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SSOCIATION Fresh news for free people! **VIontrose Mirror**

MCSO WARNS CITIZENS TO PAY ATTENTION, PREVENT IDENTIFY FRAUD AND MAIL THEFT



ONLINE NEWS

Check your mailbox daily to help prevent costly mail theft and identify fraud, Sheriff's officer warns citizens.

Bv Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Imagine losing not only a paycheck, but your general election ballot, your personal information, and your excellent credit rating-all because of an identity theft that began with your own mailbox.

That's the situation some local residents face, as law enforcement works to resolve a case that began locally but that has implications far beyond Montrose County. One victim, who had been notified by law enforcement that information had been compromised, told the Mirror last week that the perpetrator had ultimately targeted his employer as well, printing fraudulent checks using the company's banking information and

Continued pg 22

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ONCE AGAIN CONTINUES HUB VOTE AFTER 6-HOUR ZOOM SESSION

By Gail Marvel

LLC.

MONTROSE-For the second time in three-weeks, the City of Montrose Planning Commission held a marathon six-hour virtual Zoom meeting on Jan. 27.2021.

TWO AGENDA ITEMS:

PD20-0074 – The HUB at Montrose Crossing Preliminary Planned Development. This is a recommendation on the Preliminary Planned Development for The Hub at Montrose Crossing, a multifamily and senior living proposed development on a 35.791-acre parcel bordered on the south by Cobble Drive, on the west by 6450 Road, and on the



Montrose City Council. Photo by Gail Marvel.

north and east by Chipeta Drive. The applicant is Matt Miles, Leadership Circle, LLC. SUB20-0090 - The HUB at Montrose Crossing Preliminary Plat. This is a recommendation on the Preliminary Plat for The Hub at Montrose Crossing, a multi-family and senior living proposed development on a 35.791-acre parcel bordered on the south by Cobble Drive, on the west by 6450 Road, and on the north and east by Chipeta Drive. The applicant is Matt Miles, Leadership Circle,

Continued pg 9

https://the-res.com/

Outside the Box... With Twyla Righter! Bob Cox on Colorado's First Crime Information Center!

DMEA Looks at Financials, Considers deferred revenue Patriotic Essay Contest!

6th Grader wins

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

Editor:

First of all, thank you Caitlin Switzer for being one of the few publishers that still represent an unbiased platform. As a communications major, I wonder what the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is doing these days to police the news media. It's become increasingly more complicated for the average person to decipher what the truth is. We've become a chaotic society of miscommunication and mistrust. For the most part, many of us don't know how to fix things much less understand what goes on outside of our circle of influence. I was disheartened and appalled when I read the article in your Jan 25th issue entitled "Despite Plea from Local Business Owner, City Moves Forward with Fleet Purchase from Eastern Slope Dealership." My first reaction was "How can our local officials who were voted in by the people spout to us 'support local businesses' when it's clearly evident that they don't." Preaching out of both sides of

their mouth doesn't serve them well and lends to lack of trust and respect. Perhaps it's time to change ordinances. Perhaps bids should not be offered to the Front Range or the Eastern Slope. In this case, with as many auto dealerships on the Western Slope, why on Earth would you give our hard-earned \$953,450 tax dollars to a dealership on the Eastern Slope who has no vested interest in our community? Mayor Bynum's meager response of "... we follow a very specific ordinance when we do local preference," baffles me. As one who volunteers in many arenas in Montrose, this isn't the first time I've heard that the City is in fear of liability issues which in my mind clearly represents that change is needed to protect our local businesses and the people they swore to serve.

Businesses, like Montrose Ford Nissan which has been here since 1986 and employs more than 45 people, deserve more than a "we appreciate all you've done for our community" attitude. I don't know Wesley Abbott, but I feel that the City needs to make changes before they dismantle our city one business at a time and renegotiate a deal that supports us, the local people.

As a sales advertising representative for the Beacon Senior News, I live in Montrose and I'm aware of the struggles many small businesses are dealing with to keep their employees.

People who are trying their best to make a living and support their families, pay their taxes, volunteer and donate countless dollars and hours to a community they trust will have their back.

If price is always a factor, how much will it cost the City Council to ensure that moving forward, ordinances are changed to protect the people they serve? It's never too late to do the right thing for the right reasons and that time is RIGHT NOW, not tomorrow.

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REIGN – A BEAUTY COLLECTIVE



By Paul Arbogast

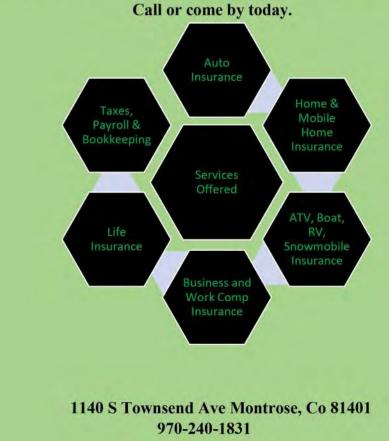
MONTROSE-This Friday and Saturday (Feb. 5th and 6th) from 11 am to 6 pm will be the Grand Opening of Reign – A Beauty Collective. More than just a salon, Reign is focusing on education.

The front of the shop has hair and skin care products, as well as jewelry and other items for yourself or for gifts for friends. The back is dedicated to education for, as owner Alyssa says, "all things beauty. " While the initial focus is for educators and experts in skin care, microblading and spray tan, they are open for anyone to use the space to teach beauty related topics. Drop by Friday or Saturday and see what they have to offer. They are located at 428 E. Main Street.





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2013 Otter Pond Circle Beautiful home on the Pond!! Located on the majestic water in the exclusive Otter Pond Subdivision. You will love the views of the pond from almost every room in the house!! The home has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2146 sq. ft. The master bedroom has a sliding glass door looking out to the pond. The master bath is truly like a trip to the spa with a steam shower, sauna, jacuzzi tub and double vanity. There is also large walk in closet. The back yard has everything you've been looking for. The stunning pond views will take your breath away. There is a hot tub on the deck off the master bath overlooking the water. A dock for you to launch your kayak's and paddle boards from or

to just take in the Colorado sun. \$535,000 MLS#775523



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



Christine Kersen Associate Broker (970)318-1389 christinekersen5@gmail.com www.the-RES.com



MONTROSE COUNTY CORONER INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Although Montrose County has not yet issued an official press release, it has been confirmed that Montrose County Coroner Dr. Thomas M. Canfield was injured in an auto accident and is recovering.

Details of the accident, the seriousness of the injuries, and whether Canfield is at Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH), or taken by CareFlight to Grand Junction, are unknown at this time.

Dr. Canfield. Courtesy photo.

Dr. Canfield has served as Montrose County Chief Deputy Coroner for 24 years as well as Coroner since 2007.





PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUES HUB VOTE From pg 1

The Planning Commission managed to have a quorum for the meeting; however, because of the abrupt resignation of Chair Anthony Russo and recusals from Karen Vacca (Cobble Creek resident) and Chad Huffman (financial connection to the developer), the commission was left with only four members. The commissioners who made up the quorum were: Greg Easton (acting chair), Phoebe Benziger, Jan Chastain, and David Fishering.

Chair Easton opened the meeting with a review of the meeting process. He said, "There will be a presentation by the applicant (Matt Miles' team), the commission will ask questions of the [city] staff and the applicant, followed by public comment. If you sent in a comment it has been reviewed by the commissioners. There is a three-minute time limit. Comments are to be directed to the Planning Commission, not to the staff or the applicant. The commission can re-question staff and the applicant. We will discuss and make a motion on the application."

City Senior Planner Amy Sharp explained the two separate actions that were in front of the commission. She said, "The zoning is the same as in the surrounding area. The commissioner's decision is solely based on the criteria set forth in the code." Sharp noted that the criteria for the decision should not include, "...too little, too late, [lack] of public participation, who rents to who, the interior layout [of the project]. Is it in compliance as set forth in the city code?"

In due diligence, the City Staff conferred with other entities (CDOT, county, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users, Delta Montrose Electric Association, etc.) before coming to their conclusions. Sharp used a PowerPoint slide that emphasized the staff's position.

Staff Analysis of Planned Development and Preliminary Plat

The Hub Premilitary Planned Development and the Preliminary Plat are in compliance with the Planned Development and Subdivision Regulations as set forth in the City of Montrose Municipal Code, Section 4-4-24 and Section 4-7-5. It is in substantial conformity with the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan. The proposed use is com-

Project Background Project site: 35.791 acres Annexed & zoned in 2018 Applicant held a meeting with residents in April 2018 Planning Commission (May 9, 2018) & City Council approval (June 18, 2018)

32.791 acres zoned as "R-3A" Medium High Density & 3 acres as "B-4" Neighborhood **Shopping District** Zoning is consistent with surrounding area



Project Background for The HUB at Montrose Crossing Development. This is a multi-family and senior living proposed development. Courtesy image.

patible with existing zoning and general conditions in the area. It does not appear to be adverse to the public health, safety and welfare.

Following a virtual tour of the planned development, both the city staff and the developer's team responded to concerns expressed during the Jan. 6 meeting.

City Engineer Scott Murphy said, "We can put a temporary trail on Chipeta Drive. We asked for temporary access for construction, but the county does not want to open it onto Chipeta Drive."

Traffic Consultant Skip Hudson took the opportunity to restate his qualifications, years of experience and methodology. Hudson said, "I apologize for not explaining some of the technical aspects of the project and the levels of traffic studies. This is an accurate study to evaluate this type of project. This is not my study; it is not owned by anyone. We've all agreed with other agencies [CDOT, county, city]. CDOT is comfortable with offering access permitting at Chipeta and US 550."

Hudson's findings were questioned by another traffic engineer. Hudson said, "His recommendations are going against the Institute of Traffic Engineers and they are not signed. My studies are signed and

a large project from a trip generation point. If you are concerned with traffic safety on Chipeta Road, you must agree the access must not be connected to it. There should be no direct access to Chipeta. This project has spurred the city and county to address the need for traffic control at Chipeta and 550."

Planning Commission's Questions

Fishering questioned setbacks on Chipeta and whether they were sufficient. Murphy said, "It can be accountable for any further expansion."

Chastain, referring to the developers feeling that "feathering" was not an issue, asked Sharp, "Feathering is not an issue?" Sharp said, "This property does not skip zonings."

Easton said, "Who has responsibility for the upgraded signal [Chipeta and 550], the city or the county? Who is financially responsible for the upgrade?"

Hudson explained that the access permit is owned by Montrose County and the county would then look to the city for help. Hudson said, "CDOT is not paying for any of it. The city and the county are allowing development. This rests solely on the county."

Murphy said, "We recognize we have sealed and I stand behind them. This is not some skin in the game and we are working

PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUES HUB VOTE From previous pg

that out. It's three to five years out."

Benziger questioned the times of the traffic study (7-9 a.m. and 4 – 6 p.m.); specifically, as it relates to school bus traffic. She said, "Can you really tell me that counting that flow is in this [study]...Can we not let this [development] go through until the traffic light goes through?" Murphy said, "Not if it can't be proved to be an eminent threat to public safety. CDOT says three to five years for traffic in that area."

Benziger asked the developer, "Is there property management on the project?" Miles said, "Probably our own employ-

ees. Just look at other projects that we've done. We take care of our projects." Fishering said, "Will you be able to see

over your development and still see the mountains? Miles explained the spacing between the buildings allows for views. **Public Comment**

A three-minute time limit was imposed on individuals; 10-minutes was allotted to someone representing a large group of people. All comments were to be directed to the commissioners. Easton said, "The commission is not compelled to answer your questions."

