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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays

Issue No. 147 Dec. 7 2015

BAND TOGETHER! MHS BANDS PERFORM FREE HOLIDAY SHOWCASE AT PAVILION DEC 7!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-If you haven't been to one of their recent performances, you have another opportunity to-night (Dec. 7), when the excellent Montrose High School Band plays their annual Christmas Concert at the Montrose Pavilion at 7 p.m. The Concert Band and both jazz bands will perform.

The 80-member Symphonic band will be featured, and they have put together a special Holiday Show, with favorites like *Oh Holy Night*, MHS Band Director Josiah St. Peter said. Not only will this be an evening of entertainment, it's a chance to show support for the positive things youth are doing in the community.

"It's rare to find music like this played by a large concert band," St. Peter said. "We keep our concerts short, and we have a varied repertoire."

"There's so much good going on in our schools, and this is one area that represents that," he said. "We love playing, and it's free to the public."

Now in his sixth year as band director, St. Peter, 31, is pleased with the ability and student leadership he is seeing in his youthful musicians. Each of the two



MHS Band Director Josiah St. Peter and the Montrose High School Jazz Band. The MHS band plays tonight at the Pavilion. Courtesy photo.

Continued on page 2

END NEARS FOR SHARING MINISTRIES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!



By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-The [Sharing Ministries](#) "thermometer" sign truck has been parked around Montrose for months, so community members can track the progress of the funds being raised for a new food bank facility. Now, the end is near for the \$1,559,219,05 capital campaign.

"We are only \$150,000 to 200,000 shy," Sharing Ministries Board President Tom "Vogy" Vogenathaler said. "At this point, what we need is cash." Generous community support, partnerships, and leveraging of grant funds has made the new, 9,000 square-foot facility possible. The new food bank will be fenced and far more secure, reducing vandalism and tripling the amount of available space, with an energy-efficient passive solar heating system that will reduce usage of electricity.

Though Sharing Ministries has been in operation since 1996, food distribution has increased by 87 percent since 2010. In 2014, the non-profit shared 897,000 pounds of food,

Continued on page 2

At left, Consulting Architect George Greenbanks and Sharing Ministries Board President Tom Vogenathaler.

in this
issue

Regional News Briefs!
Letters to the Editor!

Rocky Mountain Food
and Farm Forum!

Community Events
Calendar!

Dunlap Responds to
City Complaint!

Grocery Clerk
Recognition!

BAND TOGETHER: MHS BAND PLAYS DEC. 7 From pg 1



two jazz bands has 18 players.

“I try to get each of our groups to strive for excellence,” St. Peter said. “We are very excited for the Western Regional Concert Band Festival in February; I am sending everyone. We are one of the larger concert bands on the Western Slope. Doing this will help our marching at the beginning of the season—we actually start marching indoors now and finish outside in the fall.”

Though participation remains relatively constant in the MHS band program, the quality has shown no sign of leveling off. “I am extremely happy with the numbers and would love to grow even more. It’s really exciting to see us improve our musicality, at a higher level,” St. Peter said.

Pictured at left, members of the MHS symphonic Band. Tonight’s concert at the Montrose Pavilion is free to the public, and presents a showcase of Holiday favorites. Courtesy photo.

END NEARS FOR SHARING MINISTRIES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN! From pg 1

much of which would otherwise have gone to waste. With an annual budget of \$1.6 million, Sharing Ministries also provides food to 40 community non-profits in Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Ouray counties.

The new building will make an immediate difference for the whole community, with public restrooms, administrative of-

fices, a community garden and a waiting area for guests. It will also create a safer environment for the many community volunteers (150 registered volunteers worked 24,114 hours in 2014) who contribute to Sharing Ministries on a regular basis.

“We have outgrown the old space,” said Vogy. “Working conditions are so crowd-



Sharing Ministries Street Dance 2015.

ed that it can be an unsafe environment.” Vogenthaler has been with Sharing Ministries from the start, and can recall driving a food bank semi-truck over the mountains to Denver with a neighbor for a couple of years.” Now, he hopes that everyone who appreciates the work done by Sharing Ministries will help give the donation “thermometer” that last little boost. [To donate online, visit the web site.](#)

Sharing Ministries is located at 121 North Rio Grande in Montrose, and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 1 p.m.

Second Saturday Girlfriends Day Out
Saturday, December 12th - 10 am to 5 pm

Historic Holiday Shop Up

The Lark & Sparrow Venue

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THE MONTROSE MIRROR
MONTROSE

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD APRIL 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The City of Montrose will conduct a mail ballot election on April 5, 2016, for three City Council members—Districts III and IV and the At Large seats. Seats in Districts III and IV are four-year terms. The At Large seat is a two-year term.

The candidate nomination deadlines for 2016 are as follows:

December 7 – first day candidate information packages may be picked up from the City Clerk.

January 5 – first day that nomination petitions may be picked up from the City Clerk and circulated.

January 25 – last day to file a nomination petition with the City Clerk.

February 1 – last day to amend a nomination petition.

Candidates must be registered electors, 18 years of age or older, who have resided within the City and the district they are seeking to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the

date of the election. Candidates for the At Large seat can reside anywhere in the City but must meet the minimum residency requirement.

Several changes were made to municipal election procedures at the state and local levels that will affect the 2016 election. In April 2014, voters adopted revisions to the City Charter that require City Council candidates to be clear of felony convictions. Candidates will be asked to provide a background report from www.criminalcbs.com before the City Clerk will certify the candidate has met all requirements.

Also new in 2016, municipal election ballots will not include the perforated stub at the bottom of the ballot. This will reduce ballot production costs and staff time required to process returned ballots. Voter secrecy will not be impacted.

Only citizens who have resided within the city limits for at least 22 days before the election are eligible to vote, in accordance with state municipal election statutes. Citi-

zens can register to vote at the Montrose County Election Office or on the Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.co.us.

House Bill 15-1130, signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper on May 27, 2015, ensures that U.S. military personnel and civilians living abroad have the ability to vote in municipal elections. This affects the timeframes for circulation and submission of candidate nomination petitions.

Mail ballot packets will be mailed to all registered voters the week of March 14-18, and ballots must be received by the City Clerk by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, April 5, 2016. Ballots may be returned by mail or delivered to ballot boxes in the lobby of City Hall (433 S. First Street) and in the Montrose County Election Office (320 S. First Street) during business hours.

Voters and potential candidates who have questions about the 2016 municipal election process may contact City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo at 240-1422 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Election for more information.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE RECOGNITION...GROCERY WORKERS

Mirror Staff Report
MONTROSE-Leo works at the Downtown Montrose City Market...he has been on the job for 28 years. "I like it for the people, mostly," he says. Leo, you rock. Thank you!!

Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays
from the
Montrose Mirror...
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your community
news blast!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELP FOUR-FOOTED FRIENDS

Support the Montrose Animal Shelter

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Thank you for participating in our 14th Annual Animal Shelter Christmas Trees! Your generosity will benefit our homeless animals at the Montrose Animal Shelter.

Simply take a copy of the Shelters' Wish list, shop and return to place your gift under the tree at either Scott's Printing & Design (315 S. 12 Street), Copy Cats (330 S. 12 Street, Suite A) or Chow Down (202 E. Main Street). Have

fun!

****Please have your gifts back by Noon on Tuesday, Dec, 22rd, 2015****

Montrose Animal Shelter Wish List

KMR Brand Kitten Milk Replacer

Dog & Puppy Milk Bones

Sweaters for Large and Extra-large

Dogs

Purina Brand Pet Foods (Adult Dog &

Cat Chow, Kitten & Puppy Chow)

Canned Cat & Kitten Food

Gift Certificates from local vets to be

used for shelter pet care (Montrose Vet Clinic, Alta Vista Animal Hospital, San Juan Vet Clinic, Morningstar Vet Clinic)

Heating Pads

Soft Cat Toys (i.e., toy mice, soft balls, balls with bells inside)

Gift Certificates to Chow Down Pet supplies

Gift Certificates to Murdoch's

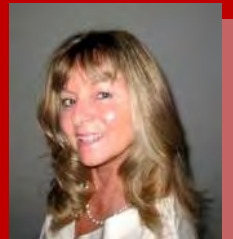
Hard Dog Toys (Kongs or other non-destructible toys)



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CITY HEARS FROM HISTORY COLORADO ON UTE INDIAN MUSEUM EXPANSION

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-On Dec. 1, Montrose City Council heard a project update from History Colorado on the Ute Indian Museum expansion, presented by Janet MacFarland Burlile of History Colorado. Built in 1956, the Ute Indian Museum now welcomes 12,000 visitors a year to experience the museum and its 8.65 acres of garden space, she said.

Though it was expanded in 1998, state funding woes have put more recent renovation plans on hold. Now, History Colorado is finally able to achieve its long awaited expansion goals for the museum, and broke ground Dec. 2.

Burlile said History Colorado has been working with the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain and Northern Ute tribes to make sure the Museum reflects not only the history of the Ute peoples, but their futures as well. The updated Museum building will feature more curved lines and will be painted to reflect the bright colors favored by the tribes. The Museum draws international tourism and contributes to the local economy, she added.

Council also appointed Applicant Gary A. Seitz as an alternate member of the City of Montrose Planning Commission, and approved changes to the METSA (Montrose Emergency Telephone Services) Bylaws and an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Montrose and METSA. Council also voted to approve Ordinance 2363 on first reading, amending Ordinance 2343 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2015; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of



History Colorado courtesy photo from the Ute Indian Museum groundbreaking Dec. 2: Terry Knight - Ute Mountain Ute; Scott Lanham - Project Manager (PCNI); Alden Naranjo - Southern Ute; Daniel Gartner - Architect; CJ Brafford (Oglala Lakota) - Director of the Ute Indian Museum; Lilly Twin - Ute Mountain Ute; Regina Lopez Whiteskunk - Ute Mountain Ute; Betsy Chapoose - Northern Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation; Chairman Manuel Heart - Ute Mountain Ute; Charlie Wooley - History Colorado Board member; David Romero - Montrose City Mayor; Ron Henderson - Montrose County Commissioner.

the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2015."

Council then voted to approve Resolution 2015-23, fixing the tax levy for the Montrose Downtown Development Authority for 2016 at 5.0 mills upon each dollar of the total assessed valuation of all taxable property located within the DDA's boundary. Assistant City Manager and OBT Director Rob Joseph reminded Council of the Parade of Lights and other Holiday events such as the Ute Indian Museum ground-

breaking ceremony, Holiday shopping and Santa's Cabin. He reminded those present of the Montrose Bucks program in which purchasers can obtain \$120 worth of "Montrose" currency in exchange for \$100 of actual U.S. currency. Following staff reports, Council entered Executive Session to discuss possible approval of the transfer of a Hotel and Restaurant license at 35 N. Uncompahgre Ave. from RNR Sportsbar LLC, d.b.a. RNR Sportsbar, to Northman Brewery, Inc., d.b.a. RNR Sportsbar.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOURTH ANNUAL WESTERN COLORADO FOOD AND FARM FORUM SET FOR JANUARY 23, 2016

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The 4th annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, the state's premier gathering of farmers and ranchers, and others involved in the sustainable farm community, announced its line-up of workshops and speakers. The conference on Jan. 23 at the Montrose Pavilion has a wide array of breakout sessions, which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops.

The conference theme is *Farming the Future: Tools, Tips, Talent*. Workshops will focus on using innovative practices and technologies to manage people, land, and finances.

Among other topics, the latest techniques in drip irrigation, cover cropping, electric fencing, minimum till, integrating livestock and cover cropping, marketing, financial planning and advocating for policy that supports the next generation of farmer will be addressed.

Keynote speaker Owen Hablutzel, will present *Farming Futures – Human Landscape Transformations for the 21st Century*.

He will address how to transform agriculture to meet the challenges of rapid change by combining a mixture of older and newer practices to support an economically, socially, and ecologically regenerative future.

Owen states that, “the way we humans practice agriculture has the highest ‘leverage’ of any other sector in terms of both local and global outcomes for ecosystem and human health.”

Brendon Rockey, recipient of the 2014 National Environmental Steward award will present on Rockey Farms practices in developing soil health using cover crops and other innovative techniques.

Marc Caitlin, well-known Colorado water expert will clarify ramifications of the



2016 Food and Farm Forum Keynote speaker Owen Hablutzel. Courtesy photo.

newly adopted Colorado Water Plan.

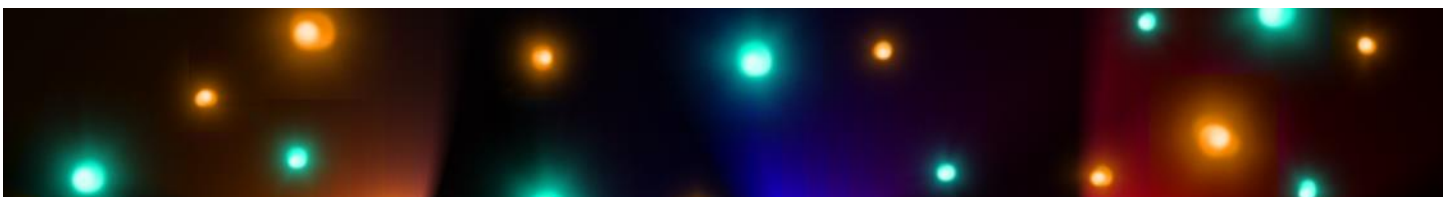
Additionally, attendees can choose from among 18 breakout sessions such as: *Integrating Cover Crops with Livestock, Scaling Up Row Crop Production, Marketing Your Values, Planning for Profit, Garlic and Compost Tea Production, Innovations in Drip Irrigation, New Electric Fencing Options of Friends or Foes, Livestock Health Management, Advocating for the Next Generation of Farmer*, and more.

