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the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 415 Feb. 8 2021

CITY APPROVES AMPHITHEATER PROJECT IN CERISE RIPARIAN ZONE DESPITE ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS



The importance of healthy ecosystems is noted on signage at Cerise Park, as City officials move forward with plans to place a concert amphitheater in a riparian zone.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a virtual, regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 2. All Councilors were present, along with Youth Council Representative Gunnison Clamp. Clamp led Council in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Jan. 19, 2021 regular City Council meeting were approved as presented.

CHILDCARE NEEDS SURVEY/ASSESSMENT

As previously discussed in work [Continued pg 21](#)

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS FOR HUB

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Feb. 3 City of Montrose Planning Commission meeting, which was held at 5 p.m., was a continuation of the six-hour Jan. 27 meeting. Although this most recent Zoom meeting lasted only an hour and a half, the Planning Commission has to date invested 13 and a half hours in public meetings to discuss the HUB at Montrose Crossing, a multifamily project proposed by developer Matt Miles.

The board quorum consisted of Greg Easton (acting chair), Phoebe Benziger, Jan Chastain, and David Fishing. Karen Vacca recused herself, Chad Huffman was absent. As a continuation of the previous meeting, there was no staff presentation or public input.

There were two agenda items. The commission had three choices when considering each item: Approve, Approve with Conditions and Modifications, or Deny.

PD20-0074 – CONTINUATION (from the Jan. 27 regular Planning Commission meeting) OF THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING PRELIMINARY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT. This is a recommendation on the Preliminary Planned Development for The Hub at Montrose

[Continued pg 13](#)



Planning Commissioner David Fishing (bottom left) voted against placing conditions on the approval for the Hub at Montrose Crossing Preliminary Planned Development. Photo by Gail Marvel.

in this issue

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

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

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Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado, to a readership of over 15,000 residents of Western Colorado.

Founder and Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Paul Arbogast

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MEMBER OF THE
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COUNTY PARTY LEADER WELCOMES BOEBERT TOWN HALL

Editor:

As Chair of the Montrose Democratic Party, I am writing this letter on behalf of our officers and executive team to express our disappointment, sadness and concern regarding the events that concluded in the cancelation of Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's open meeting with Montrose constituents on Saturday, January 30th at the Circle 3 Cowboy Fellowship.

We have gathered from articles published by multiple media outlets, that the event was canceled due to unspecified threats. The Montrose County Democrats condemn violence of any kind. We firmly believe in and will always advocate for the constitutional right of everyone in our county, our state, and our country to peacefully gather and execute our first amendment right to free speech.

We take this news seriously and intend to fully research the nature of these reported threats. To that end, we have reached out to Chief Hall and Sheriff Lillard in order to gain a better sense of what happened.

We also reached out to both our Colorado Senators to see if any threats against Congresswoman Boebert were reported to the Capitol Police, as this is standard protocol for a security incident like this. Actual threats of violence should be fully investigated.

So far, all we have been able to confirm is that there was an anonymous call by someone threatening to turn the hosting church into the IRS for a perceived 501(c)3 violation. It is our understanding that a non-profit organization or church may in fact host an elected official for a town hall

style meeting without risking their tax-deductible status. Congresswoman Boebert's office should know the rules surrounding venue choice, so we don't yet understand why this event was canceled. But we will continue to do our due diligence to determine what happened.

Congresswomen Boebert, on behalf of all your constituents, regardless of party affiliation, my sincere hope is that you will reschedule your Town Hall in Montrose soon.

Next time, please plan your event with more notice and publicize it through the proper, official channels so that all of your constituents have the opportunity to attend. And please, host it in a large and, for Covid-safety, outdoor venue.

Kevin Kuns, Chair

Montrose County Democratic Party

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PLANNING COMMISSION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO FILL VACANCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is accepting applications for a vacant seat on the city's Planning Commission. The term for the vacant seat expires on Dec. 31, 2022, at which point the appointee could reapply for a four-year term. The Planning Commission evaluates

matters related to planning and community development. Members of the Planning Commission serve at the pleasure of the City Council and are appointed for four-year overlapping terms. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, Commission meetings are

currently held electronically via Zoom. Applications are available at City Hall, 433 S. First Street, on the City of Montrose website at CityOfMontrose.org/Application, or by calling 970.240.1422. Applications and letters of interest must be submitted to the City Clerk by 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the involved person or persons in a theft that occurred on Jan. 29, 2021 between the hours of 9pm and 10pm.

The suspects gained entry into a business by damaging a mechanical gate in the 4000 block of 6225 Road. They were driving a dark colored pick-up truck possibly blue in color. The suspects took several Firestone tires valued at over \$3500. Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity and location of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

MONTROSE COUNTY

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR PHASES 1B.1 AND 1B.2 COVID-19 VACCINATION

Pre-register online at
WWW.MONTROSECOUNTYJIC.COM/VACCINATION

WHO IS IN PHASE 1B.1 AND 1.B2?

Updated 2/1/2021

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g. home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS
- Firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers, and funeral services
- People age 70 and older
- Coloradans 65-69, pre- K-12 educators and childcare workers in licensed child care programs, and continuity of state government.

Please note: Once you have pre-registered Public Health will contact you by email or phone when a vaccination is available for you.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HUB PROJECT

Dear Editor,

After reading a recap of the HUB planning meeting, a few questions come to mind:

1. Why is there no (or very little) concern for the homes and businesses that are located north of the proposed project on Chipeta? It looks to me like eminent domain will be in play for the widening of the road and the installation of lights or a roundabout at Chipeta and Hwy 90. (Have you seen the accidents around that intersection?)
2. How are those residents going to get onto Chipeta during "peak times?"
3. Do the city planners think everyone from the new project will only head south on Chipeta?
4. Some classrooms at Cottonwood Elementary now have 25-29 students. Will they be able to take on hundreds more? PS: School gets out at 3:05 most days and 2:10 on Wednesdays, so, if the peak afternoon traffic time studied was 4-7 p.m., they missed school release.

Just a concerned citizen looking ahead at future taxes: school, city and county,

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County and Delta County Memorial Hospital continue to vaccinate Delta County's 70+ populations, with just over 25 percent vaccinated to date; health care workers and first responders continue to be vaccinated as well. Though Governor Polis has changed the guidelines of those who are eligible to be vaccinated to include individuals who are 65 and older, Delta County is not in a position to expand to this age group yet. "We are and will continue to focus on our most vulnerable population until we have achieved at least 50 percent of them being vaccinated," said Public Health Director Karen O'Brien, "Unlike the Front Range or resort towns in Colorado, we are not yet receiving vaccine amounts that even come close to being able to fully vaccinate the individuals who fall into the 1B category."

"We know everyone is anxious to get their vaccine," said Delta County Administrator Robbie LeValley, "Until more vaccines are sent our way, our hands are tied. We are so appreciative of the support of so many who have called, written notes,

sent food and goodies our way, or have raised their hand to volunteer."

Delta County School District (DCSD) is currently working with Delta County Health Department to work through the plan on how school district employees can be vaccinated through A Kidz Clinic.

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

Delta County's COVID-19 numbers and hospitalizations continue to decline, which is welcome news. "We are all extremely relieved that our COVID-19 hospitalizations have decreased dramatically, as it is giving our physicians and nurses a chance to catch their breath from the last 3 months," said Delta County Memorial Hospital Chief Clinical Officer Jody Roeber, "It's been a very long year; we are incredibly proud how we have weathered the pandemic at DCMH and our clinics."

Free mobile testing continues in Delta County every week through February; pre-registration is required. The testing will take place every Friday in Delta at the Lion's Pavilion from 9:00a – 4:00p; pre-

register here: <https://curative.com/sites/17941/walkup#9/38.7397/-108.0722>. Every Saturday, free COVID-19 mobile testing will take place at Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, from 9:00a – 2:00p; pre-register here: <https://curative.com/sites/17942/walkup#9/38.8011/-107.7161>.

As of Feb. 4, Delta County reported five new positive cases for a total of 2,363 with 100 active and 2208 recovered; we currently have one individual hospitalized. Sadly, Delta County Health Department is reporting two additional deaths this week bringing the total to 55; we send our deepest condolences to each family, and ask the community at large to respect their privacy.

Delta County Call Center remains open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a -1p and can be reached at 970-874-2172. If you would like to get on the COVID-19 waitlist, and have access to the internet, please visit deltacounty.com/covid-19. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the call center to be put on the list.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

BELL, BOWMAN AND EMAILS ABOUT THE HUB



Paul Arbogast.
Courtesy photo.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE-At the end of last week's City Council work session (2/1/21), Council Member Dave Bowman requested some emails sent by City Manager Bill Bell be

read into the record. Bowman said some of the comments in those emails should be seen by his constituents and suggested

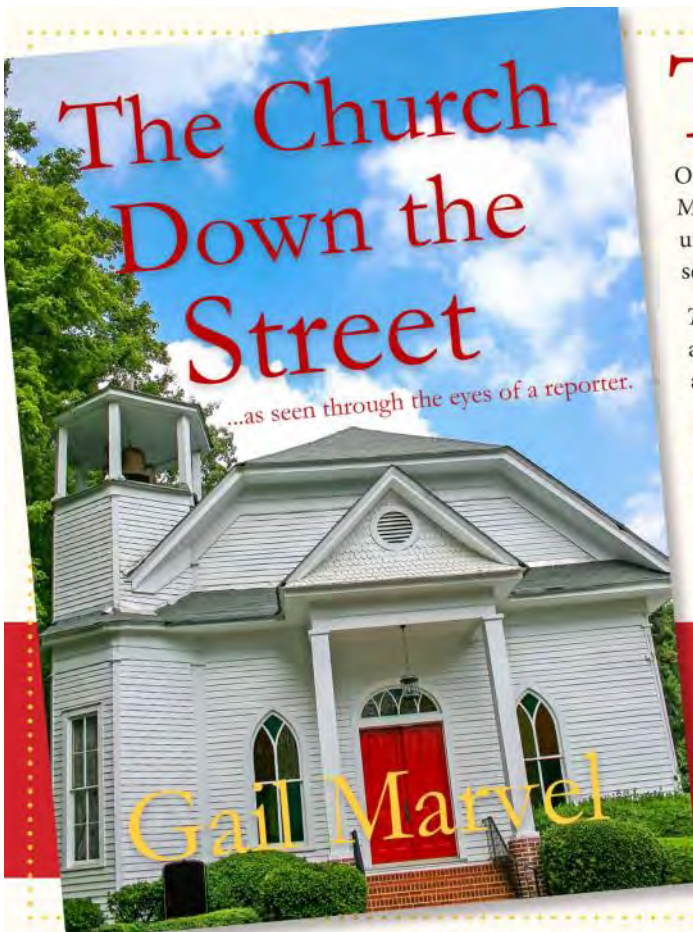
that what was sent may be 'out of order'. Several other council members suggested a closed session, to get legal advice on the issue. They set that executive session for Thursday, Feb. 4 at 10:30 am.

The Mirror put in a CORA request asking for "emails sent from city manager Bell to council members about the planning commission and proposed HUB development as mentioned by council member Bowman at 2/1/21 work meeting". A day later I received a denial letter from City Attorney Stephen Alcorn. The letter said:

"It has been determined that your request falls into a CORA exception. Specifically,

C.R.S. 24-72-202(6)(b)(II) states that the definition of public records does not include, "Work product prepared for elected officials. However, elected officials may release, or authorize the release of, all or any part of work product prepared for them."

By the same part of C.R.S Title 24 that was quoted, any member of the council, being an elected official, could release that 'work product' to the public if they so desired. That letter from the City Attorney was forwarded all the City Council members. You can read all the details of that work session in this issue of the Mirror.



The 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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- 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



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PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS FOR HUB From pg 1

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 north and east by Chipeta Drive. The applicant is Matt Miles, Leadership Circle, LLC.

SUB20-0090 – CONTINUATION (from the Jan. 27 regular Planning Commission meeting) OF THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING PRELIMINARY PLAT. This is a recommendation on the Preliminary Plat 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 north and east by Chipeta Drive. The applicant is Matt Miles, Leadership Circle, LLC.

Easton opened the meeting, "We're nearing the finish line. We don't want to be weary of the process and accept an outcome just to be finished."

Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen said, "I am here to give guidance and legal posture. As you know we're [the Planning Commission] in advisory capacity to the city council. Authority for your actions tonight are facts to criteria. Any conditions must relate to competent facts. Whatever recommendations [you make] must follow code, there must be competent evidence to support the decision."

Allen referenced Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 106, which states that land use decisions can be challenged in court. Rule 106 allows an interested party to appeal the decision of a lower body, i.e., a city council or board of county commissioners.

As examples, Allen addressed three issues that, in her opinion, should not be used in the Planning Commission's decision-making process. She said, "The traffic light - In my opinion there is no competent evidence, it is not supported by facts. Powerlines - This would single out one person [one developer over another]. Construction vehicles - This issue is not before you. I hope this helps with your decision today."

Eastman said, "The 2008 Comprehensive Plan is valid and current. It is the only document we can use."

Fishing said, "We can't base [our decision] on 200 people, every single phone call, who don't like this project. Opinion and consensus are not the same as facts and cannot be part of our findings."

Chastain asked City Senior Planner Amy Sharp about high density, a major jump in zoning, feathering, and the authority of the Comprehensive Plan. Sharp said, "The zoning does not jump [from Cobble Creek to HUB]. Feathering is not required. The Comprehensive Plan is a guiding document."

Chastain said, "If he [developer] is in compliance, then why are we having this discussion?"

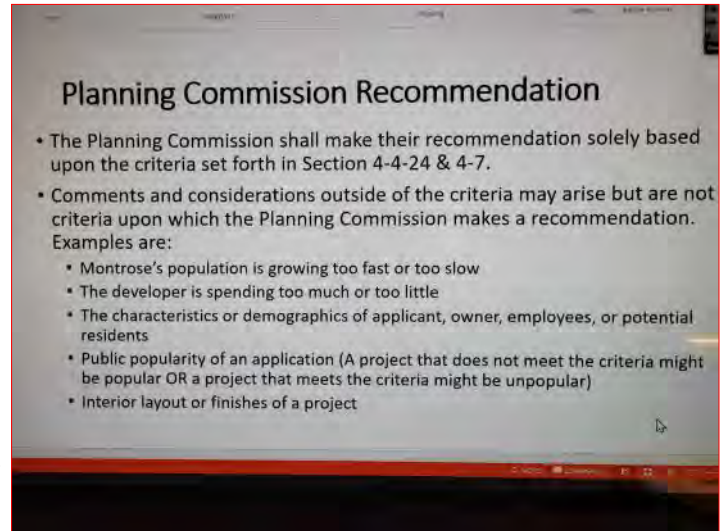
Benziger said, "We can put no restrictions on density?"

