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Issue No. 411 Jan. 11 2021

## 6-HOUR MEETING ON HUB PROJECT DRAWS INTEREST, ATTENDANCE



*The City of Montrose Planning Commission met Jan. 6 to continue their review of "THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING" SKETCH PLAN." Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose Planning Commission met at 5 p.m. on Jan. 6 to continue their review of "THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING" SKETCH PLAN." The 11 p.m. rule was enforced and the meeting concluded at that time.

Commission member Karen Vacca, a resident of Cobble Creek, recused herself and did not participate in the discussion. Commissioners Anthony Russo, David Fishering, Greg Easton, Jan Chastain, and Phoebe Benziger were present. Absent was Chad Huffman.

The only item on the agenda was **SP20-0073 – CONTINUATION OF "THE HUB AT MONTROSE**

*Continued pg 34*

## SAN JUAN BREWS OPEN ON MAIN STREET: STOP BY FOR CRAFT COFFEE, BEER, AND MORE

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE-If you are familiar with the mobile San Juan Coffee truck, you will find something familiar in the new San Juan Brews (512 E. Main Street). John and Davina, who opened San Juan Coffee three days before the initial state shut-downs, have partnered with Kevin and Chelsea to bring something a bit different to Montrose. Kevin has been brewing for more than 10 years, and you may know him from Colorado Boy. The merger of craft coffee and beer is a relatively new thing, with only a few such places around the nation. The concept is a relaxing, family-friendly place to enjoy some delicious beverages. Focusing on 'craft,' they also hope to bring fun events for a variety of people, like line dancing and cornhole tournaments, as well as local artists teaching in house classes. Their most recent announcement is partnering with The Buttered Biscuit food truck, which will allow you to grab some good breakfast and lunch while there.



*San Juan Brews is now open. Photo by Paul Arbogast.*

San Juan Brews offers high speed internet as well, so the various tables, couches and little seating areas work well for those who telecommute. They welcome those who work online to come in and work and enjoy the space. Hours are Monday – Thursday 7am to 5pm, Friday and Saturday 7am to 9pm, and Sunday 10am to 3pm. You can find out more on their website at <http://www.sanjuanbrews.com> and follow them on Facebook @sanjuanbrews. This is a unique offering for Montrose, and offers a lot of potential for the community, so please stop by, say hello and try some of their craft beer and/or coffee.

in this  
issue

*Reader Photo Spotlight  
By Deb Reimann!*

*Veterans Donate to  
Local Youth Causes!*

*Toy Cars Donated to  
Montrose Police Dept!*

*Letters to the Editor!  
Regional News Briefs!*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### COMMIT TRUMP TO THE DUST BIN OF HISTORY

*Editor:*

I am dismayed and absolutely disgusted!

I thought my fellow Republicans were above the illegal riotous behavior that has been displayed in the past by some Democrat-leaning marchers. Apparently many conservatives behave no better than liberals.

The trespassers and vandals must be prosecuted.

In two weeks we must commit Donald Trump to the dust bin of history. He had many good ideas but they were more than offset by the stupidity of his reckless remarks.

Good riddance.

This leaves the Republican party leaderless. Republicans must hurry to regroup and replace him with smart, rational people who will lead the party and our country.

We must not forget this. We must not repeat this.

*Barry Lindstrom, Montrose*



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## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL IN GRAND JUNCTION ADMINISTERS COVID -19 VACCINATIONS



*Photo by Gail Marvel.*

*By Gail Marvel*

GRAND JUNCTION-Approximately three-weeks ago the Veterans Administration Hospital in Grand Junction began offering

the Moderna COVID Vaccine to its employees. The following week high risk Veterans, (those in their 90's, paraplegics, and cancer patients) were scheduled for

vaccinations by appointment. The Moderna COVID Vaccine has proven to be 94-percent effective.

The VA, which is accustomed to handling mass inoculations, appears to be outpacing other community vaccination sites such as hospitals, pharmacies, and county health centers. The VA COVID-19 Vaccines are administered in blue and white heated tents, which are set up outside the hospital entrance. At this time appointments are still required.

VA Nurse Kathy said, "There is a learning curve with the COVID vaccine. A vial has a certain number of shots. When we open a vial it must be used, so scheduling patients is important. After we give the shot, the patient stays in the waiting area 15-20 minutes to make sure they do not have an allergic reaction. They must socially distance while they wait, so we can't do as many vaccinations as we can with the regular flu shot. With a flu shot we can vaccinate about 110 people a day. With the COVID vaccine we are now up to about 80 patients a day, but we hope to reach 100." Booster shots are scheduled for four weeks after the initial vaccination.

# #1

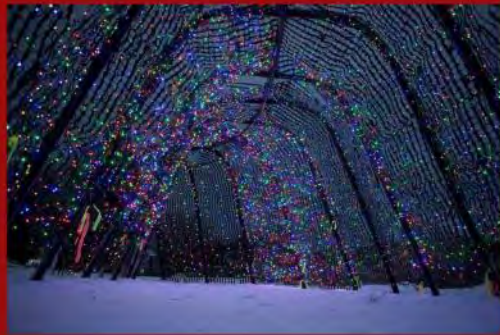
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### **Best Decorated Home:**

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1835 Election Way

### **Best Decorated Neighborhood:**

Foxtail Drive

### **Best Decorated Business:**

Garden of Lights

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### COVID VACCINE PHASE CHART HAS BEEN UPDATED

Editor,

The Covid Vaccine Phase Chart posted in the Daily Press and on-line is INCORRECT!!!! It is dated 12/30/20 and it was updated either 12/31/2020 or on 1-1-21 by Governor Polis when he REMOVED educators from Phase 1b a couple of days after he had put them in 1b.

The latest information on the state website is that educators will be vaccinated AFTER everyone in 1b has been vaccinated. Seniors 70 and over were put in Phase 1b 12/30/2020 and remain there.

Stan Grigg, Montrose

## 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](http://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.

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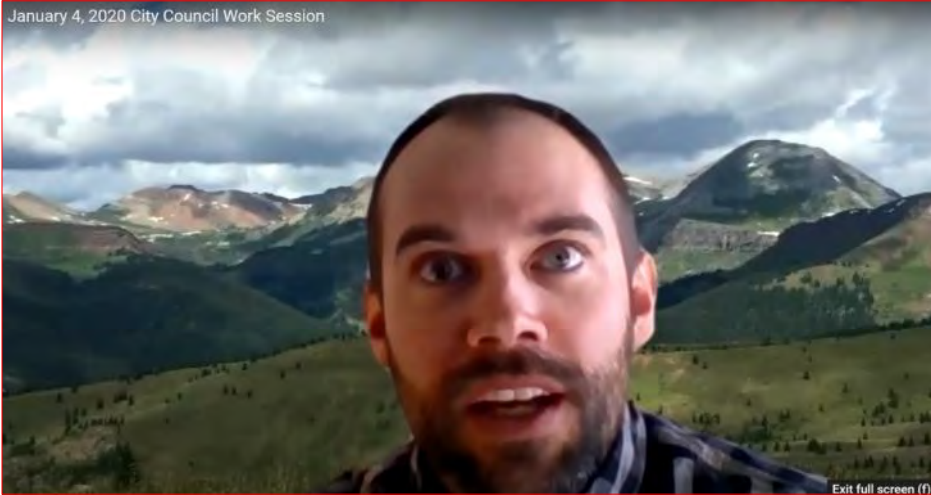
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## CITY ENGINEER ANNOUNCES WOODGATE REALIGNMENT PROJECT; MAYOR CONSIDERS NEED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

January 4, 2020 City Council Work Session



*With City Manager Bill Bell out of the office in recent weeks, City Engineer Scott Murphy (above) appears to have taken on a leadership role with the City of Montrose, announcing the start of the Woodgate Realignment Project at the Jan. 4 work session, and discussing a recent purchase by the City of a residence for use by a former city employee.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Monday, Jan. 4, Montrose City Council convened for a regularly scheduled virtual work session, available for viewing only via Zoom. "We do not have a live broadcast today," City IT Director Greg Story said. "Things down in the broadcast room are all caput. We are going to get a good recording and then post it on YouTube and rebroadcast later."

Mayor Barbara Bynum introduced the work session, "We're not able to broadcast live this morning on the web site," she said, and thanked all who were attending via Zoom. "But we are recording this and we will be re-broadcasting it, and it will be available for anyone to watch any time."

All councilors were present for the work session.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Engineer Scott Murphy provided background information on the **Montrose Arroyo Flood Mitigation Project**.

"...A couple months ago the hospital and the county started looking more seriously at some of the flood hazard mitigation surrounding the Montrose Memorial Hospital...at that point they folded our department in to start looking at what kind of projects and the nuts and bolts of the details of what some of that mitigation looks

like."

Montrose Arroyo is a major drainage way that runs through town, Murphy said, with headwaters above Brown Ranch. The Montrose Arroyo eventually joins Cedar Creek and ultimately the Uncompahgre River. Every crossing on the system is undersized for a 100-year flood event.

Murphy's overview was for information purposes only, he said, no action was considered.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid **discussed contract amendment recommendations for the public safety complex** contract with Blythe Group and Co (BG&Co), for the additional services of audiovisual design and furniture design, bidding, and oversight.

**Background**-A memo prepared by Scheid for Council states, "*The City of Montrose owner's team has been working through the design process for the new police department building (named the Montrose Public Safety Complex) with Blythe Group since August of 2020. At this time the design is just past the Design Development stage and is nearing the Construction Document stage. The overall design is about 80 percent complete. When Blythe originally bid this design project they did include in their proposal pricing for alternates to the design services we requested*

*as an option if they were to be needed by the owner's team. These alternates were audio visual design and FFE procurement. These were listed by Blythe as an alternate because these items are in other projects included in their scope. When the contract was originally recommended to council we did not include these alternates in Blythe's scope because at that time we were not sure if they would be needed and our intent was to further evaluate those options as we got into design... The recommended contract amendment to BG&Co is for audiovisual design and FFE procurement as described above. The current contract amount is \$764,198 plus reimbursable expenses not-to-exceed \$19,870. The proposed amendment would change the total contract amount to \$830,676. This amount would be paid through the public safety fund and tracked with all expenses related to the Public Safety Complex Construction Project.*"

After hearing Scheid's presentation, Councilor Roy Anderson said, "So it seems you've just kind of confirmed my belief that it'd be far more efficient to use these guys who are already in the middle of the design...it's really a crucial part of the whole total package, and so I think it's really critical."

