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## DESPITE PLEA FROM LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, CITY MOVES FORWARD WITH FLEET PURCHASE FROM EASTERN SLOPE DEALERSHIP



*The City of Montrose held a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose opened a regular, virtual meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19; Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the session. All councilors were present for the meeting, including Youth Council Representative Mari Wilson.

"...I am going to ask our Youth City Councilor Mari Wilson to lead us in the Pledge tonight," Bynum said.

Wilson led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Initially forgetting the second clause, she then repeated the Pledge.

Mayor Bynum said, "Thank you so much...I know, that going to the Montrose Schools, you have said the Pledge of Allegiance every day, the first thing...you think...I don't need

*Continued pg 25*

## BOCC DECLARES JANUARY SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH IN MONTROSE COUNTY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Jan.20, Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Sue Hansen opened the BOCC's regular, virtual meeting at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed the invocation, delivered by Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church. "Thank you all for joining us," Hansen said, expressing hopes for a positive, focused electorate and a country that keeps moving forward.

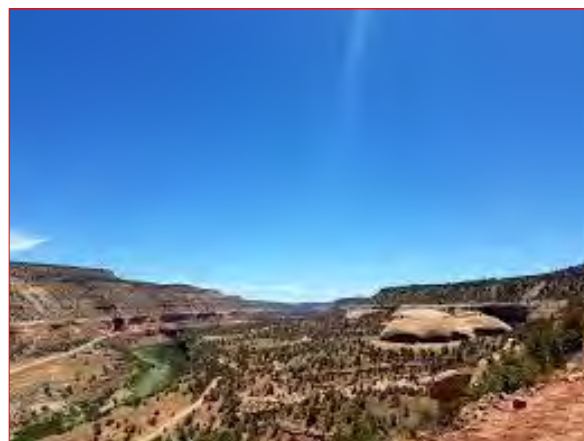
"Pastor Karl, will you inspire us this morning please?" Hansen said.

Said Leuthauser, "I don't know if I can do that, but I was thinking of when you drive down I70 and see a car wreck, you have to look, but you don't really want to see.

"I've been kind of thinking, that's kind of a picture of our country right now," Leuthauser said. "It feels a little bit like a car wreck, and the most important thing when you're driving through a car wreck is to just keep driving."

He thanked commissioners for

*Continued pg 11*



*At the BOCC meeting of Jan. 20, Commissioners pulled the second reading of an Ordinance Concerning Prohibited Activities on County Leased Property known as the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area (courtesy photo above) to allow time for further review and modification if needed.*

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*Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!*

*Faith Column with Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp!*

*Local Events Calendar!*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### YOUTH CITY COUNCIL COLLECTS FOOD IN SUPPORT OF MADA

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Youth City Council is excited to present a food drive in partnership with the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). Youth Council will collect donated food items to support the Montrose community.

Canned goods or food items with a long shelf life can be delivered to drop boxes located at: Celebration Church (2900 Sunnyside Road); Pope John Paul II Academy (67051 Sunnyside Road); Ace Hardware (22 South Townsend Ave.); Montrose City Hall (433 South First Street); Montrose High School (600 South Selig, and the Montrose Recreation Center at 16350 Woodgate Road.

Donated items will be accepted through Jan. 28, and all items will be donated to MADA. For further information, please contact Mikayla Unruh at 970.240.1421 or [munruh@cityofmontrose.org](mailto:munruh@cityofmontrose.org).

The Youth City Council was established by the Montrose City Council to encourage greater youth participation in the city's government and is charged with actively advising the City Council with thoughtful recommendations on issues concerning youth and assisting city staff in considering youth perspectives in its planning efforts.

The Youth Council meets every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m., currently over Zoom due to Covid-19 precautions.

### NOTICE AND CALL TO CANDIDATES FOR RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway will hold a regular municipal election on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at which time four Councilmember seats will become vacant, three seats for two year terms of office, and one seat for a one year term of office.

The nomination period begins on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 and closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.

Candidates must be registered voters in the State of Colorado and have resided within the Town limits for twelve consecutive months immediately proceeding the date of election, and on or before this date must be 18 years of age or older.

Please contact the Town Clerk with any questions, or to receive a nomination packet, email: [pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us); or phone 626-5308, Ext. 211.

### MONTROSE DIALYSIS CLINIC WELCOMES COMMUNITY TO FEB. 11 OPEN HOUSE FROM 9 TO NOON

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Dialysis Clinic, Inc. is a non-profit provider of out-patient dialysis services in Montrose. Years ago, DCI responded to a community request to come partner with Montrose Memorial Hospital to decrease the drive patients were making all the way to St Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction for their dialysis services. We have been providing service to the Montrose, Ouray, Delta, and Gunnison county area End Stage Renal Disease patients since 1998. Our state-of-the-art Dialysis facility is only five years young, located conveniently behind Montrose Memorial Hospital at 846 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

DCI was founded in 1971, in Nashville, TN. DCI will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year caring for patients with Kidney Disease, including those patients who require dialysis. DCI is known for being the HEART of KIDNEY CARE here in Montrose, which is the theme of our open house on Feb. 11, 2021. We welcome the public to visit our facility for dialysis and kidney disease information on 2/11 from 9-12:00 noon. Masks and COVID screening will be provided.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### STARK CONTRASTS EXIST BETWEEN HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING AND BASECAMP SUBDIVISION

*Editor:*

There were stark contrasts between the recent Planning Commission virtual hearings regarding the proposed HUB at Montrose Crossing ("HUB"), and Basecamp Subdivision projects. HUB hearing attendance was orders of magnitude greater than the Basecamp hearing attendance.

Basecamp's hearing packet contained no objecting petitions or emails and there were no objections voiced during the hearing. This sums up support for a project, located within Colorado Outdoors, which makes sense and implements a vision documented in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

On the other hand HUB's hearing packet had about 400 objecting petitions and emails. Many Montrose residents, not just Cobble Creek and Spruce Point, voiced opposition to the project during the hearing. Well-founded reasons for this opposition have been widely communicated, speaking volumes about why so many Montrose citizens object to HUB. Trust and credibility concerns are common threads.

It's perceived that some City personnel believe zoning approval effectively means development plan approval, so if the proposed development's building heights, setbacks, drainage etc. meet City codes then approval is a slam dunk. Actually it's not a slam-dunk as City management has broad decision latitude, from approval through rejection. It's also why the Comprehensive Plan was established to help City management make those decisions. Related is a perception that some City personnel are enamored with HUB and want it approved without in-depth scrutiny and regardless of the very reasonable

objections of Montrose residents. Perhaps some believe HUB is the savior for Montrose's housing shortage even though Basecamp's 96 apartments are in the approval stages and other projects are on the horizon. Perhaps some believe that the Comprehensive Plan is a mere suggestion not to be seriously considered as one of the standards by which developments are evaluated. All this suggests that it's naive to trust that the City is fully utilizing its own guiding principles when making decisions regarding proposed new developments.

A major trust issue is the unprecedented \$2.35M non-repayable incentive to HUB's developer even though citizen assertions within The Comprehensive Plan clearly say "growth should pay its own way." HUB is a for profit housing project so the incentive opens the possibility that every Montrose developer / housing builder would want a similar giveaway. It amounts to about \$120 per person in Montrose. Moreover, HUB's location forces improving ill prepared infrastructure and adding city services costing many \$millions that taxpayers will pay for. It's reasonable to ask that the City deny, but also disclose, how HUB's incentive was justified and why it's included in the 2021 budget earmarked for a yet unapproved project.

HUB's justification and size appears to be based on the City's "Preliminary Study" which indicates a need for 250 apartments. Although trusting that the City would provide requested study data, citizens have yet to receive it. Phase 1 of HUB and Phase 1 of Basecamp total 256 apartments so together they fulfill the "Preliminary Study" need of 250 apartments. Build-out of both developments is

about three times that. The perception, reinforced by area realtors and property managers, is that much lower density housing is the true demand in the Montrose area. We need to be convinced that the "Preliminary Study" has a defensible basis.

At the 2018 HUB zoning hearing the developer said he intended it to be considered as part of the Spruce Point subdivision, which is across the street from HUB. This same depiction of the future HUB was also presented to Cobble Creek and Spruce Point residents who found that reasonable so there was little, if any, objection toward that type of development. Switching to the current 500 apartments destroyed any credibility the developer had with us and prompted the huge citywide backlash seen today.

City management has the difficult task of balancing well-planned growth with protecting the interests and property values of Montrose citizens.

For all the many reasons the citizens have communicated it has to be obvious that approving HUB, as currently proposed, doesn't achieve that balance.

In addition, approving the currently proposed HUB also alerts subdivisions similar to Cobble Creek that they are not immune to future injury. It's inconceivable that City Council wants to put at risk the growth of these assets and stifle their invaluable monetary and charitable contributions to Montrose.

The City Council is the final decision maker and hopefully decides that HUB should be rejected as currently proposed or redesigned to a reduced scope, and be in full compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.  
*Matt Goldasich, Montrose*

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## CITY CONSIDERS CHILDCARE STUDY, WOODGATE REALIGNMENT, CERISE AMPHITHEATER



**Montrose City Council heard a presentation on a proposed childcare study.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the virtual City Council work session on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Citizens could attend via Zoom or watch the session on local cable television channels 191 and 970.

"We have six specific items on our agenda this morning," Bynum said, and opened the floor to Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler. Morgenthaler introduced the first discussion item, a proposed childcare survey and needs assessment.

### **CHILDCARE SURVEY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT-UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY ALLIANCE**

**Background-**A memo from Morgenthaler to Council states, "Members of the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance will attend the Jan. 19, 2021 Council Work Session and present information about their work in the community regarding childcare (Root Policy Research) 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."

Staff has not spent time on the matter, but would await direction from Council, Morgenthaler said.

Volunteers from the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance (UVA) have worked with Bright

Futures For Early Childhood & Families (the local early childhood resource council) on the proposal and were available to discuss and answer questions. Also present was Mollie Fitzpatrick of Root Policy Research, the research consultant recommended by Bright Futures..

UVA Childcare Caucus Member Kevin Williams said, "...The members of our childcare caucus have invested hundreds of volunteer hours in this campaign because we care deeply about the community and about improving the lives of children and families."

Carol Keeney, also a member of the UVA Childcare Caucus, said that reasons for the proposed childcare survey and needs assessment include the importance of quality early childhood development; the need to obtain clear, accurate data on childcare in Montrose and the economic impact of childcare on the local economy. "These early years are when children learn to play nice with others, and learn how to express themselves," Keeney said.

Other partners in the survey effort include Montrose County School District RE-1J; Hilltop Community Resources; and Montrose County. The City's portion of the survey cost would be \$18,950.

Councilors discussed the proposal and asked questions.

Councilor Roy Anderson said the survey

might not be needed, and he would rather give the money directly to a daycare provider as an incentive. "It seems like they're pretty much telling us what we already know. As a person responsible for our citizens' treasury, is this a wise use of our money?" Anderson said. "I am struggling to figure out why it is." The City spent \$30,000 to incentivize a local childcare facility (Smart Start Childcare), he said.

Accurate data would ensure that the City's incentives went to the type of childcare local families are looking for, UVA Member Rachel Balerio said, noting that the incentivized daycare is not yet full.

"Maybe they're looking for different types of care...so as the City, you will be able to focus incentives on these types of childcare," Balerio said.

Anderson said that it is up to the manager of the daycare to figure out why parents are not signing their children up. "...I don't see it as my job as a city to go tell the Smart--whatever the name of that outfit is--what they're doing wrong," he said. "That's their job to figure it out...that's what free enterprise is all about...I don't see it as being a valuable tool to City government to help us design policies, 'cause I think we've already got good policies...I don't why that Smart Childcare Service isn't doing a good job, but I don't see it as my job to even figure that out."

"I do think that's our job," Councilor Dave Bowman said. "If we can give \$30,000 of taxpayer money to a business, and then for whatever reason that business isn't working, I think we need to know...if we give somebody \$30,000 and we don't follow up, like a Geyser kind of thing, what are we doing with the taxpayer money?"

Mayor Bynum said there is a need for more information on the local childcare industry, and that accurate data is important. "...It might guide the decisions the County makes, and they hold the ability to increase the number of CCAP spots and they hold the ability to increase the CCAP reimbursement rates."

Following further discussion, Bynum asked if the proposal could be placed on



## ***CITY CONSIDERS CHILDCARE STUDY, WOODGATE REALIGNMENT, CERISE AMPHITHEATER From previous pg***

the agenda for the Feb. 2 City Council meeting. Financial information is available in the [work session packet](#).

City Manager Bill Bell said that statements made about Smart Start Childcare were untrue, and that he had posted a link to pricing plans in the chat. "They have moved forward exactly how they told us they were going to move forward...we have to include both discussions related to CCAP, or subsidized daycare, and free-market workforce day care—two totally different price points and two totally different markets.

