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Issue No. 421 March 22 2021

CEO BRONEC TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM DMEA; INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL- As of Friday, March 12, Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) CEO Jasen Bronec has taken a leave of absence from the cooperative, and DMEA Board Chair Bill Patterson has confirmed that there is an independent investigation underway.

The DMEA Board of Directors has asked Chief Operating Officer Virginia Harman to serve as acting Chief Executive Officer of DMEA in Bronec's absence, and has asked Kent Blackwell to serve as acting President of Elevate, according to DMEA General Counsel Jeffrey Hurd.

Hurd said, "DMEA and Elevate are well positioned to continue to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power, internet and telecommunications services to customers."

Bronec joined DMEA as CEO in 2014. He has drawn fire in recent years for what some consider to be an outside compensation package. DMEA's 2019 Form 990, the most recent available, shows that Bronec earned compensation totaling \$524,917 from DMEA and related organizations.



DMEA's Jasen Bronec has taken a sudden leave of absence. Courtesy photo.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR MEAT, AG @ MONTROSE BOCC

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular meeting in chambers on Wednesday, March 17. Citizens were welcome to attend in person or view the session online via livestream. All commissioners were present. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the meeting to order. "It is Wednesday March 17, happy shamrock day," Hansen said.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Bob Lundberg of the Church on the Hill. Lundberg prayed for the commissioners by name and for the public as well. "Lord, you are the one who established government, and our commissioners are a local expression of that...thank you for each person present in this meeting."

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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



On Wednesday, March 17, The BOCC voted unanimously to support a resolution in support of the agriculture industry in Colorado.

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Rezoning despite concerns!*

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MIRROR CLASSIFIED ADS

PIZZA & POLITICS

SPECIAL EVENT ON MARCH 25TH

Protecting Our Children and Community from Growing Threat of Illegal Drugs - Drug Related Crimes Montrose County Sheriffs Office and the 7th Judicial District Drug Task Force will present this special program on the growing threat of illegal drugs and drug related crimes upon our Community. The program will include a discussion on how to protect our Children, Families, and Businesses for a better and safer Community.

EVENT LOCATION

"CIRCLE 3 COWBOY FELLOWSHIP" CHURCH ADDRESS: 62885 LaSalle Road, Montrose CO. Doors Open at 6 PM. Program starts at 6:30 PM and ends at 8 PM. Q & A will follow the formal presentations by the guest speakers. Pizza & Beverage provided - 2 slices and 1 beverage maximum per guest. ***Pizza & Politics is a program of the Montrose County Republican Party a.k.a. Montrose County GOP, and is not affiliated, associated, or a member of the "Circle 3 Cowboy Fellowship" church. All guests, visitors, and attendees shall accept full and complete responsibility of the potential risks in attending this public event during Covid, and attendance is by free will and choice. Thank you!

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DMEA HOLDS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 14



Photo by Gail Marvel.

Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Background: Delta Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) Chief Executive Officer Jasen Bronec, who has been with the co-op since 2014, took a leave of absence on Friday, March 12. It has been confirmed that an external investigation is underway; however, the co-op and the board's general counsel have declined further comment on the investigation.

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was posted on DMEA's website on the same date Bronec took a leave of absence and the meeting was scheduled for Sunday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Posted as a "virtual via Zoom" meeting, the board had the call-to-order, determination of a quorum and approval of the agenda before going into Executive Session. Executive Session excludes the public and the media; however, any votes taken by the board following the Executive Session are public record.

Four items were listed on the Executive Session agenda:

- Contract with Outside Counsel
- Fiduciary Duties of the Board
- Administrative Leave
- Officer and Staff Authority

Action Item:

Vote on Items Discussed in Executive Session.

Following inquiry from the *Mirror*, DMEA Executive Assistant Amy Taylor responded via email, "The special meeting on Sunday went immediately into executive session after convening to discuss privileged and confidential matters relating to a contract between DMEA and outside counsel, board fiduciary duty

matters, an administrative leave issue, and matters relating to staff and officer authority. After coming out of executive session, the board voted on those issues. I'm happy to put you in contact with our attorney if you have more questions, but my understanding is that the cooperative is not able to provide additional details about these issues at this time."

In a phone conversation with DMEA Attorney Jeff Hurd it was confirmed that all board members were present for the Special Meeting and the items discussed in Executive Session were approved unanimously.

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Photos by Paul Arbogast.

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE—Recently Governor Jared Polis signed a proclamation naming March 20 to be “MeatOut Day.” This along with a newly proposed ballot initiative that would essentially kill animal agriculture, has led almost half the counties in Colorado to proclaim the same day as “MeatIn Day.”

In Montrose the Cattlemen’s Association, Wool Growers Association and FFA members threw a big BBQ at Castle Auto Sales on N. Townsend from 10 until 2 pm. By noon they had served more than 600 people, and people were still arriving.

Get your news feed on.
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LITTLE BLUE CREEK CANYON OPEN HOUSE

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
REGIONAL-The Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and American Civil Constructors, LLC Mountain West (ACC) held an open house for the US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon project at the Montrose County Event Center on March 16 from 5 to 7pm. If you missed it there is another on March 24 starting at 5pm at the Gunnison Recreation Center. There is no presentation, just an open house where you can talk to those involved in the project. One of the public information team representatives said construction was to start in early April, and the traffic times are set in stone at this point. They list detour options during nighttime closures as SH 92 from Delta to the Blue Mesa Dam for vehicles and small trucks. All other trucks and recreation vehicles must use I-70 to the north or 160 to the south. You can sign up for project or travel alerts by texting us50 to 2100. The website is www.us50info.com.



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

US 50 LITTLE BLUE CREEK CANYON
IMPROVEMENTS

Estimated Construction Timeline and Traffic Impacts: April 2021-November 2022
This graph shows only traffic impacts through 2021

Travel Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:30-8:30AM	Open to two-way traffic	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic without delays	
8:30AM-12:30PM	Full roadway closures						
12:30-1:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations						
1:30-5:30PM	Full roadway closures						
5:30-7:30PM	Open for single-lane, alternating operations				Open to two-way traffic		
7:30PM-6:30AM	Full roadway closures						

All closures and operations are weather dependent. Traffic schedule and timeline is tentative and subject to change.

Month-to-Month

2021												2022											
April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Road Closures												Alternating Traffic											

Detour options during nighttime closures:

When US 50 is closed, passenger vehicles and small trucks can use SH 92 as a local alternate route. All other trucks and recreation vehicles over 70 feet in length will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for one of the planned openings. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

Vehicles carrying hazardous materials will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for one of the planned openings. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Sign up for project email updates:

Webpage: www.us50info.com
Email: us50LittleBlue@gmail.com
Phone: 970-340-4333
Text alerts: text us50 to 21000



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

US 50 LITTLE BLUE CREEK CANYON
IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

April 2021- November 2022, American Civil Constructors Mountain West (ACC) is completing a critical improvement project on US Highway 50 through the Little Blue Creek Canyon, 30 miles east of Montrose and 33 miles west of Gunnison.

LEGEND

	Hwy 50
	Work Area
	Mile Marker



Why is the work being completed?

Due to a high number of accidents and fatalities over the last decade, a 4-mile section (from mile points 123 to 127) of US 50 between Gunnison and Montrose, known as the Little Blue Creek Canyon, will undergo safety improvements.

- The new design will improve the driving experience with wider shoulders, improved guardrail, better sight distances, and more reliable travel time.
- To maintain worker safety and the safety of the traveling public, closing US 50 for certain work activities is necessary
- CDOT was awarded a \$20 million Federal Lands Access Program grant through Central Federal Lands (CFL) to complete this \$40 million project.
- Construction on US 50 is anticipated to begin in April 2021 and continue through November 2022.

MONTROSE COUNTY MOVES TO BLUE ON THE DIAL

By Paul Arbogast

MONTROSE—On March 15th Montrose County moved to Level Blue on the state's Covid Dial. This announcement can be found on the county's website (<https://www.montrosecountyjic.com/>).

Shifting from Yellow to Blue loosens restrictions imposed by Governor Polis. Some of the biggest official changes are restaurants, gyms and 'indoor events' moving up in capacity. Additionally, the

last call time moves to 2 am.

Mesa, Delta and Ouray are also in Level Blue.

The Mesa County board of commissioners sent a letter to Governor Polis, with support of local healthcare and hospitals, saying they play to remove ALL Covid restrictions beginning mid-April.

Montrose County was contacted for comment and said they just recently heard of Mesa County's letter. While they current-

ly do not plan to issue a similar letter to the Governor, they said they have had meetings with Delta and Mesa county. From the beginning of state restrictions on business the county has focused on education rather than enforcement.

Mesa County was contacted to see if they had received a response from the Governor's office, but as of publication they had not.

Sign-Up for Standby Today!

Are you interested in a COVID-19 vaccine but do not meet qualifications yet? Sign-up for the standby list today at montrosecountyjic.com/vaccination or call 970-252-4545. Standby are called to ensure all drawn vaccines are used. Individuals must be 18 years of age or older to receive a vaccine.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ANONYMOUS COMMENTERS ATTACK 'BLUE HAIRS' ONLINE FOR LISTENING TO CONGRESSPERSON

Editor:

We were honored to attend the town meeting hosted by our Congresswoman, Lauren Boebert, on Monday, March 15th. A real upbeat, positive and patriotic (can we say that anymore?) meeting at the Turn of the Century. On Tuesday, March 16th, we stumbled on the coverage of the meeting on the online version of The Daily Press. I rarely pay any attention to the comments next to the article (I guess that is the Montrose Message Board), but after reading a few of them, I got a whole new perspective on the meeting. I'm guessing most of the commentators were not pre-

sent, but certainly couldn't resist offering "incredibly intelligent observations" of a meeting they didn't even attend. Comments such as "Not one person of color and all over 50," or "There was no bingo," or "Look at all the blue hair." Wow, with such enlightened minds you would think these folks would put their names and contact info next to their comments rather than remain anonymous.

