2006 I've met nothing but nice people. While I was circulating our objection petition I met even more. I met the young teacher and her family down the street and the deputy across the street. I haven't met any firemen yet, but I wouldn't be surprised. Respectfully,

Patrick Byrnes, Montrose

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Pictured are (L-R) Brittany Urguizo, LPN, Rafael Nieto, LPN, Behavioral Health Counselor Jed Kovach. Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Volunteers of America National Services Foundation is pleased to announce seven Volunteers of America employees in the Western Colorado region have received scholarships to further their education.

This year's awards recipients are Mary Beard, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Senior CommUnity PACE, Erin Berge, Regional Marketing Director, Elizabeth Edmonds, Regional Dietitian, Jed Kovach, Behavioral Health Counselor, Senior CommUnity Care PACE, Rafael Nieto, LPN, Valley Manor Care Center, Daniel Overmeyer, Social Worker, Senior CommUnity Care PACE and Brittany Urguizo, LPN, Valley Manor Care Center.

The purpose of the annual scholarship is to support and encourage employees to pursue learning opportunities through education and training, as this is a core value and a strategic initiative within the non-profit organization. Awards range from up to \$2,500 for training in fields including accounting, leadership or supervisory, social services, computer training and other specialties and up to \$5,000 for clinical nursing or therapy education. All awards are to be used for tuition and books related to the education or training. This year's cohort will use the scholarships in a variety of ongoing educational tracks. Mary Beard, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for Senior CommUnity Care PACE will be completing five modules for certification in Integrative and Functional Nutrition through the Academy of Nutrition And Dietetics, Commission on Dietetic Registration.

"I have a Master of Science degree in

foods and nutrition and have been working as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in the geriatric arena for 18 years," Beard said. "My goal with completing this continuing professional education is to advance my skillset for providing medical nutritional therapy to improve symptoms of chronic disease."

Erin Berge has enrolled in a Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management course for an executive certificate in Digital Marketing Strategies, which will focus on digital-centric consumer behaviors and teach methods on incorporating digital data, automation and analytics into marketing plans.

Elizabeth Edmonds will apply her scholarship to a course certified by the Commission on Dietetic Registration in Training in Obesity for Adults. This course will equip her with the knowledge and skill set necessary to help manage obesity in clients at any age and enhance her ability to practice evidenced-based counseling interventions for clients of all ages.

Jed Kovach will use his scholarship to rejoin the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for training, information, and other membership involvement. A majority of his scholarship will go towards ongoing training to sustain status as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Colorado, taking coursework to refine his clinical sills with issues related to vulnerable older adults.

Rafael Nieto received a scholarship to Colorado Mesa University to continue his education under the LPN-BSN Nursing program. His long-term goal is to become a Registered Nurse.

Dan Overmeyer will use his scholarship to



continue his education to receive his social work license.

"There are two separate examinations required; one can be done online and the other is the actual licensure exam,"

Overmeyer said. "Unfortunately there are no testing facilities in the local area and will require travel to the Eastern Slope or Salt Lake City.

"The scholarship will help with cost of the examination and travel to the required location. My long-term goal is to continue serving Volunteers of America as a Licensed Social Worker."

Brittany Urquizo received a scholarship to Colorado Mesa University to continue her education under the BSN Nursing program, which she will complete in December of 2021. Urquizo's long-term goal is to become a Registered Nurse.

Craig Ammermann, Regional Operations Director, said, "I would like to recognize each of the scholarship recipients for their drive and ambition in pursuing higher education. It is rewarding to know that as an organization, we can help our employees reach their personal and professional goals. It is a pleasure to be part of the same team, together providing quality services to meet the needs of our many residents and clients. I wish each of you success in your educational pursuits."

To qualify for a scholarship, the employee must be employed for no less than six months, be in good standing, possess a satisfactory performance review, and the education assistance requested must be work related.

Applicants must complete a detailed application packet and be recommended by a supervisor. Recipients are also responsible to work one year after graduation for Volunteers of America, stay in good standing, and remain an active working employee at a minimum of 24 hours per pay period.

UTILITY CUSTOMERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF ONGOING SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- In light of recent reports, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), two divisions within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), are alerting Coloradans to scams being perpetrated on utility consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Unfortunately, scammers haven't taken a break during this public health crisis, and utility customers may be especially vulnerable. If a utility customer receives any call threatening an immediate shutoff, it is a scam.