More than 25 people spoke to the commissioners, comprised of Cobble Creek and Spruce Point residents, HOA representatives, and various attorneys representing Cobble Creek, Spruce Point and West Star Development.

Generally speaking, the public comments and testimony were a repeat of the Jan. 6 six-hour meeting.

Stan said, "If this does not follow the Comprehensive Plan you should reject it." Sandra said, "Are we assured this is not subsidized housing? Is this a HUD project or a HUB project?"

Flint suggested how the developer could change his plans, "Which would take time."

Donald suggested the developer modify his plans including density, height of buildings, number of buildings, fencing, stone walls, entrance to the development, moving the parking area, moving the pond, and design of the playground. He said, "It needs natural landscaping, not a big black fence."

Connie questioned parking for HUB visitors and subsidizing the city budget for the traffic signal.

Randy said, "I like the landscaping, but can the developer change his mind down the road? This is a big development for our community, it would be easy to change the speed limit."

Matt G. said, "Does the traffic study differentiate between trucks and cars? Have trucks been considered? No one has explained how my property value is going to be affected. If this goes forward it will destroy trust in the city manager."

Ronald questioned the traffic study during COVID and that it was taken at the wrong time of the year. He said, "This is an administrative issue. The pond is a swamp."

Susan said, "Who is going to live in the apartments? Are they going to be Telluride residents? Will there be vans taking people to work? I enjoy watching the large herd of deer on the property. You will be forcing them out of their home."

Kathy said, "Could the HUB eventually be Section-8 housing? The indigenous trees have no leaves for six-months out of the year. They need to be evergreens. I'm concerned about the pond. We [Cobble Creek] have spent a lot of money on mosquito control."

Patrick was concerned about people living near high voltage powerlines.

Alexis said, "With an assisted living in the area, have you considered emergency traffic?" (It should be noted that senior housing, not assisted living, is planned for this project.)

Jim said, "The entrance on Cobble Drive was for Cobble Creek. With the a.m. and p.m. numbers...go back with a sharper pencil."

Mike said, "Housing value is impacted negatively. Per parcel a \$50,000 to \$100,00 plummet."

Previously some Cobble Creek residents suggested trees be place on the golf course property to deflect headlights and the developer included the suggestion in his plan. However, Tyrel objected. He said, "It's the developer's responsibility. He wants to put trees on someone else's property."

Mike said, "Spruce Point is zoned the same as Matt Miles [development]. The zoning is the same, but the density is not the same. Miles is pushing the limit."

Pam said, "Summer is high golf-traffic. Local schools...are we going to need new schools? Has there been a study done for the need for high density?"

Ronald said, "Table the vote and ask the developer to bring back a reasonable project."

Matt G. said, "I worry about downtown. I hate to see more movement south. We need to help downtown. All HUB will do is attract people to the south side of town." Following the Public comment, developer Matt Miles spoke. He said, "I spoke to four groups from Cobble Creek and each one said they were speaking for all of Cobble Creek. I've talked about [building] apartments for more than 20 years. I'm trying to get ahead of the market. There is a spirit of bullying in the Cobble creek community. [My clients] are not children of a lesser God; nor are Cobble Creek children of a greater God!"

Miles said, "The [project] location is agriculturally obsolete. You cannot farm this property. Wildlife is not compatible with residential property. If someone has an idea of how I can handle deer, I'd like to hear it."

Hudson said, "The accusation that we counted [traffic] in winter is false. We adjusted traffic into peak...peak hours, during peak season."

Benziger questioned parking for mobile homes and recreational vehicles; it was noted that the development has 17 percent in excess parking.

Fishering said, "We've had the impression that there has never been any back and forth with the city and other entities." Staff assured the commission that the city has been in discussions with all entities that are connected to the project.

Chastain suggested the six-foot ornamental fence surrounding the property created a barrier, caused visual separateness, and should be removed from the plan. The developer disagreed.

PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUES HUB VOTE From previous pg

Benziger wanted the developer to put in walking paths and sidewalks. Miles said, "We don't want to encourage pedestrians on Chipeta Drive. We could put in a walk, but where would it go?"

Murphy addressed the question about powerlines.

He said, "The city has no regulations. We defer back to laws and standards. There is nothing that prohibits building by a powerline. I'm not aware of any code or regulations outside of the city."

Fishering said, "What happens in five or 10 years when you look at Phase Three? Miles said, "We subject ourselves to a

plan and we need to adhere to it."

Benziger said, "Will you use local subcontractors?"

Miles said, "I hire local, anyone we can hire locally we will. I'm not sure our local contractor pool can handle a project like this now."

Speaking to his fellow commissioners to c Fishering said, "We are not in a position to us."

> The Church Down the

Street

as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

change density and plans."

The City Planning Commission and the formalized Cobble Creek Opposition Group have questioned Miles' motives, dedication to the project, and his reliability as a developer.

Miles said, "I promise I can weather the storm. I have development projects that have been around 22 and 25 years. You can say anything you want to about me, but I can't tell you how tired I am of people picking on the people who live in my communities!"

Commission Discussion

Fishering said, "I don't see a health and safety issue. This is a well-developed community."

Benziger did not agree with the density issues. She said, "I want a stoplight before it gets going. Tie it [approval] to the upgrade of the traffic light."

Easton said, "I think it's our responsibility to come up with something that works for us."

Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen tried to give direction and a legal opinion. She said, "Your decision has to be supported by facts. There are three things you can do. You can approve, you can deny, or you can approve with conditions." Fishering said, "We are not making a de-

cision on what is best for the developer." Chastain said, "Maybe we should say seven units per acre. Around the edge of the project, lower density."

Easton said, "I will just abstain." Noting that she was not as concerned about Spruce Point as she was Cobble Creek, Benziger said, "How does the density effect Cobble Creek? I'm not ready to make a motion or vote on a motion."

Despite overwhelming testimony and finding of facts during two six-hour meetings, the Planning Commission was unable to make a decision.

At 10:55 p.m. a motion to continue the public meeting to 5 p.m. on Feb. 3, 2021 was approved unanimously.

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.

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- · Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- · Discern the value and content of the sermon.

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

> GAIL MARVEL Montrose Author & Reporter



CITY OF MONTROSE TO VOTE ON CHILDCARE STUDY ALLOCATION, AMPHITHEATER CONTRACT AWARD

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose will host
a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb.Young; and Assistant City Manager Ann
Morgenthaler states, *"The City of Mont-*
rose currently owns a front 9 irrigation
pump station built in 1992 located at th
Black Canyon Golf Course on hole #6. De

WORK SESSION

The <u>work session agenda</u> states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically via Zoom: https:// tinyurl.com/WorkSession-2-1-21...The meeting can also be viewed live on the City of Montrose website,

www.cityofmontrose.org, on Channel 191, and on Channel 970."

Discussion Items include an Automated Meter Infrastructure Software Upgrade Recommendation and Golf Course Pump House Contract Award.

Background-Automated Meter Infrastructure Software Upgrade Recommendation. A memo from Utilities Manager David Bries to Council covers a recommendation to cancel the upgrade of the Automated Meter Infrastructure(AMI) software to a Software as a Service (SaaS) Purchase Order with National Meter and Automation (Badger Meter) and award it to Mountain States Pipe and Supply in the amount of\$85,663. The memo states, "In late 2019, The City Council approved an upgrade to the City's ITRON AMI system to National Meter and Automation, who later became Badger Meter. Shortly after this award, ITRON dropped Badger Meter as a representative, although Badger Meter remained committed to completing the upgrade through ITRON. To date, the ITRON upgrade has not been completed. The current ITRON representative has offered to take over the upgrade for the same cost as was awarded to National Meter and Automation... This cost was included in the 2020 Budget but was not spent. The proposed award of \$85,663.00 is not in the 2021 Budget, however there is adequate funding available in the Water Fund."

Background-Golf Course Pump House Contract Award. A memo to Council from Black Canyon Golf Course Superintendent Kyle Schmidt; Golf Professional Tom Young; and Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler states, *"The City of Montrose currently owns a front 9 irrigation pump station built in 1992 located at the Black Canyon Golf Course on hole #6. Due to the age of the existing pump station, parts availability is becoming extremely difficult, if not impossible, and locating contractors to work on the station are difficult to find. During the summer of 2020 we were not able to find the required parts to keep the system operational and resorted to manually operating the system with only 60 percent of water needed to maintain a golf course.*

"During the summer of 2020, the City determined the necessary requirements needed for a new pump station and worked with multiple vendors to determine the best options for replacement. The pump station will be placed in the existing pump house on hole number 6 (see figure 1) which will remain in service until the new pump station arrives. The Black Canyon Golf Course staff worked with City Engineer Scott Murphy and Utilities Manager David Bries to issue the request for bids and evaluate the bid results. "... Construction of the project was put out for bid on Dec. 29, 2020 and bids were publicly received on Jan. 14, 2021. Only one bid was received (Watertronics) ... Contract administration and project management will be performed by the Superintendent of the Black Canyon Golf Course. The 2021 budget includes \$100,000 for this project. The \$2,010 in additional cost will be allocated from the Black Canyon Golf Course maintenance budget." Items to be considered in future City Council work sessions or meetings include: Feb. 16-Valley Ranch North Addition Annexation (work session); Valley Ranch South Addition Annexation (work session); Highway 50 Addition Annexation; (work session); Fermented Malt Beverage License Transfer - Alta #6126; Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report for December 2020; Fourth Quarter Budget Review. **REGULAR MEETING**



City Council will hold a virtual work session on Monday Feb.1, and virtual meeting Tuesday, Feb.2.

The meeting agenda states, "Due to the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting will be held electronically and can be accessed at: https://tinyurl.com/CityCouncil-2-2-21." Council will consider approving a request from the Uncompangre Valley Association (UVA) for financial assistance totaling \$18,950 for a professional childcare survey and needs assessment for the Montrose community conducted by Root Policy Research. Council will consider approving the 2021 Annexation Report and Three-Mile Plan; and the award of \$3.2 million for the construction of the Rotary Amphitheater including the award of a contract with Stryker and Company, Inc. to serve as Construction Manager/General Contractor.

Also to be considered are the purchase of one Craftco crack seal machine from Denver Industrial Sales and Service for the purchase price of \$107,148.85; the purchase of one BC1800XL Vermeer wood chipper from Vermeer for the purchase price of \$60,220 as presented; the purchase of two Toro Greensmaster 3150 mowers, one Toro Reel Master 55410-D fairway mower, and one Toro Versa Vac from LL Johnson Distributing Company for the total purchase price of \$177,900 as presented; and the award of a contract to Watertronics for fabrication and installation of the Front 9 Irrigation Pump Assembly project for the total contract amount of \$102,010.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

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OUTSIDE THE BOX...with Twyla Righter

A WHOLE LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A MINUTE, OR LESS



Twyla Righter. Courtesy photo.

By Twyla Righter

MONTROSE-Sometimes life can change extremely quickly. My daughter recently broke her ankle. One second a giant on the uneven bars, the next - no sports for a month.

Sometimes it's wonderful - a glance across a crowded room that will bond two people for life. Sometimes it's awful, a feeling as a joint moves in a way it shouldn't.

Within a minute you can run a quarter mile, you can swim three lengths of a pool, you can hold your breath or hold a plank.

Well... I managed a pretty intense feat of awesomeness the other day - within less than a minute. First, let's give you a little back story.

I want you to picture a rather over wrought lady. I was working a ton - too much probably - (real estate in Montrose is going crazy.) I had too much to do and not enough time to do it. But there was more...

