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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 152, Jan. 11 2016

OPEN HOUSE TO EXPLORE NEW USES FOR CSU'S ROGERS MESA AG STATION!



An open house will be held Jan. 17 at CSU's Rogers Mesa campus, for those who have ideas for using the campus as a community educational facility. [Photo courtesy Paonia Real Estate.](#)

By Caitlin Switzer

Time is running out for those who hope to see Colorado State University's Rogers Mesa Experimental Station remain a public facility. The 83-acre site, which was closed by CSU in 2011, has been the subject of a community driven effort to bring stakeholders together and explore potential new uses.

On Jan. 17, there will be an open house at the Experimental Station from Noon to 2 p.m. The site is adjacent on the South side of Highway 92, three miles west of Hotchkiss.

The event is hosted by a coalition consisting of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Valley Food Partnership, and Delta County Economic Development (DCED). Coalition members hope to see the site continue to support local agriculture through new demonstration, education, marketing, and production activities. A longtime agricultural research site, the Rogers Mesa Station includes 70 acres of irrigated land with water rights, rests at 5,800 feet in elevation, and has infrastructure that includes a residence with three bedrooms and 1 bath as well as an educational building with

Continued on page 3

DMEA SET TO BECOME LAST-MILE PROVIDER!

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-It's unusual for the roll-out of a new business to have so many moving parts, but the board of Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has made their decision and they are moving forward... though the new subsidiary business is as yet still unnamed.

During the DMEA board meeting on Dec. 29, 2015 the board voted unanimously to begin the pilot phase of becoming the last-mile provider for broadband.

While the community conversation on broadband has been focused on internet accessibility and high speed, many residents may be more excited to learn that this endeavor will put DMEA in a position to provide services known as triple-play — a service that bundles high definition TV, telephone and internet service. Delta and Montrose County residents who are unhappy with their current service will now have a choice of providers and it is anticipated that these choices will come with lower fees and competitive prices.

Continued on page 8



In this 2014 Mirror file photo, Virginia Harman and Mr. Power of DMEA give a thumbs up. In 2016, the utility's board has given a thumbs up to providing competitively priced "triple-play" services to its members.

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*Local Stories,
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BOWMAN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY, SLAMS FUNC SPENDING: BELL REMINDS COUNCIL CANDIDATES TO TURN PETITIONS IN



A scene from the first annual Fun on the Uncompahgre (FUNC) Festival 2015. Mirror file photo.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Local concert promoter Dave Bowman announced his intent to run for a seat on City Council at the Montrose City Council's regular meeting of Jan. 5. Speaking during the time allotted for public comment, Bowman had high praise for public works crews who plowed his street, but pointed out that his-free-to-the-public summer music series at the Black Canyon Golf Course, funded in part by the City Manager, spent almost no money on advertising compared to the City Office of Business & Tourism (OBT's) first FUNC Festival.

—It's curious to look at the budget (of the first annual Fun on the Uncompahgre Festival),

noting that FUNC drew 1,500 people at a "per person" cost of \$24.16 per person. Bowman, who spent only \$1,304 to advertise the Montrose Summer Music Series, boasted of spending just \$37 cents per person. —Thank you," Mayor David Romero told him after he finished speaking.

City Council also voted to award the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Riverbank Stabilization Project to Haynes Excavation in the total amount of \$376,433.75, and approved an Interim agreement with Mont-

rose County for use of the Montrose County Emergency Operations Center.

Following an update by City Attorney Stephen Alcorn, Councilor Kathy Ellis asked by phone what would happen if electrical power were to go out while the City was using the interim facility for dispatch purposes.

Alcorn assured Ellis that backup generators are available, and that in the event those failed the Sheriff would most likely pick up all calls. —The relationship we have now is really good," Alcorn said, and added that the agreement would be finalized by (Montrose County Attorney) Carolyn Clawson in a matter of days.

—Who is Carolyn Clawson?" asked Councilor Judy Ann Files. After being informed that Clawson is the attorney for the County, Councilors voted to approve the Interim Agreement.

During his public information officer report, City Manager Bill Bell complimented the City on its snow removal efforts during recent, heavy snows and noted Dave Bowman's announcement of his own candidacy for City Council. Bell observed that there is still time for other candidates to throw their hats in the ring. On April 5, 2016, the City will conduct a mail ballot election for three City Council members; Districts III and IV (four-year terms) and At Large (two-year term). The District III seat is presently held by Bob Nicholson, the District IV seat by Kathy Ellis (who is term limited) and the at-large seat by Judy Ann Files.

—Time is running out," Bell said. —Petitions are due at 6 p.m. on Jan. 25." According to the City web site, Candidates must be qualified (registered) electors, 18 years of age or older, who have resided within the City and the district that they are seeking to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. Candidates for the At Large seat can reside anywhere in the City, but must meet the minimum residency requirement.

To be placed on the ballot, candidates must circulate a nomination petition and return it to the City Clerk's Office by January 25.

HONORABLE MENTION

To Search & Rescue and Emergency Services responders, for saving so many lives that could otherwise be lost...24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

And to City and County snow removal crews for all of the hard work over the past months...thank you!!



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THE
MONTROSE MIRROR
MONTROSE

ROGERS MESA OPEN HOUSE TO EXPLORE NEW USES From pg 1



A variety of activities could be accommodated at CSU's former Rogers Mesa Agricultural Research station. [Photo courtesy Paonia Real Estate.](#)

two classrooms, five offices, restrooms, a reception area, cold-storage facilities, and laboratory space. The site also has a greenhouse, three equipment sheds, and pesticide storage shed.

Harrison Topp of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union said that his organization is in-

terested in helping to find the best use for the land. "The open house is open to everybody," Topp said. "We're hoping to get as many people there as we can, submitting ideas for different projects. And on Jan. 31 we are going to facilitate a meeting to see whether we have enough interest and a

strong coalition ready to put together a proposal." The proposal deadline is March 1, Topp said.