While most utilities have recently resumed normal collection activity, including the potential disconnection of service, they will work with any customer to arrange a payment plan that meets their circumstances.

Colorado consumers can obtain information about their specific utility provider's policies in response to COVID-19 at this link: <u>Statewide Utility Measures Undertaken in Response to COVID-19</u>.

Signs of a Scam:

Disconnection Deception: Scammers call threatening disconnection of your utility service, demanding immediate payment by prepaid cards purchased at a local retail store (or credit card, debit card, bank draft, wiring money, etc.) and insisting you call them back. This may also be done in person or via email.

Contractor Con: Scammers posing as utility workers or contractors affiliated with your utility may knock on your door claiming to be employed or hired by the utility company to read, upgrade, reset, repair, replace, or inspect your utility meter or other utility-related device.

Bogus Bills: Scammers send suspicious emails that appear to be a bill sent by your utility company, potentially featuring your utility's logo and color scheme.

How Customers Can Protect Themselves: Customers should never purchase a prepaid card to avoid service disconnection or shut off.

Legitimate utility companies do not specify how customers should make a bill payment and always offer a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail, or in person. Utilities do not demand immediate payment over the phone. Further, companies never send a single notification one hour or less before disconnection.

At this time, utilities are not sending employees into homes to read in-home meters in an effort to promote social distancing to prevent further spread of the virus. Anyone claiming otherwise is not legitimate

Do not click on any links or attachments in any email unless you have verified the sender. You may be directed to a scam website designed to steal your personal information or you might install malicious software onto your computer without ever knowing it. Utility companies typically send bills via mail, unless you have opted to receive your bill electronically.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact, should alert local law enforcement authorities immediate-

ly. The <u>Federal Trade Commission</u> is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information. The Colorado Attorney General's <u>Office Consumer</u> <u>Protection Section</u> also provides consumer protection information for victims of fraud.

The Utilities United Against Scams ("UUAS") released an alert focused on scams in the time of the COVID-19 crisis. <u>https://www.utilitiesunited.org/-/</u> media/Files/UNITED/Documents/UUASoverview-Covid-19v2.ashx

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING 970-249-8500 ANONYMOUS CALL MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- Thank you to all Delta County residents for your resilience and patience in what we can only describe as one of the most wearying years we have collectively ever endured. We are proud of the way many residents and businesses stepped up for healthcare workers, the schools, our businesses community, and all of Delta County. While we know we still have a long way to go in our fight against COVID-19, we are ending this year with a bright note; vaccines are being administered, and our numbers are starting to trend down.

We encourage everyone to PLEASE take care of yourselves and stay as healthy as possible to not only minimize the possibility of contracting COVID-19, but to protect yourself from getting the flu, and even the common cold. We know that the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in Colorado; early evidence seems to show that this mutation spreads more quickly, but that the vaccines should cover this mutation. As exhausted as we are with wearing masks, keeping distance from others, and incessantly washing our hands, it's critically important to continue with these measures even after you've been vaccinated. Delta County Health Department, in conjunction with Project Protect Promotora Network, Delta County Memorial Hospital, and Curative, Inc., will be conducting mobile COVID-19 testing on

Friday, January 8, 2021 and Saturday, January 9, 2021. Friday, January 8, the mobile test site will be located at Lion's Pavilion, near Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, from 9am– 4pm. Saturday, January 9th, the mobile test site will be located at the Delta County Fairgrounds located at 403 S. 4th St., in Hotchkiss, from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Delta County Health Department continues to administer vaccines to the priority groups in phase 1A, and will be working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to develop the local implementation of the governor's prioritization in phase 1B, which will begin as soon as phase 1A is complete. Additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines can be found at https:// covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine. Delta County reported 7 new positive cases for a total of 1561 with 231 active and 1321 recovered. We currently have 9 individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 3 additional deaths this week bringing the total to 25; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy. Delta County recently received information from the State that COVID-19 cases from the State correctional facility, located in Delta County, would now be a part of our overall case count; the numbers dating back to March have been added and will continue to be a part of our positive case count, though because it's a State run facility, we are not at liberty to provide additional information. Mental Health Assistance:

If you or someone you know feels 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. 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.



