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THE Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays MONTROSEMIR R O R

Issue No. 148 Dec. 14 2015

KNOCKING DOWN THE BARRIERS: WELCOME HOME!

Warrior Resource Center to be Replicated Nationwide



Brothers in Arms meet during the 2014 Welcome Home Montrose 5K. Now, the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans will receive development support through a national initiative called Challenge America, and will be replicated nationwide. Photo by Nancy Ball.

By Caitlin Switzer

AMERICA-Montrose is about to become a model for the rest of the nation. With the creation of Welcome Home Montrose in 2011, Founder Melanie Kline hoped to establish this community as a no-barriers destination, a place where veterans can come, take part in recreational and enrichment activities, and make use of resources, referrals and opportunities to attain their personal and professional goals in civilian life. That model has proven so effective in serving veterans here in Western Colorado that a national initiative has adopted Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center as a template for what can be accomplished nationwide.

So what's next for the collaborative effort? —We can provide Welcome Home Montrose with a tool kit, and with development support," said Dallas Blaney of Challenge America. —Ad we will help spread this model to other communities, so it can be replicated across the country.

-Welcome Home Montrose aligns perfectly with our mission of linking veterans to resources in their own communities; our focus

Continued on page 6

CITIZENS OBJECT TO CHURCH'S PEACE POLE AT PUBLIC LIBRARY, MRLD TRUSTEES AGREE TO RECORD FUTURE MEETINGS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The normally scheduled board meeting for the Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) was moved up a week and took place on Dec. 10, 2015. All currently serving trustees were present, with trustee Shelley Karo (Nucla) participating by conference call.

Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Nov. 19, 2015 took considerable time as the board clarified their recollection of the action that was to have taken place concerning the resignation of MRLD Development Officer Amy McBride. Executive Director Paul Paladino had interpreted the action as giving direction to the personnel committee chair to handle the resignation and the requested exit interview. Mr. Paladino wanted the minutes to reflect that there was confusion amongst the board. However, the trustees unanimously agreed that action for the resignation and the exit interview was to be handed over to the three-member personnel committee and not just to the chair. The minutes were amended.

As a way to alleviate such

Continued on page 14



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Montrose Library board of trustees was moved ahead a week. Still, two local citizens showed to up to protest placement of a peace pole on library property by Arlyn McDonald and the Spiritual Awareness Center, a church group that plans to place 100 "peace poles" around Montrose.

1 this Farmers Insurance Thanks local teacher!

County P&D Moves to Fairgrounds!

Gail Talks to Jim Kerschner! ABC Club Students of the Month!

Community
Obituaries!

"THIS GRANT WILL HELP THEM PLAY LIKE OTHER KIDS"



Northside Elementary School Teacher Angela Hagins was awarded \$2,500 in grant funds through the Farmers Insurance Thank America's Teachers program on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Montrose Farmers Agent Howard Davidson presented the check to Hagins, who teaches Level 3 Special Ed at Northside. Hagins will use the money for adaptive sports equipment so her students can ride bikes and play. Courtesy photo Farmers Insurance.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—For Angela Hagins, teaching special education at Northside Elementary is not about what her students can't do, but about what they can accomplish using the education, tools and resources available to them. Now, Hagins can add some exciting new resources to her own tool kit. Thanks to a \$2,500 grant from Farmers Insurance, Hagins will be able to acquire additional adaptive sports equipment for her class.

—Special Ed kids want to be part of everything, like any other student," Hagins said.

—M of our kids go into the general education classroom every day. They want to play sports, and they want to ride bikes. Adaptive sports equipment levels the playing field; they want to ride bikes, we will buy bikes they can ride. This grant will help them be able to play like other kids."

Students with severe physical and cognitive needs benefit from riding bikes and playing during the learning day just as other students do. —I am really excited

about this, because adaptive equipment helps them," Hagins said. —There are a lot of opportunities out there that people are not even aware of."

The Farmers grant is funded through the insurer's Thank America's Teachers program. Hagins, who teaches the Level Three program at Northside, has students who participate in activities like skiing, bowling, basketball, and track. In 2014, eight students from Northside Elementary were able to take part in adaptive sports programming. The Thank America's Teachers grant funds will pay for 15 or more students to participate this year. According to a Farmers news release, Hagins is one of just 60 winners nationwide.

Through Thank America's Teachers, Farmers will give away more than \$1,000,000 to educators in 2015 and the public will help determine who receives the

grants at <u>ThankAmericasTeachers.com</u>. Farmers will award 180 grants valued at \$2,500 throughout the year.

The grant was presented Dec. 8 by local Farmers Agent Howard Davidson of Howard Davidson Insurance. Davidson has been integral in promoting and publicizing the Thank America's Teachers program here in Montrose. Howard has been really great, and very encouraging," Hagins said. Hove Northside Elementary; it's a very supportive environment and it's a great program. And the support of the community in putting this together is a big part of why I won."

"Teachers across the country are so passionate about what they do, and they are committed to improving their schools in any way they can," said Davidson. —I am so excited to have had the honor of presenting Angela Hagins with the \$2,500 grant through Thank America's Teachers."

So after skiing with Telluride Adaptive Sports Program this winter, what's next for the Level Three kids? —We will be having track in the spring," Hagins said.

-Everybody is welcome to come and watch Special Olympics!"



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY EMS HONORS THREE LOCAL HEROES

Special to the Mirror OURAY-On July 25, at 5:32 pm Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) and Ouray Mountain Rescue were called to an ATV accident at Grey Copper Gulch, CPR was in progress. Grey Copper Gulch is part of the Corkscrew Gulch 4 x 4 roads and is approximately a 40 minute drive from the Hwy 550 using Mountain Rescue's Toyota Land Cruiser. Glenn Boyd, medic from OCEMS was staged at Ironton Park to wait for supplies and a vehicle that had the capability to access the patient. City of Ouray Fire Chief Trevor Latta, City Of Ouray Fire Department Member David Turner, and a Local Nurse Brittney Kunz were all camping at Ironton. They had rented Side-byside ATVs and had just finished riding for the day. Hearing the page come across their pagers, Latta, Turner, and Kunz jumped to action. Without hesitation, they asked Boyd what they could do to help. They offered to pay late fees (if needed) for the side-by-sides and offered Boyd a ride (cutting response time by half). They

also offered to go and assist with the patient care in any way they could. Turner and Kunz got in one of the ATVs and went up the mountain, Latta assisted Boyd with loading equipment and medical supplies then took Boyd to the patient. When Turner, Kunz, Latta and Boyd arrived at the patient; the parties he was with were exhausted from preforming CPR for an hour and 34 minutes. While Advance Life Support was being performed, Latta, Turner and Kunz rotated in and out of pre-

forming CPR for over 2 hours. After nearly 4 hours of CPR, the patient regained a pulse and the rescue team transferred him to Tri-State Care-Flight out of Durango. At the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on December 8th, 2015 Ouray County EMS thanked and recognized Trevor Latta, David Turner, and Britney Kunz for being outstanding citizens of Ouray County. They instantly and selflessly



jumped into action during a stranger's moment of need. By providing the Side-By-Side razors, they allowed Advanced Life Support to arrive at the patient 33 minutes sooner than awaiting the mountain rescue vehicle. Performing constant, good CPR for several hours gave the patient the best opportunity for a positive outcome. Thank you to these three True Community Heroes.

