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Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays THE Issue No. 144 Nov. 16 2015

SERVING A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY FOR 21 YEARS...MONTROSE THANKSGIVING FRIENDS!



A voung equestrian welcomes guests to the 2014 Montrose Thanksgiving Friends Celebration at Friendship Hall. Mirror file photo.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-Ah, Thanksgiving. The sharing of a grateful heart, the servng of delicious food, and the meeting of friends and family for a holiday meal before Winter blows in (disregarding our recent snowstorm, of course). One way of celebrating the beginning of the official holiday season is the 21st Annual Thanksgiving -Frends" Celebration held on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26) at Friendship Hall.

They will be serving a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner from Noon-3 p.m. There is no charge for this community event and it will include activities for kids, door prizes and entertainment. The event is open to everyone including those who are unable to afford a full Thanksgiving dinner, those just passing through town, and even those who just don't like to cook.

The event features a full Thanksgiving dinner served by a certified chef, complete with turkey, potatoes, green beans, rolls, cranberry sauce, and fruit salad. Local church groups and individuals provide more than 500 different desserts to enjoy and drinks include water, coffee

and a variety of soft drinks. For

Continued pg 6

ATTORNEY TO CITY: BELL MISLED COUNCIL, MADE FALSE STATEMENTS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When a Montrose law firm sent a letter to Montrose City officials on behalf of a client on Nov. 9, they hoped that the information shared would generate changes to the way the City now handles the process of putting large, lucrative projects out for bid.

The letter was sent in response to the actions taken by Council on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at a regular meeting in which Councilors bypassed public bidding and voted to approve a construction contract worth half a million to Scott Stryker of Stryker & Company through a Sole Source Waiver.

At that time representatives from Ridgway Valley Enterprises (RVE), a local construction firm, requested that Council table its consideration of the Sole Source Waiver that awarded a \$505,943.66 design build contract to Stryker & Company, Inc., citing the City's own requirements and expected construction industry practices. Continued on page 22



A 500K design build contract for the planned Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (above) is the subject of Attorney Brian Kidnay's Nov. 9 letter to the City.

Montrose County GIS Letters to the Editor! **Regional Events** Local photos, local Team (11)! Regional news briefs! Calendar! journalism! stories!

Real community

MIRROR IMAGES...CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY!





Students, teachers, staff and community came together to honor our nation's veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Centennial Middle School. Top left. Centennial Principal Joe Simo introduces Keynote Speaker and Veteran Jerry Pike, below right. Top right, a respectful crowd; below left, the Centennial Choir sang God Bless America.







No reprints without permission. Publisher: Caitlin Switzer, Blast Circulation: 7, 455 Social Media 2, 594+ Featured Freelance Writers: Liesl Greathouse, Gail Marvel, Rob Brethouwer, Tanya Ishikawa Post Office Box 3244, Montrose, CO 81402 970-275-0646 www.montrosemirror.com editor@montrosemirror.com

UNCOMPAHGRE CHAPTER OF DAR DONATES TO DELTA SHERIFF

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Uncompany Valley Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution donated \$1,000 to the Delta County Sheriff's office to purchase stop strips. Chapter members share a common bond of having an ancestor who helped contribute or fight to secure the founding of our nation. Ladies join to honor this heritage, to preserve our nation's history, serve our communities, and support those who have served our nation and those currently serving in our armed forces.

The Chapter applied for a Wal-Mart Community Grant to help achieve our goals toward serving the community and thanks the Montrose Wal-Mart store manager Robert Ownbey for the ability to provide this opportunity.

Uncompany Valley DAR meet the second Saturday of the month, 1 pm, at the Warrior Resource Center in Montrose. For additional information please go towww.uncompany valley dar.org.



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OLATHE THANKFUL FOR MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Mirror staff report

OLATHE—The Main Street Beautification project for Olathe is the first major street improvement the town has seen in over 25 years. The project was made possible through an initial award of \$33,333 from Montrose County.

Town Administrator Patty Gabriel said, -We are so excited. We were able to leverage the county's contribution with a DO-LA grant to fund the project. We could not have gotten the grant without the county's help."

Through a competitive bid process Ridgway Valley Enterprises was selected as the general contractor and United Company will lay down the asphalt. Ms. Gabriel said, –We started the project two months ago and hope to finish around Thanksgiving."

The project, which runs west from the high school to the railroad tracks, includes a new street, sidewalks and lights.

Ms. Gabriel said, —This is a hometown project. Delta Montrose Electric Associa-



Olathe's Main Street Beautification project was awarded through a competitive bid process to ensure taxpayer dollars are well spent.

tion (DMEA) partnered with us on the street lights and our residents have pitched

in with a \$4 a month road improvement fee."

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MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS DIVISION AWARDS



Special to the Mirror MONTROSE-Montrose High School Division Awards include: L to R – Dallas Thompson, Isabel Roberts, Jeannine Rodriguez, Terrell Banuelos, Oscar Coronado, Joshua Hemenway, Tessa Leverett, Max McMahill.

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SERVING A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY From page 1



Scenes from the 2014 Montrose Thanksgiving Friends Celebration. Courtesy photos.

entertainment, local artists donate their time to perform, with three different groups keeping the crowd happy. Each person who comes to the dinner gets a ticket and is entered into a drawing for some fantastic door prizes donated by local merchants. For families, there is a childrens area for kids normally around 4-12 years old. It is well supervised, with crafts and games for kids to enjoy.

For people unable to attend the event at Friendship Hall, meals are also delivered. –We cover everybody in the Montrose area," said Bob Eakin, President and Coordinator at Montrose Community Dinners, Inc., the organization that puts on the event. —We are glad to deliver. We want to be sure everyone in the area has a good Thanksgiving meal."

Eakin has been helping with the dinner since the very beginning, 21 years ago. The concept for the dinner originally started in the early 1980s as a program for people in need, hosted by local churches. In the early 1990s, however, the people involved with the churches were feeling burnt out and asked the Montrose Redcoats, which Eakin was part of, to take

Many Older Adults Need Our Help... in the most fundamental ways.

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- SHELTER: Imagine having to find a decent, secure place to live on an income of \$800 per month.
- **SAFETY:** For older adults, home can often become a
 - dangerous place without proper repairs.
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 - CARE: When living at home is no longer an option, we can help.
- CONNECTIONS: When you outlive all of your friends and family, who do you turn to?

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www.voahealthservices.org www.Facebook.com/VOAWesternSlope 1-844-VOA-4YOU over the dinner. The Redcoats agreed, with the stipulation that they would change the format completely. It would be an event for anyone, no matter your income," Eakin explained. Everyone would be welcome and it would be for the entire community, for people from all walks of life."

The purpose of the event is to show the giving, caring spirit of the Montrose community. —That was the whole reason we took it on," Eakin said. While it is an event for the Montrose area, people from all over attend, including Telluride, Ouray and Grand Junction.

In the beginning, 250 meals were served, now it has grown to 2,151 meals, including deliveries. The community support and word-of-mouth advertising is what has helped the event grow so much and built the Dinner's good reputation for what they do. —We never expected to have the success that we have had," Eakin said. —We work to be sure that what we are doing is what people want, and we get a little bit better each year."

The event is put on by a team of 400 volunteers, who do everything from serving the meal, busing tables, to cleaning up afterward. Volunteers are scheduled out during the day, and they are made up of a broad spectrum of people, whether from local churches or just people who heard that help was needed.

One the things that the event continues to struggle with is the perception that it is still just a program for the needy. –It's for everybody," Eakin emphasized. —Een people who are here on vacation, anyone that wants to can attend. It's free, we do not ask for any contributions because it is funded by individuals, businesses and service clubs."

After 21 years of helping with this event, Eakin's favorite part is seeing people enjoy their Thanksgiving Day. –People get to enjoy their meal and they are not rushed," he said. –They are welcome to come do what they want to do. We try to have something for people to enjoy Thanksgiving and have a real nice day. We get nothing out of it except the satisfaction of seeing people enjoying the day. To see it all happen makes it really worth it."

While they are unable to take food donations, monetary and door prize donations are always welcome. For more information and if you would like to volunteer for this event, call 240-4350 (between 1-6 p.m.). If you would like to call about having a meal delivered, call 901-7780 (between 9 a.m.-2 p.m.).

