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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays

Issue No. 150 Dec. 28 2015

## YOUR ONE-STOP TRUCK SHOP...MCPHERSON CUSTOMS "AN HONEST SQUARE DEAL IS WHAT WE'RE ABOUT"



*Staffer Kris Kinas in the shop at McPherson Customs. Company owner Trevor McPherson opened his new business in June, to specialize in auto repair with a focus on diesel trucks.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—He originally came to Montrose for a visit, but in a matter of days his heart had relocated. Soon, he brought his family and his automotive skills here as well. "I am an avid skier, and the pace of life was slower here," Montrose business owner Trevor McPherson said. A native of Santa Cruz, California, McPherson added something different, a new outlook.

After selling his first Montrose business McPherson Offroad five years ago, he opened his new enterprise, McPherson Customs, in June. After focusing on his family and kids for several years, it was time, he said.

"This is my passion and what I need to be doing," McPherson said. "I love people and the interaction, and I know automotive work—this is what I have done since I was young."

McPherson Customs specializes in auto repair, with a focus on diesel trucks. "We do maintenance and repair; but we also sell accessories. We are known for working on trucks, and we love it."

Response to the new

*Continued on page 5*

## BOCC APPROVES NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, RECOGNIZES HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF VESTAL HOUSE!

*Mirror Staff Report*

MONTROSE—Montrose County's Board of Commissioners moved to support two educational opportunities at their regular meeting Dec. 21.

County Government Affairs Director Jon Washbusch presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Colorado Mesa University's Foundation (CMUF) that outlined roles and responsibilities of Montrose County and CMUF with regard to Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) funding allocated for use in the County. The MOU was approved. COSI funds of \$50,968 will be matched by CMUF per the MOU, and will be used to fund scholarships for residents of Montrose County who choose to attend CMU. Commissioner Glen Davis thanked the university and its representative Derek Wagner for the interest and investment in Montrose County.

Commissioners then signed a scholarship fund agreement with the Montrose Community Foundation that establishes a fund for the law enforcement academy at the Delta-Montrose Area Vocational Technical College (Delta Montrose



*The Montrose Board of Commissioners has established two \$5,000 scholarships for law enforcement professionals at the Delta-Montrose Vo-Tec. Courtesy photo.*

*Continued on page 6*

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Ralph Walchle*

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*Rural Health with  
Trudy Lieberman*



# COMMUNITY LIGHTNING RODS

## *Voices that spark conversations*

### PEOPLE NEED THE FACTS TO MAKE A GOOD DECISION: RALPH WALCHLE



**Ralph Walchle.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

*Interview by Gail Marvel*  
MONTROSE--Ralph Walchle moved from Longmont to Ridgway in the spring of 1977. During his years in Longmont he was in the cattle business and traveled all across the country going to livestock sales. He said, "I had

little time for community involvement, other than serving on the church board." That changed when he moved to Ridgway. "Then I was probably on way too many boards." Ralph has also had a long career in real estate specializing in large ranch sales in the western state area.

Ralph's community service includes 12 years on the Ridgway School District Board, Tri-County Water Board, Ouray County noxious weed board, and six years on the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Congressional District—four of those years as chairman.

Ralph owns two building on Main Street in Montrose and for four years he served on the Downtown Development Authority

(DDA) board. "My new plan in life is to not be on any new boards. I'm not on any boards now, but I support and participate where I can."

The motivation for Ralph's community involvement is a sense of duty.

"I've never tried to own a position. I want to see things accomplished and then let others step forward. I see positions as representative, but I never blow with the winds. Popular opinion doesn't impress me. I always felt like I was trying to do the right thing."

A survivor of three recall attempts while on the Ridgway school board Ralph said, "When I found out who was circulating recall petitions I called them up on the phone and told them if they'd bring the petition over to the house I'd sign it...I'd have been happy to sign it!"

Ralph feels his leadership strength is listening and building consensus. "I served with a woman on the school board and we were almost always 180 degrees apart, but we could come to agreement. When we walked out of the room we were on the same side. We never tried to backbite each other and we supported the decision that was made."

Face to face and personal contact is Ralph's preferred form of communication. "Oh, I've written lots of letters-to-the-editor...and mailed two of them. I've tried

to never hit people up to make a decision without them having all the facts." Putting himself in another's place he said, "I never like to be broadsided and slammed in front of others. People need the facts before they can make a good decision."

