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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

A Monday News Blast Serving West Central Colorado

Issue No. 102 Jan. 26 2015

SMOKE, SMELLS FROM LOMO PLANT UPSET NEIGHBORS *Plan Com had Recommended Denial, Bell Pushed Rezone*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--When Ira Goldfarb officially opened his manufacturing business, Prairie Dog Treats, at 146 West Main on Feb. 1, 2013, he spoke about the warm welcome he received from City of Montrose officials.

"We are a growing company," Goldfarb told the *Mirror* at the time, "and the City has been great to us. Montrose is a beautiful place, and the incentives to build our business here have been phenomenal."

Two years after the company officially began operations on West Main as a manufacturer of smoked pet treats, however, neighbors in the immediate vicinity are less than thrilled. Though Goldfarb promised to employ at least 40 at the West Main location (in addition to approximately 30 employed at his other business, "We Buy Antlers" on North Townsend), no signage or landscaping appears to have been completed at the manufacturing facility to date, and issues with smoke and heavy aromas have generated repeated complaints from neighbors--as well as calls about possible fires.

Montrose Fire Protection District Chief Tad Rowan said the district has been called a number of times to



Residential neighbors say Prairie Dog Treats, above, is too close for comfort, and causes problems with smoke, odors and seasonal flies.

Continued on page 17

PRESIDENT LINCOLN, MARY TODD LINCOLN AMONG CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTORS COMING TO DELTA SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT



Keith Lucy of Delta, above, is passionate about Civil War history, and is helping to coordinate a final Sesquicentennial event in Delta May 8-10.

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA--Yes, Keith Lucy does have a day job. It's just that Lucy's extracurricular activities are what tend to land him in the limelight--things like walking from Delta to Olathe in period attire to support a Civil War Sesquicentennial event at the Egyptian Theater in 2013, or using a rare Monday off last week to hold a bake sale in support of this year's commemorative Civil War re-enactment.

Because 2015 marks the final year of the five-year sesquicentennial celebration, which honors the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, Lucy and the Delta County Historical Society Committee on the Civil War are planning a final, signature event at Confluence Park and other Delta locations May 8-10.

"In 2013 we held a one-day event," Lucy recalled. "It was a tremendous success, so we have decided to triple our efforts this year." For 2015, the committee has invited re-enactors to converge at the Confluence for a three-day immersion that is intended to

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FABULOUS DELTA--PAST, FUTURE CONVERGE AT THE CONFLUENCE!



Delta's gorgeous Confluence Park, once the crossroads of the West, is poised to become a regional tourism draw, officials say.

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-Anyone who has been to Delta in recent weeks knows that the City's futuristic new truck bypass is open to travelers; not so visible to the naked eye, however, are the improvements planned for the entire Confluence area in coming months.

With a plan in the works to transform the Fort Uncompahgre Living History Museum at Confluence Park as a National Trails Interpretive Center and Public Information Center on the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, the City of Delta, which owns Fort Uncompahgre, is partnering with the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado (IAWC) to manage day-to-day operations of the Fort as the changes take place. Fort Uncompahgre is a 23-year-old recreation of fur trader Antoine Rodidoux's original fort, which was established in 1828 several miles to the West of the present-day City.

"I'm excited about our partnership at the Fort," Delta City Manager Justin Clifton said. "I really think this is the way to get things done."

IAWC, which has presented the Interpretive Center as a major draw for heritage tourists, has targeted June 1 for the re-opening, and has been successfully raising funds toward the transition. The establishment of Fort Uncompahgre as a regional visitor's center makes perfect sense, given that Antoine Robidoux's original location on the Old Spanish Trail was a major gateway to the West, IAWC Executive Director Chris Miller said.

"Historically, this was the crossroads," Miller said. "It was the major gateway for traffic heading West."

Miller, who also works with the Public

Lands Partnership, likes to talk about a "circle of adventure" for today's travelers, who now converge on the Confluence area via a major Highway Intersection.

"The Circle of Adventure is what you can see if you get in the car and drive for an hour," Miller said. "Then you map out what you can see in two hours. We have everything we need right here to be a Napa Valley--or whatever we want to be. There are seven scenic byways, a national monument, three NCA's, and so much recreation, so many wineries! Did you know we have the highest elevation winery in the entire United States--Terror Creek Winery? Did you the largest Aspen stand in North America is in the West Elks?"

"It's time to grow up and play with our neighbors," Miller added. "It's time to think like a region."

A *Friends of the Fort and Old Spanish Trail* organization is currently in the formative stages, Miller said, and will target specific improvement projects at Fort Uncompahgre one by one.

"We plan to work with the CSU Extension and create a pollination garden there, and a conservation garden," Miller said. "We may have beehives! There is an overgrown parcel of land in the middle of the river, and we are working with the Tamarisk Coalition to see how we can remove the Tamarisk and Russian Olive there--it can be an outdoor classroom area for kids."

Later this year, IAWC will once again offer tours of Escalante Canyon in support of the historic restoration efforts there, with buses leaving from Fort Uncompahgre. For now, however, Miller is thinking about parking and signage.

"The City of Delta is finishing its new parking structure," Miller said, "with 125 spaces, and six or eight for RV's. Our goal is to maintain the integrity of the Fort, but to add value--so we will add interpretive trails and signage, and beautiful native plants. This will be a rest stop, and viewing area. The Visitor Center will be open seven days a week, and will be handicapped accessible, with Wifi."

"We're going to capture the folks coming in on Hwy 50 and Hwy 92," Miller said. "There is so much to be done, and so much excitement! We are going to see a recreation boom--think RV's, think campers, think people on the river. We're going to be discovered." Fort Uncompahgre will be open part-time for tours once the parking garage is complete, around June 1, she added. Volunteers are welcome to contact IAWC at 874-6695.

Like Miller, Delta City Manager Justin Clifton believes the momentum has only just begun.

"I think 2014 was a great year because we did a lot of things to put us in a great financial position going forward," Clifton said. "We accomplished some internal restructuring, reducing costs and creating efficiency. We passed an extension of the recreation tax that gives us much greater flexibility with our revenues. Of course, completing the truck route project is a major historical milestone."

While the impact of those accomplishments cannot all be seen by the average citizen today, the City will be in a much better position to invest in the future because of them, Clifton said, and noted that for Delta, economic development will remain a major focus in 2015.

"We have commenced a comprehensive economic development planning grant that aims to diversify our economic base," Clifton said. "At the same time, I anticipate moving forward with building better broadband infrastructure and focusing on our downtown now that the truck route is complete."

"The work last year put us in a better position to reinvest in the foundation of our community," he said. "This year, we get to take a step in that direction, pursuing our vision to be an even better place to live, work and play."

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

The Montrose Mirror is your source for community news and information.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CBMR STATEMENT RE: RE-1J STUDENT DEATH ON THE SLOPES

To our readers-here is the statement issued yesterday by Crested Butte Mountain Resort regarding the tragic and unimaginable loss of an Eighth grade student from Olathe Middle School in a ski accident on Friday, Jan. 23:

Special to the Mirror

CRESTED BUTTE-It is with heavy hearts that we report a death at Crested Butte Mountain Resort yesterday. Early reports indicate it was a teenage male from the Western Slope. The incident is currently under investigation. Thanks to Ski Patrol for the professional manner in which it was handled. Below is preliminary information from resort spokesperson Scott Clarkson:

At approximately 2 PM today, a male skier was involved in an incident on Lower Treasury, an intermediate trail. The skier was wearing a helmet at the time of the incident.

Crested Butte Ski Patrol responded immediately upon notice. The skier was transported by Crested Butte Ski Patrol to Gunnison Valley Hospital Mountain Clinic at the base of the ski area. The skier was pronounced dead at the medical facility.

"This is a tragic accident and our thoughts are with the family and friends of the individual who passed away today," said Scott Clarkson, resort spokesperson.

An investigation is underway by the Mt. Crested Butte Police Department. We must respect the rights of our guests and therefore cannot give any further information at this time.

Karen Maxner - Realtor



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

Things are off to a fast and busy start at the Colorado legislature. We've just finished the last of the ceremonial formalities, which are time consuming, but important for their historical significance and in recognizing the other branches of state government that the legislature works with. We attended the outdoor inauguration of the governor and were fortunate that it was a warmer day than when the arctic chill was reaching into Denver last month. We also heard the Governor's state of the state address as well as the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court's state of the judiciary address.

I had the honor of serving as president of the senate already, including for the State of the Judiciary address. It was exciting to have the opportunity to serve in that capacity with the Speaker of the House and the Chief Justice, as it's likely the first time in Colorado that each of those roles was filled by a woman.

In the Senate, we've been running regular legislative business alongside the ceremonial activities. I've already had 3 of my bills in committees and, fortunately, all were passed out and are moving further along in the process.

The first bill comes from my work on the water interim committee and supports access to the best water conservation strategies for all land use planners who want that information. During the summer and fall, I was part of the water committee that held NINE meetings all around Colorado. Citizens in every corner of the state were seeking more in terms of water conservation education and efforts by those managing water resources in the state.

This is a topic where I believe the people are ahead of some of those in governmental service. The bill had bipartisan support in the interim committee and it'll have bipartisan support as it moves through the process because water conservation isn't a partisan topic.

Conservation is a practical and impactful way to maximize the use of our limited water resources, which Coloradans rightfully treasure, no matter where they live in the state.

The bill was amended to remove any link to financial support from the state which was done at the request of a few stakeholders. There's no mandate to use the educational strategies made available through the bill, but it'll take advantage of the signifi-

cant expertise on this topic in our semi-arid state and make that information accessible to those who play a very significant role in planning our communities' future growth and the use of municipal and industrial water.

While, today, the vast amount of Colorado water is used in agriculture, there's an indisputable shift as more of that water is sold to municipalities to support their present and future growth. My personal belief is that keeping agricultural land in production and supporting family operations should be a high priority so that we can keep our food sources close.

That said, water rights are a valuable property right and available for sale at the water owner's discretion. This bill recognizes those dynamics and will help Colorado make the most of our headwaters we've been blessed with, but must also deliver downstream to neighboring states.

I'm missing being home in Southwestern Colorado, but the session is off to a good start and I'm thankful to be here.

2015 Legislative Session Contact:

200 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203

Capitol phone: (303) 866-4884

ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NU VISTA WELCOMES MHS INTERN JACK WOLANIN FOR 2015



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-NuVista Federal Credit Union recently welcomed Jack Wolanin (at left), a Montrose High School Senior, as an intern for the 2015 Spring Semester. Wolanin expressed interest in Marketing and Business to his Career Option Seminar Coordinator and he was paired with NuVista.

