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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 158, Feb. 22 2016

FLIGHTS ALLIANCE SOARS WITH NEW ROUTES, SERVICE! *City lowers funding in 2016 due to capital projects*



Colorado Flights Alliance has announced that it will add routes and big jumps in service this summer. Photo of Montrose Regional Airport by Dave Bernier.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-Those who depend on Colorado's highways to get back and forth from the Eastern Slope have faced long detours this winter, thanks to Mother Nature and massive rock fall events in Glenwood Canyon. But for air travelers, flight options abound—just ask Colorado Flights Alliance Executive Director Matt Skinner.

"We were able to double Colorado Flights' Summer service last year," Skinner said, "and we're looking at added routes and big jumps in service this summer as well. We really have had great success over the last few years, and are contributing to our recovering economy."

The Colorado Flights Alliance is funded by a variety of sources, with the shared goal of attracting and retaining air service partnerships through risk mitigation. According to the web site, Colorado Flights has provided 1.13 million air seats into the region since 2004, for a total of more than 830,000 passenger trips, infusing the region with an estimated \$300 Million in direct spending. With a 2.75 multiplier,

Continued on page 3

SMALL LIQUOR STORES, CRAFT BREWERS AT RISK! *Still, 'Keep Colo Local' ads banned from Oktoberfest by City*

By Caitlin Switzer

COLORADO-Apparently, Colorado's new residents mostly learn about 3.2 percent beer during Super Bowl parties, when they find nobody will drink the beer they purchased from a grocery store. At least, that's how it appears if you follow an ongoing PR campaign on behalf of Colorado's 2015-2016 [Ballot initiatives 60 and 61](#), liquor law changes that would allow stores that sell food to also sell full-strength wine and beer.

Writer Jerilyn Forsythe of 5280 Magazine penned the following paragraph regarding grocery store beer in 2013, "Embarrassingly, my first introduction to this weak swill...was at a Super Bowl party—with a 12 pack that I had brought. Of course, when hosts and partygoers discovered the beer was bought at a grocery store, it was left untouched and, I imagine, later thrown out."

A similar experience can now be found on the web site, Your [Choice Colorado](#), [penned by Northern Colorado](#)

Continued on page 10



House of Spirits owner Dominick LaJoy said that if the laws are passed, consumers will have fewer choices for craft beers and locally produced items. Many independent liquor stores could also be forced to cut staff or close, he said.

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Club Connection!

MEDC Annual
Luncheon Meeting!

UVWUA Update,
Fletcher resigns!

DMEA Opposes Tri-
State Action!

WCC capital
Update!

THE ELEMENTS OF HEALTH...MILAGRO-ELEMENTS WELLNESS OPENS IN LOMO, RIBBON CUTTING AND GIVEAWAYS PLANNED FOR THURSDAY FEB. 25!



The Milagro-Elements Wellness Center will host open house Feb. 25, with giveaways and a ribbon cutting.



Licensed Massage Therapist Dan Mohr.

tic LoMo neighborhood even more enticing! Six providers have joined together to bring an array of quality services to the loca-

tion, including massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, as well as aesthetician and skin care services. Bring yourself in for an hour or a full day of rejuvenation, and refresh your mind as well as body.

"We all need wellness," Massage Therapist and Co-Owner Dan Mohr said. "So we are creating a whole health and wellness

center, for the mind, body and spirit. We have a movement studio as well, with private yoga sessions."

As a specialist in Neuromuscular Massage, Mohr has been in practice for more than 22 years, and said he is very excited to be part of the LoMo business community.

"We are two doors down from Amazing Glaze, and right across the street from Chow Down Pet Supplies," he said. "It's so much fun to be here, and the neighborhood is pretty cool." On Thursday, Feb. 25 Milagro-Elements Wellness will host a ribbon cutting and open house event at 4 p.m., with a reception from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

"We would love to have people stop by, because we will be giving away massages, skin care packages, chair massages, aesthetician services, brow tinting and waxing."

Visit the web site (soon to be updated) to learn more, call [970-209-4376](tel:970-209-4376) or visit www.milagrowellness.com.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE- The Milagro-Elements Wellness Center is now open at 205 East Main Street, making the popular and eclectic

DMEA SEEKS NOMINEES TO FILL CHARITABLE TRUST VACANCIES

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) Operation Round Up Charitable Trust is seeking to fill two upcoming vacancies for their District #3 and North Region trustee positions. Trustees serve three-year terms and are limited to a total of four terms. They are responsible for distributing donations from the funds collected through DMEA's Operation Round Up program.

Operation Round Up is a charitable giving program funded directly by DMEA members. Participating members choose to round up their monthly electric bill. The rounded up portions from all participating member bills are deposited into a separate account and are used to grant donations to worthwhile organizations, projects, chari-

ties, and individuals.

Trustees are responsible for reviewing applications and granting donations on behalf of the cooperative. The trust is made up of nine volunteers who represent different geographic regions within DMEA's service territory. DMEA is currently accepting nominations to fill two vacancies that will be available in the spring. Interested members must be residents of District #3 or the North Region. To submit your name for consideration contact, Becky Mashburn, DMEA Marketing and PR Administrator at becky.mashburn@dmea.com or (970) 240-1263. District and Region information: District #3 includes Somerset, Crawford, Paonia, Hotchkiss and the rural surrounding areas. The North Region includes the

northern half of the co-op's service territory from approximately halfway between Olathe and Delta to the northern boundary. To confirm in which district you reside, contact DMEA at 1-877-687-3632.

Learn more about DMEA's Operation Round Up program online at <http://www.dmea.com/content/operation-roundup>. DMEA is a rural electric distribution cooperative, located in Montrose, Colorado. DMEA was originally founded in 1938, as Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Association. A board of directors from nine districts covering three counties governs the cooperative. DMEA serves approximately 32,000 residential, commercial and industrial meters, on over 3,000 miles of cooperative owned distribution line.



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THE MONTROSE MIRROR
MONTROSE

FLIGHTS ALLIANCE SOARS WITH NEW ROUTES, SERVICE! From pg 1

the total economic benefit is estimated at \$850 Million. However, minutes from a recent Flights Alliance meeting reveal that funding from the City of Montrose will decrease this year, due to planned capital expenditures on the part of the City.

"Historically we have enjoyed great support from both the Montrose County and the City," Skinner said.

"But the City is facing some capital challenges right now."

A 2013 Economic Impact Study for Colorado Airports Technical Report assessed the economic output of the Montrose Regional Airport to be \$221,260,000. And according to numbers released by Montrose County earlier this year, the number of flights and enplanements is climbing. In 2015, the Montrose Regional Airport (MTJ) reached a passenger milestone, with more than 100,000 people in both enplanements and deplanements, the release stated. Enplanements, or the number of people departing from Montrose, and deplanements, or the number of people arriving in

Montrose, are key markers for the airport. In both categories, this represents a nearly 30,000 passenger increase over the previous year's numbers. Specifically, enplanements were 102,030 and deplanements were 102,592—jumping from 88,825 and 86,309 in 2014 respectively. The monthly numbers took a large jump in December with the kick-off of the ski season at MTJ.

"This number is key to the health of the airport, success of the Colorado Flights Alliance, and diligent work of Aviation Director Lloyd Arnold," said Montrose County Commissioner Glen Davis. "We anticipated surpassing this number in the next few years, so December's surge was a welcome surprise. As the airport is the largest economic driver in the region, we are continuing to look for new ways to address the increase in passengers."

According to its web site, Colorado Flights currently partners with United, Delta, American and Allegiant airlines on non-stop winter service to the Montrose Regional Airport from Chicago, Newark,



Montrose Regional Airport. Montrose County courtesy photo.

Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Phoenix and Los Angeles, in coordination with Denver-Montrose service, and also supports Denver-Telluride service. Colorado Flights works with United and American on non-stop summer service from Houston and Dallas to Montrose, in coordination with Denver-Montrose service.

"We are just excited to add service, and to be a driver for moving our regional economy forward!" Skinner said.

To learn more about Colorado Flights Alliance, visit them online at <http://coloradoflights.org/>.

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SCOTT RIBA INFORMS BOCC OF UPCOMING REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FORUMS, TIMOTHY R. TINAZA APPOINTED TO MMH BOARD



Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, including the 2016 loan agreement with the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force for the A-7 on display at Montrose Regional Airport, above. Courtesy photo.

