



GUNNISON VALLEY MASKS UP A13



# GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

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SPORTS A29

OPINION A33-A34, A38

CLASSIFIEDS A35-A37

ONLINE GUNNISONTIMES.COM

## Crack down could be coming?

Sheriff talks 'last resort' for order violations

Roberta Marquette  
Times Staff Writer

Local law enforcement agencies are prepared to crack down on those who don't comply with the Gunnison County Public Health Order. Sheriff John Gallowich this week said his office is prepared to arrest violators but such action would be a "last resort."

Both Gallowich and Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds this week addressed enforcement plans

Enforcement A8



Chris Rourke

### Crowded conditions cause concern

The parking lot of Hartman Rocks Recreation Area has become crowded with local residents seeking relief from stay-at-home orders. However, concerns about whether recreationists are social distancing have arisen. On Saturday, more than 60 vehicles were seen parked closely at the base area. See page A4.

### TRAIL DO'S AND DON'TS DURING COVID-19

#### ARE THE TRAILS ON PUBLIC LANDS IN GUNNISON COUNTY OPEN FOR USE?

Yes, the trails are open. However, they are open ONLY to Gunnison County residents. Visitors have been directed to return home by the fastest and safest available means.

#### WHO CAN JOIN ME ON THE TRAILS?

Your groups may NOT consist of any person outside your residence. Do not congregate at the base area or trailheads.

#### DOES THIS MEAN ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS OR ROOMMATES CAN RECREATE ON TRAILS TOGETHER?

Individuals from the same household may recreate together. The Public Health Order prohibits any other groups or gatherings. No meeting up with other families or friends, even if you practice social distancing.

#### WILL THE RESTROOMS ON PUBLIC LANDS BE OPEN?

Expect restrooms to be closed.

## 'Brother' to many, Bob Teitler succumbs to coronavirus

Chris Dickey  
Publisher

Bob Teitler dropped out of big city life in the early 1970s as part of the country's counter-culture movement. For nearly the next five decades, he found community in the Gunnison Valley.

Teitler died early Wednesday morning in a Grand Junction hospital from complications of the COVID-19 virus. He was 79.

Tributes to Teitler began pouring in on social media Tuesday of this week when family and friends shared the news that Teitler was going to

Teitler A10



Courtesy

Bob Teitler is pictured here in 2010, surrounded by the kids of ORSCH, at a surprise 70th birthday party for him.

## Virus battle ramps up

Second death from COVID-19, senior center sees outbreak

Chris Rourke  
Times Editor

As Gunnison Valley residents struggle to cope with tighter restrictions through a fifth amended Public Health Order, more discouraging news came to light this week — the county recorded its second death due to complications from COVID-19, and the Senior Living Center has seen an outbreak of the illness.

Meanwhile, local health

Senior center A8

### COVID-19 NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Screening**  
970.641.7660  
M-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Delivery**  
970.641.7959  
Phones will be manned from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week

**Mental health**  
Center for Mental Health:  
970.252.6220, or 911 for emergencies only

**Volunteer**  
Go to [gunnisoncounty.org/covid19](http://gunnisoncounty.org/covid19) and click the "Volunteer" tab.

**Senior meals**  
970.641.8272 to order in advance;  
970.641.2107 to order same-day service.  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. \$4 per meal. Pick-up and delivery only.

**COVID-19 info**  
[gunnisoncounty.org/covid19](http://gunnisoncounty.org/covid19)

**BRIEFS**

**RE1J educator's contract not renewed**

The Gunnison Watershed RE1J School District board approved the non-renewal of a Crested Butte Community School (CBCS) educator's contract.

Science teacher Audrey Flease requested a private executive session be held at the school board meeting on Monday, April 6, to protest her probationary teaching contract not being renewed.

Fleaze was on a probationary teaching contract — meaning she had been hired to teach for three years — with the possibility of moving up to a non-probationary position as approved by the school board.

Among her claims, Flease told the board that she believes her evaluations — if they played a role in the contract renewal — did not reflect how she teaches. She added that only one of her classes was evaluated by a district official.

Claims of online bullying from members of the CBCS sophomore class were also made by Flease's husband during a March 9 School Board meeting. RE1J Superintendent Leslie Nichols said she investigated the matter, however, found no evidence of the concerns.

**Unemployment jumps in Gunnison County**

In the wake of restrictions designed to curb the spread of novel coronavirus, the State of Colorado has released some grim statistics. Following the first reported cases and the implementation of a standing Public Health Order, unemployment applications jumped 1,067 percent. Statewide unemployment claims increased that same week — ending March 14 — by 789 percent.

Gunnison's initial claims jumped from 15 the week prior to 175. That's more than 10 times. Statewide initial claims increased from 3,263 to 25,760, and eight-fold increase.

Colorado's unemployment rate reached a historical low of 2.5 percent in February, while Gunnison County's unemployment was 2.2 percent that same month.

**Aspinall released increased**

Releases from the Aspinall Unit were increased to 1,150 cubic feet per second (CFS) on Monday, April 6. Releases were increased to accommodate the change in diversions to the Gunnison Tunnel, which occurred on Tuesday, April 7. Snowpack in the Upper Gunnison Basin is currently at 103 percent of normal.

Flows in the lower Gunnison River are currently above the baseflow target of 1,050 cfs. River flows are expected to stay above the baseflow target for the foreseeable future.

Currently, Gunnison Tunnel diversions are 730 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon are around 425 cfs.

Editor's note: This page is a new addition to the *Times*, offering insight about the articles we've written as well as highlights from this week's edition.

**MESSAGE TO VISITORS: STAY HOME**



Chris Rourke  
Times Editor

> The fifth amended Gunnison County Public Health Order that was signed Friday, April 3 prohibits outside visitors from visiting — including the population of second homeowners. The move hopes to avoid more spread of COVID-19 and overwhelming the local health care team. While Gunnison attracts visitors for its outdoor recreation, officials are urging those visitors to keep on local trails.

> The amendment has caused an outcry from the second homeowner community — individuals who own businesses and contribute to the economy. Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds, however, maintains the decision is to protect the health of the year-round community and other visitors. **PAGE A7**

**LAW OFFICERS WORK TO GAIN COMPLIANCE**

Roberta Marquette  
Times Staff Writer

> To continue to encourage Gunnison County residents — as well as visitors — to comply with the rules laid out in the Public Health Order, law enforcement agencies have begun to crack down on enforcement measures. Top penalties include up to a \$5,000 fine and 18 months in the county jail. Those who will be facing the top penalties would most likely be repeat offenders or individuals showing blatant disregard for the orders, among other cases.