Actually, we were two of the "Blue Hairs" at the meeting. We were two of the folks present who still believe in the Greatness of America, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunity that is available to all of

our citizens. We have contributed to our community, served our state and country and are proud of that service. I believe all the people attending that meeting can say the same.

They are the givers and builders that have made this country the most prosperous country in the world, not the "Takers" who expect someone else to pay for all their wants and needs. We are happy to say our Congresswoman (or Congressman or Congressperson -your choice) believes in our country as well.

Ben Alexander, Montrose

Kay Alexander, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

ARE AMERICANS DESTROYING AMERICA?

By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher

MONTROSE-Anyone who pays even a little attention can see that there are a lot of divides in America, and it seems these divides keep growing. Some of them are over hyped by politicians and biased media sources, but they are almost always made worse by the citizens of this country who are overly polarized, party line followers.

On March 15 I went out to cover a rally for Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (R-D3). The point was to get a few pictures and say she was there and what the turnout was, not to cover what was said. If you have listened to the two parties enough, you could write their speeches for them, what they have to say is no mystery. But what struck me were the comments on that story, and on a live feed of the speech. The name calling, ad hominem attacks, and unsupported claims were over the top. But this sort of behavior is owned by neither side of the two-party system because those on both sides do it.

I believe in freedom of speech, no matter what that speech is, so people are free to say the things they did, but my questions to all of them are these: Does your comment help, or are you just helping the two parties stoke division and hate among us? How can you live a happy life if there is so much anger in your heart? Are your comments how you want others to view you?

I have never 'supported' any politician because I personally think they are all flawed, narcissistic, unethical, or outright criminal in the pursuit of power. I support ideas, not politicians. I do not believe that 300 million people in this country are either A or B in their beliefs; that is too simplistic, and humans are complex. But that is what the parties and their followers seem to want everyone to believe.

I was raised to question everything, to listen to opinions that differ so you can learn from them, but it seems I now live in an America where independent thought has died and people shut out any opinion that differs from their own. The worst

part is not shutting out opposing opinions, it is the anger and hate that cycles back and forth between those that follow one of the two parties: name calling, threats, ad hominem attacks. Beyond national politics, I see the divide here locally. Over the past few months there have been a few new planned housing developments that have met a lot of resistance (from those who live by them). While there are valid concerns about increased traffic, the reality is traffic always increases as places grow, and the city and county are usually fairly good on mitigating such issues, as far as they can.

A lot of the concerns seem to come down to a more selfish 'not in my backyard' mentality. They complain about property values, potential noise, and increased crime, and seem to focus on looking down on potential new neighbors. I understand the 'not in my back yard' when it comes to something like the mag chloride storage tank in Tortilla Flats, but not when it comes to more needed housing for your fellow citizens.

When it comes down to it, we share more commonalities than differences. We do not want to struggle to get by, we want better lives for our kids, we have our good and bad days, most of us have struggled with the same issues at one point in our lives, so why do we spend so much effort separating ourselves instead of coming together? Why is so much effort put into dismissing others rather than listening to and learning from them? How do you ever grow as a human if you spend all your time in an echo chamber?

At this point the different divisions in this country seem to be getting worse because of the two-party system and a refusal of people to think for themselves outside of the bounds of a party. While the parties are surely at the root of the divisiveness, and clearly want it, it is the people of this nation who can stand up and fix the nation by saying 'no more'.

This country belongs to us, all of us, not the parties and not the politicians, who seem to forget they are public servants, not leaders or rulers.

I challenge local party leaders to put together some combined forums to discuss local issues in a civil manner and work to make the city and county a better place, rather than focusing on casting aspersions on each other. Lead by example, and prove you really want to work to make this a better place to live, that the people matter more than your party.

I will end this with an excerpt from President George Washington's farewell address. It was published in papers across the country, warns us of the dangers of political parties, and is quite prophetic:

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

"Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

"It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions."



Paul Arbogast.
Courtesy photo.

A collage of various humorous and cute socks. The socks feature a wide variety of designs, including:

- Top Left:** A red bicycle with a basket of flowers, a blue bicycle, and a red bicycle with a basket of fruit.
- Top Middle:** A bowl of guacamole with a tomato and an avocado, and a taco with a sombrero.
- Top Right:** A beehive with the text "HIVE RULES", a beehive with the text "BEE POSITIVE", and a beehive with the text "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME".
- Middle Left:** A collection of socks with various designs, including a cow, a cat, and a dog.
- Middle Center:** A collection of socks with BBQ-themed designs, including "WHERE there's SMOKE there's BBQ" and "Drink Beer EAT BBQ REPEAT".
- Middle Right:** A collection of socks with various designs, including a car, a house, and a dog.
- Bottom Left:** A red and white checkered sock with the text "CAMPING IS MY THERAPY", a yellow and red striped sock with the text "You never know", and a blue and white striped sock with the text "where we might POP UP".
- Bottom Center:** A collection of socks with various designs, including a dog, a cat, and a dog.
- Bottom Right:** A collection of socks with various designs, including a sloth, a dog, and a dog.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE LIBRARY HOSTS VIRTUAL COOKING EVENT WITH COLORADO BOY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose Regional Library for this virtual cooking event with Colorado Boy Pizzeria & Brewery! This authentic pizzeria and brewery has been very popular ever since it opened its' doors in 2013. Chef Chad will show us their amazing dough-making process.

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tevans@montroselibrary.org to sign up for this event on Thursday, April 15, at 12pm.

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VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR MEAT, AG @ MONTROSE BOCC From pg 1

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris asked to delete from the agenda Item G-1, "Dr. Joe Adragna, Public Health Medical Advisor and Pandemic Response Specialist, Pandemic Update via video presentation." Hansen said that the 49-minute video update will be held for a separate meeting.

RESOLUTION 12-20-01

County Attorney Marti Whitmore presented resolution 12-20-01, in support of local farmers and ranchers, and Hansen read the resolution into the record. Said Hansen, "As everybody knows, there's been a lot of conversation about the Governor's proclamation, especially on ag day. There's over 26 counties that have joined in doing a resolution to support ag and the meat industry."

The resolution states in part, "...Just as we would not show up for dinner at the Governor's and First Gentleman's home and ask 'where is the beef?' we hope that those who adhere to vegetable-based diets can respect the rights of those who answer the question 'what's for dinner?' with 'beef, chicken, pork, or lamb please'...While the Age of Asparagus may be upon us, this Board will continue to support those who also make a living raising beef, lamb, chicken and pork..."

The BOCC voted unanimously to pass the resolution in support of the agriculture industry in Montrose County. Hansen asked for a round of applause.

"Now we're on to the meat of the business, planning and development," Hansen said.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

County Planner Tallmadge Richmond presented an application for rezone of a 47-acre property, from General Agricultural (A) to Manufactured Home Park Residential District (R-MHP) at LaSalle and Marine roads.

A public hearing was opened. "At this meeting you are addressing the rezone application," Richmond said. "...most of the concerns of the public would be addressed at the special use portion of this whole process."

Commissioners asked County Engineer Keith Laube about traffic counts in the

area, and Nick Barrett from DelMont Consultants spoke. He said that the West Montrose Sanitation District is directly across the road from the area to be rezoned.

Two citizens spoke against the project; Clay Campbell listed points of difference, including the location in a 100-year floodplain. Greg Roeder said that he and his girlfriend are disabled veterans and moved to the area for peace of mind. Roeder agreed with the points raised by Campbell, asked about the floodplain, and spoke of the need to buffer the proposed manufactured home district from his property, in some areas with a ten-foot steel fence. "We pretty much just want to be left alone," he said.

If the situation becomes untenable, Roeder said he and his girlfriend would have to relocate.

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "I appreciate your comments, and we'll address all of these, assuming this thing gets passed...at the special use permit. That's when we get down to the nuts and bolts of what works for the neighborhood, and traffic and all those things, and we will take those into consideration...we appreciate you coming forward at this time and presenting that...and thank you both for your service."

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy thanked Campbell and Roeder for their input. Hansen closed the public hearing, commissioners voted unanimously to approve the application to rezone the 47-acre property from General Agricultural (A) to Manufactured Home Park Residential District (R-MHP).

In other Planning and Development decisions, Commissioners voted to approve the Happy Canyon Ranch Minor Subdivision [MI20-005] proposal to divide three lots from a 42.320 acre parcel at 19033 Happy Canyon Road; and Ranger Ranch Minor Subdivision proposal to divide a 19.35 parcel into three lots at 18290 6300 Road.

Also approved were the Solar Heights Filing 2 Preliminary Plan [MA20-002] proposal to create five additional building lots in Solar Heights, at Solar Heights Lane &

Solar Road; and 6720 Road Dedication [RD21-001] proposal, a plat for road dedication known as "6720 Road Dedication," at Trout Road and HWY 550.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Kendra Jenkins of the Clerk's office presented for consideration and possible action the renewal of the license for the Montrose County Event Center. The Liquor Licensing Authority voted unanimously to approve the renewal.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

After returning to regular session, the board reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health.

Public Health Director Jim Austin gave an update; WIC Supervisor Barbara Eschrich will retire this spring after 26 years with the county, Austin said. Four open positions are posted, for assistant Public Health Director, WIC Supervisor and for two nurses.

Austin said he is looking at record retention policies for all contracts, and on promoting the use of telehealth and ensuring public health resources are promoted as they should be through Colorado 211.

He hopes to update the comprehensive list of mental/behavioral health providers, and to pursue networking with Tri-County Health Network. "They offer many, many services."

Hansen suggested public health look at health issues in addition to COVID.

Austin said a regional public health plan is done across Region 10, in conjunction with the plan created by local hospitals

"After seeing the clinic...volunteering when we had that 70+ age group coming in, it seems like we could do something for that age group...our task is to help the general health of our community," Hansen said. "I'd love to...have something more robust going on than a coronavirus pandemic."

Austin said, "...So much of it really is promotion and education. As you all know, I am a strong supporter of working through our partner organizations...a lot of what

Continued next pg

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR MEAT, AG @ MONTROSE BOCC

From previous pg

we do is coordinate the promoting of that.”

