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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people...weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 347 Oct. 21, 2019

AUSTIN, SHERWOOD SERVING AS INTERIM LEADERS FOR HHS Campground with sheep camp trailer approved on Spring Creek

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the invocation at the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Oct. 16. BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash was not present for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were heard from the public.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris pulled Item 7 from the Consent Agenda, "Sheriff's Office: consideration and possible action regarding the first amendment to the Correctional Health Partners contract, which includes provisions for additional inmate mental health services, such as suicide prevention services; renewing the contract with CHP for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and reimbursement to CHP for services provided under the Jail Based Behavioral Services

[Continued pg 7](#)



With the recent departure of Montrose County Health & Human Services Director Stephen Tullos, Health Inspector Jim Austin (pictured above at the Oct. 16 BOCC meeting) is serving as interim County Health Director. Jennifer Sherwood is serving as Interim Human Services Director.

CITY OF MONTROSE PROCLAIMS OCT. 15 WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY; APPOINTS 2019-2020 YOUTH COUNCIL



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All Councilors were present when Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Mayor Dave Bowman issued a proclamation in support of White Cane Awareness Day.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Language for Item 8 was changed to read, "letter of support for USDA loan application..."

Sage Wilber's name was withdrawn from the list of youth council applicants (Item 9) at her request.

An extra item was added, postponing the regular Council meeting of Nov. 5 and rescheduling the same for 11 a.m. on Nov. 12.

PROCLAMATION

Bowman read a proclamation designating Oct. 15 as White Cane Awareness Day;

[Continued pg 9](#)

in this issue

[Art Goodtimes' Up Bear Creek!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey's Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

[Regional News Briefs!](#)

[Reader Photo Spotlight: With Deb Reimann!](#)

HALLOWEEN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Fresh thoughts on a favorite Holiday...Have fun

By Jack Switzer, 16

MONTROSE-Every year around this time, cupboards lie in wait, within them a treasure trove of delectable sweets and treats, all of which flew off shelves days prior. Leaves gently fall from trees to the ground, and lie in wait to be born again after winter. Kids come home from school, exhilarated to find their costumes laid out on their beds.

Apple cider is downed by the gallon, and hot coco with marshmallows is more refreshing than coffee in the morning. However, with all of these wonderful things, comes something much more terrifying. Ghosts, skeletons, and wizards stalk the streets, ghouls, monsters and clowns haunt your doorstep, asking to come in. It is truly a month of terror, and that's why almost everyone loves it.

Halloween is slowly but surely creeping up on all of us. Its spooky aura floats through grocery stores, blows into schools, and fills everyone up with an energy that only comes once a year. Everyone loves something about Halloween. From the incredible craftsmanship of costumes to children giddy to dress up as their favorite TV show character and binge eat all of their candy in one day. Even adults enjoy the atmosphere and getting to watch old horror movies with friends. And although trick or treating is the spotlight of Halloween, so is the glorified danger of receiving treats from strangers.



Memories of Halloween fun... my Holiday as a hot dog, and my brother and I trick or treating at Debbie Blanchard's D'Medici Footwear in 2012.

The most common ones are usually something along the lines of "Make sure to check ALL of your candy before you eat it, there could be a 1,000 year old hand-crafted Viking steel battle axe!" Or, "If you eat any of the candy strangers give you, there could be crystal meth in your Reeses pieces!" As we grow older, we all know that these claims made by our parents are almost completely false. But recently, I've overheard conversations of children too terrified of finding razors in their choco-

late to even consider trick or treating. Which, in my own opinion is not something the youth of Montrose should be afraid of.

So please stop telling your children that their candy will be full of drugs and dangerous objects.

On a lighter note, Halloween is a time where everyone can find a comfort in the cold weather, a passion to practice, or just flat out eat candy. Stay safe, and enjoy the holiday. :)

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HUNTERS URGED TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS WITH CAMPFIRES

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO— Because of extremely dry conditions throughout the state, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is urging hunters to be extra careful with their camp fires.

Hunters are heading to the high country for the combined deer and elk season that continues through Oct. 27. Colorado has received little rain since late summer and several fires are now burning throughout the state. Fire can spread quickly through grasses and other dry vegetation.

Hunters, and anyone else camping, are

urged to follow these precautions:

- Keep fires small and always keep them attended.
- When heading to bed, make sure the fire is out completely by soaking it thoroughly with water and checking for hot embers.
- If you start a fire in the morning, make sure it is completely out before heading into the field for the day.
- Any time you leave camp, make sure the fire it out.
- In windy conditions, it is recommended not to start a campfire.

- If you are using a wall tent with a wood stove, make sure there is a screen to block sparks on top of the external stovepipe. Check outside the tent occasionally for embers that might be smoldering.
- Don't drive or park your vehicle over dry grass. Hot exhaust pipes can ignite vegetation. This applies to trucks, cars and OHVs.
- Don't allow vehicle chains to drag on the ground or pavement because they can cause sparks.
- Dispose of cigarette butts safely; don't toss them on the ground.

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

PIZZA & POLITICS EVENT OCT. 24

Oct 24 Event for all registered voters regarding November ballot issues Prop CC---funding for schools & roads or threat to taxpayer rights, and Prop DD---is sports gambling the solution to protect water rights? Special guest speaker Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, will provide informational training on the integrity of election process and upcoming elections. Venue: 121 N. 4th St in Montrose. Program Oct 24 at 6:30pm-8 pm. Q&A will follow presentations. Pizza served at 6pm.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSITION CC WILL HELP ROADS, BRIDGES, TRANSIT, K-12 & HIGHER ED

Editor:

I feel compelled to write to counteract the misinformation being put forth by people who either haven't read the patently clear ballot language or who intend to deceive. What could be clearer than the Proposition CC language? "Without raising taxes and to better fund

public schools, higher education, and roads, bridges, and transit, within a balanced budget, may the state keep and spend all the revenue it annually collects after June 30, 2019, but is not currently allowed to keep and spend under Colorado law, with an annual independent audit to show how the retained revenues are

spent?"

So, there is no tax increase, the money must go to K-12 and higher education, roads, bridges and transport, a balanced budget is required, and a mandatory annual independent audit required. The right of the people to vote on any new tax increases is maintained because it is part of the TABOR amendment and it is not changed by this law.

Revenue in excess of the TABOR limit is required to be refunded to taxpayers, unless voters approve a revenue change in a referendum. The law applies to all levels of government, however, with voter approval, 178 school districts, 85% of cities, and nearly 2,000 special districts have already de-"bruced". Basically, Prop. CC "de-bruces" the state.

Refunds have been made 9 times in the law's 26 years, and the average is between \$26 and \$90 per taxpayer. Referendum C set aside the TABOR limits for five years from 2005-2010, but because of the "Great Recession" of 2008 and the federal income tax reform of 2018, our state would have had a worse fiscal outcome if Ref C had not been in place. Basically, the additional money backfilled the General Fund.

Colorado's status today on several key issues: Unmet Needs in Roads, Bridges, and Transport - \$9 billion; lane miles have increased, lanes have not, and maintenance/construction costs have doubled. Gasoline taxes have not been raised since 1992, and cars are much more fuel efficient leaving less gallons to be taxed.

State support for K-12 spending per pupil - 39th and per \$1,000 of income - 48th in the nation; State support per full-time higher education student - 47th in the nation. Sources of funding for K-12 statewide - 64% from the state and 36% from local sources; for Montrose County - 72% from the state and 28% from local sources; for Delta County - 78% from the state and 22% from local sources.

All with our state economy thriving! Proposition CC, while certainly not the end all solution, will help roads, bridges, transit, K-12 and higher education.
Nancy Ball, Montrose

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***AUSTIN, SHERWOOD SERVING AS INTERIM LEADERS FOR HHS
Campground with sheep camp trailer approved From pg 1***

program.”

CONSENT AGENDA

The remaining Consent Agenda items were approved, including a grant award agreement between the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder and the Electronic Recording Technology Board to receive grant funds in the amount of \$18,803.44. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen commended the Clerk & Recorder’s Office. “They are doing a stellar job of seeking grants to obtain additional funds.”

Clerk & Recorder Tressa Guynes said that writing grants can be an arduous process. “It’s not easy...we want to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.”

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

With the recent departure of Health & Human Services Director Stephen Tullos, Jim Austin is the interim County Health Director (Jennifer Sherwood is Interim Human Services Director). Austin presented for consideration the West Region

Health Care Coalition (WRHCC) Clinical Advisor Agreement for Services between the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (Interim Fiscal Agent) and Mary Rasmusson (Clinical Advisor) effective July 17, 2019 through June 30, 2020, a reimbursed expense of \$6,000. The Agreement for Services was approved.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners approved five planning & development items.

A public hearing was convened on Leonard and Mary Rusnak’s proposed Special Use permit to develop a campground with sheep camp rentals at 16943 6200 Road. County Planning & Development Director Steve White said that the campground will begin with one trailer, and in future phases a second and possibly third.

“The applicant will provide a small restroom facility with a shower,” he said, adding that the Planning Commission had recommended approval.

The hearing was closed; commissioners

approved the special use proposal.

Also approved were a proposal by Hast Family Minor Trust Subdivision to divide 2.137 acres from a 60-acre tract at 15251 6100 Road; a proposal by the C&R Minor Subdivision to divide a seven-acre lot into two lots at 68152 LaSalle Road; and a proposal by the Lutz Minor Subdivision to divide a five-acre lot into two lots at 63620 East Jig Road.

All had been subject to Planning Commission hearings, and neighbors notified, White said.

A final item, Prestige Valley Estates Filing #2, consisted of a proposal for six residential lots on Parcel NO. 3993-011-14-007. Applicant Michael Perkovich was present to answer questions.

The first phase of the subdivision has been developed, and homes are there, White said.

The filing was approved.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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CITY OF MONTROSE PROCLAIMS OCT. 15 WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY

From pg 1

no citizen was on hand to accept it. The proclamation stated in part, "... we call upon employers, schools and other community organizations in Montrose to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; upon employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and upon all citizens to recognize the white cane as a tool of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Oct. 1 regular city council meeting were approved unanimously.

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GRANT

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer and Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Bud Taylor discussed a letter of support for a USDA loan application on behalf of the club, which provides essential activities and a safe environment for youth after school and during summer months in Montrose and Olathe. After 20 years of serving the community, BCB&GC is seeking a permanent and expanded home.

"We have a two-year waiting list," Taylor said, noting that the Club has already raised more than \$500K toward the \$3M to \$3.5M project.

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said that the letter of support does not constitute a financial commitment.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "We have a good record of supporting non-profits in our community. I like that."

The letter of support was approved unanimously.

YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Interviews were conducted with Clara Carrasco; Claire Wilson; Josie Coulter; and Olivia Haga. Coulter and Haga appeared by video.

Carrasco mentioned the need for more civic support to maintain a safe playground area in her neighborhood, which is located in an impoverished urban area.

Wilson said that being engaged in civic life contributes to better decision making.

Haga would like to see the youth council

accomplish more community service projects. "I think it's important as a youth council to give back to the community."

Coulter said she tries to put her best foot forward in the community, and practice good manners at home and elsewhere. Also, "Speaking up for what you believe is really good...it's okay to use your voice and show the community that you have one."

Said Mayor Bowman, "That's super stuff, super stuff."

Bynum suggested incorporating more technology into the application process in future, to accommodate the busy schedules of high school students.