Wolanin hopes to explore the business world during his time with NuVista and eventually turn his experience into a possible career in Media Marketing.

Wolanin will have the opportunity to learn each department within NuVista, with his primary focus being in Marketing. *"I hope to gain professional communication skills as well as improve my interpersonal communication skills,"* says Wolanin when asked what he hoped to gain from his internship.

Wolanin is a member of the Montrose Swim & Dive Team. He is bilingual in English and Polish. He enjoys snowboarding, the outdoors, and all things technology related.

For more information, contact Chelsea Rosty, crosty@nuvista.org or 970-497-5360.

NuVista Federal Credit Union is located at 2711 Commercial Way in Montrose or at nuvista.org. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Ouray, Montrose, San Miguel, or Gunnison Counties.



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ARTS AND CULTURE

SERENADE YOUR LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY ...

With a Singing Valentine by Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus Quartet!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus offers Singing Valentines Feb. 13-14. Surprise your guy or gal sweetheart with a quartet direct to your location in Montrose, Delta, Olathe and Cedaredge. For \$35 you receive a real red rose and two songs by the quartet. We also sing to office groups or restaurants for \$50. Available times are limited. For reservations call Dennis at 970-596-7395. Our internet contact is www.blackcanyonchorus.org.

NEXT IGNITE MONTROSE WILL BE JAN. 27 AT 2RASCALS BREWING COMPANY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The next Ignite Montrose is at 7 pm on Jan. 27th at 2 Rascals Brewing Company. Ten presenters will have 5 minutes and 20 PowerPoint slides to talk about something for which they have a passion. Topics have ranged from The Great Grand Canyon Burro Roundup to The History of Underwear. For more information, call Amy McBride at 970-964-2547.

OURAY COUNTY ARTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS WINTER ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-The Ouray County Winter Arts and Crafts Show will be Feb. 13 - 16 at the Ouray Community Center, and features the work of local artisans and craftsmen, art demonstrations and a silent auction of items donated by artists, crafts people and local businesses. Bidding opens at 1 pm on Friday, and closes at 2 pm on Sunday. Proceeds support the Ouray County Arts Association. Admission is free to the public. For more information or to register as an exhibitor for this event, go to the OCAA website: www.ourayarts.org. Space is limited, and the postmark deadline for exhibitors is Feb. 6.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIVE DCMH NURSES NOMINATED FOR NIGHTINGALE NURSING AWARD

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-In 2015 Delta County Memorial Hospital has five nurses who have been nominated and will attend the Western Colorado Nightingale Award Banquet in March. April Bonata, who is the manager of Labor & Delivery and has been a registered nurse for more than 18 years, was nominated for the category of Advocacy for her work on the Baby-Friendly project. Jeanine Finnell is the Hospital's Quality Director which also entails aspects of Risk Management and Infection Control. Her nursing career has spanned 38 years and she too was nominated for Advocacy for her work in employee immunizations. Felicia Heinz has been the manager of the Surgery Department for 15 years and was nominated for Leadership due to her skillful management of staff and surgeons. Lucian Duncan is one of DCMH's ICU nurses. During his 11 years of nursing he has mentored numerous new nurses which earned him the nomination for Leadership. Last, but not least is Jessica Walters who was also nominated for Leadership. Jessica's commitment to exceptional patient care motivates her to lead



2015 Nightingale Award nominees: l to r: Felicia Heinz, RN, Surgery Manager; April Bonata, RN, Stork's Landing Manager; Jessica Walters, RN; Jeanine Finnell, RN, Quality Services Director and Certified Infection Control Nurse. At far right, Lucian Duncan, RN. Courtesy images.



the rest of the nursing team, which she has done for the eight years of her registered nursing career. On March 7 the Annual Western Colorado Nightingale Awards Banquet will be held at the Colorado Mesa University Ballroom in Grand Junction. The Nightingale Awards Event was started in 1985 as a way to honor nurses who best exemplify the philosophy and nursing practice of Florence Nightingale, a 19th century nursing pioneer. Nurses from across the State are recognized and nomi-

nated by their peers, supervisors, family and patients. For the past several years the State Nightingale Committee has expanded the categories into three Luminaries – Advocacy, Leadership and innovation. Winners from the Western Colorado Banquet will then go on to the State Nightingale Event in Denver in May. The banquet honors these nurses for their dedication to the profession and recognizes the extra mile they go to provide care and excellence to their patients and their community.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR EVENTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-On-line registration for Delta County early blood draw events and health fairs in Delta, Cedaredge and Paonia began Jan. 12.

These annual health fair events are a joint effort with Delta County Lion's Club in Delta, Cedaredge and Paonia and Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH).

Go to deltahospital.org and click on the health fair artwork on the upper left hand corner of the home page (see attached artwork as sample). People will then hotlink to the registration process where they may select the date, time, location and health screen tests they would like to sign up for. Then a registration may be printed out and brought to the early blood draw or health fair event.

If dates, times or locations change after a person has registered, they can re-register a second time with the changed information.

On-line registration was started in 2014 with participants finding this improved registration process through the hospital website to be quick and efficient.

Appointment times went so smoothly that generally speaking there were no wait times, or only a very short wait to complete the registration process and then receive the blood draw from phlebotomists on site.

Many compliments and accolades were received by hospital staff regarding the early blood draw and health fair participants for the ease of registration, commented Patti Kalahar, Manager of Educa-

tion and Marketing for DCMH.

Early Blood Draw Dates for February 2015

Feb 18th, Wed., Paonia, DMTC Voc-Tech, 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Feb 19th, Thursday, Cedaredge, Community Center, 6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Feb 20-21st, Friday & Sat., Delta, DCMH Oncology Bldg Classrooms, 6:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Health Fair Dates for March 2015

March 18th, Wed., Paonia, DMTC Voc-Tech, 6:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

March 19th, Thursday, Delta, Bill Heddles Rec Center, 6:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

March 20, Friday, Cedaredge, Community Center, 6:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.



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Find us on Facebook at "Delta Area Chamber of Commerce."





MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS AND INFORMATION

COUNTY HHS TO HOST CLASSES ON RADON AWARENESS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Did you know radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas responsible for hundreds of Colorado lung cancer deaths each year? Montrose County Health and Human Services will host several radon classes to increase public awareness of this health risk and provide free radon test kits to homeowners. Approximately 50 percent of the homes in Colorado have radon levels in excess of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended action level of 4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).

"Radon awareness is not only important for current home owners, but equally important for prospective home buyers and those looking to sell," said Environmental Health Manager Jim Austin. "These free

test kits are a huge asset to taxpayers and we are pleased to provide radon awareness education for Montrose County citizens."

Winter is the perfect time to test your home for radon, according to Chrystine Kelley, radon program manager for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "Testing your home for radon is simple and works best when all your doors and windows are closed."

Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas. You cannot see, smell or taste radon, but it may be a problem in your home. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, you're at higher risk for developing lung cancer. More Americans die from lung cancer than any other cancer.

The classes will be held at the Montrose County Health and Human Services Board Room at 1845 South Townsend Avenue. One class will be held in the west end of the county in Nucla on January 28th. Please call the environmental health department with additional questions at 970-252-5067.

Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (300 Main Street, Nucla County Annex)

Thursday, January 29, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 5, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

CORRECTION!

MONTROSE-To our readers—the address for the new Mountain View Therapy located in the Milestone Building was incorrect in last week's Mirror. The correct address in the Milestone Building is 1404 Hawk Parkway, Suite 101.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY INVITES YOU:

"THE REPLACEMENT PROCESS ---AS VACANCIES FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ARISE, HOW ARE THEY ARE FILLED IN THE CITY OF MONTROSE AND MONTROSE COUNTY?"

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, AT NOON
MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

GUEST PANEL:

Lisa Del Piccolo, City Clerk

Bob Nicholson, Mayor

Teresa Williams, Montrose County Attorney

Bob Connor, Democratic Party representative

Dave Laursen, Republican Party, representative

Learn the differences between a "home rule" and an "arm of the state" municipality when filling an elected or appointed position that has been vacated. Also learn when the political parties become involved in the process and how each handles that situation.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information about the topic go to www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org and click on ***Calendar of Events.***

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE WITHDRAWS OIL AND GAS DRILLING APPROVAL IN THE GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST, HEADWATERS OF THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON—Conservationists have settled a lawsuit that challenged the U.S. Forest Service's approval of a new natural gas drilling project in Colorado's Gunnison National Forest without conducting the legally required analysis of environmental impacts. Following the conservation groups' opening brief in the case, the Forest Service agreed to withdraw approval of the project.

The plan had approved five new gas wells to be drilled near Little Henderson Creek. An accident, spill, or chemical release would threaten to poison the creek, which flows into the North Fork of the Gunnison River. Conservationists filed the lawsuit because the Forest Service approved oil and gas development in the region in a piecemeal, project-by-project fashion without conducting a cumulative impacts analysis of all the approved drilling projects on the region's water and air quality, wildlife, and down-river communities.

The settlement requires the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct a joint environmental

analysis of the drilling project and to make that analysis available to the public for review and input. This transparent process is necessary to ensure that oil and gas development in the North Fork Valley undergoes the legally required hard look, which would fully analyze impacts to the area's air quality and other treasured resources, such as clean water for downstream communities and critical winter habitat for elk and mule deer.

"This is a win for good government and for good decision-making," said Jim Ramey, Executive Director of Citizens for a Healthy Community. "We look forward to the Forest Service and the BLM doing the job right and fully considering the many impacts that would result from this proposed industrialization."

"The Forest Service is required under federal law to look before it leaps, which it failed to do in this instance," said Kyle Tisdell, attorney for the Western Environmental Law Center. "After twice approving this oil and gas project without considering the impacts to the area's clean water and air, wildlife, and recreational values, I'm glad the Forest Service has recognized

its fundamental role as stewards of our public lands and has committed to perform the type of hard look analysis that this treasured landscape deserves."

"This settlement is an important step forward for protecting valuable resources in the North Fork—from robust big game species to the clean air and water that downstream communities depend on," said Alli Melton, the Public Lands Director for High Country Conservation Advocates. "Moving forward, we expect analysis that fully discloses and analyzes all impacts that would stem from oil and gas development in this area of Gunnison County. If done properly, the outcome should result in a transparent agency decision-making process that is fully informed by public participation."

The Western Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Citizens for a Healthy Community and High Country Conservation Advocates, filed the suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado seeking to overturn the Forest Service's decision authorizing the gas wells. The Forest Service. The settlement was finalized late on Friday afternoon, Jan. 16.