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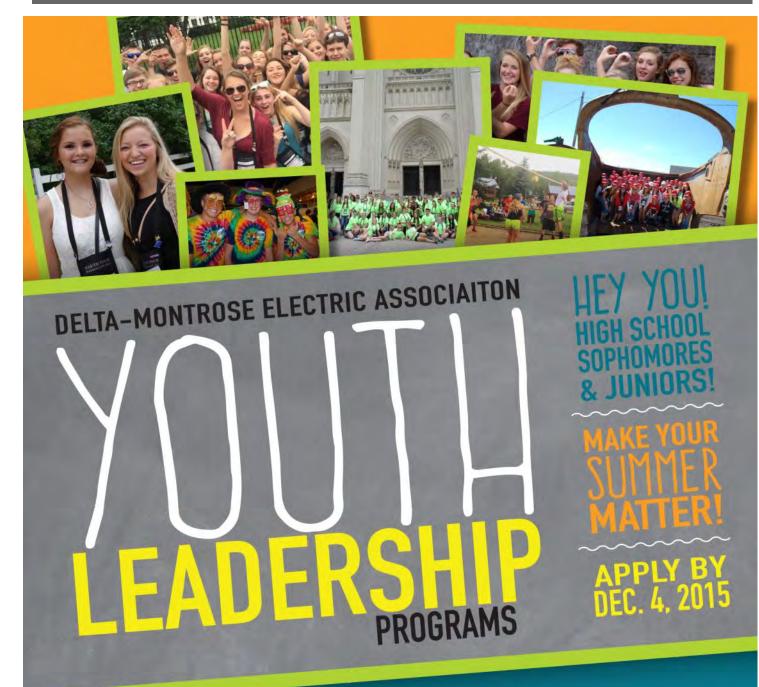
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COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

DMEA will send three students, from area highschools, to the CEEI Cooperative Youth Leadership camp in Clark CO, near Steamboat Springs. At camp you'll set up a camp cooperative, learn about power when you visit a mine and coal plant, and participate in hands-on leadership and communication workshops. Plus, you'll float the Colorado River, hike to Fish Creek Falls, and ride the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner.



OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

MONTROSE BEING TAXED TO DEATH

Dear Editor:

My compliments to Ms. Marvel. I have wondered for years why Montrosians voted for so many taxing districts and are so in love with always adding more. She hit the problem right on the head when she said that the 'sole purpose of business was to create revenue.' No wonder we are taxed to death. Even the conservatives hereabouts believe that business's job is to provide government its REVENUE as does she. Revenue is government income and in typical progressive fashion we have not yet given (had taken from us) enough of our hard earned income. Obviously with the Library and Recreation Center we have demonstrated that more is better.

Ms. Morgenstern really smacked that nail and a bit harder, too, when she slammed how the Rec Center was financed. That tax will go on forever; the real estate tax for the Rec District will too. When the operational costs begin to roll in an increased mil levy or two will cost us even more. One mil in the Rec District is \$25 bucks. The Center will have a \$5 admission fee. This will exclude the poor (most of the laborers and their kids) and when not enough 'Lincolns' are collected at the door, the mil levy will go up again. Just look at who served on the board that got this deal over on us. On that point, thank you Marge!

That said, when can Montrose get started on a comprehensive tax reform effort? It is long overdue and it begins with getting some new commissioners.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

APPRECIATES LIESL GREATHOUSE'S EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON HEALTHY HEMP FOR PETS, PEOPLE

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for the article you included in your Oct 12, '15 issue-Promoting Healthy Hemp for Pets and People. As owner of this company, I know first hand the challenges of people opening their mind to new and alternative ideas and products. I commend editor Caitlin Switzer for supporting the education process. And I compliment Liesl Greathouse on her great interview and writing skills. She reported very accurately.

It's thanks to people like you that progress for the better is made... one step, one article at a time. *Kris Otto, Olathe*



for the Holidays

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CELEBRATE THE MANY USES OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS DURING NATIONAL GIS WEEK!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The acronym is brief—GISbut the uses are nearly infinite. The <u>Montrose County web site</u> explains Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as -a computer system that ties data and information to specific geographic locations." The site also notes that GIS information is used for a variety of purposes at the County such as parcel records, road maintenance, addressing, and planning. However, the list of ways that GIS can be used to support the County's various divisions continues to grow, almost exponentially.

-We provide direct support to the public," Montrose County GIS Coordinator Lisa Goetsch said, -and we provide the data that is used by Dispatch to ensure public safety." A team of three tracks the percentage of public lands in county boundaries, and can figure out private boundaries and create maps for special purposes such as hunting, fishing, or business.

The GIS team also maintains <u>interactive</u> <u>maps</u>—including a parcel viewer. Though the department and the technology are relatively new, GIS has become essential as a resource, Montrose County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch said. -Ht is an incredible tool for analysis," he said. -GIS is used for crime mapping, traffic data, and to provide information on flood areas and wildfires. We can use it to analyze spatial relationships between just about anything."

The GIS department is helping with trail planning right now, he noted, and tracks essential services such as snow plow routes and signage for the Road & Bridge division. -They have helped me with mining claims, placer deeds, and every type of conveyance over the years," Waschbusch said. -They have the ability to translate legal descriptions, and realtors really rely on that interactive parcel viewer." Montrose County GIS provides information for the Elections Division, and for the County Assessor's office as well. -We prepare boundaries for voting precincts, and Commissioner Districts, which are done by population," Goetsch said. -We have to geo-code registered voters, to try to get the same number of registered voters in each area, because the Commissioner Districts are supposed to be as even as possible. And we provide information to the Assessor on tax area boundaries."

One local bank uses the Countv's interactive parcel viewer to check on properties prior to issuing loans, and property owners are able to review boundaries for accuracy. The parcel viewer continues to rank among the most accessed portions of the County web site.

GIS Projects completed for private sector clients can range from



The Montrose County GIS Team-left to right: GIS Analyst Lee Brannon, GIS Coordinator Lisa Goetsch, and GIS Technician Jon Barbera.

boundary delineations, hunting and fishing access maps, to maps of natural resources such as oil and gas.

-We have mapped natural and cultural resources for clients, so they can know what could be impacted by projects and mitigate those impacts if significant," GIS Analyst Lee Brannon said.

GIS empowers project managers and others to make better decisions," Goetsch said.

The GIS team maintains data on land parcels, including updates when a property is sold.

-We keep history alive," GIS Tech Jon Barbera said.

Habitat for endangered species has been mapped with GIS, including the Gunnison Sage Grouse and Yellow Billed Cuckoo. Even human beings can reveal patterns through use of GIS software, which can break down demographic details such as age and income by location within the County. -We can see where certain types of people live, and we can map and meet needs based on location," Brannon said. -GIS basically allows us to look at geographic data, and the attributes associated with it," Goetsch said. -We can take layers of detail, and lay them on top of other layers to find information based on more than one geographic feature."

Public feedback can help GIS staff learn

where issues are, and where addressing problems might exist. The County's addresses are laid out in a grid, with North-South roads numbered as to their distance from the Utah state line. For example, 6900 Road is approximately 69 miles from the state boundary, Goetsch said. -Named roads start at -A" in the Northern part of the County," she said. -Your address will tell you where you are in the County." -If there is a bad address, we can change it to conform to policy so that it can be found by emergency services," Brannon said, adding that the number of addresses that have needed to be fixed has dropped in recent years due to use of GIS mapping.