Those interested in potential new uses of the Rogers Mesa agricultural research station are strongly encouraged to attend. A variety of activities can be accommodated at the site, organizers say. Interested groups or individuals are invited to tour the site's facilities and land, and those who would like to be part of the coalition's proposal can participate in further planning later this month. Greg Litus, CSU's Western Colorado Research Center Manager, will be available to answer questions about the site's past uses and current potential.

According to the [2015 Feasibility Study](#), CSU has currently allocated \$50,000 for basic maintenance of the station through mid-2016, after which a final decision must be made as to sale or disposition of the property.

Those with questions on the Coalition and its efforts to keep Rogers Mesa a viable, local educational facility can contact RMFU's Harrison Topp at Harri-son.Topp@rmfu.org or Carol Parker of the Valley Food Partnership at valleyfoodpartners@gmail.com.

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BEAR CREEK LIQUORS OPENS ON NORTH TOWNSEND!



Mirror Staff Report
MONTROSE—A local business has relocated...formerly Discount Wine & Spirits at 1840 East Main Street, Bear Creek Liquors is now open on North Townsend. At left, Bear Creek staffer Toots welcomes customers to the new store!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN COLORADO FOOD AND FARM FORUM ADDRESSES THE FUTURE OF FARMING



High Desert Seed and Garden owner Laura Parks talks with Barb and Stu Krebs. Courtesy photo by Mary Joy Martin.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Fourth Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, the state's premier gathering of farmers and ranchers, and others involved in the sustainable farm community, announced its line-up of workshops and speakers.

The conference on Jan. 23 at the Montrose Pavilion has a wide array of breakout sessions, which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural market-

ing and management strategies, and specialty crops.

The conference theme is Farming the Future: Tools, Tips, Talent. Workshops will focus on using innovative practices and technologies to manage people, land, and finances.

Among other topics, the latest techniques in drip irrigation, cover cropping, electric fencing, minimum till, integrating livestock and cover cropping, marketing, financial planning and advocating for policy that supports the next generation of farmer

will be addressed. Keynote speaker Owen Hablutzel, will present Farming Futures – Human Landscape Transformations for the 21st Century. He will address how to transform agriculture to meet the challenges of rapid change by combining a mixture of older and newer practices to support an economically, socially, and ecologically regenerative future. Owen states that, “the way we humans practice agriculture has the highest ‘leverage’ of any other sector in terms of both local and global outcomes for ecosystem and human health.”

Brendon Rockey, recipient of the 2014 National Environmental Steward award will present on Rockey Farms practices in developing soil health using cover crops and other innovative techniques.

Marc Catlin, well know Colorado water expert will clarify ramifications of the newly adopted Colorado Water Plan.

Additionally, attendees can choose from among 18 breakout sessions such as: Integrating Cover Crops with Livestock, Scaling Up Row Crop Production, Marketing Your Values, Planning for Profit, Garlic and Compost Tea Production, Innovations in Drop Irrigation, New Electric Fencing Options of Friends or Foes, Livestock Health Management, Advocating for the Next Generation of Farmer, and more.

On Jan. 22 the Forum offers two preconference options: No Till/Minimum Till Equipment and Management Options and Sustaining or Regenerating Our Agricultural Lands? Principals, Practices, and Complementary Methods in Regenerative Agriculture. The educational conference

offers registration discounts to those registering by December 20th. Attendees also receive discounts when they attend both the preconference workshop and the Forum. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers. The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum collaboratively.

For a complete list of topics or to register for the conference and pre-conference workshop please visit: www.foodfarmforum.org or call 970-249-3935.



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DMEA SET TO BECOME LAST-MILE PROVIDER! From pg 1

DMEA itself is an electrical co-op owned by members and their business decisions are open to member scrutiny. However, the new triple-play business will be a private competitive business and not have the same openness. General Manager Jasen Bronec said, "We have the capacity to own and control our own network, but because of the competitive nature we cannot be an open book. Residents will see the impact of our decisions, but as a business we will protect our competitive edge." To protect DMEA as the parent company, the new fiber-optic business venture will be phased in and could take an estimated three to four years before being fully built out. Bronec said, "We hope the community will be patient with us. Each phase will need the approval of the DMEA Board and they will decide how fast and if we move on to another phase."

Residents can take a level of comfort in knowing that DMEA is not reinventing the wheel. There are 25 electric companies across the nation who are in various stages

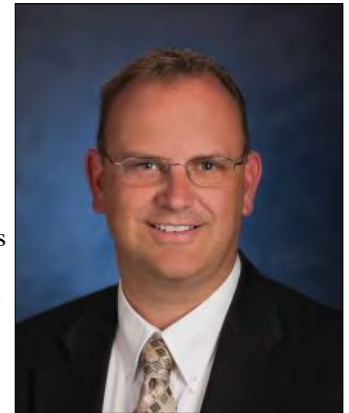
of including fiber-optics with their services. Bronec said, "There are companies with proven models all across the country and they are open with us. We are taking those models and duplicating them here."

Past community broadband discussions have included DMEA, Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning (Region 10), the City of Montrose, local businesses (Deeply Digital) and Charter Communications. While DMEA will partner with others when and where it is appropriate, the decision to go full force into the fiber optic business changes the discussion. While Region 10 is considered the middle mile and is not a competitor, the same cannot be said about the other entities. Bronec said, "We want to partner with the entities in our service area, but we don't yet know what that cooperation will look like."

Both the City of Montrose and Charter Communications are positioned as service providers and it is to their advantage to lock in businesses to their service before

DMEA is fully functional. The City of Montrose claims to have secured 31 anchor sites for their service and Charter Communications is now, in some cases, offering businesses long-term, five-year contracts. Bronec said, "We [DMEA] are going to ask our members to sign up with us. We will do a take-rate, which is basically a pre-signup. When we reach a certain threshold, we'll start the buildout. This is a value added service, but we have to earn that business."

