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# the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 412 Jan. 18 2021

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr....

## CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORED AS 2020 COLORADO 'SCHOOL TO WATCH'

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education gathered for a regular meeting at District Offices on Tuesday, Jan. 12. All directors were present except District B Director Jacob Suppes.

Board of Education President Gayle Johnson called the meeting to order and said that everyone in attendance would wear a mask unless speaking; the board joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Secretary to the Board Laurie Laird presented recent donations:

-The City of Montrose has awarded the Montrose County School District After-School Program a \$20,202 grant which has

[Continued pg 5](#)



*Centennial Middle School Principal Joe Simo (left) unfurls a banner announcing to the RE-1J Board of Education that Centennial has been named one of 15 2020 Colorado Schools to Watch. This is the second time that Centennial Middle School has been honored as a Colorado school to watch.*

## CITY CONSIDERS FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDY, CONTRACT AWARD FOR AMPHITHEATER CONSTRUCTION



*The City of Montrose issued an RFQ/P for the CM/GC services for the Rotary Amphitheater (above) immediately following the 2021 budget approval on Nov. 17, 2020. Stryker and Company, Inc. was chosen by the selection committee, with the contract scheduled for approval Tuesday, Jan. 19. Courtesy image.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will host a work session at 10 a.m. and regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The work session date change is due to the National Dr. Martin Luther King Day Holiday, which the City will honor for the first time in five years.

### WORK SESSION

The work session agenda states, "This meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/WorkSession-1-19-21>...The meeting can also viewed live on the City of Montrose website, [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org), on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

Discussion items will include a childcare survey and needs assessment presentation:

**Background**-A memo from Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler to Council states, "Members of the Uncompahgre

[Continued pg 9](#)

in this issue

[Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!](#)

[Community says farewell to Dan Lynch!](#)

[Sue Hansen to serve as 2021 BOCC Chair!](#)

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



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## COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WISH DAN LYNCH FAREWELL



Grateful community members held a farewell party for Cherry Creek Radio's incomparable Dan Lynch on Jan. 13 at the Montrose Elks Lodge. Thank you for being a voice for Montrose Dan! Photo by Paul Arbogast.



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# DELTA MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (DMEA) HOLDS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING



*In the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) continues to hold virtual meetings. The next scheduled regular board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2021. Members who want to join board meetings on Zoom can contact Amy Taylor via e-mail at [amy.taylor@dmea.com](mailto:amy.taylor@dmea.com) for meeting login information. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

*By Gail Marvel*

MONTROSE-Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) held a Special Board of Directors Meeting on Jan. 14. The only agenda item gives co-op members limited information:

**Agenda Item: Executive Session: Review/Discussion on Power Supply RFP (Request for Proposal).**

In a follow-up email, DMEA Executive Assistant Amy Taylor said, "The special meeting of the board was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

At 3:02 p.m. the board entered into executive session to discuss the power supply RFP.

At 4:23 p.m., the board exited executive session and the board did not deviate from the aforementioned executive session topic during its discussion. Then, upon motion from Director Hauck, seconded by Director Lockhart, the board unanimously authorized DMEA's CEO to engage one or more of the power supply RFP responders and to advance negotiations for possible purchase of output from a project

in DMEA's service territory, with the goal of maximizing power cost savings and the amount of renewable energy purchases consistent with DMEA's rights under its wholesale electric service contract with Guzman Energy. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm."

## **DMEA Board Members**

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449,

[bpatterson@montrose.net](mailto:bpatterson@montrose.net)

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124,

[kyle@touchofcarepcp.com](mailto:kyle@touchofcarepcp.com)

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, [bharding@firstcoloradobank.com](mailto:bharding@firstcoloradobank.com)

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [kennethrwatson@gmail.com](mailto:kennethrwatson@gmail.com)

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, [ch@haucks.cc](mailto:ch@haucks.cc)

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)

Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, [enno.heuscher@dmea.com](mailto:enno.heuscher@dmea.com)

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

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

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## CTMS NAMED 2020 COLORADO 'SCHOOL TO WATCH' From pg 1

been paid through the Nonprofit and Child Care Assistance Program for Covid-19 revenue loss reimbursement.

-Western Skyways made a donation to Andrea Bogart (Health Tech at CES) and Montrose County Schools in the amount of \$10,000 to support youth in a way that supports STEM industries. The money must be used to purchase Lego Robotics and offer a kit to each interested student in the elementary schools.

-Western Colorado Contractors Association (WCCA) board of directors has donated \$800 to Montrose County School STEM or Vocational Programs for their program needs to help further the future workforce into the construction industry.

-The Town of Olathe made a donation of \$500 for the Olathe Schools Outdoor Learning Project.

RE-1J Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins spoke as well.

Jenkins said that he had visited with the Montrose Board of County Commissioners in work session, and commissioners have agreed to place a proclamation in support of School Board Recognition Month on the BOCC's regular business meeting agenda for Jan. 20. "In Montrose County, the month of the January will be school board recognition month," Jenkins said. "...Thank you all for your service on behalf of the County Commissioners and the County."

Centennial Middle School Principal Joe Simo opened a Zoom session, to share with the Board of Education that Centennial has been named one of 15 2020 Colorado Schools to Watch. This is the second time that Centennial has earned the designation, which lasts three years and is presented by the Colorado Association of Middle Level Education (CAMLE). Criteria for the award include academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and strong organizational structure. David Baker of CAMLE led the site visit to Centennial for the 2020 designation. Baker said that he attended Centennial himself, and that his parents were watching the Zoom presentation. "What a joy and a pleasure it was to walk through Centennial Middle School," he said, noting that he spent the entire day enthralled with the quality of the experience that was being presented to Centennial stu-

dents. "...the pride that I felt...getting to see the criteria really being brought to life for the students of Montrose and the community was such a treat."

Baker shared comments heard from students, staff, and parents, and Centennial Principal Joe Simo unfurled a banner to be displayed.

District F Director Eric Kelley gave an update on the Building and Facilities Committee, which met Dec. 29 to review seven applicants for the facilities master plan and narrow that list to three.

"We were able to interview those companies yesterday," Kelley said, "And I believe we have it narrowed down to a potential person that will be offered that job..."

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said, "I am happy, happy to report that Olathe Middle/High School is back to 100 percent in-person learning starting on January 5. That is going really well...kids seem really happy to be back in the buildings...they are able to spread out for lunches and things like that."

Struggling learners are also returning to 100 percent in person learning, Stephenson said. "We are waiting for our metrics to go down to bring everyone else back...we're heading in the right direction."

The District has not changed its testing strategy, she said. "We have changed locations...we are in the show barn behind Friendship Hall now, but we are still offering testing to those students and staff members who are mixed up in quarantine events."

RE-1J has applied to participate in a pilot program with antigen testing through the State of Colorado, she said. "We're waiting for more information."

The District will coordinate with Montrose County Public Health on vaccines as those become available.

RE-1J has received information about the new ESSER 2 funds (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief), Stephenson said. "For Montrose County School District that will be a little over four million dollars...we have until I believe September of 2023 to spend that...it's important to remember that these are one-time funds, so they are not there to help us offset our ongoing costs

that are part of our budget, which is still a struggle in these times, but certainly a gift that we will appreciate getting to help us offset the COVID expenses and the learning gaps that we know that all kids are experiencing right now."

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

District Finance Director Emily Imus presented the January Enrollment Report. At 5,806 students, the January enrollment report is six students higher than enrollment in December, 2020, and 120 students lower than this time last year, Imus said.

Superintendent Stephenson discussed ways that the district hopes to recapture some of the lost enrollment, including the possibility of keeping the online learning program going and setting up a home school alliance.

"We have plans to continue with the Kindergarten Carnival that happens every year," she said. Every Kindergarten student who registers at the carnival will receive a yard sign, Stephenson said.

Early Childhood Center Director Penny Harris gave an update.

"Our numbers were down for all three of our programs this year," Harris said.

"We're making additional efforts to recruit kiddos for our preschool program next year, with the efforts of Matt Jenkins doing some social media stuff."

Despite COVID, preschool attendance has not changed, she said. "I think the mitigation strategies worked," Harris said.

"When kids get sick, they stay home, and they don't spread."

She presented the ECC's annual report.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board of Education voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, including the Personnel Report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Imus presented and explained in detail a Recommendation to approve Resolution 02-2021 Amended Budget Adoption 2020-2021; and 03-2021 Authorizing Use of Portion of Beginning Fund Balance 2020-2021.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The RE-1J Board of Education will meet for a work session Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m., and for a regular meeting Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

# HANSEN TO SERVE AS 2021 BOCC CHAIR



*Sue Hansen, center, will serve as chair of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for 2021. The next BOCC meeting will take place Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m. Courtesy photo.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-During the annual reorganizational meeting of Jan. 12, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) selected Commissioner Sue Hansen to serve as BOCC Chair and Commissioner Keith Caddy to serve as BOCC Vice Chair for 2021.

All commissioners were present for the meeting, which began with an invocation by Pastor Mike Lundberg of Church on the Hill. Lundberg expressed gratitude. "Father we thank you so much for our

county commissioners...everything that goes on in their room there today is accessible to each one of us...government is one of your institutions and we're so grateful for that, and for good people who are leading us...I pray that you will bless them and give them wisdom..."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy welcomed all to the meeting. County Manager Ken Norris led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

"We never can forget to honor this great nation that we live in," Caddy said, and thanked Norris.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

## COUNTY MANAGER

Norris said that he had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve changes to the board as nominated with Resolution 02-2021, naming Commissioner Sue Hansen as BOCC Chair and Caddy as Vice Chair for 2021.

"It appears like Commissioner Hansen is now the new chair," Caddy said.

"Commissioner Hansen I hand the gavel over to you."

Resolution 02-2021-Annual Appointments Resolution was read into the record by Administrative Support Manager Susan Byrne.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items as presented, including Resolution 03-2021, regarding deposit of funds by the County Treasurer, as well as for the designation of approved financial institutions that can be used for the deposit of County funds in accordance with CRS 30-10-708.

Hansen called for a motion to adjourn, which was approved. "Thank you everybody, appreciate the attendance, look forward to the year guys," she said.





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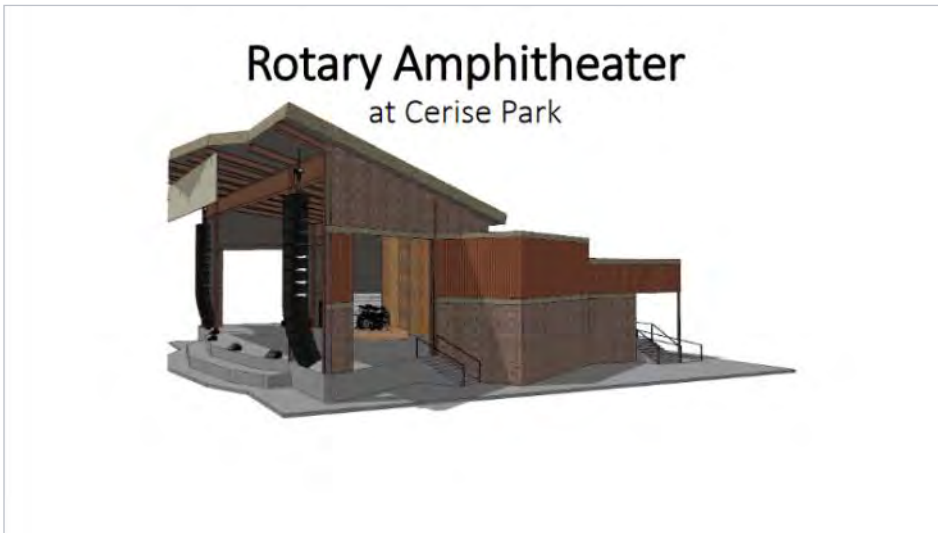
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## ***CITY CONSIDERS FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDY, CONTRACT AWARD FOR AMPHITHEATER CONSTRUCTION From pg 1***



***On Tuesday Jan. 19, Council will consider awarding budgeted funds of \$3,200,000 for the construction of the Rotary Amphitheater (above), including the award of a contract with Stryker and Company, Inc. as the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC).***

Valley Alliance will attend the Jan. 19, 2021 Council Work Session and present information about their work in the community regarding childcare (RootPolicyResearch) to perform a professional Childcare Needs Assessment in Montrose. The Needs Assessment will cost \$38,950. The Uncompahgre Valley Alliance has secured partial funding from community partners and seeks the City's financial support of the Needs Assessment as well."