Sharp said, "You can if you can justify it."

Benziger said, "... It's like all of the sudden we're in a straight-jacket. If none of this matters why do the process? Why have a Comprehensive Plan? We've heard, we've studied. There are things I'd like to have change. At the end of the day, what can we do?"

Allen said, "You opened up to public comment. The city is not here to tell you what to do. It is your job to connect everything you've heard. You've listened to the public comment wonderfully. This will go to council for final decision. It isn't always the case when staff adopts the Planning Commission's opinion. We need to have a legally defensible document. We need competent evidence to support the decision."

Eastman said, "I think it could be justi-



City of Montrose PowerPoint slide gives guidance to the Planning Commission, as well as examples of what constitutes allowable criteria for making decisions about the Hub at Montrose Crossing. Photo by Gail Marvel.

fied. There are other things in the Comprehensive Plan that are not being followed to a 'T'. All we have to do is explain our reasoning."

During their discussions Eastman wanted conditions to require only seven units per acre, as opposed to 14; Benziger asked for one-story, single-family homes around the perimeter, as opposed to two-story; and Chastain did not want to allow the developer to have a 17.4-foot setback variance, as opposed to a 20-foot setback.

Fishing said, "Our goal is not to build consensus between the four of us."

With the help of Attorney Allen, the board put together a motion to approve the Hub at Montrose Crossing Preliminary Planned Development with conditions. Citing the Comprehensive Plan as evidence, the Planning Commission recommended conditions to be placed on the developer to have only seven units per acre and setbacks on the exterior perimeter at a required 20-feet.

Approved on a vote of three to one, with Fishing being the "no" vote. A motion to approve the Hub at Montrose Crossing Preliminary Plat was met with little discussion. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUB IS THE WRONG DEVELOPMENT, SHOULD BE DENIED BY THE CITY

Dear Editor,

My husband and I live in Spruce Point and we find the comments very interesting by those who do not live here or in Cobble Creek, yet for some questionable reason are strong proponents of the HUB project proposal and ridicule those of us who have invested in this community.

One writer claimed Cobble Creek was “urban” in the Feb 1st edition of the Montrose Mirror and ridiculed those residents that referred to our community (Cobble Creek and Spruce Point) as “rural”. Well, the drive along Chipeta Road from the Ute Indian museum to the Cobble Creek entrance is NOT URBAN! Across the road from the Cobble Creek entrance is horse property. As you turn into the entrance and drive towards the community, you have the proposed development on your right/north side, which until very recently was farmed and harvested as a hay field. The current condition has the look of being agriculture except for the stakes that were recently planted in preparation of the development. In fact, this (hay) field is still the home AT LEAST 3 TIMES WEEKLY of three different groups of DEER ranging from 10 – 30 per herd. Hardly URBAN!!! We enjoy seeing them despite the few times they may partake of our flowers, because we know our homes, though in a planned community, are surrounded by a rural or semi-rural area.

There is a CATTLE RANCH on the south end of Cobble Creek or less than a quarter of a mile from the southern boundary of the community. Looking west from Cobble Creek and Spruce Point it is ALL RURAL. Across the road/street from the

Spruce Point entrance or east of it is the aforementioned hay field. And to the north of Spruce Point is a vacant field planned for future development, and beyond this field are farm houses with a few animals.

In other words, this area is NOT URBAN and probably the correct term would be semi-rural if not rural, but it is not URBAN!!! My husband and I during our careers worked in BIG CITIES which are truly URBAN – a concrete jungle!

We find previous writers misinformed or misleading the readers by claiming the HUB development is not within Cobble Creek or Spruce Point, but “nearby”. It is not nearby as described above. The main entrance to the project, if developed, would be through the Cobble Creek entrance, and the western end of the property is across the street from Spruce Point. No, it is NOT NEARBY, but literally across the street from our home and the homes of our neighbors.

All of us who moved here knew that someday the hay field would be developed, but only for like-kind single family homes – it was never intended for any other usage until the City changed the zoning classification. The developer even promised the community a few years ago he would only build single family homes, so it appears he made a false statement. My husband and I were in a meeting three years ago and Cobble Creek was mentioned. Immediately an individual responded with disgust and anger against Cobble Creek. We were shocked that this individual would express publicly such disdain for an attractive well-planned

community. This angry individual was Matt Miles. He was allegedly angry, because he lost a previous opportunity to develop Spruce Point, so is the HUB project his REVENGE???

If the HUB project is so appropriate and legitimate, then Miles should develop it at his expense rather than rely on \$2 million from the City. The City has too often found favor for developers’ projects at the expense of its citizens. The City does not care about the potential harm to Cobble Creek/Spruce Point community anymore than it cares about the historic Hispanic community known as Tortilla Flats (e.g. school children crosswalk safety zones, street maintenance, chemical tanks) while it focuses on further development across the street at Colorado Outdoors project with our taxes.

Now returning back to the HUB proposal – the City refuses to expand the narrow 2-lane Chipeta road as well as refuses to build an entrance from the property directly onto Chipeta. Their claims of no future traffic problems are delusional. The proposed 500 apartment units would result on the average of 2 vehicles per apartment unit.

That represents ONE THOUSAND ADDITIONAL VEHICLES “driving into Cobble Creek” and on Chipeta Road. It is the wrong development and it should be denied by the City. The appropriate development should be single-family homes of no more than 10-20 due to acreage limitations, and build apartments in town (actual urban area) where infrastructure already exists.

Ana T. Maymi, Montrose



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BOCC APPROVES REVISED ORDINANCE CONCERNING SHAVANO GATEWAY RECREATION AREA; SENIOR CARE FACILITY OWNER QUESTIONS POSSIBLE HIPAA VIOLATION AFTER STATE RAID



Montrose County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Feb. 3.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Her fellow county commissioners wished BOCC Chair Sue Hansen a happy birthday, as Hansen welcomed attendees to the Feb. 3 regular, virtual meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). All commissioners were present; with the scheduled pastor unavailable, Montrose County Planning and Development Director Steve White delivered the invocation.

White expressed gratitude, and asked blessings on the commissioners. "...Bless them as they make decisions, that they will be wise in doing so."

County Planner Talmadge Richmond led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Spring Creek Chalet Owner Reiner Seelhoff addressed the BOCC. Seelhoff said, "On Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, we were visited by state...health regulators in an unannounced and highly suspicious manner. "Before our office at Spring Creek Chalet, which is an independent retirement home...opened up, they were already there, interrogating residents and employees," Seelhoff said.

"Their quest was in regards to a complaint that came from Montrose's Health & Human Services Department, accusing us of running an assisted care facility." Spring Creek Chalet is an independent

care facility, with no employed nursing staff, he said. Some residents employ caregivers of their own; those are not employed by the care facility.

Seelhoff said that state regulators called resident's family members ahead of the visit to interrogate them. "Where did they get this list of residents' names, and the family POA's, with phone numbers and contacts?"

The information could only have come from the Spring Creek Chalet office, or from the County's COVID vaccination list, he said.

Hansen said that commissioners would need to look into the situation and asked for a meeting.

County Attorney Marti Whitmore said that given documentation and contact information, legal could look into the concerns as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 06-2021 assigned to Consent Agenda Item 8, for the Canyon Retreat Special Use Permit.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented Ordinance 2021-01 on second reading, concerning Prohibited Activities on County Leased Property known as the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area. This ordinance was originally published in full on Dec. 18, 2020. The proposed revision to section 2.1 was published on Jan. 23, 2021. The only change is that overnight use and camping shall be prohibited on the entirety of the property, Waschbusch said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2021-01 on second reading.

Also approved was award of the 2021 Hot Mix Asphalt Material - East End contract to Elam Construction of Grand Junction, having submitted the lowest responsible, responsive bid in the total amount of \$816,000. The contract is for 12,000 tons of hot mix asphalt. Commissioner Rash recused himself from voting on the award

as his daughter works for Elam Construction.

The BOCC then re-opened public comment on Ordinance 2021-01, as a citizen asked to comment.

Citizen Scott Riba, who had expressed concerns about the ordinance at the Jan. 20 BOCC meeting, thanked commissioners for revisiting and prohibiting overnight camping and use at the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area. He suggested prohibitions on alcohol, noting that its use is forbidden at the county fairgrounds, as well as prohibitions on marijuana and illegal drugs, and on commercial use of the recreation area by for-profit entities.

Commissioners made no additional changes to the ordinance, which can be amended as needed. Potential events at the Shavano Gateway Recreation Area will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Rash recused himself from voting on two more items involving Elam Construction, both of which were approved:

Award of the 2021 Asphalt Overlay Project contract to Elam Construction of Grand Junction, having submitted the lowest responsible, responsive bid in the total amount of \$4,237,946.35. The bid amount is \$606,254 (12.5 percent) less than the 2021 budgeted amount; and

Award of the 2021 Hot Mix Asphalt Material - East End contract to Elam Construction of Grand Junction, having submitted the lowest responsible, responsive bid in the total amount of \$816,000. The contract is for 12,000 tons of hot mix asphalt as needed by Road and Bridge crews.

Public Works Director Keith Laube also presented a third item for consideration, consideration of a **Settlement Agreement** that includes an option to purchase Kent and Mardy Thompson's property that is the subject of litigation in 2019CV30062. The Agreement requires \$20,000 in payment for the option to purchase the Thompson property after all due diligence is completed. Assistant County Attorney Lane Thomasson worked with the Thompsons to craft the settlement agreement.

"This is a property located adjacent to

BOCC APPROVES REVISED ORDINANCE CONCERNING SHAVANO GATEWAY RECREATION AREA From previous pg

our Neal pit that we currently lease, we've been mining gravel from the Neal pit for several decades," Laube said, noting that the county has seven strategically located gravel pits. The Neal pit has been a good source of gravel, and has around 27 years left, he said.

There have been issues with groundwater where mining is now taking place. "We're taking more time and resources to mine where we're at in the Neal pit due to ground water.

The 120-acre Thompson property is estimated to have around 800 to 900 tons of gravel. There are 34 shares of Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) water that go with the land, as well as a spring with a 1.2 cfs right.

Laube said, "Our goal would be, if we move forward with this, to get this property permitted and as the Neal property winds down we could start mining gravel on this property, and it would serve the county for another 55 to 60 years as a gravel source."

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "I think this is a good plan, thank you Keith and Lane for doing an outstanding job working on the solution to the problem out there..."

Permitting properties for aggregate use has become increasingly difficult, he said, and the UVWUA shares and spring may be increasingly valuable as time goes on. "We may need that water source."

Caddy said the purchase would generate a 20-percent decrease in the County's cost for gravel per ton.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the settlement agreement with option to purchase Kent and Mardy Thompson's property.

"Thanks for that report, thanks for looking out for our best interests, thanks to our legal team for making that happen," Hansen said.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Director Steve White presented an overview of a service agreement with Community Planning Strategies of Silverthorne Colorado, having received a responsible bid to a County Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Montrose County Zoning Resolution Update, a budgeted expense of \$50K.

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has contributed a grant of \$25K toward the zoning resolution update. "I believe they did that because they want to see communities up to date," White said.

A memo from White to commissioners notes, "The purpose of the update is to enhance the usability and understanding of the code with visual representations, charts, tables, matrices and sketches and to modernize the Zoning Resolution with specific improvements to problematic and/or outdated process and procedures associated with the code."

Three responsive bids were received;

Community Planning Strategies was determined to be a good fit for Montrose County.

Rash asked about the challenges of obtaining public input during the pandemic.

"We are at least a couple of months out before there will be a public hearing," White noted. "We're going to have a little time to prep the document, make sure everything looks good we go to public hearing.

"Hopefully in the next couple of months things will calm down a little bit; if they don't...we'll meet all requirements of the state and provide ways for people to comment with either coming in or being able to Zoom, or even just interact with us online...I think we're going to be okay."

The goal is to finish in May, White said.

"It's a long time coming; we needed to do this for quite a while," Caddy said.

Hansen thanked staff for their efforts; commissioners voted unanimously to approve the service agreement with Community Planning Strategies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC left regular session to consider two items in executive session; for legal advice pertaining to matters at Montrose Regional Airport and to matters at Montrose County Road and Bridge.

Following Executive Session the BOCC returned to regular session.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES "A" GRADE FOR SAFETY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Passing the test: Montrose Memorial Hospital received an "A" grade from a national watchdog organization focused on health care safety and quality. The Leapfrog Group released the fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. Assigning "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F" letter grades to general acute-care hospitals in the U.S., the Safety Grade is the only rating focused entirely on how well hospitals protect patients from preventable errors, accidents, injuries, and infections.

"We are pleased to receive this national recognition," said MMHI Board Chair Dr. Kjersten Davis. "It speaks to the outstanding job that our employees do every day to ensure that our patients receive the highest quality effective, safe and compassionate care."

This year's list of graded hospitals indicated 34 percent of hospitals were graded an "A" - demonstrating again that Montrose Memorial Hospital is in the top echelon of hospitals nationwide. Last year Montrose

Memorial Hospital was named Colorado's only five time Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital. Additionally, the hospital was named a Five Star Hospital by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is reviewed by a National Expert Panel and receives guidance from Johns Hopkins Medicine's Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. The biannual Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is independently assessed, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. It shares critical patient safety information to consumers, so that they can make informed decisions about where they seek care. Data used to calculate Hospital Safety Grades include up to 27 measures, gathered primarily from the Leapfrog Hospital Survey and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). While the data does not yet include findings collected during the height of COVID-19, the data offers an indication of how well hospitals implemented fundamental safety precautions prior to the



Montrose Memorial Hospital received an "A" grade from the Leapfrog Group, a national health care safety watchdog. Courtesy photo.

pandemic, an important factor in preparedness. The Hospital Safety Grade is updated every six months and future updates will incorporate pandemic response periods. For more information about MMH's Leapfrog performance, visit MontroseHospital.com/Leapfrog



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CITY APPROVES AMPHITHEATER PROJECT IN CERISE From pg 1

Council approved a request from the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance (UVA) for financial assistance totaling \$18,950 for a professional childcare survey and needs assessment for the Montrose community conducted by Root Policy Research.