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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY DISTRIBUTES \$3 MILLION IN STATE CARES ACT FUNDS

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE- Last week, San Miguel County distributed \$3 million in additional CARES Act funding to local businesses.

From over 200 business inquiries and 135 applications, San Miguel County is pleased to share that checks were sent last week to 87 local businesses that qualified for the Severely Disrupted Business Program. The program was based on revenue losses in 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the business revenue generated in 2019.

"We wish that we could do more for our local businesses, especially those that continue to struggle with no end in sight," said County Manager Mike Bordogna. "We - 44-year-old male, resident, symptomatic, advocated for our business community and are thankful that we were able to provide the assistance that we did. This is a small step to help them hang on while we continue to fight this virus."

The county, in collaboration with Region 10, will open a Small Business Relief Program with funding from the state in order to further support eligible businesses. More details will be announced regarding this program next week. San Miguel County will continue to seek out any and all opportunities to bring financial support to

all businesses affected by the pandemic. Public Health has confirmed fourteen new positive cases of COVID-19 from test results received from December 30 through January 1. Of these cases, 8 are residents and all actively contagious cases are currently in isolation. There have been 421 total COVID cases among residents to date with 13 active cases. To learn more about the County's current COVID-19 metrics. please visit the County COVID-19 dashboard.

- 52-year-old male, resident, symptomatic, household
- 50-year-old female, resident, symptomatic, social
- social
- 35-year-old male, resident, symptomatic, community
- 32-year-old male, resident, symptomatic, household
- 31-year-old female, resident, symptomatic, community
- 30-year-old male, nonresident, symptomatic, household
- 28-year-old male, nonresident, symptomatic, household
- 27-year-old female, resident, symptomatic, travel

- 24-year-old male, nonresident, asymptomatic. social

- 22-year-old male, resident, symptomatic, workplace

- 21-year-old female, nonresident, symptomatic, travel

- 17-year-old female, nonresident, symptomatic, travel

- Male infant, nonresident, symptomatic, travel

San Miguel County will continue posting caseload updates twice a week. The next update will be published on Tuesday, January 5.

- **Five Commitments of Containment:**
- Wear a mask
- Maintain six feet of physical distance
- Minimize group size
- Wash hands frequently
- Stay home when sick and get tested

For up-to-date coronavirus information, visit: https://

www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus To sign up for the biweekly county newsletter, visit: https://mailchi.mp/ sanmiguelcountyco/smc-co-newsletter For more information surrounding the state's COVID-19 dial, visit: https:// covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/ covid-19-dial-dashboard



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

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY TO MOVE TO LEVEL ORANGE - HIGH RISK

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, due to notable decline in positive COVID-19 cases across the state, counties currently in Level Red - Severe Risk will move to Level Orange – High Risk on Monday, January 4. "Throughout this pandemic, we have had to walk a difficult line between the public health crisis and the economic crisis. In reviewing the data today, Colorado has been in a sustained decline for 13 days," said Governor Polis in a statement last night. "This is a direct result of Coloradans stepping up and taking the steps to protect themselves and others. In light of this and based on the data, I'm asking the CDPHE to move counties in Red on the dial to Orange, effective Monday, January 4, 2021."

The state's move is aligned with San Miguel County Public Health's mitigation efforts already in process. Work had begun with state representatives to move to Level Orange next week should projected declining trends hold through Saturday, January 2. Public Health is supportive of



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this decision. This move will affect most industries except for lodging, which will be determined once the data for the measurement period is complete. -Minimize gro

"The diligent work of our county residents is showing results. Since moving to Level Red - Severe Risk, we have successfully controlled an alarming spike and have seen a clear decline in positive cases across San Miguel County," said Public Health Director Grace Franklin. "The state's decision is aligned with the timing of the current measurement period ending on Saturday. We will discuss what this means for lodging during next Wednesday's meeting of the Board of County Commissioners." As a result of these developments, San Miguel County will move to Level Orange - High Risk on the morning of Monday, January 4 at 12:01 am

MST. Five Commitments of Containment: -Wear a mask

-Maintain six feet of physical distance -Minimize group size

- -Winninize group size
- -Wash hands frequently

-Stay home when sick and get tested To reference industry regulations in Level Orange – High Risk, please visit: <u>https://</u> <u>covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dialdashboard#restrictions</u>

For up-to-date coronavirus information, visit: <u>https://</u>

www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus To sign up for the biweekly county newsletter, visit: <u>https://mailchi.mp/</u> <u>sanmiguelcountyco/smc-co-newsletter</u> For more information surrounding the state's COVID-19 dial, visit: <u>https://</u> <u>covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial/</u> <u>covid-19-dial-dashboard</u>



Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!