-We like public feedback," Brannon said. -People will let us know if they see a parcel boundary is not accurate, and they tell the road and bridge department when signage has been stolen or damaged. Here and there we have signs that have to be replaced; some get damaged and old, some get shot." The County GIS team will continue to share data online for the benefit of the public, Brannon said. -We are focusing more and more on online map viewers that are compatible with other devices." This week is National Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Week, and Wednesday marks National GIS Day. However, -Every day is GIS day as far as we are concerned," Waschbusch said.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS LETTER TO PRESIDENT FROM COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO

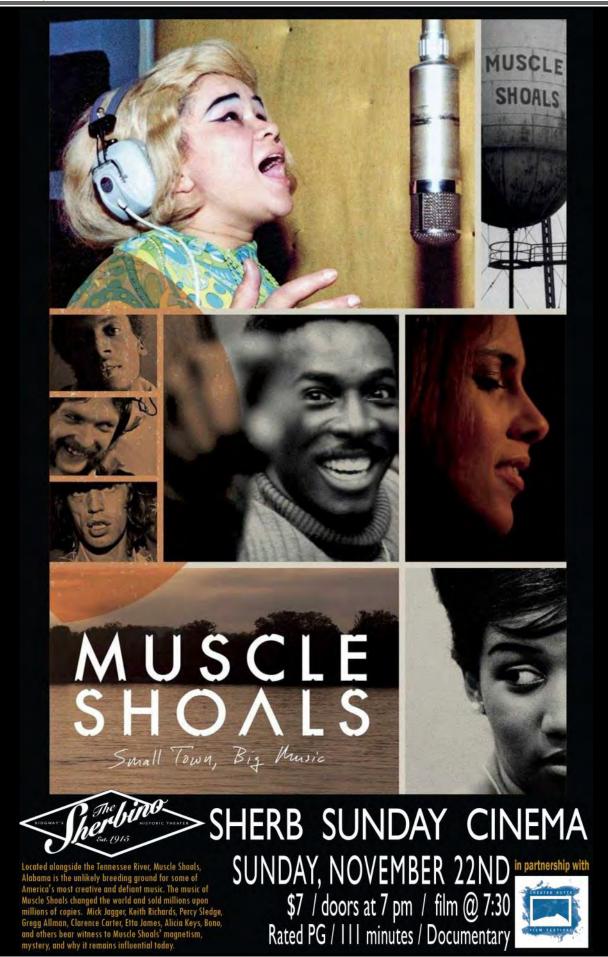
November 9, 2015 President Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500 Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Sheriffs from the State of Colorado, write in strong opposition to your proposed actions to transfer dangerous foreign enemy combatants held at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, military detention facility to civilian prisons in our state. As the top law enforcement officials in our counties, elected by our citizens and charged with maintaining public safety and security in our respective counties, we are concerned that utilizing current civilian prisons in our state would significantly and unnecessarily - endanger our citizens. The prisons being reviewed are all high security prisons, indicating that officials responsible for the detainment of these individuals believe that the prisoners represent a significant security threat to the citizens of our state. We do not question the ability of Bureau of Prisons to detain these prisoners, but we recognize that there is a more significant public safety concern - the danger posed by sympathizers who would mount an attack on these facilities or commit other acts of terror in our state to draw further attention to their causes. We recently learned that the FBI has almost 1,000 active ISIS investigations taking place inside the borders of the United States. We believe it would be dangerously naïve not to recognize that a civilian prison with an untold number of enemy combatant inmates, located in our state, would provide a very tempting target for anyone wishing to either free these detainees or simply wishing to make a political statement. 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD: PRESIDENT Sheriff Rick Dunlap Montrose County 1 st VICE PRESIDENT Sheriff Bruce Hartman Gilpin County 2 nd VICE PRESIDENT Sheriff Justin Smith Larimer County SECRETARY/ TREASURER Sheriff Chad Day Yuma County PAST PRESIDENT Sheriff James Cassias Las Animas County 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sheriff James Beicker Freemont County Sheriff Mike Ensminger Teller County Sheriff Shayne Heap Elbert County Sheriff David Walcher Arapahoe

County Sheriff Garrett Wiggins Routt County 2 While civilian prisons were built to keep inmates in, they were not designed to deter or repel organized attacks from the outside. As sheriffs, we are tremendously concerned that our communities can and will be endangered if civilian prisons inside our state are utilized to hold enemy combatants from Guantanamo Bay. Recent history has shown us repeated examples around the globe of coordinated, violent attacks against prisons holding radical Islamic militants. We strongly protest actions that might well add our state to the list of locations where such deadly attacks have occurred. The locations that the Department of Defense recently scouted for proposed transfer of these detainees are in close proximity to densely-populated areas of Pueblo and Colorado Springs. Colorado Springs is home to the U.S. Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Buckley Air Force Base, and Fort Carson. Pueblo is home to the U.S. Army's Chemical Weapons Depot. Further adding to our statewide concern is the reality that any detainees housed in our state will likely be accessing the federal court system. That will require transporting them to the federal district courts or federal court of appeals, located in Denver. The transportation of these detainees from Freemont County to the Denver metropolitan area will cross many counties and will create many safety and security threats to our communities that must be addressed by Colorado sheriffs. In the 1990s, we experienced the dangers and threats to our capital city, Denver, when two domestic terrorists, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, were tried there. Security during that trial was unprecedented. We can only imagine the disruptions and dangers throughout our state if enemy combatants from Guantanamo Bay were routinely transported from Canon City to the heart of our capital city of Denver. In Colorado, county sheriffs are responsible for enforcement of criminal law and keeping the peace throughout the state, not a state police agency. When individual sheriff's offices are overwhelmed, we draw from our fellow sheriffs for assistance through mutual aid requests. Therefore, this matter concerns and affects each and every sheriff across the state Mr. Pres-

ident, we deplore you to reconsider your plans to redeploy enemy combatants from a secured military base in Cuba to civilian prisons in Colorado. We recognize the risk to our citizens from this ill-conceived plan is too high. We respectfully urge you to reconsider this plan and keep these terrorists safely far away from our nation's shores and our great state. Most Respectfully,

Sheriff James Beicker, Freemont County Sheriff Anthony Mazzola, Rio Blanco County Sheriff Bill Elder, El Paso County Sheriff Brett Powell, Logan County Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, Grand County Sheriff Bruce Hartman, Gilpin County Sheriff Chad Day, Yuma County 3 Sheriff Dan Warwick, Saguache County Sheriff David Walcher, Arapahoe County Sheriff Dominic Mativa, Ouray County Sheriff Fred Hosselkus, Mineral County Sheriff Fred McKee, Delta County Sheriff Fred Wegener, Park County Sheriff Garrett Wiggins, Routt County Sheriff James Van Beek, Eagle County Sheriff James Casias, Las Animas County Sheriff Jeff Shrader, Jefferson County Sheriff Jerry Martin, Dolores County Sheriff John Minor, Summit County Sheriff Jon Stivers, Washington County Sheriff Justin Smith, Larimer County Sheriff KC Hume, Moffat County Sheriff Lou Vallario, Garfield County Sheriff Matt Lewis, Mesa County Sheriff Mike Ensminger, Teller County Sheriff Mike McIntosh, Adams County Sheriff Richard Albers, Clear Creek County Sheriff Rich Valdez, Archuleta County Sheriff Rick Besecker, Gunnison County Sheriff Rick Dunlap, Montrose County Sheriff Robert Jackson, Alamosa County Sheriff Rod Fenske, Lake County Sheriff Ron Bruce, Hinsdale County Sheriff Sam Zordel, Prowers County Sheriff Shayne Heap, Elbert County Sheriff Steve Nowlin, Montezuma County Sheriff Steve Reams, Weld County Sheriff Tom Hanna, Sedgwick County 4 Sheriff Tom Ridnour, Kit Carson County Sheriff Tony Spurlock, Douglas County Cc: Senator Michael Bennet Senator Cory Gardner Representative Dianna DeGette Representative Jared Polis Representative Scott Tipton Representative Ken Buck Representative Doug Lamborn Representative Mike Coffman Representative Ed Perlmutter





MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL FBLA LAUNCHES SHOE COLLECTION DRIVE Donations will support micro-enterprises in developing nations and reduce landfill waste

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) kicked off a shoe collection drive this week by collecting two bags of shoes. Please help by donating gently worn, used or new shoes in the Montrose High School foyer through December 4! The goal for the MHS FBLA Chapter is to collect 100 bags of 25 pair of shoes each for a total of 2500 pair of shoes. All types of shoes – athletic, sandals, boots, snow boots, cleats, heels, everyday shoes – are accepted as long as they are reusable and a complete pair.

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of microenterprise partners in developing nations. Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa. Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe and house their families. -We are excited about our shoe drive!" said Madison Treichel, Chapter President. -We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like donate and help those less fortunate become self-sufficient. It's a win-win for everyone and we believe we can reach our goal of 2500 pair in the Montrose community. Two bags down, ninety eight to go!" By donating shoes to the MHS FBLA, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives.