"Any kind of study, it would be really important to be sure we're tapping into both of those needs, very similar to the discussions we've been having on housing," Bell said.

### **WOODGATE REALIGNMENT PROJECT**

Council talked about the Woodgate Realignment Project; City Engineer Scott Murphy addressed questions and presented information on the project, which he said has been in the works for roughly a year. Much of the work so far has been property acquisition from two property owners. Compensation to property owner RDMJK for a net land purchase was \$235K; the City secured a right of way for \$34K from the owners of the Storm King parcel, where the road will cross a portion of a residential lot; the City will relocate sprinkler systems and the existing privacy fence. The project is part of a five-step long-range program to alleviate traffic issues, Murphy said.

**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."

**CERISE PARK AMPHITHEATER PROJECT**

Council discussed a CM/GC Contract Award for an amphitheater in Cerise Park. Public Works Manager Jim Scheid gave an overview.

**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, estimates 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."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that he was skeptical at first. Still, "I know we've acquired a little property for additional parking...I spent some down there with Jim looking at the area, it's a fantastic area to put this in, so I am in total support of the

program," Glaspell said.

Councilor Dave Frank said, "Well, as you know I've been involved since the very beginning of this. I am really excited to see this come forward." He asked for greater clarity on project timelines.

Dirt will be moved by late February, with completion expected by Nov. 1 or earlier, Scheid said. The day it is open the amphitheater will be ready for use. Bell said if possible, there will be a grand opening with music.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion items also included the [2021 Equipment purchase recommendations](#); [Black Canyon Golf Course Equipment purchase recommendations](#); and the [2021 Annexation Plan](#).

### **COMMENTS**

Frank said, "...We are so lucky to have our staff here in Montrose...Mr. Murphy, Mr. Scheid, Ms. Sharp, all of them are just such incredible professionals. The amount of information we're provided is so thorough, complete and well organized, that it makes doing things a lot easier...to Bill and Ann too, great job! Great job!"

Bynum said that the City is working to acquire new software for meeting packets. "I can't wait for you all to see it...it will be unrolled and unveiled later this year with the appropriate training."

Bell said that the current *City Beat* newsletter will highlight the new financial transparency software.

Anderson thanked UVA for the childcare proposal, and his colleagues on Council. "It was a really good work session, thank you all."

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg asked about scheduling for a big picture budget meeting and council retreat; Bynum asked Council to check calendars and get back to Wittenberg. "We will see everyone tonight for city council meeting...thanks to everyone who joined our work session today."



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### 1535 Hwy. 50

Commercial property with so many potential uses!! This property sits just north of Delta off Hwy. 50. The main building has 4520 sq. ft. with office space, 2 handicap restrooms, 2 large workspaces and garage doors. There is a fireproof safe, fire rated doors and natural gas heat. The back of the main building takes you out to the rest of the 2.5 acres. Where you will find another 1060 sq. ft. building that is finished with electric heat and bay doors. There are also 3 closed storage buildings with approximately 5500 sq. ft. If that is not enough there is about 13,000 sq. ft. of open storage that encloses the back of the 2.5 acre property. This property is zoned B-3 and has a total of 3 lots. \$349,900 MLS#774936



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## ***BOCC DECLARES JANUARY SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH IN MONTROSE COUNTY From pg 1***

driving the citizens through the “car wrecks that are around us.

“...We’re in the back seat cheering you on,” Leuthauser said. “Saying thanks for driving...I just want to remind you that when there’s darkness around us the best thing you can do is just shine the light.

“Thank you for shining your light; thank you for keeping on the right course and moving forward.”

He gave thanks and asked a blessing on the commissioners, “...that they would be light in the midst of darkness.”

Deputy County Attorney Julie Andress led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

“It’ll be nice to be in a real room with a real flag some time, in the real future,” Hansen said, and thanked Andress and Leuthauser.

All commissioners were present for the virtual meeting.

### **CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Citizen Don Hemme spoke, noting he has been a geologist for more than 45 years. “I worked in the uranium industry for 25 years...I studied the other fields, I studied history and studied philosophy.”

He talked about the possible philosophical reactions to a mural, finishing with, “If you say it doesn’t matter, then you don’t have a soul and you probably ought to go into politics.”

Hemme continued. “Imagine myself sitting on top of a mountain in my flowing robes and a young man comes up and says oh wise one, tell me the secret of life and what will make me happy.

“What I would advise him to do is ask himself who owns his soul. Is it God, is it society, is yourself, or is the government?” Hemme said. “If you say society owns your soul, then you probably should ask yourself, would you take food out of your children’s mouth to give it to strangers,” he said.

“If you say the government owns your soul then you deserve to be a slave, or maybe you have your sights on being the tyrant. I think things are going to get really ugly in the times that are coming,” Hemme said.

“The flag you have flying there should be

upside down,” he said. “That’s where mine’s flying. And I must be a kook because I think global warming is not real, and I think the COVID-19 emergency lockdown is not needed.

“And I don’t think...the change of administration that’s happened today is real.”

Only one side is allowed to speak, he said, and anyone who thinks differently is censored.

Hansen thanked Hemme for his comments, invited him to send a letter to further explain his perspective, and said, “Thank you for joining us today, and thank you for that information.”

### **COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, with Resolution No. 04-2021 assigned to Item 13.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Montrose County School District RE-1J Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins was present for Item D-1, consideration and possible adoption of a proclamation declaring January 2021 as School Board Recognition Month for the Montrose County School Board.

Jenkins said, “...We value our partnership with the county and the county commissioners...We’re working on behalf of our families and the welfare of our children, and you guys are great partners in that effort.”

All three Commissioners expressed thanks to Jenkins and the RE-1J Board of Education.

“...It’s truly been a team effort, and it’s an honor,” Commissioner Rash said.

“...I think everybody ought to step up to the plate and thank our school board for what they’ve done for all our children and our community,” BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said.

“We’ve seen some excellent leaders at that school board level,” Hansen said. Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the proclamation.

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch

presented Item D-2 for consideration, the second reading of an **Ordinance Concerning Prohibited Activities on County Leased Property known as the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area**.

Caddy said. “Thank you, Jon for all the hard work over the last few years getting this put together for all the community... from livestock permits still being allowed, to bicyclists, to four-wheelers, I think it’s great. It will be utilized by a lot of people.”

Hansen opened the floor to public comment. County resident Scott Riba addressed the BOCC.

“What concerns me is that the proposed ordinance has gone this far,” Riba said, saying he and other neighbors had not heard about the project when it was announced four years ago. “Mr. Waschbusch has never held a meeting with any of the neighbors or reached out to the neighborhoods...to discuss what the impacts might be and how those might be mitigated.”

Among the issues is camping, which was to be prohibited, Riba said.

“Now I see it is going to be a campground by permission of Montrose County,” he said, and asked the commissioners not to allow overnight camping at all.

“There are people camping there currently on BLM lands,” Riba said. “And the BLM law enforcement people say openly they don’t have the manpower to go up there and regulate that.”

He questioned who would enforce the rules.

Waschbusch spoke to Riba’s concerns. “Sheriff Lillard...has met with staff and commissioners as well as Undersheriff Jackson and Lt. Cox,” he said. “They’ve also reviewed the proposal and given a go ahead prior to proceeding with first reading...the sheriff is involved, has reviewed, and is willing to enforce.”

While the ordinance contains a provision allowing the County to authorize overnight use on a case-by-case basis, open camping is prohibited, Waschbusch said. If adopted, “It would be more restrictive than what is out there now.”

A public hearing was held at the Montrose Events Center, he added, and Riba

## ***BOCC DECLARES JANUARY SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH IN MONTROSE COUNTY From previous pg***

was invited. "That was fairly well attended."

"Doing the right thing is what's important here," Riba said, after further comments. County Assessor Brad Hughes, who lives in the area as well, also spoke.

"I have some of the same concerns that Mr. Riba does," Hughes said. "There's a real problem up there currently before any of this has even been considered. There are homeless encampments up there, there are fires all over the place, and there's trash all over the place.

"...we're going to be putting public restrooms up in that area. I just want to be sure that the Sheriff's Office is going to enforce people camping on that site," Hughes said. "They're going to be enforcing people having fires at that location—I don't see that you're going to have camping up there without fires—who do the citizens contact? Do they contact the Sheriff's Office directly for these violations?"

Hughes asked about removal of the ex-

isting rubbish such as entertainment centers, tv's, and mattresses.

"Is the County going to keep that area clean," he asked, "and make sure that that debris and rubbish is removed? Some of these are the real problems up in that area, and I can only see it being expedited by adding this additional usage in that area."

Waschbusch said that the Sheriff would enforce the law with regard to illegal dumping and camping.

"...I think the Sheriff's Office is better staffed and in a better position to conduct enforcement than potentially BLM. who has very limited law enforcement resources and is not necessarily able to even dispatch on a 24-7 basis," Waschbusch said.

"...These issues are there either way, I think the Sheriff's Office is in a better position to deal with these issues, at least right there on the County-owned property next to the road."

Hughes agreed that the BLM does not

appear to have the resources to enforce the laws. "I want to make sure that the County is going to commit the resources in order to monitor this area."

Riba asked that the County prohibit camping, as well as organized commercial uses, events, or races.

After further discussion about the issues, Commissioners agreed to pull item D-2 for further review and modification if needed.

In other business, commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the 2020 Colorado Department of Transportation Highway Users Tax Funds (HUTF) report and consideration and possible adoption of Resolution 05-2021, for annual changes, additions and deletions of roads to the County road maintenance system.

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Commissioners voted to approve a special use proposal by the Canyon Retreat to develop an event and lodging venue at 35248 Il Road, in Redvale.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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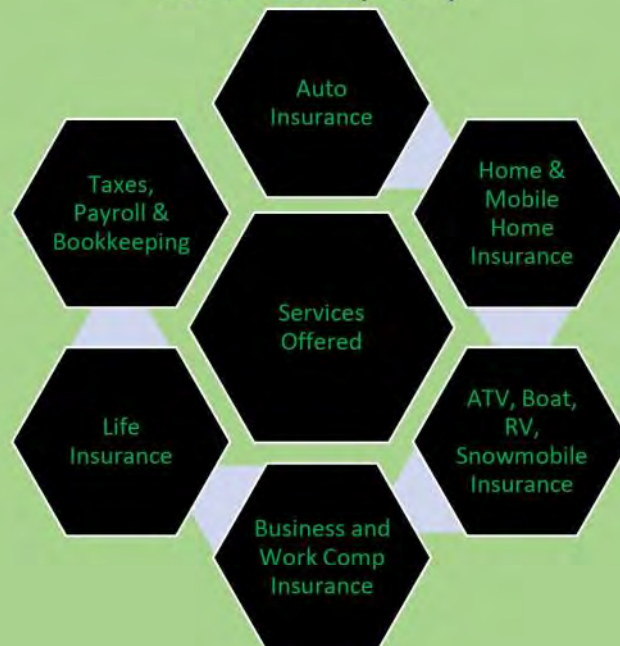






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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### EXPAND, IMPROVE CHIPETA ROAD FIRST

To members of the County Planning Commission and City Council Members:

We applaud many of the projects Matt Miles has brought to our community. But we are concerned that the "The Hub" apartment project he is proposing at the corner of 6450 and Cobble Drive is not being seriously assessed for its potential negative impact. **We ask that the Planning Commission and City Council NOT approve this project at this time.**

Our main concern centers around the traffic impact this development will have on an already-overburdened Chipeta Drive, a major north-south arterial bypass in the southwestern segment of the city. As the bulk of major new business

and retail development has expanded south along Hwy 550, and as more and more residential development has occurred west of the city, Chipeta Road has become a de-facto highway bypass route. Sunset Mesa cuts off any other options for east-west travel, and further development of city facilities on Sunset Mesa have created additional traffic burden on Chipeta Road.

Rather than give our taxpayer dollars to Matt Miles for this ill-considered development, the city, county and CDOT should focus development funds on expansion and improvement of Chipeta Road FIRST, including lane additions and fully protected and regulated intersection infrastruc-

ture (dedicated turn lanes, signal lights, etc.) for these intersections:

- 1) Chipeta Road and Cobble Creek Drive,
- 2) Chipeta Road and 6450 Road, and most importantly,
- 3) Chipeta and Hwy 550.

Once these road improvements are made, THEN the city and county can reconsider new high-density housing developments like "The Hub" along Chipeta Road, or other west-side city or county developments that are likely to add more traffic burden to Chipeta.

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful consideration,

*Herb and Alicia George, Montrose*

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# OP/ED: MONTROSE: LITTLE CITY WITH BIG CITY DREAMS



**Paul Arbogast**  
**Mirror Publisher.**

By Paul Arbogast  
MONTROSE-I moved to Montrose in 2004. It was a different, and much smaller place back then. But as we know, growth happens in most places, and Mont-

rose is one of those places. The questions and concerns I hear from citizens of the city are mostly about the type of growth, natural vs forced.

