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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays

Issue No. 138 Oct. 5 2015

READY, SET, SKI! WEST SLOPE RESORTS GEARING UP FOR A STRONG 2015-2016 SEASON



Jaya Case, 11, Baylie Case, 10, and their mother, Darcy ride the old Take Four lift at Powderhorn in February. The old lift is being replaced by a high-speed quad chairlift. Mirror file photo by Barton Glasser.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—One of the Western Slope's favorite winter playgrounds will become a year-round resort with the start of the 2015-2016 ski season, while another has made it easier for guests to arrive and stay at the mountain.

Powderhorn Mountain Resort rolls out the new high-speed quad chairlift to replace the old Take Four lift, just in time for ski season.

—Construction is right on schedule, and within budget," Powderhorn's Dusty Reimer said. —We are very excited—this means twice as much skiing for the price. Things will be easier for families with kids, and you can get more runs in."

The midway is gone, and the resort has expanded its snowmaking capability to 42 acres. Best of all, the new lift gives Powderhorn a reason to stay open year round.

—This allows us to be open for mountain biking in the summer," Reimer said. —We'll have three trails constructed by next summer."

The mountain opens Dec. 17, and along with [affordable season passes, there are special passes and deals](#) for college

Continued pg 15

CALL. PUSH. SHOCK.

Vail's Starting Hearts Wants to Save More Lives!

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—Alan Himelman can never erase the memory of losing his own father far too young to a sudden heart attack. But through his work as executive director of the Eagle County non-profit [Starting Hearts](#), Himelman hopes to erase as many as half of the 1,000 deaths around the world that are caused by sudden cardiac arrest each day. Starting Hearts provides free CPR and AED education, designed to reduce the time in which emergency medical assistance is received. Starting Hearts has three primary programs: **CALL. PUSH. SHOCK.™**—A free community education program on how to respond to Sudden Cardiac Arrest.; **Nearest AED™**—A program focused on increasing AED access throughout Eagle County; and **Neighbor Saver™**—A 911-aided citizen dispatch/response system. Starting Hearts was founded in 2010 by Lynn Blake, just three years after she suffered from sudden cardiac arrest in Vail Village at the age of 27.

—Saving one life affects

Continued on page 7



Starting Hearts Founder Lynn Blake, with her family. Saving one life affects many others, notes Starting Hearts Executive Director Alan Himelfarb. Courtesy photo.

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Natural Grocers! (2)*

*Region 10 urged-bring
programs to seniors!*

*"We are Montrose
County!" (31)*

*Innovation After School
Needs you! (11)*

*Regional events
calendar!*

PLAN FOR YOUR HEALTHFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AT NATURAL GROCERS!



Natural Grocers Manager Rhea Flora with some of the store's vegetarian and vegan holiday choices.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Sure, one of them just might end up on your table this Thanksgiving. But the fortunate birds raised by Mary's Turkeys of California live the good life while they are here, raised humanely without GMO's, hormones or antibiotics, and with plenty of sunshine, a vegetarian diet, room to run, and friends.

For Rhea Flora, Manager of the Montrose Natural Grocers (3451 South Rio Grande), a delicious free-range or heritage Mary's Turkey is one of the reasons to celebrate the beginning of the Holiday Season. Unlike many commercially raised turkeys, these are not given arsenic-based growth hormones or preservatives or confined, she said.

—Always bring an organic turkey to the family gathering, because they have such



Warm up spirits at the Holiday meal with spiced pear juice or locally made Big B's Cider!

great flavor," Flora said.

—Mary's Heritage turkeys are the closest you will get to a wild turkey without heading out to hunt for one yourself. They are not cross-bred like commercial turkeys, so there is more dark meat and they are so full of flavor. These turkeys are also deep-chilled—not frozen or put in a water bath—so the flavor is not compromised.

—They have access to sunshine and fresh air," Flora said. —It's really a nice, nice bird."

Mary's Turkeys are for sale at Natural Grocers now, but are expected to be gone by the end of October, she said.

A \$5 deposit will hold your Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey or goose; however, if a vegetarian or vegan option is your choice, Natural Grocers has plenty of selections to choose from. Along with the traditional —Fofurkey" are some tasty nut-

based options.

For those who want a texture that resembles meat, there are mico-proteins and fungi-based products that can be delicious, Flora said.

—We have a Celebration Roast made of grains and vegetables too," she said.

Warm up spirits at the Holiday meal with spiced pear juice or locally made Big B's Cider, or a healthful substitute for Eggnog.

—It's really important to make the effort to put something beautiful on the table," Flora said.

Jim Womeldorf, a longtime Natural Grocers customer, said that he and his wife Deb Barr enjoy a Mary's Turkeys every year. —They're really, really good," he said.

Reach [Natural Grocers](http://www.naturalgrocers.com) in Montrose at 970-249-2724.



Mary's organic and heritage Turkeys are on sale at Natural Grocers now.

GREAT FALL AND WINTER COMMUNITY GIVEAWAY HELPS MANY PEOPLE IN NEED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Saturday, Oct. 17 is the date for the Great Fall and Winter Community Giveaway at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada. Doors open to the public at 10 am and the giveaway continues until noon. The community is invit-

ed to donate household items, fall and winter clothing, toys, books, blankets, bedding, and other misc. items. Donation will be accepted beginning at 7:00 am at Lions Park. No electronics, TV's, or furniture. Any large items to be donated may be listed on the bulletin board with a contact

number. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sort and display as well as clean up afterwards. Any items left are donated to other non-profit groups. This is a community outreach event of the Spiritual Awareness Center. For more information or to volunteer, call 252-0908.


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THE MONTROSE MIRROR
MONTROSE

OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

CLARIFYING TIMELINE OF LIBRARY RESIGNATIONS

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Montrose Regional Library District. I am writing to clarify items in the article in Issue 137 titled "Montrose Library Replaces Two Trustees." Library Director Paul Paladino did tender his resignation to me, as President of the Library Board, on the day following the May 6, 2015 Special Board Meeting. After much discussion differences were resolved and the Director withdrew his letter of resignation.

Later in the month of May Trustees Linda Gann and Bruce Grigsby emailed their resignations directly to me as Board President. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Sneed, President

Montrose Regional Library District Board of Trustees

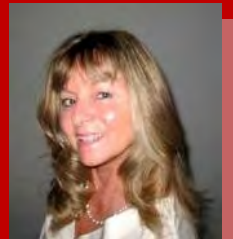
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING FOR SOLUTIONS WELLNESS !



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-To kick off the Grand Opening of Solutions Wellness Center, Dr. Taylor, his staff, and the Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate. Inside this beautiful facility, you will find a team dedicated to the concept of overall health and wellness. Solutions Wellness Center is located at 2798 Woodgate Road and can be reached at 249-4449.

CORRECTION!

The Mirror is very sorry that last week we mixed up ribbon cutting photos for SOM Footwear and Solutions Wellness Center...here are the correct photo and caption for Solutions Wellness Center!



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Starting Hearts™ has been accepted to take part in the Revlon LOVE IS ON Million Dollar Challenge, a fundraising competition launched by Revlon. The organization that raises the most money over the course of 6-weeks will win an additional \$1 Million grand prize donation from Revlon!

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CALL. PUSH. SHOCK. Starting Hearts, Saving Lives From pg 1



Placing defibrillators in high-traffic locations is part of the mission. Courtesy photo.

affects many more," Himelman said.

—Now, our founder has a miracle baby."

The goal is to train an entire generation, and to place automatic external defibrilla-

tors (AED's) in high-traffic, public locations across the Western Slope, he said.

So compelling is the mission that Starting Hearts, which is partnering with the American Red Cross to increase their training and materials budget, has been selected to take part in the [Revlon Love is On \\$1,000,000 Challenge](#). Throughout the month of October, this Western Colorado non-profit will participate along with organizations from across the U.S. that benefit women's health. The charity that generates the most donations during the competition will receive an additional one million dollar donation from Revlon.