Coming Soon

to DMEA's Read Service Center →

Attention Delta area residents:

In February, the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Read Service Center will have live Member Service Representatives available to help you Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm.



We look forward to seeing you face-to-face.



DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a complaint regarding a complaint or discrimination, complete the DMEA Complaint Form. Complaint forms are available at <http://www.dmea.org/complaint>, being posted at all DMEA offices, or by calling 800-422-0000. Complaint forms are also available at the Read Service Center. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested on the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at 1110 Department of Agriculture, Division of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, Suite 100, Montrose, CO 81401. We will respond to your complaint as soon as possible.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TALKING GOURDS PRESENTS POET MATT HAYES AT ARROYO FEB. 3

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE – The Talking Gourds Poetry Club presents St. Louis native Matt Hayes as guest poet this first Tuesday of the month, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at Arroyo's in Telluride.

Autistic from birth, Hayes has been communicating since age 5 through a process of Facilitated Communication that has led to his pioneering work with the Supported Typing movement. At age six, he wrote his first poem, "Trapped in Silence." He's been a member of the St. Louis Poetry Society since age 15.

Currently the subject of a PBS documentary on autism, Hayes is "eager to build bridges between artists and neurotypical individuals everywhere." (Neurotypical is an abbreviation of neurologically typical – a term coined in the autistic community as a label for people who are not on the autism spectrum). His primary writing focus is poetry. The theme this month is "Bridges".

Following Club announcements and Hayes' performance, the group will take a

short break, after which the gourd will be passed around the room to give Club members and attendees a chance to read poems from the monthly theme. Shared pieces may be the reader's own or the work of a favorite writer. Next month, Erika Moss Gordon and Leigh Robertson of Ridgway will be Talking Gourds' guest poets in Telluride and Montrose, and the theme will be "Divinely Human."

Talking Gourds is a program of the Telluride Institute in partnership with the Wilkinson Library, the Montrose Regional Library, Between the Covers Bookstore, Ah Haa School for the Arts, Telluride Arts District, Arroyo Telluride and the newly formed Telluride Literary Arts. Members meet monthly, on first-Tuesday evenings, at Arroyo Fine Art Gallery & Wine Bar at 220 E. Colorado Ave. beginning at 6 p.m. (next door to Ace Hardware). Except for February, the same guests will appear at the Montrose Regional Library's Open Mic the next evening. For more info: <www.montroselibrary.org/event/open-mic-10>



Matt Hayes, a poet since age 6 despite Autism, will present at Arroyo Feb. 3. Courtesy photo.

Talking Gourds is indebted to generous donations by Audrey Marnoy, Peter Waldor and the Montrose Friends of the Library. Call 970-729-0220 or visit the Gourds website <talkinggourds.weebly.com> for more info.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM'S CHRIS BARTH WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP

COLORADO-Chris Barth with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Montrose, Colorado has been awarded a 2015 Fire Adapted Communities Fire Service Leadership Award.

Established in 2014 in response to an overwhelming number of great wildfire mitigation program efforts across the nation, the Wildfire Mitigation Awards are the highest national honor one can receive for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire preparedness and mitigation.

The Wildfire Mitigation Awards are jointly sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the USDA Forest Service.

The three categories for the awards include:

Community Wildfire Preparedness Pioneer
Fire Adapted Communities Fire Service Leadership
Wildfire Mitigation Innovation

These awards are designed to recognize outstanding service in wildfire preparedness and safety across a broad spectrum of activities and among a variety of individuals and organizations. By honoring their achievements, the award sponsors also seek to increase public recognition and awareness of the value of wildfire mitigation efforts.

Barth will be honored at the IAFC [Wildland-Urban Interface Conference \(WUI\)](#) in Reno, Nevada on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

CHILI COOK-OFF AND SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT 2015 MHS SENIOR SAFE GRADUATION PARTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join us for a chili cook-off contest on Saturday Jan. 31st from 6-9 p.m. at 2 Rascals Brewery. Enter your chili for a \$10 charge and guests can make a donation to taste and judge or just eat. Prizes will be given for 1st-3rd places. Call Amy Rowan to register - 970-275-5251.

WINTER FALL PREVENTION TIPS FROM DELTA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



Peg Parmenter.
Courtesy image.

By Peg Parmenter, RN, Nurse Trauma Coordinator, Emergency Department, Delta County Memorial Hospital

Special to the Mirror
DELTA-Winter has finally found us here in Delta County. What comes with cold and snow during the winter are slippery conditions from snow and ice. Here are some thoughts on how to be safe in the winter walking conditions.

Choose appropriate clothing for going out of doors; during bad weather, start with avoiding boots and shoes with smooth soles and heels.

Choose shoes or boots that the sole will provide traction and stability in the snow and ice. Boots that are made with a non-slip rubber or neoprene sole are the best for traction.

Wear a heavy, bulky coat that will provide some cushion if you were to fall.

When out walking, make sure drivers can

see you. Wear a bright scarf or hat to be easily seen.

Covering your ears to remain warm is important, but be sure that you can hear what is going on around you.

Wear your sunglasses. They protect you against the winter sun but also help you see better and avoid hazards.

As you walk over ice here are some ideas to keep yourself safe:

As the temperature drops, be aware that the dark areas on pavement can easily be black ice.

The dew or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces, which form what appears to be a wet spot on the pavement; it can be a nearly invisible layer of ice. Approach with caution.

As the sidewalks and the cross walks are cleared, try to stay on them. Avoid large piles of snow and other frozen areas.

The shortcuts can be hazardous, with little or no traction. As you approach a hill, you may have to go to the side and use the grassy edge for the needed traction.

As you walk, bend slightly and keep your

center of balance over your feet as much as possible.

Keep your arms loose and at your side to ensure a more balanced posture.

Carrying a load such as sacks of groceries will off-set your balance, if you must, keep the load small, and make more trips.

As much as possible keep your hands out of your pockets. Having your hands out of your pocket assists in keeping your center of balance. Your hand and arms will help you break a fall if you start to slip.

Watch where you step and go SLOWLY. You will have a better reaction time if you do start to fall.

Always use the hand rail if going up steps, placing your feet firmly on each step.

Getting into and out of a vehicle can be hazardous, so use the vehicle for support as you enter and exit, and watch out for icy patches in parking area.

Do the shuffle as you walk, it helps with stability.

As we are hit with cold snowy, icy conditions we can keep ourselves safer just with a few thoughts as we venture out of doors.

WEST CENTRAL WOMEN OF INFLUENCE...JUDGE SANDRA MILLER



Delta County Judge Sandra Miller. Courtesy photo.

Interview by Gail Marvel

DELTA-A resident and practicing attorney on the Western Slope since 1991, Sandra Miller has practiced law in both the public and private sectors. In March of 2001 she was appointed to the bench as Delta County Judge, where her work load includes civil, criminal (misdemeanor and felony) and traffic offenses in Delta County.

Judge Miller traces her leadership skills back to being a responsible person. "People start delegating and putting you in charge of things when they see you are responsible." In high school her willingness to volunteer in sports and clubs led to more responsibility. Her workload in college left little time to volunteer, however

once in the work environment she found doors of opportunity, "In the workplace there are so many thing not being done; there is always a need for someone to be in charge."

In her solo law practice everything depended on having a good rapport with others. "I was fortunate to work with a lot of terrific people. They were talented and good at their jobs and assisted me in doing my job." However, she found a different situation in government where she had to work with a lot of people. "State requirements have an amazing amount of regulations and there is more administration required in the government setting. I was really surprised that the main part of my job as a judge is to be a manager and an administrator." Judge Miller gives high marks to her clerks who often teach her how to do her job better. "My clerks share all sorts of info and that collaboration helps us do the right thing the first time."

Two styles of leadership are needed in the performance of Judge Miller's duties. "In the courtroom I am more authoritative. It's important for people to understand my directions and why I'm doing what I'm doing. I must be clear, unequivocal and communicate effectively. I follow the law, but any discretion must follow a logical flow."

Drug court, implemented in 2001, is a unique type of setting. "I get input from all interested parties, each with different perspectives on the same situation. The administrative part of the job is collaborative

and we come up with a course of action that is individualized."

Judge Miller has an interesting take on gender issues. "I would say that usually any sort of discrimination is an excuse because someone is not happy with what you are doing." She laughed, "Rather than being a target of discrimination, people unhappy with my rulings often think I am discriminating against them!" Those unhappy with a ruling look for an explanation and at times attribute her decisions to emotions, gender, or feminism.

Judges are frequently under review from jurists, litigants, law enforcement and attorneys. In Judge Miller's first performance review three different litigants wrote comments, "She hates women. She hates men. She hates dogs." The judge laughed, "They were all on the same survey! Different biases right next to one another — all because they didn't like my decision."

The Judicial Code of Ethics limits Judge Miller's participation in organizations outside of the judicial world. "I can't be involved with any group or organization that does fundraising or political activities." As an example, the judge can be a greeter at her church, but she cannot be on their fundraising committee.

Judge Miller's advice to leaders: "It's crucial to find a good role model; someone who is positive and knows how to overcome adversity. Good mentoring may be harder to find in a rural community, but a mentor doesn't have to be a peer.



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RE-ENACTORS COMING TO DELTA SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT from pg 1

to educate, entertain and inspire.

"There will be a Civil War encampment at Confluence Park," Lucy said, "and we have re-enactors coming from the Front Range. This will be a high-quality event--these re-enactors take their hobby very seriously. They will interact with the public in period costumes and clothing, and they will visit with educators and students in the public schools as well as home-schooled students on Friday. Expect musket drills, Civil War -era music by a regional brass band, even period artillery if all goes as planned, Lucy said.

"We hope everyone will come down and experience the encampment, and gain hands-on experience," Lucy said. "It's free to the public, and everything you experience will be a reproduction of something that was actually seen and used during the Civil War."

Civilian re-enactors coming from Nashville will portray little-known civilian aspects of the War--though details have not yet been confirmed, two possibilities include experts on media from the 1860's and morticians of that era, Lucy said. Members of the public are not only welcomed, but are encouraged to wear period attire themselves. Those in need of costumes can contact [Jodi Ellis-Nolan](#), a re-enactor who rents attire at very reasonable prices, Lucy said.

"She can get you a wardrobe that will help you get in the mood," he said.

Friday night's activities will culminate with a banquet consisting of authentic Civil War fare prepared by local eateries. Civil War Era recipes include, surprisingly, Macaroni and Cheese, Lucy said.