The most recent 'outrage' for some citizens is the plan to build the Rotary Amphitheater in Cerise Park. That it is being built is no longer in question or up for debate; the City Council approved spending \$3.2 million of taxpayer money during their Jan 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Some in the city may argue about the term 'taxpayer money', saying that there are grants and other funding that comes through the state or federal government, but make no mistake, government money comes from the taxpayer, so all spending is taxpayer money. I am a big fan of live music. During the forced shutdowns that have killed a six trillion-dollar live entertainment industry, I have given what I could to musicians and venues to help, and hope sanity prevails, and such places can get back to business. But I join many of my fellow citizens in seeing the idea behind this project is not necessarily a solid one.

The city has spent a lot of money on various projects they say are to help grow Montrose and bring business to Montrose, two of the most recent being \$9 million for the Colorado Outdoors project, which after several years has basically shown a negative return for the investment, as well as Geyser Systems, which is not meeting the terms of the money the city sent their way.

The city owns the Montrose Pavilion Events Center, the Black Canyon Golf Course, and numerous other parks that are either underutilized or continually losing money for the city. If as Jim Scheid, manager of Public Works, said, "Most events to be held at this facility are in-

tended to be free to the public...", do we not already have enough space in the city to hold such events already? We have space to hold such events that does not destroy more nature in Montrose and add to the city's maintenance bills.

In a promotional video the city put together and released in 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/y4enlm79>) current Council member Dave Bowman said, "it's going to be able to make Montrose, in my opinion, ... the live music capital of the western slope." That is worth aspiring to, but it is also a tall and steep mountain to climb. Is it realistic?

Just a quick look around the Western Slope in terms of outdoor music in the past, Telluride has held the biggest music festivals for quite some time, with some huge names. Logistically that amount of people would not even fit into Cerise park. Looking north, in Grand Junction and the Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park there is more space, and they have brought in some big names in music. These are just examples of outdoor locations; when it comes to indoor locations for live music, with quality sound, Montrose is behind almost every other town on the western slope.

Certainly, bringing more people in helps the economy, through dining and lodging and shopping. But big events, even outdoors, have been curtailed by government mandates due to COVID, and depending which government source you listen to, there is no end in sight. Under such conditions it seems reasonable to think perhaps the local government should pause and reconsider certain projects.

I have read and heard a lot from citizens who wonder, with our crumbling streets, horrible sidewalks, years of neglect to some areas of town, if maybe the focus should be more on the citizens of Montrose.

More focus on fixing what needs fixing, which would make it a nicer and better place, which would naturally draw more people here.

I have stood downtown during torrential rains and watched water pool up as it must go uphill to get into a drain, or curbs set so bad shop owners had to sweep wa-

ter back to the streets to keep it from entering their stores. Is this what draws visitors?

I remember sitting in on one of the 2040 Comprehensive plan meetings. They had big maps of downtown and broke us into groups, each group coming up with things to fix, or implement to make downtown better. In the end it was a lot of talk about painting and flowers and making things look pretty. I had then City Council member Judy Ann Files at my table, and made the comment, "all the pretty in the world is not going to bring people downtown, have you seen all the empty storefronts? Vibrant and booming small businesses will bring people down there, not a false front of 'pretty'."

The sentiment holds true for many of the projects the city seems too eager to spend tax money on. If you do not fix the foundations, the most magnificent house in the world will still collapse and crumble.

Therefore, I see the idea of this little amphitheater suddenly making Montrose any sort of live music mecca on the western slope a dream rather than any sort of reality. The appearance is more of a pet project for a few than a huge asset for Montrose.

To be the most responsible stewards of our tax dollars, the city should have focused on using the facilities and spaces they already own to build a huge festival that drew from all over the state, even out of state. Such a festival would warrant such a project. If such a thing existed it would need a bigger space than Cerise Park, as the area for this amphitheater is not significantly bigger than the driving range at the city-owned golf course.

To be honest, a lot of this comes about because citizens do not get involved. They do not watch, they do not listen, until it is too late.

If you believe the city needs to stop playing developer with our tax dollars and focus on building a strong economy and citizenry with great infrastructure, it is time to start paying more attention, and letting them know what you think.

They have always said they want input from the public, so Montrose, please start giving it to them.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# OURAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES CONFIRMED COVID-19 OUTBREAK

*Special to the Mirror*

OURAY-The City of Ouray, in partnership with Ouray County Public Health Agency, is reporting two confirmed cases associated with a confirmed outbreak of COVID-19.

Conditions are met for a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak when two or more people who are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a workplace/facility, with onset within 14 days.

"I want to thank the City of Ouray for cooperating with our team of COVID-19 contact tracers and case investigators" said Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery. "I am confident in the abilities of the City of Ouray and our investigators to continue to be proactive in mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19 in Ouray County."

Updates are provided on the Ouray County website: [ouraycountycogov](http://ouraycountycogov) as well as Ouray County Public Health Agency Facebook page: [Facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency](https://www.facebook.com/OurayCountyPublicHealthAgency)

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

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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# VACCINE EQUITY A STATEWIDE PRIORITY

### *Special to the Mirror*

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-Governor Polis announced last week that COVID-19 vaccine distribution centers are to target administration of the first vaccine dose to 70 percent of residents 70 years of age and older by the end of February. The various distribution centers have been directed that Phase 1b below the dotted line will not begin until this milestone has been reached.

Additionally, Governor Polis has reminded all distribution sites across the state that equity of vaccination is a priority. COVID vaccines are free and do not require proof of citizenship.

"Whether you are a U.S. citizen or not, we are all in this together. If you would like a

vaccine, you will be able to get one according to what vaccine phase you are in. An ID should not be required for access to the vaccine," stated a letter from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Administrative Director of Laboratory Services Scott Bookman this past Sunday.

"San Miguel County Public Health and the Telluride Regional Medical Center are prepared to administer vaccines as quickly as they arrive from the state and federal level," said Public Health Director Grace Franklin. "We cannot emphasize enough how grateful we are for the patience of our residents. We, too, are eager to protect our county and abate this pandemic quickly."

Public Health is preparing to respond to potential slowdowns in vaccine rollout in the coming weeks due to national and state supply shortages. This week, county distribution centers will begin administering the first round of second doses to frontline healthcare workers.

Public Health has confirmed twenty-nine new positive cases of COVID-19 from test results received from January 16 through 19. Of these cases, twenty-eight are residents and all actively contagious cases are currently in isolation. There have been 546 total COVID cases among residents to date with 38 active cases. To learn more about the county's current COVID-19 metrics, please [visit the County COVID-19 dashboard](#).

## 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. If you have not already been placed on a waitlist to obtain your COVID-19 vaccination, please visit Delta County Health Department's [webpage](#) to fill out a [form](#) to sign up for the county wide waitlist. This waitlist is the primary list that will be used moving forward to ensure that individuals who have signed up are in queue to get an appointment when more vaccines become available. Vaccinations are only being distributed to individuals, who are 70 and older, as well as healthcare workers and first responders. **Please do not call** Delta County Health Department, Delta County Memo-

rial Hospital (DCMH), any of the DCMH clinics, or River Valley to be put on a waitlist for a vaccine.

If you have questions, the Delta County Call Center is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a -1p and can be reached at 970-874-2172.

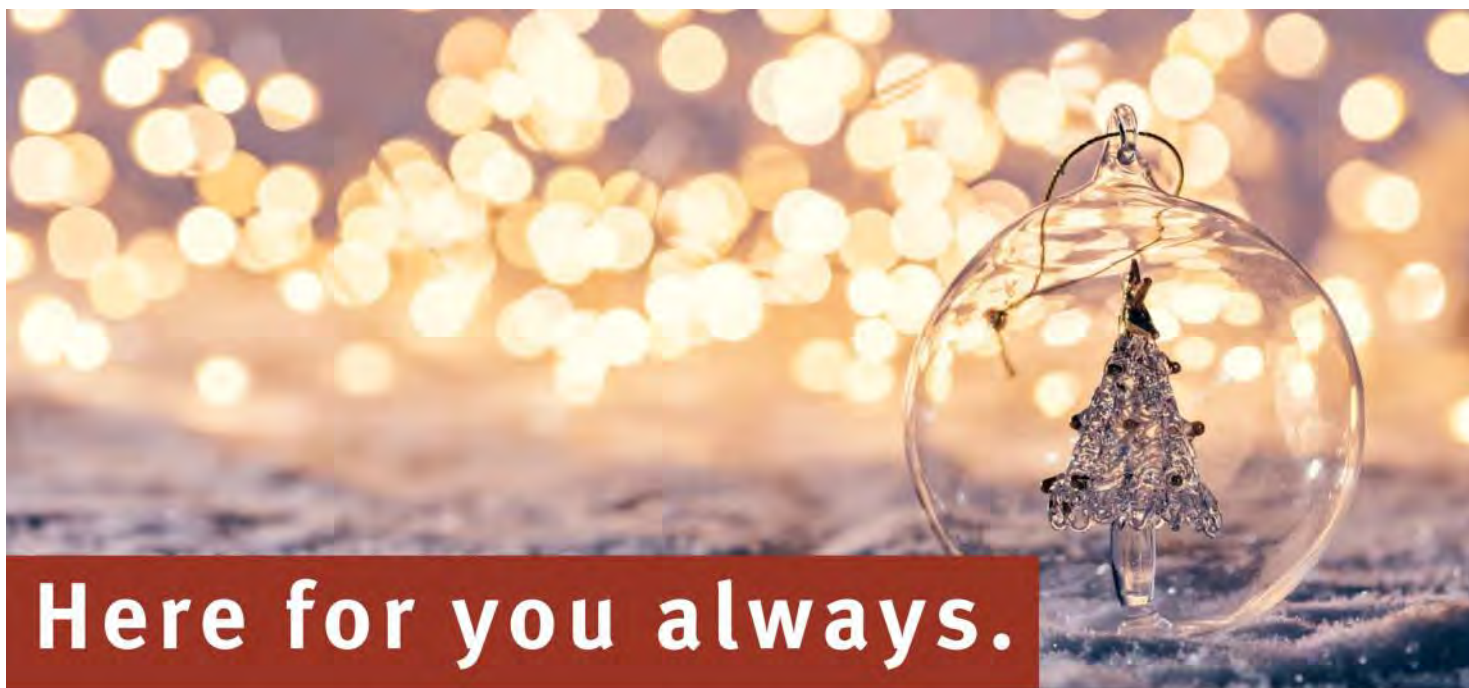
Additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>.

As of Jan. 21, Delta County reported 42 new positive cases for a total of 2188 with 263 active and 1883 recovered; we currently have 5 individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting 4 additional deaths this week bringing the total to 42; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

Delta County's positivity rate remains

above 15 percent; we strongly encourage you to continue to adhere to the guidelines of maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between you and others as much as possible, limiting your gatherings to people who reside in your home, and as always - wear your mask, 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 9:00a - 2:00p; pre-register here: <https://curative.com/sites/17942/walkup#9/38.8011/-107.7161>.



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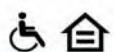
Service to the health of the greater community is of utmost importance today and always. During the pandemic, our caregiving teams have worked diligently to keep our community and program participants healthy, safe and connected to those they love---and at times, stepped in when family members could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

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

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### PLEASE SAY NO TO THE HUB PROJECT

*Letter to Montrose Planning Commission, Montrose City Council members, and Montrose City Manager:*

This letter is written for your review regarding the HUB at Montrose Crossing project. We have a wonderful variety of people living in Cobble Creek, Spruce Point and Chipeta Pointe. Residents include Montrose natives who have lived their entire lives in this wonderful community, returning Montrose residents who lived elsewhere and have now returned home, longtime Colorado residents who chose to live on the Western Slope and remain in Colorado, new retirees, young working families who were raised in Montrose and chose to remain here, policemen, teachers, retired military men and women, business owners, nurses, doctors, dentists, and farmers and ranchers. Why is this large variety of people

and backgrounds here? We all found a quiet, peaceful country setting to live in, surrounded by friendly and helpful people.

It is obvious Matt Miles does not care about the many concerns we have about 500 high density rental apartments built next to and practically on top of us! The HUB at Montrose Crossing would be an ideal location for patio homes, single family homes or town homes that would blend in respectfully with the surrounding communities.

The lower density would eliminate almost all of the concerns about traffic, noise and congestion. It would also provide an opportunity for affordable home ownership versus living in a crowded rental apartment environment with no ownership opportunity.

The Planning Commission, City Council

and City Manager should care about the concerns of over 400 homeowners who are not only taxpayers, but contribute greatly to the social and economic success of the city. You are elected and appointed to represent ALL residents of Montrose and not just the desires of a developer.

