

Like us on Facebook!

Visit us online at montrosemirror.com!

Please Support our Advertisers!



www.montrosecounty.net



www.voahhealthservices.org



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

www.tristategt.org



www.scottsprinting.com



www.montrosecolorado.com



www.alpinebank.com



www.montrosehospital.com



www.cityofmontrose.org



the Montrose Mirror

Merry Christmas week!

Issue No. 356 Dec. 23, 2019

COUNTY WITHDRAWS DRAFT JUNK ORDINANCE; PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. TIGHTENS FOCUS ON DELIVERY OF CORE SERVICES



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for the final meeting of 2019 on Dec. 18.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present when the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for the final regular meeting of 2019. Pastor Mike Motsko of First Presbyterian Church delivered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution No. 49-2019 assigned to Item C-3, which delegates to Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSAs) the authority to set the rate of the charge

Continued pg 7

DMEA SET FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM TRI-STATE; CEO TO RECEIVE ONE-TIME BONUS OF \$25K

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 17. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening meeting prayer. Following the late arrival of Jock Fleming, all members of the board were present.

General Business:

Action Item:

- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Membership Report
- Approval of Minutes from the November board meeting. Approved unanimously.

Board Committee Items:

Finance-Audit-Rate Committee (FAR) - Brad Harding, Chair.



In his Tri State report at the December Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board meeting, Director Kyle Martinez (center left) said, "Tri State and DMEA are set up to make a smooth transition." Photo by Gail Marvel.

Continued pg 24

in this issue

Art Goodtimes' Up Bear Creek!

City & County Government!

Reader photo Spotlight: Deb Reimann!

Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!

OURAY COUNTY OFFICIALS DEBRIEF ON COW CREEK FIRE



Left, Ouray County officials gathered for a Cow Creek Fire debrief Dec. 18; above, Cow Creek Fire.

Story & photos by Sue Williamson
 RIDGWAY-At a Ouray County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) work session Dec. 18, Ouray County Sheriff, Ridgway, Log Hill and Ouray Fire Departments, Emergency Services, Westco Dispatch, Fairgrounds manager, and EMS were present for a debrief on the Cow Creek fire. According to the inciweb.nwcg.gov incident 6647 burned 859 acres and is still under investigation. Federal agents were not present. *Debrief*-On Oct. 16 at approximately 6:15 a.m. EMS received a call from Cow Creek Outfitters via 911 regarding the fire and concern that other hunters could be trapped. Cow Creek Outfitters stated there were other hunters further down the Stealey Mountain trailhead from their camp the previous night but were unsure if they were still there. Hunters were advised to get out of the area. Dispatch also noted that the fire fell outside of the local

fire districts and was on Federal land. The Sheriff's office was called due to possible people in danger, and then the interagency dispatch. No other hunting group called dispatch nor was seen by Captain Chris Miller coming out. Cow Creek Outfitters told dispatch they were above the switchbacks on Stealey Mountain trail with flames coming at them. Captain Miller stated that Cow Creek Outfitters has three camps and noted to the board that the outfitters did go through the barricades to return to their base camp, in response to County Attorney Carol Viner asking if any third parties were on the scene that shouldn't have been there.

Ouray County Commissioner John Peters questioned if the reported hunting camp below Cow Creek Outfitters is where the fire originated. Ouray County Emergency Manager Glenn Boyd stated it is still under investigation. Chris Miller reported that at

7:15 a.m. he met with OCS deputy who went to evacuate and locate missing hunters. Miller went back to set up staging at the J-M ranch shop and four guys from Ouray Fire and four guys from Log Hill went in to make sure everyone got out.

An MMA plane and a helicopter were requested from Denver and the State Forest Service and BLM were on their way. At 8:47 a.m. The Forest supervisor took command and set up at the Fairgrounds as an incident level 1. The following day the facility was full being used as an incident level 2 command post. Connie Hunt stated they have already been reimbursed more than \$21,000 dollars in costs.

Miller stated they had "lots of thermal imaging stuff, it can find a cigarette from 40,000 feet." Hannah Hollenbeck responded, "but can't find the cause of this fire." Boyd commented that it probably did, but it's still under investigation.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer, to a readership of over 13,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher. For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

Editor@MontroseMirror.com
 970-275-0646
 www.MontroseMirror.com
 www.facebook.com/MontroseMirror
 www.instagram.com/MontroseMirror



ONLINE NEWS
 ASSOCIATION

Copyright © 2010-2019. All Rights Reserved. Content may not be reprinted, distributed, or re-used without the permission of the publisher.



Hospice Is Touch of Care
Locally Owned and Operated



970-787-9988 | TOUCHOFCAREHOSPICE.COM

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VFW HAS FOOD, CLOTHING, PERSONAL ITEMS FOR VETERANS IN NEED



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) has delivered 500 pounds of food, cold weather clothing and personal care items to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VFW Post Commander Al Warnock said, "Any Veteran who needs help should contact us. We're here for them and can help with a box or two of food, or personal items." For assistance contact Al Warnock at awarnock7@gmail.com or Fred Schaefer at flipschaefer4@gmail.com.

Pictured at left, VFW Post Commander Al Warnock . Photo by Gail Marvel.



BUYING OR SELLING
IN MONTROSE OR SURROUNDING AREA

Autumn Barrett

The perfect real estate professional whether you're putting your home on the market or looking for your dream home. Give her a call today!

970-318-0708
autumnbarrettrealtor@gmail.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Western Colorado Properties
HomeServices

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SET TO IMPROVE RIM ROAD STAGING AREA NEAR MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office announced its decision to improve recreation experiences at the Rim Road staging area in the Dry Creek Recreation Area west of Montrose.

The Rim Road staging area is increasing in popularity due to its central access to many trails in the Dry Creek Recreation Area. The BLM will develop the staging area to provide parking to accommodate RVs and trailers, an off-loading zone, designated campsites, and restrooms. With increased visitation in the area, this effort will also help protect natural and cultural resources.

“This project is a win for our local community, supporting recreation and access to the amazing trails in the Dry Creek Recreation Area,” said Gregory Larson, Uncompahgre Field Office Manager. Recreation activities on BLM-managed public lands in Colorado contributed \$652.5 million to the economy and 5,077 jobs during fiscal year 2018. Documents are available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xyrhz>. For more information about the project, contact Robin Lewis at 970-240-5318 or rlewis@blm.gov.

Christmas at Grace

Celebrate Christmas Eve
Tuesday, Dec. 24th
2:00pm • 4:00pm • 6:00pm
 Childcare Provided for 0-5 yrs.

GRACE
 Community Church
 Love God • Love Others

16731 Woodgate Road • www.gracemontrose.org

10% OFF EACH WEEK'S
Previous Price for 10 Weeks
 ALL SOFAS • LOVES • CHAIRS • BEDROOM
 DINING & SETS • OCCASIONAL • LAMPS
Does Not Apply to Art or Custom

Welcome Everyone, and Thank You!
Same Up-to-Date Design & Furnishings

Visit us at Main & Townsend Ave.
 238 E. Main in Historic Downtown Montrose

FURNITURE & DESIGN CENTER
COLORADO EDGE
EST. 1980 USA

fronteriors.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A VICTORY FOR MONTROSE AND THE REGION!

Editor:

Members of the One Community / Safer Together advocates for the successful ballot issue 2A (Public Safety Sales & Use Tax to fund the Montrose Police Dept.) met recently to celebrate the election results. Several City Council members, the 7th Judicial District Attorney and other dedicated community leaders, including motivators Phoebe Benziger and David Reed, joined in. As Police Chief Hall so eloquently stated, this was not a victory for the Montrose Police Dept. but a victory for the good people of Montrose and the entire region. Crime is a societal cancer for everyone. During the entire campaign, with over 50 individual presentations, no negative comments about the Police Dept. and its staff were heard. The additional funding, for staffing and a building, will enhance the safety and security of all residents and visitors alike.

Having received the daily activity blotter from both the Police Dept. and the Sheriff's Office for the past 5 years, the increasing crime rate was apparent and frightening, far from a "contrived crisis" as one outspoken critic complained. Several critics of the issue, while generally in error of the facts or voicing long-held resentments, assisted in the success of the issue by motivating the advocates even more. I recently viewed a 1950's vintage western, "Paladin". In describing the fall of the Roman Empire, the philosophical gunfighter noted that all that is necessary for a democracy to fail is for the people to become lazy and inattentive. Hopefully this election will inspire more people to participate in city government and become more knowledgeable its activities. Montrose is fortunate to have an outstanding Police Dept. and city government. They both deserve the public's continued respect, participation and support.

John W. Nelson, Log Hill

**Wishing Each and Every One
Very Merry Christmas!**

Your Delta County Realtor

Linda Charlick



970-209-3668

REALTOR® Of the Year 2019

Serving all Your Real Estate needs since 2003

Quarterly Proceeds go to the local Food Pantry

Farm · Ranch/Residential/Land

CONTACT ME TODAY for Your Real Estate Needs.

I'm using Homesnap to connect with my clients.

Join me on the link below to see all Homes for Sale:

<http://www.homesnap.com/real-estate-agents/Linda-Charlick>

Find me on the web at: www.DeltaMontroseCountyRealEstate.com

Macht-Liles Real Estate Group

645 S. Grand Mesa Drive

970-856-4425

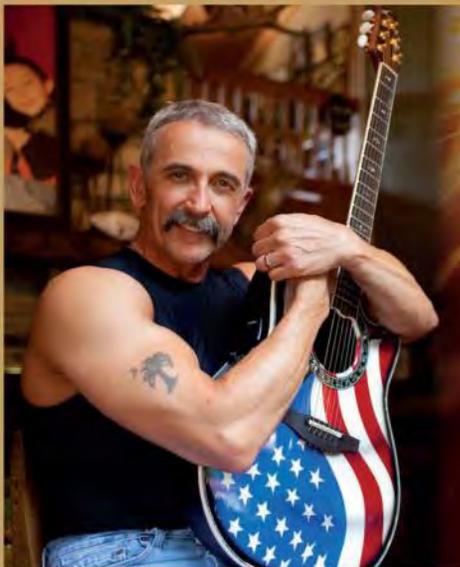
linda@linda-charlick.com





LORRIE MORGAN

And



AARON TIPPIN

SATURDAY, JAN. 4TH
MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER

TICKETS START AT \$25

MONTROSECOUNTYEVENTCENTER.COM

PRESENTED BY



AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH



AUTO • HOME • LIFE
MEGAN WILSON AGENCY



COUNTY WITHDRAWS DRAFT JUNK ORDINANCE; PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. TIGHTENS FOCUS ON DELIVERY OF CORE SERVICES From pg 1

imposed on service users, as authorized by statute, for the 2020 calendar year.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE
All General Business items were presented by County Public Works Director Keith Laube.

In quick succession, the BOCC voted to approve:

Purchase of a dump truck with a snowplow and sander. The dump truck will be used in the Maher area and will replace a 39-year old dump truck. The total cost for the dump truck, snowplow and sander is \$170,692, which will be paid with available funds in the 2020 Road and Bridge budget. The 39-year-old truck will be put out for auction.

"That will be a welcome addition up there," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said. "That truck's old enough it may still have two gear shifts in it."

Purchase of five dump trucks. Low bidder O.J. Watson of Denver was awarded the bid in the amount of \$154,124 for a 2020 Western Star 10-yard dump truck. The dump trucks will replace existing dump trucks in the Road and Bridge fleet that are 11 to 19 years old. The total cost for the five dump trucks is \$770,620, which will be paid with available funds from the 2020 Road and Bridge budget.

Award of the 2020 Gravel Crushing Services contract to low-bidder Western Gravel, Inc. of Montrose in the total amount of \$472,980. Five bids were received, Laube said. "The cost per ton for crushing has been pretty consistent for the last two years," he said.

Adoption of Resolution No. 50-2019 to change the posted speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on 6020 Road.

Adoption of Resolution 51-2019 accepting the maintenance of 0.30 miles of roads in Prestige Valley Estate Subdivision.

Adoption of Resolution 52-2019 accepting the maintenance of 1.22 miles of roads in Buckhorn Heights Subdivision.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

County Planning & Development Director Steve White spoke about Resolution 53-2019, a resolution that withdraws the current draft of the Montrose County Rub-

bish and Junk Ordinance.

On Nov. 20 the BOCC had a first reading of the proposed ordinance, White said. "Since that time there's been public comment regarding this... you've heard from the public, as well as your own thoughts on what would be best and how we should move forward," he said. "It was determined that

with the numerous changes that would be proposed in this ordinance, we would have to do another first reading."

Instead, the current draft of the ordinance will be withdrawn, White said. The BOCC has asked staff to hold an open house for citizens to bring additional comments forward, followed by a second first reading, he said.

"The ordinance is not going away, we are just going through a legal process to make it right," White said.

Said BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash, "We want to make sure the public has a voice in this...we serve you guys, and we want to make sure that we hear all the voices, not just one side."

The open house will be held in late January or early February, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, and will be advertised in the newspaper.

Those who have input prior to the open house may contact County officials to share concerns, Commissioner Keith Cadby said. "Please give us a call...we are here to serve you...we do want your input because this is going to affect everyone in the county to a greater or lesser extent."

Email feedback is also acceptable, Rash said. "That way we can introduce them into the record. We will present those to



A festive display brightens the upstairs lobby at the historic Montrose County Courthouse.

the public as well and we'll make sure Steve White gets those so he can put 'em in the package."

Resolution 53-2019 was approved unanimously.

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved a proposal by the M.L.B. Large Tract Exemption to create one new three-acre lot from a 78-acre tract.