CLARIFICATION:

We got it wrong! In our article in last week's Mirror on the proposed Montrose-Nucla-Cahone transmission line upgrade, we did not mean to imply that years of attention from woodpeckers would cause the collapse of power line poles. Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Company reminds us that transmission maintenance staff tends to this line and all lines diligently; the concern with the aging infrastructure is that it requires more maintenance and care, which is costly and puts greater demands on resources. However, poles don't simply fall over due to wear and tear from birds.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

Dear Editor:

The Colorado Press Assoc. web site encourages it's members to strive for -higher standards of ethics" in the profession, to better foster dissemination of information vital to the public. The Montrose Mirror, a member of CPA, seems to fall well short of that lofty goal when reporting on City of Montrose issues.

For many months now, the Mirror seems to have adopted a not so subtle bias against the City, couching their comments carefully, to convey the impression to readers, that may not have complete facts on many issues, that City Council and Manager Bill Bell, are out -to wreck" the City. In my opinion, the above referenced article by Gail Marvel is a case in point, where incomplete or inaccurate information is presented as fact. The statement that emergency services entities were -- frced" to choose between the City and the Sheriff's Dispatch Center is a clear misrepresentation of what actually occurred. For several years all entity users of the Montrose SO Dispatch Center, experienced increasingly exorbitant -fee increases" levied by the County. This year those seemingly uncontrolled fee increases created serious budget problems for most user entities. And that's on top of all the real taxes, sales taxes, and PSST taxes county and city residents have paid. Consequently all users sought an equal voice in controlling operational costs, but the BOCC would have none of it. Consequently the Western Regional

Dispatch Center was formed, with six entities joining, including the City. All who joined did so independently. No entity was —freed" to join. If you have a problem with two dispatch centers, the culprits reside at 161 S. Townsend.

The article also noted that -the City chose to undermine MEDC's role" by selecting the Chamber of Commerce to handle a pass through incentive. Frankly, many feel MEDC has undermined it's own roll in local economic development via it's track record. The JetAway -deal" cost Montrose taxpayers millions in legal expenses. Remember -the great deal" MEDC proposed with Extra Aircraft? Taxpayer's would have footed the bill for a manufacturing facility for an aircraft that did not even have the proper FAA Type certification! Over the years, citizens and elected city officials have come to distrust MEDC and any proposed -good deal" promoted. Is it any wonder that the City would prefer entrusting public funds to a viable organization like the Chamber of Commerce?

I, along with a great many citizens, have encouraged the City to become more efficient,by adopting private industry business models to achieve maximum use of public funds. Contrary to the article's claim, there is much more to being -business like" than generating revenue. Reducing operational costs for a municipal government like the City of Montrose, results in savings to the taxpayer and a more efficiently run government. Contrary to what may be implied

recharge over lunch

Are you looking for ways to reduce stress?

in the Mirror, that is exactly what has occurred since Bill Bell was hired in 2011. The two major operational cost categories for the City are Personnel and Non Personnel expenses. A review of posted City financials showed that the net reductions from 2011 though the 2015 budget can be expected to exceed \$2 million in taxpayer savings. Does that sound like a Council and Manager out of control? When compared to 5 years ago, the City has made great strides in more efficient government.

The Mirror has provided a welcoming platform for the shadowy group being voiced by Marge Morganstern.

They have publicly acknowledged that their primary goal, is what can only be described as a hostile takeover of the City of Montrose, with the ultimate goal of firing Bill Bell. The group calls itself the —Cmmittee to Improve the City of Montrose", in direct contrast to it's true intent. City voters are urged to attend this group's next meeting set for 6:30 PM at Cimarron Creek Club House, 901 6530 Rd off the bypass.

Take a look around our national politics and we see destructive rhetoric and personal vendettas galore. It's time to stand up for the City of Montrose! It's time to stand up to those who would wipe away the gains our city has made because of personal petty grudges! It's time to say —Thank you!" to those who work hard every day to make our city the best it can be! *Dee Laird, Montrose*

ULNESS

Perhaps you'd like to find ways to relax. Mindfulness is paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, without judgment. Mindfulness can be successfully learned and practiced by people of all backgrounds. No prior experience is necessary. **EXAMPLE OF MARKET OF ALL AND ADDRESS OF ADDRESS OF ADDRESS** Space is limited - reserve your spot today by calling 970.249.4449

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Christine Stephenson, LPC



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FOR MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES

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Food should be nonperishable and provide for Christmas dinner

Drop-off points

 Sharing Ministries in Montrose: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

 The following Alpine Bank locations during banking hours:

- -2770 Alpine Drive in Montrose
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- -1660 Highway 92 in Delta

Happy New Merry Thanksmas

and

The toy and food drive will begin with this event, November 13 - 14 (drop off at the event itself), and will continue through December 4.

All toys must be donated by December 4 for sorting and delivery by Sharing Ministries prior to Christmas. Food items can be donated through December 18.





MY GOAL IS ALWAYS TO DO THE RIGHT THING: RON HENDERSON



Ron Henderson. Courtesy photo.

crete, now known as Western Gravel.

Interview by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-

a lifelong Un-

ley resident,

Ron Henderson,

compangre Val-

moved to Mont-

rose in 1959 and

graduated from

MHS in 1962.

While getting

University of

Colorado he

continued to

his degree at the

work off and on

for his father at

Montrose Con-

Ron said, -I-started riding in my dad's gravel trucks when I was three years-old and didn't get out of the gravel business until 1987." In 1989 Ron began selling real -estate and owned a brokerage firm from 1991-2007, -I-still have my broker's license."

In the area of community involvement Ron participated in service organizations as well as serving seven years as the chair for the Montrose County Planning Commission and 10 years on the Chipeta Water Board.

In 2008 Ron was elected as a Montrose County Commissioner and his second term

will end in January of 2017. Becoming an elected official wasn't exactly like what Commissioner Henderson expected.

It is a very unique experience. I thought we'd talk things through and have consensus, but it's like a three headed structure. On any one subject three different people will have different ideas on importance, concept, and participation.

-Everyone has a right to express themselves. Sometimes it's quick and easy, other times it's a struggle."

From 2003-2007 the economy was strong and then the bottom fell out, —Pople who understood the cyclical nature of the economy planned accordingly so they could weather it. It's always been difficult to make a living here, but the community is basically supportive of our doing the best we can for Montrose County. I can say with the efforts of the [county] employees we've made some good, observable advances."

Looking on the economical horizon Ron said, -I'm not sure this broadband thing will be that good. We will enter the world marketplace and be current with the latest thing going on, but whether or not it's going to be that helpful, I can't say that it is." More tangible at the moment is the Montrose County Airport, -The airport has kind of taken over. The Telluride and Gunnison airports have been downgraded, which

makes Montrose the regional airport." Both the state and federal government view funding projects from a regional perspective and Commissioner Henderson sees that as a double edged sword.

-When you start with federal funding you are no longer relying on your own tax base to accomplish things. You have to get support from every possible group, or player, which increases the number of people involved."

Speaking to ongoing controversial issues, particularly the airport and hospital, Commissioner Henderson said, —When you have growth it becomes a matter of who is going to make money out of the situation. Any time money is generated you'll find manipulation. There are a lot of money —Indles" that [private] attorneys can grab and their motives aren't always altruistic."

When asked if he were treated fairly by the media Henderson said, -I'm treated the best way they know how. By their own admission they are short staffed and are unable to go to meetings, or do research. Investigative reporting in Montrose is minimal and it is a disservice to the community."

Commissioner Henderson has not discounted climbing the political ladder, -.. but that is yet to be determined. I need to have a strong sense that I could accomplish something. I'm not attracted to being a bureaucrat, that life is quite harsh."

In making decisions Ron relies on factual information, –My goal is to always do the right thing. However, I have been wrong!"

HONORABLE MENTION

To West Slope psychedelic rockers Fractalia for hosting an Ugly Sweater Party at RnR Sportsbar in Montrose. Nov. 27. No cover, 21+, 8pm. Celebrate Black Friday in style!