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Mirror Staff Report RIDGWAY-Ridgway has some of the best eateries around...Provisions on South Clinton Street, in the old barbershop location, is no exception. This is a great place to find a quick breakfast, with delicious croissants made by hand, right there. Pictured are Provisions staffer Sam and Ridgway resident Patty Bennett. Thanks for a great breakfast, Provisions!





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WEST END RELIABILITY PROJECT POWER OUTAGE POSTPONED

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-A power outage that was expected to affect all customers in the West End of Montrose County on Friday, Dec. 18, has been postponed due to an incident of vandalism. —We were finalizing plans on the new transformer for Nucla when we heard about the damage at Monogram," said San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Staff Engineer, Bill Riley.

The damage, as reported by SMPA line crews conducting a routine inspection, was caused by gunshots to a transformer in the Monogram substation. Upon discovery of the damage, crews re-routed power to the backup feed for the Bedrock and Paradox communities. The re-route did cause about a half-hour outage in those areas.

—This incident will cause additional costs to SMPA and its members," stated SMPA Manager of Engineering, Terry Daley. —It

has also inconvenienced members by causing an outage and delaying the reliability improvements we need to make for the benefit of members on the West End." The incident has been reported to the Montrose County Sheriff's department, and SMPA encourages anyone with information about this incident to share it with law enforcement and/or SMPA.

SMPA has a —mbile substation" that it can deploy in order to keep electricity flowing when substation repairs are necessary. This unit was in Nucla and ready to be utilized in the first step of the West End Reliability Project, which would not only repair damage caused by a 2013 lightning strike, but also upgrade the system in that area to improve reliability. —Right now, it looks like we might put the mobile to use up in Monogram," said Riley. —The transformer in Nucla is old, but it is working

fine."

Residents and businesses all across the West End have been preparing for an extended power outage on Friday, but it looks like, for the time being, it will be _business as usual, 'as SMPA adjusts to these circumstances.

Asked about the way forward, Riley stated, —The need for the West End Reliability upgrades is still there, so members still need to anticipate some outages soon, but for now, we'll hold off on these upgrades until a later time."

SMPA encourages members to check www.facebook.com/
SanMiguelPower and www.smpa.com for the latest information regarding planned and unplanned power outages. Members can also call 970-626-5549 during regular business hours to ask questions and get more information.



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KNOCKING DOWN THE BARRIERS: WELCOME HOME From pg 1

until now has been on creating a virtual community for veterans through our web site and resources," he said. —Nw, we will also export the model created by Welcome Home Montrose."

The first step will be to —distill" the program to its essence, and create a curriculum for training others to take the program home, he said. —We will recruit potential founders, and bring people from all over the country to Montrose," Blaney said, —to train here, with a curriculum that they can understand and implement in their own

communities. —We want to show them what Melanie and Emily (WHM Director Emily Smith) have done."

The official rollout of the campaign will be in late spring or early summer of 2016, he noted.

Melanie Kline continues to be amazed at how far Welcome Home Montrose has come. The idea for the non-profit came to her one night as she watched a television program on the challenges faced by America's returning warriors.

-Opportunities are opening up for every-

one as Montrose strives to become a no barriers community on behalf of those who have served in our armed forces," Kline said. —We in western Colorado cherish independence in our lives and the sacrifices our troops give to preserve this lifestyle. I'm proud of Welcome Home Montrose's efforts, of all our volunteers, and of our many partners who work to accomplish this mission for our service members." To learn more about Challenge America, visit the web site at www.challengeamerica.com.

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION TO HOLD OPEN DISCUSSION OF RATES, RELIABILITY, RENEWABLES, ETC. "An Evening with Your Co-op" provides forum for all perspectives

Special to the Mirror
RIDGWAY-As a member-owned coopera-

tive, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) must communicate with its members. Sometimes the best way to communicate is just to sit down and talk. That's why SMPA is hosting —An Evening with Your Co-op." It's a chance

for the staff and board to have direct conversations with customers. (AKA: members) Provisions, (616 Clinton Street) in Ridgway will host this get-together from 6 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Provisions is offering half-price drinks at a full cash bar. SMPA will provide hors d'oeuvres

Anyone who pays their electric bill to SMPA is a member of the cooperative. All members are encouraged to come meet their representation, ask questions and be heard.

Visit www.facebook.com/
SanMiguelPower or www.smpa.com for up-to-date information about these events.

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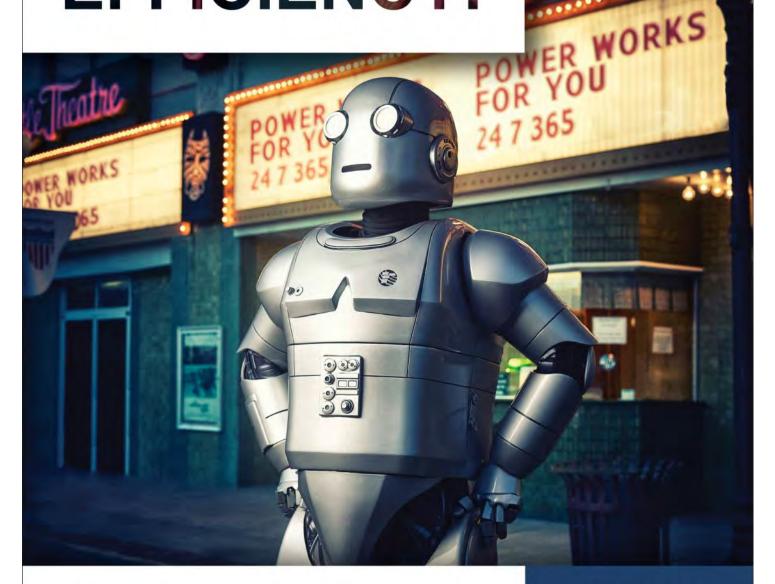
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TELLURIDE GIVES DAY DEC. 15 SUPPORTS WEEHAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS!

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-For the entire day on December 15th, Weehawken Creative Arts will be a non-profit participating in Telluride Gives Day. Weehawken Dance is in desperate need of a significant number of new costumes for our dance program. Our enrollment of students has increased significantly, which is exciting, but it means that the Weehawken costume inventory needs to grow as well. The Weehawken Dance program has been reusing their current costumes for years, and many costumes have needed some _TLC' and repair, they can no longer be used. In order for our dancer's to shine on stage we need to fund new costumes! Please help us build tomorrow's stars! All donations to Weehawken Creative Arts during Telluride Gives Day can be made at www.telluridegives.org.





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"OUR NUMBERS ARE TRENDING UP; MONTROSE COUNTY IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE"

Planning & Development Division Relocates to Fairgrounds, Impact Fees Reinstated in 2016

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Now that Montrose County Planning and Development has relocated to the Montrose County Fairgrounds, local residents have access to a full-service, convenient location with plentiful parking.

—This is better for the public," Planning & Development Director Steve White said.
—This is a bigger space; we have a conference room so we can lay out plans, and Lynda (P&D Assistant Lynda Glover) now has a desk! The move has helped us be a one-stop shop—you can obtain your building, septic, and address permits all right here."

With permits on the rise—as of Dec. 1, year-to-date statistics already reveal a two percent increase over all of 2014--White and his team see plenty of diversity in every work day. And being accessible to the public is essential to the work.

-Really, I am a processor," White said.
-We process peoples' work to make sure the projects meet regulations, we facilitate work that the public needs done. I like working with people, and being a problem solver—we see little problems every day, and we help people find the answers that they need.