Starting Hearts is also preparing to establish affiliate offices in municipalities across the Western Slope-- including Montrose--to provide training in CPR and the use of AED's.

—Right now, if you look at [our map](#) you can see there are a lot of them in Eagle, Vail, Avon and Edwards," Himelman said.

—We want to expand that. And if we can train the next generation as first responders, we can substantially reduce losses."

CPR today is a simplified process, with only compressions used until the AED arrives, he said.

—The important thing is to keep blood flowing," Himelman said. —The first ten minutes are everything; after that survivability drops every minute.

—Citizen first responders can make the difference between life and death." To learn more visit www.startinghearts.org. To [donate](#) or learn more about the Revlon Love is One Million Dollar Challenge, visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/RevlonChallenge>.

GLENCOE PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD – The Norwood Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests is planning a prescribed burn in the Glencoe area on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Approximately 350 acres are planned for treatment located along the 25 Mesa Road, approximately 13 miles northeast of Nucla. The prescribed burn is planned to begin Monday, October 5, and continue through Saturday, October 10, depending upon suitable weather and burning conditions. The most important factor to consider when planning prescribed burning is to provide for safety...that of the firefighters, the public and property. Fire managers have developed detailed prescribed fire plans and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each of the planned burns. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>. The burn is designed for conditions that will allow underburning (fire remains on the ground and burns to reduce grass, small trees and shrubs) under ponderosa pine stands in the area. This will maintain natural conditions that are resilient to frequent surface fires. It will also maintain the beneficial effects of the previous silvicultural treatments. Questions about smoke and burning conditions can be directed to Eric Brantingham at 970.327.4261.

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October 8 • 9am - 4pm • Montrose Headquarters



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CITY TO PRESENT AUDIT, APPROVE \$500K DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT WITH STRYKER, PURCHASE FURNITURE FOR WCRDC



Council will also evaluate Manager Bill Bell.

Mirror Staff Report
MONTROSE-City Council will interview candidates for Montrose Youth Council when they convene Oct. 6. Applicants to be interviewed include Ashley Jones, Austin Richardson, Hunter

Frenze, Alexandria Hanley, Emerald Spindler, Gavriel Lightsey, Hallie Yergenson, Isabel Haga, Jayden Cassidy, Jenna Holyfield, Kael Van Buskirk, Lucy Wittenberg, Maggie McHugh, and Taylor Morris.

Council will consider accepting the An-

nual Financial Audit for the year 2014, prepared by Holscher, Mayberry & Company, LLC; and approving transfer of a Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 1201 South Townsend Avenue from Anselmo Munoz, d.b.a. El Jimador, to Jesus Luquin, d.b.a. El Jimador, for consumption on the licensed premises.

Other items to be considered include a request to change the location of a Retail Liquor Store liquor license for Mangum Enterprises, Inc., d.b.a. Bear Creek Liquor, from 1840 East Main Street to 820 North Townsend Avenue; consideration of Ordinance 2361 on second reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado amending the zoning district designation of 346 S. Park Avenue from —R3,” Medium

Density Residential, to “OR,” Office Residential; Resolution 2015-20, a resolution supporting the —Our Colorado River Core Values;” and a Sole Source Waiver to award a design building contract to Stryker & Company, Inc. for construction of the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center. Council will consider as well awarding the bid for the purchase of furniture for the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center to Evans Consoles at a cost of \$58,780.00. Following a Public Information Officer report by City Manager Bill Bell, Council will remove to an executive session to discuss performance evaluation and processes related to City Manager and City Attorney personnel matters as allowed under C.R.S. Section 24-6- 402(2)(f).

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SET FOR OCT. 10 AT LIONS PARK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The annual Blessing of the Animals is set for Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 AM in Lions Park, 602 N. Nevada. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Montrose Animal Protection Agency. All animals and pet children are welcome if they

are well behaved. They should be on a leash or in their owner’s arms. Children may bring stuffed animals to be blessed and photos of pets or deceased pets are also welcome to be blessed. The Blessing of the Animals honors St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of all creatures, whose

birthday is on October 4. Sponsor for this year’s Blessing of the Animals providing doggie treats is Chow Down, located at 202 Main Street. The Blessing of the Animals is a community outreach project of the Spiritual Awareness Center. For more information call 252-0908.

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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR INNOVATION AFTER SCHOOL!



Centennial Middle School students learning at Innovation After School. Instructor Bill Patterson brought in a flight simulator for the aviation class he teaches. Courtesy photos.

to find so many talented, interesting people in our community who are willing to share with kids.”

Donations and community support are essential to the program; the grant that funded after school opportunities in Montrose and Olathe for 13 years no longer exists.

The Innovation

Mirror Staff Report

Are you creative? Do you have a special skill or expertise that you enjoy talking about and sharing? Are you hands-on, active and fun when it comes to sharing that interest? Centennial Middle School's outstanding **Innovation After School** program can use your help...musicians, artists, crafters, photographers and other creatives...please consider giving one afternoon a week to local middle school students. This program is hands-on, active and fun...and they need you!
—Every volunteer increases opportunities

for kids,” Program Coordinator Diane Brueske said. —**Ad** if you have a new idea for us, we might be interested.”

Among the popular classes this year is an aviation overview with Bill Patterson of Montrose.

—Yesterday, he brought in a flight simulator!” Brueske said, noting that a fitness instructor has also been working with students, and in another class, some high schoolers are teaching Hip Hop dance.

—We try to have things that are not taught during the school day,” she said. —This program is totally volunteer; it is gratifying

After School program has received support from [Community Heart & Hands](http://CommunityHeart&Hands.org) (formerly RSVP), with the goal of providing a safe, positive after school environment for middle school students.

Classes run right after school each day, beginning at 3:45 every weekday day except Wednesday, when the program begins at 2:45 p.m. due to early school release. Most volunteers attend one day per week. The next quarter runs from Oct. 21-Dec. 18. For more information or to volunteer, call Program Coordinator Diane Brueske at 970-209-1358.



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Sept. 22nd -- Effective Communication

Oct. 1st -- Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Early Stage

Oct. 8th -- Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Middle Stage

Oct. 15th -- Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers - Late Stage

Oct. 22nd - Conversations About Dementia

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or by calling (970) 256-1274**

COUNCIL CONSIDERS \$500K CONTRACT FOR WCRDC CONSTRUCTION

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Items up for discussion at the [City of Montrose work session Oct. 5](#) will include interviews with Montrose Youth Council applicants Katie Casebier and Lauren Peterson, as well as an interview with Planning Commission applicant Anthony Russo.

Local business owner Richard Frantz will present a Jeep Club Update. Montrose Rec District Board President Barbara Bynum and Rec District Director Ken Sherbenou will share the District's plans for outdoor facilities.

Also up for discussion is a Sole Source Waiver for professional services with Stryker & Company Inc., owned by Scott Stryker, under a Preliminary Design Build agreement to prepare a project proposal (including schematic design construction documents) and a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the construction of the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WCRDC). The agenda notes that "The design team consisting of Stryker & Company Inc., Bighorn Engineering and Motley Architecture was chosen to provide these professional services based on their immediate availability, experience in constructing dispatch centers in this region and successful past projects with the City of Montrose. Stryker & Company Inc. has completed a project proposal with a GMP in the amount of \$ 462,157.88 to construct the WCRDC."

Council will also discuss a request for the purchase of console furniture for the City Dispatch Center from Evans Consoles of Iowa in the amount of \$58,780, and a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant application in keeping with Resolution 2014-21, which authorized the City of Montrose Police Department to apply for grants through the Colorado Department of Pub-

lic Safety, Division of Criminal Justice for the purchase of two Surface Pro 3 laptops and equipment in the amount of \$4,064.56, to be used by the Montrose Police Department Victim Advocate and the Delta Police Department. Council will also discuss the disposal of several vehicles from the impound lot.