In the short term, consultants will be brought in to identify specific areas where the buildouts should start and to test the models. Bronec said, "We will deploy into enough diverse areas that we can test the models. We don't want some members to get left out. The higher number of take-rate customers we get, the faster we can deploy." In terms of economic impact during the buildout (three-four years) the community could see an influx of 200 contract employees, 25-30 fulltime technical and customer service employees, and an estimate of \$4 million (without multipliers) pumped into the local economy. Because DMEA's new subsidiary business is locally grown it has the feel of a grassroots effort. Their goal is to bring broadband to all their members, not just a select few businesses in a concentrated area. DMEA has not yet begun to take pre-signups; however, if members have questions, or simply want to give a shout out of support, they can call the DMEA front desk at 1-877-687-3632. DMEA employees were notified of the board decision to move forward with a subsidiary company prior to the press release, however on January 5, 2016 General Manager Jasen Bronec met formally with employees to give them a better understanding of what lies ahead. "We've moved beyond surveys and gathering information and we've begun phase one."



DMEA General Manager Jasen Bronec. Courtesy photo.

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WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

MONTROSE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) MOORE-DEMORET CHAPTER 17



DAV van.

*Photo courtesy of All Points Transit,
Photographer Cara Fandel*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Montrose Disabled American Veterans (DAV), officially known as Moore-Demoret Chapter 17, was named after two WWI veterans. The DAV, a service organization that provides assistance to disabled American veterans, has a current membership of 165. However, attendance at monthly meetings average about eight. Commander Gary Gratton said, "We've lost a lot of WWII guys and they were more involved than people from other wars. A lot of men from the Korean War are dying and some are unable [physically] to come to meetings." Although Gary talks in terms of guys and men, the local DAV also has three members who are women.

Gratton expects that the Vietnam veteran participation may begin to increase. "Some Vietnam vets still hold a grudge and don't want any part of a military service connected organization...but as they retire they may come around a little bit more. We've got members from Desert Storm, the Gulf War and Afghanistan, but they are younger and still trying to make a living. They don't have time to come to meetings." Business meetings for the DAV last from 20 – 60 minutes. Gary laughed and said, "We have short meetings because we have people who can't sit very long on hard chairs." DAV meetings open with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance and meetings are closed with prayer and a final salute to the American flag.

The DAV lifetime membership fee is on a sliding scale according to age and ranges from those 40 and under (\$250) to those 80



DAV rifle honor salute at Cedar Creek Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Gary Johnston.

and older (free). Being disabled is a requirement for membership; however, the Veteran's Administration (VA) has a classification of "Zero Percent Disabled" and any veteran in the VA system can meet that qualification. Commander Gratton offered a lesson in VA Math. "You can have a leg wound that leaves you 50 percent disabled and then another injury that leaves you 50 percent disabled. That doesn't mean you are 100 percent disabled...it means you are 75 percent disabled. The second injury is actually 50 percent of the other half of you that is good (able-bodied); which equals 25 percent. The original injury gives you a 50 percent, the second is 25 percent...which means you are 75 percent disabled!"

In community outreach the DAV participates in parades, performs rifle salutes with military honors at Veteran's funerals and provides veteran transportation locally (dialysis) and to the VA Hospital in Grand Junction (appointments). "We purchase vans and give them to the Grand Junction VA and then we provide drivers for the vans. Not all of our drivers are veterans,

some are just volunteers...we can always use more drivers." Each Memorial Day the DAV places small flags on all veterans' graves in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

The DAV has multiple fundraisers; however Forget-Me-Not flowers are sold only once a year. A large-scale community fundraiser is scheduled for July 28, 2016. Gratton said, "We're hoping to raise enough money to buy a new van. One of our two vans has 200,000 miles on it and it needs to be replaced." Donations to the DAV are always accepted and appreciated.

Gratton said, "The DAV is here to help veterans...but before we can help them we need documentation that they are in fact a veteran." Veterans needing emergency funds and assistance are encouraged to make applications by going to the Montrose Warrior Resource Center.

Contact Information:

Moore-Demoret DAV Chapter 17

P.O. Box 1028

Montrose, CO 81402

Commander Gary Gratton 970-596-0484

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Photo by Mark Johnson (www.boxcanyonblog.com)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap announced today that County Sheriffs of Colorado, Inc. (CSOC), the state Sheriffs Association, will award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Montrose County student this spring. CSOC established the scholarship program in 1978. Since then, this effort has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education and training. CSOC considers this an investment in the future and believes that their membership helps to provide deserving students with an opportunity to make a positive contribution to society.

Sheriff Dunlap explained that this is the 37th year that the County Sheriffs of Colorado has made such scholarships available. Scholarships will be awarded in more than 30 Colorado counties this year. Applications will be reviewed by a local citizens committee appointed by Sheriff Dunlap and a selection will be made on the basis of criteria established by CSOC. This criterion includes leadership, merit, character, involvement and career purpose. Scholarship announcements have been mailed to all high school offices in the eligible counties and to all Colorado higher education institutions. Applications are available online at www.csoc.org, or at

the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (1200 North Grand Avenue).

Any legal permanent resident of Montrose County enrolled in, or applying to, a vocational training program or institution of higher learning in the State of Colorado as a full- or part-time student is eligible to apply. There are no restrictions as to the course of study or training which may be pursued, and no restrictions are placed upon applications by reason of race, creed, age, sex or national origin.

For more information, contact your local high school, college, the Montrose County Sheriff's office or County Sheriffs of Colorado.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

"GREAT HUMAN RESOURCES" WORKSHOP FOR NONPROFITS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to a workshop on "Great Human Resources" in Montrose from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the Montrose Public Library, 320 S. Second St.