Hansen closed the regular session and commissioners convened as the **Montrose County Board of Health** to hear an update from interim Public Health Director Jim Austin.

Public Health will begin issuing birth and death records effective Jan.1, 2020. Staff completed state training last week, Austin said. The Clerk & Recorder's office has been extremely helpful as staff prepares for the transition, especially Crystal.

"This is a completely new function...we're ironing out a few little administrative details we need to finish, but we'll be ready to go in January," Austin said.

Short-term radon test kits are available now at the front desk of the County Health Department, he said. The department has an improved phone menu; web site improvements are underway. Dr. Joe Adragna is the medical advisor. The Health Department is also establishing backup

COUNTY WITHDRAWS DRAFT JUNK ORDINANCE; PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. TIGHTENS FOCUS ON DELIVERY OF CORE SERVICES *From previous pg*

staff for essential positions, Austin said, and renewing its focus on delivering the core services identified by the State Board of Health—issuing birth and death certificates; environmental health; maternal and child health; emergency preparedness and response; and communicable disease response. The department will continue to establish relationships with partner organizations and providers in the community to make sure that local needs are met.

Said Hansen, “The last thing the County needs to do is compete with private enterprise, and I think that looking at any duplication of services is a smart thing for county government to do.

“I appreciate your delving into that.”

“I want to commend you on an outstanding job,” Rash said to Austin. “Thank you

for stepping up and doing this. I know we threw some pretty hard curve balls at you and your team, and you guys have handled them spectacularly. I really do appreciate the outstanding job that you guys have done, taking on a whole new department, creating that department, and then throwing on vital statistics on top of that.

“That was a big task to take on, and you guys have done a stellar job. Thank you very much.”

The County as an organization is trying to focus on core services in all departments, Commissioner Keith Caddy said.

“Thank you so much for looking at what we do, and we do the best, and there’s no other people doing that in the community...I think core services is the bread and butter for any county organization.”

“That’s what we’re supposed to do; that’s what the taxpayers expect,” Hansen said.

“...it’s real easy when you’re in the health care business to follow grants and get off track with what’s really important. So what Jim is saying is that (we’re) looking internally at the departments, making sure we are servicing the areas that we are tasked with by state statute, and not moving in other directions that either compete with outside entities or take us off our core mission, which is to serve the taxpayer. Thank you very much.”

The Board of Health session was closed, and commissioners returned to regular session as the BOCC.

Commissioners wished all a Merry Christmas; with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Tai Chi Balance and Safety Class

RETURNS TO DELTA - BILL HEDDLES RECREATION CENTER

This FREE class, taught by Linda Bull, Physical Therapist, will focus on safety, strengthening and balance to help prevent falls.

Begins Wednesday
January 8, 2020

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Classes will be held in the Gym at Bill Heddles Recreation Center from January 8th - February 28th

All participants must sign up by calling

970.874.2250

NEW PARTICIPANTS MUST BE TESTED FOR SAFETY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH. PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT TIME.
****THIS CLASS IS SPONSORED BY DELTA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL****



deltahospital.org

The Care You Need From The People You Can Trust - Close to Home



ELEGANT AND
SOPHISTICATED
HOLIDAY
FASHIONS

316 E. Main St., Montrose

249-3668



EXPERIENCE THE HOLIDAY MAGIC

This holiday season remember that each time you use your Alpine Bank Loyalty Debit Card, Alpine Bank donates 10 cents to local nonprofits. Start sharing the holiday magic today.



Alpine Bank

alpinebank.com
Member FDIC



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SALES TAX ON GROCERIES IS AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN

Editor:

At the last City Council meeting, Scott Damman spoke at the Call To The Public, with a request for Council to consider placing a question on the ballot in April to remove the burdensome sales tax on groceries for home consumption. That request is certainly a reasonable one given the fact that the City exceeded budgeted sales tax receipts by roughly \$18 million since 2013.

When Colorado implemented a state sales tax, the legislature in its wisdom, realized that taxing groceries was detrimental to lower income families and those on social security. Consequently the state exempts sales tax on purchases of groceries. The City of Montrose relies heavily on local sales taxes for the General Fund, and in an effort to generate the maximum in sales tax revenue, chose to include a 5.05% sales tax on groceries that adversely affects those families noted above.

In 2017 the City collected \$2,666,215 in grocery sales tax. In 2018 it was \$2,822,857. As of September 2019, \$2,082,124 had been collected. That averages out to about \$140/ year for every man, woman, and child in Montrose, or \$560 yearly for a family of four. Demographics of Montrose are critical when considering the fairness of an imposed local sales tax on the staples of existence. The average Montrose individual yearly income is \$22,604, 20.8% below the national average. The average household income in Montrose is \$43,281, 19% below the national average. Each month, Sharing Ministries provides grocery assistance to 5300 needy families. The Montrose school District has 6237 students enrolled, and over 49% receive free food or reduced assistance. The County of Montrose has, on average, 2500 families a month on the Food Assistance program at the cost of \$768/mth for a family of four. Considering the above statistics, and the fact that the poverty rate is 21.84% in Montrose, it becomes suddenly obvious that the sales tax on groceries is an unnecessary burden on the welfare of a large portion of our citizens.

The request for Council consideration to eliminate this sales tax on groceries has been respectfully made. Now the ball is in Council's court and we will see if the quest for more and more taxes surpasses any concern the City may have for its citizens affected by this regressive tax. Absent any immediate positive response from the City, the only recourse remaining for eliminating the sales tax on groceries is the initiative process.

Dee Laird, Montrose

FROM NAPA VALLEY TO NEW YORK CITY
WE STAND OUT FROM THE REST WITH
QUALITY & PRECISION
 AWARD-WINNING CUSTOMER SERVICE
 VOTED BEST OF THE VALLEY 13 YEARS RUNNING
SCOTT'S PRINTING & DESIGN
 IS A SMALL PROFESSIONAL
PRINTING & DESIGN
 FIRM BASED IN MONTROSE, COLORADO
 WITH THE TALENT & TECHNOLOGY
 TO HELP YOU PUT IT IN PRINT.

{ design } { wear }

2015 Top 100 Quick Printing

{ print } { promote }

scott's
 printing design solutions

Like us on Facebook

SINCE 1978

[tel] 970.249.2611 :: [fax] 970.249.7068

Look for the time and temperature sign at 315 South 12th Street – or visit us online at www.scottsprinting.com



M
Stay here. Play everywhere.
MONTROSE COLORADO

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

MONTROSE
 **DART**

CITIZEN SAYS DELTA MAYOR IS 'GROSSLY UNFIT,' ASKS AUSTIN TO STEP DOWN

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the Dec. 3 regular meeting of the Delta City Council, Delta Mayor Ron Austin made a last-minute change to the agenda. Austin said that he had received an email from a citizen regarding a conflict of interest matter and had placed the citizen on the agenda without prior notice. Rather than refer her to the public comment portion of the meeting, in which commenters are limited to three minutes and which forbids defamatory remarks, Austin instead added the citizen to the regular meeting agenda.

Upon taking the floor, Citizen Cynthia Hansen proceeded to level accusations against several individuals. She asserted various conflicts of interest on the part of Planning Commission members Jay Stooksberry and Ryan Crick, City Councilor Nathan Clay, and others. At one point, Hansen accused Stooksberry and Crick of censorship, malfeasance, misconduct, and of promoting "unconstitutional ideology." After speaking for nearly 15 minutes, "I need answers," Hansen said, "and so do all of the people I am here to represent." When reached for comment last week, Stooksberry noted that Hansen's comments appeared to be an attempt on the part of Mayor Austin to intimidate those who ask questions regarding possible abuses of power. Stooksberry, who also works as a freelance journalist and recently wrote a *Mir-*

ror article concerning the Mayor's use of his public role to promote a private water park project (Montrose Mirror Issue 349, Delta Mayor's Involvement in Water Park Project Raises Questions), has questioned Austin's active solicitation of financial donations to fund a feasibility study for the development of the water park, a possible violation of Delta's municipal code. At the Delta City Council meeting of Dec. 17, Stooksberry asked for and was given equal time to respond to Hansen.

"Cynthia Hansen was allowed to spew lies and fabrications for over 15 minutes," Stooksberry said. "Rather than relegate her commentary to the usual three-minute limit usually associated with public comments, Mr. Austin added her to the official agenda normally dedicated to official Council business."

Still, "I don't want to talk about Cynthia Hansen...I want to talk about Ron Austin," Stooksberry said. "And how grossly unfit he is for the position of mayor of this City...Mr. Austin doesn't see himself as a mayor. A mayor serves his constituency; he works with his fellow council members. And he finds ways to collaborate with other community institutions."

Suggesting that Hansen's comments may have been coordinated by Austin, "Hopefully this is the last time that he has abused his position," Stooksberry said, and requested action, "It's time for a new mayor."

If Austin will not step down, Stooksberry urged City Council to take action to prevent further abuses of power, such as an official rebuke or resolution objecting to Austin's actions.

"If you do nothing in response to what transpired, your inaction equates to de-facto support by omission," Stooksberry said. He added that he had asked for a spot on the regular agenda to make a point--by allowing a coordinated political attack to be placed on the regular agenda, Austin had opened the door for others to do the same.

"I shouldn't be up here right now," Stooksberry said. "...Public input on city matters is vital and important and should always be included...but there is a time and a place for it at every meeting."

Actual City council agendas should be dedicated to the work of government, and not become center stage for political spectacles, he said, to applause.

When reached following the meetings, Mayor Ron Austin declined to comment.

Delta City Council meets again for a regular meeting on Jan. 7.



Delta Mayor Ron Austin.
Courtesy photo.

249 8500

ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something



PREMIERE REALTY, LLC

1140 S Townsend Ave Unit A Montrose, Co 81401

970-240-1831

www.premiererealtyllc.com



Michelle Martinez
970-901-9733



Tami Distel
970-596-2845



Stephanie MacFarlane
970-964-7023



Lisa Martinez
303-525-3726



Patricia Martinez
303-718-6679

PREMIERE REALTY WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN 2020!

<https://www.premiererealtyllc.com/listings>

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY TO CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will be closed both Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1. Police Department offices will be closed both days, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. Montrose City Hall, Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, Black Canyon Golf Course, and City Shop will be closed.

The adjusted trash collection schedule for Dec. 25 will be as follows:

- Residences north of East Oak Grove Road; trash pickup will occur on Monday, Dec. 23.
- Residences south of East Oak Grove Road; trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Recycling collection for customers with Wednesday, Dec. 25 pickup will instead occur Friday, Dec. 27.

The adjusted trash collection schedule for January 1 will be as follows:

- Residences north of East Oak Grove Road; trash pickup will occur on Monday, Dec. 30.
- Residences south of East Oak Grove Road; trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Recycling collection for customers with Wednesday, Jan. 1 pickup will instead occur Friday, Jan. 3.

SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES YEAR-END HOURS OF SERVICE

Special to the Mirror

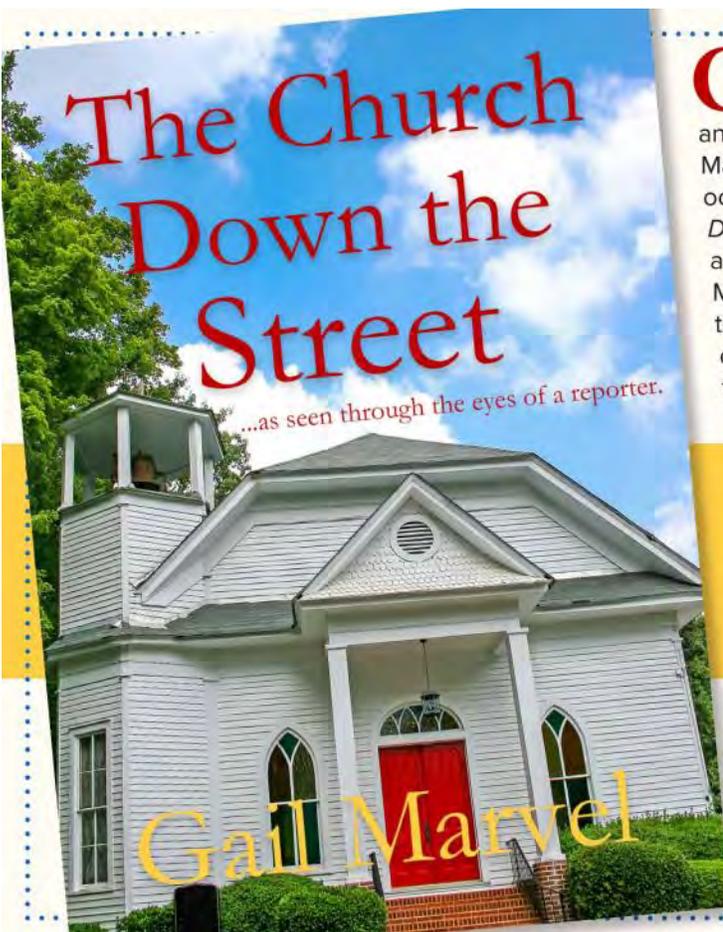
COLORADO—The Colorado Secretary of State's office will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24, Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of the holidays.

Due to yearly maintenance, our online services will be unavailable from: 11:30

p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, 2019, to the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2020. This will impact all online services, including filing and searching. Please note, filing deadlines will not be extended. Attention business filers: The filing of paper forms, such as mergers, will be unavailable from 2

p.m., Dec. 31, 2019 until Jan. 2, 2020. If a filing has an effective date of Dec. 30, Dec. 31 or Jan. 1, it should be submitted prior to Dec. 31, and include a delayed effective date.

