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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE...WEEKLY ON MONDAYS!

Issue No. 248, Nov. 27

HIGH TOUCH APPROACH FUELS SUCCESS: BPETERSONDESIGN



BPetersonDesign has moved into the penthouse office space at 320 South 12th Street, Suite B.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose's full-service digital marketing and IT team has new digs and exciting new opportunities for local entrepreneurs and organizations. Ben and Janae Peterson's [BPetersonDesign](#) has moved into the penthouse office space above Montrose Auto Glass, at 320 South 12th Street, Suite B. Though the company has been in business for almost a decade, "The last two years have been really crazy," Janae said.

Helping to fuel the rapid rise of BPetersonDesign are the custom digital marketing packages that the company recently added to its menu of services. So well received is the new service, which makes use of Facebook and blogs to maximize impact, that the company has already hired another staffer, Cara

[Continued pg 6](#)

CITIZEN EXPRESSES OUTRAGE OVER MIAMI ROAD FARM ADDITION, BYNUM, ROMERO ARE NO-SHOWS FOR MEETING BUT CALL IN VOTES

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Executive Session:

Prior to the regular city council meeting on Nov. 21, 2017 the council held an executive session, "To discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a); and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: real estate acquisition." The regular meeting began at 6 p.m.

Attendance: Council member present for the Nov. 21, 2017 Executive Session and regular council meeting were Mayor Judy Ann Files, Mayor Pro Tem Roy Anderson and Dave Bowman; absent were

Barbara Bynum and David Romero. Mayor Files was pleased that Bynum and Romero called in on a conference call in order for council to have a unanimous 5 -0 vote to approve the



Only three of the five council members were present for the regular council meeting held on Nov. 21st. (L to R) Councilman Dave Bowman, Mayor Judy Ann Files, Mayor Pro Tem Roy Anderson, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn and City Manager Bill Bell. Absent were Councilwoman Barbara Bynum and Councilman David Romero.

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Up Bear Creek!*

GAIL MARVEL'S HOUSES OF WORSHIP: 4BARC COWBOY CHURCH

"That same God that created the universe lives in you."

By Gail Marvel

Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18:20 NIV).

MONTROSE-The non-denominational 4BarC Cowboy Church moved from their former location on Hwy 50 to the Olathe Fireman's Hall. Pastor Rick Williams said, "We're looking for a permanent location and we'd like a facility that is close to the high school." Tossing out another item on the church wish list he said, "We're looking for musicians! Live music is preferred over canned [pre-recorded]." There are several cowboy churches in the region and their shared mission is planting more cowboy churches.

Ten people were present for worship on Oct. 15, 2017, three of whom were youth. Coffee and doughnuts were available and the smell of chi tea wafted through the hall.

Williams greeted the flock, "This was a great week, God is faithful!" The Pledge of Allegiance was followed with an opening prayer and accompaniment for congregational singing was prerecorded music with lyrics displayed on the wall. Song selections included "How Great is Our God," "Nothing But the Blood" (praise song rather than the traditional hymn), "Good, Good Father," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "Me and God." Not entirely comfortable with the song title "Me and God," Williams said, "I always like to put God first... God and I, God and me."

The youth in attendance might have thought Williams had eyes in the back of his head when he said, "If you don't put down those doughnuts you won't be ready for the potluck dinner." Their looks of innocence were betrayed by the white powder sugar that surrounded each student's mouth.

Williams began by reading Galatians 5:1



and said, "We'll see where the Lord takes us after this." Setting the stage for the sermon the pastor said, "There was a time we [people of faith] were under the law, but now we are under grace."

With a patriotic spin Williams reminded the audience that America was built on freedom. "Freedom is the cornerstone of the American spirit. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of assembly, to elect our officials, freedom to defend ourselves and religious freedom."

Williams noted that there is a movement today to take God out of our history and institutions.

"But God is in every monument and institutions are loaded with Scripture. Our country was founded on Godly principals. There were a lot of Christian men [different denominations], but they worked and got along. Building a nation is hard...keeping a nation is just as hard. Freedom isn't free, it does cost."

Taking his thoughts into today's church Williams said, "People in church have gotten lazy and complacent. We're caught up in what the world is doing and we go that way. We want God to bless us in

what we are doing...we're not asking him to bless us in what *he* is doing."

Williams, who is also a football team bus driver, used a recent game in Colorado Springs as an example.

"We lost, but it was a good game. There was a hard hit on a student and everyone was right there to see if he was alright. We've got wounded [people] in the church and we need to be right by their side to help out."

Noting that he no longer follows the NFL Williams said, "At the high school football game not one person took a knee."

Freedom in America was bought by spilled blood. Freedom in Christ knows no boundaries, it is forever and it comes with a price. It was bought by a dying Savior on the cross. Our God loves us so much that he did not stop his son, but purposed him [for salvation]. That same God that created the universe lives in you."

Contact Information:

4BarC Cowboy Church

Meets at the Olathe Fireman's Hall

Pastor Rick Williams

970-216-2920

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.



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Publisher: Caitlin Switzer, Weekly pre-share Circulation 10,000+

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BYNUM A NO SHOW @ WORK SESSION; OBT TALKS CONTINUE

City ineligible (penalized) for 2017-2018 CTO grant cycle awards; failed reservations pilot program designed by Abrams Strategic Group a substantial loss of dollars to both the CTO and OBT



Seven new City of Montrose employees were introduced to the city council. Front row (L to R) Utilities Worker David Taylor, Street Division Worker Victor Armendariz, Line Mechanic Timothy Marchbanks, Animal Shelter Tech Suzanne McKetta, Assistant Golf Professional Judy Brim and Assistant Finance Director Chelsae White. Back row (far left) Patrol Officer Ted Valerio.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Four councilmembers were present for the Nov. 20 work session; Councilwoman Barbara Bynum was absent.

Introduction of new employees:

Animal Shelter Tech - Suzanne McKetta
Street Division Worker - Victor Armendariz
Assistant Finance Director - Chelsae White
Line Mechanic - Timothy Marchbanks
Assistant Golf Professional - Judy Brim

Utilities Worker - David Taylor

Patrol Officer - Ted Valerio

Note: Officer Valerio, formally an MPD Police Sergeant, is a rehire with 16 years' experience.

Planning Commission Applicant Interviews:

Vince Fandel and Carol McBride were interviewed; applicant Greg Moberg was interviewed during a previous work session. Fandel described himself as an organized person and Councilman Roy Anderson asked Fandel's opinion on the city

master plan, "It is a long-term guideline which is looked at on a biannual basis and updated as needed."

Real estate agent Carol McBride has lived in Montrose a year and a half and is interested in controllable growth, which includes zoning. Councilman David Romero asked McBride about attracting businesses to Montrose and having affordable housing. McBride said, "We need to show the city and entice and invite companies to come here."

Discussion Items:

2018 Fleet Purchases - Interim Public Works Director David Bries.

In an eight-page document Bries presented the council with documentation, justification and bids for the 2018 fleet purchases. The total vehicle and equipment cost is \$1,362,809.23. Mayor Judy Ann Files said, "That is a lot of money. That is so much money at one time." Bries explained many municipalities are buying at the same time and that the city needs to get their bids in as soon as possible.

2018 Mail Ballot Election Plan - City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo.

DelPiccolo explained that previously a ballot signature was verified by simply comparing it to the printed label. A new State law now requires every ballot signature to be verified by comparing it to the signature on record with the State.

The city council election will take place in April 2018. Candidate packets will be

Continued next pg

BYNUM A NO SHOW @ WORK SESSION; OBT TALKS CONTINUE

From previous pg

posted on the city website, or available from the city clerk, on Dec. 11. Candidates can begin circulating petitions Jan. 2, 2018, with a Jan. 22 deadline for submitting the petitions to the city clerk.

Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) Reserves – Assistant City Manager/OBT Director Rob Joseph.

In a previous work session Councilman Dave Bowman questioned the need for the OBT to have \$400,000 in reserves. Joseph said, "Six-months reserve is not inconsistent with the city's policy." Councilman Anderson gave his recollection of a recent TRAC meeting at which committee members felt the six-months reserve was appropriate and reserves also served as a hedge against laying off employees if there were a downturn in the economy.

Bowman said, "Part of your reasoning is that you don't want to lay off employees." Joseph countered with, "We [also] need to have the messaging to keep the conversation going. We would literally be at a standstill on getting our message [on tourism] out."

Bowman is not comfortable with a six-month reserve and would prefer OBT have a three-month reserve. However, Anderson likes the special reserve fund as it is and feels a need to respect the wishes of the people who pay taxes (vendors who are represented on the TRAC committee). Mayor Files asked if there was a formal policy somewhere in place and City Manager Bill Bell said, "The Enterprise Funds have 90-day reserves and the General Fund has a six-month reserve policy. The golf course is not an Enterprise Fund yet because it is subsidized by tax funds."

There is not a formal policy for OBT funds. Bell said, "TRAC is an advisory committee to the city manager's office, not to the city council. That's an important distinction. We don't discount what TRAC says, but they are an advisory committee

to the city manager. We [the city] want flexibility so it is a recommended practice, not a policy. We want flexibility to take advantage of opportunities as they come along."

Councilman Romero said, "Do something formal so Rob [Joseph] has something to fall back on." Staff is to work on a formal policy recommendation to bring back to the council.

The funding discussion for OBT included the caveat that the City of Montrose was ineligible (penalized) for the 2017-2018 grant cycle awards from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO).

Grant funds expended on a previous failed reservations pilot program designed by Abrams Strategic Group was a substantial loss of dollars to both the CTO and OBT. Last spring the city had to return \$16,250 to CTO and both tourism organizations then split the \$17,500 loss paid to Abrams, with each paying \$8,750.

Because of the failed program the city lost the opportunity to apply for a \$25,000 grant this year. Joseph indicated the city would once again be eligible to apply for grant awards in the 2018-2019 cycle.

General City Council Discussion:

Bowman, who is the promotor for the summer music series, is working on, "Some kind of BBQ/competition. I'm trying to incorporate music with a BBQ event. It's just an opportunity for us to do one more thing in the summer." A tentative dated is June 9.

Romero stated that it is not his intention to run again for council in April 2018. However, his position on the Montrose County Airport Advisor Board will have interviews in December. Romero did not know if another councilor wanted to take the position, or if he should continue to serve until someone else is elected in April.

Anderson had nothing for discussion.

However, when Mayor Files updated council on a number of community activities she also reminded Anderson he wanted to talk about a request for council to make a School Choice Proclamation.

Anderson said, "I have the sense that the public school system needs all the help they can get. This resolution takes away from the school system. I don't have a good feeling about it." Romero said, "I said I would support it in an email, but I don't want anything detracting from the [public] schools. My wife is a teacher." Mayor Files said, "It [the request] did not come from someone local, so I'd say scrap it."

Prior discussion and emails between the councilmembers calls into question a "walking quorum." Clearly this council is communicating on issues and items outside the public view.

The mayor also reported that she and OBT director Joseph are, "In a pickle here with the sister (national) park located near a city in Serbia. We reached out to them with a 'let's be friends and support one another,' but they sent back a formal document in Serbian that I can't read." Their city representatives took a step beyond the let's be friends idea and went to their legislature. "We don't know what they are asking because we can't read the document. We'd like this to be friendly and not formal." Conference calls are difficult because, "There is an eight-hour time difference and if I ask a question [in writing] it takes four weeks to get a response." Council suggested first getting the letter translated and then contacting the embassy for guidance. Bowman quipped, "Let's just hope we don't have an international incident."