Montrose Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner will discuss spending \$85,000 with NEOFiber of Glenwood Springs, the consultant selected to conduct a recent broadband implementation feasibility study funded by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) through the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning.

Turner is recommending the City finance a Broadband Business Strategy and Financial Plan for the City of Montrose, for an amount not to exceed \$85,000.

Reports are attached from the following entities, with some highlights. [To read the full reports click here:](#)

Downtown Development Authority- Sales tax metrics were provided with district revenues running in the \$5.3M range which appears to be fairly flat from the prior reporting period;

Youth Council-Youth Council Coordinator Tina Woodrum reminded Youth Council and guests that interviews will be held Oct. 6, 2015 and appointments will be made Oct. 20, 2015 during regular City Council meetings;

Golf Course Advisory Committee Report- Budgeting process is going on right now; the 2016 golf course budget proposal was \$280,000 for business operation; \$515,000 for turf maintenance, for a total of \$800,000. Projected revenues of \$500,000 w/ a 2016 \$300,000 net loss. Capital plan for six years is now adopted with significant outlays projected in that

time span.

Montrose Regional Airport Advisory Board—Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold mentioned that the enplanements were holding strong and that was a big thanks to the CFA, in May there were 3,168 enplanements and in June there were 5,945. Lloyd also mentioned that as of June the airport is already ahead at 61,665 enplanements and with increased winter service we will be over 100,000 enplanements which will be the best year in the history of the airport.

Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning- Community Living Services is very busy – 622 calls last month (498 unduplicated), and has added Options counselors to cover all six counties to identify needs and deliver services to constituents. Counselors are in training now, very intensive. Small Business Resource Center Director Vince Fandel discussed relocation of SBRC programs to Proximity Space in Montrose.

Items to be discussed at future City Council Work Sessions include:

Zoning Code Revisions-Oct. 19
Colorado Flights Alliance Budget Discussion-Oct. 19
Police Patrol Vehicle Donation-Oct. 19
State of the City Report-Oct. 20
National Save for Retirement Week Proclamation-Oct. 20
Youth Council Appointments-Oct. 20
Planning Commission Appointment-Oct. 20
Liquor License Transfer for RNR Sportsbar-Oct. 20
City Attorney Evaluation – Oct. 20
Community Options Presentation – Nov. 2
Mail Ballot Election Plan – Nov. 2-2016
Budget Ordinance – First Reading-Nov. 3
Colorado Lottery Starburst Award Presentation-Nov. 17





COMMUNITY LIGHTNING RODS

Voices that spark conversations

CONCERN FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY: DENNIS MURPHY



Dennis Murphy. Courtesy photo.

Interview by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Dennis Murphy grew up in Cinnaaminson, NJ, which is 12 air miles from Independence Hall. Dennis said, "Ever since I was little I was a cast out...I was an outdoor kid, a nature kid." Throughout his adult life Dennis has loved woodworking and has handcrafted six acoustical guitars. His latest creation was crafted from an elm tree cut down from his own yard. "Most people think of elm trees as weed trees, but this one has beautiful wood."

In preparing for college Dennis planned to major in forestry, but a counselor encouraged him to go for a degree in forestry and watershed science. "I'm so glad he did because hydrology was in super high demand and you couldn't get a job in forestry." Watershed science includes a broad

sweep of natural resources including forestry, vegetation and geology. Upon graduating from college in 1978, Dennis went to work for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Montrose. He retired from a career in Wildland Watershed Management after 32 years. "For a few years I did some consulting, but not so much the last couple of years. My wife is now retired and we want to do some traveling."

Dennis served on the Olathe Town Council (1980-1984) and spent one year on the Olathe Planning Commission.

He serves on a number of boards including Friends of the Uncompahgre River, the Uncompahgre Watershed Partners and the Gunnison Gorge Anglers.

"I'm a water guy...anything that deals with water, fish and wildlife."

Currently the chairman of the Montrose Planning Commission, Dennis and fellow members were under a great deal of scrutiny during the recent gravel pit hearings. "The planning commission is a thankless job. People don't come up to hug you... they come up to slug you!"

Those in opposition to the gravel pit perceived the planning commission and the county commissioners as cohorts. "Nothing could be further from the truth. We can have no ex parte communication with one another. We cannot discuss the issues with fellow members, the county commissioners, or the public outside official hearings."

During the hearings Dennis took it upon

himself to do independent research and to study the geology in the valley. "Mining is a necessary evil, but if we'd looked at other sources there would have been twice as many people opposed."

For more than a year the Montrose Planning Commission has had one vacant seat. "We have six [people], but we need seven. No one will apply. They say, 'Oh! wouldn't fit in with your group.'" That's the wrong perception of the planning commission. We all get along, but we don't always agree on the issues. We have differences of opinion."

Dennis has served on the planning commission for over seven years. "I'd like to see more people get involved. We need a full board."

Dennis considers himself a concerned citizen when it comes to planning and growth. "I want the county to grow in a well thought out manner, not chaotic growth." Considering the projected growth for the area he said, "We need to be vigilant and proactive; not reactive. I'm concerned with the health, welfare and safety of the community; not with the desires of groups or individuals. I have a way of sifting through the chaff."

Acknowledging the difficulty in trying to please everyone Dennis said, "If you go to one side or the other, or lean one way or the other, you'll get clobbered. I do my homework. If you want to feel good about what comes out the other side, you can't be happy doing sloppy work."

HONORABLE MENTION

To Volunteers of America..., a national non-profit with a heart for Western Colorado, for serving congregate meals, providing countless resources for local citizens of all ages, and for bringing countless jobs to our community...

To everyone who realizes that Montrose and Olathe need vital, sustainable before and after school programs, and to the dedicated volunteers keeping the Innovation After School program alive at Centennial Middle School...

A huge congratulations to three Montrose residents who ran the St. George Marathon in St. George, Utah on Saturday the 3rd. All three finished quickly enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon. The runners were Bryan Gieszl (2:57), Meghan Waschbusch (3:12) and Christa Gieszl (3:26)!

READY, SET, SKI! AREA SKI RESORTS GEARING UP From pg 1



Snow bunnies have plenty to look forward to at Powderhorn Ski Resort this season. Mirror file photo by Barton Glasser.

kids and others returning to the Western Slope for the Holidays, she said.

—We have the big resort amenities, but we also have the small town feel,” Reimer said. —We care about you, your family and your visit. And we know that there a lot of folks coming over from the Front Range.”

Powderhorn’s first-rate ski education programs also make it a great choice for families, she said.

—We keep our groups small, and the level of expertise and quality of care are almost unmatched,” Reimer said.

—(Ski and Ride Manager) Stephanie Reynolds is ranked as one of the top ten ski instructors in the state. This is one of the best places in the world to learn, and take your kids. Because once you’re here, you’re family.

—This is your home mountain!”

At Telluride Ski Resort, improved access is the name of the game this winter, with new direct flights into Telluride and Montrose regional airport (MTJ) from New York-LaGuardia (LGA), Los Angeles (LAX), Chicago (ORD) and Las Vegas (LAS), in addition to service increases from Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW) and Phoenix (PHX).

Telluride Ski & Golf has also acquired the 177-room Peaks Resort with 42,000 square-foot Spa, as well as operation of the See Forever condominium association and rental unit management program, expanding ski-in/ski-out, full-service lodging choices for guests. Telluride Ski & Golf continues to invest in its ski mountain infrastructure as well. [Telluride opens for the season](#) on Nov. 26.

MONTROSE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO--New Student and Family Orientation at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado welcomes more than 1,100 new students and more than 500 family members each fall.

Paige Starks of Montrose served as an Orientation Leader; Starks's major is Accounting.