See [Year-End Filing Tips](#) for more information.



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.mobi/.

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado
Properties

COMMERCIAL LOT



Offered by



Don Bailey

Broker Associate

donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com

970-209-8257

www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com

Lot 3 E Main Street | Montrose, CO 81401

Excellent commercial location 1.04 acres next to busy signaled intersection of Main Street & Hillcrest. High traffic count and visibility. Many uses possible with B-2 zoning. Next to Black Canyon Auto Repair and close to Stay Wise Inn, Golds Gym, San Juan Cinema, Ted's Steakhouse, Blairs Truck Stop and many other businesses.

\$199,000

MLS# 748708

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2019 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. ☺



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TAXING GROCERIES IS JUST FLAT OUT IMMORAL

Editor:

As a college freshman I had to take six semester hours of Econ 101 and 102. It was a required course dumbed down so that everyone could pass. In graduate school Micro and Macro Economics were presented by real professors (not graduate assistants) and you had to demonstrate real knowledge to pass.

One take-a-way from graduate Econ was the principle of taxation, that taxing everyone at the same rate was not always the best practice.

To levy the same percentage on the poor that you levied on the rich put too much of a burden on the poor person and let the rich person mostly off of the hook. TAX ESSENTIALS (food) LESS AND LUXURIES (diamonds) MORE.

Grocery taxes are a regressive tax because it counters that principle. We all eat about the same but the poor pay a higher percentage of their income for their groceries for the tax than the rich do. In Montrose the difference is huge---the poor pay 9.25 times as much as the rich.

Our council doesn't make it fair---far from it---they just make it easy for the government and the cashier but not to the citizen, one of the 50% with school age

kids who qualify for the school lunch program.

A simple example of this is that a family with a \$25,000 income will pay 2.77% of his income for the grocery tax whereas a person (Mr. Bell) making \$225,000+ will pay less than .3% of his take home pay (based on Laird's figures) for the tax. Further, the Social Security recipient will pay 1.56% based on his family of two. Not quite equitable is it?

Of course, the elites with a BA degree in 'underwater basket weaving' will exhibit no knowledge of either the graduate Econ course or the Regressive Taxation. So we the citizen get the obvious result---a higher tax bill foisted upon us through ignorance of economics.

They drive the poor poorer and allow the rich to largely escape their fair share. Marie Antoinette, a French queen, had that attitude and we all know how that ended. 2A and its predecessor sales tax are just such regressive taxes.

The damage shows up in the statistic that half of our community's school children are receiving free or subsidized school lunches.

Our city takes almost 3% of their parent's already low income from them for city civic purposes and then applies for a grant

to provide the children food. How absurd! The council takes the grocery tax and then hires a grant writer to get the money replaced by the Feds or the State so that the kids can have what their parents' ability to provide has been impinged. Grants generally require a match so the city pays 10% to 50% as a copay and brags about how much 'free' money they brought into town. Grant money is NOT free.

Nothing prohibits these absurdities, the practice is just unethical, corrupt, self-serving and behaves like a snake.

I take umbrage at these 'serpentine' practices. It is double or triple or quadruple taxation. I pay 1) the grocery tax, 2) then the tax used to pay for the grant copay 3) the tax used to pay the grant writer 4) and then the tax required to provide the grant itself. And so do you. This snake needs it head stepped on.

It is magic and mirrors by our elected and hired officials who because they are not transparent in their fiscal conduct, get away with it (and who knows what else?). It is corrupt and it is wrong, wrong, wrong. It is time to put a halt to these shenanigans.

Taxing groceries is just flat out immoral.
Bill Bennett, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado
Properties

JUST LISTED



Offered by



Betsy Fernandez

Associate Broker

betsyfernandez2018@gmail.com

970-201-8714

www.berkshirehathawayhs.com/

\$259,900

MLS# 765340

2708 | Country Club Way, Montrose CO

Enjoy the privacy of living in a calm and quiet cul-de-sac in Stoney Creek Subdivision. Beautifully maintained and squeaky clean. Fully fenced in back yard. Attached 2 car garage. Ample storage space. Generously sized bedrooms. Master en suite bathroom. You'll really fall in love with his beauty!

Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2 Full

Square Feet: 1,704 | Year Built: 2001

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2019 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. ☺

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT-HELP LOCATE SUSPECTS WHO DAMAGED MAILBOXES

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who committed criminal mischief and possible theft, near the intersection of 6530 Road and Kourtney Lane, County of Montrose, Colorado. Between Dec. 10, 2019 and Dec. 11, 2019, an unknown person or persons damaged several mailboxes at the above intersection and in the 400-1100 block of 6530 Road. These people may have also taken mail from these mailboxes.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your

identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are every-

one's responsibility.

MRCs would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



It's Your Business!

Let's Grow Together. Advertise with The Mirror!

970-275-0646



You Can Count On Us To Be There, Always

If you are unsure about options to care for yourself or your loved ones, be assured we are here to help.

Our network of services work together to meet you at the level of care you need:

- Home Health, RN Care
- Independent & Assisted Living
- Injury or Post-Surgery Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Long-term, Skilled Nursing Care
- Secure Memory Care
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



Contact one of our care navigators to explore all community services and resources or for a benefits checkup.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND JUNCTION-AREA WIENERSCHNITZEL RESTAURANTS SERVING FREE MEALS ON CHRISTMAS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-For the fifth year in a row, all five Wienerschnitzel Express locations in Grand Junction, Montrose and Parachute, Colorado, will be holding their “No One Goes Hungry on Christmas” event. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Christmas Day, December 25, guests at any of the five participating locations will receive two delicious Wienerschnitzel hot dogs, French fries, a drink (Hot Cocoa, Coffee or Cold Beverage) and a Tastee Freez soft serve cone. Santa and his helpers will also be on hand to give a gift to each child.

This annual event is sponsored by locally owned and operated Rocky Mountain Convenience Stores and Wienerschnitzel Express locations which are proud to give back to the wonderful communities that have supported them. During last year’s

event, over 1000 meals were served within two hours, more than double the meals served during the event’s inaugural year in 2015. “Along with a chance to show appreciation to our loyal guests, we want to make sure that those less those who need it most; we don’t want anyone to be alone on Christmas!” said Tobey Williams, franchisee of the participating Wienerschnitzel restaurants.

The “No One Goes Hungry on Christmas” event will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 25 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the following five Wienerschnitzel Express/Shell Convenience Store locations:

1st and Grand Ave. Shell Station in Grand Junction

30 & D Road Shell Station in Grand Junction

I-70 at Horizon Drive Shell Station in

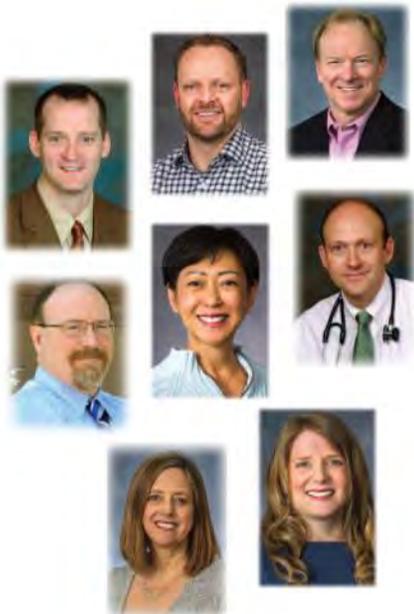
Grand Junction

I-70 at Exit 75 Shell Station in Parachute
Montrose Travel Center Shell Station at 1440 North Townsend in Montrose

Williams continued, “Each year, individuals from the community have graciously offered to donate to this event; most notably those who have joined us on Christmas Day in previous years. We encourage locals and businesses who have the means to give back to one of the many deserving organizations in our community. The need has never been greater!”

The staff and management are extremely thankful to be able to give back and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. To find a location near you, visit

www.wienerschnitzel.com and enter your city or zip in the search tool on the top right.



We know that a diagnosis of cancer is stressful and overwhelming. We also know that you’d prefer to stay near your home, surrounded by friends, family and a supportive, caring community. That’s why the San Juan Cancer Center offers every therapy you’d expect to find in a big-city hospital, including medical oncology and chemotherapy, and advanced radiation therapy.



newPRICE

\$325,000

MLS# 765000



6930 6150 Road, Olathe, CO 81425



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado Properties



**Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
1,940 sq. ft.
3+ Irrigated Acres**

Have you been searching for a small piece of Colorado countryside with room for horses, goats, chickens, whatever your heart desires? Here it is! Situated on 3+ irrigated acres with no covenants is a lovely home completely remodeled in 2006! The kitchen features beautiful hardwood flooring, hickory cabinets & granite countertops, complete with a stainless steel appliance package. Enjoy a spacious master suite with en suite bath featuring a tub made for relaxation & a full-sized walk-in tiled shower. This slice of Colorado heaven has beautiful views, too! Make this peaceful paradise your happy home!



Linda Steil

Broker Associate / Luxury Collection Specialist

linda@cohomechoice.com

970-417-8082

www.cohomechoice.com

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Western Colorado
Properties

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL



Offered by



Don Bailey

Broker Associate

donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com

970-209-8257

www.DonBaileyRealEstate.com

\$429,000

MLS# 762788

931 N Park Avenue | Montrose, CO 81401

Commercial Building Zoned Light Industrial. 7,560 square feet. Many business possibilities. Building is divided into 3 sections and includes 5 offices, manufacturing or fabrication space, warehouse space and restrooms. Two sections have hot water baseboard heating and the newer section to the north has in-floor radiant heat. 6 Evaporative coolers. One roll-up door. Three-phase power. Also includes a detached garage with 576 square feet. Great access off Park Avenue, very close to San Juan Bypass and Hwy 50 North. Nice grassy yard to the south side of the property, watered with HOA irrigation water. Irrigation pump is included. Real estate only - Business Opportunity is not included. Building will be vacant at the end of September. Business Elevate Fiber Optic internet is available at this location.

0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

©2019 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. ©



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOGGING OPERATIONS TO CONTINUE THROUGH WINTER ON THE UNCOMPAGHGRE PLATEAU

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Logging operations and snow plowing will occur this winter on the Uncompahgre Plateau-

Logging and snow plowing activities will be conducted on the Divide Road (National Forest System Road (NFSR #402) from Lockhart Road (NFSR #507), south to Payne Road (NFSR #506).

The gates for the Divide Road (NFSR #402) are closed in accordance with the yearly seasonal closure at the junction of 25 Mesa Road (NFSR #503).

Snow Plowing and logging operations will occur on Travers Road (NFSR # 506), Cottonwood Road (NFSR #504) and Lockhart Road (NFSR #507).

25 Mesa Road (NFSR #503) will be plowed to the Divide Road (NFSR #402) junction. No snow plowing will be conducted from Divide Road (NFSR #402) to Nucla.

Designated parking Areas at the Columbine West Spur Road (NFSR #503.3B), the Trail Head to 47 Trail (NFSR #504.1E) and the junction of Lockhart (NFSR #507) and Cottonwood Road (NFSR #504) will be

plowed and maintained.

Hauling activities will NOT take place on weekends. Hauling activities will take place on weekdays excluding the following

Federal Holidays:

December 25

January 1

January 20

February 17

Please use extreme caution when traveling near these areas. For additional information, please contact the Ouray Ranger District at 970-240-5300.

Need Catering?

Holiday Parties

Birthdays

Weddings



DineOutMontrose.com

DMEA SET FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM TRI-STATE; CEO TO RECEIVE ONE-TIME BONUS OF \$25K From pg 1

Prior to his report, Harding thanked the staff for their support of the board over the last few months.

Harding said, "All directors were present for the November 21st committee meeting. We discussed the pre-audit planning meeting and the internal control report. There were no major issues with the audit."

For the Dec. 10 meeting, eight of nine directors were present. Harding said, "We reviewed four board policies. Policy # 6 – Audits and Reviews; Policy # 4 - Financial Management (no major changes); Policy # 12- Rate Tariffs & Fees (minor changes); and Policy # 5 – Investment (minor changes clarifying language)." The FAR Committee is working on five separate agreements with Guzman Energy.

Engineering-Construction-Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair.

Hauck said, "We met yesterday and discussed four principal items. We have more detail on vehicle replacement and determined replacements are necessary. There is uncertainty on the pricing, especially the trade-ins."

COO Virginia Harman added, "If Elevate has a need for them, they will purchase them from DMEA."

Hauck reported on three Vegetation Request for Proposal contracts (tree trimming and removal). He said, "Energized conductors require specialized training, but it might be possible for us to save money with local tree trimmers [in other areas]."

It was determined that the Energy Management Plan was a more useful document than the Business Continuity Plan. Hauck said, "We recommend putting the Business Continuity Plan on the shelf."

Reporting on the hydro operation Hauck said, "The wet spring weather reduced flows in all the drops. There was less need for as much irrigation."

A lengthy discussion on Electric Vehicle Charging (EV) stations included background, the current situation, and future plans. Previously DMEA agreed to support the City of Montrose in its grant efforts for an EV Charging Station. Funding was put in DMEA's 2018-2019 budget; however, the

city's plan did not come to fruition. CEO Jasen Bronec said, "We do have a strategic initiative, but we may need to do amendments. Staff is proposing amendments to bring it back to the board. We need to discuss owning and operating charge points. It's a little like the chicken and the egg."

Hauck said, "It doesn't make money right out of the gate, but there is potential in the future."