-We dot the I's and cross the t's," White said, -and we help people achieve what they want to achieve."

Working with citizens requires treating everyone with equal respect and fairness, he added. Among White's responsibilities now is oversight of the County's Engineering Division, which encompasses the former Public Works Division. —The Engineering Division serves the Road & Bridge Department," White noted. — make sure the actual workers can get the work done, and that they have the materials they need to do their best." One staffer is charged with checking all County bridges and culverts for safety, White said. -We also look at road conditions," he said. —We look for damage; we want to know what's happening out there."

Planning & Development also serves the Montrose County Planning Commission, which presently has open seats, White said. The Planning Commission meets once a month. —They're a really good group," he noted. —Sme days the Planning Commission has big agendas, some days they don't," he said. —They are not just approving things for the public, but reviewing what needs to be done to align with our Master Plan. I prepare things for them prior to hearings, and look at Code

with them to see if there are items that need to be updated will something accommodate future business and growth, or is it impeding growth?

For example, a few years ago we updated the Zoning Code to allow solar and wind generation," White said. Now, there's a solar farm out in the West End."

White studied Urban Planning in college, and though he grew up in the Eastern and Midwestern United States, he has spent his career

out West. Prior to joining Montrose County a decade ago, he worked in Arizona and Nevada, where he gained experience with some extremely diverse and challenging projects, from manufacturing facilities and steel mills to municipal developments and subdivisions. —Have worn a lot of hats as an urban planner," White said, —fbm planning and building inspection to land sales. I have even met Julianne Moore! That was really fun. And I did the first Polygamist subdivision. I have gone places nobody else could ever go. I have even helped people find property.

Have learned very well how to work with people," he said. - Lan work with everyone, and I really benefit from having such a good staff." Working with the public is only part of White's job at Montrose County, however. He is also charged with permitting County projects such as the gravel pits that serve the County itself; those pits must undergo the same rigorous permitting process that a privately own facility would require. Perhaps the most complex project White has worked on was the Uranium mill that Montrose County approved in the West End several years ago. We had some really big public hearings," White recalled. —On guy even rode his bike out there in the dark.'

Among the more ambitious undertakings for Planning & Development today is the planned Indoor Arena at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. White and his team are looking at detailed cost bids, reviewing infrastructure and assessing road issues.

Improvements to the County's LaSalle Road property are also underway, with the



Montrose County Planning & Development Director Steve White.

intent of eventually housing Montrose County's Road and Bridge Division there.

Planning & Development will once again charge Growth Impact Fees in 2016, after waiving them for four years during the economic downturn. —Our numbers are trending up," White said. —So we will implement Impact Fees again. And those funds are clearly directed toward infrastructure.

—Iwon't be surprised if we see a similar upward trend next year," White said, noting that people are now spending more on their homes, particularly in the soughtafter Spring Creek area. White often takes time to remind people that a rural lifestyle is peaceful, but comes with its own set of—distractions."

Hike to remind everyone that there is good and bad," White said. —Yo want to look at a beautiful field, but noise, dust, and other things do happen. Your neighbors might be working in their barn until midnight."

As an urban planner, White appreciates the dynamic, growing nature of his profession, and the diversity of issues he faces on the job. —really enjoy working for Montrose County," he said. —Thave learned to work with our managers, and with our boards of commissioners. When people come in and see what we do, they see we are doing the right thing on behalf of our citizens. It is always positive.

—This is a great place to live," he said. Montrose County Planning & Development is located at 949 North Second Street at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The phone number is 249-6688.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK: SUPPORTING THE HEROES AMONG US

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Alpine Bank chose to honor veterans on Veterans Day and the entire month of November. We paid tribute to our employee veterans, gave out —Made in the USA" American flag lapel pins and committed all Loyalty Debit Card credits from our Community Card for the month of November to local veteran organizations. These organizations make a positive impact in the lives of these amazing individuals every day. We were impressed by the money raised during the month, and we were able to donate nearly \$27,000 to veteran organizations in Colorado, such as the Warrior Resource Center (WRC).

We are so pleased to be able to make this contribution of \$3663.50 toward the Warrior Resource Center. Thank you for your continued dedication in providing for our nation's heroes.

About the Warrior Resource Center

The Warrior Resource Center is a place where veteran's voices are heard and they receive support and encouragement from each other. They also interact with the community at large through the WRC, which gives the average person a way to -support our troops" in tangible ways, small or large. The WRC helps Welcome Home Montrose identify the gaps in day to day living experienced by the 3500+ veteran families who already live in Montrose and the surrounding counties. The database at the WRC documents all of the 196 volunteers who offer help, discounts, services and friendship to our military. Emily Smith and her knowledgeable staff help veterans navigate through any need every day. Extensive confidential records are kept for the 2096+ veterans who are registered and have received assistance there. The WRC provides a place for social activities, family gatherings, veteran's coffees, spouse luncheons, informational workshops and support groups. There are also qualified councilors and Veteran Service Officers on sight.

About Alpine Bank

Alpine Bank is a \$2.7 billion, employeeowned organization chartered in 1973 with headquarters in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. With 38 banking offices across Colorado, Alpine Bank employs nearly 600 people and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, wealth management*, mortgage and electronic banking services. Alpine Bank was recently elevated to a 5-star rating for financial strength by BauerFinancial, Inc.





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Ridgway residents, join us for An Evening with your Co-op Let's ½ price drinks & free hors d'ouvres Your Electric Cooperative wants to meet with you. We can discuss... Reliability Ask questions. • Give your opinion. Rates · We're listening. Renewable Energy Anything else... Join us at Learn more... provisions 970-864-7311 616 Clinton in Ridgway www.smpa.com December 16 www.facebook.com/ 6 pm - 8 pm SanMiguelPower SMPA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING MOUNTAIN COUNTRY CAFE



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Mountain Country Cafe, where breakfast is served all day and they have home style lunches! The Chamber of Commerce celebrated this new business with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mountain County Cafe is located at 3410 Williams Drive and can be reached at 249-1958.

Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays from the
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SENIOR COMMUNITY MEALS ASSEMBLES BLIZZARD BOXES TO PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL HARSH WINTER WEATHER



Special to the Mirror
REGIONAL-Senior CommUnity Meals, a program of Volunteers of America, is assembling emergency —blizzard boxes" to distribute to their homebound older adult clients beginning Dec. 15, 2015. The

emergency food boxes will contain enough food for six meals in the event a storm hits the

In past years we have provided these boxes during the harsh winter months in the event we were not able to deliver or otherwise provide meals at the meal sites due to severe weather conditions. The boxes serve as a reassurance to our home bound clients that they will not go hungry in a storm," Shonk said.

Non-perishable items like individual cans of chili, spaghetti,

ravioli, tuna, fruit cups, juice boxes, packs of peanuts, sunflower seeds and crackers are some of the items included the boxes.

Over the past year, approximately 75,000 hot and frozen meals have been provided through Senior CommUnity Meals to the

senior citizens of Delta, Montrose and San Miguel Counties.

—We want to do this to show our customers know how much we care about them. This project has received numerous donations from very generous businesses and individuals in our area.

We are extremely grateful for their support," Shonk said.

The program serves lunches at seven community meal sites from Olathe to Paonia to Nucla/Naturita and delivers meals to seniors homes utilizing a network of staff and volunteers covering approximately 4,600 square miles.

Senior CommUnity Meals is principally funded by the Region 10 Area Agency on Aging.