For the last 15 years Ralph has been more active in Montrose than Ridgway. "I think we've made good progress with the DDA. Some people blame the south shopping center for hurting the downtown, but I've never seen it as competition. The work [developer] Matt Miles has done with the south shopping center has been marvelous for the downtown. We do need more focus on the downtown, but don't ignore the shopping center."

In the discussion on whether the city of Montrose is a destination place or a pass-through community Ralph said, "We need to figure out a way to capitalize on the amount of people who flow through Montrose on their way to Telluride. There is opportunity that flows under the stoplight at Main and Townsend. City Market is profiting, but there is a huge economic potential that we've not yet figured out for the downtown area."

When asked if he would consider running for elected office Ralph said, "It has been in my mind for a long time, but the chance of that happening gets slimmer as the years go by."

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016...

*To our readers: As the Mirror begins its sixth year as the Western Slope's original, online regional newsblast, we wish to share our appreciation for our readers, our advertisers, our contributors, and all who have allowed us to tell their stories. A heartfelt thank you! Happy New Year, from the Montrose Mirror and Art & Sol!*



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**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**  
MONTROSE



## OPINION/EDITORIAL-COMMENTARY

### BIPARTISAN NATIONAL EFFORT PROMOTES CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND, PROMOTED LOCALLY BY CHAPTERS OF CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY

Dear Editor

Something phenomenal has just happened with the 195 nations at the Paris Climate talks agreeing to work toward limiting their carbon output. However, even though this is undoubtedly the most significant world event in recent years, it is not enough to protect us from runaway climate change.

There is something we can do locally, and there is a model for this. This model is being promoted locally by chapters of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. They are promoting a non-partisan, free market, approach called carbon fee and dividend. This fee will be collected at the source of extraction and reflect the true cost to society of the use of fossil fuels. The collected fees will then be returned to the American households on an equal basis. With this true social cost or "externalities" accounted for in the economic equation the switch to renewal energies would accelerate, jobs in this sector would increase, and our economy would improve. There is a bipartisan national effort a foot to promote this concept.

Wayne Quade, Montrose

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HELP SOUGHT TO LOCATE MISSING PERSON



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in locating missing person Larry Heller of Montrose, Colorado, pictured at left. He is a 63-year-old white male, approximately 5 feet 9 inches and 130 pounds. He was last seen at his home in Montrose on Saturday Dec. 19th. Please contact the MCSO with any information at [970-252-4023](tel:970-252-4023).

*Pictured at left: Larry Heller. MCSO Courtesy photo.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS!

### MONTROSE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GATHER MORE THAN 600 COATS, BLANKETS, AND OTHER WARM ITEMS DURING ANNUAL COAT DRIVE!



*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE-**The Montrose Young Professionals held their annual month long Coat Drive from Nov. 16-Dec. 18. This was the Fourth Annual Coat Drive for the Montrose Young Professionals and combined with their Annual Food Drive (July), makes up the service arm of the Young Professionals Group. This year, Montrose YP was able to collect more than 600 coats, blankets, and other warm weather items to be distributed for free right here in Montrose. This is over 200 more donations than they collected during the 2015 Coat Drive. They would like to thank the Montrose community for being so generous in their donations and helping to keep Montrose warm this winter.

For more information about the Coat Drive, or the Montrose Young Professionals, please contact Ashley Pietak at 970-249-5000 or [montroseyp@montrosechamber.com](mailto:montroseyp@montrosechamber.com) or Chelsea Rosty at [crosty@nuvista.org](mailto:crosty@nuvista.org).



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## ***YOUR ONE-STOP TRUCK SHOP...MCPHERSON CUSTOMS From pg 1***



business has been very, very positive, he added. The shop now employs three full-time, including McPherson himself. "The response has been unreal; we are working 60+ hours a week," he said. "The work is piling up, thanks to our repeat customers. We see ranchers and farmers who have multiple vehicles, they like to come in and kick the tires here."

"People tell us they love having another option," he said. "After all, these vehicles are not toys, they are investments. The new vehicles are so computerized; you have to be able to trust your shop and mechanic to get an honest repair. And an honest, square deal is what we are all about."

McPherson Customs has done no advertising at all, but relies solely on word of mouth recommendations. Shop hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The phone number is 970-249-8837. The shop is located at 21044 Hwy 550. "I am very, very grateful to the community for the support," McPherson said. "I am grateful to be back doing what I have done since age 13—I love what I do."