It appears that an EV Charging Station could be operational in the City of Montrose by the second quarter of 2020. Bronec said, "We can come forward to the full board with an amendment to the 2020 capital budget for \$45,000 capital expenditure in the charging point grant."

Voted unanimously to approve a Capital Budget Amendment for Vehicle Purchase for the 2020 Budget.

Voted unanimously to approve amendment for \$45,000 in capital expenditure for EV Charging Station funding.

Voted unanimously to discontinue use of the Business Continuity Plan. The plan will be retained, but not updated.

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "The Annual meeting will be held at the Montrose County Events Center on June 18, 2020. We'll roll out our new power supplier and meet members of the Guzman staff. It will be a western theme [event]."

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "The Executive Committee met yesterday. We looked at revising Board Policy # 15, how we handle original hard copies of reports." Bronec added, "It changes our report retention policy."

Board Policy # 10-5 was also reviewed. Patterson said, "There is no change, just re-approval."

Other discussion items included cyber security, pole testing and attachments to DMEA poles.

Voted unanimously to approve Board Policy # 15 revisions, Board Policy # 10-5 review, Resolution to join NREA RC3 Group (cyber security), and to appoint Jim

Heneghan as the DMEA representative to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA).

Safety and Occupational Health Report - Virginia Harman, COO.

Harman said, "There were no injuries in November and one near miss. A contractor came in contact with our line." Harman reported on training classes, seven crew audits, and safety demos at local schools.

Financial Report - The financial report was not on the agenda, either for the regular meeting, or the executive session. No report was given.

CEO Report – Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec highlighted data which included 36,544 services, 355 new services in 2019, and 75 construction jobs each month.

Bronec said, "By the end of the year we expect 6,900 services for Elevate." Referring to the transition from power supplier Tri State to Guzman, Bronec said, "We expect to have the majority of the transfer agreements completed by the middle of January."

November SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.

Bronec said, "There is nothing out of the ordinary."

Hauck laughed and said, "I'm in that report. We had a beaver down a tree, that downed a powerline."

Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "The snowmobile matter is resolved and there is zero payout for DMEA. The DMEA application grant in the west Hotchkiss area was challenged by TDS Fiber [TDS contended that the area was served]. The district court upheld removal of the grant from DMEA. I will talk more about this in executive session. We are third party with United and La Plata at PUC against Tri State. We're making good progress with our withdrawal and exit from Tri State. I'll discuss more in executive session."

Tri State Report – Kyle Martinez.

Martinez reported on the Navajo Reservation Transmission and the problems that come with bringing on more renewables and retiring coal

DMEA SET FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM TRI-STATE; CEO TO RECEIVE ONE-TIME BONUS OF \$25K From previous pg

generator plants. Martinez said, “The United Power Director has been replaced. Tri State and DMEA are set up to make a smooth transition.”

WUES Report (Western United Electrical Supply) – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, “There was no meeting.”

CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association) – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart reported on dues and rate increases, orientations, electronic voting, and proposed legislation. At the behest of the DMEA board, Lockhart voted against the rate increases (7% administrative and 14% safety department). Lockhart said, “There seems to be some upset that DMEA does their own lobbying.”

Retirement Resolution was read into the record for a retiring employee.

Future meetings

The board was given a list of community organization and the funding level support given by DMEA. The Montrose Chamber of Commerce, which has dissolved, was

removed from the list.

Authorizing banking signatures

Bill Patterson, Mark Eckhart, Virginia Harman, Jasen Bronec and Wade Pynes were approved for signing banking documents and bank transfers.

Member Comments:

There were no member comments.

Executive Session:

General Counsel Legal Update

Discussion on CEO Evaluation Summary

Power Supply Update

Vote on CEO Performance and Compensation

The board came out of Executive Session to vote on the CEO Performance and Compensation. The board did not give CEO Jasen Bronec a wage increase but voted unanimously to award the CEO a one-time Performance Bonus in the amount of \$25,000.

Board President Bill Patterson said, “Jasen met all the goals we set for him. The bonus won’t become official until we

approve the [December] board minutes at the next meeting.”

The next DMEA regular board meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2020.

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kennethwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, 1ch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 - Mark Eckhart, 970-856-3663, mark.eckhart@dmea.com

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CLEARNETWORX, LLC GETS \$2.8M DORA GRANT FOR FIBER CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Clearnetworx, LLC based in Montrose, Colorado is delighted to announce that they have been awarded a 2.8 million dollar grant by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) as part of the Broadband Fund to finance fiber internet construction and service to the Loghill Mesa, Golden Eagle Trail, and Meadow Circle.

The Broadband Fund is a rural broadband infrastructure grant program overseen by the Broadband Deployment Board within DORA. The fund was established to facilitate broader availability of high-speed internet service in under-served, rural communities. Clearnetworx submitted their grant application in July of 2019. The Board initially denied the grant because incumbent providers in the area claimed to provide speeds above the national

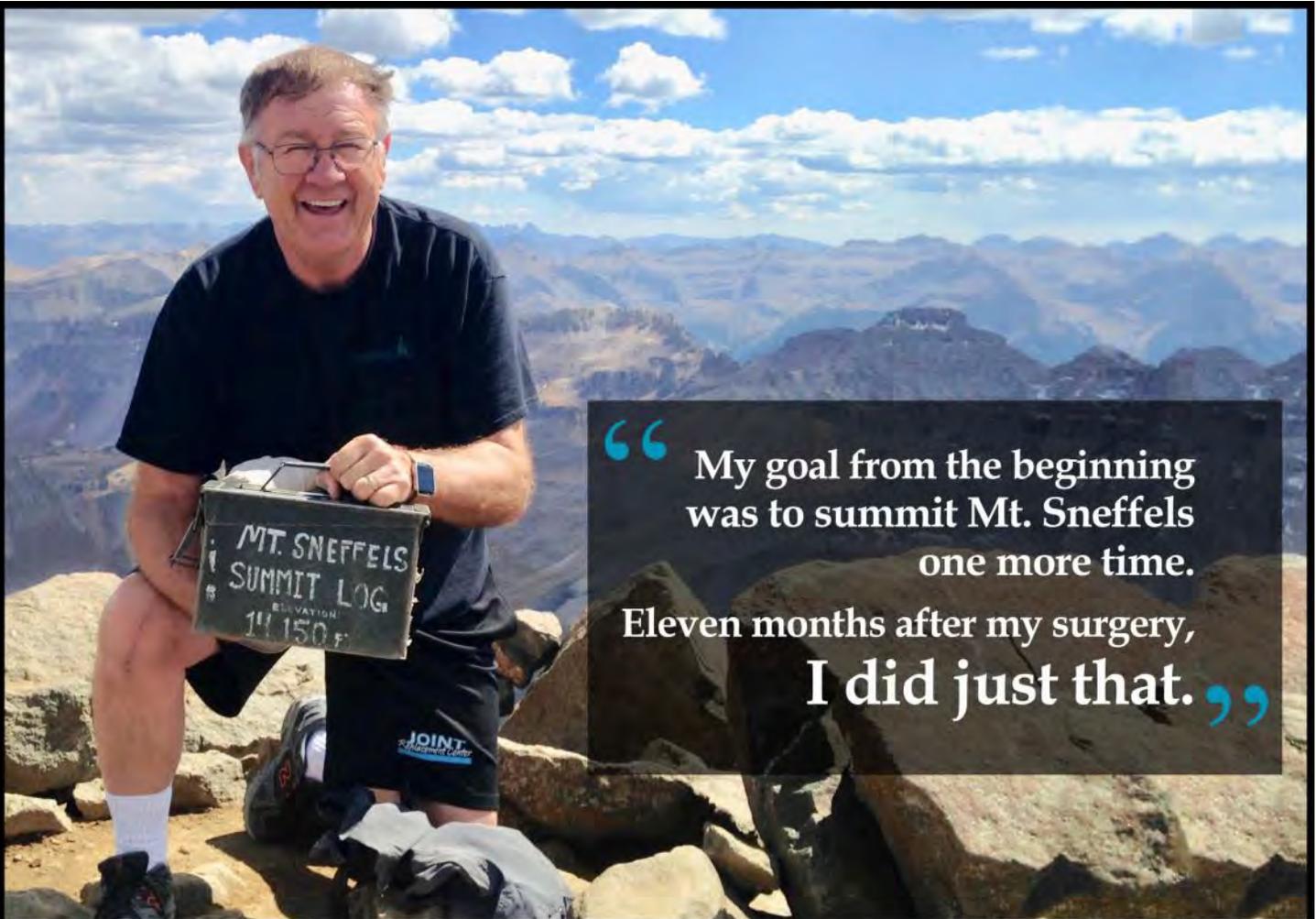
broadband standard of 25Mbps download speed and 3Mbps upload speed (25/3). However, Clearnetworx received over 60 speed tests and additional letters of support from members of the community that did not corroborate those claims. Due to the community’s overwhelming support, the board overturned their earlier decision and awarded Clearnetworx this grant during an appeal vote in November. Clearnetworx was officially awarded the grant on Dec. 16, 2019. Eleven other grants were awarded during this cycle; Clearnetworx’ was the largest award by over 1.6 million dollars.

Owner Doug Seacat says, “The community really helped with letters of support, emails, and speed test data which was influential to the Board’s final decision. That was important and we couldn’t have done it without them.” Construction is set to

begin in the spring of 2020 on the infrastructure part of the Fiber To The Home (FTTH) solution.

The company has been developing fiber and connecting customers in both Ridgway and Ouray since 2013. The Loghill area north of Ridgway, Colorado will now be the continuation for FTTH. Clearnetworx also has plans to continue the expansion of fiber internet service in both Ridgway and Ouray over the next two years as part of its ongoing mission to bring a better internet experience for Ouray County residents.

Gigabit fiber provides for internet connectivity at download and upload speeds of one gigabit per second—or the ability to download a complete high definition movie in 42 seconds. It is faster, more reliable, and more secure than any other internet service method.



“ My goal from the beginning was to summit Mt. Sneffels one more time. Eleven months after my surgery, I did just that. ”

Pastor Jim Welch had arthritis causing debilitating pain in his knees, making fishing, backpacking and mountain climbing difficult. Even conducting church service became painful.

Jim found help with the Joint Replacement Program at Montrose Memorial Hospital. He found out he was a candidate for partial knee replacement, replacing just the damaged part of the knee.

Eleven months after surgery, Jim Welch was able to meet his goal: summiting Mt. Sneffels one more time.

Call your provider today to see if our innovative joint replacement program is right for you.



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE SEEKS DISMISSAL OF COLORADO PUC COMPLAINT

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER— Several Colorado members of not-for-profit cooperative power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association expressed support today for Tri-State's filings at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Tri-State seeks dismissal of a complaint filed by two of its members and will seek a declaratory order to confirm that it is subject to FERC jurisdiction.

FERC already has exclusive jurisdiction over wholesale utilities like Tri-State. FERC rate regulation ensures the wholesale power cooperative is not subject to differing rate and contract regulation in four separate states, inevitably leading to rate instability for Tri-State's members and their consumers.

A complaint by two members seeking CPUC intervention regarding their long-term power supply contracts should be dismissed on the grounds that the state commission lacks jurisdiction, the association said today.

"Tri-State remains committed to complying with all state requirements for resource planning, carbon reduction and meeting renewable energy standards. We

believe the issue at hand, however, is a matter of federal jurisdiction and is not within the purview of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission," said Duane Highley, CEO for Tri-State.

Tri-State noted that as of Sept. 3, 2019, it is subject to rate regulation by the FERC, which preempts state regulation of Tri-State's wholesale rates.

In its filing with the CPUC today, Tri-State noted that a decision on the members' filings is not ripe for adjudication. Both LPEA and United Power are willingly and actively participating in contract discussions with Tri-State's other members in a Contract Committee at the same time they are attempting to litigate at the CPUC.

"We believe the Colorado commission should dismiss these complaints," said Rick Gordon, director of Falcon, Colo.-based Mountain View Electric Association and Board Chairman of Tri-State.

"Working together, our members are quickly and decisively addressing contractual concerns."

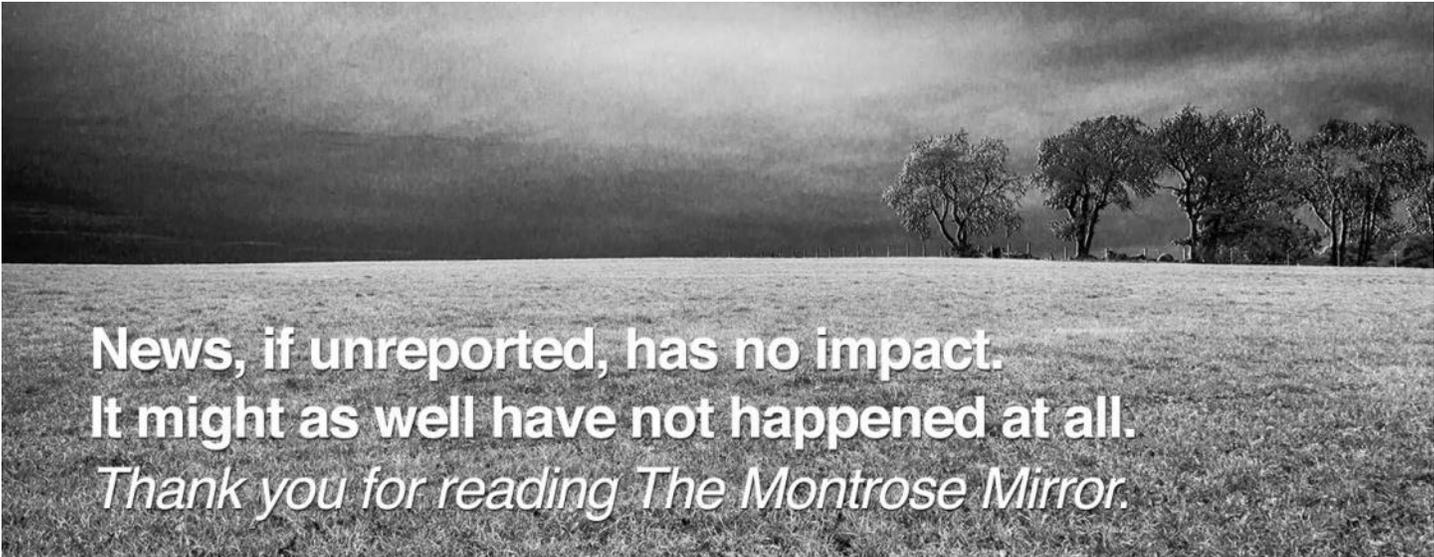
"We need stable, uniform rates for all of our members, no matter in which state they're located," said Scott Wolfe, board director of Monte Vista, Colo.-based San

Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, vice-chairman of the Tri-State board of directors and chair of Tri-State's Contract Committee. "It's important that decisions like this are made by our members or the FERC, either of which take all member interests into account in all four states."