On Jan. 22 the Forum offers two pre-conference options: *No Till/Minimum Till Equipment and Management Options and Sustaining or Regenerating Our Agricultural Lands? Principles, Practices, and Complementary Methods in Regenerative*

Agriculture.

The educational conference offers registration discounts to those registering by Dec. 20th. Attendees also receive discounts when they attend both the pre-conference workshop and the Forum. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers.

The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register for the conference and pre-conference workshop please visit: www.foodfarmforum.org or call 249-3935.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE SAN JUANS HELPS FIVE LOCAL FAMILIES



David and Kay Ketcham, who have a Habitat home under construction, have adopted their two grandchildren, Kayla and Skyler, and raise them full time. Courtesy photo.

San Juans has a record number of five homes under construction – including their landmark 50th home - in Montrose. Five local families, who have undergone a rigorous selection process and financial counseling, are now busy completing their required sweat equity hours.

One of these five families is that of David and Kay Ketcham, who adopted their two grandchildren, Kayla and Skyler, and raise them full time. The family is living in a small travel trailer in

home in the economic crash. They purchased the travel trailer in hopes to avoid becoming homeless.

The Ketchams have struggled with the energy cost of living in a travel trailer, especially during the cold winter months. The cost has far exceeded their income. Skyler, 15, has a seizure disorder and is incredibly high-energy with no space to run it off at home or outside. Kayla, 10, is a good student, but has a hard time concentrating on her homework with no quiet place to study.

—We are so excited to have been chosen for a Habitat home! We can now give our grandchildren a safe and warm place to live. We often drive by the Habitat homes and show the children what our future home is going to look like, and what it will be like being a part of a community. We are very excited to start building our home and a new chapter of life for our little family. We are truly grateful for Habitat for Humanity and everyone involved. We are truly blessed.”

Each of the five families has begun their partnership with Habitat, which include 250 hours of sweat equity per adult, before they can move into their home.

Most family members get these hours by working on their own home, and other Habitat family's homes. For those who may be physically unable to help at the construction site(s), they are able to give their hours in other ways.

For example, one dad with a physical disability had videography skills and was able to get the hours he needed by creating videos for Habitat events.

—For those wanting to give financially, you can give directly to any of the families on our website at www.buildinglives.org,” Habitat's Heather Zeilman said. —Another great way to give is to become a Dream-Builder, their auto monthly giving club. Memberships start at \$10 a month and members receive great benefits - Tickets to events, discounts on every ReStore purchase, fun Habitat shwag and more. End of year giving is also popular with many of our donors wishing to transfer stock through our Endowment fund. 100% of your giving goes to building homes, and because we're located in an Enterprise Zone, there are attractive, additional tax credits for both cash and in-kind donations.”

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Habitat for Humanity of the

an RV park in Montrose. They were facing living on the streets due to losing their

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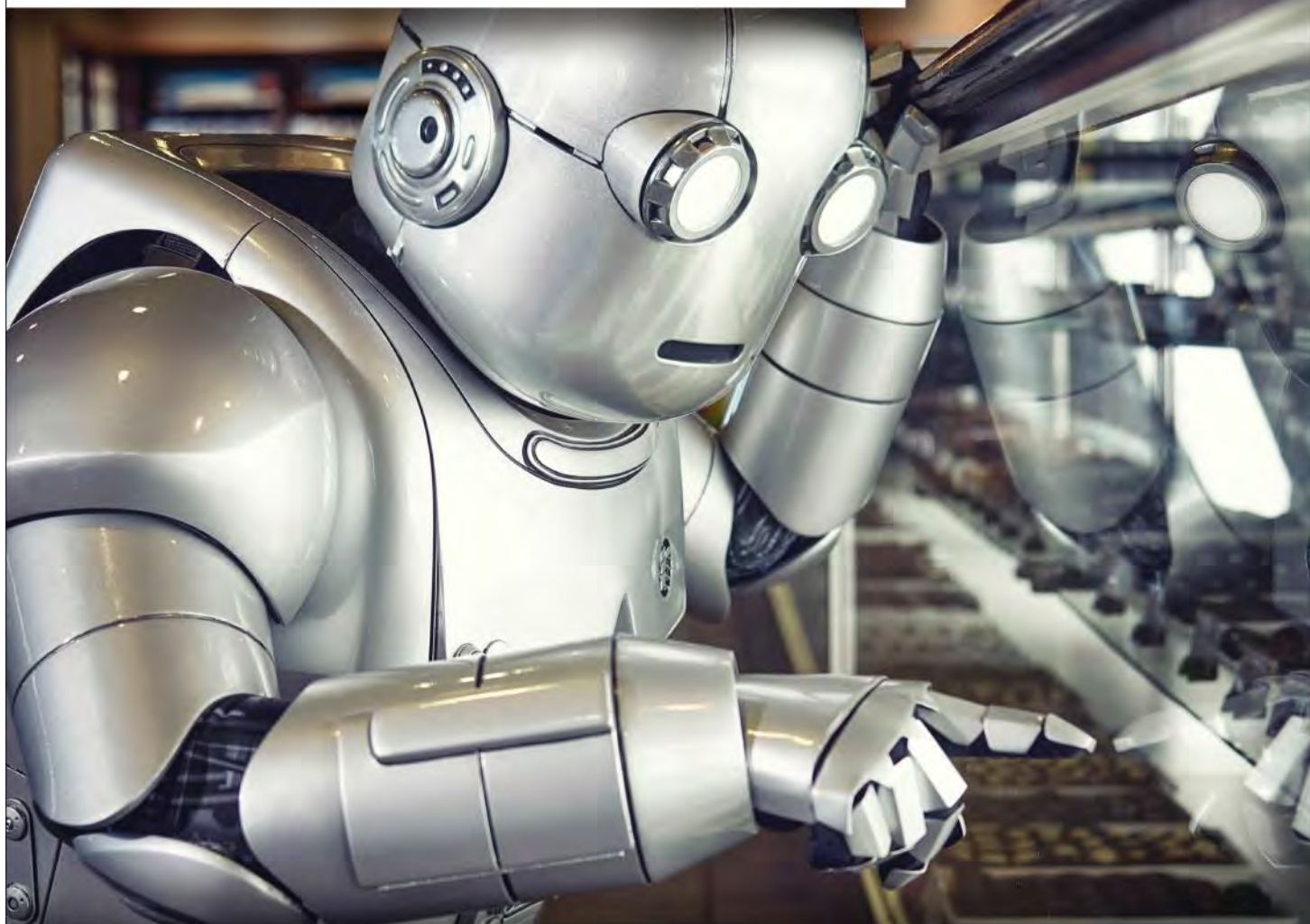
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to locate and apprehend the perpetrator(s) involved in the following incident involving the theft of 18 cows and 71 calves from Forest Corral on Cimarron Road in Cimarron, CO.