To SOM Footwear for hosting a three-day "Clear the Warehouse" event at the factory (1006 North Cascade) Nov. 19-21!

To Partners Mentoring, for the annual art partners chili bowl fundraiser...Nov. 28 at the historic Lark & Sparrow venue!



CITY TO DISCUSS CHANGES TO METSA BYLAWS, MUNICIPAL COURT REVIEW

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Discussion items for the Montrose City Council Work Session scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16 include an interview with Planning Commission Applicant Gary A. Seitz, as well as a report on the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Line Upgrade Project. Montrose Municipal Court Judge Richard Brown will provide an update on the Montrose Municipal Court. Council will also discuss revisions being made to the METSA Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement with Assistant City Attorney Andrew Boyko. Also up for discussion are the appointments of representatives to the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center. Reports from the Montrose Youth Council, Black Canyon Golf Course Advisory Committee and Montrose County Regional Airport Advisory Board are included as well. Topics listed for discussion at future City Council work sessions include the Mail Ballot Election Plan Nov. 30; Intergovernmental Agreement with Montrose Recreation District Nov. 30; Montrose County Regional Airport Advisory Board Representative Nov. 30; CDBG Grant Contract for Mental Health Clinic Remodel, Dec. 1; RNR Sportsbar Liquor License Transfer Dec. 1; Planning Commission Alternate Appointment Dec. 1; Youth Council Report to City Council Dec. 15; 2016 Annual Plan of Annexation and Three-Mile Plan Jan. 4; Designation of Official Posting Places Jan. 5.

COUNCIL TO APPOINT CHINN, BELL TO DISPATCH BOARD

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Épisode Two of the new My Montrose Video series created by Abrams Co will be presented at Montrose City Council during the regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Council will also read a proclamation in support of Hospice & Palliative Care Month and receive a 2015 Colorado Lottery Starburst Award Presentation. Consent Agenda items will include possible approval of the Columbine Multi-Use



Trail Subdivision, an Official Act of the City. This subdivision will dedicate a 1.81 -acre future trail corridor to the City of Montrose, connecting Sunnyside Road and the future 6700 Road. Ordinance 2362 will be considered on second reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado, providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2016; and will consider approving Resolution 2015-22 to adopt the 2016 Municipal Budget.

Council will also consider a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Grant Agreement between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the City of Montrose; a CDBG agreement between the City of Montrose and Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center; and a Promissory Note to the Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center in the amount of \$600,000.

Approval will be sought for the transfer of the liquor license for the retail store at 10 Bristlecone Drive from N&C Enterprises, d.b.a. Pour House Wine and Spirits, to Trieu and Than, Inc., d.b.a. Pour House, for consumption off the licensed premises; and for a request to change the location of the Hotel and Restaurant liquor license for Two Sisters Gastro Pub from 647 East Main Street to 1413 East Main Street.

The City's Public Works Department will request Council approval for purchase of one trash collection truck and one street sweeper to replace similar fleet assets that have exceeded their useful service lives.

Also on the evening's agenda will be the appointment of Police Chief Tom Chinn as the City representative and City Manager Bill Bell as the administrative representative to the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center Board of Directors. Following a third quarter budget review, sales, use & excise tax report and public information officer report, Council will adjourn.

OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY WHAT CAN WE DO? ASK QUESTIONS, DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

Mirror Staff Editorial

MONTROSE-The editorial, -City of Montrose partnerships at odds with best interest of business, community" was posted on the *Mirror* Facebook page last week and generated close to 1,700 views. One reader commented, -What is the solution? What are our choices as citizens to make a difference?" The standard answers would, be get educated on the issues, get involved, attend meetings, speak up and elect new leaders. However, those who have gone this route can attest to the fact that it is very labor intensive, time consuming and not for the faint of heart to try and hold community leaders accountable.

In Montrose the old cliché –the buck stops here" is a misnomer because *everyone* is passing the buck...and we in the community are accepting the excuses. The city manager says he is doing what the council directs, and the council will say they are not allowed to tell the city manager how to run the city. Organizations say they have to do what the city asks them to do, and the city will say they are only doing what the organizations want them to do. Government leaders will say they doing what constituents demand, but what they fail to say is they have planted people in meeting rooms who support their agenda — giving the illusion that community members are in full support of specific projects.

Seldom does the average citizen look beyond a person or an issue to see who is empowering and enabling others to act. If you want to affect change it is important to go directly to those who empower others.

As an example, most of us accept that the second dispatch center is a done deal based on the fact that the city administration has already invested too much money and now must move forward. The reality is that projects are often postponed, put on hold, or abandoned regardless of the investment already made. Certainly citizens will lose money, but the cost of having to support two dispatch centers far outweighs what has already been spent. Even at this seemingly late date, this project can be postponed, put on hold or abandoned.

The City of Montrose could not have embarked on the concept of a <u>regional</u>" dispatch center had they not been empowered by their partners — the Town of Olathe, the Montrose Fire District, Mountain Village, Telluride Marshall and Telluride Fire. Additional support also comes from the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA). It should be noted that METSA is currently rewriting their bylaws so they will no longer need approval from the county commissioners to increase the surcharge applied to all landline telephones.

Those elected to city council are selected from different districts to insure that all demographics of the Montrose population are represented. If as a constituent you feel you are being misrepresented, your concerns should be directed to the entire council. Government entities and local organizations are often deaf to individuals, but they will hear the collective voice of constituents. It's important that whether you are in opposition, or support of a project, that you make your position known to all the stakeholders and the members of their respective boards. As individuals, citizens often feel alone and that they can't make a difference. However, an editorial that generated nearly 1,700 views is evidence that you are not alone.

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ATTORNEY TO CITY: BELL MISLED COUNCIL From pg 1

A Nov. 9 letter from Attorney Brian Kidnay of Montrose Law Firm Mathis Martin & Kidnay was written on behalf of Ridgway Valley Enterprises. —Ayou may know, RVE is a local contractor with a long history of community involvement and providing quality work for local municipalities," the letter states. —RVI has 39 employees, many with families that live in the City of Montrose....RVE has serious concerns about the sole source contract that was awarded for the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (Dispatch Center) and would like you to be aware of, and ultimately address, these concerns."

The letter notes the desirability of a competitive bid process when a municipality is spending large sums of taxpayer money. —The Dispatch Center should have been part of this competitive bidding process, and we are concerned that the City Council was misled about the facts surrounding this sole source contract," the letter goes on to state.

Cited in support of Kidnay's letter are a number of exhibits, including a letter from City Attorney Steven Alcorn dated Aug. 18, 2015 that stated the City's intent to leave the current regional Dispatch Center run by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, while allowing that -w (the City) have 18 months to find alternative dispatch services." Also cited is an Aug. 18 email from City staff to Stryker & Company, founded by former RVE principal Scott Stryker earlier this year. The email requested information on the company so as to -get you signed up as a contractor." On Aug. 31, after receiving a budget and

scope of work from Stryker, the City Facilities Manager Mark Armstrong sent an email to Stryker requesting information that would allow for the awarding of the Dispatch construction contract through a sole source waiver. Also cited is an email communication between Armstrong and Stryker dated Sept. 8.

According to Kidnay, the exhibits reveal that a competitive bid process was never considered by the City in its preparations to establish a regional dispatch center of its own.

Kidnay also asserts in his letter that claims of urgency because of a pending deadline were also false, as evidenced by a variety of communications including those from Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap and a number of dispatch user agencies that clearly show services would continue past Jan. 1, 2016 if no other arrangements had been made by the City.

-It is clear that the City, and other local government entities also know, that the County would provide dispatch services beyond Jan. 1, 2016," wrote Kidnay, who noted the absence of any official communication stating otherwise.

-Certainly if the City understood it would be without dispatch services in less than 90 days there would be some written documentation of this fact. There is none. And yet the Council was informed by William Bell, at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 6, 2015, that the City would not be provided dispatch services past January 1, 2016.

That statement was false."

Kidnay points out as well that at a meet-

ing on Oct. 9, Bell said that he would be sitting down with the Sheriff and the Montrose County Attorney -to talk about rates and such for an extension (of dispatch services) for the first quarter of 2016."

