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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays

Issue No. 130, Aug. 10 2015

## FIRST EVER MOUNTAIN STATES RANCH RODEO KICKS OFF IN MONTROSE AUG. 28-29!



A special display of historic chuckwagons, like the one pictured above on [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org), will be featured at the first Mountain States Ranch Rodeo in Montrose Aug. 28-29.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Most locals know Kent Wollert as owner of Wollert Automotive and Big Country Trailers in Montrose. But for Wollert, a third-generation rancher who spends as much of his free time as possible riding and roping, the term “horsepower” has more than one meaning. He has taken part in working ranch rodeo events in places like Gunnison, Grand Junction, Salida, Cortez, Ridgway and Delta, and has helped to support rodeos at the Montrose County Fair in years past. Now, he and friend Doug Roberts will bring the first Mountain States Ranch Rodeo to Montrose later this month.

“I have always had a vision of putting together an association and putting on a high-quality, ranch rodeo event here in Montrose,” said Wollert. “Doug and I were talking, and I shared my vision with him.”

Roberts, who owns Montrose-based New West Marketing, is a performing member of the Western Music Association, and liked the idea. So he and Wollert decided to pool their resources and put on a ranch rodeo; Alpine Bank has agreed to be the title sponsor of the inaugural Mountain States Ranch Rodeo, scheduled for Aug. 28-29 at the Fairgrounds events

*Continued on page 3*

## PIT HEARING CLOSES, BOCC TO DECIDE AUG. 17

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Aug. 5, 2015 the hearing for the Lazy K Bar and Cattle Co. LLP gravel pit application finally concluded. The meeting was a continuation from the July 22nd hearing and County Commissioner Chair David White picked up where he left off, giving those opposed to the application an opportunity to speak. Each speaker was given five minutes; however some who signed up to speak conceded their time to others thereby giving some presenters 15-20 minutes.

Of the 100 people in attendance 10 spoke against the application. Generally speaking the discussion, exhibits, and information were similar to past presentations and related to traffic, health, safety, and property rights. Many of those opposed structured their comments to rebut assertions made by the applicants and their attorney in previous meetings.

Glenda Fletchall said, “I believe the applicant misrepresented the fact it [gravel pit] will benefit Montrose County.... I believe the application is a Trojan

*Continued on page 12*



The Montrose County BOCC (left to right David White, Glen Davis and Ron Henderson) listens as constituents speak at the Aug. 5 hearing on the Lazy K Bar and Cattle Co. LLP Gravel Pit special use permit application. Photo by Gail Marvel.

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Schedule (13)!*

*Experience the (local)  
Church (24)!*

*Regional  
News Briefs!*

*Interview with  
Ben Alexander!*

*Community groups  
Pitch in for rodeo (23)!*



# MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET!



*Montrose Farmers Market Manager Lois Harvie welcomes judges and entires for the upcoming Peach Bakeoff Contest Aug. 22. Winners will be announced at 11 a.m. Harvie also notes that the recent change to diagonal parking Downtown combined with a return to Centennial Plaza have made the market busier than it has been for the past six years.*



*Clockwise from top left, Artisan baker Heather Crane; Yurt Stead Farm offers beautiful cut flowers and locally grown produce; Eden's Acre brings fresh, certified organic greens and herbs; Leroux Creek Nursery does a brisk business at the Montrose Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 8.*

  
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THE  
MONTROSE MIRROR  
MONTROSE

## FIRST EVER MOUNTAIN STATES RANCH RODEO From pg 1

center in Montrose. Ridgway's 2015 Heritage Days & Ranch Rodeo takes place at the Ouray County Fairgrounds in Ridgway Sept. 5-7.

—There's a lot of interest in a series," Wollert said, —with a finale event in the Fall. And who wouldn't want to come here in the Fall?"

The rodeo is also built around the idea of involving youth organizations (see related article).

Support has been strong for this year's event, Roberts said.

—We have two scheduled events for kids, Mutton Bustin' and Catch-A Calf," he said. —The rodeo is the centerpiece of it all; we want to put on a quality event and do everything we can to showcase the folks who are in the arena."

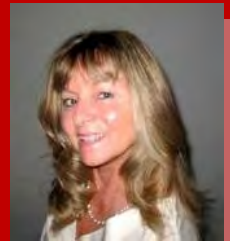
This year's rodeo takes place at the Fairgrounds Aug. 29 beginning at 3 p.m., and includes five ranch rodeo events and a vintage chuck wagon display. Family tickets are \$25, Adult tickets are \$10, Students age 13-18 are \$5, and kids 12 and under are free. In association with the rodeo, Cowboy Poet Waddie Mitchell performs at Turn of the Century with Tyller Gummersall at 7 p.m. on Aug. 28. Tickets are \$25.



Can't get enough of working ranch rodeo events? The first-ever Mountain States Ranch Rodeo will be at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, pictured above in a Mirror File photo, Aug. 29.

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## CUSTOMER SERVICE RECOGNITION-SERVICE STATIONS!



***MONTROSE-Customer Service Recognition...Service stations! Eugene has worked at the busy Shell station at Main Street and the San Juan Bypass for two years. When a customer came in asking about a forgotten gas cap last week, Eugene thought for a minute, rushed out across two lanes of traffic, found the gas cap in a Main Street turn lane, and handed it to the grateful customer. Thank you Eugene!!***

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## COUNCIL AWARDS 60K ASBESTOS CONTRACT FOR DISPATCH BLDG

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-In a meeting that probably set a record for brevity, Montrose City Council voted Aug. 4 in favor of awarding a Professional Services Contract for asbestos abatement at the City's intended new Dispatch Center, 439 South Second Street, to Excel Environmental Incorporated for the sum of \$59,372.00 based on the scope of work developed by Grande River Environmental. Though one other bid was received, Excel was the preferred bidder, City Facilities Manager Mark Armstrong informed Council. Councilor Kathie Ellis asked how long the bid would be good for; Councilor Bob Nicholson commented that even if the City's new Dispatch Center is

not a —g,” the City would need to abate the asbestos whether using or razing the facility.

Nicholson moved to approve the award, and Council voted in favor.

City Manager Bill Bell provided a Public Information Officer Report. Bell stated that once the Council meeting was adjourned, all present would be heading over to the Ute Indian Museum open house. He then asked for citizen volunteers for the City budget committee and for the City Planning Commission.

Bell also praised City staff for efforts on the first annual Fun on the Uncompahgre (F.U.N.C.) Festival Aug. 1. —We may make it two days next year,” Bell said,

noting that comments received had included a suggestion to not hold the event during County Fair week and on the same day as the longtime Olathe Sweet Corn Festival. Bell noted that there are —two schools of thought” on the issue of scheduling events.

Mayor David Romero thanked City staff for their efforts, and Councilor Rex Swanson commented that every department of the City was involved in putting on the Saturday event. —The teamwork and cooperation...City staff worked so well together,” Swanson said.

—Kudos to Stacey Ryan, and to Rob,” Bell said.

—My family and I had a great time.”

## CITY PLANS PAR 3 EXPANSION OF BLACK CANYON GOLF COURSE

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose is in the early stages of planning the Par 3 expansion of the Black Canyon Golf Course, according to the minutes of the [last meeting of the City's Golf Course Advisory Committee](#). John Harris of the City's Public Works Department noted that the Par 3 expansion is the —biggest ticket item” in the City's capital plan and is five to six years out. The plans include a pump station on the back nine, range nets, and a possible new sign for the Golf Course.. Neighbors have expressed concern over placement of the Par 3, which is tentatively set to be accessed from the other side of the parking lot, according to Golf Course Staff. The advisory committee meets again on Aug. 18 at 4 p.m.