The guest presenter of "Great Human Resources" is Michaelle Smith. One of the Western Slope's most knowledgeable experts on this topic, she is the Senior Director of Learning at Hilltop Community Resources in Grand Junction. Her workshop will be relevant for anyone who supervises

any number of employees – including board members who supervise a single staff person.

Attendees will leave knowing more about effective communications; conflict resolution; retaining staff; coping when a valued employee leaves, the wisdom of hiring a contractor in lieu of staff, and coping when someone doesn't (or can't) perform to their potential. The fee is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. The link for online registration is [http://crcamerica.org/rural-philanthropy-days/regional-websites/western-slope/capacity-building-](http://crcamerica.org/rural-philanthropy-days/regional-websites/western-slope/capacity-building-opportunities/)

[opportunities/](#)

The Best Practices series draws from the manual "Principles & Practices" from the Colorado Nonprofit Association, and is guided by a regional team of nonprofit board and staff members in concert with the Community Resource Center of Denver.

If you can't make the Montrose workshop, it will also be offered in Gunnison (Jan. 14, 9 a.m. -noon) and in Grand Junction (Jan. 15, 9 a.m. -noon).

For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, maryo@cfigv.org, 970-641-3570.

DENVER TO HOST FIRST INDEPENDENT COMIC EXPO MARCH 25-26

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-Comics, illustrators, and artists of all stripes will join together this spring for the inaugural DINK Independent Comic Expo set to take place in the gorgeous Mile High City from March 25-26. A boutique expo with a focus on independent comics and art influencers, the event promises to deliver top notch mer-

cantile and visual arts of many kinds. With over 150 featured artists, guests, exhibitors, and independent vendors expected in Denver over the two-day event, organizers have kicked off the new year with an exciting roster of national talent including New York Times best-selling graphic novelist Nate Powell, Eisner Award winner Jim Rugg, critically acclaimed car-

toonist and writer Julia Wertz along independent favorites Alex Robinson, Joshua W. Cotter and Mike Dawson in their first wave announcements. announcements are expected soon.

Tickets for the DINK will range from \$20 for a weekend pass to less than \$15 for a single day ticket and will go on sale at noon on Monday, Jan. 11th.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE BEGINS FIRST PHASE OF JOB HIRING FOR THE 2016 FIELD SEASON

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service is hiring more than 600 temporary positions across 17 national forests and seven national grasslands located in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Temporary positions are available in a variety of occupations such as fire, trails, forestry, engineering, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, archeology and administrative support.

The first phase of hiring began Jan. 7- 14, 2016 for wildland fire positions. The second hiring phase will be February 2-8, 2016. Non-fire temporary positions in recreation, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, archaeology and engineering will be hired during the second phase.

The GMUG has 15 wildland fire vacancies to fill as forestry aids and technicians to work on engines and on hand crews for fire suppression. These positions are stationed in Montrose, Grand Junction, Norwood, Collbran and Gunnison. The pay varies depending on the position but ranges between \$10.68 - \$17.43 per hour.

To learn more about positions on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest go to www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/jobs. For more information on jobs with the Rocky Mountain Region go to www.fs.usda.gov/main/r2/jobs. To apply for positions go to go to www.usajobs.gov.

HONOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY IN A NATIONAL PARK FREE ADMISSION AND SPECIAL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE NATIONWIDE

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – On Monday, Jan. 18, national parks throughout the country will commemorate [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#). All national parks will provide free admission for all visitors and many parks will host special events or volunteer service projects.

—We invite all Americans to honor the legacy of Dr. King in a national park,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. —Attend a special event, take part in a volunteer project, or visit a site with a direct connection to this great leader. We are all encouraged to remember the values

of service and commitment to community that Dr. King exemplified throughout his life. Let’s make this holiday truly a day on, not a day off.”

In addition to waiving entrance fees at all national parks, many parks will host programs or volunteer work projects. Following is a partial list, please visit www.nps.gov/findapark/mlk-jr-day.htm for more events and information. Community Vegetable Garden Planting and Wellness Fair at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Louisiana. Invasive Plant Species Removal, Drainage & Inlet Cleaning at Valley Forge National

Historical Park in Pennsylvania. Anacostia River Clean-up with the Student Conservation Association at Anacostia Park in Washington, DC. Dr. Martin Luther King Film Series and Dialogue at George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri. Tsunami Debris Clean-up, Habitat Restoration, and more at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California.

The additional entrance [fee-free days](#) for 2016 will be April 16 through 24, Aug. 25 through 28, Sept. 24, and November 11. Come to a national park and discover the sites and stories of our shared heritage.



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KEEPING THE PUBLIC HEALTHY AND SAFE: MONTROSE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER JIM AUSTIN



As a career environmental health professional, Montrose County Environmental Health Manager Jim Austin believes that getting information out to the people is an essential part of keeping them healthy and safe.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—He has been in Montrose almost three years, and has seen a little of everything. As Montrose County's [Environmental Health Manager](#), Jim Austin can count on plenty of variety on the job.

On any given day, Austin could be performing routine inspections or follow up calls with local establishments, responding to complaints, or just answering questions. Montrose County is contracted through Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to inspect food service establishments; schools and child care centers; body art establishments; and septic haulers.

When it comes to food service establish-

ments, the focus is on the types of violations that could result in food-borne illnesses, Austin said.

—“A restaurant can have a few problems,” he said.

—Equipment could need cleaning, or the floors might be dirty. But those are not the things that will make people ill. Knowing the proper temperature of the food and the behavior of food handlers are key to keeping food safe.

—Proper temperatures, hand washing, pest control, cleaning and sanitizing of equipment and good hygiene are all important for food service workers.”

Public awareness of food safety has increased because of national news coverage, Austin said, and people are no longer afraid to speak up if they see a violation.

As a career environmental health professional, Austin believes that getting information out to the people is an essential part of keeping them healthy and safe.