Noting that the US 50 Little Blue Canyon project is beginning, Commissioner Rash asked if there are employees who will be traveling to Gunnison.

The Nurse Family partnership has limited travel, Austin said.

“Thank you for an outstanding job this past year,” Rash said to Austin. “...We do appreciate the efforts that you and your team have done, as well as (Media Relations Manager) Katie Yergensen and Dr. Joe Adragna, the stuff that they’ve done has been pretty amazing.”

“It has been a long year,” Austin said.

“COVID years are like dog years,” Hansen said. “They’re like Seven for one.”

Commissioners reconvened as the BOCC, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



Season
Outside
the Box
2020/2021

61st Season

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS
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THE BOOK BY RICHARD HOOKER

Directed by Casey Dukeman

AUDITIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 @ 2PM
MONDAY, MARCH 29 @ 7PM

CASTING 16 MEN AND 14 WOMEN

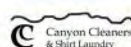
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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT OF CONTROL BURN



MONTROSE-Following an afternoon brush fire near Spring Creek on Friday, March 19, whipping winds in Montrose early Saturday, March 20 quickly drove a fire at West Oak Grove and Rio Grande into a frenzy. Montrose Police Department and Montrose Fire Department responded and got the fire under control.

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February 2021 Montrose County Real Estate Report

Residential Sold

48 Homes

Average Price \$369,600

Days on Market 86

2020 Residential Sold

40 Homes

Average Price \$343,984

Days on Market 115

Land Sold

20 Properties

\$93,965 Average price

Days on Market 304

2020 Land Sold

10 Properties

Average Price \$184,078

Days on Market 167

As of 03/01/2021 for Residential there are 79 Active properties and 93 Pending.

For land transactions there were 228 Active and 43 Pending

In 2020 there were 129 Active properties and 102 pending.

For land transactions there were 268 Active and 28 Pending



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE TO HOST AJGA JUNIOR OPEN AUG. 1-5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The city, in partnership with The Bridges Golf and Country Club, is pleased to announce that Montrose will host an American Junior Golf Association, AJGA, tournament at The Bridges golf course Aug. 1-5, 2021.

The AJGA Junior Open at The Bridges will feature a field of 96 nationally touring junior golfers and their families. The field will also include a number of junior golfers from Montrose.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to bring this event to Montrose and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our community as well as the young golfers that will be participating in it," said City of Montrose Competitive Sports Program Coordinator Chris Iversen. "Those involved in the development of this tournament should be commended and those involved in the execution of the event will be working hard over the next few months to deliver something the community can be proud of." The AJGA is a nationally known 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. Proceeds from the August tournament will go to local charities.

In 2020 the AJGA held 101 tournaments across the United State. The organization currently has 7,300 members.

Montrose has earned statewide recognition following the success of the Montrose High School Indians golf team.

In 2019 The Bridges hosted the Colorado High School Activities Association's 4A golf tournament where the MHS team clinched their third-straight state title.

Local golfer Jordan Jennings is also the 2020 reigning Colorado 4A high school individual champion.

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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

LOCAL BUSINESS GRANTS FROM DMEA NOW AVAILABLE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will once again host a virtual Annual Meeting due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. As a result, DMEA is dedicating the funds budgeted to host a large in-person event to a special business grant program: \$30,000 in local business grants is now available to businesses within DMEA's service territory.

"We're disappointed that we won't be getting together with our members in person, but we aren't letting COVID completely sideline our entire Annual Meeting again. This past year has been devastating to our local economies, so we are dedicating \$30,000 to support local businesses," said DMEA Chief Executive Officer,

Jasen Bronec.

Nominations for DMEA's 2021 Business Grant Program open today, March 15, 2021, and close May 10, 2021. Businesses located within DMEA's service territory are encouraged to apply for a grant online at www.dmea.com. The program is open to all businesses, regardless of size, within the co-op's service territory. Businesses that have received funding from other DMEA programs within the past three years are ineligible to receive a grant.


"COVID-19 has impacted the way we all do business, whether it's as simple as hidden smiles behind masks or as heartbreaking as businesses closing their doors. We hope these grants can help local business owners weather the storm a bit longer," stressed Bronec.

er," stressed Bronec.


DMEA's 2021 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021. It will be held virtually. Additional details are not yet available.

DMEA Business Grant Application Information

- Nominations will be accepted from March 15, 2021 – May 10, 2021.
- Applicants will be required to submit the online nomination (<https://www.dmea.com/2021-dmea-business-grant>).
- Proof of a local business license and DMEA membership is required.
- Recipients will be selected by DMEA's Board of Directors and will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 17, 2021.



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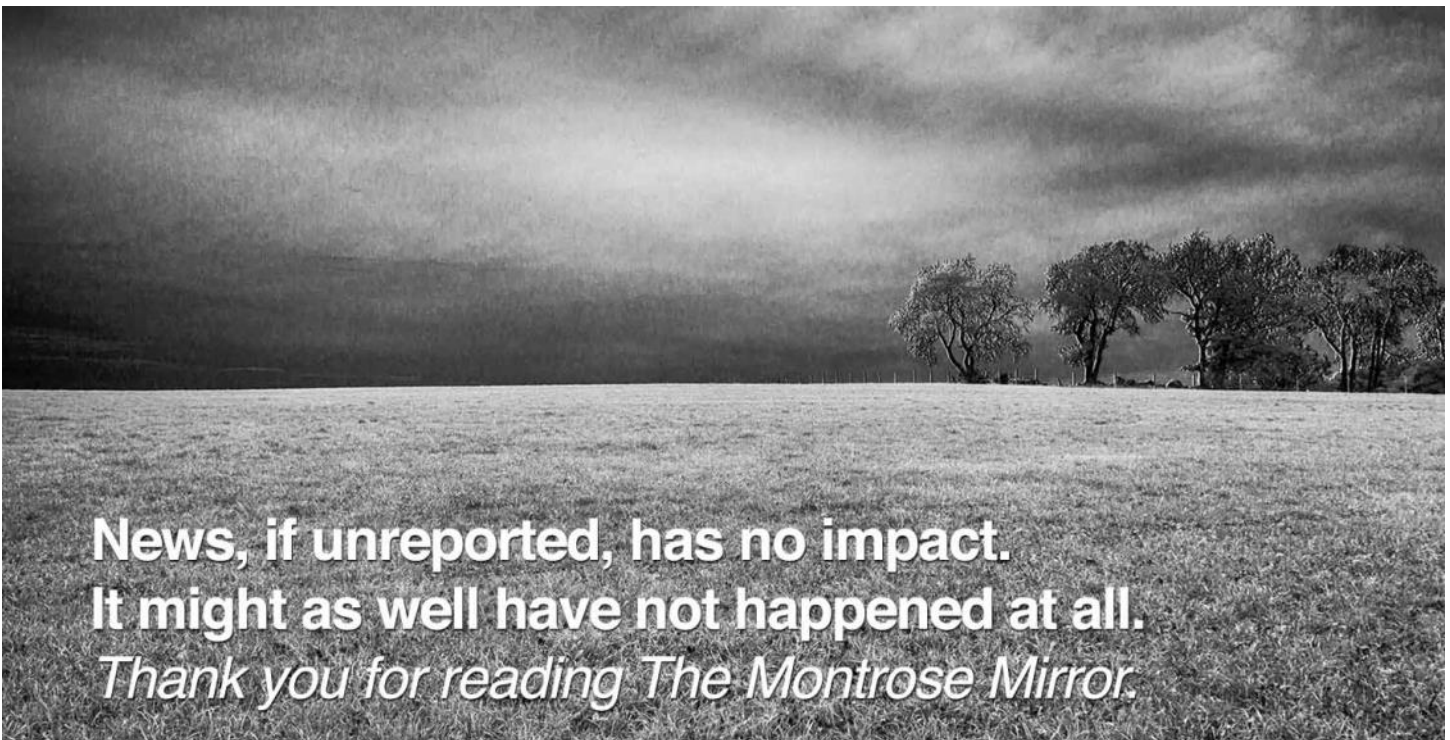
CONGRESSWOMAN BOEBERT SPEAKS AT GOP GATHERING



By Paul Arbogast, Mirror Publisher
MONTROSE-On Monday March 15 the Montrose County Republicans hosted Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (R-D3) at the Turn of the Century Saloon on NW 4th St.

Boebert spoke for about an hour to a full capacity crowd, hitting on key elements of her platform and taking a few questions at the end. She had previously scheduled a rally in Montrose, but it was canceled after threats were received, organizers said.

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (R-D3) spoke to a full house during a recent stop in Montrose at the Turn of the Century Saloon. Photos by Paul Arbogast.



News, if unreported, has no impact.
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Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.



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CITY TO MEET IN PERSON WITH ONE ANOTHER IN APRIL; PUBLIC MAY STILL ATTEND VIDEO SESSIONS



Montrose City Council work session of Monday, March 15.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Mayor Barbara Bynum welcomed all to the virtual Montrose City Council work session of Monday, March 15. While other entities have resumed in-person meetings that are open to the public, the City of Montrose has not yet set a date to do so. All councilors were present for the work session.

Said Bynum, "Okay. It is 10 a.m. and the recording has started. It's Monday, March 15th, 2021, 10 a.m. and this is our regularly scheduled city council work session."

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Manager Terri Wilcox led in welcoming six new staff members. Joining the City team are Animal Shelter Technician Nancy Bartz; Public Works Customer Service Representative Debra Lueck; Police Department Customer Service-Civilian Report Taking Technician Ariana Meraz; Guest Services and Community Events Coordinator Ashley Pietak; Human Resources Generalist Samantha Vallejos; and Golf Course Restaurant Manager Bridget Warren.

Said Bartz, "I just feel so privileged to be here and to meet all of you. I love my new job...I just thank you so much for picking me...I'm going to work extra hard."

A Colorado native, Lueck has lived in Montrose for ten years. Prior to moving here, she lived in Zambia.

"I have worked a lot of jobs; most of them have been in areas where I worked with a lot of men and I was a lot of times the only woman," Lueck said. "That's

where I'm at now! It's like being home again," she said, "to have to work with all the gentlemen down there."