I also had two dogs with diarrhea - bad. For several days. (Likely my fault, having allowed them to get into some old food.) My dishwasher was broken.

Then there were the remnants of Christmas. My husband gave me an amazing gift, a thoughtful and sweet gift; A way to organize photos. It was very thoughtful. It was a lot of work.

Going through 20 years of old photos and

videos takes time and concentration and emotion. I also was pulling down Christmas lights and Christmas decorations, and keeping entertained the kids who were home for Christmas break. This is the state of general chaos we enter as we join me and my impressive minute. (Oh, also, my cell phone broke this week... that's relevant as well.)

A travel weary soldier having left the aisles of CityMarket north with a bountiful cargo of groceries - a week of children, work, dogs with intestinal issues and photo projects, I was mildly cranky and frazzled.

Pulling into the driveway I was greeted by the poopy doggies and I waddled my way around the vehicle to open the trunk and begin unloading groceries. I was soon to discover that the huge bag of dog food had shifted in transport and pressed the gallons of milk up against the trunk door. Guess how I discovered this?

I opened the trunk. The gallons of milk immediately dropped to the concrete and began pouring. The ill dogs gleefully pounced and began lapping away. I yelled, I gave them new, colorful names and let them know where they belonged in loud screeching laments. Hurriedly I picked up the pouring milk in the misguided belief that I would remove the milk from the dogs and turned toward the nearby garden hose. I trailed milk as I hustled to the hose and turned on the spigot to rinse away the spilled milk.

The nozzle inexplicably broke. I found myself holding a gallon of milk in one hand and attempting to pour the now awkwardly dribbling water over the current milk before the evil dogs of demon spawn drank the milk. Then, in leaning over to cajole said dogs away from the milk, my brand new, two day old, ridiculously priced cell phone fell into the streaming pool of milk and water. I screamed. It had not been one minute. The groceries were still sitting in the trunk - the engine was still warm. The cell phone snatched from the milk/water was ringing with a call from an agent and the dogs were still waiting for a distraction that gave them license to guzzle milk.

Just a few seconds. How could I fail in so many ways so very quickly?

There are days where I feel confident and assured. Days when I am on top of my responsibilities: a good Mom, a competent and thoughtful agent who knows her clients' needs, a kind supportive friend, wife, citizen. And then... then there are days where I can break or destroy multiple things within seconds and find myself with a glugging jug of milk and water a wet phone and horrible gut damaged demon dogs.

This intensely dramatic minute is not fully complete however; there is more to this sad tale. The side of the garage drive upon which this little cacophony took place also happens to have a large landscaped berm against its south side. It never ever gets sunlight. You understand the implications.

This is true - I now have, right now, a puddle of milk-water frozen in front of my garage. I am assuming my dogs swing by frequently and lick the milk-cicle puddle. I also assume it will be incredibly rancid someday in early spring when it finally thaws. That epic day is coming, the day I discover just what damage a several month-long milk-cicle hath wrought. Perhaps there will be a long drawn out situation with cats, dogs, deer and racoons slowly breaking down the odd puddle. Then again, maybe it will simply be one stinky epic afternoon... or perhaps something I cannot imagine? Maybe a quick wild moment or simple solution? That is the crazy truth of life. Sometimes a whole lot can happen, in less than a minute.



REGION 10 LEAP PANDEMIC RESPONSE TAILORED TO NEEDS OF WEST CENTRAL COUNTIES



With uncertainty clouding the horizon for local entrepreneurs, the six-county <u>Region 10</u> <u>League for Economic Assistance & Planning</u> (above) has helped bring relief to many local businesses with a county-specific grant program that serves even non-traditional businesses.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Despite hopes for an economic resurgence, conditions have been rocky for mom and pop businesses not only on the Western Slope, but statewide. According to the <u>Colorado Secretary of</u> <u>State</u>, the pandemic-caused recession has left a negative imprint on nearly every industry in Colorado.

With uncertainty clouding the horizon for local entrepreneurs, the six-county <u>Region</u> <u>10 League for Economic Assistance & Plan-</u> <u>ning</u> has helped bring relief to many local businesses with a grant program that serves even non-traditional businesses. Region 10's Dan Scinto spoke to *the Mirror* last week about the carefully coordinated effort to deliver financial resources to businesses across the region. Region 10 serves not only Montrose, but Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel, Ouray and Hinsdale counties.

"Every county's program was different," Scinto noted. "We created a scoring rubric for each."

Prior to the pandemic response effort, Region 10 was able to serve businesses throughout the region with 2.5 people, he said.

When COVID hit, Scinto brought in consultants Susan Bony and Matt Evans to assist, and the team got to work developing systems and practices specific to each community.

Adding to the challenge was the stay-athome order, which had resulted in most Region 10 staff members working from home.

"We had to do all these loans online, without paper," Scinto said. Still, the program has been a resounding success. Scinto said that the organization has received a number of heartfelt emails and thank you letters from grateful loan and grant recipients, many of whom would have been turned down by traditional lenders. "We're able to provide funding to businesses that the banks can't," Scinto said.

"We did three years' worth of work in

nine months, transactionally speaking," he said. And thanks to the scoring rubric, "The money got to the people that the counties wanted it to get to." Scinto credits strong leadership for Region 10's ability to adapt quickly to community needs.

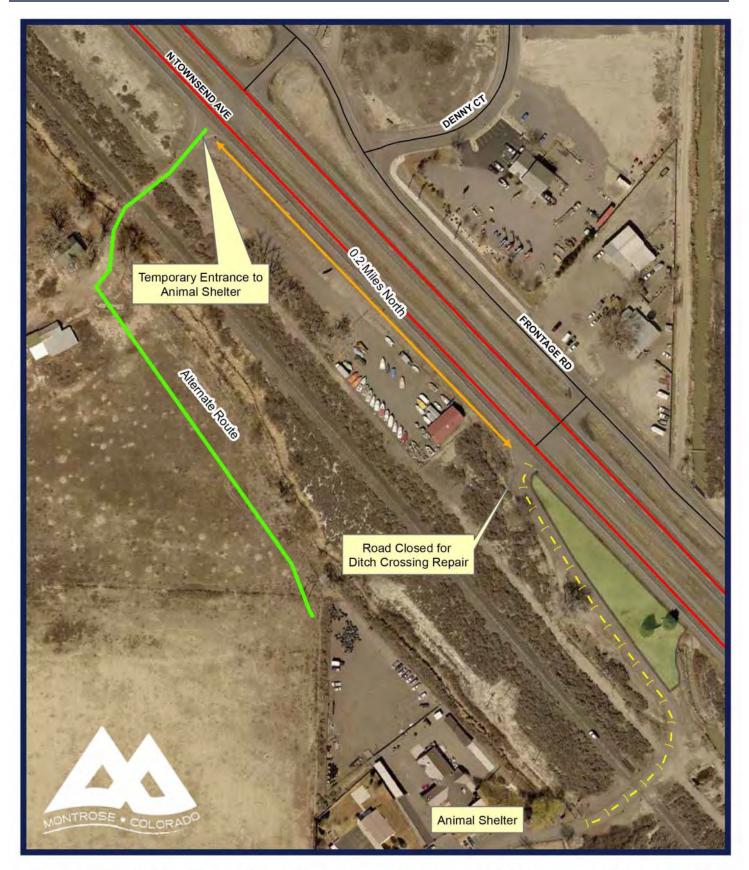
Region 10's stakeholders, who include both elected officials and business leaders, oversee projects such as regional broadband, and "have shown the value of partnerships and brought us to the forefront of what is possible," he said.

SPECIFICS-Region 10's Covid-19 Response efforts involved working with state and local governments on loan and grant review and funding to directly offset economic impacts to local businesses, including:

Energize Colorado: reviewed more than 150 applications; funded 49 applications with\$665,365 distributed to businesses across the region. There will be funds available to lend from this program soon. Currently there is no word on further Grant Funding.

Delta County/City and Town of Hotchkiss: Reviewed 112 applications; funded 50 grants (or loan forgiveness) with investment of \$416,625; approved funds are 100 percent disbursed.

Montrose County: Reviewed 75 applications, have funded 45 applications with investment of \$489,000; application is closed. Of the grants awarded in Montrose County, 39 were in the Montrose City Area, two in Olathe, and one in Naturita. Gunnison County: Processed loan forgiveness for 23 businesses with investment of \$162,500. All loans received debt forgiveness from grant funding. San Miguel County: Reviewed 156 applications. After review and scoring by the R10 team, 91 grants were funded totaling \$3,000,000 to gualified businesses. Business Loan Program: working with borrowers for modifications as needed. Some SBA loans have received payment assistance from the SBA.



The entrance to the city's Animal Shelter, Brown Center, and Wastewater Treatment Facility will close for maintenance beginning February 1 and is expected to reopen February 19. City crews have graded an existing road to provide alternate access via Lost Dog Road.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COBBLE CREEK, THE HUB, AND CHIPETA DRIVE: ORIGINAL PLAT FOR COBBLE CREEK CREATED A SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (SID)



By Paul Arbogast MONTROSE-Last week I sat through another six-hour Zoom meeting by the City Planning Commission that was all about

the HUB pro-

ject by devel-

oper Matt

Paul Arbogast. Courtesy photo.

Miles. You can read the full story of the meeting by Gail Marvel in this issue of the Mirror, but I wanted to talk about a few concerns/complaints discussed during the meeting.

One of the first things that stuck out was how Cobble Creek was referred to by current residents as rural. Perhaps to someone that came from a big, congested city they could see a tightly packed single family housing development as 'rural', but for those of us with roots in country living, it is a humorous claim. The reality is that Cobble Creek is nowhere near rural, it is by design and definition a suburb. Feathering and density were discussed, ad nauseum. The problem is that what is required and when seems clear by code, but over the years redefining of terms has happened. If you have two areas side by side that are zoned more than two levels apart, there must be 'feathering' to soften the abruptness of two massively different levels of development. An example would be an R1 property (very low density) next to an R3 property (medium density), where the change would be very abrupt. The difference between Cobble Creek and the HUB zoning is R3 to R3A. Just one step. Members of Cobble Creek claim feathering is needed because of the density, not the zoning. But the reality is it comes down to property rights. If two landowners have a shared property line, and they share zoning, and one decides to

build four homes when they could build 100, but the neighbor builds 100, how can the one that builds below the limits (allowed by code) claim they have any right to demand the other owner build to a lower density? That seems to be exactly what is happening here.

Concerns about Chipeta Drive were brought up several times and were about congestion and safety, both in driving and for those that bike or walk along that road. A traffic study was updated, including counts done by the City of Montrose, and video taken which show the current volume on Chipeta is not nearly what many residents of Cobble Creek claim, but certainly that volume would increase, even with just the complete build out of Cobble Creek and Spruce Point.

To make the road safer, it would need widening, and sidewalks. That would require more spending, but the confusion is that Chipeta is a county road, but the volume is increasing due to increased city housing, so who pays for such a project? Interestingly enough, I found that in the original Plat for Cobble Creek, they included a Special Improvement District (SID). A SID is formed to fund construction of roads, sidewalks, sewer lines, and other public improvements that may be needed due to new development and are stated on a subdivision Plat.

At the completion of improvements, costs are assessed to each property owner in the SID.

In the case of the SID on the Cobble Creek Plat, the property owners in that subdivision are responsible for the costs of property acquisition and construction of improvements on Chipeta Road from 6450 Road to US 550 as well as improvements along 6450 road to the southern line of the subdivision. According to the city engineering department, right now the estimated cost for those improvements is about 12 million dollars. While the use of a SID has fallen out of favor with local governments as it looks bad for any government to drop huge bills on its citizens, the SID remains legally binding, and at any point the city could request the work be done and bill the members of the SID. I do not know what the total number of units in Cobble Creek would be at full buildout, but even assuming 400 units comes to a bill of \$30,000 per resident, if construction costs do not go up.