Said Bowman, "...it would be nice if we could move this to a more modern technology form...let 'em practice in front of the camera.

"Youth Council by definition is political," Bowman said. "So let's break 'em in."

YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Council unanimously approved the appointments of Rheannon Allen, Clara Carrasco, Gunnison Clamp, Josephine Coulter, Olivia Haga, Kylie Lange, Zachary Ouldroyd, Claire Wilson, and Mari Wilson to the City of Montrose Youth Council.

NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE

The applicant for a new hotel and restaurant liquor license for Mingle Sports Bar LLC, to be located at 233-235 North First Street, Carmen Coronado spoke about her vision for a venue where people of all ages can come to eat, dance and socialize, and where people over age 21 can enjoy an adult beverage. The food will be fast serve, mainly fried, she said. Coronado hopes to have different types of dance nights, with a variety of music, including well-supervised teen dance nights. "I have two teens," she said.

Property owner Len Orme spoke in favor of the proposed venue. "Montrose is my home town...I am very excited to have this tenant...this is much different than anything we have had there...it's going to be good." As a youth growing up in Montrose, "All we had to do was drag Main and get in trouble," Orme recalled.

Armando Coronado, the applicant's husband, already owns a roofing company. Still, he looks forward to the new venue. "We are really good dancers—all kinds of

music," he said. "We love it."

Councilor Roy Anderson called the concept "exciting."

"I think it's a wonderful thing for our community," he said. "Just manage it right."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "I applaud you for wanting to do this activity area for teenagers, and I also applaud you for wanting to do this for adults...I think that it could be an interesting thing for our community."

The new Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License for Mingle Sports Bar LLC was unanimously approved.

"Good luck," Mayor Bowman said. "I look forward to coming to check you guys out."

LIFT STATION ELIMINATION SEWER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Council awarded Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$113,400 to Mountain Valley Contracting's construction contract for the Lift Station Elimination sewer project, as discussed previously in work session.

MEETING DATE AND TIME CHANGE

Council approved the postponing of the Nov. 5 Council meeting and the rescheduling of the meeting for 11 a.m. on Nov. 12.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise tax report.

Bowman reminded the public that monies held by the City for the Montrose Recreation District are not City funds. "I think that's really, really, really important... People need to understand that when they talk about the General Fund."

Police Chief Blaine Hall discussed a successful pursuit, and reminded all to keep vehicles locked and not to store firearms in vehicles. Hall also congratulated newly promoted Montrose Police Sergeants Jonathan Roberts and Chris Velasquez.

Following more discussion, City Manager Bill Bell spoke about the curbside leaf collection program; Bowman reminded all of the upcoming election. "There is an election coming, ballots should be arriving... take your time to vote...please, please study up on the issues...we're doing everything we can to make this community even safer in the future."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2019 EDIE AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDE MONTROSE LEADERS



MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head and Sen. Don Coram. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO SPRINGS -- The Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) recently announced the 2019 EDIE award recipients, recognizing economic development excellence during its annual Drive | Lead | Succeed Conference at The Cheyenne Mountain Resort. "EDCC is proud to honor the men and women who have dedicated their careers to bringing economic vitality to our communities across Colorado," said Tammy Fields, EDCC Board Chair and Senior Vice President of Economic Development, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC. Among those honored excellence were Colorado Senator Don Coram (R-6) and longtime Montrose Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Sandy Head.

Legislator of the Year – Sen. Don Coram

Sen. Don Coram was one of two legislators honored with the legislator of the Year award--Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D-19) was the other.

Senator Don Coram (R-6) is a bipartisan legislator from southwest Colorado who often bridges the political gap to advance economic opportunities for rural Coloradans. Specifically, Sen. Coram sponsored and passed HB19-1322 to transfer \$30 million annually from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the Housing Development Grant Fund to increase access to affordable housing options, helping businesses sustain a qualified workforce in rural communities. In the 2018 session, the Senator passed SB18-002 to reallocate funding from the Public Utility Commission's High Cost Support Mechanism to support broadband deployment across Colorado. The Senator introduced, but did not pass, SB19-067 which would have dedicated funds to rural businesses.

Economic Development Achievement Award - Sandy Head, Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

The Economic Development Achievement Award was presented to Sandy

Head, the long-standing executive director for the MEDC. Her work to bring new, and expanding businesses, has contributed to the economic growth in Montrose. Head has been instrumental in projects such as the re-plot at the Montrose Airport Industrial Park to provide the necessary land for the expanding Polystrand facility. MEDC's support of Hansen Weatherport enabled the company to expand, increasing their employee base from eight to more than 200 now employed by the company for their Western Slope operations. More recent examples include the retention of Montrose Forest Products and most notably, Ross Reels/Mayfly Outdoors. With the retention of Ross Reels, the Mayfly Outdoors investment in the creation of the Colorado Outdoor project is under way paving the way for substantial economic impact for Montrose.

About the Economic Development Council of Colorado:

Established in 1976, the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) promotes effective, responsible economic development across Colorado. Today we are the state's premier economic development resource, representing the economic development interests of both the private and public sectors throughout the state. We connect our communities, our members and our partners to high-quality educational opportunities and trusted resources, and advocate for sound policies and programs that support a vibrant economy and enhance quality of life for all of Colorado. We are rural and urban, public and private sector, for profit and not-for-profit, and include individual communities, counties and regional organizations, local and state government, chambers of commerce, universities and private industry. For more information on EDCC, follow us on Twitter and Facebook. To become involved with EDCC visit us at www.edcconline.org or email us at edcc@edcconline.org.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL HAS BYPASSED ARTICLE 11, SECTION 1, OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION

Editor:

Elections Sure Make For Strange Bedfellows! With the recent cold snap I have to wonder if hell, has, in fact, frozen over!

Those who know me personally can wonder in dismay any situation where Bill Bennett, Dee Laird and Bill Ramsey and I are standing in agreement and John Nelson and I are on opposite sides of the fence! Well, leave it up to good ol' Bill Bell to orchestrate that scenario!

While I have no doubt as to Dee Laird's financial analysis ability or Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Bennett's assessment of the proposed sales tax increase, I, on the other hand, have different issues with regard to the sales tax and specific reasons it should not be approved under the current leadership of the City of Montrose.

Quoting from John Nelson's letter to the editor of October 14th: "In 2007, a small group of residents worked to pass a Public Safety Sales Tax originally intended to benefit both Montrose and Montrose County. The 2007 City Council and its Mayor refused to participate in that initia-

tive and that is what has created the current Police Dept. funding crisis." By John's own admission, this is a manufactured crisis that has existed for 12 years! I, personally, was one of the persons who was on the MC4FF Committee in 2007, who attempted to negotiate with then City Manager Mary Watt to include the City in the County Public Safety Sales Tax. Yes, 12 years ago, police were not a priority!!!!

I, also, was in a meeting with Bill Bell, City staff and County Commissioner Ron Henderson in which a proposal was made to increase the County Public Safety Sales Tax to cover the law enforcement cost of ALL the municipalities in Montrose County. The City, once again, I repeat, once again turned down the proposal and voted instead to help fund the new Recreation Center. Recreation over Law Enforcement, swimming pools rather than police officers!

Manufactured Crisis? Yes, that's exactly what it is, orchestrated by none other than Bill Bell!

While I am not aware of Bill Bell ever

swearing an Oath, the members of the Montrose City Council sure have. They individually and personally have some explaining to do, perhaps Mayor Bowman would care to publicly address how the Montrose City Council has bypassed Article 11, Section 1, of the Colorado Constitution in funding things of a private nature?

"Article 11, Public Indebtedness

Public Indebtedness

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Neither the state, nor any county, city, town, township or school district shall lend or pledge the credit or faith thereof, directly or indirectly, in any manner to, or in aid of, any person, company or corporation, public or private, for any amount, or for any purpose whatever; or become responsible for any debt, contract or liability of any person, company or corporation, public or private, in or out of the state."

I'll wait!

Richard Harding, Olathe, Former Member, Montrose Citizens For Funding Our Future, MC4FF

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★ IS A PSST REALLY WARRANTED? ★

The PSST Committee failed to research MPD funding history before recommending higher taxes.

HISTORY OF MPD BUDGETS 2010-2018

| Year | City Mgr. | Budget \$ | Increase % per yr. | \$ Under or Over Budget |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2010 | Watt | 5,637,147 | | - 229,355 |
| 2011 | Sellers | 5,739,043 | + 1.8 | - 1,905,470 |
| 2012 | Bell | 5,773,462 | + .6 | + 2,050,304 |
| 2013 | Bell | 5,960,783 | + 3.2 | - 330,360 |
| 2014 | Bell | 5,792,096 | - 2.8 | + 338,984 |
| 2015 | Bell | 6,175,985 | + 6.6 | + 421,022 |
| 2016 | Bell | 6,842,070 | + 10.7 | + 260,028 |
| 2017 | Bell | 7,079,144 | + 3.9 | - 30,513 |
| 2018 | Bell | 7,126,768 | + .6 | + 1,927,252 |
| (Avg. Growth Rate of + 2.7% Per Year) | | | | |

CITY vs. MPD BUDGETS 2013-2018

| City Budgets | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Total \$ | Increase % per Yr. | % Under or Over Budget |
| 2012 | 41,055,930 | | |
| 2013 | 35,375,240 | - 13.8 | + 56.1 |
| 2014 | 39,903,390 | + 12.8 | - 14.1 |
| 2015 | 40,707,689 | + 2.0 | |
| 2016 | 40,580,448 | - .3 | + 42.0 |
| 2017 | 41,944,716 | + 3.4 | |
| 2018 | 57,836,928 | + 37.9 | ÷ 6.0 |
| (+ 7.0% Annual Growth Rate Per Year) | | | |
| Total City Budget Increase \$22.5 Million | | | |

SALES TAX BUDGETS vs. ACTUAL RECEIPTS

| Year | Budget \$ | Actual \$ | Difference in \$ Millions |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
| 2013 | 12,768,266 | 14,205,928 | + 1.4 |
| 2014 | 12,262,917 | 14,356,594 | + 2.1 |
| 2015 | 12,850,174 | 15,941,550 | + 3.1 |
| 2016 | 13,244,724 | 16,646,728 | + 3.4 |
| 2017 | 14,329,156 | 17,451,496 | + 3.1 |
| 2018 | 14,544,093 | 18,604,978 | + 4.1 |
| Excess Collected \$17.2 Million | | | |

| MPD Budgets | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Total \$ | Increase % per Yr. | % Under or Over Budget |
| 2012 | 5,773,462 | | |
| 2013 | 5,960,783 | + 3.2 | + 25.0 |
| 2014 | 5,792,096 | - 2.8 | - 2.8 |
| 2015 | 6,175,985 | + 6.6 | |
| 2016 | 6,842,070 | + 10.7 | + 22.2 |
| 2017 | 7,079,144 | + 3.9 | |
| 2018 | 7,126,768 | + .6 | ÷ 6.0 |
| (+ 3.7% Annual Growth Rate Per Year) | | | |
| Total MPD Budget Increase \$1.2 Million | | | |

CITY BUDGET vs. MPD 2017-18 City \$57,836,928 + 37.9% = \$15,892,272 • MPD \$7,126,768 + .6% = \$47,600

To
CONSIDER

**BE INFORMED
BEFORE VOTING!**

To
DECIDE

- Does history indicate priority funding for the MPD?
- When MPD extra funding was really needed, the City magically **found the funds**.
- **Where** did the excess money go?
- **Why** didn't the excess money go to the MPD?
- The City budget grew **333.8 times** as fast as the MPD from 2017-2018
- The City budget percentage growth rate was **almost double** the rate of the MPD

A YES VOTE:

- means higher taxes forever on everything you buy, in addition to current tax obligations
- essentially caps general fund contributions to the MPD
- allows the City to control how MPD expends those funds.