Meraz was born in Mexico and moved to Montrose as a small child. She recently moved back to Montrose from Utah, where she worked in a similar job. "...I absolutely love this job... love it here, this is my home."

"Great. We're Glad to have you," Bynum said. "Welcome."

A lifelong local, Vallejos comes to the City from the Montrose Recreation District. Said Wilcox, "We were very excited that we were able to steal her from the rec district. We love stealing great people."

Vallejos said that she recognizes the names of those on council from their children and grandchildren. "I have had experience with some of you at the Rec District, so it's nice to see you at this venue as well."

Said Bynum, "Welcome. We're glad to have you. The City stole me from the Rec District too."

Pietak comes to the City from the Holiday Inn Express, where she served as Director of Sales for close to five years and prior to that worked with the former Montrose Chamber of Commerce.

"I am super excited to finally be on the City team," Pietak said. "Very happy to be here, and nice to officially meet you all."

Warren will run the Rusty Putter restaurant at Black Canyon Golf Course. "I've been in the food and industry business for a long time, started out at the L.A. County Fair selling water at 15, just slowly moved

up from there and now I'm here.

"...Excited to see what the summer brings for us, excited to see you all out there at the course," Warren said.

Bynum welcomed Warren. "We're glad to have you on the team."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said, "In keeping with the theme we're sorry to have stolen her from Jimmer's where she was a valuable team member, but we're very excited that she's here with the City of Montrose now"

Wilcox said, "What a wonderful group of new employees we have here. We're so excited to have them."

MURA PHASE II PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT AWARD

Council discussed the approval of \$1,410,029.57 in expenditures for construction of public infrastructure associated with Phase II of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$1,077,729.57, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$67,300, and dry utility expenditures totaling \$265,000.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on the award; Developer Kurt Soukup was present as well.

"What we're looking at here is the southern extension of utilities and infrastructure to support...it's the Base Camp Apartment project in the URA," Murphy said. All 96 units must be complete by Dec. 31, 2023

Background-A memo from Murphy to Council notes that in the spring of 2020, "the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board entered into a development agreement with Range Development to help facilitate the construction of 96 market-rate apartment units at the southern end of Colorado Outdoors. As part of this development agreement, the MURA committed to reimburse for horizontal site improvements at the apartment site and to design and construct public infrastructure needed to support the project. As the first step in this agreement, the MURA

Continued next pg

CITY TO MEET IN PERSON WITH ONE ANOTHER From previous pg

Board also awarded a construction contract to Del-Mont Consultants (Montrose, CO) for design of this public infrastructure in early 2020. During the 2021 budget process, the City of Montrose elected to budget for construction of the public infrastructure aspects of the project. Design of the public infrastructure was completed in early 2021 and included the extension and/or relocation of utilities between North 6th and North 9th Streets as well as the extension of North 6th Street west of Grand Avenue as shown on the attached excerpt from the project plans."

"These are market rate apartments, very high demand, high need in our community right now," Murphy said.

NORTH 2ND STREET ROW VACATION ORDINANCE

Planner Amy Sharp presented information on the vacation, for a right of way onto which a portion of a home has encroached.

Background-A memo prepared by Sharp for Council states, "The proposed vacation is located along N. 2nd Street. Part of the existing house at 127 N. Lot Avenue encroaches into the N. 2nd St. right of way as shown on the map below. The owner has requested that the City vacate a 12' x 150' strip of land (approximately 1800 sq. ft.) along the N. 2nd right of way in order to own the entire property on which the house is located. This portion of N. 2nd St. deadends into Paseo del Arroyo Park on the west side. The City would retain an 88-foot-wide ROW which is sufficient for the street and sidewalks. The right of way vacation would have the additional benefit of allowing enough buildable area for two or three new lots under the REDO and Subdivision Regulations. The amount of land proposed for vacation would place the entire house on private property. If approved, the resulting lot would be a total of 150' x 62.5' in size (9375 sq. ft.). The vacated portion of the right of way will be included into the existing lot by an administrative process.

DAYTIME SOCIAL SERVICES-MUNICIPAL CODE REVISION

Assistant City Attorney Matthew Magliaro joined Sharp in discussing the proposed code revisions, which would modify City Code to include daytime social service activities as a use by right in B-1, B-2, B-2A, and B-3 zoning districts. Examples include activities by a social service provider, such as food storage; food distribution without monetary remuneration as a food pantry and/or food service without monetary remuneration as a soup kitchen; laundry facilities not for profit; showers; counseling to include alcohol and/or substance abuse counseling; and/or religious education and counseling. This use by right expressly excludes the overnight sheltering of people.

Notably, in the discussion that followed councilors repeatedly discussed "renumeration," rather than "remuneration," a different word entirely. Parking is not addressed at this time, City Manager Bill Bell said. "The impetus behind this is the Shepherd's Hand, working out of the old funeral home location. That got us working with them and trying to figure out a way that we could accommodate the needs...but not at the expense of the entire business community."

Glaspell asked how the City is addressing vagrancy and the growing numbers of homeless people populating the Downtown area.

Bell said that will be a discussion to have in-person. "...There's not a lot we can do to prevent that...we watched the neighboring communities and how they interact with the ACLU...we are trying to come up with a way to deal with that without violating any of those rules that are out there," he said.

Glaspell said, "My concern has always been a lack of really helping these people from an educational standpoint...we're not providing any educational opportunities as I can see it."

Bell said best practices indicate the need for a "comprehensive wrap-around approach" to social services.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF 931 N. PARK

Public Works manager Jim Scheid present-

ed information. The property was recently purchased by the City, he said. "We've looked closely at it...it definitely lends itself to be much more cost effective to demolish the structure.

"...Either way we would need to abate the asbestos first," Scheid said. "This building definitely has a lot of it, and some very complicated."

Eight qualified bids were received in response to an RFP, he said. Council will consider approving a contract award for the asbestos abatement project to Acumen Environmental Services in the amount of \$83,202.72 with an owner's contingency of (15 percent) \$12,480. This is a total of \$95,682.72 to be allocated for the project.

"We'll look forward to seeing this item on an upcoming council agenda," Bynum said.

COUNCIL/STAFF DISCUSSION

Murphy said the Woodgate realignment project bid opening would be Thursday, March 18.

The City Visitor Center is open, Bell said. "It's going to be a very busy summer for us."

City Council will begin to meet in-person with staff in April, but the public and visitors must continue to watch online, Bynum said. "So we can continue to meet the requirements under public health orders for the right number of people.

"...We're looking forward to seeing each other in person," she said. "We think that we'll still be able to adequately allow public comment via the hybrid model."

Scheid said that contracts will be awarded for the first two bid packages for the public safety complex following bid review.

The amphitheater project is underway, Scheid said. There are multiple time-lapse cameras on site, he said.

A foundation has been poured for the water tank on Sunset Mesa, Murphy said. "The pump structure is in place...going vertical soon."

Basic work is complete on the Woodgate neighborhood sewer, Murphy said.

Bynum reminded of upcoming meetings, including the regular council meeting on March 16.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY TO PROVIDE FREE GOLF, FOOD AND DRINK DISCOUNTS AT GOLF COURSE

Editor:

I was recently surprised to learn that the City of Montrose intends to offer its employees free rounds of golf, as well as discounts on food and drink at the city owned Black Canyon Golf Course. I researched the benefits Montrose offers to city employees, and no mention is made of these particular perks.

A quick study of municipal golf courses in the United States shows that 67% of these courses make enough money to cover expenses. Last year in Montrose, Black Canyon reported expenses of \$908,203,

while reporting an income of \$908,855. However, \$457,185 of the reported income was a transfer from the city's General Fund. In other words, the course lost \$457,185 last year alone.

Now the city is offering free rounds of golf and restaurant discounts to city employees, further diminishing revenue. I looked up how other municipal golf courses are run. Of the 5 that I studied, none offer city employees those benefits. The most comprehensive study I found was done by Massachusetts, which did a statewide investigation of all 67 municipal golf courses

in that state. They specifically recommended against these types of benefits, citing the potential for abuse, lost revenue, and unfair competition with non-municipal courses.

The only discounts offered are for the local high school team, seniors, and veterans. Nothing else.

The question is twofold: How much are the citizens of Montrose willing to pour funds into a losing venture, and is the golf course really the highest and best use of the land?

Ron Sobieck, Montrose

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CITY APPROVES RUSSELL STOVER REZONE DESPITE CONCERNS



Though several locals asked for more time to assess environmental impacts, Montrose City Council voted to rezone the Russell Stover property at the March 16 City council meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Tuesday, March 16 the Montrose City Council met for a regular, virtual meeting. All councilors were present for the session.

"Ok! Our recording has started! It is Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 6 p.m., and this is the regularly scheduled city council meeting. I'd like to welcome everyone," Mayor Barbara Bynum said. "The first thing that we do at each council meeting is the Pledge of Allegiance."

Bynum introduced Youth City Councilor Josie Coulter, who led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 special meeting and the March 2, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT MASTER AND STRATEGIC PLAN

As discussed previously in work session, Council voted unanimously to approve a

request from the Montrose Recreation District to partner on a comprehensive master and strategic plan and providing funding in the amount of \$30,000.

WOODGATE REALIGNMENT

As part of the Woodgate Road Realignment, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2527 (Woodgate Road Realignment) on second reading, granting and authorizing the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate. Citizen David White asked whether the City was acquiring an easement or the entire parcel; City Attorney Scott Murphy said the City is purchasing right of way only.

White said, "I appreciate you guys doing this, it's been many years in the making. Because that is an awful intersection...I'm looking forward to it. Thank you."

A Feb. 16 memo From Murphy to Council states, "This ordinance authorizes the City to vacate obsolete portions of right of way situated within the Woodgate Realignment project area. The portions of right of way being vacated will no longer be needed by the City upon completion of the new roadway."

Council voted to approve the RDMJK Woodgate Division of Property, and approved Ordinance 2528 on second 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.

