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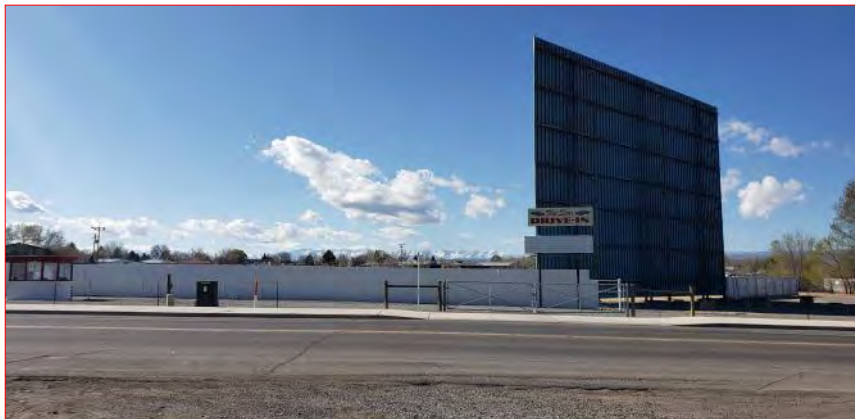
Issue No. 419 March 8 2021

BOCC VOTES TO APPROVE HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR STAR DRIVE-IN THEATRE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular meeting in chambers on Wednesday, March 3. The meeting was broadcast live for online viewing in real time.

Pastor Curt Mudget of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation. Mudget asked for wisdom and clarity on the issues commissioners face, and expressed thanks for the day. "...we can blossom again after a long, long winter of being isolated in our homes." All commissioners were present; Commissioner Roger Rash led all in saying the Pledge of



The historic Star Drive-In Theatre. Mirror file photo by Gail Marvel.

[Continued pg 9](#)

ATTORNEY REPEATEDLY REFERS TO CITY AS 'FAMILY' DURING LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING FOR CITY-OWNED EATERY



The City of Montrose has approved its own liquor license for the city-owned restaurant at Black Canyon Golf Course, above.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the regular, virtual City Council meeting of Tuesday, March 2, the Montrose City Council issued a proclamation in support of a national non-profit that has made a big difference here in Montrose. Council declared March 8 to be Volunteers of America Day. Mayor Barbara Bynum read the proclamation into the record. All councilors were present for the meeting. Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA DAY PROCLAMATION

Background-The proclamation notes that Volunteers of America (VOA) has served the needs of our nation's most vulnerable people, through the United States, since 1896; in Western Colorado, annually VOA serves approximately 1,200 long term care and short term rehabilitation clients,

[Continued pg 28](#)

in this issue

[Publisher Paul Arbogast on Rusty Putter Gets A Liquor License](#)

[Volunteers of America Celebrates 125 years of service!](#)

[Twyla Righter Outside the Box!](#)

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BENNET STAFF LISTENS TO THE WESTERN SLOPE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Do you need help dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs, IRS, Social Security Administration, or another federal agency? Do you have a suggestion for Congress that will help your family or community? If so, Senator Michael Bennet invites you to speak one-on-one on the phone with a member of his staff during upcoming telephone office hours. Alyssa Logan, Bennet's Regional Representative, will hold telephone office hours on Tuesday afternoons from March 9 through May 25. Coloradans who live in Rio Blanco, Garfield, Mesa, Pitkin, Delta, and Montrose Counties can schedule an appointment during Alyssa's office hours by sending an email to Alyssa_Logan@bennet.senate.gov. Please include your name, address, phone number, and a brief description of the issue you want to address, as this will help her assist you. If you are already working with someone in Bennet's office, please include that information in your email, as well. Those without email access can call 970-241-6631. Constituents do not need to wait for office hours to ask for help or share opinions. Please call any Bennet office at any time for assistance.

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READ ACROSS AMERICA -DR SEUSS IN THE PARK PROJECT

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-Montrose High School ASTRA members gathered in Buckley Park to promote youth literacy on Wednesday, March 3. The members split off into little groups with the kids and read them various books by Dr. Seuss. After the readings, kids were treated to snacks and were able to pick a book for their own. Twenty-seven new Dr. Seuss books will be placed in each of the Little Free Libraries (one at Buckley Park, the other at La Raza Park) for kids. The Montrose Altrusa organization donated 60 books to help support this program.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT *RAD & Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Safety Closures*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests is seeking public comment on the proposed Rustler's Gulch, Angel Basin, Democrat Basin (RAD) and Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closure Project to physically close

26 abandoned, inactive mine features (adits and shafts) which pose the greatest physical hazards to the public or other resources. Features to be closed are located on National Forest System lands north and west of Crested Butte, Colorado.

Nineteen of the sites are located within the Raggeds or Maroon Bells-Snowmass

Wilderness Areas. The project's additional seven sites, located in the Scarp Ridge area, are outside of the wilderness boundaries. Closure methods for this project may include backfill, grates, polyurethane foam plugs, bulkheads and grated corrugated steel pipe.

The GMUG proposes this project in partnership with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Stabilization and removal of mine hazards benefit both agencies by making these lands safer for the public and the environment. Pending approval, project implementation could occur as early as summer 2021.

All comments regarding RAD & Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Safety Closures must be received by the USDA Forest Service by March 25, 2021.

Comments may be:

Emailed: pamela.r.king@usda.gov with the subject header "RAD & Scarp Ridge AML Closures."

Mailed: Gunnison Ranger District, Attn: Pamela King, 216 N. Colo Street, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

For project information please visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59565>.

If you have questions or would like more information on this proposal, please contact Pamela Leschak, Minerals Program Manager, at 970-549-6101 or Pamela.Leschak@usda.gov.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALL POINTS TRANSIT TO RELOCATE TO NORTH PARK & SAN JUAN BYPASS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose has partnered with All Points Transit to relocate and expand their transit center, currently located on South Second Street in downtown Montrose, to a new location on North Park Avenue, just off the San Juan Bypass.

All Points Transit is a non-profit organization based in Montrose that serves communities throughout Montrose County, including the West End, as well as Delta, San Miguel, and Ouray counties.

The project will most likely take three years to complete, according to City Manager Bill Bell. A vacant building located at 931 North Park Avenue, which adjoins the proposed site, has been deemed structurally unsound and has been scheduled for demolition this year to make room for the new transit hub.

The city intends to acquire contractor services for the abatement of regulated building materials, including asbestos, in the existing structures and consider proposals for salvaging of the metal materials. Demolition of the existing site concrete and small structures will be accomplished by city crews. Jim Scheid, the city's public works manager, said the city will begin this year to contract out services to remove asbestos before demolition begins.

The new transit center is intended to give All Points Transit room to expand as the community's transit needs continue to grow and to accommodate regional transit operations such as CDOT's Bustang rider, which currently runs from Grand Junction to Durango and plans to add a route to Gunnison in the future.

All Points Transit began as Montrose County Senior Citizens Transportation in 1989, driving elderly and disabled residents to doctor's appointments, providing meal delivery, and other essential services throughout Montrose. Since then, All Points has been responsible for transportation services within Montrose County, including to and from the communities of Montrose, Olathe, Nucla, Naturita, Norwood, Paradox, Bedrock, and Redvale. In 2008 All Points expanded to serve Delta County including Delta, Cedaredge, Hotch-

kiss, Paonia, Orchard City, and Crawford.

Increased demand prompted the addition of the Montrose City Bus daytime service, launched in 2010.

The door-to-door dial-a-ride service is available throughout the service area on a pre-scheduled basis. All Points Transit's buses and routes are open to anyone and specialize in serving older adults and persons with disabilities. According to All Points Transit Director Sarah Curtis, in a normal year, All Points delivers about 80,000 trips per year, on average. "In 2020, we delivered roughly 50 percent of that, due to the COVID19 Pandemic," Curtis said. Curtis said All Points staff and its

board of directors are thrilled with this opportunity to partner with the City of Montrose and the Colorado Department of Transportation to create a multi-modal transportation hub in Montrose.

"This facility will serve as a safe and convenient place for passengers to make connections between services and travel throughout the region," Curtis said. "The administrative facility will allow All Points Transit to continue to improve our call center, ticketing, information sharing, and trip planning services, helping residents and visitors alike to navigate all of the available transportation services in our region."

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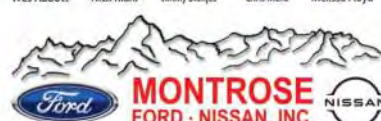
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB *January and February Youths of the Month*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) Youth of the Month for January 2021 was Wyatt! The staff chose to recognize Wyatt because he is always a really great kid. Wyatt is always respectful, kind, and willing to help in any situation. Recently the staff have noticed that some of the 4th and 5th grade members have been trying to test the staff's limits. However, the staff all agreed that Wyatt does not ever join in to cause problems. He doesn't fall into peer pressure but instead remains a great kid to be around. Thanks for being a great role model to your peers Wyatt!

The BCBGC Youth of the Month for February 2021 was Shayne! The staff chose Shayne because of her kindness. Shayne is very sweet and is one of the most helpful Club members. She continually sets a good example for her peers and will always go above and beyond to help someone when they need it. Way to go Shayne!

For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.



Shayne. Courtesy photo.



Wyatt. Courtesy photo.

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BOCC VOTES TO APPROVE HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR STAR DRIVE-IN THEATRE From pg 1

Allegiance.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen opened the session. "Welcome everybody, since we now have wisdom blessed upon us I hope we can demonstrate that."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

County resident Bradley Switzer addressed the BOCC about plans to straighten the alignment of the Popular Road where it intersects with 6250 Road. "...The county has decided they want to straighten this jog in Popular Road out...there is also what's known as Tappan Creek...it doesn't run very often but it runs."

Tappan Creek flows from the upper section of the Dave Wood Road and flows under the road.

"So they put in a six-foot culvert," Switzer said, and drew an illustration for commissioners as he spoke.

"...It's not big enough. Should have been bigger...I've seen the floods come down Tappan Creek, they're five to ten year floods."

The most recent event flooded several properties and a portion of the Dave Wood Road itself, Switzer said. "I am just going to suggest, if you straighten Popular Road...put in a big culvert."

Tappan Creek goes right through the drainage where the county will extend Popular Road and eventually joins Spring Creek, Switzer said.

"My suggestion today," he said, "is that the county look very carefully at the size of the culvert that they put in here. My opinion? It outta be a ten-foot culvert."

"When Tappan Creek decides to run, it is a force to be reckoned with," Switzer said. "It is angry when it runs, it is brown, it is muddy, and it is dangerous."

Hansen thanked Switzer for his comments.

"Does that conclude your drawing sir?" She promised to share his suggestions with staff for review, and suggested that bringing a blue pen in future would enhance the depiction of water. "We appreciate your observations there."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris removed a Planning & Development item from the meeting agenda, [a public hearing on the Good Shepherd Ranch RV Park Special Use \[SU-20-0066\] Proposal](#) to develop a campground to include RV, tent and tiny cabin sites.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented, with Resolution No. 09-2021 assigned to Item eight and Resolution No. 10-202021 assigned to Item nine.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve a [resolution](#) designating the Star Drive-In Theatre (600 East Miami Road), constructed in 1950, as a landmark of local historic significance in Montrose County.

Zilla Mae Brown of the Montrose County Historic Landmark Advisory Board said that the Star Drive-In Theatre is the oldest drive-in theater still operating in the state of Colorado and is one of only about 325 drive-in theaters remaining in operation nationwide.

Brown said that the Star Drive-In Theatre reflects and preserves typical mid-century design and structural elements, including the original 1933 drive-in theater patented design and function, the original 1950 marque, ticket booth, viewing area, and projection building, and the original 1948 patented ramp location/identification lights; and it has been owned and managed by a single family.

The paint colors reflect the local high school colors, and despite film industry pressure the Star Drive-In Theatre continues to offer free admission to children under ten, Brown said.

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy and Commissioner Roger Rash shared memories of seeing movies at the historic drive-in.

"I just remember the first time as a child going to the theater," BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said. "We watched the movie McClintock...my wife even worked there for Pam (Friend), when she was in high school."

Many local high school students have worked for the theatre.

Commissioner Roger Rash thanked Brown for bringing the resolution forward.

"It is a landmark, there's no two ways about it...growing up poor, we didn't have a lot of money," Rash said. "But we could at least pile all the kids in and half the neighbor kids and we could go to the movie for a set price per car...we still take our grandchildren to the movies today at the Star Drive-In."

Rash also recalled the Naturita drive-in. "We're losing them, that's the sad part...they are disappearing...this is really special that we can hold this thing to the standard and say, yeah this is a historical landmark and really needs to be preserved."

Rash reminded that the Drive-In has provided entertainment during the pandemic. "Thank God we had the drive-in for families to get out and blow off a little bit of steam and have a bucket of popcorn and a soda pop out there."

Following further discussion, "I just think it's great that we have a drive in," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, and requested a photo to commemorate the resolution.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

In other business, the BOCC voted to approve the [Bountiful Acres Subdivision Filing No.11](#) at Juniper Road and 6390 Road Final Plat to create seven residential lots.

"This is one of our bigger subdivisions that we've had in the county for awhile," Hansen said. White said that the recent increase in development activity is "extreme compared to last year in terms of numbers of houses." In February, 44 building permits were issued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC moved to enter executive session for privileged legal advice pertaining to the Meadows Ranch Desert Land Entry Application. No decisions were made; direction was provided to staff, County Attorney Marti Whitmore said.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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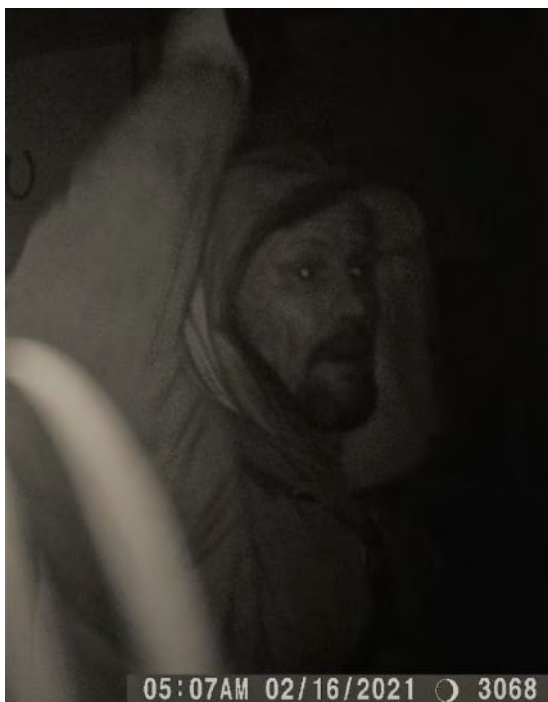
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect (s) who trespassed onto a property in the 5700 Block of Highway 348. Between the dates of February 8, 2021 and February 16 2021, an unknown male party reportedly entered an unoccupied residence and stole items of value. The Attached photo was obtained from surveillance equipment in the area which captured an individual returning to the residence on at least three different occasions.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via [P3Tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com). Crimes Stoppers wants 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. All involved parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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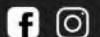
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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INTRODUCES NEW COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Public Health is pleased to announce changes in the COVID-19 vaccination scheduling.