A NO VOTE:

- Does not change how the MPD operates
- is a mandate for the City to re-prioritize MPD funding from existing sources.

★ RESEARCHED & PAID FOR BY DEE LAIRD

TWO MONTROSE POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT, CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGS



New Montrose Police sergeants were promoted prior to the Oct. 15 work session. New Sergeants are Chris Velasquez and Jonathan Roberts, above.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Two Montrose Police officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant prior to the City [council work session](#) of Tuesday, Oct. 15. Police Chief Blaine Hall led the ceremony before a packed chamber of family, friends, and colleagues. New Montrose Police sergeants are Chris Velasquez and Jonathan Roberts.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed all to the work session, and announced that he would have to leave by Noon to attend another function.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that Nov. 5, Election Day, would be a very intense day, and suggested rescheduling the Council meeting set for that evening. City Manager Bill Bell suggested Nov. 12. “Blaine and I will be a little on edge waiting for election results.”

Council discussed holding the Nov. 5 Council meeting at 11 a.m. on Nov. 12. There will be a public budget open house on Nov. 14 at 4 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn introduced a discussion of possible [short term rental regulations](#), with a focus on parking.

The draft ordinance, included in the work session packet, reads: “All vehicles shall be parked either in a designated parking area or immediately contiguous to the STR property. Parking is restricted to no more than one vehicle per STR, and no more than four vehicles if a dwelling unit is comprised of multiple STRs. Parking is prohib-

ited in any landscaped area.”

After further discussion, Alcorn suggested allowing one car per short term rental unit. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said, “Oftentimes my family of ten has rented a vacation home, and we find that we need at least two cars.”

Said Mayor Bowman, I would like to see language about no on-street parking...are we encouraging short-term rentals, or are we encouraging safe neighborhoods?”

“We want to encourage VRBO’s, and not overly penalize them,” City Manager Bell said. “In a single family home you are allowed to park on the street. The impact is the same.”

Bynum suggested a community meeting to gain feedback from the public. “Is this something where we can get more voices involved?”

Councilor Doug Glaspell noted that the issue arose because of a short term rental in American Village with so many rooms that tenants take up all available parking on the block. “They were parking up and down the street, blocking other peoples’ homes.”

“We can only end up with a stronger process by having more voices at the table,” Bynum said. “...Before we roll out a set of rules we ought to talk to people who are in this business.”

In response to a question from Bowman, Finance Director Shani Wittenberg said that there are currently 80 licensed short-term rental properties in the City.

[Information](#) on the **Uncompahgre River**

Temperature and Flow Data Collection System Design was presented by Utilities Manager David Bries.

A memo from Bries to Council reads, “As part of the new NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City is required to begin collecting continuous temperature data on the Uncompahgre River upstream from our discharge location...as part of the review of the permit staff noticed and commented on the lack of good flow measurement on the river at or near the WWTP discharge location.”

By March of 2020 the State of Colorado will require the collection of river temperature data, Bries said. After no responses were received through the Aug. 8 Request for Proposals process, the City contacted two firms and asked for proposals. Staff recommends award of the system design project to Wright Water Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$50K. “I believe that is going to be the best process for us going forward,” Bries said.

“It’s not part of the 2019 budget,” Bynum said.

The item would be approved through the supplemental budget process, Bell said.

Said Bowman, “There is some discussion in public about the money the City retains for surprises like this...I am glad we have that cushion to take care of paying this out of the 2019 budget.”

City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed a Contract Award to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$176,751.30 for construction of the **North 9th and Cascade Sewer Replacement Project**.

Background: Every year the City budgets funds to perform Cured in-Place Pipe rehabilitation of aged sewer lines throughout the City. With the 2019 CIPP project, the utilities department had initially planned to use CIPP to rehabilitate an existing alley sewer line, but found that the line was structurally compromised and too flat to be a good candidate for CIPP rehabilitation. The utilities department reduced the scope of the CIPP project instead to allow replacement of the sewer line. Seven bids were received; Ridgway Valley Enterprises was low bidder.

TWO MONTROSE POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT, CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS SHORT-TERM RENTALS *From previous pg*

The project should be done by year's end, Murphy said. At this point, Mayor Bowman left the work session to attend a function with the Cattlewomen's Association.

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented a resolution in support of a Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo) grant for Centennial Middle School.

Background: The City has partnered with the Montrose County School District RE-1J to request up to \$350,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to construct an all-accessible and inclusive playground at Centennial Middle School.

The project will be owned by RE-1J, Cramer said, and the school district will be responsible for all maintenance. The playground will be open to the public when school is not in session.

Centennial Principal Joe Simo and RE-1J staffer Matt Jenkins were present to answer questions.

"We are trying to get more adaptive, inclusive play space for our students," Jenkins said. The nearest comparable playground is located in Denver, he noted.

Two of the District's special needs programs are based at Centennial, Simo said. "...If you are in a wheelchair, you will be

able to wheel into the swing...we have reached out to nearby communities...we are getting input because we see this as a community or regional hub."

"It seems like a really good project," Bynum said. "...Thank you so much for coming to our work session and telling us more about it."

Cramer also presented information on the 1306 Brownfields Cleanup Grant program Application.

"An interested party would like to pursue this grant," Cramer said, "and clean up this property."

According to a [memo](#) prepared by Kramer for Council, "The 1306 Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program is a State of Colorado grant program...that provides funding to remediate contaminated sites which are not being addressed by other federal or state cleanup programs."

Also according to the memo, "...Black Mountain Capital, LLC desires to purchase the property and is interested in pursuing grant funds from CDPHE through the 1306 Grant Program, but is an ineligible applicant. As the City of Montrose is an eligible applicant under the 1306 Grant Program and has an interest in having the property remediated and revitalized, Black Mountain Capital has requested the City to apply for the program in an amount up to \$250,000."

COMMENTS

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that the new, 100-foot Ogden Road Bridge is being delivered in one piece from Minnesota during the third week of November. "We will set it up in one sweep of the crane."

Montrose Police Commander Tim Cox updated Council on assisting the Montrose County Sheriff's Office with a recent pursuit involving a person with eight felony warrants and driving a stolen vehicle.

"Our officers did a great job assisting with that," Cox said.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that she and Bell would be attending the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) conference the following week.

It's the 45th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show

at the

Montrose Pavilion Locally Handcrafted Gifts For All Ages

Friday - November 29th 8 am till 5 pm

Saturday - November 30th 8 am till 4 pm

A Central Checkout for shopping convenience.



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Support Sharing Ministries!*

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES IDENTIFIED

Montrose County news release

MONTROSE-- On Sunday, Oct. 13 around 10:47, a double fatality motor-vehicle off-road incident occurred on Transfer Road at mile marker 8.5. Both passengers were ejected. Both the driver, Harold W. Emick III, a 66-year-old male from Olathe, Colo., and his passenger Sharon A. Lunsford, a 65-year-old female from Pearland, Texas, were pronounced dead at the scene and subsequently transferred to the Forensic Science Laboratory at Montrose Memorial Hospital. The case is under investigation by the Montrose Coroner's Office of Medical Investigations and the Colorado State Patrol assisted by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Autopsies are scheduled and the cause and manner of death are pending the results of the autopsies.

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE TO BEGIN ON TWO U.S. 550 STRUCTURES

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — Motorists using U.S. Highway 550 near the Colorado/New Mexico state line at MP 1.2 and 1.9 will experience travel impacts beginning next week. The Colorado Department of Transportation will be upgrading two bridge structures in this area of southern La Plata County. Work will consist of concrete deck repair, placement of polyester concrete deck overlay and drainage improvements between the bridge structures.

TRAVEL IMPACTS

Beginning Monday, October 21 work will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The following traffic configuration is expected to be in place through the beginning of December 2019. CDOT will issue updated advisories when this configuration changes.

U.S. 550 bridge configurations near the NM state line Traffic will be narrowed to a single lane in both directions on the bridge structures.

Motorists are required to reduce their speed to 40 mph. Wait times of less than 10 minutes may occur.

Travelers should follow all traffic restrictions, signage and flagging personnel through the work zone.

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Downtown Montrose | 647 E. Main St.

Price Reduction!



Here's your opportunity to purchase one of the most architecturally appealing buildings in all of downtown Montrose!

With such a great location, at the corner of Main St. and Mesa Ave, your business will have excellent exposure to the high traffic-flow in the heart of downtown! This space can be used for retail, offices, restaurant, catering kitchen or pub.

Beautiful brick-construction with exposed wooden beams, charming hardwood floors, two 1/2 baths and a shower. There is a commercial kitchen set-up in the lower level, a 14' hood w/Ansul system and a large walk-in refrigeration unit. There's even a large multi-level deck with beautiful garden landscaping on the East side of the building.

With ample parking, plenty of storage, Handicap accessibility, and all furnishings included (furniture, dishes, etc.), your business will be ready to go!



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | Western Colorado Properties

COMMERCIAL DIVISION



Jeff Keehfuss
Broker/Owner
970-209-3825
jeff@MontroseColorado.com
www.MontroseColorado.com

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A YES VOTE ON 2A IS A RESPONSIBLE VOTE FOR OUR CITY'S FUTURE

Editor:

While everyone claims to be in favor of more funding for the police department, a few vocal residents contradict that claim with a variety of misstatements which may be summarized as "I am in favor of anything that doesn't cost any money." There are too many of these misstatements to refute in one letter, but I want to address a few of them.

First, although Mr. Laird claims to have done extensive research into the city's

finances, he chooses to ignore the fact that a significant percentage of the city's revenue is restricted to a specific purpose and therefore is not available for police operations. He also presents an impressive array of charts, but the mixture of actual/budget/revenue/expense numbers makes it impossible to accurately compare the figures and thus makes the analysis meaningless.

Second, several opponents have complained that because in 2007 the city did

not participate in the county public safety tax, we should not pass this proposal. Those funds are simply not available to us now, and no one is disputing that those funds are being spent appropriately by the county. Similarly, whether or not it was prudent for the county to build their two new buildings recently, COUNTY funds were used, and those funds would not be available for the city police even if the buildings had not been built.

Finally, the ballot language could not be more clear that the new funds must be used for public safety, and the funding for public safety must remain at least 43% of the general fund. This proposal will not shift funding to other priorities; it will increase funding for our most important priority.

A YES vote on 2A is a responsible vote for our city's future.

Jean Deneen, Montrose

San Juan Healthcare Foundation invites you to

"Hollywood Nights"

A Benefit Concert Featuring

The Jersey Tenors

**November 2, 2019
MONTROSE PAVILION**



Ticket Prices:

**VIP Tickets \$100 • Includes dinner by the Lobby Grille and drinks
General Admission \$35**

Ticket Locations:

**VIP to Lark Jacobsen at 970-252-2580 or
ljacobsen@sanjuanhf.org or at the SJHF Office
General Admission: Online at events.ourtownmatters.net
or at 970-293-7929**

Event Times:

**VIP Reception at 5:30 pm
Doors Open at 7:00 pm
Concert at 7:30 pm**



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VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER

TRICK OR TREAT



Valley Manor Care Center would like to invite parents and children in grades 5 and under to a fun Trick or Treating event on

October 31st (Halloween)
from 3:30 p.m. - Until the candy runs out!