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## CITIZENS GROUP TO PRESENT PETITION FOR DOG PARK AUG. 18



*A citizens group hopes to establish a safer dog park at the East end of Buckley Park.*

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—Following a planning meeting in July, members of a citizens group working to create an improved dog park in Montrose are moving forward. Though Montrose currently has a 1.4 acre dog park, located north of the duck pond in Baldrige Park, the facility is less than ideal. Users have expressed numerous concerns over safety, including a prevalence

of dangerous foxtail weeds. Though the fencing for the original park was provided by the non-profit group FIDO (Friends in Dog Ownership) that spearheaded the original Dog Park, maintenance was to be provided by the City of Montrose, organizers have said, noting that cuts to the City's parks budget caused care of the Dog Park to become a low priority.

The current group, under the leadership of organizer Tasha Todak, is circulating a [petition](#) that outlines the problems with the current Dog Park.

—Our current dog park, which is located at Riverbottom Park is extremely unsafe for dogs and children," the petition states. —An overly abundant fox tail population, as well as large deposits of concrete and mud during a good portion of the year have made it an unsafe area to exercise our pets. In order for us to get water and vegetation (to prevent mud and erosion) to the site it would cost in excess of \$33,000.00. Just to make it safe without water or grass, we are looking at roughly \$18,000.00. We would like to be able to establish a fenced in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine

citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. Our hopes are to develop a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions."

Though FIDO, formed in 2006, worked for more than six years to fund the current park, the group eventually fell victim to attrition and other demands, FIDO organizer Amy Ondos said.

—We held six years of Fun Runs, but what really put us over the top was the Rick Steele Memorial Golf Tournament," recalled Ondos, who said that she is very supportive of the new group and its efforts to create an improved place for local dogs to play.

FIDO is looking into the transfer of its remaining funds to the new non-profit, she said.

Follow the new group's progress on Facebook with [Nikkya's Wish Project](#). They intend [to present their petition](#) before Montrose City Council at its regular meeting Aug. 18.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN JUAN GARDENS STAFFERS SAY THEY HAVE THE BEST SUMMER JOB AROUND!



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ELDERADO FINANCIAL HONORED FOR FOURTH YEAR BY FINANCIAL ADVISOR MAGAZINE



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Financial Advisor magazine recognizes both success and company growth when choosing registered investment advisors in their annual RIA Ranking. ElderAdo Financial is the only firm on the Western Slope earning this designation and has been selected four times in a row. ElderAdo Financial is also one of only 13 firms recognized throughout Colorado.

Adam Miller, a Certified Financial Planner™ at ElderAdo Financial, remarked: "We are grateful for this honor and the privilege to serve clients in Western Colorado and beyond. Without the confidence of our clients allowing us to help guide them in their financial planning, we would not be able to receive this recognition."

### HABITAT OF THE SAN JUANS TO HOLD THIRD ANNUAL MOONSHINERS' BALL AUG. 15

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans kicks off the Third Annual Moonshiner's Ball Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> in Partnership with Bank of Colorado. The theme for attire is 1920's - think flapper dresses, tall hats and short neck ties - while the menu takes event guests to a new location on the map well-known for their moonshine during the Prohibition Era: New Orleans, Louisiana.

VIP tickets are \$175 each (early-bird discounted tickets were \$155 July 1 – July 15<sup>th</sup>) and VIP tables seat eight and are \$1,100, taking the per seat cost down to \$137.50 per person. General Admission tickets are \$65 through Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, and \$75 at the door (early bird discounted tickets were \$55 July 1-15<sup>th</sup>). Private gambling tables can also be reserved for \$200.

Event details and tickets can be found online at [www.buildinglives.org](http://www.buildinglives.org). Tickets can also be purchased in-person at the Habitat ReStore in Montrose, Chili's Restaurant, Bank of Colorado and The Coffee Trader.



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## PAUL JANZEN TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES GROUP ON INCOME INEQUALITY AUG. 13



**August Speaker Paul Janzen.** Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer  
MONTROSE—Increasingly, even small communities like Montrose are experiencing a divide between those with more than enough resources and those struggling to simply get by. The growth of income inequality in the United States will be the subject

when Paul Janzen of Intermountain Funding presents to the Emerging Issues Discussion group at 7 p.m. at the Montrose Library on Aug. 13. Janzen is a longtime financial professional with expertise in the complex issues facing today's consumers.

Questions to be addressed at the August presentation include the fact that one percent of our population—roughly three million people—control 90 percent of the wealth of our society, Janzen said.

—What does that mean for our democracy? —He asked. —What are the effects on our economy, on our well-being as a society, on our opportunities for advancement, on our individual independence, and our political system? What are other societies doing to bridge the gap between rich and poor? Is this a problem that needs a solution? What are the solutions?"

Janzen said that he plans to augment his presentation with videos and anecdotes from the front lines of those struggling to get by in America today.

—If we were to increase the minimum wage by three dollars an hour, it would infuse \$250 million into our economy every month," he said. —It would all be spent on consumer goods, because nobody earning minimum wage has enough money to put in savings." Janzen also pointed out the disparity created by corporate lobbyists spending \$28 billion to lobby elected officials each year, and the increasing lack of access to elections by any but billionaires.

—Who could possibly survive the amount of money they are spending on attack ads?" Janzen asked. —Even George Washington could not survive those kind of attacks."

To learn more, plan to attend the presentation Aug. 13. According to the Library web site, the Emerging Issues Discussion Group explores local, state, national and international issues, seeking to understand varied perspectives and examining new ideas for problem solving.

—We have had one discussion about happiness, one on taking over Federal lands by states and local government, one on deliberative democracy, and one on campaign financing," Janzen said. —A future meetings we'll be discussing capitalism and the environment, Montrose's drug problem, and when we get closer to the election, ballot issues."

Civility is always emphasized, he said.

The public is welcome to attend, organizer Meg Nagel of the Montrose Regional Library said, but all participants are expected to maintain civility throughout the discussion.

The Emerging Issues Discussion Group, which began a year ago last summer, is an

outgrowth of the Library's longtime Great Decisions book club.

—We expect people to listen to other people's ideas and thoughts," she said. —We usually have about 22 people come to these discussions; it is a really interesting group. When the speaker is finished we usually go around the room to see what people have to say.

—I always learn something," Nagel said, —even if my opinion doesn't change much—at least I learn the nuances of the issues.

—We love to have people come."

Next month the group will discuss the book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. Climate*, by Naomi Kline.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LEARN TO CARE FOR BIG GAME MEAT IN MONTROSE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Big-game meat is delicious; but caring for it in the field and during processing is important to maintain the great flavor. A workshop on how to take care of big-game meat will be offered at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife office in Montrose, 6-9 p.m., on Aug. 26. CPW district wildlife managers will lead the class. The class will cover all the aspects of caring for big game meat: how to take care of the animal after the harvest, how to quarter a carcass to make it more manageable to remove from the field, how to process the meat at home, and how to wrap and freeze game meat properly. The class is free, but space is limited. To reserve a seat, please call the CPW office in Montrose at 970-252-6000. The CPW office in Montrose is located at 2300 S. Townsend Avenue.

### SPORTSMEN'S ROUNDTABLE SET FOR AUG. 13 IN CORTEZ

*Special to the Mirror*

DURANGO- Hunters and anglers are invited to a Sportsmen's Roundtable meeting to discuss issues and concerns with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff, 6-8 p.m., Aug. 13 at the Holiday Inn in Cortez.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife formed the Sportsmen's Roundtable in 2012 in a continuing effort to provide hunters and anglers with opportunities to submit input about wildlife management.

At the meeting will be Southwest Region

Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff and southwest representatives of the Sportsmen's Roundtable. They will provide updates on CPW's strategic planning process, the financial issues facing CPW, the West Slope Mule Deer Strategy, and southwest Colorado fisheries. The public is also invited to ask questions and share concerns.

CPW is also looking for volunteers to serve on the southwest roundtable group. Anyone who has an interest should attend the meeting.