The county has transitioned to a public-facing link to register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments as opposed to signing-up on a pre-registration link and waiting for notification. Participants will confirm that they meet criteria established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) phase schedule. Appointments are also available by calling the public hotline at 970-252-4545.

The first public-facing clinic will be on Friday, March 5 with a goal of 1,000 doses of the new Janssen Pharmaceuticals (Johnson & Johnson) vaccination. This vaccine offers protection after just a single dose of administration and does not re-


quire two doses. All the available vaccines have been proven effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 disease. As of Friday, March 5, CDPHE has announced that phase 1b3 vaccinations may begin, which includes a larger part of the population. For more information regarding the phase criteria, please visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>.

"We think this new system will ease the communication process," said Commissioner Sue Hansen. "This is a good sign—this means that we have at least made one or more contact with everyone on our pre-registration list who is eligible. We know that several more residents will be eligible with the change in phases and we are looking forward to doing our part to help provide vaccinations to those who are eligible."


"This is a step in the right direction; more and more providers have signed up and are now administering vaccine across the county," said Montrose County Public Health Director Jim Austin. "Community members now have the option to receive a vaccination at over 10 different locations including doctor's offices and pharmacies that offer flexible schedules and trusted medical expertise."

Moving forward, the county will update montrosecountyjic.com/vaccination with information regarding clinic availability. Second dose clinics have priority at this time, and additional first doses are added as space is available.

Please keep in mind that plans may change week-to-week as the county receives allocations on a weekly basis from the State of Colorado.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OPEN DISCUSSION ENDANGERED BY DAILY PRESS 'FACT CHECKERS'

Editor:

Among the several guarantees provided by the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution is "freedom of speech", the right of each individual citizen to openly express their personal opinion on any subject. Yet, over the last few years we have witnessed ever increasing attacks on that most basic right that we all should cherish and defend!

Censorship is the most blatant offense against our right of "free speech", whether it be by obvious omission of information for decision making or by anonymous "fact checkers" deciding what we can or cannot view. We have all seen Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter posts, that usually depict the individuals thoughts, quickly deleted because they pose a point of view contrary to that of "big brother". And the media constantly assaults "free speech" by neglecting to report critical information, or by obviously slanting information unfavorable to their agenda.

This censorship [i.e.: FACT CHECKING] has run rampant on the national level, but sadly it has shown it's ugly face right here

in Montrose. For several years the Montrose Daily Press has shown what many feel is a deliberate bias in favor of reprint articles by liberal commentators. The new Montrose Dailey Press NABUR program [the Neighborhood Assisting Bureau Reporting], is a platform supposedly for community discussion on various issues of community interest. At face value, maybe a good idea, since "discussions" represent a mixture of various individual beliefs, ideas, and opinions.

What is troubling here is that it is boldly noted on the Montrose Daily Press site that the "discussions" on the new NABUR platform will be "moderated and FACT-CHECKED by our journalists in efforts to stop the spread of false information in the community".

False information? Sounds eerily similar to Bill Bell's article of Feb 17 in the Montrose Daily Press regarding the HUB project, where he decried a "citizen led misinformation campaign designed to create chaos based on fear and speculation". In truth, numerous citizens exercised their 1st Amendment rights by voicing their

personal opinions regarding HUB, yet Bell views that exercise of free speech as "misinformation". It certainly seems to me that Bell, the city, and the Montrose Dailey Press "may" have collaborated on NABUR to "...stop the spread of false information in the community", or "misinformation" as Bell put it. Nothing but censorship in it's despicable form!

In the March 3 edition of the Daily Press, Publisher Dennis Anderson used two full rambling columns in an Editorial [Your Truth, My Truth And The Truth] to excoriate Bill Bennet for having, on a regular basis, the audacity to exercise his 1st Amendment right to free speech ,and his personal opinions regarding City Government. As far as I'm concerned, this is further evidence of the broadly held perception that The Montrose Daily Press is entrenched solidly in the City's deep pockets.

If free and uncensored open discussion of ideas/concerns is your goal, please consider that being able to make an informed decision may require a variety of sources of information that are not agenda driven.
Dee Laird, Montrose



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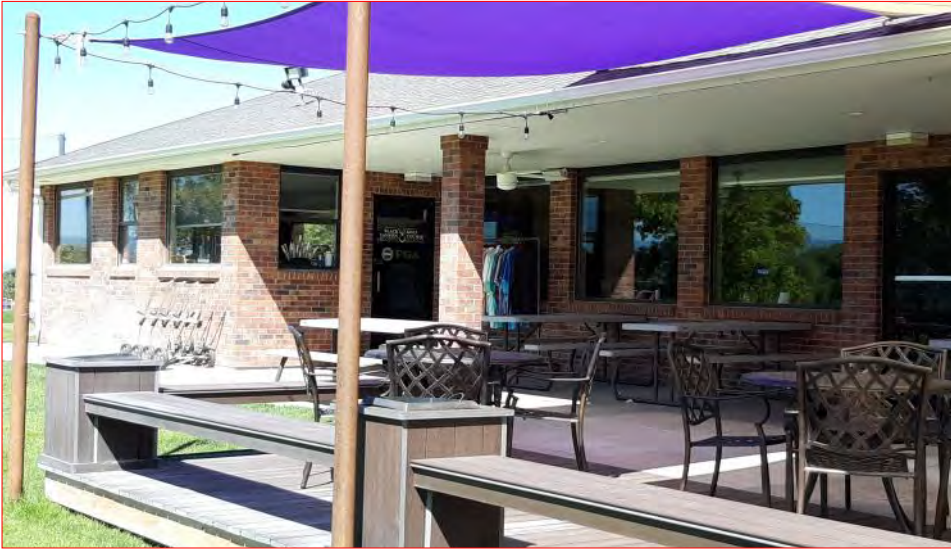
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

RUSTY PUTTER GETS A LIQUOR LICENSE



The restaurant porch at Black Canyon Golf Course. Mirror file photo.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE—There has been a lot of talk around town about the city going into the restaurant business out at the Black Canyon Golf Course. Some complain that such a decision should be a matter for the council, thus a public meeting, but the reality is the city owns the property, so they are not acquiring anything new, or building anything new, so the council need not put the decision before the public. Some suggest that it not be something that the city undertakes, for various reasons, including the reality that it will just be a money loser for the city and thus rest on the shoulders of the taxpayers of Montrose. But perhaps because the golf course is already a big financial loser every year, the city figures adding a little more debt does not matter or will not be noticed.

The city may argue that the restaurant will not lose money, but how deep did they dig into the restaurant industry to understand the low profit margins, or did they just want a place they control, where all city employees can get a discounted meal? It certainly would not be the first time the city has taken over or shut down something, from the parks commission to

the DDA, putting the city manager (a civilian with no law enforcement background) as the boss of our chief of police, and so much more that those that have lived here, and paid attention to, know about.

Yes, the city has said it will offer all city employees a discount at the restaurant. The reasoning seems to be if they give discounts, more city employees will go there, which will help the restaurant. I think the reality is cutting thin margins to even smaller ones, via discounts, just off-sets any of that loss on the taxpayer. And how is the city, that talks proudly of how much it supports and does for local businesses, helping other local restaurants if they are trying to drive city employees to eat at their own restaurant?

The meal discount is in addition to the benefit that city employees get to golf for free. There are currently 183 city employees, but they do not actively track how many use the 'free golf' benefit, even though there is a separate option when reserving a tee time for employees. Though I was told that anecdotally about 20 employees use it regularly. I am not sure how often 'regularly' is, but even if you assume only once a week in good weather, you are probably looking at over

15k in lost green's fees for this benefit. The real number is probably higher, but because they do not track it, reality is hidden to the citizens that are footing the bill.

While I have seen the postings for a short order cook and a bartender/server, I missed the one they put out for the restaurant manager position, which has been filled. I was told by a few people that saw it that the position was listed with a salary of 45k. That amount by itself, if it was what was posted, is considerably higher than the payroll of Divots last year. Combine that with all the other costs, and this whole thing is something a bank would never lend money for, because the numbers would not show a potential for profit. Granted, the government is not in the business of 'profit', but it should show as much restraint as possible when it comes to spending taxpayer's money.

I did ask about who they hired, and what their experience was. I was told they are highly qualified, but not how many years of experience and where. So perhaps they are the perfect fit for such a job, but it struck me as a somewhat evasive answer. Usually, the city likes to brag on years of experience and all the things their new employees have accomplished elsewhere. Either way I wish that person well and best of luck, it is going to be a big job with a lot of pressure.

At the March 3rd city council meeting, the city discussed and voted on granting themselves a liquor license for this new restaurant. I have watched many hearings involving liquor licenses, and this was the strangest by far. You can watch the recording of the meeting online; the discussion starts at the 6:39 mark. It opened with City Attorney Stephen Alcorn talking about how this was not a normal hearing because he considered those on the application to be friends and family. I would hope while city employees and elected officials are pleasant and friendly to each other, taking it to a level of friends and

Continued next pg

RUSTY PUTTER GETS A LIQUOR LICENSE

From previous pg

family just seems to offer far too much in terms of conflict of interest and favoritism, which should never be allowed in a functioning government.

Normally two key things the council looks for and asks about are the need for a license, as well as the moral character of those applying. In this case the need was justified by saying that those that golf like to have a drink, though they have been golfing for a few months without drinking as there has been no license for the golf course, and it is against the law to bring your own onto the premises. The moral character was not really addressed.

In other hearings the council ask a lot of questions about how people will avoid selling to minors and how they will police the premises for violators. Council member Glaspell asked if anyone was going to be on the course monitoring, and the responses were pretty vague. It was said the course is 110 acres, so it is impossible to fully monitor, but they would do the best they could. Often repeated was an idea that all the city employees that golf there, and all their citizen friends, would always be on the lookout for violations and minors drinking. I am fairly sure if a new bar was to apply for a license, a response of 'we know our customers and

they will police such things for us' would not be an acceptable answer to any member of the city council.

Of course, all the talk of council members and city employees out there golfing and eating made me wonder about the mixing of city business and recreation. Or what are the odds that at least three council members might be there together, which is a quorum and must be posted by legal notice prior to it happening? But that is a whole separate issue.

I did look at the application for the license and it brought more questions to mind. The first thing I noticed was the applicant was listed as 'City of Montrose – A municipal Corporation'. They list the FEIN (federal employer identification number) on the form, and in every other record of the FEIN used is simply 'City of Montrose'. I did ask the city about this and was pointed to the home rule regulations that talk about cities being corporations, this is a political structure, not a corporation as is normally thought of in private industry.

Listed as the manager of the license is the current golf pro at the BCGC, who would also be the supervisor of the newly hired restaurant manager. Because they listed the applicant as a corporation, they had to

list "all Officers, Directors, General Partners and Managing members." They listed William E. Bell, Ann Morgenthaler, and Shani Wittenberg, as President, Vice President, and Treasurer, respectively.

The Colorado code says that when a municipality applies for a license, they must submit one member of the governing body, or a person hired or appointed by the governing body, to serve as an officer and director of the license. It seems they could just have put City of Montrose and listed the person(s) they picked to be responsible for the license, rather than saying it was a corporation (in the business sense as the form suggests) and giving titles to city employees. Perhaps that is nitpicking, but I find it interesting that they list the city manager as the 'president' of the corporation of Montrose.

Perhaps it is meaningless, or perhaps it is a Freudian slip, that is for the citizens to decide on their own.

In the end, it seems that leasing the space is a better option, as the city at least makes money from taxes and other costs to the lessee, as opposed to running it themselves and adding to the continued losses the BCGC puts on the shoulders of the taxpayers.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J TO USE MONTROSE PAVILION AS ALTERNATE SCHOOL SATELLITE SITE FOR CENTENNIAL MIDDLE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose and Montrose County School District (MCSD) have announced a partnership to continue in-person instruction at the Montrose Pavilion for Centennial Middle School (CtMS) students displaced by the discovery of asbestos containing material on parts of the school campus.

Conference and auditorium space at the Pavilion will be used as learning spaces for CtMS seventh and eighth grade students throughout the abatement period, possibly through the end of the school year, starting Monday, March 15th.

"When the school district asked for our help during this difficult time, it was a no brainer," Montrose City Manager Bill Bell said. "The schools have had to deal with Covid restrictions, online learning, and chaotic activity schedules for a year. The least we could do was allow them to use our Pavilion Event Center building for an ad hoc school."

"The Pavilion is actually set up really well for education with classroom and auditorium space, modern technology, outdoor courtyard and open space, and kitchen facilities. I am so proud of the outstanding

and mutually supportive relationship that exists between the City and our School District here in Montrose," noted Bell.

MCSD Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson noted that, "Throughout this challenging school year, our District has been ahead of the game thanks to our strong community partnerships, whether it be remote learning, our hybrid model, access to technologies, and all the different ways various organizations depend upon each other for the good of our community."

"While it may be difficult leading a school district during a global pandemic, you couldn't find a better community to do it than Montrose. We work together, we share resources, and we look out for one another. Our children and families are more successful because we help each other through adversity and challenges," Stephenson said.

While the abatement work on parts of the Centennial Middle School campus may be completed prior to the May 26th end of the school year, the City has offered the Pavilion as a learning space through the next three months, free of charge in March and April, and at a discounted rate for the month of May.

Conference rooms, meeting spaces, and the Pavilion auditorium can be flexibly used as seventh and eighth grade classrooms and Centennial middle school teachers are working with school leadership to creatively adapt their instruction to a different environment.