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## BOCC APPROVES NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES From page 1

Vo-Tec). Under the terms of the agreement Montrose County will provide \$10,000 in funding to the Montrose Community Foundation which will be used to fund two \$5,000 scholarships at the Vo-Tec.

“I want to say on behalf of the Montrose Community Foundation Board thank you for establishing this fund,” Community Foundation Executive Director Sara Plunhoff said. “I look forward to working with the County, and we appreciate your investment in the community.”

Commissioner Glen Davis asked the Foundation to consider naming the scholarships for former Montrose County Sheriff Tom Gilmore.

Commissioners also welcomed ZillaMay

Brown of the Montrose County Historic Landmark Board as they considered a resolution in support of the historic significance of the Vestal House at 420 Main Street in Nucla. Brown noted that early day residents Lincoln and Amy Vestal’s home was built on site, of gypsum blocks. “The home has significance to local history and a connection to persons of importance,” Brown said, and recommended the house be designated as a historic landmark. Commissioner Ron Henderson called the information presented quite fascinating. “We really appreciate your work in that area,” he told Brown. “Designation of landmarks puts us in line with other Colorado communities for preserving our

local history, and makes ownership of historic properties more attractive.” The BOCC unanimously approved the Resolution.

Commissioners also held a brief public hearing with Montrose County Finance Director Cindy Bennet, which generated no public comment before unanimously approving a resolution concerning final supplementary budgetary appropriations for 2015. Following approval of the T Road improvement and maintenance agreement between Montrose County and Horsefly Creek, LLC, (see related story) Commissioners unanimously approved a Resolution changing the name of Ute Street to Ironwood Lane South.

## PLANE CRASH AT TELLURIDE AIRPORT; NO INJURIES

### Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE – A small twin-engine aircraft carrying seven people crashed Dec. 23 as it landed and struck a snowplow on a closed runway at Telluride Airport. There were no reported injuries but the incident triggered a multi-agency response including multiple San Miguel Sheriff’s Office Deputies and more than a dozen Telluride Fire Protection District Fire, EMS and HAZMAT personnel.

The Hawker Beechjet 400, registered out of Mexico, originated out of El Paso, Texas with five passengers and two crewmembers on board when it landed at 2:15pm (MT), struck a snowplow, and slid off the runway.

Airport officials told Sheriff Deputies the runway was closed for snow removal maintenance at the time of the landing, and airport FBO (Fixed Base Operator) reportedly did not receive any radio communication from the pilot prior to the aircraft’s landing.

An airport employee told Sheriff’s Depu-

ties he was driving the snowplow when it was struck from behind and said he never saw the plane coming. He estimated the speed of the aircraft to be around 100mph at the time of impact. He too was uninjured.

Broken snow showers were in the area at the time of the crash, but visibility was at least 7 miles, and wind was not believed to be a factor. San Miguel County Sheriff Bill Masters said, “We had rapid response from multiple agencies to ensure scene safety and initiate any appropriate interventions needed. We were pleased all occupants walked away uninjured.”

Telluride Fire Protection District Chief John Bennett said, “This is what we all train for, and we were glad we didn’t have a more critical situation two days before



*A small twin-engine aircraft carrying seven people crashed Dec. 23 as it landed and struck a snowplow on a closed runway at Telluride Airport. Courtesy photo San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office.*

Christmas.”

The National Transportation Safety Administration (NTSB) will be investigating the incident.