Discussion items will also include the Woodgate Realignment Project:

**Background**-Documents included in the work session packet note, "The City of Montrose unveiled plans for the Woodgate Realignment Project on Jan. 4, 2021. This press release is available on the City's capital project webpage at MoveMo.co Included with the press release was a 20-minute informational video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDb5tJBsP1w>) providing background information on the project, its drivers, evaluation of alignment alternatives, and the proposed path forward." Council will discuss the Amphitheater

CM/GC Contract Award:

**Background**-Council will consider awarding budgeted funds of \$3,200,000 for the construction of the Rotary Amphitheater, including the award of a contract with Stryker and Company, Inc. as the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC). A memo from Public Works Manager Jim Scheid to City Council states, "The City of Montrose issued an RFQ/P for the CM/GC services for the Rotary Amphitheater immediately following the 2021 budget approval on November 17, 2020. At the first stage of the proposals received, the City's selection committee reviewed qualifications with the intent of selecting 3 firms to shortlist. The City received 6 qualification proposals and after thoughtful debate the proposals were shortlisted to 3 firms. The shortlisted firms were Asset Engineering from Grand Junction, CO, FCI Constructors, Inc from Grand Junction, CO and Stryker and Co from Montrose, CO. The 3 firms were asked to prepare a detailed construction estimate, general condition costs and participate in an interview. After the proposals, GC costs, esti-

mates and interviews were evaluated a clear leader emerged from a group of well-qualified applicants. Stryker and Company, Inc. was chosen by the selection committee."

Final completion date for the Amphitheater project will be set for Nov. 1.

Additional work session discussion items include the 2021 Equipment purchase recommendations; Black Canyon Golf Course Equipment purchase recommendations; and the 2021 Annexation Plan.

Items to be considered in upcoming City meetings and work sessions include:

Feb. 1-Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Software upgrade recommendation;  
Feb. 16-Fermented Malt Beverage License Transfer - Alta #6126; Fourth Quarter Budget Review.

### **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically and can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/CityCouncil1-19-21>."

### **ORDINANCES 2525 AND 2526**

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2525 on second reading, for the annexation of the Lynch Addition.

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2526 on second reading, zoning the Lynch Addition as a B-2 Highway Commercial District.

### **CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

As previously discussed in work session, Council will consider approving an amendment to the contract with Blythe Group and Co. for the additional services of audiovisual design and furniture design, bidding and oversight for the new Public Safety Complex (PSC) Construction Project, increasing the total contract amount to \$830,676. Council will consider awarding the purchase of 22 new Ford Vehicles to low bidder Sill-Terhar Motors, of Broomfield, Colorado, for the total purchase price of \$953,450.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### WHO WE ARE...

Editor:

We are made of pieces of a puzzle, the Picture the pieces make will take all our lives to reveal, if we judge each individual piece as Wrong, and toss it in the garbage, we will not see the whole picture.

Timothy Storrs, Montrose

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE & JOHNSON ECC CAMPUSES GO TO TEMPORARY REMOTE INSTRUCTION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Jan. 14, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) determined that the Montrose and Johnson Early Childhood Center (ECC) campuses would temporarily transition to remote learning due to COVID staffing impacts, increasing student positive cases, and a lack of substitute staff coverage.

In-person instruction is scheduled to resume at Montrose and Johnson ECC campuses on Feb. 2. The Olathe Early Childhood Center campus is not affected at this time.

Montrose County School District has notified all affected families prior to this community notification.

Please visit the MCSD COVID-19 Dashboard located at [www.mcscd.org](http://www.mcscd.org) to view updated daily numbers of COVID positive school individuals and quarantine numbers by district and site. Stay safe and keep schools open for in-person instruction and operations by wearing a mask, exercising social distance, washing your hands, staying home if you are sick, and taking viral precautions seriously.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY CONDUCTS WATER SPORTS PARK CLEAN-OUT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The City of Montrose is using heavy machinery to clean sediment and

debris from the Uncompahgre River within the city's Water Sports Park, located in Riverbottom Park. This work is expected

to take up to two weeks to complete.

According to Public Works Assistant Manager Jackie Bubenik, the project area will encompass about 800 linear feet of the river starting at the existing headgate — located at the whitewater park's first drop — down to the water park's fifth drop structure.

"We will be removing silt and gravel that has built up from the previous year," Bubenik said. "If this work is not

done annually, silt and debris will build-up to the point where it takes away from the water feature experience." Bubenik said the work will also restore a couple of areas of the whitewater park where people have moved large rocks from the riverbank into the river, thus altering the park itself. The city's contractor, Haynes Excavation Inc. of Montrose, will be on site during regular business hours through the duration of the work. Heavy machinery will access the river primarily from the river's west side and will likely cross into Cerise Park in a couple of locations. Pedestrians can expect to encounter machinery west of the water park's pedestrian bridge and again several hundred feet north. For public safety, Bubenik stressed the importance of park visitors complying with posted signs and staying away from heavy machinery and work areas.

More information about the city's Water Sports Park can be found [here](#).

Questions about the project? Call City of Montrose Public Works at 970.240.1480.



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# HAVE A COVID CARE PLAN

## MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

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



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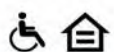
Service to the health of the greater community is of utmost importance today and always. During the pandemic, our caregiving teams have worked diligently to keep our community and program participants healthy, safe and connected to those they love---and at times, stepped in when family members could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

**To make a tax-deductible gift, please visit [voa.org/donateseniors](https://voa.org/donateseniors)**



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**AdvantAge Health Resource Center**



*Visit [voaseniorkiving.org](https://voaseniorkiving.org) for a comprehensive listing of local and national services.*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY ANNOUNCES MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CLOSURES

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — For the first time in five years, the City of Montrose offices will close in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be no work session on Monday, Jan. 18, as the session has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19.

City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open.

City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, Jan. 18, will instead be served on Tuesday, Jan. 19, and Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Monday customers located south of San Juan Avenue will be served Tuesday, Jan. 19. Monday customers residing north of San Juan Avenue will be served Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service Monday, Jan. 18, will instead be served Friday, Jan. 22.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit [CityofMontrose.org/Trash](https://www.cityofmontrose.org/Trash).



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

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HUB NO!!

*Editor:*

In a memo dated August 27, 2020 from Mr. Bill Bell, City Manager, to the Montrose City Council, Mr. Bell stated that "local developer, (Mr.) Matt Miles is planning a three-phase multi-family housing development (of 500 apartment units) in the area of Cobble Drive and Chipeta Drive" now known as The Hub at Montrose Crossing ("HUB"). Mr. Bell also says, "this development is intended to provide workforce housing for our community." Mr. Bell justifies the need for "workforce housing" by stating "preliminary studies show that the local market can sustain at least 250 new rental units before vacancy will be affected to the point of rent prices decreasing." The legal counsel for the Cobble Creek HOA has made numerous requests of the City to produce these "preliminary studies" but, to date, the City has failed to provide that information. There are plans for smaller apartment developments within the City core, as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan. On January 13, 2021 the sketch plan for Phase 1 (96 apartments) of the Basecamp subdivision was presented to the Planning Commission. So, the need for a huge 500 unit apartment development anywhere in Montrose, much less over 3 miles from the City core is dubious at best.

Bell stated "When complete, (HUB) will bring a total investment of approximately \$36.4M to the community and fill an urgent need for workforce housing in the area. For the above reasons, we have prepared the following incentives for your discussion and consideration:"

- Permit and plan check fees: \$163,327 (waiver)
- City construction sales tax: \$403,650 (waiver)
- Construction water: \$3,840 (waiver)
- All tap fees: \$1,075,047 (from 2021 general undesignated fund balance)
- Additional incentives toward water/sewer infrastructure: \$700,000 (from 2021 water/sewer budgets).

To be clear, the 2021 budget has been approved and some of the incentive money noted above is earmarked to be given

to Miles out of the 2021 budget, even before HUB has been approved by the City Council. The perception is that HUB is a "done deal" regardless of Planning Commission recommendations and overwhelming public disapproval. Compounding the issue is that the financial incentives are free money to Mr. Miles as he doesn't need to repay. This is unprecedented, unwarranted and absolutely ludicrous and is even addressed in the City's own Comprehensive Plan that says, "Growth should pay its own way and not place a financial burden on current residents." The financial incentive noted above as "waivers" is money that the City will NOT be receiving from this development and, therefore, will not be available for current or future budget needs. How will the City make up for this loss in City revenue? You guess right.....from the taxpayers. Matt Miles needs the City's financial contribution in order to receive Hud Housing financing. The final decisions regarding HUB will

come from the Montrose City Council. The Council has the authority to approve the recommendations of the Planning Commission or to approve whatever they want. They also have the authority to approve or rescind their offer to provide \$2.35M in City incentives to the HUB developer. It is critical that public comments regarding HUB and the \$2.35M incentives are allowed when HUB comes before the City Council for their deliberation.

I encourage all residents of the Montrose area to express concerns they have regarding HUB by emailing them to Senior City Planner, Amy Sharp at [asharp@ci.montrose.co.us](mailto:asharp@ci.montrose.co.us).

I also encourage concerned citizens to forward their concerns to the Montrose Mirror

(<mailto:editor@montrosemirror.com>) and the Montrose Daily Press (<mailto:editor@montrosepress.com>).