After further discussion, Councilor Dave Bowman asked whether the audio-visual equipment would be compatible with the Montrose Police Department's new Axon body-worn -cameras.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said, "We need to ensure that we go out for an RFQ for those things and we're in the process of doing that. At the end of the whole process, we will absolutely make sure that whatever audiovisual for our interview rooms, all of that stuff, is absolutely compatible with Evidence.com, which is the central repository for all that stuff...I've consulted with a few police chiefs who have made some recommendations, and we've already had a few vendors that have reached out and we are working through them for proposals."

If the equipment does not work correctly, there are huge consequences, he said.

*Continued next pg*



## CITY ENGINEER ANNOUNCES WOODGATE REALIGNMENT PROJECT

*From previous pg*

"The main thing that I want to make sure of is just that it's easy to use," Hall said. "An officer walks in pushes a button, he...or she knows it's working and we get those interviews recorded...we're always looking at the cost as well."

Story said, "We'd like to stick with Axon, or something very compatible with Axon, but we are doing our due diligence and getting bids from other companies, if for no other reason than keeping everybody honest and making sure we get competitive bids."

The contract amendment will come before Council at the regular meeting of Jan. 19.

Scheid presented information on the 2021 **City-Owned Property Disposal List**.

**Background-** A memo from Scheid to Council states, "Throughout the year, City departments replace outdated and obsolete equipment and vehicles. These items are typically low-value, unserviceable, or outdated items. Once each year (typically), these items are disposed of in various ways. Items have been auctioned through Govdeals.com, at the local Jim's Auction, and donated or sold to surrounding communities. All items are disposed of in accordance with Section 1-16-5 of the Municipal Code...proceeds from sales are applied to the fleet fund."

Anderson asked if the City had reached out to other municipalities that may be in need of donated vehicles. "We could contribute as good partners in the valley."

Councilor Frank said that from the perspective of taxpayers it would be better to seek some form of return.

Scheid presented information on the 2021 **Vehicle Purchase Recommendations as well**.

**Background-** A memo prepared by Scheid for Council states, "On Dec. 21st, 2020, the City of Montrose accepted bids for 22 new Ford vehicles...17 of the vehicles are replacements that are budgeted in the Fleet Division Vehicle Equipment budget 600-8005-943-000. The five additional vehicles are paid for out of the Public Safety Fund. The City received three bids and

*they all were qualified and complete...The budgeted amount for all of the purchases combined is \$1,081,150 which is a savings of \$127,700 if awarded to Sill-TerHar Motors in the amount of \$953,450."*

### GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilor Frank said that he has been attempting to join the board of All Points Transit. The City is only allowed one seat on the All Points Board, which is currently filled by Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox. Wilcox was the first manager of All Points Transit and is a longtime board member. Frank said he would not mind if Wilcox continued to serve alongside him.

Mayor Bynum suggested Council discuss community organizations and board seats at an April board retreat, "We could perhaps go back and talk about which community organizations we have seats on...and really kind of do a little bit of a deep dive into those board positions that a City councilor or staff member holds," she said.

"...I think that's a very, very good point Barbara, I'd love to see that," Frank said. Bynum said, "I still want to talk about affordable early childhood education in Montrose."

She said that an organization is putting together a proposal for a comprehensive survey of 0-5 options in the community. "They are asking for some financial support from the City."

She suggested inviting the group to an upcoming work session. "We can talk about whether that is something we would want to help fund...I think we know that is a problem in our community; sometimes knowing a little more about the problem is helpful in solving it."

City Engineer Murphy said a press release would be coming out later that afternoon for the Woodgate realignment project.

"I got a homework assignment for everybody...we recorded a video giving a lot of information on the project's background," Murphy said. "If you get a chance to watch that video...it may save time at the meeting."

Anderson asked Murphy to address the

controversy surrounding a home purchased by the City as part of the proposed Woodgate extension. The house was leased initially to a former City staffer who was moving to Denver and needed interim housing.

"...The road is situated alongside a house there on East Oak Grove that's not directly impacted by the project but would have a lot of construction traffic right alongside it for a year," Murphy said. "...It was for sale, and we didn't want a new home buyer to end up buying their first home and then realize they're going to have a road right next to it and have to deal with all that construction noise."

"We bought it...long term if there's going to be a roundabout up there we do need a little corner of property...we'll clean up all the property and pieces of that up," Murphy said. "And then the intent is to resell that house after the project is done."

"We just felt that was the right thing to do to avoid negatively impacting that residential house."

City recruits have turned jobs down due to a lack of housing, Murphy said, so the house will be rented to new employees.

"Again, this is just a several-month thing just to get us through the construction then we intend to sell that house," he said.

Frank said it would be beneficial for the public to understand the City's motivation in purchasing the home. "The house was for sale...we as a community didn't want to negatively impact the sellability of that house by the former owner by suddenly having this information come and totally tank their ability to sell their house."

"There was a pretty, I think, noble motive behind that as well," Frank said. "That would be good to mention."

Mayor Bynum said, "I just keep thinking of that first time homeowner, that they've saved, they've saved, they buy their first home, and then the City says 'by the way we're putting a major road next to your front yard."

"I think the City buying it is a little bit of an unusual move, but I think in the end it

*Continued next pg*



## ***CITY ENGINEER ANNOUNCES WOODGATE REALIGNMENT PROJECT***

***From previous pg***

was the right thing to do," She said.

Bynum also mentioned that "a lot of cool sewer work" is happening in her Woodgate neighborhood. She asked whether the City still has a program that provides financial assistance to City residents who have problems with the private line connecting to the City's sewer system.

Murphy said that there is a sewer backup assistance fund for those who have damages related to a sewer backup.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "For a while we had implemented a small increase to customer bills to build that fund up...that was at a time when Cirsra, our insurance company for the City, didn't offer sewer backup policies...now Cirsra offers that, so it's changed over time...We may still have money sitting in that fund to help customers, but I know that we adjusted our policy with Cirsra as well..."

Police Chief Blaine Hall gave an update. "This week Montrose County Public Health has invited EMS, law enforcement, and fire staff to be vaccinated. "I am extremely excited," Hall said.

Frank said that the City is not forcing anybody to get vaccinated. "Just so the public understands we're not forcing anybody to do this."

After more discussion, Bynum reminded of the regular Council meeting the following evening and closed the work session.



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## COUNCIL APPROVES FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR HANGIN' TREE



*Historic sign at the Hangin' Tree near the Convenience store. Photo by B. Switzer.*

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE-Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 5. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell and Councilor Roy Anderson were present, as was Youth Council representative Zach Oldroyd. Initially marked absent, Councilor Dave Bowman joined while the meeting was in process. Councilor Dave Frank was excused from the meeting. The session was held virtually via Zoom and was broadcast live on Cable channels 191 and 970.

Oldroyd led all in the saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard from the public.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

### FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE-HANGIN' TREE

Following a routine liquor license hearing, Council voted unanimously to approve an application for a new Fermented Malt

Beverage license at 17250 S. Highway 550 for the Hangin Tree Travel Plaza LLC, doing business as Hangin Tree Travel Plaza, for consumption off the licensed premises. Applicant Bob Martens was present to answer questions. The closest alternative is a mile to the north, Martens said, and the application was made in response to customer demand. "People south of town don't want to drive to WalMart," he said. Mayor Bynum said, "I like that you use a point of sale that automatically asks for a birthdate to be entered, because I think nowadays there are so many different cans out there. And some can have alcohol and some can be energy drinks, and it's hard for...a cashier to always recognize the difference.

"So if your system is set up to trigger an ID or a birthdate request with the purchase of alcohol, that is reassuring to me, that someone isn't going to be able to buy beer that doesn't maybe look like beer," Bynum said.

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Planning & Development items were reviewed by Senior Planner Amy Sharp. Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2521 on second reading, for the annexation of the Hilltop Addition II, as well as Ordinance 2522 on second reading, zoning the Hilltop Addition II as an R-4, High Density District.

Also approved were Ordinance 2523 on second reading, for the annexation of the Rainbow Trout Addition; and Ordinance 2524 on second reading, zoning the Rainbow Trout Addition as a P, Public District.

Council voted to adopt Resolution 2021-01, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Lynch Addition and held a public hearing prior to adopting Ordinance 2525 on first reading, annexing the Lynch Addition. Also adopted was Ordinance 2526 on first reading, zoning the Lynch Addition as a B-2 Highway Commercial District.

### STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Bynum thanked Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler for "holding down the fort" over the holidays while the

City Manager was out.

Oldroyd presented a Youth Council update. "We're doing monthly projects; and for December we worked on the time capsule that was just put in the ground," he said, "it's good news."

Bynum thanked Youth Council for their efforts.

"On behalf of City Council thank you to Youth Council...thank you for taking on such an important project...we just really appreciate the work that you did on behalf of the city and its citizens on that time capsule."

Oldroyd said that Youth Council will proceed with a charity project in January.

Councilor Roy Anderson shared a personal experience.

"Over the holidays our natural gas furnace was misbehaving a little bit," he said. "And my temptation was to kind of ignore it and just let the holidays get past and address it when I got around to it."

Still, at his wife's insistence, a repairman was called, Anderson said.

"A man came out today...and found that we had 15ppm of carbon monoxide going into the house, which is pretty concerning. As a result he was legally obligated to shut the furnace down and not run it anymore."

Anderson advised those who have concerns about an older furnace to get it checked.

"You can just die in your sleep, and you don't cough or choke or anything, it's just goodnight," he said. "It's an important thing for people to be aware."

Bowman said that every home in Montrose is required to have carbon monoxide detectors.

Anderson said that by the time carbon monoxide detectors sound the alarm, it's almost too late.

Bynum wished everyone a Happy New Year. "Thank you very much if you were able to join us for our meeting tonight," she said.

With no further business, Council voted to adjourn.



## CITY UPDATES WOODGATE REALIGNMENT PLANS



*Woodgate Realignment Project. Courtesy image.*

*By Paul Arbogast*

MONTROSE-City Engineer Scott Murphy released a video last week, talking about the newest plans for the Woodgate realignment project. Slightly different than what was previously released, this version

of the plan requires the removal of two single family homes and affects the backyard of a third property.

The newest proposed design was selected to offer the best flow without harsh corners. A roundabout on Oak Grove was

drawn in and mentioned, but is not currently a part of the project, though it may happen in the future.