Allen Tieme of Montrose served as an Orientation Leader; Tieme's major is Sociology & Human Services.

Fort Lewis College is the Southwest's crossroads of education and adventure. Our blend of small classes, dynamic academic programs, and a liberal arts perspective leads to transformative learning experiences that foster entrepreneurship, leadership, creative problem solving, and life-long learning. And our unique & beautiful mountain campus, on a mesa above historic Durango, Colorado, inspires an active and friendly community with a spirit of engagement, exploration, and intellectual curiosity.

“Jemma loves to read. The library is the best place!”
-Jemma’s mom, Emily Mercer

Library YES!



OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

CITIZENS WHERE IS YOUR OUTRAGE OVER WASTEFUL CITY SPENDING?

Dear Editor!

Montrose citizens, where is your outrage? The City is establishing a second dispatch center because Bell wants it and the City Council rubber stamped his desire. Why? I have seen only two letters to the Editor criticizing this unnecessary, egregious, wasteful project! The existing dispatch center functions perfectly for the Montrose area population as it has for years. A primary sticking point between County and City discussions in an attempt to maintain only the current dispatch center? Bell insisted on being able to fire and hire Montrose County employees at his discretion....sound familiar? There is no compromise or accountability from Bell. Were you aware of any discussion about voting on a second dispatch center? I didn't think so. And you have been told that it will cost the taxpayers nothing...really? Have you ever known of a governmental project that was free? Me either. Every time you purchase anything in Montrose you are taxed which goes to the City; in addition, you are County residents as well who pay taxes to the County and the State. So, enjoy your new tax-free duplication of services by having two dispatch centers.....the first year's initial cost to establish Bell's dispatch center is in the neighborhood of \$1.7 million and some \$700,000+ to maintain it each subsequent year, which doubles the cost to each of us. In several years we will probably enjoy the

privilege of voting on whether or not to create a tax for Bell's project.

We currently have an iconic emblem on our street signs....Bell has discontinued the usage of it....you know the one, the M is green on the left, has the two mountains forming the M and the Black Canyon outline on the right....his new M looks as if it were taken from a font pile....undistinguished, maroon, quite ugly. Changing this also involves dollars; watch for the new icon on City stationary. If I remember correctly the current street sign icon was selected from a competition of area artists and uniquely represents our town. Have you had any input into the decision to eliminate it?... Didn't think so.

Bill Bell has proudly succeeded in either forcing 60+ employees to resign because of work hour cuts or salary cuts or they have been fired....In addition, several long time employees retired because they could no longer tolerate the intimidation, threats and relentless negative criticism. Had any other Montrose business/government entity eliminated 60+ jobs, we probably would have experienced a revolution! Subsequent to that employee elimination process, Bell, John Harris and Rob Joseph, the upper echelon of the City administration, have recently received \$5000-\$15000 per year salary increases. Those three individuals receive over \$400,000 in yearly salary and benefits. The total may be more because

the figure listed includes only the employee benefits, not the entire family. In addition, John Harris lives in Delta, is furnished a city vehicle plus maintenance to commute daily to Montrose. Since October, 2013 Bell has purchased 80.9 acres of real estate for the City costing \$1,191,400. The above information can be validated either at City Hall or the Court House. Even though government employees' salaries are mandated to be open to the public, City Hall can charge you \$30/hour for accessing that information and 25¢/page for hard copies. In April, 2016 we have a municipal election to fill three City Council seats. If you are outraged by the autocratic decisions of the current city manager and rubber-stamped by city council I urge you to consider running for one of those seats! District 3, District 4 and the At Large seats will be open.

As citizens of Montrose we each have the obligation and responsibility to create our government, to determine that it functions reasonably and that it reflects our majority wishes. We currently have a government of six: Five council members and a city manager; that can only change if you opt to run for city council and that you vote in the April, 2016 election. District maps are available at City Hall if you need to determine your eligibility. Please become involved in your city government!

Marge Morgenstern
Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAR COMMEMORATES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

Uncompahgre Valley Chapter Celebrates by Encouraging Prospective Members to Join!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Uncompahgre Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is conducting a membership drive as part of a nationwide celebration to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. All women who can document descent from a Revolutionary War Patriot are encouraged to consider the many benefits of joining the vibrant service organization, which has promoted historic preservation, education and patriotism since its formation in 1890.

—Our chapter, which was organized in 1993 carries out the important mission of the National Society here on the local level,” said Chapter Regent Irene Means. —Our chapter has members from all across the Western Slope and beyond and we are eager to welcome new members to our chapter. We can help them research and complete their genealogy in order to apply for membership.”

Due to the ability to exchange and obtain

genealogical information over the Internet, interest in joining the DAR is at an all-time high, with six of the highest years of application submittals occurring in the last decade.

The Genealogical Research System (GRS), which is a free online resource, provided by the DAR to aid general genealogical research and to assist with the DAR membership process has made joining the DAR even more accessible to many women. Explore these resources at www.dar.org/grs.

—Truly, there has never been a more exciting time to join the DAR. We offer today’s busy woman an opportunity to celebrate the joys of American citizenship in meaningful ways, and we are enthusiastic about the future of our Society,” said National Society DAR President General Lynn Forney Young, who noted that there are currently nearly 180,000 members of the DAR, serving in nearly 3,000 chapters across the nation and in several foreign countries. —extend a warm invitation to

all eligible women to join us in a rewarding future of service to America.”

Since its founding 125 years ago, more than 940,000 women have been inducted into membership. During the current three-year administration coinciding with the 125th anniversary celebration, the organization has issued a challenge to complete 10 million hours of service to America.

—From supporting veteran services to assisting active duty service personnel, from preserving locations of historic significance to welcoming new citizens, there are many ways that Daughters are proudly answering the call to service in their local communities,” said Means.

—The Uncompahgre Valley Chapter is proud to carry out DAR’s mission to celebrate our American way of life.”

Means invited women who are interested in membership to visit the national society’s web site at www.DAR.org and to visit the local chapter’s web site at www.uncompahgrevalleydar.org to obtain more information.

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Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY BEGINS OCT. 27!



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Do you know a motivated kid who could turn a talent into a real business? The Young Entrepreneurs Academy teaches all of the skills needed to transform kids into real CEO's. Classes in the Montrose chapter begin Oct. 27. Students in grades 6 through 12 can apply today at: http://yeausa.org/apply_today.php Call the Chamber of Commerce with questions 249-5000.



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

Sticking Together... for Our Future

We stick by our community's next generation of leaders by hosting programs to help them prepare for their future.

That's what Friends and Family do.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHAMBER CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING FOR SOM FOOTWEAR



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE--Locally owned and Made In Montrose! The Chamber of Commerce and supporters gathered to celebrate Som Footwear and their factory store. Som Footwear is located at 1006 S. Cascade Avenue, you can find more information on their website at www.somfootwear.com.

CORRECTION!

The Mirror is very sorry that last week we mixed up ribbon cutting photos for SOM Footwear and Solutions Wellness Center...here are the correct photo and caption for SOM Footwear!

Save the Date



October 24th

Masquerade Party

8pm ... Masque & Costume required
Signature Sips, Savors & Dancing



December 31st

"Swing in the New Year"

6:30pm ... 1930s Hollywood Movie Theme
Black Tie - Dinner, Dancing & Midnight
Champagne Toast



Presented by The Lark & Sparrow Historic Venue
and The Skylight Jazz Foundation

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DCMH CLINICS RESTRUCTURED DUE TO DEMAND

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Due to increased patient demand for primary care services, DCMH Primary Care Family Medicine located at 311 Palmer in Delta will now be the central location for Dr. Jesus Ochoa, Board-Certified Family Medicine and a newly employed Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, Susan Brown.