*Respectfully,*

*Stan Grigg, Cobble Creek*



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your  
mask



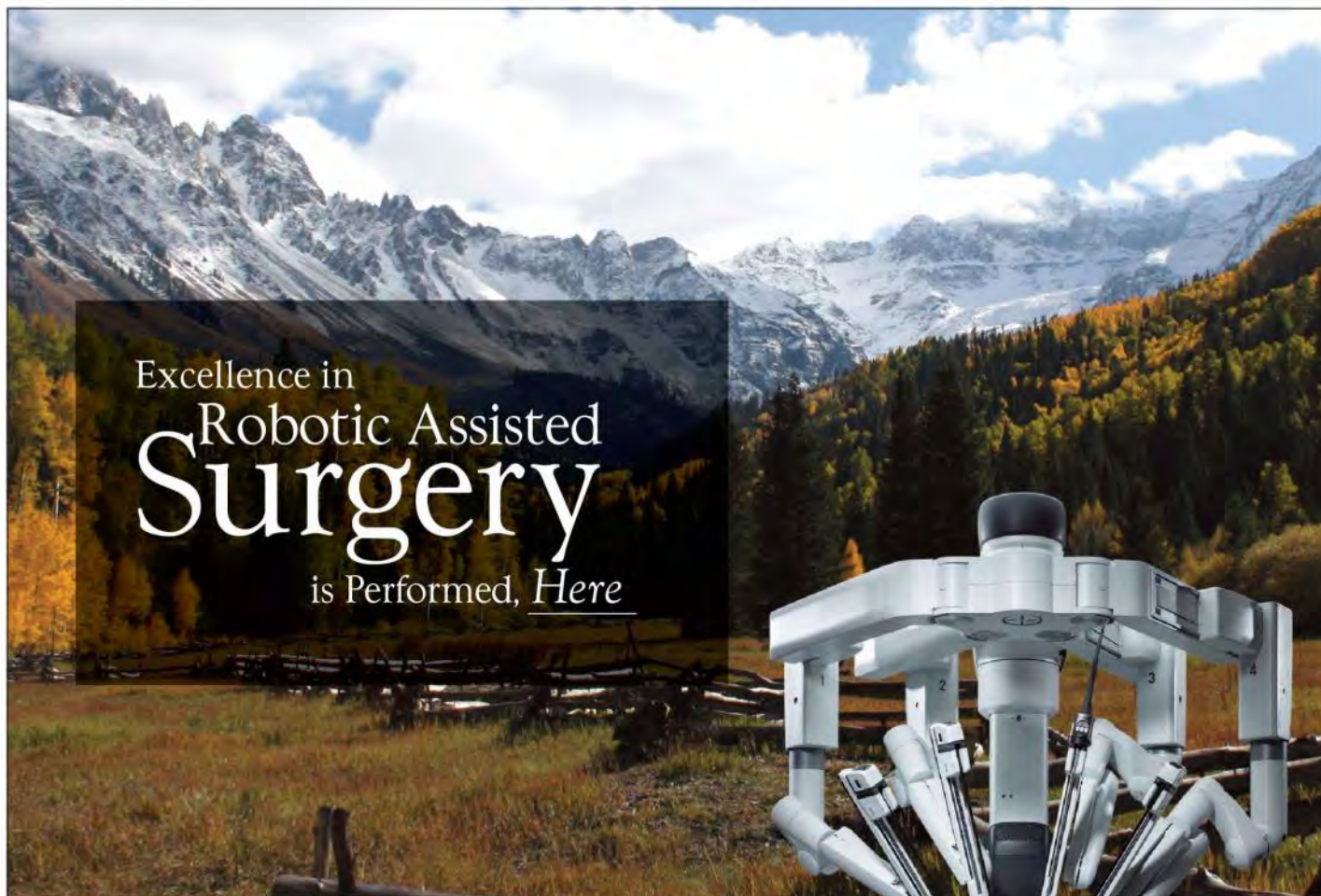
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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### STATE LABOR DEPT. LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE UI SYSTEM

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced that its new online unemployment benefits system, called MyUI+, is now available.

The MyUI+ system replaces both the former MyUI Claimant system used by recipients of regular state unemployment benefits as well as the PUA Online System used by claimants receiving federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), consolidating both systems into a single modern platform.

Since MyUI+ launched on Sunday morning, more than 100,000 claimants have accessed the system, and more than 43,000 claimants have completed their first weekly payment request within MyUI+.

While all claimants are able to log in and set up their accounts, **only regular state unemployment claimants are currently able to request payment**. The Department is seeing the majority of claimants reporting confusion with the new system coming from those on federal pandemic

benefits, which expired on December 26, 2020. As the Department has communicated since the passage of the Continued Assistance Act (CAA), claimants receiving extended benefits through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) programs **are not currently able to receive those benefits**. The Department received official required federal guidance on these programs last Friday and has since begun scoping requirements and system reprogramming. The new MyUI+ system will also allow CDLE to reduce required programming time by nearly half versus the old system.

All claimants on the PUA and PEUC programs have been contacted as recently as Sunday, January 10th notifying them that the MyUI+ system does not currently allow PUA and PEUC claimants to request payments, and that we will contact them directly when those programs are available within MyUI+.

Other functionality within the MyUI+ application is also being deployed in phases, and the ability to file new state unemploy-

ment claims within the application is expected to be released this week.

The new MyUI+ system is the culmination of a multi-year process undertaken by the Department to modernize its aging unemployment benefits system, beginning in 2017.

The new MyUI+ platform was originally expected to launch in the spring of 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic required the Department to instead shift its focus toward implementing CARES Act programs and assisting a mass influx of new claimants.

Claimants can learn more about the new MyUI+ system by visiting the **MyUI+ page** on [ColoradoUI.gov](https://ColoradoUI.gov), which features how-to tutorial videos and more. The department has also repurposed its third party call center to assist claimants with technical assistance and logging into the new MyUI+ system; however, the agents have limited access to claim details.

The call center is currently operating Monday through Friday from 8am-8pm. The number for claimants to call for MyUI+ help is 303-536-5615.

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



## 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

### MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS





# Watch 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 one-to-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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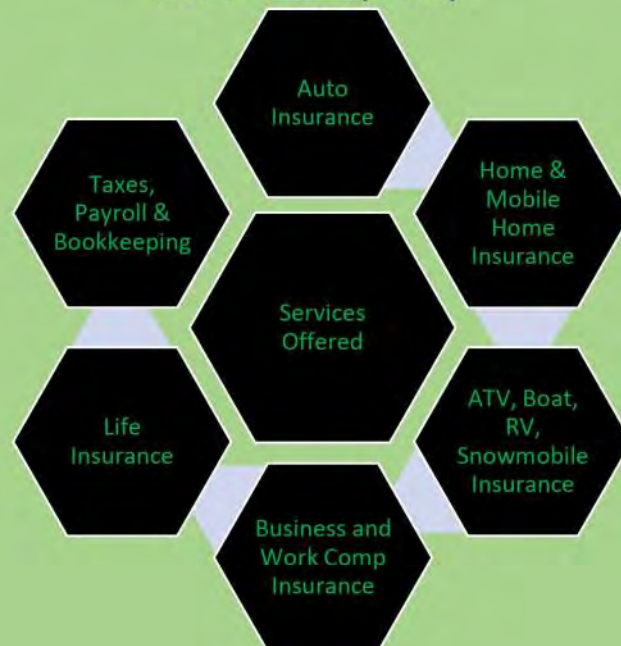
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### MURA PROJECT IS NOT A TAXPAYER (PUBLIC) RESPONSIBILITY

*Editor:*

The Montrose Urban Renewal District (MURA), "The Colorado Outdoors" project should never have been a public sector project. Never should that \$10,000,000 upfront incentive been provided by the city. Simply put, doing so was a miss-use of public funds.

The Colorado Outdoors is a grandiose project that is privately owned. If this project ever gets finalized, the owners (private individuals) will benefit from it and collect the financial rewards. The city that has done without the \$10,000,000 for (right now) four years without interest. This money should have been applied to other city needs that have gone wanting---like cops and roads.

To date the MURA board (AKA city council and their appointees) has about \$10,000,000 of your dollars sunk into this project that is beginning its fifth year of operation(?). Except for fishing pole palace not one of the multiple pipe dreams and promises of Colorado Outdoors (MURA) have been begun no less fulfilled. It is long past time that this project and its proponents get off the taxpayer's nipple and stand on their own feet. This will only be achieved if the principals are forced to secure private sector funding, inexpensive at the present low interest rates or float a bond on their own hook. 'By their own hook' I mean using their own credit, money and collateral.

For those who have not seen the plans

(representing the pipe dreams) of some artist, they should look them up.

In my opinion the MURA board is unrealistic and overly optimistic regarding this project AND HAS BEEN SINCE DAY ONE. It is in the perpetual mode of bilking the taxpayer. City backed deals in Montrose most often are begun with "we are very excited" about this project of 'rainbows and pots of gold' and usually end with a tax increase to cover what the money should have been used for. If this project had been thoroughly planned and studied and it was any good, then it would have willingly been funded by financial institutions often called 'private enterprise'. In short, get your one hand off my shoulder and THE OTHER ONE OUTTA MY WALLET!

A financial institution is what the City of Montrose should not be because there is not a brain in City government qualified to lend or to borrow money, create a realistic financial plan or figure a profit and loss analysis of a project as large as a two acre grass pasture.

Montrose should not fund either with real estate, money or services any project except county buildings and roads. Never again should the city council fund incentives. If a non-city project is desired for some reason then then builder should finance and build the whole thing. In Montrose, publicly incentivized projects create nothing except exorbitant debt only to be repaid by tax increases and public debt.

*William Bennett, Montrose*



# Wash your hands

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY SETH RYAN SWORN IN

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorneys Office would like to announce that newly elected 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney, Seth Ryan, was sworn in on Jan. 12, 2021. District Attorney Seth Ryan has appointed Robert Zentner out of the Delta County Office as the Assistant District Attorney and Jessica Waggoner from the Gunnison County Office as the Chief Deputy District Attorney.

District Attorney Seth Ryan has been a prosecuting attorney for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for over thirteen years. For six of those years, he served as the lead attorney for the Special Victim's Crime Unit, which is primarily responsible for prosecuting sex offenses perpetrated against both adult and child victims.

He is passionate about seeking justice for victims of violent crimes in our counties, cities and towns. Seth received his Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration from the University of Denver in 1997. Seth is excited to incorporate the latest management techniques to create prosecutions that are smarter, braver, and community responsive.

Assistant District Attorney Rob Zentner is looking forward to joining District Attorney Seth Ryan's management team and helping lead an impressive office. Rob Zentner is a long-time resident of Western Colorado. He earned a bachelor's degree at CU Boulder and his law degree and MBA from the University of Denver.

Rob Zentner is married and has three school-aged children. Rob is looking forward to working with the Court, its staff,

law enforcement, and the Defense Bar in overcoming the challenging hurdles created by the COVID pandemic.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Jessica Waggoner is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Gunnison County resident. She earned her bachelor's degree from Western Colorado University, formerly known as Western State University. She obtained her law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of law and has been working with the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office since January 2008.

During her tenure Jessica Waggoner has worked in county courts, district courts and juvenile courts within the entire 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

District Attorney Seth Ryan appointed Deputy District Attorney Aubrey Thompson to take over the Special Victims Crime Unit.

Aubrey Thompson grew up in the small mountain town of Woodland Park, Colorado. After graduating high school, she joined the United States Air Force. She spent her first year at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California where she earned her Associate of Arts in Russian. During her six years in the Air Force she deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. While in the Air Force she earned her bachelor's of arts in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensics.

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force she attended Creighton University School of Law. In 2015 she graduated from Creighton University with a Juris Doctor and a Master's of Science in Alternative Dispute

Resolution. Her love of Colorado brought her back and she joined the 7th Judicial District in August of 2016. In her off-time Aubrey enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and camping.

Long-time Legal Services Director and Public Information Officer, Sherry McKenzie, has decided to retire and will be replaced by Denetta Sandoval.

Denetta Sandoval was born and raised in Olathe, Colorado. She has extensive experience and has worked within a law enforcement or judicial setting for the past 15 years. She has worked as a dispatcher for the Colorado State Patrol, a legal Administrative Technician for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, a Judicial Assistant for the Moffat County Combined Courts, an Administrative Assistant for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation Office, an Office Manager for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office and she joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorneys Office in 2014 as the Sex Offense Victim Specialist.

In 2016 Denetta was honored by the Colorado District Attorney's Council naming her the Victim Advocate of the year. When she is not at work Denetta and her husband are very involved in their children's and grandchild's lives.