Questions can range from specific concerns about cottage foods or radon, to what to do about mold and other problems in rental units.

—“People want information and they are not sure where to find it,” Austin said.

—“And there are areas that we don't regulate directly, but which we have lots of information on.”

So what's not regulated? Water in private

wells, for one thing.

—“Drilling and pumps are regulated by the State, but the water quality in private wells is the responsibility of the well owner,”

Austin said. —“So we encourage you to test your well water at least once a year for coliform bacteria. You need to know if there are changes in your drinking water.”

Homeowners are urged to test for Radon as well, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer.

—“A lot of Colorado is at risk for high radon levels,” Austin said.

—“There can be different radon levels within the same neighborhood; we recommend that every homeowner test for radon, because the only way to know whether it is there is to get the test kit and have an analysis done.”

For those who have questions or concerns regarding facilities that actually fall under State jurisdiction, such as landfills and industries that require pollution permits, [CDPHE has a 24-hour response time](#), Austin said. —“This happens to be a state function, but there is clear oversight and regulation in these areas,” he said. —“There are some things we handle locally, and other things we do in tandem with the state health department.” Before moving to Montrose, Austin worked for the City and County of Denver and as a self-employed professional as well. His enthusiasm for working in the field of environmental health has not waned.

—“I enjoy the interaction with people,” he said, —“with the businesses we regulate, and with the citizens who have concerns.”

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DON PAULSON OF OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO LEAD RED MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT WINTER TOUR

Special to the Mirror from the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

RED MOUNTAIN—More than 12 million dollars in silver ore was produced by the Yankee Girl Mine up Red Mountain Pass between 1882 and the late 1890s. Today, the mine is defunct and only a few visitors reach it each winter – usually by snowshoes or skis.

Stories about the mining legacy in the San Juan Mountains as well as the peaks' names will be shared during a guided tour of the Red Mountain mining district on Saturday, Jan. 30.

The special outing is hosted by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), a Ouray County-based nonprofit protecting the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed, and the Ouray County Historical Society.

“The winter scenery is beautiful and the structures in the snow make for very outstanding photos,” said tour guide and Ouray County Museum Curator Don Paulson. “If you love history and being outdoors in the winter this is the trip for you.”

A retired California State University professor, who led research projects and taught organic chemistry, Paulson has always been interested in narrow gauge railroads and Colorado mining.

He began coming to Ouray and researching the area's history in the mid-1970s, and moved here in 2006.

On the mining district tour, “I will tell about the history of the area including the mines, the town of Guston, the Silverton Railroad that ran from Silverton over Red Mountain pass down into the Ironton Valley, and I will identify the mountain peaks and explain how they got their names,” said Paulson, who has authored several books, articles and talks on the area's history, including “Mines, Miners and Much More” published by Twain Press in July 2015.

Tour guests will join him on cross country skis and snowshoes on a route that is about two miles each way on County Road 31 from Highway 550 to the Yankee Girl Mine. The area's most prolific silver producer in the late 1800s, Yankee Girl's head frame is an often-photographed, iconic

structure and visible for miles across Red Mountain Pass. The head frame is the building on top of the 1,500-foot deep shaft that raised and lowered the ore and miners from the mine.

Tour participants will also visit the site of the town of Guston, which has several very photogenic buildings.

“The tour takes place at 10,000 feet so participants should be acclimated to the altitude. It can be taken by any age as long as you're in good physical condition. We have had people from toddlers to 80 year olds on previous trips,” he said.

UWP Project Coordinator Agnieszka Przeszlowska added, “It's a nice way to safely explore the mining district in wintertime. It's also a great way to meet people that enjoy getting outside in the winter.”

TOUR DETAILS:

Date & Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Ouray Visitor Center, 1230 Main St., Ouray, CO 81427 (from there we will carpool to CR 31)

What to Bring: snowshoes, cross country or touring gear, appropriate clothing & accessories to keep you comfy and happy, lunch, water, sunscreen, friends, kids, but please leave your furry friends at home. What we'll bring: refreshments and cookies to complement your lunch.

Registration: spaces are limited to 20.

Do not delay, sign up now! we kindly request a \$25 donation to support our organizations: UWP & OCHS.

Go to uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/2016wintertour

Questions: Contact Judi at UWPcoordinator@gmail.com or 970-325-3010.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE IN OURAY WELCOMES JORDAN CARLS QUARTET JAN. 22

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-Join the Jordan Carls Quartet for an intimate Jazz Cabaret at the Wright Opera House at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22.

Featuring Lane Anderson on trumpet, Gregory Davidson on vocals, Jordan Carls on keyboard and Richard Hansen on bass, this fabulous Montrose-based jazz quartet plays originals and modern takes on great standards of the past, with arrangements designed to highlight Davidson's amazing voice. It's an evening you won't want to miss! Tickets are \$15 per person, seating at tables of 4 and 8 and can be ordered online at www.ocpag.org

About the Jordan Carls Quartet:

The Jordan Carls Quartet, also known as House Blend, is the faculty band of **Precedence Music Academy**. Each member has toured and performed with Grammy winning artists like Paquito D'Rivera, Duke Daniels, the Carl Rosa Opera Company, Phil Collins, Bobby McFerrin, and many others. Oddly enough, all four quartet members grew up in the Montrose area, left for the bright lights of the big cities, and came home again. Davidson worked in New York City for 30 years, singing, performing and teaching at the Metropolitan Opera Company.