"The Colorado Public Utilities Commission should never hear these complaints," said Jack Johnston, CEO of La Junta, Colo.-based Southeast Colorado Power Association, and vice-chair of Tri-State's Contract Committee. "Contracts are central to how members work together within Tri-State, and if our membership cannot resolve a contract issue, then the issue must be addressed at the FERC, which has sole jurisdiction."

Separately, Tri-State also announced today that it is refiling for tariff authority with the FERC; an initial application was dismissed without prejudice in early October 2019.

While it is FERC jurisdictional, Tri-State is also asking the FERC for a declaratory order to confirm that it is subject to FERC jurisdiction under the Federal Power Act. Tri-State's filing is being processed and will be dated by the FERC as being officially filed on Monday, Dec. 23.



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

Montrose Real Estate...

The real estate market in Montrose is alive and well. Increasing home values and low interest rates are creating a vibrant atmosphere for both sellers and buyers. Here are a few properties that may be of great interest to you. Brought to you by Kerri Noonan-Inda!



FOR SALE

**60545 Kansas Road
Montrose**

Stunning custom home, beautifully maintained and private. *BRAND NEW stunning engineered hardwood flooring installed November 2019.

**3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
2,711 sq. ft. + 1,143 s.f. shop
45.66 Acres**

**Uncompahgre River runs through this unique property!
\$885,000**



FOR SALE

**1526 Leeds Avenue
Montrose**

5 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms
2,850 sq. ft. | .29 acres

\$365,000



FOR SALE

**6013 5825 Road
Olathe**

2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom
1,196 sq. ft. | 1 acre

\$181,500



FOR SALE

**59406 Lone Eagle Road
Montrose**

1.47 Irrigated Acre Lot, Ready to Build!
Eagle Heights

\$38,000

We are happy to help you LOVE where you LIVE!



I grew up in Montrose and I know and LOVE this town. I am here to help you with your Montrose real estate needs... where you can play where you live! Call me today to help you market and sell your property, or to help you find just the right place for YOU.

Kerri Noonan-Inda
Real Estate Professional
kerri@montroseteam.com
970-275-1378
www.montrosecolorado.com

COUNCIL HEARS 2019 DART SUMMARY, WEB SITE IS NOW OFFICIAL POSTING PLACE

City Bulletin Boards will Continue to Serve as Backup Posting Locations

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council convened for the final work session of 2019 on Monday, Dec.16. All Councilors were present with the exception of Councilor Doug Glaspell. Lunch for Council and staff was catered by Camp Robber. In 2020, City work sessions will be held at 10 a.m. rather than 11 a.m. and will no longer be working lunches.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Director of Business Innovation and Tourism Chelsea Rosty presented a **summary of the 2019 accomplishments of the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART)**. DART began as a Main Street program but is now city-wide; it is a designated community in the National Main Street Program. Being part of the national Main Street community has allowed DART to leverage \$52,500 in grant funds, she said. "We'll probably remain a "designated" community for ten years," Rosty said. "Four pillars drive us forward...economic vitality, design, promotion, and organization...over the last two years we have put it all together and now we are able to make things happen."

Eleven new businesses in the Downtown area include: Reselito; LRJ Customs, LLC; Colorado Lodge Design Center; Fly'n Roosters; Loncheria Koritas, LLC; The Ginger Cat; KVNF; Ed's Fly Shop; Little Flower Hemp; and Padilla Orchard, she said. Downtown projects include Large Planters on Main; Centennial Plaza Tables; Centennial Plaza Tile; Installation of the Hartman Clock in Demoret Park; Umbrellas; Downtown Pole Banners; Hanging Flower Baskets; and the Piano Project.

DART helped bring an additional 2,000 people Downtown with events such as Acoustic Tuesday; Welcome to Hunters; Small Business Saturday; and Downtown Block Parties.

Thirty overhead banners were displayed, and a series of 12 "spotlight videos" generated more than 20,000 views. Five ribbon cuttings were held in 2019. Rosty noted that Storm King Distilling, a project heavily supported by DART and the City of

Montrose, was honored with the Governors' Award for Best Adaptive Reuse or Rehabilitation. Historic preservation efforts are also underway through the City's Historic Preservation Commission.

The DART team includes an 18-member volunteer board of directors who pitch in and help as-needed. Local events pro Kate Adams works part-time on a contractor basis as DART assistant.

"In 2020 we will work on our new business package," Rosty said.

Councilor Judy Ann Files complimented the one-page DART summary prepared by Rosty, and asked that Rosty share some of the additional DART slides online so that members of the public could see those as well.

Councilor Roy Anderson asked that the DART presentation also be shown at a regular Council meeting. "...It's a great report to the community."

Mayor Dave Bowman congratulated Rosty for her work on establishing DART. "... You did a fantastic job."

A recommendation for a **purchase award for a seven-passenger transport van for the Montrose Police Department** was presented by Police Chief Blaine Hall and Public Works Director Jim Scheid. As the police department continues to hire additional officers, newly-hired non-certified cadets (who cannot drive marked police cars) will use the van to attend police academy classes in Grand Junction. The van will also be used to transport SWAT members and their equipment from staging areas to critical incident scenes. Police, City Council, and city staff will use the vehicle for police training, citizen police academies, and other city events like city orientations and tours of the community.

Two responsive bids were received from Montrose Ford, Scheid said. He recommended purchase of the larger vehicle,



Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty (right) led a 2019 DART Summary at the City work session.

the Ford Transit for \$47,311. "The larger vehicle gives us more options," Hall said.

The other option was a Ford Transit Connect for \$26,932.

Council asked questions and further discussed the terms of the purchase and use of the vehicle, which will be funded from the 2020 capital fund.

Councilor Judy Ann Files noted that a vehicle large enough for cadets to travel in together is a real value. "Sometimes that's where the best learning comes...I really like that they will all be in a vehicle together."

Also discussed was a **recommendation for purchase of a refuse truck** for the Public Works Department. The purchase was put out for bid in November, with two qualified bids received. The purchase will replace the City's oldest refuse truck and will begin the standardization of the fleet to trucks with a Peterbilt chassis and Labrie body, Scheid said. Staff recommends purchase of a Peterbilt version from Faris Machinery at a cost of \$284,770. Funds for this purchase have been approved in the 2020 Fleet Equipment Budget and represent a savings of \$16,459 from the budgeted amount of \$301,229.

Council discussed the **designation of official posting places**. The law has changed, City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said. Posting is now required within 24 hours on the City's web site. Secondary locations will include

COUNCIL HEARS 2019 DART SUMMARY, WEB SITE IS NOW OFFICIAL POSTING PLACE

City Bulletin Boards will Continue to Serve as Backup Posting Locations

From previous pg

the City's bulletin boards.

COMMENTS

Files spoke about the Dec. 12 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Open House for the Little Blue Creek Canyon Project on Hwy 50. Files said that the open house was not an open meeting format as some expected. "There were well over 100 people...it took a long time to get in...there were six or seven easel placards and the last one had options." Files said that State Senator Don Coram had asked her if the City would become involved with his effort to have CDOT hold an open meeting where constituents could ask questions and air opinions.

Files said that she met with a local CDOT engineer and learned that the project will move forward in the summer of 2021, with partial closures of Hwy 50 from April through October. "This project's going to happen," Files said. During the planned

closures, the highway will be open in the morning, mid-day, and evening, and emergency vehicles will be allowed through at all times, she said. "Do we want to get involved with Coram and ask CDOT for an open meeting, or ask Don to fight the battle on his own?"

The project will happen in any case, and CDOT does not want to hold an open meeting because people will yell at them, Files said.

"I don't necessarily want to battle with CDOT," Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said. "That relationship is really important...I don't think we should be joining anything that someone describes as a battle. Let's not join his fight."

"Choose your battles," Mayor Bowman said.

Bynum discussed proposed language changes to City Charter that will come before Council at the Jan. 6 work session,

and said that a recent visit to Aspen, Steamboat Springs, and Parker to look at Police facilities was very helpful. "It was a great trip; we all learned a lot...I had no idea our police building was so inadequate for a community of our size."

Bowman reminded Council of upcoming events.

Chief Hall said that the 2020 Citizens Police Academy is already full and begins Jan. 8. "We will have mock crime scenes and taser demos," he said. There will also be a Latino Citizens Police Academy Feb. 22 and 29, with an interpreter on site for those who speak Spanish, he said.

Candidate packets for the upcoming council election are being posted online, DelPiccolo said.

City Manager Bill Bell said there will be an opening on the planning commission as commissioner Vince Fandel is stepping down.

WHEN YOU NEED THE BEST

CALL TODAY!
970-240-1872

GREG'S TREE SERVICE

Pruning Tree Trimming Removals Stump Grinding

WE DONATE ONE FREE TREE JOB EACH YEAR TO SOMEONE WHO TRULY NEEDS IT. CONTACT THE MONTROSE MIRROR TO APPLY AT 970-275-0646.

FULL-SERVICE TREE COMPANY • PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED • FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS

UNDERSTANDING SIGNS & STAGES OF DEMENTIA



and How to Respond to Dementia-related Behavior

Facilitated by Certified Validation Instructor Brandi Valdez

WEDNESDAY, DEC 18TH 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

TUESDAY, JAN 14TH 1:30 - 2:30 PM

TUESDAY, FEB 11TH 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Montrose Library Meeting Room

320 S 2nd Street, Montrose CO 81401

RSVP to Debra at dhayre@voa.org or (970) 249-9634



Attend one of the seminars to learn about signs and stages of dementia and memory loss, strategies for coping and communication and planning for the future.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER



CITIZEN ASKS CITY TO CONSIDER BALLOT MEASURE TO REMOVE GROCERY TAX

Dec. 13 Youth Council 'Rock the Rec' Event was a Success, Youth Rep Harrison Hall says



Citizen Scott Damman asked Montrose City Council to consider a ballot measure to remove the grocery tax in April of 2020.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Dave Bowman apologized for calling the Dec. 17 regular meeting of the Montrose City Council to order several minutes late. "We had another exec session," Bowman said, "...it was so interesting, we couldn't get up here." All Councilors were present for the meeting except for Councilor Doug Glaspell. City of Montrose Youth Council Representative was Harrison Hall.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Citizen Scott Damman addressed City Council. "It may be time to consider reducing the tax burden on food," he said. "...the City has shown year after year record tax revenue...today marks the right time to consider a tax break for the Montrose community.

"April 2020 marks the right time to give City voters an opportunity to decide for or against taxing a family essential like groceries," Damman said. He noted that according to the USDA, the grocery burden for a family of four is around \$726-855 per month.

"For the purpose of my analysis I am going to use a basis of \$750 for a family of four, so that's \$6.25 per person per day, that's very reasonable...if you look at

those groceries being bought on an annual basis in the City of Montrose in 2019, the tax burden on that family would be \$297," Damman said.

"Fast forward to January 1st where we have an 18 percent increase in the local sales tax, that burden in 2020 for that same family of four, assuming the same grocery purchase, jumps to \$350," he said, adding that his research shows medium household income in Montrose to be around \$49K in combined income for two parents.

Almost one percent of that take-home pay goes to pay another tax, he said, "a tax on a family essential."

Damman asked that the City consider an April 2020 ballot measure to make grocery purchases exempt from all City taxes.

"Let's follow the example set by the State of Colorado, along with 35 other states in the Union, along with numerous West Slope neighboring cities, to exempt groceries from sales tax," he said. "This is the time to take this topic to the voters."

Mayor Bowman said, "Thank you."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved as presented.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Michael J. Prouty to the City of Montrose Historic Preservation Commission for a term that expires on Oct. 16, 2022.

ORDINANCE 2491-SECOND READING

Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2491 on second reading, revising Chapter 1-17 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding municipal elections.

ORDINANCE 2492-SECOND READING

Council unanimously approved Amended

Ordinance 2492 on second reading, amending Ordinance No. 2461 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2019; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg said that she had included a backup document at the request of Council.

"Thank you, Shani," Councilor Judy Ann Files said. "It helps to be able to see how many, many dollars come in through grants."

Though not present, Councilor Glaspell had expressed support for the Amended Ordinance, Bowman said.