The attorney noted that the City's actions in the matter do not reflect the goal stated on its own web site of improving transparency in economic development policy. —This sole source does nothing to encourage transparency, economic development, efficiency or competitiveness in the local business community," wrote Kidnay.

According to documents filed with the Colorado Secretary of State, Stryker & Company <u>filed its Articles of Incorporation</u> on July 6, 2015. At the Oct. 6 Council meeting, City Councilor Kathy Ellis noted that <u>-it</u> feels like our hand is forced."

At that same meeting Councilor Bob Nicholson boasted of his own expertise in construction contracting and the -eash reimbursable" nature of the deal with Stryker & Company before commenting that the situation amounts to -an emergency."

When reached for comment about the allegations contained in the letter from Attorney Kidnay, Nicholson was less forthcoming. – would say the letter ignores the reality of the situation," Nicholson said, and declined to comment further.

Though he could not be reached for comment for this article, City Manager Bell stated at the Oct. 6 meeting that, -There's no procurement violation here," and noted the -emergency nature of the project." -...Council has exempted themselves from the procurement process in the past; this is nothing new," Bell said.



000

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MONTROSE CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-River Valley Family Health Center is now in Montrose. This new location allows for increased service and access for Medicare, Medicaid and unconventionally insured patients in the city. Their facility is located at 100 Tessitore Court, Suite B. And can be reached by calling 970-497-3333.



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You Are Invited to Join Us Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 5:30 –7:00 pm AMAZING GLAZE

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We're showcasing the Award Winning Artwork produced by our day center art program participants! *Refreshments Provided*



Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS LDS SPRING CREEK WARD

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-My visit to the Spring Creek Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) south location took place on Sept. 20, 2015. This is a more formally attired congregation where the men wear suits and ties; the young men white shirts, ties and black slacks; and the women and girls wear skirts and dresses. There were about 100 present, many of whom were children.

I was greeted at the door by two men and one woman. The bulletin was informative with names of speakers; times, dates, and locations of classes; and names of leaders and their contact information. Gregg Palmer stopped by my pew to introduce himself and asked if I were new to the ward. I explained I was a visitor and with a personal touch he said, –Would you want to sit with me and my family?"

The service began with announcements which included general conference updates, upcoming events and choir practice for the state conference. In areas of business congregational votes were manifested by raising hands in agreement for one man who was being released from his duties and for others being installed in offices, both state and locally.

Communion is served by young men who pass trays with broken pieces of leavened bread, followed by small thimble size cups of water. The silence of the communion service was accompanied only by the sound of the small plastic cups being dropped back into the plastic trays as they were passed throughout the auditorium.

This year's theme for all LDS churches is, —To live a Christ centered life," and in keeping with the theme the first speaker, Cody Shiller, spoke on the topic of service. Mr. Shiller cited sources for his comments as a compilation of research papers, articles, and scientific stud-



ies which referenced the mental, physical and spiritual elements of kindness.

Using the acronym PULSE Mr. Shiller explained: P - Pray to have a servant's heart. U - Understanding the needs of others. L - Lose yourself in service to others. S - Spirit driven service. E - Emulate the Savior. Mr. Shiller said, —There are numerous offices in the church and when we serve others it is likened to Jesus. Ask yourself if you have a healthy heart and pulse for service. Is your heart beat fast, is your pulse hard to find?"

The second speaker, Ron Decker, covered the topic of -Privacy and Generosity." Mr. Decker interspersed passages from The Book of Mormon with passages from the Bible and used Jesus, Joseph Smith and Mormon President Thomas Monson as examples of generosity. Mr. Decker said, -In serving others we find out who Christ is. Flying in the face of natural man, Jesus requires generosity of spirit." Mr. Decker noted that Joseph Smith was persecuted, but forgave those who wronged him; and President Thomas Monson was put forth as an effective leader and a good example of service.

Speaking about the talents in the church Mr. Decker said, –Jesus gives you your talents in music and speaking. Jesus expects us to magnify our talents." Focusing on opportunities of service he said, –See what opportunities are in our community

— not for proselytizing or publicity. Discipleship is the essence of our serving others."

Both speakers, conscious of the time allowed, skillfully cut their presentations in order to stay within their allotted time.

The concluding thought for the service, —Throw away the mirrors and look out through the windows [don't look at yourself; look out and see others]." *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Spring Creek Ward* 21028 Uncompany Road

Montrose, CO 81401 970-249-7128

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.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS CPW INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF AN ILLEGAL OUTFITTER

Special to the Mirror

TRINIDAD -- After a lengthy and detailed investigation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife law enforcement officials have arrested outfitter James Hirschboeck, 53 of Trinidad, charging him with 13 counts of providing unregistered outfitting services for big game wildlife, two counts of providing an illegal hunt for big game wildlife for profit, one count of menacing with a deadly weapon, four counts of hunting on private property without permission and one count of unlawfully taking and possessing a 5x6 bull elk.

With the help of the Las Animas County Sheriffs Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CPW officers arrested Hirschboeck at his home on Oct. 30.

According to investigators, Hirschboeck was not registered with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies - the state agency that licenses and regulates outfitting services. However, he allegedly charged hunters nearly \$3,000 each for outfitted hunts.

Hunting in Colorado has esteemed tradition; it's hunters who had also paid Hirschboeck for ethical and it's big business. Most of our hunters do it because they have a great appreciation for the outdoors and our wildlife, said Dan Prenzlow, CPW southeast regional manager. This case is just an example of one bad apple, but it showcases Colorado Parks and Wildlife's unwavering commitment to ethical wildlife management and to protecting the reputations of our legal outfitting partners.

Local wildlife officers received numerous complaints from more than 15 out-of-state hunters and four Las Animas County landowners in 2014, and earlier this year regarding Hirschboeck and his company, Colorado Elk Adventures. CPW officially opened its investigation in February this year. During the 2015 second rifle season, CPW investigators went undercover and booked outfitted hunts with Hirschboecks company.

On Oct. 17, the investigators met Hirschboeck in the local Wal-Mart parking lot and followed him to his lodge where there were 12 other



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guided hunts. Upon arrival, the investigators observed that Hirschboecks property was strewn with alfalfa hay; a practice typically used for baiting deer and elk.

The investigators spent three days under the guise of hunting, documenting evidence, and speaking with the guides and other hunters.

"It was obvious that many of the hunters were not happy with the services Hirschboeck provided as they were not as described in advertisements or conversations with Mr. Hirschboeck," said Bob Holder, CPW lead investigator for the arrest. These sportsmen and women complained to me or took other avenues to vent their frustrations. Those other options included contact with legal counsel. At least 10 hunters left early and only two received refunds on their hunts, to my knowledge.

During this time, investigators also witnessed Hirschboeck threaten a third hunter with two hammers and a mace after he had confronted Hirschboeck about illegally hunting on private land and asked for a refund. The investigators also received first-hand accounts of how a bull elk was killed by one of the hunters on private property, then dragged to the area Hirschboeck had leased.

The investigators finished their undercover work on Oct. 20. Search and arrest warrants were issued and CPW, USFWS and the sheriff's office made the arrest. Hirschboeck is facing thousands of dollars in fines and possible iail time.

The vast majority of hunters and legal outfitters are excellent stewards of our state's natural resources," Holder said. "Cases like these rob everyone of those resources and CPW will not tolerate anyone who takes advantage of our hunters and fishermen, or those who disrespect our wildlife.

CPW encourages hunters who are interested in making use of an outfitters service to do their research. Hunters should ask for a copy of the outfitters license and verification of insurance. Hunters can also verify an outfitters license and can view or register complaints on the DORA website: https://www.colorado.gov/dora/ licensing/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx.

The Colorado Outfitters Association is also an excellent source of information on reputable outfitters. Their website is: http://

www.coloradooutfitters.org.

Any member of the public who suspects illegal hunting activity or crimes against wildlife, should call Operation Game Thief at 1-877-265 -6648. Tips can be given anonymously.

More information on this case will be released as it becomes available. Media can request a copy of the arrest affidavit by contacting the Las Animas County District Court at (719) 846-3316.