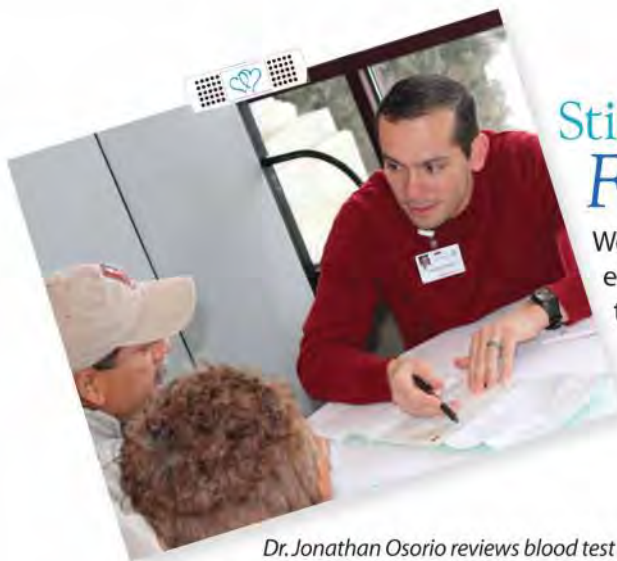
Anderson also worked in New York for 30 years as a professional musician. As a scholar he completed his post-grad work at Juilliard, and has performed and toured with jazz greats and opera companies alike. Hansen is a relative newcomer to the music world, dedicating his considerable talent and energy – previously given to the business world – to performance over the last ten years. And finally, Jordan Carls became a professional musician when he was only 13 years old, foregoing high school to attend college in the pursuit of music's mysteries. He has performed and toured with many Grammy Award-winning artists, produced several albums, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in music education. Together the band plays more than 100 concerts annually. Despite their hectic performance and recording lives, they have all been teachers at heart, and are very happy to share their experience and hard-earned knowledge with their great students.

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Jordan Carls Quartet

Lane Anderson - trumpet
 Gregory Davidson - vocal
 Jordan Carls - keyboard
 Richard Hansen - bass

January 22
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Dr. Jonathan Osorio reviews blood test results at the MMH Health Fair

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We sincerely appreciate your participation and support.



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JANUARY DEATH NOTICES

Mrs. Dorothy F. Woods, 94, passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Arrangements are pending through Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors (970) 240-9870.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK DONATES \$10,000 TO HABITAT

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE- Alpine Bank will present Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans with a \$10,000 check Wednesday morning, Jan. 13th, at 10 a.m. —Alpine Bank has been a partner with our affiliate for years, and in 2015 came on board in an even stronger capacity. Over the course of last year, they donated over \$13,000. It was made clear early on that they were looking for a long-term relationship, knowing that

their partnership would have a greater impact by dedicating their giving over a longer period of time. Their support puts us in a wonderful position at the start of a new year as we look at completing three more homes in Montrose, and are looking to start our first home in Ridgway, which we hope we will have begun by the summer," Habitat Development Director Heather Zeilman said. —Working with the Alpine team is rewarding in that it is both

fun and strategic. Allison Nadel is tireless in her creativity and has presented some ideas for 2016 that are very exciting.

—We anticipate their partnership coming in even bigger by the end of this year than the last. It is an incredible scenario when a partner's giving grows with you — as we have grown, so has our need." The check presentation will take place in front of homes number 50 and 51, located at 222 and 230 Bluegrass Court in Montrose.

This year we are pleased to have Virginia Carlile join as our new Mirror Marketing Director.

To find out our 2016 rates and products

you can reach Virginia Carlile at ginicarlile1321@gmail.com or 970-901-9936.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UP, UP AND AWAY! DIVISION OF INSURANCE: A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW ON DRONE INSURANCE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Congratulations. You followed the holiday trend and are a proud new drone owner. Now what?

Before you fly, make sure you know what you're liable for -- and covered for -- if you crash it.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) estimated that more than one million drones would be sold for personal use this holiday season. Additionally, the FAA estimates that by 2020 more than 30,000 small unmanned drones will be used for business purposes. These numbers don't even include the huge number of drones already in use -- from hobbyists to photographers, farmers to law enforcement. Even if you haven't found yourself heading into the "drone zone" as many others already have, if the message isn't yet clear, operating drones -- whether for personal or commercial use -- pose a number of critical insurance issues to consider before taking flight, ranging from personal injury and property damage to privacy concerns. The Colorado Division of Insurance, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), shares the following tips to help you better understand your responsibilities as a drone owner.

1. Before you take flight, first check your local, state and federal laws regarding drones.

Drones are defined as remotely piloted aircraft systems and are also known as unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). According to the FAA, pilots of unmanned air-

crafts have the same responsibility to fly safely as manned aircraft pilots. In addition, state and local municipalities may have their own laws regarding drone use. Federal regulators have already begun registering civilian drone users in an attempt to address air safety risks posed by these machines. This will allow authorities to trace a drone back to an owner, which means it's vital that you're in compliance with laws and regulations and have the appropriate insurance coverage.

2. Either obtain insurance, or confirm that your current insurance covers drone accidents.

Since UAVs are operated remotely, there's no risk to passengers or crew. However, drones present a significant risk to property and life on the ground in the event of an accident, and the concern is the liability for an accident caused by your drone. Drones can crash due to faulty and inappropriate operation, mechanical defects and component failure. If your drone crashes into someone else's vehicle or a person, the accident is your responsibility. Losses and damages could involve bodily injury to humans and animals as well as buildings and other structures. Using a private drone as a hobby is generally covered under a homeowners or renters insurance policy (subject to a deductible), which typically covers radio-controlled model aircraft. If your drone falls and damages a car (including your own), it may be covered if you have a comprehensive coverage auto policy.

Generally, policies cover liability for an



accident caused by your drone. Check with your agent or insurer to verify your policy contains this important coverage.

3. Your insurance may not cover privacy violations.

Privacy is a legitimate concern when it comes to drone use. Drones are often equipped with on-board cameras and other data-collection capabilities.

You may be excited to use a drone, but how would you feel about your neighbors owning and operating drones near your home? Drones may capture private data that could be harmful or embarrassing if shared. Beyond intentional surveillance, drones may also unintentionally capture images during routine and unrelated flights.