District Attorney Investigator Josh Carrell is a 20-year veteran in law enforcement and will be the new Public Information Officer for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

We would like to congratulate Seth Ryan and let the communities know that we all look forward to working with you to keep the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District a beautiful and safe place to work, play and live.



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-STATE NOTES YEAR ANNIVERSARY, ACHIEVEMENTS OF RESPONSIBLE ENERGY PLAN

#### *Special to the Mirror*

WESTMINSTER-Tri-State reflected today on its significant achievements in 2020 and its upcoming efforts for 2021 and beyond, as it marks the one-year anniversary of its Responsible Energy Plan (REP), the most transformative change in the 68-year history of the cooperative.

From the commencement of construction of new renewable energy projects, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the development of new partial requirements contract options, Tri-State has pursued a course to provide reliable, affordable, responsible and more flexible power to its 42-member distribution cooperatives and public power districts.

"When we announced our REP with Colorado Gov. Jared Polis last January at the Colorado Capitol, we knew that it would be a difficult, but achievable effort to transform Tri-State into a 21st century cooperative," said Duane Highley, Tri-State CEO. "We accomplished a great deal in 2020, but we have more work to do in the coming years."

At that January 2020 announcement, Tri-State unveiled six new renewable energy projects in Colorado and New Mexico, which along with two projects previously announced projects, will add 1,000 megawatts of emissions-free renewable resources by the end of 2023. At that point, 50% of the electricity consumed by Tri-State members will come from emissions-free renewables. Construction of the first project began in 2020.

Earlier in January 2020, Tri-State had announced retirement dates for its remaining New Mexico coal-fired power plant by the end of 2020, and its remaining Colorado coal plants by 2030.

The Escalante Station in New Mexico came offline for the last time in August 2020, and firm closure dates have been announced for the Craig Station in Craig, Colo.

"The addition of even more renewable resources and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our power plants marked a significant first step in our transition. We also recognize, however, the need to continue our support of affected communities in Colorado and New Mexico as we transformed our business," said Rick Gordon, board chair and director of Tri-State, and director at Mountain View Electric Association in eastern Colorado.

Last week, Tri-State furthered its commitment to support New Mexico communities near Escalante Station with a contribution of \$5 million to four New Mexico economic development entities. Tri-State continues to coordinate on transition efforts in Colorado, including support for communities affected by the retirement of Nucla Station and the closure of the Craig Station.

In February 2020, Tri-State's board of directors, representing each utility member, committed to greater member contract flexibility that supports members' expansion of local renewable energy development and self-supply, through a partial requirements contract option. Tri-State's members collaboratively developed this approach, which will be implemented in 2021.

As Tri-State rapidly transitions to cleaner energy, there are increased opportunities to power consumer needs with low-cost, reduced-emissions electricity. Tri-State increased its support for beneficial electrification, committing nearly \$2 million to extend the electric vehicle (EV) charging network across our members' service territories, to promote EVs and EV solutions in rural areas.

In March 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued orders accepting Tri-State's tariff filings, making Tri-State fully rate regulated for the first time. FERC regulation ensures consistent

wholesale rate regulation that supports the cooperatives transition and benefits its members across the four states in which it provides generation and transmission services.

As Tri-State implements its transition, it also is striving to reduce rates for its members. In early October 2020, Tri-State set a goal to lower its wholesale rates for its members by 8% by the end of 2023. Tri-State is one of only a few utility providers nationwide pursuing such reductions in costs.

In November 2020, Tri-State announced that it would be submitting its Colorado Electric Resource Plan "preferred scenario" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with Tri-State's wholesale electricity sales in Colorado by 80%, by 2030, from a 2005 baseline.

Tri-State Electric Resource Plan was filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on Dec. 1, 2020.

The preferred scenario identifies 1,850 megawatts of additional renewable generation and more than 200 megawatts of energy storage. The CPUC will consider and act on the filing, and that process will continue into 2021.

Also in November, Tri-State and other regional power providers committed to evaluating the expansion of the Southwest Power Pool's regional transmission organization (RTO) into the West. Tri-State recognizes that participation in an RTO is essential for utilities in the region to continue to reliably and affordably transition to more renewable resources.

"Our efforts to implement our Responsible Energy Plan, which include more member flexibility and lowering rates, even during the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic throughout much of 2020, support our mission of providing a reliable, affordable and responsible supply of electricity, in accordance with cooperative principles," Gordon said.





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PALADINA HEALTH INCREASES ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL COLORADO WITH NEW MONTROSE LOCATION FOR STATE EMPLOYEES & THEIR FAMILIES

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – Paladina Health, which now operates as Everside Health, the nation's second-largest provider of direct primary care, announced a new location to serve State of Colorado employees and their families on the Western Slope. State employees and their dependents can now receive care at the Trailhead Clinics Montrose facility, where they will have nearly unlimited 24/7 access to a healthcare provider.

The State of Colorado offers its employees direct primary care as an added benefit, in addition to traditional health insurance. Data shows that employees with easy and affordable access to preventive care are more motivated, have fewer absences from work, and often recover from sicknesses more quickly. A healthy workforce is also more productive and more engaged with its work.

"We are thrilled for our state employees and their families to have access to the Trailhead Clinics Montrose facility on the Western Slope," said Kara Veitch, Executive Director of the Department of Personnel and Administration.

"As a large employer whose workforce reaches every corner of our state, the

State of Colorado aims to provide increased access to affordable, high-quality care for every employee regardless of their ZIP code. This is a step closer toward that goal."

"Trailhead Clinics is thrilled to add an additional location to provide healthcare services to the dedicated State of Colorado employees who live in Montrose and surrounding communities, where healthcare is more expensive and less accessible than in other parts of our State," said Dr. Robert Boyer, founder of Trailhead Clinics.

"We could not be more pleased to have the honor of taking care of Colorado's finest in the Grand Junction area, and we are looking forward to doing the same in the Montrose area. We are proud to serve Colorado employees and their families and help them achieve their health and wellness goals."

The State of Colorado has partnered with Paladina Health (now operating as Everside Health) for the past five years to provide onsite and near-site primary care services to State workers. Under the partnership, in 2019 alone, the State saved more than \$1.4 million on healthcare claims costs, which was equal to a savings of \$47 per member per month. The part-

nership has resulted in measurable improvements to the overall health of the State's workforce, and patient satisfaction surveys show employees value direct primary care both for its convenience and for the increased face time they receive with a provider who is well versed on their medical history. Patients also have access to 24/7 virtual care.

"We are pleased to provide a service aligned with the State of Colorado's goals to improve the health of its employees, reduce the total cost of care, and expand access to quality healthcare in rural Colorado," said Chris Miller, CEO of Everside Health. "As a Denver-based company, it's especially meaningful to us to be able to work with our State to improve the health and lives of the people who live here." Everside Health serves a wide range of clients throughout the U.S. across multiple sectors and operates clinics for a significant number of unions and Taft-Hartley plans.

It also has partnerships with several health systems including Common Spirit Health (which was created by the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives and Dignity Health), SSM Health and The Christ Hospital.



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**Autumn Barrett**  
Associate Broker/Buyer Specialist  
970-318-0708  
AutumnBarrettRealtor@gmail.com  
www.MontroseColorado.com

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### WINTER HEATING SAFETY TIPS FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - In winter, people use various ways to keep their homes warm. According to the [National Fire Prevention Association](#) (NFPA), heating equipment is the leading cause of fires in U.S. homes and nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. The [Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel](#) (OCC) is offering Coloradans these safety tips when using furnaces, space heaters, and fireplaces, to heat their homes.

#### **Furnace Safety and Maintenance**

When outdoor temperatures plummet, many of us depend on a gas furnace to provide our home with warmth and comfort. However there are risks to consider such as a fire and/or carbon monoxide exposure. If you have a gas furnace, you must:

- Have your furnace professionally cleaned and inspected before each heating season.
- Keep the area around your furnace clean of debris, lint, and dust. Do not store any items such as papers, clothes, paint, rags, etc. near the furnace.
- Do not store anything flammable or combustible nearby.
- Clean or replace your furnace filters every 1 to 3 months during the winter to reduce energy costs and improve the air quality in your home.

#### **Electric Space Heater Safety**

Safety must be your top priority when using electric space heaters. [The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, resulting in more

than 300 deaths. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of space heaters, mostly in non-fire situations. When buying and operating a space heater, follow these guidelines:

- Purchase only newer model electric space heaters that have all the current safety features such as a tip over safety switch, overheat protection, and an adjustable thermostat to help save energy.
- Always place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic.
- Be especially careful to keep children and pets away from the heater. Keep at a minimum a three-foot "kid-free zone" around all heaters.
- Do not use an extension cord or power strip. Plug the heater into a wall outlet only.
- Never leave space heaters unattended while operating and always turn the heater off or unplug it when exiting the room.
- Never leave the space heater on overnight.

#### **Fireplace Safety and Maintenance**

While a wood-burning fireplace adds warmth and comfort to a home during the colder months, safety must be top of mind. Here are some tips on how to operate and maintain a fireplace.

- The National Fire Protection Association recommends chimneys be swept at least once a year, at the beginning of winter, to remove soot and debris by a chimney specialist.
- Be sure the flue is open before lighting your fire to help ensure the fireplace will vent properly.

Do not close your damper until you are sure the fire is out.

- When starting a fire, only use a match or gas lighter.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire. They can produce toxic chemicals that can enter your living space.
- Metal mesh screens should remain closed whenever your fireplace is in use to help keep embers in the fireplace.
- Only use dry wood in your fireplace. Wet wood can increase creosote buildup, which can lead to chimney fires.
- Never leave a fire in a fireplace unattended. Before leaving the house or going to bed, you should make certain to fully extinguish the fire.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them — ashes can take several days to cool completely. Never empty ashes directly into a trash can. Instead, place ashes in a covered metal container located at least 10 feet away from your home and any other building.

#### **Other Winter Heating Safety Tips**

- Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home.
- Use carbon monoxide detectors. Since carbon monoxide can be produced by a number of fuel-burning devices, it's important to have carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home. This will ensure every person in the home can hear and be alerted to the emergency.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly, and after you change the batteries to ensure they work properly.

The OCC has also put together a helpful [infographic](#) that details the safety tips.

**The Mirror:**  
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Delta County Health Department continues to vaccinate individuals in phase 1A which includes healthcare workers and 1B, which includes individuals 70 and older, as well as healthcare workers and first responders. Despite information that has been communicated at the State level, and on various news outlets, Delta County is **not ready** to move on to individuals younger than 70 years of age. If you are an individual who is 70 or older, and a patient of a Delta County Memorial Hospital Clinic (Internal Medicine, Delta Family Medicine, or the West Elk Clinic), you will receive a phone call directly from them to set an appointment or placed on a waitlist. If you are an individual who is 70 or older, and a patient of River Valley Family Health Center, please contact them directly for information as to how and when you can be vaccinated. If you are a veteran who is 70 or older, please call the Grand Junction VA Medical center to make an appointment for your vaccination. All other individuals 70 years and older please contact the Delta County Call Center to be put on a waitlist; the call center is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00a -1:00p and can be reached at 970-874-2172.