I WOULD RATHER BE FISHING



Early in Colorado history the Native Cutthroat trout and a couple of subspecies were the only trout available to anglers. Their unique spotted skin provided some very effective natural camouflage. Photo by Bob Cox.

By Bob Cox

COLORADO-Fishing in Colorado goes as far back as history has been recorded. While little has been noted about fishing in the various studies of prehistoric Colorado, the fact is that fish have been here for a long time.

A study conducted by Patrick M. Lubinski surmised that the reason fishing is not addressed in many archaeological endeavors is likely because most of those efforts were focused on terrestrial sites and may be "the result of recovery methods or excavation location bias." In other words, these researchers spent most of their time digging in places where they were unlikely

to uncover evidence of fish. Lubinski says there are exceptions, especially in the Reservation-era ethnographies that describe the importance of fish and other riverine resources.

Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons, he included in one chapter: In these groves of the flood plain of the Colorado the Mojave and Yuma Indians once had their homes. They caught fish from the river and shared a few rabbits in the desert, but lived mainly on mesquite beans, the hearts of yucca plants, and the fruits of the cactus.

He also referred to the party catching a

large number of trout in the Uinta River and said that the trout were a welcome addition to the menu. Prior to Powell's trek, various members of the Lewis and Clark expedition made several references to catching fish to augment the menu. All that is well and good, but fishing became a part of Colorado, not just for subsistence, but also for the healthy and enticing sport described in Isaak Walton's Compleat Angler in 1653: Doubt not that angling will prove to be so pleasant that is will prove to be like virtue, a reward to itself.

The sport of fishing became one of the most popular draws to Colorado, and it started a long time ago. Colorado has more than 9,000 miles of rivers, not including a vast number of small streams that feed those rivers. There are an estimated 2,000 natural lakes within the borders of Colorado.

When John Wesley Powell wrote about his In the Gunnison and Uncompanyre drainages going fishing has always been a popular topic for discussion, and was usually considered a man's sport, but that is not necessarily an uncontested view of the sport. A good example of the "girls don't fish" group was expressed in a filler story in the June 12, 1880 edition of The Ouray Times: The reason why women have little or no success fishing is because few of them possess nerve enough to hold the

I WOULD RATHER BE FISHING From previous pg

worm between their teeth so they can use both hands to aid in getting the hook out of their back hair.

The newspapers also seemed fond of telling fishing stories. Here is one exactly as it was printed on July 8, 1882 in the Gunnison Silver Record: "Tell the weight of the largest trout you ever caught," said an eastern man to a native of Nevada. "Wal," was the answer, "I can't exactly tell as to the weight, but you folks can figure on it. *Now you know it is over two hundred miles* around this yer lake. Put that down. As I said before, I don't know the weight of the biggest fish I ever yanked out, but I did haul one up on the beach, and after I had landed him the lake fell three feet ... " These fishing tall tales were adjusted as necessary for the locale and printed in many newspapers around the country. A popular part of many older newspapers was the so-called gossip column. It was not uncommon to see snippets about fishing trips. The Altruian, a newspaper printed in Piñon, Colorado reported this on September 1, 1887: Miner Dunn and C.H. Robinson spent the 22nd fishing at Little *Red Canyon. They brought back over forty* brook trout, proving that luck was with them.

That same newspaper was not beyond adding a little editorial comment. This appeared in the June 11, 1888 edition: *Dr. Heart has been enjoying a season of fishing, suckers being quite plentiful, but 'tis said of Doc that the sucker is generally on the wrong end of the pole.*

Early in Colorado history the only trout were the native cutthroats and a couple subspecies. In a July 1881 edition of the *Gothic Miner*, it was reported that a Jersey man moved to the area (Colorado) and resolved to entertain a few friends with a trout dinner, but refused to buy some trout offered by a local fisherman because they were "full of little speckles." By that time, the man may have had other choices. By the mid 1880's Colorado was supporting about six hatcheries around the state.