Background-A memo from Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler to Council states, "At the Jan. 19, 2021 City Council Work Session, members from the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance presented a proposal for a Childcare Needs Assessment and Council members directed City staff to place the proposal on the Feb. 2, 2021 City Council meeting agenda. The Needs Assessment will cost \$38,950. The Uncompahgre Valley Alliance has secured partial funding from community partners and seeks the City's financial support of the Needs Assessment as well. Funding from community partners includes \$15,000 from Montrose County and a \$5,000 grant secured by the Montrose County School District. The Uncompahgre Valley Alliance requests \$18,950 in funding from the City of Montrose. Funding this request is not within the City of Montrose 2021 budget. Funding would come from the City's General Fund. The current estimated unaudited fund balance for the City of Montrose General Fund is \$9.3 million. The City's reserve policy for the General Fund is six months of operating expenditures, which is estimated to be \$8.9 million. Therefore there is approximately \$400,000 available in undesignated General Fund balance that could be used to fund unbudgeted projects.

Present to share information and answer questions were UVA members Jan Gabehart; Jessica Corrigan; Virginia Kile; Rachel Balerio; and Carol Kenney.

Councilor Dave Frank asked that the survey include a Spanish language version as well. The survey is not intended to punish unlicensed providers, but to open doors for those providers to obtain assistance, Frank said.

Initially skeptical of the need for a childcare survey, Councilor Roy Anderson expressed hopes that the data collected in the survey would help the City apply for "big dollar" grants.

Councilor Dave Bowman said that his

proudest title is Grandpa Dave. Preschool is not a luxury but an essential, Bowman said.

"When I first started out I was not real strongly in favor of this," Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell said. "Couple things bother me...we're spending tax money to get larger sums of tax money.

"The other piece of that, there are times I am wondering from a society standpoint, are we doing anything to help eliminate some of these problems?" Glaspell asked. "Particularly I'm looking at single parents. What has society done to assist that, to eliminate the constant turnover we're having parental-wise?"

Glaspell acknowledged the need to conduct the survey. Still, "I sometimes think that we're working at the back end of a problem instead of working at the front end of it."

Mayor Bynum thanked UVA for allowing the City to be a partner. "I think the data that we will be able collect can be used...really moving early childhood education forward for our whole community."

2021 ANNEXATION REPORT AND THREE-MILE PLAN

As previously considered in work session, Council approved the City's 2021 Annual Plan of Annexation and 3-Mile Plan, as stipulated by Colorado State Statutes.

Background-A memo from Senior Planner Amy Sharp to Council states, "The Plan contains verbal policies and maps to illustrate annexation priorities, eligible enclave annexations, existing city limits, growth areas, and transportation routes. The Plan will fulfill the statutory requirement to have a 'plan in place' to annex new properties in 2021. Annexation plans must be adopted each year. The Planning Commission reviewed this Plan at the January 13, 2021 meeting. No official action was taken."

Glaspell thanked Sharp for her work putting the plan together.

ROTARY AMPHITHEATER AT CERISE PARK
Council considered the award of \$3.2 million for the construction of the Rotary Amphitheater in Cerise Park, including the award of a contract with Stryker and Company, Inc. to serve as Construction Manager/General Contractor.

Background-A memo from City Public Works Director Jim Scheid to Council states, "The City of Montrose issued an RFQ/P for the CM/GC services for the Rotary Amphitheater immediately following the 2021 budget approval on Nov. 17, 2020. At the first stage of the proposals received, the City's selection committee reviewed qualifications with the intent of selecting three firms to shortlist. The City received six qualification proposals and after thoughtful debate the proposals were shortlisted to three firms...Asset Engineering and FCI Constructors, Inc from Grand Junction...and Stryker and Co from Montrose... After the proposals, GC costs, estimates and interviews were evaluated a clear leader emerged from a group of well-qualified applicants. Stryker and Company, Inc. was chosen by the selection committee... In preparation for this project the City's crews have completed the access road to the building site and have completed an extensive cleanup of the forested area around the amphitheater site. This was completed with City crews to reduce the overall cost of the project."

Anticipated groundbreaking is March 1; completion date is Nov. 1, 2021. Partners include Montrose Rotary (\$200K) and Montrose Recreation District (\$50K).

Scheid was present at the virtual meeting to discuss the project; he said the project has been in the works for years, with stakeholder meetings held on site.

Youth Councilor Gunnison Clamp asked if the amphitheater would become the City's main music venue for events such as the Summer Music Series and Func Fest; Scheid affirmed that it would.

Citizen Wayne Quade spoke in opposition to moving forward. "As an original parks Board member...Cerise Park is in a unique setting along the Uncompahgre River Corridor and is the more natural part of the Baldrige Regional Park Complex, featuring nature trails through the Cottonwood forest. It was intended to be kept as wild or in as natural a setting as possible."

While the idea of an amphitheater has a place, the push to increase the size to accommodate huge crowds is "...totally antithetical to the setting," Quade said... "This isn't the pace for another Disneyland...it is

CITY APPROVES AMPHITHEATER PROJECT IN CERISE From previous pg

in a river plain and wildlife corridor area. It needs to be managed with this in mind."

He asked that the contract be delayed, with more attention to planning documents such as the Uncompahgre River Corridor Master Plan (DHM, 2010), with renewed emphasis on public input and reduced impacts to natural resources.

"Your decision now will dictate the future of our unique river plain natural setting."

Also voicing opposition was Jacqueline Corday. When called on to speak, Corday also asked that Council include her video in the Zoom meeting, "So you can at least have interaction with me?"

Corday said she has 20 years of experience as a professional in parks and recreation planning and acquisition, working for the City of Missoula and Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Corday moved to Montrose a year ago and so did not know about the amphitheater project. "I didn't find out about it until the trees were coming down."

There are ecological concerns, she said, and shared six slides with Council that include guiding principles and goals of the Uncompahgre River Corridor Master Plan: "The ecological system is the foundation of the river corridor. All improvements need to be in balance with protecting and enhancing the river corridor ecological system."

Corday questioned the City's commitment to those goals, showing a slide of the new bridge near Home Depot that did not follow the guidelines outlined in the plan. "It is narrow...they did a lot of fill and did an access road that cuts off the riparian area from the river itself...with a lot of rip rap, they even used asphalt...this is an issue for water quality.

"There are guiding principles in that plan and they weren't followed."

Cerise is one of the only places in the City's park system with a cottonwood gallery that's been left relatively natural, she said. "...this is right next to where the amphitheater's supposed to go...you're disturbing the riparian corridor by placing something of this size and this scale in it."

She asked the City to consider ways to reduce ecological impacts in accordance with the Uncompahgre River Corridor Master Plan's guiding principles.

Contractor Scott Stryker spoke, thanking the City for supporting the local construction market. "...It's an iconic structure that we would be proud to be a part of,"

Stryker said. "It's going to be here 50, 75 years from now...when I go down there someday with grandkids...it would be nice to be able to say that grandpa was a part of it." He promised to hire local subcontractors whenever possible.

Clamp said that the issue appeared more complex after hearing from those opposed to the project.

He asked about alternate locations and questioned the possibility of a location atop Sunset Mesa instead.

Scheid and Frank discussed various reasons why the location at Cerise was chosen, though neither addressed the reasoning behind the project's size in a city with no large, established, festivals.

Glaspell said he was initially opposed to the project, but "I finally had to give in, I think this is an excellent place for it...it's one of the finest spots I've seen along there to put it in, and I don't think it's going to be that much an interruption to the habitat per se the way they're doing it."

Bynum said that the number one concern she hears from the public concerns the amphitheater's location. "Everyone has a different idea," she said.

"...After hearing everything, sounds like all the great planning has paid off and this is the right spot," Clamp said.

After another comment by Glaspell, Quade raised his hand to speak again, but Bynum did not allow it.

"I don't think we circle back to people for additional comments. I think we need to keep moving this forward."

Council voted to approve 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.

In other business, Council approved 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; 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; 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.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Clamp gave an update on Youth Council's recent accomplishments, including the successful time capsule project and the January food drive for the Mexican American Development Association (MADA). In February, Youth Council will focus on creating a drug awareness video. "The sort of video you could show as an awareness thing in a classroom," Clamp said. Youth Council also hopes to provide community services to those affected by drugs.

Bynum thanked Youth Council for "taking the bull by the horns" and remaining active during the pandemic.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Bowman gave a shout out to the Horsefly Brewing Company. "I hope as you drive by, folks, you notice the big structure --they are putting a roof on the patio there. Horsefly hires 50 to 75 people, depending on the season, and they're putting up a great structure to make our Downtown even better." The City has not provided any incentives, Bowman said.

"They're doing it on their own, they're being entrepreneurs, my hat's off to Horsefly in this pandemic for expanding their business. Good job Phil and Mel!"

Bynum said she read in the *Montrose Press* that new businesses have opened Downtown.

Frank thanked Murphy for providing information to Council on possible safety improvements to the Intersection at Chipeta Drive and Highway 550 during the work session.

Bynum said Montrose County's public health department is accepting online registrations for vaccine enrollment. "For all of you on a wait list, you should be able to get your vaccine soon."

Frank said information about the County Health Department is available online.

After further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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CITY COUNCILOR DEMANDS GEYSER REPORTS, ASKS THAT MANAGER'S EMAILS ON HUB BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC



City Councilor Dave Bowman, (top right) demanded last Monday that City Management release quarterly reports on Geyser Systems and City Manager Bill Bell's emails on the HUB.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a virtual work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed attendees. "...For everyone joining us for our work session, welcome...we're glad you're interested in what's going on with the city.

"Work sessions give council a time to hear updates from staff," Bynum said. "We see a lot of items that we are going to vote on later. But there are no votes taken at work session, and therefore there's no public comment portion of today's meeting."

She urged those who are interested in discussing a specific item to contact Council or staff after the work session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Utilities Manager David Bries presented a "housekeeping" item, an Automated Meter Infrastructure Software Upgrade Recommendation, to come before Council for approval at the regular meeting in two weeks.

Background-Automated Meter Infrastructure Software Upgrade Recommendation. A memo from Bries to Council includes a recommendation to cancel the upgrade of the Automated Meter Infra-

structure(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."

Bries said, "This will bring our system up to current...we'll be able to get this implemented fairly quickly once we get approval."

Following completion of the upgrade, the utilities department will roll out a customer portal for City water users, Bries said.

"...The customers will be able to get access to their real time water usage data," he said, "...to better manage their water use, and be alerted when there are problems rather than finding out when they get their next month's bill."

Council also talked about a Golf Course Pump House Contract Award.

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

CITY COUNCILOR DEMANDS GEYSER REPORTS From previous pg

maintenance budget.”

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that only one bid was received but it was a good bid at \$102K. The item was scheduled for approval at the Feb. 2 Council meeting due to timing considerations.

Council also considered an item not on the formal work session agenda, **an update by City Engineer Scott Murphy on the intersection and future traffic light at Highway 550 and Chipeta Drive.**

Murphy said, “There’s been a lot of talk about the Chipeta intersection with the HUB project going on. It’s brought a lot of past history...back to light.”

He shared maps, and gave background on the three jurisdictions involved, including Montrose City and County and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), which manages and controls Hwy 550.

“...They generally control what happens on that mainline...the side streets are still the responsibility of the governmental entity that has jurisdiction over them.” Once a signal is installed at the intersection, CDOT will own and maintain it, Murphy said.

Both City (40 percent) and County (60 percent) contribute traffic to Chipeta Drive, he said.

“When Cobble Creek annexed...in the mid 90’s, at that point there was no city traffic from city limits contributing to Chipeta Drive,” Murphy said, “but it was recognized that when built out, Cobble Creek would contribute a significant amount of traffic to Chipeta Drive and 6450 Road.

“...The Planning Commission and Council at that time actually put a provision for a special improvement district for that neighborhood to be responsible for...purchasing right of way necessary...and widening both of those streets to arterial standards...It’s about a \$12M commitment,” Murphy said.

He discussed early access control plans and changes that have taken place in the years since. A signal at the intersection is now warranted based on signal counts done as part of the 2019 Access Control Plan.

Technically the county is responsible for

the intersection, but the City and County would split the cost based on usage. An intergovernmental agreement will be put in place.

After further discussion Murphy said that he will prepare a project memo for Council, to summarize the project history and a path forward.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid gave an update on culverts, and failures to storm drains at South 5th and Junction and near the Municipal Animal Shelter. The new Police Facility is nearing the end of the design phase; the first bid set for foundations and site work will be issued. Police Chief Blaine Hall said he is working on a plan to allow citizens continued access to the department during construction. Police are actively looking for Justin Kaylor, who is very dangerous, Hall said.

Equipment upgrades and improvements have made the job of police officers “so much safer and better,” Hall said, and thanked Council and the City’s management team for their support.

Bynum thanked Hall for the update.

Councilor Dave Bowman spoke. “I’ve got several questions actually...there are follow ups to things I’ve asked for before,” Bowman said, “...I’d like an update on our short-term rental program.

“I think back in December I asked that we get an update on how many people had signed up in 2019, how many more people did we sign up in 2020, how has short term rentals gone during pandemic,” Bowman said. “I know in a lot of communities they’re doing very, very, very well.”

He asked about the tracking and registration of short-term rentals in the City. “We subscribed to a company that’s supposed to help us find these...I asked for this in December and I just thought I’d remind whomever, that I’m sort of kind of waitin’ for this information.”

Bynum suggested that the finance department put together a presentation for an upcoming work session.

“Maybe we can get them on the schedule for 15 days from today,” she said.

Bowman asked about quarterly reports

from Geyser Systems, as specified in the company’s agreement with the City of Montrose.