Mirror Staff report

MONTROSE-Republican voters have a number of local forum opportunities to meet and learn about the candidates who are running for office in 2016. Montrose Republican Party Chair Scott Riba shared information about a host of upcoming events during public comment time at the Feb. 16 meeting of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners (BOCC). "There will be a County Candidate forum for all candidates for the Board of County Commissioners and for the office of Clerk & Recorder at the Montrose High School cafeteria on Feb. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m., for

candidates to introduce themselves to the public and field questions," Riba said. "On March 5 there will be a County candidate forum at Friendship Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The candidates will be able to conduct mini "meet and greets," and then there will be one hour of questions from the public." From 5 to 8 p.m. that same evening, also at Friendship Hall, will be the Western Slope Republican US Senate Candidate Forum. "Eleven candidates have announced on the Republican side, and ten have already committed to attending," Riba said, and noted that this will be the only U.S. Senate Candidate forum on the

Western Slope.

"This is good information for the voters and those going to the State assemblies." The forum will be presented live on Facebook by the Colorado GOP, which has close to 40,000 followers, he said. "Hopefully we will be able to fill that hall."

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, including the 2016 loan agreement with the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force for the A-7 on display at Montrose Regional Airport; and a \$25,000 Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for professional services related to develop-

ment of a site development plan for a parking area and related facilities. Also on the consent agenda was authorization of the 2016 Montrose County Annual Operating Plan agreement between local and County wildland fire agencies and the Colorado Division for Fire Prevention and Control for the management and suppression of wildland fires in Montrose County. General business and administrative items approved included the appointment of Timothy R. Tinaza to the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for a five year term; and approval of an Ambulance Service License and Permit for Transcare Ambulance, taking an old ambulance out of service and replacing it with a newer ambulance.

The final item approved was approval of a letter for delegation of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) access permitting responsibility. Commissioner David White asked County Engineer Dean Cooper for information on the reason for the letter. Cooper said that the letter relates to the access permit for the Uncompahgre Pit, which pit owners are under a mandate to obtain. "This keeps us a third party, but retains authority and control over T-Road," Cooper said.

"This gives permission to make modifications to their designs as they deem necessary; it's all just part of the process. We still get to review and approve their plans." The letter was unanimously approved.



**Men's
Sizes
7-13**



**Women's
Sizes
5-11**



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March 28 ~ 1:00- 2:00 pm

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MIRROR IMAGES...GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!



Above, Ryan and Tanner of Crystal Fletcher's Girl Scout Troop #12637 sold cookies in front of Norris-Snell Real Estate on Saturday, Feb. 20. At right, the scouts had help from a little brother and mom Laura Bielak.

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AFTER 34 YEARS, FLETCHER STEPS DOWN FROM UVWUA



UVWUA Mgr. since 2011, Steve Fletcher has resigned. Mirror file photo.

By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL-Steve Fletcher, 34-year employee and General Manager of Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA), is the latest casualty in the scandal that has rocked the organization and the community.

A sordid history of “pranks” and retaliation came under public scrutiny when a Workers’ Compensation Claim filed by former employee Bill Bailey against the UVWUA and their insurer came to light. Bailey, a nine-year employee, was terminated for insubordination in May of 2015.

Bailey’s supervisor, water master Aaron English, a 16-year employee, resigned prior to the UVWUA annual meeting on February 2nd, and General Manager Fletcher resigned on Feb. 16.

UVWUA, a private corporation, is not required to release information to the public.

President of the Board Ray Schmalz choose not to disclose any personnel issues, or possible severance packages; however, he confirmed that English and Fletcher were not fired, but resigned.

Schmalz said, “The media does not have the whole story; there is more to it.” Generally speaking, the media has been limited to the transcript of the “Findings of Fact, conclusions of Law, and Order” in which statements from English and Fletcher are self-incriminating.

Moving forward, board member Steve Anderson, who has a background in construction and engineering, has temporarily stepped down from the board and will serve as interim general manager until a new general manager can be found.

President Schmalz said, “There will be some changes because we have vacancies to fill, but we don’t expect a lot until we

find the right person to hire as a general manager. When we get a new manager we’ll see what changes he wants to make.”

On Feb. 17th the board met with employees to explain what was now taking place and Schmalz said, “It was a very positive meeting and we’re ready to move forward.”

Under past management the UVWUA seemed to place a greater emphasis on public relations and President Schmalz acknowledged that hydro power has dominated the community discussion in recent years.

“We think the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users is the most important company in the valley.”



UVWUA sign photo by Gail Marvel.

The UVWUA board meetings, which are for members only, are held on the third Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is March 21st.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA OPPOSES EFFORT TO LIMIT LOCAL RENEWABLES

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL--On Feb. 17, DMEA learned that its wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, filed a legal action that threatens DMEA's efforts to bring renewable generation -- and the possibility of tremendous economic development -- to DMEA's service territory.

Tri-State's February 17 filing before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C., asks FERC to approve a rate penalty on utilities like

DMEA when they purchase electricity from local renewable generation projects.

DMEA is obligated by a 1978 federal law called PURPA (the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act) to buy energy from local renewable generation facilities.

In 2015, DMEA obtained a ruling from FERC that these renewable purchases were required -- notwithstanding contrary provisions in DMEA's partial requirements power supply contract with Tri-State.

Tri-State's filing yesterday with FERC essentially seeks to undo this ruling. If

successful, Tri-State's proposal would let it impose a "lost revenue recovery fee" when DMEA makes the required renewable energy purchases.

"This 'lost revenue recovery fee' jeopardizes the viability of those local renewable generation projects that DMEA members have requested for years, and which would bolster our suffering local economy," said Bill Patterson, DMEA's Board President.

"DMEA will oppose the fee because we believe it violates federal law and is an attempt to make a one-sided change the DMEA/Tri-State contract."

Patterson remarked, "DMEA is a forward thinking member-owned cooperative. We believe that it is in the best interest of our members, our communities, and our local economy to obtain power from our own resource-rich backyard.

Developing local renewable generation is a great opportunity for our communities to thrive as we move into the future. While we continue to work toward embracing the changes in our industry and toward improving our local economy, Tri-State's proposed fee will penalize us for our efforts."

DMEA will soon be asking its members and supporters in the broader community to submit letters to FERC opposing Tri-State's proposed "lost revenue recovery fee." The cooperative expects to have more information regarding FERC deadlines and letter submission procedures in the next week. DMEA is a rural electric distribution cooperative, located in Montrose, Colorado.

DMEA was originally founded in 1938, as Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Association. A board of directors from nine districts covering three counties governs the cooperative. DMEA serves approximately 32,000 residential, commercial and industrial meters, on over 3,000 miles of cooperative owned distribution line.

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COULD INITIATIVES 60, 61 SPELL THE END FOR INDEPENDENTS?

From page 1

[Safeway District Manager Jay Gomez this month.](#) “When I first moved to Colorado 11 years ago, I brought 3.2 percent from my local Safeway to my neighbor’s football party. Play after play, the beer sat there. Nobody drank it, but me. As the new guy, I took it personally. I thought their refusal meant they didn’t like me. Someone finally told me that it was 3.2 percent beer. In my defense, I didn’t even know 3.2 percent beer existed until I moved here. I’m originally from Washington, which stocks real beer and wine in grocery stores.”

The similarity of these accounts is no accident, opponents of the ballot initiatives say.

House of Spirits owner Dominick LaJoy said that much of the energy behind the two ballot initiatives is coming from a large out-of-state lobbying organization and public relations push.

After trying to ascertain just who was funding the PR campaign, LaJoy found himself blocked from the Choice Colorado Facebook site.

“They’re trying to lure you in by promising one stop shopping,” LaJoy said. “But what it will mean here is less choice in the stores for food—because to put beer in, they will take something off the shelves. And it will mean more hours for me to work, and less that I can pay other people to work—I will have to cut back on staffing. Everybody will.

“But the people I employ live here, work here, and shop here,” he said.

LaJoy said that he would hope to be able to compete with the large breweries when it comes to prices, but pointed out that mega-retailers have more leverage when it comes to making deals.

Those supporting the initiatives claim that Colorado’s restrictions on wine and beer sales outside of traditional liquor stores is unfair, and that changing the law will benefit both brewers and consumers. Under the heading, \$125 MILLION IN NEW CRAFT BEER SALES, the [Your Choice Colorado web site](#) states, “It doesn’t make sense that 42 other states can buy our craft beer or local wine in grocery stores but Coloradans cannot. Here in Colorado, many small businesses have found their first customers on grocery stores’ shelves. Our state’s winemakers and over 300 brewers deserve that same growth opportunity and shoppers deserve to be able to buy their favorite Colorado pro-

duce, craft beer or wine in one stop.”

However, opponents of the change say that it will mean the death of small, independent liquor stores, and will decimate the craft brew industry for which Colorado is famous while reducing the variety of choices available to consumers.

“Mom and pop stores like ours will go out of business,” said Liz McCannel, who manages The Liquor Store in Montrose’s Oxbow Crossing shopping center. “Most people think they will be able to get craft brews at the grocery store like they do now at the smaller stores, but the beloved brews created right here will never see shelf space. And 40 percent of us will be out of business within six months.

“Kroger-City Market and Safeway have vowed to spend \$30 million on this campaign,” she added.