The Holiday Inn conference center is located 2121 East Main Street.

For more information about the Sportsmen's Roundtable, go to [www.cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Roundtable.aspx](http://www.cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Roundtable.aspx).

For more news about Colorado Parks and Wildlife go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us>

For more information about Colorado Parks and Wildlife go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us>.

### RE-1J ANNOUNCES FACILITY CLOSURES FOR UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Please note Re-1J School Buildings and District Office will be CLOSED for district-wide training events the following dates and times: Thursday, August 13th after 11 a.m.; Friday, August 14th ALL DAY; Monday, August 17th ALL DAY.

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## PIT HEARING CLOSES, BOCC TO DECIDE AUG. 17 From pg 1

Horse to put an asphalt batch plant and concrete plant in our neighborhood ... [it's] not for gravel."

Marv Ballantyne, a retired real estate appraiser of 38 years, objected to the examples of property sales that were introduced because, "The eight examples are unique and unusual properties [making them more valuable]."

Tim Lund read commissioner's minutes from an Oct. 7, 2013 meeting which stated the application submitted at that time was incompatible and comparing it to the current application, "...its still incompatible. There is no substantial difference." Mr. Lund accused the applicant of trying to get the "good ol' boys vote" by way of mentioning their multi-generational history in the area.

Barb Bernhardt spoke for 20 minutes and presented the commissioners with a 42-plus page packet in which she highlighted specific areas she felt were pertinent to the conversation. The audience did not have a copy of the packet; however, as Ms. Bernhardt went through it she sourced the information as having come from: environmental reports, studies, economic impact statements, CDOT, emails, phone calls and memos.

Craig Schaff, concerned that his comments may be cause for embarrassment, apologized for them before he began to speak. To make his point Mr. Schaff combined sarcasm with hypothetical and rhetorical comments. "Poor little sage grouse that only makes his appearance every 10 years..." "The gravel pit is your American dream — it's not my American dream."

"The gravel pit is similar to an industrial amusement park... it is a benefit to the applicant and a liability to homeowners."

Practicing physician Dr. David Lee used data and statistics to support his comments, which focused on health issues and toxic pollutants associated with asphalt plants. The doctor's information came from multiple sources and the commissioners requested that they be given the source of the data.

Stu Krebs estimated that 3,000-4,000 man-hours have been spent on the gravel pit issue. He said, "I think there must be a better way. Rather than talking past each other, if we could actually talk to each other we could maybe use our time a lot better." Mr. Krebs lives within a mile of a gravel pit, "It doesn't ruin my life to have the Racine pit over there, but it is a presence."

Scott Riba said, "We're not going to have any more agricultural land ... we are chipping away at that base." Mr. Riba contended that the county will not be able to enforce the conditions stated in the special use permit and that violations will go unchecked.

Noalani Terry submitted two sets of petitions against the application. The Uncompahgre Valley Association petition contained 175 signatures and the South Valley Alliance petition contained 500 signatures.

Dennis Vanderwist related his own experience with trying to obtain a special use permit. "The permit was turned down because they were unable to enforce the conditions. I want to know how this [application] is any different. On any spe-

cial use permit [you should] use the same scrutiny that I received."

At the conclusion of the comments of those opposed, four speakers in favor of the application were allowed to speak.

Guy Gard said, "Where do you draw the line? A lot of houses and subdivisions are on what once was agricultural land. I don't use pot [marijuana], but it's easier to sell pot in this county than it is a pile of rocks!"

Alan Boyles, who has been involved in the industry for 40 years feels the health hazards are overstated. "Most people are talking about asphalt refineries, not asphalt batch plants. Opponents say they are worried about the applicant's finances. He [the applicant] could put in a feed lot right now — and he wouldn't have to have a special use permit."

Dwayne Coram, speaking to property rights, recalled a project to develop 600 homes sites. "No one spoke up against the subdivision. The deal didn't go through and the property is now for sale. I could buy the property, but someone here would go against me."

Nick Barrett who works for the applicant discussed the safety of the intersection. He said, "The problem with the intersection has nothing to do with the application."

At the end of public comment Andrew Mueller, attorney for the applicant offered rebuttal and answered questions from the commissioners.

The Montrose County Commissioners are expected to deliver their decision on Aug. 17, 2105 at 9 am in the BBOC Board Room.

## DOLA AWARDS \$5.2 MILLION FOR BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Colorado Department of Local Affairs will provide \$5.2 million for broadband development on the Western Slope. On Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning received the official notice of award for a grant submitted in partnership with Cities of Delta and Montrose, Delta County, Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), and Delta County Economic Development (DCED). The grant will fund the first phase of development of a proposed regional network that will start in Delta County and Eastern Montrose County, and potentially extend into Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, and San Miguel counties during later phases. Community stakeholders representing a broad range of public

and private interests came together more than a year ago to discuss how to improve broadband services. With Region 10 acting as fiscal agent, the group received a DOLA grant to develop an implementation plan. NEO Fiber, a consulting agency based in Carbondale that specializes in these types of projects, was contracted to develop this strategy.

In March 2015, the board of Delta Montrose Electric Association voted unanimously to participate in the grant request, providing access to its fiberoptic infrastructure that is currently being built as an in-kind contribution. The \$5.2 million award represents approximately half of the \$9.5 million estimated budget for the Phase 1 buildout of the project, which covers the communities of Delta and Eastern

Montrose Counties. A second phase is currently in the final planning stages to cover Ouray, San Miguel, Hinsdale, and Gunnison counties. The regional plan combines leases of existing fiberoptic lines and limited construction to provide a "middle mile" infrastructure that will connect to Carrier Neutral Location (CNL) open access points in each of the participating communities. The network will then be available for private "last mile" providers to deliver high-speed internet service to businesses and homes. The project is not only supported by the contribution of DMEA's fiber infrastructure, but also by significant cash matches provided by the County and City of Delta, the City of Montrose, and other participating communities.





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# COMMUNITY LIGHTNING RODS

## Voices that spark conversations

### WORK ON ISSUES, NOT PERSONALITIES: BEN ALEXANDER



**Ben Alexander**  
Courtesy photo.

*Interview by  
Gail Marvel*

MONTROSE—After serving in the Air Force and owning a small business in Las Vegas, Ben Alexander moved to Montrose in 1986. Familiar with the Western Slope, Ben had hunted in the area and his

parents were established residents of the community. Work-wise, Ben tried a couple of different entrepreneurial endeavors which didn't pan out and in 1990 he went into real-estate. In 1994 he transitioned from sales into the property management division of real estate.

Even though Ben had been interested in politics his whole life, it wasn't until he arrived in Montrose that he stepped into the political arena. Ben said, —The swimming pool was just being built and there was controversy over putting in a regulation indoor pool and a smaller outdoor pool. Because the daughter of a board member was a competitive swimmer the pool was built for indoor swimming competition, rather than outdoor recreation.”

Another political issue that caught Ben's attention was the county paying for map-

ping services out of the road and bridge fund; and a proposal to build a new jail that would be run by an entity other than the sheriff's office. Local watchdogs came together and established a group called Voice of the Electorate (VOTE). Ben said, —It was a small group and we held public meetings to discuss whether or not we needed a new jail, and if it would house state inmates. We started a petition to stop the effort to have a Jail Authority.”

Recalling the early 1990's Ben noted there was a lack of openness with the county commissioners. —What they decided to tell the public was what was already decided. The public perception [even today] is when elected officials hold a public meeting their decisions are already made.” Ben attributes the success of VOTE to the fact that people felt the group held honest meetings.

When asked if he might resurrect VOTE he said, —I'm getting too old and tired. It takes a lot of effort to bring something back.” Ben, however, has not given up on meeting once a week with other concerned citizens. —There are about 10 of us who meet for coffee at Two Sisters.” As former Colorado State Senator (1995-1999) Ben is in a good position to compare and contrast local politics with state politics. —It seems that in Montrose it's hard to disagree on

issues and still be friends. The attitude is if you disagree with me, we're enemies. There is a vindictiveness in the community. In the Colorado Senate you work on issues, not personalities.”