Staff Comments:

Bell said, "Today from 1 to 6 p.m. we will do interviews for the position of Public Works Manager."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH) IDENTIFIED IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital in cooperation with Montrose County Health and Human Services have identified patients in Montrose County who have tested positive for Pertussis. Pertussis, also called whooping cough, is a contagious illness that spreads when an infected person sneezes or coughs and another person breathes in the bacteria. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) website, pertussis can occur at any age and may be very severe in infants and young children, especially those who have not had three

doses of pertussis vaccines.

Symptoms of pertussis usually appear between 7 to 10 days after exposure and start with cold-type symptoms, including; low-grade fever, runny nose and mild cough. Within two weeks, the cough becomes more severe and is characterized by episodes of fits of coughing.

Pertussis is spread through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. A person can only transmit the disease when they have symptoms. If you think you have pertussis, you should contact your medical care provider who can prescribe an appropriate antibiotic when

needed.

The best protection from pertussis is getting vaccinated. Also, stay away from people who are coughing and sneezing when possible. If you are ill, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze and wash your hands often. To schedule an appointment for a vaccination, please contact Montrose County Health and Human Services Immunization Department at 970-252-7079 or visit www.montrosecounty.net. For more detailed information go to www.colorado.gov or speak to your care provider.



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From pg 1

Hampton, who starts this week.

With a custom digital marketing package, "We take over and manage your online presence," Ben said. "We fully manage your page; any replies, we handle—because how quickly you respond is part of Facebook's algorithm."

"With Facebook, we can specifically target for an audience."

Services also include photography (including aerial) and videography. In especially high demand are BPetersonDesign's video advertisements. The videos are professionally done, and can be branded with your company contact information and logo.

Serious technical expertise is also part of the package. "We do everything IT," Ben said. "And we use Adobe Premiere Pro; we had to build a custom computer to run it."

Because the company offers a full slate of IT services in addition to digital marketing, this is a true one-stop-shop. The high touch approach taken by BPetersonDesign includes traditional web design services, one of the cornerstones of the company.

"If you think about it, every great busi-

ness plan includes web design," Janae said. "Anybody moving to the area is going to Google you first."

Contributing to BPetersonDesign's success has been the Montrose community, which has a strong entrepreneurial base, Janae said.

"Montrose is a very business friendly community," she said. "They make it easy to start a business here." And BPetersonDesign can make it easy for you to reach new clients.

To learn more, visit bpeter-sondesign.com, or call 970-901-1469. Find them on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/BPetersonDesign/>.



Ben and Janae Peterson of BPetersonDesign. Courtesy photo.

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COUNTY MOVES FORWARD WITH OHV GRANT APP; APPROVES SUP FOR GOLDEN HEART

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—There were no general comments from the public, and no changes to the Consent Agenda at the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting Nov. 22.

General Business & Administrative items included Item D-1, approval of a state off-highway vehicle (OHV) program grant application requesting \$214,657 to fund a frontage trail along Highway 141 in the Dolores River Canyon. If the grant is awarded, the county will be required to provide a match of \$214,657 in the 2019 budget.

Presenting information on the grant application was County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch. The frontage trail is needed because OHV's are not allowed on Colorado's state highways, Waschbusch explained, noting that the grant application was very labor intensive and required a complete set of engineering drawings funded in part of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), a bio-assessment, and coordination among multiple entities. "There's been a lot that's gone into even having this application be possible," Waschbusch said, "and hopefully if successful this application would bring more than \$200K in OHV program funds to Montrose County to be used toward construction of the proposed frontage trail."

A project description in the grant application reads, "The project detailed in this application would construct approximately 1.4 miles of new OHV trail parallel to State Highway 141. The project design also includes three crossings of the highway. Construction of this trail is necessary to allow OHV users a safe and legal way to cross Highway 141 and access the Montrose County bridge over the Dolores River located on "R13 Road". This 1.4 mile section is the only segment of the 160 mile Rimrocker Trail (Montrose to Moab) which is not currently legal for OHV use."

Commissioner Roger Rash thanked Waschbusch, the Western Slope 4-Wheelers, and "everybody who has been part of this."

"It has been a huge drive just to get this short section of roadway opened up to some recreational vehicles," Rash said. He suggested a conversation with state legislators and with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) concerning common sense changes to the OHV regulations. "To me I think it's just ridiculous that we are having to do this, but I am grateful that we are...it's not just our county that deals with it...this is a problem; we've been finding workarounds for quite a while but they're expensive and time consuming. Hopefully we can come to some agreements with the state and maybe change some laws there."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy pointed out, "...this is Colorado Highway 141 through the Dolores Canyon. The traffic on this road is extremely light—it's not like trying to put a four-wheeler crossing on 550 south or something like this...it's not like we're affecting a major state highway." Caddy expressed support for Rash's suggestion, as did Commissioner Glen Davis. "I would chime right in there," Davis said, "and thank Jon for the work being done...all this was necessitated by the fact that we have to cross 141 three times...it connects what is probably the longest continuous OHV trail in Colorado...it will be a gigantic economic boost to this part of our state, and we look forward to that."

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve signing the grant application. Item D-2 was also approved unanimously, granting a non-exclusive utility easement to the City of Montrose on 0.28-acres located near the Montrose County Justice Center.

Items D3 and D4 also met with unanimous approval: an off-airport ground transportation agreement with Cooper Property Management LLC d/b/a Telluride Car Service; and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Colorado National Guard for use of approximately 35 acres of land (unusable for aviation purposes) for training purposes. Montrose Regional Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold called the MOU, "a win-win for both." Neighbors will be pleased to see



Michael and Becca Murphy speak to the BOCC at the regular meeting Nov. 22 about their business, Golden Heart Canine, the first approved through the County's new Special Use Permit requirement for dog kenneling facilities.

the property cleaned up, he said, and "are happy that it will be used for training our military."

Commissioner Rash said, "I am so grateful we can do this for our National Guard." Item D-5 concerned a \$62,244.79 bid award to low bidder Ed Tech Fusion Inc. for network equipment required for the County's network upgrade project, a budgeted expense that met with unanimous approval.

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioners held a public hearing on Planning & Development Item No. 1, proposed Special Use Permit SU 17-0029 and Resolution 51-2017 for Golden Heart Canine, a dog training and boarding facility. The applicants were Spring Creek landowners Michael and Becca Murphy, and the property in question is 9.5 acres in size.

Speaking on behalf of the applicants was County resident Jessica Poynter, who operates a similar business in the county in a close-knit neighborhood also on Spring Creek. "...I've never had any barking complaints," Poynter said. "Becca is a trainer; if she did have any issues, obviously she would be able to resolve those right away." Poynter also noted that she and Becca Murphy are licensed by the state and are bound to follow state laws.

County Planning & Development Director Steve White noted that SU-17-0029 is the first special use permit application

COUNTY MOVES FORWARD WITH OHV GRANT APP; APPROVES SUP FOR GOLDEN HEART

From previous pg

received under the county's newly approved special use requirement for such facilities. White discussed how the applicants appeared before the County's Planning Commission to answer questions and share information with concerned neighbors. The Planning Commission recommended approval, White said.

"This is the only facility in the County where you can control barking dogs..." he said. "There is never a perfect scenario, but we felt this is a pretty good scenario. There are requirements we can enforce." Michael Murphy spoke about the process he and Becca undertook to create Golden Heart Canine. "We bought our property when this was a use by right," he said, adding that Golden Heart was licensed by the state on July 6, one day after the County voted to require approval of a special use permit for those who wish to op-

erate a dog kenneling facility. Becca talked about her education and experience. "The dog training industry is not regulated, but I took it seriously enough to pursue getting accredited...people need help with their dogs; we can contribute something positive to the community."

And with just 150 boarding spots for dogs in the County, "We do legitimately feel there is a business need for it," Michael said. "...This business has potential we think to have more than six figures in revenue if things went really well down the road."

"Thank you for bringing some economic growth to the community...there's a lot of unruly dogs out there," BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said. "I own one."

Commissioners David and Rash both thanked staff and the County Planning Commission for its work throughout the

permit application process.

Rash also pointed to the process as an example of government that works.

"This is how the system is supposed to work," Rash said.

"You guys came through the Planning Commission; you presented your stuff to your neighbors...to see that you guys formulated and compromised and came up with a plan that works for everybody, that's a testament to our pioneer spirit and our community."

As the first applicant under the new requirement, Planning Commission appreciated the applicants' approach to the permit process, White said.

Finally, Resolution 51-2017 was approved unanimously. "You're in business," Caddy said.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...FROM THE HALLWAYS OF MHS!



**Jack Switzer, MHS
freshman.**

By Jack Switzer
MONTROSE- After school you go home, do your homework, eat your dinner, maybe go on snapchat

and talk to Antoinette about the new frappa-palooza from Starbucks, then go to sleep. You wake up, go to school, and the cycle of life repeats, maybe with the occasional visit with a friend, an organized activity or sport. maybe hanging out after school for a bit at your house.

But there's no place public to go and just mingle with other teens.

All Montrose has in terms of a fun place for kids to hang out is the rec center, which not only is somewhat expensive and hard to get to without a car, but which is usually pretty full of adults.

Which is why I, a teenager myself, would want something such as a "teen center" in Montrose. A fun place for kids to hang out at and have something to do (and something inside town please). A teen center might also help kids get along. At school, most of the time all the kids are separated into their own groups. And all of the groups have isolated strangers for the most part. If a good amount of the high school kids go to the teen center to have fun, kids will meet each other, kids will meet groups, and groups will meet groups. Solving a good amount of the bullying happening between kids, and helping

the kids who don't have friends, make friends.

Another good reason for a teen center is that teens won't have to do something illegal like break into an old house for a good time, or smoke weed inside a public restroom. So a teen center would probably be an improvement.

We need a teen center in Montrose, and not something that would attract a few kids.

Something that would attract a crowd of kids. Benefitting for the majority of Montrose.

It would destroy the border walls between groups of kids isolated from each other, giving teens something to do other than sit at home re-watching the last few episodes [Bob Ross](#) made, crying into your pillow.

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MITCH SWANDA NAMED TO LEAD BANK OF COLORADO HOTCHKISS BRANCH

Mirror staff report

HOTCHKISS-In a small town, a bank president can make a big difference.

With close to 1,000 residents, [Hotchkiss](#) is a small town in the heart of one of Colorado's most sought-after, niche-market agricultural growing regions.

So Bank of Colorado's recent announcement that Mitch Swanda has been promoted to Hotchkiss branch president strikes many as the perfect fit.

"Having grown up on a farm in the southeast Nebraska, Mitch learned that hard work yields wonderful results. Beyond a work ethic, Mitch gained an appreciation for the challenges facing both the Ag and Business communities," A news release issued by the bank notes.

Finding the right person to lead the Hotchkiss branch has been very important to Bank of Colorado, Marketing Director David Finkelstein said.

"It is very important that we hire the best possible staff to serve the community," he

said. "Mitch is excited to be there; it's home. And that is what is important to us."

A U.S. veteran, Swanda joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school, and served six years aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz.

"Mitch was an obvious choice for Branch President," Kacy Stillings, Market President for Bank of Colorado said.

"Dedication, hard work and a proven track record of excellent customer service were all factors in his promotion."

Prior to joining Bank of Colorado, Swanda's career highlights included a bachelor's Degree in business administration and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, as well as a leadership role with USAA and time spent as an Ag Lender for the USDA.