With 15,082 independently owned liquor stores in the state, a vote for these initiatives means a vote against locally-owned businesses, she said. And though the issue has come up before—six times to be exact—it keeps returning.

According to [Keep Colorado Local](#), which opposes ballot initiatives 60 and 61, the economic impacts of the bill will be devastating if Colorado voters approve the change. With 15,000 state residents now employed by small, independent liquor stores; a craft brewing industry worth \$1.15 billion; and more than 310 craft breweries, the initiatives would cost Colorado \$240 million in lost revenues in the first five years alone, opponents say.

Here on the Western Slope, where small businesses are a way of life for many, it’s personal.

“I opened this store and set it up, and I have lived in this area my whole life,” McCannel said. “Not only are they going to affect my livelihood, but the livelihoods of all who work for us. We have the inventory here—I poured my heart and soul into this store because I am passionate about it—and our region includes two of the top five breweries to watch in the state. People will come here from out of state looking for our great craft brews, and if this passes, all they will be able to find will be Miller and Coors.”

Colorado is currently ranked third in the nation for the number of small, craft [breweries according to a study released by the Colorado Brewers Guild](#). “Craft breweries, and especially brewpubs, are inherently labor intensive, making the economic im-



Independent liquor stores oppose the changes to Colorado’s liquor laws by ballot initiatives 60 and 61. Above, a banner at The Liquor Store in Oxbow Crossing.

pacts fundamentally local,” the study states.

Another consideration will be underage drinking, McCannel said. “My cashiers are all trained; this law failed the last time because it would have allowed 18-year-olds working in grocery stores to sell full strength wine and beer.”

LaJoy agreed that enforcement of drinking age laws will be tougher if the law is changed. For the purposes of the two ballot initiatives, food stores are defined as those retail (non-restaurant) establishments that sell food and derive more than 25 percent of their gross annual income, based on total sales, from food.

“When people have had too much, I cut them off,” he said. “Do we want that at our grocery and convenience stores? Do we want people behind the wheel, buying full strength beer at the gas station? Who’s going to check I.D.? When I am here, I am focused on liquor, because that is my business.”

Events like the Montrose Oktoberfest could also be impacted, due to the law’s impact on the small breweries and distilleries that support such events. As a longtime sponsor of Oktoberfest, McCannel said she was saddened when the assistant city manager of Montrose refused to allow [Keep Colorado Local](#) to have a presence or advertise there. The Liquor Store will sponsor a special event at the Bridges March 4, to showcase the rich diversity of locally produced beverages and foods. “It will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m.,” McCannel said. “We will have three distilleries, two breweries and two wineries there; to celebrate local foods and remind people of one of the reasons why we love Colorado.”

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS MOUNTAIN, URBAN FOREST HEALTH CONCERNS IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS— Millions of acres of Colorado's native forestlands have been impacted by bark beetles in the past two decades, and now an exotic tree pest – the emerald ash borer (EAB) – is threatening the state's planted urban forests. The potential economic impacts of EAB in the Metro Denver area alone could be as high as \$82 million annually, based on a loss of services provided by the canopy of existing ash trees susceptible to the pest.

The *2015 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests*, distributed today by the Colorado State Forest Service at the annual Joint Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Hearing at the State Capitol, details forest health challenges and solutions around the state. The theme of this year's report is "15 Years of Change," featuring a broad look at the decade-and-a-half the CSFS has produced these reports on the state of Colorado's forests, as well as an overview of the most current issues.

"Threats to Colorado's forests aren't just located high in the mountains. They're in our communities, in our largest cities, on our Eastern Plains, and everywhere that we benefit from trees," said Mike Lester, State Forester and Director of the CSFS. "The actions we take now will set the stage for our future forests and the benefits they provide." Highlights of information in this year's report include:

An estimated 15 percent or more of Colorado's urban and community trees are ash, and susceptible to infestation by the highly destructive EAB.

Spruce beetle infestations have now impacted more than 1.5 million acres across Colorado, while mountain pine beetle infestations remain at low levels following a 3.4 million-acre, two-decade long outbreak. Healthy forested watersheds are key to providing clean water, and nearly 64 million people obtain drinking water derived from Western forests.

Colorado's wildland-urban interface

(WUI) population grew from 980,000 people in 2000 to more than 2 million people in 2012, but the state boasts 128 Firewise Communities/USA – ranking second in the nation. More than \$8 million in state funding, combined with matching funds, has allowed for the treatment of 18,000 forest acres in Colorado since 2007.

More than 90 percent of wood-based products Coloradans use are imported. Each year, Colorado forest health reports provide information to the Colorado General Assembly and residents of Colorado about the health and condition of forests across the state, including recent data, figures and maps. Information for the reports is derived from an annual aerial forest health survey by the CSFS and the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, as well as field inspections, CSFS contacts with forest landowners and special surveys. Copies of the 2015 report are available at all CSFS district offices and at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>.

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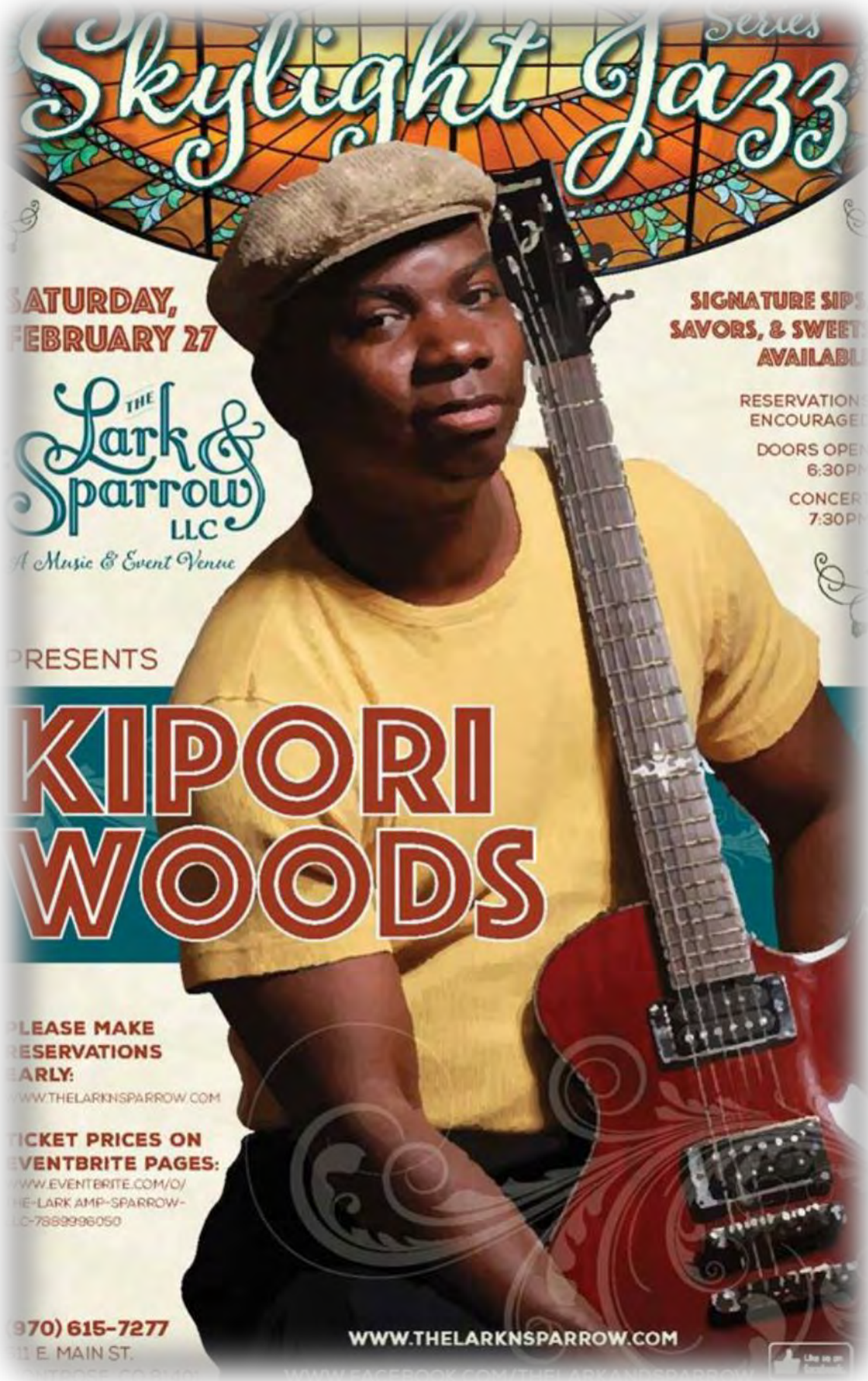
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WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

CHIPETA CHAPTER COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) is the second largest chapter in the State, with Denver being the largest. Established in 1935, the Chipeta Chapter has the distinction of being the longest consecutively active chapter in the State. Current membership numbers 135, which includes individuals and families. Annual dues range from \$20 for seniors, to \$35 for families. The quarterly "Southwest Lore" journal is included with individual and family memberships.