Advertisement

COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE CITY OF MONTROSE TO MEET

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Committee to Improve the City of Montrose [CICM] will meet at Cimarron Creek Club House, 901 6530 Road, November 19, 2015 at 6:30p to consider candidates to replace councilor Bob Nicholson, District 3; Kathy Ellis, District 4, and Judy Files, at large. Since only City residents are eligible voters for the April, 2016 election, they will be the only folks with a voice at this meeting. Information: Districts, candidate packages, eligibility. Contact: 240-4772, 249-6389 or 275-3863.

SAN JUAN MT. RUNNERS SPONSOR THANKSGIVING TURKEY TROT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The San Juan Mountain Runners are once again sponsoring this year's **TURKEY TROT** on Thanksgiving morning. Both the 2-mile and 4-mile races start promptly at 9 a.m. at Oak Grove School in Montrose but get there early to register for the event and door prizes. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. The cost is still a reasonable \$5/person, \$15/family. Strollers and wellbehaved dogs on leashes are welcome. It is the most fun you will have all holiday season!! For more info, contact Jan at jbridgway@msn.com.

MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND PRESENTS AN OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium for a free concert. The band will take you to an Old Fashion Christmas with songs including Sleigh Ride, Christmas Festival, Joy to the World and a narrated version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas. The Jazz Band will start the concert off and the Oak Grove Elementary School music students will also take the stage to show off their holiday musical talent. For more information vis-it <u>www.montroseband.com</u> or call <u>970-596-1188</u>.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS COOPERATION WORKS FOR WESTERN COLORADO

As winter weather drives more people indoors, it's time to note that there's been good progress made lately on Colorado's natural resources issues. There's a long ways to go before we are protecting our watersheds with healthier forests, but federal and state policies are going through some changes that will head us in that direction.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) recently announced that it's expanding the federal-state partnership, known as Good Neighbor authority, to increase state management efforts on federal lands. This is recognition that states do have a positive role to play in mitigating wildfire risk and improving forest health on federal lands. This will be done in a collaborative way with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and the trend to utilize state agencies for forest treatments is also being followed in Wisconsin, Michigan and Texas. I'm gratified to see the USFS head in this direction as clearly the status quo was not working. Good forest management doesn't benefit from the misguided premise that natural resources such as forests and watersheds follow political boundaries. Instead, we need to work on a more ecologically-sound and commonsense basis and follow natural boundaries.

The Gold King mine spill into the Animas River above Silverton provides another example of how following political boundaries is much too limited a field of vision when dealing with natural resources challenges. As the mine sludge crossed municipalities, counties, tribal lands and states, the Animas and San Juan Rivers followed their own timetable and geographical course, paying no attention to which entity was attempting to deal with the sludge affecting the various constituencies. At a local level in southwestern Colorado, it's also very gratifying to me to see existing watershed protection groups, whether governmental, nongovernmental or academic, pull together in a collaborative coalition to address the new and historical water quality challenges brought to the forefront by the Gold King mine spill. This broad-based and diverse coalition has a website,

www.animasrivercommunity.org, to share with the public their knowledge and continuing efforts addressing the aftermath of the mine spill. The really impressive contribution of the coalition stakeholders is the necessary willingness to forego pushing their own particular agendas when working together for the sake of finding the common ground shared with other coalition members. This isn't an easy thing to do, yet it's critical for forward movement in the bigger group.

Similarly exhibiting a cooperative spirit, the Colorado legislative water interim committee, on a bipartisan basis, joined forces with the wildfire matters interim committee to support a resolution to Congress calling on a different spending approach for the USFS. Recognizing the essential, yet often overlooked, linkage between forest health and water quality and supply, legislators from around the state are urging that federal funds to be spent on managing forest health not be depleted by the overwhelming cost of fighting catastrophic wildfires. In almost a decade at the legislature, I've not seen two committees collaborate together to send a message, both committees voting unanimously in support, but that happened this interim. So, while on a daily basis, hourly even, we hear of all the ways our government is divided, dysfunctional and a mess, I share with you some other, real-time, examples of our representative democracy and community engagement working well around you for the good of others. 2015 Legislative Session Contact: 200 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203 Capitol phone: (303) 866-4884

LED STREETLIGHTS TO SHINE IN NUCLA, NATURITA & NORWOOD

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The towns of Norwood, Nucla, & Naturita, have been working with San Miguel Power on a lighting retrofit project for some time now. The relighting effort will involve switching out old light fixtures around town with a new Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. The project will greatly benefit San Miguel Power and each community through energy savings, decreased operations and maintenance cost, improved light quality and aesthetics. The replacement fixtures, or -huminaries" as they are called in the industry, use Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology to produce a much higher lumen output per watt of energy input making them more cost-effective to operate. This will save each town a significant amount of money on their monthly electric bill. A secondary benefit of the fixtures is the longer life span. LED fixtures require fewer maintenance calls and they last up to twenty years in some cases. — The light is robust and minimalistic in design" says

Paul Hora, Key Accounts Executive for San Miguel Power. —They are perfect for outdoor applications and work extremely well in the kinds of conditions we see in these areas."

The old fixtures currently in each town utilize lamps which are relatively inefficient and, in some cases, discontinued. Many utility service providers are transitioning to LEDs due to the better light quality and savings on the power consumption. These lights are directional in nature which means the light goes down to the ground where it's needed and does not -trespass" as much into the sky or nearby windows. This means you see more stars at night due to less upward light. These slightly smaller fixtures are a direct retrofit for our existing fixtures. They are more appealing and give off a more natural light. We will be retrofitting close to 200 fixtures in the three towns. This will include downtown fixtures as well as most of the side streets and intersections. The materials will be ordered before the end of the year to take advantage of a rebates that SMPA offers through its power provider Tri-State which will reduce the initial cost to each town by 25%. Once the project is completed, the towns will be saving more than \$12,800/year combined. This savings will pay back the project cost within four years. After the project costs are covered the towns will go on saving each month on the utility bill indefinitely into the future. SMPA will continue this program and plans to switch out all of the outdoor lighting that it owns and maintains throughout the entire service territory to more efficient LEDS in the near future.

-This is a win/win situation for SMPA and the communities we serve" says Hora -it's a great step forward in reducing future utility bills for our members. This project saves energy by utilizing the best technology available, which is something SMPA is committed to doing for the benefit of our membership. If you have questions about this project please contact Paul Hora at San Miguel Power <u>970-708-8619</u>.

MONTROSE COUNTY TO RESTORE PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS VIA OLD PARADOX ROAD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Located in the Shavano Valley area, —OldParadox Road" is a Montrose County road that ascends from the valley floor onto the higher elevations of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Beginning at the intersection with Popular Road, Old Paradox Road runs through an area of private land before entering onto public lands which are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). There are several routes in this area that BLM designated as open to motorized use through the travel management process for the Dry Creek Area. Old Paradox Road provides a connection to these routes. The private lands adjoining the lower portion of Old Paradox Road has been developed for residential use. These parcels were created under an exemption in Colorado State law which does not require county review or approval of parcels greater than 35 acres in size. As these properties were developed, owners have located homes near the county road. Other improvements such as driveways, outbuildings and utility infrastructure have also been located in the vicinity of the road. In some instances, the developed parcels utilize the county road for direct access inlieu of constructing a driveway off of private roads. Collectively, the development activities in this area have adversely impacted the function of the county road and public access. To remedy this situation, the Board of County Commissioners will be authorizing signage and minor improvements to the Old Paradox Road. The Board is committed to working with adjoining property owners to assure that this process is minimally intrusive. We appreciate the support that adjoining homeowners have already provided and we look forward to continuing to work together to restore public access.

SHERBINO WELCOMES LIVE MUSIC, SUNDAY CINEMA

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Finnders and Youngberg are playing at the Sherbino Theater on Saturday, Nov, 21st. The band's recently released 2015 album titled Eat The *Moon* proves that they consistently bring us -a self-assured vision of American music, rooted in tradition, but pointing to new creative directions that make it vital and relevant in today's modern world ... " Eat The Moon is currently a Top 10 Album on the Folk DJ Charts, with album titled track "She Wants to Eat the Moon" climbing within the Top 20. You can also catch Del McCoury spinning the hand- picked album on his SiriusXM show Bluegrass Junction. Colorado's Finnders

& Youngberg proudly swim in the deep currents of American music-classic blue-

grass, tried-and-true honky tonk, country swing and skillfully spun folk tales. While their sound evokes timelessness, it is decidedly contemporary, well-traveled 21st century sensibility that informs their songwriting. Their tunes draw on the bumps, bruises and laugh lines earned when we find ourselves in the -bogs" of back roads, dive bars and long, lonesome nights. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased the night of the show at The Sherbino. Doors and cash bar are at 7 pm with music starting around 7:30 pm.