Please say NO to the HUB project and require the developer to come back with a development plan that is compatible with the surrounding communities.

For our fellow Montrose residents, what is happening to us on the rural south end of the city can very likely happen to you! If the Planning Commission, the City Council, and the City Manager ignore the spirit of the Comprehensive Plan, your neighborhood could be next!

Thank you for your consideration:

*Judy Frazier*

*Spruce Point homeowner*



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## ***DESPITE PLEA FROM LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, CITY MOVES FORWARD WITH FLEET PURCHASE FROM EASTERN SLOPE DEALERSHIP From pg 1***

the words in front of me...until you realize, you're on the spot...You will forever be sympathetic to anyone singing the National Anthem or saying the Pledge who skips a line."

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### **CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items included consideration of the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2021 regular City Council meeting and consideration of a list of City-owned property for disposal in accordance with Section 1-16-5 of the Municipal Code.

Bynum said that there was a correction needed to the Minutes of Jan. 5. "Where Council recommends people have a carbon dioxide detector, we mean a carbon monoxide detector," she said. "...Carbon dioxide would show we are all breathing, carbon monoxide would show us we are about to die."

The two items were approved separately, with corrections as noted to the minutes of Jan. 5. Council Dave Frank abstained from voting on the Minutes as he was absent from the meeting of Jan. 5.

### **LYNCH ADDITION**

As discussed previously in work session and on first reading, Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2525 on second reading, for the annexation of the Lynch Addition, and Ordinance 2526 on second reading, zoning the Lynch Addition as a B-2 Highway Commercial District.

### **CONTRACT AMENDMENT-BLYTHE GROUP AND CO**

Also approved unanimously was an amendment to the City's 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.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid presented the contract amendment. Nothing had changed since the matter was discussed previously at work session, Scheid

said. Blythe Group would be the most cost-effective way to achieve the City's goals, he said. "These things needed to be done anyway; we need furniture in the building."

The building is intended to be useable for the next 50 years, Police Chief Blaine Hall said. "We really want to make sure that what we are purchasing is going to last us a while, and that's especially hard when it comes to technology."

Councilor Dave Bowman reiterated that the Montrose Police Department has already purchased Axon body worn cameras, and all technology incorporated into the new facility must be compatible. "...That's really a key," Bowman said, "that those police cameras work with everything else in the building."

"I couldn't agree more," Chief Hall said.

### **VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Despite the objections of a local business owner, Council also voted unanimously to award the purchase of 22 new Ford Vehicles to low bidder Sill-Terhar Motors, of Broomfield, Colorado, for the total purchase price of \$953,450.

The purchase award was previously discussed in work session, Scheid said. Price was the main driving factor; local preference was applied in accordance with City Ordinance 2221, he said.

"...There's a five percent advantage given to a local supplier, and a three percent advantage given to an adjoining county to Montrose," Scheid said. "...We did apply that to this bid on the Ford order recent...Sill Terhar Motors was \$54,713 cheaper than the local Montrose Ford...when applied, the ordinance states that it's five percent up to \$50,000 can be applied to a local preference policy."

"In this case it still wasn't the lowest," he said.

Local preference is not applied randomly, Mayor Bynum noted. "It's actually set in our City ordinance which are our city laws; and so we follow a very specific ordinance when we do that local preference."

"We consider it on every bid that we review," Scheid said.

Councilor Roy Anderson said, "...Perhaps

our city attorney could comment. After the bidding's closed and you evaluate all these...if you go back and let someone change their bid, that'd be illegal, right? I mean we couldn't do that?"

"That would be begging for a lawsuit," City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said.

Bids cannot be changed after they are opened, Scheid said.

Information is available in the meeting packet, Frank said.

After further discussion by Council, Bynum opened the floor to public comment.

Wesley Abbott of Montrose Ford Nissan addressed Council. "I very much appreciate the bid process...I would like to request a reconsideration of sending almost a million dollars of taxpayer money to a large dealer group on the Eastern Slope."

Montrose Ford Nissan has been family owned and operated since 1986 in Montrose, Abbott said, and has given many donations to the community and the city. The business has been hit hard by the pandemic.

"Despite this, we didn't lay people off...we continued to donate to the community," Abbott said. "I actually sought out the hospital and made a generous donation that is far more than the difference in this bid...we were \$4,700 past the local preference...we were \$150,000 lower than the third-place bid."

Abbott said he was frustrated as a local business owner, "to see them send almost a million dollars of our taxpayer money, much of it collected from my dealership, to...a conglomerate on the Eastern Slope, over \$4,700."

Montrose Ford employs more than 45 people, donates tens of thousands of dollars per year, and provides extremely good service to the City, he said.

"We consistently try and move the City to the front of the line in service if we need to get anything out," he said. "...Just a couple years ago, Mr. Scheid, Montrose City submitted a bid that was wrong. It was for a two-wheel drive super duty Ford truck. In 34 years of business Montrose Ford has never ordered a two-wheel drive

## ***DESPITE PLEA FROM LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, CITY MOVES FORWARD WITH FLEET PURCHASE FROM EASTERN SLOPE DEALERSHIP From previous pg***

super duty unless it was custom ordered, because we live in four-wheel drive country.

"...We ate that truck...we lost money to get rid of that truck," Abbott said. "...Sill Terhar doesn't care anything about Montrose, they don't care anything about our citizens, they don't care about our tax dollars.

"I know most of my customers," Abbott said. "Sill Terhar doesn't know their customers in Denver, much less in Montrose, Colorado."

Mayor Bynum said that she understood his frustration. "...We want to keep our local money here too, but when we have a law, we need to follow it really, to keep

ourselves from costing the City more money when it would come to a legal issue."

She expressed appreciation for Montrose Ford. "You're known for being a very generous and very supportive business...but when we have a city ordinance, otherwise known as a law, we really have to follow it."

At the request of Councilor Dave Bowman, Bynum read Ordinance 2221 into the record. "Ok, so that's the law we are following."

### **STAFF REPORTS**

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented a Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Wilson presented an update on Youth

Council activities. "This month we are working on the food drive with our local food bank," she said. "We actually set up five locations, we're getting stuff in all of them...We are also going to reach out to Habitat for Humanity, to see if they can come talk to us about homelessness in our community and what we can do to help."

Dropoff locations are Celebration Church at 2900 Sunnyside Road; Pope John Paul II Academy at 67051 Sunnyside Road; Ace Hardware at 22 South Townsend Avenue; Montrose City Hall at 433 South First Street; and the Montrose Recreation Center at 16350 Woodgate Road.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH RECEIVES \$10,000 DONATION FROM QHR HEALTH TO COMPLETE CRISIS WALK-IN CENTER OUTDOOR COURTYARD

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Center for Mental Health (CMH) recently received a generous donation from QHR Health earmarked to complete the planned outdoor courtyard at CMH's Crisis Walk-in Center.

"As a nonprofit behavioral health provider, we depend upon the generosity of community partners, like QHR Health, to fund enhancements to our facilities. This donation will enable us to complete planned enhancements to our Crisis Walk-In Center which provides urgent treatment for individuals who are in crisis due to overwhelming behavioral health challenges," said Shelly Spalding, CEO for The Center for Mental Health. "The addition of the outdoor courtyard will provide much needed respite for those who are in our care."

The new courtyard will provide safe, secure, outdoor access to CMH clients where they can benefit from fresh air, sun and the healing power of the outdoors. Currently, CMH clients who may stay for up to five days are unable to safely access an outdoor location.

"Our mission is to strengthen healthcare in rural communities by collaborating with partners to improve access to these services," said Dwayne Gunter, CEO of QHR Health. "Together with James Kiser, former CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital, we are happy to help people in this region. CMH has proven that the need for mental health care was evident and they created a mental health-care resource that meets the needs of those who live on the Western Slope."

The Crisis Walk-in Center is a life-saving, urgent behavioral healthcare resource serving the Western Slope's six-county region.

Those needing care may come in any time day or night without an appointment and regardless of their ability to pay. Since opening in the fall of 2019, this location has treated more than 1,000 clients, ages 12 to 90. One element missing from the Walk-In Center is an area where those who are recovering can safely experience the healing power of the outdoors.

With a goal of raising \$10,000 dollars for the project, CMH was successful in gener-

ating nearly \$5,000 from staff and community donors on Colorado Gives Day, \$1,000 from Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, \$1,500 from Montrose Community Foundation and a significant \$10,000 donation from QHR Health more than helped CMH exceed its goal.

"Independent community hospitals and healthcare systems have challenges that are quite different from large, corporate healthcare facilities," adds Gunter. "At QHR Health, most of us have worked in community hospitals, so we understand the issues communities face. We know the challenges and know that each hospital has its own unique set of demands. That is why the courtyard piqued our interest, it will be a unique but critical part of the healing process."

This donation comes full-circle for QHR Health, as they were instrumental in the Community Needs Assessment implemented a few years ago identifying the need for a facility like the Crisis Walk-in Center in Montrose. Previously, individuals in crisis needed to travel to Grand Junction or Denver to receive care.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER: DEVELOPMENT SHOULD PAY ITS OWN WAY

*TO: Montrose Planning Commission and Montrose City Council*

*RE: Proposed HUB Development*

Speaking truth to power. The City Planning Commission and City Councilors have been inundated in the last two months by many hundreds of letters, emails, and Zoom call-ins protesting the planned development HUB of Montrose Crossing. The question is, will the stewards of the people choose the desire of the local developer over the voices of the people they represent?

Reasons abound for the protests: the 500-unit apartment complex on 32 acres does not fit the rural character of the area nor has its full impact on the neighboring single-family subdivisions of Cobble Creek and Spruce Point been considered and appreciated. Those two developments are less than half built out, ultimately doubling in size to more than 800 plus homes. Chipeta Road, the county road used to access the city's shopping centers or head south to Highway 550, is ill equipped to handle the additional 2,000-4,000 trips a day the HUB would generate. Guidelines in the city's Comprehensive Plan, the guardrail to planned growth established in 2008 by six planning entities and 47 city professionals and citizens, have been set aside. Citizens rely on the honesty and integrity of city officials, and how they live up to the commitment they made when they entered public service. Ignoring the city Comprehensive Plan, permitting a developer to build the type of dense apartment complex usually seen in Denver-Houston-Phoenix, even Los Angeles, and whitewashing safety issues of the Chipeta

Road corridor are corrosive factors to citizen trust in their elected officials and those whom they hire.

Why wouldn't those of us who live here resent the possibility of our quality of life being hollowed out with increased traffic, noise, and public safety issues? We moved here to escape this type of traffic congestion and high-density development found along Front Range communities. We love the relaxed Western Slope life-style of Montrose. Now a developer wants to duplicate what many of us moved away from, taking advantage of the R3A "anything goes" zoning he pushed for in 2018.

It would help a great deal if the City Manager and City Council would cite the studies regarding workforce housing needs. We all desire a safe and affordable place for us and our families to live. But when one considers the city's modest population growth, from 19,132 people in 2010, to the estimated 19,782 in 2019, it would appear a 500-unit apartment complex is overkill. The 400 jobs lost at Russell Stover, and the closing of J.C. Penney, do not buttress the need either. For those who would like to see their adult children return to Montrose and have an affordable place to live, the answer is more complex than new apartment buildings. The answer is in the city attracting light manufacturing and other businesses that pay more than minimum wage. A December 30, 2020 Telluride Daily Planet article laid out the critical shortage of rental housing for the two resort communities' hospitality and retail workers. Will the HUB cater to this demographic also, due to its location

on the south side of town, with no city traffic lights to impede a commute? If the developer has his eyes on this prize, in addition to serving a modest workforce housing need in Montrose, why is the city earmarking \$2.4M in incentives for HUB to assist the Telluride business community house its workers at our taxpayer expense? As a reminder, there is no requirement to pay back these waivers and infrastructure subsidies.

A cursory glance of the developer's Leadership Circle LLC website shows the success of a remarkably shrewd and astute CEO whose team has branched out to at least ten Western states with commercial projects. His company owns nine residential projects in Montrose and one in North Dakota. With this foundation underpinning the developer's business, how did an agreement for a \$2.4M giveaway find its way into the city's 2021 budget? This is outright re-distribution of wealth – from Montrose taxpayers to a single individual's business entity. All Montrose citizens should be alarmed. This development, in whatever iteration is finally determined, should pay its own way.

Speaking truth to power. Perhaps the city needs to catch its breath and take a break from proceeding on the HUB project until the pandemic is over. Then, citizens and city staff and council can meet safely, face-to-face, to enjoy the light of transparency and accountability. Once again, the question is, will the stewards of the people choose the desire of the local developer over the voices of the people they represent?