Dress up in your Halloween costume and join us for a Spook-tacular time! Costume contest begins at 4 p.m.

Pumpkin Decoration Contest - Drop off decorated pumpkins the week of Halloween, judging starts at 4 p.m. on the 31st



VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER
1401 S Cascade Ave Montrose
(970) 249- 9634 | valleymanorcare.org



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MLS# 763323



**240 Ranch Court
Montrose, CO 81403**



**Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2
Year Built: 2003**

Quaint home situated in a neighborhood on the outskirts of town, yet within close proximity to downtown Montrose. No through traffic allows for quiet living and you can walk the dog or play in the park that's conveniently located at the end of this street. The interior is tastefully done with solid surface flooring throughout. The kitchen includes all of the appliances. A very private covered and partially enclosed patio with accent lighting is a great space to enjoy morning coffee, dine or entertain. The fully fenced back yard features raised garden beds. This charming house will make a great home for someone. Could it be you?



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Linda Steil
Broker Associate / Luxury Collection Specialist
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE REMINDS VOTERS OF UPCOMING ELECTION AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-On Oct. 11, 2019, Colorado’s county clerks began mailing ballots to Colorado’s registered voters for the Nov. 5, 2019 Coordinated Election.

The Colorado Secretary of State is reminding registered voters and eligible voters of the resources available and key upcoming dates.

Resources for voters:

Coloradans can update and verify voter registration or register to vote online at GoVoteColorado.com.

Coloradans can view a sample ballot online by clicking on “Find my registration” at GoVoteColorado.com. Once there, enter First Name, Last Name, Zip Code, and Birthday to see your registration. To view your sample ballot, click on “Ballot Information” and then “view my

sample ballot.”

To find a ballot drop-off location or Voter Service Polling Center visit GoVoteColorado.com and enter your address into the box labeled “Where do I vote or drop off my ballot?”

Coloradans can access the 2019 Blue Book online in English and Spanish [here](#). The Blue Book includes the text and title of each initiated or referred constitutional amendment, law, or question on the ballot as well as a summary of the measure, the major arguments for and against the measure, and a brief fiscal assessment of the measure.

Information for voters with disabilities is available [here](#).

Key Dates:

October 11-18: Ballots are mailed out to voters, and many drop boxes begin to

open.

October 28:

Voter Service and Polling centers open. Last day to register to vote and receive a mail ballot for the Coordinated Election.

However, eligible voters can register to vote and vote in person at any county vote center through Election Day.

Last recommended day to return your ballot by mail. After October 28, voters should return ballots by hand to a ballot drop box or vote center.

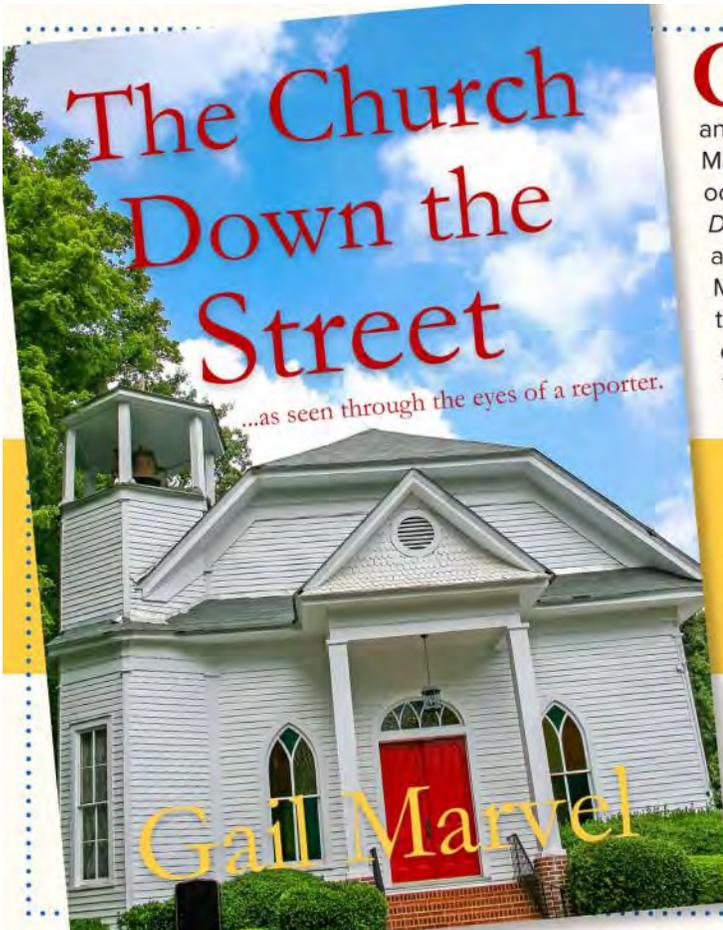
November 5: Election Day

Vote in-person at a vote center.

Register to vote in-person at a vote center.

Update your existing registration at a vote center.

For more information, Coloradans can visit GoVoteColorado.com.



On the Western Slope of Colorado, within a 20-mile radius of the City of Montrose, there are more than 70 churches and houses of worship. Over a 2½-year period, reporter Gail Marvel visited most of these congregations on two separate occasions, resulting in approximately 120 visits. *The Church Down the Street* is a compilation of these visits organized in a topical format — Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message. Similar to the Apostle Paul writing about the church through the eyes of an apostle, *The Church Down the Street* is about the church as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

Gail Marvel’s new book, *The Church Down the Street*, is now available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

The individual stories of these visits were published in *The Montrose Mirror* and the archived stories, *Experiencing the Church* series (issues 90–150); and *Houses of Worship* series (issues 197–250), can be found at www.montrose.mobil.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 2019

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Nonfarm payroll jobs in Colorado decreased by 1,900 from August to September to 2,789,100 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Government decreased by 1,200 payroll jobs and the private sector declined by 700. This is the first over the month decline since September 2018. August estimates were revised down to 2,791,000, and the over the month change from July to August was an increase of 400 rather than the originally estimated increase of 9,000.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from August to September to 2.7 percent. The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 5,100 over the month to 3,160,200 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 8,200 to 3,075,000, causing the number of unemployed to decrease 3,100 and the unemployment rate to decline to 2.7 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point in September to 3.5 percent. Over the year, the average workweek for

all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 34.2 to 34.0 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$29.38 to \$30.90.

The largest over the month private sector job gain was in professional and business services. There were no significant private sector over the month declines.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 56,900, with an increase of 49,600 in the private sector and an increase of 7,300 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and educational and health services. Financial activities, information, and construction declined over the year.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down eight-tenths of a percentage point from 3.5 percent. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 39,400, total employment increased 64,900 and the number of unemployed decreased 25,500. The national unemployment rate declined from 3.7 percent in September 2018 to 3.5 percent in September 2019.

All Colorado estimates from the establishment and household surveys, including



greater geographic detail, are available at: <http://www.colmigateway.com>. Estimates for all states and the nation are available at: <http://www.bls.gov>.

The October 2019 Colorado Employment Situation will be released at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The full schedule of release dates for calendar year 2019 estimates is available at <http://www.colmigateway.com>.

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed. Other series based on this survey include private sector average weekly hours, average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings.

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Betsy Fernandez
Associate Broker
970-201-8714
betsyfernandez2018@gmail.com
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RURAL WORKFORCE CENTERS TO CLOSE FOR TRAINING NOV. 4-6

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-Workforce centers in the Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium will be closed Nov. 4-6 for a training designed to better serve Colorado job seekers and employers. These workforce centers serve thousands of Coloradans, providing a variety of free services to help job seekers and employers, including:

Job seeker and job readiness workshops; Computer and internet access; Career counseling; Career and personality assessments; Job search support; Recruitment

assistance; Hiring events; Labor market information; and more.

Workforce centers in Montrose, Delta, and Gunnison are affected by the closure.

AVISO DE PRENSA: CENTROS DE TRABAJO CERRADOS PARA FORMACIÓN EL NOVIEMBRE 4-7

Denver, CO -- Para servir mejor a los solicitantes de trabajo y los empleadores, los centros de trabajo que pertenecen al Colorado Rural Workforce Consortium estarán cerrados del 4 de noviembre hasta el 6 de noviembre.

Estos centros de trabajo sirven a miles de ciudadanos de Colorado, proporcionando una variedad de servicios para ayudar a buscadores de trabajo y empleadores, incluyendo:

Clases de preparación laboral para los buscadores de trabajo; Acceso a computadores y el internet; Orientación profesional; Evaluaciones de carrera y personalidad; Apoyo en el búsqueda de trabajo; Asistencia en el reclutamiento; Eventos de contratación; Información sobre el mercado de trabajo; y más.





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 HEALTHCARE OF DELTA

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welcome

Michelle Barhaghi
 MD, FACOG, ABOIM, ABIHM



Delta County Memorial Hospital is excited to announce that Michelle Barhaghi, OB/GYN has joined our team of health care providers!! Dr. Barhaghi is double board certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Integrative Medicine, Her practice interests include a minimally invasive approach to common gynecological problems.

scheduling new patients now
 GIVE US A CALL
970.874.7930

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOO MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED—VOTE NO ON 2A!

Editor:

“DEAR AMERICA, Please stop referring to members of the Senate and the House as our ‘leaders’. We do NOT answer to them. They are merely our representatives and they should be reminded of that often.”

Our Council and City Manager should likewise understand that are to do our bidding, not some idea they cobbled up on their own to ‘justify a General Sales Tax’ that they don’t need for their stated purpose and that their taxpayers (constituents) do not want them to have. They answer to US and not we to them.

We have labored for three months in an attempt to show the frivolity of their effort to get taxpayers to authorize this General Sales Tax. We have asked questions galore pertaining to “Why has the City Council and the City Manager (for whom the Police Department works) not discovered this shortfall long ago. Three thousand six hundred and fifty days (OR TEN YEARS) is a fairly long time to tolerate an EMERGENCY of such great import to the whole CITY. An awful long time to ignore an EMERGENCY of such magnitude requiring an action such as 2A. So we have been asking for answers to some simple questions and have been consistently STONE-WALLED by Council. Have we been provided with answers by those who WORK FOR US? NO we have not! Are the answers difficult or are they self-incriminating? Questions such as:

1. Have we seen in print a list of expenditures over \$5,000?
2. Have we seen any effort to limit the use of revenue raised by 2A (a forever tax) to strictly police purposes as the City governments stated the 2A purpose is?
3. Have they offered any justification for why Mr. Bell’s list of accomplishments for the past couple of years included city donations to the School District, a separate independent taxing district from the city?
4. Have they offered any justification for why Mr. Bell’s list of accomplishments for the past couple of years included city donations to the Recreation Center, a sep-

arate independent taxing district from the city?

5. Or reasons why the city gave money to a club? Or to private businesses? Or agent fees for booking musical entertainment? Or anything other particular item not required in the normal course of municipal business?

6. Recently, the City electronically ‘misplaced’ the CITY OF MONTROSE SALES, USE AND EXCISE TAX REPORT, received from the State. A mistake? Well how come this ‘mistake’ lasted for two months? We all know that our government officials pay strict attention to these figures.