From Ben's perspective Montrose County has a less than flattering statewide reputation. —The county is incredibly dysfunctional with self-created problems. Tax dollars are being spent on both sides of litigation.”

Ben pinpoints what he believes is hurting the community, —It's the silent things. You never know about it [not in the news] if elected officials suppress business, expansion and constituents. It's hard to know [about] all the things that are never done ... the silent things.”

Ben has served on the Chamber of Commerce governmental affairs committee and admits that some people thought he was disruptive.

He laughed and said, —Maybe I was. I'm very frank and I don't sugarcoat things. People won't always agree with me and that's fine.”

As to whether he might step back into the political arena in the future Ben said, —I think I've done my thing. It's time for others to step up and take that role. I'm happy to provide assistance and I'm willing to help anyone with issues.”



*Dr. Mike Benzinger, MMH Pathologist works with  
Montrose High School Student Chase Darling*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## ALPINE BANK ANNOUNCES OFFICER PROMOTIONS



Above left, Telluride Banking Officer Austin Jones; at right Senior Vice President/Manager, Montrose Tyler Dahl. Courtesy photos.

#### Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Alpine Banks of the San Juans would like to congratulate the following persons on their recent promotions:

#### Tyler Dahl to Senior Vice President/Manager, Montrose

Originally from Rangely, CO, Tyler graduated magna cum laude from Colorado Mesa University with a degree in business administration and an emphasis in finance. He began his career with Alpine Bank in

2007, and in 2011, graduated from Colorado University's Graduate School of Banking. Committed to serving the local youth, Tyler has been board president of the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club and has also enjoyed coaching AAU basketball in Olathe and Montrose.

Tyler and his wife Jessica just celebrated the birth of their first child in March. They have enjoyed getting to spend the summer outdoors and traveling with baby Beckham.

#### Austin Jones to Banking Officer, Telluride

An Omaha, Nebraska native, Austin's desire to live in Colorado began while a student at the University of Nebraska. After graduating from the University of Nebraska's College of Business with a Bachelor of Arts in finance, he paired his interest in community banking with an affinity for Colorado and was extended an opportunity to join Alpine Bank as a management trainee. In the spring of 2015, Austin successfully completed the Management

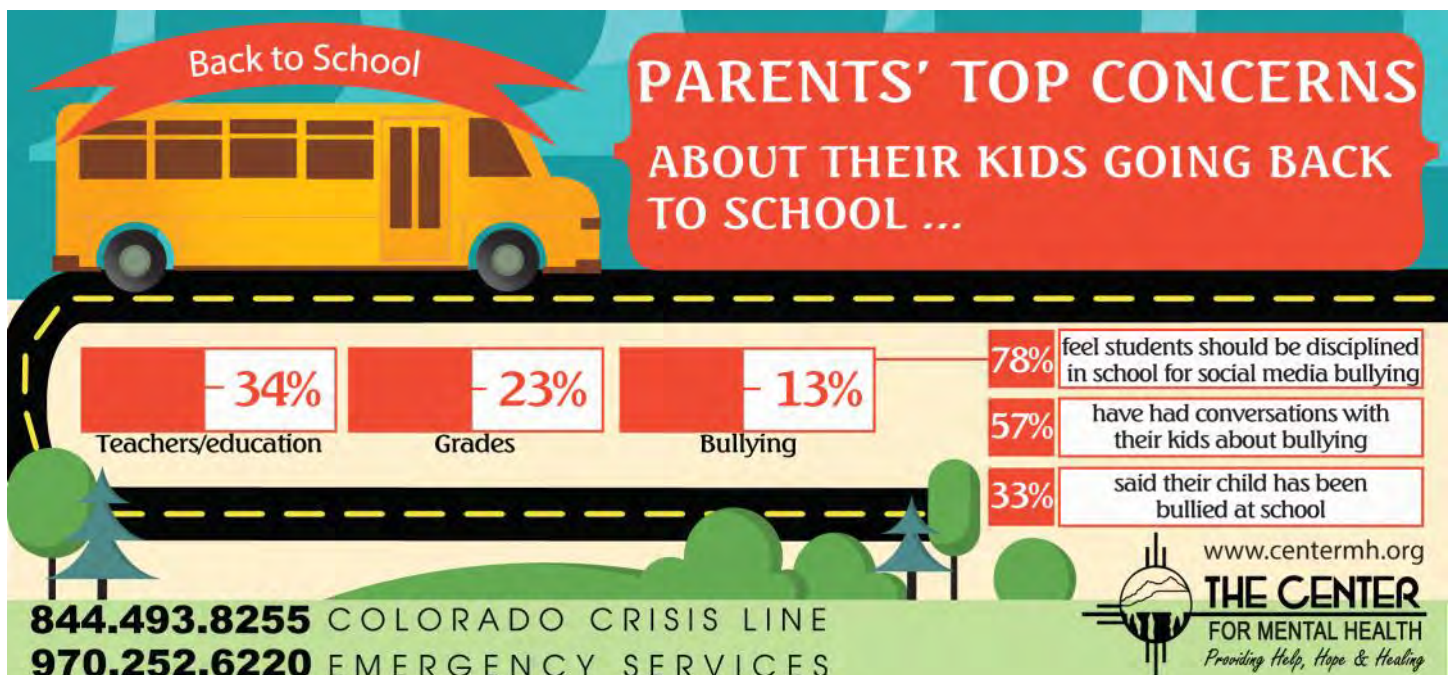
Trainee program and was promoted to banking officer. He is currently responsible for providing support to both the operational and lending functions within the Telluride branch.

In his time away from work, Austin enjoys spending time with friends and attending many of the social events in and around Telluride.

Alpine Bank is a \$2.5 billion, employee-owned organization chartered in 1973 with headquarters in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. With 38 banking offices across Colorado, Alpine Bank employs nearly 600 people and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, wealth management\*, mortgage and electronic banking services.

Alpine Bank was recently elevated to a 5-star rating for financial strength by BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading bank rating firm. The 5-star rating is BauerFinancial's highest rating for financial institutions. Learn more at [www.alpinebank.com](http://www.alpinebank.com).

\*Alpine Bank Wealth Management services are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not guaranteed by the bank.





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR SPONSORS COFFEE CLUB

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Chris Reichmann, an Edward Jones financial advisor based in Montrose, will host a coffee club at 8 am on Thursday, August 13th, and every second Thursday of the month. The Coffee Club will meet at Looney Bean, 3480 Wolverine Road, Montrose (by JC Penney & Target.) Mr. Reichmann will provide a market update and discuss current market events. Coffee and pastries are provided. Please RSVP to attend at 970-

249-0786

or [Chris.Reichmann@edwardjones.com](mailto:Chris.Reichmann@edwardjones.com).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CDOT EJECTION EXHIBITS SHOW DEADLY CONSEQUENCES OF NOT BUCKLING UP



Using crash test dummies, the “Ejection Exhibits” simulate, but clearly show, the deadly consequences that can happen when you don’t wear your seat belt. CDOT Courtesy photos.



*Special to the Mirror*

STATEWIDE — You’re 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle if you’re not buckled up. With this statistic in mind, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has developed three eye-catching exhibits to spark the seat belt conversation in Pueblo County, which has the lowest seat belt use in the state. Using crash test dummies, the “Ejection Exhibits” simulate, but clearly show, the deadly consequences that can happen when you don’t wear your seat belt.