There are literally hundreds of stories

about early fishing in Colorado, many of them in braggart form, telling of catching dozens or even hundreds of trout. As the state welcomed the 20th century, the people started to recognize the importance of Colorado's fish population and began taking steps to preserve and conserve it. In March of 1903 the state legislature approved Senate Bill 114, after some serious discussion about funding, it provided for the creation of prescribed seasons for game shooting and amended some existing laws. While the bill addressed game shooting extensively, it had very little regulation as to fishing, but did provide funding for the relocation of a hatchery near Durango.

In early 1900, those gossip column revelations became even more descriptive. A bold headline in the August 24, 1900 edition of the *Silverite Plaindealer* noted a fishing trip on the Gunnison River: *Mr.* and Mrs. Geo. A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Al Dutton, Chas. Armstrong and the Missess Sarah, Eva and Mabel Armstrong, George and Ed File departed Saturday for the Gunnison River near Iola for a ten days fishing, outing and camping out...

An interesting little piece in the *Plaindeal*er on July 7, 1905 may have raised a few eyebrows: *Fishing Outing*. *This forenoon a* party consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Crosby, Harry Giberson, Ed Hellstern and Misses Annie Carney, Luzie Giberson and Mabel Strout started a fishing trip on the Gunnison. Lew Starnes will join them next week.

By 1908, with more regulations being imposed, the sport of fishing was definitely catching on (no pun intended). Colorado began really seeing the commercial value of its streams, rivers and lakes. The San Juan Drug Co. in Ouray ran almost continuous ads in the local papers. Some of their wares included rods for five dollars each, trout flies for up to \$1.50 per dozen and rubber boots selling for as little as six dollars per pair.

An interesting development in Colorado law took place on Wednesday, July 28, 1909, when new amendments were made

to the game and fish laws. For that year only, residents of Colorado were not required to have a license to fish in the streams of the state, but by July of 1910 that changed. Section 2833 of the law read: No person shall shoot or engage in hunting any game, whether protected by law or not, or in fishing for any fish protected by law without first having procured a license therefore. The licenses cost one dollar and they had to be purchased at the office of the county clerk. It provided also for the hunting of small game. By late 1913, the sale of fishing and hunting licenses began funding a large portion of the Game and Fish Commission. Commissioner Shinn announced during the budget preparation hearings that he could practically put his department on a self-paying basis. He said that, because of the success of the licensing program, the department would only expend about one third of its appropriation for the year. In 1918 the state added the big game license. The resident version was a twodollar permit that had one deer coupon attached and allowed for the hunting of animals "larger than rabbits." Nonresidents had to pay a whopping \$25. This last year, perhaps because of the Covid19 pandemic, Colorado sold more than 700,000 fishing permits of various types. Today's annual fishing license costs \$35.17. Add a small game license and the cost jumps to over \$50, but the allure continues to grow. Perhaps one of the best descriptions of loving the sport comes in the synopsis of the 1959 version of the stage play Li'l Abner:

When residents of Dogpatch, USA are notified by the government that they must evacuate, they try to persuade the government that their town is worth saving. Meanwhile, Earthquake McGoon wants to marry Daisy Mae, Daisy Mae wants to marry Li'l Abner, and Li'l Abner just wants to go fishing...

NOTE: Bob Cox can be contacted by email, coxbob@charter.net and some of his other musings can be seen on his YouTube channel, coxnotes Volunteers of America

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CANTOR PRIZE WINNER MARK ORESKOVICH TO KICK OFF NEW BARDIC TRAILS POETRY CLUB ZOOM SERIES

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE ... At the urging of Joanna Spindler of the Wilkinson Public Library, the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program has joined with the library, Between the Covers Bookstore and the Telluride Arts District to host a new virtual poetry club gathering on the first Tuesday of each month this winter and spring. A Covid-sensitive continuation of the popular Talking Gourds Poetry Club meetings, we've decided to call the online series, Bardic Trails, to distinguish it from our face-to-face gatherings, which we hope eventually to resume, post-Covid.