*Pat and Connie Pitz, Montrose*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NEW HEMATOLOGY PHYSICIAN JOINS DELTA HOSPITAL'S GRAND MESA ONCOLOGY, HEMATOLOGY AND INFUSION CENTER

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta County Memorial Hospital's (DCMH) Grand Mesa Oncology, Hematology and Infusion Center is excited to welcome its newest physician, Ann Hedderman, M.D. to the team. Hedderman specializes in Hematology, the study and treatment of blood diseases, and brings more than 20 years of experience and a background in rural healthcare.

Hedderman is from upstate New York and attended medical school at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics before practicing medicine in Indiana. Originally planning to become a thoracic surgeon, Hedderman was drawn to the rapidly expanding field of Internal Medicine.

"After deciding not to go into surgery I did a Hematology rotation [during my medical internship] and am fascinated by blood diseases," said Hedderman. "It's exciting to see the new sets of targeted therapies happening for diseases that previously didn't have treatment options. Being in this field of medicine right now is a unique and exciting time."

Hedderman is excited to bring her expertise to the community of Delta County and to be able to offer hematologic care that is close to home.

"I really like the idea of working with patients who come from more rural areas," said Hedderman. "When I was in Iowa I got to work in a small hospital as one of my rotations and I really liked that a lot. Just because someone lives in a small town doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to access quality health care."

Hedderman's upstate New York roots, where it is mostly dairy farms and vineyards, sparked her love for rural healthcare. Part of the appeal, she said, of smaller communities is that she gets to know her patients on a more personal level and is able to spend more time with

them during appointments.

Hedderman's approach is to focus on the whole patient. She said she likes to understand what is going on in a patient's life and family to know exactly where they're coming from. When working with sometimes complex diseases and diagnosis, Hedderman likes to ask her patients what *their* understanding of the disease is.

"I ask them why they are here and start from the beginning," said Hedderman. "I believe in a lot of education for patients, and I spend a lot of time drawing pictures to show them what's going on and to break down everything they need to know. I think that's important."

Hedderman believes that as a physician it is her obligation to go to whatever extent necessary to give patients the care that they need. She said that one of her favorite quotes says: "When I learned the awesome responsibility of other peoples' lives, I learned to be more confrontational."

"It's not in my nature to be [confrontational] but if you have to do what you have to do to get a patient taken care of," said Hedderman.

Hedderman is joining the Grand Mesa Oncology and Infusion Center team with Dr. Dorinda Rouch who has been at DCMH for roughly three years. The two are colleagues and friends with a similar patient-care philosophy.

"Dr. Rouch is incredibly smart and is really one of the best physicians I have ever worked with," said Hedderman. "When you have someone you respect in medicine it is great to bounce ideas off each other. To have that comradery with some-



**Delta County Memorial Hospital's (DCMH) Grand Mesa Oncology, Hematology and Infusion Center is excited to welcome its newest physician, Ann Hedderman, M.D. to the team. Courtesy photo.**

one you trust - I think - is key."

When not working with patients, Hedderman enjoys swimming, reading, enjoying the outdoors and cooking. One of her goals is also to become multilingual in Spanish, French, German and Italian.

"For me, working in this field is an incredible privilege," said Hedderman. "To see what people can endure is sometimes mind blowing. My patients teach me about life and they inspire me. Throughout my career I have remained amazed at the people I meet because they've taught me so much through how they've dealt with their disease. I have this philosophy that everyone has a story to tell, and it's just getting at what their story is."

Hedderman is currently accepting new patients. To make an appointment please call 970.399.2895 or visit [deltahospital.org/grand-mesa-oncology-and-infusion](http://deltahospital.org/grand-mesa-oncology-and-infusion).





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### RESPONSE: LESS PARROTING, MORE JOURNALISM, PLEASE!

*Editor:*

Sean Salaz hit the nail (editor Anderson) square on the noggin with an inordinately honest blow to his so-called editorial integrity. Dennis Anderson is supposed to know about writing news, writing both sides of issues so that his readers can decide for themselves what is fact and what is fairy dust.

And do us all the honor of looking up 'fact'. Every scrap of info picked up is not fact; no item is 'fact' until made so by verification that it is the truth.

But reporters are the writers of newspaper articles that are supposed to find the facts that go with the story, the news, and make a good impartial read for the readers. An editorial, by definition, is entitled to express the editor's opinion but it should be stated as such and it should not include falsehoods.

Mr. Andersen apparently just blows off his steam writing as though what he says is fact, apparently without investigation or substantiation. He just lets his so-called facts fly as if he found the script at the beginning of the New Testament. There was a time when 'Opinions' in the MDP

was limited to 300 words. That rule seemed to be somewhat forgotten over time. The 'editor' apparently has unlimited license in this regard and goes on ad infinitum and ad nauseam propounding unfounded and unsubstantiated 'facts' to his readership in the hopes that they are too dumb to question what he has written. After all, he is the EDITOR is he not? WOW!

He appears to decide the particular line he will follow today and simply opens his pen and lets it 'flicker. Let it land where it might, someone will mop it up.

He is overly kind to the Montrose City administration as well seemingly approving of any gift of Mr. Bell's to one project or another of which he seems to approve. He likes the city council, after all they gave MDP lots of bucks to help clean up the environmental pollution in the old MDP press room.

Of course Mr. Bell is squandering taxpayer dollars by the bale in places where the investment will never see the light of day or payback. Even the discussions where the REAL decisions are made are apparently made in 'smoke filled rooms' to pre-

vent even the council from seeing through the smog and understanding the real details, like the reality, profitability and need, for a project.

I don't know what Mr. Anderson thinks about the idea to have a city supported 'kindergarten' but his paper (editorial section) should be anxious to ask why such a lark should even be voiced when we have a self-supporting Board of Education for such purposes.

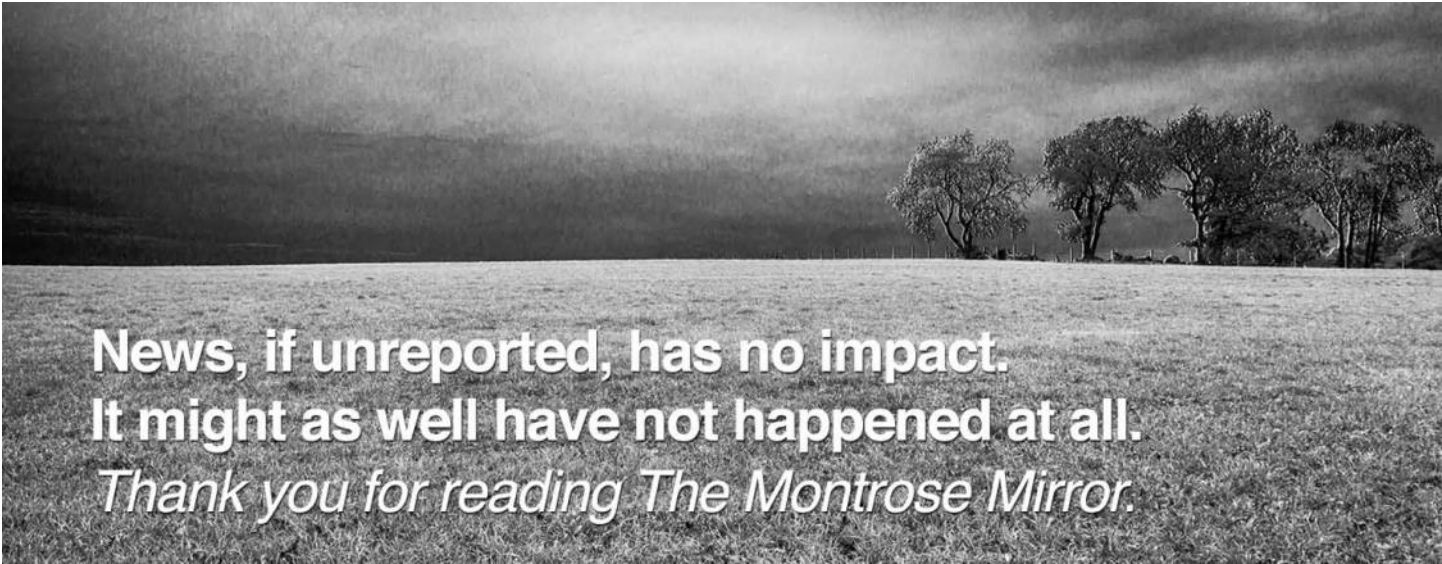
It does not take a blooming genius to figure out that the City should never enter into the Education business especially when the schools can't figure out whether to open or close.

I am acquainted with a couple of his reporters and they have the potential to be really good. But in reading their 'stuff' I feel that they are given the story line and told to fill in the blanks. To make it stick! If they were taught how and permitted to follow their noses they could be really good at their business.

And as a result the MDP could really grow in both its readership and its stature.

But, the way it is going---neva-hatch-ee!

*William Bennett, Montrose*



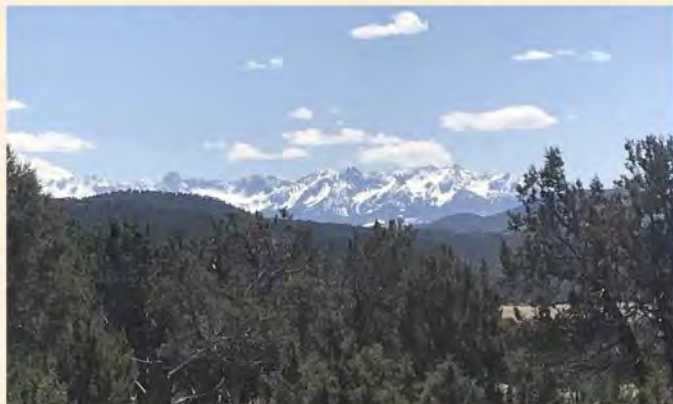
**News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.  
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION HONORS SUPERHERO FROM DELTA HOSPITAL FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE



**George Baier, Plant Maintenance Director, is Delta County Memorial Hospital's (DCMH) Superhero. Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-Throughout the pandemic, extraordinary employees from hospitals around Colorado have exemplified what it means to be true Superheroes. From unimaginable challenges to constant unknowns,

health care workers have endured the brunt of the pandemic from the beginning. That is why the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) and American Sentinel University (ASU) honored employees from Colorado Hospitals as Colorado Hospital Superheroes for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

George Baier, Plant Maintenance Director, is Delta County Memorial Hospital's (DCMH) Superhero. Never waiting for someone else to step up, Baier goes above and beyond to keep our infrastructure functioning and our patients, staff and community members safe.

"George is noted to be one of the nicest hard-working guys taking care of everyone timely and with a smile," said Julie Huffman, Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for DCMH. "George is known for not just his heart, but also his extreme knowledge and detail in his work. [He is] such a joy to work with."

Available and on-call 24/7, Baier is there for any kind of emergency be it weather (plow the parking lots and walkways), building a COVID barrier at the last minute, researching and installing negative pressure spaces, oversee engineering, remodels, upgrades, monitor air exchanges, you name it, he can do it.

"Our hospital has had some major chang-

es affect us this past year and George and his team do quality work that has saved the hospital thousands of dollars in repairs and special building projects," said Larry Vincent, Chief Financial Officer for DCMH. "He and his team are able to perform these repairs without having to hire outside firms and contractors."

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

There are few true heroes who handle well-intentioned challenges with kindness and grace, and who step-up when the stakes are high, even if at a personal cost. There are even fewer moments in life that are spent celebrating those true heroes. We are honored to celebrate Baier and what he does every day, and the impact he has had on us all.

To see Baier and other Colorado Hospital Superheroes, visit the CHA and DCMH Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms. For a full list of Colorado Hospital honorees, visit [cha.com/colorado-hospital-superheroes/](https://cha.com/colorado-hospital-superheroes/).



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## Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, Inc

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### 2021 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse has been in existence for 57 years. Our mission has not changed, but our procedures and means of operation have. All of us have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but rest assured our members are still dedicated, and on stand-by for any emergency. If anything, this pandemic has expanded the role of the Posse in the services provided to the residents and visitors of Montrose County.

We continue to participate in numerous activities including:

Search & Rescue \* Disaster Assistance \* Fire Control and Suppression  
Security \* Traffic Control \* Educational Programs for the Public

The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse is made up of 40 highly trained and dedicated volunteers. There are two divisions; one based in Montrose and one in Nucla. Both divisions donate thousands of hours in service to our community each year, saving the taxpayers over \$100,000 annually.

Covid-19 has changed the way many of our activities are being handled, sometimes making us less visible to the public. Despite this reduced visibility, we are still working closely with the Sheriff and the County Emergency Manager during this pandemic. Hunters, hikers, ATV riders and others still become lost or injured in the county and we are there to assist.