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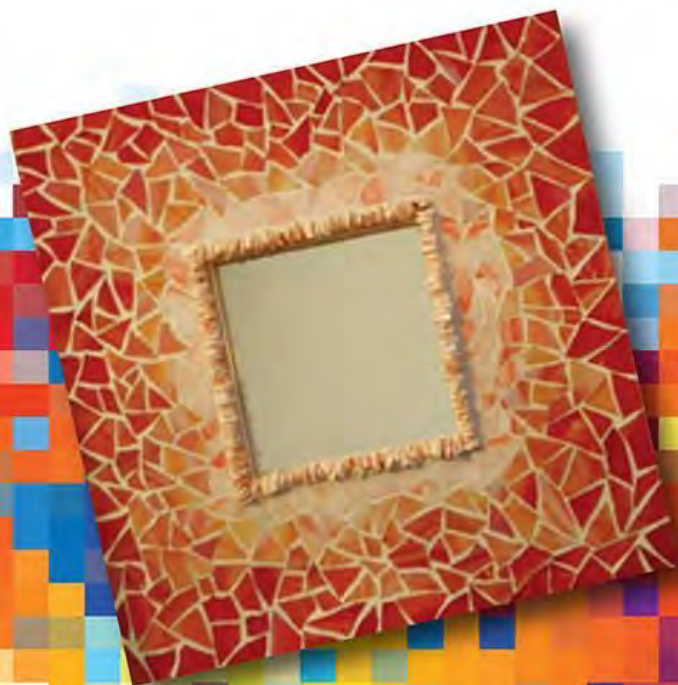
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## CITIZEN ROGER BROWN SCOLDS MONTROSE BOCC OVER STAFF CREDIT CARD USE, CONSENT AGENDA AIRPORT CARRIER AGREEMENTS



Roger Brown addresses the Montrose BOCC.

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Matters listed as Consent Agenda items by the Montrose Board of County Commissioners are considered to be routine and

scheduled to be enacted by a single vote, but County resident Roger Brown found plenty to question about Consent Agenda items at the BOCC meeting Dec. 21.

Throughout the meeting Brown insistently voiced his concerns during times allotted for public comment. As the meeting began, Brown circulated a handout to commissioners and County staff, and commented that County employees have been able to hide expenditures and reduce transparency by using credit cards. "It seems that the visibility of what was purchased is lost when it is purchased with a credit

card," Brown said. "It would be really nice in my opinion if these numbers could get down to zero and the regular procurement system could be employed."

Consent [Agenda items](#) included approval of various payables and minutes of past meetings, as well as [agreements to provide temporary dispatch services to Montrose Fire Protection District](#) and the Town of Olathe. Consent Agenda items also included a policy regarding political activities and potential conflicts of interest arising from those by County staffers; approval of a Colorado Water Conservation Board grant agreement; and approval of a services agreement with Deer and Ault Consultants for geotechnical, engineering and project management services for the development of conditional water rights by the County.

Brown took exception to the choice of Deer and Ault, but was told by Commissioners that the company has been the engineer of record on a complex, ongoing project involving development of water

rights. County Manager Ken Norris asserted that the choice is cost-effective and makes sense given the "complicated and entwined" nature of the project. "Deer and Ault is not only a geotechnical firm but our consulting firm on the geotechnical work related to development of reservoir sites since the beginning," County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch said, adding that the company has gained extensive knowledge, through its testing and work, of the sites to be developed.

"From the get-go they are uniquely qualified to perform the service," Waschbusch said. To change firms at this point would entail a learning curve and significant expenditure of public funds, Commissioner David White said. Commissioner Ron Henderson commented that Deer and Ault has proven to be an outstanding choice for the project. "...we have been remarkably well represented," Henderson said.

Because the consent agenda also included several aviation items, Brown alluded to what he alleged to be wrongdoings at the Montrose Regional Airport. The items listed included carrier agreements with Black Canyon Limo; Delta Airlines; United Airlines; CB Limo; Crested Butte Shuttle dba Dolly's Mountain Shuttle; and Fairmont Heritage Place dba Club Telluride. Brown questioned the County's process for ensuring compliance and handling liabilities with regard to airport carriers, and stated that he knows unlicensed carriers have operated at the airport in the past. "I can guarantee with absolute certainty where contractors have operated at the airport without being fingerprinted, etc.," Brown stated.

Airport contracts professional Susan Wheeler informed Brown that while Public Utility Commission (PUC) permits are checked, investigations are only conducted if a PUC permit is revoked. Wheeler also pointed out the carriers — "self-police" as well. "If one is not authorized the others let us know," she said. Commissioner Glen Davis challenged Brown to provide specific, detailed information that could be verified and acted upon. Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold noted that while Airport officials require proof that carriers are certified through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), "If there is an issue, we need to be notified before we can act," Arnold said. "The point is that there have been violations in the past," Brown insisted. "These items are of importance to the public. If the County doesn't ask for proof there is clearly a problem."

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



*Mirror Staff report*  
**MONTROSE**—Ring in the New Year for the Salvation Army despite cold temperatures, Sara McCombs greeted shoppers at the Downtown Montrose City Market with a warm smile on Wednesday, Dec. 23.