> Gunnison County Sheriff John Gallowich stated that he doesn't hope to have to resort to the top penalties, which would include an arrest, however, with the state of the community's health on the line, he and Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds hope this shows how dire the COVID-19 situation is. **PAGE A1**

**SPOTLIGHT**

> Three seniors at the Gunnison Senior Living Center have now tested positive for the novel coronavirus. **PAGE A1**

> Mental health professionals explain the key to keeping a clear mental state in times like these is "awareness and self-discipline." **PAGE A9**

> County officials have identified about \$615,000 that could go into COVID-19 relief efforts. **PAGE A5**

> Wearing face masks when out in public is now being recommended by local and state leaders. While N95 medical grade masks should be reserved for health professionals, a bandana or cloth mask made from clothing will suffice. **PAGE A13**

**VALLEY VOICES**

"I think I should be welcome to come and use my second home. But the main purpose of our trip was to check on our businesses, see friends and eat out. If we can't do that, then why go?"  
**Cherrie Hough**, a local business owner and second homeowner in Gunnison County responds to the fifth amended Public Health Order that prohibits any outside visitors to the county. **PAGE A7**

"It was disruptive and not fair to the underprivileged students. I'm lucky that I have a home to come back to, but some (students) couldn't even afford to leave."  
**Catherine Washburn**, responds to how her college, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. **PAGE A17**

"We have flexibility in understanding certain circumstances. We're working to find solutions on a case by case basis."  
**Leslie Nichols**, on fixing internet access problems for RE1J students now having to engage in distance/e-learning. **PAGE A11**

"It was a little scary at first. My favorite part of teaching is standing up in front of a class and having contact with my students."  
**Duane Vandebusch**, commenting on the Western Colorado University's new mode of education utilizing technology — something he is famously known for not having a knack for. **PAGE A15**

"There's a collective loss and a collective grief. Think about our own loss — our sense of normalcy has shifted ... it's a good time to think about what loss means and what it means with a collective loss for an entire community."  
**Joni Reynolds**, discussing feelings of grief the community may be experiencing amid the new normal of COVID-19. **PAGE A9**



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FEATURED PROPERTY

**BUY OF THE WEEK** Spectacular 37 +/- acre parcel with expansive views of Gunnison & the Palisades Cliffs. Features no covenants, a well, and nearby power. Make life-long memories in the Gunnison Valley with outstanding 360 degree views & the opportunity to have your large animals out your back door; 800 County Road 17; **\$230,000.**

**NEW LISTING** Desirable 2.4 acres in Upper Castle Mountain with expansive views of the Ohio Creek Valley & Anthracite Peak. Access to Wilderness Streams area, horses permitted, & water tap fee has been paid; 65 Tiama Trail; **\$110,000.**

**CORNER LOT** in North Elk Meadows is .87 acre, level, north/south orientation with open views of Carbon Peak. Build your family home or a spec house at 255 Meadow Lark Trail; **\$138,500.**

**STEBEN CREEK** 1.73 acre treed parcel includes a well and year round access. No covenants or HOA, modulars are allowed, located 5 minutes from Blue

**CUSTOM LOG HOME**

with guest cabin on 10 acres near Ohio City offers 2 bdrm/3 bath, 2500sf, 1 car garage, built in 2013 with great mountain views. Kitchen includes hickory cabinets, granite counter tops & antique gas stove. Spring rights included too! 6010 County Road 771; **\$650,000.**

Mesa Reservoir; 1100 County Road 20; **\$72,000.**

**OVER 1/2 ACRE CORNER LOT** in the gated community at Tomichi Creek Loop. Great location near Dos Rios Golf Course, bordering ranch lands, Hartman Rocks to the south and unobstructed views to the north. Neighborhood has a pond & offers fishing rights; 252 Tomichi Creek Loop; **\$159,500.**

**MOVE-IN READY** 3 bdrm/2 bath nearly 1000sf home is affordable and a convenient in-town location. Features a covered porch, red, 301 S. 2nd St. #33; **\$59,000.**

**STREAM FRONTAGE** Private 4 bdrm/3 bath home with office and separate guest quarters situated along Clark Stream about 3 miles north of Gunnison. Over 2 acres with open views to the north & south, attached 2 car garage, detached shed & carport, new kitchen flooring; 109 Arapahoe Rd; **\$495,000.**



**GREAT BUY** 360 degree views from this 77 acre cabin site near Blue Mesa Reservoir offers a seasonal spring-fed pond, RV parking, shed, & is ready for your hunting camp or summer cabin; 12000 County Road 26; **\$149,900.**



**NEW LISTING** Enjoy this very private end of the road hunting cabin on almost 10 acres. Cabin has a woodburning stove, gas range oven, & a peaceful location. Whitepine Forest Service Road 888 2B; **\$99,500.**

**NEW LISTING** Over 35 acres with panoramic views of the West Elks is a seasonal access property offering no covenants! Partially treed with aspen & pine, located between Gunnison & Lake City; 5900 County Road 25; **\$79,500.**

**GORGEOUS 1.52 ACRE** parcel in the town of Whitepine. Located in hunting unit 551 with power & telephone to the lot line. Great place for RV parking or building a summer cabin; 9673 County Road 888; **\$39,000.**

**PERCHED HIGH ABOVE** the Powderhorn area near Red Bridge in the Blue Mesa Subdivision, you'll enjoy these 4 acres for **\$30,000** with 360 degree views and wonderfully maintained gravel roads. Minimum square foot to build is 600 or bring your camper and enjoy the weekends. Community clubhouse for gaming & entertaining as well as a stocked fishing pond.



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# Pushing the limits at Hartman Rocks

## Reports of large groups against public health orders

**Roberta Marquette**  
Times Staff Writer

As enforcement measures for Gunnison County public health orders ramp up, public officials continue to stress the importance of practicing proper social distancing to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 — even when recreating.

Reports of large groups gathering at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, and an apparent lack of social distancing recently has been reported there. The standing Public Health Order prohibits gatherings of more than one person, unless the group in question live together.

In the case of recreational activities such as hiking or biking at Hartman Rocks, larger groups on the trails generally make it more difficult for others to pass and keep the recommended 10 feet of distance between individuals.

“We’re asking people to make a lot of sacrifices,” Gunnison Trails Executive Director Tim Kugler said. “We’re trying to put the message out to the recreation community and the trail community to understand the realities and rules that are in place.”

Trails at Hartman Rocks north of Powerline Road opened on March 28, with some stipulations; gates at the base area and McCabe’s Lane are currently closed to vehicular traffic to discourage camping and backcountry activities.

Kugler said his team has been meeting regularly with officials from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the City of Gunnison and Gunnison County to ensure all groups are communicating the same messaging when it comes to what is and what isn’t permitted on the trails.

Messaging efforts include sig-

nage at the base area and other major trailheads with information on the county’s orders. The Gunnison Trails Facebook page has also addressed their community through social media, having made two posts emphasizing the lack of compliance in some cases.

“Everything from tailgate beers in the parking lot to 10 plus people riding together,” reads a social media post from April 3. “If we can’t adhere to the current rule in place, we stand to lose access to our trails and a critical health resource for this community.”