Some developers use the SID because it puts cost on future property owners and not themselves. Not a good business practice in my opinion, but the developers of Cobble Creek went that route. For what it is worth I did some digging and found that not a single project that Matt Miles has done in Montrose has had a SID attached to it. All of his projects have done needed right-of-way land acquisition and improvements as part of his developments.

Out of curiosity I looked up the Spruce Point Plat and all the owners in that development are on the hook for improvements, including sidewalks, along the part of 6400 road that abuts the property on the west side.

I reached out to Cobble Creek to see if the residents knew about this SID and their future obligation but received no response. Their future obligation remains even if the development did not inform them when they purchased property there.

An easy solution to the concerns about Chipeta Drive would be the city calling for action from the SID and working with the county to make the improvements needed and sending a bill to all the members of the SID. Considering that traffic there will continue to increase over time, and how unsafe it is for bikers and pedestrians, perhaps it is time for the city to start that process. HELP YOU B

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CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN BOEBERT BACKS OUT OF MONTROSE EVENT ORGANIZED BY CONSTITUENT



Congresswoman Lauren Bowman posed with a supporter on the campaign trail last year in Montrose. Photo by Paul Arbogast.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-An event intended to bring United States Congresswoman Lauren Boebert together with her Colorado HD 3 constituents Saturday was cancelled after organizers determined that available security would be inadequate to address the

turnout expected. Though billed as a Town Hall, the meeting was not actually an official Town Hall event. but a private afternoon gathering at a local church.

A Western Slope volunteer had attempted to bring Boebert to the meeting, which was set to take place Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. in Montrose County at the Cowboy Church. However, after a notice

was posted on several forums including the Montrose Mirror Facebook page on Friday, Jan. 29, the local organizer asked that it be taken down due to concerns expressed both by the church, which had received a number of calls, and by Boebert's team.

A statement issued later Saturday by Congresswoman Boebert's communications Director Ben Stout stated, "The Congresswoman was planning on stopping by a small, private event. This was not an official Town Hall organized by her office. It became clear there was not adequate security for the number of people that were planning to attend the event. The Congresswoman looks forward to meeting with members of the community in the future." The original plan was for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to provide security. Since unseating longtime HD 3 Rep Scott Tipton (R) in last year's primary and defeating Diane Mitsch Bush (D) in the general election, Congresswoman Boebert has come under increasing fire from opponents for her outspoken gun rights activism, and for comments made during the Jan. 6 Capital Insurrection and most recently for her response on Social Media to a survivor of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

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MCSO WARNS CITIZENS TO PAY ATTENTION From pg 1

and routing number.

Also, "I never got my ballot," the theft victim said.

Despite horrific experiences such as this one, package theft in Montrose County is not actually on the rise, Montrose County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Ted Valerio said.

"We haven't seen an uptick, and part of that is because of the measures we took," Valerio said. As part of an effort to stamp out mail theft and fraud, the MCSO has used a bait package/ GPS-enabled device to assist in efforts to apprehend package thieves. "We're definitely on it," Valerio said. "We wanted to curb it, and I think we did.

Still, the department has seen a rise in actual identity theft accomplished through the mail and has been working on a significant case presently. Valerio reminds locals to pay attention.

"People need to keep track of what happens with their bank account," he said. "Some government agencies give more information than is actually necessary when they write to you. Check your mail every day; don't leave it out."

"Everybody works hard at what they're

doing," he said. "To have your life turned upside down over something like this is not cool."

One local whose life was turned upside down by the ongoing case had this to say, "It's really difficult and worrisome about what all the suspects may have taken. I was told dozens of victims were hit," he said. "It is more worrisome that he/she was put back in jail and then allowed back out with no bond.

"I can't believe a judge would do this to our community."

The MCSO offers the following tips to help protect your mailbox from thieves: -Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your outgoing mail, hand it to a letter carrier, or deliver it to one of the local U.S. Post Offices.

-Sign up for delivery alerts offered by many major carriers. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service offers Informed Delivery services that provides a photo of the package (as available; see more info <u>here</u>). -Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.

-If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

-If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
-Keep your mailbox in good repair and make sure it's properly installed.
-Consider getting a locking mailbox. Ask your local postmaster for the most up-todate regulations on mailboxes.
-Don't send cash in the mail.

-Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

-Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector. Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

If you see a mail theft in progress, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

If you believe your mail was stolen, please contact WestCO Regional Dispatch Center at 970-249-9111, then contact the U.S. Postal Inspector at 1-877-876-2455 or report a crime online at https:// www.uspis.gov/report.



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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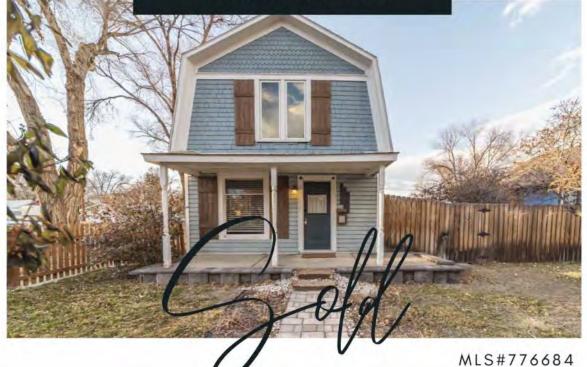
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DMEA HEARS FINANCIAL REPORT; CONSIDERS DEFERRED REVENUE



The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Director meetings continue to be held virtually. During the January 26, 2021 meeting CEO Jasen Bronec compared DMEA to other co-ops. He said, "Most co-ops are \$600 per member, we're about \$400 per member. We are operating \$6 M to \$8 M less than other co-ops. That's money our members don't have to pay. We've out-performed out budget." DMEA graphs show the organization's success in keeping member costs low. Courtesy images DMEA.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE The Jan. 26 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting, a Zoom webinar, was called to order at 3 p.m. Members who wish to receive log-in information prior to meetings can contact Executive Assistant Amy Taylor via e-mail at

amy.taylor@dmea.com.

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

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

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

With the exception of Ken Watson, all board members were present. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening meeting prayer, determination of a quorum and approval of the consent agenda (Membership Report, Minutes from the regular December Board Meeting and Minutes, and the minutes of the January 2021 Special Board meeting). Board Committee Items

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

Harding said, "Discussion about deferred revenues, year-end books. How we use deferred revenues in the past. They were used to buffer unforeseen issues."

Chief of Operations Jasen Bronec said, "As you see what is posted, this is part of our rate stabilization. We use this fund to stabilize and buffer."

Chief Financial Officer Wade Pynes said, "Long-range financial forecast we will talk about in the Financial Report. Spoiler-Alert, we ended the year on a high note. While we could take \$5M to \$6M in deferred revenue, we're only recommending deferred revenue of \$4M. IRS rules are that we recognize deferred revenue within five-years. We are recognizing some and deferring more."

Bronec said, "We could probably do more. [Pynes], what is your thought process of deferring \$4M rather than \$5M?"

Pynes said, "A larger margin for error. It gives us a little bit more room, more cushion. Puts us ahead of where we were forecasted to be. Debt covenants, if you defer to \$4M then CFC [Cooperative Finance Corporation] covers \$1.52M. Best served by individual years. We are comfortably ahead of those covenants."

DMEA Board President Bill Patterson said, "In our inflation environment how does that play out?"

Pynes said, "It is segregated from our cash. We could invest at a long term or invest short-term. It's how we invest that money with CFC."

Patterson said, "Times are changing and I'm worried about inflation in the future, but I'm not worried about DMEA."

Pynes said, "We will increase our debt load to build up Elevate. Labor expenses, 70 percent personnel are unionized. Wage negotiations are known for the next few years."

Harding said, "That concludes the report." The Deferred Revenue Resolution for up to \$4M was passed unanimously.

Engineering – Construction – Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair. Hauck said, "We have not had a meeting

since the last report."

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

Martinez said, "We have not met since the last board meeting."

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "We did not have a meeting."

Safety and Occupational Health Report -

DMEA HEARS FINANCIAL REPORT , CONSIDERS DEFERRED REVENUE From previous pg

- Virginia Harman, COO.

Bronec said, "We have had some changes in our organizational structure. This will be Virginia's last Safety Report. It will be turned over to Kathy."

Harman said, "In December we had a couple of employee injuries, but there was no time lost. There were no near-misses, no accidents. We've had tests completed in the Read Office and inspection of safety gear. We've worked on wildfire mitigation and safety directives with Montrose County and their emergency plan. A gate has been left open. It has been addressed and we've adjusted video cameras so the dispatchers can watch the gate."

Financial Report with Variance Report -Wade Pynes, CFO.

Pynes said, "Number-one is deferred revenue. November and December were favorable months. Number-two [was] working with Guzman on what we are paying Tri State. In a short six-months it has demonstrated its value. There was more contention than anticipated, we spent more in time and legal [fees] to get out of Tri State."

Jock Fleming said, "Equity investments is \$500,000 less for the month of December, but in variance you say it is a positive." Pynes responded by referencing Capital Credits and vehicle replacements.

Referring to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Pynes said, "There is 60 to 90 days for grant forgiveness. I don't have any reason to believe it won't be forgiven, but there is a lot of uncertainty. Elevate has \$307,000 in forgiveness. Forgiveness for DMEA is still in suspense."

Patterson said, "I don't think people understand how efficient DMEA is working. We get slammed all the time. We are operating much better than other co-ops."

Bronec said, "Most co-ops are \$600 per member, we're about \$400 per member. We are operating \$6 to \$8 M less than other co-ops. That's money our members don't have to pay. We've outperformed our budget. Colder months means revenue is up. [Our exit from Tri State] turned out and exceeded. The plan was executed and delivered as we planned. Through COVID we've done an excellent job con-

trolling costs. Working with the accounts receivable office has been phenomenal." CEO Report - Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec said, "Some of my report I will defer to Executive Session, under Power Supply discussion. We are pleasantly surprised with the Charge Station for the City of Montrose. There is increasing utilization. Both Tesla and Charge Point are complete and active." (No usage data for the either of the Electric Vehicle stations was given.)

Bronec continued, "Transmission upgrades and expansion for transmission is still under review. We are monitoring RTO [Regional Transmission Organization] progress. Also, PCB's [polychlorinated biphenyls] and pole testing."

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

Bronec said, "December 27th there was a very long outage. A driver struck a guywire along Chipeta Drive. It also took out an AT Over 10-minutes of outage. There was nothing as a result of our system. The end of the year we are a little high on the SAIDI report. It's uncontrollable when hitting a guywire causes the outage."

Harman said, "[Cars hitting power poles] is the second leading cause of outages in our system."

Bronec said, "We have started a kid's safety program, "Play it Safe." We're getting kids excited and getting school kids engaged in safety. It's a good outreach. We are excited to get back out in the community. Kids K-5th grade are encouraged to participate. We have great prizes. We also have a scholarship program open to high school students. Please apply."

Chief Technical Officer Kent Blackwell reported on the cyber security efforts of DMEA.

Bronec said, "More and more we are having to protect our members and member information. A large amount of money is put into IT [budget]. As an essential service we cannot afford to be locked out of our organization."

Blackwell said, "We do have some Cyber Security coverage [insurance]." Speaking to the board he said, "You are outside the

protection bubble if you are using personal devises."