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*Holly D. Piatek*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED AT VO-TEC

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) further demonstrated their commitment to local education and career development opportunities by establishing a fund that will award two \$5,000 scholarships for the law enforcement academy at Delta-Montrose Technical College. Working together with the Montrose Community Foundation (MCF), the BOCC approved an agreement Dec. 21 to award the funds. In addition to administering the \$10,000 of scholarship monies, MCF will also coordinate the application and review process in conjunc-

tion with Undersheriff Adam Murdie and Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch. Applicants must be residents of Montrose County to qualify for the scholarships.

—Law enforcement is one of the essential functions of local government,” said Commissioner Glen Davis. —Now more than ever, our law enforcement personnel deserve community support. We’re proud to partner with MCF to make these funds available for individuals wanting to serve in the law enforcement profession.”

—The Montrose Community Foundation is really looking forward to working with

Montrose County and administering the Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship. This generous scholarship is not only an investment in the men and women who are committed to serving in law enforcement, it is also an investment in the future of our community,” said Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director of the Montrose Community Foundation.

For more information on Montrose County or to view the scholarship fund agreement, please visit [www.montrosecounty.net](http://www.montrosecounty.net). To learn more about the Montrose Community Foundation, please visit [www.montrosecf.com](http://www.montrosecf.com).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GMUG RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FROM NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

#### 188 Fourth Grade Students Will Take Part in Snow Ranger Program

##### Special to the Mirror

DELTA – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests is one of 186 federal sites selected to receive a 2015 field trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. Fourth grade students will participate in the Forest Service Junior Snow Ranger program and experience the "thrill of the chill" on cross country skis and snow shoes exploring the Forest in winter. This grant, part of the Foundation's [Open Outdoors for Kids program](#), supports the White House youth initiative [Every Kid in a Park](#).

"It is inspiring to see the National Park Foundation and many other partners step up to support our goal of getting fourth graders and their families into parks, public lands and waters that belong to all Americans," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "These generous grants will ensure children across the country have an opportunity to experience the great outdoors in their community while developing a lifelong connection to our nation's land, water and wildlife."

National Park Foundation grants have made it possible for more than 400,000 students (including this year's grantees) to visit national parks and other public lands and waters. "We want to help people everywhere, from all backgrounds, discover how national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands and waters are

relevant to their lives, and the best way to do that is to give people the opportunity to experience them first-hand," said Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation. "Through our grants that provide funding for transportation and in-park learning, we are able to connect youth and their families to these special places and inspire people across the country to find their park which, in turn, can foster a lifelong connection to all that public lands and waters have to offer."

This grant received by the GMUG National Forest pays transportation fees to bus approximately 188 fourth grade students to the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests to experience a new winter sport, cross country skiing or snowshoeing, learned about snow science, connect with nature and have fun in the snow. Students from Palisade, Clifton, Collbran, Naturita, Norwood and Paradox Elementary Schools will observe nature in winter through a scavenger hunt, discover how different animals adapt to winter, learn how to prepare for winter outings and prevent hypothermia, identify snow crystals and learn how they create avalanche condi-



Fourth graders try winter sports, learn snow science at the GMUG National Forest. Courtesy photo.

tions. With the completion of the Junior Snow Ranger (JSR) Activity booklet, the students will receive a JSR badge, pin and certificate. "The Forest Service and our partners the Grand Mesa Nordic Council and the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado are excited to receive this grant and provide an opportunity to bring more kids to our national forest and discover how cool winter can be," said Anne Janik, Forest Service winter education program lead. To find out more about Junior Snow Rangers and the "More kids in the Woods" program visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/MKIW>.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### 2016 VOICES OF RURAL COLORADO LEGISLATIVE TRIP JAN. 21-22



*Tour Metro State's Center for Advanced Visualization and Experiential Analysis. Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*  
REGIONAL-The 2016 Voices of Rural

Colorado Denver Legislative Trip hosted by CLUB 20, Action 22, and Progressive 15 will be held on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21st -22nd, at the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Colorado State Capitol at 200 E Colfax, Denver. This is a chance to meet with state elected and appointed officials to discuss current issues affecting the Western Slope and beyond. This opportunity will allow the three organization's members, representing 59 of Colorado's 64 counties, the chance to engage in productive dialogue with legislators, cabinet members and department heads regarding issues of concern to rural Colorado and to learn about potential legislation that may impact citizens and communities in our regions. On Jan. 20th, those who will be arriving in Denver the evening before the meetings are encouraged to join a tour of Metro State University's Center for Advanced Visualization and Experiential Analysis, a multi-room facility, with advanced technology to support users in making better decisions through visualiza-

tion and collaborative problem-solving. See the state-of-the-art decision theater designed specifically for the Rocky Mountain region and its unique needs. Experience for yourself how this multi-room facility, with three-dimensional video and support software for meeting facilitation, idea generation and outcome tracking, assists users in making better decisions through visualization and collaborative problem-solving.