Two houses and another property that the realignment will affect are owned by RDMJK Woodgate Investments, for which the city is paying \$235k to acquire. The purchase is with money out of the land budgets, which is separate from the budget for the realignment, but demolition and asbestos abatement (if required) will come out of the construction project budget.

The piece of land in the backyard at Storm King Avenue was agreed to be purchased for \$34, which included the land, utility easement and compensation for improvements present on the property. The Value was determined based on independent appraisals for the land and its improvements.

Murphy said the intent for the other property purchased by the city on Oak Grove, "is to put it on the market shortly after the roadway project is completed in late 2021." Initially it was used as temporary housing for a former city employee, it currently is housing a new city employee, and they intend to use it as a construction office during the realignment project.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### HIGH DENSITY RENTAL APTS NEXT TO BEAUTIFUL, WELL-KEPT NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMATIC

Editor:

Now I get it.

Problem: Wealthy developer wants to

build high density rental apartments on a piece of ground next to a beautiful, well-kept existing neighborhood in a location

that will enhance and increase his investment. Plus he can tie onto the utilities the existing neighborhood has already provided and given to the city. Only problem is that it's not zoned for his greedy purposes and he knows very well that the homeowners will fight any rezoning efforts to protect their property values and their right to enjoyment of peaceful existence.

Solution: Meet with existing neigh-

borhood homeowners and reassure them that he will only build single family homes just as already present in their existing neighborhoods so that they will not object to the rezoning. Be sure to mention that you do not intend on building apartments because it is not a viable undertaking. Do not say that you definitely will not build apartments so no one can accuse you later of being a lying, crooked, underhanded developer.

Then after approval of rezoning, go for the jugular...build 500 apartments adding 500-4000 people and approximately 1000-2000 cars to an already crowded, unsafe road; add noise and light pollution; increased criminal activity; destroy the peace and quiet of the homeowners as well as their property values.

As a show of appreciation for all your "good" deeds, graciously accept \$2.3M+ from the Montrose taxpayers.

Congratulations Wealthy Developer. You appear to be a great manipulative scam artist!

*Sher Edstrom, Cobble Creek*



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## BOCC VOTES TO APPROVE WIZARD'S PARADOX SPECIAL USE WITH CONDITIONS, FENCE, SIX-MONTH REVIEW



*Applicant Mark Goldfogel, middle row far right, was present by Zoom on Jan. 6 for the continuation of a public hearing on his application for special use to develop a campsite with an organic farm at 4210 HWY 90 in Paradox. The application was approved with conditions, a six-foot opaque fence, and six-month review.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Commissioners and key staff were present on Wednesday, Jan. 6, for the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). "Welcome everybody, thanks for joining us," BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said.

Reverend Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the morning's invocation. "If anyone lacks wisdom, let them ask of God...thank you for the promise that our God is a refuge and strength and a very present help in time of trouble." Mudgett asked for a blessing on the commissioners, "...as they endeavor to be faithful in what you have called them to do."

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

### COUNTY MANAGER

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No. 01-2021 assigned to Item 15.

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

In a public hearing that was continued from the Dec. 16 BOCC meeting, Planning & Development Director Steve White gave a brief overview of a special use proposal by the Wizard's Paradox to develop a campsite with an organic farm at 4210 HWY 90 in Paradox. Applicant Mark Goldfogel was present for the hearing. County Planner Talmadge Richmond shared a letter from Goldfogel's neighbor Becka Every, who expressed opposition to the plans, which include sites for 16 RV's on a five-acre parcel. The meeting packet also include a letter of support for the project, from San Miguel County Commissioner Kris Holstrom.

Commissioners discussed objections in detail and listed specific conditions to be imposed on the special use if granted, including a six-month review to ensure compliance and a solid six-foot privacy fence where the property adjoins neigh-

boring land. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the special use proposal with conditions.

In other business, commissioners voted to approve the Garrett Minor Subdivision proposal to divide three lots from a 50-acre parcel at 7464 5425 Road; the Black Spring Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 32.3-acre lot into two lots at Divide Road; the H and J Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 35.106 acre lot into two lots at 5367 6200 Road; and the Dale Hiatt Intrafamily Subdivision proposal to amend a Plat Note at 62845 Highway 90.

### MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Kendra Jenkins of the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder's Office presented for renewal the Fermented Malt Beverage Liquor License for Newberry's Store in Cimarron.

Following unanimous approval of the Liquor License, the board reconvened as the BOCC and the meeting was adjourned.





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### ATTACK ON OUR NATION'S CAPITOL WAS INSURRECTION

#### Editor:

Like many of us, I am attempting to come to grips with the January 6th terrorist attack on our Nation's Capitol building. It was not a protest. It was an all out anarchist attempt to overthrow our democracy. Insurrection.

A nearby vehicle was found with eleven Molotov cocktail bombs; essentially homemade napalm. Some rioters were seen carrying flexi cuffs presumably to handcuff legislators should they have found any.

The flag at the Capitol is presently flying at half mast. This group of rioters killed a Capitol Police officer. Brian Sicknick, 42, an Iraqi War veteran, was hit in the head with a fire extinguisher and later died. He was murdered.

Now it is a few days in the aftermath and the "sickening" has begun. Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, Arizona Rep. Paul Gosar, Alabama Rep. Mo Brooks, Utah Rep. Burgess Owens, Fox News host Laura Ingraham all alluded to unspecified reports of involvement by Antifa. Gaetz testified on the House Floor of, "pretty compelling evidence from a facial recognition company showing that some of the people.... were masquerading as Trump supporters... were members of the violent terrorist group Antifa."

XR Vision, the facial recognition company he referred to, announced that statement was untrue. Their technology actually identified two members of Neo-Nazi organizations and a QAnon supporter among the mob of thugs.

Yet what is called misinformation by some – that it was not Trump supporters who attacked our Capitol – is an out and out lie.

As I said, the "sickening" continues. A just

recently released poll by YUGOV found that 45% of Republicans believe the attack on the U.S. Capitol was justified. That is insane. On top of that, extremist groups in America are now using this horrific moment in the history of our country, to recruit new members.

I watched a video recording of a British reporter interviewing and filming pro-Trump terrorists inside the building. It is humbling and turned my stomach. These people called themselves "Patriots" and that they were taking back "Our House". These anarchists who claimed they believed in law and order, injured several police officers and killed Brian Sicknick. These rioters, who spout their undying support of our U.S. Constitution, showed only contempt and disregard as they delivered chaos and destruction of life and property, let alone our democracy. One group tried and failed, to lower the American flag, and erect a Trump flag over the Capitol.

Our Capitol had not been attacked since 1814, then by British soldiers. All during the Civil War, never did the Confederate flag wave inside the Capitol. On January 6th, all that changed.

After the siege ended, Congress re-adjourned, yet continued the debasement of the moment with members of the Republican Party still contesting the certification of the Electoral College. Shameful. There should have been a unanimous vote to certify the election results as a uniform statement from Congress that the United States of America is still "One Nation Under God".

The rioters should be identified and prosecuted under the US Patriot Act; domestic terrorism. State legislators who participated should be removed from their elective

office. Elected officials all are sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Employers, who discover an employee who had participated, should immediately fire them. Off duty police officers who invaded our Capitol should be terminated, and military personnel should be court martialed. Members of Congress, who have helped spread the false information and conspiracy theories all these past months, need to resign. Including, but not limited to, Ted Cruz, Matt Gaetz, Devin Nunes, Jim Jordan, Kevin McCarthy, and Josh Hawley.

Donald J. Trump needs to be held responsible, but I doubt anyone in the present Justice Department has the guts to go forward with a criminal charge against him for his incendiary rhetoric to incite a riot. Or Rudy Gulliani who said at the rally before the attack, "Let's have trial by combat!" Civil suits will no doubtedly be forthcoming however. Twitter did one thing that Congress won't do, they censured the president and several of his minions. Trump just needs to go away.

If there is anyone who is still flying a Trump flag at his home or in the back of his pickup, or is still displaying a Trump 2020 sign in their yard, think of what you are supporting. You are announcing your support for the violent overthrow of our democracy. This is not patriotism. You are only condoning criminals, the terrorists of January 6th, and the man who incited them to act, while trying to spin blame on others.

The world is watching us. I guarantee that Vladimir Putin of Russia, Xi Jinping of China, Kim Jong-un of North Korea, and Ali Khamenei of Iran are all smiling right now. Our Allies are worried for us.