7. Most importantly why has the Police Department NOT been funded at least on a par with other city departments over the years? Where has all the extra \$17,000,000 gone (that Laird found that the city has received)?

The figures are the City’s and figures

don’t lie, but who does?

Our City Government Officials have been studiously silent about answers to all of these questions (and much more) and to other seriously studied and researched questions raised by many of us opposed to 2A. If they know the answers (and they must) to not be candid is deception.

Where there is deception there must be a reason. Such reasons cannot be good. Impolite and impolitic at best; corrupt at worst. Now which is it? As a citizen I pay taxes just like the supporters of 2A do and I want answers.

So question number 8 is more to the point: What else is being hidden from the public eye? And why?

Until all of these questions are completely answered, VOTE NO on 2A!

After an in depth review of 2A and of CC, the Montrose Republican Party recommends a NO vote on both of these issues.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES RESPONSE TO CDPHE'S OIL AND GAS HEALTH EFFECTS STUDY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) released the oil and gas health effects study, "Human Health Risk Assessment for Oil & Gas Operations in Colorado."

The [study](#) uses emissions data from oil and gas operations in Colorado to model what people could be exposed to as a result of oil and gas development.

The study shows short-term exposures to chemicals like benzene during worst-case weather and emission conditions may cause negative short-term health effects. Based on the limitations of the modeling study, additional assessment is needed to evaluate real world circumstances.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) has announced its response to CDPHE's oil and gas health effects study.

"Working with our partners and CDPHE, we will immediately enact stricter and safer precautionary review measures to protect public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife, which align with our mandate under SB 19-181," said COGCC Director Jeff Robbins. "Our response is threefold and includes a new plan for permit review, a new plan for testing, and then a plan to use the information from the testing for future regulation and rulemakings."

COGCC's three next steps:

Immediate Action on Permits Under

2,000 Feet: The study implicates potential short term health impacts in worst-case scenarios for locations under 2,000 feet from well to building unit. Therefore, the COGCC will inform operators that permit applications will be reviewed under the Director's Objective Criteria and under the mandate of SB 19-181 for permits under 2,000 feet. Under Objective Criteria, the Director will continue to review proposed locations 1,500' or less to wells. Given the health study, the Director will ensure a protective review will occur for all wells

under 2,000 feet from well to building unit (i.e. home). This review process will continue until the COGCC completes new rulemakings or July 2020.

Current COGCC pending permits <2,000 ft include:

<1,500 ft reviewed using Director's Objective Criteria:

Form 2A: 162; Form 2: 2214

Of the 162 2A locations, 45 are on Operator Priority Lists

1,500-2,000 ft reviewed under the mandate of SB 19-181:

Form 2A: 39; Form 2: 440

Of the 39 2A locations, 12 are on Operator Priority Lists

Note: COGCC issues permits for both

Forms 2A and 2: Form 2A is for the oil and gas location assessment or site permit and Form 2 is for the well permit.

2. Determine Causation & Evidence-

Based Decisions: CDPHE's study has limitations, including reliance on some data from 2014, before significant regulatory changes at CDPHE and COGCC, and data which does not incorporate current operational best management practices. Also, the study fails to address evidence-based emissions testing and thus does not address causation, or frequency and timing, as well as currently used associated mitigations.

Therefore, for the first time in Colorado, the Administration has directed the COGCC and CDPHE to develop and implement testing to obtain better site-specific data that includes actual monitoring, rather than modeling, to further understand causation, sources, timing, and types of emissions, such as benzene. The data collected will be used to evaluate the potential for impacts and to ensure protections during the drilling and completions phases of oil and gas development.

In order to ensure public health protection for people living in proximity to oil and gas locations, the COGCC is proposing to collect data from several actual oil and

gas locations to compare to CDPHE's study. The actual data, supplemented with site-specific models, will evaluate potential direct impacts to people living, working, or recreating in proximity to oil and gas activities. If the actual data collected demonstrates that impacts in exceedance of acute health risk values are occurring or likely to occur, the COGCC may take additional regulatory actions to curtail the activities causing those impacts.

3. SB 19-181 Rulemakings: The data learned from the new testing will inform COGCC's new regulations and rulemakings, and to ensure protective protocols are part of SB 19-181 rulemaking outcomes.

COGCC is currently in rulemakings for Mission Change and Cumulative Impacts, as well as others, and has seven more rulemakings to finalize as part of SB 19-181 implementation. This data learned from the new testing protocols will help to identify protective protocols to inform COGCC's new and future regulations and rulemakings.

"SB 19-181 did not tell the COGCC to stop, have a moratorium or ban oil and gas development and nor did it give industry a free pass on permits," said Robbins. "The COGCC is committed to implementing SB-181, regulating in a protective manner, and will work to ensure that the best data, from CDPHE's study to the future data-driven studies, can be used to inform these critical decisions that impact all of Colorado."

SB 19-181 ensures that oil and gas development and operations in Colorado are regulated in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources. The COGCC is in the midst of reviewing its rules and procedures to evaluate what changes are required to reflect the new law's requirements. To learn more about the COGCC, visit www.colorado.gov/cogcc.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO'S 2019 SUNRISE AND SUNSET REVIEWS RELEASED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The [Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform \(COPRRR\)](#), part of the Office of the Executive Director at the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies ([DORA](#)), today released the 2019 sunset and sunrise reports. The reports have been sent to the Colorado General Assembly and are now available online at do-ra.colorado.gov/opr.

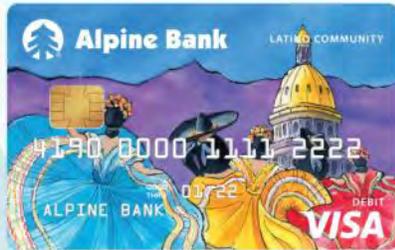
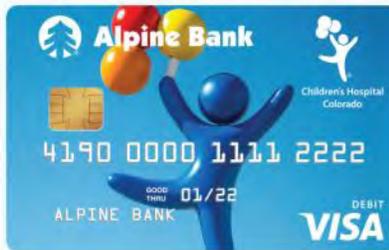
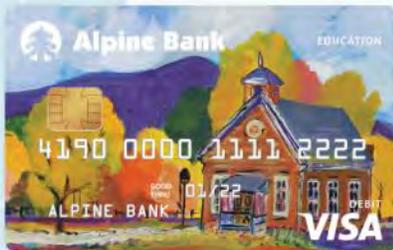
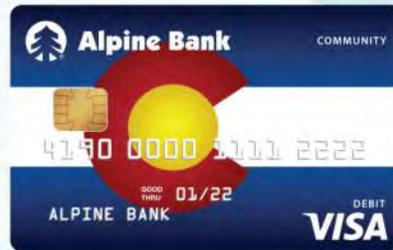
This year, COPRRR conducted 27 sunset and sunrise reviews throughout Colorado state government to identify statutory opportunities to reduce burden while upholding consumer protection. Programs reviewed include those housed within DORA and the Departments of Agriculture, Public Health and Environment, Public Safety and Natural Resources.

“The regular review of state regulatory programs, functions and processes is what keeps Colorado competitive and helps to strengthen our economic climate,” said DORA Executive Director Patty Salazar. “Engaging industry and consumers alike throughout our process helps to ensure we provide the General Assembly with comprehensive, sound recommendations to keep Colorado at the forefront.”

“Sunrise and sunset reviews seek to protect the public in the least restrictive manner necessary,” said COPRRR Director Brian Tobias. “The sunrise and sunset processes are open and inclusive. We encourage the public to visit our website through the DORA Executive Director’s Office page, learn about the process, and reach out to us.”

A summary of COPRRR's 2019 recommendations can be found [here](#), while the complete sunset and sunrise reports and a schedule of future reviews are available online at www.dora.colorado.gov/opr.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM ANNOUNCES DECISION FOR COAL PROPOSAL IN LA PLATA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

DOLORIS – Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office released the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Record (DR) for a Lease-by-Application (LBA) for GCC Energy, LLC's (GCCE) King II Coal Mine, approximately 14 miles due west of Durango, Colorado.

"Jobs in the coal industry matter," said Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond. "The Department of the Interior supports working landscapes across the West, and the coal reserves in this proposal will play a major role in infrastructure projects beneficial for all Americans."

This lease includes 2,462 acres of Federal coal under a parcel referred to as the "Dunn Ranch" property, which holds approximately 9.54 million tons of recoverable coal. A total of up to 12 million tons of combined Federal and privately owned coal will be mined.

"This decision will keep 150 mine employees and their families in the La Plata County area, generating millions of dollars to the Colorado economy through coal production," said Tres Rios Field Manager Connie Clementson.

The final EA, DR and associated documents are available online on the BLM ePlanning website at <https://go.usa.gov/xEKTV>. Mining coal from BLM Colorado lands and minerals generated \$742.5 million in total economic output in 2017. Coal mines in Colorado generated \$35 million in Federal royalties in 2017. This revenue is split with the State of Colorado. There are 49 coal leases covering 80,675 acres in Colorado, with six producing coal mines (two are surface mines, the remaining four are subsurface mines) totaling 60,000 acres with an estimated economic output of \$1.2 billion.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTIES AND PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES OFFER FRIENDLY REMINDERS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING WILDFIRES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices; Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC); National Park Service (NPS), Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area; the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Hinsdale County; San Miguel County; Delta County; Gunnison County; Ouray County; and Montrose County would like to provide a few helpful reminders and tips for best practices to help prevent wildfires this fall.

The Cow Creek fire is currently burning in Ouray County, and while the cause of the fire remains under investigation officials would like to encourage the public to be mindful of fire safety. At this time there are no active fire restrictions within any of the above counties to include U.S. Forest Service managed land. County law enforcement, public land officials, and weather forecasters continue to monitor conditions to determine whether or not restrictions are necessary.

Recreational users on public lands and public engaging in agricultural burning should keep a few things in mind that can help prevent an unintentional wildfire. To reduce wildfire risk, please consider the following:

- Practicing proper vehicle maintenance; ensuring that tow chains are secured and a vehicle has no dragging parts, check tire pressure, and properly maintaining your

brakes. Even chains dragging along the ground, such as those on ATVs, can spark fires.

- Park your vehicles/trailers and off-highway vehicles away from dry grass or brush.

- When target shooting taking a few simple precautions can prevent devastating results: place your target on dirt or gravel, switch to paper targets, avoid incendiary targets and exploding ammunition, bring a shovel and fire extinguisher, and report any fires by calling 911.

- Fireworks are never permitted on public lands.

- If you are camping and build a fire outside a designated fire ring make sure you clear the area of debris including, grasses and small vegetation. Clear your fire site perimeter approximately 10 feet in diameter and use rocks or a fire pan to contain your fire. Never leave a fire unattended and make sure that you completely put out your campfire before leaving your campsite. The act of leaving a camp fire unattended can result in a citation.

- Practice the drown, stir, feel method when extinguishing your campfire. Use water or dirt to douse the fire, stir the ashes and if necessary continue to add water or dirt until the fire is smothered.

- When smoking, always dispose of cigarette debris in an ashtray.

- Avoid driving and parking in tall grasses. Exhaust particles and hot exhaust pipes can start grass fires.

- Call your local non-emergency dispatch before and after agricultural burning and

know open burning regulations in your area.