On or about Oct. 10, 2015, person or persons unknown stole 18 cows and 71 calves from Forest Corral on Cimarron Road in Cimarron, CO. On or about November 3rd, three additional pair of cattle were taken. The cattle were all branded with "S" and had yellow ear tags in the right ears with the same brand.

Anyone with information about the suspect(s) or the location of the stolen cows and calves can call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500. Crime Stoppers and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office want your Information, not your identity. If the tip results in an arrest, the caller may receive a significant cash award.

MMH LOVE LIGHT WREATH ON DISPLAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-THE LOVE LIGHT WREATH is once again on display for the Holiday season in the lobby at Montrose Memorial Hospital. It will be displayed through January 1, 2016. Persons wishing to remember a friend or loved one may sponsor a light on the wreath with a \$5 donation. The names of those being remembered will be displayed beside the wreath. Contributions will be accepted through Tuesday, December 23, and will be used to benefit patients at the hospital. For more information, interested persons may stop by the Golden Leaf Gift Shop at the Hospital, or mail a check to Montrose Memorial Hospital Volunteer Services, 800 South Third Street, Montrose, CO 81401.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

LEGAL SKIRMISHES, FINGER POINTING COSTLY FOR COMMUNITY

Mirror Staff Editorial

REGIONAL-For the average citizen it's hard to cut through the clutter of the he-said, she-said fiasco of two dispatch centers.

Both parties, the Montrose County Sheriff (SO) and the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WCRDC), want to justify their actions by having the community focus on what has been said and done in the past...a regurgitation of old news.

What is of importance to citizens is where the situation stands now and the fact that both entities are using tax dollars, in the form of legal fees and man-hours, to fight one another.

As the situation now stands, Montrose County agencies can sign a contract with the SO for continued dispatch services for the first quarter of 2016. There is no dispute over fees and all of Montrose County is covered.

The problem in this situation is that three San Miguel County entities — the towns of Telluride and Mountain Village and Telluride Fire Protection District--depended on WCRDC for service beginning in January of 2016 and these agencies failed to make any contingency arrangements for their own dispatch service needs.

As of Dec. 4, none of the three San Miguel entities had gone to their own county to ask for temporary services until the new dispatch center in Montrose is functional. It has been reported that the San Miguel County Sheriff's office can provide service, but no formal request has been made.

The WCRDC, represented by the attorney for the City of Montrose, is championing the three San Miguel entities and filed a temporary restraining order and an injunction against the Montrose County Sheriff.

Not only are Montrose County residents footing the bill to fight against ourselves, we are now footing the bill to fight for San Miguel County entities.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OBT ANNOUNCES BEST OF 2015 PARADE OF LIGHTS WINNERS



A Time to Dance won Third Place in the Best of the 2015 Parade of Lights.

Montrose Pavilion Events Center, on December 11-13 and December 18-20, from 5-8 pm.

Dec. 11-12 at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center, Weehawken Dance Presents: "The Nutcracker." Dec. 12, all day in historic downtown Montrose: Merriment on Main and Second Saturday. The Montrose Community Band will present their free Holiday Concert on Sunday, Decem-

ber 13, from 3-5 pm, at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center. The Winter Farmers' Market is open December 12 and 19 at 33 S Cascade Ave from 8:30 am - 1 pm.

December 18-19 at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center, Dance Around Presents: "The Grinch."

Santa's Cabin runs through December 20: Fridays at Timberline Bank (4-6 pm) and downtown in the Uncompahgre Events Plaza on Saturdays (11 am - 2 pm) and Sundays (1:30-4:30 pm).

For more information about events, contact the Downtown Visitor Center at [\(970\) 497-8558](tel:9704978558) or go to VisitMontrose.com.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The City of Montrose and the Office of Business and Tourism thanks everyone who participated and attended the 2015 Parade of Lights!

This year's theme was, —Starry Nights, Holiday Delights" in honor of the Black Canyon National Park's designation as an International Dark Sky Park.

The Black Canyon National Park served as this year's grand marshal, represented by Park staff and volunteers. The grand marshal entry got the parade underway on theme and with good humor, with their float titled, —Ranger of the Lost Dark."

Entries for the —Best of the 2015 Parade

of Lights" were judged on use of theme, use of lights, originality, and overall appeal.

First Place/\$250 Montrose Bucks: Adventure World Preschool - Starry Candyland Christmas Delight!

Second Place/\$150 Montrose Bucks: The Montrose Regional Library Bookmobile - Wishing you all SEASON'S READINGS!

Third Place/\$100 Montrose Bucks: A Time To Dance — Reach for the Stars!

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Give your time. Contact your local homeless shelter, soup kitchen, or animal shelter. They'll be thrilled to have your help!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DEC. 7 SHERB TALK TO FOCUS ON PEARL HARBOR, WAR IN PACIFIC

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-December's *Sherb Talk* is a special presentation on Monday, Dec. 7th, which is the 74th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Remember, Understand and Honor: War in the Pacific." is based on material and research experiences of Ridgway local, Brad Wallis, who for 18 months served as the CEO of Pacific Historic Parks, and has spent years researching the war in the Pacific. He has had first hand and in-person conversations with many of the men and women who survived the attack at Pearl Harbor, as well as, survivors of other key battles in the Pacific. With the holidays being right around the corner from December's *Sherb Talk*, it's easy to get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle, and it's important to note that Americans were in the same mode on Dec. 6, 1941, not knowing that the lives of many would be altered forever by the events of Pearl Harbor. December's *Sherb Talk* is an informative and a special night to remember, understand, and honor all the men and women involved in the events of Pearl Harbor. Doors and cash bar for the event are at 7 pm with the talk starting at 7:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

PAINT YOUR WINTER WONDERLAND AT DEC. 9 ART BAR IN RIDGWAY!