Members must sign a Code of Ethics and pledge to "Encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources," and "Respect the property rights of landowners." Chapter activities include field trips, site stewardship volunteers, classes, scholarships and guest speakers for monthly meetings. Meetings are open to the community and free of charge, however non-members are asked to contribute a few dollars to a money basket to help defray the cost of bringing in speakers.

A strength for this club is their active membership and a weakness is that no one has stepped forward and volunteered to be

the president. Member Bill Harris said, "A lot of clubs have problems with leadership. People want to be involved, but they don't want responsibility [of an office]. Dan Elsner is our new vice president."

For the Feb. 16th meeting there were about 100 in attendance. The speaker for the evening was the Director of the Barrier Canyon Style Project (BSC), David Sucec who is a visual artist, independent curator and scholar from Salt Lake City, Utah. "The BSC Project is in the process of creating a photographic inventory of Utah's Oldest prehistoric painting style — the Barrier Canyon style."

To a novice the subject of rock art has the potential to be dry, dusty and over their heads. However, Sucec prefaced his remarks, "If you know your topic you can talk about it so people understand." Mr. Sucec held the attention of the audience with his two-and-a-half-hour PowerPoint presentation.

Sucec used an artist's eye to discuss spirit figure rock art that was 5,000-6,000 years-old. "We have over 417 sites and more rock art than any other place, except maybe Australia." The range of techniques used in the rock art can be compared to modern contemporary art. Some elements

are classical, while others are composites and different variations.

"The image makers were finely attuned to seeing the world. It's not innovative or creative if you just do [paint] what was done in the past."

In 1970 the Barrier Canyon was designated as a distinctive style. "In the Barrier Canyon style, the dominant figure is almost always without appendages and has a ghost or spirit like appearance...the Spirit Figure."

Spirit figures, such as the titled "Holy Ghost and Attendees," depict unusual figures that are not of the physical world. Sucec said, "Spirit figures are not solid like citizen figures, not your everyday person, they seem to disappear. From the artist's point of view, art has its own life."

The March 16 meeting will feature Paul Reed who will speak on the Greater Chaco Landscape.

Contact Information:

Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

Meets at the United Methodist Church
19 South Park Ave.

Montrose, Co

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Carol Paterson 252-8679.

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TRAVEL RECON CEO, FORMER AMBASSADOR SPEAK AT MEDC LUNCH



Prior to the MEDC annual meeting Travel Recon CEO Toby Houchens (left) talks with former Ambassador to Oman Gary Grappo. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—More than 125 investors and supporters of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) attended the annual meeting held on Feb. 19, 2016. Attendee Jim Elder, Chief Financial Advisor for ElderAdo Financial said, “This is the one meeting of the year where you can meet and network with business people in our community.”

MEDC is a private corporation, however they are often the brunt of criticism from some in the community who feel that partnering with government entities for incentives to attract new businesses is not a good use of taxpayers funds.

Written in the MEDC annual report Board President Buck Miller countered, “Let’s review some facts. In 2008, MEDC surveyed 23 companies that have received assistance from MEDC with 18 companies responding.

Those companies provided 1,250 direct jobs and \$33.5 million in direct payroll each year. Those direct jobs and payroll generate 1,550 indirect jobs and \$26.5 million indirect payroll. These companies received a one time incentive of \$1.6 million. So a \$1.6 million dollar one time incentive yields 2,800 jobs and \$60 million in annual payroll in our community.”

MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head began the meeting by recognizing elected officials and candidates running for office in upcoming April and November elections who were in attendance.

Head stressed the importance of partnerships and relationships, “Relationships are built over time. We have the most diverse group that we’ve ever had in the room. This is the powerhouse of Montrose. We couldn’t do what we do at MEDC without partners and investors...98 percent of MEDC funding comes from investors.” Noticeably absent from the meeting was any representation from elected officials or staff from the City of Montrose or the



Above, Montrose County is the 2016 recipient of the MEDC Montrose Economic Development Award. Left to right are Montrose County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch, County Commissioner Glen Davis, County Manager Ken Norris, County Commissioner David White, and MEDC Vice Chair Tyler Dahl. Courtesy photo.

Town of Olathe.

Head gave an update and overview on current economic development projects including the Telluride Venture Accelerator (TVA), Mayfly Outdoors, Manufacturer’s Edge, Best Signs and broadband.

However, not all the news was positive as Head expounded on the impending closure of the Whitfield Dairy, “The closing of the dairy will have a negative impact on our ag community in multiple areas.” The dairy, which currently employs 30 people, will be reduced to only six to eight employees over the next few months.

Honorary awards were given to board members who were stepping down: Joey Montoya-Boese, Colorado Mesa University (2009-2016), and Jay Austin, retired radio Manager (2011-2016).

Since 2005 MEDC has awarded an annual Economic Development Award and this year’s recipient is Montrose County. Head said, “Montrose County has taken an active role in MEDC. We partnered with them on Travel Recon (LLC) and for an aviation trade show held in Nevada.”

The Montrose Regional Airport’s economic contribution to the community is \$221.8 million in output and 2,035 jobs, with an annual payroll of \$77.4 million.

Guest speakers for the meeting were Toby Houchens, founder and CEO of Travel Recon, LLC and former Ambassador to Oman Gary Grappo, advisor for Travel Recon.

Travel Recon uses “...unconditional tech-

niques to empower travelers and companies with high-quality special operations-grade destination intelligence and professional risk management services.”

Consumers can access “GoRecon,” an app that is free to the public, by texting 44222.

Ambassador Grappo related how difficult it is to get information on time sensitive threats out to the public.

“When you are an Ambassador you are concerned for the safety, security and welfare of the Americans where you are assigned. The worst news an American Ambassador can get is a phone call in the middle of the night that something has happened to an American citizen.”

Terror is nothing new in history, “...but Islamists have further sophisticated terror. They have made terror personal. They film people being executed and get it out to the media. They frighten people to think they could be the target of an attack.” Travel Recon’s goal is to access risks and get as much information out to as many people as possible.

The meeting, which ran long, left little time to report on the board election results. New board member Katee McCollum will join re-elected board members, Norm Birtcher, Eric Feely, Martin Lutz, and Steve Stevenson.

MEDC has a 12-member board of community business leaders, along with appointed board members from Montrose County, CMU and the Town of Olathe.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH WINS PINNACOL ASSURANCE'S WORKSITE WELLNESS INCENTIVE FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Center for Mental Health has had a robust worksite wellness program for the past four years.

The wellness program improves employee health and provides incentives to participate in wellness-related activities. This year, because of its robust worksite wellness program, the Center for Mental Health, competing against twenty-two similarly-sized businesses, won Pinnacle Assurance's Worksite Wellness Incentive.

At least 83 percent of Center employees participated - a number well-above the national average.

Jon Gordon, Executive Director and the Management Team at the Center accepted a \$3,000 check from Karen Curran, Director of Worksite Wellness at Pinnacle Assurance and Brooke Gonzales from Network Insurance Services.

The Center will invest this money back into its wellness program to continue to benefit its employees.

Employees use the Virgin Pulse website to track points and healthy habits. Once on the website, employees complete a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and can earn points for tracking their healthy habits such as, the number of steps they take each day, healthy eating habits, how much physical activity they participate in, and much more.

The competition was open during the period between July 1, 2015, and December 31, 2015; however, the Center only began participating in October of 2015 and, during that time, accumulated enough points to win.

Each participating business is allowed to win once per calendar year, and employees have made it their goal to win again in 2016.

Pictured are:

Front Row (from left to right): Dawn Gilkerson, HR Director, The Center for Mental Health, Jon Gordon, Executive Director, The Center for Mental Health, Brooke Gonzales, Network Insurance Services, Lisa Krieg, Executive Assistant, The Center for Mental Health, Laura Ickes, Director of Integrated Programs, The Center for Mental Health, Carol Keller, QI Director, The Center for Mental Health, Patsy Boyle, Chief Operating Officer, The Cen-

ter for Mental Health, and Karen Curran, Director of Worksite Wellness at Pinnacle Assurance.

Back Row (from left to right): Ed Hagins, Deputy Director, The Center for Mental Health, Mary Gndt, Director of Community Services, The Center for Mental Health, Corey Cantrell, Marketing Manager, The Center for Mental Health, Lance Lehigh, Chief Financial Officer, The Center for Mental Health.