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

Hurd touched briefly on regulations, filings by Tri State and greenhouse gases. He said, "All Colorado coal plants will be closed by 2030. I have a couple of updates for Executive Session. Some franchise agreements are set to expire later in the year. There are a number of other municipalities we need to wrap up. We hope we won't have to deal with franchise agreements for another 20-years. Just a headsup, we will be looking at board policy revisions. Some need to be refreshed."

Representative Board Reports WUES Report (Western United Electrical

Association) – Jock Fleming.

No meeting, no report.

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

Lockhart said, "An update was sent to & T cell site and affected the Bullock Plant. the board. A legislative report was sent on greenhouse road map. There is a big push on EV type pieces, 80 percent reduction by 2030. A huge push for EV charge stations Statewide."

Review Director Educational Opportuni-

ties - Executive Assistant Amy Taylor. Taylor said, "If you have something you are interested in, I can help you with edu-

cational opportunities." **ACTION ITEM: Other Business**

The board voted unanimously to confirm Delphine Jardo as the new Operation Round-Up Trustee.

The board voted unanimously to approve a \$6,500 payment for the Operation Round-Up Audit.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Kyle Martinez as the delegate for the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association Annual Meeting.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2021.

Member Comments – There were no member comments.

Executive Session

- -Privileged Legal Report
- -Power Supply Update
- -Review Board Website
- -Hydro Facilities History

DMEA HEARS FINANCIAL REPORT , CONSIDERS DEFERRED REVENUE From previous pg

-Review Privileged Information Request Following the Executive Session, email correspondence from Taylor said, "The board exited executive session at 6:30 p.m. It noted the board's discussions did not deviate from the topics mentioned prior to going into executive session. Upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Heuscher, the board unanimously directed DMEA staff to respond to the December 1, 2020 data request from Citizens for a Healthy Community (CHC), making reasonable efforts to provide general categorical information about electricding@firstcoloradobank.comservices in Delta County and, to the extentDist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, ken-reasonably available, information aboutnethrwatson@gmail.comemissions factors for supplied energy inDist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900,2005 and 2019. The meeting adjourned atIch@haucks.cc6:32 p.m.Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, <u>bpatterson@montrose.net</u> Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, <u>kyle@touchofcarepcp.com</u> Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, <u>bhar-</u> ding@firstcoloradobank.com Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, <u>ken-nethrwatson@gmail.com</u> Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, Ich@haucks.cc Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, <u>damon.lockhart@dmea.com</u> Dist 7 - Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, <u>enno.heuscher@dmea.com</u> Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, <u>stacia.cannon@dmea.com</u> Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL ROLLS OUT COVID 19 VACCINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS 70 YEARS AND OLDER



89-year-old delta County resident Virgil Soencer receives the COVID-19 vaccine at Delta County Memorial Hospital. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- As providers around Delta County gear up to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine, Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) is excited to begin providing vaccinations for community members 70 years and older.

Last Friday DCMH hosted its first COVID-19 vaccination clinic, and with the help of frontline health care workers at DCMH, the team administered 300 total vaccinations to community members. That number is on top of the already 893 vaccines that have been administered by DCMH.

"This first large community COVID vaccination clinic was a great success," said Jacque Davis, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations for DCMH. "It's an exciting time to be able to start providing vaccines to those folks who are most at risk. As we continue our vaccination efforts moving forward, we ask for patience and understanding from the community as we do our best to swiftly and efficiently distribute the vaccine." For 89-year-old Delta County resident, Virgil Spencer, saying yes to the vaccine was simple.

"There isn't anything wrong with [the vaccine], and it didn't hurt," said Spencer. "I've gotten all of my flu shot this year - I should be good for another 100 years." The vaccination rollout is part of a county -wide effort to vaccinate Coloradans age 70 and older for Phase 1A and 1B of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment's (CDPHE) COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan. Community members can sign up for the vaccine by preregistering on the Delta County Health Department's website at <u>del-</u>

tacounty.com/COVID-19.

Once registered, those people are placed on a COVID-19 vaccine waitlist. The list will then be available to vaccine providers in Delta County who will contact community members to schedule an appointment for the vaccine.

Currently, there is a high interest and demand for the COVID-19 vaccine in Delta County, and DCMH is proud to be offering it. Healthcare staff at DCMH have been working hard to implement a safe and efficient plan for the vaccine.

Carol Steele, a Delta County resident and cancer survivor, was among those who decided to get vaccinated during last Friday's clinic.

"It seemed like [getting the vaccine was] the right thing to do and like something I needed to do; not just for myself but for my family," said Steele.

In addition to vaccinations, on January 21 DCMH also started administering monoclonal antibody intravenous infusions to help treat cases of COVID-19. This treatment is comprised of synthetic antibodies that act to reduce the COVID virus's ability to get into the cell and ability to replicate. "At Delta Hospital we are very excited to be among the first of only several hospitals on the Western Slope offering preventative treatments for patients with a new diagnosis of COVID who are at a high risk for disease progression," said Sara Knutson, M.D., Pulmonologist and Medical Planning Director for the DCMH Incident Command Team.

"The monoclonal antibody infusion is a treatment which has shown promising benefits in early studies to reduce viral load and the likelihood of needing hospital admission for COVID."

The treatment must be administered within 10 days after the onset of symptoms in a patient with a positive test for COVID before there is a need for any increased oxygen support. It is only available to patients meeting criteria for severe disease risk: age 65 and older, diabetes, significant primary lung, cardiac or renal disease, other immunocompromised states, and, for those that are 55 and older, those with HTN or obesity.

For COVID patients interested in this treatment and who meet the criteria, Dr. Knutson encourages patients to contact their primary or urgent care provider for consideration as soon as possible after a COVID diagnosis.

Moving forward, DCMH will continue working with the Delta County Health Department and other providers in the county to ensure a safe and efficient vaccination process for community members and continued support for COVID recovery.

"There is a very present optimism and excitement that can be felt in the community right now," said Davis. "I think we are all working together to keep each other safe and the vaccine has sparked a sense of hope - which is something we can all use right now."

To sign-up for the vaccine and for more information, please visit <u>deltacounty.com/</u> COVID-19.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY TO CLOSE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER ENTRANCE FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City crews are preparing to replace a large culvert underneath entrance to the city's Animal Shelter, the Brown Center, and Wastewater Treatment Facility, beginning Monday, Feb. 1. The road is expected to reopen Friday, Feb. 19.

City crews have already removed and replaced a portion of an existing ditch crossing culvert that had failed. Now, according to Public Works Assistant Manager Jackie Bubenik, the time has come to complete the project by closing the road to replace the remaining section of the old culvert underneath the roadway that is undermined and starting to fail.

Replacement work will also include stabilizing the ditch bank and replacing the portion of the road that crosses the ditch. This phase of the project will take up to three weeks to complete, according to Bubenik.

City crews have graded an existing road to provide an alternate access route to the Animal Shelter, Brown Center, and Wastewater Treatment Facility during the culvert replacement project. That temporary entrance known as Lost Dog Road, can be accessed approximately 0.2-miles north of the Animal Shelter entrance off U.S. Highway 50.

CITY CREWS WORKING TO FIX COLLAPSED STORM DRAIN



A sinkhole has developed as the result of a collapsed storm drain at the southeast corner of South 5th Street and Junction Avenue. Courtesy photos City of Montrose.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Crews with the City of Montrose's Public Works department are working to fix a collapsed storm drain at the southeast corner of South 5th Street and Junction Avenue. For public safety concerns, they are asking everyone to avoid the area until repairs are complete.



According to Public Works Assistant Manager Jackie Bubenik, a sinkhole has formed as a result of the collapsed storm drain. Bubenik estimates repairs will be completed by next Wednesday, Feb. 3. "We have gone in and excavated the problem area and it is much larger than anticipated," Bubenik said.

The southeast corner of South 5th Street and Junction Avenue has been secured and replacement materials have been ordered. The materials are expected to arrive on Monday, Feb. 1.

Crews will replace approximately 70-feet of pipe before restoring the roadway. More information about the project will released as it becomes available.





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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS



A RATHER BLUSTERY DRIVE

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO-As Winnie the Pooh stated. "It undoubtably looks like a rather blustery day." As that silly old bear stated so many years ago, it still rings true. We have seen a lot of blustery days this year with some gusts reaching as high as 116 MPH.

Wind can affect your travels in many ways. The one that comes to most people's minds is how it can and often does topple big rigs pulling trailers. Even though you may not be driving a semi, you do need to be aware of them in a wind storm.

If you are feeling wind gusts while driving, it could mean that a particularly strong

one can hit the semi and tip it over. You need to be careful with them while following or passing them. Watch to see if you see the semi having trouble maintaining its lane. It could mean something more dangerous is in the near future. Spend as little time around them as possible in case a gust hits it while you are near.

This goes the same if you are pulling a trailer. Lighter trailers, especially empty ones are more prone to dragging the tow vehicle off the road with it when hit by a gust of wind.

Also, make sure your load is secure especially in wind storms. Items that you normally wouldn't think will blow off your trailer may indeed fly off and possible hit a As always, safe travels!

vehicle or go into the roadway and cause another vehicle to crash.

Those of you who don't pull trailers or drive semis are not off the hook.

Particularly strong winds can move your car into the oncoming lane of travel. I'm sure you've felt your vehicle moving around and sometimes finding it hard to maintain your lane.

Again, be cautious of wind storms and especially ones with strong wind gusts. If there is a report of possible strong winds, try to adjust your travel plans. Get where you're going safely.

"Oh, Pooh, there's more to life than just balloons and honey."

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COLLECTION

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Western Colorado Properties

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16763 6725 Road Montrose, CO, 81401 \$795,000

Bedrooms: 4 Bathrooms: 3.5 3,564 sq. ft. on 7.45 acres Year Built: 1980

This home is known as the Black Canyon Arabians horse ranch and is what everyone is looking for right now. It has no covenants, irrigation water, mountain and valley views, huge cottonwood trees, several thousand square feet of outbuldings, a pond, and it's close to town. This home also includes, an extra large kitchen, a 20 car attatched & detatched garage, and outbuildings with, a 6,800 ft.2 stable with four stalls, wash rack, tack room, feed room, 77 x 40 indoor arena, two foaling rooms with an observation room, covered hay storage, and an outdoor riding arena.



Jeff Keehfuss Broker/Owner 970-209-3825 Jeff@MontroseColorado.com www.MontroseColorado.com

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUB MUST ADHERE TO ORIGINAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Members of the Planning Commission and City Council, We are asking the Planning Commission not to ignore the parameters of the original Comprehensive Plan for the City of Montrose. The plan was developed to ensure that Montrose grows in a responsible way protecting all existing communities.

Visitors coming into Cobble Creek see it for what it is - a vibrant, well organized community with a golf course that is recognized throughout Colorado as one of the finest. Many of these visitors purchase homes in Cobble Creek for this reason. Twenty years ago, I was a visitor here. Upon retiring, my wife and I moved to Cobble Creek, as did my son and his family.

The City of Montrose must recognize that "The Hub", as planned, will drastically change the dynamics of a rural area sought out for its beauty and open spaces.

The Hub must adhere to the original Comprehensive Plan of feathering with duplexes and condos with 4 to 6 units per acre. There would then be 120 units allowed rather than the 500 units requested. This would better conform to the tenor of Cobble Creek and Spruce Point. There have been many other valid reasons for The Hub's plans to be reconsidered and I agree with those. A Comprehensive Plan is a promise to Montrose residents that growth will be in their best interest. Please work with all sides to follow that plan.