—Not taking the few seconds to put on a seat belt can have disastrous results, including ejection through the windshield, which is an often deadly consequence for unrestrained occupants,” said Carol Gould, Highway Safety Manager for CDOT. In the last two years, 18 (60 percent) of the 30 passenger vehicle fatalities in Pueblo County occurred when the occupants weren’t buckled up.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RAISES \$5,000 FOR SHARING MINISTRIES FOOD BANK

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- A month-long employee donation campaign at Montrose Memorial Hospital raised \$5,000 for the Sharing Ministries Food Bank's campaign to build a new food distribution facility.

The hospital offered to match donations from employees through the month of July up to \$2,500, and donations from employees reached the \$2,500 mark before the July 31 deadline.

"We hope this inspires the community to follow our lead and help Sharing Ministries," said Joan Napolilli, Chief Nursing Officer of Montrose Memorial Hospital.

On'eda Doyal, Executive Director of Sharing Ministries, indicated that Sharing Ministries had raised approximately 83% of the \$1.6 million needed to break ground on their planned 9,000 sq. ft. facility. The new facility will be more than three times the size of their current space—essential for meeting the community's growing demand for food bank services. Leadership at Montrose Memorial Hospital proposed the fundraising campaign to help the food bank with much needed funds.

Sharing Ministries has also been awarded matching grants from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Daniels Grant Fund to help reach their fundraising goals. Because of the terms of the DOLA grant, Sharing Ministries must raise \$600,000 before they can break ground on the new facility. They hope the community will be inspired to donate and help enable the organization to break ground later this year.

The public is invited to learn more about the organization and how they support the community by calling and setting up a tour of their current facility. Those interested in touring or donating to Sharing Ministries can call 970-240-8385.

For more information about the hospital's fundraising campaign, contact Leann Tobin at (970) 240-7344.



*From left to right: Sharing Ministries Food Bank Executive Director On'eda Doyal with representation from Montrose Memorial Hospital including HR Coordinator Tiffany Stewart, Leann Tobin, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Chief Nursing Officer Joan Napolilli and Compliance Officer Patricia Chaloupka.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING-WESTERN SLOPE FLOORS & MORE!



*Special to the Mirror*  
**MONTROSE-**The Montrose Chamber of Commerce Redcoats helped celebrate the opening of Western Slope Floors & More. Owner, Kerry Giddens, a disabled vet, is happy to be back in Montrose and supplying the Western Slope with his knowledge and skills. He celebrated his Grand Opening on Saturday with prizes, food and great deals. Kerry sells only 1<sup>st</sup> quality flooring, cabinets, counter tops and more. Check him out at 420 N. Townsend Avenue (970) 765-2255 or online at [westernslopehardwood.com](http://westernslopehardwood.com).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO JOHN W. AND LINDA NELSON!



Linda and John W. Nelson of Montrose. Courtesy photo.

#### Special to the Mirror

**MONTROSE**—Both were born and raised in LaPorte, Indiana, and married on Aug. 14, 1965. They moved to Tucson, Arizona, after John graduated from the Notre Dame Law School. Following the federal clerkship and the birth of their daughter, Pam, they moved to Phoenix where John founded a law firm, also serving as a pro tem city and county judge and arbitrator. Both served as volunteer deputies for Sheriff Joe Arpaio. In 1995, they moved to Montrose, Colorado, where they both spend their time doing volunteer and community service.



## OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

### IS ELECTIVE OFFICIAL MORE CREDIBLE THAN UNELECTED VOLUNTEER?

Dear Editor:

*Note: This is my opinion and not the opinion of METSA.*

I now see that you, Glen Davis, speak for the county of Montrose! In the *Montrose Press* —Opinion” section you write —County view”. With your great six months experience as a county commissioner I would think that other commissioners would take the lead as spokesmen until you learn and gain experience!

Besides being arrogant you like to use key words such as —transparent”, —Accountability”, —volunteers” and —elected official”. Sometimes the way you use these words make you seem more arrogant.

You seem to forget that the proposed board is selected from agencies who are elected officials and they appoint who they know will use their knowledge, are transparent and will be accountable to their boards as well to the tax payers of this county.

Since when is the use of tax payer’s dollars that help in public safety a donation? I live in the county and I realize that people who live in the city are also county residents, I think you forget that. PSST dollars should be used to benefit ALL county residents.

Let us look at where the dispatch comes under! The Sheriff has the responsibility, and he is willing to allow a board control and advice and add input into the running of the dispatch center. Every time someone brings up a suggestion you open your mouth instead of looking and listening to what knowledgeable professionals are saying.

The city voted to establish a dispatch center if an agreement cannot be reached to allow the users to have a say in the center. Get correct when you repeat a statement!.

Glen, I have one question, who said that all elected officials have the knowledge to run all aspects of the county without the expertise of others and do you think all the citizens trust ALL elective officials? You only were elected because we had no other choice.

Wake up, don’t shoot before you aim, you are a loose cannon! Leave room for negotiations and thoughts of others before you make rash statements or decisions

Yes, you want control, and that is not always transparency or accountability. Remember you are not always wrong BUT you are not always right or correct. When you cross the railroad tracks you should look and listen both ways, why don’t you try to do that when looking at other crossings?

By the way, Glen, don’t speak for METSA, we didn’t contribute \$100,000 to satisfy the city or anyone else, we did it because that is our function. (Helping the public safety of the citizens in our service area)

By the way Glen, is an elective official more credible than an unelected volunteer?

Paul Gottlieb,  
Olathe



## MOUNTAIN STATES RANCH RODEO GIVES YOUTH A CHANCE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE, GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY!



*Didn't get enough of mutton bustin' at the County Fair? Montrose High School FFA is helping to organize mutton bustin' at the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo at the Fairgrounds Aug. 29. [Montrose County Fair & Rodeo photo by Moteus Photography.](#)*

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-With the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo only a few short weeks away, we decided to chat with a couple of the non-profit organizations that will be at the event. Not only will they be helping out at the Rodeo, but the event will also be helping them.

The local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter will be busy helping with the Mutton Bustin' activity for kids, and adviser Brett Saunders believes that this will prove to be a unique opportunity for his students to grow in their leadership abilities and have fun while doing it. "When we were asked to be involved, I asked the kids and they said that 'yes they would love to do this,'" Saunders explained. "The kids are excited about something else to do, especially those who are interested in rodeo. It is an opportunity for students to help organize this event, to develop their leadership skills and learn how to work with other people."

It's also a great opportunity for the FFA to get a jump on the new school year, with school barely being in for one week before this event happens. "It is an opportunity for the incoming freshmen and the students who are new to the group to get involved with the chapter and get to know the other members," Saunders said.

Saunders hopes that the Rodeo will be a great event that will grow even bigger in the years to come. "There are a lot of ranch

rodeos east of the divide and in California, but nothing [really] in the center of Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado," Saunders explained.

"The goal is for this to be a leg to get stuff on and maybe expand it in the coming years."

With Saunders being a fourth generation Montrose native, he believes that the Rodeo shows that the agricultural community still has a big impact on the town. "Our

community has changed quite a bit, from agriculture-focused to various different things, but this is a chance so show that the agricultural culture is still the basis for the valley," he said. "Only about five percent of my students actually come from a [full] farm or ranch. That is how much our community has changed. This event shows how critical the agricultural community is today and why it made an impact on Montrose."

Saunders' favorite part of being in the FFA is being a teacher and an adviser. "I enjoy working with the youth," he said. "School teachers normally only get to see their students for one year, while I get the chance to see a third of my students for all four years of high school. I see them start ninth grade, and I get to see how they mature and how they develop their leadership skills. I really enjoy it, and I hope they get to be another positive influence to their peers."

For more information on the Montrose High School FFA, call 970-249-7726.

Another local organization at the Rodeo will be Community Options, who will be running the beer tent at the event. Community Options Executive Director Tom Turner is looking forward to not only spreading the word about the organization, but also learning a few new things for himself. "Community Options is excited to be involved to run the beer tent," Turner explained. "We are involved with a capital

campaign to raise money to remodel and develop buildings for our new office, and this is a fundraising opportunity. Everybody we asked about participating in the Rodeo as a way to help our capital campaign said 'you bet.'"