For more information on Senior CommUnity Meals, a program of Volunteers of America, visit

www.seniorcommunitymeals.org.



MRLD TRUSTEES AGREE TO RECORD FUTURE MEETINGS From pg 1

problems in the future the board approved a policy change that, along with a scribe taking minutes, requires each meeting to be recorded and those recordings held for an undetermined amount of time.

During comments from the public Janet Eckert Goforth, Sandy Anderson and Mary ployees. Lou Luttrell spoke against the request from the Spiritual Awareness Center to install a Peace Pole on library property. The ladies expressed concern that allowing to do, but it is something." any spiritually-based group to put up a marker on library property opens the door for other groups to make the same request. Sandy Anderson said, -This goes beyond peace...it [represents] that there are many paths to God. It is a spiritual pole."

Ms. Goforth said, —believe it has a religious significance and I suggest that you do not do it [install it]. It is obviously a religion's spiritual thing. It is not just a Peace Pole, they are putting up a marker for gatherings.'

Ms. Goforth stated there were many in the community who would have attended the meeting to express their concerns, but they only learned in the last few hours that the meeting had been moved up a week.

The trustees tabled any decision until the

January meeting and formed a committee of the executive director and trustee Karo to do more research on the Peace Pole.

Along with adopting the 2016 budget the trustees also approved a three per cent, one time performance bonus for MRLD em-

Indicating that they wished they could do more, Vice-President Tim Garvey said, Three per cent is not what we would like

Mr. Garvey reported that four applicants for the board of trustees were interviewed and that all four would be submitted to the Montrose County Commissioners and endorsed by the trustees. The current status of open seats on the board of trustees should number three.

However, the vague discussion of four applicants and four seats being open indicates that the board of trustees is losing another, yet to be named, member.

A special executive session will take place at 1 pm on Dec. 17, 2015 to discuss the executive director's evaluation and contract negotiations.

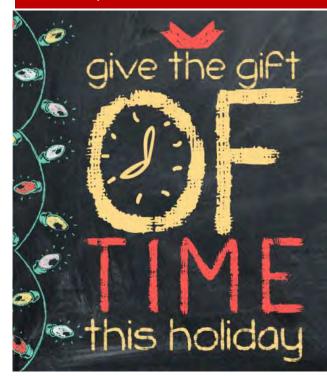
While executive sessions are recorded, these taped sessions are required to be kept for only 90 days.



A photo of the Peace Pole at the Ute Indian Museum Gardens. The Peace Poles are a project of the Spiritual Awareness Center. Courtesy photo Spiritual Awareness Center.

CLARIFICATION:

In last week's issue of the Mirror we reported that the annual Sharing Ministries budget is \$1.6 million. However, that is actually $\,$ the budget for the non-profit's capital campaign. The annual operations budget is much smaller, around \$300K per year. To donate to Sharing Ministries, please visit the web site: www.sharingministries.org.



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

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re your extras. Whenever you make something this time of year, consider doubling your batch or at least creating a few extra you can give to a local soup kitchen, or senior home.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NICHOLSON SHOULD DISCLOSE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH REAL ESTATE DEALS

Mirror Staff Editorial

MONTROSE-A special meeting of the Montrose City Council was held on Nov. 17, 2015. The minutes of the meeting state, —@ALL TO ORDER Mayor David Romero called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION At 5:02 p.m., a motion was made by Rex Swanson, seconded by Bob Nicholson, to enter into an executive session to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: potential

property purchases."

Those present for the executive session: David Romero, Rex Swanson, Kathy Ellis, Judy Ann Files, Bob Nicholson, Rob Joseph, Stephen Alcorn, Garry Baker, Virgil Turner, Carolyn Bellavance Guest: John Renfrow.

Although no action was taken following the executive session, it should be noted that Councilman Bob Nicholson participated in the discussion in spite of the public perception of a conflict of interest. Nicholson is a former business partner of Jim Renfrow and Tom Cheney (brother-in-law of Nicholson) in local property and subdi-

vision development. Realtor John Renfrow, who attended the executive session to discuss potential property purchases with the city, is the son of Jim Renfrow.

Councilman Nicholson may have in his own mind rationalized that he could be impartial. However, the fact that neither he nor any of the other participants publically raised the question of a possible conflict of interest prior to going into executive session is disturbing.

This is not simply a matter of Nicholson recusing himself from a future vote, when and if a vote is called for. In this case the discussion on property acquisition so

closely connected by friendships, family and former partnerships causes doubt. Had Councilman Nicholson simply recused himself from the executive session there would be no lingering questions of whether or not he can be impartial.





Holiday Hours:

Nucla Office:

Closed Dec. 24 & Dec. 31 (always closed Fridays)

Ridgway Office:

Closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 (always closed Mondays)



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Forest Service and local County representatives are seeking people from communities throughout Colorado, elected officials and special interest group representatives as nominees for the Grand Mesa, Uncompangre and Gunnison (GMUG) Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Application forms must be received at the GMUG Forest's office ideally by Feb. 1, 2015.

The GMUG RAC has been in operation for the past six years and has recommended over \$1.4 million of resource management projects that have been implemented on-the-ground. The current members are at the limit of their appointments and are unable to continue to serve by regulation. We need interested citizens to apply to the RAC to help keep this great work continuing. Serving really doesn't take a lot of personal time, yet it has long-lasting contributions to our natural resources!

The RAC represents a wide range of interests and supports the counties in reviewing and evaluating projects that are submitted under the Secure Rural Schools Act for funding.

The committee recommends which projects to fund and in coordination with land management agencies and county officials. Projects are located in Mesa, Garfield,

Montrose and Gunnison counties.

The four-year term begins upon appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses. Members must be Colorado residents and meetings are held at least once and up to three times during the year.

Each RAC consists of 15 members, split equally between the three categories listed below. Applicants may apply in more than one category. The Secretary of Agriculture will make the appointments to the RAC (and of alternates) based on the applications received, striving to appoint members who have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with others of different viewpoints.

Category One:

- Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups
- Developed outdoor recreation, offhighway vehicle, commercial recreation
- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial or recreational fishing
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area Category Two:
- Nationally recognized environmental organizations

mental organizations

- Dispersed recreation
- Archaeological and historical interests
- · Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups, wildlife or hunting organizations or watershed associations. Category Three:
- State-elected office holders
- County or local elected officials
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC are-
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

Citizens interested in applying for RAC membership are encouraged to retrieve an application form and background check form (AD-755) on-line

at www.fs.usda.gov/GMUG. Type in -GMUG RAC" in the search blank or contact Lee Ann Loupe for additional information and/or application forms.

Applications should be received by February 1, 2016 at Grand Mesa, Uncompangre and Gunnison National Forests, ATTN: Lee Ann Loupe, RAC Coordinator, 2250 Highway 50, Delta, CO, 81416. Applications must contain original signatures and complete information.

For more information, contact Lee Ann • Regionally or locally recognized environ- Loupe at <u>970-874-6717</u>, <u>lloupe@fs.fed.us</u>.