Page 36

T. Webbe, Montrose



NOSOTRAS HABLAMOS ESPANOL

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ESCARPMENT VIEW LOT



Offered by



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties **Don Bailey** Broker Associate 970-209-8257 donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com



Lot 5 Ranger Road | Montrose, CO 81403

4.69 ACRES PREMIUM VIEW LOT Private and secluded location on Spring Creek Mesa with fabulous views of the mountains, valley and city lights at night. Country living in upscale Escapment Overview subdivision close to town. Wooded with old-growth juniper, pinon and cottonwood trees. Gorgeous views from Grand Mesa to Cimarrons currently, with views of the San Juan mountains possible with the clearing of trees. One half share HOA Irrigation water. Driveway needs to be cut in from north boundary on Ranger Rd. Electric and phone are installed close to building site. Natural Gas is available. Chipeta Water tap is available, but not installed. West Canal & irrigation access road are on the west boundary of the property. This is a very special offering with amazing unobstructed FOREVER VIEWS. See Virtual Tour http://view.paradym.com/showvt.asp?t=4554810

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT IN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office is seeking public comment on a proposal from the Cimarron Mountain Club (CMC) for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct commercially guided hikes, snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding, and avalanche mitigation on public lands in Montrose County. CMC is a private club and residential community in the south San Juan Mountains, ten miles northeast of Ridgway.

"Recreation in the San Juan Mountains is a world class experience," said Acting Uncompany Field Manager Amy Carmi-

chael.

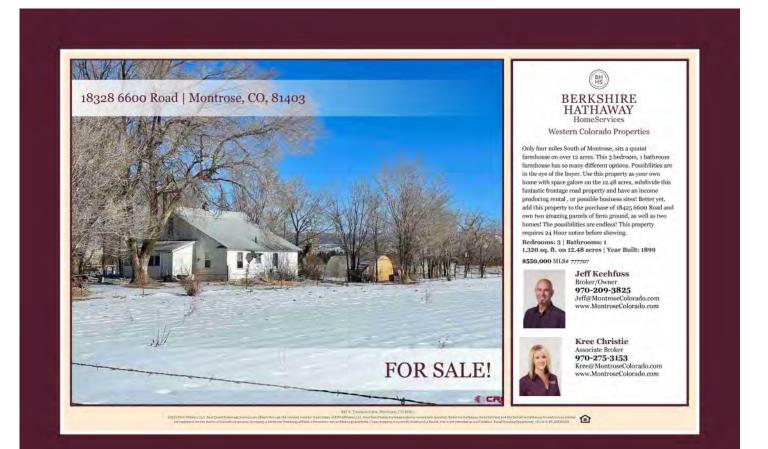
"Hearing from the public will help us make an informed decision." CMC is seeking to lead year-round com-

mercial trips on two BLM parcels, totaling approximately 3,475 acres.

These activities would cease during the elk calving season from May 1 through June 15. The SRP would not prevent access for the general public. Trips would vary in frequency and party size depending on the activity and weather conditions. Project documents are available online at <u>https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/</u> <u>project/1505681/510</u>. Comments must be submitted by Feb. 16, 2021 and may be submitted via the website above or via mail to: BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: Angela Losasso, 2465 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401.

In 2018, recreation activities on BLMadministered lands in Colorado supported 5,077 jobs and generated over \$652 million, the highest net return of any BLM recreation program.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County's COVID-19 positive cases and positivity rate are finally starting to come down, which is welcome news; our hospitalizations also remain low. "It's certainly something we are happy to see," said Public Health Director Karen O'Brien, "We are hoping the downward trend continues, and that the emerging variants do not make their way to Delta County." We continue to remind all Delta County residents that even after they have been vaccinated, to please continue to be mindful of those around you and wear your mask, keep your distance, and stay home if you are sick.

Free mobile testing continues in Delta County every week through February; preregistration is required. The testing will take place every Friday in Delta at the Lion's Pavilion from 9am – 4pm; preregister here: <u>https://curative.com/</u> <u>sites/17941/walkup#9/38.7397/-</u> <u>108.0722</u>. Every Saturday, free COVID-19 mobile testing will take place at Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, from 9am – 2pm; pre-register here: <u>https://</u> <u>curative.com/sites/17942/</u> walkup#9/38.8011/-107.7161.

As of Thursday, Jan. 28, Delta County reported 10 new positive cases today for a total of 2,296 with 10 active and 2,063 recovered; we currently have four individuals hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting eight additional deaths this week bringing the total to 53; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

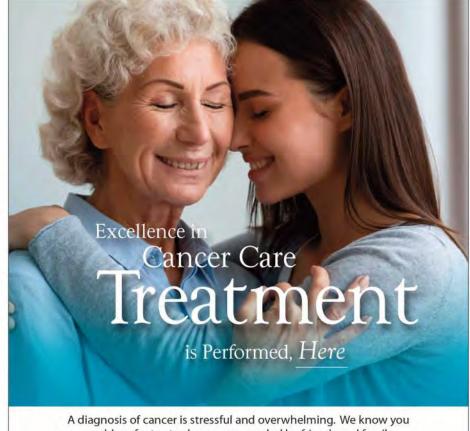
Delta County Health Department continues to vaccinate individuals in phase 1A vaccines can be found at <u>https:</u> which includes healthcare workers and 1B, <u>covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine</u>.

which includes individuals 70 and older, as well as healthcare workers and first responders. If you are an individual who is 70 or older, and a patient of a Delta County Memorial Hospital Clinic (Internal Medicine, Delta Family Medicine, or the West Elk Clinic), and are already on their waitlist, you will receive a phone call directly from them to set an appointment. All other individuals 70 years and older please visit deltacounty.com/covid-19 to sign up to be placed on the COVID-19 vaccine waitlist. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Delta County Call Center to be put on the waitlist; the 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://



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE HUB APPROVAL IS THE FUTURE OF MONTROSE



would prefer to stay home, surrounded by friends and family.

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

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



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



Editor:

The Hub is the wrong project in the wrong place to everyone except city officials. However there is one other aspect to the Hub that will greatly influence the future development of Montrose. That is the unconscionable density of 15 units per acre. That is high density on steroids. Something we see in crowded cities. More than that, it establishes a precedent. The next developer that comes in starts with 15 units per acre. That's the way the development game is played. Create a precedent which then becomes the norm. The city can say no to the next high density development but will cave with the threat of lawsuits. After all, there is no defensible reason why that density is allowed for Matt Miles and not succeeding developments. The City will moan and groan about how their hands are tied and approve them. And they will come. The higher the density the more profitable the development. They may not get the same 2.35 million dollar gift from our city manager in his role playing Father Christmas with our tax dollars, but we will be saddled with more and more of these developments. In cities the excuse for ever higher density is the high cost and limited availability of land. These aren't true obstacles in Montrose. We have lots of space for reasonable developments and land cost is not prohibitive. Do we really want to enrich developers at the cost of quality of life in Montrose? That is exactly the decision we are facing in the approval of the Hub project.

Paul R. Janzen, Montrose



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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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Two homes for the price of one! Enjoy mountain views over the valley, along with a variety of wildlife. This is an extremely unique property with trees to build a playhouse, a pond to float in, and a whole stable to enjoy watching the kids raise their 4-H animals. No covenants, 7 +/- acres, irrigation water, mountain, and valley views, close to town, huge cottonwood trees, a pond, several thousand square feet of outbuildings, a good-sized home, and a guesthouse/rental. This home has so much to offer!

Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 4 3,564 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1980



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16763 & 16765 6725 Road | Montrose, CO, 81401

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO TO RE-OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - President Joe Biden has issued an Executive Order that re-opens enrollment on the Affordable Care Act marketplaces. While the order pertains to states that use the federal exchange, healthcare.gov, Colorado's exchange, Connect for Health Colorado will mirror the order by re-opening enrollment. Coloradans without health insurance will be able to enroll in coverage through ConnectforHealthCO.com between Feb. 8 -May 15, 2021.

Health insurance coverage will begin on the first day of the month following plan selection. This special enrollment period is for people without health insurance and begins a week earlier than the federal exchange.

In Colorado, the annual Open Enrollment for individual health insurance (meaning not from an employer) ended on Jan. 15. Connect for Health Colorado reported that Exchange reopening enrollment: nearly 180,000 Coloradans enrolled in 2021 coverage, which was around 8 percent higher than the enrollment figures

for the previous year's open enrollment. Re-opening the exchanges is an effort to address the number of uninsured, and in particular help people who have lost their employer-based health insurance due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway offered this statement in support of this effort.

"I am encouraged to see President Biden and his administration take action on this front, acknowledging the fact that so many remain without health insurance due to the continued impact of COVID-19. The Division of Insurance will work with Connect for Health Colorado to make sure this additional enrollment period works to help Coloradans get covered."

Connect for Health Colorado's Chief Executive Officer Kevin Patterson released the following statement in response to the

"I'm pleased that we can offer another opportunity to help people protect their health and safety this year. Now is a great

time to remind friends and neighbors who missed the Open Enrollment deadline that it's not too late to sign up and that help is available. I urge Coloradans who haven't enrolled yet to call us or visit our website to find free enrollment assistance near vou."

Colorado individual health insurance consumers can enroll through Connect for Health Colorado online at ConnectforHealthCO.com. Residents can get help by calling 855-752-6749 or find free, virtual enrollment assistance from certified Brokers and Assisters.

In addition, Connect for Health Colorado offers tools such as the Quick Cost & Plan Finder that can help you check if you qualify for financial help and search for plans based on what matters most, including covered doctors, medications, monthly costs, and estimated annual costs. About 70 percent of people applying qualify for financial help. Enrolling through Connect for Health Colorado is the only way to receive financial help that can make health insurance more affordable.





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



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SAY "NO" TO THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING

Editor:

Your city council will be considering the approval for a 500 unit apartment complex for developer Matt Miles. This project is proposed off Chipeta Road and 64.50 Road, next to single family dwellings. Consider these issues that could impact you and the larger community in the future:

-The City is offering 2.5 million dollars to the developer through fees, tax, and infrastructure waivers . This results in a loss of revenue to the city of Montrose that will not be available for future budget needs. -Our City and County will incur major costs due to needed infrastructure improvements and services to support HUB's size. We were told on January 27th that placing a signal at the intersection of Chipeta

Road and HWY 550 (a dangerous intersection) might not be considered for three to five years! This housing would impact this intersection with hundreds of added vehicles. -The intersection of 64.50 Road is also in need of revision prior to construction. The city wishes to subsidize Mr. Miles development project with millions of dollars rather than use that money to improve existing infrastructure for all citizens.

-The proposed site does not follow the Comprehensive Plan guidelines. HUB is 9 times more dense than adjoining developments! If this proceeds, what is to stop potential unscrupulous development in the future? If those quidelines are ignored, what is the point of having them? The purpose of the plan is to protect the "health, safety, and welfare" of our citizens. Which citizens? The developer's interests alone it seems.

-Is the intention of this project's location to serve Montrose residents, or workers from Telluride and other southern communities?

-Hundreds of citizens have voiced objections to this project and its location. Few, if any, have voiced support. If a need currently exists for such a large complex of apartments (and that is unclear), why place them where so many people will be negatively impacted?

We believe the interests of current home owners should carry more weight than those of "possible" future inhabitants. This project (location) will bring a negative impact to the people who already live here. If you have questions/concerns, please contact Montrose County Planning Commission/City council. The future for the lifestyles Montrose residents love and hope to preserve may depend on it. *Shirley and Gerald Harvey, Montrose*

watch your distance

Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!