RESOLUTION 2019-29

Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2019-29, authorizing the filing of a grant application for the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Fishing is Fun grant program; agreeing to provide a matching contribution of 25 percent; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract and authorizing city staff to act on behalf of the grant agreement.

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented information on the grant. "This is a grant program that provides Federal and State funds to Colorado municipalities and communities for the development and improvement of their aquatic resources and angling opportunities."

The City of Montrose's Uncompahgre River Restoration Project is eligible for funding, and is requesting \$300K.

"To date we have secured \$500,000 in grants for the \$1.6 million project," Cramer said.

The 25-percent match has already been secured by the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) board, he said. The grant award is expected in June of 2020.

SUNSET MESA TANK REPLACEMENT DESIGN CHANGE ORDER

Streets Division Superintendent Ryan

CITIZEN ASKS CITY TO CONSIDER BALLOT MEASURE TO REMOVE GROCERY TAX *From previous pg*

Cushenan presented information; Council unanimously approved a change order in the amount of \$87,000 to Farnsworth Group for out-of-scope design services associated with the Sunset Mesa Tank Replacement project. Funds will come from the water reserve fund. The change order has been discussed previously in work session.

STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall updated City Council on youth activities. Rock the Rec on Friday, Dec. 13 was very successful, Hall said, with more than 65 participants, and activities that included a murder mystery party and dodgeball. Basketball courts were open. Hall thanked the Montrose Recreation Center for hosting the event and allowing Youth Council to rent the facility. He thanked City staffers Mikayla Unruh and Kailey Rivenburgh and his fellow Youth Councilors for their help.

Mayor Bowman congratulated Youth Council for their efforts. "...You guys proved that when you put your mind to it you can be really successful, and you provided a great evening for a whole bunch of kids in our community on a Friday night. Thank you very much."

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Citizens Police Academy has a waiting list this year for the first time. There will also be a Latino Citizens Police Academy for the first time, taught in Spanish, on Feb. 22 and 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those who wish to sign up can call the Montrose Police Department or Ricardo Perez of Hispanic Affairs Project, Hall said.

"Thank you for considering and putting together this Spanish program...I really

hope that the Spanish community will come out and take part in this," Councilor Roy Anderson said.

Recent Comprehensive Plan meetings identified some concerns within the Latino community, Hall said, and the Latino Citizens Police Academy will offer training and programs to address some of those concerns.

Councilor Judy Ann Files updated Council on High School sports; Anderson wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukah, and a Happy New Year. "We'll see you next year."

Bynum gave kudos to City public works staff for extending leaf pickup and wished everybody a Happy Holiday and Happy 2020.

At the request of Bowman, Bynum discussed a two-and-a-half-day field trip she had taken with the Mayor, Police Chief, Police Commanders, City Manager, and Director of Public Works to look at police stations built within the last ten years in other communities of a similar size to Montrose.

"It's just really some beginning, preliminary, work on what a modern police station looks like," Bynum said. "And I found it eye-opening how much bigger those buildings were and how much modern and safe they were compared to the building that we have here in Montrose, for police departments that were roughly the same size."

"It shows the start that the city is taking



Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall, center, updated City Council on recent Youth Council activities including the Dec. 13 Rock the Rec event.

to make really good decisions about building a new police station," Bowman said. He thanked the J. David Reed Law Office for providing Christmas Eve Dinner to the Montrose Police Department. "I think that's so fantastic...My hat off to David Reed and his law office. Thank you very much."

2019 has been a stellar year for the City of Montrose, Bowman said. "We've accomplished many, many great things, from a roundabout to passing 2A and many things in between that we're all very proud of."

The community should be very proud of the City staff that works every day to make their lives a little bit better and safer, he said. "My hats off to all the City staff, thank you very much." Finally, Bowman said, "Happy Hanukah...Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, have a fantastic New Year, and we look forward to seeing you again in January." With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY TAKES PART IN SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION'S TOTALLY GREEN PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-At the San Miguel County (SMC) Board of County Commissioners meeting on Nov. 20, the Commissioners passed a motion to take part in San Miguel Power Association's (SMPA's) Totally Green program, which automatically tracks electric energy use and makes a comparable investment in renewable electricity to cover 100 percent of the County organization's annual electricity consumption. "We're trying to achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible," said Lynn Padgett, County Natural Resource Director. "The County hopes this action will inspire others to participate too."

In 2017, the BOCC established the goal to make the county organization carbon neutral as soon as possible. "The county has done a lot," said Kim Wheels of Eco Action Partners which tracks the County's progression toward their stated goals. In collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and SMPA and others, SMC has explored avenues for greater energy conservation and energy efficiency.

This effort has led to such improvements as LED light retrofit projects throughout the Miramonte, Courthouse, and Glockson Administrative buildings, as well as the

Sheriff's Facility in Ilium Valley and the Fairgrounds Indoor Event Center. The County has also made improvements to its climate control equipment and practices using new technologies like Energy Star heating units, cellular blinds, and programmable thermostats.

San Miguel County has applied to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Clean Energy Challenge grant program for co-funding to self-generate electricity using solar PV arrays and provide resiliency for mission-critical facilities and broadband.

The project will demonstrate the use of self-generation as a way to expand locally-produced renewable energy. The grant application identifies four county buildings for the implementation of solar and battery systems. The solar would be used to offset more than 50 percent of the buildings' electrical energy use. The batteries would be used for both load resiliency against climate-related power outages as well as peak demand charge reduction, which would lower the county electricity costs. Another potential unique application would be to remotely dispatch the stored energy back to SMPA to reduce the utility costs, which would benefit all SMPA consumers. "We are very hopeful for the success of this grant application,"

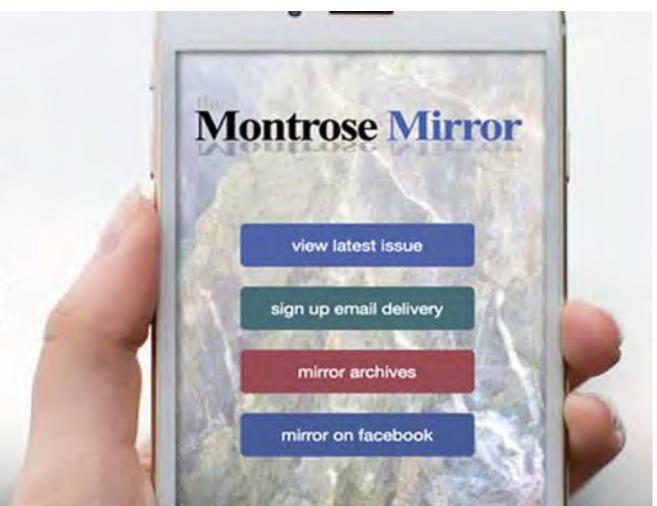
said Kris Holstrom, SMC BOCC Board Chair.

This three-step progression of 1) joining SMPA's "Totally Green" program, 2) implementing energy savings through efficiency and weatherization, and 3) adding self-generating and energy storage technologies where possible is consistent with SMPA's recommendation for all members who wish to reduce their own carbon footprint. SMPA recently announced that it has gone Totally Green by purchasing 100% renewable energy for its facilities while actively pursuing steps two and three.

SMPA's Totally Green program is an important component of the County's progression toward carbon neutrality. The investment goes directly into a SMPA fund that is dedicated to promoting local renewable energy projects. This same fund supported the construction of community solar arrays in Paradox, Norwood, and also supports net metering (AKA: Rooftop solar for SMPA Members).

"This is an exciting time in the utility industry," said Terry Schuyler, SMPA Energy Services Executive, "We are making the necessary transition to a more environmentally-responsible energy future. It's nice to see San Miguel County taking action to be part of that movement."

Now easier to read
on your iPhone
www.montrose.mobi



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT –HELP LOCATE SUSPECTS IN BURGLARY

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers Incorporated are seeking the help of community members to identify and locate the involved parties who committed a burglary near the 16000 Block of Chipeta Road in the unincorporated area of Montrose County.

On Monday, December 16, 2019, at approximately 3:00 a.m., multiple individuals entered an occupied residence where they took a laptop, a purse with personal items and a Christmas gift wrapped in red and green wrapping paper. The occupant of the home was able to observe facial features of one of the involved parties.

Additionally, another burglary occurred recently in the 16000 block of 6300 Road in an unoccupied residence. No valuables were stolen, but the home was entered and searched. There are matching footprints from both cases.

Anyone with information about these crimes or the identity of the involved parties, or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers want your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

DIVISION OF SECURITIES WARNS CONSUMERS ABOUT PRECIOUS METALS INVESTMENT SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Division of Securities at the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is issuing a warning to all Colorado consumers to give close scrutiny to any type of precious metal investment opportunities they may encounter before spending their money.

Some Coloradans are receiving cold calls and have experienced high pressure sales tactics in which companies seek to leverage particular political ideologies.

Precious metals sales tactics also may come in the form of a link in social media platforms or via email that appears as if it's from a trusted news agency or well-known personality.

This may be a paid Facebook post or appear on other social media sites that accept advertised posts.

"Some precious metals companies will call their targets repeatedly and try to establish a bond using political fear mongering," noted Colorado Securities Interim Commissioner David Cheval. "After they accomplish this, they attempt to sway

their targets to buy their product."

Red flags to look out for include when salespersons from a precious metals investment company suggests that the consumer liquidate their traditional retirement accounts, move to a self-directed IRA (known as a SDIRA), and then buy the metals -- all in the space of a few phone calls.

"They may 'walk you through the process' by calling your broker with you, filling out the forms and having you e-sign -- potentially without even giving you time to read their forms. They may say things like 'you do not have time to read it, the economy can collapse today!'" noted Cheval.

"Ultimately these forms may give the salesperson the ability to purchase precious metals that you did not agree to buy."

The coins purchased are often numismatic coins, which exist without a market and the price is heavily inflated. Consumers who have agreed to these purchases receive statements from the SDIRA, which may reflect the melt value. The difference

between what the consumers paid and what the coins are worth can show a loss of anywhere from 33 to 70 percent of the amount originally invested. Because there is no market for the coins, these companies will generally not buy their coins back, leaving consumers stuck with a high percentage loss. Additionally, salespersons may receive undisclosed commissions from the sale.

Consumers can protect themselves from falling for a precious metals scam by demanding a few key items from the salesperson they are communicating with, including asking for their license types and checking their license information, asking how they get paid, and ensuring that any oral agreements made be provided in writing before investing.

"The bottom line is, before making these life-changing financial decisions, ask lots of questions, do your homework, and contact the Colorado Division of Securities," said Cheval.

To reach the Colorado Division of Securities, call 303-894-2320.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IF TRUMP WAS GUILTY OF EVERYTHING HE'S ACCUSED OF HE COULD REGISTER AS A DEMOCRAT!

Editor;

Mr. Sering must have had a bad night before taking all the cheap shots at President Trump and Republicans. And why the "white males" language he and the radical left have been using lately? Sounds racist, sexist, and homophobic! He said he now supports term limits so that some Republicans would have the "guts" to vote for their country and democracy. Huh? But shouldn't we have had term limits for Democrat politicians past and present who have created the problems and overstayed their welcome like Robert Byrd (Democrat leader of the Ku Klux Klan) 51 years in Congress, Daniel Inouye 49 years, Edward Kennedy 46 years, Patrick Leahy 44 years, Carl Hayden 41 years, John Stennis 41 years, Ernest Hollings 38 years, Richard Russell 38 years, Russell Long 38 years, James Eastland 36 years, Warren Magnuson 36 years, the now famous Joseph Biden 36 years, Carl Levin 36 years, Claiborne Pell 36 years, Kenneth McKellar 35 years, Ellison Smith 35 years, John Dingell 59 years, and now the famous Nancy Pelosi 22 years, Chuck Schumer 43 years and Jerry Nadler 27 years! These are all Democrats. It's President Trump and Republicans who are correcting the problems and getting things done for America! Things that the radical left mysteriously don't want for America like the record-setting economic growth and the creation of over 4 million new jobs since Trump's election. More Americans are employed now than ever before. Unemployment is at a 50 yr low. Black, Hispanic, and women unemployment are at historic lows. Over 400,000 new manufacturing jobs have been added since Trump's election. Median household income has risen to post-recession highs. And here is big news; Some 4 million Americans are now off of food stamps added during Obama's administration!

Small business optimism has hit historic highs. 95 percent of U. S. manufactures' optimism is the highest ever. Business investment is flooding back into the U.S. at record rates. Retail sales have soared. Steel and aluminum producers are re-opening. The stock market is exploding to record highs, sometimes daily. How has

your investment portfolio grown under Trump's policies, Mr Sering? To be serious and honest about your supposed beliefs you should donate all gains achieved under Trump's policies to charity as President Trump does! He donates ALL his salary! Trump has achieved massive deregulation of harmful and costly laws that stifled businesses and stoked inflation.

President Trump and Republicans enacted the biggest tax cuts and reforms in American history by signing the Tax Cuts and Jobs act into law. AND THIS WAS WITHOUT ANY SINGLE VOTE FROM ANY DEMOCRAT!! This provided \$5.5 trillion in gross tax cuts, nearly 60% going to families. It nearly doubled the standard deduction for individuals and families. It doubled the child tax credit. It cut small business taxes. It cut dozens of special interest tax breaks and closed loopholes for the wealthy. Over 100 utility companies have lowered electric, gas, or water rates. It established a worker development act designed to train and retrain workers for high-demand industries. It proposed \$200 billion in Federal funds for infrastructure investment across the country and Trump signed an executive order expediting environmental reviews for approvals of infrastructure projects.