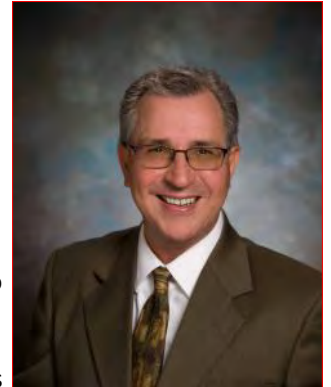
"Growing up in Nebraska taught me the importance of community and instilled values that I apply to every interaction with customers to this day," Swanda said.

"I'm excited to serve the Hotchkiss community and help grow our already talented team."

According to the news release, Bank of Colorado is a network of community banks throughout Colorado, founded on the community banking values of trust, strength and dependability.

BOC has more than \$3 billion in combined assets and is part of Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc.

To learn more, go to www.bankofcolorado.com.



Bank of Colorado Hotchkiss Branch President Mitch Swanda. Courtesy photo.

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IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE CITY OF MONTROSE
OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND
TOURISM AND PARTNERS.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS



Santa's Cabin

UNCOMPAHGRE EVENT PLAZA

502 S First St

Saturdays and Sundays

2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

December 2 - December 23

TIMBERLINE BANK

1561 Oxbow Dr

Fridays 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

December 1 - December 22



Pediatric
Associates



San Juan
Gardens

Parade of Lights

DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET

Saturday, December 2

5:30 pm

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now weekly

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS HOSTS "PAY IT FORWARD" HIRING DRIVE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Express Employment Professionals offices in both Grand Junction and Montrose are kicking off their Third Annual Pay it Forward Hiring Drive to put unemployed individuals to work this holiday season!

For every additional employee placed during this program, Express Employment pledges to donate a holiday turkey to either the Community Food Bank of Grand Junction or to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Montrose...just in time for Christmas dinner!

By joining Express in this hiring drive, employers will gain a qualified worker and give the gift of employment to an individual who would otherwise not work during the week of Dec. 4-8, 2017.

Express associates are screened and evaluated before being placed in short- and long-term assignments in a variety of administrative, professional and commercial positions.

"Pay it Forward to us means working with local businesses to help find jobs for unemployed workers in our community so they can earn a paycheck and help support their families this season," said Nina Anderson, owner of the Grand Junction and Montrose Express offices. "Our vision is to bring hope and a sense of pride to local families during the holidays."

This program provides businesses with the additional support often needed during a busy time of the year. In 2016 Express Employment of Grand Junction put an additional 47 associates and Montrose put an additional 31 associates to work during the holidays through this program. Our 2017 goal is to place over 50 associates in Grand Junction and 40 in Montrose.

Companies and individuals interested in participating in the Pay it Forward Hiring Drive can call the Grand Junction Express office at 970-242-4500 OR call the Montrose Express office at 970-249-5202 for

more information.

The Express Employment Professionals franchise began serving western Colorado in 2007 in Grand Junction and in May 2015 expanded to open an office in beautiful

Montrose, Colorado. Express offers temporary help and direct hire employees in a variety of fields, including administrative, commercial, data processing, technical, sales, medical and more.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:30-8:00 PM

TICKETS

ADVANCE	DAY-OF
\$30/each	\$35/each
\$50/2	

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HEALTHY RHYTHM

For additional information call (970) 240-1815

#SAVETHESCULPTURES

CITIZEN EXPRESSES OUTRAGE OVER MIAMI ROAD FARM ADDITION

From pg 1

2018 Budget (Ordinance 2438 and Resolution 2017-16). A voice vote was taken for these agenda items.

Call For Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items:

Lori Webb said, "This is the last time I hope to be up here [in front of council] for the rest of my life. This whole process [Miami Farm Addition zoning] was injustice. Especially not being able to speak to council members about zoning. You are elected officials and we should be able to be heard. Take into consideration the number of people who did show up for the issue. This [zoning issue] is for the whole town, not just for a few people to make money. Thank you."

Arvada resident Gene Elliott owns a small company in Conifer and is a dealer for New Way trash trucks. "I've been here three times [before council] in the last three years." Elliott spoke about his company, his product, the service he offers and the training he provides. Referring to recent bids, of which he was one of three bidders, he said, "I am the lowest of the three bids by \$20,000. I'm asking for the opportunity to fairly be allowed to bid."

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Files was not present for the Nov. 7, 2017. However, she conferred with the city attorney prior to this meeting. The mayor said, "Even though I missed the meeting I watched it online so I will be voting."

Planning Commission Appointments:

Applicants - Vince Fandel, Carol Mc Bride and Greg Moberg were interviewed previously. Greg Moberg was appointed as a commissioner and Vince Fandel as an alternate. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Ordinance 2436 (second reading) – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This ordinance provides for the zoning of the 165 acre Miami Road Farm Addition as an R-3 (Medium Density District) and a B-4 (Neighborhood Shopping District). There has been public opposition, both in writing and public comment, against the original request for higher density zoning.

This is a ratification of the Planning Commission recommendation that came from the October 11, 2017 meeting. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the R-3 and B-4 zoning, with the condition that multi-family residences are a prohibited use in the B-4 zoned areas of the Addition.

Baker said, "I have no further comments." Councilman Dave Bowman said, "Go ahead and tell me what else we can do in the R3. I'd like that written into the record so there is no confusion."

After reading the code into the record Baker did not say that zoning changes to the Miami Farm Addition would never happen in the future, but that any changes, "Require a hearing before the Planning Commission."

Ratified unanimously by the three council members present.

New Brew Pub Liquor License – City Attorney Stephen Alcorn.

A hearing to consider approval of a Brew Pub liquor license for Two Rascals Brewing Company, located at 147 N. First Street. Currently Two Rascals has a (manufacturing) liquor license; however, the new Brew Pub Liquor license will allow the establishment to serve wine, cider and hard liquor, in addition to beer. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

2018 Budget Approval

Ordinance 2438 (second reading) - Finance Director Shani Wittenberg. Provides and appropriates funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018.

Mayor Files read into the record written statements from councilmen Bynum and Romero, who were not present in person at the meeting, but were on a conference call.

Wittenberg stated that the budget had been discussed a lot over the last six or seven months, "I can answer questions or I have a presentation [PowerPoint] I can give if you want to be here until 11 o'clock." Approved unanimously by all five

of council through conference call and voice vote.

Resolution 2017-16

The resolution is to adopt the 2018 Municipal Budget, which has a total appropriation of \$57,836,928.

Approved unanimously by all five of council through conference call and voice vote.

Ordinance 2439 (second reading) - Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This Ordinance vacates a portion of North Stough Avenue which gives Montrose County better access to the new events center. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Resolution 2017-17 - Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This resolution sets a hearing date for the annexation of the Recalde Addition. The property is located off West Main Street north of the trailhead and is slated for the planned multi-use trail along the Uncompahgre River.

Baker said, "The site is surrounded by the city limits. The city will purchase a portion of the property for a key piece of the trail project [trail underpass]." The hearing date is set for January 2, 2018. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Resolution 2017-18 – City Manager Bill Bell.

This resolution requests coverage under FPPA Defined Benefit System administered by the Fire and Police Pension Association for new police officers. Bell said, "This was talked about in a work session. I support it. It's something our sworn officers have asked for."

Resident Dave Stockton said, "How are new police officers defined?" Bell explained that all officers, if they choose, can move to the new benefit plan; however, any new hires would be under the new plan. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Resolution 2017-19 - Finance Director Shani Wittenberg.

This resolution fixes the tax levy for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2018

CITIZEN EXPRESSES OUTRAGE OVER MIAMI ROAD FARM ADDITION

From previous page

and ending Dec. 31, 2018. The DDA anticipates the continuation of the 5.0 mill tax levy upon each dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property located within the DDA.

Wittenberg described this as a "housekeeping resolution." Mayor Files said, "Essentially we are saying this is nothing new. The amount of the mill levy is the same and not changing." Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Cedar View Subdivision Planned Development Amendment – Assistant City Attorney Andrew Boyko.

This is a consideration of a Waiver and Release between the city and Cedarview Development, LLC concerning a pedestrian crossing/bridge over Cedar Creek. The city, as well as the five landowners involved, have determined the bridge is not needed. Boyko said, "This is a consensual agreement." Both the Fire Department and the Police Department were consulted and neither saw a need for additional emergency access. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Waterfall Canyon Preliminary Plat No. 2 – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This is a consideration of Waterfall Canyon Preliminary Plat No. 2. Baker said, "This was first approved in 2005. There are no changes, it simply extends the filing period for five years." Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Colorado Outdoors Planned Development – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This is consideration to approve the Colorado Outdoors Planned Development. The Planning Staff Report states, "Colorado Outdoors is multi-phase, multi-use commercial and residential subdivision proposed on 165 acres in northwestern Montrose. This preliminary plat prepares five lots for development, dedicates 41 acres of 92 open space along the river corridor, and leaves five outlots for future phases of the development."

Baker said, "This allows certain discretion

and flexibility on the project [street/sidewalk adjustments, some parking lot changes]. A few minor site changes. This gives us flexibility for the Uncompahgre River buffer zone.

There will be some flexibility on the part of the city and the developer." Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Colorado Outdoors Preliminary Plat – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This is consideration of the Colorado Outdoors Preliminary Plat. Baker said, "This would be the first phase of the Colorado Outdoor project, a loop road. This gives the developer authorization to go ahead and develop streets so they can sell lots." Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Bear Creek Phase 1 and Bear Creek Phase 2a, P.D. Plan Amendment 4, final plat – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This is consideration of Bear Creek Phase 1 and Bear Creek Phase 2a, P.D. Plan Amendment 4, final plat. Approximately 1.8 acres. Baker said, "This area was authorized for multiple or single family development. The developer went with single family. Approved unanimously by the three council members present.

Staff Reports:

Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report – Finance Director Shani Wittenberg.

Wittenberg said, "All the funds look really good at this time." YTD Retail Sales Tax - \$10,917,155; YTD Total Collected Sales & Use Tax - \$12,262,016; YTD Montrose Recreation District (0.3%) - \$1,226,512; YTD Retail Enhancement Program - \$237,879.

Third Quarter Budget Review – Finance Director Shani Wittenberg.

The following capital projects were budgeted in the Governmental Funds for 2017:

- Equipment for the SWAT team in the Police Department
- LED lighting installation along the middle trail will continue in 2017
- Pedestrian Bridge resurfacing in Rotary and Riverbottom Parks
- New Dog Park in Cerise Park – Complet-

ed and dedicated on July 22nd

- West side arterial extension construction from S. First to S. Third – Completed and opened late October
- Sidewalk and ADA improvements throughout town and Northside Elementary sidewalk improvements
- Alley reconstruction between Main and S. First and Cascade and Uncompahgre
- Hillcrest/Miami Roundabout Engineering & ROW acquisition
- Hillcrest Extension Design – Niagara to East Oak Grove Road
- Completion of the Otter Road Box Culvert project

The report lists capital improvement projects (hydrant replacement, shut-off valves, rotor gear boxes, digester ladders, etc.) for both the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

Projects for the Black Canyon Golf Course include back 9 sand traps; Range net & posts; drainage improvements at hole #10 & #12; landscaping at Miami and Columbine and concrete bridge decking.

Public Information Report – City Manager Bill Bell.

Bell deferred to staff for reports. City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo noted a four-hour alcohol server training class is scheduled for Dec. 7. Twenty applicants have signed up; however, there is room for more people who would like to attend the class.

Assistant City Manager/OBT Director Rob Joseph gave a rundown of upcoming holiday events, the scheduled times and the sale of Montrose Bucks. The Parade of Lights will be held on Dec. 2nd at 5:30.