Leslie Gibson, Certified Nurse Midwife, and her son Zach volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army

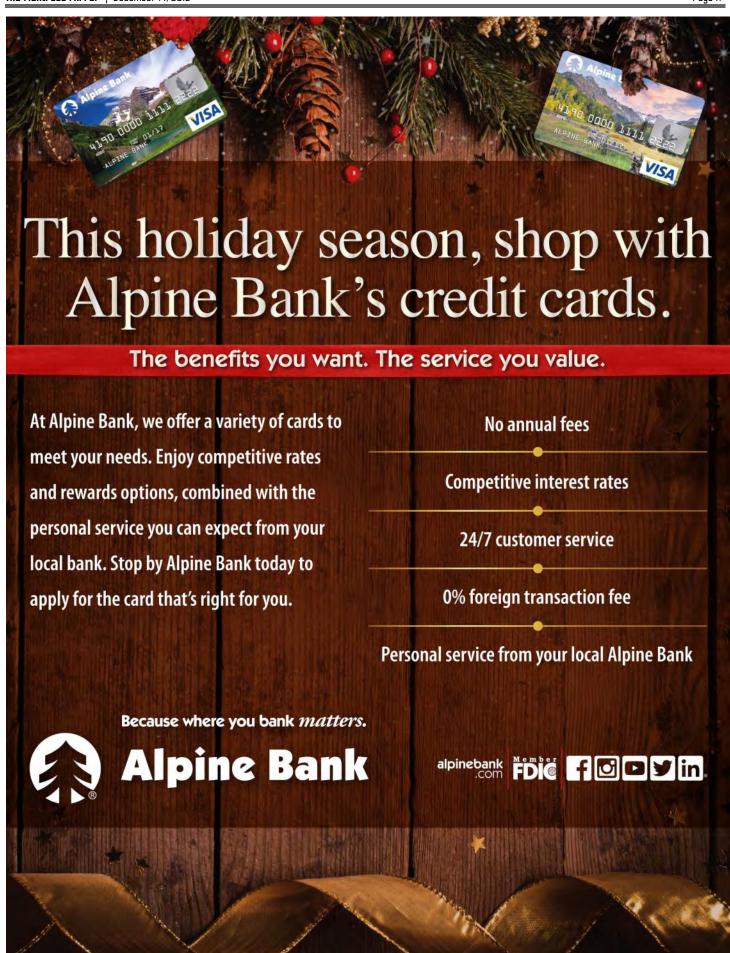
Sticking Together ... with Those in Need

Our employees volunteer with community partners to stick by those in need when they're going through a difficult time.

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COMMUNITY LIGHTNING RODS Voices that spark conversations

I LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JIM KERSCHNER

Interview by Gail Marvel MONTROSE-**KUBC** Radio Station General Manager Jim Kerschner moved to Montrose when he was a freshman in high school and graduated from MHS in 1973. Beginning in 1977



Jim Kerschner. Courtesy photo.

Jim put sweat equity into the Red Barn Restaurant and owned the restaurant from 1992-2002. He said, —did pretty much everything there was to do. I wore as many hats as I could — cooking, serving and washing dishes. I liked working with the public the best. I made a lot of lifelong friendships...and maybe some enemies!"

Jim started his radio career in 1991 and in 2003, after selling the restaurant, he went to work for KUBC in what he thought was a part-time position, —It turned into full time, I just wasn't smart enough to say no."

In past community involvement Jim served on the now disbanded Retail Enhancement Board and Visitor and Conventions Board. He said, —I'm a member of

Rotary...but not a very good member. I have trouble getting to meetings."

In his position as General Manager Jim's on-air presence is now more limited. He said, —I like to make a difference and I think I made more of a difference when I was on-air." He laughed and said, —Today it's probably better that I don't have a microphone in my hand. I'm a conservative and some liberals don't like what I have to say!"

The current political environment turns Jim's stomach. Have a problem with people who want to have a voice, but won't step up and do anything. All this crap where people are emboldened, always laying out in the weeds waiting for someone to say something they don't like. Writing letters to the editor and writing on social media message boards. They have a podium and a platform and rather than trying to take people down, they should be doing something good. I guess it just makes them feel good when they make someone else look bad."

When asked if he felt he was respected in the community he said, —Yes, I think so... but I haven't done anything to be respected. Let's respect people that are serving the country and the community...those who are feeding people. I've never done anything like that. I just sit on my butt in the radio station."

Jim downplays his community role, but

his reach into the community cannot be denied. Each June for a 10 day period Jim puts on a fundraising hat for Operation Sweet Tooth, which supplies care packages for the military personnel serving abroad. He said, Since 2004 we've raised almost \$750,000 and 2015 was our most successful year. We raised \$72,000 in 10 days." Fellow laborer Marta Taylor, who prefers to work quietly behind the scenes, mails packages every week. To date more than 380 tons of candy, canned goods, hygiene items, socks and T-shirts have been sent to men and women in uniform. Service members who are wounded get first priority, followed by those who seldom have any communication from home. Although packages are sent out year round, Marta specially wraps those sent during Christmas.

Jim feels KUBC has the responsibility to speak the truth about things going on in the community.

We are entertainment of course, but we are also a tool to help the community and to help grow businesses. The news is as it is...it is what it is, but we choose to have a positive influence in the community." KUBC serves six counties, but their focus is local.

Summing up the character of the community Jim said, —We have good people on all sides of the issues...we just can't seem to come together."

HONORABLE MENTION

To all of our Mirror contributors for such excellent work over the past year, and a special thanks to Gail Marvel, for her investigative reporting, smart editorials and for that outstanding church visitor series...

To the Montrose Rotary Club, for approving a grant request in the amount of \$500 for Cottonwood Elementary School to be used for the construction of the new track...

To our local brick and mortar businesses, for investing in beautiful decorations and merchandise, and for representing some of the best that Montrose has to offer!



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Over 200 entrees to choose from!

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COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF ASSET MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE, REC DISTRICT IGA

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council greets two new employees at the Work Session Dec. 14, Municipal Court Deputy Clerk Jodi Stewart and Public Works Line Mechanic Frank Culver. Items up for discussion include the new indoor arena capital project at the Montrose County Fairgrounds; a Cerro Summit Trails Project Report; a contract for asset management software; and a riverbank stabilization contract for the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Included in the work session packet are reports from Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning and a report from the Montrose Youth Council. Following a Youth Council Proclamation

in Support of the Dark Skies Initiative, at

its regular meeting Dec. 15 Montrose City Council will consider sale of a City-owned 2005 F-150 pick-up truck to the Town of Olathe for the sale price of \$3,600; an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Montrose and Montrose Recreation District Regarding Shared Services; and a City contribution of \$50,000 toward the Montrose County Indoor Arena Capital Project.

Council will also consider approving a professional services Contract with Cartegraph for the purchase of asset management software, integration, and training for the total 2016 price of \$106,792.

Also up for Council consideration is Ordinance 2363 (second reading) an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado,

amending Ordinance 2343 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015."

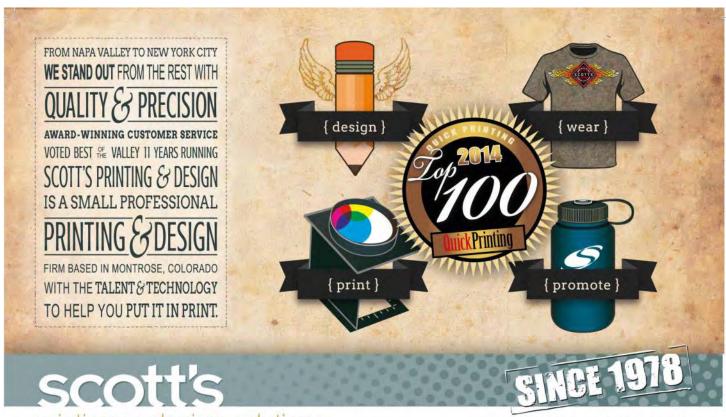
Council may approve Resolution 2015-24 as well, a resolution authorizing the conduct of the City of Montrose's mail ballot General Municipal Election of April 5, 2016.

