

The time, it is a'changing

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

MON

Moon phase

Waxing Gibbous

Moon illumination

81%

Solar Position

Sunrise 6:43 AM

Sunset 6:06 PM

Lunar Position

Moonrise Mar 02, 1:30 PM

Overhead Mar 02, 9:16 PM

Moonset Mar 03, 5:02 AM

Underfoot Mar 03, 9:41 AM

Peak Game Activity Times

AM Minor: 3:59 AM - 6:09 AM

AM Major: 7:36 AM - 10:38 AM

PM Minor: 12:27 PM - 2:37 PM

PM Major: 8:19 PM - 11:21 PM

We have apps, like this one from Huntstand, to provide exact sunrise and sunset times for your exact location. (Screenshot)



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

Anybody who hunts, and to a lesser extent fishes, has their day afield geared around sunrise and sunset. Game laws in most states allow legal hunting hours as early as a half hour before sunrise, ending a half hour after sunset. Some states do not allow the extra half hours, so you best check the latest regs.

When I was a kid, we did not have cell phones or computers to tell us when sunrise and sunset was.

The times were printed on the back of the Colorado license. It based the time on a place in Eastern Colorado and you were to add one minute to the sunrise or sunset for each 12 ½ miles you were west of that point as the crow flies.

That took a lot of figuring out for a kid who was not particularly doing that well in school. The chart assumed I knew how many miles we were away from the starting point or knew how to read a map. I possessed neither a map nor a watch, so I winged it.

Today, there are special apps downloadable to your phone that can give you exact times for the precise place you are standing. An internet protocol, called the Network Time Protocol, automatically updates and synchronizes your cell phones and computers to the time changes. I miss the old way.

To complicate matters, we just had yet another

time change. Spring forward and fall backward. We have been told all kinds of reasons for this ridiculous shifting of the hours but most of them are false. I might point out, the correct term is daylight saving, not “savings,” time.

Way back in 1748, more than a century before any country adopted daylight saving time (DST), Benjamin Franklin was proposing a similar concept, albeit in a satirical way. Even during colonial days folks did not like the winter-shortened days.

In 1916, Germany became the first country to officially adopt DST. The idea was an effort to conserve coal during WWI, and the UK and a handful of other European countries quickly followed suit. The United States adopted DST in 1918, during the war, but ceased observation after the war ended.

See TIME page A12

What do you keep in your safe?

Although big heavy safes like you see in an old western movie or a walk-in safe that main street banks used to have in the back corner are no longer common, there is still a need to keep valuables safely stored. What do you keep in your safe?

Maybe like Uncle Scrooge, you need a place for money and jewelry, but there are other kinds of safes today, for example small fire protection safes for family papers or heirlooms, gun safes, daily business cash, or electronic computer files.

Most fishermen I know aren't the wealthiest people in the world, but still, we have some good stuff. Consider a fly rod. I have my Dad's Fenwick fiberglass rod that I learned to fly fish with. Also his bamboo rod he sort-of wore out, with the rod windings threads coming apart. Both of no significant monetary value, but as the credit card commercial said, “priceless.”

Besides Dad's antique rods, I have my own collection. Too many, admittedly. Most are stored in the garage in a special fishing corner in an individual rod tube, but some older ones are just loose in a tall cardboard box.

All are valuable to me, but other than some of the newer high end rods or a few modern custom bamboo rods, there isn't a lot of financial value to them. And they are relatively safe from the public eye, nestled in their garage containers.

But on the other hand, when one loads up gear in a vehicle and heads to the river, fly rod security is paramount. A rod and reel combo costs anywhere from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. It's the latter that needs a safe. Sure you can lock it up in your vehicle, but Troy Coleman has a better idea.

Fly Rod Safe is Troy's company. His safe is a fly rod storage case made of



Outdoors

By Joel L. Evans

metal and lockable that is mounted to the roof of your vehicle. Montrose and the western slope are home to several national brands of fly fishing and outdoor gear. Troy and Fly Rod Safe are home grown. Troy's family has local roots several generations back.

As a local kid, Troy rode around in four-wheelers and pickups to fish the Uncompahgre River and the canals. With fly rods randomly strapped or thrown around, rods were at risk of breaking or being lost. He didn't forget that. After spending some adult time away from Montrose in Alaska chasing the outdoor life, Troy moved back in 2005 to work with his dad who had a long-time auto alignment business. Troy had learned auto mechanics and welding and metal work from his dad. Welding skills and fishing all came together when Troy saw the need for a roof top fly rod carrier made of metal. After a year or two of prototypes, Fly Rod Safe was born in 2014.

Keep in mind fly rods are long, 8 to 10 feet or more. Although fly rods can be broken down and thrown in the back of the truck, that means every time you go somewhere you have to put it together when you get to the river and take it back apart when you head home. The convenience of having a rod, even several rods ready to go, is a great time saver. Especially if you move around from one spot to another during your fishing day. And any rod storage has to be

secure – lockable. Unlike some other materials, metal does both.