The first Zoom meeting takes place Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson to get URL & password. Go to <u>telluridelibrary.org/events</u>

This year's Cantor Prize winner, Mark Oreskovich of Pueblo, will be the featured reader for the first half-hour or so, to be followed by a virtual Gourd Circle "open mic." Club members will get preference for the pre-event sign-up sheet. For those who like writing prompts, Rosemerry suggests *Adjust*.

Happily married to his soulmate and guru, Oreskovich says he is "lucky enough to be the dad of two lovely brilliant daughters who teach him about what life has to offer outside of his own head." In fact, he talks a lot about luck. "I'm lucky enough to have had, and to still have, people in my life who have given me undeserved love and

kindness," he adds.

While some writers feel compelled to be self-promoting and competitive in our materialist society, making their bios long lists of publications, awards and previous jobs, Oreskovich is a bit humbler. Calls himself, "A walker of dogs, a watcher of birds, a singer, a tamburitza player, a lover of poetry and all things guitar." He grew up in Pueblo. Moved to Pittsburgh and Chicago for many years. Now he's back home in Colorado and writing about "love, death, and the beautiful things you might notice when you open your eyes and look around." This will be our first Talking Gourds Poetry Club Zoom gathering as Bardic Trails. Joanna Spindler will run the Zoom meeting from the library, muting folks while Mark performs for 20 minutes or so from Pueblo. Participants can propose questions on the Chat function that can be enabled on the Zoom screen. For 10 minutes or so after Mark's reading, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and Art Goodtimes in Placerville will ask those questions of Mark.

Then the sponsors will make some brief announcements, like we usually do to start Talking Gourds. Finally, we'll move to unmuting each signed-up Gourd Circle reader in order. Each will then get to read a piece of three minutes or less. We're hoping to keep Bardic Trails to an

hour or just over to start, so we'd like to

discourage time hogs. "I always like to say," notes Goodtimes, "to keep the audience wanting more, do less." We're initiating membership changes this year. A one-time donation of \$25 or more gets one on our mail-



Poet Mark Oreskovich. Courtesy photo.

ing list permanently and makes one current for one year. Memberships help support all we do. Each calendar year after that, to keep current, there's a \$10 renewal fee – payable online, as we are trying to minimize physical handlings during the pandemic.

Members in good standing receive a monthly pdf copy of Daiva's handsome broadsides for each featured reader. According to Spindler, those pdfs can be printed for free at the Wilkinson. Chesonis will also have copies available for purchase at her Between the Covers Bookstore.

Current members also get preference for Gourd Circles, Guest Gourd readings and special workshops.

Our winter First Tuesday dates will be Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2, and tentatively April 6.



TONYA MADDOX SHARES TRUE SPIRIT OF AULD LANG SYNE

by Marilynn Huseby, polished by Siggie Carpenter MONTROSE-' Should ole acquaintances be forgotten in Days of Covid-19.' As we step forward into this new year, we want to look fondly back to times remembered. Times of gathering with ole friends smiling, hugging and sharing a cup of warm cider, eggnog, or brandy and toasting to the joy of friendship. Where do we find that familiar camaraderie that we need to see us through this coming year? With so much caution and distancing, how do we look for different ways to share that 'cup of kindness yet'? Now, we should all know that where there is a need there is always a desire to find a solution

It all started with Wini Tappan, who turns 95 in February. She was seeking answers and ways to share as she regularly lunched at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center and along with Cindy Marino of the Rec District 50's plus activities director, organized the 80s & 90 club Lunch Bunch. The Lunch Bunch had taken excursions to discover fascinating places and to learn and lunch at restaurants from Grand Junction to Ouray. Then, with the Covid crisis came the Senior Center closedown. Wini and



Tonya gave an open invitation to the Lunch Bunch to bring their brown bags and sharing friendships to her beautiful spacious meeting rooms.

Cindy were determined to keep the 80's 90's lunch bunch group together as they have many years of sharing meals together. So, the bunch decided to take their brown bag lunches to Lions Club park where they can sit apart outside but still be together.

Last month the need arose to find an indoor setting big enough to give the Lunch Bunch enough space and safety to continue meeting together over the winter. When so many feel isolated and fearful, friendships are so very precious.