President Trump signed an executive order to improve the Suicide Hotline, signed comprehensive childhood cancer legislation into law, signed the Right-To-Try legislation for terminally ill patients, changed Medicare to save seniors \$320 million on drugs in 2018 alone, cut Obama's cruel individual mandate penalty, and signed legislation repealing Obama's Independent Payment Advisory Board, also known as the "death panels"

President Trump has almost filled all the court vacancies with conservative federal judges and gained two new conservative Supreme Court Judges after fighting hateful battles with Democrats for confirmation. He has construction of a southern border wall at full speed protecting American communities from MS-13 gangs and helping to stop illegal drugs. ICE, which Democrats hate, are swiftly removing illegal aliens many with criminal records. Sering accused Trump of "cheating" serv-

ing in the military. Really? But he let Bill Clinton escape criticism when he promised the draft board he would join ROTC to avoid the draft, then reneged on that promise and went to Oxford college in England to avoid the draft. There, he demonstrated disloyalty to America by participating in anti-American demonstrations. He was quoted as saying he "loathed" the military! Then they elected a military hater as president!!! What a disgrace! And it went downhill from there.

Now, President Trump is rebuilding our military after 8 years of Obama's feverish destruction. Obama rid patriotic warriors from our military. He fired 20 patriotic commanding Generals, 2 patriotic commanding Admirals and 79 patriotic Naval officers! He kept the useless "politically correct" types such as pretty boy Col. Vindman, the phony impeachment witness who didn't know anything except hearsay like all the other so-called witnesses. Obama reduced our Navy to less than a third of its former contingent of ships and our Air Force to less than half its former number of airplanes. Then there was the forced social engineering of our entire military by having a "gay pride" military parade! So instead of limited funds going to national defense, money went for events like transgender education programs, presidential holidays and golfing trips. So how does "gay pride" and golfing trips win wars?

Mr. Sering needs to condemn actions like the 7.6 million babies killed by Planned Parenthood from 1973 to 2017 instead of making sniveling and whining remarks against the best President America has ever had.

One thing is for sure, Democrats know they can't beat Trump at the polls, so they have to make up lies. If Trump was guilty of everything he's accused of he could register as a Democrat! Remember, democrats are not after Trump, they're after his 63 million (and growing) supporters. He's just in their way! \$10 million was donated to Trump's re-election in the first 48 hours after the famous House impeachment vote. Keep up the good work democrats, every \$10 million helps!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENATE REPUBLICANS

Dear Editor:

My wife brought this up one morning, and I can't believe no one, to my knowledge, had thought of this scenario. The Republican controlled Senate has a once in a lifetime opportunity to win and to win big! They have an chance to make the GOP Great Again. They have the ability to re-unite the American public. And it is so simple. All they have to do is two things.

First, they must allow witnesses to testify and be questioned by the Senate during the impeachment trial. They need to subpoena Mick Mulvaney, Mike Pompeo, John Bolton, Rick Perry, and of course Rudy Giuliani as well as others. After these witnesses testify, under threat of perjury if they fail to tell the truth, the story will be substantiated that the president requested a foreign country to intervene in our election process by investigating a political opponent.

Second, following this damning testimony, the Republican controlled Senate must vote to remove the existing president from office.

This is the "Golden Opportunity" for the GOP. They can stay in power, but eliminate a man they never really endorsed. They can stop their lip service. They can stop fawning over a man who promotes name-calling, bullying, angering our allies, and idolizing the despots of the world; Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-un, Duterte of the Philippines, Erdohan of Turkey, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

What happened to the Republican Party who has a history of impressive presidents? Abraham Lincoln emancipated slaves and oversaw the end of the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant did so much to fight segregation and promote the Reconstruction of the South and signed into law our first national park; Yellowstone in 1872. James Garfield, who fought the patronage system of rewarding jobs to political supporters, which led to creation of the Civil Service System to hire qualified public servants. Theodore Roosevelt who fought

the 'Robber Barons' – the loggers, railroad tycoons, industrialists – and expanded our national forest system, established national monuments (several of which later became national parks such as the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde), and created the national wildlife refuge system and actively promoted conservation. Ronald Reagan who faced off AGAINST the Russians and later watched as the Berlin Wall was taken down.

Instead the Republicans are currently worshiping a man who has eliminated more than eighty-five environmental regulations. A man whom the white supremacists feel they have as an ally in the White House. A president who is giving the "Robber Barons" all they can hope for and deny Climate Change. A leader of our country who is negotiating with foreign powers to insure his re-election.

So the Republicans should give Mr. Trump what he wants most. The ability to defend himself against the impeachment charges. He should be brought before the Senate and allowed to speak, to represent himself. It is a safe bet, this man who has already uttered over 13,000 lies during his presidency, that he will continue to lie before Congress. So be it.

Then, just like in ancient Rome, Trump should be placed in the center of the Coliseum surrounded by all the senators. And after his testimony, the senators, following the example set by John McCain on a vote to dismantle the Affordable care Act, will stick out their arms and turn their fists, thumbs down.

If the GOP needs anymore inspiration to go forward and cleanse themselves from this destroyer of their party, they need only to read the editorial in latest issue of **Christianity Today**. The editorial states that Mr. Trump, "should be removed... not [as] a matter of partisan loyalties but loyalty to the Creator of the Ten Commandments." And that, "None of the president's positives can balance the moral and political danger we face under a leader of such grossly immoral character."

So make it the Republican Party again, not the Party of Trump. Allow the three branches of government to again work as a checks and balance system. Heed the words of our founding fathers, especially James Madison, who feared a president who wanted to become a king, thus the ability to remove a president through impeachment under Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution.

It is all right to support someone and defend them for a period of time when you believe in them. But there comes a time when reality sinks in, and you realize you no longer can stand behind that person. That they do not deserve your admiration or backing. Baseball player and manager, Pete Rose, I always respected for his competitiveness and intensity. But "Mr. Charlie Hustle" was found to be betting on baseball games while he was involved in his professional capacity. I support his ban in Baseball's Fame of Fame. Bill Cosby was one of my favorite comedians. I respected many of his personal views on life, the raising of children, and a positive attitude of life. But once it came out what Cosby did to numerous women, I can no longer even listen to a Cosby comedy routine on one of his albums. O.J. Simpson? I don't even have to explain how quickly I ended my veneration of him.

And historically, Benedict Arnold could have been George Washington's right-hand-man, his go-to-guy, yet Arnold allowed personal ego and grandeur of wealth determine his direction to seek foreign influence on the outcome of our Nation. Any similarities with today?

So Republican Senators. This is your moment. You never liked him during the primary. You cringed as he attacked other candidates and made fun of their wives, their fathers, the childlike bullying by giving nicknames for the candidates, and even worst, degrading disabled people in the audience. Be honest. You never liked him. It is time you voted to put him behind you. And you don't lose anything.

Jon Sering, Montrose



SHAWN COLVIN TO PERFORM AT TELLURIDE'S CLUB RED DEC. 30



Artist Shawn Colvin will play Club Red in Telluride on Dec. 30. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
 TELLURIDE-Artist Shawn Colvin will play Club Red in Telluride on Dec. 30. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m. According to her bio, Colvin stopped the industry in its tracks with her arresting 1989 debut, *Steady On*. The following spring, Colvin took home the GRAMMY Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album, establishing herself as a mainstay in the singer-songwriter genre. In the ensuing 30 years, Colvin has won three GRAMMY Awards, released thirteen superlative albums, written a critically ac-

claimed memoir, maintained a non-stop national and international touring schedule, appeared on countless television and radio programs, had her songs featured in major motion pictures and created a remarkable canon of work.

Over the course of three decades, Shawn Colvin has established herself as a captivating performer and a revered storyteller, well-deserving of the commendation of her peers and the devoted audiences who have been inspired by her artistry. And as she enters her thirtieth decade as a songwriter and performer, she continues to reaffirm her status as a vital voice in music. For tickets (\$25 GA) and information visit ClubRedTelluride.com.

Advertisement for The Montrose Mirror featuring a "Yes, WE'RE OPEN" sign and the text "It's Your Business! Let's Grow Together. Advertise with The Montrose Mirror".

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION!



Lot 2 Spring Creek Road | Montrose, CO 81403

AWESOME COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL High traffic & visibility. 1.24 acre corner lot at the signaled intersection of Spring Creek/ Hwy 90 & Marine Road/6400 Road. Next to Pour House. B2 Zoning allows numerous business types and multi-family options.

\$149,900 MLS# 748728

CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION:



Don Bailey
 Broker Associate
970-209-8257
 donbaileyrealestate@gmail.com
 DonBaileyRealEstate.com



435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401
 ©2019 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. ®

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ASHLEY PERKINS AND KANE SCHEIDEGGER JOIN RIDGWAY CHAMBER BOARD

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY—The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) welcomed new board members, Ashley Perkins of Alpine Bank in October and Kane Scheidegger of Kane Scheidegger Gallery in December. Perkins and Scheidegger bring their specialized knowledge from the financial services industry, art world and outdoor recreation to the chamber, to support its marketing activities and understanding of the local business community's needs.

"I joined the RACC in order to support and participate in the Ridgway community in a new way. I hope that my involvement can have a positive impact for both the Chamber and local business establishments as well," said Perkins, a customer service representative at the Ridgway branch of Alpine Bank who has lived in southwest Colorado for 12 years.

Scheidegger was born and raised in Ridgway. After graduating from art school in 2005, he started shooting large format panoramic images of the beautiful San

Juan Mountains and ski descents in the winter.

"I help bring nature into the home through my larger than life prints. I love the outdoors and everything that comes with it," he commented.

The Chamber Board is comprised of a mix of business people from different industry sectors. Each member also has interests and expertise in at least one of the five Ridgway tourism themes: Outdoor Adventure, Culinary Experiences, Arts & Entertainment, Health & Wellness, and History & Heritage.

"I have joined the chamber board as I feel I can offer some great insight that can help small businesses grow. I previously sat on the streetscape planning committee along with a few others. I feel I can offer some great creativity to the chamber to help it reach its goals along with the community it supports," he explained. The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce is organized to achieve the objectives of promoting business and community



Kane Scheidegger. Courtesy photo.



Ashley Perkins. Courtesy photo.

growth and development in the Town of Ridgway and the surrounding area. The chamber manages the town's tourism website, markets local businesses through many channels, and operates the Ridgway Visitors Center, open from May 1 to October 1. In 2020, the chamber and town will be adding outdoor signage outside the center to guide visitors to amenities and attractions year-round. For more information, visit ridgwaycolorado.com.

PHRMA, STATE REPS MCCLUSKIE AND SOPER ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR STEM PROGRAMS IN DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA—Colorado Representatives Julie McCluskie and Matt Soper joined Sean McGraw, senior director of advocacy and strategic alliances of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America last week to announce a \$4,000 grant to Delta County School District.

The grant will be used to support STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading Engineering, Arts and Math) programming.

The grant—the first of its kind in Colorado—will be split between Cedaredge High School and Garnet Mesa Elementary School, where the grant announcement was made.

In addition to announcing the new funding support, the elected officials joined McGraw and school leaders in a meeting with select students to talk about the many opportunities to apply those skills in

the biopharmaceutical sector.

Garnet Mesa Elementary School Principal Joseph Mock said the teacher leaders in the STREAM initiatives will use the money to improve the school's outdoor classroom. And Cedaredge High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) coordinator Nate Tullis said the high school will use the grant to support student participation in the state's Technology Student Association competition in Denver next February.

"It's so important for schools to work closely with the businesses so we know we are preparing today's students for tomorrow's cutting-edge careers," said Colorado Representative Julie McCluskie (District 61).

"We appreciate the grant as well as the relationship with the Colorado's bioscience community," said Representative

Matt Soper (District 54). "We know that students from every corner of Colorado can be inspired to pursue careers in science, technology, and medicine and this grant will undoubtedly do just that."

"The biopharmaceutical industry is committed to supporting America's future innovators," said McGraw. "STEM—and STREAM—programs that help show students the variety of career possibilities are vital and we are proud to support efforts in Delta County School District to expand horizons for all students."

"We are honored and excited to be receiving the grant," said Superintendent Caryn Gibson. "This is welcome support in our effort to provide students with a rigorous and challenging curriculum."

The grants will be administered through the non-profit Western Colorado Community Foundation.



It's your life.

We're here to help you live it.

“ I have been a patient for four years or more and I recommend this agency to everyone. Thank you to all of the nurses for the patience and care they provide to me. ”
 - Mary Ann

At Home Health of Western Colorado, we're a Medicare/Medicaid-certified home health care agency – a friendly and experienced team of nurses, rehab therapists and home health aides dedicated to providing your individualized health care needs with compassion and empathy.

Services offered by Home Health of Western Colorado include:

- Skilled nurse on call 24 hours/day
- Home health aide assistance with daily activities such as dressing, grooming and bathing
- Pain management, wound care and IV infusion therapy
- Disease and medication management
- Pediatric care
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Medical social worker
- Diabetes management and education
- Lab testing and finger stick INRs
- Coordination of additional community services

 **Call today for more information**
(970)-240-0139



Home Health of Western Colorado

300 North Cascade, Suite T9, Montrose, CO 81401

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

AJ FULLERTON RETURNS TO THE RADIO ROOM IN GRAND JUNCTION



AJ Fullerton returns to the KAFM Radio Room on Friday, Jan. 17. Concert starts at 7:30 pm with doors opening at 7 pm. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-AJ Fullerton returns to the KAFM Radio Room on Friday, Jan. 17! Concert starts at 7:30 pm with doors opening at 7 pm. Raised as an only child in the mountains of rural Western Colorado, A.J. was brought up surrounded by numerous styles of music ranging from; Rock, Folk, Bluegrass, Roots, & Blues. His biggest musical influences ended up being found in his parents' collection of Classic Rock & Blues records. Playing solo, and in local bands throughout his mid-teens, by age 19 he was playing full-time supporting his rapidly developing solo career. His style of playing falls somewhere between the finger picking & slide of Country Roots music, and the groove based up-tempo sensibilities of Blues and Rock & Roll. In the few short years of his professional career, A.J. has won a number of awards & accolades. In 2016 he was the winner of the Colorado Blues Society's "I.B.C Competition", as well as winning Colorado Blues Society "Members Choice Awards." Come see AJ Fullerton! Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

131126

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Traveling's delights and dangers



Capt. Silas Soule. Courtesy photo.