*Jon Sering, Montrose*







# HAVE A COVID CARE PLAN

## MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

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



## WHO IS YOUR DOCTOR?



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

## PREPARE A COVID PLAN NOW:



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

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



### Know your workplace policy.

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

## PLAN AHEAD:



### Create a sick room.

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



### Create your COVID Care Team.

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



### Centralize medical information.

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



### Mask up. Make good choices now.

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

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



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





# TENGA UN PLAN DE ATENCIÓN PARA COVID

## ¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!

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

## ¿QUIEN ES TU DOCTOR?

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

## PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



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

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



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

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

## PREPÁRATE AHORA:



### Cree una habitación para enfermos.

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



### Cree su equipo de atención para COVID.

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



### Centralizar la información médica.

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



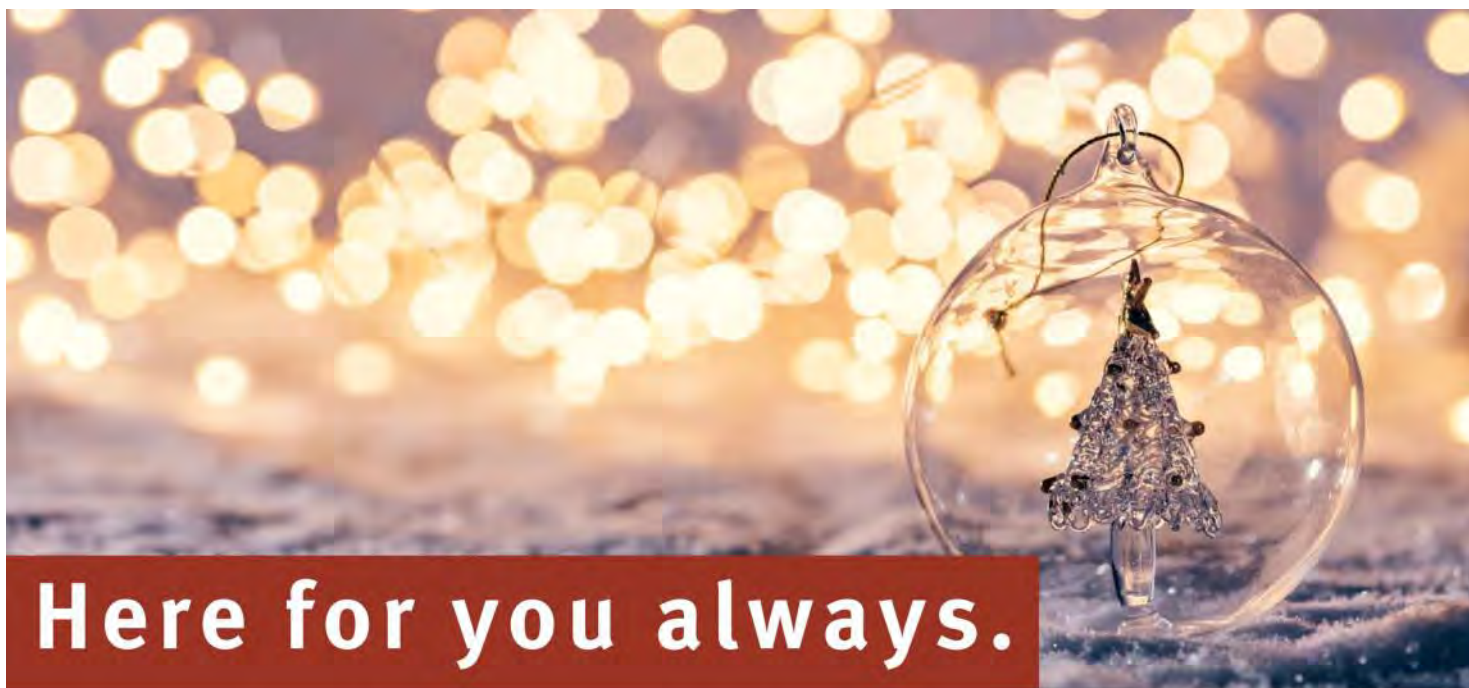
### Usar una máscara. Tome buenas decisiones ahora.

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

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

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





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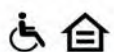
Service to the health of the greater community is of utmost importance today and always. During the pandemic, our caregiving teams have worked diligently to keep our community and program participants healthy, safe and connected to those they love---and at times, stepped in when family members could 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.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM AFFECTS, IMPACTS OF HUB PROJECT

*Editor:*

As a homeowner in Chipeta Pointe, this proposed development personally affects me. It will decrease my property value and negatively impact our peaceful, quiet neighborhood and surrounding area.

However, I am not writing about the negative effects on my family and property. I am writing as a concerned citizen of Montrose. There are many reasons why this project should not be placed in the proposed location. It blatantly disregards the city's own comprehensive plan, specifically 8.5/8.6 which recommend that there is significant buffering between high density and low density housing. This project is incongruous with the surrounding area and would disrupt the quiet, semi-rural atmosphere that attracted people to this neighborhood.

The intersection of Highway 550 and Chipeta is already a dangerous intersection. The significant increase in traffic as a result of this project would either necessitate a traffic light and/or result in an increase in accidents.

There will be an increased tax burden for improved infrastructure and a concurrent decrease in property tax income because of the decreased property values. In light of this increased tax burden and decreased tax income, why would the city consider \$2.35 million in incentives for the developer?

There is a need for affordable housing in our community, but there are many locations where that development would comply with the city's comprehensive plan, not require as significant an improvement in infrastructure and not reduce neighboring property values.

I ask that you consider the long term affect affects of this project and it's impact on Montrose.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Dr. Kjersten Davis, Montrose*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### HUB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS

*Editor:*

In concert with hundreds of other Montrose County residents, I wish to express my serious concerns about the proposed HUB development project.

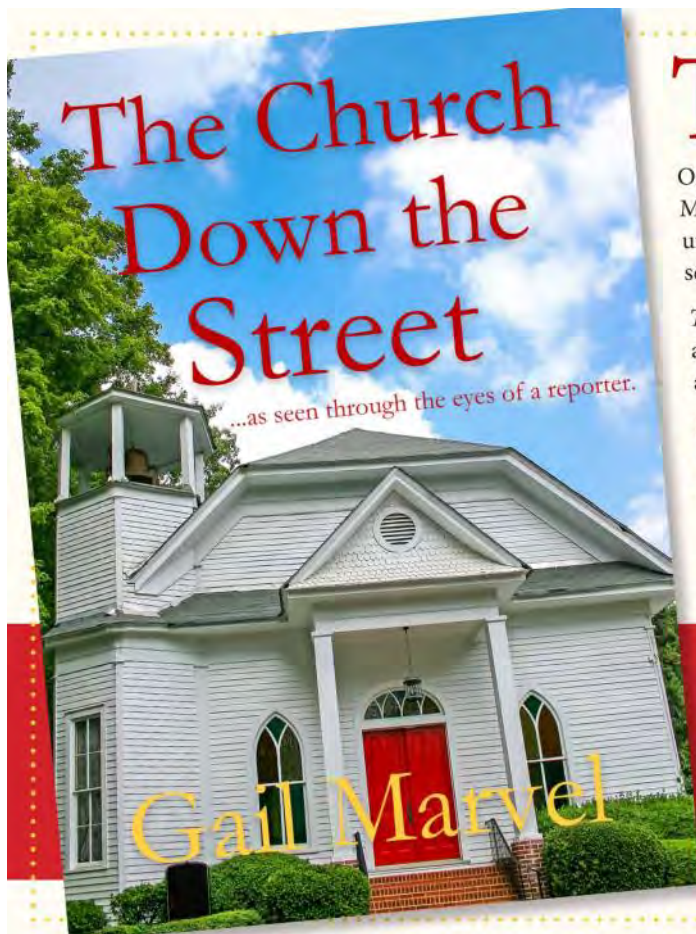
First, if, as many have noted that the project is not in keeping with the City Master Plan, then that by itself should warrant denial. If the Master Plan needs revision, then go through the normal process to review and update with community input.

Second, the Cobble Creek community has been growing at a healthy rate and bringing numerous residents from outside of Montrose. They chose to come and build in Cobble Creek largely because of the beauty, peace and life style. It seems to me that if the HUB project goes ahead as presently proposed, many of those residents would not be moving and building in this area.

Third, is the traffic issue. In reviewing the county's own data from traffic studies, the most recent data county available, comes from an extensive survey in 2017. In that year, traffic counts were recorded at 650 locations in Montrose county. Of all the locations, Chipeta Dr ranks #1 in daily traffic volume. Specifically the county's data shows a daily traffic count of 5230 vehicles at one of 5 sites on Chipeta. The other 5 Chipeta Dr sites showed daily counts of 3372, 3647, 3785 and 4948 vehicles per day. Out of the 7 highest volume sites in the entire county, Chipeta Dr. accounts for 5 of those, with Marine Rd (4291 vehicles) and Spring Creek (3511 vehicles) accounting for the other 2. To add the significant traffic from the proposed HUB project makes no sense.

*Thank you,*

*Mike Weber, Montrose*



**T**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.

**Readers will:**

- 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](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
*Montrose Author & Reporter*





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### JUVENILE CHARGED WITH MURDER IN THE 2ND DEGREE

7th Judicial District Attorney

MONTROSE- The charge of murder in the second degree has been filed against a Juvenile in Montrose County. The alleged criminal incident occurred on Dec.19, 2020 in Montrose County, Colorado. The incident resulted in the death of Karmen Keefauver and was investigated by the Montrose County Sheriff's Department with the assistance of Colorado Bureau of Investigations. The juvenile defendant is charged by Petition in Delinquency that was filed on Dec. 31, 2020. The charge is one count of murder in the second degree, a class 2 felony, that alleges the juvenile knowingly caused the death of Karmen Keefauver.

The charge filed is merely an accusation and the juvenile is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty. This is an open and continuing investigation. This case is proceeding through the judicial process. The names of the juvenile defendant are not being released at this time.



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**W**atch your distance

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

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HELP PARTNERS MENTORING!

*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](mailto: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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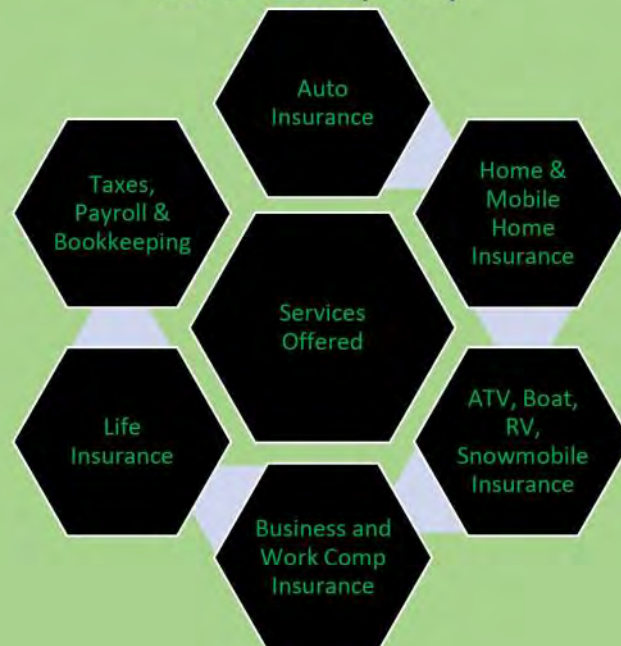
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# SAN MIGUEL COUNTY PARTNERS WITH REGION 10 FOR SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

*Special to the Mirror*

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**—On Friday, Jan. 8 at 1 am MST, San Miguel County, in collaboration with Region 10, opened applications for businesses to apply for its newest round of Coronavirus Relief Funding (CVRF).

The Colorado State Legislature established a Small Business Relief Program for counties, like San Miguel, that were in Level Red from December 10, or earlier, through December 31.

The types of businesses that should apply for this program include restaurants, bars, caterers, theatres, gyms and recreation centers. All businesses that experienced

an income loss in 2020 are encouraged to apply. Award amount will range, depending on historic annual revenue, from \$3,500 to \$7,000.

"The goal of this program is to continue providing relief for the businesses that have suffered from this pandemic," said San Miguel County Manager Mike Bordogna. "The state recognizes how difficult Level Red has been for the majority of its counties and has dedicated funds to aid in relief for small businesses in the communities that committed and adhered to strict restrictions in an effort to curb the spread of the virus."