Like every important need....the word goes out and it finally touched the ear of Tonya Maddox, CEO of Our Town Matters. Tonya, formerly with the Montrose Daily Press, had previously arranged Montrose Matters airtime for the seniors first Variety Show that brought in donations to the 'Pay It Forward' fund that helped reduce their rising lunch costs. Tonya remains a shining light of complete involvement in supporting our community's businesses and events in so many ways. Our Town Matters at 1245 E. Main St is her business and her motto is 'some people dream of a thriving community while others wake up and work hard at it'. Tonya gave an open invitation to the Lunch Bunch to bring their brown bags and sharing friendships to her beautiful spacious meeting rooms.

Thank you for reading THE MONTROSE MIRROR

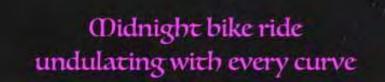
RETIRED CAREGIVER SHARES HER EXPERIENCE CARING FOR THE ELDERLY WHILE PROVIDING HOME HEALTH CARE

Special to Art & Sol

NORTHGLENN- Ruth Jensen has always been interested and loved caring for people and their health. Her experiences with caring for the elderly while providing home health care inspired Jensen in writing "The Forgotten Ones My Love Story Caring for Elderly" (published by AuthorHouse in May 2007) which is set for a new marketing campaign. Being a caregiver is very hard work and requires long hours, heartaches and many sleepless nights. In this book, Jensen writes about her experiences of caring for the elderly, how she feels about the doctors that she has had contact with and how she feels that a large number of the aging are being over medicated. Her personal experiences include finding that many times doctors

seem uncertain about their own recommendations which resulted in poor patient their elderly. Jensen also hopes that the care and unfavorable conditions in assisted living centers. "The population of elderly continues to grow. There is a good chance that they can be forgotten by family and society in general," Jensen says. "In this book, I suggest what to watch for when looking for an assisted living facility. You must always be aware of the type of care your parent/client is receiving in assisted living facilities. My belief is that many times aging adults are over medicated because enough time is not being taken to properly diagnose their problems." The publication of "The Forgotten Ones My Love Story Caring for Elderly" aims to remind the new generation of the need to continue to prepare themselves and be

aware of their responsibilities to care for experiences she shares in this book will help them understand and care for their elderly. "The Forgotten Ones My Love Story Caring for Elderly" By Ruth Jensen Softcover | 5 x 8in | 148 pages | ISBN 9781420866582. Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble About the Author Ruth Jensen wrote this book after she retired because she wanted her voice to be heard. AuthorHouse, an Author Solutions, Inc. self-publishing imprint, is a leading provider of book publishing, marketing, and bookselling services for authors around the globe and offers the industry's only suite of Hollywood book-to-film services. Visit authorhouse.com or call 833-262-8899.



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\$1 INCREASE ON 6 HIGH-VISITATION PARKS GOES INTO EFFECT JAN. 1

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Beginning Jan. 1, a \$1 high-use fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Lake Pueblo, Golden Gate Canyon, Staunton, Castlewood Canyon, Roxborough and Highline state parks. The high-use fee at these parks is necessary to mitigate the extra expenses and resource strain associated with a high level of use by visitors.

These parks have seen a huge increase in visitation numbers. In a year of record park visitation, record drownings and increased protocols for COVID-19, many of our high-use parks are in dire need of maintenance funds. CPW has relied on its volunteers in this year of unprecedented use at state parks for trash pick-up, extra patrols, and programs like the Trail Ambassadors at Cheyenne Mountain State Park to help with the increased demand. At popular spots like Eldorado Canyon, the park hits vehicle capacity all summer long. In an effort to alleviate traffic, CPW began working with Boulder to offer shuttle service during the busy summer months. The park's work on a <u>Visitor Use</u> <u>Management Plan</u> could become a model for how CPW helps control congestion at its most popular parks.

These efforts have helped, but increased financial support is needed.

The additional revenue generated will help CPW with increased trash collection, increased resource damage, additional temporary staffing, additional wear-andtear on facilities and other expenses which were not offset by normal vehicle pass fees. These parks join Cherry Creek,



Chatfield, Boyd Lake and Eldorado Canyon state parks as areas with high-use fees. Passes to Colorado state parks can be purchased at the parks as well as online at cpwshop.com. Visit CPW's <u>Park Entrance</u> <u>Pass Information</u> page for more information on the types of passes available to access Colorado's 42 state parks.