MONARCH CREST ... I hadn't been in the curio shop at the top of pass, bottom of the gondola, for a dozen years. I was driving leisurely a couple weeks ago, visiting a friend in Salida, without a deadline – unusual for me. So, I went in. Got a couple Colorado mini-flags to brandish about, proud as I am of this state's purple politics. And a camo ball cap at \$5. A steal ... They had a nice diorama inside with an illustration of the Archaic indigenous hunting traps and fences just off the crest. The rock structures had been there, it said, for several thousand years.

PONCHA SPRINGS ... I needed a WiFi connection before I left the Arkansas Valley for Gunnison last week after a visit and Mt. Princeton hot springs dip with a Salida friend. I could see an aureole of clouds on Monarch. A storm was predicted, and I wasn't sure how strong ... The Crossroads Visitor's Center folks were kind, but not privy to the mysteries of WiFi. But their offer of the use of a computer led me to a nearby WiFi source – Alba Bakery. And so I found this most unusual coffeehouse and purveyor of baked goods ... The owner and pastry chef was Dawn B. Borrowman, a graduate of the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts. In Poncha Springs, no less! The coffee was great and I treated myself to some two-tone chocolate sugar cookies that didn't taste like Walmart's sweetened cardboard imitations ... It's a spot not to miss just off Hwy. 285 on the way to Denver.



The top of Monarch Pass (photo by Art Goodtimes)

MEASLES AT DIA ... *Westword* newspaper of Denver published a story last week based on a press release from Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties' Tri-County Health Department about three unvaccinated children who passed through Denver International Airport on Dec. 11 and were subsequently hospitalized for measles. I thought it a significant public health alert, and so I posted the meme on my Facebook page ... However, one friend took great exception and suggested I was "spreading vax/un-vax hysteria." I disagreed. As I explained in an email to this friend, there are a number of reasons I shared this meme ... The story was accurate and from reputable sources. Facebook sees a lot of unreliable memes, and I've gotten more careful in not posting things from unreliable sources ... I and many of my friends travel through DIA, and I would have wanted to know if I had potentially been exposed to measles on Dec. 11th, when the incident occurred ... All of my physician friends and all of the scientific sources I read on a regular basis (*Science News*, *Scientific American*) believe that the increasing number of unvaccinated individuals in this country and in this state is a serious public health issue ...

There are a lot of things to disagree with about Facebook, but this social media outlet has always seemed to me to be a useful platform for interactive public discussions of important hot button issues -- the vax/un-vax issue is certainly one of them. I mediate my FB wall, ensure there is no flaming, and encourage a respectful discussion of controversial issues – often arguing for one side or another but basing my opinions on reliable sources, and requiring other to do so as well ... So I don't think my post of the *Westword* story was spreading hysteria, but sharing information on an important topic of public scrutiny ... Colorado and a dozen or so other states have a very liberal approach to vaccinations, and let parents exempt their children on personal belief, not just medical or religious grounds. While I support that position and encourage parents to research and consult professionals on vaccinations to be sure they are appropriate for their children, I also have a strong belief that some vaccinations are essential and in those cases everyone who can be vaccinated should be vaccinated – in particular for measles, tetanus and polio ... One has only to examine the history of smallpox to understand the efficacy of vaccinations in the modern world.

NUCHE NEWS ... Over the Thanksgiving holiday last month a contingent of 45 Cheyenne and Arapahoe runners made the last leg of the 21st Annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run -- starting from the Colorado state capitol and the Riverside Cemetery. They made the trek to the cemetery on their memorial run to honor Capt. Silas Soule, the military officer who refused to engage his troops in the massacre, testified against Col. Chivington in court, and was later murdered in a Denver street by unknown assassins. At the capitol, Lt. Gov. Diane Primavera welcomed the runners ... Ignacio High School poet Bird Red published a poem honoring veterans in the Voices section of the

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

the *Southern Ute Drum*. His name is a direct reversal of the late Durango poet / professor's name -- Red Bird ... Gov. Jared Polis celebrated Native American Heritage Month (November) inviting over 200 guests to the Governor's Mansion to read a proclamation, including tribal leadership and elders from both Ute tribes in the state ... Also last month, the Missing and

Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Walk was held on the Southern Ute Tribal Campus. Southern Ute Tribal Chair Christine Sage mentioned this hot button issue when she spoke with the Lt. Gov. in Denver.

CLIMATE DENIAL ... According to *MIT Technology Review*, even as we saw a

drop in world investment in solar, wind and other alternative energy projects from \$169 billion in 2017 to \$133 billion in 2018, China expanded its coal-generated energy capacity by 43 gigawatts from Jan. 2018 to June of 2019 ... Gen Z is gonna look back very unkindly on Boomers, Gen X and Millennials for what we didn't do, as much as what we've done.

THE TALKING GOURD

Rewilding the Self

I no longer tend this garden.
Deer, have at it!
Dandelions, be my guest.

I have been tilling this dirt, season after season
shaping soil into precise lines,
placing equidistant seeds
one after another after another.

I have culled bindweed and thistle.
I have extracted interloping arugula and strawberries
previously planted by preschoolers,
but here interfering with my designs.

I will never know and can only imagine
the sweet-red pucker of sunwarmed
strawberries melting on tongues,
had I been more open to chance.

So today, here I stand, declaring:
I return this land to the wild!
I sacrifice these plans for a chaos I can't control.
And though I will miss bright afternoons
with dirt under nails and plump tomatoes
collected in my kitchen,
I cannot wait to see what wildness brings.

-Stephanie Osan
Telluride

Aquatic Therapy
 Business Health
 Cancer Rehabilitation
 Community Exercise Classes
 Custom Orthotic and Bracing
 Custom Wheelchair/Seating Evaluation
 Dry Needling
 Ergonomic Evaluations
 Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCE)
 Hand Therapy
 Home Safety Evaluations
 Joint Replacement Center
 Lift Tests
 Lymphedema Therapists
 Neuro Therapists
 Parkinson's Boxing Class
 Pediatric Therapists
 Pelvic Health
 Pre/Post Surgical Orthopedic Therapy
 Sports Injuries / Kinesiotaping
 Vestibular/Vertigo Treatment
 Work Comp Injuries
 Work Hardening/Conditioning
 Wound Care Specialists

Visit us at any
of our locations!

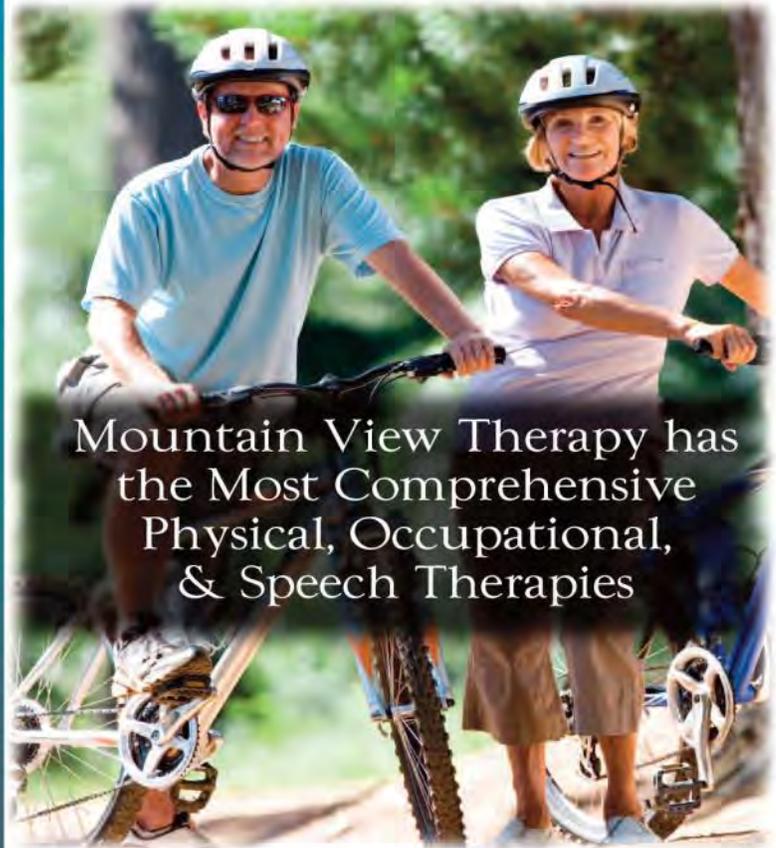
Mountain View Therapy
 at MMH and Joint
 Replacement Center
 801 S 4th Street
 970.240.7369

Mountain View Therapy
 Pediatric Clinic
 645 S 5th St
 970.252.2819

Mountain View Therapy
 at Montrose Community
 Recreation Center
 16350 Woodgate Road Ste 100
 970.252.2536

Mountain View Therapy
 Center for Wellness
 820 S 4th St.
 970.252.2646

Mountain View Therapy
 Ridgway Clinic
 185 Sherman St. Unit 103
 970.626.4050



Mountain View Therapy has
 the Most Comprehensive
 Physical, Occupational,
 & Speech Therapies

Excellence in
 Therapy
Services
 are Performed, *Here*



SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

READING LITE STORYTIME-Every Wednesday, Jan. 15 - May 6, 10am - 10:30am. Enjoy Singing, playing, reading, and a craft all in about 30 minutes. Ages 2-6.

READING TO ROVER-Montrose Regional Library, Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 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.

MONTROSE LIBRARY-CHESS CLUB Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 4pm - 5pm. Join us in the library meeting room for once monthly chess club, chess boards and pieces provided. Children under age 7 must have an adult with them, no sign-ups required.

MONTROSE FREE THINKERS meet the first Sunday of each month. Call 417-4183 for more information & location.

MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS welcomes FIRST FRIDAY STROLL on Main Street in Montrose. Montrose Center for the Arts is exhibiting a *WINTER themed Members Art Show* for the month of December. Also, check out the Christmas Store at the Art Center. Appetizers and beverages available for your enjoyment. The Art Center is at the corner of Main and Park Ave., 11 Park Ave., Montrose.

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

MONTHLY-

Dec. 24-Celebrate Christmas Eve at Grace Church, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. 16731 Woodgate Road. www.gracemontrose.org.

Dec. 24-On Tuesday, Dec. 24 Santa Delivers. Ouray Elks facilitate free in-home visits for Ouray County kids from Santa between 5 and 8 pm. Reservations required by Dec. 21, call Peg Lindsey at 970-596-1219 or email peg_lindsey@yahoo.com.

Dec. 31: Ouray Elks New Years' Eve party, 6 - 12:30, Karaoke starts at 7 pm. Open to the public.

Jan.3-Feb.3-Montrose Center for the Arts will present an art exhibition by Loretta Casler of Ridgway from January 3 through February 3, 2020. Loretta works in a variety of media, including watercolor, oil, colored pencil and pen and ink. There will be an artist reception January 3 from 5-7pm at the Art Center, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose. Join us for refreshments and a chance to meet Loretta and enjoy her artwork.

Jan. 4-Lorrie Morgan and Aaron Tippin in concert at the Montrose County Event Center. For tickets and info visit: <https://www.blackcanyontickets.com/tc-events/jan4/>.

Jan. 4-Montrose Regional Library-Play and Learn, Jan. 4 10am – Noon. Join us for an early literacy playdate! Stations and activities to promote early literacy. Designed for ages 0-6.

Jan. 10-All cattlemen and women are invited to attend the 2020 Western Slope Beef Cow Symposium held Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m. at Friendship Hall located at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. For more information about the 2020 Western Slope Beef Cow Symposium, please visit <http://2020bcs.eventbrite.com> or call 970-249-3935. Online or phone registration is required by Jan. 3, 2020, to attend this event.

Jan. 13-Monday January 13 ,6:30 Montrose Library mtg rm -National Geographic "Years of Living Dangerously " next episode presented by citizensclimatelobby.org ,nonpartisan. all welcome. ? call 240-9146.

Jan. 24-See Sir Kempson live in Concert at the Radio Room. Doors at 7, Show at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 Pre-sale \$18 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Jan. 24-25-The 8th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum will be Jan. 24 -25, 2020 at the Montrose Pavilion.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT!



Deb Reimann's photo of a December moon reminds her of this quote, "Aim for the moon. If you miss, you may hit a star" – W. Clement Stone. Photo by Deb Reimann.



At right, Jaime Walsh assists seasonal shoppers at Colorado-ology (328 East Main Street) in Montrose Saturday. Photo by Brad Switzer.

READ THE MONTROSE MIRROR!



Fresh News for busy people...
Reaching more than 13,000 readers every Monday through
dedicated email blast and social media...
thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror!

www.montrose.mobi

<https://www.facebook.com/MontroseMirror/>

<https://www.instagram.com/montrosemirror/>