### Possibility of closure on the mind of community

BLM Outdoor Recreation Planning Manager Jim Lovelace told the *Times* that the agency has had some conversations of possible closures; however, Lovelace indicated that currently they are not “serious.”

“I don’t know what it would look like,” he said. “It would probably happen if there was an immediate need for public health.”

Still, word of closure has ignited reactions from the mountain biking community, as one biker told the *Times*. The person asked to remain anonymous.

“If they close Hartman’s down, we will all still be going outside and without access to Hartman’s, there’s a risk of being even more condensed in town, like (the trails located at) Van Tuyl and behind the college,” the rider explained.

The biker went on to offer alternatives such as closing the parking lot and making access exclusively for riding out or enforcing the use of masks/other coverage alternatives in the parking lot and on the trails. Closing Hartman’s on the weekends when the area is the busiest, which they said “would still be a bummer,” could be an option.

“I don’t have the answer, it would just be a huge loss to lose access to Hartman’s and I think it would just make another problem in a different area of town, since we’re all so active in the outdoors,” they explained.



Chris Rourke

Reports of recreationists at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area not obeying county health orders have proliferated. A busy Saturday afternoon is pictured here, where more than 60 vehicles were observed in the parking lot.



The BLM and Gunnison Trails encourages individuals to ride into Hartman’s to avoid the congested parking lot.

### Current alternatives up to individuals

While this particular biker has seen the parking lot posing a problem for proper social distancing, Kugler has seen “90 percent” of bikers at the Hartman’s parking lot complying when he has been out to the area.

“They lace up, get on the bike and go,” he said.

The parking lot still is an area where the congestion of recreationists limit the ability for people to keep the proper social distance. For example, the *Times* observed more than

60 vehicles in the lot, closely parked, this past Saturday.

Kugler asks that users find “creative solutions” to avoid crowding, such as going at different times of the day to avoid the busiest hours or utilize roads or trails that are not as popular.

Lovelace recommends riders park at a different lot and ride into the area instead.

In Lovelace’s case, he has seen the parking lot situation “improve” although has heard multiple reports of groups hiking together.

While local officials will continue their messaging — which

includes possible updates to the recommendations if the Public Health Order changes — Lovelace asks individuals to take it upon themselves to comply with the current environment.

“We’re all responsible for our own behavior, for our own actions,” he said. “What we can all do is act accordingly and set a good example.”

(Roberta Marquette can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at [roberta@gunnisontrails.com](mailto:roberta@gunnisontrails.com).)

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# COVID-19 assistance grants issued

## Community Foundation addresses immediate needs

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV) has awarded its first round of COVID-19 recovery funds to eight organizations.

A committee of individuals reviewed 17 proposals, totaling more than \$110,000 in requests and affirmed that, at least initially, priority will go to those groups addressing urgent health and safety needs directly resulting from the crisis.

More than 100 individuals, families and businesses have

contributed to the Gunnison County COVID-19 Recovery Fund. The CFGV distributed the first round of grant money from the fund this week.

"The applications were from such a diversity of groups, and it's so challenging to say 'no' to anyone during this time," said Pam Montgomery, CFGV executive director. "Some are helping the increasing number of people who need food. Or assisting the growing number of people who are experiencing violence in the home as a result of 'stay-at-home' orders, lost jobs and financial insecurity. Other organizations are protecting the health of front-line workers and volunteers. The list goes on. The needs are overwhelming."

The following grants were made:

**Gunnison County Health & Human Services:** \$7,500 for 15,000 face masks to meet safety and protection needs for front-line medical staff and volunteers.

**Six Points Evaluation and Training:** \$5,000 to meet the need for increased services for Six Points clients during the Coronavirus pandemic when group support and social interaction in the community are not available.

**Gunnison Valley Mentors:** \$4,000 to provide remote mental health services for at-risk youth while isolated at home.

**Mountain Roots Food Project:** \$2,840 to provide meals for the parents of school children who are receiving food on weekends.

**Project Hope of Gunnison Valley:** \$2,250 to provide support in the form of emergency shelter, food and rent/utility assistance to victims of domestic violence at a time when rates of violence are increasing significantly.

**KBUT Community Radio:** \$2,000 to provide on-air question-and-answer sessions with public health personnel.

**Gunnison Country Food Pantry:** \$1,000 to provide food for urgently needed relief in Somerset, Colo.

**Lighthouse Pregnancy Center:** \$1,000 to purchase diapers, formula, and other needed supplies for low-income pregnant women and their newborns.

"This fund was created by the generosity of our community — gifts range from \$5 to \$50,000 — and it's designed to evolve to meet the greatest needs of our community as time goes on," said Montgomery. "We have our next proposal deadline on April 13, so it is not too late to make a contribution."

You can contribute at [www.cfgv.org](http://www.cfgv.org) — look for the COVID-19 Response button. Checks may be made payable to Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley with "COVID Recovery Fund" in the memo line, mailed to CFGV at PO Box 7057 in Gunnison, CO 81230. One-hundred percent of funds raised will be granted out into the community for COVID-19 Recovery.

## St Peter's & Queen of All Saints Catholic Church

Please join Fr. Andres for virtual Mass on Facebook

**Holy Thursday (April 9th)**

[www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/)

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Holy Thursday – Last Supper (Bilingual)

**Good Friday (April 10th)**

[www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/)

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

12:00 Noon – Stations of the Cross

6:30 PM – Holy Friday – Passion of the Lord (Bilingual)

**Easter Vigil (April 11th)**

[www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/)

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 PM Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

**Easter Sunday (April 12th)**

6:30 AM Sunrise Service

[www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/)

9:00 AM Easter Service

[www.facebook.com/Queen-of-All-Saint-Catholic-Church-Crested-Butte-CO-1660033780925514/](http://www.facebook.com/Queen-of-All-Saint-Catholic-Church-Crested-Butte-CO-1660033780925514/)

11:00 AM Easter Service (Spanish)

[www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-Church-1185877808153153/)

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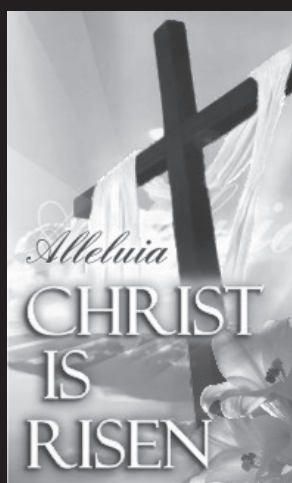
Octave of Easter (April 13th through the 17th)

12:00 Noon Service

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We wish you a Happy Easter!



## Online Lunchtime Talks

*"You meet them where they are," is an adage in the healing community; we are honored to do just that!*

### Counseling Collaborative of Gunnison-Crested Butte

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/605442426> or Phone in: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 605 442 426

Join your team of local mental health professionals and addiction counselors from our very own Gunnison Valley, for a FREE HOUR of social support MWF from 12pm-1pm!