Even an accidental fire start can result in the individual being held responsible including fines and/or jail time. Visit One Less Spark (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prevent-Wildfire/>) for more great tips on how to prevent wildfire and be prepared for fire season. To learn more about campfire safety visit www.smokeybear.com. Before heading outside, be sure to "Know Before You Go!" Helpful information about planning your trip can be found on the "Know Before You Go" (<https://www.fs.fed.us/visit/know-before-you-go>). Regulations vary between land management agencies, learn what is permitted before you use fire.

Adhere to the Leave No Trace Principles (<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>) of outdoor ethics to leave your favorite spot ready for the next visitors to enjoy. Keep yourself safe while recreating outdoors by checking the weather before you go, taking the appropriate equipment including maps, carrying enough food and water, letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back, and utilizing suggested or required safety equipment. Local fire restriction information can be found online at: <https://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>.

For more information on the Cow Creek Fire, please visit fb.com/GMUGFireInfo For more information on regulations for DFPC please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc> For more information on regulations for the BLM-Uncompahgre Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/uncompahgre-field-office> For more information on regulations for the BLM-Tres Rios Field Office please visit: <https://www.blm.gov/office/tres-rios-field-office>

For more information on regulations for the NPS, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/blca/index.htm>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

2A IS NOT NEEDED; THE CITY HAS THE MONEY

Editor:

As was said in a recent article, 'the City Manager and his MINIONS have successfully purchased good feeling and with that the 'support' of both individuals and organizations. Make no mistake these practices are not new to politics. The City has refused to publish answers to the many pertinent questions conscientious, thoughtful, well educated, concerned citizen taxpayers have asked. Questions as to their behavior in NOT FUNDING POLICE but funding many other shortfalls. Public Safety funding has taken a back seat to almost EVERYTHING in Montrose for the past eight years. Bell says he authorized two new officers per year for eight years. I guess they were never hired because they were not funded. The former chief put up with that. You have to ask him why? Go along to get along?
Remember when we heard 'let's build a modest REC Center and businesses will

flock here?' Well where are all of these 'flocking' businesses now, after three years of a fabulous Recreation Center. I know the REC Center was only to cost me a 'box of skittles'. Well the ELITE got their jock locker, the kids can't afford to use it and every taxpayers lost their \$125 boxes of skittles. I would rather have my skittles. In today's MDP the former police chief, who I respect and admire, supports 2A to fix a problem that he effectively, it pains me to say, ignored for eight years while the Department went to pot.

Our Sheriff (the former chiefs subordinate on the force) concurred with him supporting 2A today BUT he never spoke up either. Of course the current chief supports 2A. Isn't that lovely. If he fails to support Bell, he knows he could be 'out the door'. All three kept quiet for eight years and now, all of a sudden it is an emergency requiring an immediate emergency tax increase. By the time to-

day's 21 year olds who work their whole life in Montrose, retire, 2A will have sucked \$100,000,000 from their pockets.

Food off of their family's dining room table. All to fix a problem that can be fixed today for about \$4,000,000 dollars. This represents about six month's increased take on the present sales tax and the city already has two months of that!

2A is not needed; the city has the money. 2A will collect far too much money, if it is passed. 2A wording says the money will be spent on, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, police needs.

2A is a give-away; it is a fraud being perpetuated on our citizens with a false need and with false promises.

There is no guarantee that the Police Department will get even one cent more than now, in this proposed Ordinance 2A. VOTE NO on 2A.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE “YES” FOR PROPOSITION CC

Editor:

I was not surprised to learn that the Montrose County Republican Party voted to NOT support either Proposition 2A (local tax increase for police services) or Proposition CC (state-wide TABOR issue). The local issue is definitely a tax increase and of course Republicans don't believe in raising taxes, no matter what the issue is. I am a little perplexed that they are coming out against Proposition CC. There is NO tax increase in Proposition CC. Proposition CC is just allowing the State of Colorado to utilize all of the sales tax income it now receives.

When Douglas Bruce created the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (known as TABOR) back in the late 1980's, he used a lot of deception and trickery to finally convince the voters of Colorado to pass his TABOR Bill. It took several tries before it was finally passed in 1992 and by a very slim margin. Mr. Bruce was very clever in his trickery and deception. There were several components to his TABOR Bill and I am not an expert on the entire bill. I am fa-

miliar with two parts of the TABOR bill. One component was to allow the voters of Colorado to have the right to vote on ANY increase in taxes created by any governmental entity. Another component of the TABOR Bill was to put a spending limit on the amount of money that any governmental entity could utilize from the monies it received from taxpayers. In Mr. Bruce's attempt to get this Bill passed, he only stressed only the part about voting on any increase in taxes. He let the stronger more powerful part of his bill, which was restricting the use of monies received, to "hide in the shadows". This part of the Bill put a "noose" aka stranglehold on every governmental entity in the state of Colorado, including the State of Colorado government. That is why in the past 27 years, we have had numerous ballot issues to allow governmental entities to "deBruce" so that each entity could actually utilize the monies which were rightly due to them. Locally we have "de-Bruced" the Montrose Regional Library and the Montrose Regional

Fire Department. We may have de-Bruced other entities as well which I can not remember at this moment.

The State of Colorado has struggled over the past 27 years because of the economic "noose" around its neck. Our economy has grown tremendously because of the growth in population. Of course, all of those new people living here buy groceries (not food), clothing and other items and pay State sales tax on those items. The State of Colorado has not increased its sales tax rate. The total amount of monies it has taken in has increased greatly BUT the noose from the TABOR Bill has prevented the State of Colorado in utilizing these legitimate monies. The infrastructure (roads, bridges, education, health services) of Colorado has suffered because of the TABOR noose.

We still have the right to vote for any proposed tax increase but it is time to get the "noose" off of the economy of the State of Colorado. We need to vote "YES" for Proposition CC.

Connie Pittenger, Montrose



**News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***

ISSUE 233 Oct. 21, 2019

ART & SOL

SANTA FE'S BARBARA ROCKMAN TO READ IN NOVEMBER

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE--The Talking Gourds Poetry Club is delighted to welcome "mother poet" Barbara Rockman of Santa Fe to our early November club meeting as featured performer. Mark the date: Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at the gallery headquarters of our partner -- Telluride Arts. And consider ordering one of Barbara's books from our other partner, Between the Covers Bookstore.

Barbara is author of *Sting and Nest: Poems* (Sunstone Press, 2011), which won the New Mexico-Arizona book award, and has a new book out: *to cleave* (Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2019). She received her MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Her poems appear widely in journals including *Calyx*, *Bellingham Review*, *Cimarron*, *Louisville Review*, *Nimrod*, *Southern Humanities Review* and have received four Pushcart Prize nominations, Best of the Net recognition, the Southwest Writers Prize, Baskerville Publishers Prize,

MacGuffin Poetry Prize, Persimmon Tree Prize and the New Mexico Discovery Award.

She teaches poetry and leads writing workshops at Santa Fe Community College, Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families, Inside Out Arts with people living with mental illness, and in community workshops.

A frequent collaborator with artists, Barbara's work has been included in numerous word and image installations. She is currently collaborating with Barcelona artist, Cynthia Fusillo, on an assemblage of poems and fables inspired by the artist's multi-dimensional dresses.

The theme prompt for the first meeting in November will be "Going Home."

We have a second TG Poetry Club meet this month on Nov. 19th in Telluride, with local poets Suzanne Cheavens and Stephanie Osan sharing the spotlight. The theme prompt will be "Growing".

For our last reading of the year, on Dec. 17th in Telluride, San Miguel County Poet

Laureate Emerita Elissa Dickson will give a holiday show before she leaves for a six months sabbatical. Theme prompt will be "Time."

Poetry Club readings in Telluride start at 6 p.m. beginning with Club News & Other Business. Following that, the featured reader shares work for 30-45 minutes. There's a short break. And then we pass the Gourd, and everyone gets to share their own poem -- or a piece by a favorite author on the month's theme.

The Telluride address of the Telluride Arts Gallery is 135 W. Pacific Ave. -- across the street from the entrance to another of our partners: the Wilkinson Public Library.



Rockman.
Courtesy photo.

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Marrying science with indigenous knowledge



Robin Wall Kimmerer lecturing at the Wilkinson Library on Indigenous Peoples Day Oct. 14 (photo by Art Goodtimes)

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS ... Citizen Potawatomi elder, SUNY botanist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer got a standing ovation at her Wilkinson Library talk last Monday, Oct. 14 -- co-sponsored for Indigenous Peoples Day by the Telluride Institute and the Friends of the Library. She combined a love of science and respect for its findings with her own traditional Indigenous knowledge. These weren't in opposition, but were complementary in her mind ... In an earlier workshop she had explained her holistic view of the world. She drew a circle and divided it into four quadrants. Mind and Body were in the top two quadrants. That's the realm of science where important work gets done, she explained. Then she filled the bottom two: Emotions and the Spiritual. These were important too, in fact critical to Indigenous knowledge. In order to be a whole being, one needed to be in touch with all four of these elements ... So, in her work, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific and the Teaching of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2015), she talks of how she brings these worlds together ... Here is a poignant quote from the book, "We need acts of restoration, not only



Shaun Champoos (courtesy photo)

for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don't have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth's beings."

WARRIOR HEROES ... Shaun Champoos, Uncompahgre Band representative on the Ute Indian Tribe's Business Committee, is hoping to come make a visit and catch San Miguel County and the Telluride community up on latest developments and lawsuits the tribe has been involved in ... Although water buffaloes know this, they seldom talk about it: the Ute Indian Tribe of Utah has a claim on 400,000 acre feet of Colorado River water BEFORE the compact between the upper and lower states. Were they to perfect that claim, the already over-allocated river water that serves several states would be thrown into serious chaos.

RIDGWAY SPIRIT FEST ... A good friend in Fall Creek recommended this event to me. She attend last year, and was mightily impressed. Its organizers described it as "a sacred journey bringing dimension to a region of Western Colorado that is already known for its inspired and creative lifestyle" ... I was sad to miss it this past

weekend as I had to prepare for a trip to upstate New York. But main presenter Charles Eisenstein sounded quite amazing. As he is quoted as saying, "Every act a ceremony. Every word a prayer. Every walk a pilgrimage. Every place a shrine" ... As Robin Wall Kimmerer explained, Western science reveres what we learn from the mind and body, while Indigenous knowledge focuses on the emotions and the spiritual. Together they make us whole ... Reminds me a bit of the old Steps to Awareness Festival in Telluride, that once even brought John Trudell to the San Juans.

TIMBER RIDGE LODGE ... Got to spend an evening in Ouray with an old friend and we stayed in the Timber Ridge Lodge. I must have passed by that place a hundred times in the 40 years I've lived on the Slope. But I'd never been inside ... Brian and Julie Duckles bought the Lodge several years ago, and have really spruced it up. I was impressed on everything I saw, not least of which was the incredibly welcoming manner of Julie. She made us feel quite at home and invited us to her evening campfire (famous for its smores). The room was lovely, clean and comfortable, and the price was fair ... Highly recommended.

PROVISIONS AT THE BARBER SHOP ... Not sure how I missed this restaurant over the last couple years. Maybe because the sign on the Clinton Street establishment in Ridgway says "Barber Shop." And it was once, but no more. Now it's a dazzlingly charming European style eatery with seasonally inspired cuisine. My friend and I had dinner there one night, and breakfast the next day. The evening staff was exceptionally friendly, and the food was exceptionally delicious both times. And prices were not unreasonable, like they can be up in Telluride ... Highly recommended.