The property owner's representative Doug Tueller thanked the City for their help.

"Your staff's been phenomenal, really remarkable."

Mayor Bynum said that the Woodgate Realignment is a "win-win."

"It will help traffic, and we're always trying to create a safer and more efficient traffic flow for our community," Bynum said.

VACATION OF THREE RIGHTS OF WAY

Murphy gave an overview on the need to vacate rights of way and amend the zoning on the former Russell Stover property.

Continued next pg

CITY APPROVES RUSSELL STOVER REZONE DESPITE CONCERNS

From previous pg

"The Stover Property used to be owned by the city and leased to Stover's," Murphy said. "When they left, they exercised their right to purchase the property."

The property is being subdivided, necessitating the cleanup of rights of way and utility easements, he said.

Following a brief public hearing, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2530 on first reading, vacating three rights-of-way within the City of Montrose.

Also approved was Ordinance 2531 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to I-1 Light Industrial District and Lot 2 and Lot 3 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to B-2 Highway Commercial District. The property encompasses 27-acres.

Senior Planner Amy Sharp presented information on existing zoning and the zoning amendment. The Planning Commissioner and staff have recommended approval.

Present during the discussion was applicant Russell Stover's counsel, Matthew Harris. Harris asked why the rezoning had not been accomplished previously and why the factory had been zoned P (Public).

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said that when the city owned the property, code required that the zoning be Public. Alcorn addressed those who believe that Russell Stover should perform an environmental assessment prior to amending the zoning. "We don't have any standing or justification to force a rezone applicant to do an environmental study on their private property," Alcorn said, and reminded Council to consider zoning criteria only.

"We at Russell Stover have been working quite diligently for several months...in connection with the minor subdivision," Harris said. "I feel like we've been a very good partner with the city really all the way around...why we are here this evening is necessary to position this property for the next stage of its life there in Montrose."

Nothing new is being proposed in terms

of the permitted scope of uses, Harris said. "These are appropriate zoning designations for this property."

All criteria have been fully met, he said, and asked Council to vote to approve the proposed ordinance.

Bynum opened a hearing; Citizen David White spoke.

"I sent you an email that laid out my concerns about potential environmental problems on the property," White said, acknowledging that the issues fall outside of the criteria for a rezone.

"I simply want to get it on the record and ask you all to postpone approving this—I'm not opposed to the rezone—I'm just concerned about what has happened in the past on the property," White said.

"And that if there is environmental contamination...I just don't want to see the city get stuck with this."

Without at least a phase I environmental study, a potential future party or even Russell Stover may come back to the citizens seeking assistance in cleaning up contaminated soils and other issues, White said.

Harris said that Russell Stover received no violation notices during the term of the lease. There is no person or party more interested in the environmental integrity of the property than the current owner.

Also addressing council was Sandy Head of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

"...I am a native of Montrose and I am also aware of the contamination that took place a number of years ago," Head said, noting that if the zoning could be postponed there would be more time to work out the details.

"Environmental research does need to be done," Head said. "We have a company that is willing to invest to grow jobs in the community, which I think is a gift considering the size of that building and the fact that we could be sitting here with a white elephant if these issues are not addressed. "...We need more time to work out the details."

She reminded Council that individual businesses in the community first bought the land for Russell Stover back in 1972.

"We need to protect our citizens; we need to protect the buyer that is willing to invest in our community and create these jobs...we're asking for a postponement of the zoning procedure."

White asked whether the sale of the property was handled as a typical business transaction.

Alcorn said the property was transferred as a general warranty deed.

Councilor Frank asked if the rezone would impact the owner's responsibility to reveal contamination to a future buyer; it would not.

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said, "...I'm a little frustrated. I just don't think this a proper use of a zoning procedure. It seems like that they're trying to use it to pressure Russell Stover's...that's not what a zoning is for...we have a improperly zoned piece of property and it needs to be corrected."

Head apologized for making her comment during the zoning procedure. "...I would have done it at the call to the public...but since Russell Stover's was on the agenda I thought that it needed to wait til now."

Bynum contradicted Alcorn, who is not an elected member of council. "No worries. This would be a great time to bring this up and we appreciate your public comment." She closed the hearing.

Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2531 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of Lot 1 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to I-1 Light Industrial District and Lot 2 and Lot 3 of the Stover Minor Subdivision Property Rezone Map from P Public District to B-2 Highway Commercial District. The property encompasses 27-acres.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Council voted to approve Ordinance 2529 on second reading, vacating a right of way deemed surplus (S. First Street, Public Safety Complex).

Council also voted to approve the award of a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$89,062.60 for construction of the North 9th Sidewalk Extension Project; and a construction contract to

Continued next pg

CITY APPROVES RUSSELL STOVER REZONE DESPITE CONCERNS

From previous pg

to Kuboske Construction in the amount of \$106,726 for the La Raza Sports Court Project.

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the most recent Sales, Use and Excise report.

Josie Coulter gave an update on Youth Council activities. "This month our project is to...kind of promote ourselves, so we

can build a bigger council," she said. "...We're using our social media platforms and making videos to try and convince incoming freshmen to join us and be a part of what we do."

Bynum suggested a video could be made to attract more members to the City's Planning Commission. "We too are trying to encourage folks to raise their hands and apply."

"Frank said he was excited to see school kids at the Montrose Pavilion.

"That was a great partnership between the City and the school district," Bynum said. She praised Montrose County's work in administering vaccinations and referred citizens to the County's web site for more information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM 10 - 3/16/2021 - FOR OFFICIAL RECORD

City Council:

Many months ago, the City of Montrose management and legal teams (Bill Bell and Stephen Alcorn) and governing body (City Council) were made aware of issues surrounding the Russell Stover property by concerned citizens related to the potential for environmental contamination due to the old above ground fuel oil tanks and the associated underground delivery lines (roughly 200 yards worth) on the north side of the plant having leaked fuel oil into the soil on the property. The above ground tanks were decommissioned 19-21 years ago and an in ground carbon steel tank or tanks were installed adjacent to the building after the leakage was discovered. All of this occurred on land **OWNED** by the City of Montrose and leased to Russell Stover Candies/Chocolates.

Even with this knowledge, the City Management and City Council proceeded to move ahead with deeding the property to Russell Stover in the Fall of 2020 without asking for an environmental Phase 1 study of the then publicly owned ground.

Now comes tonight's request by Russell Stover Chocolates to rezone the property from Public District (P) to Light Industrial

District (I-1) in an obvious move to be able to market the property to potential buyers.

While I don't disagree with the requested rezoning of the property, I do not believe it is in the best interest(s) of the City of Montrose and its Citizens as well as all taxpayers to approve such a rezoning without first requiring Russell Stover Chocolates to perform a Phase 1 environmental study of the property.

As a former County Commissioner, I am fully aware of the pitfalls associated with the potential for major costs associated with an environmental clean up as was experienced when the County purchased the former United Companies site near the intersection LaSalle Road and Highway 50 (N. Townsend Avenue) and upon which the County Public Works complex was built in 2016-2017.

As you know, the current County Manager, Mr. Ken Norris, was the Facilities Director for the Russell Stover Chocolates plant here in Montrose for several years and is extremely knowledgeable about that property. He and I had a lengthy conversation about this issue and he knows that there were leaks in the underground fuel

delivery lines that ran into the building from the fuel storage tanks. He stated to me in a conversation on March 7, 2020 that the lines had not only "rotted out" but that holes developed in them that caused fuel loss into the ground.

This information was conveyed to the City and yet approval to deed the property to Russell Stover went ahead without any consideration for future potential environmental cleanup costs that might have to be borne by the citizens.

I don't believe that it is too late to ask Russell Stover Chocolates for, at a minimum, a Phase 1 Environmental study. It is incumbent upon the City Council to protect the public's interest even at this late date. Without a delay in approving this requested rezoning, Russell Stover may well leave an unwanted legacy for all of us who live here.

Furthermore, to not delay this vote has the potential to give Russell Stover and any future owner of the property the rope with which they will hang the City and the taxpayers who will be saddled with the cost of a potential cleanup.

Thank you for your consideration.

David White, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON BLACK HILLS' PROPOSAL FOR ACCELERATED RECOVERY OF GAS PIPELINE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will conduct a remote public comment hearing on Thursday, April 1, on a request by Black Hills Colorado Gas Inc. for accelerated recovery of gas pipeline safety improvement costs.

The public comment hearing will begin at 4 p.m. and last until concluded, but no later than 6 p.m. Individuals who wish to provide public comments during the hearing may do so either by telephone or computer but should first sign up on the [Sign Up Sheet for Proceeding No. 20A-0379G](#). The public comment hearing will be held via Zoom and instructions to log in can be found on the PUC calendar or at [this link](#). Black Hills filed an application for approval

of a System Safety and Integrity Rider (SSIR) on Sept. 11. The company seeks authorization to implement the SSIR for five years to recover the costs associated with investments for accelerated replacement of higher risk pipe and to improve system data management. Black Hills also seeks authorization to perform the proposed relocation of at-risk meters and the replacement of associated customer owned yard lines.

The SSIR projects would be funded by increasing certain customers' bills via a monthly rider. The impact to a customer's bill would depend on the rate area in which a customer resides and the amount of natural gas a customer consumes. Because Black Hills' proposed SSIR program

only applies to Rate Areas 2 and 3, approval of the company's proposal would not increase the rates of customers residing in Rate Area 1.