Nov. 22nd will mark the last *Sherb Sunday Cinema* and will feature —Mscle Shoals." In collaboration with CBFF Sherb Sunday Cinema has featured a variety of high quality films over the past year. What a great way to end the series with a film like -Muscle Shoals." Beer, wine, and movie snacks will be available for purchase through the film. Doors and cash bar are at 7:00pm with \$7. About the film: Located alongside the Tennessee River, Muscle Shoals, Alabama has helped create some of the most important and resonant songs of all time. Overcoming crushing poverty and staggering tragedies, Rick Hall brought black and white together to create music for the generations. He is responsible for creating the -Muscle Shoals sound" and The Swampers, the house band at FAME Studios that eventually left to start its own successful studio known as Muscle Shoals Sound. Gregg Allman and others bear witness to Muscle Shoals' magnetism, mystery and why it remains influential today.



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 <u>alpinephotoclub@aol.com</u>.

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 Uncompany 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 Uncompany e Volunteer Legal Aid and the 7th Judicial District Bar Association. Call 970-249-7202 for information.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET- Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 33 South Cascade Avenue.

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 Montro se 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-

Nov. 16-17--Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will host two member forums next month that will highlight the co-op's programs and services designed to help members reduce their energy use. The forums are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. at Orchard City Town Hall, 9661 2100 Road, Austin, CO, and Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at Hotchkiss Memorial Hall, 175 N. 1st Street, Hotchkiss, CO. Free dessert and refreshments will be served. All members who attend will receive a \$10 bill credit.

Nov. 19-21-SOM Footwear Clear the Warehouse Event! 10 to 5 p.m. at the Warehouse, 1006 North Cascade Avenue, Montrose. Call 970-765-2616 for information.

Nov. 19 - The Committee to Improve the City of Montrose[CICM] will meet at Cimarron Creek Club House, 901 6530 Road, Nov. 19, 2015 at 6:30p to consider candidates to replace councilor Bob Nicholson, District 3; Kathy Ellis, District 4, and Judy Files, at large. Since only City residents are eligible voters for the April, 2016 election, they will be the only folks with a voice at this meeting. Information: Districts, candidate packages, eligibility. Contact: 240-4772, 249-6389 or 275-3863.

Nov. 20-22-"Mary Poppins" brings to the Magic Circle Theatre stage the magic and music of the Walt Disney film that is based on the stories of P. L. Travers. Ticket information: 249-7838, or online at www.magiccircleplayers.com or visit the box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesdays through Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday shows are 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee is 2 p.m.

Nov. 21-International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day. Program from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ReMax Alpine View, 2730 Commercial Way, Montrose. Program includes screening of "Family Journeys: Healing and Hope After a Suicide."

Nov. 21-San Juan Weavers Guild 38th Annual Show and Sale, Holiday Inn Express Montrose. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, and the public is cordially invited. For information, call (970) 249-2981 or e-mail irwin@rmi.net.

Nov. 21-Del-Rose Chorus Annual Show "Colorado Adventure" Sweet Adeline Style, 3 pm at Delta Christian Church 1600 and I Rd, with Afterglow following after the Show, 970-256-9763 for Details.

Nov. 22-Community Thanksgiving Service to be held at 6 PM on Nov. 22nd at the United Methodist Church at 19 S. Park Avenue in Montrose. Everyone is welcomed!

Nov. 26-The San Juan Mountain Runners are once again sponsoring this year's **TURKEY TROT** on Thanksgiving morning. Both the 2-mile and 4-mile races start promptly at 9 a.m. at Oak Grove School in Montrose but get there early to register for the event and door prizes. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. The cost is still a reasonable \$5/person, \$15/ family. Strollers and well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. It is the most fun you will have all holiday season!! For more info, contact Jan at <u>ibridgway@msn.com</u>. Nov. 26-21st Annual Thanksgiving Friends Celebration, Friendship Hall.

Nov. 27-28-Basement Boutique Craft Show, Montrose Pavilion. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Nov. 27-28-"Mary Poppins" brings to the Magic Circle Theatre stage the magic and music of the Walt Disney film that is based on the stories of P. L. Travers. Ticket information: 249-7838, or online at www.magiccircleplayers.com or visit the box office at 420 S. 12th St., Montrose, Tuesdays through Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday shows are 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 27--Western-Slope psychedelic rockers Fractalia host an Ugly Sweater Party at RnR Sportsbar in Montrose. No cover, 21+, 8pm. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and let your freak flag fly with Fractalia!

Nov. 28-Garrett Estate Cellars Winery Open House, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. <u>53582 Falcon Rd., Olathe, CO 81425</u>. Wine tasting and specials. For more information Call Mitch <u>970-901-5919</u>. Nov. 29-The sixth Annual Art Partners Chili Bowl Fundraiser is again the Saturday after Thanksgiving — Nov. 29, 2014. Purchase a bottomless bowl of chili from 11 am - 2 pm. The bowl is yours to keep! Only \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple. Vegetarian chili available. Chili is donated by local restaurants and chefs - VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE! Dec. 4-Delta Parade of Lights, A Colorado Christmas, 6 p.m.

Dec 4-Cobble Creek Annual Watercolor Show. Reception Friday 4 –7 pm, Saturday Dec. 5th -10-3.Upstairs at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. 699 Cobble Drive. Call 249-5645 for more information.

Dec.4-Ridgway Noel Night will be Friday, Dec. 4th from 5-9pm. Many businesses in Ridgway will stay open late and have holiday treats, drinks, and/or discounts. We will have a Light Parade to begin the festivities. Any person or group may participate; just light up your vehicle, self, bicycle, animal, etc. and walk (or ride, skip, and march) through the short parade route encompassing downtown. Inexpensive battery-powered light packs can be purchased online or at stores. Have fun and get creative! To join the parade, meet at 4:45pm, Dec 4, on Railroad St next to Town Hall. For questions or to participate, contact Pam or Diedra at Town Hall 970- 626-5308.

Dec. 6-Sherbino Theater "Living Room Lounge," 6 to 9 p.m. Featuring stories and music by vocalist Deb Barr.

Dec. 8-Senior Community Care Art Show and Reception, Amazing Glaze., 209 East Main Street. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 11-12-Performances of The Nutcracker are to be held at the Montrose Pavilion on Dec. 11 at 6 pm and Dec. 12 at 2 pm. General Admission tickets go on sale on Nov. 16th at <u>www.weehawkenarts.org</u> and many local outlets. Tickets for general admission are available in Ouray at Mouses Chocolates; in Ridgway at Cimarron Books and Coffee and Weehawken Ridgway; and in Montrose at The Montrose Pavilion and at Tiffany Etc. General Admission tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+), and \$8 for children 12 and under. In addition, reserved section seating is available (front, center rows) through Weehawken Creative Arts in the price range of \$23-\$26. Patrons can access these reserved section seats through Weehawken only by calling <u>970-318-0150</u> after Nov. 15th.





THE 21st ANNUAL THANKSGIVING "FRIENDS" CELEBRATION

Presented by

Montrose Community Dinners, Inc.

(An approved 501(c)(3) Organization)

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> We'll serve you a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner and provide activities for kids, door prizes, & entertainment from Noon `till 3 p.m., Thursday, November 26, 2015 at Friendship Hall ~ Montrose Co. Fairgrounds

To have meals delivered please call 901-7780 (between 9am & 2pm).

Volunteers, please call 240-4350 (between 1pm & 6pm).

There is NO CHARGE ~ EVERYONE is welcome. This is a Montrose community affair, and folks,

This is what Montrose is all about!

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Contact the Montrose Mirror: Post Office Box 3244 Montrose, CO 81402 970-275-0646 <u>Editor@montrosemirror.com</u> www.montrosemirror.com





The new location of Two Sisters Gastro Pub, above, horses taking in the sun before the snow, left.