Colorow Family Medical Care in Olathe closed Sept. 29th to provide time for the staff to move to the Delta clinic location. Starting on Tuesday, Oct. 6th, DC MH Primary Care - Family Medicine is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed for lunch from Noon to 1 p.m. daily and closed on Thursdays. Call 874-6158 for appointments.

Susan Brown, FNP-BC, has been a board

certified family nurse practitioner for three years. She graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with her BSN and then completed her MSN at the University of Indianapolis.

She has been practicing primarily in urgent care and primary care settings since graduating as a nurse practitioner. For the last two years, she has also been adjunct faculty at the University of Indianapolis in the Graduate Nursing program.

As a floor nurse, Susan worked in pediatrics, oncology, general medical-surgical, PCU and case management. Prior to becoming a nurse, Susan practiced as a Chemical Engineer for five years in the pharmaceutical industry after graduating from Purdue University School of Engineering. Brown is from Indianapolis, Indiana but has lived in Baltimore and Denver

prior to moving to Delta. She and her husband Peter enjoy any and all outdoor activities, especially hiking, skiing, camping, snow-shoeing and anything that includes their two dogs.

Options for families seeking pediatric care for their children may call DCMH Primary Care Family Medicine with Dr. Ochoa and Susan Brown, Family Nurse Practitioner.

Families have additional options for care with Pediatric Associates in Delta and Montrose, or they may reach out to other offices in the community to see if they are accepting new patients.

If immunizations are required, the Delta County Health Department offers immunizations. A Kidz Clinic, associated with the Delta County School District, also offers health services for children.



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Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS CROSSROADS VICTORY CHURCH



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—Nov. 23, 2014, a blustery winter day, I joined 200 plus people for worship at Cross Roads Victory Church. As I waited for services to begin Dan Tyler greeted me and then retreated to the foyer. It wasn't long before Pastor Chris Peterson came to introduce himself and I had to ask if Dan had sent him over. —Well yes," he laughed. —Hold me not to make a nuisance of myself."

Actually the greeter of the day was Addie, a toddler who precariously walked up the main aisle smiling and giving her best Miss America hand wave to those seated on both sides of the aisle. Coming in second place for friendliness was Marvin Oliver, pastor to the seniors, who greeted his way around the auditorium.

The bulletin listed no order of service, but it was informative about the staff, ministry opportunities and class times. Also of help to visitors was a map showing the layout of the facility.

Praise song accompaniment included guitars, piano, and a trombone. The first two charismatic selections were followed by a medley of four meditative songs. Throughout the song service the congregation enthusiastically clapped, sway to the beat, and raised hands toward heaven. This is a vocal congregation and they voiced agreement saying, —Yes Lord ... Amen ...

and Halleluiaah." In one instance someone even whistled a note of support. A round of applause was given for God; as well as a round of applause for youth pastor Jeremy when he finished his announcements.

The song service was lengthy and while most people remained standing throughout, a few took their seats. I have to confess I was relieved when we were told, —You may be seated." However, I had to laugh because I'd no more settled into my seat when Pastor Chris said, —Et's all stand as we prepare [pray] for taking the offering."

Empty seating was scattered throughout the auditorium, however none of the available seats were contiguous enough to accommodate more than three people. When a family of six arrived after the service had already started the Golden Rule (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) was put into action. One back row of worshippers, without being prompted, picked up their belongings and gave up their seats to the family.

Pastor Peterson ask for a show of hands of everyone who experienced the inclement weather on their way to church. Laughter rippled through the auditorium when he said, —If you would have come to Sunday school [an hour earlier] you would have avoided all that snow!"

This Sunday the church played host to the

Chapel of Hope choir from Delta, who presented their Christmas program, —We're Glad You Came." The nine member, all male choir is directed by Kathy, who began the presentation saying, —If you came for a performance, you're not going to get one ... We came to worship with you." The program interspersed narration with song selections, which included a medley of traditional Christmas hymns.

A personal connection was made with the choir when three of the members gave brief testimonies of faith; including their struggles with living a Christian life. One man said, —God kept bringing me back when I strayed."

Another shared, —I knew of God — but I didn't know God." Many Montrose churches have a connection to the Chapel of Hope choir through the Kairos cookie ministry.

At the conclusion of the program the choir received a standing ovation, accompanied by sentiments of praise and one individual added a rousing —whoa."

A potluck Thanksgiving dinner followed the service with an open invitation to all who were present.

Contact Information:
Cross Roads Victory Church
515 S. Hillcrest Dr.
Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-4443

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*.

Montrose Chamber of Commerce

Business 2 Business Expo

Presented by State Farm Insurance, Tim Tinaza

Tuesday, October 20th
4:00-7:30 PM

OPEN TO PUBLIC-FREE TO ATTEND

Come enjoy the brand new format of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business 2 Business Expo! Focusing in on networking, the Business 2 Business Expo will also serve as the chamber's October Business After Hours.

Come see businesses' exhibit spaces, network with business and community members, and enjoy!

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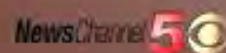
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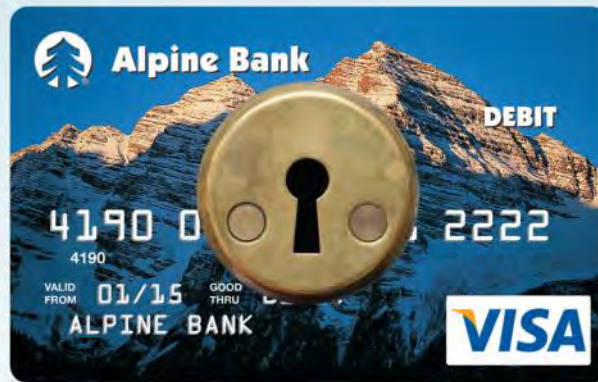


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PILE BURNING PLANNED FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Gunnison Ranger District is planning to conduct “prescribed pile burns” over the next few months. Most of the burns will occur between mid-October and into December, depending upon weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions for the burns to occur.

The most important factor to consider when planning prescribed burning is to provide for safety...that of the firefighters, the public and property.

Fire managers have developed detailed prescribed fire plans and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each of the planned burns. Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see <https://>

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health.

The tentative plan based on historic weather conditions is to burn all the hand piles in mid-October on the Windy Point project. Then, burn the machine piles starting in November after adequate snowfall has accumulated on the ground.

While it is important to remove the piles for fuels reduction, we plan to leave a limited number of the piles in the Windy Mill and Highway 149 Corridor project areas that have easy vehicle access for current and future firewood gathering.

Please obtain a map and permit for these firewood gathering areas at the local Lake City and Gunnison Ranger District Offices.

It is estimated that in the next two to three years additional firewood material

will be generated and available to the public after Timber Sale Contract activities have been completed along Highway 149.

Each year a portion of the generated material will be left unburned and available for public firewood use after purchase of a personal use firewood permit.

Prescribed burns are planned for the following areas with estimated number of piles: Highway 149 Corridor- T43N R3W Sec 16,17,21,22- 150 machine built piles
Deer Lakes-T43N R3W Sec 3-2 machine built piles
Windy Mill T43N RW Sec 18-30 machine built piles
Windy Point-T43N R3W Sec18- 200 hand built piles

For more information about these planned prescribed pile burns, contact Jim Ramirez or Patrick Medina at 970.641.0471.

PAVING DATE SET FOR EAST OAK GROVE ROAD PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-After many months of construction, the City of Montrose is pleased to announce that the end of the East Oak Grove Road widening project is in sight. The next phase of the project will focus on completing the concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalks and final shaping of the roadway

base that, once completed, will allow for paving to begin. Paving is scheduled to start Oct. 12 (weather permitting) and is expected to take one to two weeks to complete. Immediately following paving the roadway will be striped and opened to traffic. Some remaining landscaping and concrete work alongside the roadway will take

place after paving, but these items will not delay opening of the road.