<complex-block> Principal Pr

Christmas Tree Pickup

Register | Jan 4 - Jan 8 Pickup | Jan 11 - Jan 15 *This is a free service

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RIDGWAY RAILROAD MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT



Interior of RGS coach 252, awaiting seats. The interior is finished as original, with ash wood, oak flooring and operating clerestory windows. Jim Pettengill photo.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Railroad Museum has received a grant from the Western Colorado Community Foundation/Ouray County Community Fund to help upholster seats in historic Rio Grande Southern passenger coach 252. "This generous grant from the WCCF/OCCF will allow us to complete the interior restoration of this significant railcar during early 2021," said museum Vice president Jim Pettengill. "This passenger coach is one of only two that exist, and the first one to receive a fully operational restoration. It was built in 1880 for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, sold to the Rio Grande Southern and carried passengers through the San Juan Mountains from 1891 through 1933. With the assistance of grants and donations from WCCF/OCCF, the Woman's Club of Ouray County, the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation and generous members we have completely rebuilt the car to its original specification. The last two steps are the seats, which have been purchased and are currently being upholstered, and the wheelsets, which have been contracted from a firm in Durango. We expect this ambitious project, which has taken several years, to be complete by late summer."

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Michelle Martinez

COLORADO BOY PUB & BREWERY SELECTED AS JANUARY 2021 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery is the January 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. The RACC Member of the Month Program is in its third year as an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations.

The business was originally founded in 2008, by Tom and Sandy Hennessy who opened several restaurants with breweries and were inspired to start a pub school open to the public to help others start their own brewpubs. Daniel Richards was one of the original students of Tom's pub school, and is now the current owner and has expanded the Colorado Boy brand to include the Depot in Ridgway and the Southwest Pub in Ouray.

"We're known for both our handcrafted beers and artisan pizzas. The best sellers of each of these categories are our Pale Ale and Molto Carne and Mia Bella pizzas!" said general manager Erin Evans. Colorado Boy usually has eight beers on draft as well as unique seasonals offered by the pint, Cowboy Can, or growler, plus wine and cider, to enjoy on premise or take to go. Besides traditional pizzas, Detroit-style pizzas are crafted on Thursdays, and the regular menu includes salads, shishito peppers, and soups for weekend



Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery is the January 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. Courtesy photos.

lunches.

"We've worked towards making the to-go process as smooth and comfortable as possible for customers by modifying our to-go window with a tent shelter, offering online ordering and contactless payment, and setting up a heated tent. We've even added heaters for some of the picnic tables for folks to still enjoy food and drink outside!" Evans said. The restaurant features a calzone special on Monday nights, and a Wine Wednesday special offering of \$5 off a featured bottle and \$1 off 5-ounce pours. On weekends, a soup-and-salad or soup-and-small-pizza-bread lunch special is offered, as well as \$2 off any 32-ounce Cowboy Can with each pizza purchase. To check out the menu and hours of Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery, go online to www.coloradoboy.com/ridgway or call 970-626-5333. You can find the Colorado Boy in Ridgway at 602 Clinton St.



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ONGOING-

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Alternate Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm—every other weekend starting Jan. 9th 2021 **Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompany 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. 5-Talking Gourds Poetry Club Zoom meeting takes place Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson to get URL & password. Go to <u>telluridelibrary.org/events</u>

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.

Jan. 26-28-Cattle and Forage Grower Update, a program for producers in Western Colorado, will be held virtually Jan. 26 and 28 from 10am to 12pm. Registration will be free. Program topics include rancher perspectives on wolf reintroduction and outcome-based grazing as well as expert talks on leasing, marketing, wild-fire, agronomy and weather. For more immediate information please contact Seth Urbanowitz at 970-874-2197.

Feb. 11-Western Colorado Soil Health Conference will be held virtually this year on Feb. 11.⁻ As pressure on agricultural production increases, soil health practices can insure that agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability. <u>Click here to learn more »</u>



MONTROSEMIR ROR

Contact the Montrose Mirror: 970-275-0646 Editor@montrosemirror.com

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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo Sunday, of an old log cabin tucked near a cottonwood tree along the Gunnison River. Happy New Year!