The Small Business Relief Program will

provide direct relief payments to small businesses located in a county that was subject to, and in compliance with, severe capacity restrictions pursuant to a public health order. The county is seeking to extend the life of businesses that have a proven pre-pandemic business model but are in danger of closure due to last month's Level Red regulations.

The grant program timeline is as follows:

- Application period: Friday, Jan. 8 at 1 am MST until Friday, Jan. 29 at 11:59 pm MST
- Region 10 review of grant proposals: Monday, February 1 through Monday, February 8
- Region 10 recommendations to San Miguel County: Tuesday, Feb. 9
- Checks sent to awarded businesses by San Miguel County: Friday, Feb. 12

Applicants should be prepared with Profit and Loss (P&L) statements to show their business experienced a 20 percent or greater loss from 2019 to 2020. Businesses will also be required to provide a Certificate of Good Standing from the state as well as a few other requirements that can be found on the website. Any funds received will be considered taxable income. There is no guarantee of full or even partial granting of the funds requested.

To apply, businesses should visit the San Miguel County website, click the banner in the header for COVID information and click through to business resources in the header.

Alternatively, businesses can visit <https://tinyurl.com/smccovidgrants>.

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

To learn more about the grant program and to apply, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/smccovidgrants>



# Wash your hands

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

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY ENGINEER ANNOUNCES WOODGATE REALIGNMENT

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose is poised to begin the realignment of Woodgate Road, one of the largest capital projects of 2021. The design of the project is currently being finalized and the city is looking for public feedback.

This connection aims to relieve heavy traffic congestion in the area and give an alternative to Townsend Avenue, especially for local residents. With traffic pressure building in the area, the city formally started on the design of this realignment project in early 2020. This design included the completion of traffic studies and models to ensure the project was warranted, evaluate intersection performance, and determine the best alignment for the new roadway.

Once the preferred alignment for the roadway was identified, the city began working to secure the necessary rights of way, which cross six different parcels of private property. Negotiations on these land purchases have progressed to a point that the rights of way have generally been secured and the city is able to unveil the

road alignment to the public.

"We are very excited to be at this point on the project," said City Engineer Scott Murphy. "Between the project design, utility relocations, traffic considerations, and landowner implications there have been a lot of moving parts. We are glad to report that these elements are coming into focus and we can now start to direct our efforts towards construction."

As shown on the project overview drawing, the alignment joins East Oak Grove approximately 600 feet east of Townsend Avenue. This distance from Townsend is necessary to avoid negatively impacting traffic operations at the East Oak Grove signal and to line up with a future road connection to Church Street that has been envisioned in the city's Comprehensive Plan. The road will include a center turn lane, bike lanes in each direction, and a sidewalk along the eastern side that will tie into the existing sidewalk network along Woodgate and East Oak Grove Roads. The existing intersection with Woodgate Road at Townsend will be closed with this project. The roundabout

shown on the project overview drawing will not be constructed at this time, but will likely be constructed in conjunction with a future road connection to the north, should it ever occur.

The city has prepared a recorded video presentation with additional detail on the project drivers, background information, evaluation of alignment alternatives, and the path forward for the project. This presentation is being provided in lieu of the typical open house format in order to enable remote participation during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Comments may be directed to City Engineer Scott Murphy at 970.901.1792 or by email to [smurphy@cityofmontrose.org](mailto:smurphy@cityofmontrose.org).

Construction of the project is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2021.

The design of the project is currently being finalized while the city solicits public feedback for the project.

The video is available to view at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDb5tJBsP1w&t=1s>





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

# HUB WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC AND DENSITY, THREATEN COMMUNITY CHARACTER, PROPERTY VALUES

*TO: Montrose City Planning  
Commissioners*

*Montrose City Council Members*

We attended all six hours of the Zoom meeting last night. These are our thoughts "the morning after":

Commissioner Anthony Russo appeared to be an apologist for the developer, Matt Miles. Whenever an objection or quibble about the HUB project surfaced, it seemed like Mr. Russo always came back with a response to take the wind out of that particular sail, as if it did not matter. Hence, the "done deal" feel of the meeting.

We heard about the open space along the northeast edge of the development to be used for apartment dwellers' recreation. The sketch shows most of that open space is a pond. Unless the residents can walk on water, the remaining space offers limited use for large-scale outdoor activities such as kickball, basketball, softball, etc. Where are the 8-18 year old children of the renters expected to go? Typically, the playground cited by Mr. Miles would have equipment designed for 2-6 year olds.

The feathering cited along the develop-

ment's west side (along 6450 Road) sure looks like an internal parking strip for the senior housing placed there. What kind of buffer is that?

Attendees spoke loudly and clearly about the traffic issues the HUB will generate. These are not just Cobble Creek residents. It would appear the city and the county have not worked out what Chipeta Road improvements are needed to address safety concerns and mitigate the HUB's traffic impact. The two intersections at Chipeta and 6450, and Chipeta and 550, are significant hazards. It's going to take considerable engineering study and funding to ensure the public safety of the drivers, bikers and walkers along this shoulder-less rutted road. Isn't this one of the roles of government, to ensure public safety?

Whether it's one building or a complex of buildings on the 30-plus acres, people are crammed into this space like sardines. This is not compatible housing adjacent to the nearby single-family homes. Refer to the Comprehensive Plan whose intent was to address such disparate developments next to each other. Why even have such a plan when you

are willing to toss it by the wayside for a developer's dream and bottom line? We really appreciate Mr. Easton, Ms. Benziger, and Ms. Chastain for speaking up, toward the end of the meeting, to voice their misgivings about the nature of this project to be located in this semi-rural area.

We have been married 52 years, and it was always our dream to live on a golf course. It took us 46 years of working, putting four children through college, paying for three weddings, and enjoying only modest vacations, that we finally fulfilled that dream by purchasing our home on the 8th fairway in Cobble Creek. Now, the entire character of our community and our property value is threatened by the HUB's increased traffic and density.

In case you are thinking we folks here don't care about the future of where we live and our surroundings, we do care. And we are relying on you to address our concerns.

Thank you for all the work you do. Last night's Zoom presentation took a lot of preparation and coordination. Your efforts are appreciated.

*Pat and Connie Pitz, Montrose*

## SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



# 6-HOUR MEETING ON HUB PROJECT DRAWS INTEREST

## From pg 1

**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 proposed Hub at Montrose Crossing has generated considerable public interest and 168 people attended the Zoom meeting.

City Senior Planner Amy Sharp opened the six-hour meeting with background on the development and the Planning Commission's responsibilities. Sharp said, "We are not making any decisions today."

Acting chair Anthony Russo said, "The zoning is already approved. This [meeting] is for constructive purposes only."

Developer Matt Miles and his team gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project, the design process and the anticipated timeline. Speaking to attendees Miles said, "I understand your concerns. I'm able to say we had the same concerns when Cobble Creek went in. I can see the project from my house. There are a great deal of misunderstandings. The people on our team will show you how we will mitigate the impact."

David Fishing noted the Planning Commission has received 200 pages of public comment, some of which implied that the project does not fit the zoning in the Comprehensive Plan. He said, "The property is zoned R-3A. It is applicable."

Del-Mont Consultants President Steve Stevenson said, "This is a 35-acre parcel. The conceptional plan was submitted to the city in October. It will be built in three phases. There is one new public street. This is pretty high quality of building materials [rock siding]."

TurnKey Consulting, LLC provided traffic studies and analysis. Traffic Consultant

Skip Hudson said, "This will be relatively low traffic impact. There is no direct access to Chipeta Drive for safety reasons. Chipeta is a county road, meeting county requirements. Chipeta and 550 [intersection] is the elephant in the room." Hudson cited studies and applications needed for various agencies. He said, "We even considered COVID traffic reduction. There is no reduced traffic in relation to COVID."

In the next two-to-three years a traffic signal will be needed at Chipeta and 550. Hudson said, "In a couple of years from now it [at peak hour and peak season] will cause a one-minute delay. In 2025 a three-minute delay and in 2042 a 22-minute delay."

Jan Chastain questioned the proposed city incentives. Sharp said, "Incentives are not made by the Planning Commission. Those can only be made by city council."

City Engineer Scott Murphy said, "There are no plans for sidewalks on Chipeta, but space is reserved if needed." Murphy noted that there are three jurisdictions for roads in this project, 60 percent of the roads belong to the county and 40 percent belong to the city. He said, "It cost about \$1,000 a foot to build in the city."

Phoebe Benziger said, "Long range what does the county have for Chipeta? Does the county have any long-range plans for widening it?" The question went unanswered as there were no county representatives at the meeting.

Fielding questions from the board, Miles' development team discussed fencing, buffers, building within the 35-foot height requirement, sewer, and market rate. Miles said, "Market rate is whatever the market will bear. This is not workforce housing. We are not after subsidized renters. We are in this for the long haul. I'm not a slumlord. I am 55 years old and I have no intention of not riding this out. I've been here from the beginning and I'm

not going anywhere."

The topic of incentives was once again brought up. Russo said, "We can't speak to that." Sharp said, "No incentives have been approved at this point."

Russo said, "There's not much we could change. Today as this sits, they could move forward as is."

At 7 p.m. the board opened the meeting up to the public for comments. Russo said, "There is a three-minute time frame. We are happy to listen to anyone."

Benziger said, "A representative for a lot of people needs more time."

Russo said, "No. We have 400 pages of comments. We cannot allow more than three-minutes. Right now we have 168 attendees. We want to give everyone a chance to speak. We don't have to respond to comments. No questions are for the applicant, only for the Planning Commission."

Sue, a Cobble Creek resident, said "With our covenants we are not allowed to park outside our garages. This will look like a car lot. Not all [development] residents can put their car in the garage."

Miles said, "We do not have to adhere to Cobble Creek requirements."

There were number of comments about traffic safety and whether it has been adequately addressed. Concerns were also expressed about property values dropping, cars not watching out for golf carts, the development not following the city's comprehensive plan, children and school bus drop-offs.

The meeting ended at 11 p.m. and no decisions were made. The next City of Montrose Planning Commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2021.

Agendas for the Planning Commission are posted on the City website. Information can be found at: <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/126/Planning-Commission> and click on "Most Recent Agenda."