The City has appreciated the patience of residents throughout the course of this project and is excited to be wrapping the project up. Any questions regarding the project may be directed to Scott Murphy, City Engineer at [970-901-1792](tel:970-901-1792).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP DEFINES AND DRIVES ALPINE BANK'S SUCCESS



Loving the Longevity—Several employees at Alpine Bank recently gathered together to celebrate their 10-, 15- and 35-year work anniversaries. Front right, Bob Young, the bank's founder and chairman, joins the group. Courtesy photo.

*By Michael Blankenheim
Special to the Mirror*

When workers own part of where they work, unique developments tend to occur: Employees care more about their institution, they are more engaged, they stay longer in their jobs and management pays closer attention to what they have to say. All of that is the case for Colorado's Alpine Bank, where, thanks to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan, its employees are the bank's largest group of shareholders. Alpine Bank, with headquarters in Glenwood Springs, was founded in 1973 with a capitalization of \$250,000, four employees and one retail office. In 1983, says Bob Young, the bank's founder and current chairman, executives started an ESOP thinking it would encourage longer employee tenures as a modest retirement benefit. The bank contributed 7 percent of employee salaries to the fund. Its stock shares were valued at \$100 each. Fast forward to 2015, and as Alpine Bank has become one the region's largest community banks, its ESOP has grown considerably. The bank now has assets of \$2.5 billion, 38 retail offices and about 550 em-

ployees. And every year for the past 32 years, the bank has contributed the equivalent 7 percent in worker salaries to its ESOP fund without requiring any matching funds from employees. The result: Employees now own 21 percent of the bank's outstanding stock, and individual shares in the ESOP have risen in value from \$100 to \$2,700. Alpine Bank also offers its employees a separate 401(k) retirement plan, says Young, but it is the ESOP that truly catches employees' eyes. About 70 percent of the bank's employees have been with the bank for five years or more. Employees are fully vested in the ESOP after six years. —We have a very low turnover rate and we think that has a lot to do with the ESOP," Young says. —Those that have been here for long periods of time have done exceptionally well." That low turnover rate generated by the ESOP has helped fuel the bank's growth and produced a mature, stable financial institution, Young offers. —We haven't had a layoff in our 42 years of existence," he says. —When you grow to this level, you have to have people who are engaged and

have a high morale, which absolutely describes our employees."

As employee owners, Young says, Alpine Bank's employees have a voice at the table. They have a seat on an internal ESOP council and attend shareholder meetings. —When you have a 21 percent shareholder, which is our largest single ownership block, you need to be guided by their wishes," he says. —Our employees have a significant voice in the way the plan is operated and also in the way the bank is operated." On a day-to-day basis, the bank's employee morale is high, says Young, which leads to greater customer relations and more engagement in the community. —Because our employees look to the future, they provide better customer service and are more involved in where they live and work. They help out in the schools, the service clubs and the chamber of commerce. —Almost every employee at some level interacts with the community in a way that benefits the bank. That staff initiative, high morale and conscientious work ethic have become a part of everything that defines Alpine Bank as a distinctly successful community bank, Young says.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CACTUS CAR WASH INVESTS IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES



Cactus Car Wash Manager Samuel Leben with "Cactus Man," at the family-owned Cactus Car Wash at City Market South. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Cactus Car Wash, which has an enviable location within the City Market South shopping center and adjacent to one of the busiest gas station islands in the state, has become further differentiated from its competitors thanks to the installation of state-of-the-art technologies. Cactus Car Wash has added 56 photovoltaic solar cells on its roof to take advantage of sunny days that will provide a nearly 100 percent energy offset, upgraded its illumination with 100 PERCENT LED lighting, installed one 96 percent efficient boiler to replace two old 60-percent efficient boilers, and has replaced an old touch-free automatic wash system with the new touch-free PDQ LaserWash® 360 In-Bay Automatic Vehicle Wash System.

The touch-free LaserWash system is truly state-of-the-art, and gives customers a safe, high quality and an easy to use wash experience. There are many benefits to this automatic wash system: touch free means it eliminates the possibility of scratching and damaging paint and exterior trim. Also, with two soap passes, high PH and low PH, it can attack different types of dirt including bugs and mag chloride (the highly corrosive ingredient used for road deicing and mixed with the gravel on roads.)

Local business owners Bruce and Terri Leben bought Cactus Car Wash in March 2014, and it is managed by their 27-year-old son Samuel Leben, who is there to help and answer questions as well as keep

things squeaky clean.

—We learned very quickly that people who use car washes require convenience, speed and quality. To be successful we had to make the right investments to ensure the customer experience was the best it could be," said Samuel Leben, general manager of Cactus Car Wash.

Cactus Car Wash has two self-serve bays and one automatic bay with the touch free PDQ LaserWash 360 Wash System which can accommodate higher and wider vehicles than most automatics. In the back there are two vacuums and a vending supplies. Cactus Car Wash bays are higher than average wash bays and can

accommodate dually pickups, lifted trucks, vehicles with rooftop carriers attached, vehicles with towed toys (boats, ATVs, snow machines, Jeeps etc.)

The initial investment in the car wash, including high-tech and low-tech upgrades are substantial, however the Leben's have estimated their return on investment will be worthwhile.

—Owning and running a car wash is not for the faint of heart. It requires constant maintenance to keep all systems running smoothly, which is right in our family's wheelhouse," said Bruce Leben, owner of Cactus Car Wash.

The car wash industry (in-bay automatic, self serve and tunnel) is the ultimate small business and a growing industry, with more than 100,000 car wash facilities in the United States, and approximately 90 percent owned by a small business. The industry is steadily growing, over the last 15 years, 69 percent of people are washing their cars at facilities rather than washing them at home.



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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, go to www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org and click on *Calendar of Events*. Or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>

OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY-VOTE YES!

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County supports the Montrose Library District's Ballot issue requesting voters approve a 0.8 mil levy increase to restore those services that were cut due to the decrease in property tax revenue and to rebuild the reserve fund that was depleted over the past few years. Advocacy, based on these positions, is an important part of League activity.

We support this ballot issue based upon the following LWVCO positions:

LWVCO fiscal policy position: "Support raising revenue which incorporates social, environmental and economic goals."

LWVCO education position: Support "...a system (that) leads to life-long learning for all students – We believe that "...the education of a young child is a shared responsibility." And "We support measures which promote, help and encourage families to prepare students to meet academic standards."

The library is an integral part of our community, and with the passage of the mill levy increase it will be able to restore lost services. Vote yes in November to support your library.

Karen Connor

Montrose-Delta League of Women Voters

COMMENTARY: PLEASE DON'T SPEND PUBLIC MONEY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Mirror Staff Editorial

MONTROSE-It was a tense conversation; no matter how many times I asked, 'how much?' the public official I was questioning simply could not recall the exact figure I was asking about.

My question concerned the use of public money to fund a private enterprise, a transaction that seems to have taken place behind closed doors. "Not all of our money is public," s/he finally said.

After hanging up, I turned to another resource, the Region 10 web site, which hosts information concerning public-private partnerships. A document prepared by the Urban Land Institute lists [10 principles for successful public-private partnerships](#). The introduction pointed out that when using public funds, involving the public is actually not optional: "...most share common stages within a development process bounded by legal

and political parameters. In the first phase—conceptualization and initiation—stakeholders' opinions of the vision are surveyed and partners are selected through a competitive bid process."