COLORADO'S FIRST CRIME INFORMATION CENTER



The massive scrapbooks prepared and kept up to date by Denver detective Sam Howe can no longer be handled due to their deteriorating nature. Sadly, only small portions of the scrapbooks have been reproduced in microfilm. Colorado History Museum photo.

By Bob Cox

COLORADO-Long before there was any kind of electronic data storage, Colorado was home to a unique law enforcement officer that knew that keeping track of criminals was the best way to fight crime. Communication between various law officers in the infancy of Colorado was almost non-existent, but Sam Howe envisioned a way to change that. Howe was a detective for the Denver Police Department before there really was a formal department at all. His contact with other agencies was limited to the telegraph and the mail. The first telephone service provided by the Denver Telephone Dispatch Company did not start until February of 1879.

Howe dedicated untold hours cutting articles and pictures from various newspapers. He placed each of his clippings in a scrapbook and devised a way of labeling them so that he (or anyone for that mater) could find a name and refer back to the history of that name. He was not stingy with the information. Any bona fide lawman could write or send Howe a telegram requesting information and, more often than not, Howe was there to assist. Over the decades of his career Sam Howe's scrapbooks grew into an amazing collection and a plethora of information. In January of 1880, for reasons still unclear, Howe temporarily guit the Denver Police Department and went to work as an Arapahoe deputy sheriff. In May of that same year he was appointed as a "special policeman" to the young town of Gunnison, Colorado. That appointment took place on May 10th. About one week later Howe was appointed undersheriff of Gun-

nison County. His tenure was short lived. Three months later he was back working for Denver. This is about the time he seriously started his scrapbooking.

Howe's short stint in Gunnison County left an impression and he continued to offer his assistance whenever asked to do so, but he also was on the receiving end of the information exchange.

With the mining booms in Colorado came the railroads and with the railroads came an opportunity for the criminal element to become much more mobile. In the late 1800s information about travelers was not protected to any great degree. Howe and the other Denver detectives made it a practice to keep abreast of people who were coming and going to and from Denver. Traveler information is credited with the arrests of several persons in the western mining towns, persons who left the growing city of Denver to ply their trades in the remote mining towns.

In addition to prostitutes, nefarious gamblers, and bunko artists, many of the mining towns also had to deal with the growing problem of opium. It is the opium problem that created a very intriguing old west story that unfolded in Ouray in 1897 and ultimately created a tie with the Ouray marshal and the famous Sam Howe. The story actually has its beginning with a Chinese laundry that was located just below the Vanoli saloon, near Second Street.

COLORADO'S FIRST CRIME INFORMATION CENTER From previous pg

According to several sources, this was not the only place where opium was being used, but it was one of the more problematic. In the June 10, 1897 issue of the *Ouray Herald*, readers were greeted with a short story headlined, **Opium Joint Raided.** The report read:

Last night Marshal Knous raided the Chinese laundry just below Vanoli's saloon and secured an opium layout ready for use, consisting of three pipes, lamp, opi*um, etc. The persons present were placed* under arrest and will be tried before the police magistrate at 4 p.m. today. They are: "Red Headed" Gert. Hurley, "Taller Face Kid" Burns. Minnie Marlev and two Chinamen whose names are unknown. There are several references to the person called "Kid Burns" in the pages of newspapers, both in Ouray and Montrose, and at least two papers in the Denver area. He is referred to as "Kid Burns" "Tallow Face Kid"" and "Taller Face Burns." None of the articles mention Burns' given name. His arrest in June of 1897 did not remove him from the opium problem and it is more likely than not that clippings from some of those papers ended up in the Sam Howe collection.

In the September 30, 1898 edition of the *Silverite-Plaindealer* a rather lengthy article could have been a chapter in a dime novel. The first part of the article read:

Arrest of Kid Burns

Marshall Van Houten received word Sun-

day from Sam Howe, chief of detectives in Denver, to arrest Kid Burns, alias Tallow Faced Kid, as he was wanted in that city, under the charge of cutting the throat and nearly killing a man named Evan, sometime during this month.

According to the article, Burns had arrived on the train that Sunday. His father evidently lived in Ouray, but the exact location or name is not referred to. Van Houten and another marshal went to the Burns residence that night. Burns jumped out of a window and escaped capture, at least for the moment. The article continued: Marshals Van Houten and Larsen took up the chase, up 2d Street after him and Van Houten ordered him to stop in which warning he paid no attention to so the marshal fired several shots at him which were replied to in the same manner by the kid, one shot being at close range enough to have the powder burn the Marshal's hand slightly.

Evidently, Van Houten managed to empty his revolver without harming Burns and Burns managed to elude the officers for the time being. Van Houten then summoned more help. Van Houten got on his horse and headed for the tollgate south of town. He sent Larsen up the road toward Sneffels and drafted Al Morten and Ernest Brown to head for Bachelor Switch to prevent Burns from boarding a train there. It was Brown and Morten that ultimately

cornered Burns and succeeded in arresting him about 5 o'clock the next morning. Sheriff Carbery came in from Denver and took Burns back with him. The newspaper opined that the town was well rid of "this tin-horn gambler." All indications were that Burns was facing a long term in jail. Based on accounts in some of the Denver papers, the "cutting of the throat and nearly killing a man named Evan," which led to the arrest of Burns in Ouray, was not enough to keep the kid incarcerated for long. Early in 1900 Burns' name was mentioned in more than one article whereby he was associated with Cort Thompson. Thompson was married to famed Denver madam, Mattie Silkes. Thompson was living in Wray at the time and he and Burns were arrested in Denver and taken back to Wray. The exact charges are not known, but reference is made in the Rocky Mountain News that Thompson and Burns were preparing to head out to Alaska. Burns once again had an opium stash at the time of his arrest. Following the Yuma County incident, Burns faded into Colorado history and the massive volumes of Sam Howe's newspaper crime information scrapbooks were ultimately relegated to a humiditycontrolled storage room in the Colorado History Museum.

Note: Questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Bob Cox can be reached via email at coxbob@charter.net.

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS: PROFESSIONALS

SARAH ABBOTT JOINS IRELAND STAPLETON'S GRAND JUNCTION OFFICE



Sarah H. Abbott. Courtesy photo.

ously served as both as in-house and outside general counsel, Abbott has in-depth understanding of the legal needs of businesses. She has broad experience advising

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the Mirror

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proud to wel-

come Sarah H.

Abbott to the

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office.

on legal issues businesses face, including drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, advising on employment matters, intellectual property, real estate, corporate governance, acquisitions, due diligence, risk management, regulatory issues, and managing litigation. Additionally, Abbott represents clients in estate planning, special districts, and real estate matters, including common interest communities. "We're proud to have Sarah on the Ireland Stapleton team," said Jeff Hurd, Director in the Grand Junction office. "She combines in-depth knowledge of Western Slope business matters with extensive experience in corporate, real

estate, and regulatory matters. Sarah is a tremendous value to Ireland Stapleton and to our clients."

In addition to her law practice, Abbott is committed to community service. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Montrose Memorial Hospital, the Montrose Community Foundation and the San Juan Healthcare Foundation. Abbot also serves on the Planned Giving Council for HopeWest Hospice.

Prior to joining Ireland Stapleton, Abbott served as in-house general counsel for a hemp company, and she previously worked in private practice in Montrose, Colorado.



18425 6600 Road Montrose, CO, 81403 \$1,150,000 | MLS# 777708

This property is one you must see! Located four miles South of Montrose and built in 1899, this 5 bedroom, 2 bathroom house has been through two remodels, expanding its size and hospitality. This two-story home has so much to offer, including, large apricot and pear trees, a large kitchen with ample storage, an art studio, torage space behind a bookshelf, an original a secrete si settler's cabin, and so much more! Take in both the Storm King and San Juan mountain views on this 80 acre farm ground. This is a once in a lifetime



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FISCHER PRIZE WINNER JONATHAN GREENHAUSE SET **TO READ AT FEB. 2 BARDIC TRAILS ZOOM POETRY SERIES**

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Jonathan Greenhause of New Jersey won the Fischer Prize last year with his poem, "Thanks a Lot, Shakespeare, for the Starling." He will be the featured reader at February's Bardic Trails Zoom poetry gathering, slated for Tuesday February the Second at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to telluridelibrary.org/ events

"Greenhause was a finalist in our 2019 Fischer contest," noted Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Talking Gourds co-director. "His poem, 'Un Incendio Difícil de Traducir', was chosen by contest judge Rafael Jesús González as a finalist."

Greenhause's poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in Fourteen Hills, Moon City Review, Poetry Ireland Review, The Poetry Society website, and Water~Stone Review. Greenhause added he was "currently - joyously wearing a mask" with his wife and two

children. Following the featured reader there will be a virtual Gourd Circle "open mic." Participants are encouraged to read one poem of no more than 3 minutes. Club members will get preference for a pre-event sign-up sheet, although sign-ups good standing on Zoom's chat function will be allowed at the meeting, depending on available time. For those who like writing prompts, Ed Brummel suggests Second Chances. "As we are working collaboratively with the Wilkinson Public Library, we're hoping to keep Bardic Trails to an hour or just over," explained Talking Gourds codirector Art Goodtimes. "If you want to keep the audience wanting more, do less." Bardic Trails is free to the public, but Talking Gourds Poetry Club only survives because of donations. A one-time membership donation of \$25 or more gets one on our mailing list permanently and makes one current for the calendar year in which the donation was made. Each calendar year after that, to keep current, there's a

\$10 renewal fee payable by check or online with plastic. Club members in receive a monthly pdf copy of the handsome broadsides for each featured reader that Daiva Chesonis creates. Those pdfs can be print-



Jonathan Greenhause. Courtesy photo.

ed for free at the Wilkinson. Chesonis will also have copies available for purchase at her Between the Covers Bookstore. Current Club members also get preference for Gourd Circles, Guest Gourd readings and special workshops. Our future Bardic Trail dates are Tuesday March 2 with Fischer finalist Anne Kaiser, and then during spring break on Tuesday April 6, feature to be announced.

Wash your hands

Thank you for doing your part to keep CO safe!

Vear your mask

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FISHBONE GRAPHICS AND SCREEN PRINTING IS FEBRUARY 2021 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Fishbone Graphics and Screen Printing has been selected as February 2021 Ridgway Chamber Member of the Month . Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Fishbone Graphics and Screen Printing is the February 2021 Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. The RACC Member of the Month Program is in its third year as an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations. **Fishbone Graphics and Screen Printing** was born in Placerville, Colo. in 1985, as a way for the founder to have a reprieve from vending T-shirts in Grateful Dead parking lots around the country. The company moved to Ridgway in 1995, and has grown into a fully automated screenprinting facility employing five full-time employees.

"Our goal at Fishbone is to help you successfully brand your event or business with professionally produced merchandise including T-shirts, hoodies, hats, etc. We pride ourselves on the quality of our prints," explained company owner Jack Rajca.

Fishbone specializes in the production of

textile merchandise for wholesale customers, both locally and nationwide including Hawaii, to use in business promotion and events.

Following the staff's interests, the company has specifically targeted the music, surf and outdoor industries.

"COVID-19 has had a huge impact on sales in the last year. We have not been able to create designs for bands on tour, festivals or large events. However, there has been more local support than ever! Thank you all!!" said Rajca.

To check out Fishbone Graphics and Screen Printing's merchandise, go online to <u>https://www.fishbonegraphics.com/</u>, call 970-626-4350 or email <u>sales@fishbonegraphics.com</u>. You can find Fishbone Graphics in Ridgway at 250 South Lena Street.