4. Follow drone safety guidelines.

Hobbyists have been flying model aircraft for decades. However, advances in technology allow drones to hover quietly and fly far from their pilot. With some drones weighing up to 55 pounds, a fall from the sky can cause significant damage to property or bystanders.

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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

SIXTH ANNUAL WESTERN SLOPE SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE EVENT TO BE AT DELTA CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS FEB. 11-12

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – the Sixth Annual Western Slope Soil Health Conference will be held on Feb. 11 and 12, 2016 at the Delta Center for Performing Arts, located at 822 Grand Avenue in Delta.

This conference is the premier area educational event designed to educate producers, orchardists, ranchers, government officials, and the broad community about ways to increase organic matter and increase the health of our soils by using cover crop, green manure, grazing, composting, entomology and other sustainable practices.

Nationally renowned speakers Gabe Brown and Jay Fuhrer will highlight the 2016 conference. The conference will feature a mixture of keynote speakers, 2015

local cover crop date and testing information, as well as breakout sessions. Keynote Speakers Gabe Brown will present *Holistic Regeneration of Our Lands, a Producers Prospective*. Keynote Speaker Jay Fuhrer will present *Its Not Just Dirt Anymore!* Each will also be part of several breakout sessions. Local experts Katie Alexander and Steve Woodis will discuss the *Local Cover Crop Results*, which will provide details on a number of local producers who utilize cover crops.

Soil health is critical to the future of agricultural production on the Western Slope of Colorado.

With a contingent of concerned farmers as well as community groups and government officials the Western Slope has been able to take soil health education and im-

plement techniques and specifically adjust them for the local area. As pressure on agricultural production increase, soil health practices can insure that the Western Slopes agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability.

Delta County Economic Development is the fiscal and administrative agent for the Western Slope Soil Health Conference. Understanding that soil is a treasure, DCED in conjunction with NRCS, local conservation districts as well as individuals active in the agricultural community have come together to prepare the Sixth Annual Western Slope Soil Health Conference. For more information please visit www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.com or call DCED at 970-874-4992.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK PROGRAM BENEFITS LOCAL NONPROFITS

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS-As of Nov. 30, 2015, Alpine Bank has donated \$746,485.00 to local nonprofit groups and projects through funds generated from the Loyalty Debit Card program. Alpine Bank launched the Loyalty Debit Card program in 1997, and it has become a unique and easy way for customers to give back to their communities. For every transaction completed with a Loyalty Debit Card, Alpine Bank donates 10 cents to benefit local nonprofit organizations and community projects within each card's respective focus and customer's geographical location.

There are six areas supported by the program: Arts – provides a unique opportunity to help fund arts and culture in the community.

Community – benefits organizations that meet, support, and strengthen human needs.

Education – offers support to local school-related programs.

Environment – helps local groups restore, preserve, and protect the ecosystems that are important to our daily lives.

Colorado Mountain College – benefits the CMC Foundation's general scholarships fund for nontraditional students.

Americas – a partnership with Latin-American community projects to support, integrate, and celebrate their heritage.

“We genuinely appreciate the participation of our customers,” said Alpine Bank Chairman Bob Young. “The success of our Loyalty Debit Card program is a wonderful reflection of your commitment to our communities and we thank you for your support.” These special cards are available with no annual fee to individuals with an Alpine Bank checking account.

Determined at the end of November, the 2015 donation summaries for each category are as follows:

\$44,746.20 for Arts, \$222,314.60 for Community, \$237,624.90 for Education, \$176,756.80 for Environment, \$37,500.00 for Colorado Mountain College and \$27,542.50 for Americas.

About Alpine Bank

Alpine Bank is a \$2.7 billion, employee-owned organization chartered in 1973 with headquarters in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

With 38 banking offices across Colorado, Alpine Bank employs nearly 600 people and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, wealth management*, mortgage and electronic banking services. Alpine Bank was recently elevated to a 5-star rating for financial strength by BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading bank rating firm. The 5-star rating is BauerFinancial's highest rating for financial institutions. Learn more at

www.alpinebank.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EIGHT MEDICAL STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Curecanti Medical Society (CMS) proudly announces that eight area students have been awarded scholarships in honor of the late Doctor George G. Balderston.

Scholarship recipients include Bev Roth, Kayla Sanders, Kate Wogan, Andrew Beard, Marietta King, Mike Adcock, Edward Medina, and Kelsey Weaver. Each student was awarded between \$750 and \$1,000 to further their education.

The awardees' educational pursuits are varied, with students participating in numerous medical programs to enhance their skills.

"We're proud of the way these students have applied themselves & demonstrated their dedication to improving themselves and to their future contributions to our community," said Dr. Gayle Frazzetta, Vice President of the Curecanti Medical Society.

Originating over 30 years ago, the CMS Scholarship program was developed to assist students in pursuing a career in the medical field.

The Montrose area physicians of the CMS fund the scholarships, which are awarded annually by the Curecanti Medical Society.



Pictured from left: Dr. Gayle Frazzetta, Curecanti Medical Society, Bev Roth, RN, pursuing a Master's in Public Health degree, Kayla Sanders, enrolled in a Practical Nurse program, Kate Wogan, pursuing a Master's in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner degree, Andrew Beard, RN, pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree in nurs-

ing, Marietta King, enrolled in a Licensed Practical Nurse program, and Mike Adcock, enrolled in a Licensed Practical Nurse program.

Not pictured: Edward Medina, pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing, and Kelsey Weaver, enrolled in a Licensed Practical Nurse program.

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ONGOING-

LARK AND SPARROW VENUE-Fridays beginning in February-Every Friday from 4:30 to 7 pm : Sparrow's Social Hour, Live @ 5 ... Music by Local Artists in Sparrow's Library. 7:30 pm : Lark's Skylight Jazz Club. Live Jazz Weekly : The House Blend Combo & Guest Artists. Every Third Friday : Cabaret "Open" Stage.