Please remember that when it comes to public funds, the people have a right to understand how the deal went down...and please don't spend public money behind closed doors.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED AS A COMMUNITY VALUE FIVE-STAR HOSPITAL BY CLEVERLEY + ASSOCIATES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-: For the fourth year in a row, Montrose Memorial Hospital has been recognized as a top-ranked Community Value Provider by Cleverley + Associates. Cleverley + Associates, a leading healthcare financial consulting firm specializing in operational benchmarking and performance enhancement strategies, released the findings as part of its new publication: *The State of the Hospital Industry – 2015 Edition*. MMH is part of a select and distinguished group of hospitals in the United States. Only **two** hospitals in the state of Colorado were honored with this award. Inclusion in the Community Value Leadership Award group speaks to the great value that MMH provides to our community. It is a major accomplishment

to be ranked a five star hospital for the fourth year in a row," said Steve Hannah, MHA, CEO for Montrose Memorial Hospital. "I'm proud of the hard work of our MMH team members, including caregivers, support staff, physicians and healthcare providers."

Mr. Hannah stated the governing board and leadership of MMH are committed to high quality and cost efficiency to ensure local residents and visitors receive excellent care.

As healthcare value is increasingly discussed nationally, the Community Value Index (CVI) provides an objective assessment of the relative value a hospital provides.

This accomplishment provides evidence that MMH has low costs, low charges,

uses financial resources efficiently for reinvestment back into the provision of healthcare and also provides a high quality of patient care..

According to Cleverley + Associates; issues of pricing and community benefit have been well-publicized but little has been offered to measure the broad scope of value. In response, The CVI was first created to provide an assessment of a hospital's performance in four areas; financial strength and reinvestment, cost of care, pricing and quality of care. It's important to recognize that a large number of hospitals may perform well in one or two of the core areas of the CVI; however MMH achieved strong performance in each of the four areas which ranks them in the top twenty percent of hospitals nationwide.

18th Annual

Tree Auction & Plant Sale



Saturday, Oct. 10

Plant sale

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*Tree auction starts
at 10 a.m.*

*Proceeds benefit the Master
Gardener program*

**Colorado State Univ. Extension, Tri-River Area
2775 U.S. Highway 50, Grand Junction, CO**

Information: 970.244.1834

Featuring Auctioneer Buster Cattles

Colorado State University
Extension



"WE ARE MONTROSE COUNTY"

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM WORKS TO BUILD SUPPORTIVE CULTURE



Montrose County Human Resources Manager Leslie Quon, left, and Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development Corrine Shearer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE COUNTY-Corrine Shearer and Leslie Quon definitely face challenges on the job. However, as career human resource professionals charged with building not only a workforce but a climate that encourages professional growth, Shearer and Quon also know that they are making a difference every day.

Shearer serves Montrose County as director of human resources and organizational development, while Quon is the County's human resources manager. Both believe that bringing the right people together and empowering them to do their jobs contributes to the health of the entire community. With 390 employees and an annual turnover rate of around four percent, there's plenty of work to go around.

"We're looking at a culture of respect; we want to be the employer of choice," said Shearer, who joined Montrose County four years ago and the Human Resources Dept. two years ago. "It is not just about pay and benefits, but about helping our employees develop and be successful in their positions, using and getting the best from our people. It's about looking to the future and where they want to go.

"If they want to stay in their current position, we can help them grow their skills," she said. "If they want to move up, we can help them develop new skills."

For Quon, who joined the County two

years ago, what stands out is the level of professionalism that is expected. "We help people get to a place where they are managing their own careers," she said. "A large number of people don't come from a corporate environment. What I like most is coaching and counseling, to help our people be successful in their roles.

"We try to talk to everyone as much as we can," she said, "to have 'face time' with everybody throughout the year."

Montrose County is an organization in transition, Shearer noted, just as the community itself is changing, growing and adapting. "We can get the same results in a way that is transparent, and that allows the public to understand the thinking and logic behind it," she said.

To ensure that the County's employment practices reflect its stated values—People, Professionalism, Communication, Efficiency and Integrity—Shearer and Quon reference the concept of "PRIDE."

"P.R.I.D.E. stands for People Representing Integrity Delivering Excellence," Shearer said. "When a citizen walks in the door, do they see our employees serving with pride?"

One tool for helping staffers reach their professional goals is Shearer herself; she holds a PhD and has extensive professional experiences to draw upon.

"We do offer in-house trainings," she said. "We look at mandatory training for supervisors, we help with interactive skills, and we offer customer service training. This is something we can offer that other organizations may not be able to; training that develops skills and expertise and builds on existing strengths."

Training sessions are developed based on assessed need, she said, and the form can vary, from individual coaching sessions to classes.

Shearer and Quon find their own roles overlap 90 percent of the time. Among the challenges they face as human resource professionals is a need to adapt to a constantly changing world and work environment.

"When you are in transition, some people embrace change and are very comfortable with it, while change makes other people uncomfortable," Shearer said.

"But the way that we do business and

meet the needs of our community has changed, and the community is changing as well. We need to look at how we meet those needs."

In addition to earning her PhD., Shearer has taught at the University level and has worked in both union and non-union environments, said Montrose County Governmental Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch. Quon's strong experience in the private, corporate-sector world also enhances the County's ability to serve staffers, he said.

"Between the two of them, they bring so much to the County in terms of education and private-sector experience,"

Waschbusch said. "Our organization is made up of our community, and our community is reflected in our County. And it is very true that your perception of the County is only as good as your last interaction. Whether you are getting your license plates or have contact with a work crew, we want people to see that we are using your tax dollars effectively, efficiently and wisely."

Shearer and Quon are instrumental in creating the culture that Montrose County is striving for, he said. The County has a minimum of four open positions at any given time.

"What stands out is that Corrine and Leslie are not punitive," he said. "Instead, they help us build skill sets within the organization. By helping us to improve our culture internally, they are building a trustworthy human resources department.

"It is really critical that we have people making positive strides and achieving positive interactions," he said.

"When we have a positive culture of skilled, happy employees, it goes a long way toward fostering confidence in the taxpayers."

Creating a cohesive culture means bringing together a very diverse workforce, with more than 23 departments and 11 buildings spread across two campuses and two ends of the County. "When I first came in, each division in the County was its own entity," Shearer said. "But when someone has a negative interaction, it reflects on us all; I want our leadership to realize that we all work for Montrose County—I serve the people who serve the citizens.

"We are Montrose County."

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

THE OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM has begun fall hours. The museum will be open to the public Thursday through Saturday until Saturday, Nov. 14. Following Nov. 14, the museum will be closed for the season and will reopen in April, 2016. Hours are 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission, \$6 per adult, \$1 for children ages 6-12, free for children under 6. The museum is located at 420 Sixth Avenue in Ouray. For more information, call (970) 325-4576.

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.

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. 2nd 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-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-

Oct. 7-8-DMEA Member Appreciation Days, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Read Service Center, 21191 H75 Road, Delta, CO, and on Oct. 8, from 9 am to 4 pm at the Montrose Headquarters, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose.

Oct. 7-Heidi's Brooklyn Deli Forum, 8 to 9 a.m. Paul Paladino to present on Montrose Regional Library Mil levy increase request. Coffee is \$1.

Oct. 7-Resource Fair for Families of Children with Disabilities to be held from 10 AM to 7 PM at the Montrose Fair Grounds. There will be free food, adaptive technology suggestions, and information available to all families of children with special needs who attend.

Oct. 7-The film "Unbranded" to show at Ouray's Wright Opera House, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15. www.wrightoperahouse.org.

Oct. 7--6:30 p.m. - Auditions for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning drama "Rabbit Hole", by David Lindsay-Abaire, at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S. 12th St., Montrose. Five actors are needed: two males, a teenager around 17 and one around 30 years; three females, upper 20s to lower 30s, early 30s, and 50s-60s. Profanity in all roles except the 17-year-old male. For information: 249-7838, www.magiccircleplayers.com.

Oct. 8--6:30 p.m. - Auditions for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning drama "Rabbit Hole", by David Lindsay-Abaire, at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S. 12th St., Montrose. Five actors are needed: two males, a teenager around 17 and one around 30 years; three females, upper 20s to lower 30s, early 30s, and 50s-60s. Profanity in all roles except the 17-year-old male. For information: 249-7838, www.magiccircleplayers.com.