Hear how CAVEA can help those in business, education, government and the non-profit sector analyze their decisions and policies before they're applied.

Meet the new director, Sarah Harman. Network with our Colorado Space Business Roundtable partners and community leaders. Register here: <http://msudenvercaveatour.eventbrite.com> We have also reserved a group of seat at a Colorado Avalanche game for Wednesday, Jan. 20th. [For an updated agenda of meetings, click here.](#) [To register for Club 20's Rural Legislative Trip click here.](#)

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## COUNTY TO NEIGHBORS: GRAVEL PIT PREP WORK A USE BY RIGHT

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—As Commissioners considered possible authorization of the T Road improvement and maintenance agreement between Montrose County and Horsefly Creek, LLC during their regular meeting of Dec. 21, County resident Becky Waugh requested clarification as to work now taking place at Horsefly Creek's Uncompahgre Gravel Pit, for which a special use permit was approved by the BOCC earlier this year. "...a number of us attended all of the public hearings about the pit and really tried to keep abreast of everything,"

Waugh said, "and we were under the impression that no physical work could start on the actual pit itself until all of the permits were in place."

"Apparently, there are still some access permits that have not been settled," Waugh continued. "The road study is still going on, and at the last session Mr. (County engineer Dean Cooper) Cooper mentioned that apparently any mining activity can begin as long as there is no sale to the public. I was just wondering if there was some clarification, because those two seem miles apart."

Montrose County Planning & Development Director Steve White responded that while Horsefly Creek, LLC must meet the conditions of the special use permit prior to engaging in gravel mining operations such as crushing and bringing product off-

site for sale, the preparatory work taking place at the present time is a use-by-right, rather than a mining operation.

"Grading the property and putting a road on top are allowed by right today. They have the right to upgrade T Road, build bridges and widen the road and not have an access from CDOT," White said. He also pointed out that while no permittee is ever required to obtain every single permit before turning dirt, many, many conditions must be satisfied before product can be sold offsite.

County resident Barbara Bernhardt, who had informed County Commissioners at the start of the regular meeting that she found application of local land use laws "arbitrary" and had filed a complaint, spoke again regarding conditions in the special use permit, and asked, "Who gets to monitor that to make sure from the county perspective they doing what they need to do?" Noting the complexity of the matter, Bernhardt stated that "the County does not have the staff to bird-dog this thing and keep track of the operator to make sure they are doing what they should be doing," and added that she is in contact with Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over pit-related issues.

Landowner Roger Noble expressed concern over possible damage to his property, and asked about changes to T Road, which

borders his land.

Planning & Development Director White pointed out that the County's Planning & Development and Engineering Divisions now work together, resulting in additional staff resources. "We have the same concerns," White said, and added that while the County's role in regard to State and Federal permits is one of verifying that permits are in place, County staff also will track data and physically monitor all private pits located in Montrose County. "We are trying to do a better job of addressing citizen concerns," he said.

County Engineer Dean Cooper addressed questions about the details of the agreement, and Commissioners stressed that when completed, road improvements will benefit Montrose County residents. Commissioner Glen Davis spoke about the need for long-term improvements to Highway 550 south of Montrose.

The highway should be four-laned to the County line, Davis said, and expressed hope that Montrose County could work with CDOT to make needed improvements in the future. However, he also refuted any idea that Montrose County is wasting taxpayer funds.

"We're not taking your tax dollars and blacktopping a bunch of road and building a Taj Mahal out there," Davis said. "We will work with Planning, and we will work with CDOT."