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Join instructor Allison on Wednesday, Dec. 9th, for a night of acrylic painting at The Sherbino Theater. \$35 dollars for the Art Bar includes all supplies, a beer OR glass of wine, and an original acrylic painting to take home— created by YOU! During the two hour session, Allison will provide helpful tips and instructions on how to create a painting of your very own winter wonderland based off of a provided image. Painting a winter wonderland will be from 6-8 pm at the Sherbino Theater. Pre-registration is highly encouraged and can be done at weehawkenarts.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA DISHES UP YOUR SLICE OF THE CO-OP PIE! CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENT CHECKS COMING THIS MONTH

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) members will receive approximately \$2,000,000 in capital credit retirement checks this month. The DMEA board approved a \$2.6 million capital credit retirement during their October meeting. "To really help our members when they need it most, we are issuing a retirement in December. Everyone likes some extra money during the holiday season," explained Bill Patterson, DMEA Board President.

An exciting change in the retirement process is also taking place. DMEA will issue checks to members for their portion of the retirement, rather than only offering bill credits. "By giving the members their refunds in check form, we really put the money back into their pockets. Each member who receives a capital credit check can use their money how they see fit. We feel that this will have a greater impact on our local economy, rather than simply offering a bill credit as we have in the past," said Jasen Bronec, Chief Executive Officer of DMEA.

DMEA is issuing checks in order to help members understand the real benefits of cooperative membership. A capital credit check is a tangible example of what makes cooperatives different. By issuing checks, the cooperative allows members to decide how they want to use the money, whether for a latte or a tank of gas. Plus, if spent locally, the capital credit checks have double impact: they boost the local economy.

"The economic impact of the \$2M in capital credits being given back to our local citizens could be equated to a company employing more than 50 individuals with an average salary of \$40,000. These dollars, if spent in our local economy, would have an economic impact of over \$10M. In

addition to the benefit seen by our local businesses, our local governments will also see added revenues through sales tax collection.

These dollars, given through capital credit returns, demonstrate the value of having a local member owned utility," explained Sandy Head, Executive Director of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation. What are Capital Credits? As a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative, DMEA doesn't work to earn profits for shareholders. The cooperative works for the people it serves - its members. Individuals that purchase electricity from the cooperative are considered members. This also means that any profits (or "margins" as they are called in the co-op world) DMEA earns are returned to the member-owners. DMEA typically returns margins on an approximate 25-year schedule.

Who will get a check in December? DMEA is retiring capital credits that were allocated in 1990 and some from 1994. Everyone who was a DMEA member in 1990 or 1994 will receive a capital credit retirement. Retirements \$10 or greater will be mailed as checks. Retirements less than \$10 will be issued as bill credits. The total value of the checks to be mailed out to members is \$1,977,300. How does DMEA determine how much you get? At the end of each year, all of the margins DMEA has earned are allocated back to each active member from that year. The amount allocated to each member is based on the amount of investment they made into the cooperative through the purchase of electricity. The more electricity a member purchased, the more they invested into DMEA, which means that member's allocation will be greater than another member who purchased less electricity.

Once the margins have been allocated to

the members, they are used by DMEA for a period of time for reliability and system improvements. At the end of a set period of time, allocations are returned to members in the form of capital credit retirements. "This process literally represents our members' investment into the company they own," explained Bronec.

What happened to the additional \$600,000? Although DMEA's Board of Directors approved a \$2.6 million retirement, the cooperative is only mailing \$2 million in capital credit checks. There are several reasons for this: Members with a refund of less than \$10 will not receive a check; rather they will receive a bill credit. This accounts for \$4,500. If a member leaves DMEA with bad debt still on the books, their capital credit retirement goes against that bad debt. This accounts for \$71,000. If a member is inactive and has a past due bill (but not yet bad debt), their capital credit retirement goes against their past due bill. This accounts for \$4,000. Finally, members who have left the system and no longer have a correct address on file with DMEA account for \$579,000.

DMEA will post listings of these members in an attempt to reach them, so they can claim their capital credits. After a period of five and a half years, any credits left unclaimed will be transferred into the cooperative's unclaimed capital credit fund. This fund is used only for charitable and educational causes in the local communities.

For more information on this year's capital credit retirement, your capital credit checks, or other questions concerning your investment in DMEA, contact the co-op at 1-877-687-3632 ext. 391 or capital.credits@dmea.com or capital.credits@dmea.com.



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COMMUNITY LIGHTNING RODS

Voices that spark conversations

JUST DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY: RICK DUNLAP



Sheriff Rick Dunlap.

Interview by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- Rick Dunlap grew up in Friendsville, TN and after leaving the Army he married a local Montrose girl, Karen, and moved here in 1981. Rick continued his military career in Montrose in both

reserve and active duty service with the Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG). In conjunction with his 21-year career in the military, Rick also received an associate degree from American Intercontinental University (AIU).

Along with his military service, Rick worked for the Bureau of Reclamation, the Montrose Police Department, and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. In 2006 Rick was elected as the Montrose County Sheriff and is now in his third term, which ends in 2018.

In community activities Sheriff Dunlap has been involved with a Cub Scout Troop, the Lions Club, a member of the CASA Board and he is currently the president of the County Sheriffs of Colorado.

A self-described watchdog Rick said, "I'm the type of person who, if I see something out of line I'm going to speak up about it. I'm proactive. I'll take the steps necessary to see that the best interests of the people are addressed — the best interests of all the citizens, not just a few in the community."

Sheriff Dunlap feels he is respected in the community, "I've lived up to everything I said I would do when I campaigned. I've not made one promise that I didn't keep and I've proven to the people that I keep my word." The sheriff knows that not everyone will agree with his decisions, "But I always have the best interests of the citizens in mind."

From his upbringing and his military background the sheriff leads by example. "I would never ask someone to do something I wouldn't do myself." He laughed and said, "A day's work for a day's pay... regardless of what the pay is!" Sheriff Dunlap is not opposed to putting on a uniform and working a shift if there is a need. "In the days when we had only 13 employees, if a deputy needed to go home to spend Thanksgiving or Christmas with his family, I'd work his shift." Today the sheriff's office has 32 deputies and scheduling is less of an issue.

Talking about the City of Montrose es-

tablishing their own dispatch center, Sheriff Dunlap said, "It's not putting any pressure on me. I'm not going to leave citizens hanging when it comes to public safety. A second dispatch center is not going to interfere with the job I have to do. We will absolutely have a county dispatch center and citizens can be assured that they will have emergency services."

However, when pressed about two dispatch centers and coordinating emergency responders in a natural disaster the sheriff was not as confident.

"There is potential for a breakdown in communications. Particularly if there is a case of a wildfire on the plateau. It's important that we have the same systems in order to communicate with federal agencies, but I'm not sure we'll have the same systems." In transitioning to two dispatch centers the second dispatch center will not be staffed by county employees.

In his leadership skill set Sheriff Dunlap thinks of himself as being tactful, "I listen to what everyone has to say. In this community we need to leave politics and egos out of the discussion and just do what is best for the community."

When asked if he had any aspiration of climbing the political ladder the sheriff almost choked trying to get out an emphatic, "NO!"