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET JAN. 13 - 14 IN VIRTUAL MEETING

### Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will discuss an annual review of its big game regulations, including: annual changes to season dates, limited license areas, quotas and manner of take provisions for bighorn sheep and mountain goat; annual changes to season dates, limited license areas, and manner of take provisions for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, moose and bear; changing the application deadline dates for the Secondary Draw and Fall Turkey Draw, and adding the fall turkey license to the list of eligible qualifying licenses for the Secondary Draw; creating a new season type "G" for guaranteed licenses due to natural disaster relief; annual changes to mountain lion season dates, harvest limits and manner of take provisions for mountain lion; and implementing the West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan. The Commission will also discuss an annual review of "General Provisions" regulations, including Game Management Unit boundary modifications; regulations relating to fish management, health, importation, prohibited species, and other annual changes; as well as draft regulations revising the requirements to access State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands leased by the Division and creating Colorado State Wildlife Area

passes at a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and Thursday, Jan. 14. The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page here.

The Commission will also consider adding a process for a person to petition the commission to end or modify a current license suspension under certain conditions; modifying the harvest limit, season dates, and hunting area boundary for greater prairie chicken; annual changes to waterfowl and migratory bird hunting seasons and related provisions including eliminating the Northern Front Range goose zone and combining it with the Balance of the Central Flyway zone; an annual review of "Wildlife Properties" regulations including, generally applicable and property-specific requirements for, or restrictions on use of wildlife properties controlled by CPW, including State Trust Lands leased by the Division; CPW's wolf reintroduction process, timeline proposal and public comment; and CPW's invasive species policy. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and adjourn at 5 p.m. The commission will reconvene at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 and adjourn at 5 p.m.

Additional agenda items include:  
Department of Agriculture update  
Department of Natural Resources update

Financial update  
Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) update

Check-in with Governor Jared Polis  
Federal and state wolf listing status and litigation update

A complete agenda along with all materials for public review for this meeting can be found on the CPW website. The public is encouraged to email written comments to the commission at [dnr\\_cpwcommission@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us). Details on providing public comments for virtual meetings are available on the CPW website.

The commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can listen to commission meetings through the CPW website. This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency. Find out more about the commission on the CPW website.

The next commission meeting will take place on March 17 and 18.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COVID VACCINE RESOURCES, LEVEL ORANGE-HIGH RISK LODGING

#### *Special to the Mirror*

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY** --- San Miguel County Public Health has updated the coronavirus website to include a section about vaccines. Updates include links to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) resources, pre-registration information, phasing and more.

Phase 1b of vaccine distribution has commenced throughout San Miguel County. Telluride Regional Medical Center and San Miguel County Public Health distributed their allocations this week almost entirely to residents 70 years of age and older.

Full-time residents of San Miguel County who are 70 or older and do not have a Primary Care Physician within the county should visit the county's COVID page to pre-register for a vaccine. To pre-register, visit the county's pre-registration form at: [bit.ly/smcvaccine](https://bit.ly/smcvaccine).

Alternatively, if internet access is unavailable, you can pre-register by calling Dawn Ibis, Registry Coordinator for Vaccine Distribution, at (970) 708-8670.

This registry line is reserved for full-time residents ages 70 and older at this time.

Public Health and the Telluride Regional Medical Center each received another 100 doses, enabling the county to continue with the administration of 200 Phase 1b vaccinations by the end of the day on Saturday, January 9.

Lodging Appendix A has been modified to adjust to Level Orange – High Risk. Under Level Orange, the lodging period has been modified from 15 day increments to one month's time during which each unit cannot exceed 60 percent of occupiable nights. For example, during the month of January, a lodging unit cannot rent more than 19 nights throughout the entirety of the month. Additionally, capacity limitations have been modified to allow no more than 10 guests from no more than two households at any given time. This change is aligned with the state's regulation of personal gatherings in Levels Blue through Orange. Public Health has confirmed 41 new positive cases of COVID-19 from test results received from January 6 through 8. Of these cases, thirty-three are

residents and all actively contagious cases are currently in isolation. There have been 467 total COVID cases among residents to date with 40 active cases. To learn more about the county's current COVID-19 metrics, please [visit the County COVID-19 dashboard](#).

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

If you are 70 years of age or older and have not yet heard from your Primary Care Physician, please pre-register at: [bit.ly/smcvaccine](https://bit.ly/smcvaccine)

For up-to-date coronavirus information, visit: [https://](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus)

[www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus](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>

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# SAN MIGUEL COUNTY RESIDENTS 70 AND OLDER TO RECEIVE VACCINES THIS MONTH

*Special to the Mirror*

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has released a revised statewide approach to the phases of vaccine distribution in order to prioritize residents that are 70 years of age and older.

"The primary goal of vaccine distribution strategy on the state and national level has always been two-fold," said Public Health Director Grace Franklin. "To rapidly reduce the number of deaths due to COVID-19 and to minimize the disruption to society and the economy caused by this global pandemic. This change to the phasing addresses the facts, the highest mortality rate is among people 70 and older."

A dotted line was added to the list of recipients in Phase 1b which should not be passed until all residents of San Miguel County who are 70 years of age and older receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Just below this line is the second half of Phase 1b recipients, including criti-

cal workforce such as teachers, utility employees, public transit, grocery and more.

San Miguel County Public Health and the medical centers in the county began working carefully and quickly to address this change. Throughout the coming weeks, Public Health will continue to work closely with the Uncompahgre Medical Center to reach residents who receive primary care at the UMC, are 70 years of age and older and consent to UMC sharing their information with Public Health in order to schedule a vaccine appointment.


As a designated distribution site, the Telluride Regional Medical Center has begun to call all patients 70 years of age and older on record for primary care over the last two years in order to register and schedule their vaccine administration.

Full-time residents of San Miguel County who are 70 or older and do not have a Primary Care Physician within the county should visit the county's COVID page to pre-register for a vaccine. To pre-register,

visit the county's pre-registration form at: [bit.ly/smcvaccine](https://bit.ly/smcvaccine).

Alternatively, if internet access is unavailable, you can pre-register by calling Dawn Ibis, Registry Coordinator for Vaccine Distribution, at (970) 708-8670. This registry line is reserved for full-time residents ages 70 and older at this time.

Public Health and the Telluride Regional Medical Center each received another 100 doses, enabling the county to continue with the administration of 200 Phase 1b vaccinations by the end of the day on Saturday, Jan. 9. Public Health has confirmed twenty-one new positive cases of COVID-19 from test results received from Jan. 1 through 5. Of these cases, fourteen are residents and all actively contagious cases are currently in isolation. There have been 435 total COVID cases among residents to date with 19 active cases. To learn more about the County's current COVID-19 metrics, please [visit the County COVID-19 dashboard](#).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Delta County Health Department, in conjunction with Project Protect Promotora Network, Delta County Memorial Hospital, and Curative, Inc., will be conducting free mobile COVID-19 testing every Friday and Saturday, in Delta County through February. Every Friday from 9a – 4p the mobile testing will take place in Delta at Lion's Pavilion located at 510 Palmer St., near the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. Every Saturday, the mobile testing will take place at the Delta County Fairgrounds, located at 403 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Hotchkiss, from 9:00a - 3:00p.

Delta County Health Department started vaccinating individuals in phase 1B this week, which includes individuals 70 and older, and continues to vaccinate those individuals who fall under 1A; appointment slots filled quickly and run solid through Friday, February 19. To date, Delta County Health Department and Delta County Memorial Hospital have received less than 1000 vaccines combined; we are administering them as quickly and effectively as we can given the ever changing plans from the State.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment modified the vaccination roll-out earlier this week changing the framework of vaccination distribution. Moving forward, any Delta

County resident who is 70 years old and older, and who has not already made an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination, can do so by calling one of the following locations:

-Internal Medicine – 970-874-7668

-Delta Family Medicine – 970-874-5777

West Elk Clinic – 970-872-1400

Additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>.

Delta County's Call Center is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9a – 1p; it can be reached by calling 970-874-2172.

Delta County reported 27 new positive cases today for a total of 1780 with 246 active and 1503 recovered. We currently have five individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 6 additional deaths this week bringing the total to 31; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has informed Delta County Health Department of two additional outbreak sites, Paonia Care Center and Community Options. For additional information on outbreak sites in Delta County and throughout Colorado, visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid19-outbreak-data>. As a reminder, an out-

break 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:**

-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 on Tuesdays ONLY. Call 970-874-2165. You can also continue to 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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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CITY CONTINUES TO GIVE AWAY OUR TAX MONEY AS IF WE OWNED THE PRESSES

*Editor:*

There was a virtual meeting last week where, for five hours, the so-called HUB project (by Matt Miles) was presented and discussed. Let us look at the figures I have managed to glean from the meeting and the Montrose Daily Press coverage.

Proposed are 500 apartments on 35 acres of land and some 20% of those acres are to be left in open space leaving 28 acres for everything else. Then there is to be a swimming pool, playground, roadways and parking space for 500 cars. Now wait a minute. According to the USDOT the AVERAGE vehicle ownership per U.S. family is 1.88 that means that this development needs 940 spaces without considering additional space for visitors. The parking density is far more than needed at a store where patrons come and go. What does this say for due diligence of either the contractor or the city? So what does that tidbit leave for the people, pathways and the like? It cannot leave more than 18 acres for the 500 units putting the family density at 28 families/apartments per acre.

There were 168 people dialed into the virtual session. There were two hours of comment and questions from those folks and non-virtual call-ins. That is a significant number of concerned citizens. (probably an all-time record for a Montrose issue). There might have been far more in attendance at the Event Center where the old folks would have not needed to fiddle with the "Virtualness" of the meeting.

Except for Mr. Miles, I understand that there was NOT one citizen in favor of HUB!

Traffic was one of the biggest concerns. Of course the greatest difficulties or questions center around what happens when all the cars (940?) leave for work or return about the same time---the rush hours. How could traffic surveys be done with a significant number of current residents staying home (covid) and the number of cars in the HUB underestimated by national standards by almost 50%? Somehow I cannot believe that Cobble Creek residents or the residents of surrounding

area as having moved to Montrose to engage in a perpetual traffic jam.

Market Rate rent. That is the plan and the desire. What happens to the rents and the appearance of the place when there is a slack or non-existent market? Or what does this development do to the rental market in the rest of Montrose? Has Montrose County been approached as to their requirements of the developer when the county needs to rebuild the county roads out there?