"We are extremely grateful to the City of Montrose," Centennial Middle School Principal Joe Simo stated. "While this year has been tough, our students and staff continue to rise above the obstacles. Centennial Middle School teachers are the most creative and passionate in the world and they are excited to take on this new challenge of facilitating learning in an alternative space."

The Centennial Middle School North Building was cleared for use by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Air Quality Division and CtMS sixth graders will continue to use the space and classrooms. CDPHE also cleared additional classroom space at Olathe Middle High School (OMHS); through creative use of the existing space, all OMHS students will be able to return 100% in-person in Olathe on March 15th as well.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The City of Montrose is currently accepting applications for a vacancy on the city's Planning Commission and for one alternate commissioner position. The city has extended the application deadline for both seats to 6 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021.

The term for the vacant seat will expire on Dec. 31, 2022, and the term for the alternate commissioner position will expire on Dec. 31, 2024. Both appointees are eligible to reapply for a four-year position following the expiration of their initial terms. Each appointee will receive a stipend of \$40 per month for their service.

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 the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 107 South Cascade Avenue.

Applications are available at City Hall, 433 S. First Street, at CityOfMontrose.org/Application, or by calling 970.240.1422.

GMUG PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

RAD & Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Safety Closures

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests is seeking public comment on the proposed Rustler's Gulch, Angel Basin, Democrat Basin (RAD) and Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closure Project to physically close 26 abandoned, inactive mine features (adits and shafts) which pose the greatest physical hazards to the public or other resources.

Features to be closed are located on National Forest System lands north and west of Crested Butte, Colorado.

Nineteen of the sites are located within the Raggeds or Maroon Bells-Snowmass

Wilderness Areas. The project's additional seven sites, located in the Scarp Ridge area, are outside of the wilderness boundaries. Closure methods for this project may include backfill, grates, polyurethane foam plugs, bulkheads and grated corrugated steel pipe.

The GMUG proposes this project in partnership with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Stabilization and removal of mine hazards benefit both agencies by making these lands safer for the public and the environment. Pending approval, project implementation could occur as early as summer 2021.

All comments regarding RAD & Scarp Ridge Abandoned Mine Lands Physical

Safety Closures must be received by the USDA Forest Service by March 25, 2021. Comments may be:

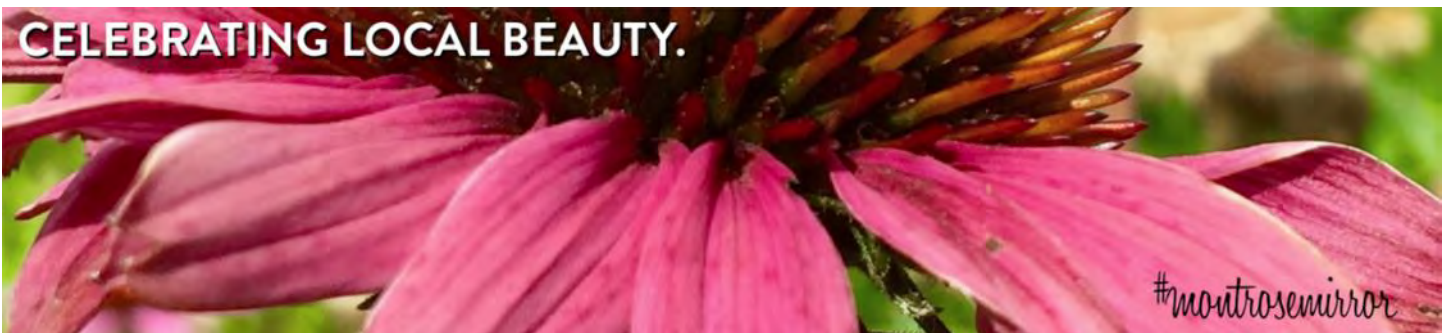
Emailed: pamela.r.king@usda.gov with the subject header "RAD & Scarp Ridge AML Closures."

Mailed: Gunnison Ranger District, Attn: Pamela King, 216 N. Colo Street, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

For project information please visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59565>.

If you have questions or would like more information on this proposal, please contact Pamela Leschak, Minerals Program Manager, at 970-549-6101 or Pamela.Leschak@usda.gov.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

'60 IN 60' CAMPAIGN HELPS PARTNERS WEST HELP LOCAL YOUTH

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Join Partners Mentoring to help local kids. Sign up once to have a monthly impact with the "60 in 60" monthly giving campaign. Sign up today by contacting Lisette@partners-west.org. Give the gift of change by donating in another's name and we'll send them a lovely card announcing their gift.

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ATTORNEY REPEATEDLY REFERS TO CITY AS 'FAMILY' DURING LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING FOR CITY-OWNED EATERY From pg 1

including; 50 units of housing in independent and assisted living, 160 home health patients, 147 home-bound and 220 congregate meals clients, and 350 PACE program participants; and in Western Colorado, VOA provides 171 units of affordable housing for the elderly and those with disabilities in the region; and in Western Colorado in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Aging and Disabilities Resources for Colorado (ADRC) provided options counseling to 2,069 clients last fiscal year. Volunteers of America nationally will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the organization's founding on March 8, 2021.

"Congratulations. It's exciting news to be celebrating such a big anniversary," Mayor Bynum said.

Volunteers of America's Erin Berge spoke as well. "...I'm really grateful for the support we receive from the City Council and all of the individuals in the community in Montrose," she said. "We're just very grateful to be here and continuing to provide services to the variety of individuals that we do.

"Thank you."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the Feb. 16, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE-CITY OF MONTROSE-THE RUSTY PUTTER

Council voted unanimously to approve a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license with optional premises at 1350 Birch Street for The City of Montrose - A Municipal Corporation, doing business as The Rusty Putter, for consumption on the licensed premises.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Bynum turned the floor over to City Attorney Stephen Alcorn, who opened a hearing. Present for the discussion were city staff, including City Manager Bill Bell and Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, as well as Golf Pro Tom Young.

Alcorn said, "I will admit that this is probably the weirdest liquor license that I've got.

"Normally I think I would recuse myself because everyone on the application I consider both a friend and family members," Alcorn said. "But there's really no other way to do this but this...it's a little bizarre."

Most liquor license applicants do not have his cell phone number, Alcorn said. "...Ann and Tom are going to text message me if they have it. So I don't want to make it look like a normal hearing because it isn't.

"But we have to do it, the law requires it, and there's no way around it."

Alcorn questioned Morgenthaler and Young about checking the ID's of underage drinkers. "Youth golfers include Connor Bell and all of his friends. Connor walks up and orders a beer, what's going to happen?"

Young said he would not allow that to happen and neither will the restaurant manager, who will report to him. "What's going to happen? We'd turn 'em away and I'd probably call their parents saying that they wanted to buy some alcohol from us."

"Kind of what you're saying is, the golf course especially when the kids become involved there, it's a bit of a big family organization or operation, right?" Alcorn said.

"Absolutely," Young said.

Alcorn said he would walk two blocks to the Bell house to yell at Connor Bell if he has to. "I know the chief of Police will too.

"We're in a big family organization and we expect that we protect our kids and each other's kids from underage drinking," Alcorn said. "Do you agree?"

"Yes I would," Young said. "Anyone who appears to under 35 or 40 will be asked for an ID. 'I'll learn that when I go to the alcohol class," Young said

Alcorn said that anyone who appears to be younger than Mayor Pro Tem Doug Glaspell should be asked for an ID.

"I'd be ID'ing a lot of people," Young said. Alcorn said, "Are there very many places

in Montrose that it's more enjoyable, once the weather warms up, than to sit on your patio and have a beer and a burger and enjoy the view."

Young said that once the restaurant is open it will be a huge hit in town.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said an experienced, professional manager has been hired. The menu will be designed to offer food at all times of day.

"We're hiring restaurant professionals...We'll have professional servers, professional cooks, professional manager who has extensive background working in a restaurant environment as well."

Alcorn compared his upbringing as a preacher's kid to the situation at the Rusty Putter. "We will have a greater expectation than what the law requires as to conforming with the liquor code...that's where we're going forward with this," he said. "With a great deal of ownership.

"...It is like questioning your own family members," Alcorn said of the hearing.

Bynum asked how patrons would be prevented from being overserved.

Young said that it's a judgment call. "I don't think it will be an issue at all, telling somebody that we can't serve 'em anymore."

City Manager Bill Bell said that the beer cart will have a camera on it as well, so that the server will be under constant video surveillance. Golfers often consume a beer per hole, Bell said. "That's a lot."

ORDINANCES 2527 AND 2528

Council voted to approve two ordinances on First Reading:

Ordinance 2527 on first reading- granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate pursuant to §1-9-2 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose (Woodgate Road Realignment). *Background-A memo from Engineer Scott Murphy states, "...considerations relating to the Woodgate Road Realignment Project's right of way acquisition across property currently owned by RDMJK Woodgate Investments include consideration of an ordinance to vacate obsolete rights of way, realign them to the new realigned roadway through a replat of the project*

Continued next pg

ATTORNEY REPEATEDLY REFERS TO CITY AS 'FAMILY' from previous pg

area, and consideration of a rezone of the project area to accompany the new lot configurations and intended commercial uses...The City of Montrose unveiled plans for the Woodgate Realignment Project on January 4, 2021 and has created a webpage specific to the project on the Moving Montrose Forward site at www.MoveMo.co."

Ordinance 2528 on first reading- amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the RDMJK Woodgate Property Rezone Map from B-2, Highway Commercial District, R-2, Low Density District, and R-1b, Small Estate District to B-3, General Commercial District; and Lots 2 and 3 of the RDMJK Woodgate Property Rezone Map from R-2, Low Density District and R-1B, Small Estate District to B-2, Highway Commercial District.

Background-A memo from Senior Planner Amy Sharp states, "The City of Montrose has been working on capital construction plans to realign Woodgate Road at its northern end and connect through to East Oak Grove Road...As part of this project, the City has been working with RDMJK Investments, the owner of nine parcels directly affected or adjacent to the realignment project. Through an agreement reached with RDMJK, the City is currently working to replat the RDMJK parcels to realign obsolete rights of way to the new alignment, dedicate remaining rights of way needed for the road, and reconfigure lot lines to match the new roadway. Concurrent with the replat, the underlying zoning will need to be updated to match the proposed lot configuration... This project is located south of East Oak Grove Road and east of South Townsend Avenue."

COLORADO OUTDOORS AMENDED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT NO. 2

Council voted to approve the Colorado Outdoors Amended Planned Development No. 2 - preliminary planned development plat and the Colorado Outdoors Amended Planned Development No. 2 - final planned development plat.

Background-A memo from Senior Planner Amy Sharp states, "The property is approximately 98.847 acres in size. It is located west of Grand Avenue, east of the Uncom-

pahgre River, and near N. 9th St. The Colorado Outdoors project developed over 165 acres of land in the northwestern section of the City of Montrose. A Planned Development Plan (PD) was created and approved by the City in November 2017. This PD was amended in October 2018. All Phase I public infrastructure was completed in December 2018 and the Filing #1 Final Plat recorded on December 19th, 2018. The purpose of the Colorado Outdoors Amended Planned Development No. 2 is to remove the Colorado Outdoors South Boundary Line Adjustment Lots 2 & 3 properties (southern portion) from the 'master' Planned Development, so that a new separate multi-family focused PD can be created for those properties. A separate Planned Development application will be required for that project. The minimum 20 percent open space requirement has been met for the Colorado Outdoors Amended Planned Development No. 2."

BASECAMP DEVELOPMENT

Also approved were the Basecamp Preliminary Planned Development; Basecamp Final Planned Development; and Basecamp Preliminary Plat. Present during the meeting were Developers Kurt and Creighton Soukup.

Following the votes, Kurt Soukup said, "We greatly appreciate it, thank you so much. We are thrilled to be part of Montrose. We are excited to get started. We assume we'll be getting started in April. We're hoping that the first four apartment buildings are completed in the next ten to 12 months."

Background-A memo from Senior Planner Amy Sharp states, "Basecamp Subdivision is a multi-family proposed development at the southern end of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) project. The property is approximately 3.6 acres in size and is bordered on the east by North Grand Avenue, on the west by the Uncom-pahgre River, and on the south by the future extension of North 6th Street. The property is zoned "I-1" Light Industrial District and is part of the MURA project initiated in 2017. The Basecamp Planned Development (PD) is being created to replace the Colorado Outdoors Planned Development that these properties were orig-

inally a part of. The properties on this PD will remain a part of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority. It meets the minimum 20 percent open space requirement for Planned Developments."

RESOLUTION 2021-02, RESOLUTION 2021-03 RESOLUTION 2021-04

Council voted to approve Resolution 2021-02, setting April 6, 2021 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition North; Resolution 2021-03, setting April 6, 2021 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Valley Ranch Addition South; and Resolution 2021-04, setting April 6, 2021 as the hearing date for the annexation of the Highway 50 Addition.

Background-Information in the meeting packet describes The Valley Ranch Addition South as "a proposed annexation approximately 70.16 acres in size. The parcel is located north of Otter Road, south of Ogden Road, west of 6700 Road, and east of 6630 Court. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area. The Highway 50 Addition is a proposed annexation approximately 15.04 acres in size. The parcel is located along Highway 50, west of 6700 Road, and east of 6600 Road. It is within the City's Urban Growth Boundary, the City of Montrose Water Service Area, and the City of Montrose Sewer Service Area."

CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION FOR MONTROSE PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT

Council voted to approve \$16,212,884 to be used for the construction of the Montrose Public Safety Complex

Background As discussed previous in work session, Council voted to approve \$16,212,884 to be used for the construction of the Montrose Public Safety Complex. A memo prepared by Public Works Manager Jim Scheid states, "The amount of \$16,212,884 that is being requested for authorization is primarily for the construction costs associated with SHAW (Construction)'s contract but there are other hard construction costs included in that total amount for items like utility undergrounding (costs to be paid to the utility provider), permitting and owners contingency."

ATTORNEY REPEATEDLY REFERS TO CITY AS 'FAMILY' from previous pg

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2529 on first reading, vacating a right-of-way on South First Street deemed surplus, for the Public Safety Complex. Also approved were an amendment to a contract with Huddleston-Berry Engineering and Testing to add Construction Material Testing for the Montrose Public Safety Complex for the not-to-exceed amount of \$205,950 and the purchase of one Vogeles asphalt paving machine from Honnen Equipment for the total purchase price of \$169,924.

STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS

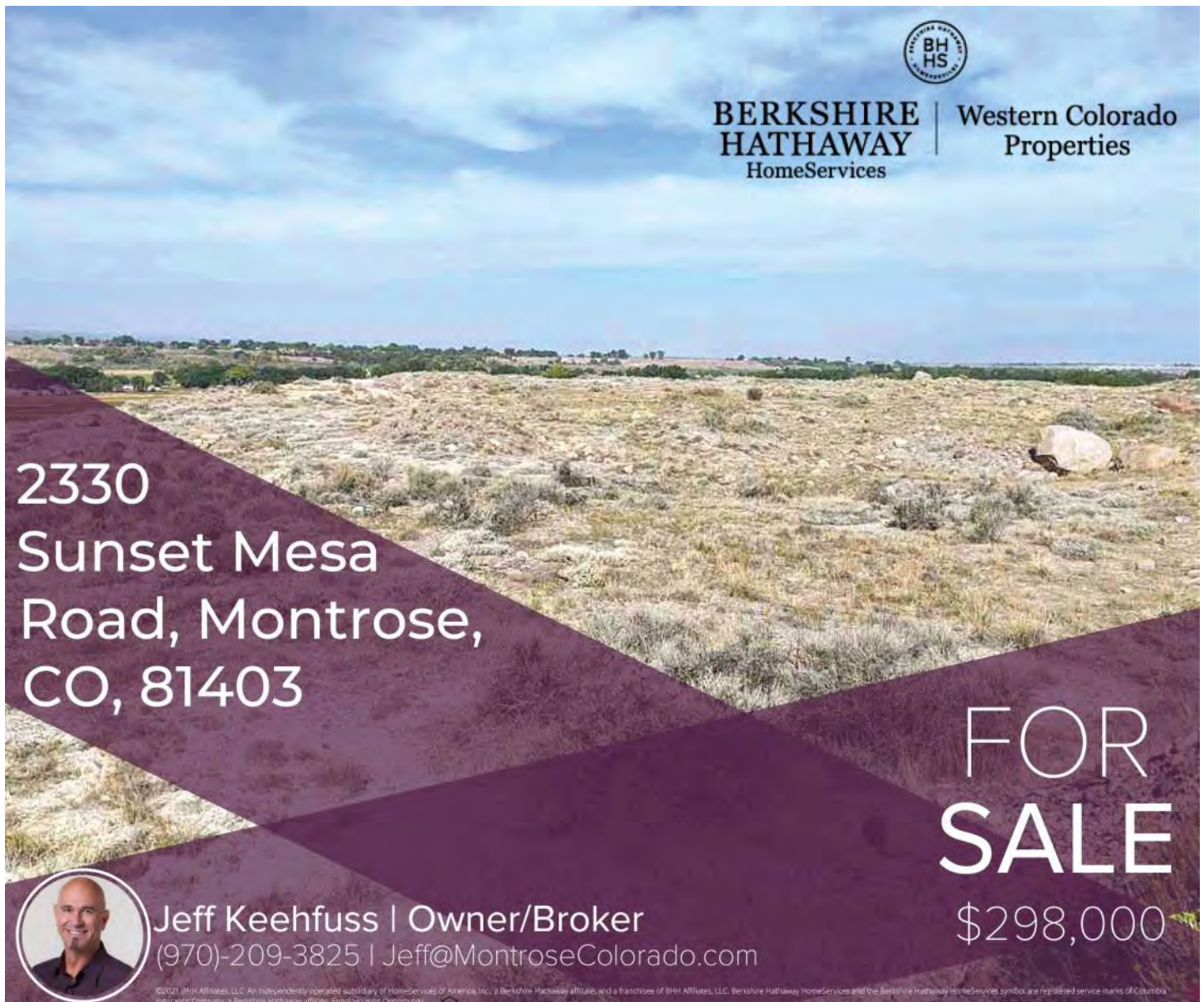
Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall gave an update on Youth Council activities, including the new drug prevention video, which is being released to offer a series of activities day by day.

Hall, who is the son of Police Chief Blaine Hall, also expressed support for the new Public Safety Complex. "I'm excited to see this thing getting built," Hall said.

"Did your dad tell you to say that?" Mayor Bynum asked.

"No," Hall said, "it's all me."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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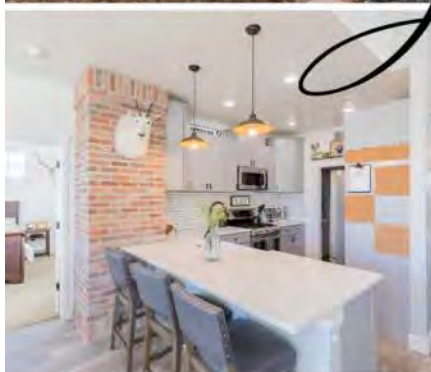
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the details



Jessamy Pressler

970.433.0961

jessamypresslerrealtor@gmail.com



Jen Johnson

610.850.5858

jjohnsonmreg@gmail.com



4 bedrooms



3 bathrooms



1,926 sq ft



1.025 acres

Listing Price \$499,000

CITY TALKS INCENTIVES WITH YURT CO; IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTH 9TH SIDEWALK, LA RAZA SPORTS COURT



at more than 200 businesses, he and his wife purchased the Colorado Yurt Company.

"...We really wanted to buy a business that had opportunity to grow."

The Gibsons met with the previous company owners Dan and Emma Kigar to talk about the possibilities in September of 2019, at the Mayfly facility, he said. The Gibsons closed on the business in January of 2020; three months later the pandemic hit.

"What happened in March was not convenient for us...it crushed all kinds of expectations for us right at the beginning," Gibson said.

The company shifted to making PPE including face shields. The first clients were the Montrose Police Department and Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Sales took off, Gibson said. "We finished the year about 45 percent up."

Proposed City incentives include:

- Estimated City of Montrose Building Permit Fee Waivers \$105,000
- Estimated "Made in Montrose, Colorado" Marketing Assistance \$30,000 over three years
- Estimated Water and Sewer Connection Fee Abatements \$29,065
- Estimated Horizontal Infrastructure/Non-Building Site Improvements approximately \$918,935 (TIF Anticipatory Borrowing to be repaid to MURA and City through property taxes generated by the project).

NORTH 9TH SIDEWALK EXTENSION CONTRACT AWARD

Council discussed the the award of a contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$89,062.60 for construction of the North 9th Sidewalk Extension Project. *Background-A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy states, "... Recent completion of the nearby Connect Initiative recreation trail, development within Colorado Outdoors, and feedback received during neighborhood meetings have helped to make a missing link on North 9th Street between Selig and Grand Avenues a high-priority sidewalk extension for the City. To that end, following a community walk of the neighborhood on Oct. 7, 2020, the engineering department was directed to*

Montrose City Council met for a work session on Monday, March 1.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum opened the regular, virtual City Council work session on Monday, March 1. The session could be viewed online via Zoom or on cable television channels 191 and 970. "I will go ahead and kick off the Montrose City Council work session for March 1, 2021," Bynum said, "As we do with our work sessions, we jump right into discussion items and getting things done...the first thing on our list today is the Montrose Recreation District Comprehensive Master and Strategic Plan Partnership request."

MONTROSE REC DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER/STRATEGIC PLAN PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

City Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented information on the request. The request is for active city participation and a \$30K contribution. Present for the discussion were Rec District Executive Director Mari Steinbach and Rec District Board Vice Chair Christina Files. Work will begin this month with expected completion in December.

"I think citizens would expect us to participate in this," Councilor Roy Anderson said.

"I'm 100 percent behind this," Councilor Dave Bowman said.

City Manager Bill Bell said staff is very excited to participate and will be well represented at Comprehensive Master and Strategic Plan meetings. The request will come before City Council for a vote March 16.

Background-A memo from Steinbach to Council states, "This comprehensive plan is to create a roadmap to ensure an appropriate balance of parks and recreation facilities and amenities now and into the future. The planning team will collect and analyze data from within both the District and the City's systems to develop a clear set of goals, policies, and standards for the entire system -- open space, trails, recreation facilities and program development -- for the next ten years. The District's last plan was completed in 2005, with a minor update in 2009."

COLORADO YURT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION PROJECT

Council discussed a proposed expansion project with Colorado Yurt Company Owner John Gibson.

City Manager Bill Bell said, "So we're really excited to finally bring this before City Council. It's been, oh it feels like a year worth of discussions...we've had a lot of detailed discussions with John and talked about his vision...compared to a lot of our economic development initiatives, this one I think has a little of everything."

Bell said that the project involves Capital growth, job growth, reinvestment in the community, and taking a local business and expanding it. "It meets all those elements to our business development programming," Bell said.

"I just love my conversations with John," Bell said. "It's really motivating."

Gibson thanked Council and staff for working with the company. After retiring from a 30-year career in 2017, and looking

CITY TALKS INCENTIVES WITH YURT CO, CONSIDERS NORTH 9TH SIDEWALK, LA RAZA SPORTS COURT PROJECTS From previous pg

design and bid a sidewalk extension on North 9th Street. The City completed design of this sidewalk extension in January of 2021. The design includes modification of the Grand/North 9th roundabout's eastern leg to include an ADA-accessible crosswalk, detached five-foot sidewalks along the northern side of the roadway, and decorative rock between the curb and sidewalk."

LA RAZA SPORTS COURT PROJECT CONTRACT AWARD

Also discussed was the award of a construction contract to Kuboske Construction for \$106,726 for the La Raza Sports Court Project Award.

Background-A memo from Public Works Manager Jim Scheid to Council states, "The City of Montrose has been working with the La Raza neighborhood on a concept plan for improvement at La Raza Park. An approved plan was developed and this project reflects the approved amenities. Proposed improvements include replacement of existing basketball court, addition of solar lighting, seating, and a small amount of sidewalk."

The two projects were not budgeted for 2021; "This was developed after our budget was put together for 2021. It is our understanding that Council may wish to use reserves for these projects," Scheid said. "...We're bringing 'em to you now to talk to you, how you would like to see this funded."

Mayor Bynum said, "I like that you broke it into two projects, because it also means that we can support two local business for the construction."

Bell discussed City reserves; the City tries to maintain six months of reserves; there are ten months of reserves presently. The 2019 audit is not finished, Bell said. The City is looking for a new auditor. Still, "Unaudited numbers, we think we have a little over ten months of reserve right now," Bell said. "...We have a healthy reserve fund sitting there for things that may come up."

Financial information can be found on the City's Transparency Module, Bell said.

"Our economy here is really strong despite COVID." The City received almost \$1M from the State because the City diverted people's work to COVID, Bell said. "That went right back into our reserves as well."

Mayor Bynum said, "I really like both of these projects because they're such a great example of how local government works well. You know we had community engagement and buy-in on this issue; we as council members went and talked to community members while we walked along that area; we worked through a plan; we're bidding it out, local construction firms are gonna execute the project; and we have the money in our budget because we have managed to be fiscally conservative and revenues have been good for 2020, and that allows us to make improvements in our community that line up with our vision statement for our community."

"It's a nice little project," Bynum said. "Looks like we look forward to seeing this on an upcoming council meeting for an official vote to go ahead."

STOVER MINOR SUBDIVISION RIGHT OF WAY VACATION ORDINANCE

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on the Stover Minor Subdivision ROW Vacation Ordinance. Three rights-of-way deemed no longer necessary will be vacated.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler presented information on the possible appointment of an alternate to the City's Planning Commission.

Councilor Dave Frank said that he spent six years on the Montrose County Planning Commission. "We had alternates there, and it proved invaluable...having an alternate there always provided you with a quorum."

With only four voting members by the time the HUB project was discussed, "I can see where an alternate would be important," Councilor Dave Bowman said.

Morgenthaler said the deadline for applicants would be extended until March 29. *Background-Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler presented information. A memo from Morgenthaler states, "Currently, the City of Montrose Planning Commission is comprised of seven regular voting members. One seat is vacant at this time and the City is accepting applications. Appointing an alternate member to the Commission would help ensure that a quorum exists and that thorough consideration of applications is provided at times when regular members are absent or must recuse from voting on an item. Serving as an alternate member of the Commission is a useful way for new members to become acquainted with Commission processes before becoming a regular voting member when vacancies arise. Staff propose that the City Council appoint one alternate member to the Planning Commission, making the composition of the Commission seven regular voting members and one alternate member..."*

GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Bynum reviewed upcoming dates and obligations for Council. Interviews for Municipal Judge candidates will be March 11. An exit interview needs scheduled for retiring Judge Dick Brown. Bynum suggested several dates for consideration. The Judge's last day is April 15.

"We will be switching our City Council leadership on Tuesday's meeting on April 6," Bynum said. "That's when we will as Council vote for a new Mayor and Mayor pro Tem."

On March 15 annual reviews for the City Manager and City Attorney are scheduled. Following further discussion, Bynum asked, "When do we want to look at having meetings in person?"

The City's new Civic Plus meeting management software is designed to work best with in-person meetings, she said. Bynum asked Council for feedback. "We need to start planning and thinking about what that looks like for city Council meetings."

Councilor Dave

Continued next pg

CITY TALKS INCENTIVES WITH YURT CO, CONSIDERS NORTH 9TH SIDEWALK, LA RAZA SPORTS COURT PROJECTS From previous pg

Bowman asked if it is possible to know who is vaccinated and who is not. "Roy, have you been vaccinated?"

City Human resources Manager Terri Wilcox reminded Bowman that personal health information is privileged.

Bynum reminded Council of upcoming Colorado Municipal League meetings.

Scheid said that there has been an increase in markets for recycled materials. "If we stay on this trend we should see positive returns." Cramer said that the City has received notice of a grant award from History Colorado for a certified local government grant of \$25K. The funds will be used for a historical context and survey

report for the Tortilla Flats neighborhood. Also, "We did receive our final reimbursement from DOLA for the CARES Act, which is about \$456K for that final reimbursement," Cramer said.,

Bynum thanked all for joining the work session and reminded of the regular city council meeting the following evening.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DUTIES OF A CITIZEN INCLUDE OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

Editor:

In the United States a citizen has both obligations and rights. I would like to think that I have the right and obligation to vote. I try to vote intelligently---that is to select good, upright, honest, educated candidates for office. When I make a mistake in that evaluation I believe I have the obligation to take them to task. To call him or them to account for why they do not seem to be acting in the public interest.