City Council Comments

Councilman Bowman donned his promotional hat to promote the *Montrose Daily Press'* Best Business issue and hinted that his summer music series would be in the running. Bowman also promoted a fundraiser to be held at the Horsefly.

Councilman Anderson had no comments and Mayor Files reflected on community participation during the recent Silver Star Award presentation, "It's nice to have our community come together."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COOPERATIVE PROJECT PROTECTS GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT IN WESTERN CO



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently completed a collaborative effort to permanently protect 505 acres of property in San Miguel County that provides important habitat for the federally threatened Gunnison sage-grouse.

This prime piece of property was conveyed to CPW to promote ongoing conservation efforts in San Miguel County for the native bird.

"For many years, CPW together with the San Miguel Gunnison sage-grouse Working Group identified this important piece of habitat for the conservation of the bird," said Renzo DelPiccolo, area wildlife manager for CPW in Montrose. "So when Tri-State worked cooperatively with BLM and the landowner to purchase this key property, we were thrilled."

As part of its efforts to further sage-

grouse habitat protections during the re-building of a southwest Colorado transmission line, Tri-State acquired the parcel and then donated it to CPW to own and manage.

"This project was an excellent example of collaboration between the utility industry, the BLM and CPW to mitigate impacts to a federally threatened species while ensuring reliable power to our members," said Karl Myers, Tri-State's transmission siting, permitting and environmental manager. "Tri-State is grateful to our partners at Colorado Parks and Wildlife for their collaboration and engagement to help protect the areas that our members serve."

The property adjoins the existing 2,500-acre Dan Noble State Wildlife Area, which also holds Miramonte Reservoir. In addition, the state wildlife area is bordered by more than 2,500 acres of property that is protected by conservation easements and stewardship trust programs to protect wildlife habitat, as well as lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Very little development will ever take place in the area.

"This helps to connect a landscape that provides habitat and migration corridors, not only for Gunnison sage-grouse, but for a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, elk, small mammals and birds," DelPiccolo said.

The Miramonte Basin, where Dan Noble State Wildlife Area and the new mitigation

parcel are located, provides the core habitat for the majority of Gunnison sage-grouse in the San Miguel Basin. For several years, CPW has fitted birds with radio collars and biologists learned that sage grouse are reliant on the habitat in the area for breeding, nesting, brood-rearing and wintering.

"This parcel has everything that Gunnison sage-grouse need and is one of the most important areas for the bird in the entire San Miguel Basin. Grouse have demonstrated that they use this property for the entire year," DelPiccolo said.

To protect Gunnison sage-grouse during the critical spring breeding season, the parcel will be closed to all activity from March 1 to May 15 every year.

CPW will build a wildlife-friendly fence around the property, but until that project is complete the parcel is closed to the public. When the fencing project is finished the area will be open to small- and big-game hunting during the regular seasons.

CPW biologists estimate that the population of Gunnison sage-grouse in the San Miguel Basin is about 240. CPW is working on habitat projects to boost the population of the bird.

In 2016, Tri-State's Colowyo Mine in northwest Colorado was recognized by CPW as partner of the year for the power supplier's collaborative efforts with the state to protect wildlife habitat.

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issues and all the fixings.

THE MIRROR ALWAYS SATISFIES

CHERRY CREEK RADIO AND ALPINE BANK ARE SPONSORING
THE 2017 PIC PLACE

Toy & Family Memories Drive

FOR MONTROSE COUNTY

Please donate toys for boys and girls from newborn to 14 years of age (all toys should be unwrapped). Also collecting Cash Donations to be used to purchase additional toys and gift certificates.

Drop-off points

Montrose Alpine Bank locations during banking hours: 2770 Alpine Drive and 1400 East Main Street.

The PIC Place - 87 Merchant Drive

Montrose Recreation Center - 16350 Woodgate Rd

Collection Dates

November 18 – December 15

Happy New Merry Thanksmas

The toy and food drive will begin with this event, November 17 & 18 (drop off at the event itself), and will continue through December 15.

Distribution on Saturday December 16 at The PIC Place from 10am-noon.



Alpine Bank
Member FDIC



facebook.com/SherbinoTheater

For more information, visit
WWW.SHERBINOTheater.COM



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The Sherbino

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TELLURIDE FOUNDATION

Thursday
Nov. 2

Saturday
Nov. 4

OPEN BARD: Trish Hopkinson

Doors @ 6:00pm. Readings @ 6:30pm. \$5 or \$20 for the season



MOONWALK - 3rd Annual Independent Film Fest

6-8 pm. Donations appreciated. Cash Bar & Concessions Available

Thurs - Sun
Nov.
9-12

CANNIBAL! The Musical

TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.SHERBINO.ORG

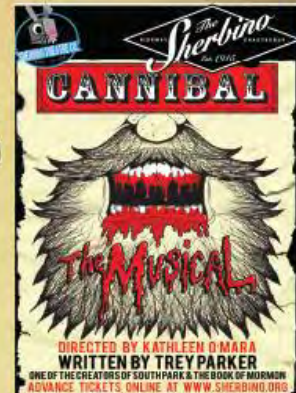
Reserved = \$25 ea / GA in Advance = \$15 / GA at Door = \$20

Thursday @ 7:30 pm, Friday @ 7:30 pm,

Saturday @ 1:00 pm, Saturday @ 7:30 pm,

Sunday @ 4 pm

Doors open for each show 30 minutes before showtime



Tuesday
Nov. 14



ARTBAR:

PATTERNED GIFTS & PINOT NOIR with KELLIE DAY

6-8 pm. \$45. Pre-Registration Recommended. www.weehawkenarts.org

Thursday
Nov. 16

ROCC TALK - FILM

River of Sorrow: The Dolores River Project

6:45 pm - with filmmaker Cody Perry of Rig to Flip Productions



Friday & Sat
Nov.
17-18



WEEHAWKEN & SHERBINO PRESENTS

THE HOBBIT YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Friday @ 7:30 pm. Saturday @ 2:30 pm AND 7:30 pm.

Doors open for each show 30 minutes before showtime.

Adults: \$5 / Youth: \$3

Sunday
Nov. 19

OPEN MIC NIGHT

5-9 pm, 2 monitors & 2 mics provided, \$ By Donation



Thursday
Nov. 30



SHERB NERDS

Doors @ 6:30. Trivia @ 7. \$5 suggested donation

CITY RAISES RESIDENTIAL SEWER RATES

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-It was through the November City Beat Newsletter that city residents learned the \$0.25 cent per month sewer back-up fee on utility billing statements would be eliminated on Jan. 1, 2018. The fund, which was approved by council in April 2015, has generated \$55,851.15 and the current fund balance is \$51,884.84.

However, the newsletter also reported that an increase to the residential customer's rate by \$0.59 cents/month occur in April 2018.

To make the rate increase seem more palatable to customers the city will impose a \$0.59 cents/month increase on sewer, while dropping the \$0.25 sewer back-up fee, "The result is a net increase to our residential customers of \$0.34/month, beginning in April 2018."

There was a time when rate increases in fees were transparent and came before the elected officials where they were vetted in a public forum. However, it appears that when the city's Municipal Code was updated a few years ago and the city council authorized the city administration/staff to increase annual inflationary fee increases for water, sewer, and/or trash and recycling services if deemed necessary.

The city manager's cover letter to the Proposed 2018 Budget addressed Fee

Changes and states, "The water, sewer, and sanitation funds of the city are enterprise funds that are funded by user charges rather than taxes. The City Code was updated a few years ago to include an annual inflationary increase for our Water, Sewer and/or Trash & Recycling Funds effective April 1 of each year if deemed necessary. However, a rate increase was not requested for any of these funds over the past seven years in an effort to help our customers recover from the recessed economy. With the increasing demands of deferred maintenance and increasing costs of capital construction, it is now time to implement an inflationary increase to our fee structure within our Sewer Fund in order to make sure that this fund remains stable moving forward. Therefore, a small rate increase for the sewer fund of 2.7 percent is being recommended to the City Council for consideration as part of the 2018 budget process. This will increase the residential customer's rate by \$.59 cents/month. At the same time, we are excited to say that we have built enough reserve in our 'Emergency Sewer Backup – Customer Assistance Fund' to eliminate the \$.25 cents/month surcharge for every customer beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Therefore, the true financial impact to our residential sewer customers will be an increase of \$.34 cents/month beginning in April

2018."

In part the city administration justifies the increase to the Sewer Fund, "...in order to make sure that this fund remains stable moving forward." However, the city finance department continues to give Enterprise Funds a healthy report card. So much so that \$1.7 M from the city Water Fund is being loaned to the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) for construction of infrastructure. Likewise, the Fleet Fund loaned money to the Black Canyon Golf Course because the golf course had no funds when it was acquired.

On the city website an overview of the Utilities Division states, "The water and sewer utilities are maintained through service charges that are placed in enterprise funds for each utility. These enterprise funds are used exclusively to support the cost of providing the service. Fees are set according to what is needed to cover the actual cost of the service."

The city council has not discussed the increase in sewer fees in any public meeting, nor have they questioned the city staff about the need for an increase, or the size of the increase. The city administration simply included the fee increase in the 2018 Proposed Budget and then city council unanimously approved and adopted by budget on Nov. 21, 2017 during regular council meeting.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

EMPATHY'S ROLE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

By Heather Darbe

Montrose Suicide Prevention Coalition

When someone comes to me in a great amount of pain, I remember; I remember the horrifying nights when my dad would scream at my mother, I remember seeing the bruises left on my mother the next day. I remember at age 12 setting the alarm clock to wake me up at in the middle of the night so that I could drink the nail polish remover sitting on my dresser, in hopes that it "would end the pain." There was no Google then, so my resources were limited on how one would kill themselves. I remember at age 27 sipping from the vodka bottle to "toughen me up" before taking the bottle of sleeping pills I had stored in medicine cabinet in hopes that the "pain inside would go away." I remember the call informing me that my friend had died in a car wreck. I remember the awful pain in my stomach wishing it weren't true. I remember the

shame and embarrassment I felt when I got the call that my friend had died by suicide...all the hurt the family was going through...and how I sat thinking "I can't believe I want to die the same way."

When someone comes to me in a great amount of pain, I remember.

I remember these events so that I can truly **empathize** with the individual I am working with. I don't sympathize with the person, I empathize. When we can truly pull a time from our own past that was extremely painful, we can relate to that person's pain, no, we can't understand it because it's all different, but we can certainly relate to the pain. We can be quiet, non-judgmental and not saying anything, we can just listen...we can listen for their reasons to live...we can ask "are you thinking of killing yourself," yes, even to the grown men in our community who are victims of the stigma on emotion in our culture.

Empathy is "wow, sounds like you are in an extreme amount of pain, I am going to be here with you through this pain." Empathy is saying "your *smile* matters, your *style* matters, your *uniqueness* matter, *YOU* matter, and it don't feel like it now, but you do!"

Denial is prevalent in a culture that, overall, is growing increasingly cold and less empathetic. Even those who are aware of their own conditions, and truly want to get better, still face many challenges. If we really want to make a difference, then we must fight to improve and increase our empathy, and spread compassion among our community, this in its own way IS SUICIDE PREVENTION. We must constantly increase efforts to ultimately let those who are suffering to understand, they are not alone. Pull from a time in your past that was extremely painful and relate to the persons pain...spread compassion...prevent suicide.

249 8500

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

KATIE SICKLES TO SERVE OURAY AS INTERIM ADMIN



Kathleen "Katie" Sickles. Courtesy photo.