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<https://counselingcollaborativegunnison-crestedbutte.com/>

We convene online from 12pm-1pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Disclaimer for Online Lunchtime Talks:

*"These meetings are NOT 'psychotherapy' nor 'group counseling.'"*

*This gathering is for the expressed purpose of providing community support for the kinds of stress, anxiety, and concerns associated with normal human reactions to life changes due to the current virus situation, and does not deal with individualized concerns that psychotherapy addresses. It is not intended as a replacement for current therapeutic needs and should not be used as such.*

## Have an idea? Let us know!

The Gunnison Country Times is always looking for the stories that impact the lives of our Valley's residents.

Submit your article, photos and story ideas to [editor@gunnisontimes.com](mailto:editor@gunnisontimes.com) or give us a call at 970.641.1414



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Chris Rourke

The Colorado Department of Transportation sign at the west entrance to Gunnison tells the story — visitors, including second homeowners, are prohibited in Gunnison County.

## Message to visitors: stay home

### Public Health Order prohibits non-resident homeowners, tourists

Chris Rourke  
Times Editor

Second homeowners Brian and Cherrie Hough are frequent visitors to the Gunnison Valley. As owners of two Gunnison Main Street stores — Tango boutique and Castle Creek Guitars — they come to the valley regularly to check on their businesses and visit with friends. In fact they were planning to fly here for a visit on April 16. The Houghs canceled their plans as a Public Health Order went into place to curb the spread of novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

“Our store isn’t going to be open, restaurants are not open, why fly up and sit in that house?” posed Cherrie Hough. “You all have a bigger problem than we do in our little town, so we decided not to come and canceled our flights.”

It was only recently that they learned that Gunnison County health officials are asking second homeowners to forgo their current plans to relocate here this summer in the interest of public health. Although the news was met with mixed emotion by the Houghs, they understand the purpose behind the request.

“I think I should be welcome to come and use my second home,” said Hough. “But the main purpose of our trip was to check on our businesses, see friends and eat out. If we can’t do that, then why go?”

According to the fifth amendment to a standing Public Health Order which was signed Friday, April 3, non-resident homeowners and visitors are prohibited from coming into the county. Since the amendment was passed, Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds said she has heard from many second homeowners protesting the decision. She has received more than 80 applications for

exemptions to the order.

Reynolds explained that the purpose of the prohibition is to both protect the year-round community and also visiting populations. The idea behind the order is to keep the health care system from becoming overwhelmed by more patients, and prevent another influx of the virus from being transmitted into the county. She also has noted the high altitude can hinder a patient’s recovery from respiratory illness, and that the visiting population may have better health care options elsewhere.

However, agencies such as the Gunnison County Sheriff’s Office, emergency management and even nonprofit organizations have fielded phone calls from nonresident homeowners upset about the restriction.

“We care and love everybody in this valley — that’s what makes it such a beautiful place,” Reynolds said Wednesday morning. “And we actually care and love enough that we ask them to not come.”

#### Tourists prohibited too

Gunnison County Emergency Manager Scott Morrill on Monday said increased activity has been observed throughout the county, which could indicate some visitors may have chosen to disregard the order, or may simply not know about the restrictions.

“There’s a growing concern about the increased traffic we’re seeing from second homeowners and people from the Front Range,” said Morrill.

Morrill said “messaging” has been created in conjunction with other mountain communities to remind people from other parts of the state and country to remain home.

The Colorado Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources also issued statements Friday, reminding people to “resist the temptation to travel to the mountains for recreational activities.”

“The Governor has said it best, our mountains, rivers, forests and trails will be there when this pandemic is over and Coloradans are recommended to avoid travel for recreational purposes,” said

Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources. “Although we encourage people to get outside for their own well-being, Coloradans need to keep their recreational activity to local trails and parks, maintain social distancing guidance, and avoid dangerous activities to reduce the strain on our search and rescue and emergency teams.”

Perhaps the strongest messaging came from Gunnison County Sheriff John Gallowich, who said several law enforcement tools were on the table to gain compliance (see related story.) But he indicated they would be used as a last resort.

Those tactics include door-to-door contact for second homeowners and vacationers and possible arrests, although the sheriff said “we’re not there yet.”

“My goal is to have safety for individuals in our community and to do my best to protect our community from seeing a surge in our healthcare system ... (and keep the virus from) circulating through our community,” Gallowich said.

Still, nonprofit organizations expressed concern about the potential alienation of second homeowners who contribute to local causes. Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley board president Jacob With said the unexpected consequence of the “current reality” is that it prevents people who are an “integral part of who we are from being here right now.” He said it was like the community missed a part of itself.

“Our nonprofits that are providing essential support in our community in response to COVID-19 find that they are relying, in substantial part, upon the graciousness of second homeowners that cannot be physically present in our community,” With said. “It is a testament to the true, charitable generosity of these second homeowners that they continue to support us even when they cannot be here.”

(Chris Rourke can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at editor@gunnisontimes.com.)



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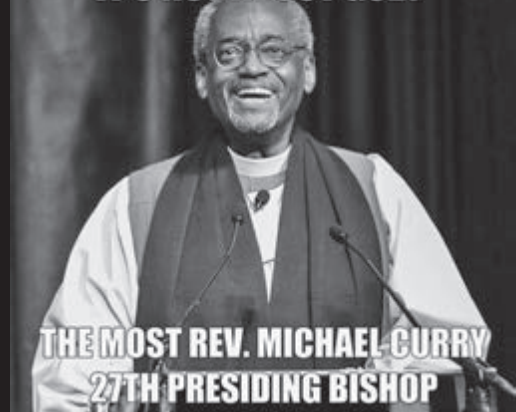
## WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A BLESSED EASTER SEASON.

We will be sending out a special Easter message at 9:00 am Easter morning, April 12th. Please log into Gunnisonnewsong on facebook.



77 Ute Lane · Just East of town.  
First left after the Cemetery  
970.641.5034 · newsong346@yahoo.com

“IF IT’S NOT ABOUT LOVE, THEN IT’S NOT ABOUT GOD.”



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week Schedule:  
Maundy Thursday April 9th 6:00 pm  
Good Friday April 10th at 12 noon  
Easter Vigil April 11th 7:30 pm

Listen to services online at  
The Diocese of Colorado visit [www.episcopalcolorado.org/live](http://www.episcopalcolorado.org/live)  
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[facebook.com/episcopalCO](https://facebook.com/episcopalCO)

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church  
307 W. Virginia Ave. | 970-641-0429  
All Saints in the Mountains, at Queen of All Saints,  
401 Sopris Ave., Crested Butte

# Enforcement

from A1

as the fifth amendment of the Public Health Order took effect on April 3.

The updated order prohibits second-home owners and visitors from entering Gunnison County (see related story).

“My goal is to have safety for individuals and our community,” Reynolds said. “My goal is to not create other crises in our community or outside our community. But also to do my best to try to protect our community from seeing a surge in possible COVID-19 cases within our healthcare system or circulate throughout our community.”