In Montrose we supposedly can ask for clarification at a public meeting. There we get three minutes to make our case and have the answer to our questions put off until sometime in the future. If answered at all it is by staff.

We are told by state law that we can request documents and records by CORA request. Often the replies are either evasive or redacted or we are told that they are in some category that is 'protected'.

The results of both of these procedures is to effectively keep the function of our government out of public view, difficult to chase down and almost never a reply from the person or persons that we, the public, elected to the office in which they serve.

So I and others have resorted to 'articles' in which they are asked questions of them publically. One hopes that such questioning in the public forum would engender an answer. The so called 'accountability' that they promise when running for their position. Not to be.

Therefore the accusation comes forth that they are not accountable for their actions, short of lawsuits which they are quite sure won't happen. In effect, they have become elected dictators who have employed a 'lead dictator' who has seen to the employment of an 'assistant lead dictator'. Meaning that 'de facto' they will do what they want, when they please, what they determine is best for the com-

munity and to hell with what the public, the electorate, thinks. In other words, the city budget is their budget and they will do with it as they please, short of committing obvious, discernable and prosecutable crimes.

One would think that there are interested citizens who would stand in line to get answers to the questions asked about money wasted on frivolous projects from the people whom they have elected in good faith to conserve their tax monies and who are now wasting it.

Our country's founders felt that all governments could be and would be corrupted. So they wrote, into the Constitution, protections for the 'press' as the Fourth Estate to help keep governments in line. Obviously that is not presently working in Montrose.

One would think---but maybe nobody cares anymore.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

NAMI SUPPORT GROUP TO MEET THIRD THURSDAYS; NOT AFFILIATED WITH R10 CLS

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-An article in *Montrose Mirror Issue 418* on the NAMI Support Group was incorrect; the group is organized by Eva Veitch but is NOT affiliated with Region 10 CLS. The NAMI Support Group will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the PIC Place 5:30-7pm. Please call Kathy at 520-282-9060 for more information.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FHWA, CDOT ANNOUNCE MARCH OPEN HOUSE EVENTS FOR US 50 LITTLE BLUE CREEK CANYON IMPROVEMENTS; CRITICAL ROADWAY PROJECT KICKS OFF THIS SPRING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE & GUNNISON COUNTIES

The Federal Highway Administration, the Colorado Department of Transportation and American Civil Constructors, LLC Mountain West (ACC) invite the public to participate in two open house events on Tuesday, March 16, to learn more about the US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon improvement project. The events include an in-person open house in Montrose and a virtual open house. The project team will provide information at both events about the upcoming project, travel impacts and detours. "If you are unable to attend the open house meetings, please reach out anytime via phone, email, or text. The information team is happy to answer your questions so that you can plan ahead," said Kathleen Wanatowicz, Public Information Manager for ACC. Please see below for a map of the project location.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS Virtual open house Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 Time: Noon – 1 p.m. via Zoom Online virtual open house registration: www.us50info.com In-person open house Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Location: Montrose County Event Center Banquet Hall, 1036 N. 7th Street, Montrose, Colorado, 81401

Note: 100-person limit due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. **PROJECT INFO** Construction on the 4-mile critical improvement project will take place between the communities of Montrose and Gunnison (Mile Points 123 -127). The project will take place approximately 30 miles from each community and is anticipated to last two years. Improvements will focus on safety on the important rural highway, including realignment and widening U.S. 50 to two 12-foot travel lanes with two 4-foot wide paved shoulders. This work is essential to improve safety for motorists traveling



through Little Blue Creek Canyon, which currently has narrow lanes and sharp turns. Work also includes guardrail replacement, additional rockfall catchment area, new signage, and striping. Lengthy closures will be required in order to complete the project, as crews must conduct rock blasting and removal. ACC will continue to work closely with FHWA and CDOT to minimize impacts on local communities as much as possible.

The US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon improvement project is the result of a partnership with the FHWA and CDOT. Funding for the \$40 million project is provided by a \$20 million grant from the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), with CDOT providing the matching \$20 million. The project is also in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the National Park Service (NPS).

TRAFFIC & RECREATION IMPACTS Travel impacts for motorists will be consistent throughout the project. Roadway closures are anticipated to begin in the spring of 2021, with limited hours to travel the route throughout the day. For much of the road work within the project area, motorists should plan for single lane closures, full roadway closures, reduced speed limits, and narrow roads. Significant delays are anticipated. If there is an emergency closure of Interstate 70, full closures on this project will be reduced.

PROJECT & TRAVEL INFO For additional

information about this project, contact the project team. Project hotline: 970-340-4333 Project email:

us50LittleBlue@gmail.com Project webpage: www.us50info.com Project text updates: Text us50 to 21000 A text message notifications system is available for this project. Register for alerts by texting us50 to 21000; charges may apply. Travelers are urged to "know before you go." Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts, and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include: Road conditions and travel information: www.COtrip.org Sign up for project or travel alerts: bit.ly/COalerts See scheduled lane closures: codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html Connect with us on social media: Twitter @coloradodot and Facebook facebook.com/coloradodot

REMEMBER: SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE

The following tips are to help you stay safe while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones. Do not speed in work zones. Obey the posted speed limits. Stay Alert! Expect the unexpected. Watch for workers. Drive with caution. Don't change lanes unnecessarily. Avoid using mobile devices such as phones while driving in work zones. Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you. Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times. Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you. Anticipate lane shifts and merge when directed to do so. Be patient!



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COMMENT SOUGHT ON IMPACT OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Like much of the country, Coloradans were affected by the extreme winter weather event that occurred from February 13 through February 15 resulting in an increase in demand for both natural gas and electricity in Colorado and other states.

This increased demand may have caused an unprecedented spike in natural gas prices leading to regulated utilities purchasing natural gas at extraordinary prices, and potentially passing on the cost of these gas prices to customers. Governor Jared Polis has shared his concerns on how this weather event will impact energy consumers in Colorado.

Although Colorado customers did not face blackouts or interruption in service as a result of the extreme weather in Colorado, state public officials are investigating the event to determine how Colorado regulated utilities handled the highly increased demand for both electricity and natural gas. This includes an investigation into the activities of the utilities. State public officials will also be looking into the activities

of gas suppliers and their role in the price spikes.

In response to the extreme gas prices associated with this event, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) promptly opened an investigatory proceeding (21I-0076EG) directing investor-owned utilities Atmos Energy Corporation, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC, Colorado Natural Gas, Inc., and Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy) to prepare and file a report detailing their planning and actions taken before and during the winter weather event and is reviewing initial information from regulated utilities. More information will be filed and reviewed in the coming weeks.

Your state government considers this matter of utmost importance and is intensely focused on finding out all the facts surrounding this extreme weather event and understanding the impacts on energy consumers in Colorado. The PUC has also requested voluntary participation from the state's public and cooperative utilities, which are not regulated. Full participation

from all the state's utilities will ensure a full accounting of the impacts of the event and support efforts as the state develops approaches that protect all of Colorado's energy consumers.

Filing of Written Comments with the PUC

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), Colorado's advocate in utility PUC rate and rule-making proceedings, requests that customers who receive service from any of the following utilities: Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy), Black Hills Energy, Atmos Energy and Colorado Natural Gas participate in the PUC's investigation and share concerns about their utility services regarding that extreme weather event.

To submit written comments in the PUC investigatory proceeding, go to [this site](#) and select "Rulemaking and Investigations Initiated by Colorado Public Utilities Commission."

Then select "21I-0076EG - Investigation into the weather event of February 13-15, 2021 for Investor Owned Utilities." Comments may be submitted on the page titled "Register Your Public Comment."

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COLORADO NEW BRIEFS

AERONAUTICAL BOARD APPROVES STATE AIRPORT FUNDING

Special to the Mirror

WATKINS – Colorado's Aeronautical Board has unanimously approved state and locally-funded discretionary aviation grants for the state's airports for Fiscal Year 2021. The decision authorizes the distribution of nearly \$862,000 in state aviation fuel tax revenues to four public-use airports.

The grants range from \$40,218 to \$346,500. These grants represent Colorado's participation in airport pavement maintenance and infrastructure improvements. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduced air travel and the fuel sales tax collections that support the Aviation Grant Program. As a result, \$5.9 million in state aviation grants to 14 airports that had been programmed for FY 2021 have been postponed.

A comprehensive listing of each individual airport grant award can be found [here](#).

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of ROBERT HOWARD REED, JR. *November 16, 1947 – February 23, 2021*

On February 23, 2021, ROBERT HOWARD REED, JR., of Montrose, Colorado, passed away at the age of 73 after a long battle with cancer.

He was born to parents Bob and Minnie Reed in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Graduating from Fountain-Ft. Carson High School, he later went on to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam era.

Over his lifetime, Reed was employed as a bookkeeper, handyman, driver, and garage door installer.

For several years he volunteered as a guide at the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose, Colorado, and served as Assistant Executive Director.

Bob will always be remembered for his love of fishing, ghost hunting, fresh pots



of coffee, and landscape photography. He is survived by two daughters, Joy and Donna, a son, Robert, and many grandchildren. Bob will be interred at Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In lieu of flowers, the

family requests donations in Bob's name be made to the Museum of the Mountain West at www.museumofthemountainwest.org



RICHARD (DICK) OBLAK *June 14, 1937 - February 25, 2021*



Dick passed away on February 25, 2021 at Montrose Memorial Hospital. A celebration of life service will be held on March 13th at 10:00 AM at St. Daniel's Church in Ouray, CO.

Officiated by Father Nat. Immediately following will be a military graveside service at Grand View Cemetery, 16300 6450 Ct Montrose, CO.

Dick is survived by his wife of 58 years, Beatrice, 3 children; Richard (Betsy) Oblak of Cheyenne, WY., Theresa (Bill) Johnson of Littleton, CO., Christine Oblak

(Jesse Casias) of Lakewood CO., 6 grandchildren; Kevin (Abby) Oblak of Cheyenne, WY., Michael (Brianna) Aardsma of Rota, Spain, Samantha (Bradley) Lincoln of Denver, CO., Brian Oblak of Valdosta, GA., MacKenize Marler of Cheyenne, WY., Megan Johnson of Littleton, CO., 3 great grandchildren and 1 on the way. Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Mary. Dick graduated from Waukegan High School in 1954 at 16 years of age, immediately joined the US Air Force and received an Honorable Discharge in 1957. He attended Northern Illinois University, received his Bachelor of Science degree then attended Lake Forest College, IL where he received his Masters of Science in Management degree. On February 9, 1963 Dick married Be-

atrice in Cleveland, OH. They resided in Waukegan, IL from 1963 to 1971. Dick was transferred with John Manville to Littleton, CO. where he was a Senior Purchasing Agent. Besides Dick's great love of family, golf was his passion and enjoyed fishing and traveling in between. Dick loved taking pictures capturing the beautiful landscape of the San Juans fall colors.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Crippin Funeral Crematorium. Please view the internet obituary at info@crippinfuneralhome.com, sign the online guest registry and please share memories of Dick.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl., Memphis, TN 38105



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REPORT FOCUSES ON WHAT STATE NEEDS TO DO AFTER HISTORIC WILDFIRES

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) published its annual forest health report this week, highlighting the current conditions of forests across Colorado and how the agency is improving the health of the state's forests in the wake of historic wildfires.

After a devastating wildfire season, the report highlights the growing need to increase forest management across the state.

It also takes a regional look at forest health, offering statistics, insect and dis-

ease trends, and successes in forest management specific to four quadrants of the state.

As always, the report also offers a statewide outlook on trends in insect and disease activity in Colorado's forests, as well as a look at the carbon storage problem in our state's forests.

"Last year reminded us how important our forests are, as Coloradans escaped to forested areas in their communities and wildlands for tranquility, peace and a place to recreate and exercise," said Mike Lester, state forester and director of the

CSFS. "Colorado's forests are experiencing many challenges, from longer fire seasons to ongoing drought to more people living in the wildland-urban interface.

In this report, we take a look at what is needed to protect the many benefits our forests provide in the face of these challenges – and what the Colorado State Forest Service is doing to address them."

Copies of the 2020 report are available at all CSFS field offices.

A PDF of the report and interactive maps of insect and disease activity are available at bit.ly/ForestHealthReport.

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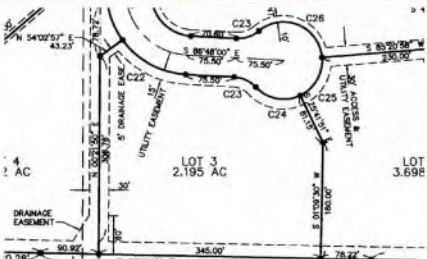
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW PEDIATRICS CLINIC JOINING DELTA HEALTH



Delta Health Pediatrics is excited to welcome its new provider, Dr. Amanda Lovette.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta Health is excited to announce the opening of its new pediatrics clinic which will provide compassionate, quality, pediatric healthcare to Delta County starting in March 2021. With 22 years of experience, Delta Health Pediatrics is also excited to welcome its new provider, Dr. Amanda Lovette.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Lovette is dedicated to meeting the needs of the children in the community by providing remarkable healthcare.

"We are excited to have Dr. Lovette on our team. She is an amazing physician who brings integrity and wealth of knowledge about pediatric care," said Matt Heyn, CEO/President for Delta Health. "We are working hard to create a pediatrics clinic that is welcoming and an environment that your children will enjoy coming to." Lovette's care philosophy focuses on looking at children as a whole and she loves the action of caring for children and meeting their unique needs.

"Children are so honest and fun, and I have a sense of wanting to protect them," said Lovette. "It's my job to learn from them and to diagnose them even if they never say a word. That's a skill and it's not an easy skill; it does take time and intuition."

One of the reasons Lovette enjoys pediatrics is getting to spend time with the children she provides care for. She loves joking with them, talking with them and learning what they need so that they walk away from her office feeling better.

"I'm not the kind of doctor that walks [into the room] and just looks at the computer screen," said Lovette. "We like to interact with our kids, we like to enjoy our time with our kids, and we want them to *want* to come to see us. We truly care about the children in this community, and it is my commitment to make this an amazing pediatrics practice."

For Lovette, pediatrics means understanding that children's disease processes vary from adults and they have a different set of needs like immunizations. Pediatrics is a specialty, she said, and it specifically requires understanding how to address the needs of children.