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

As expected, Delta County is experiencing

an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases. As exhausting as it is for everyone, now is not the time to let up on personal responsibility; please continue to be mindful of those around you and wear your mask, keep your distance, and stay home if you are sick. Free mobile testing continues in Delta County every week through February; pre-registration is required. The testing will take place every Friday in Delta at the Lion's Pavilion from 9:00a – 4:00p; pre-register here: <https://curative.com/sites/17941/walkup#9/38.7397/-108.0722>. Every Saturday, free COVID-19 mobile testing will take place at Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, from 9a – 2p; pre-register here: <https://curative.com/sites/17942/walkup#9/38.8011/-107.7161>.

Delta County reported 17 new positive cases today for a total of 2022 with 348 active and 1636 recovered; we currently have 4 individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 7 additional deaths this week bringing the total to 38; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has informed Delta County Health Department of one additional outbreak site, Delta House. For additional information on outbreak sites in Delta County and through-

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

#### **Mental Health Assistance:**

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

### RESPONSE TO DENNIS ANDERSON OPINION PIECE IN JAN 9 MDP

*Editor:*

The opinion of Dennis Anderson is exactly that – his opinion. He does not include the results of any investigative journalism; all he is doing is parroting the narrative of the biased mainstream media.

There is video and first-hand accounts to refute his statements about what transpired at the Capitol and in the elections. Yes, we all saw the video of people wearing MAGA hats and waving Trump flags enter the Capitol rotunda, but who was at the forefront urging people to take that action?

Hundreds of thousands of people at the rally had no idea that a small group was breaching the capitol. And why were re-

quests from the Capitol Police to deploy the National Guard not immediately answered? That is still being investigated and judgement should be withheld until the investigation is complete.

Mr. Anderson uses the term “unfounded” when referring to voter fraud. There are poll workers who witnessed voter fraud in the November election, but the courts don’t want to hear from the witnesses to this fraud. Why? That and the voter fraud itself needs to be investigated.

There was a time in 1972 when a President broke the law. The national media parroted each other, saying that nothing happened and we should just move on, the result being that the President wasn’t

investigated and ultimately got away with it. If you were alive then or if you read about it you know that the truth is that the President was forced to resign because of certain impeachment. And the evidence that brought him down came to light because of investigative journalists Woodward and Bernstein.

That is the point I am making – instead of parroting there should be JOURNALISM. I realize the MDP is a small newspaper that doesn’t have the resources to do that but it’s unfortunate that the publisher states his opinion without acknowledging that there has been no investigation to prove things one way or the other.

*Sean Salaz, Montrose*

## OURAY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SHARE MESSAGE OF UNITY DURING TUMULTUOUS TIMES

*Editor:*

The Ouray County Sheriff’s Office, the Town of Ridgway Marshal’s Office and the City of Ouray Police Department have been working closely with other law enforcement agencies to plan and coordinate for any protests or demonstrations related to the recent elections and the presidential transition. There are currently no known planned protests in Ouray County, nor is there any intelligence indicating planned potential threats or disruptions. We will continue to work with our state and federal partners to closely monitor this.

The allied law enforcement agencies of Ouray County are deeply committed to ensuring the constitutional rights guaranteed to all citizens. The right of the people to freedom of speech, to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government are enshrined in the Bill of Rights, and we in law enforcement are sworn to protect and ensure that these freedoms are enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, we as a country have seen violent protests, threats to individuals and property and the denial of access to public property by the general public by mobs of rioters. Worse, we have seen this behavior tolerated if not condoned by the affected local governments. The abdication of lawful government authority to stop, control and prevent these illegal riots served only to prolong them and encourage those who would commit unlawful acts, and resulted in innocent citizens being denied the ability to enjoy their own rights and freedoms.

Be assured that this will not be the case in Ouray County. We encourage everyone to lawfully exercise all of their freedoms and rights. But no tolerance will be given to anyone or any group that engages in violence. Vandalism, arson, assault or threats of assault, trespassing and inciting riots are not rights, they are crimes. And they will be treated as such.

We are honored to be entrusted with the duty of providing for the general public safety, and we are committed to providing fair and equitable police services to all of Ouray’s citizens and visitors.

*Justin Perry, Ouray County Sheriff*

*Shane Schmaltz, Ridgway Town Marshal*

*Jeff Wood, Ouray City Police Chief*





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**Kree Christie, ABR, SRS**

Associate Broker

**970-275-3153**

[kree@montrosecolorado.com](mailto:kree@montrosecolorado.com)

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### PLANNING COMMISSION, RETRACT THE ZONING IMMEDIATELY

*Montrose City Council and Planning Commission,*

Why is the Planning Commission saying nothing can be done about the ill-conceived HUB development at Chipeta and 6450? You are totally responsible for the zoning that gave Matt Miles the opportunity to build apartment buildings in the Spruce Point and Cobble Creek subdivisions neighborhood. We did get the impression that the Planning Commission has at least one cheerleader for this development. Gung-ho with no understanding of the damages.

Retract the zoning immediately. You should have done that as soon as you saw what he was doing. Two years ago, Matt Miles stood in front of the above named subdivision residents and promised that

he would build ONLY single family homes. He then turned around with this monstrosity. The lack of respect for the residents of above mentioned subdivision residents is appalling.

The traffic plan saying that the intersection at Chipeta and 550 is adequate, as is the terrible intersection at 6450 and Chipeta, is another untruth. What Planning Commission members and City Council members have driven through 6450 and Chipeta at 550 from 5-6 pm? People are going to be killed at both intersections when 1000 more residents are squeezed into the proposed apartments. The Colorado Department of Transportation has a death and accident rate on all state highway intersections. When enough drivers are killed, then they'll put in a

traffic light and lower the speed limit. How do you like that? By the way, there's broken glass all over the intersection of Chipeta and 550 from the most recent accident. It's a very dangerous intersection.

The long term costs of building this project here and now are staggering. And it's not needed! The jobs are not here.

It's unconscionable on the parts of all parties involved. And developer, unless you can elevate yourself 1000 feet off the ground and fly to Chipeta and 6450, there's no way you can "see" this development from your house.

Again, Planning Commission, retract the zoning immediately! Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

*Jeanette and John Ritchey, Montrose*

### MONTROSE POPULACE WON'T SETTLE FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL

*AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, CITYMANAGER AND MONTROSE GOV OFFICIALS:*

The TOWN of Montrose is morphing into a MAJOR concern. The populace (now) is coming from far and wide; MONTROSE has been discovered. The populace that is streaming into this area are well informed, articulate, AND have money. THEY are accustomed to access to information, when requested, they are expectant of intelligent, thoughtful responses and a TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION AVENUE. The method of operation of Montrose's city government is NOW front and center

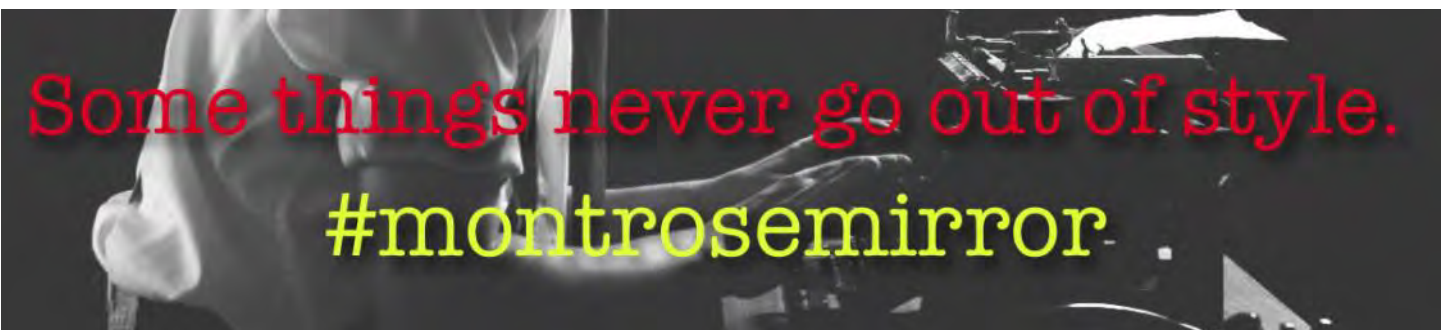
(in the past it was a few citizens who voiced their point of view and attempted to establish a two-way conversation, to no avail. THAT has and will continue to change.... the first zoom meeting on the Cobble Creek hub was YOUR FIRST WARNING. The capacity was inadequate and was a failure. The MASSIVE AMOUNT OF FEEDBACK YOU RECEIVED, both by email and zoom attendance should forewarn you that it CAN NOT BE BUSINESS AS USUAL...brushing off concerns and NOT listening/acting on concerns brought forward.

The routine dismissal and disregard WILL only infuriate the new comers and WILL

result in more of the populace entertaining the idea of recall...I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Coloradan and as such, I see the handwriting on the wall. THIS little town, is NO LONGER little...the mindset of "we" are the deciders worked in the past. THAT stance will be challenged. As ALICE WALKER famously quoted THE WAY PEOPLE GIVE AWAY THEIR POWER IS BY THINKING THEY HAVE NONE.

There are MORE individuals who are aware of their POWER and will NOT settle for business as usual.

RESIDENT OF MONTROSE FOR 5 ½ YEARS,  
*Lynn Stockton, Montrose*





## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CO HIGHWAY 17 WIDENING PROJECT BEGINS WINTER SHUTDOWN

*Special to the Mirror*

ALAMOSA & SAGUACHE COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has implemented a winter shut-down of the Colorado Highway 17 widening project located north of Alamosa. Work will resume later this spring once daytime temperatures increase to a level in which two final tasks can be accomplished. Those tasks include seeding and permanent roadway paint markings.

CDOT began improvements to CO 17 on June 1, 2020 with a scheduled completion date June 2021. Work has progressed well ahead of schedule, with crews completing construction of the roadway widening, asphalt recycling, paving, shouldering, delineator, and permanent sign placement.

The project greatly enhances safety for travelers on this narrow two-lane highway. Newly constructed wider shoulders will provide a larger recoverable area on the side of the road and reduce the potential of crashes from vehicles veering off the roadway. The improvements are part of a statewide initiative to provide functional accessibility to all travelers using our state and US highways and greatly enhances safety for drivers and recreationalists who use this two-lane highway.

CDOT and APC Southern Construction would like to thank travelers who use this portion of CO 17 for their patience and cooperation as construction operations were in progress.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

For additional information about this project, contact the project team.

Project hotline: 719.849.0946

Project email: [jlopez@apc.us.com](mailto:jlopez@apc.us.com)

Project web page: [www.codot.gov/projects/co17-resurface-widen-hooper](http://www.codot.gov/projects/co17-resurface-widen-hooper)



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### VIETNAM ERA VETERAN SHOCKED BUT NOT SURPRISED BY INSURRECTION

Dear Editor:

This past week has forced me to write about the insurrection to our country, by so called Americans and elected officials. The actions of these so-called Americans to our system of government does not shock me, for I am a veteran of the Vietnam era and decorated for my part in dismantling the Soviet Union (The Cold War). How many Americas remember the other war?

While I served my country, while wearing my Navy dress blues, I was spit upon by fellow Americans, while traveling from one duty station to my next location.

Our congresswoman is now under investigation for her actions during the rebellion. But her actions during the insurrection should be expected from someone who flaunted her law breaking in Rifle.

Here in Montrose, we have the residents of Cobble Creek raising concern about a housing development close to (not in my) neighborhood. Guess these residents never heard of something called private property rights?

Cobble Creek was built over an old stockyard that was moved after it contaminated Chipeta Springs.