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

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PHOTOGRAPHER NATALIE HELLER AND FUNCTIONAL ARTIST DAVID CARY TO SHOW THEIR WORK AT RIDGWAY LIBRARY NEXT MONTH

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY – Natalie Heller and David Cary are both well known around the area for their stunning work. Her medium is photography including gorgeous views of the San Juan Mountains, Ranch Life, Rodeo and Autos as Art. His medium is functional art including Lamps and Tables made of driftwood and hand painted rice paper. The two friends are teamed up in a joint exhibition of their work that opens at the Ridgway Library on Jan. 9 from 4-7 pm. For more information contact Rachel at (970) 626-5252.

### LOCAL HISTORIAN, RETIRED EDUCATOR TIM FORCE TO SPEAK AT FAIRGROUNDS JAN. 6 PRESENTATION FOCUSES ON EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH LIVESTOCK BRANDS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Jan. 6, the Montrose County Historical Society Presents: "Exploring Western Colorado History through Livestock Brands" by Tim Force at Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2<sup>nd</sup>. St., 7 pm. Admission Free, Public Welcome, For more information call 970-323-6466.

### FILM MEDITERRANEA TO SCREEN AT WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE JAN. 6

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

OURAY-The film *Mediterranea* will show at the Wright Opera House (472 Main St. in Ouray) on Jan. 6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film begins at 7 p.m. This film charts the death-defying struggle of African migrants as they risk everything to start a new life in Europe. Ayiva (first time actor Koudous Seihon in a revelatory performance) and Abas (Alassane Sy) are close friends from Burkina Faso determined to make it to Italy in order to find work and provide for their families back home. But even after surviving the harrowing journey-desert bandits, a treacherous sea voyage, arrest-nothing can prepare the two men for the hostility and violence that awaits them. Tickets for adults are \$7.

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# Experiencing the (local) Church

## GAIL MARVEL VISITS CHURCH OF THE WORD INTERNATIONAL



*By Gail Marvel*

MONTROSE—My visit to the Church of the Word International, which is located in the Olathe American Legion facility, took place on Dec. 6, 2015. I was warmly received at the door by Nettie and Scott Myers and Pastor Jay Stoltzfus who were enthusiastic about their congregation having community exposure.

There were about 25 in attendance, ranging in age from young children to middle-age. This congregation has no praise team, but their song selections were professionally produced and streamed through a subscription service off the internet. Between song selections members voiced words of adoration, —Yes Lord...Thank you Father...Yes, Yes...Halleluiah...Thank you Jesus.”

After a half hour of worship in song, the pastor invited people to give testimonies. Pastor Stoltzfus said, —One time when a young man was asked what Jesus was doing in his life he said, —Well, not a whole lot.” So, what has Jesus been doing in our lives?” Testimonies included rebuking sickness and claiming healing, blessings that we live in America, and falling into the trap of giving opinions about what we think, rather than what the Bible says.

The offertory meditation was given by Pastor Rick Williams, who preaches for

the Circle 3 Cowboy Fellowship that meets Sunday evenings in Montrose. In true preacher form Pastor Williams packed a mini-sermon into the meditation and spoke about Satan, Christmas, Easter, remembering how to love, adoption and seeing people as God sees them. Mr. Williams said, —Never throw people away...Our offerings are a privilege, not a duty. God doesn’t want or need your money. God wants you!”

Pastor Stoltzfus began his message by giving a recap of last week’s sermon on the blood covenant. The sermon theme this day was living in the power of the Gospel. The pastor said, —Jesus lived in the power of the Spirit and we can live in the power of the Spirit. We get born-again and go into battle, but being born-again is just the door...don’t go headlong at the devil with a BB gun.”

The pastor wove together various passages of Scripture differentiating between the power of the Holy Spirit one receives at baptism, with the power the disciples received at Pentecost. —Do you know Christians who have lived a life without power; they live a powerless life. Who does that help if you live a powerless life in Christ?” The pastor then transitioned into spiritual gifts described in 1 Corinthians 12.

Pastor Stoltzfus said, —Paul [the Apostle]

does not want us to be spiritually dumb or spiritually ignorant. We can understand 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14 today. Don’t tell me that prophecy and tongues have passed away. Prophecies have not passed away because knowledge has not passed away.” The pastor pointed out that there are many methods of ministry, but the same Lord directs those ministries. —Each of you have all of the gifts, but you major in one. If you have only the gift of prophecy what will happen if someone comes to you who needs healing? Do you send him to the house down the street [to where someone has the gift of healing]? With God is not either/or...it is both/and!”