"They also liked pound cake," he noted, and added that the tickets for the banquet will be \$15. Keynote speaker Dr. James Robertson, Professor Emeritus of Virginia Tech, is among the nation's top 10 Civil War historians, he said.

"We are pleased and fortunate to have Dr. Robertson speak," Lucy said.

And on Saturday, re-enactors portraying President and Mary Todd Lincoln will attend the Sesquicentennial after spending Friday speaking to schoolchildren and educators.

"On Saturday, there will be a reception and coffee with Mr. Lincoln, probably around 10 a.m.," Lucy said. "That afternoon, there will be a Victorian Tea hosted by Mary Todd Lincoln, and that evening she will present a one-act play, talking about what her life was like after the assassination."

Also in attendance will be a re-enactor who specializes in the role of Civil War

Chaplain.

"He interprets the role of Chaplain through tasks, such as letters home and ministering to the soldiers," Lucy said, "He also preaches sermons from the 1860's verbatim--from a number of denominations, Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian. On Sunday, he will visit different churches and re-enact there."

So far, the committee has raised around \$7,000 of the \$20,000 they need to put on the event. Much of that was accomplished with sales of a Domino's discount pizza card that can be used in Montrose or Delta, Lucy said, but locals will have a chance to eat spaghetti for the cause as well.

"We will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in Fellowship Hall at the Delta Methodist Church on Feb. 13," he said, "starting at 6 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 at the door, or you can buy them in advance from Brad Davis at Davis Clothing, 234-8758. If you purchase a ticket for the spaghetti dinner, if you plan to attend the various venues during the sesquicentennial--the banquet, the Lincoln reception, or the tea, you will get a dollar off the ticket price for those."

As the event draws near, additional volunteers will be needed to pick re-enactors up and drive them to their hotels, he added. Though putting on a major Civil War Commemorative event takes hard work, Lucy does not appear to mind. And while he probably won't walk to Olathe in period dress this year, he may ride there on horseback with a group of friends, he said.

"This is a real passion for me," he said. "Our mission is to educate, both the general public and the education community, about the Civil War in general and about various aspects and components of the War, such as the role of the Territory of Colorado--there were active Civil War engagements here, for example the Battle of Glorieta Pass."

That battle, which took place March 26-28, 1862, played a decisive role in the War's outcome, according to the [Civil War](#) web site, which aims to raise funds for the preservation of Civil War battlefields. The Battle of Glorieta Pass--in which Federal forces turned back Confederate troops attempting to reach and control Colorado's gold and silver as well as the terminus of the transcontinental railroad--is commonly referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West." It was here that Federal forces were finally able to turn back the Southern invasion of New Mexico, notes the site, which also includes a detailed account of the battle by Rio Rancho New Mexico Historian Don Alberts.



Pictured above, a soldier plays banjo at the 2013 Sesquicentennial event in Delta.

"We are excited to be able to offer such a program in Delta County honoring the Civil War Sesquicentennial," Delta Historical Museum Director Jim Wetzel said of this year's program, "and to bring with it a public awareness regarding the fact that Colorado did, in fact, play a major role in the events leading to the conclusion of the conflict. The Delta County Historical Society is bringing to Delta some of the nation's leading Civil war historians for this event, and that, alone, makes this program worth attending."

"The Battle of Glorieta could then be seen as a clear Union tactical and strategic victory," Alberts wrote... "The Rebels soon retreated back to Texas, never to return, and the Battle of Glorieta truly represented the high-water mark of the Confederate invasion of Federal territory in the Far West, and, in that context, although much smaller than the more famous eastern battle fought a year later, it can easily be seen as the Gettysburg of the West."

Locals who know little of the Colorado's Civil War-era history can learn more by attending the Sesquicentennial event in May and interacting with history buffs and experts.

"We hope to generate many conversations," Keith Lucy said.

To contribute to Sesquicentennial event fundraising efforts, contact the Delta County Historical Society/Museum, 251 Meeker Street, Delta, CO 81416 or call Lucy at 970-433-1650.

Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—My visit to Saint Mary Catholic Church took place on Sept. 7, 2014. The greeter was warm and welcoming and when I asked for a bulletin Bess said, “Oh, you’ll get that later. Just go on in.”

The worship leader, who was positioned off to the side of the platform, clearly announced the selected hymns, which were sung a cappella (without instruments). Her strong voice filled the sanctuary and could be heard above that of the congregation.

There were no introductions of leaders or participants, however I did recognize Jay Austin as doing the reading from Ezekiel, and I assume the reading from Romans was presented by someone I could have only guessed was Mrs. Austin.

The denomination handles the physical Word of God, the Bible, with respect and reverence; and ritual, liturgy, confession and sacraments are large components of worship. The ambiance of the parish is a blend of old stained glass windows, with the new spacious sanctuary. The seating, which is horseshoe-shaped, allows you to make eye contact with others across the way and gives a feeling of connectedness.

The gist of the message, which I assume

was presented by Reverend Mark Bettinger, was about sin and forgiveness. The pastor said, “We don’t like to admit that we ourselves are sinners — we’d rather judge others.” Expounding on forgiveness, the pastor noted God’s forgiveness is there for us, but that we have no concrete feeling for it. “We don’t have a true feeling of forgiveness ... when others sin we treat them badly, even when they have confessed.” An indicator of whether or not we have forgiven someone is how we treat them. Behavior which tells us we have not forgiven others is, “giving them a cold shoulder, looking at them with disdain, and avoiding them.”

Much of the service entailed liturgy and while the congregational responses are memorized by Catholics, they are foreign to those of us from different denominations. When the reverend began the recognizable Lord’s Prayer it was like, *I’ve got this!* I rejoiced too soon because two times in the middle of the prayer the pastor deviated from the text, inserted his own words, and then picked up again where he left off in the original prayer. I was, however, able to join fellow worshippers in the “Amen.”

The offering was collected in baskets which were passed throughout the congrega-

tion. The reverend presided over the sacraments, but eight members from the congregation aided in serving the emblems to the more than 400 people in attendance. Those participating in communion proceeded row by row to the front of the sanctuary where they received an individual piece of bread representing Christ’s body; and the fruit of the vine, representing Christ’s blood, was served from shared chalices.

The service concluded with some members leaving during the final hymn selection. I exited and the pastor said, “Have a good day” as we shook hands. Then I had to laugh when my greeter, Bess, handed me the 10-page newsletter/bulletin which contained names of officiates, weekly activities and announcements.

The last page of the newsletter was unique in that it accommodated local business advertising with a church banner that said, “Support our Advertisers — Check the ads on this page before you check the yellow pages.”

Contact information:
Saint Mary Catholic Church
1855 St. Mary’s Drive
Montrose, Co 81401
Phone 970-249-3319

Speaking to the disciples of John the Baptist, Jesus said, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see ...” (Matt 11:4 NIV).

To our readers: Though Montrose writer Gail Marvel does belong to a local church, she is interested in the other houses of worship here in town as well. With this column, Gail will share her experiences as she visits local churches and congregations to learn more about them. Gail wrote a church newsletter for years, and has published her work in a number of Christian publications including *The Lookout*, *Christian Standard*, *Discipleship Journal* and *The Christian Communicator*.

SMOKE, SMELLS FROM LOMO PLANT UPSET NEIGHBORS From pg 1



Prairie Dog Treats should be in an industrial Park, neighbor Robert Morales said, where it won't ruin lives.

146 West Main this winter, though no concerns or fire safety issues have surfaced.

"The facility does put off a lot of smoke," Rowan said. "We have been called there for possible structure fires, though we have no concerns and have found no issues from a fire safety standpoint. Whatever the manufacturing process is, the smoke appears to be coming from the building itself when really it is coming out above."

Calls to company owner Ira Goldfarb, who is currently in Texas, were not returned. However, neighbor Robert Morales, who lives in an adjacent home purchased by his father in the 1930's, believes that the facility has no business being located so close to a residential neighborhood.

Morales, who spent 44 years with the City of Montrose where he served as street superintendent, said he is quite familiar with the rules and regulations that should be applied to Prairie Dog Treats. He cites the City's own [municipal code](#), section 4-4-25, non-conforming uses, which dictates that non-conforming uses such as the Prairie Dog Treats facility are required to provide adequate off-street parking and must not generate light, noise, odor, vibration or other effects which would unreasonably interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of adjacent property. In addition, landscaping of the grounds and the architecture of any buildings must be reasonably compatible with that existing in the neighborhood.

"Two years ago, they were zoned B-2, and now they are B-2-A, a regional commercial district," Morales said. "There are things you can do and build in that zone--and they apply only to that building. But regulations say it can't be there if it is going to ruin lives."

Morales contends that his own quality of life and that of his family--including his

elderly mother--has been heavily diminished by the presence of a manufacturing facility next door that releases constant smoke and odors.

"I have been complaining to the City for two years, but nothing happens," he said. "The first year, there was a heavy bacon smell. Then it was changed to sweet potatoes, and now it is chicken--when you go outside, it is constant. And there is so much smoke, the Fire Department has shown up two times this week--they came today at 6 a.m."

"You can't see the smoke from West Main," he said, "but here on First Street, it covers the whole sky--and there is something in the building that sounds like an airplane all night long."

"We have lots of veterans around here, and many are in their 80's," said Morales, who stated that he has even carried a petition protesting the negative impacts of the Prairie Dog Treats Company, signed by 12 neighbors, to City Council.

"We can't go sit outside and enjoy it when the weather's nice, because that smell is always there--and in the summer, there is a huge problem with flies," he said.

Minutes from the Montrose City Council meeting of Nov. 5, 2012, reflect that initially the City's request for a change of zoning from B-2 to B-2A of the 12,000 property, which is owned by Nevada Corporation B.I.G. Main Street Properties, LLC, was denied by Council after the City's Planning Commission recommended denial, though Community development Director Kerwin Jensen recommended approval and stated that the zoning change would conform to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

It was noted at the time that adjacent neighbors had registered concerns about parking. Among those who spoke out was Mike Thorpe of Summit West, which owns Sampler Square. According to the meeting minutes, Mr. Thorpe expressed concern regarding the process for conditional use approval and asked Council to consider stipulating that a public process would oversee the conditional use permit process. No rebuttal was offered to Thorpe's comments, the minutes note.

Also according to the meeting minutes, "City Manager Bill Bell spoke on behalf of the applicant which is the City of Montrose. Mr. Bell stated that the staff report addressed the reasons behind the application but did not address the economic state of the City and the need to transform this section of the city for the long term. Ap-

proval of the rezone would bring other property owners out of nonconforming use. Mr. Bell emphasized that the rezone would not adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the community."