Over the course of our 57 years of operation, the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse has acquired a fleet of vehicles, including four ATVs and other specialized equipment. This year we were able to replace 1984 and 1991 fire trucks with newer units, at a cost of over \$30,000. Without the help of generous donations from our community over the past several years, this would not have been possible. With the advent of Covid-19 we have needed other special Personal Protective Equipment and this has taxed our resources. Donations received from the community have helped us cover our operational expenses and enabled us to continue our service.

Your support of the MCSP through this fund drive provides the financial resources needed to accomplish our mission. Any contribution you can make will be of great benefit to our entire community. As a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit corporation, all donations are deductible for income tax purposes. Please mail your gift today in the envelope provided. Thank you in advance for your contribution. We look forward to continuing our service to the community.

Sincerely,

Montrose County Sheriff's Posse

## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS DECLINE BY 20,300 IN DECEMBER; UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 8.4 PERCENT

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Household survey data  
According to the survey of households, Colorado's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** increased in December to 8.4 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged from November at 6.7 percent.

*Other highlights from the household survey:*

-Colorado's **labor force** grew by 42,400 in December to 3,212,600. The labor force participation rate increased by eight-tenths of a percentage point to 69.0 percent.

The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force reached its highest level since February, when it was 69.4 percent.

-The **number of individuals employed** in Colorado decreased by 24,400 in December to 2,943,400, which represents 63.3 percent of the state's 16+ population. Colorado's employment-to-population ratio is relatively flat since September.

The **Colorado counties** with the highest unemployment rates in December were: Pueblo (11.3%), Huerfano (11.0%), Gilpin (10.6%), Costilla (10.1%), and Clear Creek (9.6%). County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted and are directly comparable to Colorado's December unadjusted rate of 8.2 percent.

*Establishment survey data*

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado declined by 20,300 from November to December for a total of 2,662,600 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments.



Private sector payroll jobs decreased by 20,600, while government added 300 jobs. With December job losses, Colorado has gained back 191,500 of the 342,300 nonfarm payroll jobs lost between February and April. That translates to a job recovery rate of 55.9 percent, which marginally exceeds the U.S. rate of 55.6 percent.

Other highlights from the establishment survey: November estimates were revised up to 2,682,900, and the over the month change from October to November was a loss of 4,700 rather than the originally estimated decrease of 6,900 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates).

Private industry sectors with significant job gains in December were: trade, transportation, and utilities (~10,200), professional and business services (~5,100), edu-



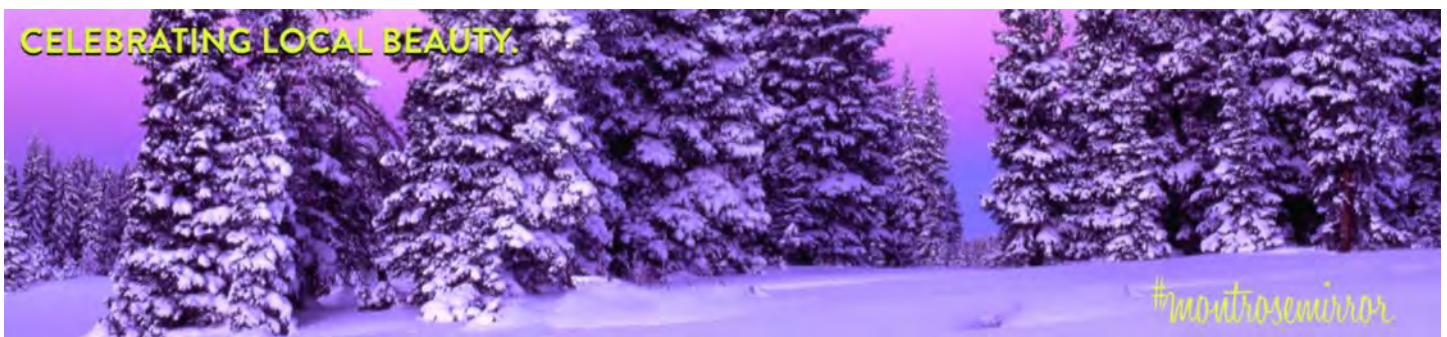
cation and health services (~1,100), and construction (~1,000). Significant over the month private sector job loss occurred in leisure and hospitality (~36,100).

Since December 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs have decreased 150,900, with losses totaling 120,100 in the private sector and 30,800 in government.

The largest private sector job losses were in leisure and hospitality (~91,500), education and health services (~16,700), and other services (~8,000), and Colorado's rate of job loss over the past year is -5.4 percent, compared to the U.S. rate of -6.2 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.8 to 33.3 hours, while average hourly earnings rose from \$31.00 to \$31.18, over a dollar and thirty cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$29.81.

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### STATE LABOR DEPT UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 16

#### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reports that due to the deployment of its new online unemployment benefits system, and impacts to underlying reports, there are currently no new claims or benefit payment data available to report for the week ending January 16th. CDLE anticipates that new UI claims data will be available for the January 28th press release. As a reminder, the next scheduled release is this Friday, Jan. 22 at 8 A.M. for the December Employment Situation Helping Coloradans with Reemployment Support:

Trainings and Resources for Job Seekers  
CDLE and its partners hold regular, no-cost training that can help unemployed Coloradans get rehired. A sampling of

events is below and a complete list of events, workshops and training opportunities is available on the [CDLE website](#).

Trainings and Resources for Job Seekers  
January 25, 11:00 am - 11:30 am: [Denver Workforce Services "We're Hiring!" series](#)  
January 27, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm: [Engage with a Career Coach](#)

January 28, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm: [Resume Workshop](#)  
Who's Hiring

There are more than 70,000 jobs available in [ConnectingColorado.com](#), the state's jobs database.

Total number of open jobs (12/12/2020): 65,119

Job titles posted most often:

CDL-A truck drivers (3,728)

Registered nurses (900)

Customer service representatives (824)  
Industries hiring:

While many industries are hiring, the top three were:

Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (26,859)

Professional, scientific, and technical services (20,480)

Retail trade (18,679)

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Office of the Future of Work publish a weekly series to share hiring trends and highlight online and in-person resources to connect workers with meaningful employment. This week, the article gives an update on last week's job postings and the 2020 Talent Pipeline Report released by CWDC and the TalentFound Network.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY INSTALLS NEW SOLAR LIGHTS TO IMPROVE PARK SAFETY

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — In an effort to improve park safety for pedestrians and boost energy efficiency within the community, the city has installed new solar-powered outdoor lighting in Rotary Park with more solar lights eyed for installation soon.

City crews have been busy installing the nine new street-style lights along the walking path on the southern end of the park. Each LED light is attached to a buried concrete base and runs entirely off of solar power. LED lighting is an energy-saving alternative to traditional incandescent bulbs and can be up to 10 times more efficient.

The southern end of Rotary Park is a popular walking area for local residents throughout the year.

According to city Public Works Assistant Manager Jackie Bubenik, installation of the lights requires zero trenching because the lights are not connected to a larger power system.

"The solar lights will be the new standard for Montrose parks going forward," Bubenik said.

The city is also using the new LED technology to replace older lighting fixtures that are either no longer working or less energy efficient.

"By using solar lighting we also have more options on how we place lighting along paths," Bubenik said.

The lights require very low maintenance and have a lifespan of approximately 20 years, saving tens of thousands of dollars in energy costs.

Phase one of the project to install nine new lights will be completed within the next few days. Bubenik said the city is looking to place nine additional solar lights, possibly by the end of 2021.



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**44+ acres with 24+ shares of UVWUA irrigation water**

**NO Covenants**

**\$500,000 | MLS# 777920**

This expansive acreage next to Brown Ranch is a great place to build your dream home. Or, if you're a developer looking for the next best housing development, the location adjacent to elegant Brown Ranch subdivision is an ideal location. It offers incredible views in all directions, including unobstructed views of the majestic San Juan Mountains! Easy access off of 6725 Rd. and minutes from the Montrose Recreation Center, the Bridges Golf Course and booming South Corridor shopping and restaurants. All utilities located along road. Take advantage of this development opportunity! Zoned R-2, low density single family.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT VIOLATES THE CITY'S OWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*Editor:*

The residents in the area surrounding Matt Mile's proposed development of 500 apartment units at the intersection of 6450 Road, Chipeta and Cobble Drives are asking the City Council and it's Planning Commission to remain true to the City of Montrose's Comprehensive Development Plan and deny approval of this development. Deviation from this plan sets a precedent for future development requests and erodes the trust our citizens place in their city government. This proposed development violates the city's own Comprehensive Plan for development as evidenced by:

- Lack of "feathering" or adequate transition between high density development and single homes
- Negative impact on the Health and Safety of residents due to a significant increase in pedestrian, bicycle and motor vehicle traffic on Chipeta Dr., Cobble Dr., and Hwy 550.
- Negative impact on rural character of the area
- Lack of access for residents to schools, city transportation, shopping, grocery and medical care without car ownership

Area residents spoke in objection to the rezoning of this plat of land during the 2018 zoning commission meeting. The developer described the project to area residents as single or duplex homes and denied that it would include apartment buildings. The project today consists of 500 apartment units. There is general concern that the planning commission and the developer had already reached an agreement prior to public hearings. This is evidenced by the inclusion of a total of 2.4 million dollar waivers built into the 2021 city budget and the apparent lack of acknowledgment of the concerns of residents of the area.

The five-hour Planning Commission hearing regarding Matt Mile's proposed development on the Jan. 13, 2021 was attended by approximately 185 area residents.

Forty-five citizens provided input regarding the concerns of area residents. Not one of the attendees spoke in favor of the project!

*Respectfully submitted*

*Betty Willy, Montrose*



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





## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### BIDEN SHOULD CALL OFF IMPEACHMENT

*Editor:*

If Joe Biden truly wants to unify the United States, call off the impeachment. If you mean what you say, show us. Don't just be a politician, walk the walk. This would show us that you are not just a part of the "Swamp."

*Ed Moreland, Montrose*



**W**ear  
your mask

Thank you for doing your part  
to keep CO safe!



**W**ash  
your hands

Thank you for doing your part  
to keep CO safe!



**W**atch your  
distance

Thank you for doing your part  
to keep CO safe!



**W**ear  
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Western Colorado Properties

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**\$550,000**



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**1,320 sq. ft. on 12.48 acres**

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS: BUSINESS

### COLORADO-BASED STUVZ LAUNCHES NEXT GENERATION HAND SANITIZER

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

LONGMONT-A new hand health and safety product hits shelves this month from Colorado-based wellness company Stuvz. The liquid foaming sanitizer is made with premium ingredients, including hyaluronic acid and jojoba esters, leaving hands hydrated, replenished, and smooth after each use.

Stuvz wasn't started in spite of a pandemic. Rather, the concept was developed as a response to it. "When times are tough I rely on the principles my mom, Yaya, instilled in me: Keep my family safe. Be resourceful. Find a way to help your community," says Stuvz founder Dale Katechis. The name Stuvz was inspired by Katechis's son, Pate, and his high school t-shirt printing company by the same name. As a family endeavor, the Stuvz brand works to make connections with our loved ones safer and to make a positive impact. "I was tired of seeing the direction things were going in the world," Katechis continued. "I wanted to find a way to light a fire and spark some positivity."

#### **THE BENEFITS**

In 2020, more than 200 hand sanitizer brands were recalled for a litany of health and safety issues. Trust and efficacy in the product continues to be a concern, alongside some of the unpleasant effects that come from extended use of existing hand sanitizers: dry and cracked skin, unpleasant odors, and sticky residue.

"I was also really tired of the way hand sanitizer was damaging my hands. They smelled terrible, felt worse, and it felt like a crap shoot if the stuff was even reliable," Katechis continued.

"Stuvz not only improves the health of my hands and protects my family, it's an opportunity for me to launch a company with my family, and to generate a positive outcome from a negative situation."

Stuvz is FDA registered, made in the USA, and with 62% ethyl alcohol, meets the Center for Disease Control's recommended concentration. It distinguishes itself



*Courtesy photo Stuvz wellness company of Longmont.*

from other brands by its use of premium ingredients normally found only in higher-end beauty and wellness products and its appealing liquid foam pump delivery.

#### **FEATURED INGREDIENTS**

**HYALURONIC ACID** - Top dermatologist-recommended ingredient in skin care products.

Hydrates by binding water to skin cells. Fortifies skin, protecting the body from harmful toxins. Brightens, tightens, and smoothens the skin for a younger, healthier appearance.

**JOJOBA ESTERS** - Reduces dryness that leads to flaky, rough, splitting skin. Antioxidant that protects skin and seals in moisture for lasting hydration. Diminishes fine lines and increases firmness to fight skin aging.

**LAVENDER OIL** - Subtle scent masks unpleasant alcohol odor without overpowering or lingering. The widely appealing essential oil has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties. Naturally promotes calmness and relaxation.