And why should the people of Montrose pay for Mr. Miles infrastructure development? Let him pay for that as he should. As he would have to have done in most other cities of the United States. I know, "we have to do it for him because we did \$10,000,000 for Mr. Dragoo", an adventure of the city council five years ago that except for one lot is a WEED PATCH. And HUB is only a \$2,400,000 gift after all. Well, be aware, we are going to be stuck with a lot of road improvement bills, school bills, fire suppression bills, police department costs. By the way, just out of curiosity, what will guarantee adequate water and pressure to fight a fire in this 'development'? Or will the fire department just put in for another tax increase? And our water company have to lay a larger pipeline?

Where are these tenants to work? We've lost Russel Stover and many, many retailers. Penny's is gone. Mr. Dragoo has not developed Colorado Outdoors as promised and has come back to the city asking for several millions more over the \$10,000,000 he already got (frittered away?!). Conservatively, just where are the fabulous industries that are expected to provide the \$25,000,000 in wages and benefits to the folks who live at the HUB?

Everywhere I have ever lived developers have been required to buy their land and build it all, all by themselves. If their development is not stand alone profitable then it should not be built. And generally speaking they are required to put forth cash to offset the costs of providing roads, schools, police, fire protection in addition to the housing they construct. Why is Montrose so different? We are different

because in Montrose our city council neglects our police department for ten years while funding developers and then goes to the taxpayer to pay for the rebuilding of that which should have been built years ago. We have all kinds of nifty cost centers in Montrose that produce nothing but debt. The 'self-sustaining' Recreation Center is seeking city funds to cover its losses; the golf course loses a million dollars annually; our streets are an abomination of potholes, rough edges and pits and Colorado Outdoors will remain a gopher farm for the next ten years.

With our national economy heading into the tank, will ours not soon follow? And we are blowing bucks on pipe dreams that Peter Piper could not fantasize! It needs to stop. But our totally incompetent city council continues giving away our tax money as if we owned the presses. Our city manager, employed by the city to improve things in Montrose, is imitating Nero and fiddles (fritters) away our city's treasure on non-producing projects. Can any reader cite one city incentivized project that has turned a profit as predicted? Why another venture into the wilderness?

Ladies and gentlemen. It is long past time that this ship of fools be sunk. We all know that they will not fix themselves. They are in the city government to get all that they can. They need to shape up and fly right or be canned. They will not do that; they have had ample chances. In city government canned means recalled. So let's do it! A recall of the entire council is long overdue. We should make sure that the days of paying for incompetence and inability end. And do it with an exclamation point!

Does anyone remember Extra Aircraft, the wonderful airplane company that wanted to come here and solve our airport problems? Extra did not make it because of citizen pressure and thank God they did not. What a waste. Their demonstration almost crashed. That would have been ok but a good friend of mine was in it. What a debacle as will HUB be if it gets approved.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*



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COMMERCIAL DIVISION



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME NOW PROHIBITED BY LAW

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER -- The Colorado Civil Rights Commission (CCRD) is reminding Coloradans that, as of January 1, 2021, refusing to rent, lease, show for rent or lease, or transmit an offer to rent or lease housing based on a person's source of income is prohibited by law under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA). "Source of income" is defined in the statute as "any lawful and verifiable source of money paid directly, indirectly, or on behalf of a person." In addition, discriminating in the terms or conditions of a rental agreement against a person based on source of income, or based upon the person's participation in a third-party contract required as a condition of receiving public housing assistance are violations of the Act.

The changes to CADA are a result of House Bill 20-1332, passed during the legislative session last spring and signed into law by Governor Jared Polis in July. "Colorado is home to a diverse array of industries, and a person cannot be denied housing regardless of their source of income, be it in the form of public or private assistance or any lawful employment," stated Civil Rights Division Director Aubrey Elenis. "Further, during a particularly difficult time for many in our state, discrimination based on receiving government or private assistance should never occur. All Coloradans have a right to access housing, and this right is now solidified."

The amended housing language also states that advertisements for the rent or lease of housing cannot include any limitation or preference based on source of income, or the use of representations related to a person's source of income to induce another person to rent or lease property. However, these restrictions do not apply in the following circumstances:

- If a landlord has three or fewer rental units;
- If a landlord has five or fewer single family rental homes, they are not required to accept federal housing choice vouchers for the single family homes.

It is important to note that a landlord is not prohibited from checking the credit of a prospective tenant. Checking the credit

of a prospective tenant is not an unfair housing practice if the landlord checks the credit of every prospective tenant. CCRD encourages any person who encounters

discrimination because of their verifiable, legal source of income to initiate a formal complaint of discrimination at <https://ccrd.colorado.gov/>.



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ISSUE 297 Jan. 11, 2021

## ART &amp; SOL

## WOODEN TOY CARS DONATED TO MONTROSE POLICE DEPT (MPD)

*By Gail Marvel*

MONTROSE—Al Warnock, retired Air Force and retired Canton South Dakota Chief of Police, uses his woodworking skills to fashion small wooden cars that he donates to law enforcement agencies.

Warnock said, "If there is a car crash or a domestic violence situation, anything where a youngster needs a distraction, the officers can give the child a toy. Who doesn't love a toy car?"

Warnock, a five-year resident of Montrose, recently donated over a dozen toy cars to the Montrose Police Department (MPD).

The cars are made out of 2 X 6 stock and cut with a scroll saw.

Once the edges are routed and sanded, the axels and wheels are attached.

Warnock said, "It only takes about 30 minutes to make the car. I leave them unfinished."



**Photo—Woodworker Al Warnock (left) donated handcrafted wooden cars to the Montrose Police Department (MPD). In a crisis situation where children are involved, the cars can offer a much-needed distraction. Sergeant Courtney Jones is on hand to accept the cars on behalf of MPD. Photo by Gail Marvel**

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





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER ANNOUNCES FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC



*Pictured above, resident is Eva Morris and the staff member at right is Tonya Mora, Medical Records Director and Transportation and Supply Management Manager. Courtesy photo.*

#### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Valley Manor Care Center, a Volunteers of America long-term care, skilled nursing facility, held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents and staff on Wednesday, January 6. The clinic vaccinated 47 residents and 51 staff members with the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine administered by their pharmacy partner, Walgreens.

"We are excited to participate in the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout that includes both our residents and staff," said Executive Director, Jim Burrell. "Our residents are the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of COVID-19, and

each team member on our staff continues to put their health on the line everyday as they show their commitment to our residents' care. The Pfizer vaccine was found to be highly effective, and we believe this will protect and save lives."

Today's vaccinations are the first of the two doses necessary to achieve the full protection of the vaccine, which was found to be 94% effective in phase three trials. Valley Manor Care Center will continue to follow all necessary precautions, including wearing personal protective equipment and conducting regular testing, to ensure safety and comply with federal and state guidelines.

"We fully support the federal and state prioritization of long-term care in the distribution of the vaccine," continued Burrell.

"The past year has proven challenging for everyone. We are grateful to our staff, residents and their families for their continued strength and support. The fact that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found the vaccine to be safe and effective gives us hope as we look towards a brighter future."

For the most up to date information on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and Valley Manor Care Center, please visit [valleymanorcare.org](http://valleymanorcare.org).

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



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SUPPORT YOUR MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The Society hopes all had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. With the beginning of a New Year, we are asking Montrose County residents and businesses to consider membership in the Montrose County Historical Society, which helps operate the Montrose County Historical Museum, and provides unlimited admissions to the museum. The Society and museum rely on memberships, admissions, and donations for the money to operate the museum. The membership form can be found on our website; [www.Montrosehistory.org](http://www.Montrosehistory.org).

This past year has been quite challenging due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Support from our members and the community has been vital in our ongoing efforts to preserve and disseminate Montrose's rich

history for current and future generations. With the community support the Society is able to accomplish the following:

- Fund the ongoing yearly operating expenses of the Museum (maintenance, utilities, insurance and security).
  - Improve and maintain museum exhibits at a professional level.
  - Catalog the collection and improve research access.
  - Expand the Museum's educational and stewardship role.
  - Continue our affordable admission policy, to insure wide accessibility.
  - Quarterly newsletters
- Dues and donations are tax deductible under our 501(c)3 designation and 100 percent of all funds raised go directly to museum programs, exhibits, operations and upkeep. For years Colorado Taxpayers

have been able to make a donation, from their Colorado Income Tax refund, to several big money charities. Starting last year Colorado Income Tax filed in 2021, you can make that donation to a local, eligible charity. The state's list of eligible charities includes Montrose County Historical Society. Start planning now to add **Montrose County Historical Society, Registration # 20063010520** to the donation line of your Colorado Tax return. Thanks for remembering and supporting us! Membership forms can be found at [www.Montrosehistory.org](http://www.Montrosehistory.org). Thank you for believing in the preservation of our community's cultural heritage and for contributing to its successful conservation! The support of the entire community as members makes the Montrose County Historical Society successful.



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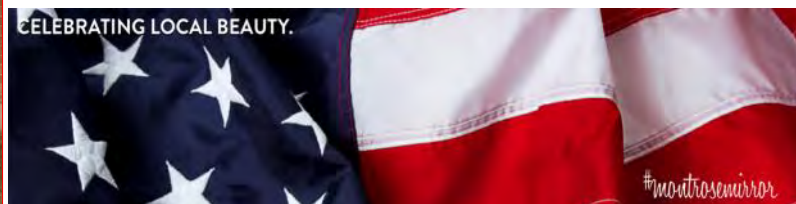


## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### VETERANS FUND A BRIGHTER FUTURE WITH YOUTH DONATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

*MONTROSE-American Legion Riders from Post 73 assist Jeremy Rousseau Post 73 CDR with the presentation of Donations to the Montrose High School Band, FFA and Constitution Club. Veterans involved in the growth of our future. Well done American Legion! Courtesy photos.*



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### ORCHARD CITY AND MONTROSE ARTISTS CHOSEN TO CREATE AGE-POSITIVE BIRTHDAY CARDS

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

DENVER - Frustrated by the racks of birthday card options that mock older adults, the anti-ageism group [Changing the Narrative](#) is making [birthday card shopping](#) fun again, producing "age-positive" cards—designed by Colorado artists—that reflect the true joys of growing older.

A contest attracting submissions from over 60 Colorado artists resulted in 23 winning birthday card designs to be part of a collection of age-positive cards. The diverse group of artists and their designs share one thing: an understanding that age is something to celebrate.

Cara Helmick of Orchard City and Lu Anne Tyrell of Montrose were among those chosen.