Testimony in favor of the request was accepted, and the minutes also state: "Scott Stephens, representing the property owner, explained the nature of the proposed business to manufacture smoked dog treats under the name Prairie Dog Treats. Mr. Stephens indicated that odor and noise would not be an issue and reviewed the economic benefits of the business including the addition of up to 60 jobs by the end of 2013 at the location in question. Mayor Smits recused himself due to his employment at Wells Fargo, a previous owner of the property in question, to avoid the appearance of a conflict. Mayor Smits left the meeting, and Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files resumed the hearing."

Despite the initial denial, however, the minutes of the Jan. 2, 2013 City Council meeting show that Council, which at the time consisted of Bob Nicholson, Kathy Ellis, Thomas Smits, Judy Ann Files and Carol McDermott, were asked to approve Ordinance 2313, amending the zoning district designation for the 146 West Main property from B2, Highway Commercial District, to B2A, regional commercial district. After a motion was made by Kathy Ellis and second by Carol McDermott, Council approved the request.

Storm drain issues have been a strong focus of City manager Bill Bell's public information reports in recent months, with Bell repeatedly warning citizens not to shovel snow onto City streets.

However, the Prairie Dog Treats manufacturing facility repeatedly misuses storm drains in the neighborhood without repercussion, Morales said.

"They wash the grease out of the building and down the alley," he said. "For the past two years, you have been able to smell sewage coming from the drains."

"We have a flooding problem here on some days," he said, "When the water runs downhill, it floods the whole block--but do you see anything being done to our streets? Do you see any sidewalks for the kids here to walk safely on? As street superintendent, I was very involved with storm water drainage," he recalled. "I once had to ask a local company to hand shovel mud they had gotten on streets at Cobble Creek. I used to tell people they could not do certain things," Morales said.

"But I guess you can do anything you want in Montrose now."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Montrose County School District RE-1J is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the following Montrose School District managed memorial scholarships funds:

The Francis and Lucy Bockhaus Memorial Scholarship is a five-year renewable award for 2015 graduating seniors from any Montrose County high school who demonstrate financial need. The due date for this scholarship is April 10.

The Jerry Brown Memorial Scholarship is a two-year renewable award for an MHS 2015 graduating senior, with preference given to students who plan to study music or are interested in political science; other areas of study also will be given consideration. The due date for this schol-

arship is April 15.

The Ruby Demoret Memorial Scholarship is a four-year renewable award for 2015 graduating seniors who are residents of the Montrose or Gunnison counties of Colorado, have completed no less than three grades in attendance at schools in Montrose or Gunnison counties and who demonstrate financial need. The due date for this scholarship is March 13.

The Ethan Pleasant Johnson Memorial Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship for 2015 graduating seniors from Montrose and Olathe High Schools who plan to pursue a degree in an agricultural-related field of study. The due date for this scholarship is

April 15. The Kelly Frank-Shannon McKee Memorial Scholarship is a two-

year renewable award for a 2015 MHS graduating senior who has been active in MHS sports and activities. The due date for this scholarship is March 24.

The William Arthur Lingham-Harriette Marie Collins Lingham Memorial Scholarship is a non-renewable scholarship for anyone who has attended an MCS D RE-1J school k-12 for a minimum of one year. There is no maximum age and a high school diploma is not required. Preference is given to so students pursuing a vocational, technical or community college or training program. The due date for this scholarship is March 6. Applications and more information on each of these scholarships are available at the guidance offices of Montrose High School and Olathe High School.

CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is seeking information about a burglary that occurred Sunday night 1/11/15 at 6:50 p.m., at Diamond G Repair (65790 Racine Road #3). An unknown suspect broke into the property and stole \$500 to \$800 cash from the business. Officials are looking for a light colored sedan with chrome rims (make and model unknown). Anyone with information about the suspects or the location of the stolen property can call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 249-8500. Information that leads to an arrest can earn the caller up to \$1,000 in cash.

For Sale: Kids stuff.
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MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE



Museum of the Mountain West is two miles east of Montrose on Hwy 50. Courtesy image.

By John W. Nelson

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--I for one was not a history buff growing up and during my years in Phoenix. After all, who cared what the founders of this nation and our region did 150 years ago? That was then and this is now, or so I thought. We on the Western Slope are blessed with a number of fine museums, but none better than the Museum of the Mountain West, located two miles East of Montrose on U.S. Hwy 50. With more than 500,000 individual artifacts and 27 separate original buildings, it

shows us what life was like in the late 1800's and early 1900's. As a child, more than seven decades ago, I learned about history by a few photos and paragraphs in a text book. The experience was totally unremarkable. At the Museum, you walk into the blacksmith's shop and see the actual tools and processes of the era. You walk through the fully-stocked drug store and see the selections from more than a hundred years ago. The school, the church, the general store and each of the other remarkable buildings let you see and feel history, not just read about it.

While the movies give a distorted view of the era when Butch Cassidy robbed a Telluride bank, the Museum has his original saddle and chaps. We have all seen at least one of the 20 plus versions of Custer's Last Stand at the Little Bighorn, known to the Lakotas as the Battle of Greasy Grass, and the Museum has Indian firearms that may have actually been used in that fight. The Museum Director, Richard Fike, is a renowned archaeologist who actually retrieved artifacts from that monumental battle. He personally recovered many of the artifacts housed in the 10,000-square-foot main building of the Museum.

Since its founding in 1997, the Museum of the Mountain West has become nationally and internationally known as an outstanding attraction in our region. Recent emails and [TripAdvisor](#) comments all praise this historical attraction, with a Moscow family saying that their recent visit was "one of the most remarkable events of this year." In one recent 30 day period, visitors from 45 separate countries toured this remarkable attraction. To ensure authenticity for his 1870s movie, "Hateful 8," movie producer Quentin Tarantino recently rented a number of Museum artifacts for use in his production near Telluride. Kurt Russell and Samuel L. Jackson are two of the many stars in this film due to be released in November.

For an authentic trip back in history, visit the Museum of the Mountain West, two miles East of Montrose on U.S. 50. To make a tax deductible donation, volunteer or learn more, call 970-240-3400 or visit www.museumofthemountainwest.org.

HONORABLE MENTION

To the family and friends of the young Re-IJ student who died at Crested Butte Mt. Resort Friday, and the entire Olathe community. Our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of unimaginable heartbreak and loss.

To the Hild Family and Cork's Liquors, for so many years of generous support for community programs and events...

To Jamie and Sarah Berndt, for working so hard at the Riddled Raven...a great local eatery that will be SO missed...

...and to the museums, collectors, scholars, authors, re-enactors, volunteers, educators and readers who help to keep our history alive so that future generations have an idea who came before!

BOCC APPROVES UNLICENSED OHV'S/ATV'S ON 25 MESA ROAD, APPROVES JUNK ORDINANCE

By Sandra Tyler
Government Reporter

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Board of Commissioners met on Jan. 20. The BOCC approved items 1-9 rapidly, as no input was provided from those present. Input was received on items 10-13. Most of those present at the meeting were waiting for the final items 15 and 16. The highlight of the meeting was the last item, the Ordinance No. 2015-3 to adopt to regulate rubbish and junk within Montrose County to preserve and improve the health, safety, and welfare of Montrose County citizens.

Following are a list of agenda items and actions taken:

1. Connie Pittenger will fulfill Rick Fellabaum's term on the Montrose County Housing Authority Board of Directors. Pittenger was selected as representative for the Montrose City Council at their 01/06/2015 meeting to serve on the Board of Directors with a term to expire 01/01/2019.

2. Lance Michaels was appointed (interviewed on 10/28/2015) to the Region 10 Loan Committee to fulfill Linda Riba's term with an expiration of 01/01/2016.

3. An amendment to the 2015 Volume Discount between Waste Management and the City of Montrose Public previously approved on 01/05/2015.

4. The Chairman's signature on an Inter-governmental Agreement between San Miguel County Department of Social Services and Montrose County Social Services to provide child support enforcement services, effective 01/20/2015 through 12/31/2015; this represents budgeted revenue in the amount of \$9,600.00.

5. The Chairman's signature on a Purchase of Service Agreement between Montrose County School District and Montrose County Health and Human Services to provide basic adult education services, effective 01/20/2015 through 06/30/2015. This represents budgeted revenue in the amount of \$5,523.00.

6. The Chairman's signature on a Purchase of Service Agreement between Hilltop Community Resources, Inc. and Montrose County Health and Human Services to provide job placement services, effective 01/20/2015 through 06/30/2015. This represents budgeted revenue of up to \$89,719.00.

7. The Chairman's signature on an Inter-governmental Agreement between Ouray County Department of Social Services and Montrose County Social Services to provide child support enforcement services,

effective 01/20/2015 through 12/31/2015. This represents budgeted revenue in the amount of \$4,800.00.

8. The Chairman's signature on the notice of cancellation of provision of services to Gunnison County by Montrose County Health and Human Services for environmental health services, effective 06/30/2015. This represents budgeted revenue in the amount of \$42,722.00 before 06/30/2015.

9. The Chairman's signature on the Memorandum of Agreement for the provision of environmental health services to Ouray County by Montrose County Health and Human Services, effective 01/20/2015 through 12/31/2015. This represents budgeted revenue in the amount of \$10,000.00.

10. After input from Don Angell, the Chairman's signature on the Ambulance Service License and Permits for Nucla/Naturita Fire Protection District for (three) ambulances for 2015 renewal. Appropriate Insurance Certificates and State required inspections have been received.

11. After input from Don Angell, the Chairman's signature on the Ambulance Service License and Permits for Norwood Fire District for (two) ambulances for 2015 renewal. Appropriate Insurance Certificates and State required inspections have been received.

12. After input from Duane Ziegler, the Chairman's signature on the RESOLUTION adopting and entering into a Trust Agreement for the Colorado Firefighter Heart and Circulatory Benefits Trust. By entering into this Agreement, Montrose County will meet the insurance requirements of C.R.S. 29-5-302, effective 01/01/2015 through 06/30/2015 and is effective again on 07/01/2015, as reviewed by Counsel. This represents a reimbursed expense in the amount of \$875.00 annually. The \$875.00 is reimbursed from the State through a DOLA grant at 100 percent for as long as the funds are available.

13. The RESOLUTION regarding the deposit of funds relevant to Montrose County Treasurer, Rosemary Murphy, Pursuant to C.R.S. 30-10-708.

14. Each of the Commissioners received from Reed Mitchell of the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees the hospital's Semi-Annual Report pursuant to C.R.S. 25-3-304(2). Another copy was presented to staff and two more are to be forthcoming for staff.