MONTROSE WINTER FARMERS MARKET 10 am - 1pm **Beginning Saturday Jan. 2, 2015**

Location: Behind Straw Hat Farm Kitchen Store

*514 S. 1st Street (Every other week through April 23) **January 2, 16, 31; February 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9, 23.***

THE ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets every second Tuesday at St Mary's Catholic Church in the St Paul Room, 1855 St Mary's Drive, Montrose. The Public is welcome to attend. For more information, email alpinephotoclub@aol.com.

FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC-LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, Montrose County Courthouse (Leslie German self-help center) at 1200 North Grand, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid and the 7th Judicial District Bar Association. Call 970-249-7202 for information.

FREE JAM SESSION AND SING ALONG, Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM-"Montrose County Historical Society Presents" is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

MONTROSE STAMP (PHILATELIC) CLUB meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 420 Alta Lakes Dr. from 7-8pm. For Beginners to Pros! Please contact Brenda Moureaux at 970-765-6948 for more information.

MONTHLY-

Jan. 13-Western Slope Nonprofit Council presents a workshop on "Great Human Resources" in Montrose from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the Montrose Public Library, 320 S. Second St. The guest presenter of "Great Human Resources" is Michaelle Smith. The fee is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. The link for online registration is <http://ccrcaamerica.org/rural-philanthropy-days/regional-websites/western-slope/capacity-building-opportunities/>. If you can't make the Montrose workshop, it will also be offered in Gunnison (Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-noon) and in Grand Junction (Jan. 15, 9 a.m.-noon). For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, maryo@cfqv.org, 970-641-3570.

Jan. 14-17-Second Annual Telluride Fire Festival. For more about the Festival, to become a sponsor, volunteer, or submit a fire installation for consideration, or subscribe to their enews, visit www.telluridefirefestival.org or email erin@telluridefirefestival.org.

Jan. 14-17-21st Annual Ouray Ice Climbing Festival, Ouray Ice Park. For info visit the web site.

Jan. 15-At 7:30 p.m. - "The Last Lifeboat", a drama of the untold tale of the man who built the Titanic, J. Bruce Ismay, at Magic Circle Theatre. Ticket information: 970-249-7838 or visit the Magic Circle Theatre box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesday through Thursday, 2 to 5 p.m. Visit the website at www.magiccircleplayers.com for information or online tickets.

Jan. 16-The KAFM RADIO ROOM Proudly Presents Robert Burns — Selected Works and the Music of Fifth Reel at 7:30 PM. Grand Junction's own Celtic band, Fifth Reel and friends will share many of Burns' most treasured songs and poems, and will play the hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys and reels that define Scottish Traditional Music. Fifth Reel is: Connie Smith, Norm Ashley, Mick Wilson, and Ron Young. They will be joined by special guests: Vocalist Kathleen Ruhleder, President of Clan Cameron Robert Cameron, Highland dancers Sarah Reed and Kim Kelleher, and piper Connor Wilson. Together they will create a multi-dimensional presentation truly honoring the star of this show, Robert Burns, and Scotland's traditional music. Scottish attire is admired but not required! Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext 202 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Jan. 16-7:30 p.m. - "The Last Lifeboat", a drama of the untold tale of the man who built the Titanic, J. Bruce Ismay, at Magic Circle Theatre. Ticket information: 970-249-7838 or visit the Magic Circle Theatre box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesday through Thursday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Visit the website at www.magiccircleplayers.com for information or online tickets.

Jan. 17-Open House, Coalition to find new uses for CSU's Rogers Mesa facility. All are welcome. Rogers Mesa Experimental Station on Hwy 92 three miles west of Hotchkiss. Noon to 2 p.m.

Jan. 17-2 p.m. - "The Last Lifeboat", a drama of the untold tale of the man who built the Titanic, J. Bruce Ismay, at Magic Circle Theatre. Ticket information: 970-249-7838 or visit the Magic Circle Theatre box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesday through Thursday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Visit the website at www.magiccircleplayers.com for information or online tickets.

Jan. 21-22-The 2016 Voices of Rural Colorado Denver Legislative Trip hosted by CLUB 20, Action 22, and Progressive 15 will be held on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21st -22nd, at the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Colorado State Capitol at 200 E Colfax, Denver. For an updated agenda of meetings, click here. To register for Club 20's Rural Legislative Trip click here.

Jan. 22-23-The Western Colorado 4th Annual Food & Farm Forum will be held all day on Jan. 22nd and 23rd. Register NOW to get the early bird special. This year's conference theme is *Farming the Future: Tools, Tips, Talent*. The conference has a wide array of breakout sessions which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops. Tickets: \$30 Early Bird Pre-conference, \$45 Early Bird Forum, \$70 Early Bird Both. For info visit foodfarmforum.org, or email vista@livewellmontroseatthe.org. Reach us by phone at: 970.249.0705.

Jan. 22-7:30 p.m. - "The Last Lifeboat", a drama of the untold tale of the man who built the Titanic, J. Bruce Ismay, at Magic Circle Theatre. Ticket information: 970-249-7838 or visit the Magic Circle Theatre box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesday through Thursday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Visit the website at www.magiccircleplayers.com for information or online tickets.

Jan 22-Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum Pre-Conference Workshops: *Minimum Till Equipment and Management Options* features equipment and GPS systems at US Tractor followed by local farm tour. *Sustaining or Regenerating Our Agricultural Lands?*, examines the principles and practices of permaculture, bio-dynamics, and holistic management. Offered concurrently 1-4:30 p.m. Details and registration at www.foodfarmforum.org or 249-0705.

Jan 22--Jazz Cabaret at the Wright Opera House in Ouray at 7:30 p.m.— Jordan Carls Quartet (House Blend) — presented by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild — info and tickets at www.ocpag.org.



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