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Photo by Ray Dileo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OLATHE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SEEKS MILL LEVY INCREASE FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-The Olathe Fire Protection District (OFPD) will head to the ballot this spring for additional dollars from property taxes to fund the ambulance division. The requested 3.0 mill levy increase from property taxes will enable the district to maintain current levels of service for the community's medical and fire-related needs. The district is hosting a public meeting on February 24th at 6:00 p.m., at the Fire Station in Olathe and the public is encouraged to attend.

"This is an important moment for the OFPD and the Olathe community," said Gary Shaver, OFPD Board of Directors. "The OFPD is made up of volunteers from our local community. These farmers, road workers, police, repair technicians, and Olathe community members from all walks of life are asking for your support to provide full funding for OFPD ambulance services."

The OFPD has been funding the ambulance program for three years with reserve funds, and additional funding is required to

maintain this critical life-saving service. The current property tax amount funds 35 percent of the ambulance services, while the remaining dollars (\$152,000 in 2015) comes from billing for ambulance services and the OFPD's reserve dollars. With an increase of 60 percent in emergency medical calls since 2003, and limited revenue collection due to Medicare and Medicaid, the OFPD is asking the voters for their support.

For more information, please call the District office at 970-323-6234.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

SUPPORTS HB 1162, BUDGETARY TRANSPARENCY FOR EDUCATION

By *State Representative Clarice Navarro*

PUEBLO-Education is the primary foundation to the success of this country, and students from all walks of life should be able to flourish academically. Now more than ever our children are being disadvantaged by the lack of funding and the spending problems we are seeing in the education system. There is no easy fix, however increasing budget transparency and encouraging parental involvement for failing school districts is a step in the right direction.

House Bill 1162 would require advance public notice of proposed salary increases for administrators of low-performing public education entities. If passed, the bill will require a public notice of at least seven days before the governing board meeting at which the proposed salary increase would be discussed or voted on. The goal of this legislation is to encourage the voices of tax payers and parents to take an active part in setting budgetary priorities in Colorado's low performing schools/school districts. Essentially this bill will create an extra level of transparency, and it in no way impedes a school board's ability to make decisions. I strongly believe in local control and transparency, and this bill pro-

motes both.

Throwing money at a problem doesn't solve problems, but taking care of the money that's already there certainly helps. When I hear demands for increases in funding for education, I have a hard time supporting raises for administrators before we take a hard look at the performance of the school.

Are we really doing our students justice if we are increasing salaries instead of utilizing that money in the classroom and directly benefiting the students? While I don't have the magic fix for this problem, I do know that transparency never hurts.

I recently used the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) to request information regarding salary increases and bonuses for administrators of failing school districts (FY-13/14, FY14/15 and FY15/16). I was shocked that many received salary increases, and there were even bonuses revealed. I was most shocked to see so many receiving automatic raises as per their original contracts. I'm not running this bill to second guess an elected board of education, that's not my place, but it is my place to remain mindful of the tax payers, the parents, and the students. Transparency in budgetary prioritization matters.

(Approximately 180 schools statewide.)

Colorado Salary Averages: The average teacher's salary in Colorado is \$48,276.88 while the average superintendent's salary in Colorado is \$114,386.09 according to the Colorado Department of Education's website.

It's time we take a look at how we are spending money in failing schools that are under the priority improvement plan or turnaround status.

I have no problem with salary increases, however I do have a problem if the budgetary priorities don't match that of the community these schools serve. There needs to be a higher level of budget transparency and a higher level of consideration of parent and community input in the decision making process.

School board members and Coloradans alike want to see students reach their full potential, and House Bill 1162 will lead to transparency that will ensure appropriate usage of education funding without interfering with the school board decision making authority. The students of today are the leaders of the future, and that's why it is critical that we encourage budgetary transparency for education. If passed this bill is a step in the right direction.

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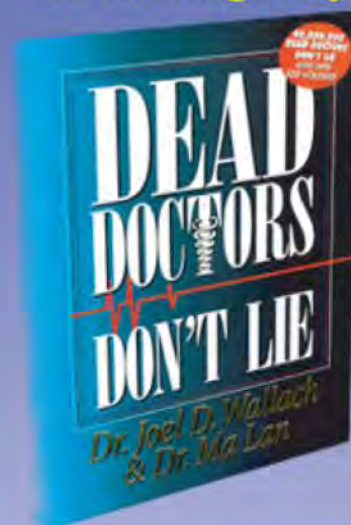
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TELLURIDE POWER OUTAGE REVEALS CHALLENGES, HEROISM AND GRATITUDE

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-At 3 pm on Saturday, Feb. 13, an electric power pole in Illium Valley near an old church camp was struck by a refrigerator-sized rock that tumbled from the canyon wall, approximately 800 feet above. This cut power to most of the Telluride area, including parts of Mountain Village and outlying communities. The areas to the south of the SMPA Sunshine Substation are served by a different section of the line. Therefore, areas such as Ophir and Ames did not lose power.

Crews were immediately dispatched to assess the situation. The pole, which had supported a 69kV transmission line maintained by Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) as well as an electric distribution line maintained by San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) was destroyed and would have to be replaced.

Tri-State and SMPA crews worked through the night clearing a path to the remote site and bringing the equipment needed to replace the downed pole. Crews continued to work into the following morning, safely replacing the pole and re-installing the power lines and components. At 1:20 pm on Sunday, February 14, electric service was restored to the Telluride region.

Teamwork played a big role in the repair. Since the Tri-State transmission line was above the distribution line, it had to be installed first. "The Tri-State guys were on it," said SMPA Journey Line Technician, Scott Davidson. "They didn't slow down, they didn't rest and they didn't stop."

As the SMPA distribution line was being transferred to the new pole, SMPA Linemen, Bart Reams and Johnathan Smith also showed their mettle. "Because of the terrain, we couldn't use the bucket truck to get to the new pole," said Davidson, "so those guys had to get in the hooks, (used for pole climbing) and do the whole thing by hand."

No one doubts that the events of this past weekend showed the heroism of the Tri-State and SMPA line crews, but some have questioned the vulnerability of the system in the first place. It is true that the transmission line that was damaged over the weekend is the only line serving the affected areas. They have no backup feed. Due to the difficulty of installing new transmis-

sion lines in these areas, SMPA conceived of the Telluride Reliability Project (as mentioned in the membership in the August, 2015 newsletter). The project proposes to utilize heavy distribution lines to serve as the redundant feed. Designs for this project are near completion and will soon enter the permitting process. Once completed, the redundant feed would allow the system to automatically respond to events like the falling rock, greatly reducing the power outage duration.

Throughout the experience, linemen from both Tri-State and SMPA received praise and support from the communities. "Thank you! For your hard work!!!" said Telluride local, Chris Johnson. Resident, Mier McGinness Esch said "Thank you for all your hard work and effort, we appreciate it!! Hugs to all."

SMPA Board Member, Jack Sibold also expressed praise. "I am very proud to be

associated with both the San Miguel Power Association linemen and the Tri State Generation and Transmission Company Linemen. This appeared to be a daunting task and these folks were clearly up to it. Bravo!"

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a member-owned, locally-controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway, Colo. It is the mission of San Miguel Power Association to demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service. SMPA serves approximately 9,600 members and 14,000 meters and supports local communities with \$300,000 annually in property taxes and \$400,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE NOMINATED FOR INNOVATION AWARD

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-- For the third year in a row, the Colorado Secretary of State's office has been named a finalist for an award that recognizes innovation, excellence, and achievement in public programs. Colorado's selection was announced Saturday on the final day of the [National Association of Secretaries of State](#) winter conference in Washington, D.C. NASS chooses four finalists every year for its IDEAS Award. Colorado's entry this year is its groundbreaking "[Accountability in Colorado Elections](#)" or ACE program, which takes reams of election data and puts it into easi-

ly readable charts and maps. The program has received high praise from Election Line, experts from MIT and the University of Minnesota, and from the Colorado media. "ACE is a first-of-its-kind electronic warehouse of elections-related information for the public," said Judd Choate, director of elections for the Department of State. "It's gratifying that the National Association of Secretaries of State recognizes how innovative Colorado has been and continues to be." The winner of this year's award will be announced at NASS's summer conference, which will be held in Nashville in July. The NASS IDEAS award began in

2011.

Former Secretary of State Scott Gessler received the award in 2014 for the office's Colorado eLearning platform, which helps Coloradans understand the processes for starting a business, raising money for a charity or other government-related tasks by simply going online.

Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams last year accepted the IDEAS award for the Business Intelligence Center/Go Code Colorado program, which takes public data and turns it in a useful apps for businesses.

Williams is hoping for a three-peat.