Community Options helps people with disabilities find jobs, so Turner is looking forward to the opportunity to talk about the agency at the Rodeo, and get the word out about the fact that the agency is looking for employers who are willing to hire people with disabilities. "At the booth, we are going to have a banner and brochures about the agency," he said. "We are doing some community awareness and I am always looking forward to talking about our mission."

Turner's history of working at Community Options for 20 years has helped him to become incredibly passionate about the agency and wanting to get the word out about it. "I have learned a ton from the population of people we serve about overcoming adversity, the power of the human spirit and living in the moment," he explained. "I have also learned a great deal from our staff, who are dedicated and caring in what they do. It is fun to be around the people we serve and our staff."

Turner is excited to see how this year's Rodeo goes and how it will grow in the future. "It has been getting a lot of support and there is excitement from the community about it," he said. "With rodeo associations in other states, hopefully they will collaborate with this event and it will become a large regional event in Montrose."

One of the main goals of Community Options' participation in the Rodeo is public awareness of the agency. "We are unnoticed in the community, even though we are the biggest non-governmental employer in the area," Turner explained. "Over the years we have gone about our work quietly, professionally and proudly. However we are in a different environment now and we need to make our cause more visible. We are proud of what we do and why we serve, and we want the community to know that."

For more information about Community Options, call 970-249-1412. These organizations and more will be at the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo on August 29 at the Montrose Fairgrounds. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Experiencing the (local) Church

## WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS THE ROAD HOME



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—My visit to The Road Home church took place on March 15, 2015. This church derives its name from the story of the Prodigal Son who, once he came to his senses, took the road home to his father, —So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20 NIV).

The ministry for this church began with a focus on the homeless. However, because the needs of the disadvantaged are now well met through organizations such as Sharing Ministries, Christ’s Kitchen, and MADA, the church is seeking God’s direction on taking the Gospel to bikers.

I took my seat in the back of the auditorium, but as people filtered in and sat behind me I found myself sitting alone in the front row. There were about 25 present and while they visited amongst themselves, it was assistant pastor Ed Douglas who introduced himself. Pastor Ed Sparks emerged from a side room where he was warming up on his guitar and we visited for a few moments before the service started. Mo-

tioning to a small offering box hanging next to the front door Pastor Sparks said, —We don’t pass an offering plate. God always supplies all of our needs.” The church is in its seventh year and their rented building is now under contract. The pastor shrugged and said, —It’s been under contract six times before and we’re still here. God always provides.”

This congregation celebrates communion on the first Sunday of the month and their fully-equipped baptismal is neatly concealed under the platform. Their fellowship includes Bible studies, youth group, potlucks and men’s breakfasts.

Pastor Sparks, who describes his style as preaching a simple Gospel, opened the worship service saying, —OK you guys ready to have church?” Sheets of music placed manually on the overhead projector included praise songs as well as the beloved hymn —Amazing Grace.” In his opening prayer the pastor said, —Brd, we’re not asking for anything in return, we’re just here to worship you.”

The pastor chuckled about his long-running sermon series from the Gospel of John — so far they’ve made it to chapter three. —Jesus didn’t save us by his love, He

saved us by his death! Do you understand that, according to the Bible, there is no other way to be saved?”

Using a personal experience Pastor Sparks told of a man getting angry with him. —He accepted my faith in Jesus, and in turn felt I should accept his faith [astrological signs]. He was mad when I didn’t. In the world today we’re taught that everyone is OK. Christianity boils down to whether or not you believe in Jesus. You have to *receive* Jesus to be a child of God.”

Using the example of the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden (Genesis) the pastor reminded worshippers that everyone, just like Adam and Eve, makes a choice. —They only had one command, *don’t eat from the tree*. They were free to choose not to eat, but the tree had more value than God.”

—Today’s society allows black and white to become grey. We [Christians] are not in the middle of dark and light; we’re either in darkness, or in the light. The Light’s name is Jesus.”

Contact information:

The Road Home  
831 North Selig  
Montrose, CO 81401

*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.*





## Ouray Hot Springs Pool

Photo by Mark Johnson (www.boxcanyonblog.com)

### Power does some pretty amazing things, in some pretty amazing places.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMEA SECURES \$100K IN ASSISTANCE FUNDS FROM ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO



**DMEA Customer Service Representative, Sara McCombs, believes My Choice gives DMEA members the power to truly control their electricity costs. She, along with DMEA's team of customer service representatives, is available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help members sign up for the program. Courtesy photo.**

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Energy Outreach Colorado has committed \$100,000 to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) to help members with past due balances make the transition from a traditional account to the co-op's new prepaid program, My Choice.

Energy Outreach Colorado funds are available for members to help reduce past due

balances when signing up for My Choice. The money can also be used to cover the cost of a My Choice in-home display. The in-home display provides daily consumption information and account balance alerts.

"Energy Outreach Colorado is excited to partner with DMEA to help its members benefit from the My Choice program," said Enrique Hernandez, Energy Outreach Colorado's energy assistance manager. "This program provides valuable tools to help energy consumers better control their costs. We support DMEA in its efforts to make home energy more affordable."

My Choice allows members to purchase energy before they use it. When making a payment, members put a positive balance on their account. As they use electricity that balance goes down, and participants receive alerts when they have less than five days worth of electricity remaining. Members can choose to add money to their prepay balance at anytime through a variety of payment methods.

My Choice allows members to customize their payments to their lifestyle and budget. Some choose to make smaller more frequent payments, while others choose to put a large balance on their account. Either way, it allows members to be in control of how much energy they use and their

costs," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA CEO.

In addition to being a convenient option, prepayment programs like My Choice typically result in significant energy savings. Studies have shown that, on average, people on prepaid electric accounts use 10 percent less electricity than those on traditional post pay accounts. We are excited to offer this new option to our members." If the account balance goes below zero, power is automatically disconnected. However, a member can have their power turned back on in minutes by making a payment at any time of the day. Payments can be made 24/7 online, via a computer or smart device, at a DMEA self-serve kiosk, or by phone. Members can also pay in person during business hours. Members on My Choice are not subject to disconnect fees, reconnect fees, late fees, or collection fees. There are also no payment due dates or minimum payments associated with the program.

From a customer service standpoint, My Choice provides an empowering solution for our members. I see first hand how the program helps our members take control of their energy costs and the relief they feel when they realize they won't struggle with past due balances and fees anymore," said Sara McCombs, DMEA Customer Service Representative.

## HONORABLE MENTION

*To engaged, educated citizens everywhere who take the time to vote...*

*To local business owners Doug Roberts and Kent Wollert and Alpine Bank for bringing the first Mountain States Ranch Rodeo to town Aug. 28-29...*

*To the Montrose Library for supporting the Emerging Issues Discussion Group...*

*To the Meek family, for bringing quality entertainment and a first-rate, comfortable venue to the heart of Montrose...the Lark & Sparrow at 511 East Main Street!*

*To John and Linda Nelson of Montrose...celebrating 50 years of marriage Aug. 14!*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ALL POINTS TRANSIT SEEKS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS



Left to right: Eva Veitch, Region 10; Ross Turner, Turner Automotive; Sharon Fipps, All Points Transit; Sarah Curtis, All Points Transit; Sara Plumhoff, Montrose Community Foundation; Amy Rowan, Region 10. Courtesy photo.

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE –Generous donations from community partners have helped All Points Transit purchase its first Volunteer Driver Program vehicle, a 2013 Toyota Prius. Region 10 Area Agency on Aging, the

only to serve All Points Transit's passengers, but to meet other needs in the community that have been identified, as well. Over last winter and spring of this year, representatives from community organizations came together in a series of meetings

Montrose Community Foundation, Bright Mountain Foundation and Turner Automotive all made contributions that made the vehicle purchase possible.