Lovette did her training at the Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas and fell in love with pediatrics during her third year as a medical student as she was finishing up her pediatrics rotation.

"I held the hand of a patient when they passed away and had to document their time of death," said Lovette. "I saw a child with cancer leave the hospital cured, and I had children with cancer bounding around the hallways asking me to dance with them."

During Lovette's medical training evaluation, the attending physician, who she greatly admired, told her: "Amanda, if my

children were younger and if I had to choose a pediatrician, I would pick you."

"I had planned to go into family practice, but *that* day I decided to go into pediatrics," said Lovette.

The Delta Health Pediatrics clinic was created with children in mind, and the Delta Health staff is building a team that is dedicated to the care of children, and who are willing to go above and beyond providing just medical needs.

"If we find that a family is a little short on food one week and we hear about it, we're going to look for ways to help that family," said Lovette. "We want our community to know that we are experts in the care of their children and [the hope is they] come away feeling like they were heard, that their children were cared for and that we care for their [children] as much as they do."

Making the move from Texas to the Western Slope was an easy decision for Lovette, her husband and their two dogs. Although her two sons still live in the south, Lovette is excited to live near the mountains and to be able to enjoy fishing, hiking and the outdoor activities that she and her husband love.

"I also love photography," said Lovette. "It's one of my hobbies, and I've taken a trip to Easter Island and Patagonia in Chile [to do] photography. It's a real passion of mine and here [in Colorado] I will have plenty of opportunities to do so."

The final Delta Health Pediatrics clinic will be located at 296 Stafford Lane Suite B in Delta and will provide care for children ages zero to 18 years old and upwards of age 21. Stay tuned for more information on Delta Health Pediatrics by following Delta Health on social media platforms, subscribing to their email newsletter and visiting deltahospital.org.

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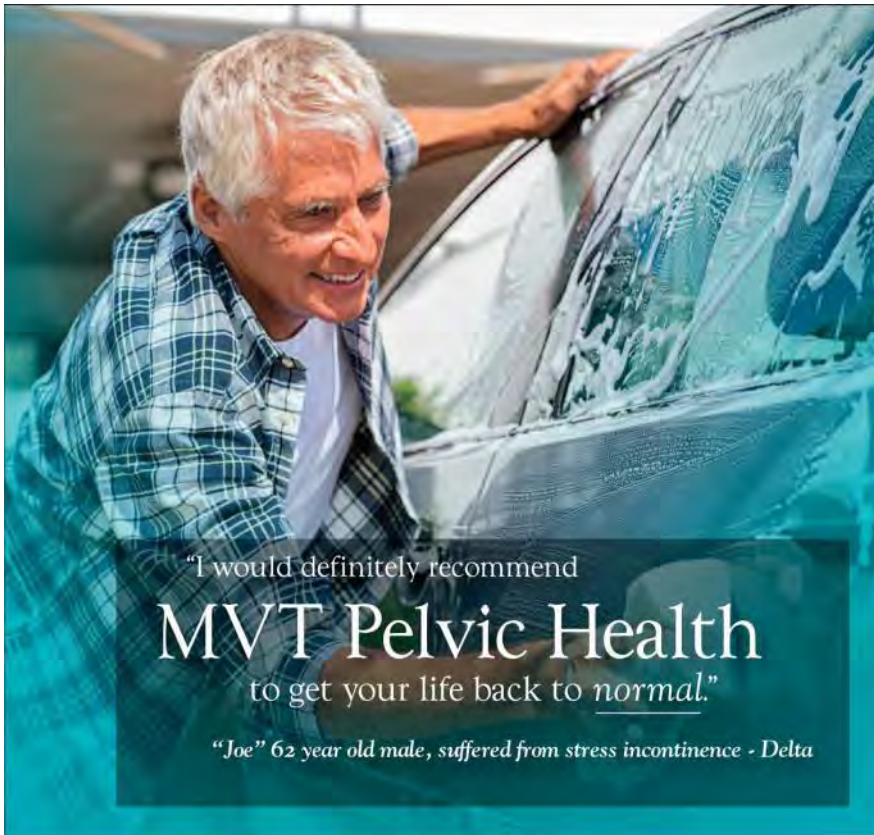
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Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2.0
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Even Washing the Car Brought Concern **THEN HE RECEIVED GOOD NEWS**

After having cancerous prostate removed, he bounced back from surgery fast – but surprisingly had complications from healing. Scar tissue created issues, forcing him to wear a catheter for 10 weeks.

Doing anything involving bending or movement – even washing the car – meant unfortunate leaking. Was this permanent?

Or was there help out there?

Then he visited with the experts in pelvic health physical therapy at Mountain View Therapy. It wasn't instant relief – but for the first time, there's improvement and there's hope. He received his good news.

Ask your provider about MVT Pelvic Health and see if they have good news for you.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN ON CO 92

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE & GUNNISON COUNTIES – Crews with American Civil Constructors, LLC Mountain West (ACC) will begin improvements on Colorado Highway 92 on March 15. Crews will widen CO 92 from Mile Point 46.5 to MP 73, a winding section of roadway stretching from just south of J 82 Road to the intersection of CO 92 with US Highway 50 at Blue Mesa Reservoir. The work is in preparation for a local detour for the upcoming US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon improvement project. Work on CO 92 will take place March 15 – 31 and is anticipated to be complete in early April.

TRAVEL IMPACTS:

From Monday, March 15 through Wednesday, March 31, motorists should plan for single-lane, intermittent closures on CO 92 from MP 46.5 to MP 73. North and southbound traffic will be affected, and delays will be minimal. The work schedule is subject to change. Motorists are encouraged to sign up for traffic impact updates by contacting public information at us50littleblue@gmail.com or 970-340-4333.

US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon Improvement Project

FHWA, CDOT and ACC will begin a 4-mile improvement project of US 50 in Spring 2021. The project is located from MP 123 to MP 127, approximately 30 miles east of Montrose, Colorado, and about 33 miles west of Gunnison, Colorado. The critical roadway project improvements include realignment, widening the highway to two 12-foot travel lanes with two 4-foot wide paved shoulders, guardrail replacement, additional rock-fall catchment area, new signage, and striping. The project is scheduled to be complete in November 2022.

PROJECT & TRAVEL INFO

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

Project hotline: 970-340-4333

- Project email: us50LittleBlue@gmail.com
- Project web page: www.us50info.com

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MontroseHospital.com

OUTSIDE THE BOX...with Twyla Righter

THE UGLY SEASON



By Twyla Righter

MONTROSE-How have you been for the past year?

I've been extremely unpleasant. I have a pastor and a community full of kind people who have used words like patience, compassion and consideration... I'm failing with those. Just failing.

I am not a person who likes doing what she's told unless you have a good reason to demonstrate that I should do as you say; and even then, I think it should be my choice. That's me. A whole lot of you are nice and compliant and willing to trust the "experts." I doubt the experts. I have 43 years of the "experts" being dead wrong that make me very dubious of following "experts" (food pyramids that lead to obesity, drugs that kill and cause addiction, peak oil crisis that didn't exist, and lately a new version of science that sounds an awful lot like religion.

Blind faith is a must. Allegiance is re-

quired or you'll be ostracized, if you dare question you're a heretic and can lose your reputation, or livelihood. Censorship of dissenting ideas is perfectly acceptable and book burning is the new cool kid thing to do. The Spanish Inquisition just got really popular ... and we march merrily in to kill the dissenters.

You want to know whose ancestors were burned at the stake? Hands up right here... I'm clearly a descendent of the people who do not have the stomach to tow the line. Make an argument with good data and we can have that conversation - I might even follow. But lead on a blind faith in the powerful with no questions... I will be asking for bail money.

And soon. God protect me I'm going to California for spring break. I'm not kidding. I have no idea how this is going to end folks... it could get ugly. Pray for me... or maybe sprinkle three dashes of your hand sanitizers over the triple masks while reciting "Stay home - flatten curve."

(Nobody cares if child suicides are up nearly 300 percent in some places - that's real data by the way) Weren't you locking down to flatten the curve? The curve is flat - and your children are wearing face masks at basketball games.

"Science." (Sure hope the "science" doesn't turn out to be wrong on that one. I mean if it turns out that long-term mask use has long term consequences for the developing brain - wouldn't that be a bummer? No biggie, trust the "experts.")

So - I have been showing homes to loads of people moving here from *there*. If you loved sweet Montrose and hoped it would stay a cute little community; that no one had discovered our little magical corner of the world? Well, it is not true. I hate to break it to you but they are RUNNING away from *there*. I mean it. We are an oasis for a whole lot of *there*. All over the

country the big city people are desperate for rural living and we are on their radar in a big, big way. If you thought Montrose was a bit too big already - you're not going to like what's coming.

The problem I've had?

We are in the ugly season. Have you ever tried to show homes with beautiful views in March? Especially to people from out of state? Well - it's not the right season. The trees out in the fields are big sticks in mud. The adobies not helping me. They are beautiful in winter, lovely in spring, okayish in summer as a tan layer betwixt the cottonwoods and peaks - but they are a dismal ugly mud right now. A primordial ooze waiting for a troglodyte to become lodged in the thick clay. Nothing life affirming or even tipping its hat toward pretty... and my showings of lovely homes involve a: "this really will be beautiful soon," kind of viewing. Those fields will be green, those trees will flower and flourish - it'll be amazing. We're just in a very ugly few weeks.

So, I'm hoping that's true with our country as well. That we are in an ugly season. That we will find a version of social media where people like me aren't silenced and censored. Where we can have thoughtful and rational conversations without being shut down as heretics with hellfire and damnation as the consequences leveled for denying the new religion.

Maybe spring is coming. Maybe there will be a place for dialog and logic once again in the future? Maybe there will still be a place for Doctor Suess or Title 9? Maybe we will decide that if people can fly in packed airplanes they can sit in gymnasiums to watch children? Perhaps this is just the ugly season - perhaps in just a little while we will find the leaves are almost done with the hibernation and beauty is just around the corner.

OPINION/EDITORIALS: LETTERS

WHY DOES DAILY PRESS PUBLISHER DEFEND CITY AGAINST CITIZEN OUTRAGE?

Editor:

Mr. Anderson does not care for the conclusions Mr. Bennett draws...

I don't really care if Mr. Anderson is the publisher, editor or cub (scout) reporter, Mr. Bennett wrote his OPINION and that is that Mr. Anderson is lousy at his job. Anderson conveniently puts his sniping on 'his' opinion page so he does not need to check his facts. If what he says is 'fact' he should have written a 'Guest Editorial'. But maybe his editor would not let him.

I assumed that people in such elevated positions, such as PUBLISHER of a newspaper, got there because of their ability to at least read and comprehend what had been written. Wrong! Review Bennett's articles of autocratic and incompetent city government and non-existent accountability; of giving away money to poor business ventures and of doing so without having done business plans. No, no, I would not say that anyone is stealing anything, heaven forbid 'never the day' would I say a thing like that! Perhaps a little extortion or favoritism now and again but never, heaven forbid, stealing. Nor would he. No, he just beats the drum that we have a city government that once elected does what it wants in spite of public sentiment, outcry and/or sound business practices. One that decides the outcome and then presents to the public as a 'done deal'.

A city government that spends on projects (without study) that seem never to produce as promised. The city money is gone but that's ok because there will be more next year. Just look at the failures. Colorado Outdoors, the Golf Course, HUB and others all requiring subsidies just to get

going and to keep going. Profits dreamed of but not produced. They, the city, buys their city cars on the east slope ostensibly saving a 'chicken feed' while giving away the 'granary' to 'our' developers in huge grants in order to 'bring their business' to town.

Another of Bennett's persistent themes is that they (sleazy six) will not answer the questions he asks. The "Ask the City Manager" a column in Anderson's paper. Why does Bell not answer simple questions such as 'why has the city not foreclosed on Dragoo?' Production under his contract is an abject failure. The question has been asked numerous times. No answer. Another, "Why are the city streets in such a disgraceful state of disrepair? The answer is "because the city has put off millions in maintenance and spent the money elsewhere."

Well they did not spend the street maintenance money on the cops so where did it go? Of course, no matter where it went the streets are still full of potholes and sinkholes. This, of course, insofar as council is concerned, is all of the transparency and honesty in city government that was promised by the last three of the "fabulous five" elected to their currently held offices. Perhaps his referral to the council and Bell as the "Simple Six" is wrong.

Seems that the Simple Six are shrewd enough to screw Montroseans on a bi-weekly and get away with it. Hardly a council meeting transpires without another dip into the public purse. Another non-vetted project. Just their salaries are a 'rape' of the public! They certainly keep

quiet while Bell has 'his way' with them as they abrogate their oversight responsibilities.

We the people are paying grocery taxes (one of few jurisdictions in the state) to support our cops and what do we get. Rumor has it that (get it, rumor!) and stated as such, about hiring 7 and losing 8. If it is not true, let the 'de-facto' police commissar answer to that 'Why?' question in his column.

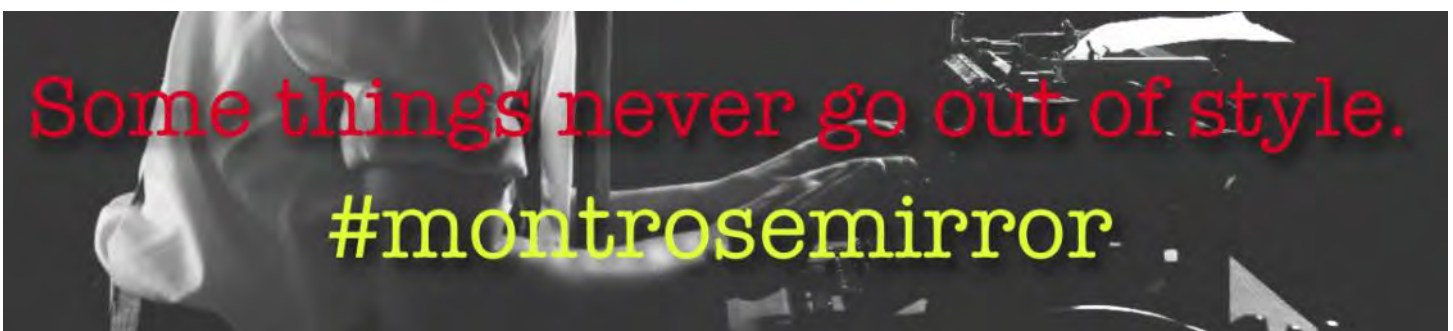
None other than a legendary cartoonist named Nast resorted to that in the 1800's eventually brought down the "Tweed Ring" of New York City. His monikers for public officials gained popularity and notoriety and eventually caused the collapse of Boss Tweed's illegitimate enterprises. It is a means of getting the attention of the masses about an issue, and Bennett's articles, from the comments made to me, have apparently sounded a 'good ring' with Montroseans. (OOPs more name calling) It's the kind of journalism that your cum-by-ya reporting fails to bring to our fair city. Mr. Anderson, you should know this, after all you are a PUBLISHER of several newspapers, so I am told.