HONORABLE MENTION

To Officer Chris Worthington of the Montrose Police Department...thank you!

To everyone who appeared in the 2015 Montrose Parade of Lights...thank you for a great show!!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY RANGER DISTRICT CLOSES HIGHWAY 90, DIVIDE ROAD AND DAVE WOOD ROAD

Special to the Mirror

OURAY- The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Ouray Ranger District has closed Highway 90, the Divide Road and the Dave Wood Road according to the seasonal road closure management for the District. This closure is for all vehicles over 50-inches wide beginning today and continuing through May 15, 2016. These roads will not be plowed or maintained from here on during the closure period. Forest users who may venture

on these roadways in vehicles greater than 50-inches in width expose themselves to serious safety issues, may get stuck and are subject to violation and fine citation for the closures.

A semi-trailer loaded with lumber slid off Highway 90 and came to rest on its side on Monday November 30 in the Dry Creek drainage. The road is blocked by the vehicle. Wreckers are working on both sides of the vehicle to extricate it. A dozer is plowing portions of the Dave Wood Road, the

South Divide Road and Highway 90 on the Uncompahgre National Forest in order to gain access to the vehicle. The plan is to plow the road and remove the semi and trailer today. Persons travelling to the National Forest for fuel wood or Christmas trees are cautioned that plowing is only for the purpose of extricating the vehicle and is not intended to provide safe public access to the National Forest. Please do not drive on the Dave Wood Road, South Divide Road or Highway 90.

GET YOUR MMH 2016 WELLNESS CALENDAR NOW!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital has published a free **2016 Wellness Calendar** for our community. The bright, informative calendar promotes wellness with large full-color displays each month to inspire active lifestyle choices. The free calendars will be available at the front Information Desk at MMH Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. until they are gone.

CITY SEWER SURCHARGE FUND CONTINUES TO GROW

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-The City Code was recently updated and approved by the Montrose City Council to include a 25-cent per month sewer surcharge for each utility customer beginning in May of 2015. The fee was imposed to give the city the ability to offer financial assistance related to claims for clean-up costs associated with a homeowner's sewer backup.

In the six months since implementation the surcharge fund has grown to \$12,614, according to Shani Wittenberg of the City Finance Department. No funds have yet been paid out, however there are a couple of claims pending. It is estimated that on a yearly basis the amount collected from the 25 cent per month surcharge will total \$22,000.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS AND COMMENTARY

OUR STRONG AND COMPASSIONATE BLUE LINE

Dear Editor:

As head of Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, I deal with all of the law enforcement agencies in our area. As I have said many times, we are very fortunate to have good law enforcement protecting our residents. With a legal, judicial and law enforcement background, I recognize quality professionalism. Unfortunately, our little corner of paradise suffers from many of the same blights of large cities, particularly drugs and thefts.

I recently attended the Montrose Police

Department's Annual Meeting, which included numerous officer and staff awards. The competency and professionalism of this agency is outstanding. Well trained, well equipped and highly competent, the basis of each commendation was described in detail. From instances of life-saving, both while on and off duty, to just superb investigative police work, all of the civilian audience was awestruck and impressed by the history behind each award. While war has been declared on law enforcement by mainstream media, we can be assured

we have outstanding law enforcement personnel who are both competent and compassionate. The long list of community activities engaged in by these dedicated civil servants, in addition to their traditional law enforcement duties, is amazing and commendable.

We who live in this region are truly fortunate to have agencies like the Montrose Police Department and a City Council which supports them.

John W. Nelson, Montrose Montrose

COMMENTARY: WHOSE PRIORITIES ARE WE FUNDING?

By Gail Marvel

In full disclosure Gail Marvel served on the Montrose City Council 2008-2012.

MONTROSE-In a recap of 2015 and a peek into 2016, Montrose City Manager William Bell wrote an open letter to the city council and citizens of Montrose that was published in the Nov. 26th issue of the *Montrose Daily Press*.

Under the subtitle Capital Improvement Fund for 2016 Mr. Bell wrote: —Woodgate Road Improvement \$1,200,000 — This road

project has been moved up on the list of improvements due to the construction that will already be happening on the Community Recreation Center site by the Montrose Recreation District. It will increase the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists by widening and repaving the entire corridor." What citizens may want to ask is which project, or projects, were bumped from their place on the list in order to accommodate road improvements around the new Recreation Center.

For decades Montrose citizens have wanted the completion of the Grand/Rio Grande arterial extension, as well as the road connectivity of 6700 Road to Hwy 50. Time and again the city has brushed aside the conversation on these projects citing cost, lack of grant funding and making other projects a priority.

It is becoming painfully clear that the priorities of this city administration are more self-serving to their own interests than to the interests of the citizenry.

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Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS MESA VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH



By Gail Marvel

OLATHE—On Oct. 4, 2015 I visited Mesa View Mennonite Church in Olathe, which should not be confused with Sunnyview Mennonite Fellowship in Olathe. Separated by two miles as the crow flies, one visible difference between the congregations is the kapp worn by women. The Mesa View ladies wear a black kapp/scarf.

The white walls of the spacious entrance were void of any decorations, icons or signage.

An older man and I arrived at the same time, but there was no communication as we each stood against our respective walls. A women's Sunday school was taking place in a hallway and as it concluded a young woman came up to me and without any introduction hesitantly asked if I lived in the area.

When the men's Sunday school class dismissed from the auditorium I inquired about seating for worship and was told the men and boys are seated on the right of the

auditorium and the women and girls on the left. More formally attired, the ladies wore dresses and the men wore white shirts with dress slacks, or suits. There was no bulletin, or introduction of leaders or speakers.

A young woman with her toddler slipped into the pew beside me and as I reached for a hymnal, she indicated the two different hymnals and guided me to the correct book.

Hymns are sung a cappella and in harmony. Each hymn was led by a different man and the selections included, —Believe in God,” —Beautiful Spirit,” —Tell Me the Old, Old Story,” and —Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross.”

During congregational prayers members kneel, but they stand for the benediction at the conclusion of the service.

After announcements the speaker/preacher took to the podium. It was unclear if he was a visiting speaker, or someone new to the community. —I'm really not scared of you anymore. That is probably

my weakness [being afraid]. I recognize some faces, but I'm not remembering all the names.” The speaker explained that his message preparation allowed him to, —. . . build a message when I get up here to the podium. God will expand on the Scriptures that have touched me. He wants to move me along; move us forward. Like a shepherd with sheep, He wants to lead us along and not to be brought along by strangers.”

Using the heating element of a kitchen stovetop to illustrate his topic the speaker said, —Think of the cross [of Christ] as the center of the spiral and the spiral circles its way out. God's grace covers the whole element, His grace extends all the way to the outer limits of the element. The impression that comes to me is that somewhere in those rings is where I am traveling. The further out I go, the further from the center, is further from God. The Word of God moves us closer to the cross.”