–With volunteer drivers and a fuel-efficient vehicle, All Points Transit will be able to perform low-cost trips outside of our regular Dial-A-Ride and public bus routes,” said Sarah Curtis, Mobility Manager for All Points Transit. –One of the goals of the program is to increase our capacity and availability to seniors, with the intention of reducing the current waiting list for door-to-door service.” The volunteer program was initiated not

to discuss gaps in transit and how a volunteer driver program might assist multiple organizations in the Montrose area. Participants included Montrose Coalition for the Homeless, Region 10, Welcome Home Montrose, Volunteers of America, the Center for Mental Health and others.

Since the purchase of the vehicle, Volunteers of America and Golden Circle Seniors have both made contributions to help with operating costs that include fuel, insurance and maintenance.

Now, All Points Transit is seeking volunteer drivers and additional funds to launch the program. The first five volunteers to join as a volunteer driver will receive free memberships to Time Bank of the Rockies. Those interested in joining the volunteer team should call Sarah at 970-249-6204 or stop by 431 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Montrose.

Eva Veitch, Community Living Services Director at Region 10, helped spark the fundraising effort with some unexpected capital funds that became available at the end of Region 10's fiscal year. When speaking of Region 10's contribution to the program, Eva said –We are pleased to play a small part in this great effort to meet the transportation needs in our community. Thank you, All Points Transit, for your efforts to drive it forward.”

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PUBLIC CEREMONY AT RED MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK TO CELEBRATE MINING CLAIMS PURCHASE



*Red Mountain. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

**RED MOUNTAIN**--The public is invited to celebrate a major mining claims acquisition and donation project that will preserve historic sites and landscapes in Ouray and San Juan Counties. The Red Mountain Heritage Celebration will take place at the scenic Red Mountain Mining Interpretive Overlook on Highway 550, Saturday, August 22 at 10 a.m. Guided tours of several of the newly acquired claims will begin at 11 a.m.

The event will include brief presentations on the history of the Red Mountain Mining District and the role of the Ridgway-based Trust for Land Restoration (TLR), which has facilitated the recent purchase of 120 mining claims. Those properties will be preserved for their scenic beauty and historical significance.

Bob Risch, Chair of the Red Mountain Task Force and current TLR Board Member, will describe the goals and accomplishments of the Red Mountain Project. Don Paulson, curator of the Ouray County Historical Museum, will describe the history of the Red Mountain District.

Following a ceremonial exchange of deeds, Paulson and Risch will guide short

tours of the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable and the American Girl Mine.

The ceremony also will unveil the newly revitalized TLR, an established local land trust whose mission is to conserve and protect significant scenic and historic landscapes and sites in the San Juan Mountains.

TLR acquired sixteen mining claims in Ouray County with the help of the Toan-O'Brien Foundation, a private foundation based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Silverton-resident Ryan Bennett acquired the remaining 104, all located in San Juan County.

TLR will donate fourteen of the mining claims to the United States Forest Service, and donate two of the claims to the Ouray County Historical Society. Bennett will retain ownership of the 104 claims he acquired. He voluntarily imposed deed restrictions on those properties to allow for future mining but restrict residential development.

The two claims being donated to the historical society include historically significant sites of the Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad grade and ruins of the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable. It is reputed to be the

only turntable in the country ever built on the main line of a United States railroad, according to Paulson.

—The Silverton Railroad's Corkscrew Gulch Turntable is an icon of railroading in Southwestern, Colorado," he said. —It was built in 1889 by Otto Mears, the Pathfinder of the San Juan. The Ouray County Historical Society's Board of Directors is proud to take ownership of and protect this historic site for the enjoyment of generations to come."

The opportunity arose from the largest (over \$5 billion) environmental contamination settlement in U.S. history and a court-ordered sale. Tronox Corporation, the polluter's spin-off company, held contaminated sites throughout the country.

Fortunately the sites being acquired in Ouray and San Juan Counties were evaluated and found to be clean, according to Willits.

—This is a great deal for the public on both sides of Red Mountain Pass," said Pat Willits. TLR's acquisition of the mining claims is a first step in the organization's effort to carry on and expand the legacy of the Red Mountain Project.

Under the leadership of Risch, the Red Mountain Project in 1998 began a public-private partnership with stakeholders in the San Juan Mountains, which eventually acquired more than 10,000 acres of mining claims in Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel Counties and returned them to the public domain. —TLR is proud to take up the reins of the Red Mountain Project, re-engage our friends and partners, and develop new alliances" said Willits. —This is a great project which furthers our mission to conserve and protect the places we cherish and hold dear in the San Juan Mountain-high country. This project certainly helps do that."The public can learn more about this important land acquisition and enjoy spectacular mountain scenery at the Red Mountain Heritage Celebration. The Interpretive Overlook is located across from the Idarado Mine on Highway 550, ten miles south of Ouray and just north of Milepost 82. Elected officials and community leaders are expected to attend. Carpooling to the Corkscrew Gulch Turntable and Colorado Girl Mine trailheads will be available for hikers. For more information, call the Ouray County Historical Society, (970) 325-4576.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### EXPERT OFFERS TWO PRESENTATIONS ON BULLYING AT MHS AUG. 15

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose's newly formed Before You Hate, Think of Cait Board of Advisors and the Montrose County School District RE-1J have partnered to bring you world renowned bullying expert, Barbara Coloroso. She will be presenting a morning (9 AM) and afternoon (1 PM) seminar open to the public on Saturday, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Montrose High School Lloyd McMillan Gym. Parents of all age kids and the community are highly encouraged to attend this free presentation. We also encourage parents to let their kids go enjoy the Montrose Recreation District's Youth Appreciation Day, while they attend one of these seminars. For more information on Youth Appreciation Day, please visit [www.montroserec.com](http://www.montroserec.com)

A two and a half hour workshop packed with solid practical advice on how to use the stuff of everyday life to teach children to act with integrity, civility, and compassion.

Beginning with the idea that it is in us to care, that we are born with an innate capacity for compassion, Barbara Coloroso shows parents and caregivers how to nurture and guide children's ethical lives from toddlerhood through the teen years using everyday situations at home, in so-

cial settings, at school and in the world at large. Barbara will also address how this topic is related to the district's new anti-bullying policies, procedures and practices. Topics include:

- How to develop an ethic rooted in deep caring with principles, virtues, and values that are in the service to and at the service of that caring
- The why and how to teach our children to think and act ethically
- Nurturing in children the three antidotes (care deeply, share generously, help willingly) to the virulent agents that are ripping apart the fabric of our human relationships (hating, hoarding, and harming ourselves and others)
- How rigid moral absolutism and shifting moral relativism interfere with raising ethical human beings
- Media: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly, and the Indifferent—how we can help children use these tools and not be used or consumed by them.

- The difference between punishment and discipline—why one works and the other only appears to work.

The story about our human nature in today's social and cultural climate is part and parcel of our human nature *and* our social and cultural climate. Our story is also guided by our compassion and loving kindness, which recognizes that there is no I without Thou, no We without Community and no way to survive without honoring both our unique individuality and our common humanity.

The mission of Before You Hate, Think of Cait is to create a model community where intolerance, bigotry, bullying and cruelty is not tolerated by building systems and supports so that our kids and communities are safe.

For more information on our board, the seminars or to join in our efforts to create a community of change, please contact Ashley Pietak at 970-970-417-0041 or email [beforeyouthatethinkofcait@outlook.com](mailto:beforeyouthatethinkofcait@outlook.com).