**LIQUID FOAM PUMP** - Delivers a silky and quickly absorbed experience. None of the residual stickiness left behind by gel-based products. Foaming pump provides great

value, generating three times more uses than gel-based sanitizer.

#### **STUVZLUVZ PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENT**

Made and sold in the USA, Stuvz's hand sanitizer was created with the mission to make our communities and our connections with others safer.

A critical component of the true family brand is their dedication to supporting those in need such as non-profits, teachers associations, emergency services, and everyday individuals who could use a hand.

These philanthropic endeavors are part of their StuvzLuvz Initiative. The first effort took place on Dec. 18, 2020, when Katechis dropped off 400 bottles of hand sanitizer to Boulder Community Hospital.

"Philanthropy is a core pillar of Stuvz, and our guerilla-style approach to charity manifests via spontaneous acts of kindness for deserving people and groups.

No qualifiers, no agenda, no bias. Just spreading the love via good old fashioned Stuvz," says Katechis.

To purchase 5.7 fl oz bottles (\$15) and sign up for a no-hassle monthly delivery of Stuvz hand sanitizer, visit [Stuvz.com](https://stuvz.com).

## END OF YEAR STATISTICS SHOW PANDEMIC TOUGH ON KIDS, FAMILIES

### *Mirror staff report*

MONTROSE—When Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard recently presented the annual Public Safety Sales Tax report, the numbers showed that instances of reported child abuse declined in 2020, despite an increase in crimes like domestic violence, criminal mischief, assault, theft, motor vehicle theft, and sexual assault. Still, a study released in December by the Annie E. Casey Foundation raised concerns about the well-being of children and families.

According to the study, Kids, Families and COVID-19, “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread economic damage and isolated families in unprecedented ways. Parents have had to juggle both educating and caring for their children and millions of Americans have lost not just their jobs, but their sense of stability, source of income and health care.”

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the pandemic has been hard on

young children, in part because it has changed daily routines.

“It’s just a different world for kids,” Hall said.

“Routines are good for them, and when those are disrupted it causes stress.

“Overall, it’s just been tough on everybody,” Hall said.

Statistics show that in some ways, what is happening with families on the Western Slope mirrors statewide trends. In 2020, The Colorado Children’s Campaign ranked the State of Colorado as 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation when it comes to child well-being.

Even in Montrose County, statistics show that young families struggle to make ends meet.

K-12 school enrollment numbers are down here, a shift that is reflected throughout Colorado.

On Dec. 18, 2020, the Colorado Department of Education announced the largest K-12 enrollment decline in three decades due to the impacts of the pandemic.

The final 2020-2021 student count for the Montrose and Olathe schools is 5,659 students, 61 students less than the district originally budgeted for.

The drop will result in a loss of State revenue and at-risk funding totaling \$762K (\$177K in Per Pupil revenue, \$585K in At-Risk revenue), as RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus reported in a recent school board meeting.

The most recent statistics from the Colorado Children’s Campaign show that in 2019, 53.3 percent of Montrose County children qualified for free or reduced school lunches.

In 2018, 17.4 percent of children under age 18 and 16.7 percent of school-age children (ages five to 17) and in Montrose County were living in poverty.

While just 3.3 percent of local kids received TANF Basic Cash Assistance Payments in 2019, the percentage of school age children here receiving WIC Program Vouchers that year was 60 percent.

# The Mirror:

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





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### US 550 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR BETWEEN OURAY AND CASCADE TO CLOSE FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

*Closures to begin at 6 AM Monday, Jan. 25*

*Special to the Mirror*

**OURAY & SAN JUAN COUNTIES** — CDOT will perform winter maintenance operations on US 550 Coal Bank, Molas and Red Mountain Passes tomorrow morning, Mon., Jan. 25. Work will take place throughout much of the morning along the entire corridor. The area is receiving a significant amount of snow. Motorists will encounter a lengthy delay and are urged to allow for extra travel time.

#### **TRAFFIC IMPACTS**

Silverton residents will not be allowed to travel northbound beginning at 6 a.m.

Silverton residents will not be allowed to travel southbound beginning at 7 a.m.

Southbound traffic, from Ridgway and Montrose, will be stopped just south of Ouray at MP 92 beginning at 6 a.m.

Northbound traffic, from Durango, will be stopped just north of Cascade at MP 53 beginning at 7 a.m.

#### **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

Travelers are urged to “know before you go.” Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

Road conditions and travel information: [www.COtrip.org](http://www.COtrip.org)

Sign up for project or travel alerts: [bit.ly/COalerts](http://bit.ly/COalerts)

See scheduled lane closures: [codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](http://codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html)

Check avalanche conditions at CAIC: [www.avalanche.state.co.us](http://www.avalanche.state.co.us)

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18425 6600 Road  
Montrose, CO, 81403



5  
BED

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SQUARE FEET

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**\$1,150,000**

This property is one you must see! Located only four miles South of Montrose, built in 1899, this 3+ bedroom, 2 bathroom house has been through two remodels, expanding its size and hospitality. This two-story home has so much to offer, a large apricot and pear trees, a grape vine covered pergola, a large kitchen with ample storage, an art studio, a secrete storage space behind a bookshelf, a three stall horse shed, and so much more. Take in both the Storm King and San Juan mountain views from this gorgeous farmhouse sitting on 80 acres.



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ISSUE 299 Jan. 25, 2021

## ART &amp; SOL

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING WITH KIDS



*Kids enjoy cross country skiing. Courtesy photo Friends of Youth & Nature.*

By Anita Evans,

*Friends of Youth and Nature*

REGIONAL-Cross Country Skiing? With kids? You bet! This fantastically fun activity is a life skill that can open doors for your family winter after winter. Here are a few tips to make your cross-country ski

trips fun for the whole family.

The magic of cross-country skiing is that you can enjoy this activity no matter what your skill level. Beginners will experience the thrill of fresh snowflakes on their cheeks while they master the art of the diagonal stride—the basic method for

moving forward down the tracks. More advanced skiers can work on perfecting their glide, coordinating their poles and skis, and learning how to move more quickly across the snow. We are very fortunate to have several areas on the Western Slope that provide excellent cross-country ski terrain close to home.

If you do not already have cross-country ski gear, ski packages can be rented locally at several shops near you from experts who will help fit you with properly-sized skis, poles, and comfortable boots. Cross-country ski boots fit just like a hiking boot or tennis shoe—they are very comfortable and allow your foot to move in a natural motion with only the toe of your boot fastened to the ski. This allows for a natural walking motion as you move down the trail. These local shops have cross-country ski gear near you:

-Grand Junction - Summit Canyon Mountaineering and Board and Buckle

-Mesa - Odin Recreation

-Cedaredge – Grand Mesa Outdoors

-Montrose – The Great Outdoors and Sports Rewind

Be sure to ask them to show you how to attach and release your boots from your skis, and how to put your pole straps on your wrists.

Once you have your gear, you will need to decide where to go. It is important to

*Continued next pg*



## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING WITH KIDS *From previous pg*

to bring extra clothing and healthy snacks (see <https://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org/bundle-up--for-winter-fun.html>). Although you can have fun in the snow on any snow-covered hiking trail, for beginners it is more fun to learn on a groomed track. There are several volunteer organizations that groom cross-country ski trails for the public. Be sure to make a donation at the trailhead if you are able, to help these organizations with fuel and grooming costs—or better yet—become a member to ensure these services can continue to provide us with quality trails! Grand Mesa Nordic Council offers groomed trails on the Grand Mesa at three different trailheads. County Line trailhead, located at the Delta/Mesa county line on Grand Mesa is the most beginner friendly with short gentle trails that loop through the spruce and fir forest on Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest. The Black Canyon National Park outside of Montrose also grooms the snow-covered road just past the visitor center—be sure to call first to see if it has been recently groomed. Cerro Summit has trails groomed by the city of Montrose. There are also volunteer groomed trails on the Dave Wood Ski Trails west of Montrose, Top of the Pines outside of Ridgway, and Ironton, outside of Ouray. Once at the trailhead, you are ready to go! This may sound silly, but the most important first step in having fun while cross-country skiing is learning how to fall down and stand up. Learning how to stand up properly after a fall will make your whole day much more fun! The key is to untangle yourself (sometimes by putting your feet up in the air), put your

skis next to you so they are parallel, scoot your body around to the front of your skis so your knees are on your skis and you could kiss the tips of your skis if you wanted to. Then put one knee up so you are kneeling on just one knee, and finally, stand up. If you are in the correct position you won't even have to use your poles to help you, as you are using your leg strength. As you move down the trail, keep your knees slightly bent and bouncy. Practice bending your knees so you can touch your hands to the snow and you will ensure your feet are in the correct position—flat on your skis and stable. You start down the trail by 'walking,' using very short bouncy steps to get used to the glide, and keeping your nose over your toes. Then pretend you are running across the playground or soccer field using very short steps transferring your weight from one ski to the other. On the first flat stretch you have, take your poles off your wrists and ski using short running steps down the trail without your poles. This allows your body to trust your legs. As you get comfortable without poles, you can then add them in combination with your stride. Use your arm motion the same way you do when walking or running—opposite arm (pole) with your opposite leg (ski). As you get more and more comfortable with this motion, your body will naturally start to extend your stride on your skis and you will soon be gliding down the trail. Voila! You are now cross-country skiing using the basic motion called the diagonal stride. Many instructional videos can be found online for more information.

As you learn to cross-country ski, a whole winter world will open up to you and your

family. There are many other resources to help you get started.

The Nature Connection out of Hotchkiss has scheduled several "pop-up" ski days (Jan 23, Feb 19, Feb 27, Feb 27) where they will offer basic lessons and cross-country ski gear free for youth and with a nominal charge for accompanying adults. You need to call to reserve your gear and get more information at 970-872-5910. Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club is offering cross-country ski lessons for youth ages 5-13 every weekend with experienced coaches on Grand Mesa starting on Jan. 9 through March 6.

More information can be found at <https://gvnsc.com/youth-programs> and scholarships are available for those in need.

The Grand Mesa Nordic Council offers individual and small group lessons. In addition to these three programs, Odin Recreation out of Mesa, CO is offering a program called "Odin Recreation Mountain Education" in cooperation with Powderhorn Ski Area. Contact Toby at [odinrecreation@gmail.com](mailto:odinrecreation@gmail.com) for more information about this exciting program. Wild winter fun on cross-country skis is the most natural movement you can do across the snow! There is nothing like it, and it will provide years of fun for your whole family.

*Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, and hiking trails, visit: [www.friendsofyouthandnature.org](http://www.friendsofyouthandnature.org)*



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### SAFER AT HOME IS SAFER WITH FOAM: COLORADO STRONG LAUNCHES STATE-WIDE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT INDEPENDENTLY OWNED CRAFT BREWERIES

*Special to Art & Sol*

COLORADO-To support and celebrate Colorado's independent brewery owners who navigated the waters of changing government regulations, safety protocols, and consumer behaviors, Colorado Strong launches a new state-wide public awareness campaign, Safer With Foam.

"Independent craft breweries are community spaces that are critical to local economies across Colorado, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the ways breweries operate," says Shawnee Adelson, executive director of the Colorado Brewers Guild. "A play on the Safer At Home of the past year, the Safer With Foam campaign encourages beer lovers to continue to support the breweries in their communities and help them survive this difficult time."

Safer With Foam follows Colorado Strong's 2020 launch of the Colorado Strong Fund and its namesake beer the Colorado Strong Pale Ale. The collaborative beer recipe, which was brewed by 125 breweries across the state of Colorado, used all Colorado-sourced ingredients, generated more than \$2.4 million in consumer spending and raised more \$115K to support the Safer With Foam public awareness campaign, provide funds for the Colorado Brewers Guild to support membership and ensure Colorado Strong future programming (source: Left Hand Brewing Foundation's 2020 Impact Report).

"Over the past year, the Colorado Strong initiative has raised funds to support



*Safer With Foam celebrates Colorado craft breweries during a challenging year. Courtesy photo.*

breweries, suppliers and their communities in ways that make a serious economic impact in our state," says Eric Wallace, president and co-founder of Longmont-based Left Hand Brewing and president of the Left Hand Brewing Foundation board of directors, an underwriter of Colorado Strong. "We are so proud to continue this effort in 2021 with the launch of Safer With Foam and encourage all members of the Colorado brewing community to spread the word."

#### How to Get Involved

To participate in the Safer With Foam initiative, beer lovers are encouraged to:

- visit Colorado breweries in accordance with all local safety guidelines
- follow Colorado breweries on social media to show support and to stay updated

on changing social distancing protocols donate directly to the [Colorado Strong Fund](#)

Non-brewery organizations wanting to participate in the Colorado Strong campaign through underwriting or use of Safer With Foam assets should [click here](#) to request more information on how to become collaborative partners. Breweries looking for more information should [click here](#).