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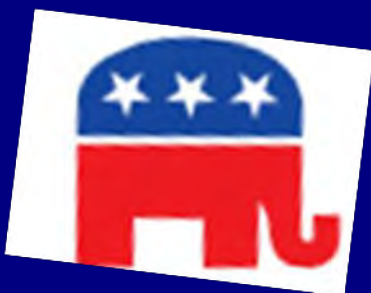
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO FARM FRESH DIRECTORY OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS, LISTING DEADLINE IS MARCH 1

Special to the Mirror

BROOMFIELD— The annual Colorado Farm Fresh Directory continues to connect consumers with local producers. Published by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Farm Fresh promotes Colorado farmers' markets, roadside stands, u-picks, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) producers, agritourism activities and farms and ranches that sell direct to the public. The 2016 edition is being organized, and producers are encouraged to submit their information for inclusion.

Nearly 100,000 copies of the publication will be distributed in June to consumers through libraries, extension offices, farmers' markets, welcome centers, chambers of commerce, home milk delivery services and other businesses. In addition, Farm Fresh will be available as a mobile app for smartphones and online at www.coloradoagriculture.com.

The fee to be included in the directory is \$25, and the listing deadline is March 1, 2016. For more information, contact Loretta Lopez at (303) 869-9175 or visit www.coloradoagriculture.com. Listing forms are available at the Montrose CSU Extension office (249-3935).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA STAFF TRAIN ON STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE CHANGE IN RESIDENT CONDITION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- Volunteers of America health care management staff underwent a two-day training last week to reduce the frequency of transfers to the acute hospital. Transfers to the hospitals can be emotionally and physically difficult for long term care residents, clients and participants, as well as costly.

INTERACT (Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers) is a quality improvement training program that focuses on the management of acute change in resident condition. It includes clinical and educational tools and strategies for use in every day practice in long-term care facilities.

Volunteers of America is placing INTERACT programs in each of its programs and will designate at least one lead "champion" at each according to Pamela Shilts, regional nurse consultant Western region for Volunteers of America.

"The overall goal of the INTERACT program is to reduce the frequency of transfer to the acute hospital. In the plans for health care reform, Medicare will financially reward facilities with lower hospitalization rates for certain conditions, as well as reduce payments for higher hospitalization for certain conditions," Shilts said.

"Volunteers of America plans to improve the identification, evaluation and communication about changes in residents, clients and participants status. Some, but not all acute care transfers can be avoided," she said. "Interact was first designed as a project supported by Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)."

According to the INTERACT web site, <https://interact2.net>, one in four Medicare patients admitted to skilled nursing facilities from hospitals is readmitted to the hospital within 30 days. In addition, up to two-thirds of hospital transfers are rated as potentially avoidable by expert long-term care health professionals.

This important training was held Feb. 17 and 18 at the Holiday Inn in Montrose. Attendees included directors of nursing, assistant directors of nursing, nurse managers, social service directors, and medical

record directors from Volunteers of America health care programs including Home Health of Western Colorado, The Homestead at Montrose Assisted Living, Valley Manor Care Center, Horizons Healthcare and Retirement Community, and Senior Community Care (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly).

INTERACT training is led by Betty Brunner of Pathways Consulting Firm. Brunner has 40 plus years of senior living services experience that included the roles of director of nursing, administrator, regional director of operations and vice president of operations for a large health care organization servicing 5,000 patients in the greater Chicago area. Additionally, Brunner has been a national speaker on topics that included leadership, regulatory compliance, director of nursing workshops and workplace violence.

About Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. Since 1896, our ministry of service has supported and empowered America's most vulnerable groups, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, at-risk youth, men and women returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, those recovering from addictions and many others. Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America helps more than 2 million people in over 400 communities. Our work touches the mind, body, heart and ultimately the spirit of those we serve, integrating our deep compassion with highly effective programs and services. Learn more at www.voa.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS HELP YOU SAVE!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has launched its 2016 energy efficiency and conservation programs, all designed to help members reduce their energy consumption and lower their bills. This year's offerings include the popular ENERGY STAR appliance rebates, plus incentives for the rapidly expanding technology of LED lighting.

"As a member-owned cooperative, DMEA has always promoted efficiency as a means to keep our members' bills low. It is important to us to make sure our members use electricity as efficiently as possible. Not only does it help their bottom line, but as we move into the future, efficiency, conservation, and programs that shift consumption patterns will play increasingly large roles in meeting power supply needs," said DMEA CEO, Jasen Bronec.

DMEA is offering residential rebates for the products listed in the table at right. All appliances must be ENERGY STAR rated, and LED bulbs and fixtures must have a rating of 500 lumens or greater. DMEA also offers various rebates for split system air conditioning, air-source heat pump, and geothermal heat pump systems. In order to qualify for a DMEA rebate, you must be a member of the cooperative, and the items

you purchase must be installed in and/or be in service within the co-op's territory. Members are encouraged to visit www.dmea.com or call DMEA Energy Services at 1-877-687-3632 for detailed information about application guidelines and system requirements.

"If you are interested in making your home or business more efficient or even if you are just looking for easy ways to reduce your energy bill, please contact us. Our trusted energy services staff members will work with you to determine if your project is eligible for funding, and they will help you better understand how you use energy and look for simple solutions to save," explained Bronec.

The co-op also offers many specialty programs to help commercial members, governments, municipalities, and schools improve the energy efficiency of their facilities. These programs include interior,

Product	Rebate Amount
Refrigerators/freezers	\$30
Refrigerant disposal	\$70
Clothes washers – front load	\$40
Clothes washers – top load	\$30
Clothes dryer – electric	\$30
Clothes dryer – hybrid heat pump	\$90
Dishwasher	\$20
Domestic water heater, lifetime warranty, 40 gal. minimum	\$100
Geothermal direct exchange water heater	\$100
Heat pump water heater	\$350
Electric motor, 10-500HP	\$9/HP
Electric motor wiring assistance	\$1.50/HP
LED bulbs	up to \$10/bulb, max 50% of cost
LED fixture	up to \$10/fixture, max 50% of cost

street, and parking lot lighting, LED refrigerated case lighting, electric heat pumps, electric motors, electrically commutated motors (ECMs) for walk-in refrigeration, and variable frequency drives. Additional incentives may be available for projects not listed above. Members are encouraged to contact DMEA Energy Services when beginning any special project, as many rebates have specific requirements.

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of americans
never
receive mental
health treatment

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

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An Alliance for Community Action

Legislative Update

*Western Colorado Congress
Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION-The 2016 Colorado legislative session is in full swing, and things are moving fast! As the fifth week of the General Assembly comes to a close, we've seen close to 400 bills introduced. Western Colorado Congress's legislative committee has been kept busy on our weekly calls tracking and weighing in on bills related to the climate action, oil and gas, public lands, local foods and agriculture, voting rights and more. Election-year politics promises to keep things lively at the Capitol, but as always, WCC remains committed to flexing our bipartisan muscles and organizing grassroots voices to participate in the state law-making process. Here's a brief overview of what we've seen so far.

Local foods and agriculture

WCC members have long known that access to adequate processing is a significant barrier for small poultry producers to get their products to market. SB15-058, introduced in the early days of the session, is designed to allow Colorado poultry producers to take advantage of federal exemptions available through USDA. WCC is closely tracking the progress of the measure, and is weighing in on a proposed amendment that has implications for the Cottage Food Law.

Off-highway vehicles

For years, local and state governments, the conservation community and state agencies have been trying to reach a compromise on the use of off-highway vehicles on county roads. HB16-1030 just might get us there. WCC supported a "strike below" amendment to the introduced version, and the amended bill passed third reading in the House and is up next in the Senate. The bipartisan bill clarifies that local authorities can require drivers of off-highway vehicles to have drivers' licenses and insurance. It also authorizes OHV drivers to cross state highways within a municipality with approval from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Climate action

WCC is playing both defense and offense on bills related to Colorado's implementation of the federal Clean Power Plan.

We're opposing two measures: SB16-061, which would require the state to pay any extra costs borne by power generators due to implementation of the plan; and SB16-046, which is designed to direct the state's Air Quality Control Commission to drag its heels on implementation. In response to the Supreme Court's Feb. 10 decision to grant a stay on the Clean Power Plan, both of these bills were pulled from committee calendars; we'll be tracking subsequent amendments.

WCC is supporting HB16-1004, which will require the state climate action plan to include specific measurable goals geared to both reduce Colorado's greenhouse-gas emissions and increase Colorado's adaptive capability to respond to climate change. The measure passed third reading in the House last week and is on its way to the Senate.

Voter ID

We have long been committed to protecting democracy in Colorado, and to this end we are opposing two bad voter ID bills. Under current law, eligible electors may register to vote at any time prior to voting, including on Election Day. HB16-1111 would refer a measure to Colorado voters to change the state Constitution and require photo identification for anyone who registers to vote on Election Day or within the 22 days prior to an election. SB16-083 would require qualified electors in Colorado to submit a government-issued photo ID as a condition of casting a ballot. There is virtually no evidence of voter fraud in Colorado. Additionally, voter ID laws in other states have been shown to disenfranchise minority, low-income, and elderly voters.