Staff reports will include a 2015 Event Year in Review presentation; Sales, Use, and Excise Tax Report; and Public Information Officer Report.

ABC CLUB TO HONOR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH TONIGHT AT CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Academic Booster Club will hold an honors ceremony at Centennial Middle School tonight at 7 p.m. Since 1983, the <u>Academic Booster Club</u> has collected and returned between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually to schools and students by giving grants to teachers, students, parents, administrators and support staff to promote positive academic experiences in our community. Academic Booster Club (A+BC) has awarded over \$225,000 in grant money since its inception! Each month, A+BC selects one student from each school in the RE-1J district to be a Student of the Month. These students are recognized at a quarterly awards ceremony. A+BC has been doing this for more than 30 years!



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOTCHKISS MEATS EXPERIENCES THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE, RECEIVES CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT



Above: Olen Lund, DMEA District 3 board representative, presents Terry Neville of Hotchkiss Meats with his business's capital credit retirement check. DMEA is retiring \$2.6 million in capital credits this month. Photo by Virginia Harman, Manager of Member Relations and HR.

"I never thought anything like this would happen. Usually money goes out, but doesn't come back in. [...] DMEA just isn't out to get people,"
Terry Neville, Hotchkiss Meats

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Although officially incorporated as a business in 1983, Hotchkiss Meats has been processing local livestock and game in the North Fork Valley for more than 50 years. The family-owned business has been passed down through the generations and is now owned and operated by Terry and Pam Neville.

Terry began working for Hotchkiss Meats more than 25 years earlier under the tute-lage of his father-in-law, Orville DeMoulin, and eventually took over the business in 2007. His claim to fame; sausage. Hotchkiss Meats offers more than 30 different varieties of sausage. Topping the list

of favorites is the German jalapeno Swiss, which recently nabbed top honors at the Colorado-Wyoming Hands Across the Rockies cured meat competition.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) proudly presented Hotchkiss Meats with their \$1037.09 capital credit retirement check last week. Hotchkiss Meats is one of more than 10,000 DMEA members set to receive a capital credit retirement this month. The DMEA board approved the \$2.6 million capital credit retirement during their October meeting.

—These days, many people don't immediately understand the benefits of being served by a cooperative business. That's what makes capital credits so important. They represent our members' ownership in the cooperative. It was an honor to present Hotchkiss Meats with their retirement check and learn about their business. It makes me proud of the work DMEA does

and the services we provide," said Olen Lund, a DMEA board representative from the North Fork Valley.

DMEA is issuing capital credit retirements from 1990 and a portion from 1994. Active members during these years can expect to see their capital credit check later this month. Retirements \$10 or greater will be mailed as checks. Retirements less than \$10 will be issued as bill credits. DMEA is issuing checks in order to help members understand the real benefits of cooperative membership, a concept that is often overlooked in today's fast-paced world.

Inever thought anything likes this would happen. Usually money goes out, but doesn't come back in. [...] DMEA just isn't out to get people," said Neville when asked about what capital credits mean to him and his business.

A capital credit check is a tangible example of what makes cooperatives different. 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 and businesses that purchase electricity from the cooperative are considered members and owners. This also means that any profits DMEA earns are returned to the member-owners as capital credit retirements. DMEA typically returns margins on an approximate 25-year schedule.

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.

DMEA is a rural electric distribution cooperative, located in Montrose, Colorado. DMEA was originally founded in 1938, as Delta-Montrose Rural Power Lines Association. The cooperative is governed by a board of directors, from nine districts covering three counties. DMEA serves approximately 32,000 residential, commercial and industrial meters, on over 3,000 miles of cooperative owned distribution line.

THANKS FOR READING THE MONTROSE MIRROR...FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE!

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Experiencing the (local) Church

GAIL MARVEL VISITS SUNNYVIEW MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP



By Gail Marvel

OLATHE-On Oct. 11, 2015, I visited Sunnyview Mennonite Fellowship in Olathe, which should not be confused with Mesa View Mennonite Church in Olathe. As published last week, these two churches have similarities, however one visible difference between the congregations is the kapp worn by women. The Sunnyview ladies wear a white kapp/scarf.

While the men's adult Sunday school class was taking place in the auditorium, the ladies class took place at one end of the foyer. As I stood at the opposite end of the foyer Joni Garretson approached me hesitantly and asked if I were looking for someone. While she and I talked about my visit I also clarified the seating arrangement for worship. She said, —Ohjust sit anywhere you want." The pastor later explained that rather than being segregated, this congregation wants families to sit together for worship.

The hymns, which are sung a cappella and all verses of the selection, come from two different hymnals. Selections included, —When Peace Like a River" and —The Solid Rock."

Young families made up the majority of the less than 40 people present. Pastor Arlin Geigley began the service, +trust you

have come to worship the Lord. This is not just another Sunday, we've come to worship and praise His name." The pastor then presented a brief recap of what they had studied in the Sunday school class, which was followed by announcements that included birthdays, offerings designated for missions, and prayer requests.

Setting the stage for the sermon, a continuation of the on-going study from 1 John, Pastor Geigley said, —First John is a good place for new Christians to start. Where insurance companies give you insurance, 1 John gives you assurance — that spiritual assurance that we know we can have eternal life...but also he [John] is concerned that we know the truth. People wonder what is the truth, can we really know the truth?"

Scripture gives believers insight into the character of the antichrist. The pastor said, —There is not going to be a third Testament written. We are in the end times. The presence of false teachers is an indicator of last times. From Jesus' resurrection until He returns again we are in the last days. There are many false teachers...do not be led astray." In the Greek anti means in place of, or in opposition to. Antichrist opposes God and puts himself in the place of God (2 Thess 2:4).

Cult leaders Jim Jones and David Koresh did not teach the doctrine of Jesus Christ, —They talked about Jesus, but it is not the Jesus who is the *only* Son of God. It is only by grace through Jesus Christ that we are saved. Those who deny Jesus is the Christ are antichrist." Suggesting a way to test the teachings of different religions the pastor said, —God came in the flesh to take away the sins of man. If they talk about Jesus being a perfect man, but deny that He is the Son of God, they are antichrist."

After giving character traits of antichrist behavior, the pastor then offered three characteristics of believers — acknowledge the Son of God; abide in the Word of God; accepting Christ as Savior and the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

Concluding the message Pastor Geigley said, —We don't need to fear, but we need to study the Word of God and apply it to ourselves." The apostle John wrote, —Yu, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4 NIV).

Contact Info: Sunnyview Mennonite Fellowship 6060 57.50 Rd. Olathe, CO 81425 970-323-5691

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

TELLURIDE GIVES DAY: SUPPORT THE SHERBING THEATER!

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-On Dec. 15th, The Sherbino Theater is looking for any generosity from community members and friends of the Sherbino. Telluride Gives Day lasts all day on Dec. 15th, and any funds given will be going toward purchasing a new projec-

tion and sound board system for the Sherbino Theater. The sound board and projector that is currently being used is out of date and ineffective. In order to bring quality programs to the Sherbino Theater it's important to update and replace the existing systems. Any generosity and support for this enhancement will not only benefit the theater's programs but other community programs that are presented by other non-profits and organizations. To give to The Sherbino Theater during Telluride gives day, please visit: www.telluridegives.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS AROUND THE REGION!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-·1930's themed 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. Tickets \$50-only 140 will be sold. Included are complimentary sips, dinner, dancing sweets, champagne toast.