By Carole Ann McKelvey
Ouray Bureau Reporter

OURAY-Ouray's city council hired Kathleen (Katie) Ann Sickles as the interim Ouray city administrator at a special meeting Nov. 16. Johnathan Batt declined the city's offer to become the permanent city administrator, leaving the city scrambling.

Sickles is presently the town administrator of Cedaredge. She was publicly introduced during the council meeting Monday, Nov. 20. She replaces Justin Perry, Ouray police chief, who will now concentrate on policing.

Sickles has agreed to work a minimum OF 330 hours for \$14,000, with an additional \$2,000 for housing assistance. She started Nov. 20, committed to work through Jan. 19, 2018. The deadline to announce new

final candidates for city administrator is Jan. 10, 2018.

Monday Council members said Sickles' tenure is based upon search timelines. It was after a nation-wide search that Batt declined the position, leaving the council searching to find an interim administrator. In the absence of a permanent leader, council members, including Mayor Pam Larson, have pulled extra duties to help run the city. With Sickles in place the council said it is concentrating efforts on recruiting a new city administrator.

In other action items Monday, the city council – with reelected council members Glenn Boyd, Dee Hilton and Mayor Larson:

- Approved a liquor license request of Thai Chili Ouray;

- Tabled the appointment of Zach Martin as Ouray municipal judge, citing possible conflicts;

- Authorized a critical grant-matching donation of \$2,000 to Ouray County Water Initiative.

The 2018 donation helps fund a continuing region-wide Upper Uncompahgre Water Supply Protection & Enhancement Plan; the city donated a like amount toward the first phase of the plan. Finding solutions to an enormous area-wide lack of water during dry years is the target of the plan, which is financially supported by

Ouray County, municipalities, and Upper Uncompahgre River water users and ranchers. This directly affects future growth in Ouray County and is key to insuring the protection and enhancement of water in the Upper Uncompahgre Water Shed. Up to 20,200 acre-feet of basin-wide water shortages can impact local agriculture, in-stream water for recreation, fish, wildlife habitat, municipal and related water uses.

A steering committee is tasked with studying all future uses of water in the county, to assure available needed water. Unified community support for a future entity with funding sources and eventually having stewardship over future water storage facilities (such as Ridgway Reservoir) is the first goal.

Marti Whitmore, who has practiced water law in Colorado since 1978 and who is the Montrose County Attorney as well, is project leader. She has the task of finding volunteer and cash in-kind matches – such as the one committed by the Ouray council Monday. A deadline of Jan.1, 2018 is looming, to secure commitment of in-kind funding/volunteer efforts, worth about \$25,000.

It is hoped the plan will be completed in 2018. Implementation of future storage facilities would likely occur from 2018-20.

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SETH CAGIN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Editor:

I am excited to announce today that I am running for the Democratic Party nomination for Colorado State House of Representatives from the 58th House District.

I am a former newspaper editor, publisher and reporter, and am writing this press release in the first person because I don't have a press secretary or campaign manager. Mine is a "do it yourself" campaign, at least to begin with.

I have lived in the heart of the 58th House District, in Telluride, for the past 30 years. For most of those years, I published The Watch newspaper, serving San Miguel and Ouray counties.

The 58th House District has not been represented by a Democrat since 1980. What's more, three out of four counties in the district voted for Donald Trump in 2016, by margins ranging 61.2% to 76.1%. My home county, San Miguel, voted for Clinton by 68.7%.

Those numbers reflect the deep polarization we are experiencing in American politics. And that is exactly why I have decided to devote the next year of my life to running as a progressive in this district. I deeply believe that we Americans must overcome the forces that are dividing us

into warring tribes who barely talk to each other... before those forces rip us even further apart.

I intend to prove in this campaign that we are not as divided as our corrosive politics often make it seem. I want to introduce myself to my neighbors across the divides (Lizard Head Pass and Dallas Divide) and ask them about the issues that concern them most. I want give them my promise that if they elect me I will work hard at the State Capitol to improve their lives.

I plan to wear out a bunch of shoes going door-to-door with the hope that I can break through the stereotypes that keep people apart. I know that many of the voters I will meet have been voting Republican. So, I will ask if we can move beyond our party affiliation to find our common ground.

I believe that the overwhelming issue in the 2018 election nationally will be the disturbing state of our civic life. I believe that the path forward is for us to reject the politics of division and scapegoating and to come back together as Americans with shared purpose and values.

I believe that while some politicians thrive on conflict, most voters would pre-

fer to see cooperation. I believe that most Americans want to see more educational and economic opportunity for themselves and their families, more investment in their communities and neighborhoods, and health care they can afford.

These are the issues I will speak to over the next 12 months.

I believe there is common ground even on the hot button issues that some politicians exploit to keep us angry with each other: issues like gun rights, abortion and immigration.

I am inspired by Wallace Stegner, who wrote, in 1969:

"One cannot be pessimistic about the West. This is the native home of hope. When it fully learns that cooperation, not rugged individualism, is the quality that most characterizes and preserves it, then it will have achieved itself and outlived its origins. Then it has a chance to create a society to match its scenery."

It will be my privilege this coming year to meet as many of those rugged individuals as possible, hoping we can find a path to cooperation, living together, as we do, against the backdrop of Southwestern Colorado's magnificent landscapes.

Seth Cagin, Telluride

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



WEEKAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS AND MONTROSE RECREATIONAL DISTRICT JOIN FORCES TO EXPAND PROGRAM OFFERINGS IN MONTROSE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—The winter issue of the Montrose Recreation District's *Activity Guide* will feature new programming options developed by Weehawken Creative Arts in collaboration with MRD. Weehawken was recently selected as MRD's exclusive fine arts and cultural programming partner to offer language, dance, theater, creative writing, fine arts, craft arts, and more to recreation district users of all ages.

The licensing agreement between Weehawken and MRD coincides with the re-opening of the newly renovated Montrose Field House (the old Aquatic Center). The \$1.2 million renovation of the Field House provides classroom space and facilities to expand programming and services not previously offered to the community by MRD.

"Not only does this collaboration allow us to expand our program offerings, which we've wanted to do for some time, but it also allows us to make use of the renovated community facility," said Ken Sherbenou, executive director of MRD. "We have more than 472 people coming through our doors every day. We want to ensure that we continue to meet the community's



needs. The cultural programming provided by Weehawken is right in their wheelhouse."

The 24-month agreement provides Weehawken exclusive use of the Apex and Omni rooms. The agreement also allows for shared use of the lobby, office space, locker rooms and north patio. Weehawken will not use the pool or indoor turf areas in its licensing agreement.

Weehawken Creative Arts is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization based in Ouray County. Weehawken has art and dance programs and studios in Montrose, Ouray

County, and Silverton. The organization was founded in 2004 and offers classes, workshops, performances and special events year-round to adults and children.

The Montrose Recreation District's purpose is to provide, manage, and maintain quality recreational facilities, programs, and services, which will enhance the learning, leisure, and recreation opportunities that promote a healthy community.

Daily visitor numbers quoted herein are from the most recent 2016 report, said Sherbenou. He said numbers for 2017 will likely be available second quarter of 2018.

Valley Manor Care Center Gingerbread House Contest

Four Categories

#1 Original Creations
(No Kits):
Made entirely of edible
materials, except base
and supports

#2 Groups:
Families, friends,
clubs, co-workers.
Kits allowed

#3 Youth:
Ages 6-11
Kits allowed

#4 Child:
Ages 5 & under
Kits allowed

Entries Accepted: Tuesday Dec. 12th from 9A-6P

Judging: Wednesday Dec. 13th at 2P

On display through Saturday Dec. 16

Please pick up on Sunday Dec. 17

1401 S. Cascade Ave
Montrose
(Behind Holiday Inn)



Questions? Contact Hannah Goff
970-249-9634 or hgooff@voa.org



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Over 200 entrees to choose from!

1st Wednesday: **The Homestead at Montrose**

2nd Wednesday: **All Points Transit**

3rd Wednesday: **Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club**

4th Wednesday: **Valley Manor Care Center**

5th Wednesday: **Community Options Inc.**

(Note: 5th Wed dates are: Mar. 29, May 31, Aug. 30, Nov 29th, 2017)

*After dining, attach the coupon to the bill
and deposit it in the box labeled
"Give Back Days." 20% of your total
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(970) 252-1111 Fax

*Coupon must be present

MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT!



Clockwise from below left: Servers dish up chili at the Annual Chili Bowl Fundraiser for Art Partners @ the Lark & Sparrow venue Saturday, Nov. 25 (photo by Brad Switzer); Shopper Sharyn Crayne browses at the Basement Boutique Craft Show at the Montrose Pavilion Nov. 25; Young musicians entertain the crowd at Montrose Community Dinners at Friendship Hall Nov. 23 (photo by Christa Storrs); diners enjoy delicious chili for a great cause at Lark & Sparrow.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

WEEHAWKEN DANCE WINTER SESSION BEGINS JAN. 15 IN MONTROSE, RIDGWAY & OURAY

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Weehawken Dance is excited to be starting a new winter season of dance beginning Jan. 15. Weehawken Dance offers a variety of dance classes including ballet, hip hop, jazz and tap for ages 2.5 to 18 years of age in Montrose, Ridgway & Ouray. This dance session will run for 12 weeks and culminate in a performance of "Peter Pan" on April 27, 28 & 29 at the Montrose Pavilion. Dance class tuition ranges from \$162 for a 45 minute class to \$285 for a 120 minute class. There is an additional \$35 fee per class for any student wishing to perform in Peter Pan and also a \$25 annual registration fee per student.

This season, Weehawken Dance has added a number of new offerings including Ballet Basics for ages 9 and up in Montrose, Poms/Jazz and Boys Squad Hip Hop in Ridgway, and a year long non-performing Imperial Ballet program in Montrose. The program has also added non-performing aerial silks to their Montrose schedule, running Wednesdays at Black Canyon Gymnastics for ages 10 and up.

Students are encouraged to register in advance through Weehawken Creative Arts at www.weehawkenarts.org or by calling Weehawken at 970.318.0150. A number of classes fill prior to the beginning of the session, so pre-registration is strongly encouraged. More details are available at www.weehawkenarts.org or facebook.com/weehawkendance.

GRAND JUNCTION'S RADIO ROOM PRESENTS HARBOR & HOME

Special to Art & Sol

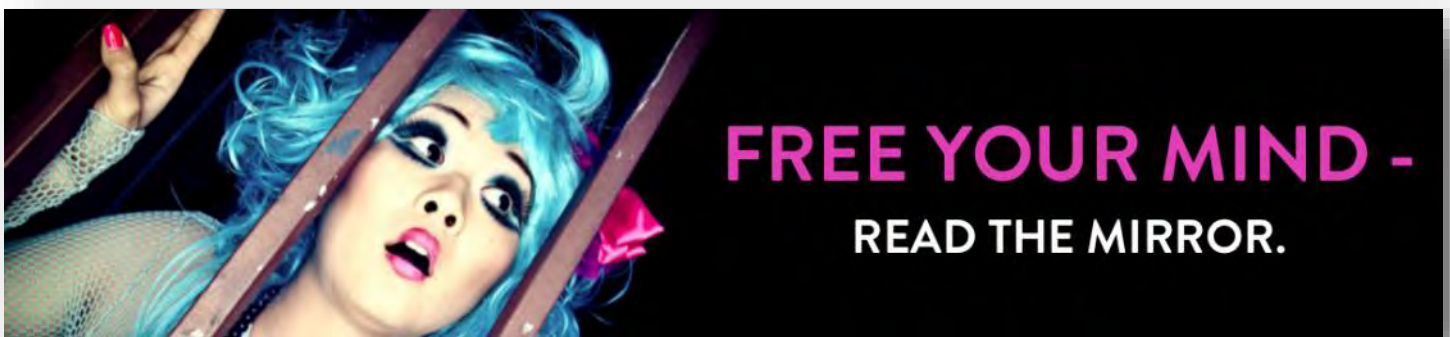
GRAND JUNCTION-Harbor and Home, an alternative rock band from Minneapolis, will play Grand Junction's Radio Room on Dec. 1. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Their sound embodies modern roots Americana with Classic Rock n' Roll. Following the release of the first album "Dark Days" in 2014, The band toured across the U.S. sharing the stage with such acts as Jeremy Messersmith, Eric Hutchinson, Mark Chesnutt, Flor from Indian Lakes and Austin Plaine. They recently released their

sophomore album "Fighter" in May 2017 after working with producer and engineer Christopher Furst at Studio 65 in Ham Lake, MN.