Oil and gas

It's been pretty quiet so far on the oil and gas front. However, WCC is opposing two bad bills. HB16-1181 brings back a measure that would require local governments that ban oil and gas development in their community to reimburse mineral owners for lost royalties. SB16-097 would prohibit



Marv Ballantyne + Rep Don Coram from WCC's 2015 People's Lobby Trip. Courtesy photo Western Colorado Congress.

the transfer of certain mineral severance taxes to the general fund. WCC's analysis shows that a probable intent of the legislation is to take money away from Department of Local Affairs grant funds and allocate them directly to local governments – a scenario that is likely to further incentivize oil and gas over other economic development strategies.

Water

The residential rain barrel bill is back this year. Colorado is the only state in the nation to prohibit residential rainwater collection, and WCC is supportive of this effort to end the prohibition. HB16-1005 would allow Colorado residents to collect rainwater in up to two rain barrels with a combined storage capacity of 110 gallons for outdoor use. The bill still has a tough path ahead, with its first stop in the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 22. We are also tracking legislation related to water banking, and are keeping our eyes out for other water conservation measures.

With three months to go in the session, we still have plenty of opportunity to organize grassroots voices to influence the state lawmaking process. Want to get in on the action?

Sign up for WCC's Legislative Alerts at www.wccongress.org or contact Rachel at rachel@wccongress.org or 970-256-7650 for more information about how you can be involved.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL CEOs SHARE TIPS WITH TEEN CEOs

Young entrepreneurs of Montrose learn from the men at the top

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Students from the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) in Montrose were introduced to Scott Stryker from Stryker & Company, Steve Hannah from Montrose Memorial Hospital, Dan Sheeting from NuVista Credit Union, and Steve Savoy from Best Sign Systems. All of the local CEOs volunteered their one-on-one time with the students and discussed their roles, companies, backgrounds, and offered helpful business and networking advice to the students. The CEOs were able to share how they got their start in business to the next generation of CEOs. The advice was vast, “Be part of something that is bigger than yourself” - Steve Hannah, “Discipline is success” - Steve Savoy, “Don’t be afraid to ask questions” - Dan Sheeting, “Listen to your customers and don’t be afraid to adapt” - Scott Stryker.

As part of the YEA! program, students

are introduced to all facets of the business world including, but not limited to, advertising, insurance agents, graphic designers and web developers.

Over the course of this year’s YEA! program, six students will launch 5 businesses which include B & C Sports, a paddle board rental company and High Caliber Creations, custom fabricated tables.

As a non-profit organization, YEA! relies on the generosity of the community and of



sponsors; people who identify with entrepreneurship and want to help pave the way for the future business leaders of tomorrow. “YEA! strengthens the community, and the community strengthens YEA!,” said Gayle Jagel, the Founder and CEO of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. “Our program managers and instructors seek out people in every facet of the business community in which the program is housed, in order to help facilitate the creation of our student’s dreams- into a reality.”

During the course of the nine-month program, more than 20 local businesses become involved with YEA! at various levels. Students work in close cooperation with local business leaders, community leaders and educators who use their personal experiences to demonstrate how to transform their ideas into tangible enterprises that create economic and social value for a better world.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a groundbreaking and exciting year long class that transforms middle and high school students into real, confident entrepreneurs. Throughout the class, students develop business ideas, write business plans, conduct market research, pitch their plans to a panel of investors, and actually launch and run their own real, legal, fully formed companies and social movements. Founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy today serves thousands of students in communities across America. For more information about the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, please call 585.272.3535 or visit www.yeausa.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

STATE REP. CLARICE NAVARRO TO SEEK THIRD TERM IN STATE HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

PUEBLO-State Representative Clarice Navarro has announced that she will run for reelection this year. Representative Navarro will be seeking her 3rd term in the Colorado State House of Representatives.

Representative Navarro was first elected in 2012, and is currently serving in her second term. In her first election she won by the smallest margin of anyone in the Colorado State Legislature, and by her second election, she won by the largest margin of anyone in the Colorado State Legislature.

The Representative is a native of Southeastern Colorado, proudly serving Fremont, Otero and Pueblo counties.

Representative Navarro has made a name for herself by honoring the conservative values on which she originally ran. She

believes in less government, lower taxes, fiscal responsibility, government transparency, and she has a solid record to prove it.

Representative Navarro said, "It's an honor to serve the people of Southern Colorado, and together we have accomplished a great deal of meaningful work. Perhaps as importantly, we've been able to stop some bad legislation. I look forward to serving the good people of this great state, and every day it is an honor that the people of House District 47 have chosen me as their conservative voice and advocate at the Colorado State Capitol."

Representative Navarro began her service in 2013, and is serving in her second term. The Repre-



Rep. Clarice Navarro (HD 47) is a native of Southeastern Colorado, proudly serving Fremont, Otero and Pueblo Counties. Courtesy photo.

sentative is a native of Southeastern Colorado, proudly serving Fremont, Otero and Pueblo Counties. For more information on Representative Clarice Navarro please

CITY REMINDS DESIGNATED SERVICE PROVIDERS TO RENEW ANNUAL LICENSES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The City of Montrose reminds local businesses in the following sectors to renew their annual license through the City Clerk's office, per City regulations: gasfitters, plumbers, tree trimmers, pawn brokers and police alarm contractors (installation and maintenance). Additionally, commercial door-to-door solicitation requires a City permit in accordance with Ordinance 2331.

Licensing and permitting allow the City to protect consumers and residents by ensuring safety and compliance measures are consistently adhered to by service providers in the business sectors listed.

Residents who wish to prevent commercial solicitation may add their address to the "No Solicitation" list by submitting an online form available at CityofMontrose.org/532/Door-to-Door-Registration. While the list does not apply to non-commercial solicitation, residents who would like to take additional measures to prevent both commercial and non-commercial solicitation at their door may post a "No Trespassing" or "No Solicitation" sign.

For more information or to renew or obtain a permit, contact the City Clerk's office, at (970) 240-1421 or cbellavance@ci.montrose.co.us. To report a violation, please contact non-emergency dispatch at (970) 249-9110.



Dr. Seuss' Birthday & Read Across America Day



March is the month
The 2nd is the day
Come to the library
To have fun and play!
There will be crafts and games
And handouts galore!
You can find it all
Through the Story Room door!

Kids of all ages are invited to drop by the Story
Hour Room between **4:00-5:00 on**
March 2nd for a Dr. Seuss craft & games.





**MONTROSE REGIONAL
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 Twitter @MontroseLibKids

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FARMERS ALLIANCE COMPANIES DESIGNATE ASPENRIDGE INSURANCE AS A 2016 ADVANTAGE AGENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Farmers Alliance Companies in McPherson, Kansas have announced that Aspenridge Insurance Agency, LLC in Montrose, Colorado has been named a Farmers Alliance Advantage Agent for 2016. To qualify as an Advantage Agent, an agency must exhibit superior professionalism and profitability over five consecutive years. Advantage Agents are recognized by Farmers Alliance as the “best of the best.” To reach this level of distinction is a reflection of this agency’s commitment to their customers and their community. Congratulations to Aspenridge Insurance Agency LLC for this achievement.

The Farmers Alliance Companies are represented by independent agents and serve eight states. Farmers Alliance was established in 1888 and writes a full range of property and liability insurance for homes, farms and commercial businesses.

HONORABLE MENTION

To independent liquor stores and small craft breweries across Colorado...for bringing us so many choices and earning Colorado’s reputation as the “State of Craft Beer...”

To the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)...for keeping Colorado’s highways open whenever possible, against all odds. Thank you.

To Main Street Montrose, for the Second Saturday Art Walk...

To Alpine Bank, for consistent public relations and generous community event support combined with a strong regional advertising presence. To watch this business grow is to observe first hand a case study in marketing excellence.

MOVIE NIGHT





“WE ARE THE BEST”

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH

DOORS @ 7:00 PM

FILM AT 7:30 PM

March's featured film: We are the Best! (subtitled):
From Swedish auteur Lukas Moodysson, We are the Best! revolves around three girls in 1980's Stockholm who decide to form a punk band — despite not having any instruments and being told by everyone that punk is dead. Based on a graphic novel, We are the Best! is a paean to DIY culture and the power of rebellion.

This movie is not rated. Run time of 102 min.

"Eye of newt, and toe of frog ..."



THE MIRROR:
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FEBRUARY DEATH NOTICES

Mr. Donald Loren Holton, 64, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction Sunday, February 14, 2016. Funeral arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors' Colorado Cremation, Inc. (970) 249-1130.