A rod, reel, and a flyline can be a big investment. Most fly fishermen have several combos for different fishing waters and kinds of fish. To protect that investment, Fly Rod Safe products are long aluminum tubes to slip a fly rod into, with a lockable box on the end to accommodate leaving the reel on the rod. With the safe attached to the roof of your vehicle, you can travel with confidence your rod is protected while on the road, and secure when away from your vehicle for the day or even just temporarily.

Troy sells direct to the public and to fishing guides all over the country. Quality is paramount, with thicker aluminum tubes to avoid bending, sturdier mounting hardware for the rooftop, and a lining on the inside of the tube to protect the rod during storage. Although aluminum is more costly to manufacture than other metals, aluminum is the metal of choice because it is relatively light and dissipates heat which can damage a rod. Tubes are waterproof, dustproof, and the latching and locks are very secure. All materials are USA sourced.

Some ready to go inventory is kept on hand, but most sales are custom builds with choices for number of rod tubes, length, and custom color powder coating. Troy sells mostly by reputation and referrals. People and friendships matter more than units sold.

Not that there aren't other great fishing towns, but Montrose is home to not only a lot of fishermen, but also some leading industry manufacturers of fly fishing and other outdoor products. Count Troy and Fly Rod Safe among those. Look up the company at flyrodsafe.com or contact Troy at 970-596-7184.



Not all safes are for money and jewelry. Your favorite fishing tool, your fly rod, also needs storage and protection; I use Fly Rod Safe. (Joel L. Evans/Special to the MDP)

10 SOUTH SELIG AVE MONTROSE, COLORADO 81401 970-249-4226

SLAM DUNK TOURNAMENT GIVEAWAY

Subscribe or renew by March 28th for a chance to win a 65" Smart TV, a tournament worthy snack basket and a \$50 gift card to Tacos & Beer.

Simply purchase a new annual subscription, renew your annual subscription, or convert your subscription to EZ Pay.

Two easy ways to enter! Either subscribe at montrosepress.com or call 970-249-3444.



MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

Terms and conditions apply* Each new subscription, renewed subscription or EZ Pay conversion between March 3rd to March 28th will receive one entry per subscription. A winner will be drawn on March 30th. No purchase necessary to win. For your free entry you must stop by the Montrose Press office at 3684 N. Townsend Ave to register.

Growing green on St Patrick’s Day



Gardening From A to Z

By Linda Corwine McIntosh

If you were in Ireland, today would be the traditional day to plant peas, potatoes, and maybe some onions. Like it or not, we’re not in Ireland. But that’s no reason not to go green today.

My mom and Grammy always planted their peas on St. Patrick’s Day. In fact, a lot of people say this is the time to plant not only peas but potatoes, onions and a few other cold hardy veggies. I’ve heard tales that this was supposed to bring gardeners luck. But I can’t help wonder if some people in the U.S. plant on St. Patrick’s Day because it gives them a date to remember when the soil’s said to get warmer, so that would make it time to plant cool season crops.

I would think common sense would tell you that a planting date would vary a lot depending on what part of the country you live in. It’s a fact that wet soil will stay cooler than dry soil, especially if the soil contains organic matter or mulch.

And let’s face it, every year seems to be different. Some years it’s been warm and dry in February. Other years it’s been cold with occasional snow storms well into April. So sorry mom, but I wouldn’t go by the old saying. The soil this year is still so wet in most areas that it really shouldn’t be worked until it starts to be slightly crumbly and won’t form a mud ball in your hand.

Planting too early in the



Some plants, like this shamrock plant, as well as planting certain cool season crops on St. Patrick’s Day, is said to bring good luck. (Linda Corwine McIntosh/Special to the MDP)

season is a common mistake that newbie gardeners often make. This isn’t good, because when the soil is still too cold it can cause the seeds to germinate slowly, rot in the soil, or cause the plant to stress all season.

Even though most of us are anxious for sunny warm days, cool season crops such as peas, head lettuce, turnips, radish, and parsley love cool weather. As a general guideline, 50 degrees is a good soil temperature for cool-season crops. If you don’t want to rely on the luck of the Irish, taking the soil’s temperature 4 inches deep, at 8 a.m. is recommended before you plant. (You don’t need to take a pulse though.)

You’re usually safe planting peas about a month before

the average last spring frost date. It’s a good idea to try to remember, or write down, the average last frost date. For Montrose it is approximately May 12. With that said, if you prefer to plant by soil temperatures, 40 degrees or above is recommended for planting peas.

Beets aren’t quite as hardy as peas but can also be planted in cool soil. Soaking peas and beets in a container of water overnight, before you plant, will help them germinate quicker. This is because they have a tough outer “shell” and the water will help soften them.

Potatoes really aren’t all that hardy. They actually prefer soil that’s about 50 degrees or above. Potatoes should be cut into a few

pieces about 1 ½ to 2 inches in size. Be sure to have at least one or two “eyes” or little growth places on each piece of potato that you plant. Cutting them the night before and leaving them in the house to dry out a bit will help prevent disease. Also, buy your potatoes at a garden center. The potatoes from a grocery store may not do well.