Tickets \$12 in advance \$15 at the door. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors at 7 pm Show at 7:30pm. 970-241-8801 or kafmradio.org

Harbor and Home, an alternative rock band from Minneapolis, will play Grand Junction's Radio Room on Dec. 1. Courtesy photo.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART AND GIFT SALE IN RIDGWAY DEC. 1-2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The 14th Annual Holiday Art and Gift Sale will be held at the Ridgway town hall community center. The show is open during Noel night Friday, Dec. 1 from

5 to 8, and continues Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10-4. This is a perfect opportunity to start — or complete— your Christmas shopping. Come in and see the beautiful work of some of Ridgway's many talented

local artists. Products for sale include jewelry, paintings, photography, fiber arts, handmade dolls, pottery, clothing, Raku, greeting cards and tree ornaments. Books and toys will also be available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

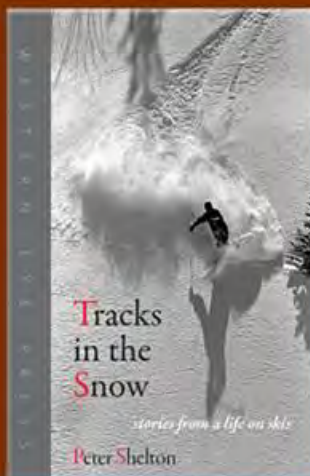


WED / NOV 29 / 7pm
@ the Bookstore

Reading & Signing
with **PETER DECKER**
for his **NEW** book
"The Go-Backer"

TUES / DEC 5 / 6pm
@ the Library

Reading & Signing
with **PETER SHELTON**
for his **NEW** book
"Tracks in the Snow"



PLUS ... PETER SHELTON & STEVEN BAKER @ BTC for
NOEL NITE @ NOON signings on **DECEMBER 6!**

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

STATE COMPLETES RISK-LIMITING AUDIT

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO-Now it's in the history books: Colorado has become the first state to complete a "risk-limiting audit" designed to catch mistakes when ballots are tabulated.

The Colorado legislature ordered the use of risk-limiting audits in 2009 -- long before widespread media coverage of fears about hacking election equipment and interference by foreigners -- but the timeline to implement the RLAs was delayed until this year's Nov. 7 coordinated election.

"I think it's fair to say that both state and county election officials were a little anxious because this has never been done before," Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams said. "But it turned out to be an amazing success, and that's because our staff and our county clerks have done a phenomenal job. I am thankful for their hard work and dedication."

The process [attracted attention nationwide](#). Matt Masterson, chairman of the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#), and fellow commissioner Thomas Hicks were among those who witnessed the procedure.

A risk-limiting audit is a procedure that provides strong statistical evidence that the election outcome is right and has a high probability of correcting a wrong outcome. Risk-limiting audits require human beings to examine and verify more ballots in close races (exactly when you want to examine more ballots), and fewer ballots in races with wide margins. The procedures for conducting risk-limiting audits are spelled out in [Secretary of State Election Rule 25](#).

If you're an in-the-weeds kind of election junkie or math wonk, you might be interested in the results the Secretary of State's office posted on its [Audit Center](#). Under the subheads "Round # 1" and "Round # 2" click on "State report (XLSX)" for a county-by-county review.

[Six counties](#) that did not have any issues for the ballot and so held no elections did not participate in this year's RLA. Neither did Jackson and San Juan counties, which hand count their ballots. For more information on the RLA process, check out the [Audit Center](#).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & OUTDOORS

BLM CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE IN WESTERN COLORADO

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Permits for cutting Christmas trees on Bureau of Land Management lands are available in Grand Junction, Montrose, Cortez and Durango at the following locations:

Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H. Rd., Grand Junction, (970) 244-3000

Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, (970) 240-5400

Dolores Public Lands Center, 29211 Hwy. 184, Dolores, (970) 882-7296

San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Ct., Durango, (970) 247-4874

The permits are for piñon pine or juniper, and are \$8-10 per tree. Permits are available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the locations listed above.

Additionally, maps of cutting areas are available at the BLM offices, and the public should bring along a hand saw, eye protection, rope or twine, extra food, water and blankets when looking for the perfect tree. Tire chains, a shovel and emergency supplies are also recommended.

For more information, contact a local BLM office.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST MONTROSE COUNTY CIVIC AWARDS PRESENTED

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose community members and organizations were honored and celebrated during the first Montrose County Civic Award ceremony Saturday evening. Hosted by the Montrose County Republican Women, nine local volunteers and service organizations were chosen because of their hard work, passion, dedication, and tenacity to help people in need. This non-partisan award is an outreach to recognize those who make a difference in the lives of others through comfort, support, education, change, and the realization of dreams. These honorees take action by shedding light on the suffering and oppressed, lighting the darkest recesses of this world to bring hope and education for the betterment of humanity. Whether it is to bring support, protection, education, or cultural change, these selfless heroes stand tall and don't waver. They are the light, which brings hope and inspiration to our hearts and minds. MCRW President Dianna Coram opened the ceremonies, held at the Montrose Hampton Inn, noting the importance of volunteerism and charitable acts to a community. First Vice President Kerri Catlin stated these individuals receiving the award are the ties that bind our community. Coram and Catlin continued by expressing that they want to make this an annual event. MCRW Chapter members read biographies of each Montrose County Civic Award recipient followed by presenting them with a certificate and Colorado State flag. The Montrose County Civic Award reads: In recognition for your participation and resolve and hard work to make our community a better place to live. Thank you for your perseverance, perspiration, and professionalism. May joy fill your heart and luck come to you through your gracious giving to others.

Receiving awards:

Local Art and Culture – Pat and Bob Brown were honored for their most current endeavor, keeping and maintaining the bronze statues on Main Street. The Browns have volunteered over the years for PAX, Main in Motion, The Botanical Gardens, and at Zion Lutheran Church. Bob was selected as Colorado State DDA

person of the year during his tenure there. MCRW President Dianna Coram presenting award.

Local Cancer Support – Francie Smiles has spent more than two decades working through Bosom Buddies to give support and comfort with those facing cancer. Her current pet project is Caring Friends located at San Juan Cancer Center. MCRW Chapter member Darla Raimier presenting award.

Higher Education – Accepting the award for generous support of students, nationwide, seeking educational certificates and degrees from trade schools, Dee Coram discusses the thousands of dollars raised on behalf of Kit Faragher killed in the World Trade Centers on 9/11. Jana and Bill Faragher awarded four \$10,000 scholarships to local students this year. MCRW Chapter member and Colorado Senator District 6 Don Coram presenting award.

International and Cultural Education – President of PNG Tribal Foundation, Gary GT Bustin is honored for his selfless endeavors to promote and supply medical aid, health, education, and stopping gender-based violence against women of Papua, New Guinea. He has raised over \$15 million in charitable donations, which has directly impacted more than 500-thousand lives globally.

Local Food Bank – Vanessa Tuttle of the Green Cupboard accepts the award for the anonymous donor who pays rent and supplies jewelry and clothing to the store. One hundred percent of proceeds from the Green Cupboard go to our local Sharing Ministries Food Bank. For 20 years Sharing Ministries has served the surrounding communities with supplemental food to families and other non-profit organizations serving children and seniors. MCRW Second Vice President Cherie Whiteford presenting.

Historical Education – The "West End Sisters", Jane Thompson and Sharon Johannsen are involved in numerous ventures in the West End of Montrose County that promote and improve the quality of



Nancy Medlock presenting MCSO Posse member David Fowler. Courtesy photo.

life for its residents and visitors alike. They give of their time and talents and invest back to their hometown through rebuilding and revitalizing historic buildings such as the Vestal House, now a National Historic property. MCRW Secretary Lori Riewaldt presenting.

Protection and Service – The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse volunteer countless hours to help the Sheriff's Department look for people in our vast land of varying topography. The Posse embarks on some very dangerous journeys in order to save or recover our loved ones. MCSO Posse Member David Fowler accepts their award from MCRW Chapter member Nancy Medlock.

Veteran Support – Gary Gratton receives his award for he and his crew that have carved over 500 eagle-headed canes to give to our veterans. Gary has also worked hard in many others areas for Veterans in Montrose, as well as Habitat for Humanity. MCRW Chapter Member Pat Blackwelder presenting.

Voice of the Valley – Beloved and long-time local radio host for KUBC AM 580 Jim Kerschner, was awarded for his devotion to broadcasting Western Slope athletics for the enjoyment of our area. Jim also spent many hours interviewing community members about their jobs, organizations, and interests, helping to educate the populace. Another of Jim's passions is hosting Operation Sweet Tooth in support of our active military. MCRW Chaplin Roena Frank presenting.

FIRST MONTROSE COUNTY CIVIC AWARDS PRESENTED From previous pg



Clockwise from top left: Dianna Coram presenting Pat/Bob Brown; Francie Smiles receiving award from Darla Raimer; Cherie Whiteford presenting Vanessa Tuttle for Green Cupboard; Dee Coram receiving award for Jana/Bill Faragher from Don Coram; Gary Gratton receiving award from Pat Blackwelder; Kerri Catlin presenting Gary GT Bustin. Courtesy photos.

IT AWESOME KEEP LEGENDARY STUCK CLUTCH

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NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY...

Exploring Classical Music With Rob Brethouwer

FALSE STARTS AND FAILURES...WHERE GREAT WORKS BEGIN

All great talent has its origins. Great reputations and attainment of iconic status in any field do not just happen overnight, but are always grounded in a foundation of false starts and failures. These beginnings will be examined through the first works of operatic composers whose works have achieved iconic status and are now some of the most performed in the repertoire. Perspective is key so composers from Italian, French, and German "brands" of opera will be our focus.

Any discussion of Italian opera must include Giacomo Puccini and Giuseppe Verdi. The works of these two composers occupy every opera house in the world and are constant favorites of operagoers of all ages. Even for the many who are not opera fans, the names of some operas are familiar, as they have entered the world of pop culture.

From Puccini *La Boheme*, and *Tosca* and from Verdi *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata*, Italian opera is at the very core of the art form, is likely the best place to start for anybody who wants to become familiar with opera, and offers many works that will draw the novice into the opera world and keep them there for a lifetime.