The new amendment also has sparked agencies to begin cracking down on individuals or businesses who are noncompliant with all elements of the order — which also bans gatherings (more than one person) and requires those who do not live in the same household to socially and physically distance themselves.

Gallowich commented that his office has received calls about large groups at the trailhead of Hartman Rocks (see related story).

The penalties for noncompli-



Times file

Law enforcement agents are prepared to make arrests if Public Health Order violators require it.

ance are stiff — a fine of up to \$5,000 and 18 months in county jail.

“We’re trying our very best to get the message out and use the least amount of law enforcement to obtain the goal of compliance,” Gallowich said.

All local agencies implement-

ing enforcement efforts meet regularly at the Emergency Operations Center.

Gallowich said his officers have made “contact,” specifically with visitors. According to the sheriff, individuals have followed orders and left the county.

Door-to-door monitoring of second home owners is not off the table for Gallowich, although he added that he does not see the situation to be at that dire of a level yet.

Reports of noncompliance by businesses and individuals can be made on the Gunnison

County COVID-19 website (covid19.gunnisoncounty.org). Reynolds reviews all the cases with the law enforcement team.

“There’s not one exact formula,” Reynolds said. “Really it’s about working with the individual or the business to determine if they were unaware and needed education and information so that they could be aware and follow.”

Contacts made by law enforcement are tracked by the team. Repeat offenders and blatant violations that are “beyond an education opportunity” would most likely receive a citation, Reynolds indicated.

Similar to county Sheriffs’ deputies, Reynolds has not had to enforce measures when dealing with the reported cases.

Gallowich anticipates seeing an increase in visitors entering the county, and he and his officers are prepared with an “increased response” if needed.

The sheriff stressed the resistance of law enforcement officers to go as far as arrests, however, if the safety of the community is at risk, “we will go there.”

*(Roberta Marquette can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at roberta@gunnisontimes.com.)*

# Senior center

from A1

officials continue to prevent a second surge of novel coronavirus cases by prohibiting nonresidents from entering, angering non-resident homeowners (see related story, page A7.)

Early Wednesday morning Gunnison resident Bob Teitler became the second person to succumb to COVID-19. Teitler is remembered by friends and family as a good father, friend and humanitarian (see related story, A1.)

Two weeks ago, it was determined that Crested Butte’s Mike Larson also died from complications of the virus. Larson was 56.

“My goal is that we lose no more,” said Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds.

Also Wednesday, local health officials reported that two more residents at the nursing home have tested positive for the virus, bringing the total to three. Two of the residents are hospitalized but are considered in good condition. The third person remains at the Senior Living Center.

Gunnison Valley Health infectious illness nurse Jodie Leonard said that the State of Colorado classifies an outbreak at a senior care facility as “one.” Since Gunnison has exceeded that threshold, she said, a state task force has been assigned to the local facility. As part of the state’s involvement, a checklist of procedures must be followed

### COVID-19: BY THE NUMBERS

*(Statistics as of Wednesday, April 8)*

**Cases**  
95 positive  
164 negative  
20 pending  
2 deaths

**Hospitalization**  
30 total  
13 transferred  
3 currently admitted

**Self reported**  
711 symptomatic  
282 resolved

to protect residents, she said.

Reynolds said that there is such a “high risk population in such a high risk setting” that she saw the challenges as “tremendous.” She welcomed the state’s help.

“When I look at the checklist the state sent, it looks like everything on it is being done,” Reynolds said. “But I’m glad to see the checklist and the resources offered.”

Action taken so far includes the closing of communal areas. There is no cohorting and increased cleaning is being performed. In regards to meals, no dishes are re-used — food is served on disposable plates. No communal food sharing or dining is allowed.

Administration is making weekly phone calls to family members with updates, and residents who have COVID-19 symptoms or are nearing end of life have daily updates done.

Every resident is getting a daily assessment.

Staff must be assessed daily with temperatures taken, and they are wearing masks. If symptoms appear during their shift they are sent home. Staff who have resident interactions must wear full personal protective equipment, gowns, gloves and goggles. Operating room nurses are being utilized to provide supplemental staffing.

As of press time, 95 people have tested positive for COVID-19, with 164 tests negative. Pending cases are 20.

Overall 30 people have been hospitalized with respiratory illness, with 13 being transferred to other facilities.

Local health officials said this week they are continuing to prepare for a potential surge in cases. Gunnison Valley Hospital (GVH) has expanded its capacity from one “negative pressure room” to 10. Negative pressure rooms are designed to prevent the spread of airborne illnesses by reducing the virulence of disease by filtering the atmosphere with greater regularity.

A negative pressure room requires a minimum of 12 air changes of exhaust per hour.

“This ensures that no airborne contagions can migrate outside of the negative pressure room,” explained COVID-19 response co-incident commander C.J. Malcolm. “Suspected contaminants are vented to the atmosphere where they won’t survive.

Additionally, GVH staff are



Courtesy

Gunnison Valley Health staff have assembled Easter baskets for residents at the Senior Living Center. The effort is to lift the spirits of the residents while they are under additional protective measures.

working with the state to certify the alternative treatment center which has been established at the Fred Field Building at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds. Certification allows GVH to recoup money spent on treatment at that facility; howev-

er the center is ready to treat patients in the event of a surge occurs, local health officials said.

*(Chris Rourke can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at editor@gunnisontimes.com.)*

# ‘Why am I so angry?’

## Mental health experts address community’s feelings of loss

Chris Rourke  
Times Editor

Feeling a bit edgy? Irritated and argumentative? Mental health experts say that’s normal, especially as efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 have led to restricting public activities, and has threatened our very way of life.

“There’s a collective loss and a collective grief,” said Gunnison County Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds. “Think about our own loss — our sense of normalcy has shifted ... it’s a good time to think about what loss means and what it means with a collective loss for an entire community.”






Reynolds addressed that community loss during meetings last week, both with Gunnison County Commissioners and with emergency operations staff. A frustration has been observed among community members due to the loss of normalcy. The *Times* has noted an increase in the amount of virtual “arguing” that has taken place on social media.

Reynolds shared that the community’s loss may be manifested much like grief — in several stages. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance aren’t linear, she said. Rather, they are fluid and a person can move back and forth between them.

“I’m bringing this to our attention. The world, our state, our county is experiencing a significant amount of loss,” Reynolds said. “It’s normalcy, control, economic stability — it’s really relevant to think about.”

**Anger as a part of grief**  
Center for Mental Health

**FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF**

<b>DENIAL</b> avoidance, elation, confusion, shock, fear	
<b>ANGER</b> frustration, irritation, anxiety	
<b>BARGAINING</b> struggling to find meaning, reaching out to others, telling one’s story	
<b>DEPRESSION</b> overwhelmed, helplessness, hostility, flight	
<b>ACCEPTANCE</b> exploring options, new plan in place, moving on	

(The above graphic shows the five stages of grief based on the Kübler-Ross Grief Cycle. Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds has compared “community loss” to this model.)