15. The Board's signature on the second and final reading of the ORDINANCE NO. 2015-02, amending the County's

Model Traffic Code by authorizing the use of unlicensed off-highway vehicles and all-terrain vehicles on 25 Mesa Road. Scott Riba provided input into Sec. 1A regarding width of vehicles allowed and suggested that a side-by-side vehicle should be included; suggested additions to descriptions of vehicles and existing language would eliminate side by side vehicles; suggested changes to the language about helmets state regulations do not require helmets. Since this was the second and final reading, the Commissioners approved the ordinance with the intended modifications from Mr. Riba.

16. The highlight of the meeting was the last item the Ordinance No. 2015-3 to adopt to regulate rubbish and junk within Montrose County to preserve and improve the health, safety, and welfare of Montrose County citizens. Input was provided by Steve White, Planning and Development Director and Code Enforcement Officer; Nancy Medlock, the individual who started the action; Liz Scadden, who had met and worked with both Sheriff Rick Dunlap and with Steve White in 2009; Toni Woodrum, resident in Aspen Cove subdivision; Roger Brown, who lives near a similar property; Rob Smith, Olathe Mayor; and Sheriff Rick Dunlap. The effort began with a petition signed by 33 residents from the 42 homes in Aspen Cove. Ms. Medlock testified that she had gone to 60 other subdivisions and photographed "junk" properties (but her dog chewed up the camera) and that her home can only be sold for \$30,000 below the original price she paid. If all 42 homes in the subdivision are similarly appraised, this reduces the property taxes of those homes by \$1,000,000 and becomes lost revenue to the County budget that can potentially reduce services that improve the health, safety, and welfare of County residents. Scott Riba testified that the language be crafted more precisely in Sec. 3.3.1, Sec. 4.2, Sec. 9, and Sec. 10. Further discussion occurred from the Commissioners. The consensus was that this ordinance is needed and enforcement will be slow and drawn out as government goes per Commissioner David White. White stated that it was important to avoid abuse of power by government agencies/officers. Those present were reminded that this was the first reading and that a publication and second reading would occur.

REPORTER'S NOTE-Watch for a 4-part series on the BOCC similar to that written about the City Council and the Montrose DDA.



Caring for people with dementia through Validation communication

Volunteers
of America®

What is **VALIDATION**?

Validation is a way of caring for and communicating with older adults who are often diagnosed as having Alzheimer's-type dementia.

Validation is the foundation of the comprehensive dementia services provided by Volunteers of America. As an Authorized Validation Organization, we offer focused tools and resources that empower caregivers at home as well as those in senior communities. Our passion is to positively impact the quality of life for those with dementia.

Visit **www.voavalidation.org** for more information on Validation and **www.voahealthservices.org** for a list of providers in Western Colorado.

www.facebook.com/VOAWesternSlope



ARTS AND CULTURE

WEEHAWKEN PRESENTS BETH PAULSON: FOUR MORE FASCINATING FORMS FOR POEMS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Weehawken presents: Four More Fascinating Forms for Poems- with Beth Paulson.

Beginning Wednesday February 4th, express your creative side through writing. Instructor Beth Paulson is leading a four week installment of a creative writing class titled, Four More Fascinating Forms of Poems. Offered through Weehawken Creative Arts, this is a word-shop for both writers and readers. Writers throughout the ages and across the world have devised poetic forms to both challenge themselves and to provide scaffolding for their crea-

tive thoughts. Contemporary writers have continued to invent new forms for their writing and the ears of readers and writers always take notice of rhyme and pattern in poetry.

All you need to bring to this word-shop is the ability to attend and observe what's in your daily life along with the willingness to let your imagination and ideas flow as you try your hand at writing in some new and old forms. After the conclusion of the word-shop, each person will receive one copy of an anthology of poems written by class members.

This class is for ages 16 and up and will

be held from 12:30 pm-2:30pm, every Wednesday from February 4th to February 25th at Weehawken Ridgway- The Old School House. The cost of the class is \$75.

Please contact Weehawken Creative Arts for more information at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150) or questions@weehawkenarts.org or www.weehawkenarts.org.

For more information please contact Weehawken Creative Arts at questions@weehawkenarts.org; call Weehawken at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150) or visit them at www.weehawkenarts.org or [facebook.com/weehawkenarts](https://www.facebook.com/weehawkenarts).

COME
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Homestead

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\$500
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JAN 31 2015

Enjoy peace of mind when a loved one - or you - becomes part of our family at the Homestead, a small 50-apartment, assisted-living care community with a warm and homelike setting that provides many levels of care personalized to each resident's evolving needs.

Call today to schedule a visit: 970-252-9359

Or email Executive Director Denise Swanson:
dswanson@voa.org

The Homestead at Montrose
1819 Pavilion Drive, Montrose CO 81401

 **Volunteers
of America**

XNLV193679



Department of Health & Human Services
Environmental Health
1845 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
970 252 5000



Food Safety Classes ***Offered by Montrose County Health and Human Services***

Our 2 ½ hour class provides basic food safety knowledge in order to prevent food borne illness. You and your staff will learn how to keep your food and customers safe.

2015 Schedule

Tuesday, January 13th

Tuesday, February 10th

Tuesday, March 10th

Tuesday, April 14th

Tuesday, May 12th

Tuesday, June 9th

NO July class

Tuesday, August 11th

Tuesday, September 8th

Tuesday, October 13th

Tuesday, November 10th

NO December class

Steps to Follow

1. Preregister by calling 252-5043 or 252-5067.
2. Bring \$10 payment per person to the class, either check or cash.

Class Location and Time

In Friendship Hall kitchen - Montrose County Fairgrounds
2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Those completing the class will receive a wallet size class participation certificate.



CITY BEAT: FOOD BANK, CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH TO EXPAND



The Jan. 19 Montrose City Council work session. Photo by Sandra Tyler.

By Sandra Tyler

Government Reporter

2/19 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

During the work session the City Council was introduced to Jeff Brewer, part-time Network Analyst, and also Andrew Boyko, Assistant City Attorney. Then the Council moved into their agenda for 2/20/15. The City Council supported Resolution 2015-03 with a request that Sharing Ministries revisit the BOCC for a request to increase their \$5,000 support to match that of Montrose proper since 76 percent of recipients live in Montrose County. The remaining 24 percent is distributed to various food pantries and non-profit programs in Delta, San Miguel, Ouray, and Gunnison Counties. In 2013 alone, Sharing Ministries distributed 811,328 pounds of food to 70,997 client visits. All recipients are qualified by national poverty level standards. 99.9 percent of all the families they served were at or below poverty level. Sharing Ministries has already raised \$270,000 towards the project. See their website at sharingministries.com.

2/20/2015 CITY COUNCIL SESSION

During the City Council session, there was no public comment. The consent agenda items were all approved by unanimous vote: the 1/5/15 minutes, the purchase of a Sole Source Waiver for two replacement

Ultra Tech System, Inc. Ultraviolet Disinfections Modules for use at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for \$72,565; the list of City-owned property for disposal at auction; and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the City of Montrose, and the Montrose DDA for participation in the DOLA Main Street Program between 1/5/15-12/31/15.

The YOUTH COUNCIL was one of the highlights of the evening. All 10 members wearing matching blue shirts each gave a short progress report of their positions and projects for the year. Ms. Tina Woodrum was present and was commended by the Council and those present with applause for her excellent direction of the Youth Council.

RESOLUTION 2015-03. The Sharing Ministries Resolution was read in its entirety. The new proposed Sharing Ministries facility will be approximately 9,000 sq. ft. (current is 3200 sf.), be energy efficient, have handicapped accessible, public restrooms, an indoor waiting space for recipients instead of outside in heat and cold, will provide much-needed space for administrative offices and volunteers, and will adequately meet the growing needs. Located on their owned property at 49 N. 1st Street, the facility will have enough space on the inside of the warehouse to store and rotate the food, thereby, eliminating the need for seven diesel reefers and trailers currently being used. That cost will be diverted. The new facility will also benefit the community and improve on the appearance of this section of Grand Ave.

Within the RESOLUTION, the City Council of the City of Montrose: authorized filing an application requesting up to \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to construct a food bank at 49 N. First Street. The City of Montrose will provide material, labor and equipment for base course placement and paving (\$96,568), water tap (\$2,635), sewer tap (\$6,172) for a contribution of \$105,375, plus building permit and plan check fees (estimated at \$9,857).

The council authorized the City Manager to act in connection with the application, to provide such additional information as may be required and authorized the Mayor to sign the application documents. Council unanimously adopted the Resolution. Present for Sharing Ministries were Oneda Doyal, Executive Director; Tom Vongenthaler, Vice President, long-time volunteer, and Board of Directors member; and Deborah Cooling, Secretary, and Board member. Sharing Ministries has already raised \$270,000 towards the project and owns the property for the new building.

RESOLUTION 2015-04 was unanimously passed. City Council authorized filing an application requesting up to \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to expand Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center's outpatient clinic, remodel its reception and waiting room areas, and add parking spaces at its 605 East Miami Street headquarters in Montrose; authorizing the City Manager to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required; and authorizing the Mayor to sign the application documents. See their website at cen-termh.org. Present were John Boyle, Executive Director, Janey Sorensen, Marketing Director, and Lance Lehigh, Chief Financial Officer. Janet Freed, Grant Coordinator, was recognized for her excellent assistance with the grant writing and the resolution.

City Council unanimously approved the transfer of a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License with Optional Premises at 1350 Birch Street from the City of Montrose, a Municipal Corporation, d.b.a. Black Canyon Golf Course, to Horsefly Brewing Company LLC, d.b.a. Brews and Bogey Club, for consumption on premises. Melanie Freismuth and Nigel Askew were present.

City Council unanimously approved the Cobble Creek Sub-division Phase 2 Filing No. 6 Final Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances and municipal code provisions are met and that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns

Continued next page

CITY BEAT: FOOD BANK, CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH TO EXPAND ...from page 24



Members of the City of Montrose Youth Council, shown above in matching blue shirts, spoke about their projects and goals at the City Council meeting Jan. 20. Photo by Sandra Tyler.

Company LLC, d.b.a. Brews and Bogey Club, for consumption on premises. Melanie Freismuth and Nigel Askew were present.

City Council unanimously approved the Cobble Creek Sub-division Phase 2 Filing No. 6 Final Plat expressly conditioned upon City staff ensuring that all policies, regulations, ordinances and municipal code provisions are met and that the applicant adequately addresses all of staff's concerns prior to the execution and recording of the final plat. The City staff is not authorized by this approval to execute and record the final plat before all conditions are satisfied. This parcel is 2.567 acres in size and is located east of the intersection of San Sophia Dr. & Grand Mesa Dr. as presented by Kerwin Jensen. There is a fuller report on the website for the City of Montrose under City Council Agendas.