Changing the Narrative challenges the notion perpetuated in many birthday cards that with each year, older adults become weak, deaf, forgetful, and crabby. According to traditional cards, we should feel bad about aging and acknowledge

that getting older means going downhill. In an effort to be humorous, some of the cards portray older adults as bench-sitting curmudgeons, boozy women in wheelchairs, flatulent grandparents, or lecherous old men. But ageism isn't funny, it's harmful.

Recent studies found that on a daily basis, 82 percent of older adults report experiencing forms of everyday ageism. Other studies show how that this may be harmful to our health: older adults who reported experiencing three or more forms of "everyday ageism" had worse physical and mental health than those who reported fewer forms of ageism.

"It's time to celebrate age! Older adults are often curious, active, and engaged, yet so many of my birthday card choices mock older adults or make aging seem like a period of decline, depression, and dependence," said Janine Vanderburg, Director of Changing the Narrative. "The fact is, we are living longer and healthier lives

that give us the chance to do more and become more.

Older age has its own unique benefits to celebrate and now we've made cards to do just that."

"We all know older adults whom we admire and respect," continued Vanderburg. "Ageism diminishes us all and limits our potential to use the insights and ingenuity that older adults can offer. Birthday cards are just a small example of the serious matter of ageism. Now, locally-designed greeting cards that honor the one thing that all of us have in common—getting older—are available."

More than 20 wildly creative artists used a wide range of techniques to create cards based on their perspectives from across many spectrums - gender, race, geography, (dis)abilities, and importantly, age. For more information on how to support older adults and local artists through these [birthday cards](#), please visit [changingthenarrativeco.org](#).



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### BLM COLORADO NAMES NEW DISTRICT MANAGERS AFTER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES REALIGNMENT



*Elijah Waters has been selected as the new district manager for the Northwest Colorado District. Courtesy photo.*



*Greg Larson has been named as the district manager for the new Upper Colorado River District. Courtesy photo.*

#### Special to Art & Sol

LAKEWOOD— District managers have been hired for the Upper Colorado River and Northwest districts after a successful realignment of BLM Colorado's district and fire unit boundaries to improve safety and efficiency.

Elijah Waters has been selected as the new district manager for the Northwest Colorado District and Greg Larson named as the district manager for the new Upper Colorado River District. Both report for duty on Jan. 17. Waters will be stationed in Craig and Larson will be stationed in Grand Junction.

"Both Greg and Elijah are proven public land managers, bringing impressive backgrounds in management and leadership experience," said BLM Colorado State Director Jamie Connell. "They previously served as field managers in western Colorado and we are lucky to keep their talents in the state."

Prior to joining the BLM, Larson worked

as contractor and trainer for the BLM in the private sector, providing expertise in stream and restoration compliance with the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, as well as other federal and state rules and regulations. He worked as a planner and project manager for the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt from 2014-2017, where he was involved in a number of high-profile projects. Most recently, Larson served as the BLM Uncompahgre Field Manager in Montrose, where he led the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan to its completion last spring. He holds a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a master's degree in watershed science from Utah State University.

"My passion for public lands grew tremendously as the Uncompahgre Field Manager," Larson said. "I'm thrilled to take what I learned and work with the

newly minted Upper Colorado River District staff to provide the public with balanced stewardship of the area's diverse resources."

Waters holds a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences, as well as a master's degree in wildlife biology – both from North Carolina State University. He joined the BLM in 1992, where he worked as a fisheries biologist in Oregon until 1999. From there, he moved to BLM Alaska and served as a wildlife biologist and Associate Field Manager. Waters has been the Gunnison Field Manager since 2015 and carries a breadth of experience on diverse resource issues including endangered species, land disposals and acquisitions, subsistence, rights-of way, recreation, grazing and mining.

"My family fell in love with Colorado when we moved here from Alaska," said Waters. "The recreation and natural resources here are world class and I'm honored to be selected as the district manager for the Northwest Colorado District."

Waters and his wife Dollie have three children. They all enjoy outdoor activities like skiing, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, rafting and biking.

Larson and his wife Lauren also enjoy the outdoors with their dog, Rocky. They are avid skiers, mountain bikers and boaters. The Northwest Colorado District manages 3.1 million surface acres across the Kremmling, Little Snake and White River field offices, encompassing 7.7 million acres of public mineral estate. The Upper Colorado River District manages 1.8 million surface acres across the Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley field offices, encompassing 4.1 million acres of public mineral estate.

#### CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# \$51,000 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL STUDENTS FOR POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### *Special to Art & Sol*

REGIONAL-Local students looking to pursue or continue their post-high school education and training can now apply for funding through Delta-Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) annual scholarship program. The co-op opened its application period this week, and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2021.

"This year, we're excited to announce a few new opportunities for students. Our new power supply partner, Guzman Energy has committed \$7,000 to our scholarship program, funding two new line worker scholarships, as well as a character-based scholarship that considers a student's ability to overcome hardship, serve others, or demonstrate outstanding integrity," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA Chief Executive Officer.

DMEA's scholarships provide local students with funds to attend a variety of higher education institutions including private and public universities, liberal arts colleges, vocational and trade schools, community and junior colleges, institutes of technology, art and design schools, and even online colleges.

Multiple scholarships are available in the following categories:

High School Graduate

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships awarded to 1 graduate from

Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, Olathe, and Paonia High School, 1 graduate of a non-traditional school in either Delta County and Montrose County, 2 graduates from Delta High School, and three graduates from Montrose High School

Continuing Education

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships awarded to 3 students who are currently enrolled full-time in an accredited post-high school educational institution.

CMU – Montrose Campus

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships awarded to 2 students who are planning to attend or are currently enrolled full-time in Colorado Mesa University - Montrose Campus. Limit to 1 high school recipient and 1 current student recipient.

Tech College of the Rockies

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships awarded to 2 students who are planning to attend or are currently enrolled full-time in the Technical College of the Rockies. Limit to 1 high school recipient and 1 current student recipient.

Line Worker Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships awarded 2 students currently enrolled in a lineman school who are DMEA members or dependents of DMEA members.

Guzman Energy Character Award

Amount: \$3,000

Scholarship awarded to 1 high school graduate applicant who has demonstrated superb character or overcome significant hardship.

DMEA awards all scholarships based on academic performance, extra-curricular and community activities, futures goals, and an assigned essay. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Applicants must be dependents of a DMEA member or a member themselves. Applications must be submitted online at <https://www.dmea.com/scholarships>.

DMEA's scholarship program is funded by the co-op's unclaimed capital credit fund along with its wholesale power provider, Guzman Energy. The cooperative business model ensures that excess margins remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to the DMEA members as capital credits.

If any of these credits remain unclaimed, they are transferred to the unclaimed capital credit fund and used for charitable and educational purposes, like DMEA's scholarship program.

For more information visit

[www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) and review the scholarship information and application located under the community tab, or contact DMEA at 877-687-3632



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# REMEMBERING JOHN PORTER...AND A POEM FOR TODAY

By Art Goodtimes

NORWOOD-The older one gets, the more one gains and the more one loses. "All power to the paradox," my old friend Jack Mueller would say. The gains are significant. One becomes not merely a senior, but an elder. One whose broad experience and depth of knowledge is often sought by those younger, the still inexperienced-- or those merely mired in the rush of quotidian concerns.

The hardest losses are those of friends. Of mentors you considered friends.

I didn't know John Porter all that well. We lived more than a hundred miles apart. He was, what my old Earth First! pals would have called, a "water buffalo." That's how I met him, as a member of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. I was a crusading Green county commissioner tasked by my enviro-leaning constituents to "clean up" the dam-building good-old-boy water establishment in our far corner of the state.

Wisely, I moved slow. Attended meetings. Read a lot. I was inspired in that former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs was a classmate of mine at a Catholic seminary in California. He remains one of the most eminent authorities on Colorado Water Law. I was arrogant enough to think a crash course in my case might boost me up to cruising speed.

But the demands on local political office were far too many and too diverse to try to take on water, the most slippery of subjects, even in a dry year. I deferred to appointees and surrogates, though I kept a big toe dipped in the larger pond.

Water buffaloes, like their prairie doppelgangers, are formidable creatures. Trying to oppose them is like trying to stem a stampede with a fly swatter.

So, out of necessity, outgunned, I had to listen to them. And listening to John I learned far more than I could have imagined. He was knowledgeable about all things water, but never condescending. He voted as his peers and colleagues wanted, though he was always willing to talk with



those opposed, to hear them out. And he did his best to explain the mindset behind what seemed to many of us at least anthropocentric, if not downright humanistic bullying.

But John cared deeply about people. His Four Corners people. Family and friends, ranchers and farmers, townsfolk and indigenous tribes -- people he knew who'd worked hard all their lives to make a go of it, through droughts and floods and economic depressions, sometimes against incredible odds.

Unlike some of his peers, he listened to the eco-arguments some of us made, and saw some merit in pulling up a chair to the table for us to join the discussion. He urged us to roll up our sleeves, put aside rancor and get to work. He took pride in getting all sides brainstorming together to

come up with more nuanced courses of action.

Reciprocally, I enlisted his aid in coming to my liberal county and getting citizens to understand the need for water storage in our desert environment.

Maybe not in the old Bureau of Reclamation big-dam-way, but selectively targeted with sensitivity to environmental concerns.

I grew to love John Porter. He was the unsung Western hero -- not out on the barricades waving flags or barging into meetings tongue blazing. He took his time. Moved carefully. Made friends of enemies, if he could. Never lost his integrity. If he compromised, it was on strategy, not on principles.

I came to understand John Porter was the best of water buffaloes. Bless him.

# SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

## 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. 9<sup>th</sup> 2021  
**Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompahgre Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

**Cost:** Free to attend. Curbside service is still available in the winter season!

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

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

## MONTHLY

**Jan. 13-14**-The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will discuss an annual review of its big game regulations a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and Thursday, Jan. 14. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and adjourn at 5 p.m. The commission will reconvene at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 and adjourn at 5 p.m. [The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page here.](#)

**Jan. 22-23**-The Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is going virtual Jan. 22-23, 2021. To register please visit: [foodfarmforum.org](http://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, wildfire, 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. [Click here to learn more »](#)



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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*Deb captured this vista last week, on an adventure to the dobie badlands under the shadow of Indian Point on the Grand Mesa. "Such beauty and history in the entire Delta area," she said.*

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