The discussion of the first works of

French opera composers will focus on those by Jules Massenet and Georges Bizet. Of the multiple compositions by Massenet it is *Werther* and *Thais* that are most often seen on the opera stages of the world. Other more obscure and less often performed operas make up the bulk of his compositional output. It is *Carmen* from Georges Bizet than has become one of the most popular of all operas in the repertoire, familiar tunes and melodies that cannot help but be hummed or whistled occur one after the other in this work. First operas become even more interesting when later works achieve such a high level of success in both opera and pop culture. As part of this discussion we will take a quick glance at the look of ballet in French operas.

The four operas that make up the Ring Cycle by German composer Richard Wagner are well known, often performed, and offer a challenge to those in the audience as far as listening endurance. Completion of this cycle for performers and for the audience will cover approximately 16 hours over four nights in the theatre. Operas that are part of any season are called War Horses as they keep going and going and are always reliable.



German composer Richard Wagner.
Courtesy image.

The Ring Cycle represents the very epitome of long-standing, and long lasting, operas.

How does a composer make it part of his life work to compose such a massive body of work?

The answer lies in the beginnings and the first compositional works of this often controversial composer.



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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Turkey bounty, ethics upset

GIVING THANKS ... It was hard to fight against Thanksgiving Day. Who doesn't love celebrating with one's family a day of gratitude for all the good things in life? It's only tricky if you have a troublesome conscience, or still hold to some of those old-fashioned ethical principles that appear to be in national disarray right now ... But I did. Have a troublesome conscience. And I did rail at Thanksgiving for years. Like the Columbus tale, Thanksgiving is rife with legend and outright disinformation ... Did you know that some of the first starving European colonists resorted to cannibalism and actually dug up the graves of the dead – their own as well as native burials? Not the pretty schoolbook picture of a first Thanksgiving spread ... Plus, it seems to have become one of the more successful consumer theme mainstays for businesses around the country. With Black Friday ushering us into the frenetic winter solstice season ... And, given the fact that this country – for all its great accomplishments – has still not begun a process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples for their forced removal from their traditional homelands, I took to calling it ShameTaking Day. I mean, shouldn't we be acknowledging that we take more than we give, and that instead of promoting thanks, we ought to be apologizing for our many shames – Sand Creek, Wounded Knee, the list is a long one ... Which is brutal truth. But shame is not exactly a kind of thing to celebrate, and folks like holidays to honor things, not to be reminded of shortcomings. In spite of my protests, over the years I've come to enjoy gathering with family and friends to give thanks for all we have – more than we deserve and likely more than we need ... Giving thanks is one of the important ways we acknowledge the good things that come to us.

I just wish that "us" was large enough to include Native-Americans, undocumented immigrants, Tea Partiers and even the Democrats. As a Green, I could endorse that.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME

... Sherman Alexie is one of the most powerful Native-American voices in this country today. Maybe it's because he makes us

laugh even as we know we should be crying. Novels, short story collections, poetry, and picture books – not to mention films and lectures, this National Book Award-winning author has truth that needs telling. Stories that every American ought to hear. To understand the first peoples of this nation who've had a rough go of it, but still survive, and even thrive – making their peace with living between worlds. The modern urban Indian and the traditionalist rez rurals. Alexie takes us back and forth. It's exhausting. And would be horribly depressing, if it wasn't also – in Sherman's inimitable style -- hilarious ... My Grand Junction poet friend Wendy Videlock has been in correspondence with Alexie – they admire each other's work. She gave the new hardback memoir he's written, *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me* (Little, Brown & Co., 2017) ... There is a strong growing body of Native-American writing in this country that has the ability to make us reflect on this nation in ways we may never have thought of. But I can recommend no other single book, if you want to get into the mind of what it's like to be an Indian and an American, to love things about this country and to hate them, *odi et amo* ... Unfortunately, it's not a new story. But the American version is one that demands telling. And reading ... Highly recommended.

DENNIS BANKS ... This Leech Lake Anishinabe elder and American Indian Movement founder passed away last month. For me, a child of the Sixties, he was one of my radical heroes, standing up for his people and all indigenous peoples of the world ... I smoked a peace pipe with him and a mixed group of Euro supporters and Indian activists at Alcatraz in 1978 at the start of the Longest Walk – even brought food to the march that winter and walked a day from Nevada into Utah with the group ... In 1980 I attended the Survival Gathering near the Black Hills of South Dakota that AIM organized. Banks and John Trudell both spoke -- powerfully ... From Wounded Knee to Standing Rock, Banks led challenging actions that made



Peter Decker. Courtesy photo.



Dennis Banks. Courtesy photo.

him a feared if respected leader of the social justice movement throughout the Seventies and one of the national pan-Indian catalysts for a resurgence of indigenous pride today ... Blessings on this good man and his family and friends.

PETER DECKER ... Between the Covers Bookstore in Telluride is hosting the latest novel by our Ridgway ranch owner, former Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, historian, author and celebrated professor, *The Go-Backers*. It's a tale of what happens when a family of homesteaders, the Marlows, risk everything to turn back from the western frontier ... After the Civil War, thousands of Americans and Europeans trekked west to secure a new home and farm under the provisions of the 1862 Homestead Act.

But only three out of ten of these adventurers succeeded in achieving their dream. The other 70 percent -- called the "go-backers" -- either turned back toward home after one or two years, or if they "proved up" on their 160-acre homestead, they quickly "starved out." It took courage and determination to survive on the western frontier.

And not everyone succeeded ... Decker's accomplishments are legion and he's a strong advocate for Native-American issues, as perhaps best demonstrated by his account, *The Utes Must Go: American Expansion and the Removal of a People* (Fulcrum Publ., 2004). He will be reading from his new book and signing copies on Wednesday of this week, Nov. 29th, at Between the Covers Bookstore in Telluride. Highly Recommended.

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

THE TALKING GOURD

More Room to Breathe

*Funny how that works,
stepping out of
my comfort zone --
feels scary, vulnerable,
potentially embarrassing,
but now the world feels
so much more spacious.*

*-Kyra Kopestonsky
Fall Creek*



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

\$7,500 GRANT FUNDS REMODEL OF CSU'S XERISCAPE, POLLINATOR GARDEN

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-The Colorado State University Extension, Tri River Area, Horticulture Department has received a \$7,500 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation for the Tri River Area Arboretum and Demonstration Garden Xeriscape and Pollinator Project. In spring of 2017, the Mesa County office of the Tri River Area of Extension received a \$7500 grant to support the remodeling of an existing bed in their Arboretum/Demonstration Gardens located at the Mesa County Fairgrounds at 2775 Hwy 50, Grand Junction, CO. The goal was to create a xeric garden with different plants including natives to attract pollinators and to demonstrate cutting edge methods of gardening. The garden was started by removing unwanted plants and weeds. Small boulders and soil were placed to create a berm that would provide crevices for plants to grow in and a visual break of the landscape. The soil was donated by Mesa County fairgrounds and

the boulders by a Master Gardener. The irrigation system was adjusted for the berm. Plants were purchased from Chelsea Nursery, Fort Collins Nursery and High Country Gardens. Some Plant Select varieties, which is a plant development program between CSU, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Green Industry. Other plants are natives. We wanted to showcase the use natives and Plant Select plants to develop a pretty garden or landscape. Plants were planted using CSU Extension planting recommendations by CO Master Gardeners. Flagstone stepping stones and the mixed rock were placed once plants were in the ground and another round of weed control occurred. New techniques using rock that is a mixture of sizes from 1.5" down to fines were used without the use of weed fabric. The theory is that the fines will settle down and the larger rock will shade the fines allowing moisture to be held and a reduction in weed germination. Of course there

are other factors like "are there any weed seeds in the rock?" Our rock came directly from the quarry so there should be few seeds. Plants have been labelled, so this is truly a teaching garden and a shepherd's hook and chain fence was erected to help keep people and animals out of the bed. Curbing will complete the gardens by providing a good defined walkway and bed perimeter. This grant was also applied for to assist with teaching Master Gardeners and the community research based gardening techniques. New tools were purchased to be used for teaching and volunteering opportunities.

Thanks to the Colorado Garden Foundation who continues to support such groups as CSU Extension to provide the opportunity to bring relevant gardening projects to the communities of Colorado. To date Colorado Garden Foundation has awarded more than \$7.8 million to fund horticulture related grants & scholarships for the benefit of the state of Colorado!

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GREAT OPTION IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY AND LOOKING FOR A DRINK AND FOOD

Ran up to Ouray last Monday to see what the city council was up to and, well, we were hungry.

Now, the council during daylight-savings-time meets at 6 p.m. Here's the quandary – do you wait until after the meeting to have a meal or eat and run?

There just aren't that many places in the little mountain town that serve after say 8 or 9 pm. We decided we were just too hungry to wait until heaven knows when the council will finish business. No way of knowing, can be short night or go well past the 9 pm mark.

So, we spied Goldbelt's on Main Street and decided it was time for an eat and run type of meal. Hadn't tried this place before, but it looked welcoming on a chilly night. Bar and grill advertising pizza. No time for that, so Michael and I decided we'd grab a couple of glasses of wine; yep, Merlot for me and Pinot Grigio for him

and share a sandwich. We do this a lot because the portions tend to be a bit large and the prices can match.

Reuben just sounded good, so we went for it. Came to the table on marbled rye, stacked full of corned beef, sauerkraut, dressing, with a pickle in a basket with our ordered sweet potato fries, hand cut here into lacy slices with a honey-mustard for dipping. It was good!

Now there are plenty of choices here and the atmosphere is laid back and small tables surround a bar area. This early night we had plenty of company, including several families with kids.

As one would expect of a bar and grill, plenty of starters (\$7-15); then burgers and sandwiches (\$10-15); homemade pizza, regular 12" (\$15-20), large 16" (\$18-24), take your choice of Mediterranean to Scrumptious Supreme or pepperoni or cheese and gluten free personal size (\$11-



14). Now we're cookin', salads and wraps come in all varieties and run from \$4.50-13. Don't forget the kids – all-time favorite of my little grandbaby, mac and cheese, \$4.50, to their very own pizza \$9. Yummy! No rowdiness here, so kids will be fine, at least this evening. Mostly couples and a few loners.

Be aware, this night the council ended early and when we drove by Goldbelt's at about 8 pm the lights were already out. *Goldbelt's is located at 890 Main Street in Ouray, phone 970-325-7323. Open all week, with hours listed as open from 11 am to 9 pm. Call first to make sure they are open.*

Montrose Senior Center

1800 Pavilion Drive

\$3 Lunch & Learn

TO RESERVE A SEAT CALL 964-3419

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HOW TO SPEAK GEEK

HOW TO TALK TO TECH SUPPORT TO
GET THE HELP YOU NEED

JOHN LORIMER

THURSDAY, DEC 7th • PROGRAM IS FREE TO ATTEND

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FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

ALLEN BECK AS FATHER CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DEC 18TH • PROGRAM IS FREE TO ATTEND

\$5 Lunches

FOUR COURSE LUNCH W/ DESSERT

MONDAY - FRIDAY • ALL AGES WELCOME



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 970-252-4884
MEAL RESERVATIONS 970-964-3419



Weehawken Fall Programs



October 14: The Business of Art: How to Grow Your Business Online with John Clark in Ridgway

October 16: The Hobbit Youth Musical Theater 5 Week Program Begins in Ridgway



October 23: ARTbar: Culinary & Cocktails with Amie Minnick at Provisions in Ridgway

November 4: Intro to Line Drawing with John Mitchell in Montrose



November 4 & 5: Introduction to Silversmithing with Tracey Belt in Ridgway

November 11: Watercolor & Value: Creating a Mood Painting Workshop with Peggy Morgan Stenmark



November 18: Kiln-formed Glass Ornament Design and Production with Diane Quarles in Montrose

December 2: Beyond Paint: Acrylic Art Techniques with Kellie Day in Ridgway



February 3: Contemporary Mosaic Art with Carol Newman in Ridgway

Plus....mark your calendars!