CIVIC FORUM ... Got a chance to chat with Colorado Mesa University's President Tim Foster on campus TV ... If you visit their

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

website -- coloradomesa.edu – and find their *Colorado Now* in-house news archive, our conversation appears as a YouTube video accompanying a laudatory press release on Sept. 18th. “Western Colorado poet and political legend Art Goodtimes visits CMU” ... I certainly love the idea Foster has cooked up to bring people with divergent views together to talk civilly and see what, if any, middle ground can be found. I’m a big fan of what I like to call the Radical Middle, and I look forward to participating in Civic Forum events in the future.

WEEKLY QUOTA ... Asked why he never left Vienna, Franz Kafka replied, “If you ever doubt the infinite variety of the world, pick up a handful of dirt. Indeed, within a handful of dirt there is a an infinite world of particles -- from clay, sand and silt to quarks, charms and bosons.”

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THE 5TH ANNUAL TELLURIDE FIRE FESTIVAL

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE— Expect over-the-top fiery art shooting flames high into the night sky from the roofless venue at the 5th annual Festival, Dec. 6-8. We're referring to the historic Transfer Warehouse on the corner of Fir and Pacific in Town. "Hot Time in the Old Town" Friday and Sunday nights from 5-8pm, will enthrall all with fire spinners, numerous interactive fire art installations, music and a cash bar.

Other inspiring events include:

The wicked hot costumed Fire Ball in North America's highest nightclub at 10,535 feet on St Sophia Ridge. Aerial silk performers, flow arts performers, fire spinners and musical entertainment will entrance participants. Food, a cash bar, dancing, and inviting pillow lounge spaces for relaxing will also be available.

"Fire On The Mountain" atop the ski area will showcase three spectacular wood sculptures on display during the day,

which will then ceremoniously burn to the ground Saturday night during the Fire Ball.

A dance and acrobatic performance at The Palm Theater in collaboration with Telluride Dance Collective and Homestead Circus Productions.

Free fire art performance and a flaming art car in Heritage Plaza in Mountain Village.

Free flow arts workshops at the local Wilkinson Public Library.

Fire Artists

Propane artists participating this year are Charles Vierhout of Avondale, AZ, Matt Brooks of Denver, CO; Jamie Vaida of Oakland, CA; Ryan Mathern of Atlanta, GA; Space Ninjas of Dillon and Aspen, CO. Artists creating wood installations are Keith D'Angelo and Niel Ringstad of Telluride, CO and Michael Wright and Meredith Miller of Phoenix, AZ.

Artist spotlight

Charlie Vierhout will be showcasing his 10-

foot tall street clock, entitled "Our Time", which juxtaposes a contemporary take on "time" with a more historical view of street clocks. The hands move both forward and backward in the clock face. A pendant allowing people to select multiple styles of flame blasts controls the tower flame effects. Inside the tower are four computers to control LEDs, the hands, and flame effects, as well as four custom built gearboxes. 1,300 LEDs are also inside the installation, which run an ever-changing color display. By the way, says Charlie, "It does actually tell time, but it's up to the bystander to be able to figure out the puzzle to obtain the correct time." Artist Charles Vierhout creates complex computing system for a living, and makes art for a release. After many years of living life from one extreme to the other, Charlie found the middle ground within the burner community and has been building fire, light, and sound art for several years.

BLUES ROCK GUITARISTS TOMMY CASTRO AND TINSLEY ELLIS BRING T'N'T TOUR TO RIFLE!

Special to Art & Sol

RIFLE—Alligator Records artists Tommy Castro & The Painkillers and Tinsley Ellis will make a stop in Rifle on their celebrated, explosive T'N'T tour. Castro and Ellis will each perform a full headline-length set at the Ute Theater (132 East 4th Street in Rifle) on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019. Guitarist/vocalist Tommy Castro and his band The Painkillers are world-renowned for their roof-raising live shows and limitless energy. Their latest album is *Killin' It Live*. Armed with his signature molten licks, melodic riffs and rousing, intense solos, blues-rock guitar wizard, vocalist and songwriter Tinsley Ellis is among the blues world's best loved, hardest working and most well-traveled statesmen. Ellis' latest release, *Winning Hand*, debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* Blues Chart. He will release his new album in early 2020.

Phone: 970-665-6569

Showtime: 8:30pm

Ticket price: \$25-\$35

Website: www.utetheater.com



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

STORIES BEYOND BORDERS SCREENS IN MONTROSE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- On October 28th, the Hispanic Affairs Project, Community Spirit Church UCC, and Uncompahgre Valley Alliance will host *Stories Beyond Borders*. The program features five short films that show a more complete picture of the attacks on immigrant families and communities.

Beyond building empathy, these films lift up real stories of resilience and strength, while illustrating some of the ways people can give their time, energy, and resources to support organizing led by immigrant communities. This free event will also include a discussion led by those who are working for immigrant justice in Montrose.

At a moment when the rights of immigrants are being attacked, a fuller story of immigration needs to be told to address the harms perpetuated by immigration enforcement practices and policies that extend beyond the crisis at the border.

Whether it's through raids, people being picked up at courthouses, or being forced to live in churches – families are being separated and attacked across America. These increasing threats to immigrants translate into extreme fear and anxiety about deportation and family separation, even in communities across the Western Slope.

Not only do harsh immigration enforcement policies and practices contribute to high stress levels, but family separation can deteriorate the social and economic stability of a family overnight.

Karen Sherman Perez, Civic Engagement Coordinator with the Hispanic Affairs Project shared that “earlier this year, when a community member was detained by ICE at a local gas station, the news spread like wildfire along with rumors about an immigrant raid. This incident had a significant impact on local immigrant businesses and many individuals stayed home from work due to the extreme stress that was

caused. This film will provide an opportunity for our community to examine more closely the broken immigration system and how we can take action to better support our immigrant neighbors.”

Stories Beyond Borders is a project of Working Films, a national nonprofit organization based in Wilmington, NC. Recognizing the power of stories to inspire and transform, Working Films builds partnerships between nonfiction media-makers, nonprofit organizations, educators and advocates to advance social justice and environmental sustainability, and support community-based change. *Stories Beyond Borders* was co-created with NAKASEC, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Un-docuBlack Network, and United We Dream.

Monday Oct. 28 at 6:30 pm

Montrose Library

320 S 2nd St.

Montrose, CO 81401

RSVP Link [here](#).

DON'T MISS 5TH ANNUAL RIDGWAY INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Please join the Ridgway Creative District (RCD) and Ridgway Chautauqua Society at the Sherbino Theater for the fifth annual Ridgway Independent Film Festival on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 8 and 9, 2019, from 6:30 – 9:30PM. Doors open at 6 PM at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton St., Ridgway.

The organizers of the Film Festival (a subcommittee of the RCD Creative Advocacy Team) proudly bring you 26 short films made by both professional and amateur filmmakers. It's an eclectic mix of themes and genres this year -- uplifting and inspirational, humorous or charming, and suspenseful-- all thought-provoking. Thirteen different short films will be shown each evening. Come watch them all, and vote for your favorite for the People's Choice Award each night! Awards

will also be given for Best Professional and Best Amateur films. Some films include mature themes. Parental discretion advised. [A sampling of films to be shown from local, regional, and international filmmakers:](#)

Tank Man tells the story of the iconic gentleman who stood in front of and stopped a line of tanks after the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989. Filmmaker Robert Peters from Tucson, AZ.

The eternal story of discovery, loss, and rediscovery is evoked through movement in *The Root of Time*. Local dancers and filmmakers, Nathan Montgomery and Sara Tellini, Ridgway.

Fruita filmmaker, Cullen Purser, visually shares the stories of an Andean Worry Doll's worries.

A bench welcomes a variety of people with different circumstances over 2 days.

Filmmaker, Keith McEvoy from Dublin, Ireland.

Bitters: A chef invites a popular health and food blogger to preview the new menu at her restaurant where everything may not be as it seems. Filmmaker, Charles Sutter, from Orlando, FL. In this brief cinempoem, poet Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, faced with an unshovelable amount of snow, learns to say “yes” to the world as it is. Filmmaker Suzan Beraza from Telluride.

Paper Boats is the tale of someone who lost her childhood and tries to find her place in the world. Filmmaker, Gonzalo Guajardo-Fajardo, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

For more information, go to www.ridgwaycreativedistrict.com, www.sherbino.org, or contact John Clark, jlark@town.ridgway.co.us, or Diedra Silbert, dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308, x. 215.



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GURU'S ON MAIN IS A DOWNTOWN TREAT

MONTROSE – Looking for outstanding Himalayan/Indian food? Look no further than Guru's on Main Street in Montrose. Guru's restaurant and bar was the first Indian and Nepalese restaurant in Montrose serving authentic cuisine from the Himalayan regions of Tibet, India and Nepal. Several of the menu items are featured in their buffet and all the exotic recipes of Nepal and India are superb, including vegetarian items on the menu, such as Tandoori Chicken.

My son recently invited me to a birthday dinner--"thanks, Ian McKelvey" -- and I chose Guru's. Michael and I have been meeting my son and my wonderful granddaughter, Lola, since she was a baby at Guru's. Lola is now approaching her ninth birthday and I thought they would enjoy meeting me there again.

As we awaited their arrival Michael and I ordered Cheese Naan (\$2.99), naan bread stuffed with cheese, as an appetizer. I had a lovely merlot and Michael enjoyed a sweet Chai tea.

A freshly showered and dressed up Lola and my son arrived, and he ordered us all

a Shrimp Pakoda (\$6.99) to share -- shrimp deep fried in chickpea flour as an appetizer.

All delicious!

Then we got down to the really great stuff. Lola had a huge green salad with no dressing (hey, she's eight) and some plain Naan; Ian ordered Chicken Tikka Masala (\$13.99), a traditional dish from India cooked with exotic spices and a blend of onion, garlic, ginger and tomato having a medium thick sauce. I sampled it and it was so good. Mike and I shared an order of Vegetable Biryani (\$10.99), an aromatic basmati rice from India cooked with meat or vegetable with cassu and delicately spiced. It's a meal and then some. Of course, Michael had to have a cup of lentil soup. He's such a soup freak.

Next time I think we'll go for the lunch buffet so we can sample so many of Guru's truly authentic foods. So many possibilities! The lunch buffet is served Monday – Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A small sampling of Gurus menu:

Curries: Chicken Curry (\$11.99); Lamb

Curry (\$12.99); Shrimp Curry (14.99); Masalas and Makanhi: Involves both tandoori cooking and preparation similar to curries but with sweet thicker sauce, Alu Gobi (\$10.99), Chicken Tikka Masala (\$13.99), Lamb Boti Masala (\$14.99), Shrimp Masala (\$14.99), Chicken Makhani (\$13.99), Lobster Makhani (\$15.99).

Nepali dishes: These include dishes with a lot of flavor and color cooked with bell pepper, onion and served with mild tomato sauce. Vegetable Chili (\$9.99), Chicken Bhuteko (\$11.99), Lamb Bhuteko (\$12.99), Shrimp Bhuteko (\$14.99)

Himalayan dishes: include thupka/Sherpa soup, a soup made with Himalayan style noodles, vegetables, herbs, and spices, vegetable thupka (\$9.99), chicken thupka (\$11.99) lamb thupka (\$12.99) and shrimp for \$14.99 or try a combo for \$15.99.

Many more I didn't mention.

Meet you there!