“According to page 19 of the Geyser contract, we as a council are supposed to be receiving quarterly reports,” Bowman said, adding that he had asked for the reports for the second and third quarters back in December.

“The quarterly report for the fourth quarter was due today. I’d like to see these reports from Geyser; they’re required by contract,” Bowman said, his voice rising. “My signature is on that contract. I’d like to see those reports.

“This is not the first time I’ve asked for them. I’d like to see them soon,” Bowman said.

Mayor Bynum asked City Manager Bill Bell to provide the appropriate information.

Bell said the reports were emailed to former staffer Chelsea Rosty and not forwarded on. “I believe he sent those in.” Bell said that he would follow up, and that there was no definitive answer as to whether the company’s products can still be found on the REI web site.

“In the past when we’ve done these contracts it does not go to City Council,” Bell said. “It goes to finance, legal and the manager’s office because it’s proprietary information and it’s not public record.”

He said he would check the terms of the contract and forward the information to Council if allowed. “Giving it to the City does not mean giving it to City Council... it goes to staff members because it’s protected information...If this one specifically says to the City Council...I’ll look into that today and get it out to Council right away.”

Councilor Dave Frank said that Bowman is seeking verification of the contract terms. “Making sure that they’re fulfilling their part of the bargain.”

Bowman said that he had voted no on the Geyser contract and would like to see the reports. “When I voted no I asked Bill about the quarterly reports...you assured me that I would see them on a quarterly basis and I have never seen one of

Continued next pg

CITY COUNCILOR DEMANDS GEYSER REPORTS From previous pg

them...Who follows up on these kinds of contracts and makes sure that both sides are doing what they're supposed to do?"

Bell attributed the lack of reports to former staff member Chelsea Rosty, who left the City earlier this year. "Normally that would have been Chelsea's position to do that, and in the transition nobody picked that up."

He said that the task would be reassigned to City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo.

Bowman said that Rosty was still working in April when the first report was due and was still with the City in July when another was due.

Bell said. "We don't release it to City Council because it's not a public record. You haven't brought this up to me in person or anything to talk about it. So I will look at it and try to get whatever information I can, and as long as we're comfortable sharing that information that's in the contract and it can be released publicly. But if it's not able to be released publicly then we'll have to get Legal's input as to whether I can give to that one council member...as long as it's not a quorum."

Bowman suggested sharing the information in executive session.

"As long as Council wanted us to do that, yes," Bell said. He promised to look at the contract after the work session.

Mayor Bynum said that one of Geyser's products is still available on REI's web site. "...I just don't want to damage the company by putting something out in a public meeting that their product is no longer at REI...what we say publicly matters."

Bowman said that on Jan. 13, an item on the City's Planning Commission agenda proposed a 100-room hotel south of Target. "The minutes of the January 13 meeting aren't posted yet so I'm curious what the discussion was," Bowman said. "Does this at all impact Marriot and their development of a hotel?"

"Is this hotel that's coming south of town, are they asking for incentives? What can you tell us about what happened at that Planning Commission meeting?"

Before allowing Bell to answer, Mayor Bynum asked City Attorney Stephen Alcorn for advice.

"To what extent...should Council know about this stuff before we see it when it goes through planning commission?"

Alcorn said, "I want to make sure Ann weighs in because I am not sure what the procedural posture was...I can't recall Ann what was the posture of that one?"

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that Jan. 13 Planning Commission agenda included a conditional use permit for a parking lot. "We understand that some developers are interested in building a hotel," she said. "They have not asked for any city incentives. I have reached out to them and talked to them about their general hotel idea. They've been eyeing Montrose for a while."

"They weren't sure exactly what brand of hotel it would be," she said. "But the location is zoned for a hotel there, and they needed a conditional use permit in order to build the parking lot a little bit closer to the river."

"...in terms of an impact on Marriot, I don't know what the impact might be to them," Morgenthaler said. "They haven't submitted a building permit set. I hope that they're still continuing as planned."

Following further discussion, Morgenthaler said that meeting minutes are backlogged. "We are one meeting off."

Bowman said that the last set of minutes actually posted to the City's web site dates back to Oct. 14, 2020.

Morgenthaler said that minutes are complete but have not been posted. "...We just are missing one meeting of minutes. It sounds like we haven't been posting them in that section of the web site. Thank you for bringing that to my attention."

The minutes of Jan. 13, 2021 would be approved at an upcoming council meeting, she said.

Bowman then asked about emails sent by City Manager Bill Bell to Councilors Friday afternoon and Sunday. "I'd like those emails included in the public comments for the HUB, please."

Bell said that his communications to Council would be more appropriate in the council packet than in the public comments. "I'm not a citizen voicing my concern to the Planning Commission and ask-

ing them to take my advice and consideration into their thought process. I am communicating to my governing body about something that's potentially coming before the City Council," Bell said, adding that he would discuss the matter in closed session.

Bowman said, "However you want to make 'em public Bill, that's fine with me. "I believe at this point those documents need to be public."

Bell said that all of his communications to Council are not meant for the public record.

"So, if a citizen asked through CORA request to see that email they can't?" Bowman asked.

"Part of it might be redacted," Bell said, citing timing concerns.

Mayor Bynum tried to interject, but both men interrupted her.

Bowman accused Bell of giving advice to Council prior to Council receiving a report from the planning commission. "That seems to be out of order," Bowman said.

Bell suggested a closed session. Bynum said that a closed session for legal advice would be great.

"I think some of the comments that were made in that letter probably should be seen by my constituents," Bowman said. "I've got a real problem if this is not made public."

"We'll talk to our lawyer and we'll find out what we can do," Bynum said. "Sounds great."

She reviewed upcoming calendar items. Due to the Presidents' Day Holiday the Feb 15 work session will take place Feb. 16.

Bynum also asked about DART (Development and Revitalization Team) meetings. Bell said that DART will not meet again until the strategic planning session in late February or early March. Bynum shared opportunities for professional development.

Councilor Roy Anderson asked staff to seek information about potential grants that affect childcare in Montrose.

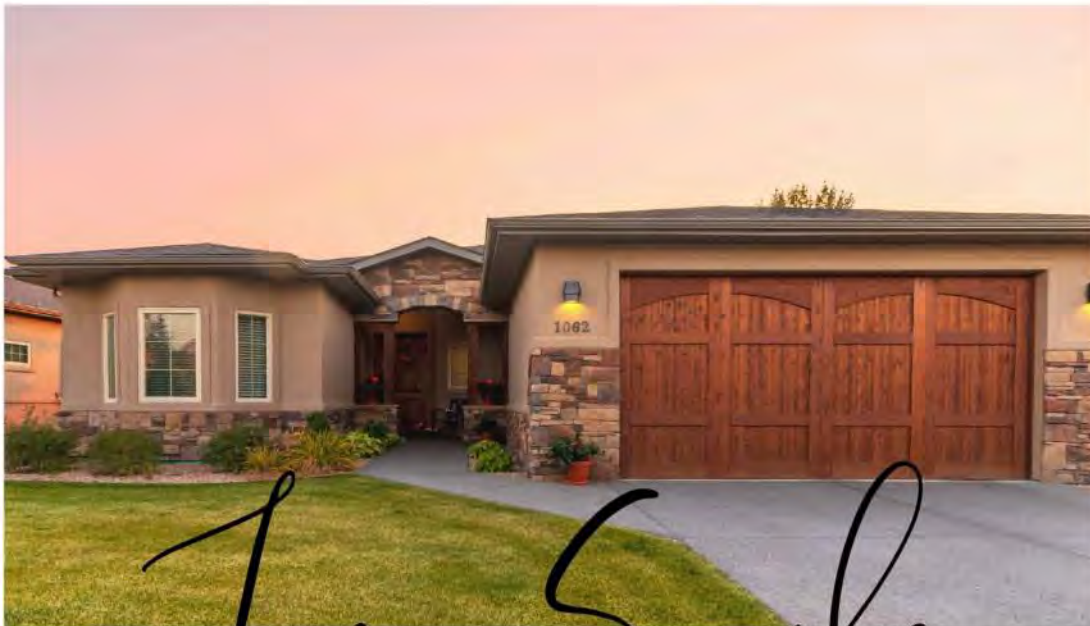
"Thank you all very much, have a great day, see you tomorrow night," Bynum said.



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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

NPS IMPLEMENTS MASK REQUIREMENT ACROSS ALL PARKS AND FEDERAL BUILDINGS

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – To protect the health of those who live, work and visit our national parks and facilities, and in support of the President's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, the National Park Service (NPS) today implemented a mask requirement for employees, visitors, partners and contractors.

"Wearing a mask around others, physical distancing, and washing your hands are the simplest and most effective public health measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19," said NPS Office of Public

Health Director Captain Sara Newman. "Getting outside and enjoying our public lands is essential to improving mental and physical health, but we all need to work together to recreate responsibly."

Face masks are now required in all NPS buildings and facilities. Masks are also required on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, including narrow or busy trails, overlooks and historic homes. Additional public health measures are in place across the service, from capacity limits to one-way trails, or even temporary closures in response to local conditions.

"Working with public health officials and following the latest science and guidance, we can make national parks safer for employees, visitors and partners," said NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé. "We will continue to evaluate operations and make appropriate modifications to visitor services as needed." Visitors should check individual park websites and social media channels for details on operations before they visit. Park rangers are on duty to provide information, protect visitors and park resources, and uphold this requirement. Other tips to recreate responsibly are available on NPS.gov.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE TO HOST VIRTUAL ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING *SBEADMR and Taylor Park Vegetation Management*

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will be hosting its annual Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) and Taylor Park Vegetation Management (Taylor Park EA) combined stakeholder meeting Monday, Feb. 22, and Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The event will be a virtual Zoom meeting.

RSVPs is required to have access to the ZOOM meeting link. To RSVP, please fill out the form at: <https://www.centerforpubliclands.org/2021-mid-winter-meeting>.

SBEADMR, a forest wide project and Taylor Park EA, a project located on the Gunnison Ranger District, allow for commer-

cial and non-commercial vegetation treatments. Both projects respond to forest health concerns and strive to increase the forest's ability to respond to multiple and interactive stressors including climate change, drought, insect attack and disease.

All interested members of the public are invited to attend this year's annual stakeholder meeting and interact with personnel from GMUG's Staff and Science Teams. This year's meeting will include discussion on science team monitoring findings and updates, Wilder-Highlands Mountain Pine Beetle Response project update and GMUG staff providing an overview of past and future treatments.

Following the meeting will be the annual 30-day informal public comment period

for both projects.

A late February news release will provide further information on the comment period and use of a new interactive web map comment platform.

For more information on SBEADMR please visit: <http://bit.ly/GMUGSBEADMR>. Please note that treatment information may be out of date. A new site with current information is being constructed and will be available at <https://cfri.colostate.edu/projects/sbeadmr/> in late February. For more information on the Taylor Park EA please visit: <https://www.centerforpubliclands.org/project-list/taylor-park-group>.

For questions contact: Maddie Rehn, Program Manager for the Center for Public Lands, at mrehn@western.edu.

ASPENRIDGE INSURANCE AGENCY NAMED 2021 FARMERS ALLIANCE ADVANTAGE AGENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Farmers Alliance Companies in McPherson, Kansas, have announced that Aspenridge Insurance Agency LLC in Montrose has been named a FARMERS ALLIANCE ADVANTAGE AGENT for 2021. To qualify as an ADVANTAGE AGENT, an agency must exhibit superior professionalism and profitability over five consecutive years. ADVANTAGE AGENTS are recognized by Farmers Alliance as the "best of the best". Reaching this level of distinction is a reflection of this agency's commitment to their customers and their community. Congratulations to Aspenridge Insurance Agency LLC for this achievement. The Farmers Alliance Companies are represented by independent agents, and serve eight states. Farmers Alliance was established in 1888 and writes a full range of property and liability insurance for homes, farms and commercial businesses. For more information visit www.fami.com.



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January 2021 Montrose County Real Estate Report

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Days on Market 99

2020 Residential Sold

39 Homes

Average Price \$277,191

Days on Market 86

Land Sold

20 Properties

Average Price \$138,580

Days on Market 259

2020 Land Sold

8 Properties

Average Price \$131,350

Days on Market 266

As of 02/03/2020 for

Residential there are 79
Active properties and 79
Pending.

For land transactions there
were 241 Active and 43
Pending

In 2020 there were 137
Active properties and 75
pending. For land transac-
tions there were 276 Active
and 13 Pending



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ASKING CITY COUNCIL TO DENY HUB @ MONTROSE CROSSING

To Montrose City Council Members:

We are writing to express our opposition to The HUB @ Montrose Crossing Project.

My wife and I moved to Cobble Creek in January of 2019 from Ft. Collins, on Colorado's front range. We made the move after spending 45 years in Ft. Collins. One of the factors that prompted our move was the construction of a large affordable housing complex directly across the street from our townhome. We were seeking a quieter, more laid back lifestyle and have been able to find that in Montrose. Unfortunately, we now find ourselves possibly facing the same issues that drove our move from the front range.

We have been part of the Planning & Zoning Board zoom meetings involving this

project.

There has been discussion and public comment over three different meetings, covering 12 plus hours. All of the public comments received, both by e-mail and zoom calls, were opposed to this project. This included not only Cobble Creek, but also Spruce Point and surrounding areas.

We ask that you heavily weigh the following points:

- 1) Deny any financial incentives to the HUB developer. Montrose citizens intend that growth pay its own way, which is also noted in the Comprehensive Plan.
- 2) Due to HUB's proposed location, Montrose residents will also pay for needed additional city services and improvements

to currently ill suited infrastructure. These costs won't be recouped unless HUB produces a sustained tax revenue stream

3) Other areas of Montrose are much better suited for a project of this size. Colorado Outdoors land on the North side of town and large parcels of land along Hillcrest, between E Oak Grove Road and Niagara come to mind.

We are asking City Council to deny the HUB @, Montrose Crossing Project. This is the wrong location for a project of this size and scope

We appreciate giving our objections and concerns your serious consideration.

Regards:

Doug & Georgia Chaney

Cobble Creek Residents

WHAT TO CALL THE GOP NOW?