### RE-1J AWARDED GIZMOS SCIENCE SUCCESS GRANT

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Montrose County School District in Montrose, Colorado, has been awarded a Gizmos Science Success Grant by ExploreLearning. The Gizmos Science Success Grant Program enables districts to develop and implement inquiry-based instructional methods that will increase science teachers' effectiveness in the classroom. The program incorporates professional development and Gizmos interactive simulations to promote students' deep conceptual understanding in STEM disciplines. Through this grant, students in the district will be using Gizmos in science classes for one year. ExploreLearning Gizmos are interactive online simulations that help students develop a deep understanding of challenging science and math concepts through inquiry and exploration. Using Gizmos, students can manipulate variables, generate and test hypotheses, and engage in extensive "what-if" experimentation. Research has consistently shown simulations to be powerful tools for improving student learning.

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## Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

### ONGOING-

**THE ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB** meets every second Tuesday at St Mary's Catholic Church in the St Paul Room, 1855 St Mary's Drive, Montrose. The Public is welcome to attend. For more information, email [alpinephotoclub@aol.com](mailto:alpinephotoclub@aol.com).

**"SHERB NERDS" TRIVIA NIGHTS AT RIDGWAY'S SHERBINO THEATER** are monthly on Tuesdays from 7-9pm, (doors at 7pm and trivia starting at 7:30pm). Admission is \$5 per person and \$3 for students, and the cash bar is open!!!! Half the proceeds from admissions go toward the cash grand prize to the winning team of the night, and all other proceeds will benefit the Sherbino Theater. "Sherb Nerds" Trivia Nights dates are: Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, and Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>!!

**PICKIN' IN THE PARK**-Paonia's 8th Annual Free Summer Concert Series. Paonia Town Park, Paonia, CO, Thursday Evenings in August, 6pm 'til Dark August 6, 13, 20, 27 ~ 2015.

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

**FREE JAM SESSION AND SING ALONG**, Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

**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 FARMERS MARKET**— Every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. -1pm, Centennial Plaza.

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

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

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

**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-SERVICE 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-

**Aug. 11**-Non-profit board training coming to Montrose, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Montrose Regional Library. \$50 for single registration, \$90 for double. Registration is OPEN: Register at <https://www.regonline.com/CYC-Montrose0812>.

**Aug. 11**-Montrose County Food Safety Class, Friendship Hall Kitchen 2 to 4:30 p.m. Montrose County Fairgrounds. RSVP to 970.252.5067 or 970.252.5043.

**Aug. 11**-Historical Alley walk, Historical Legends and True Tales starts at 7 pm, meet at the Montrose Historical Museum. Fee is \$5.00/person; spaces are limited and please call 249-2085 for RSVP.

**Aug. 11**--Townie Tuesday Picture Show-Ridgway Town Park. Movie starts at dusk.

**Aug. 12**-Heidi's Brooklyn Deli Forum, 8 to 9 a.m. 1521 Oxbow Drive, App developer Mike Kingery is the speaker. Coffee is \$1.

**Aug. 13**-SOM Footwear Factory Outlet Store open to the public-1006 North Cascade, Noon to 6 p.m.

**Aug. 13**-Downtown Delta Fest, 5:30 to Dusk, Main Street in Delta.

**Aug. 13**—Paonia's Pickin' in the Park -NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS. Denver's Hippest 8 Piece R&B Band, [www.nathanielrateliff.com/nathaniel-rateliff-night-sweats](http://www.nathanielrateliff.com/nathaniel-rateliff-night-sweats). Opening Set and Late Show by Jelly Bread California's Funky Quartet. [www.jellybread.net](http://www.jellybread.net).

**Aug. 13**-Sportsmens' Roundtable, Holiday Inn in Cortez, 2121 East Main St. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Aug. 14**-Montrose Summer Music Series, Free Concert at Black Canyon Golf Course, Headliners Chris Daniels and the Kings, Ascending Giants to open.

**Aug. 14**-The Royal We plays the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway. 7 p.m., \$10 cover.

**Aug. 14**-[Bow Wow Film Festival](#) at the Wright Opera House. 7 p.m.

**Aug. 15**-Lincoln-Reagan Dinner, Montrose Pavilion. Tickets \$25, Speaker Dinesh D'Souza. For tickets visit [www.montrosegOP.org](http://www.montrosegOP.org).

**Aug. 15**--Celebrate Youth Appreciation Day at the Plaza! Montrose Farmers Market 8:30 am - 1pm. Kids Games, face painting and youth activities. Downtown Montrose off Main Street / Centennial Plaza.

**Aug. 15**--The community is invited to a two and a half hour workshop with Barbara Coloroso packed with solid practical advice on how to use everyday life to teach children to act with integrity, civility, and compassion. There are two workshops scheduled: 9 a.m. - Noon OR 1 p.m. — 4 p.m. at the Montrose High School Lloyd McMillan Gym. A Spanish Translator will be available during the afternoon session. This schedule coincides with Youth Appreciation Day. Come to one of our workshops while your kids enjoy Youth Appreciation Day!

For more information regarding Youth Appreciation Day go to: [www.montroserec.com](http://www.montroserec.com).

**Aug. 15**-Third Annual Moonshiners' Ball, Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans. Event details and tickets can be found online at [www.buildinglives.org](http://www.buildinglives.org). Tickets can also be purchased in-person at the Habitat ReStore in Montrose, Chili's Restaurant, Bank of Colorado and The Coffee Trader.

**Aug. 16**-A.J. Fullerton, artists Karen and Floyd Day at the Living Room Lounge at Ridgway's Sherbino Theater. 6 to 9 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

**Aug. 20**—Paonia's Pickin' in the Park -DAVINA & THE VAGABONDS Hot Jazz & Blues from the Midwest.

**Aug. 20**-Gotta Be at Lark & Sparrow, 511 East Main St. \$10. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 8:05. Purchase tickets in advance at Eventbrite/TheLark&Sparrowllc.

**Aug. 20-22**-Wright Opera House to present Open House Theatricals performance of God of Carnage, 7:30 p.m. [For tickets click here.](#)

**Aug. 21**-Historical Alley walk Act II-North side of Main starts at 7:00pm, meet at the Montrose Historical Museum. Fee is \$5.00/person; spaces are limited and please call 249-2085 for RSVP.

**Aug. 21**-Bow Wow Film Festival, Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, 7 p.m. \$10.

**Aug. 22**-Red Mountain Mining Claims Acquisitions and Donations Project Ceremony, 10 a.m., tours at 11 a.m. Red Mountain Overlook.

**Aug. 22**--Celebrate Peach Month at the Montrose Farmers Market Peach Pie BAKE OFF Contest. Join us for fresh pie and cobbler baked by our locals! Winner announced 11 am. Come shop and enjoy the morning with us at the Market.

**Aug. 22**-Kevin McCarthy Trio at Lark & Sparrow, 511 East Main St. \$15. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 8:05. Purchase tickets in advance at Eventbrite/TheLark&Sparrowllc.

**Aug. 24**-World Affairs Council of Grand Junction to host panel discussion on Nepal, 7 p.m. in the CMU Ballroom. Free and open to the public.

**Aug. 25**--Townie Tuesday Picture Show-Ridgway Town Park. Movie starts at dusk.

**Aug. 27**—Paonia's Pickin' in the Park. FRANK SOLIVAN & DIRTY KITCHEN.

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**Aug. 28-Sept. 1**--13<sup>th</sup> Annual San Juan Chamber MusicFest. Artistic Director and gifted pianist Max Levinson from Boston returns once again to bring three different concert events to the region. Violinist Nurit Pacht, of New York, cellist Allison Eldredge of Boston, and classical guitarist and music educator Rami Vamos, also of New York, will join Levinson in bringing fine and diverse selections to the stage. Visit [www.ocpag.org](http://www.ocpag.org) for tickets and information.





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*Above, local grower Kerry Mattics has opened the farm stand at Main Street and the San Juan Bypass, but warns customers not to expect chiles until month's end, thanks to this year's cool, wet weather.*

*At left, fun at Montrose in Motion on Aug. 6.*





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