Guru's Restaurant & Bar. 448 Main St. Montrose, CO 81401 Phone 970-252-8777; buffet served Monday through Saturday 11am - 2:30 pm and dinner from 5pm - 9:30 pm, Sunday from 5pm - 9:30 pm.

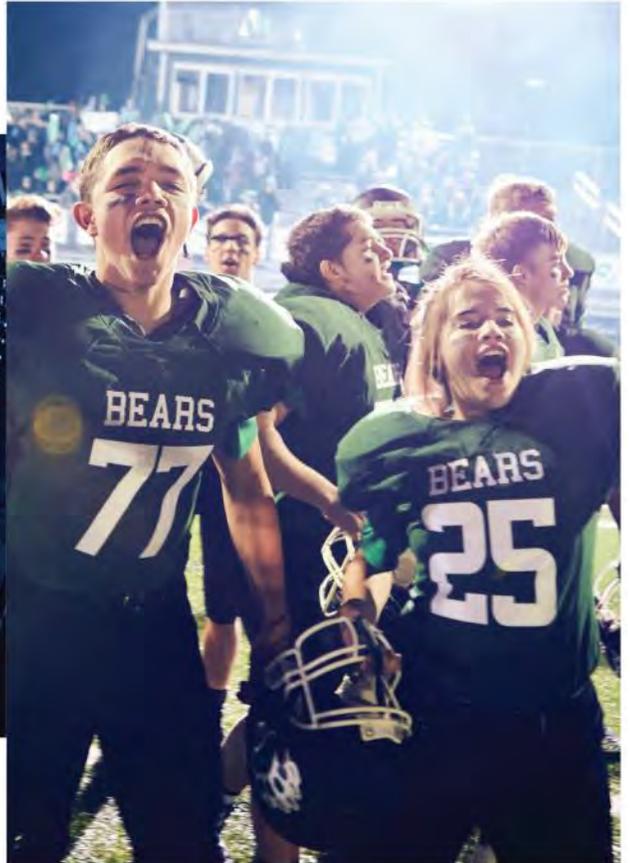


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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT IS PROUD TO DISPLAY OLATHE ELEMENTARY STUDENT ARTWORK

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Library Children's Department is proud to display student artwork entitled: Monet's

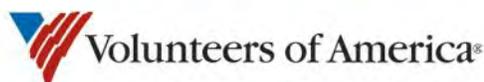
Garden, by Olathe Elementary students. All students learned about the great French Impressionist Claude Monet, who was the September Artist of the



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Montrose Library Children's Department is proud to display student artwork entitled: Monet's Garden, by Olathe Elementary students. Courtesy photo.

Month. He was one of the first painters to go outside and paint his *Impression* of the landscapes, and was fascinated by how light and color changed his painting subjects during the day. He often painted with several canvases and would switch to a different one when the light changed.

Olathe Elementary Art Teacher, Caryl A. Brown, is a practicing artist and passionate about engaging students in partner conversations about artists and art history, using depth and complexity questions, and integrating art lessons with Monet's themes. After learning about Monet through videos, books, and observing art prints, students created their own rendering of Monet's style. The selection of work includes Monet's Bridge Paintings by 2nd grade, Impressionism Sunset Paintings by 3rd grade, "Pool's of Light" by 4th grade, and Waterscapes by 5th Grade.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

M.A. SMITH – ACTOR, DIRECTOR, PLAYWRIGHT

By Patti Powel

MONTROSE-As an actor, M.A. Smith is a chameleon; as a director, he takes guidance from his cast; and, as a playwright, he is continually tweaking dialogue and admits, "I think it's the most difficult job of the theatre."

Smith's original script *Tucker Falls* is coming to the stage at Magic Circle in November. It's one of the few original plays performed in the 60-year history of MCP and, above all, he says, it's a love story.

"It deals with the love for family, for the land, for the Old West and for a man's love of his late wife," said Smith. "Although *Tucker Falls* deals with several difficult topics, I think people will find it funny and romantic."

Smith emphasizes that *Tucker Falls* is not based on anyone he has ever met or anything from his personal life. "I took a nugget of an idea from *King Lear* and the script just evolved from there," he said.

Smith is a recognizable face at MCP and has been an active member of the group for more than 10 years. "In fact, we decided to retire in Montrose after seeing *Beauty and the Beast* here," he said. "I was so

impressed with the quality of the performance that I knew I wanted to be a part of this community theatre."

Even then, Smith was no novice to the performing arts. He graduated from college in Greeley with degrees in Theatre and English. He moved to New York City and performed in several off-Broadway performances. He also wrote a one-act play that was performed off-Broadway and another performed at the Arvada Center for the Arts.

Smith was on his way to Los Angeles, when he stopped in Denver and decided he needed to find a paycheck to cover his acting expenses. He got a job as a customer service rep with an insurance company and, as usually happens in life, 25 years later - he retired as Senior Vice-President of Operational Risk Management for the Americas for ING Financial Services.

He never lost his love of the stage, though. During his time at MCP, Smith has acted in 13 plays, directed four, served on the Board of Directors and, now, has written and is directing *Tucker Falls*.

"Directing my own script has been an interesting challenge," said Smith. "I in-

tended one scene to be serious, but the actors saw it as a more humorous interaction. They were right so the lines stayed the same but the delivery is quite different."

As a director, Smith said he has always been impressed with the dedication of all of the volunteers at MCP. As an actor, his range of characters has been diverse. He said his most demanding role was as Norman, the personal assistant to a deteriorating actor in *The Dresser*.

His funniest character was the blind hermit in *Young Frankenstein*. His most challenging role was as Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. "I can't sing," he said. "So I just rapped my way through it."

"All of us at MCP are committed to bringing quality work to the stage in our community," said Smith. "Having *Tucker Falls* on the schedule this year is a true honor for me."



M.A. Smith.
Courtesy photo.

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BOSOM BUDDIES OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets every Wednesday from noon till 1 pm at 645 South 5th Street in Montrose. For more info email info@bosombuddiesswc.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP meets every third Tuesday of each month at the Centennial Meeting Room at 6pm, behind City Hall. New Watch Groups are formed and guest speakers alert us to safety issues. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact Chris Hebert at 970-901-5876 for details.

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING-second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Brookdale Sunrise Creek, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

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

MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING 6:30 p.m. second Wednesday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-209-8173.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

READING TO ROVER-Montrose Library. Every Tuesday through Dec. 10. 3:30 - 4:30pm. Read to a Morningstar Therapy Dog. Call 970.249.9656 option 2 or visit the children's desk to sign up for a 15-minute reading time.

THE BOLD AND THE ITALICIZED (ST). Montrose Library. Every Wednesday through Dec. 11, 10am - 11am. Family-friendly story time featuring stories, songs, and activities. Toddler-preschool age appropriate.

MONTHLY-

Oct. 23-Adulting 101: Adaptive Tools for Applying for a Job. Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m. Montrose Library Meeting Room. Presented by Janice Becker of Becker Career Counseling, LLC, this is a course to teach people with disabilities how to apply for a job. All adults are welcome to join these free, informative discussions. Refreshments are provided.

Oct. 23-Meet Jennifer Sparks - author of [Slow Travel: Escape the Grind & Explore the World](#) , on Wednesday Oct. 23 at 7 pm upstairs in the Cobble Creek Club House - 699 Cobble Drive, Montrose.

Oct. 28-Hispanic Affairs Project presents ‘Stories Beyond Borders,’ Monday Oct. 28 at 6:30 pm, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Montrose, CO 81401. RSVP Link [here](#).

Oct. 31-Trick or Treat @ Valley Manor Care Center, 3:30 p.m. until candy runs out.

Oct. 31-Downtown Trick or Treat, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Main Street. Costume Contest near real Estate Store 11 a.m.

Nov. 2-San Juan Healthcare Foundation invites you to experience The Jersey Tenors at the Montrose Pavilion. VIP tickets \$100; General Admission \$35. Call 970-252-2580 for VIP reservations. General Admission tickets at www.ourtownmatters.net.

Nov. 4-Montrose Women’s Giving Club meets at Bridges of Montrose, 2500 Bridges Drive 5:30 to 7 p.m. Club meets once per quarter to select the next non-profit to receive quarterly donations. Each member pays \$100 per quarter plus a \$10 hospitality fee to participate and has the chance to nominate a non-profit. Members must be present to vote.

Nov. 5-Talking Gourds Poetry Club is delighted to welcome “mother poet” Barbara Rockman of Santa Fe to our early November club meeting as featured performer. Mark the date: Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at the gallery headquarters of our partner -- Telluride Arts, 135 West Pacific Avenue in Telluride.

Nov. 8-9-Join Ridgway Creative District (RCD) and Ridgway Chautauqua Society at the Sherbino Theater for the fifth annual Ridgway Independent Film Festival on Friday and Saturday evenings, Nov. 8 and 9 from 6:30 – 9:30PM. Doors open at 6 PM at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton St., Ridgway.

Nov. 14-Memory Support Open House, Valley manor Care Center, 2 to 4 p.m. 970.249.9634

Nov. 23-The San Juan Weavers Guild 42nd Annual Show & Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23, in a new location, the Montrose Center for the Arts at 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose. The event, featuring sales of handwoven and handspun items plus hands-on learning opportunities, runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. one day only, and is free to the public.

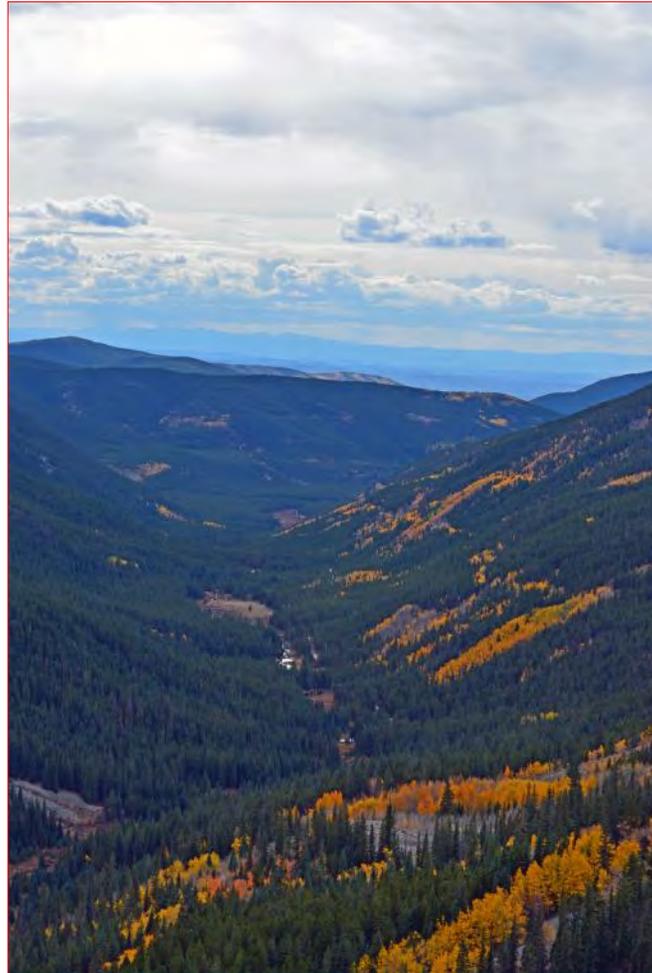
Nov. 28-Thanksgiving Day

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb captured these photos of (clockwise from top right) Alpine Tunnel Road; Kebler Pass; Cow Creek Fire and Clouds.

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