For typical residential customers in Rate Area 2, the proposal is estimated to increase monthly bills by approximately \$0.64 in 2021 up to approximately \$9.83 in 2025. Residential customers in Rate Area 3 are projected to see increases of approximately \$0.26 a month in 2021 up to approximately \$4.24 a month in 2025. In addition to the public comment hearing, members of the public also may submit written comments about the proposal by using the PUC's on-line comment form at <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccomments> under proceeding 20A-0379G.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

TOM DOHERTY *1934-March 4th, 2021*

Montrose Colorado resident TOM DOHERTY died on March 4th, 2021. He was 86. Tom was born in 1934 and grew up in Hoehne Colorado. Tom met the love of his life in college in Fort Collins, and married Dorothy Prieskorn on June 11, 1955. Tom and Dorothy loved square dancing, a hobby they first started in college. They were founding members of the Black Canyon Square Dancers, one of the oldest dance clubs in Colorado. Attending dances took them to 48 states. Tom was an avid gardener and filled his pantry with home-grown canned vegetables. He and Dorothy were active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church and he was as a member of the Elks Club. Tom loved living among the natural wonders of western Colorado and could be found skiing, hiking, camping and four-wheeling throughout his years here. He

also had a deep curiosity for the wider world and traveled with Dorothy to Japan, China, Bolivia, Peru, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Tom was a Montrose resident since 1974, and was the field manager for the Tuxedo Corn Company for 25 years and prior to that he served for 35 years as an area agronomist with CSU's Cooperative Extension Service.

His career began with 2 initial years in Montrose in 1957, followed by 10 years in Springfield, 4 years in Grand Junction, then he moved back to Montrose. Tom received a BS in Agronomy in 1956 and later, a Masters in Adult Education, both from CSU. In his career in Agronomy, he developed a strong bond with the local farming community, forming friendships that lasted well into his retirement. He developed a successful general agrono-

my program for the Tri-River Area Extension office, and was involved in several commercial vegetable testing programs in the Uncompahgre Valley.

Tom is survived by his wife Dorothy of Montrose; children (spouses) Debbie (Kim) Cummins of Loveland, Cathy (Doyle) Gallegos of Herndon, Virginia, Tim (Mary) Doherty of Arvada, Jim (Laura) Doherty of Basel, Switzerland, Christy (Troy) Doherty of Montrose: 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was deeply loved and will be truly missed.

A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date.



THERON R. COLLINS *February -9th 1961-March -8th 2021*



THERON R. COLLINS passed peacefully in his sleep March -8th 2021 in Montrose, Co. Theron was born February -9th 1961. He grew up and attended school in Montrose and earned his degree in Appliance Repair at Denver Tech. Theron had many jobs, including building fences as a young child and cutting wood with his son. His passion has always been in scrap metal and special finds. Family and friends knew they could always count on Theron's help when it came to finding something they needed. He had it or would find it for you. Theron was happiest when he was camping and catching fish to fry for dinner.

Theron is survived by daughter, Renee' Collins of Renton, WA; three grandchildren, and siblings Dean (Desiree) Collins; Mona (Jim) Stonehocker, both of Montrose, Co; half-sister, Michele (Brien) Reynolds of Greeley, Co; half-brother, Todd Mays of Wyoming; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Theron was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Lorna Stonehocker, and son, Nathan Collins.

Private immediate family and friends Celebration of Life planned for April- 17 11:30 am. You may call 249-9763 for more information.

Contributions can be made in the name of Theron Collins at Shepherd's Hand Inc, 505 S 2nd St - PO Box 3354 Montrose, Co 81402. Shepherd's Hand may be reached at 970-275-7215.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

TERRIEL "TERRY" HAYNES

June 12, 1940 – March 4, 2021

TERRY HAYNES was born in Shelby, Mississippi on June 12, 1940. On June 6, 1967 he was inducted into the United States Army and completed Basic Training at Ft. Hood, Texas. After deployment to Vietnam, he earned the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Sharpshooter (Rifle M-14) First Class Gunner (M-60MG) and a Purple Heart. He completed service in June 1973 and returned to the United States.

Terry had many friends and co-workers who will miss him a great deal. He passed away on March 4, 2021 at the Veterans Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado.

A memorial service was held on March 13, 2021 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 2504 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401



CELESTE RENEE (RATLIFF) SWANSON

October 7, 1985 – March 10, 2021

CELESTE (RATLIFF) SWANSON, age 35, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, in Montrose, Colorado. Celeste was gifted to this world by her loving parents, Glenn and Michelle (Shelby) Ratliff on October 7, 1985, in Palm Springs, California. She spent her early childhood years in Palm Springs. When she was 10 years old, the Ratliff family moved to Montrose, Colorado where she resided until her death. Celeste spent the remainder of her childhood years, attended schools, and graduated from Montrose High school in 2003. At the age of 18, Celeste's Mother, Shelby, passed away after her valiant battle with cancer. Celeste quickly assumed the role of mother figure to her four siblings, Trevor, Kara, Gabby, and Jackie. Celeste's life was forever changed by the love and support she gave to her father, Glenn, and her siblings.

In 2011 Celeste met the love of her life, Jacob K Swanson, and their love story began. Jake and Celeste shared many interests and she proudly promoted Jake's numerous talents working with wood and rock creations. They loved the outdoors, sports, fishing, their families, and, most of all, their love for each other.

On October 1, 2016, Jake and Celeste were married in Ridgway, Colorado, with

their families, friends, and the Lord in attendance. It was a beautiful day in Celeste's favorite time of the year. She was radiant and, proud to be Mrs. Jacob Swanson. Anyone who knew her could feel the love, compassion, and dedication she had for us all.

Celeste's work ethic was impeccable. She was admired by her co-workers, her employers, and customers and clients. Celeste wore many hats in the community as a waitress at various restaurants, and retail establishments. (Smugglers, Red Barn Restaurant, NoonandNight Catering and Carry Out, Park Avenue True Value, and a Technician for Montrose County Health and Human Services).

Celeste was and always will remain the brightest light this world has known, with the radiant smile we were always greeted with, as well as her contagious laugh.

To know Celeste, was to love Celeste and all that she brought to our hearts and souls. Her loving father, Glenn, stated her name meant "heaven" and she is Heavenly.

Celeste's love was felt by all, but none more than her closest friends, her family, and her dedicated husband, Jacob. We ask you all to live like Celeste, laugh like Celeste, and love like Celeste.

Celeste is survived by her husband Jacob K. Swanson, her father Glenn E.

Ratliff, brother Trevor (Gina) Ratliff, sisters Kara Ratliff (Justin Harrington) all of Montrose. Gabby Ratliff, Tacoma Washington, Jackie Ratliff (Joe Davis) Grand Junction, Colorado Gabby Ratliff, Tacoma, Washington, Jackie Ratliff (Joe Davis) Grand Junction, Colorado, Brother In Law Dylan Swanson of Butte, Montana, Mother and Father In Law Tom and Jenny Swanson, Montrose, Co.; Nephews and Nieces, Caleb, Calvin, and Ryan Ratliff, Makynna Ratliff, Laynie Parnell, and Kylie Swanson.

Jacob mourns the loss of his wife Celeste and their precious baby boy, Waylon Keith Swanson, who joined his mother in heaven.

"Celeste is the best in the west....she was put to the test, and proved she was the best in the west....our Celeste!"

There will be a Celebration of life for Celeste and Waylon at a date in the future. Arrangements are being handled under the care of Crippen Funeral Home in Montrose.





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG ANNOUNCES FOREST WIDE PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have announced plans to conduct prescribed burns this spring. The vegetation treatments will occur March through June depending upon weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions.

The objectives are to reduce vegetation (fuels) to help reduce the risk of larger wildfires, for wildlife habitat improvement and ecosystem health. Prescribed fire in these areas will burn with less intensity under moderated conditions which will improve the resiliency of the landscape against wildfire.

Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn. Fire Management Officers and Fuels Specialists spend countless hours developing detailed prescribed fire plans that detail specific weather, fuel conditions and staffing and safety requirements.

Ignitions will occur using ground and aerial techniques. Ignitions only occur if conditions are conducive to a safe, effective operation and within appropriate smoke dispersal parameters set by the State of Colorado.

The prescribed burns will be accomplished using joint-agency fire resources, mitigation measures and protocols that are in place to reduce the risk and transmission of COVID-19. Air quality will be closely monitored to mitigate smoke related impacts to communities.

The following burns are planned:

West Zone – Norwood/Ouray Ranger Districts

· Glencoe Pine: Located approximately 13 miles northeast of Nucla, CO off 25 Mesa road (National Forest System Road (NFSR) #503). Approximately 450 acres are planned to be burned to increase the resiliency and reproduction of native pondero-

sa pine stands.

· Sanborn Park: Located approximately 5 miles northeast of Norwood, CO near Sanborn Park road (NFSRs #530, #515 and #526). Approximately 300 acres are planned to be burned to increase the resiliency and reproduction of native ponderosa pine stands and protect adjacent private property from the spread of unplanned wildfires.

· Thunder Road: Located approximately 6 miles southwest of Norwood, CO adjacent to Thunder road (NFSR #609). Approximately 350 acres are planned to be burned to increase the resiliency and reproduction of native ponderosa pine stands, improve wildlife habitat, increase range forage production and protect adjacent private property from the spread of large unplanned wildfires.

· 25 Mesa: Located approximately 25 miles west of Delta, CO on 25 Mesa road (NFSR #503). Approximately 1,406 acres are planned to be burned to increase the resiliency and reproduction of native ponderosa pine stands, protect adjacent private property from the spread of unplanned wildfires and reduce slash from mechanical treatments.

East Zone – Gunnison Ranger District

· Los Pinos: Located approximately 35 miles south of Gunnison in the Cochetopa Park area. Approximately 1,000 acres are planned to be burned to reduce vegetation (fuels) and improve wildlife habitat improvement.

· West Elk: Located approximately 14 miles west of Gunnison and about 4-6 miles north of Blue Mesa Reservoir. Approximately 600 acres are planned to be burned to reduce vegetation (fuels) and improve wildlife habitat.

North Zone – Grand Valley/Paonia Ranger District

· Calamity Hills - Located 28 miles southwest of Grand Junction, CO within Mesa County on the northwest portion of the

Uncompahgre National Forest. Approximately 1,727 acres are planned to be burned to maintain and enhance productivity vegetation to benefit wildlife and to reduce the natural buildup of vegetation (fuels).

· Calamity Understory - Located on the northwest portion of the Uncompahgre National Forest, roughly 28 miles southwest of Grand Junction CO within Mesa County. Approximately 400 acres are planned to be burned to reduce vegetation (fuels) and to improve wildlife habitat.