Regional Director Kimberly Behounek offered that anger can be referred to as a secondary emotion because humans can resort to anger to protect themselves or to mask other vulnerable feelings.

It is believed, she said, that before we experience anger, we experience another emotion. When we are able to notice the first feeling we can usurp the power anger can have over our ability to effectively respond.

“If your anger is not an instinctive response due to a real threat, then it can be the part of the stages of grief,” Behounek said.

For example, she offered, one could think “this COVID-19 virus will pass sooner because Gunnison County was ahead of flattening the curve in comparison to other places.” One has to realize the hope was denial, and one can become angry and sad at the same time. It is a part of the grief process related to COVID-19.

“Anger is an emotion we all experience,” Behounek said, noting many causes, such as separa-

tion, uncertainty, loss of income or the cancelation of important milestones or celebrations. “It is up to the individual to discover when their anger is a result of another unresolved situation or feeling.”

But she said the caveat is that anger is also a natural, instinctive response to threats, and that some anger is necessary for survival.

### Global anxiety hits home

Likewise, it’s common to experience generalized anxiety and fear during a pandemic. Local Licensed Professional Counselor Laurie Boscaro said the global impact can influence the individual. Such anxiety and fear can result in a physical response.

“When we experience high levels of fear you can easily experience what we call an ‘amygdala hijack,’” Boscaro said. “This is when the amygdala takes over the frontal lobe and puts us into fight, flight or freeze mode. Without our frontal lobe, we lose rational decision making, emotional regulation, and we become selfish and irrational.”

### TIPS TO MANAGE EMOTIONS

(Offered by local mental health professionals Kimberly Behounek and Laurie Boscaro)

➤ Never think someone is too busy to listen to you express your emotions. Call a friend, mentor or reach out to a professional when you need to.

➤ While it is vital that we all distance ourselves physically, it is equally important that we stay connected socially. Use your extra time at home to reach out to friends and family. Get creative and create an online talent show, comedy night or dance party.

➤ While staying informed is important, watching the news all day is not healthy. Set boundaries for yourself around when and how much news you will consume.

Boscaro said this response is what causes people to do things like hoard toilet paper and groceries. Suddenly, she said, we find ourselves ready to fight with anyone we see as a threat, anyone that views us as getting in the way of our survival.

“Remember though that we don’t have the part of our brain on board that allows us to decide rationally if someone is a threat,” Boscaro continued. “During an amygdala hijack, we also experience an increase in cortisol levels. Cortisol is known to decrease our immune system, which is the last thing any of us needs right now.”

Health impacts can extend beyond just immunity. Behounek said unresolved anger can result in an increased risk for heart disease, diabetes, insomnia and high blood pressure.

“Unresolved anger can consume mental energy, cloud your thinking, and make it harder to enjoy life,” Behounek said. “Relationships and careers may

also be impacted by anger due to difficulties others have trusting you, feeling comfortable to speak and interact safely without fear of the potential outcome.”

### Maintaining health and happiness

Both Behounek and Boscaro agree — the key to health and happiness is in managing one’s emotions and the remedy can come through awareness and self-discipline.

Boscaro said one way is to listen to your body as it will give you clues as to when you may be getting activated into a fight or flight response so as to avoid the amygdala hijack.

“Breathe deep and focus on finding logical responses to your emotions,” Boscaro said. “Focus on things you are grateful for, such as a comfortable house to isolate in, a sunny day, (or) the smile from a neighbor.”

Behounek said to make a conscious decision about how to respond.

“Many times we think we are responding, but we are reacting with anger,” Behounek said. “If the situation doesn’t involve someone being immediately hurt, then you can take five minutes or overnight to respond. Saying ‘no, I can’t answer that’ or ‘I can’t help you’ is also an acceptable response if you are feeling pressured to answer. Sticking to the facts of the situation while maintaining your own personal boundaries can be helpful as well.”

Boscaro agreed, and reminded community members to be gentle with themselves and each other.

“We’re all doing the best we can with what we have,” she said. “You are not alone and tomorrow is a new day.”

(Chris Rourke can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at editor@gunnisontimes.com.)

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# COVID-19



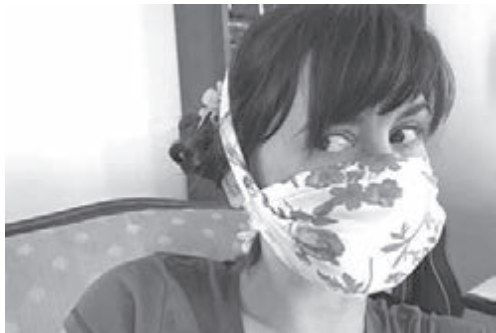
PHOTO SERIES



Silvia Bonham

## Show us your mask

Gunnison Valley residents are getting creative with covering their faces. Here's a sampling of what people are wearing.



Suzanne Marchetti



Bridgett McDermott



Deb Callihan and friend

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Sign-up for our weekly newsletters for the most current and up to date information. To sign-up, visit our website, [www.gunnisonartscenter.org](http://www.gunnisonartscenter.org), and scroll to the bottom!

### IN THE GALLERIES

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# Be safe — wear a mask

## Health officials strongly recommend face coverings in public

Morgan Schaefer  
Times Staff Writer

Masks are the new norm throughout the Gunnison Valley following recommendations by both local and state leaders. In fact a whole website is devoted to helping Coloradans jump on board with the practice.

Health officials say the masks will help keep COVID-19 from spreading and it reminds other community members to continue to practice physical and social distancing.

On April 2, Director of Health and Human Services Joni Reynolds issued a recommendation that face coverings be worn in public — even for those who aren't sick or symptomatic.

The recommendation encourages community members to cover noses and mouths when leaving home for essential travel to the grocery store, doctor or pharmacy. However they say, leave the N95 medical grade masks for essential medical personnel.

One can safely cover their face with a bandana or homemade mask from T-shirts or cotton clothing, they say.

"Studies indicate that there is no reason to not use a face covering as a precaution and wearing something over your nose and mouth can provide an additional layer of protection for those who must go out," Reynolds stated in the recommendation.

A day later, on April 3, Gov. Jared Polis gave a press conference echoing this messaging, explaining the benefits and necessity of wearing masks.

"Let's have fun with it and make it cool," Gov. Polis said. "Let's make lemonade out of these lemons and let's try to get everybody to show that we need to do our part."

The same day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued recommendations for face coverings for the entire nation.

The CDC notes that primarily COVID-19 is spread through droplets from an infected person, and that fabrics covering the nose and mouth prevent the transmission of the virus. It also helps remind the wearer to avoid touching their face.

For those frustrated with the recommendation, feeling as if it is a mandate, officials stress this is not eliminating personal freedoms. The recommendation, they say, is meant to flatten



Suzy Metzler

Homemade masks crafted by Pitkin's Suzy Metzler await distribution to the local hospital.