To read the full interview about the Ridgway screen printing company, go to <u>https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-</u> <u>events/fishbone-graphics-named-february</u> -2021-racc-member-of-the-month.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COBBLE CREEK GOLF ASSOCIATIONS DONATE TO GOLF SCHOLARSHIP

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- - Members of the Cobble Creek Women's & Men's Golf Association presented a check for \$2,500 to the Montrose Community Foundation for their Golf Scholarship.

The Cobble Creek Men's & Women's Golf Associations have funded this golf scholarship to help boys or girls who have been involved with the Montrose County high schools' golf program to pursue their goals of attending a two or four-year college or university.

Since the inception of the scholarship in 2016, the fund has granted out nearly \$10,000 in scholarships to local students who have been positively impacted by the game of golf.

The scholarship is intended to go to a student who is well-rounded, involved in their community, is pursuing post-secondary education, has a professional goal of being employed either inside or outside of the golfing industry, and believes that the game of golf has had an impact on their life so far. This is not a needs-based or merit-based scholarship. Each year two (2) \$1,000 nonrenewable scholarships awarded.

To be eligible to apply, students must: -Be a Montrose County resident. -Be a graduating senior from a Montrose County High School (Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Peak Academy, or Vista Charter Schools)



Pictured from Right to Left: Members of the Cobble Creek Men's & Women's Golf Associations - Randy Havens, Pam Parrot, Richard Nally, Karen Elsea and Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director, MCF. Courtesy photo.

-Played on the Montrose High School Boys or Girls Golf Team; preference will be given to student who played on a team for more than one year; but will not disqualify an applicant if the applicant only played one year.

-Be accepted at a two or four-year college or university.

The application process requires the

online application, current high school transcript, a letter of recommendation, resume and essay questions. The deadline to apply is Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021. Scholarship details, criteria and the link to the online application can be found on the Montrose Community Foundation website (https://montrosecf.org/apply-for-ascholarship).





MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

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

WHO IS YOUR DOCTOR?

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

PREPARE A COVID PLAN NOW:



Create an at-home plan to avoid the spread. Encourage your household members to maintain everyday preventative actions like washing hands frequently and avoiding touching eyes, nose, & mouth as much as possible. Know your workplace policy. Talk with your supervisor to determine the most effective steps necessary if you should become sick, and never go to work when you are feeling ill.

PLAN AHEAD:



Create a sick room.

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

Centralize medical information.

Create a folder with your family's necessary medical information. Have your primary care doctor's phone number on hand. Create your COVID Care Team. Coordinate with your family and friends to provide support to one another if a family member gets sick. Ask for family members or friends to safely deliver groceries to your household so you can effectively quarantine and prevent the spread.

Mask up. Make good choices now. Wear masks in communal areas you share with people outside the family to help prevent the spread to household members.

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

For more ways to make a plan, visit www.montrosecountyjic.com

TENGA UN PLAN DE ATENCIÓN PARA COVID

¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!

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

¿QUIEN ES TU DOCTOR?

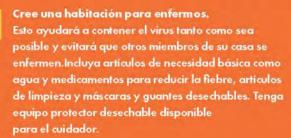
Es importante encontrar un médico que atienda a su familia de inmediato, antes de que alguien se enferme. Luego, si usted o un miembro de su familia se enferma, simplemente puede llamar a su médico en lugar de tener que completar el papeleo con fiebre.

PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



Cree un plan en su casa para evitar la propagación. Anime a los miembros de su hogar a que mantengan acciones preventivas diarias como lavarse las manos con frecuencia y evitar tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca tanto como sea posible. Conozca la política de su lugar de trabajo. Hable con su supervisor para determinar los pasos necesarios si se enferma y nunca vaya a trabajar cuando se sienta enfermo.

PREPÁRATE AHORA:



Centralizar la información médica. Cree una carpeta con la información médica necesaria de su familia. Tenga a mano el número de teléfono de su médico de atención primaria. Cree su equipo de atención para COVID. Coordine con su familia y amigos para apoyarse mutuamente si un miembro de la familia se enferma. Pídale a su familia o amigos que le entreguen alimentos de manera segura en su hogar para que pueda poner en cuarentena de manera efectiva y prevenir la propagación.

Usar una máscara. Tome buenas decisiones ahora. Use máscaras en las áreas comunes que comparte con personas ajenas a la familia para ayudar a prevenir la propagación a los miembros de su casa.

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

Para más formas de hacer un plan, visite www.montrosecountyjic.com

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY OFFERS UNIQUE POD TRAVEL STAYS



Retro Inn is pet-friendly and conveniently located in Cortez. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

CORTEZ- Pod travel - vacationing with a group of friends and/or family members who are aligned in their approach to staying safe during the pandemic - is a growing trend that likely isn't going away anytime soon. Pod travelers are often in search of remote, yet memorable, destinations where social distancing is easier. Mesa Verde Country in rural Southwest Colorado is an off-the-beaten-path destination with millions of acres of open space for adventuring and stepping back in time that also offers unique lodging options for those traveling in pods. "Mesa Verde Country is a world-class destination in a remote area of Colorado, which means it was made for social distancing before that was even a trend," says Kelly Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of Mesa Verde Country. "Especially this year, travelers are realizing that the trip of a lifetime doesn't need to be to some exotic location; it just needs to be with the ones you love. We invite travelers and their social bubbles to come to Mesa Verde Country where they can spread out, get a breath of fresh air and

make memories to last a lifetime."

Kirkpatrick says Mesa Verde Country's three communities – Cortez, Mancos and Dolores – feature a number of unique lodging properties that travel pods can reserve in their entirety as a way to isolate and relax safely with their group. Here are the top five Mesa Verde Country properties that travel pods can rent out for their stay.

Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch

(www.canyonoftheancients.com) Located in the countryside of Cortez, this historic guest ranch features a private home and five luxurious rental cabins. Kitchens and cooking utensils are provided, as well as free-range eggs and organic vegetables (in season), making on-site meal prep easy.

Dolores Mountain Inn

(www.doloresmountaininn.com) This clean and comfortable inn is located in the beautiful mountain town of Dolores, just 10 minutes from Cortez. It offers motel rooms and suites, as well as easy access to nearby mountains, hiking/biking trails, the Dolores River and McPhee Reservoir, one of the largest in Colorado. The town of Dolores offers a variety of restaurants, as well as a grocery store. **Retro Inn**

(www.retroinnmesaverde.com) Recently renovated, this fun motor-style inn – where all of the doors connect directly to the parking lot and each room has its own heating/air conditioner unit – features rooms themed for the year of the room number (i.e. Room 1956 for Elvis Presley). Retro Inn is pet-friendly and conveniently located in Cortez – only 10 minutes to the world-famous Mesa Verde National Park.

White Eagle Inn & Vacation Rental (www.whiteeagleinn.com)

The White Eagle Inn is an old-fashioned, family owned and operated lodging facility that has been in continuous operation for over 60 years. The inn features 16 ultraclean motel rooms (one- to three-bed options) and one 1,500-square-foot vacation rental with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, offering travel pods a number of

ways to spread out. Willowtail Springs

(www.willowtailsprings.com) Willowtail Springs is located in the charming town of Mancos and situated on a 60acre ecological retreat. There are three cabins tucked into the serene setting, offering one- and three-bedroom options. The private, fully-stocked lake serves as a fishing paradise for all skill levels, and there are cances, rowboats and casting rods available to borrow. The wetland oasis teems with nature and is a sanctuary for owls, golden eagles, osprey, meadowlarks and more.

When visiting Mesa Verde Country, travelers should remember to wear a mask, physical distance, cover coughs and maintain good hand hygiene. Anyone in the travel pod that isn't feeling well should not come on the trip. Go

to www.mesaverdecountry.com to get the latest on coronavirus restrictions and to begin planning your trip.

About Mesa Verde Coun-

try (www.mesaverdecountry.com) Mesa Verde Country is in southwest Colorado near the entrance to the magnificent Mesa Verde National Park. The nearby towns of Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos provide accommodations, dining, outdoor fun and visitor services. Named the "Number One Historic Monument in the World" by Conde Nast Traveler and one of the "50 Places of a Lifetime-The World's Greatest Destinations" by National Geographic, Mesa Verde National Park is one of the nation's first World Heritage sites and the largest archaeological preserve in the country.

Two national byways pass through Mesa Verde Country. In addition to the National Park, Mesa Verde Country is loaded with other archaeological attractions: Hovenweep National Monument, Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center & Museum, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and the Cortez Cultural Center. Mountain biking enthusiasts have recognized Mesa Verde Country as one of the next great mountain biking destinations.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: RECOGNITION

6th GRADER ISABELLE GIROIR WINS PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST

Photo by Gail Marvel MONTROSE-Isabelle Giroir, a sixth grader at Centennial Middle School, read her award-winning essay, "Patriotism to Me," to more than two dozen people who attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post # 784 meeting on Jan. 26. Giroir's essay is reprinted below.





PATRIOTISM TO ME

By Isabelle M. Giroir

Patriotism to me is about being supportive to your ideas about the country to make it into a better place but still being loyal to the country all together.

Those who have served for us are a good example of my idea of patriotism. They served us and fought for us in wars, or more recently, just for protection. Veterans have gone out of their way to protect us from danger.

Most fought by choice rather than being forced to make this country safer and better for the generations to come. My dad for example, joined the Navy when in 1988 he was 19 and sailed the world for 4 years, protecting us from on the seas during the Persian Gulf War.

To fully understand patriotism, you have

to understand that you don't have to agree with everything the country or its leaders agree with. If everyone was to agree on the same thing, there would be no freedom or variety or uniqueness in the country. There would be no excitement to live for, our country would be dull and boring and useless. You have to stand up for what you believe in and support your own opinions to support the beauty in this country.

This country's original purpose was freedom. That's what sparked the group of rebellions in England to come here and establish the United States of America and create the bill of rights. It is what sparked the idea of political government and presidents. In order to keep it that way, we must look to those before us who came here so we could live peacefully and have our own choices. Those people were true patriots of the USA.

In this country, we have the right to disagree peacefully and protest.

If there is something worth protesting we must stand up for ourselves and make ourselves heard or the country will never change the way it needs to.

Martin Luther King Jr. was another true patriot.

He stood up and protested against segregation and changed the country, making our lives more joyful.

In conclusion, patriotism is not just about serving and being loyal to your country, but it is also about making your ideas heard so the country has a chance to change for the better.

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. 9th 2021 **Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompany Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Feb. 2-Telluride Bardic Trails Zoom poetry gathering, 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to *telluridelibrary.org/events*.

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

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 50th 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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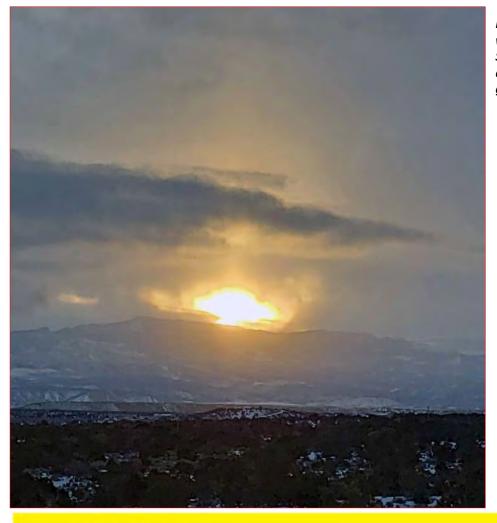
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Deb said, "I snapped this photo last week of a beautiful fireball sunrise over Storm King Mountain, which echoed this quote: 'How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!' —by John Muir.

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