· Steamboat Rocks- Located on the Lands Ends road (NFSR #101) roughly 6 miles south of Grand Junction within Mesa County.

Approximately 1,100 acres are planned to be burned to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve wildlife habitat.

“Prescribed fire remains an important way to minimize the risk of large, severe wildfires to a variety of values and resources by reducing fuel loadings in strategic locations. It is also an important ecological disturbance and nutrient provider, which is vital to wildlife habitat improvement.

The primary objectives for these prescribed fires remain focused on firefighter and public safety.” said Stewart Robertson, Fuels Management Officer.

For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at (970) 874-6602, visit the GMUG Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/gmug, GMUG Fire Information: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo/> or Twitter: https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF.

For more information on how prescribed burning and pile burning smoke may affect your health, please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL SAVING TIME AND LIVES WITH DRONE MAPPING FOR CRASH ANALYSIS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Crash scenes are hectic, dangerous for first responders and motorists, and can lead to extended delays as traffic comes to a standstill or is rerouted. However, crash scenes are also crime scenes that require securing and collecting evidence for legal and insurance purposes.

Last year, the Colorado State Patrol investigated 3,511 fatal and injury crashes. This year, dozens of troopers across the State are becoming certified operators of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), commonly known as drones, and turning hours into minutes for crash scene reconstruction at most of our large-scale incidents.

"Over the years, we've moved from pencils and tape measures to robotic total stations, and that brought our time down from 8 hours to 2-3 hours while reconstructing a scene," stated Captain Aulston, Colorado State Patrol. "By using this technology, we can complete our investigations even quicker and with greater accuracy. Oftentimes, we can complete the

mapping step of the investigation in 10 minutes or less."

Anything that speeds up the collection of evidence save lives. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, the likelihood of a secondary crash increases by 2.8% for each minute the primary incident continues to be a hazard, increasing the risk to driver and responder lives, and making it even more difficult for responders to get to and from the scene.

By significantly speeding up data collection for crash scene reconstruction, drones are helping investigators clear roads much quicker after an accident, and thereby helping to reduce the potential for secondary crashes. In addition, the use of unmanned aerial vehicle technology allows troopers to complete an investigation without subjecting themselves to standing within the roadway or, at the very least, greatly reduce the time they are standing within the roadway placing themselves at risk for a struck-by incident.

Not only is the technology faster than traditional ground-based measurements, but drone mapping provides more comprehensive documentation. Compared to traditional recording tools, aerial photos reveal much more about crash scenes, including topography.

Hundreds of high-resolution images recorded by drones help reconstruct accident scenes. After the visual data collected at the scene is uploaded into mapping software, it is processed into 3D models of the scene via photogrammetry.

"While Coloradans will rarely see them in action, we are aiming for motorists to experience less disruption on our roadways," stated Captain Aulston.

"It's great to use this new tool that speeds up the process while also helping everyone get where they need to be, safe and sound."

The Colorado State Patrol sUAS Program is designed for limited use including crash scene reconstruction and traffic incident management.



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ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CDPHE EXPANDS AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM TO RESTAURANT WORKERS

Special to the Mirror

REMOTE- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) announced that the expansion of the Binax At-Home rapid testing program to food services employees around the state. This expansion to food services workers builds on the program's February launch for use by PK-12 grade teachers, school administrators, early childhood educators, and other student-facing staff in Colorado schools. The Binax At-Home program allows eligible individuals to order free testing kits to their homes and test themselves for COVID-19 under the guidance of a telehealth proctor.

"Our main priority continues to be keeping Coloradans safe and healthy. Rapid, At-Home Binax tests are another tool to mitigate the virus while the vaccine rollout continues," said Scott Bookman, COVID-19 Incident Commander, CDPHE. "Food services employees continue to report to work every day and play a huge role in getting our economy back on track. We are confident that these tests will help keep our restaurants open and our food services workers safe."

"Restaurants' top priority has always been keeping guests safe and healthy. We are thrilled that this resource will be available to our industry as an additional means to that end," said Sonia Riggs, President and CEO of the Colorado Restaurant Association. "We hope the Binax At-Home program, in combination with vaccine distribution to restaurant workers, can help create a clear path to safely welcoming Colorado's communities back into res-

taurants at full capacity."

"Binax At-Home is a simple and convenient way to get COVID-19 tests into the hands of eligible Coloradans," said Sarah Hamma, Deputy Director for COVID testing at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "Making testing accessible through this program is critical to help prevent widespread exposure to COVID-19 and will help keep all of us safer and healthier."

Food service employees can enroll in the program by filling out a [Google Form](#) which verifies their employer and their email address. Once applicants are approved, they will receive an email from CDPHE detailing how they can order their

own free testing kit, delivered directly to their homes via Amazon. From there, individuals will schedule a telehealth appointment for instruction on how to administer the test via the NAVICA App. Test kits contain six tests, which recipients can use to test themselves every five days. Users are eligible to order their next Binax At-Home testing kit 20 days after their previous order.

Testing kits are free-of-charge to the user. CDPHE partners with Amazon and eMed on the Binax At-Home partnership.

For more information visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home>. Continue to stay up to date by visiting covid19.colorado.gov.



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ISSUE 307 March 22

ART & SOL

BLM OFFERS ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM FOR CANYON OF THE ANCIENTS MUSEUM



Canyon of the Ancients National Monument. Bureau of Land Management Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DOLORES – Beginning April 1, the Bureau of Land Management will offer online reservations for self-guided tours at the Canyons of the Ancients Museum. Online reservations will be available on recreation.gov.

The museum is located at 27501 Colorado State Highway 184 in Dolores and is southwest Colorado's premier archaeological facility for Ancestral Puebloan, Native American, and historic cultures in the Four Corners region.

"I'm excited that BLM will provide a contactless system to make reservations for this unique experience," said Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Manag-

er Ray O'Neil. "This service will help BLM staff operate safely, as well as safely accommodate public visitation to this incredible venue to the public."

Timed entry will be available for one-hour self-guided tours limited to groups of ten or less in the allotted reservation time window.

Museum tours are \$6 for visitors 16 years and older. America the Beautiful Pass holders and those under the age of 16 will not be charged an entry fee. The online reservation system is available 24 hours a day with a \$1 processing fee. Same day ticket reservations may be available for purchase at the museum following CDC guidelines. America the Beautiful passes

will be available for purchase at recreation.gov or at the museum.

No fee or reservation is necessary to visit Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, obtain general information at the visitor center front desk, or access the outdoor facilities and pueblos at the Visitor Center and Museum. The public is reminded to observe CDC guidelines when outdoors on public lands and to wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.

For information or questions regarding current operations, call (970) 882-5600. Additional information is available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xscyS> and <https://go.usa.gov/xscVg>.

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FAITH COLUMN: DEACON SPEAKIN' WITH DWIGHT HARP



Anglican Deacon Dwight Harp. Courtesy photo.

By Dwight Harp

MONTROSE I never thought the subject of memories would be so complex. Marge and I recently finished our last year's project of building a garage. We've taken the challenge of putting all the stuff we had in a local storage unit into it.

Each box's opening triggered a flood of memories. We keep things a long time. Three sweaters came from the Delta golf course pro shop more than 40 years ago. Most of the boxes kept memorabilia; mostly pictures. Seeing those pictures started me thinking on the subject of memories.

Memories are complex psychological events. There are positively colored and negatively colored events. Our brain keeps mostly good memories. My memory bank fills with each trigger. A note on a napkin from long ago made me smile. A picture at a special event begins a memory train. It's difficult for me to pick just one memory at a time. Memories in my mind come in bunches. One triggers another which triggers another and pretty soon I'm on the 'day-dream train'.

I wish I knew who or what told me that the most useful and therefore most important things you can leave in this world are words written and pictures taken or

painted. That makes sense, since words I speak to you may have a trigger effect, but only to you and only for that moment. Words written are sure to trigger memories. Those memories won't be the same for each person reading those words. Pictures have the same effect. Everyone looks at a picture, taken or painted, through the prism of their unique experiences.

There's some more about memories I thought interesting. Everyone seems to like to remember. Remember, your mind mostly remembers the good stuff.

So are pictures and the written word more important than words spoken?

When I whisper, "I love you!" in my bride's ear, that's important. But is it more important to write her a note for no reason at all that effuses my love for her. She can keep that note, and probably will. And it will someday end up in one of our memorabilia boxes and then find its way to another album on a bookshelf. Someday those albums go to our children. Does that make my note of love better than my whispered devotion?

Music triggers memories too. Couples have "Our Song." They bring many memories. When the radio station finishes that song it is gone unless you recorded it or

you have it copied some other way. Musical recordings are like writings or pictures. I love songs well sung and music well played, but music performed live is like my whispered love devotion.

I was a little troubled as I researched this topic biblically. Many scholars suggested memory might not be completely positive. They went on to say we should live in the present and pray for the future.

In here hides a "Yes-But!"

Here's the Yes part-

Satan tries to turn the benefits of memory into a curse, by reminding us of things in the past about ourselves and about others which God wants us to forget.

By remembering when we should forget we often harm ourselves and others.

Paul's letter to the church in Philippi says it this way. (Philippians 3: 13.14) "...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Here's the "But" part—

I gravitate to these kinds of references:

The Church calendar, liturgy and traditions that make the church year serve as powerful **reminders** of what God has done and who we are in Christ.

In the original scriptures, the Torah, the writers of Deuteronomy said this about memory. (Deut 4: 9) "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. 'Teach' them to your children and to their children after them."

How long did Mary "ponder in her heart" her memories of Jesus birth? Ponder is not just simple remembering. When you think carefully and consider thoughtfully you ponder.

If we remember the story

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) then I'm sure her memory of those days never faded.

What fills your heart's 'ponder place?' May it be filled with the love of God.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WOMENS' RESOURCE SYMPOSIUM CONNECTS WOMEN TO JOBS, CHILDCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-In honor of Women's History Month, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Women Veteran Staff will be hosting a Virtual Women's Resource Symposium. Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Find job opportunities
- Improve their resumes, interview skills, LinkedIn profiles
- Gain a deeper understanding of how to manage their finances
- Learn about programs that can assist mothers and guardians with childcare

Attendees can also access important mental health information and resources from The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic.