Even though broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, onions, lettuce, radish, spinach, and turnips are all considered hardy vegetables that can survive a frosty nip, they shouldn’t be planted in soil that’s colder than 40 degrees. Broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower are usually planted as little starts rather than directly sown seeds. These crops can withstand

daytime temperatures as low as 40 degrees and can be planted as early as two to four weeks before the date of the average last spring frost.

Onions like good soil, and when weeds are abundant the weeds are sure to win. Onion sets will do much better rather than planting seeds at this time. Onions would appreciate a little additional fertilizer during the growing season. Organic mulch, especially herbicide free grass clippings, will help your onion crop.

Semi hardy vegetables include beets, carrots, cauliflower, parsley, parsnips, potatoes, and Swiss chard. These guys prefer a minimum daytime temperature of 40 to 50 degrees.

Warm weather plants like

tomatoes, peppers, and basil prefer a warmer soil of about 60 to 70 degrees. So don’t get too excited about getting them planted too early.

Pansies, violas or Johnny jump-ups love the cool spring weather! These plants are usually available in most garden centers in the spring. They will struggle with the heat of summer but will look great for several years when cool weather rolls around. They’re considered a short-lived perennial but if you let them go to seed they should keep producing for years to come.

Don’t you always think of shamrock plants (Oxalis regnellii) on St. Paddy’s Day? I guess that’s because the leaves look like shamrocks or clovers and they produce small white trumpet-shaped flowers around St. Patrick’s Day and they really do make a pretty nice St. Patrick’s Day plant. Some people even say they bring good luck, or the luck of the Irish. It’s interesting that the leaves fold up at night, so don’t worry if they don’t look the same in the evening as they do in the morning. Like most cooler-season plants, they will go a little dormant during the summer months, but always bounce back when fall rolls around.

Shamrocks are easy to divide making them a great plant to share with a friend. And yes, they do come in a purple variety for those of you that want something a little different. Purple shamrock (Oxalis triangularis), are known as false shamrock but are very similar to the green varieties.

So why not get your green on this St. Paddy’s day. And if someone dares to try to pinch you, just show them your green thumb. Have a Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

Linda Corwine McIntosh is an advanced master gardener, ISA-certified arborist, commercial pesticide applicator.

TIME

FROM PAGE A11

The oil embargo of the 1970s kicked off a nationwide energy crisis, and in 1974 DST was brought back during the winter months in an effort to save energy. Critics of the plan argued they did not want their kids walking to school or the bus stops, before sunrise.

Studies have shown that the time change does not really save any energy. Changing the clocks can save folks on lighting expenses, but the cost of heating and air conditioning tend to rise. The extra hour DST provides only works if people spend the time outside.

People think that it was farmers who wanted DST, but they actually lobbied against it. The people who supported it were with local Chamber of Commerce’s, and various industries. In 1986, when DST was extended from six months to seven, the grill and charcoal industry said they gained 200 million in gross sales.

Department stores were one of the biggest supporters of DST. They lobbied that more daylight means more business because commuters leaving work while the sun was shining, and were more inclined to shop on their way home.

DST was extended to eight months because of massive lobbying by the candy industry. Previously,

it ended on the last Sunday of October, before Halloween and all the trick-or-treaters. The National Association of Convenience Stores lobbied that the extension would result in more candy sales because of the added daylight for the kids, and in 2007, the extension went into effect.

Today, there are 71 countries using DST. This represents about 40% of the world. Countries around the equator experience very little fluctuation in the amount of daylight throughout the year, and as a result, most do not use DST. Thirty-eight countries in Africa alone have never used it.

Anyone who has a dog can tell you stories about

the first week after a time change. Dogs thrive on a very predictable schedule, with dinner, walks, and playtime being on a set schedule. My own Jack Russells absolutely hate the time change. When dinner is delayed an hour in the fall, they act like we are intentionally starving them, and we are subject to open and hostile revolt until they get used to it. We generally serve their dinners later by 15 minutes each day, to get them used to the idea, and limit the insurrection.

The months of DST keep growing with Congress having extended the length three times. Today it runs for eight months but that may change too. Congress is kicking around the Sun-

shine Protection Act that would make DST permanent, meaning no more time changes twice a year.

Colorado is officially part of the growing coalition of states to stop changing the clock twice a year. Gov. Jared Polis signed HB22-1297 last June, for Colorado to have permanent daylight saving time. It may not happen because the caveat is that at least four other states in the Mountain Time Zone have to adopt similar laws.

In our house, I stand alone as the one who does not like DST. I would rather have standard time all year. I don’t care for the late-night sun as I am an early riser. And when you consider the hunt ends a

half hour after sunset, you may find yourself eating dinner back in camp around 10 p.m. Either way, it looks like permanent DST is coming our way.

Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press, Delta County Independent, and several other newspapers, as well as a feature writer for several saltwater fishing magazines. He is an avid hunter and world class saltwater angler, who travels around the world in search of adventure and serves as a director and public information officer for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Posse. For information about the posse call 970-986-1071 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org