Oct. 9-11--Montrose Visual Arts Guild presents its annual show at Camelot Gardens Oct. 9-11. Admission is free. Special show category this year is "Junque" and artists are challenged to include something in the show that captures that theme. Friday and Saturday hours are 9-5. Sunday the show is open from 10-3. Many guild artists are organizing members of the Montrose Center for the Arts. Camelot Gardens is located at 16612 US 550.

Oct. 10-Tri-River Area Extension annual Tree Auction and Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2775 Hwy 50 Grand Junction.

Oct. 10-Sixth Annual Pumpkin Decorating Event, 58380 Jig Road. Donations are encouraged and appreciated. Benefit for "Before You Hate Think of Cait." 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free pumpkins for kids, hot dogs and chile, dutch oven dessert. Bobbing for apples, Music by Bar D Wranglers. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 10-Montrose Farmers Market Harvest Festival, featuring music by Stosch, Good Times Music Co.. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Farm Fresh Luncheon Fundraiser 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct. 10-SoBo Four to perform at the Lark and Sparrow. Reservations required. www.thelarkandsparrow.com. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 10-23rd Annual "One Step Closer to Help and Hope" 5K Walk and 5 & 10K Run on Saturday, October 10th. The walk/run begins at 9 am with registration beginning at 8 am at the Montrose Pavilion. The cost for the event is \$30.00 before the event and \$35.00 the day of the event. Registrations on the day of the event will include a T-shirt while supplies last. Otherwise, your shirt will be mailed to you after the event. **New this year, for your convenience, you may register on line at www.bosombuddiesswc.org** or registration forms are available at Montrose Memorial Hospital, City Markets, Safeway, KUBC/ KKXK, and at the San Juan Cancer Center.

Oct. 10-Annual Blessing of the Animals, 11 a.m. in Lions Park, 602 North Nevada. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Montrose Animal Protection Agency. All animals and pet children are welcome if they are well behaved. They should be on a leash or in their owner's arms. Children may bring stuffed animals to be blessed and photos of pets or deceased pets are also welcome to be blessed. The Blessing of the Animals is a community outreach project of the Spiritual Awareness Center. For more information call 252-0908.

Oct. 13-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.

Oct. 14-Olathe Community Fall Festival and College Planning Night, Olathe Middle High School, 5 to 7 p.m.

Oct. 15-League of Women Voters 2015 Ballot Issues Forum, Noon and 6:30 p.m., Montrose Library Community Room.

Oct. 16-17-Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow live on-stage radio production at the Wright Opera House, 7: 30 p.m. The Wright Opera House. 970.325.4399. phone <http://thewrightoperahouse.org>.

Oct. 16-18-Telluride Horror Show, Telluride Colorado.

Oct. 18-Fundraising high tea at Montrose manor Bed & Breakfast, 1 to 5 p.m. Reservations needed by Oct. 14. Cost: \$50.00 per person(\$25/ticket will go to CHH) Credit Cards accepted w/\$2.50 processing fee For reservations call(970) 240-6960 or(602)524-107460169 LaSalle Rd., Montrose, CO. info@montrosemanorbandb.com.

Oct. 20-Montrose Chamber Business 2 Business Expo, Holiday Inn Express, 4 to 7:30 p.m. Free to the public. Call 970-249-5000 for booth rental information.

Oct. 24-25-Scarecrow Days at the Montrose Botanic Gardens!

Oct. 24-25-Archaeological Dating Methods, a 15-hour class will be presented by Colorado Assistant State Archaeologist Kevin Black in Montrose Oct. 24th and 25th. The class is part of the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) offered by History Colorado and the Colorado Archaeological Society. This class is an introduction to archaeological dating methods both past and present. To sign up for this class please contact PAAC Coordinator Beverly Kolkman at bk7753@msn.com.

Oct. 24-Lark & Sparrow Masquerade Ball (511 East Main) 8 p.m. Call 970-615-7277 for ticket info or visit www.larkandsparrow.com.

Oct. 24—Montrose United Methodist Church "Fall Festival" from 10 a.m. —2p.m. this event will be held on S. 1st street. There will be free hotdogs games/activities for children families and youth. There will be Pumpkins for sale in our pumpkin patch.

REGION 10 URGED TO BRING PROGRAMS TO SENIORS!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—A local non-profit organization that serves as a regional council of governments has significantly increased its personnel and programs over the past two years, to the point where the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning is considering a move for at least one of its programs. However, some local seniors believe that any crowding at the Region 10 Enterprise Center could be relieved by bringing its programs for senior citizens to the Montrose Senior Center rather than holding them in-house.

Formed in 1972 to serve municipalities in six-counties (Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray, Hinsdale and San Miguel), Region 10 operates an Enterprise center (300 North Cascade); administers Enterprise Zone programs and tax credits; oversees Community Living Services (including the Area Agency on Aging, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Aging and Disability Resource Council and State Health Insurance Assistance Program); coordinates regional transportation planning, offers a loan program and branch of the Small Business Development Center, and operates a Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) with classes for entrepreneurs.

At the Aug. 27 meeting of the Region 10 executive committee, SBRC Director Vince Fandel suggested moving the programs offered through the SBRC to the new Proximity Space Downtown. Though

Region 10 has its own facility and conference rooms at 300 North Cascade, the building is full, said Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes. Region 10, which has doubled its staff over the past two years, also rents space in its own building to local non-profit organizations and small businesses.

By leasing space in the Proximity Center prior to the opening, Region 10 was able to be "branded" with the facility, Haynes said. The City of Montrose has acknowledged spending \$150,000 to renovate the Proximity Center facility, which is owned by Abrams Advertising and for which no competitive public bid process was conducted. The decision is in line with Region 10's strategy of leasing co-working spaces in the communities where it does not have a facility of its own, such as the Hive in Paonia, Haynes noted. "This is how we support entrepreneurship," Haynes said. "Our building is getting tight, and we are doing a lot of classes. We joined as members like we do with all of the co-working spaces."

Haynes also acknowledged that most of the courses now offered for seniors are held at the Region 10 Enterprise Center rather than at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center, where local seniors gather for



Above, Doris Masks and Wilma Willson play games at the Pavilion Senior Center on Wednesday May 6. Mirror file photo.

lunch and socialization.

"We mostly use our building for those programs," Haynes said, "though we do go over to the Senior Center to present sometimes."

Senior Carol McDermott, who has been instrumental in trying maintain the vitality of the Montrose Senior Center, said that she does not feel communication has been a strength of Region 10's in working with seniors. "It would seem to be a win-win to have all programs for seniors in one place," McDermott said, and mentioned the efforts of local volunteer Marilyn Huseby, who hosts monthly informational programs for seniors at the Center through her business, Colorado Retirement Services. "Marilynn has been trying to bring more programs to the Pavilion," McDermott said. "She has been concerned about keeping the Senior Center viable."

Colorado Retirement Services hosted a program on breast cancer this month, and will offer a program on digestive health and arthritis in November. Strong programs that offer value to seniors are an essential component of the Montrose Senior Center, Huseby said.

"How do we maintain the quality of our programs, and our roots, without being taken over by special interests?" she asked. "Seniors come to the center for exercise, education and entertainment—senior education programs are an innate part of the Montrose Senior Center. By bringing in community members to present, we are revitalizing, rebuilding and re-invigorating our senior center—and enriching our entire community." Community volunteers who would like to host informative and entertaining programs for seniors are encouraged to contact Huseby at 970-252-1040.

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Autumn fun...top right, Kerry Mattics creates a ristra with chile peppers at Mattics Orchards Farm Stand; Gail Marvel snapped this photo at AppleFest in Cedaredge of a pig on a leash...pumpkins at the farm stand!



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