Residents of Cobble Creek have flooded the newspapers saying, "Why not at the

Colorado Outdoors neighborhood?" I will tell you why—politics. The residents of the northwest side of Montrose, the Tortilla Flats neighborhood across the railroad tracks, will gladly accept the 500-unit apartment complex if you accept the chemical storage tanks and future tanks that City officials underhandedly put in our neighborhood. Deal?

More than likely the Cobble Creek residents are from somewhere else and came here and want to duplicate the place that they came from.

To illustrate my point, City officials are now calling the old neighborhood of "El Poso" (the hole), "LoMo," almost like LoDo--Lower Denver. To make room for LoDo an old Hispanic neighborhood had to be gentrified.

Next, we have the Salida Water Park or how about the Delta Recreation Center. Montrose is trying to be everyone else—I guess that gives you an identity?

Cobble Creek residents are clueless as well as entitled and privileged. How else can they explain their view of private property rights versus their isolated paradise?

City officials do not want more voters on this side of the city, because this side of the city would have the influence on how

the city is managed. Maybe we would squeeze the city to fix our basketball court, sidewalks, railroad and highway crossing, preservation of the old Morada Chapel site or other neglected aspects of "living on the wrong side of the tracks," as the old school bus driver used to say as they refused to give us a ride to school.

I am sure someone, like Ms. Bergman, will correct everything I have written, as she did when I wrote about my desire to save the old site. While I tried to explain local history, she wrote that I had not included the history back to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century. This is how European White privilege worked; I lied and didn't tell the truth.

This last subject is almost hilarious, if it wasn't life or death, vaccinations. People claim, even in my family, that when you get the shot to save lives, you will be injected with a tracking device. The government doesn't need to go to that extent or cost. If you have a cell phone, you are not only being tracked, but messages, phone numbers, pictures, contacts—everything—is being monitored, filed, and saved.

Get your vaccinations because you can save this old, decorated, cryptologist.

Thanks,

Chris Trujillo, Montrose

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### BEING ELECTED HAS RESPONSIBILITIES; 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HAS BEEN DISGRACED

*Editor:*

On the morning of January 6th, before the Washington, DC rally supporting Trump, a member of Congress tweeted, "This is 1776". This same member then spoke out in the House railing against the election results in Arizona and Pennsylvania.

Back at the rally Rudy Gulliani called out to the crowd, "Let's have trial by combat". Trump himself said, "We're going to walk down to the Capitol... you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong". Of course Trump never walked with the crowd, instead retiring to the safety of the White House where he watched on TV what he had incited at the rally.

The mob of rioters attacked and entered the US Capitol, injuring several police officers and killing one. Members of Congress and Vice President Pence were sequestered away into lockdown rooms for their protection, by Capitol Police, and in Pence's case, the Secret Service. The House sergeant-at-arms commanded several times, that members not use social media to inform anyone, including family members, where they were. That same Congressional member tweeted out that

they had been moved to the House Chambers. A minute later tweeted, "Speaker has been removed from the chambers".

When Congress reconvened that evening to vote on certifying the presidential election, although an anarchist group had just tried to overthrow our democracy, this member voted NOT to certify the election. Still promulgating a "rigged" election with no basis of fact.

Then this Congressional member, the day following the mob attack, refused to let their bag be searched when the metal detector went off. The following day this same member again confronted Capitol Police refusing to go through the metal detector, later stating they had every right to carry a handgun "anywhere" within the US Capitol (which is not true, Congress members may only have a firearm in their office).

So tell that to school kids who go through metal detectors before going to their classrooms. Tell that to airline travelers in line being checked by TSA. Tell that to the people headed into a courtroom being checked by deputy sheriffs. Why, after an unheard of attack on our Capitol, would they not want to comply with a simple regulation like all the rest of us "non-

privileged" citizens must do. And even more important, why make it hard on the Capitol Police who are just doing their job. First, they saved your life (one gave his life), and that's the thanks given them?

This member of Congress needs to be investigated for their actions. It is time for this member to mature and stop acting entitled. Being elected has responsibilities, by taking responsibility, and not by blaming others. Let the police be the police and support them.

This elected official criticized Congressman Sean Maloney saying:

*"Yesterday, on national television, Congressman Sean Maloney made false and baseless conspiracy claims about me that led to death threats and hundreds of vile phone calls and emails. His comments were extremely offensive, shameful and dangerous. There was not an ounce of truth to anything he claimed about me."*

Congressman Maloney wrote this response, "Um, I've never said your name in public. Never. Not once."

Nor will I mention her name.

But we all know that she has disgraced the 3rd Congressional District representing our state.

*Jon Sering, Montrose*

## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### SHEARER ANNOUNCED AS FALL 2020 GRADUATE OF WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

*Special to the Mirror*

TOPEKA, KAN-- Washburn University is pleased to announce the students in its fall 2020 graduating class. Nearly 400 students completed their courses for associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Peter Shearer, of Montrose, CO, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics.

"These students worked diligently to complete their studies," said Dr. Jerry Farley, Washburn University president. "We were not able to celebrate with a ceremony in December, but I have no doubt that they will accomplish great things."

*About Washburn* - Founded in 1865, Washburn University is a public institution with nearly 7 thousand students and a thousand faculty and staff involved in more than 200 academic programs. Washburn's programs lead to certification, associate, bachelor, master's degree or doctor of nursing practice and juris doctor degrees.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CITY COUNCIL HAS FAILED TO FUND EXISTING ROADS THAT NEED REPAIR AND UPKEEP

*Editor:*

I notice that our fair city is going to build a new road---the Woodgate extension. This makes me ecstatic each time my poor car hits one of the unfixed potholes or a pit in our existing streets that have existed for so long; I drive through a sinkhole and bounce for several feet or pass through an intersection where the drain is bordered by broken pavement. I suppose this is all ok if you are driving a city vehicle which will be repaired at no cost----to you!

I thought that one of the city government's primary jobs was to fix existing infrastructure that has been consciously ignored for the last ten years.

But the 'pits, pots and punishments' have been and are being judiciously ignored when there is obviously money available this year (to be used to build a new road) and in past years when council and the MURA board has spent \$10,000,000 on the Colorado Outdoors Debacle' of painfully little results! Where is all of the money? Is it all gone? Who got it and for what? Just who are the owners of the Colorado Outdoors project? The answer to these three questions should not be very difficult to answer publicly unless the answers would not be popular with the city resi-

dents.

Now council sees fit to pay Matt Miles' a \$2,400,000 incentive to build something it seems no one except the profiteer wants. Then there is the \$1,000,000 per year loss on the golf course and a proposed amphitheater, the 'why' of this no one seems to know and a subsidy of who knows how much to the Recreation Center, a separate taxing entity. By the way, when this project was so scurrilously funded, it was vehemently promised to be SELF SUPPORTING! NOT !!!!!!!!!!!

For years the City Council has failed to fund existing roads that need repair and upkeep, and piddle it away on superfluties and frivolities which when built will require large expenditures each year for maintenance. In short, our Montrose streets are cracked, potholed and hardly ever patched. Council has never taken charge of their responsibilities to fund street maintenance out of the budget.

They fund all else (except the cops) first. Our city council may not believe it, or maybe they are just ostriches. You do know what they are. Ostriches are those birds with big butts and their small heads (brains) stuck in the sand. City revenues will decline drastically over the next few

years. With all of the fancy projects and promotions not paying off---not one has yet---Montrose's 'fancy fixtures' will just deteriorate into ruin as the citizens listen to the never ending diatribe of the City Council asking for more and more tax increases to cover the shortages. You know, like the Public Safety Sales Tax (on food) to repair the police department which had suffered abject neglect for ten years. Putting Colorado Outdoors dollars into the police department four years ago and there would be no PSST, the Police Department shortfalls would have been paid for with no sales tax increase. A tax on your food, no less!

Montrose needs no more 'incentivized' projects. What they need is store fronts filled with businesses and employers just doing just work for just reward. All these pie in the sky ideas of our 'combyah' simple six in the city administration will not do squat for our rank and file citizens.

It is long past time that the rank and file be served and served well.

To accomplish this it will be necessary that the petit bourgeoisie of the city administration be tossed out on their ponderous posteriors!

*Bill Ramsey, Montrose*

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



## 970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

## MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

ISSUE 298 Jan. 18, 2021

## ART &amp; SOL

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY COMMEMORATED IN NATIONAL PARKS WITH SPECIAL EVENTS AND FREE ADMISSION



*A visitor to the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial in Washington, DC. NPS courtesy photo.*

### Special to Art & Sol

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service will host special events and provide free entrance to all parks in honor of the Birth-day of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 18. NPS.gov has a variety of resources related to King and the modern Civil Rights Movement, including timelines, photographs, biographical information, travel itineraries and the African American Civil Rights Network. The following national parks help trace his journey from birth to respected world leader.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta preserves sites where he was born, lived, played, worked and worshipped. The "Sweet Auburn" community was the economic, cultural,

and religious center for Atlanta's segregated Black population throughout King's lifetime and included the Ebenezer Baptist Church where King, his father and his maternal grandfather were pastors. The park is offering a virtual tour for the public on January 18.

The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC has a plaque that marks the spot where King powerfully articulated his vision of equality. His "I Have a Dream" speech to the massive crowd gathered on the National Mall was the defining moment of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in Alabama includes the headquarters and residence where King and his

associates strategized a nonviolent campaign in 1963 against the city's segregation laws and practices. The brutality displayed against them along with King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", written while incarcerated, brought international attention to the movement.

The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama includes the 54-mile route of the 1965 Voting Rights March led by King. The march was a political and emotional peak of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC consists of a large stone sculpture of King, inscription walls, water features, an entry plaza, and raised gardens that pay tribute to his actions and words related to the struggle for equality. Traditionally, this holiday is a day of service, a "day on, not off", that attracts thousands of volunteers to community work projects. This year, some parks will host work projects that have made adjustments based on health and safety guidelines.

Jan. 18 will also be the first of six fee-free days in 2021 when all National Park Service entrance fees will be waived. Usually, about 100 national parks charge entrance fees that range from \$3 to \$35. There are free annual passes available for veterans and members of the U.S. Military, Gold Star Families, citizens with a permanent disability and fourth and fifth grade students. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA COUNTY HIRES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

Delta County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that Carl Holm, AICP, has accepted the position of Community Development and Natural Resources Director, for Delta County. Mr. Holm has over 30 years of experience in community development and resource management; he currently owns property outside of Cedaredge. Carl comes to Delta County from Monterey, California where he serves as Resource Management Agency Director. Carl has significant and practical experience in principles and practices in community planning, land use policies, regulations, subdivision and transportation planning, parks and recreation as well as federal lands.

Carl is eager to begin working with constituents, staff, and agency representatives as the recently adopted land use code is implemented throughout Delta County. He will start with Delta County on January 27, 2021 and will be housed in the Planning and Community Development office located at 295 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Delta.



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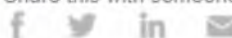
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## FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp. Courtesy photo.

By Dwight Harp

MONTROSE-How does a former high plateau desert dweller vanquish the western slope cold weather blues? That's the thought germ that started this piece.

The ice builds on my drive and street. It's really cold and the sun doesn't shine as much or as long as I want. Yes, I'm a transplanted desert rat. When I stole my beautiful and talented bride from the Western Slope in the late summer of 1989 it didn't take long for our blood to thin out in the south central New Mexico clime. Regretfully the blood hasn't yet re-thickened sufficiently to be like the western -slope natives' blood.

Special operators in the military fight cold on a recurring basis. Their trainers use it as a motivator and a weapon. I could never complete such training. I can't take cold.