Mr. Anderson, why don't you try being a journalist by fostering real journalism with 'your' paper.

Turn the MDP into a worthwhile NEWS organ rather than flooring for the kennel. If it were not for public notices (and Rover's needs) the MDP would be financially bankrupt.

And that Mr. Anderson, is my well founded OPINION.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose



A photograph of a white dog with black spots, likely a Weimaraner, sitting on a sandy beach. The dog is leaning forward, with its head buried in the sand, as if digging. Its long, white tail is raised high into the air. The background shows the ocean with small waves and a clear blue sky.

**Always digging for
spot on news.**

The Mirror

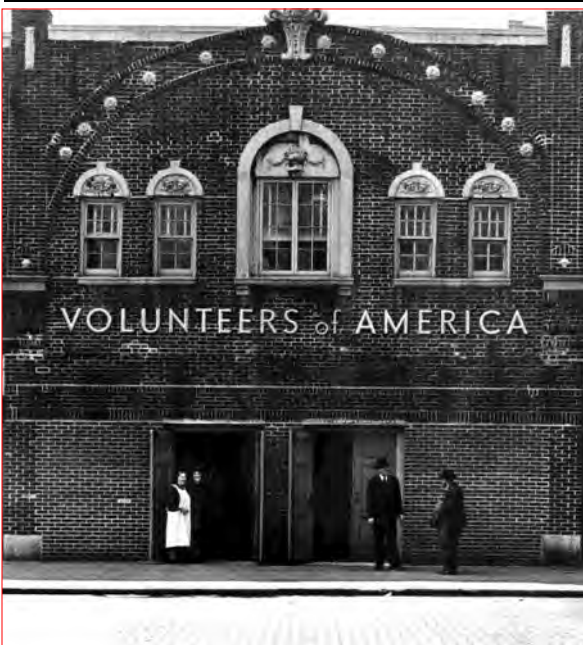
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Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.

ISSUE 305 March 8

ART & SOL

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA: 125 YEARS OF SERVICE ACROSS THE NATION *National proclamation establishes March 8th as VOA Day*



Historical image courtesy Volunteers of America.



Historical image courtesy Volunteers of America.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – For 125 years, Volunteers of America (VOA) has been providing high quality social services to millions across the nation. Dating as far back as the aftermath of the American Civil War, Volunteers of America has always been on the front lines empowering and advocating for veterans, at-risk youth, and families torn apart by the day-to-day struggle to obtain basic necessities and a life with dignity.

Today, VOA has grown to become one of the nation's largest nonprofit providers of quality affordable housing as well as long-term skilled nursing care and health services. From seniors and people with disabilities to the homeless and those recovering from addiction, the VOA network of 30 Affiliate chapters employs more than 16,000 professionals and empowers 1.5 million people in over 400 communities each year. In Western Colorado, the organization employs approximately 620 individuals in seven different healthcare and aging programs for older adults.

Volunteers of America is one of the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit organizations addressing the needs of vulnerable men, women and children. Nationally, VOA serves more than 27,000 veterans annually who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. One of the largest providers and developers of quality affordable housing, VOA encompasses more than 500 properties in 40 states and Puerto Rico, providing affordable housing units to more than 25,000 people each year.

Additionally, VOA is recognized as a national leader in senior care. From skilled nursing care and assisted living to home health and PACE programs to a continuum

Continued next pg

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA: 125 YEARS OF SERVICE From previous pg



Volunteers of America Founders Ballington Booth, the son of the Salvation Army founders, and his wife, Maud Charlesworth Booth. Courtesy photo.

of affordable housing, we respond to the varying needs of individuals and families to provide a safe, welcoming environment for those seniors who need it most, serving 8,000 seniors annually.

In Western Colorado, annually VOA serves approximately 1,200 long-term care and short-term rehabilitation clients. VOA provides 50 units of housing in independent and assisted living, care and supports services to 160 home health patients, 147 home-bound, meal delivery clients, 220 congregate (community dining) meals clients, and 350 Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program participants. VOA provides 171 units of affordable housing for the elderly and those with disabilities in the region. In partnership with the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Aging and Disabilities Resources for Colorado (ADRC), VOA provides options counseling and resources to approximately 2,069 clients.

"We are blessed to celebrate a rich 125-year history of empowering those in need," Craig Ammermann, Regional Director of Operations said. "We are proud of the impact our faith-based, nonprofit has had across the country and in Western Colorado in the lives of those we serve.

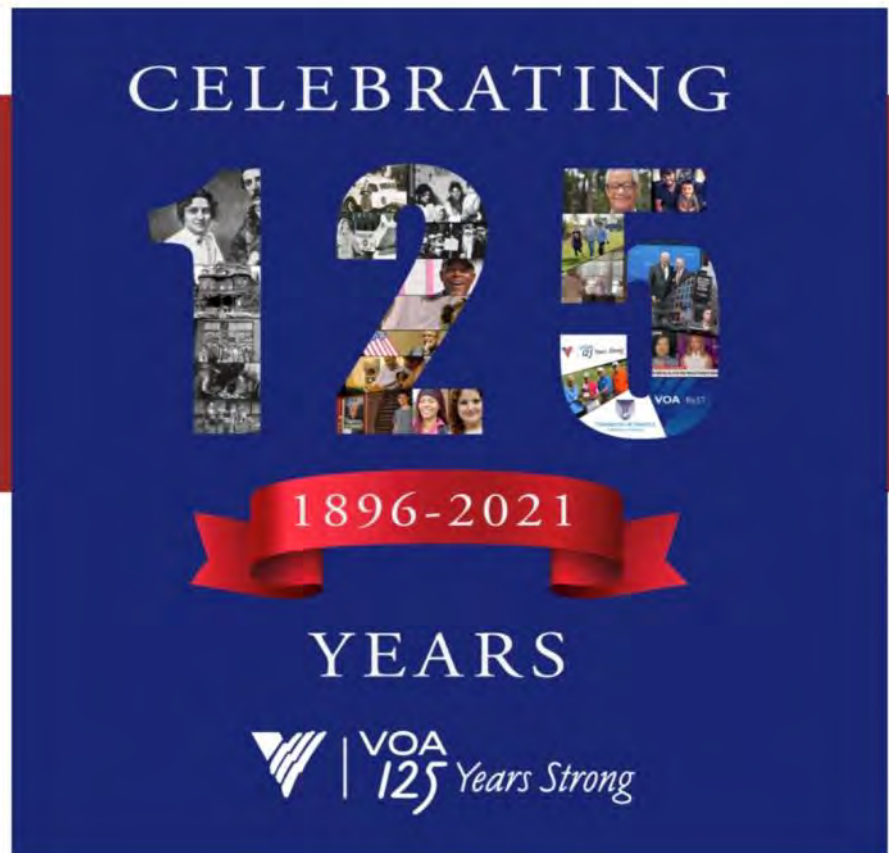
We are always evaluating how to adapt to changing times and provide the best options for meeting the varied needs of the citizens in Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties."

On this significant anniversary year, the cities of Montrose and Delta have declared through proclamation that March 8, 2021 – the anniversary date of the organization's founding – will be observed as "Volunteers of America Day".

On March 8, 1896, Ballington Booth, the son of the Salvation Army founders, and his wife, Maud Charlesworth Booth, the daughter of an Anglican rector, made a bold announcement. In the Great Hall of New York City's Cooper Union, they pronounced to a standing-room-only crowd

of thousands the birth of a new organization dedicated to serving the spiritual and material needs of the poor and disadvantaged-Volunteers of America. Maud and Ballington envisioned a movement committed to "reaching and uplifting" the American people. On behalf of the new organization, the Booths pledged to "go wherever we are needed, and do whatever work comes to hand," a declaration that has guided Volunteers of America's outreach efforts ever since.

For more information about the 125-year anniversary, visit <https://www.voa.org/125th-anniversary> and to learn more about the healthcare and supportive aging services of Volunteers of America, visit www.voaseniiorliving.org.





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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

RICHARD FITZGERALD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOREST MANAGEMENT PRESENTED TO ENTOMOLOGIST AMY LOCKNER

Special to Art & Sol

GUNNISON-The Richard Fitzgerald Award for Excellence in Forest Management was recently presented to Amy Lockner, an Entomologist from the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region. Specifically, Amy was acknowledged for her work on the Wilder and Gunnison-Highlands project on the Gunnison Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests. The award is a traveling trophy that will spend the next year in Gunnison, Colorado in Amy's honor.

The Fitzgerald Award was established in 2018 and awarded to its namesake, Richard "Fitz" Fitzgerald that year, which marked his 61st year with the Forest Ser-

vice. Fitz is one of the longest serving employees in agency history. The award annually recognizes one Forest Service employee who has demonstrated leadership, excellence in forest management, and outstanding commitment to working with partners in the field of forest management. Amy is the third recipient of the award.

"Americans expect their public land managers to make sound, science-based decisions, to do this you need great scientists," said Matt McCombs, Gunnison District Ranger. "Amy is exactly that, her knowledge and passion fused with a deep commitment to the health of America's forests was the catalyst for the Wilder project. We wouldn't be here without her



Entomologist Amy Lockner. Courtesy photo.

contributions and I am thrilled she's being properly recognized for her efforts," he added.

Lockner worked with personnel from the Gunnison Ranger District, Colorado State Forest Service, National Forest Foundation, West Region Wildfire Council and private landowners to address a Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak in Taylor Canyon with the goal of arresting the spread of the beetle in the immediate area of the outbreak. Their work will also help to slow the spread of the beetle in the greater 290,000-acre Taylor Park area of the District.

More information about the Richard Fitzgerald Award for Excellence in Forest Management is available here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/recognition/celebrating-60-years-1-service>.

JOIN US FOR

THE GATHERING

everyone is welcome

THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH

The Gathering is community prayer meetings held at various Montrose churches. They are held on the first Thursday each month, from 7:00-7:30 am for early risers and 5:30-6:00 pm for the rest of the world. Participants can choose either one or both. Everyone is welcome to come so please spread the word! We truly believe that our community and the Body of Christ will be blessed through praying together.

SAVE THE DATES:

MARCH 25TH
MAY 6TH
JUNE 3RD
JULY 1ST
AUGUST 5TH

MARCH 4TH LOCATION:
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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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

CPW ARCHERY PROGRAM ON TARGET FOR COLORADO SCHOOL

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES—As an elementary school physical education teacher, Brooke Elder works with students who have vastly different athletic abilities. But when she started teaching archery to 4th and 5th graders she was surprised by what she saw.

All the kids, no matter their physical prowess, were excited to pick up the bow and shoot an arrow at a target.

"I call it the 'great leveler'," said Elder, who teaches at Dolores Elementary School in southwest Colorado. "I just love that students don't need to be the star athlete to excel at this sport. Some kids have even told me that they never thought of themselves as an athlete until they learned the sport of archery through this program."

The P.E. offering was brought to Colorado by the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) about 15 years ago. Colorado Parks and Wildlife coordinates the program and about 400 schools in the state now participate.

Sisters Nevayah and Bella Stiegelmeier, 5th graders at Dolores Elementary, are barely four-feet tall, but they confidently handle the bows.

"Sometimes I get anxious and miss the target," Bella said. "But it's just fun to shoot and to go outside and shoot."

The class even convinced the sisters to take CPW's hunter education class with the hope of going hunting with their Dad sometime.

NASP partners with sporting goods companies to get discounts on equipment and also provides CPW with a grant of \$10,000 annually. In turn, CPW offers \$3,000 grants to schools to buy the gear. Equipment include bows, arrows, racks, targets and safety back-drops. NASP has also developed a curriculum to train teachers. CPW provides the training at no charge and teachers must be certified before they can offer classes at their schools.



Brooke Elder, physical education teacher at Dolores Elementary, helps a student learn archery. Across Colorado, 400 schools participate in CPW's archery in the schools program. Courtesy photo.

To make sure the program continues, CPW also provides a 50-50 matching maintenance grant for schools that need to replace equipment.

Besides teaching proper shooting technique, safety is a top priority for teachers. Students are taught how to pick up and handle the bows and how to load arrows properly. During class, teachers use a series of whistles that tell students when to pick up bows and go to the shooting line, when to pick up the first arrow and when to start shooting. NASP's program describes an 11-step shooting process that teachers and students follow.

Elder addresses safety throughout her classes. "If you're a safe shooter and you don't hit the target, that's OK," she told the students.

The students' enthusiasm for archery doesn't seem to wane, Elder said. The

archery segment lasts two weeks and the kids shoot every day.

"Toward the end I ask if they want to do something different. But they always want to do archery," Elder said.

When Elder and her principal started considering an archery program about four years ago, they discussed what could be offered that would be a good fit for students living in a rural mountainous area.

"We said, 'what can we teach these kids that they can use for the rest of their lives in southwest Colorado?' I never had any doubt it was a good idea. With archery you can be a bookworm or a star athlete and still have fun with it," Elder said.

For more information about the archery in the schools program, go to the CPW web site at:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/TR-Archery.aspx>.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NEW HEALER'S TOUCH SCULPTURE AT DELTA HEALTH HONORS HEALTHCARE WORKERS



Positioning the plaque for the new Healers' Touch sculpture at Delta Health. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta Health's nursing leadership team came together to honor and recognize their extraordinary nurses and healthcare staff with the new "Healer's Touch" sculpture, a hand-carved serpentine piece of stone by artists of the Shona tribe in Zimbabwe, featured in the main lobby of the hospital.

Funding for the sculpture was donated to the hospital's foundation by Josh Patterson and Altitude Outdoor Adventures.

The sculptures are created for Daisy Foundation members and are especially meaningful because of the profound respect the Shona people pay to their tribal healers.