Editor:

There were 65 Republicans who voted to remove Liz Cheney from her leadership role because she voted to impeach Trump. There were 0 Republicans who voted to strip Marjorie Taylor Greene of her committee assignments for supporting QAnon. Is this the future of the GOP? Are they now QOP or GOPQ?

According to writer Max Berger, "Apparantly, if you lose half your IQ you're just Q."

Jon Sering, Montrose

THE HUB AT MONTROSE CROSSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Montrose City Council:

I am requesting the Montrose City Council accept the Planning Commission's 2/3/21 recommendations.

I am requesting the Montrose City Council deny the financial incentives and reverse the fee waivers, totaling over \$2.3.

I am requesting the Montrose City Council listen to and understand the surrounding citizens concerns regarding lower property values, increased taxes to Montrose City taxpayers to pay for infrastructure, utilities, road maintenance and city services.

Please understand that the results of the traffic study completed by the developer, does not make sense from a logical prospective.

- it was done during covid. Most homeowners in Cobble Creek are not venturing out of our community.
- we travel only for doctor/dentist appointments and grocery store trips. No dinners out with friends or to restaurants. No trips to the Rec Center. Prior to covid I personally went to the rec center 3 times a week - now NONE.
- the golf course was closed during this study. No outside golfers coming in to play.
- not all homeowners are here in the winter. This is the time our snowbirds have left Montrose for warmer areas.
- there is the concern that due to lower property values, charitable donations may decline. Cobble Creek is the most giving community I have ever lived in during my 70+ years. Why throw away an already proven asset of those who have invested in this city for an unknown asset of residents who, for the most part, will be transient.

Please give value to the concerns and opinions of the citizens of your city.

Respectfully,

Donna E. Nash, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HUB PLANNED DEVELOPMENT IS SERIOUSLY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE RURAL NATURE OF THE COBBLE CREEK COMMUNITY

Dear Montrose City Council:

I implore you to accept the City of Montrose Planning Commission's recommendations on February 3rd regarding the HUB at Montrose Crossing preliminary planned development and plat.

The Planning Commission has navigated seriously muddy waters over a long period of time regarding this planned development. They had to deal with a goliath development that was largely in compliance with the zoning requirements but also kicked sand into the face of the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan. They were able to wade through the murky details of this planned development to finally realize that in the end the HUB development was simply too dense and was in violation of the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan regarding feathering and buffering requirements. I must commend all four Planning Commission members for their diligent efforts and clear-headed decision making.

In addition to the Planning Commission's recommendation to limit the density and deny any perimeter setback zoning variances of the HUB planned development, I

also request that you deny the \$2.35 million in incentives for this project. After attending the many Planning Commission meetings via Zoom, it became quite clear that Mr. Mat Miles is no friend of the City of Montrose and just another Big City developer looking to maximize his bottom line. Mr. Miles does NOT need this money; he is a multi-millionaire who can certainly afford to pay these fees. Giving him this money simply and quite literally adds to his profit margin, it will increase his already substantial wealth at the expense of the citizens of Montrose.

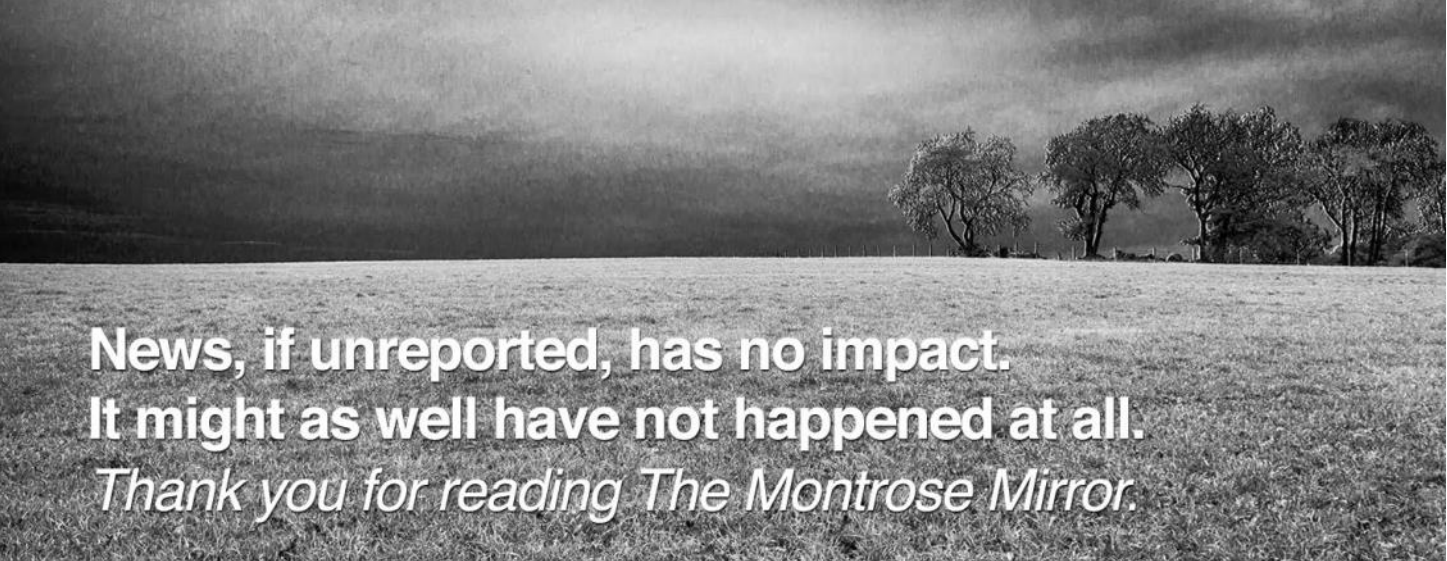
In your decision to accept the City of Montrose Planning Commission's recommendations please also consider the avalanche of opposition to this project from the surrounding community. In one of the more recent Zoom meetings Mr. Miles referred to the Cobble Creek community as "bullies" in our opposition to his behemoth project. My response to him is to simply ask him to wear our shoes for a moment and reflect on how he would feel if some big developer dropped a large chunk of Manhattan in his rural backyard! In fact I assert it is Mr. Miles who is

the bully, why else would he have proposed this massive project, to be installed in the decidedly rural area of Cobble Creek, full well knowing that it steam rolled over the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan. In other words, Mr. Miles designed his project to substantially meet the zoning requirements, BUT he failed to incorporate into his plan, and thus ignore, the requirements set forth in the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan. These are NOT mutually exclusive outcomes!

It does not take a rocket scientist to realize that the HUB planned development is seriously out of character with the rural nature of the Cobble Creek community and will definitely have a long term impact on our property values AND our quality of rural living. The Cobble Creek community is not opposed to development at the HUB site, but rather we are vehemently opposed to any development that is egregiously outside the purview of the City of Montrose Comprehensive Plan. Thankfully the City of Montrose Planning Commission agrees and hopefully you will too!

Thank you.

Frank Bernardi, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRAFFIC DELAYS CONTINUE TODAY ON CO 145 NORTH OF DOLORES *Blasting to begin at approximately 10 AM*

Special to the Mirror

MONTEZUMA COUNTY — Motorists should give themselves extra time if traveling on CO Highway 145 between Dolores and Rico tomorrow, Mon., Feb 8. Crews will perform blasting operations beginning at approximately 10 a.m., which will result in a 30-minute to 1-hour traffic stop. Before and after the blasting, travelers will continue to encounter brief delays.

A rock fall occurred last Friday, in the wee hours of the morning, on CO 145 just north of the small community of Stoner at Mile Point 27. No vehicles were involved in the rock fall. Travelers are strongly urged to slow down and watch for workers and heavy equipment. Motorists should follow the guidance of a temporary, portable light signal and/or flagging personnel. No oversize loads are permitted until further notice.



Last Friday, CDOT crews blasted a 200-ton rock that fell on CO 145 in southwest Colorado. A large portion of the huge boulder still remains on the roadway. Blasting operations will be performed again Monday morning. Courtesy photo.



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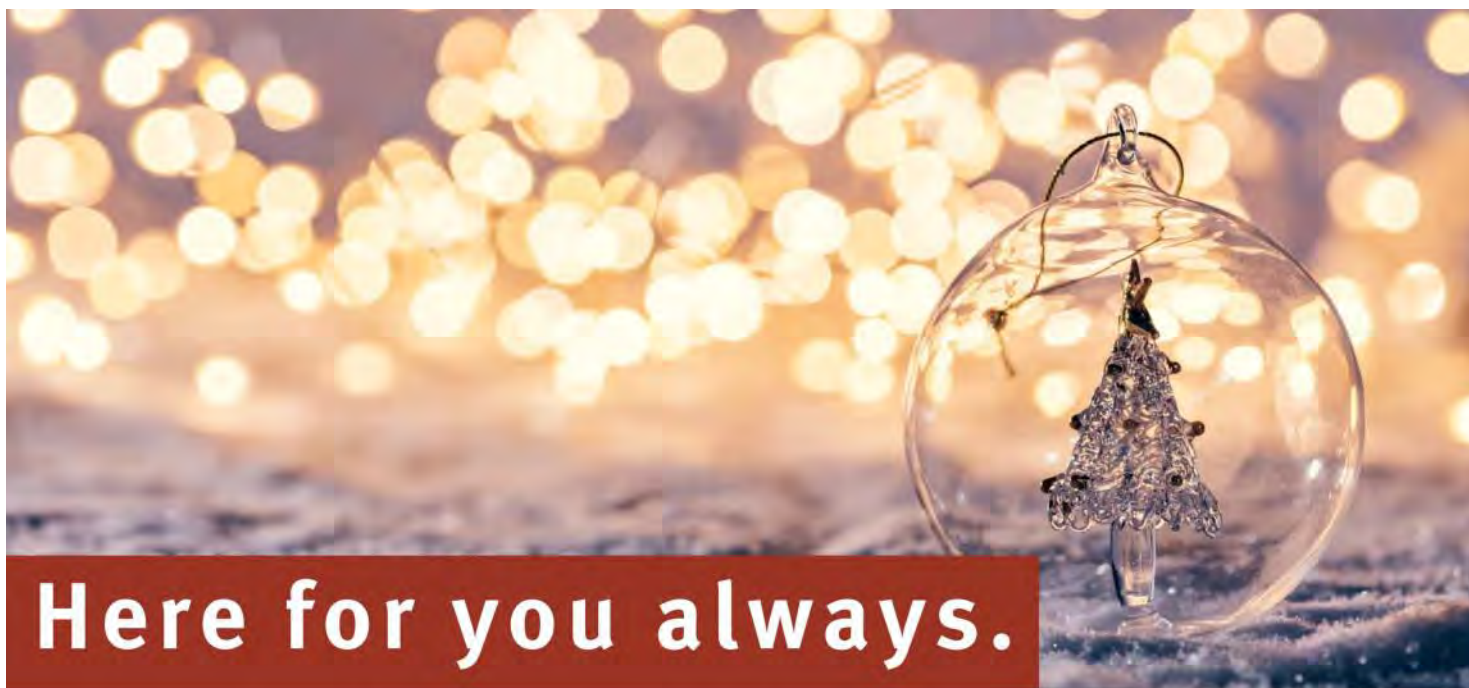


Saturday February 13th

Montrose Elks Lodge #1053

6:00-8:30

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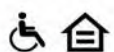
Service to the health of the greater community is of utmost importance today and always. During the pandemic, our caregiving teams have worked diligently to keep our community and program participants healthy, safe and connected to those they love---and at times, stepped in when family members could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

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

To make a tax-deductible gift, please visit voa.org/donateseniors



Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization.



Home Health of Western Colorado

The Homestead at Montrose

Valley Manor Care Center

Horizons Care Center

Senior CommUnity Meals

Senior CommUnity Care PACE

AdvantAge Health Resource Center



Visit voaseniorkliving.org for a comprehensive listing of local and national services.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PHASE 2 BENEFITS OF CONTINUED ASSISTANCE ACT WILL ROLLOUT THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) has announced it will begin rolling out Phase 2 of the extended pandemic benefits provided by the Continued Assistance Act (CAA) the week of February 22. Phase 2 will allow most claimants who exhausted the balance of their federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) claims on or before December 26, 2020. Phase 2 will also include the ability to file new PUA and PEUC claims. Phase 1 of the program began rolling out last week to claimants who still had existing balances on their PUA and PEUC claims on December 26, 2020. Since February 1, more than 104,000 people have received over \$166 million in benefits as part of Phase 1.

"We know that many Coloradans are facing extreme economic hardships right now, and have been anxiously waiting for

the ability to apply for these added benefits," said Joe Barela, Executive Director, CDLE. "The phased-in rollout of the program has been frustrating for many, however, our priority has been to get benefits in the hands of the most eligible claimants we could feasibly reach at one time. We may have some kinks to workout, but our new, modernized cloud-based system will allow for much speedier implementation of future pandemic assistance legislation that we expect to come from the new administration. While we continue to do everything we can to get struggling Coloradans the financial assistance they need, our long term goal has and always will be to help unemployed workers find meaningful jobs."

The Continued Assistance Act, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, provides an 11-week extension to the federal PUA and PEUC programs. Additionally, the act reestablished the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

program, which will provide unemployment recipients with an additional \$300 weekly benefit, and established the new Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program, which will provide an additional \$100 weekly benefit to those receiving regular state unemployment benefits who have also suffered a loss of self-employment income.

The Department will notify claimants in the coming weeks about next steps to reopen their claims. Beginning Monday, February 8th, CDLE will also launch a three-week campaign to help connect unemployed workers with job opportunities, including more than 80,000 jobs in [ConnectingColorado.com](https://www.connectingcolorado.com), the State's largest job search database.

Additional phases will address remaining programs, including the new Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program, as well as a small subset of claimants with complex and/or out-of-sequence claim situations.



ANONYMOUS

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY ANNOUNCES SUSPECTED COVID-19 WORKPLACE OUTBREAK

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-Ouray County, in partnership with Ouray County Public Health Agency, is reporting one new confirmed case and 1 probable case associated with a suspected workplace outbreak of COVID-19 within the Ouray County organization.