Suzy Metzler

Suzy Metzler modeling her homemade face masks.

the curve faster and get our lives back to normalcy sooner than later.

"This is for the foreseeable future," Gov. Polis said. "This will be our culture for now."

It did not take long for a local force of seamstresses and crafters to take action — some of them had already been producing homemade masks should they be needed.

Pitkin resident Suzy Metzler had been awaiting approval from the hospital for her homemade masks to be utilized by medical personnel.

"I made 22 masks and they were taken to the volunteer center by a friend for distribution to the hospital or nursing home," explained Metzler. "I'm waiting on an elastic order placed last week. I'm planning on making some for the Pitkin community where I live."

Metzler has another design

that uses ribbons instead of elastic that she will make while awaiting another elastic shipment.

*Times* Production Manager Shayna Pietranton crafted a few elastic masks with fabrics purchased locally. She plans to use shop-towels as the "filter" the CDC recommends, placing them within the two pieces of fabric as a barrier.

"It took me awhile to figure out how to actually make the mask and I experimented with a few techniques," explained Pietranton. "Once I got the hang of it the next mask took 15 minutes."

Local seamstress Denise Mayfield started making approved masks two weeks ago for the hospital, then the Red Cross, "and now everyone wants one!"

"I'm using strings, elastic, but no filters within — these



Denise Mayfield

Masks sewn by local seamstress Denise Mayfield.

Want to make your own mask? Pattern downloads and how-to videos are posted at [coloradomaskproject.com](http://coloradomaskproject.com). The CDC also has tutorials here: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)

masks are just for one more layer of protection." As far as fabric, Mayfield is "using scraps I have laying around."

Others spent time making the simpler, quicker T-shirt masks. Salon owner Denai Robbins — whose business has been shuttered by a statewide order — made masks with a medically approved pattern from shirts donated from OffCenter DeSIGNS. "My T-shirts went to the Red Cross," added Robbins.

Wearing a mask, health officials said, sends the message that this pandemic is real

— the current climate is scary, uncharted territory for everyone. Acting in solidarity in the Gunnison Valley as well as the state of Colorado is essential to creating a culture of responsibility in reducing the spread of COVID-19, health officials continued.

Medical staff make the following recommendations: make sure your DIY masks are clean, wearing a new mask each time upon leaving the house. Be careful not to touch one's eyes, nose and mouth when removing the face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

However, don't use a mask as an excuse to violate physical and social distancing orders. Combined with frequent hand washing, wearing face coverings can help slow the spread.

(Morgan Schaefer can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at [morgan@gunnisontimes.com](mailto:morgan@gunnisontimes.com))

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TIMES

# COVID-19

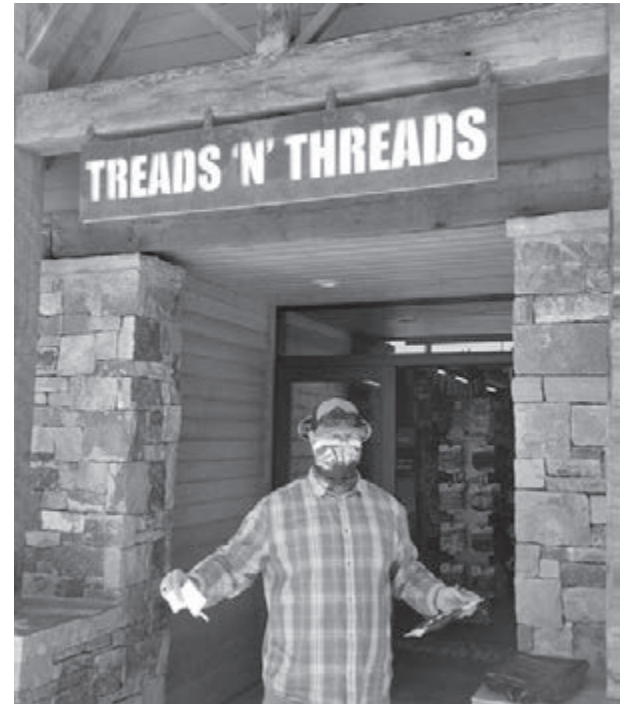
PHOTO SERIES




Kiley Lefebvre of Mario's and the Dive.

## Providing the key 'essentials'

While many are working from home due to COVID-19 restrictions, essential workers are still on the job, and some have modified their businesses to comply with the Gunnison County Public Health Order. Pictured here are some of those who are still at work.



Chris Osness of Treads N' Threads.

Courtesy



Heidi Magnus of The Firebrand.



Crews sprucing up the Visitor Center.



Jerrie Lodato of Hope & Glory.

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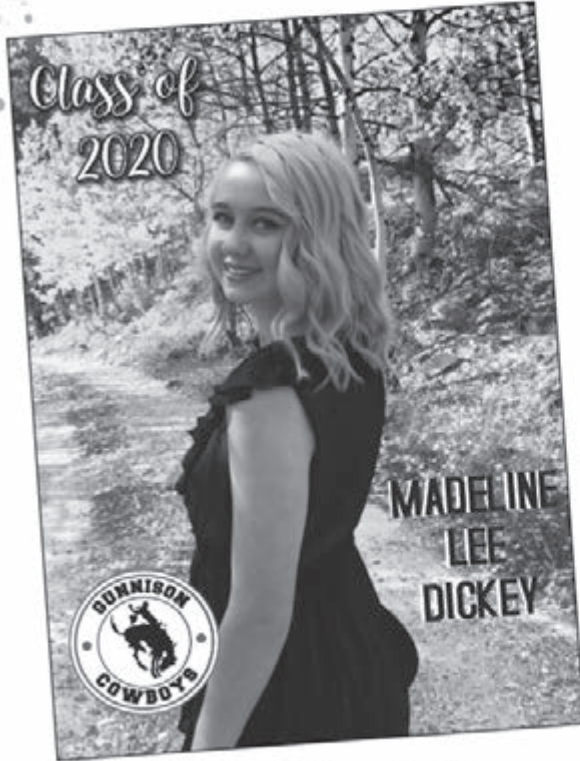
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# An advantage over COVID-19?

Medical professionals urge caution when reading statistics

**PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

- Abide by social/physical distancing requirements.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

➤ Stay within your household bubble and don't visit others, especially those more susceptible to the virus.

➤ Wear clean protective equipment, like gloves and face coverings, while in public.

(Source: Gunnison County Health and Human Services.)

Stay up to date with state and county information at [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov), [covid19.gunnisoncounty.org](https://covid19.gunnisoncounty.org).

**Times Staff Report**

Health professionals agree — age and underlying medical conditions could be contributing factors in how severely novel coronavirus could impact someone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified the most serious underlying conditions as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and heart conditions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma and severe obesity. Those over the age of 65 also may be more vulnerable to the virus, the CDC said.

Oftentimes, age and underlying conditions are not mutually exclusive.