"We are so proud of our team of healthcare workers who work hard every single day to inspire hope by providing remarkable care in a healing environment," said Jody Roeber, Senior Vice Pres-

ident and Chief Clinical Officer for Delta Health. "This sculpture is our way of lifting *them* up and providing them that same inspiration and hope that they provide our patients and community members with."

Each quarter, Delta Health conducts a Daisy Award ceremony where nurses are recognized and out of all the nominations, one nurse receives a small "Healer's Touch," sculpture for their home. Nurses are nominated by anyone in the organization from patients to family members, fellow nurses, physicians, other clinicians and staff, or anyone who experiences compassionate, quality care being provided by a nurse.

"When Delta Health joined the Daisy Foundation, we were particularly interested in a larger version of the "Healer's Touch," sculpture because it symbolizes the relationship between nurses, patients and families," said Dawn Arnett, RN, BSN, Director of Inpatient Services and Daisy Coordinator for Delta Health. "To the team, it was more than just a sculpture, and we wanted to bring the full-size sculpture to our facility to recognize all of our extraordinary healthcare workers."

The process to have a larger version of the sculpture at Delta Health was made possible through a charitable donation by Patterson to the Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) Foundation Nurse's Fund in 2020. The funding also helped support the set up and presentation of the sculpture in the main hospital lobby.

"The Nurses Fund was set up to support the exceptional nurses at Delta Health," said Kaitlyn Jones, Director of the DCMH Foundation. "The community support that provided the "Healers Touch" is truly a testament to the heart our nurses demonstrate on a daily basis."

With the help of Colorado Stone Quarries and Morris Monument, the sculpture was

delivered to Delta Health on February 12.

The sculpture delivered to Delta Health and made in Zimbabwe was one of only four that were sent to the United States late spring.

The process to make the sculptures takes three weeks or more, and the Daisy Foundation's purchase of these sculptures has become important to the Shona people who carve the beautiful pieces and often helps support them and their families.

"We feel very fortunate not only to have the sculpture funded but that we were able to receive one," said Arnett. "Many laborious hours were needed to make the perfect granite stand with additional marble that was also donated as well as the amazing artwork put on the marble to recognize the DAISY and BEE programs at Delta Health."

The Daisy and Bee Programs at Delta Health which recognize both nursing and non-nursing healthcare staff, are great morale boosters and provide inspiration for the staff, said Arnett.

"Our nursing leadership began looking at the Daisy Foundation program to recognize nurses in mid-2018 because we knew right away we wanted to bring the program to our healthcare system," said Arnett. "It's a great way to honor and spotlight nurses. The programs really are inspirational."

Delta Health's effort at expressing personal, heartfelt appreciation to its entire healthcare team has an impact. It's important for the team to know that they make a difference in all the lives they touch and it's having a powerful effect, said Arnett.

The sculpture is a constant reminder to all of the Delta Health healthcare staff of just how special they are and how important and vital their work is to the community.

FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp. Courtesy photo.

By Dwight Harp

MONTROSE-The snow retreated. The roses whispered, "Is it true? Is it coming?" Severe clear skies flew above us all day yesterday. The temperature reached 50 too. Is it too early for this desert rat to have Spring Fever? I do!

My Spring fever could be identified as 'mild' depression. It certainly wasn't euphoria. I love rain puddles. They are great to splash in. I just don't like rain clouds hanging around too long.

Spring means a lot of things to different people. Farmers and ranchers get in the fields about now. They have been planning their strategy all winter. Golf courses plan the coming season. Ice breaker tournaments spring (pardon the pun) up about now. Winter leagues conclude. Spring and summer leagues form. Precipitation takes the form of 'snain.' (snow mixed with rain) Some call March mud season. Churches prepare for Resurrection Sunday. It comes on the 4th of April this year. I've located my straw hat. The Harp family culture says straws can be worn after Resurrection Sunday.

I remember high plateau desert springs bring wind. Mountain valley springs promise growth. Emergence to budding to fruit to growth to harvest is foretold by the calendar.

Cows start calving soon. Retailers prepare for season's change. Shorts and shirts supplant parkas and mittens. Entrepreneurs of all types recognize the coming changes

and prepare for them. My daddy used to say, "Whenever (wherever) there is change, there is opportunity." That anticipated change brings Spring dreams to 'full-flower.'

Not so fast! This isn't the high plateau desert. This is the western slope of Colorado and there's still winter ahead. I remember that now. Valentine's Day came with a blanket of

white. The lawn won't need water quite yet.

My dad's eldest sibling would stop reading about here and ask me what I was complaining about? Did I lose something last Spring that I couldn't wait to see if I could find it this year? He would then proceed to bring some family logic into the discussion. He would suggest that God put our earth in a yearly cycle. We have four basic seasons each year. If you are upset during one of those seasons, it isn't the season's fault. Seasons come and go, and come again.

This uncle/nephew discussion probably would end by his suggesting my happiness depended solely on me (and now I know, My God).

I never interrupted my Uncle Mark. His words were golden. I would like to have conversations with him now. He was a wordsmith. Uncle Mark worked with adults suffering with mental issues. His life was colored by these work experiences—lots of them.

I think he'd agree that everyone suffers from funk sometimes. Funk means "blues" or "depression". For some people shorter, darker winter days automatically put them in a bit of a funk. I was there.

Even the prophet Elijah struggled with depression. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah scores one of the most decisive victories in the Original Covenant (Old Testament). He challenges the prophets of Baal to a contest. He will prepare one altar; they

will prepare another. The God (or god) who sends fire to receive his offering will be declared the God of Israel. The prophets of Baal are unable to elicit so much as a spark from their god. Elijah's God, on the other hand, sends a fire that consumes everything in its path, leaving no doubt as to who deserved Israel's worship.

When his mountaintop experience ended, Elijah crashed—hard. A few verses later, we read this: "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'" (1 Kings 19:4)

Elijah found out and I now know that God's joy is the answer and all I have to do is reach out. The Bible is full of joyous reflections. I don't have to look far.

Life is a gift...not a curse...Yes, we messed it up...but He has adopted us. We are His children. The Christian life is a balancing act between working like everything depends on you and trusting like everything depends on God. He will send the rains you need, but you've also got to do your part by working the harvest.

Knowing these things I have to remember that more winter delays Spring a little. This snow is a huge boon to the skiers and our economy. Spring however may only be a reality in my mind right now but I know this: When dreams come, splashes of colorful flowers mark them.

Dreams like Spring mean so many things to so many people. Right now, as the clouds roll back into the valley, my dreams focus on Spring.

I watch the snow and imagine the good it is doing for the lawn and flowers. I anticipate those awesome things that come with Spring. My Springtime anticipation embraces the green and growing things. Birds build nests that soon will flourish with babies yearning for parental care. What does Spring hold especially for you?

Continued next pg

FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' From previous pg

My beautiful and talented bride remembers fondly spring trips to Ouray and the hot springs swimming pool and trips to the mountains and picnics, jumping rope with her Mom and walking down the lane to their house.

I put a zillion miles on my bike back then when the weather allowed. Spring started that process. My boundary was as far as I could go and still get back.

I was about 10 when we got an electric lawn edger. I mowed our big lawn. I loved it. Dad's responsibility was to trim. The

trimmer was a bit too tall for me to work properly but I think he liked making a nice lawn too.

I read Bible reflections every morning. In Isaiah (35:1) the prophet says, "The desert and the parched land will be glad, the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus."

A wise man said in a morning devotional from Scripture Union, "Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope

during the coldest darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will come forth!"

Spring brings warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all around.

God gives us new mercies and new life every morning. Therefore, each new day is really a Spring day.

Thank you Father!

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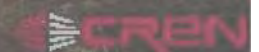
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*Good to know.**

Don Bailey

Broker Associate

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Western Colorado Properties

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ONGOING-

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the PIC Place 5:30-7pm. Please call Kathy at 520-282-9060 for more information.

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.

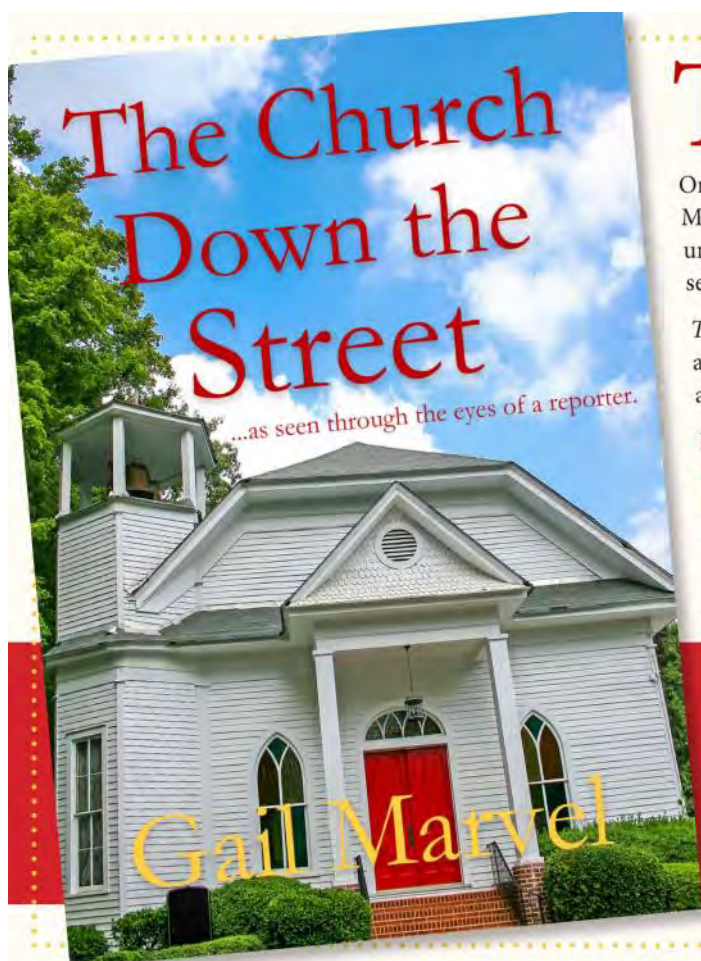
MONTHLY

March 5-26—Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans presents Habitat Luxury Living, an online charity auction. March 5-26. To take part type: rb.gy/7vglcq

March 9—Have you ever wanted to take up gardening, but weren't sure where to start? Join Montrose Regional Library for our new virtual program, Green Thumb Gardening, for guidance from experts! Our first event will cover small trees and fruit trees, and will be presented by Susan Carter, a Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent for CSU Extension in the Tri River Area. Susan has degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, as well as numerous certifications in horticulture and gardening. Email Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org to join this virtual event on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30pm

March 18—League of Women Voters of Montrose County invites the community to attend "Behavioral Health and Law Enforcement: Responding Together" zoom webinar. Thursday, March 18, Noon-1pm. GO TO LWV WEBSITE FOR LINK- March 10. <https://www.lwvmontrose.org/>

May 14—FAB Conference & Awards. For, about, and by women. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Montrose. Call 970-765-0913 for more information. Hello@ourtownmatters.net



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.

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



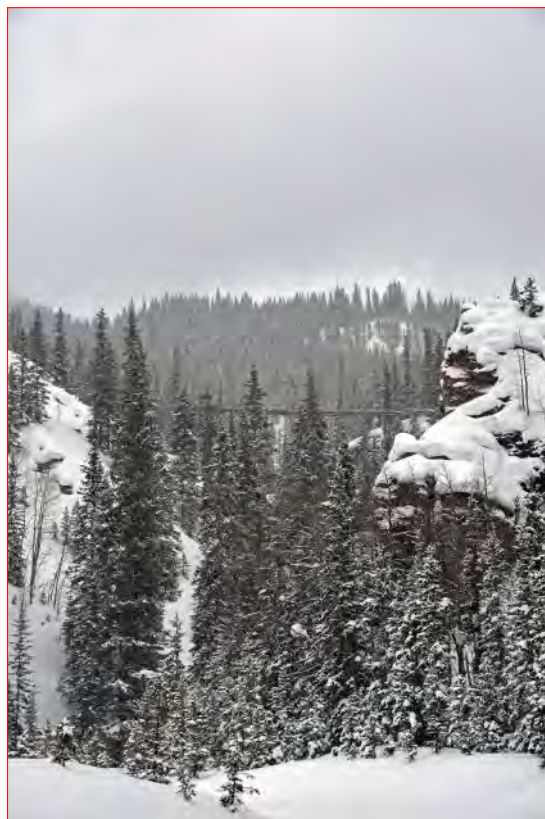
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

"Every season on Red Mountain is special...winter brings its own magic," Photographer Deb Reimann says. Here are Deb's photos of a Red Mountain Creek and historic suspension Bridge.



THE STARS HAVE ALIGNED...FOR BUSINESS SELLERS, BUYERS & LENDERS!

Federal Relief Expected to Re-Ignite Urgency and Demand

The CARES Act Debt Relief Program, which allows business buyers to take advantage of an SBA loan, has been extended under the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Keep reading to learn why this extension is great news for entrepreneurs looking to buy or sell a business.

Prospective buyers have even more leverage with an SBA loan:

- ★ **6 months of SBA loan payment forgiveness** for loans closed after February 1, 2021. This includes principal and interest up to a maximum of \$9,000 per month.
- ★ **The SBA is waiving the guaranty fee charged to lenders** and passed on to borrowers. This fee is typically around 3% and is now zero for loans closed after February 1, 2021.
- ★ **The SBA is increasing the loan guarantee to lenders** from 75% to 90%, which decreases risk to lenders. Along with new wording allowing lenders to adjust for temporary COVID-19 downturns, lenders should be able to take on additional risk. It is important to note the minimum buyer down payment of 10% remains unchanged.

Business owners considering selling their business benefit from the current market conditions:

- ★ **There are many more buyers than sellers.** Buyer activity is at record levels, according to BizBuySell's Insight Report, while supply is limited. With this dynamic, businesses are selling at record prices, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- ★ **SBA-financed buyers are able to take advantage** of significant benefits and are likely to outbid cash buyers seeking discounted prices.
- ★ **Further guidance** for PPP loan forgiveness and tax reporting has been released so the seller does not need to worry about a PPP loan liability. The loan forgiveness process for first draw and second draw PPP loans less than \$150,000 is greatly simplified and provides full tax deductibility of business expenses on forgiven PPP loans.

In addition to the benefits for business buyers and sellers, the stars have also aligned for SBA lenders!

**Info gathered from bizbuysell.com*

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