I was born and raised in north western New Mexico. I remember a winter when it snowed heavily on Thanksgiving Day and for the next 40 days the temperature never exceeded freezing. I didn't like it then. I don't like it now.

Native Western Slopers tell me the cold is good for the area. They tell me to keep track of the increase in the number of planes at the Montrose airport. Planes represent dollars in the area. The ski industry needs the cold and snow.

I broke my knee on a ski slope in high school but before I did I came to appreciate how much fun skiing is. I revel in their

thrills. As I put on another layer of clothes I'll learn to appreciate what God gives us; cold and all.

Just yesterday I thought I heard my front yard roses, (on the north side of the house) discussing how much better it would be if their home was on the other side. Yes, roses get cold too.

I don't think Dad liked cold either. During the winter he would settle in

front of the fireplace and browse the Burpee Seed catalogue a couple of times a week. Those sessions would result in the ultimate design of both our vegetable and flower gardens the next year.

That's where all of this is going. I can't change the weather, but I can dream about what I'll do when the days get longer and the season gets warmer.

I don't have a wood burner to cozy up to like my dad. But I do have something he didn't have. I have a computer! Burpee wins. The Burpee seed catalogue survives in electronic format. Go online to find the latest in garden seeds and accessories.

Back there we had a plot for veggies and a couple for flowers. When he'd make up his mind and consulted with the family at the dinner table what each should look like he sent the order. He always sent it Air Mail. It was special.

Mom saved all the fiber egg cartons for a couple of months previous because they made excellent seed starting pods. Nitrogen based commercial fertilizer first appeared about then and Dad used it sparingly.

Ours was an M and M way of growing. (Manure and Mulch) Organic is the term used now. We had a very sunny south porch that served as the 'hot-house' although it also doubled as a laundry room. Some seed packets stayed on the shelf until the gardens were tilled. Carrots come to mind. Others were opened the day they arrived.

Tracking the growth of each little pod

kept the house in conversation and anticipation through-out the winter. My dad seemed content during the winter as he and we waited.

That was then. This is now.

Last year's efforts centered on the building of a garage. I'll adopt some of my dad's behavior this year to battle the cold weather.

The backyard presently sports clods and rocks and a hint or two of its former glory. My beautiful and talented bride and I mapped out the basic design of the planned landscaping. We plan on more flowers than veggies and a liberal amount of decorative rock too.

I like to mow grass. The back yard will have plenty of that too. I like marigolds and Johnny Jump-ups. God likes green and yellow. We'll have some of those and roses. We'll have lots of roses.

Words abound about gardens. Gardens have been around since the beginning. Remember Eden? My research uncovered some really nice thoughts about them and how they relate to us. This next one is extra special.

*As an extension of nature, gardens are perhaps a perfect metaphor for much of what makes us human. We care for our gardens much in the same way that we care for each other. We plant seeds, tend to young plants, feed them, nurture them, and watch them grow.*

Monique Allen, *TheGardenContinuum.com*  
Gardens of the **Bible** were places of beauty, shelter, and sustenance. After Eden, the **Bible** mentions numerous gardens and their attributes. ... In the Song of Solomon 6:11 and Luke 13:19, a **garden** is referred to as a place of shelter and shade, and also as a place of protection.

Gardens are used to create peace between people because they represent inclusion and community. Spending time outside in a garden may positively affect a person's emotions and sense of well-being.

George Bernard Shaw writes, "The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for Him there." Indeed! I have found God in my gardens. They give me great

## ***FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' From previous pg***

joy. Butterflies, wasps, ladybugs, bumble bees, and other insects happily feast and dance among the blooms. They also find great pleasure. And in them, I also find God."

I tried to find out how many times 'garden' was mentioned in scriptures. Because of the huge numbers of present day translations that number wasn't found. Gardens are mentioned many times. You'll recognize these mentioned gardens:

The Garden of the Tomb (John 19:41)

The Garden of Gethsemane (John 18: 1-2)

The King's Garden

Solomon's Garden (Ecclesiastes 2:5)

The Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:26 – 1:31)

Some very learned theologians suggest that even the mind can be a garden. Tending the mind can be like tending your garden. Plant good seeds, tend (cultivate, water, fertilize, weed), harvest, and then do it again. Gardens grow great things.

"...Mustard seeds grow into trees, and birds perch in their branches." Luke 13:19  
Pansies grow in my garden; I love them.

Cantaloupes grow in my garden; they are my favorite.

Dad was able through grafting and budding to have our back yard apple tree produce

four different apple species.

Join my yearning for my garden and landscaping. My seed order was made on-line yesterday. Marge has set aside some fiber egg cartons.

I know where I will dig holes in my garden and bury my troubles.

We close with a stanza from a new song, *Garden*, written by Matt Maher that makes me smile as I dream of my garden tonight.

In the cool of the day  
You come and meet me  
All the blue fades away  
The stars are winking.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# TALKING GOURDS WINS GRANTS, HOSTS BARDIC TRAILS ON FIRST TUESDAYS

### Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE ... Grants from the family of Elaine Cantor Fischer and the Guttman Foundation have guaranteed a 2021 season of poetry contests and events for the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program during the Covid pandemic.

"We're delighted with the continuing support from Sheldon Cantor and his family in keeping the Fischer Cantor poetry contests continuing," said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds co-director. "And, thanks to a second grant from the Guttman Foundation, we have moved from face-to-face Poetry Club meetings at the Telluride Arts Office & Gallery, to online Zoom meetings through the Wilkinson Public Library -- a series that we're calling Bardic Trails."

The first Bardic Trails virtual reading last week was a success with some 50 participants and an intimate reading by 2020 Cantor Prize winner Mark Oreskovich of Pueblo. Bardic Trails registration happens with the Wilkinson Public Library and will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Winter dates will be February 2 featuring 2020 Fischer Prize winner Jonathan Greenhouse and March 2 featuring 2020 Fischer Prize finalist Anne Kaiser.

At the recommendation of Talking Gourds, San Miguel County is planning to

re-appoint Between the Covers Bookstore co-owner Daiva Chesonis to a second two-year term as County Poet Laureate. The Board of County Commissioners' virtual meeting is slated for Wednesday, January 20th at 9:40 a.m., at which approximate time Chesonis will perform one of her poems.

"I'm thrilled," she told the Telluride Institute upon learning of the upcoming extension of her appointment. "The second term will afford me the chance to really put time into the Laureateship to do the Rella project proud, continue on with my on-going poem "The Ballad of San Miguel County", and get a book published."

Ettore Rella was a local who moved to New York City to write poems and plays. Chesonis has been working with the Telluride Museum to do an exhibit and performance of Ettore Rella's poetry. Last year, thanks to a grant from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund (descendants of Rella), Talking Gourds instituted youth awards for student writers in local schools. The program came to a temporary halt with Covid; however, the intent is to reinstitute the youth awards post-Covid.

According to Goodtimes, the Talking Gourds poetry program is now accepting submissions for the national Fischer Prize on its website <tellurideinstitute.org/

fischer-prize>. In addition to the Fischer \$1000 prize and five \$200 finalist prizes, the Colorado poet scoring highest in the contest will receive the Cantor Prize of \$500. This year's judge will be Santa Fe's Donald Levering

<www.donaldlevering.com>

### Membership

Talking Gourds is initiating a membership drive this year to match our successful grant appeal efforts. A one-time donation of \$25 or more gets one on our mailing list permanently and makes one current for one year. Memberships help support all we do. Each calendar year after that to keep current, there's a \$10 renewal fee -- payable online, as we are trying to minimize physical handlings during the pandemic.

Members in good standing receive a monthly pdf copy of Daiva's handsome broadsides for each featured reader. Printing of those pdfs can done for free at the Wilkinson Public Library.

Chesonis will also have copies available for purchase at her Between the Covers Bookstore.

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

For more info, visit <tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds> or click [here](#).



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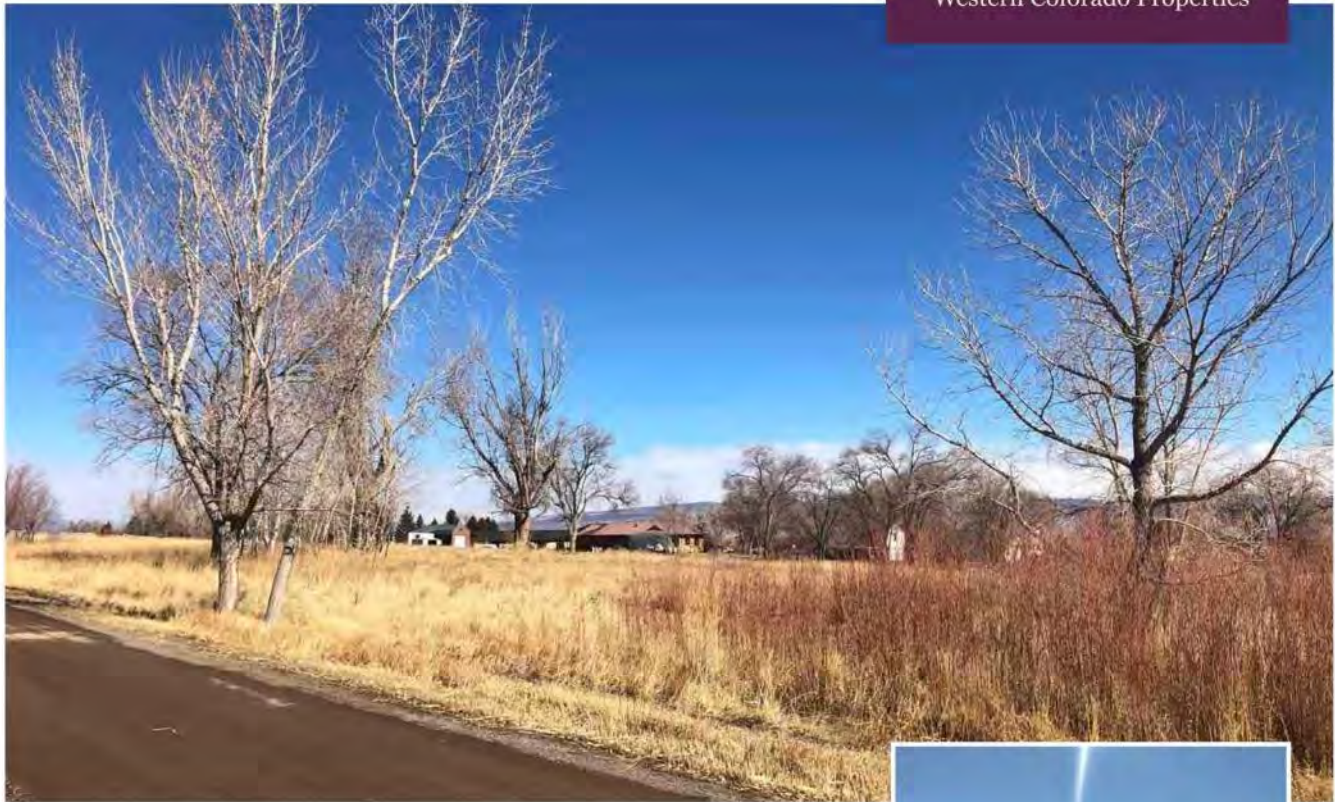
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## *Saying Good Riddance to 2020!*

# THE STONE HOUSE: CELEBRATIONS ARE YOU

By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – Well, I can't say it was as festive as past New Year's Eves. But ordering takeout from the Stone House in Montrose was a good way to kick rascally 2020 out the door! And welcoming 2021 hoping it would be better!