Yet, an analysis by an insurance marketing organization shows that Colorado's seniors are among the healthiest in the nation. QuoteWizard by Lending Tree notes that Colorado is second-highest in the nation for the least-at-risk seniors.

The study analyzed CDC Prevalence & Trends Data to find which states had the highest prevalence of seniors over the age of 55 with at-risk health conditions for COVID-19. It took a composite ranking score of each underlying health condition to compile a ranking of all 50 states. The low percentages of seniors with illness compared to the rest of the nation earned Colorado the second-highest ranking for health.

The analysis showed only 13.85 percent of Colorado seniors suffer from diabetes, 6.15 percent have cardiovascular disease, 8.6 percent with COPD, and 9.1 percent with asthma.

Those numbers compare with the highest at-risk state for seniors, West Virginia, with 26.2 percent with diabetes, 14.3 percent with cardio-vascular disease, 22.3 percent with COPD and 13 percent suffering from asthma.

The study falls in step with the City of Gunnison's 2015 Community Analysis showing the average life expectancy for someone in this community as 82 years old.

"Gunnison has low levels of inactivity, smoking and obesity," the Gunnison study states. "The life expectancy can be attributed to the combination of 'lifestyle choices and the relatively high affluence level of seniors.'"

Yet, Gunnison Valley Hospital's Internal Medicine Specialist Dr. Kenneth Anderson urged caution when reading statistics such as these. He said it's really too soon to tell if anyone at all is at any advantage against COVID-19.

"It's too early to tell if our elderly population has suffered less infections or less severe infec-

tions," Anderson said. "Age is a risk factor in itself which we cannot change. The hope would be if you have less underlying health conditions that could decrease your overall risk."

Anderson said he has seen young people with no health issues being hard hit by this disease and some seniors with underlying conditions recovering quickly. The virus is so new and understudied, most medical professionals aren't offering concrete analysis at this time.

"I highly encourage people to follow our local guidelines. Public health has done a tremendous job and the sooner and the closer everyone follows those guidelines the better off everyone will be," he said.

The Senior Center and Assisted Living facilities in Gunnison has been on lockdown since March 9 with only essential staff reporting in order to protect those at risk. Loved ones are encouraged only to call or video chat, (see related story). The move is designed to protect the vulnerable senior population.

Seniors in the community have in the past offered their advice to the *Times* on staying mentally and physically fit. Pat and Jeff Walker are continuing their best practices during the pandemic. "We take very few trips to the grocery store — which hasn't been easy since I used to go a lot," explained Pat.

The couple keeps themselves occupied with projects around the house and virtually visiting with family and friends. "The rest of our time is spent with outdoor activities," said Walker. "We either hike or bike everyday, which has been great for us."

Walker is still training for the annual Ride the Rockies bike ride despite knowing it could be canceled at any time. "The outdoor activity is physically and mentally a must for us!" added Walker.



I'll sure be happy when this social distancing is over

My husband keeps trying to get into the house

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**-Teresa Anderson**

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# CITY OF GUNNISON PUBLIC UTILITY NOTICES

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and to limit exposure of citizens and staff, please note the following changes to our regular services.

### Curbside Recycling Pickups

Curbside recycling pickups have been suspended. Residents are asked to please take their recyclables to Gunnison Country Recycle Center. Please do not store recyclables for future pick-ups.



### Electronics Recycling

Electronics recycling has been postponed. The City of Gunnison will resume this service when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

Refuse pick-ups will continue on the regular scheduled day. Only refuse cans and dumpsters will be emptied. No pick-ups of large or special items until



**If you have run out of toilet paper and are using other means to clean up, please do not flush them!**



**This includes paper towels, baby wipes, cotton balls, rags, etc.**



**Gunnison residents may pick up free Gunni Gold at the ice rink parking lot. One five-gallon bucket at one time, bring your own container. Please be courteous and maintain social distancing.**



You can now TEXT the City of Gunnison! Skip a phone call and text us to find answers to your questions. Text "hi" to 970-642-3347 and follow the prompts.



City of Gunnison  
Public Works Department  
1100 W. Virginia Ave, Gunnison, CO



Times file

The Blue Mesa Reservoir is open for bank fishing. However National Park Service officials ask that you ensure all fishing equipment is free from aquatic invasive species.

## Local National Park closures

### More services, operations suspended

Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Reservoirs, as well as the Gunnison River from Riverway to the Lake City Bridge are closed to boating until at least April 30.

The closure is the latest from the National Park Service (NPS), in response to guidance from Montrose and Gunnison Counties.

The additional modifications to operations are being implemented to support federal, state and local efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

As of April 3, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area will offer no services outside those that support visitor or resource protection (see below).

The Gunnison River, and the reservoirs, are open for bank fishing. Trails also remain open.

Please note, however, all recreation sites within the county are open only to Gunnison County residents per Public Health Order.

Please ensure that fishing equipment, including waders, are free of aquatic invasive species, clean and dry, before you enter the river or reservoir. Exercise extreme cau-

tion as rescue and emergency resources are very limited.

Tomichi and Gunnison Point overlooks, as well as the Rim Rock and Oak Flat Trails are open. The South Rim drive may be walked. Bicycles are not permitted. Exercise extreme caution as rescue and emergency resources are very limited.

The health and safety of visitors, employees, volunteers and partners at Black Canyon and Curecanti is the number one priority for NPS. The NPS is working servicewide with federal, state and local authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. NPS will notify the public when full operations resume and provide updates on [nps.gov/blca](https://nps.gov/blca) and [nps.gov/cure](https://nps.gov/cure) and social media channels.

The NPS encourages people who choose to visit during this pandemic to adhere to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health authorities to protect visitors and employees. Social distancing at viewpoints, lakeshores and on trails and trailheads is of utmost importance. As services are limited, the NPS urges visitors to continue to practice Leave No Trace principles, including pack-in and pack-out, to keep outdoor spaces safe and healthy.

### ADDITIONAL PARK CLOSURES

At Curecanti, the following services and operations will be suspended in order to comply with the state and local public health orders:

- > Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Reservoirs, as well as the Gunnison River from Riverway to the Lake City Bridge are closed to boating until at least April 30. The National Park Service will reevaluate this closure based on public health orders and conditions at that time.

- > Campgrounds and the Elk Creek Visitor Center as well as all restroom facilities are closed.

At Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the following services and operations will be suspended in order to comply with state and local orders:

- > The South Rim Road will remain closed beyond the Visitor Center.

- > The North Rim Road, and all trails on the north rim are closed until further notice.

- > The Inner Canyon and all routes and trails that go into the inner canyon from either rim are closed.

- > Restrooms, visitor center and campgrounds are closed.

THIS IS  
*Love*  
JOHN 3:16

*Changes*  
CUT & COLOR SALON

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## Have an idea? Let us know!

The Gunnison Country Times is always looking for the stories that impact the lives of our Valley's residents.

Submit your article, photos and story ideas to [editor@gunnisontimes.com](mailto:editor@gunnisontimes.com) or give us a call at 970.641.1414



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