Conditions are met for a suspected COVID-19 outbreak when there are two or more individuals in a facility, business or other non-household group who, within a 14-day period:

Developed symptoms of COVID-19 and have been around someone with COVID-

19, OR

Have symptoms of COVID-19 and tested positive by a serology test, OR

Have been around someone with COVID-19 and tested positive by a serology test, OR

Have died and the death certificate lists COVID-19 or SARS-CoV2 as a cause of death or contributing to death with no lab test performed, OR

One person who meets the above criteria and one person who tested positive by a molecular test

"County Administration was very respon-

sive and proactive in notifying Public Health of a potential outbreak," said Ouray County Public Health Director Tanner Kingery.

"I want to thank Administration and Department Heads for notifying individuals effected as soon as possible and taking the necessary steps to avoid further COVID-19 transmission."

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

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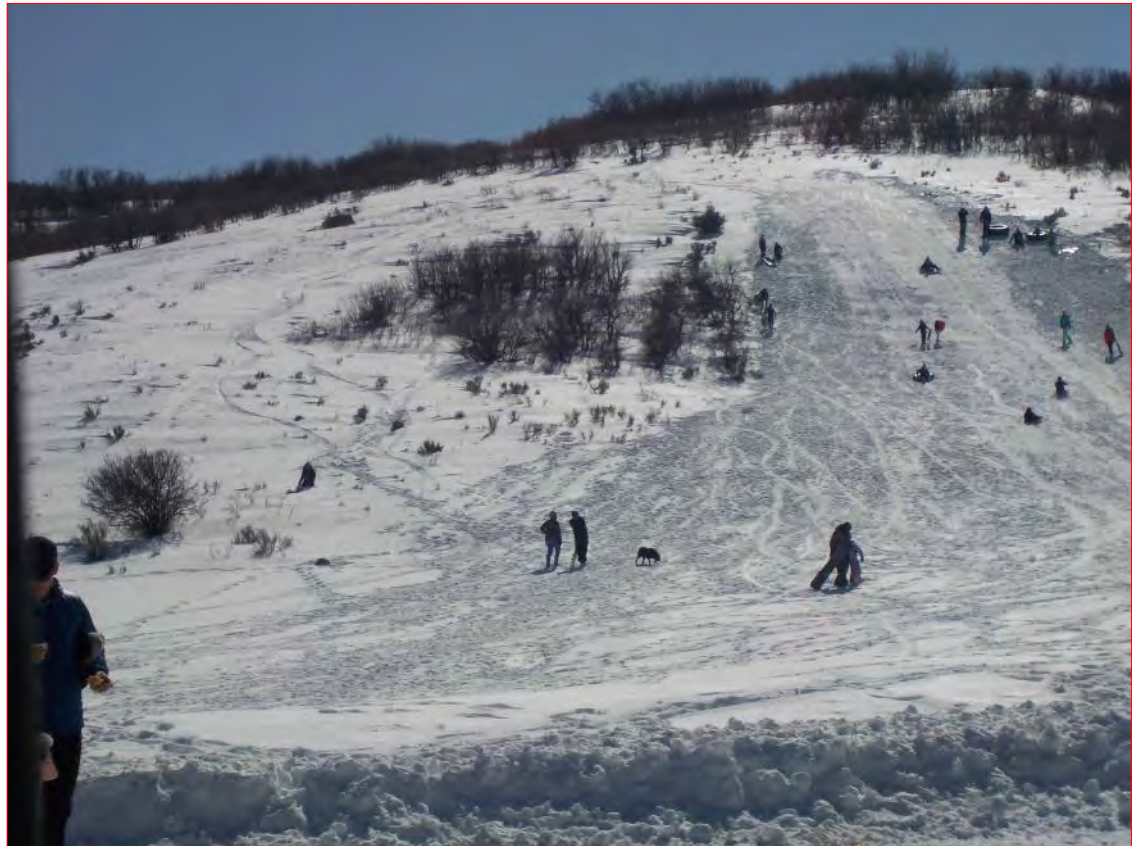
WWW.VOA4YOU.ORG / ADVANTAGE@VOA.ORG

NOSOTRAS HABLAMOS ESPANOL

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SCOUTS CELEBRATE 111TH BIRTHDAY OF BSA

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Monday,
Feb 8, 2021 is the 111th
birthday of the Boy
Scouts of America,
chartered by the US
Congress in 1910. In
celebration, Montrose
Cub Scout Pack 490 and
BSA troop 491, spent
last Saturday at Cerro
Summit playing in the
snow. Many turned out
for a good time on a
beautiful day. All Scouts
and their Leaders were
encouraged to wear
their uniform to the
church of their choice on
Scout Sunday, Feb. 7 or
14.



WHO'S ON YOUR COVID CARE TEAM?

BE PREPARED. MAKE A PLAN
MONTROSE COUNTY!



¡HAGA UN PLAN,
CONDADO DE MONTROSE!



Asegure a su proveedor de atención primaria

- 1 Busque un médico "dentro de la red" ☒
- 2 Llame o visite la oficina para convertirse en paciente ☒
- 3 Complete todo el papeleo ahora ☒
- 4 Guarde su número para emergencias ☒



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Montrose, CO, 81401



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Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

970-209-3825

Jeff@MontroseColorado.com

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ISSUE 301 Feb. 8

ART & SOL

YOUNG WRITER RECOGNIZED BY VFW PATRIOT'S PEN



Patriot's Pen winner Isabelle Giroir was awarded \$50 at the local level and \$100 at the District level for her essay "Patriotism to Me." (L to R) Patriot's Pen contest winner Isabelle Giroir, VFW Post Commander #784 Al Warnock, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman Mike Stahly, and Post # 784 Quartermaster Adjutant Fred Schaefer. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

Patriot's Pen is a 300 to 400-word essay contest open to 6th - 8th grade students. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign

Wars (VFW), the contest encourages youth to examine America's history and their own modern society, and then express their views based on a patriotic

theme.

Isabelle Giroir, a sixth grader at Centennial Middle School, learned of the contest through her school newsletter. She said, "I like to write."

Her essay titled, "Patriotism to Me", took first place on the local level and she was awarded \$50 from VFW Post #784.

Her essay was then submitted to the VFW District #11 level, where she once again took first place and was awarded \$100. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman Mike Stahly said, "At the district level there were 35 submissions. The essays were judged by three retired teachers and one teacher from Mesa State University.

It was very competitive and there were only two points separating the first, second and third place winners.

Isabelle's essay has now been forwarded to the State level competition; however, the status of those submissions is not yet known. Stahly said, "We're hoping Isabelle goes to the National level, all the way to Washington DC!"

Isabelle, the daughter of Glenn and Michelle Giroir, read her award-winning essay to more than two-dozen attendees during the VFW Post # 784 meeting on Jan. 26, 2021.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CUB SCOUT PACK 490 HOLDS PINEWOOD DERBY



Boy Scout Jacob Clowers placing cars.
Courtesy photo.



Bear Den. Courtesy photo.



Wolf Den. Courtesy photo.



Webelos Den. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath and Law, and with an altogether now, "three, two, one, go," Cub Scout Pack 490 raced their cars on Saturday, Jan. 23, at St. Mary Catholic Church. Each cub scout designed and built his or her own car, with the help of their parents. Covid restrictions of wear-

ing masks and social distancing were followed as the dens raced at different times instead of all six at once.

The cars raced four heats giving each scout an opportunity to race in all four lanes. The speeds were measured electronically, and the times were as close as six ten thousands of a second.

Boy Scouts Jacob Clowers and Damian Cisneros, volunteer race track facilitators, said that they offered their assistance because they love scouting and they wanted to encourage the cubs on their quest toward earning the prized

Eagle Scout Rank. Cub scouting is a family affair. Each scout was accompanied by his or her parent(s). Prior to the competition, at least seven adults assembled the equipment for this annual and widely recognized race. Jeremy Omvig, and Nicole Diemert, two of the pack leaders for the derby, said they donated their time because, "It's a good opportunity for the

scouts to learn sportsmanship some basic woodworking skills, provide an opportunity to work with their children on a project, and allows the scouts to be creative and resourceful in finding and using materials they find around home for the building of their cars.

This is the third year that girls have raced their cars in the derby. Girls have been eligible to join scouts since 2018 and they were well represented this year. Trophies were awarded for fastest car, first, second and third place as well as best in show. Winners of each den will compete in district race to be held in Grand Junction in April.

James Stetson, Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 490, said, "It's a little surprising that we even had a Pine Wood Derby this year because of Covid. That fact that we did is a testament to the passion and dedication of scouts and their families."

The cub scouts are looking forward to joining the Boy Scouts of Troop 491 for a fun day at Cerro Summit, where they will play winter games and enjoy a chili lunch prepared by the Boy Scouts.

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UTAH NEWS BRIEFS: CONSERVATION

UTAH LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD SEEKS NOMINEES

Special to Art & Sol

UTAH-Know a Utah farmer, rancher or forestland owner who goes above and beyond in the care and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2021 Utah Leopold Conservation Award®.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 22 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In Utah, the \$10,000 award is presented with Utah Farm Bureau Federation, Western AgCredit and Utah Cattlemen's Association.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working

land. In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. Applications are reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders.

The application deadline date is August 5, 2021. Applications can be emailed to award@sandcountyfoundation.org. If mailed, applications must be postmarked by August 5, and mailed to: Leopold Conservation Award c/o Utah Farm Bureau Federation 9865 S. State Street Sandy, UT 84070

The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/

ApplyLCA.

The Leopold Conservation Award Program in Utah is made possible thanks to the generous support of American Farmland Trust, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, Western AgCredit, Utah Cattlemen's Association, Sand County Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in Utah, Producers Livestock Marketing Association, Utah Wool Growers Association, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Utah Association of Conservation Districts.

The Utah Leopold Conservation Award will be presented at the Utah Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting in November.

The first Utah Leopold Conservation Award recipient was selected in 2007. Half Circle Cross Ranch of Coalville received the award in 2020.



**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, a secrete storage space behind a bookshelf, an original 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 opportunity!



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HAVE A COVID CARE PLAN

MAKE A PLAN MONTROSE COUNTY!

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



WHO IS YOUR DOCTOR?



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

PREPARE A COVID PLAN NOW:



Create an at-home plan to avoid the spread.

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



Know your workplace policy.

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

PLAN AHEAD:



Create a sick room.

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



Create your COVID Care Team.

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



Centralize medical information.

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



Mask up. Make good choices now.

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

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



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



TENGA UN PLAN DE ATENCIÓN PARA COVID

¡HAGA UN PLAN, CONDADO DE MONTROSE!

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

¿QUIEN ES TU DOCTOR?

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

PREPARE UN PLAN CONTRA EL COVID AHORA:



Cree un plan en su casa para evitar la propagación.

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



Conozca la política de su lugar de trabajo.

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

PREPÁRATE AHORA:



Cree una habitación para enfermos.

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



Cree su equipo de atención para COVID.

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



Centralizar la información médica.

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



Usar una máscara. Tome buenas decisiones ahora.

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

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

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO-- More than 400 students were named to Fort Lewis College's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. These students took at least 15 credits of gradable hours and achieved a 3.60 or higher grade point average.

Tabitha Andersen of Nucla (81424), majoring in Writing

Kourtney Keltz of Montrose (81403), majoring in Business Administration

Sierra Vigil of Montrose (81401), majoring in Biology

Alexa Yanosky of Montrose (81401), majoring in Biochemistry

Keshla Zirkle of Montrose (81403), majoring in Anthropology

As the Four Corners' stronghold of academic excellence, Fort Lewis College blends small class sizes, engaged faculty, and unparalleled research opportunities to help students earn college degrees and chase dreams. Guided by real-world experiences and a bountiful landscape, our students develop critical thinking and communication skills to fuel further studies or rewarding careers. A broad range of subjects and diverse student body weave cross-cultural knowledge throughout sig-

nature programs focused on environmental studies, education, the health sciences,

creative arts, and business administration. Find an education to live by at FLC.



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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Elks Membership Drive

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Troop 491



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Spaghetti Dinner \$10
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what we do. Join us for our
Elks 153rd Anniversary**

*Elks are distinctly American,
willing to support our Constitution,
who are 21 years of age,
and believe in God.*



*Join the Elks as we strive to better
our way of life and benefit our community.*



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801 S. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401**

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The following students were named to the Honor Roll for the 1st Semester 2020-2021 School year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes and earn a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

9th Grade

Kyden Adams, Jakoby Casias, Jayden Casias, Sheldon Collin, Aria Cummings, Abygayle England, Yareli Escarcega, Joaquin Eudave, Bo Foster, Mercedes Gonzalez, Seth Hasse, Elliott Highland, Trevor Hill, Cutter Hudson, Macey Jensen, Jaxon Kattner, Bridget Kingery, Nyah Loyd, Brendtt Lucero, Coltony Marquez, Cian McPhail, Arayah Mora, Hunter Morris, Olivia Muzik, Ariana Naar, Cristal Padron-Garcia, Rylee Palmer, Daisy Ramirez, Zoe Shipley, Christian Smith-Lucero, Cooper Steenburgen, Kadenn Tanner, McKenzie Taylor, Alonzo Truillo, Julian Urquizo-Munroe, Gage Wareham, Ashley Whitcomb, Jack White and Tanner Yeager.

10th Grade

Nadia Aguilar, Amelia Avila, Zachary Barton, Makayla Beaver, Mia Bergman, Kendyll Bernatis, Karlee Brack, Grace Brinjac, Oscar Cisneros, Torrie Ekerman, Katherine Ensor, Benjamin Leu, Selene Marquez, Damaris Mendes, Lucas Miller, Josiah Mora, Bryar Moss, Alyssa Oman, Jairo Rodriguez-Gonzales, Santos Roman-Enrique, Blake Smedly, Andrew Spencer, Abigail Tracey, Areli Valdez-Chavez, Alicea Vigil, Samuel Walker and Isaah Womak.