And it was casual. Now, many people decided they had to celebrate with the ambience of restaurant dining. Michael and I just are not feeling safe enough in this continuing pandemic to do that. So, we ordered takeout. And it was absolutely delicious.

Birthdays, anniversaries, new year's, just anything you want to celebrate this is the place.

Splurging, we ordered twin lobster tails, complete with butter for dipping. Now, if we'd known there would also be two sides included: almondy green beans and mixed brown rice, we might not have splurged on a salad and a cup of soup or the appetizer of cheese, spinach and artichoke dip. But boy were we glad we did! Yummy.

Like always we split the entre and it was more than enough. Each enjoyed a large lobster tail, rice and beans. That was after we'd finished off the appetizer of creamed artichoke and spinach (which came with garlic toast for dipping) and part of the soup and salad. (We had enough to plan a version for leftovers for the next night.)

With our sparkling wine at the ready, we toasted in the New Year. Actually, that was when Michael went to bed as he was

too sleepy to stay up after all that food. Me, I'm a night owl and stayed up just until Anderson Cooper from CNN watched the ball drop in an almost empty Times Square. The fireworks shot off by neighbors woke me at Colorado's New Years. Now, the Stone House isn't the least expensive place in town, but for my money it is the best! Actually, it wasn't my money – we indulged thanks to a gift from Michael's son, Ross in Connecticut. Altogether, with the sides and lobster tails, our dinner rose to the \$100 mark.

BTW, that included 2 desserts – Michael had the Crème Brulee and I indulged in an amazing fudgy slice of chocolate cake.

Here's a sample of the to-go dinner menu (changed daily) served from 4 p.m. to close. Look up today's online.

### **Specials:**

Tropical Wahoo; Chilean sea bass from \$27.99 – 34.99.

### **Appetizers:**

Crab cakes; pork belly skewers; calamari; artichoke/spinach dip; shrimp cocktails; avocado rolls from \$9.99 - \$13.99.

### **Soups/Salads:**

Stone House salad; Caesar salad; bistro steak salad; spinach, strawberry, chicken; blackened salmon; ahi tuna salad from \$8.99 - \$18.99. Clam chowder or soup of the day: cup, \$4.99; bowl, \$10.99.

### **Entrees:**

Bacon-wrapped bourbon maple pork; ribeye/12 oz; filet mignon/8 oz; New York strip/10 oz; sirloin; salmon/8 oz; seared Ahi tuna; 5 Mexican jumbo shrimp; al-



mond crusted cod; catfish; Canadian lobster tail; Alaskan king crab legs, from \$16.99 – 59.99.

You can also order your choice of burgers (including meatless burgers) from \$11.49 - \$16.99.

Or you might try chicken salad sandwich; fish and chips; or liver and onions; filet stroganoff; Stone House chicken fry; shrimp scampi; chicken parmesan; or various pasta dishes, from \$14.49 - \$18.99.

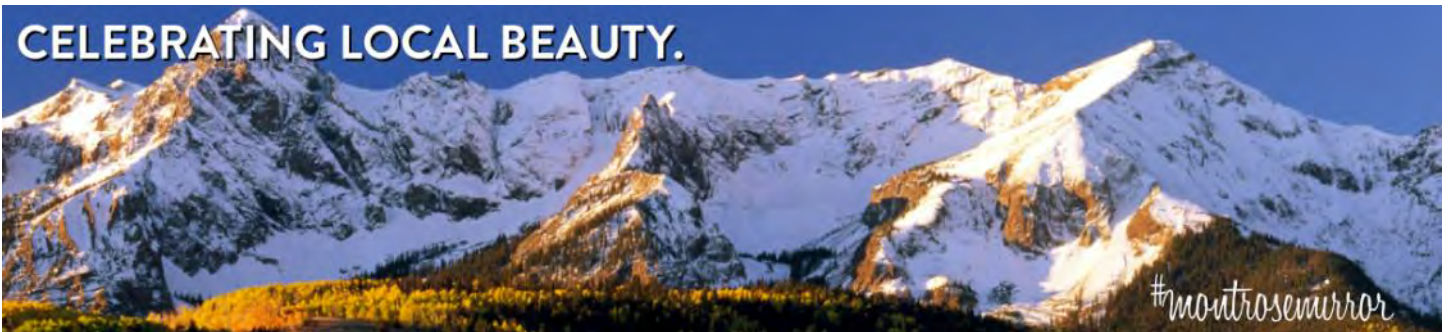
Now, you don't have to wait until New Year's to partake in the takeout at the Stone House.

They are open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Just be sure to call ahead and go in to alert them when you arrive or call in and your meal will be packaged up all tidy and delivered to your car.

The Stone House is located at 1415 Hawk Parkway in Montrose; call (970) 240-8899.

## CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.







LUXURY  
COLLECTION

FOR SALE

718 E Main Street  
Montrose, Colorado, 81401

6  
BED

4.5  
BATH

4,414  
SQUARE FEET

Known as the Lathrop House and built by John Virgil Lathrop in 1902. The Free Classic Queen Anne Style home is characterized by its asymmetrical massing, multi-gable roof, projecting bays, decorative porches, conical roof porch section, and ornamented gables. This home features a large wrap around porch, parlor, sunken family room, expansive dining room, and so much more! The third floor can be shut off from the main house, making it the perfect guest quarters or rental space.

OFFERED AT **\$805,000**

LET'S CONNECT.



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**Autumn Barrett**  
Associate Broker  
970-318-0708  
AutumnBarrettRealtor@gmail.com  
www.MontroseColorado.com

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

*Outstanding  
Opportunity!*



### 2.195 ACRES VACANT LAND ZONED GENERAL INDUSTRIAL

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

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

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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



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COMMERCIAL DIVISION



# 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. 21**-Power Players Luncheon. Noon @The Bridges. Keynote Speaker is Nina Anderson, CSP, Franchise Owner at Express Employment Professionals of Montrose and Grand Junction. Open to the public. For reservations call 970-293-7929 or visit [www.ourtownmatters.net](http://www.ourtownmatters.net)

**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, wild-fire, agronomy and weather. For more immediate information please contact Seth Urbanowitz at 970-874-2197.

**Feb. 11**-Western Colorado Soil Health Conference will be held virtually this year on Feb. 11. As pressure on agricultural production increases, soil health practices can insure that agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability. [Click here to learn more »](#)



## BUYING OR SELLING IN MONTROSE OR SURROUNDING AREA

### Autumn Barrett

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

**970-318-0708**

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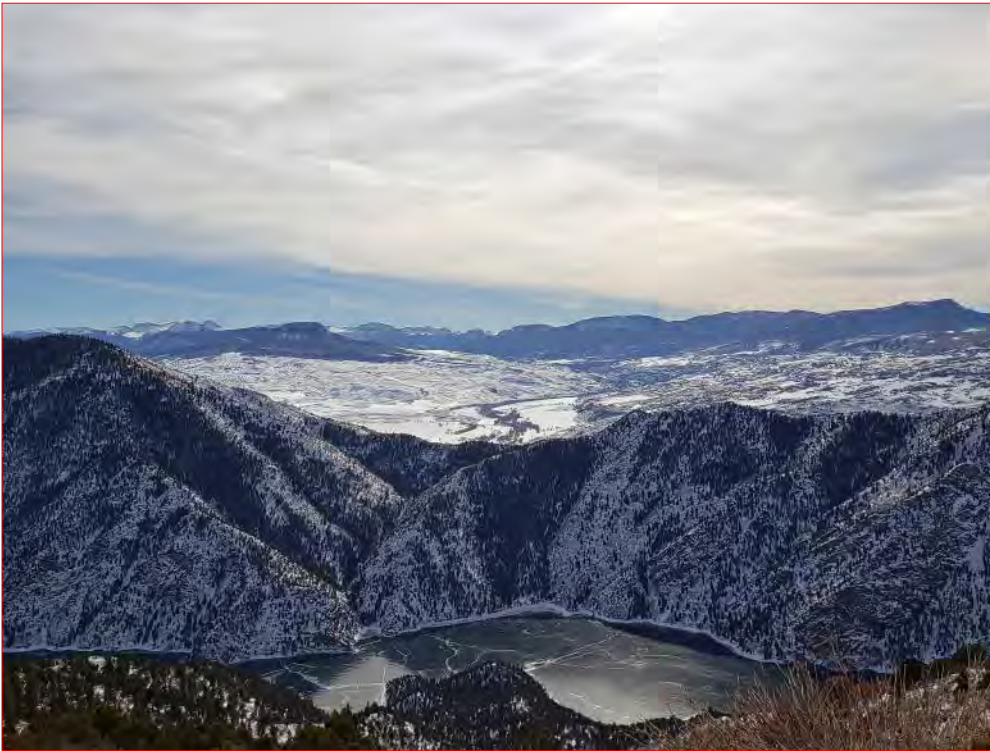


Contact the Montrose Mirror:  
970-275-0646

[Editor@montrosemirror.com](mailto:Editor@montrosemirror.com)

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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



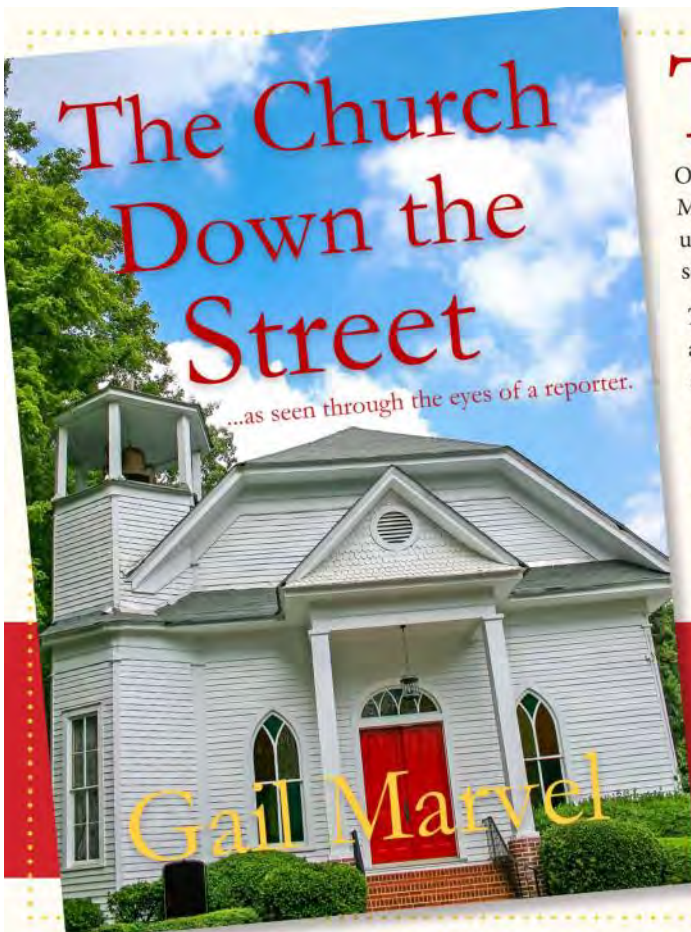
*Deb snapped the view at left this past week, from Hermit's Rest, of Morrow Point Reservoir and the San Juans.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
HOLIDAY

EVERYBODY  
can be  
great.  
Because  
ANYBODY  
can  
SERVE.  
You only  
need a  
HEART  
full of  
A grace.  
SOUL  
generated  
by LOVE.



REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!



**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://wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