City Council considered Ordinance 2349 on first reading, an ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, amending the zoning District Designation of 14334 6900 Rd, from "RL", Rural Living District, to "R-1A", Large Estate District as presented by Kerwin Jensen and Circle H Ranches owner, Ray Hawks. This is the first reading and the hearing. There will be a second reading. There is a fuller report on the website for the City of Montrose under City Council Agendas with maps and overhead presentations.

City Council unanimously approved the 2015 Annual Annexation Plan and Report and Three Mile Plan as presented by Kerwin Jensen. Refer to the report on the website for the City of Montrose under City Council Agendas for maps & overhead presentations.

STAFF REPORTS

The Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report through November was accepted. The report can be found on the web site cityof-montrose.org/salestax. There are also graphs comparing the last five years. There are nine very interesting graphs in the report showing Total Taxable Retail Sales for Downtown, for North Townsend, for Mid Townsend, for South Townsend, for East Main, for all other locations inside City limits, for other cities within Colorado, for cities outside Colorado, and for Home Based Businesses. The City Council thanked the Office of Business and Tourism for the results that show in this report.

Public Information Officer Report: City Manager, Bill Bell, reminded us that the East Grove widening Roadway Project to be finished in late October or early November will create several road closures but access to homes will be provided. Next, he reminded us that the Winter Baseball Exposition will be at the Pavilion 1/26/15 from 4:30-8:30. This is a fund raising event to provide 2 new scoreboards at Sunset Mesa playgrounds but donations are not required. Nate Robertson, free agent, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Bell did announce that there is a need to hire adult umpires which will cost more. For information, contact Erica Weeks at 970-249-8525. Councilors Rex Swanson and Judy Ann Files volunteered to serve pizza at the event.

Finally, Council member, David Romero thanked Virgil Turner for the assistance in getting Council members attending the Broadband Conference home from Kansas. Guess they forgot to click their ruby red slippers.

**CLICK HERE FOR THE
MONTROSE COUNTY WINTER
GARDENING CALENDAR!**



ARTS AND CULTURE

FIRST TELLURIDE FIRE FESTIVAL WAS A BLAZE OF SUCCESS!



Above, scenes from the first Annual Telluride Fire Festival: left to right—kinetic fire sculpture *El Pulpo Mecanico*; *Fractal Tribe Performer #2* (courtesy photo Ryan Bonneau); and *Phoenix Dragon of Fire #2*. Courtesy photos.

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE—The first-ever annual Telluride Fire Festival was a blazing success. The five-day event drew attendees from not only the Four Corners states but from as far away as New York, Texas, Illinois, and California.

The Festival kicked off with opening receptions at Telluride Gallery of Fine Art and *Mélange* on Wednesday night featuring fire-themed art.

Thursday evening, MarchFourth Marching Band (M4) made a surprise appearance at The Peaks Resort for the invitation-only, VIP/sponsor reception with an up-close and intimate, walk-around performance.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, Colorado Avenue (the “Main Street” of Telluride, closed to vehicular traffic) and the Mountain Village Heritage Plaza were aglow with spectacular fiery sculptures, fire art cars and fire performers. Over the three nights, Fractal Tribe (from Boulder, CO) and Dance of the Sacred Fire (from Carbondale, CO), The Dream Team (from Chicago, IL) and numerous local and regional fire dancers performed their choreographed fire dances on stages along side the art sculptures both on Main Street and in Mountain Village, as well.

Rave reviews from attendees of the event

“I was excited to support the Gala at the Mine event and it did not disappoint. Walking through the mine elevated my curiosity with surprises around every corner. Outside experiencing the intense heat from the big structure fire was captivating,” Greg Pack, President/GM Telluride Ski Resort

“Truly impressive how great the fire festival was right out of the box,” marveled Stephanie Fanos, local attorney.

Exclaimed Bryan Pope, Festival Fire Performer from Denver, CO, “Performing at the gala was such an amazing experience. I never thought raging in a mine would be

so amazing. The music was banging, the art was breathtaking, the food was superb, and that location... Man oh man! Definitely a night I will never forget.”

“Just when you think when you’ve seen everything, our creative community comes up with something new and different. I think the dynamic fire art and performances in the Mountain Village Plaza made it come alive this weekend like never before. We’re looking forward to an even bigger-and-better experience next year.” Dan Jansen, Mayor of Mountain Village, CO.

Free activities with a fiery component
The festival’s free workshops—welding, fire spinning, and fire burning rituals—were completely full. Said Erin Ries, Festival Director, “We had to close the welding, Poi, and Hoops workshops due to the overwhelming number of registrants. We plan to have more classes next year.”

Enthused local Lawry de Bivort, a welding workshop student, “The welding workshop was terrific. Jon Hubbard is a fine and patient instructor... A wonderful and uplifting experience, with a great, great group of students.” The class (taught one week in advance) created two decorative fire cauldrons, which were on display on Main Street during the Festival.

Fire installations and art cars

El Pulpo Mecanico, the 26-foot-tall brainchild of Eureka, CA, artist Duane Flatmo was one of the festival’s headliners that drew enormous crowds on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in Mountain Village. In town, Charlie and Gail Holthausen of Steamboat Springs, CO, captivated the crowds with their “Phoenix Dragon of Fire”. Charlie invited guests to punch the buttons producing the flames from the dragon’s mouth. Also on display were Keith D’Angelo’s flaming heart (from Breckenridge, CO), Jamie Vaida’s fire flowers (from Oakland, CA), and the Festival fire art car—“Shack To-Hell-You-Ride”—created by Jamie Vaida and Alvin

Sessions (of Grand Junction, CO).

Gallery shows

Telluride Gallery of Fine Art presented “Colors of Fire”, and *Mélange*, a contemporary art/design boutique, presented “The Fire Inside” both with opening receptions on January 14. Arroyo Gallery showcased renowned sculptural artist, Michael Christian (of Oakland, CA).

Evening entertainment

On Friday night, M4 (from Portland, OR) kicked off their performance at the Conference Center in the Mountain Village with a show outside that featured fire before rocking a packed house. Sunday evening, Eufórquestra (from Fort Collins, CO) made their first appearance ever at the historic Sheridan Opera House, performing an extra half-hour to a wildly enthusiastic crowd on the closing night of the Festival.

Fundraising Gala at The Mine

The main event of the Festival—the fundraising Gala on Saturday—was a fiery hit, with attendees staying on until after 4AM dancing to the groove of DJ Phoenix and LoveTribe inside The Mine. The Gala entertainment also included the high-energy quartet, Samurai Gypsies (from Santa Cruz, CA) inside at the “Club” stage, while four DJs—DJ Harry (from Denver, CO), Ryan Strangefellow (from Grand Junction, CO), and Jacob Goderski (from Telluride, CO) played outside. DJ Phoenix and LoveTribe brought down the house with the late night groove at the “Club” inside. Delicious hors d’oeuvres and chocolate truffles artfully created by Chef Elena Levin were served all evening. Guests gazed in awe at a plethora of fiery art installations by famed Burning Man artist Anton Viditz-Ward and watched the “tower” burn at midnight. For more information about the Telluride Fire Festival, to become a sponsor, volunteer, or submit a fire installation for consideration, please visit www.telluridefirefestival.org, or email erin@telluridefirefestival.org.

ARTS AND CULTURE

RIDGWAY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR CREATIVE PROGRAMS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Become an integral part of the Ridgway buzz! The Ridgway Creative District Committee and the Main Street program are both seeking enthusiastic, innovative, and committed volunteers to implement great ideas and fun strategies for making Ridgway a vibrant and exciting place to live, work, and do business. Volunteering is a great opportunity to engage with others who love Ridgway, apply your skills and experience, and/or learn and practice some new skills, while having fun.

The Creative District Committee is focused this year on developing its partnerships with other regional organizations, publishing an online directory of Creatives, adding features to its website, finding effective ways to help Creatives be

successful in our community, and continuing with the MoonWalk series. Subcommittees will be established to move the work forward, and 3-4 additional Town Council-appointed Creative District Committee members are needed as well.

The Main Street program seeks motivated volunteers to assist with outreach and support to businesses, as well as people interested in beautification, creative signage and wayfinding, historic preservation, youth involvement, and promoting Ridgway. Volunteer leadership roles with the Main Street program are open as well.

To apply send a brief letter of interest to Diedra Silbert, Town of Ridgway, PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432 or dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us, explaining how you'd like to be involved and what



Ridgway. Mirror file photo.

attracts you to volunteering. Please identify which program is of most interest to you. Or call Diedra at 970-626-5308 x.215 for more information.

2015 Health Fair

Early Blood Draws

Montrose Pavilion
February 4, 5, 6, & 7
6:30-9:30 a.m.

Additional Locations for Early Blood Draws

January 31st
4H Event Center in Ridgway 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

February 2nd
American Legion Hall in Olathe 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Appointments may be made online for all three locations at
www.MontroseHospital.com
January 18-28

Phone appointments will be taken January 19-20 from
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1-888-592-6255

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

Blood Tests Offered

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

Health Fair 2015 is
Saturday, February 28

The lines are long, so MMH offers early blood draws to make it more convenient for you.

MONTROSE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
MontroseHospital.com

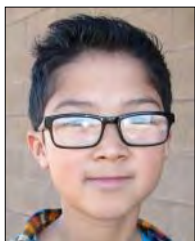
Co-Sponsors



CONGRATULATIONS ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH NOV-DEC 2014!