The speaker cautioned about being too close to the edge of the element, —On the outside of the edge you are moving away. Close to the edge is close to one foot in and one foot out...too close to the evil one's kingdom. It behooves me to be close.” Scripture references were sprinkled in the message.

Following the speaker another man took to the podium and added commentary to the first speaker's message, as though to give worshippers his take-away on what the Spirit wanted him to hear.

At the conclusion of the service some ladies engaged me in conversation, but the segregation of gender remained intact and there was no eye contact, handshakes or pleasantries exchanged with the men.

Contact Information:

Mesa View Mennonite Church
6151 55.50 Rd.
Olathe, CO 81425

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*.

OBITUARIES

JAMES HOLGATE 1960-2015



*James Holgate.
Courtesy photo.*

EVERGREEN- James Holgate, 55, a long time resident of Evergreen, Colorado passed away peacefully in his sleep on the evening of 11/26/2015. He was born May 10th, 1960. Jimbo as he was fondly known was loved by so many friends and family. He leaves behind two Sisters Peggy and Sue, and a Brother Scott, and nieces, nephews and extended Family who will be lost without him. He loved his Family.

Jimbo lived in Evergreen off and on from the mid 1980's to 2006 when he moved to Montrose. He was an avid reader and loved helping in the opening of Pahgres in Montrose. James was currently employed by Vail Resorts and worked at Keystone following his many adventures working for the National Parks in Denali, Alaska and Glacier Park in Montana where he made many new friends. He resided in Summit County from 2013 until his passing. Those that knew Jimbo will recall the many, many times he brought us all to laughter. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan, being born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota. Jimmy loved to cook and have long and insightful conversation with his

many friends. His love of dancing was amazing and he knew all the words to most songs he heard. His favorite groups being The Grateful Dead and locally Hazel Miller, Pat Travis and Tiny Barge. James life was a Celebration indeed, there was always a broad smile on his face. He touched everyone he knew in a very special way.

There will be a Life Celebration and scattering of his ashes at Evergreen Lake the week of Jimbo's Birthday, May 15th and in Montrose following the Holidays. A separate Memorial will be held by Family and Friends in Minnesota. For further information and Memorial plans, please contact Janice Rae Pariza at 970-964-4243.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF RESPONDS TO DISPATCH COMPLAINT

MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE: Sheriff Receives Complaint Demanding Dispatch Assistance

At approximately 9:30 a.m., on the morning of December 4th, the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Montrose (Andrew Boyko) hand delivered a motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. This document compelled the Sheriff to appear in court at 1:30 p.m., the same day. The City of Montrose had provided no prior notice of this action or their intent to take legal action against Montrose County. The motion is an attempt to compel the Montrose County Sheriff to continue providing emergency dispatch services to those entities that have recently formed the "Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center." Specifically, these entities include the City of Montrose, Montrose Fire Protection District, Town of Telluride, Town of Olathe, Telluride Fire Protection District and the Town of Mountain Village. This motion is entirely unnecessary and is an egregious waste of public assets.

As I have repeatedly noted, it is my intent to continue to provide dispatch services to the citizens of Montrose County. I stated this intent publicly after the City's attempt to blame a sole source/no bid contract on the County in October. At that time, the City's justification for this contract was an allegation that the Sheriff's Office would not be providing dispatch services after January 1. That was not true then and it is not true now. Moreover, the Sheriff's Office offered to lease two existing consoles to the City of Montrose to accommodate their dispatch needs during the transition. The City of Montrose chose to decline that good faith offer.

Since that time, I have continued to work towards providing services to the Montrose County entities that have chosen to establish a separate dispatch center. In fact, on December 1, 2015, the City of Montrose, Montrose Fire Protection District and Town of Olathe were all provided with contracts for dispatch services through the first quarter of 2016. At this time, none of these entities have acted upon the agreement. All of these users had the option to execute an agreement for service for all of 2016 which would provide a full year to continue preparations of the second dispatch center. Rather than executing these

agreements and assuring uninterrupted service, all entities declined.

The City of Montrose is playing a very dangerous game with regard to public safety. City leadership has exacerbated this mistake by involving other emergency service providers in the proposed Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center. It is now readily apparent that the City of Montrose cannot deliver on the promise of service that was presented to these other entities (Montrose Fire Protection District, Town of Olathe, Town of Telluride, Town of Mountain Village, Telluride Fire Protection District). Since the City of Montrose is not ready or able to construct, staff or operate a functional dispatch center they have now taken the desperate action of asking the courts to force the Sheriff's Office to continue to provide a service that the agencies of the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center have repeatedly declined.

The Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center has already hired two current dispatchers from the Sheriff's Office. Furthermore, the Sheriff's Office has reduced staff in anticipation of the reduced call volume that would occur from the establishment of a second dispatch center. For this reason, it is now not feasible for the Sheriff's Office to provide service to the San Miguel County entities. Dispatchers go through a rigorous background check and training program and every center struggles to hire and retain enough of these specialized employees. Due to the amount of time required to get a dispatcher up to speed, it is not realistic to add and drop these employees at a whim as the City of Montrose seems to think.

It is my opinion that the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center is in jeopardy of failing before it is even established. Today's desperate and poorly conceived motion to the court is strong evidence of the lack of planning and leadership that have gone into the second center thus far. Public safety is a serious matter and it is time that the City of Montrose is held to their obligation to provide for the safety of their residents. I encourage the public to start asking the questions that have been absent from this conversation up to this point.

1. When will the proposed center be operational?
2. What is the annual operating and labor budget for the center and why is it not in-

cluded in the City's proposed 2016 budget?

3. - What are the staffing levels that are anticipated in order to adequately provide services to users of the center?
4. What are the possible ramifications to the safety and welfare of the citizens who are represented by the agencies forming the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center?
5. What are the cost savings (if any) to the taxpayers that will be served by the second center?
6. What kind of redundancy, target hardening and physical improvements are being made in order to assure the reliability of the new center?
7. Does the City have plans to acquire or complete the necessary towers to facilitate adequate radio and paging communications?

This list could be much longer. I will leave it at these points for now. Due to deficiencies in the filing, the court refused to hear the injunction today, and a time will be set subsequent to a proper e-filing and other procedural requirements being completed by the City of Montrose and Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center.

As always, I welcome any member of the public to contact me directly with questions or concerns related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Rick Dunlap

[Copies of the console lease offer and service contracts sent to the City of Montrose, Montrose Fire Protection District and Town of Olathe can be found by clicking here.](#)

UPDATE: I have just received word that Montrose Fire Protection District Chief Tad Rowan intends to sign the intergovernmental agreement regarding the Sheriff's Office providing dispatch services for the first quarter of 2016. In the motion filed today, the City of Montrose and Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center had claimed to be filing on behalf of the Montrose Fire Protection District. However, in the email from legal counsel for the Montrose Fire Protection District, the district clarified that they are not seeking a temporary restraining order nor injunctive relief for dispatch services from the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in the motion filed by the Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center.

MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS!



For more images from the 2015 Parade of Lights see Art & Sol #23 on Tuesday!



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Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

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

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— 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 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-

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

Dec. 8-At 6:30 p.m. local Montrose Farmers Insurance agent Howard Davidson will honor teacher Angela Hagins of Northside Elementary School at the School District office, 930 Colorado Avenue, #B.. Hagins will receive an educational grant of \$2,500 for classroom supplies as part of the insurer's Thank America's Teachers program.

Dec. 9-Heidi's Brooklyn Deli Coffee Forum meets at the Proximity Space, 210 West Main Street, for a tour, 8 to 9 a.m.

Dec. 9-Music at Noon, Montrose United Methodist Church.

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 www.weehawkenarts.org and many local outlets. Tickets for general admission are available in Ouray at Mouses Chocolates; in Ridgway at Cimar-ran 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 970-318-0150 after Nov. 15th.

Dec. 11-13 GARDEN OF LIGHTS at Montrose Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Dr.. Time: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Wander among the illuminated Garden paths and displays, enjoy horse drawn wagon rides, Santa and storytellers, snacks, live music, animated light show, and a warming fire. Entry fee and schedule of events at: www.montrosegardens.org.

Dec. 12-Holiday Pop-Up Shop, Lark and Sparrow venue, 511 East Main Street. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 12-Montrose Arts Council presents "An Evening of Ragtime," with Bob Milne. Montrose Methodist Church, 321 East Main at 7 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Adults \$15, children \$5.

Dec. 13—At 2 p.m. — Ragtime pianist Bob Milne will present a delightful concert at the Wright Opera House in Ouray. Adults \$15, Children \$5 — tickets at the door or online at www.ocpag.org. Presented by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild.

Dec. 13-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 visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Dec. 13- Annual Christmas/Holiday Concert will take place 2015 at the Northeast Christian Church in Grand Junction at 6 PM. Please come, join us and enjoy the music of the Holiday Season--both Spiritual and Secular, performed by the Bookcliff Chorus, the Holiday Chorus, the Sweet Adelines and Quartets. There is no ticket charge, but there will be a chance to donate.

Dec. 18-20—GARDEN OF LIGHTS at Montrose Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Dr.. Time: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Wander among the illuminated Garden paths and displays, enjoy horse drawn wagon rides, Santa and storytellers, snacks, live music, animated light show, and a warming fire. Entry fee and schedule of events at: www.montrosegardens.org.

Dec. 19-Yvonne Meek Finally Home Holiday Concert at the Lark and Sparrow, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 970-615-7277 for ticket info or visit www.larkandsparrow.com.

Dec. 21-Ridgway Farmers Market, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Silver San Juan Building at 600 Sherman Street.

Dec. 31-New Year's Ball at Lark & Sparrow, (511 East Main) 7:30 p.m. Call 970-615-7277 for ticket info or visit www.larkandsparrow.com.

Jan. 10-Vocalist Deb Barr and Artist Kellie Day at the Sherbino Theater Living Room Lounge.

Jan. 22-23-The Western Colorado 4th Annual Food & Farm Forum will be held all day on Jan. 22nd and 23rd. Register NOW to get the early bird special. This year's conference theme is *Farming the Future: Tools, Tips, Talent*. The conference has a wide array of breakout sessions which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops. Tickets: \$30 Early Bird Pre-conference, \$45 Early Bird Forum, \$70 Early Bird Both. For info visit foodfarmforum.org, or email vista@livewellmontroseolathe.org. Reach us by phone at: 970.249.0705.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HAPPY 100TH TO THE NPS!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO WAIVE PARK FEES ON 16 DAYS IN 2016

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service turns 100 years old in 2016 and wants everyone to celebrate! All national parks will waive their entrance fees on 16 special days in 2016.

The 16 entrance fee-free days for 2016 will be:

January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
April 16 through 24 – National Park Week
August 25 through 28 – National Park Service Birthday (and following weekend)
September 24 – National Public Lands Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

–Fee-free days provide an extra incentive to visit a national park, especially during next year's centennial celebration," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. –We added extra fee-free days so that everyone has a chance to join the party. With locations in every state, finding a national park is easy. The hard part might be deciding which ones to visit."

To honor the National Park Service's centennial, the National Park Foundation has joined the National Park Service to launch a public engagement campaign called Find Your Park to help all Americans discover all the things that national parks can be. Visit FindYourPark.com for

a list of Centennial special events across the country and to learn how to discover, explore, recreate, be inspired, or simply have fun in national parks.

Usually, 127 of the 409 National Park Service sites charge entrance fees that range from \$3 to \$30. The entrance fee waiver for the fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for things like camping, boat launches, transportation, or special tours.

To continue the national park adventure beyond these fee free days, the \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 sites, including all national parks, throughout the year. There are also a variety of free or discounted passes available for senior citizens, current military members, fourth grade students, and disabled citizens.

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act that created the National Park Service –to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for future generations."

Today, the National Park System includes

more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 409 sites with 28 different designations, including national park, national historical park, national monument, national recreation area, national battlefield, and national seashore. Collectively, these sites contain more than 18,000 miles of trails, 27,000 historic and prehistoric structures, 247 species of threatened and endangered species, and 167 million museum items. Last year, almost 293 million people visited national parks. Those visitors spent \$15.7 billion in local communities which supported 277,000 jobs and had a \$29.7 billion effect on the economy.

But the impact doesn't stop there. In addition to national parks, the National Park Service works with tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses across the country to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Programs such as the National Register of Historic Places, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, National Trails, and the Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program revitalize communities, preserve local history, celebrate local heritage, and provide places for children and families to get outside, be active, and have fun.

ARTbar NIGHT OUT

at **The Sherbino** HISTORIC THEATER
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Wednesday Dec 9th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Winter Wonderland with Allison Wofford

\$35 for the Art Bar includes all supplies, a beer OR glass of wine, and an original acrylic painting to take home created by YOU! During the two hour session, Allison will provide helpful tips and instructions on how to create a painting of your very own winter wonderland based off of a provided image. Please call Weehawken at 970.318.0150 for more info or to save your spot!

weehawken creative ARTS centers
weehawkenarts.org
970-318-0150

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

Post Office Box 3244

Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com



The Montrose Winter Farmers Market at 33 South Cascade Avenue; Montrose County Fair & Rodeo Royalty ride in the 2015 Parade of Lights Dec. 5.

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