December 2: Gingerbread House Workshops in Ridgway

December 9 & 10: The Nutcracker Performance at Montrose Pavilion

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE PRESENTS *CALENDAR GIRLS*

By Patti Powell

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Magic Circle Theatre's presentation of the hilarious *Calendar Girls* reveals the depths of female friendships while strategically-placed flowers cover up the high points.

Based on a true story, popularized in a hit movie, and adapted by Tim Firth for the stage, the uplifting *Calendar Girls* brings a lot of laughs and a few tears.

Calendar Girls focuses on the spirited Chris (Ruthie Rich) and her best friend Annie (KC Pollak) as Annie's beloved husband John (Peter Ambrose) passes from leukemia.

To create a memorial to him, Chris devises a scheme to raise funds for a new sofa in the hospital waiting room.

Chris persuades the ladies of the local chapter of the conservative Woman's Institute (WI), a group of ordinary middle-aged women, to do something extraordinary – pose for a nude calendar.

Cora (Nanci Cox), Ruth (Brenda Joyce Coda), Celia (Jill Vincent) and Jessie (Rachel Krute) agree to the calendar but end up exposing more of themselves than they ever planned. The making and unveiling of the calendar, and of the ladies, brings international attention to their small town. The calendar is a success, but the stress of the notoriety creates a strain on the ladies' relationships personally and with one another.

Opposing the calendar are comic WI members, the uptight Marie (Sandy Lundberg), and the patronizing Lady Cra-



Magic Circle Theatre's presentation of the hilarious Calendar Girls reveals the depths of female friendships while strategically-placed flowers cover up the high points. Courtesy photo.

venshire (Pat Myers). The provincial WI member Brenda and the husband-stealing Elaine are both portrayed by Misty Walker.

The male cast, providing some very funny moments, include Chris' husband Rod (Scott Pollak), Lawrence (Chris Walsh) the calendar photographer, and Liam (Everett Gregory) his assistant.

There is no actual nudity in the play but the appearance of nudity is achieved through clever staging and the directorial expertise of Kathy Murdoch and Amy Nelp. Evening performances of *Calendar*

Girls are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. on Jan. 14 and 21. Tickets for the general public will be available online at www.magiccircleplayers.com beginning on Dec. 22, by telephone at (970) 249-7838, or in person at the Magic Circle Theatre box office, 420 South 12th Street, Montrose.

Box office hours are 2-5 p.m. Wednesday - Friday, and two hours before each performance, but the box office will be closed Dec. 25 – 30.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: NON-PROFITS & BOARDS

THIRD ANNUAL BCB&GC CRAB CRACK EVENT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR KIDS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club held its Third Annual Crab Crack Event on Nov. 17 at the Montrose Pavilion. The all-you-can-eat seafood feast was prepared by Chef Nick Rinne from The Vine Market and Bistro and Chef Richard McMillan from Crash Burger. Guests enjoyed music from Jedi George, photo

booth fun from gopozephoto booth, and a beer/wine garden. Following a successful benefit auction to fund items/programming for the Club kids in Montrose and Olathe, the 2017 raffle fundraiser winner was announced. The fundraising raffle was for either a new 2017 Jeep Wrangler or \$25,000. Winner, David Mize, opted to take the cash and then promptly

donated it back to the BCBGC. The Club would like to thank David for his generosity as well as all those who sponsored, assisted, and attended the event and participated in the auction. The Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club is happy to be part of such a giving community! If you are interested in giving to the Club, please visit www.bcbgc.org/ for more information.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT G SEAT

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE -The seat of Board Director of District G has become vacated. Letters of Interest and resumes will be accepted until 4 pm on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. Below are the legal qualifications for director as stated by law: A resident of the school district and a registered voter, as shown on the books of the county clerk

and recorder, for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the election; A resident of the director district that they are seeking a seat ; 18 years or older by the date of the election; A citizen of the United States. If necessary, the Board will conduct interviews of candidates for the vacancy in public session of any regular or special meeting, but no later than Dec. 12,

2017. They anticipate appointing a person to fill the vacancy at the December 12, 2017 Board meeting and such person will serve until the regular school board election to be held in November 2019. Please click [here](#) to see the map of the Director Districts. Please contact Laurie Laird at (970) 252-7902 or laurie.laird@mcsd.org for further information.



*Struggling to care for a loved one
with dementia or Alzheimer's?*

**Dementia Care – Validation Support Group
Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month
2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Bring your loved one and activities will be provided while we meet.

Our group is open to anyone wanting to learn more about dementia or Alzheimer's disease, caregivers taking care of a loved one at home, or friends and family members who want to lend extra help from time to time.

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Led by Brandi Garcia
Certified Dementia Care Validation Instructor

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Email: bgarcia@voa.org



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NUTCRACKER BALLET BRINGS JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS TO MONTROSE



Courtesy photos Weehawken Dance.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-2017 year marks the seventh year of the Weehawken Dance Nutcracker production at the Montrose Pavilion. Three performances over two days bring more than 200 dancers from across the region to participate in the holiday classic by Peter (Pyotr) Tchaikovsky.

Performances are 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 10. "The level three and four dancers are very special," says artistic director Natasha Pyeatte. "We have about 30 dancers en pointe—dancers who have been with Weehawken since



they were younger than five and have gained maturity, poise and technical ability to progress into different roles from year to year."

Abigail Link, a junior at Ouray High School, is one of those students. This year, Link portrays the Snow Queen, as well as Rat and Flower. As in common in many productions, dancers play more than one role. Since 2007, Link has played the role of 15 characters in the Nutcracker Ballet. Dancers in the Weehawken program

range from 2.5-years-old to adult and come from Cedaredge, Delta, Montrose, Olathe, Ouray, Paonia, Placerville, Ridgeway, Telluride and Silverton. They range from beginners to professionals, though children are the stars of this production. Dance teachers play the role of the parents in the party scene.

General admission tickets are on sale now at www.weehawkenarts.org and by phone at (970) 318-0150. Tickets are also on sale at Tiffany, Etc., in Montrose. Reserved seating is available only by phone.

Weehawken Dance is a program of Weehawken Creative Arts, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization with offices based in Ouray County. Weehawken Dance has dance programs and studios in Montrose, Ouray County, and Silverton. The organization was founded in 2004 and offers classes, workshops, performances and special events year-round to adults and children.

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Hold the Date! Upcoming Business & Cultural Events

ONGOING-

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL, non-profit organization, was founded and introduced to the world at a ceremony held at the White House on March 1, 1977. FFI provides opportunities to explore new cultures by bringing people together at the personal level. Friendship Force of western Colorado's regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meeting location - Red Cross Training Center, 5th and Gunnison in Grand Junction, 6:15 p.m.

THE ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets every second Tuesday at St. Mary 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 JAM SESSION AND SING ALONG, Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montrose 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.

MONTHLY-

Dec. 1-2-The 14th Annual Holiday Art and Gift Sale will be held at the Ridgway town hall community center. The show is open during Noel night Friday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 8, and continues Saturday, December 2 from 10-4.

This is a perfect opportunity to start — or complete— your Christmas shopping. Come in and see the beautiful work of some of Ridgway's many talented local artists. Products for sale include jewelry, paintings, photography, fiber arts, handmade dolls, pottery, clothing, Raku, greeting cards and tree ornaments. Books and toys will also be available. 970.626.2323 for more information.

Dec. 1--The Radio Room proudly presents Harbor and Home on Dec. 1, 2017 7 pm Doors--7:30 pm Show. Tickets \$12 in advance \$15 at the door. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors at 7 pm Show at 7:30 pm. 970-241-8801 or kafmradio.org.

Dec. 1-Join us for music, wine and holiday merriment as Cimarron Song Gallery celebrates its second annual Holiday Show, 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. The exhibit will feature the works of Julee Hutchinson and Gregory Packard. It's the perfect opportunity to find a one-of-a-kind gift for your someone special! www.cimarronsonggallery.

Dec. 1--Cobble Creek 6th Annual Watercolor Show. Reception Friday 4–7 pm. Show runs Saturday 10-3. Upstairs at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. 699 Cobble Drive. 249-5645 for more information.

Dec. 2-Celebrate an All American Christmas in Cedaredge during the Parade of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. Kids can visit with Santa after the parade and parents can get a professional photo taken for \$10. Call 856-6961 or visit CedaredgeChamber.com for more info. The parade is sponsored by US Bank.

Dec. 5-[Colorado Gives Day](http://ColoradoGivesDay), a statewide movement to increase online giving, is scheduled for Dec. 5.

Dec. 5-On Tuesday, Dec. 5, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library meeting room, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to network on progress in community and with legislators on sustaining the environment. Report on visit to Solar Energy International.

Dec. 7-How to Speak Geek-Lunch & learn @ the Montrose Senior Center with John Lorimer, lunch @ Noon, Program @ 1 p.m.

Dec. 7-HopeWest invites friends, family and neighbors to join us for our annual Light Up a Life event to celebrate the spirit of community this holiday season Thursday, Dec. 7. The event will begin with a welcome by Judy Ann Files, Montrose Mayor, followed by a holiday message, candle lighting ceremony and beautiful holiday lights with music and singing. 5:30 p.m. • Holiday Inn Express 1391 S. Townsend Avenue This event is free and open to the public. For event information call 970-240-7734. For other Light Up a Life events near you visit <https://www.hopewestco.org/light-life-2017/>.

Dec. 9-10-Weehawken Dance Nutcracker production at the Montrose Pavilion. Performances are 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 10. General admission tickets are on sale now at www.weehawkenarts.org and by phone at (970) 318-0150. Tickets are also on sale at Tiffany, Etc., in Montrose. Reserved seating is available only by phone.

Dec. 9-Tri-State G&T Donate and Ride Toy Run! By Dec. 7, drop off a new, unwrapped gift for boys and girls, toddler to teen, at Tri-State Montrose Maintenance Center, 2200 South Rio Grande Avenue. On Dec. 9, bring a new, unwrapped gift for boys and girls, toddler to teen, and ride with us. 10:30 a.m., 2200 S. Rio Grande...meet in the south parking lot. 11 a.m. deliver toys to Olathe!

Dec. 17-Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium for a free Christmas concert. The concert will feature selections of Christmas music celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Dec. 27-7:30 p.m. — JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE with John Adams Band at the Wright Opera House. Each John Denver song is performed effortlessly as audience members can relax and reminisce about an age long gone. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild and the Wright Opera House. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 at www.ocpag.org.

Dec. 28-The Everly Brothers Experience featuring The Zmed Brothers at Club Telluride. Doors 7:30 p.m, show 8 p.m. All ages show, tickets \$25 to \$45. For all ticketing and show info, please visit www.clubredtelluride.com.

Jan. 25-27— With a three-state draw, the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum enters its sixth year with workshops on sustainable agriculture January 25 - 27th. Registration is now open at www.foodfarmforum.org. The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call 970-249-3935.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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An angler takes advantage of the warm weather to drop a line in the Uncompahgre River Nov. 22. Mirror staff photo.



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Michele Gad is a **Certified DelGiacco Neuro Art Therapist**, who assists individuals with cognitive or mental health challenges to live life as fully and independently as possible. She developed **FAME** in 2010 to better assist her clients. Sessions are specifically designed to meet client's individual needs, goals, abilities, and level of commitment...and have fun!