From 9:00 am - 10:00 am, veterans will have the opportunity to learn about VA disability claims, how to negotiate salaries, apprenticeship opportunities, and more.

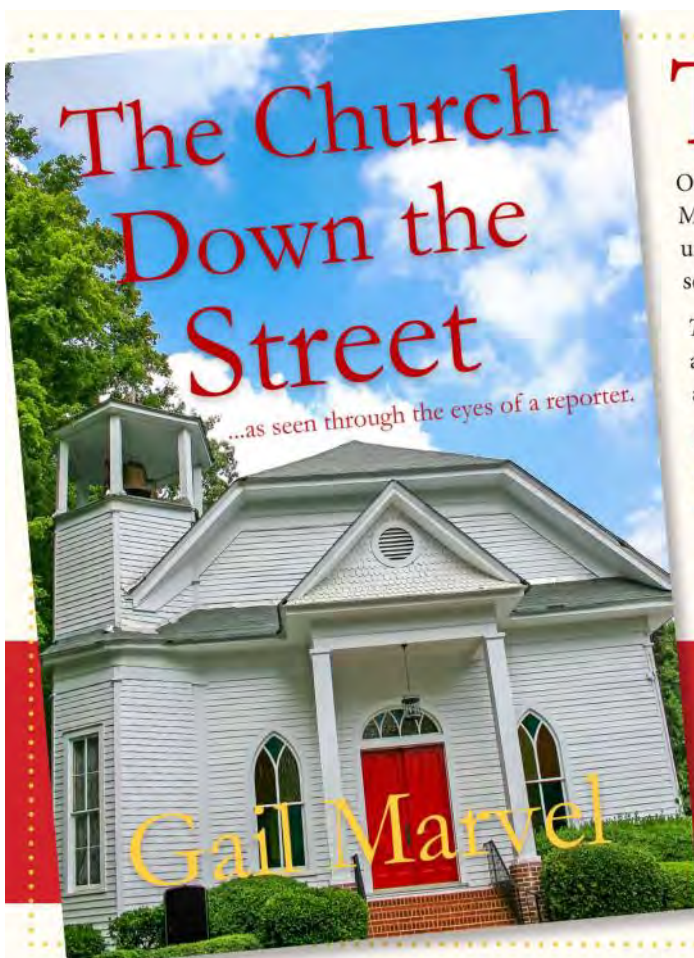
What: Women's Resource Symposium

Who: Colorado Department of Labor

When: March 29, 2021, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

(Veterans have early access at 9 am; open to general public at 10 am)

Where: Women statewide are encouraged to attend this event.



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.

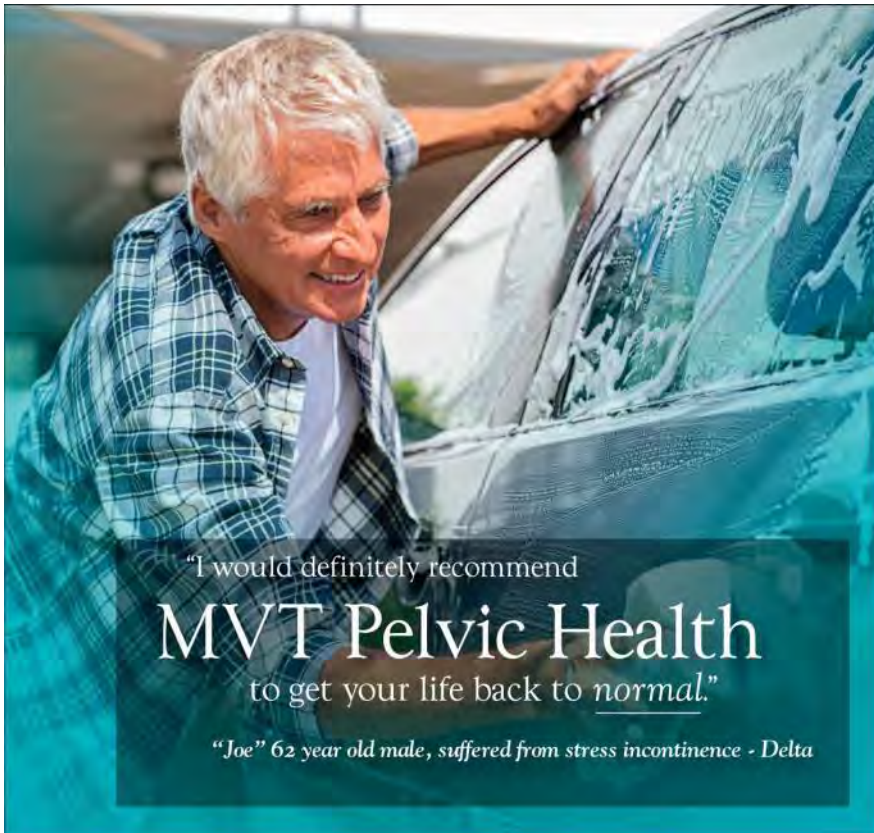
Readers will:

- 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





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.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MABA BIKE TO DINNER NIGHT WILL BE APRIL 15

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-On Thursday, April 15, Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance hosts, "Bike to Dinner Night" at San Juan Brews. There will be two food trucks and anyone that bikes to the brewery from 5:30p-8p will receive \$5 off their food truck meal. Participants are not required to eat at the brewery and can go to a nearby park if they choose. For those who stick around the brewery, there will be a bike film festival playing inside at no charge on the TV.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FISCHER PRIZE FINALIST V. PENELOPE PELIZZON TO READ APR. 6

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-One of five finalists for the Fischer Prize in 2020, V. Penelope Pelizzon of Connecticut will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go [here](#). "Pelizzon's poem, 'Sentimental Education,' was honored last year by Judge Claire Blotter of California," said Talking Gourds co-director Art Goodtimes. Her first poetry collection, *Nostos* (Ohio University Press, 2000), won the Hollis Summers Prize and the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award. She is also the co-author of *Tabloid, Inc: Crimes, Newspapers, Narratives* (2010), a study of the relations among American sensational journalism, photography, and film from 1927-1958.

Her second book of poems, *Whose Flesh Is Flame, Whose Bone Is Time*, was published in 2014 by Waywiser Press with headquarters in Oxfordshire, England, and Baltimore, MD. She continues as an associate editor for the Press.

Pelizzon's awards include a 2019 Hawthornden Fellowship, a 2012 Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship, the 2012 Center for Book Arts chapbook award, and a "Discovery"/ *The Nation* Award. She is a

Professor of English at the University of Connecticut.

Following the featured reader, there will be a short Question and Answer session with co-hosts, Goodtimes and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. Then, we'll be using a format we pioneered last month. Instead of continuing to do a Gourd Circle in the same Zoom platform, we're going to end the Bardic Trails Zoom gathering. That should occur around 7:30 p.m.

Around that same time, 7:30 p.m., we're going to start a new Zoom meeting for the Talking Gourds Poetry Club. This will be for Club members and their invitees only. The Poetry Club meeting won't officially start until 7:45, leaving time at the start for socializing as we used to do in our live meetings. Non-members interested in participating in that private session can join the Poetry Club at the Talking Gourds [website](#). We also ask them to send an email to Goodtimes or Galaxy Dancer notifying us of their having paid their Club membership fees, and they will be given the Zoom info for the private meeting.

A one-time membership donation of \$25 (or more) places one on our mailing list permanently and makes one current for the calendar year in which the donation was made. Each calendar year after that, to keep current, there's a \$10 renewal fee

— payable by check or online with plastic.

For those who like writing prompts, the one for April 6 is "Healing." However, members and guests may read a poem or share thoughts on any topic they wish.

Club members in good standing receive a monthly pdf copy of the handsome broadsides for each featured reader that Daiva Chesonis creates. Those pdfs can be printed for free at the Wilkinson. Chesonis will also have copies available for purchase at her Between the Covers Bookstore.

Our future Bardic Trails dates are May 4 with Julie Bloemeke of Georgia ("Birds"), June 1 with Melissa Studdard of Texas ("Mountains"), July 6 with Partridge Boswell of Vermont ("Prey"), Aug. 3 with Jane Lunin Perel of Rhode Island ("Sky"), Sept. 7 with Anna Scotti of California ("Fuel"), Oct. 5 with Renee Podunovich of Cortez ("Tree"), Nov. 2 with Debbi Brody of New Mexico ("The New"), and Dec. 7 with Al Zolynas of California ("Flesh").

All Bardic Trails first Tuesday Zoom webinars begin at 7 p.m., MST.



Penelope Pelizzon.
Courtesy photo.



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ONGOING-

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP will be held the 3rd Wednesday 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/7vqlcq

April 3-Community Easter Festival Easter egg hunt. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Montrose Elks Lodge, 801 South Hillcrest.

April 7-Whether you've never tried xeriscaping before or have been doing it for years and could just use some pointers, Master Gardener Angeline Barrett can teach you more about the principles and functionality of that skill. She'll go over all of the principles such as: Planning & Design; Efficient Irrigation; Proper Maintenance. Email Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org to join this virtual event on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30pm.

April 15-Join the Montrose Regional Library for this virtual cooking event with Colorado Boy Pizzeria & Brewery! This authentic pizzeria and brewery has been very popular ever since it opened its' doors in 2013. Chef Chad will show us their amazing dough-making process. Email Taylor at tevans@montroselibrary.org to sign up for this event on Thursday, April 15, at Noon.

April 15-Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance "Bike to Dinner Night" at San Juan Brews. There will be two food trucks and anyone that bikes to the brewery from 5:30p-8p will receive \$5 off their food truck meal. Participants are not required to eat at the brewery and can go to a nearby park if they choose. For those who stick around the brewery, there will be a bike film festival playing inside at no charge on the TV.

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



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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



*Vintage truck...echoes of the past.
By Deb Reimann.*



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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