"Buying beer to-go, following all local guidelines for social distancing and safe consumption, and purchasing gift cards and merchandise help breweries keep their staff working, provide benefits, and keep the lights on so they will be there for us when we can safely visit," says Adelson.



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### WILDLIFE REHABILITATION GRANT AWARDS WILL SUPPORT REHABILITATION EFFORTS ACROSS COLORADO



*This red-tailed hawk was struck by a vehicle and had severe spinal and head trauma when it was brought to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program for rehab. With time and care it was released back to the wild again.*



*These great horned owl chicks went to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program for rehab after their nest tree was cut down. Courtesy photos CPW.*

#### Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Ten recipients of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's third annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants have been announced. The grants are offered by CPW to support wildlife rehabilitation efforts across the state.

"These ten grants reach across the state," said CPW Director Dan Prenzlöw. "They include investments to expand rehabilitation facilities for the long-term and funding to help keep existing facilities open to meet public demand."

"We had more than \$48,000 in funding requests but only \$16,200 in funding available," said Jim Guthrie, Program Coordinator for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Program. "There's a big need out there. A lot of Colorado rehabbers run on shoe-string budgets. They put in tremendous personal effort for the love of helping animals recover from accidents or injury."

"The rehabilitation of Colorado's wildlife species often happens quietly, by a rela-

tively few number of qualified and licensed professionals around the state," said John Gale, Chair of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Board. "They provide critical services across a diversity of species - large and small - often at great personal expense. Colorado's grant program provides important support to wildlife rehabilitators, increasing resources and allowing them to help more animals." The work supported through this year's Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants includes:

- Flight cages and equipment to overwinter bats at the Colorado BatCREW facility in Conifer
- Continued construction of a new rehabilitation facility at the SonFlower Ranch in Brighton
- Food and medical supplies at the Rocky Mountain WildHeart center in Colorado Springs
- Veterinary and medical expenses at the Rocky Mountain Raptor center in Fort Collins. The grant program was created

through [House Bill 17-1250](#). Funding for the grant program comes primarily from the nongame tax check-off program, along with fines from nongame wildlife-based offenses and interest income.

For the first \$250,000 raised annually, 10 percent is allocated to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program, which aims to provide funding specifically for wildlife rehabilitation centers. For many rehabbers, this kind of funding fills a critical gap. "On behalf of my fellow committee members and Colorado Parks and Wildlife professionals," said Gale, "I want to extend our appreciation to Colorado taxpayers for their generous donations and continued investment in this highly successful grant program." Applications for Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Awards are due each year in early November.

For more information on the grant program and application materials, please visit the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants page.



# HAVE A COVID CARE PLAN

## MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

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



## WHO IS YOUR DOCTOR?



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

## PREPARE A COVID PLAN NOW:



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

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



### Know your workplace policy.

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

## PLAN AHEAD:



### Create a sick room.

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



### Create your COVID Care Team.

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



### Centralize medical information.

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



### Mask up. Make good choices now.

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

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



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





# TENGA UN PLAN DE ATENCIÓN PARA COVID

## ¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!

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

## ¿QUIEN ES TU DOCTOR?

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

## PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



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

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



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

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

## PREPÁRATE AHORA:



### Cree una habitación para enfermos.

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



### Cree su equipo de atención para COVID.

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



### Centralizar la información médica.

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



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

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

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

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

## FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp. Courtesy photo.

By Dwight Harp

MONTROSE-This year we enjoy a two-for-one. Kinda. Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras are really close together this year; just two days apart. In just three years they will fall on the exact same day.

Let's look at Mardi Gras first.

"Yea, I'm going to New Orleans for Mardi Gras!" we say, when we're actually going to see parades the weekend before Mardi Gras, or the weekend before that. Technically, "Mardi Gras" is the last Tuesday before Ash Wednesday that ushers in 40 days of best behavior during Lent, and "Carnival" is the season that begins on the Feast of Epiphany. A **krewe**

(pronounced the same way as "crew") is an organization that puts on a parade and/or a ball for the Carnival season.

That's the short version of Carnival/Mardi Gras explanation.

Carnival and Mardi Gras are celebrated worldwide. It's a moveable feast. The ancient western church, at the behest of Roman Emperor Constantine, met in the first half of the Fourth century to solidify all things relating to what up to that time was called, "The Way." This was the beginning of codifying Christianity. They honored and worshipped God and His Son, Jesus the Messiah. In a subsequent meeting they included the Holy Spirit as the Triune God we western Christians now worship. Other topics included in the conference (300 Bishops were invited) identified special feast days and similar honorariums.

The day reserved for Resurrection Sunday depended literally on the heavens. They set the first Sunday after the first full moon after the sun passed the equator as Resurrection Sunday.

Approximately six weeks of preparation preceding the highest Holy Day in the Christian calendar are called Lent. Those ~40 days begin with Ash Wednesday. The day preceding goes by a number

of titles: Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras.

Fat or lard symbolizes sin. Removing those things started the household's preparation for the biggest Holy celebration of the year. One of the easiest way to use a lot of lard I'm told is to bake pancakes. This day preceding the penitential season of Lent picked up the title also of Pancake Tuesday.

My uncle, a priest, stated that special Sunday following Lent, was the Fourth of July for the world of Christians. Yes, Uncle George, Resurrection Sunday is Independence Day.

This year we get to juxtapose Love into "Carnival/Mardi Gras" via Valentine's Day (almost). You might still have some Valentine's chocolates laying around on the first day of Lent.

Don't research the origins of Valentine's Day too vigorously. You might be disappointed. I was.

My research, and I'm sure it isn't exhaustive, points to not so simple an explanation as a day celebrating roses, and chocolates, pink and red cards and attempts to secure coveted last minute reservations. Oops, COVID may make those more home-centric.

The holiday that at present is all about love and celebrating it has dark and deadly origins with pagan and Christian traditions intermingling.

Let's begin by highlighting the Roman pastoral festival Lupercalia. Celebrated in mid-

February, that date may have been hijacked by the Roman Catholic church to place it closer to the commemoration of the death of St. Valentine. We discover a little later that there were many.

This ancient pagan festival honored Faunus, the god of fertility. Men would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. They would use those hides to gently strike young women to increase their fertility. The women placed their names in a jar. The assembled Roman bachelors drew a name to see who would be their match for the rest of the festival or possibly longer.

As the 5<sup>th</sup> century closed, Pope Gelasius banned the celebration of Lupercalia and made February 14<sup>th</sup> the date of the feast of St. Valentine.

The most popular St. Valentine prospect continued his priestly duties of marrying couples in contravention to the Roman ruler's edicts.

Emperor Claudius II believed marriage harmed his military. Either men would stay at home and not fight or because they were married they either couldn't or wouldn't fight as hard as "hardened" bachelors.

As you might imagine with such a convoluted beginning the romantic origins are not concretely identified either. Multiple sources point to the middle ages as the germination period of what we now recognize as Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day doesn't now have a lot to do with the original church. That influence continues to fade. We however do remember there is a Christian message that shouldn't be lost when dealing with a day dedicated to love.

Depending on which St Valentine's story you embrace, (there are actually 11 Saints with the name Valentine venerated in the Roman Church) the core of each story does portray love.

The love of our Lord is sacrificial, selfless and unconditional. We are called to mirror those attributes in our own lives.

One of my favorite hymns says it best. "....they will know we are Christians by our love."





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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### BLUE MESA RESERVOIR LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF FEB. 1

*Special to Art & Sol*

GUNNISON, Colo. – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament at Blue Mesa Reservoir with \$10,000 in prize money kicks off on Feb. 1. The reservoir is located near Gunnison in western Colorado.

The tournament, sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, is free and no registration is required. The tournament continues through July 31 and everyone who chooses to participate during that time has a chance to win cash prizes. The goal of the tournament is to maintain adequate kokanee fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout; and, in turn, to maintain quality kokanee fishing opportunities. Abundant kokanee are also the key to maintaining excellent lake trout growth and condition to support trophy lake trout opportunities at the reservoir.

“Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to be our partners in helping to manage the renowned Blue Mesa Reservoir fishery,” said Dan Brauch, aquatic biologist for CPW in Gunnison. “We know we can have an excellent kokanee fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery, but we need to continue our work for both species and we need the help of Colorado’s anglers.”

Anglers are asked to target and keep lake trout that are up to 24 inches in length. Last year the 339 anglers who participated caught 4,055 of the target-sized lake trout.

Here’s how the tournament works: Anglers who catch and keep lake trout 24 inches or smaller will remove the heads and place them in a plastic bag provided at one of three boat ramps at the reser-

voir: Iola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork. Heads can also be turned in at CPW’s offices in Gunnison (300 W. New York Ave.) or Montrose (2300 S. Townsend Ave., U.S. Highway 550).

Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories at the conclusion of the tournament:

1) Anglers catching the most fish: 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$500; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, \$250.

2) Anglers will be entered in a raffle for every lake trout head turned in. A total of 20 winners will be selected and each will receive \$200.

3) CPW has tagged about 20 fish in the reservoir but anglers won’t know if they’ve caught one. CPW will scan the heads later to check for tags; those who caught tagged fish will receive \$250 for each.

Winning anglers will be contacted in early August.

Unchecked lake trout population growth caused significant declines in kokanee abundance in previous decades, Brauch said. Recently, the number of predatory lake trout has been reduced and kokanee abundance has improved. CPW research shows that smaller lake trout, those 24 inches and smaller, consume the most kokanee. Consequently, the tournament is focused on removing those fish.

“We appreciate angler participation in maintaining balance in the Blue Mesa fish-



*These happy anglers participated in last year's lake trout fishing tournament at Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison. This year's tournament starts Feb. 1. Courtesy photo.*

ery,” Brauch said. “Working together, we will continue to provide quality opportunities for both kokanee and trophy lake trout.”

Maintaining abundant kokanee supports quality-fishing opportunities for kokanee and provides a source of kokanee eggs for restocking needs at up to 25 waters in Colorado. Abundant kokanee are also essential for maintaining continued growth of trophy lake trout at Blue Mesa Reservoir. For more information about fishing at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including how to catch lake trout, research studies and management planning go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BlueMesaReservoirFisheryManagement.aspx>. You may also call the Gunnison wildlife office at: 970-641-7060.

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

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

**Feb. 11**-9 a.m. to Noon Open House at Dialysis Clinic, Inc., a non-profit provider of out-patient dialysis services in Montrose. DCI will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year caring for patients with Kidney Disease, including those patients who require dialysis. We welcome the public to visit our facility for dialysis and kidney disease information on 2/11 from 9-12:00 noon. Masks and COVID screening will be provided.



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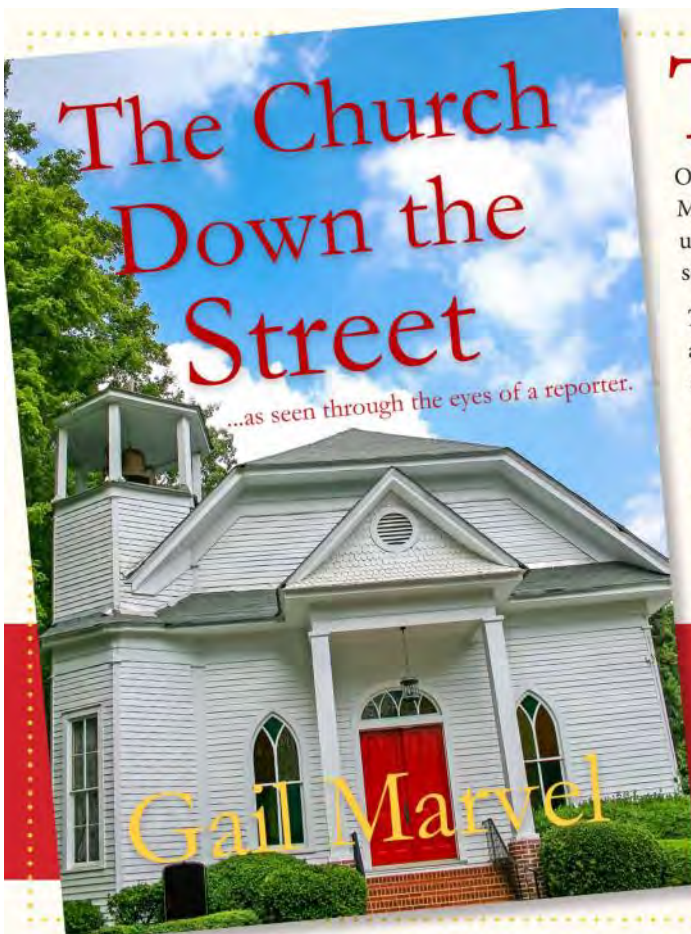
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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo of Mount Sneffels wrapped in Winter...



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

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

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

**Readers will:**

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

Gail Marvel's book,  
*The Church Down the Street*, is  
available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)  
and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