•Turn of the Century-Celebrate New Year's Dec. 31 with the excellent Blue Gators Band at Turn of the Century! Starting at 8:30 pm and ending at 1 am. Tickets are \$20, available in advance at Montrose Music or at the door. Includes Live Music, Hors D'oeuvres and a Midnight Champagne Toast. Discounted Rooms are available at Holiday Inn Express with shuttle service to and from the event. For rooms call 970-240-1800.

•Ring in the New Year in Ridgway at the historic Sherbino Theater! DeLand Garcia Band will bring the jams to ring in 2016. Doors and cash bar will open at 8 pm with openers, Fractalia, taking the stage at 8:30 pm. DeLand Garcia Band will start at 10 pm and play into 2016. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15.







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ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

Honors Ceremony Will Take Place Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Centennial Middle School



Alice Kirk-Sanchez Johnson Grade 4



Anna Richmond Peak Grade 5



Ariel Drewry Pomona Grade 3



Bailey Christie Oak Grove Grade 3



Brandon Blacker Pomona Grade: 2



Caitlin Ogoe Centennial Grade 7



Cali Fulks
Cottonwood Grade: 3



Cameryn Edwards Vista Grade: 12



Clara Beshoar MHS Grade: 11



Cynthia Barboza Northside Grade: 5



Elizabeth Bowen Peak Grade: 11



Faith Breshears Oak Grove Grade: 2



Jace Mitchell Cottonwood Grade: 2



Jasmine Marquez Centennial Grade: 8



Joseph Hancock OMS Grade: 8



Kacy Henwood OHS Grade: 11



Lara Edeker Columbine Grade: 6



Lizzy Corn OES Grade: 2



Madisyn Minerich MHS Grade: 10



Paige Beretta Northside Grade: 3



Rachel Maddox Columbine Grade: 6



Samuel Arellano OMS Grade: 6



Seth Hasse Johnson Grade: 4



Shaylee Hancock OHS Grade: 10



Ta eh Soe OES Grade: 3

Since 1983, the <u>Academic Booster Club</u> has collected and returned between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually to schools and students by giving grants to teachers, students, parents, administrators and support staff to promote positive academic experiences in our community. Academic Booster Club (A+BC) has awarded over \$225,000 in grant money since its inception! Each month, A+BC selects one student from each school in the RE-1J district to be a Student of the Month. These students are recognized at a quarterly awards ceremony. A+BC has been doing this for more than 30 years!

OBITUARIES

DAVID R. SODERBERG

Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors
MONTROSE-David R. Soderberg, 76, of
Montrose, CO passed away on Sunday,
Dec. 6. David was born in Wilmer, MN to
Oscar and Mildred Soderberg. His childhood was spent in Portland, OR and
Kenmare, ND. He graduated from
Kenmare High School and attended UND
in Fargo. His first marriage to Sharon
Hagerud was blessed with four children.
His second marriage to Martha (Marnie)
Brown was blessed with two children.

David was involved in the engineering and management of construction contracting operations for over 40 years, primarily in the municipal, industrial and heavy civil markets. Some of the major projects he was part of were: Nuclear Reactor, Hanford, WA; NORAD Combat Operations Ctr., Colorado Springs; Generation and Desalinization Plant Upgrade GTMO, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; WWTP Expansion/ Upgrade, Durango; Electra Lake Dam, Tunnel and Penstock Conduit, Durango; Brine Water Disposal Projects,

BOR, Bedrock, CO. David was V.P. and Manager of Industrial Division of Nielsons', Inc. from 1976 through 1983. He was President/CEO/Managing Partner with Cal Rickel of Southwest Contracting, Inc., Cortez. During this time, David served on the Board of Directors for Colorado Contractors Assoc. He received the Colorado Construction Pioneer and Outstanding Performance as Management Consultant Awards. When Cal and David sold the company in 1999, David and his wife, Marnie, retired to Florida where they lived until 2013. He was a diehard fan of the Green Bay Packers and New York Yankees. During his life, David enjoyed traveling through America and abroad, home brewing beer, camping and hunting at Roaring Fork, learning the history of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad and mining towns, and especially, jeeping with his friends and family in the San Juan Mountains. He was a lifelong Lutheran and a member of Living Word Lutheran Church in Montrose where he has lived the past

two years. He is survived by Marnie, his wife for 40 years; his six children, Wendy Moore (Keith) of Dolores; Lori Reynolds (Allen) of Portland, OR; Scott Soderberg (Shawna) of Portland, OR; Judy Garcia Schaffer (Thane) of Albuquerque, NM; Allison Rinaldi of Rio Rancho, NM; and Shelly Soderberg of Rio Rancho, NM; ten grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren; one sister, Mary Woods (Richard) of Chicago, IL; one brother, Paul Soderberg (Jacqy) of Savannah, GA. An informal memorial service is planned for David at his favorite jeeping place, Hurricane Pass, in July 2016 where his cremains will be spread. Donations may be made in David's name to his favorite charity, WoundedWarriorProject.org, PO 758517, Topeka, KS 66675. Visit the tribute website and send condolences to David's family

at www.SunsetMesaFuneralDirectors.com.

Arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Di-

rectors (970) 240-9870.

JOHN PHILIP KUKAR 1928-2015

Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors MONTROSE-John Kukar, age 87, passed away on Monday morning, Dec. 7, 2015 at the Homestead at Montrose. John Philip Kukar was born on Nov. 21,

John Philip Kukar was born on Nov. 21, 1928 in Pueblo, Colorado to parents, John Sr. and Mary Ann Jacklich. He attended schools and grew to adulthood in Pueblo and Calhan, Colorado. Following completion of his education, John joined to United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country 21 years and 8 years in the

reserve in the military. John married Molly Caviezel and to their union were born two sons, John A. and Mike. Molly sadly passed away in 2002. He then married Dolores Armstrong and she passed away in May of 2015.

John was a simple man who loved his family and enjoyed playing the accordion. He was richly loved and will be greatly missed. John is survived by his sons, John A. Kukar of Delta, Colorado and Mike Kukar and wife, Heidi of Montrose,

Colorado; five grandchildren, Araiya, Alyssa, Kaden, Sienna and Andrew.

A memorial service to celebrate John's life took place on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015. Interment was at Calhan Memorial Cemetery in Calhan, Colorado. Visit the tribute website and send condolences to John's family

at www.SunsetMesaFuneralDirectors.com

Arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors (970) 240-9870.

DEATH NOTICES

Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors

Harold Dean Cressler, 84, passed away on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at San Juan Living Center.

John Philip Kukar Jr., 87, passed away at the Homestead in Montrose Monday, Dec. 7, 2015.

Thomas Joseph Trehal, 65, passed away

at his home on Monday, Dec.7, 2015. **David Richard Soderberg**, 76, passed away at Montrose Memorial Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.

Molly Waller MacKown, 97, passed away at her home on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.

William Edward Bower, 81, passed away

at his home Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. **Ricky Ray Smith**, 58, passed away at his home in Delta Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. **Frederick John Kelley**, 76, died in his home on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. All Arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors. For information please call 970) 249-1130.

OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT OUGHT TO CONSIDER HIRING OUTSIDE CONFLICT RESOLUTION CONSULTANT

Editorial by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-In January 2016 four applications for trustee to the Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) will be presented to the Montrose County Commissioners for approval. The county commissioners have no oversight of MRLD; their only function is to appoint trustees from applicants submitted to them by MRLD.

Since May of 2015 the MRLD has, as far as can be determine, seen a total of six resignations within a seven month period: Executive Director Paul Paladino – resignation withdrawn;

Trustee Linda Gann – resignation accepted:

Trustee Bruce Grigsby – resignation accepted;

Development Officer Amy McBride – resignation being processed;

Trustee Robb Ruyle – resignation accepted:

Trustee Unnamed – made a verbal resignation prior to the last meeting, but has not yet made an official resignation;

In addition, two currently serving trustees whose terms expire on Dec. 31st did not

reapply to retain their seats on the board.

The turnover on the MRLD Board of Trustees is troubling and the cause of the turnovers is not being discussed publically. During an inquiry one person said, + won't answer your questions, but I will tell you that you're asking the right questions. You need to ask those questions of someone else."

To their credit those who resigned do not want to be the source of the story, or be accused of causing upheaval. However, their code of silence exacerbates the problems

It is obvious from attending MRLD Board meetings that everything passes through Executive Director Paul Paladino. For example, comments made at one meeting implied the mill levy campaign committee had only fettered access to the full board. During the same meeting board member Anne Gulliksen hesitantly asked Paladino if the board could offer suggestions on tactical issues. Ms. Gulliksen said, —Iknow we can offer suggestions on strategic issues, but can we give you suggestions on tactical issues?"

Development Officer Amy McBride resigned and requested an exit interview with the board.

At the Dec. 10th meeting Paladino told the board that it was not typical for an employee resignation to go to the board and it would normally be his purview. However, McBride's letter of resignation states, —Cnsistent with the Personnel Policies, I request an exit interview with the Board."

McBride's resignation and request for and exit interview will not go to the full board of trustees, but has been turned over to the three member personnel committee.

The revolving door with the MRLD trustees, coupled with the parceled out work done in small committees rather than by the full board, leaves a disconnect of continuity and little awareness of problematic situations...other than what the executive director, or committee reports want to convey.

In order to get to the bottom of what ails the MRLD family it may be time for the new board of trustees to think seriously about hiring an outside consultant who specializes in conflict resolution.

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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 Uncompangre 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 Uncompangre 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. 14-Academic Booster Club Honors Students of the Month for November and December at Centennial Middle School, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15-Telluridegives Day!

Dec. 16-An Evening withYour Coop, hosted by SMPA at Provisions (616 Clinton Street) in Ridgway, 6to 8 p.m.

Dec. 16-The Experimenter to screen at Wright Opera House in Ouray. Rated PG 13. Show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets for adults \$7.

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. 22-Let's learn to Dance-Swing and Foxtrot. Lark & Sparrow Venue, 511 East Main Street. 6:30 p.m. RSVP.

Dec. 29—Let's learn to Dance-Swing and Foxtrot. Lark & Sparrow Venue, 511 East Main Street. 7:30 p.m. RSVP.

Dec. 31-1930's themed 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. Tickets \$50-only 140 will be sold. Included are complimentary sips, dinner, dancing sweets, champagne toast.

Dec. 31-Celebrate New Year's with the excellent Blue Gators Band at Turn of the Century! Starting at 8:30 pm and ending at 1 am. Tickets are \$20, available in advance at Montrose Music or at the door. Includes Live Music, Hors D'oeuvres and a Midnight Champagne Toast. Discounted Rooms are available at Holiday Inn Express with shuttle service to and from the event. For rooms call 970-240-1800.

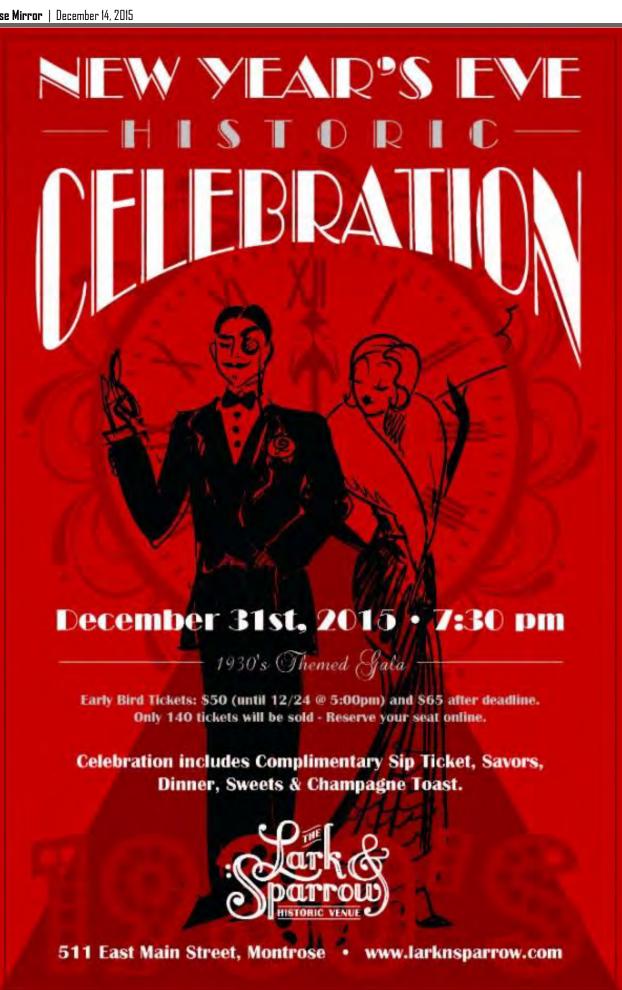
Dec. 31-Ring in the New Year in Ridgway at the historic Sherbino Theater! DeLand Garcia Band will bring the jams to ring in 2016. Doors and cash bar will open at 8 pm with openers, Fractalia, taking the stage at 8:30 pm. DeLand Garcia Band will start at 10 pm and play into 2016. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15.

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

Jan. 16- The KAFM RADIO ROOM Proudly Presents Robert Burns — Selected Works and the Music of Fifth Reel at 7:30 PM. Grand Junction's own Celtic band, Fifth Reel and friends will share many of Burns' most treasured songs and poems, and will play the hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys and reels that define Scottish Traditional Music. Fifth Reel is: Connie Smith, Norm Ashley, Mick Wilson, and Ron Young. They will be joined by special guests: Vocalist Kathleen Ruhleder, President of Clan Cameron Robert Cameron, Highland dancers Sarah Reed and Kim Kelleher, and piper Connor Wilson. Together they will create a multi-dimensional presentation truly honoring the star of this show, Robert Burns, and Scotland's traditional music. Scottish attire is admired but not required! Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext 202 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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.



MONTROSEMIRROR

Contact the Montrose Mirror: Post Office Box 3244 Montrose, CO 81402 970-275-0646

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Above, Karli at the Heart & Sleeve Boutique in Ridgway has gorgeous clothes, exciting accessories, decor, and gifts to make your own heart beat a little faster! And she plays bass too. So cool. Come check out a shop that really rocks. 525 Clinton Street! 800-474-1956! At left, do you have a cat the size of a small mountain lion, like the shop cat at Ridgway's Stock Exchange antique shop? Share a photo! editor@montrosemirror.com!

Do you need health insurance?

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Call your <u>LOCAL</u> office to schedule a <u>free</u> in-person appointment.

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