11th Grade

Isaiah Alcazar, Lisbeth Alvarado, Trystan Blundell, Breanne Brasier, Pragati Chaudhary, Shelby Coldiron, Luca Field-Licon, Grace Gibson, Mackaylia Hernandez, Blake Highland, Qwynn Huntley-Gross, Aiden Hutto, Tristan King, Bridger Kurtz, Maria Lopez-Fuentes, Cullen Masterson, Dane McCoid, Yovanna Montoya-Briseno, Abigail Morris, Morgan Pelham, Jake Petersen, Melissa Portillo-Hernandez, Nevaeh Rodriguez, Isabela Serrano, Kyra Stuckman and Mari Wilson.

12th Grade

Mallory Carr, Ashley Cisneros, Amanda Clemens, Paige Crane, Miriam Elkins, Camden Hassell, Michael Kitsmiller, Gabriel Miracle, Megan Motley, Ayla Pierce, Susana Ramirez, Benjamin Rawlings, Tyler Reed, Madison Roush, Noah Schmidt, Lydia Stryker, Angelica Suarez-Lemus and Sage Wilber.



MHS PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The following students were named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the 1st Semester 2020-2021 school year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for the Principal's Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes, excluding pass/fail classes, and earn a grade point average of 3.75 and above. An asterisk denotes all A's.

9th Grade

Giada Amundson*, Ivana Arellano-Villegos, Hunter Barton*, Austine Berry*, Andie Blowers*, Kolter Booth*, Javian Brown*, Gwyneth Browning, Danika Bush*, Kenzie Bush*, Stephanie Carroll*, Bailey Cheezum*, Olivia Cook*, Lesly Corrales-Lerma*, Kendyl Cox, Ruby Crane*, John Noel Cruz*, Zander Dela Rosa*, Lillian Dickerson*, Jonathan Dreitlein, Mia Duncan*, Ivan Edstrom*, Hayley Eldridge, Landon Farley*, Shandra Findley*, Kenneth Flanders*, John Flower*, Vaughn Gann, Samantha Noelle Go*, Emma Gomez*, Aleah Goodwin*, Blake Griffin*, Brandon Grijalva Castro, Briana Haddock*, Jadyn Hall, Kyrstyn Hall*, Annabelle Hawkins, Yarisbel Hernandez-Serrano*, Harrison Hilderbrand*, Autumn Huchel-Sullender, Carter Hughes*, Trevor Hutson, Dylan Jessop*, Caden Kay, Jaxon Kelley*, Jaxon Killen*, Joseph Kubin, Abigail Lambert*, Julie Ledesma-Suarez*, Elizabeth Lee*, Natalie Lopez-Ramirez*, Madison Lucero*, Norma Maldonado-Flores, Logen Matoush*, James Maunakea*, Maryellen McCracken, Nathan McWilliams*, Laticia Mora*, Alan Munoz-Porras, Rhyann Neary*, Micah Nichols*, Leonor Nieves-Chavez*, Violet Noel, Morgan Nutter, Amanda Owens, Olivia Plamer*, Ashlee Petranovich*, Gabriel Robertson*, Rachel Robuck*, Allison Romines*, Ilse Rosales*, Amy Scriffiny*, Chase Semones*, Lizeth Serafin-Morales*, Victoria Serna-Uscanga*, Breyana Shipley, Chyanne Storrs*, Kathryn Story*, Sierra Tafoya*, Natalie Trask*, Ellie Trenda, Kyle Ullmann*, Katy Vanchaik, Christopher Vargas-Gomez*, Colton Ward*, Aubrielle Weaver*, Sean Welsh*, Tiffany Wu*, Alea Yarbrough*, and Melaina Yender*.

10th Grade

Adam Arellano*, Samantha Beer, Connor Bell*, Tatum Berry*, William Beshoar,

Logan Boyers, Kennedi Britton*, Alton Brown, Aiden Bugarin*, Gadiel Castillo*, America Chavez-Carrera*, Giselle Cisneros, Jasmin Cisneros, Jasmine Clemens, Sydnee Coldiron, Kiersten Conrad*, Quincy Cooling*, Yasmin Cornejo-Martin*, Mauricio Coronado*, Vance Couturier*, Grace Davidson, Emily Davis, Caitlyn Dillon*, David Dominguez*, Kate Donohoe*, Natasha Duncan*, Tara Duncan, Logan Files*, Sheldon Frasier, Mariah Garcia*, Yesenia Gonzalez*, Jonas Graff*, Tyler Graves, Brooklynne Gurney*, Olivia Gusman*, Jennifer Gutierrez-Camacho*, Kenadee Hadlock*, Alise Hardie, Natalie Hernandez, Bridget Hernandez*, Grace Hotsenpiller, Trinity Huff, Claire Hunt, Sarah Imus*, Lorelei Innarelli, Jesus Jimenez, Andrew Jutten*, Riley Kettell*, Gwendolyn Kingery, Zakary Kuretech, Dinh Le Nguyen, Naomi Lee, Leonel Lopez*, Miroslava Magallanes, Mekhi Mangrum*, Brett Manuel, Brianna Medina, Lucero Mireles-Rodales*, Isabella Montonati*, Faith Moore*, Lucas Motley, James Muddell, Isela Ortega-Quintero, Kelsey Parra, Lucius Perez*, Alexander Radovich*, Edwin Ramos*, Emily Raphael*, Yaphet Reyes-Powell, Tyson Saunders, Dafne Seacat*, Tashi Sherpa*, Benjamin Silverberg, Joseph Simo*, Micah Simpson*, Aaron Simpson, Brianna Stone*, William Taylor, Claire Taylor, Jacqueline Valdez-Chavez*, Maria VanArsdale*, Jarett Whitcomb, Dallas Willshire, and Gabriel Woodland.

11th Grade

Diana Aguado, Diego Alaniz-Salas*, Grace Ansell, Charlie Andrade-Saenz*, Ailianna Ayers*, Caitlin Bailey, Tessa Bailey, Flor Balderrama, Kate Barnett*, Liam Berryhill*, Julia Beshoar, Brooks Blackford, Wesley Booher, Kassidy Brady*, Ashly Brown*, Leo Burton, Alayna Bustin*, Amili Chavarria-Carallo, Alexia Chavez*, James Cheezum, Paige Coddington*, Josephine Coulter*, Nyobie Cramer*, Grace Cross, Titus Diaz-Ruiz*, Lara Edeker, Matteson Embrey, Ashley Erdmier, Aiyanna Fabian, Taylor Foster, Bode Greiner, William Griffin*, Lillian Hamilton*, Jacob Hanson, Aiden Harrell, Sarah Hartman*, Abby Hauptmann*, Joan Heredia*, Collin Huffer*, Luke Hutto*, Mariah Iniquez*, Morgan Johnson*, Cynthia Juarez*, Jacob Kettel, Jaedyn Key*, Westley Lucero-

Escalante, Zaphaniah Luchavez, Julian MacFarlane, Rachel Maddox*, Israel Marquez*, Brianna Martinez, Mia Martinez*, Madisen Matoush*, Amy McCracken*, Miguel Medrano*, Valerie Merritt*, Siera Mihavetz*, Gabriel Miller*, Madalyn Morin, Megan Neubaum*, Kail Nichols*, Josiah Nichols, Michael Nikolaev, Ashden Oberg, Ashley Ortega*, Sarah Packard*, Michelle Padilla*, Benjamin Perfors*, Samantha Phillips*, Savannah Piquette*, Samuel Preston*, Cody Proctor, William Ramsay, Jada Ray*, Trey Reese*, Christopher Rivera, Ethan Robertson, Kelsey Rocco*, Dory Schmidt, Logan Semones, Makayla Shreeves, Zeke Steenburger, Elijah Tafoya, Jacob Thompson, Jonnie Trujillo-Johnston, Brendan Ullmann, Jaime Vanchaik, Carissa Walker, Corbin Whittington, Eric Williams*, Bridger Wilson*, and Taylor Yano-sky*.

12th Grade

Henry Allison, Emily Arndt, Anthony Ball, Bailey Beard, Cora Blowers, Brianna Bond*, Gewen Boutwell, Morgan Boyers, Kyler Bronec*, Colten Brueggeman*, Lily Burton*, Zachary Cagle*, Morgan Carroll, Brady Cassidy, Aliczander Cheairs, Jack Christian, Samantha Collin*, Jordan Copeland, Jaycee Cross*, Seydeanna Delgado, Hector Diaz-Segura, Jack Dwyer, Kenneth Gifford*, Keagan Goodwin, Jadyn Gorham*, Natalia Graham, Jacob Green*, Josephine Gross*, Sheilly Hernandez, Randy Hollingshead, Jackson Imus, Lizbeth Jaime-Mayorga, Jordan Jennings*, Erica Kelley, Katherine Kistler, Tobin Lanford, Hannah Lee*, Payton Lee-Parker*, Joy Leuthauser, Josiah Lopez, Clairissa Lyon*, Kelly Madrid, Jadon Mangrum, Arne Miller*, Kylie Morris, Nels Motley, Caitlin Ogoe*, Zachary Oldroyd, Vanessa Ortega-Almanza, Jorge Pacheco, Ana Padilla, Mahlia Perez, Abigail Phillips*, William Porter*, Carmen Puentes-Flores, Henry Radovich, Gloria Ramirez*, Robert Ramirez*, Trevor Reich*, Eliram Reyes-Powell*, Aiden Samuelson, Hailey Sella*, Josephine Shuda*, Joshua Simpson, Denise Terrazas-Corona, Stevie Thate*, Katelynn Thompson, Alyssa VanVleet, Zachary Vincent, Lisa Welch*, Alexander Wheeler, Gabe Wigington, Garhardt Wilder*, Jentel Wilson*, Daniel Wittenberg*, Reece Wolfe, and Camila Zamora*.

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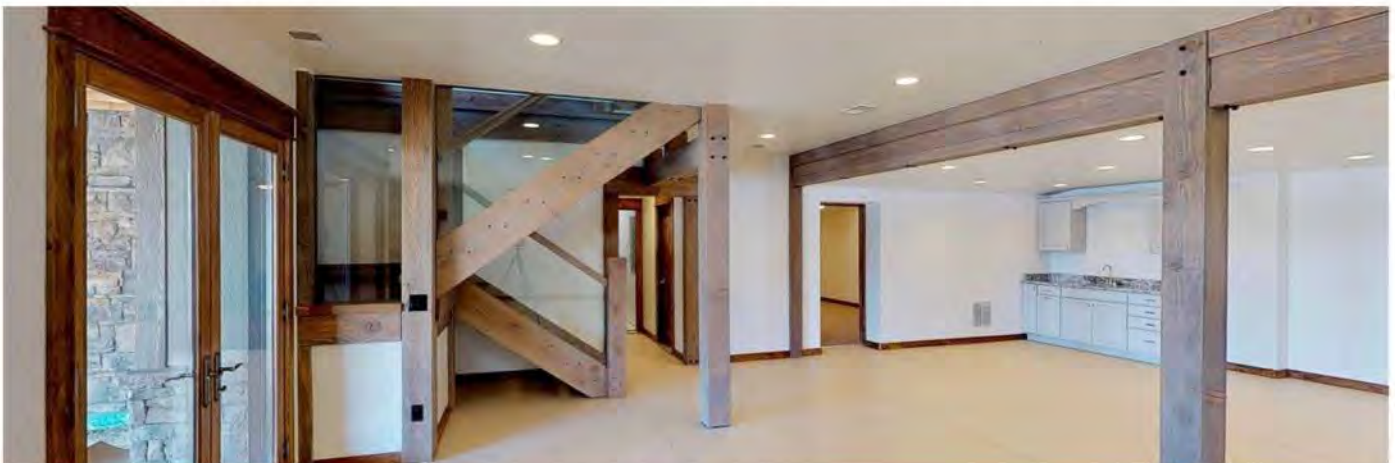


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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ELK TRACKS: UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS AT THE MONTROSE ELKS LODGE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.

February 13, 2021 Elks Annual Valentines Day Dance

Awesome dinner date night for Valentine's Day 2021: Start out with a great dinner at 5 PM, followed up with Neon Sky providing live music for your listening or dancing pleasure from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Dinner by itself is \$5, \$10 separate cover for the Band. Upgrade your Valentines Day from a good one to a legendary one at the Elks Lodge. Open to the public.

February 20, 2021 5 PM 153rd Elks Anniversary

Please join us for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and Membership Drive at 5 PM. All Elks and the general public are invited. Learn about who the Elks are, what we do, and why being an Elk is a good idea. Elks are distinctly American, willing to support our Constitution, who are 21 years of age, and believe in God. Join the Elks as we strive to better our way of life and benefit our community. Current Elks, bring a friend to this event. We are located at 801 So Hillcrest Drive, Montrose CO 81401. See you there!



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JAMES R. AUSTIN HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Born April 27, 1936 - Died February 2, 2021



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Jim left this earth with the same bravado that he lived by. As anyone

who knew him would agree, Jim was larger than life. Whether you crossed paths with him at KU (Student Body President),

in Montrose (City Manager) or Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Atlanta, Mexico, Copenhagen or Spain, you surely remember a man of intelligence, humor and creativity who had a big voice and a bigger heart. Jim did not walk into a room unnoticed... and if he did, he'd make sure to get your attention.

His greatest love was Patty, his soulmate and wife of more than 60 years. Jim and Patty were together their entire lives - their "first date" captured in a photo of the two of them sharing a tire swing at age three.

Jim also went through life with an amazing cadre of close friends - too many to mention by name, but you know who you are.

In addition to Patty, he leaves behind a family who adored him. Sons Sam (Claire) and Bill (Jeri), and 5 grandchildren; Sarah, Luke, Adam, Josh and Aaron.

There will be no formal service. Donations in honor of Jim can be made to the charity of your choice. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of James Austin, please visit our [floral store](#).



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RALPH DANIEL CARVER JR October 7, 1932- January 15, 2021

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-RALPH DANIEL CARVER JR passed away early Friday morning, January 15, 2021, at his home in Montrose, Colorado, with his family beside him as he met Jesus in Glory.

Ralph Jr was born October 7, 1932 in Denver, Colorado, to Ralph Daniel Carver and Beulah May Hill Carver. He was the oldest of three children. Ralph grew up in Denver on a 5-acre mini-farm with his family.

Ralph's mom raised turkeys which were quite popular at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ralph and his siblings also raised white rabbits, cows, and chickens for 4-H. He graduated from Bear Creek High School in Lakewood, Colorado in May 1950.