Aaron Simpson (4)
Oak Grove Elementary



Aidan Garcia (4)
Johnson Elementary



Anthony Ball (6)
Columbine Middle School



Araceli Cortez (12)
Olathe High School



Ashlee Green (6)
Olathe Middle School



Carmen Wilson (1)
Oak Grove Elementary



Chassity Hallacy (2)
Cottonwood Elementary



Danielle Thole (3)
Pomona Elementary



Emma Frey (3)
Cottonwood Elementary



Evan Fletcher (11)
Montrose High School



Hailey Sella (6)
Columbine Middle School



Isabella Henderson (3)
Northside Elementary



Jasmine Mazcorro (8)
Centennial Middle School



Jayden Cassidy
Centennial Middle School



Jennifer Mason (11)
Peak Academy



Jessica Burnell (12)
Montrose High School



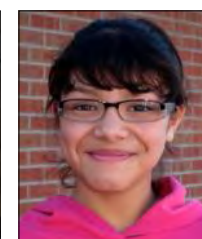
Jordan Solseth (11)
Olathe High School



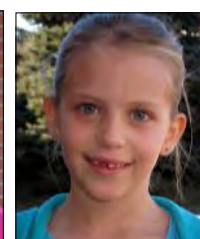
Jose Almanza Suarez (7)
Olathe Middle School



Joseph Williams (6)
Peak Academy



Lupita Quinteros
Espinosa (5)
Northside Elementary



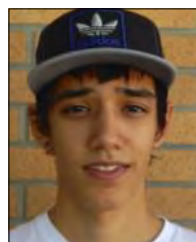
Marlee Fenske (2)
Olathe Elementary



Miroslava Magallanes (4)
Johnson Elementary



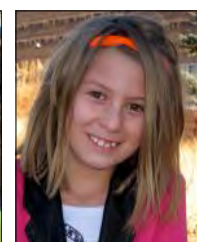
Rianna Bailey (11)
Passage Charter School



Jose (Tony) Rayos (12)
Vista Charter School



Tyra Gray (3)
Olathe Elementary



Vivian Ficco (2)
Pomona Elementary

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Since 1983, the Academic Booster Club has collected and returned between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually to schools and students by giving grants to teachers, students, parents, administrators and support staff to promote positive academic experiences in our community. Academic Booster Club (A+BC) has awarded over \$225,000 in grant money since its inception! Each month, A+BC selects one student from each school in the RE-1J district to be a Student of the Month. These students are recognized at a quarterly awards ceremony. A+BC has been doing this for over 30 years! Coming up on Monday, January 26th at 7PM, students selected to receive the A+BC award for November and December 2014 will be honored at a ceremony at Columbine Middle School.

**Always digging for
spot on news.**



The Mirror

now weekly

Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

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

FREE LEGAL ADVICE NIGHT—SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Region 10 Enterprise Center, 300 North Cascade. Sponsored by Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid and the 7th Judicial District Bar Association. Call 970-249-7202 for information.

MONTROSE INDOOR FARMERS MARKET— Every other Saturday through April 25. 10 am -1pm, Centennial Hall and Behind Straw Hat Farms Store, S. 1st and Uncompahgre.

FIRST FRIDAY STROLLS MONTROSE DOWNTOWN —Monthly from 5:30 p.m.-8p.m. Artist Demonstrations, Free Wine Tastings, and in-store promotional events!

THIRD SUNDAY DULCIMER CLUB WITH HARPS & HAMMERS, 2 to 4 p.m. Please call Robin for information and directions to our new location as our club has grown! 970-275-8996. Guitars and Autoharps welcome too—the more the merrier!

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM—The last Saturday of each month will be “Montrose Day” at the Montrose County Historical Museum, 21 N. Rio Grande Street. If you live in the Montrose area, then you will receive a free pass to the Museum. So bring down the family to learn about our unique town and area history. For more information please call 249-2085.

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT & NETWORKING GROUP — Sponsored by Region 10; This unique Caregiver Support and Networking Groups is designed for Montrose and the surrounding areas. The meetings are structured to be an all-inclusive support/networking groups for those who care for someone with Dementia or any disability/illness in any living environment. Groups meet the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of every month from 1:30 - 2:30 at Region 10 300 N. Cascade. Call Amy Rowan 249-2436 ext. 203 for more information.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE—Save on insurance, keep up on newer traffic laws, and learn defensive driving techniques. For details and schedule for Montrose and Delta, contact John 970-856-6924 or 970-424-1778.

TAIZE-STYLE SERVICES OF MUSIC, PRAYER AND MEDITATION on Scripture are offered on the first Thursday of the month, except June, July and August, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. Montrose United Methodist Church.

MONTHLY-

Jan. 10-March 13—Cheri Isgreen and Sabrina Soong present “Legacy,” an art show at the Ridgway Library. Sabrina will show her mixed media abstract compositions, including pieces from her “Meditation” series. Along with the “Dream Horse” series, Cheri will show some landscapes in watercolor and pastel, and newer equine watercolors.

Jan. 12-March 13—On-line registration for Delta County early blood draw events and health fairs in Delta, Cedaredge and Paonia. These annual health fair events are a joint effort with Delta County Lion's Club in Delta, Cedaredge and Paonia and Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH). For additional information and details please refer to the Delta County Memorial Hospital website www.deltahospital.org.

Jan. 26—Winter Baseball Exposition, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Montrose Pavilion. Proceeds benefit Montrose Youth Baseball League.

Jan. 26—Chicks with Picks presents a public auction/slideshow fundraiser for the Tri County Women's Resource Center and The Ouray Ice Park. Live auction begins at 7 p.m. at the Ouray Community Center, slideshow featuring climber Beth Goralski to follow at 8:30 p.m. \$5 donation at the door.

Jan. 26—Academic Booster Club Students of the Month for Nov.-Dec. will be honored at 7 p.m. at Columbine Middle School.

Jan. 27—Transportation Gaps and Opportunities, with Region 10 and All Points Transit. 11 a.m. to Noon, Region 10 Enterprise Center Sneffels Room (300 North Cascade.) Register by calling 970-249-2436.

Jan. 28—Montrose County HHS Radon Awareness Class, 300 Main St. in Nucla, Nucla County Annex. 6-7p.m. Call [970-252-5067](tel:970-252-5067) for more information.

Jan. 28—How to Beat the IRS—Legally! 10 Most Expensive Tax Mistakes That Cost Business Owners Thousands. Taught by Michael W. Johnson, CPA. Region 10 Small Business Resource Center, 300 North Cascade, Suite 1, Noon to 1:30 p.m. \$15 for Chamber members, \$25 for non-members. RSVP 249-2436.

Jan. 29—Rocky Mt. World Trade Center Export Training at Region 10, 300 North Cascade. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jan. 29—Montrose County HHS Radon Awareness Class, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m, Montrose County Health and Human Services Board Room at 1845 South Townsend Avenue Call [970-252-5067](tel:970-252-5067) for more information.

Jan. 31—Partners Superbowl Fundraiser at Valley Lanes in Delta, 9 a.m.

Jan. 31—Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws at Ridgway's 4H Events Center, 7 to 10 a.m. Schedule phone appointments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan.19-20 by calling 1-888-592-6255 or schedule online Jan. 18-28 at www.montrosehospital.org.

Jan. 31—Western Slope Woolgrowers Banquet, Montrose Elks Lodge, 6 p.m. Music by the Anders Brothers. Call 970-249-0686 for 970-249-1417 or tickets and information.

Jan. 31—Chicks with Picks presents public auction/slideshow fundraiser for the Tri County Women's Resource Center and The Ouray Ice Park. Live auction begins at 7 p.m. at the Ouray Community Center, slideshow featuring extreme skier Kim Havell to follow at 8:30 p.m. \$5 donation at the door.

Jan. 31—14th Annual Partners Superbowl at Valley Lanes in Delta. Call 970-874-4661 for more information.

Feb. 2—Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws at American Legion Hall in Olathe, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 3—RAND Corporation analyst Bruce Bach, a retired U.S. Army colonel, will examine the last quarter-century of the alliance in a presentation entitled, “Transatlantic Security in the 21st Century: Not your Father's NATO.” His speech will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Room 139, Houston Hall, Colorado Mesa University. The event is free and open to the public.

Feb. 3—Montrose County HHS Radon Awareness Class, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m, Montrose County Health and Human Services Board Room at 1845 South Townsend Avenue Call [970-252-5067](tel:970-252-5067) for more information.

Feb. 3—Talking Gourds presents Poet Matt Hayes at Arroyo in Telluride, 6 p.m.

Feb. 3—Ridgway Moontalk—Panel Discussion with creatives, Sherbino Theater 5 to 8 p.m.

Feb. 4—League Women Voters of Montrose-Delta Counties presents a panel discussion, “The Replacement Process ---As vacancies for elected and appointed officials arise, how are they are filled in the City of Montrose and Montrose County?” Noon in the Montrose Library Community Room.

Feb. 4,5,6 and 7—Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., Montrose Pavilion.

Feb. 5—Health Equity Learning Series, 8 to 10 a.m., Sneffels Room in the Region 10 Enterprise Center (300 North Cascade), Call Ricardo Perez at 970-417-6127, email Ricard@hapgi.org or abbie@livewellmontroseolathe.org or call 970-417-6313 for more information.

Feb. 5—Taize Worship Service, 7 pm at Montrose United Methodist Church, 19 South Park Ave.

Feb. 5—Montrose County HHS Radon Awareness Class, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m, Montrose County Health and Human Services Board Room at 1845 South Townsend Avenue Call [970-252-5067](tel:970-252-5067) for more information.

Feb. 5—Public Lands Partnership General Meeting, 1:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Room at the Montrose County Fairgrounds.

Feb. 7—Fifth Annual Winter Rim Romp, Black Canyon National Park. 10 a.m. to Noon. www.sjmr.club.



HOW TO BEAT THE IRS, LEGALLY!

10 MOST EXPENSIVE TAX MISTAKES THAT COST BUSINESS OWNERS THOUSANDS

TAUGHT BY **MICHAEL W. JOHNSON, CPA**

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JANUARY 28 • NOON–1:30PM

CHAMBER MEMBERS **\$15** • NON-MEMBERS **\$25**

SEATING IS LIMITED! RSVP TODAY!

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Each class participant will receive a copy of the instructor's new book!

Michael W Johnson is managing member of Michael W Johnson & Associates, LLC, based in Montrose, Colorado. Michael is a CPA with 23 years' experience helping businesses as a CPA and Consultant. He also is an experienced Valuator, handling many litigation assignments in real estate and business matters. Michael helps businesses reduce their taxes, improve their profits, and better manage their cash flows.

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*At left, melting ice on
Chipeta Lake.*



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-At left, Bob and Pat Brown from the Around the Corner Art Gallery presents Lissette Riviere, the Art Partners case manager, with a check for \$2300 from the recent Chili Bowl fundraiser. Joel Bierma won the People's Choice award for his Tootsie Texie Chili. Art Partners is a mentoring program that matches artists with youth for a 3-month internship. If you are interested in entering your chili for next year please contact Lissette at 249-1116 and you can always paint a bowl at the Amazing Glaze. Partners will hold its annual Superbowl fundraiser at Valley Lanes in Delta this Saturday.

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matters.



Locally operated and employee-owned, Alpine Bank makes decisions based on you and your community. Every service we offer is designed by people who live here—like you. All the decisions are made locally. All the impacts are local. When you use Alpine Bank, you can rest assured knowing that you are reinvesting in your own community.



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