Mr. Lee Bryson, 62, passed away at his home in Montrose on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Funeral arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

Mrs. Rebecca Hurford, 72, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Funeral arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

Ms. Dorothy Smith, 92, passed away at her home in Ridgway Wednesday, February 18, 2016. Funeral arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

**THE MIRROR Welcomes Community
Death Notices and Obituaries free of charge.
Please send to
editor@montrosemirror.com.
To reach us call 970-275-0646.**

Home Health of Western Colorado
Montrose, CO

The Homestead at Montrose
Montrose, CO

Senior CommUnity Care (PACE)
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Valley Manor Care Center
Montrose, CO

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Learn About Parkinson's Disease Therapy Techniques



Join Us for a Free Program with Professional Therapists

A physical and voice therapy program is helping patients with Parkinson's disease to improve function and slow motor deterioration by retraining sensory, motor and cognitive functions through intensive exercise and patient empowerment. The LSVT BIG & LOUD therapy program is a standardized exercise approach developed from 20 years of research and has shown documented improvements in balance, trunk rotation, faster walking with bigger steps, as well as speech volume and clarity. Learn more about this therapy and how it can help you or a loved one. Presented by Suzie Stramel, Physical Therapist and Christi Masimer, Speech-Language Pathologist, Horizons Health Care & Retirement Community.



TWO CLASSES AVAILABLE:

Thursday, March 3, 2016: 12:45 pm-1:30 pm - Montrose Senior Center (Montrose Pavilion), 1800 Pavilion Drive, Montrose

Tuesday, March 15, 2016: 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm - Region 10 Building, 300 N Cascade Ave, Sneffels Conference Room

Contact Erin Berge at 970-275-1220 or eberge@voa.org for more information

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

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.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE @ THE GALLERY • MUSIC BY YOUTH, Second Saturdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery in Sampler Square.

MONTROSE WINTER FARMERS MARKET 10 am - 1pm *Location: Behind Straw Hat Farm Kitchen Store 514 S. 1st Street* (Every other week through April 23) **Feb. 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-

Feb. 24-Alcohol Inks Class. Vibrant colored painting, for people of all skill levels. Taught by Sandy Anderson, winner of the Ridgway Paint-In-The-Park competition. 1:00-4:30. Two session class, \$75. Call 249-4969.

Feb. 25-27-SOM Footwear Spring into Savings Event! 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the factory, 1006 North Cascade Avenue in Montrose. Up to 70 per cent off select models, and our guests can get a free tour of the factory and meet the creators while they are here.

Feb. 25-Thursday Feb 25 at 7 PM at the Montrose High School Cafeteria, Republican County Candidate Forum. All five Commissioner Candidates and the Clerk and Recorder Candidate will be taking questions from a Moderator, submitted by the audience.

Feb. 25-Centennial Middle School Band and Choir concerts, 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion.

Feb. 25-Join Ryan Jones and Ben Haley of the USDDPP Team (The U.S. Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project) for the third Sherb Talk of February, "Exploring Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the U.S." or, in translation, what are the most realistic paths leading to a US economy that produces little to no CO2. Ridgway's Sherbino Theater, Doors at 7 pm with the talk starting at 7:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Feb. 27-March 5-Gallery 88.1 — Art Interplay. Gallery 88.1 — Art Interplay exhibition will involve more than 70 regional artists, artisans and musicians representing the best of Grand Valley with art, music, food, wine and spirits. Each day of the exhibition will be a unique experience and interplay. For a complete schedule visit the event pages at the KAFM Community Radio website at www.kafmradio.org. The event will be held on the lower floor of the KAFM Community Radio building at 1310 Ute Avenue in Grand Junction. Contact Brian Gregor at (970)241-8801, extension 0 for more information about the Gallery 88.1 — ArtInterplay event.

Feb. 26-Join the Sherbino Theater and The Gypsy Jazz Social Club in Ridgway for an evening of wonderful music. Doors and cash bar at 7:30 pm with music starting at 8 pm. \$10 cover at the door.

Feb. 27-Montrose Winter Farmers Market 10am -1 pm.

Feb. 27-Cerro Summit Winter Carnival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Feb. 27-Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be Feb. 3-6 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the **Montrose Pavilion**. Early Blood Draws will also be available on February 1 at the American Legion Hall in **Olathe**, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on January 30 in **Ridgway**, at the 4-H Events Center from 7-10 a.m. **Appointments for ALL three locations must be made for the Early Blood Draws. Appointments can be made at www.MontroseHospital.com January 17-27th or by calling 1-888-592-6255 January 18 and 19 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm.** Appointments are not necessary on the day of the Health Fair.

Feb. 27-Kipori Woods to perform at Lark & Sparrow. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 615-7277 for info.

March 1-3-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds program kicks off a monthly three-stop Bardic Trails Tour on First Tuesdays at Arroyo in Telluride, moves to Montrose Regional Library on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Mar. 2nd), and holds its finale at the Lithic Bookstore & Gallery in Fruita on Thursdays at 7 p.m. (Mar. 3rd).

March 2--Alcohol Inks Class. Vibrant colored painting, for people of all skill levels. Taught by Sandy Anderson, winner of the Ridgway Paint-In-The-Park competition. 1:00-4:30. Two session class, \$75. Call 249-4969.

March 3-An evening with Dr. Joel Wallach. \$5 admission, Holiday Inn Express. 7 p.m. Call 970-596-1920. Learn more at seethedoctrine.com.

March 4-From 5 to 7:30 p.m., Keep Colorado Local reception at Bridges of Montrose. Event to feature local foods and beverages.

March 5-Saturday March 5th at 3 PM at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, Friendship Hall, Republican County Candidate Forum. All five Commissioner Candidates and the Clerk and Recorder Candidate will be taking questions from a Moderator, submitted by the audience.

March 5- "A Taste of Mexico" Lunch Saturday March 5th at Delta Christian Church, 970-795-1600 Rd. Delta. Doors open @ 11:30, Lunch @ Noon. For reservations call [970-252-8110](tel:970-252-8110) or [970-874-3456](tel:970-874-3456). All proceeds benefit the Good News Chaplain at the Delta Correctional Center.

March 10-Back to 4H Night, Friendship Hall. 4 to 8 p.m. RSVP by March 8 to 970-249-3935.

March 10-12 Second Chance Humane Society 9th Annual Wine and Whiskers Weekend! On Thursday March 10th 6:30--8:30 PM: Opening Night Fashion Cabaret; on Saturday March 12 at 5:30 pm midnight: Gala Event includes catered fare, silent & live auctions, the Fashion Cabaret - & dance party. Tickets are \$15 in advance for Thursday night (\$20 at the door) and \$40 in advance(\$45/door) for Saturday night. Both events will occur at the Ouray County 4H Event Center in Ridgway. Call [970-626-2273](tel:970-626-2273) or www.adoptmountainpets.org for details or to volunteer. Tickets available online or at Second Chance Thrift Shops in Ridgway and Telluride.

April 28-Leader Training - Healthier Living Colorado-This four-day class is for the person wanting to make a difference in the lives of those with chronic conditions! Participants will: illustrate following the Leader Manual content and process; recognize how to handle problem people appropriately; use positive reinforcement techniques with group members; apply strategies to encourage group participation and use effective modeling strategies. *PDA requirements. A CEU from COAW is equal to 10 contact hours (PDAs).*

Cost: \$650.Scholarship funds are available. Montrose County Health and Human Services (1845 S. Townsend Ave.), Apr 25, 2016—Apr 28, 2016, 8:30 AM—5 PM

Registration: Contact Pam Allen at 303-984-1845 or pam@coaw.org.



The Homestead Fundraising



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Montrose, CO 81402

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Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

High winds did not keep these intrepid skateboarders from hitting the streets of Montrose last Thursday.



Because We Care About Your Health - MMH Is Happy To Sponsor The

2016 MMH Health Fair

Saturday, February 27 at Montrose Pavilion

From 6:30 a.m. - 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Free screenings include:

Vision Screening
Consults for Early Blood Draw Test
Results Foot Screening
Hearing Screening
Nutrition Information
Bone Density Screening
Prostate Exam
(8:00 am - 10:00 am)
Skin Cancer Screening
(8:00 am - 12:00 noon)
Screening Spirometry
...and more!

Blood Draws *until 11:00 a.m.*

- Chemistry & Lipid Profile ~ \$40
(includes iron binding and TSH)
- Hemoglobin A1C ~ \$35
(additional screening for diabetes)
- PSA for Prostate Health ~ \$30
 - CBC ~ \$20
(complete blood count)
- Vitamin D Screening ~ \$40
- Vitamin B-12 ~ \$40
- Male Testosterone ~ \$45

Co-Sponsors:



**For Blood Testing - 12 hour fast required.
Drink lots of water!
We will NOT bill your insurance.
Checks and cash only.**



800 South Third Street, Montrose, CO 81401 970.249.2211 MontroseHospital.com