In November 1950, Ralph married Lucinda A. Carhart. Together they had four children. A daughter, Delphine, and three sons, Robert, James, and Steven. In April 1951, Ralph and Lucinda moved to Dove Creek, Colorado to dry-land farm. Unfortunately, it was the driest year in history. In November 1951, they moved back to Denver, where Ralph worked as a welder at Coleman Motors. For the next three years, Ralph and family returned to Denver each winter (with a load of Christmas trees for sale) where he worked as a machinist and then back to Dove Creek in the spring to farm.

In 1957, Ralph moved the family to Naturita to work as the shop foreman and mechanic for I. Sanders Trucking, which hauled uranium from the mine in Uravan. In 1960, he opened C&C Auto Parts in Naturita to supply auto and truck parts for mine-related activities. In 1963, after the announcement of the closing of the uranium mine, he moved the family to Montrose and opened a second C&C Auto Parts. He owned and operated both stores, traveling to Naturita weekly until he sold that store. The drive to Naturita was time consuming and this was when Ralph developed his interest in flying. He became a pilot in 1970 and flew a Cessna Turbo 206. He loved flying over the Uncompahgre Plateau weekly, landing in Nucla to attend

to the auto parts store in Naturita. Ralph often would take one of his children with him on the weekly trips. He later enjoyed riding along with his son Steve in the Cessna for several memorable trips.

He opened C&C Auto Parts #3 in Delta in 1977. All three boys grew up working in the stores and learned the value of a hard day's work. They often spoke of helping Ralph all day and being paid with a bottle of pop. Their love of vehicles and excellent work ethics were developed during those years.

Ralph was an advocate of higher education and was instrumental in bringing Colorado Western College to Montrose. He served as president of the board in 1972. He was also involved in the start of the Delta-Montrose Vo-Tech Center. He felt that getting a higher education or learning a trade should be available to every young adult. He always said that an education can never be taken away.

Ralph's marriage to Lucinda ended in divorce. In 1985, he married Irene Thompson. They celebrated 27 years together before she passed away in 2012. They enjoyed traveling whenever possible. They saw the Great Wall of China, toured London, and visited Irene's son in Germany, traveling on the Autobahn. He enjoyed their trip to Alaska, especially the bears and the aerial tour by a local bush pilot.

Ralph gradually sold off his three auto parts stores and retired in 1995 to "return to his roots" and farm his acreage on Spring Creek Road. He converted an alkali patch at the bottom of Ashenfelter Hill to beautiful hay fields, which brought him much joy. He especially enjoyed having many grandchildren and great-grandchildren visit at the farm. His son James continues to manage and maintain the farm.

Ralph considered himself a businessman and a farmer. He was proud of being a farmer. He was a true Christian, a believer. He was considerate, careful, and thoughtful. Ralph was not a man of many words, but he was a man of his word and

will be dearly missed.

Ralph's daughter Delphine has been an exceptional assistant to him and manager of his affairs with the much-appreciated help of Lucy, Jennie, Betsey, Betty, Sherry, Phyllis, JD, Mallory, Mary Ann, Charlene, Starla, Eli, Kris, Christina, and others.

Ralph was a member of the Montrose Masonic Lodge, El Jebel Shriners, Montrose Elks Lodge, and a long-term member of Montrose Methodist Church where he served as a trustee for many years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Irene, his parents Ralph and Beulah, his brother Lloyd Ray, and his son Robert Lynn.

He is survived by his children, Delphine (Dan Love) of Montrose, James (Joyce) of Montrose, and Steven (April) of Glenwood Springs and by his sister Beulah May Pinson of Wheat Ridge.

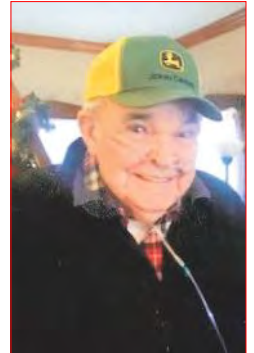
He also is survived by his grandchildren and their spouses, Phill and Trish Raimier, William (Bill) and Margo Raimier, Jason and Amber Raimier, Jessica and Jason Richards, Derek and Adrienne Wagner, Julie Cassidy, Jen and Morgan Carver-Hunter, Jacque Carver, Jamie Carver and Herb Mills, Crystal and Jesse Eustis, Carolyn and John Romero, and Cheree and Mark Osterman.

He is also survived by 24 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to Covid restrictions, a small family service and burial will be held at Grand View Cemetery in Montrose. A memorial celebration of Ralph's incredible life will hopefully be held this summer at Ralph's Farm on Spring Creek Road in Montrose.

The family requests no flowers but invites you to donate to your favorite charity in Ralph's name.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Mr. Carvers family.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTS RIDGWAY CHAMBER'S SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND VISITOR CENTER PLANS

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) released its 2020 Annual Report, describing a challenging year marked by continued progress in marketing local businesses and nonprofits. Accomplishments include collaborating on grant applications that awarded more than \$45,000 in funding and services to the community, and making updates and improvements to the Visitor Center and Heritage Park at the corner of Highways 62 and 550.

"Starting in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically impacted the chamber's budget, operations and events. For nearly two months, Lodging Occupancy Tax (LOT) funds were close to zero due to a statewide "Stay at Home" order. Once visitors began to return, LOT tax funds recovered, but all events and Visitor Center operations were postponed," wrote RACC Board President Tim Patterson in the report.

Despite the pandemic challenges, the chamber supported the town's successful implementation of two Colorado Main Street mini grants and an AARP grant that totaled \$15,000. Grant projects included the installation of picnic tables, landscape leveling and gravel, a new irrigation system, and a new outdoor visitor guide dispenser.

Also in partnership with the town, the Heritage Park and Ridgway Visitor Center Redesign Subcommittee was formed in response to a November 2020 Town Council meeting that identified the need to take further concrete steps towards revamping the two town assets. Consisting of members of Town Council and RACC staff and board as well as business, nonprofit and community members, the subcommittee will provide direction on the vision and priorities for the Visitor Center building.

In response to the Visitor Center closure, RACC staff created temporary signage that hangs in the Visitor Center southside win-

dows. The signage features the five chamber themes (Outdoor Adventure, Health & Wellness, History & Heritage, Arts & Entertainment, Culinary Experiences) along with four new themes: Shopping, Accommodations, Travel Services, and Professional Services. These new themes not only help visitors find information on

more business categories across all marketing platforms, but also increase visibility for chamber members with less tourism-based products and services. Sign content includes a QR code and website url to [RidgwayColorado.com/plan-your-trip](https://ridgwaycolorado.com/plan-your-trip). The chamber's major priority for 2020 was [RidgwayColorado.com](https://ridgwaycolorado.com) content creation, site optimization and improvements to the user experience.

The website continues to be the #1 Google search result for keyword "Ridgway Colorado." Plus, both the number of pages viewed per session and the new users have increased, demonstrating that the site is attracting more first-time visitors who are reviewing more content on the site. RACC staff also increased social media marketing efforts for the business and nonprofit community. As a result, #ridgwaycolorado followers on Instagram increased by 33% in 2020, and followers on Facebook increased by 11%.

For several years, the chamber has been on a path to educate visitors on how best to enjoy our local resources. The pandemic and related visitor trends reinforced the



In response to the Visitor Center closure, RACC staff created temporary signage that hangs in the southside windows. Courtesy photo.

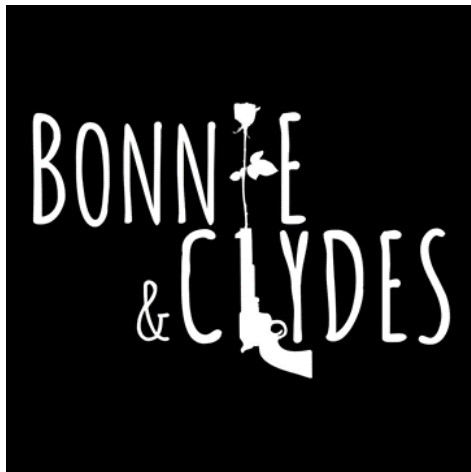
need for the organization to support the community by promoting awareness of responsible, sustainable tourism practices. Communications and marketing strategies are increasingly incorporating messages about ways to visit the Ridgway area that reinforce low-impact travel beneficial to the community. From hiring knowledgeable, local guides to Leave No Trace principles, chamber promotional platforms like the website and Visitor's Guide provide several useful tips alongside information about our local businesses and attractions. Other chamber marketing efforts in 2020 included a visitor e-newsletter, Colorado Creative Corridor promotion, a regional tourism campaign, a digital True Grit tour brochure, a shop local campaign, new content on [Colorado.com](https://colorado.com), participation in Colorado Tourism Office's Winter Co-Op Marketing Program, and the RACC Member of the Month program.

To view the 2020 RACC Annual Report, go to: https://ridgwaycolorado.com/images/documents/RACC_AnnualReport_2020FINALONLINE.pdf



New Restaurant in town:

BONNIE & CLYDES WORTH THE HYPE



By Carol Anne McKelvey

MONTROSE – I've been waiting to try Bonnie & Clydes on Main Street, hoping I might enjoy the newly created space in the historic building it occupies. The other night it just seemed about time to go ahead and give the new joint a try. I got a glimpse of the newly designed interior as I went in to pick up my to-go order. Very nice! This is a very upscale old timey themed bar and restaurant.

With Valentine's Day coming up you might consider this a good place to go; but

do consider the COVID restrictions on dining in.

Bonnie & Clydes is obviously not accustomed to doing take-out. When I looked up the menu online and called in, the server did not even ask for my name when I placed the order. And you have to go inside (mask in place) to pick up your dinner.

Michael and I enjoyed sharing an order of penne pasta with chicken and Gorgonzola at a reasonable \$19. The server said it was an entry for one, but oh boy, I'd like to see one person eat all that in one setting. You'll certainly have leftovers for the next day. We shared and still had enough left for the next evening. It was delicious.

With our creamy pasta dish, we ordered a Greek salad, also a lot and very tasty. Came in two containers so, yeah, salad for another day.

I washed mine down with a little Pinon Grigio; Mike enjoyed his in front of the TV. Now, Bonnie & Clydes doesn't have a standard menu. They post a new menu on their Facebook page weekly. So, there is no standard take-out menu.

I'll give you an idea of the items and prices you'll encounter. This week the offer-

ings were:

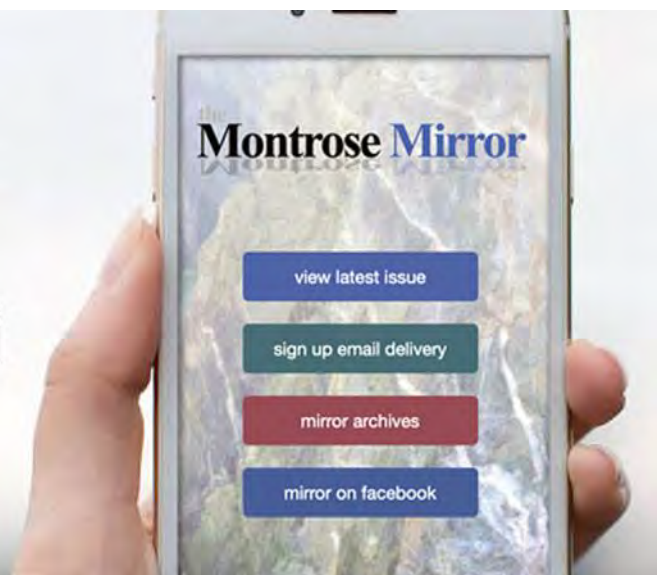
Entrees: If you want to go all out -- Whole duck for two, Rack of Lamb, Kobe beef NY strip, Beef Wellington, Lobster roll, Blackened Salmon, from \$16-49; or you can order Spaghetti with smoked meatballs, chicken Gorgonzola, fish and chips, the outlaw chicken sandwich with bacon and cheese, portobello stir-fry, Wagyu burger, a pulled pork sandwich, from \$12-14. Starters: Fried Brussel sprouts, crab cakes, family salad (Greek, Ranch or Italian), fried cauliflower, from \$10-22.

Sides: Mexican sweet corn, corn bread, purple mashed potatoes, polenta, rainbow baby carrots, from \$6-8.

Desserts: Listed on the menu were crème Brule, panna cotta, and an ice cream with strawberries and pound cake, from \$8-10. However only one of the desserts was available the evening I called and we decided to pass on the ice cream with strawberries.

Bonnie & Clydes is located at 647 E. Main Street, 81401, (970) 615-7158. Hours are Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 9 pm; Friday 11-11:15 pm; Saturday, 11- 9 and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET is a gathering of vendors selling local fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts, and more. **Date and time:** Alternate Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm—every other weekend starting Jan. 9th 2021

Location: Montrose Centennial Plaza and Centennial Meeting Room, 15-99 S Uncompahgre Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

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

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

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

MONTHLY

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

Feb. 11-9 a.m. to Noon Open House at Dialysis Clinic, Inc., a non-profit provider of out-patient dialysis services in Montrose. DCI will be celebrating our 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.

Feb 13- Elks Annual Valentines Day Dance. Awesome dinner date night for Valentine's Day 2021: Start out with a great dinner at 5 PM, followed up with Neon Sky providing live music for your listening or dancing pleasure from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Dinner by itself is \$5, \$10 separate cover for the Band. Upgrade your Valentines Day from a good one to a legendary one at the Elks Lodge. Open to the public. 801 So Hillcrest Drive, Montrose CO 81401.

Feb. 20- 5 PM 153rd Elks Anniversary. Please join us for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and Membership Drive at 5 PM. All Elks and the general public are invited. Learn about who the Elks are, what we do, and why being an Elk is a good idea. Elks are distinctly American, willing to support our Constitution, who are 21 years of age, and believe in God. Join the Elks as we strive to better our way of life and benefit our community. Current Elks, bring a friend to this event. We are located at 801 So Hillcrest Drive, Montrose CO 81401.



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to keep CO safe!



Wash
your hands

Thank you for doing your part
to keep CO safe!

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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Silverton is a historic and beautiful gem. By Deb Reimann.



Above, The sleek cow elk was browsing and watchful. By Deb Reimann.

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