Reviewing the take-away from the sermon the pastor said, —We are not there yet, but a day is coming when perfection [Jesus] comes and then these things [the imperfect gifts] will pass away. In closing he reminded the audience: 1) don’t be ignorant, 2) love and gifts work together, and 3) desire those gifts. —Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts...” (1 Cor 14:1 NIV).

*Contact Information:*

*Church of the Word International*  
315<sup>th</sup> St. (American Legion)  
Olathe, CO 81425  
970-209-0542,  
[jays@churchoftheword.com](mailto:jays@churchoftheword.com)

***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.***



## DECEMBER DEATH NOTICES

**Louie Rellis Sisco**, 64, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 in Montrose, Colorado. Arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors (970) 240-9870.

**Fred Hamilton Marshall**, 69, passed away suddenly at his home in Montrose Monday, Dec. 14, 2015. Arrangements are with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

**Cecelia Annette Lindsey**, 58, passed away at her home in Hotchkiss Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015. Arrangements are with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors', Colorado Cremation (970) 249-1130.

**Calvin Stevens**, 97, passed away at San Juan Living Center Friday, Dec. 18, 2015. Arrangements are with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

## HONORABLE MENTION

As we at the Mirror begin our sixth year of publication in 2016, it seems fitting to honor the memory of a great Eastern Slope newspaper that served Colorado well for generations, and helped to inspire our own love for local news. So to everyone who read it, everyone who wrote for it, all readers, writers, designers, cartoonists, columnists, contributors, editors, production staff and everyone else who made the *Rocky Mountain News* the voice of our state for so many years, thank you for a great newspaper. The Rocky may be gone, but it won't be forgotten.

...to everyone who believes that Colorado's homegrown news tradition will survive the transition from paper to online publishing without cutting essential community news, we believe this as well.

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## THINKING ABOUT HEALTH... PUBLIC PRESSURE MAY MAKE HOSPITALS SAFER



Trudy Lieberman.  
Courtesy photo.

By Trudy Lieberman,  
*Rural Health News Service*  
COLORADO-Medicare has just announced it is penalizing more than 700 of the nation's hospitals because they have higher rates of patient safety mishaps, which the government and patient advocacy groups have

been trying for years to prevent.

What are those incidents that have resulted in a one percent cut in a hospital's Medicare payments over the year? They are mistakes you wouldn't want to have happen to you or a family member, things like infections caused by incisions made during colon surgeries and hysterectomies, by urinary catheters and by central lines inserted into a large vein to draw blood and administer fluids and medicines. Those infections cause thousands of deaths each year. Most are preventable and they account for three-fourths of Medicare's safety score. The rest of the assessment is based on eight other complications such as collapsed lungs, broken hips, surgical tears, and wounds that opened.

What's significant is not that so many hospitals apparently are still not taking steps to prevent these common and well-documented harms to patients, but that so many of the hospitals are stars in their communities advertising for local patients. Others are marquee names that advertise their medical prowess nationally.

As I read down the <http://khn.org/>

[news/758-hospitals-penalized-for-patient-safety-in-2016-data-table/](http://khn.org/news/758-hospitals-penalized-for-patient-safety-in-2016-data-table/) state-by-state roster of those facilities that were penalized, I found hospitals well-known in their regions: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles; the Denver Health Medical Center; Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago; Indiana University Health in Indianapolis; and the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Medicare also penalized the Cleveland Clinic and a couple of hospitals in the Mayo Clinic system in Minnesota. Both the Clinic and Mayo are heavy promoters of their brand in an effort to build a national patient base. Some big advertisers in my home state of New York also showed up on the government's list. But as government data show, spending big bucks to promote the hospital brand doesn't necessarily mean the hospital has a better safety profile.

This is the second year the government has released safety penalties that were authorized by the Affordable Care Act. As you browse through the list of hospitals, you'll see that more than half of those penalized this year also were penalized last year. The ACA requires that one-quarter of the hospitals that can be penalized (VA, children's and critical access hospitals cannot be) will receive some penalty even if all the hospitals improve. Penalizing those in the bottom quarter is a way to encourage continuous quality improvement, explained Jordan Rau who reports on the topic for Kaiser Health News.

And that, of course, brings up the obvious question: Why are so many hospitals this year making the same medical mistakes they made last year especially since the errors are preventable?

The answer is complicated and calls into question a hospital's commitment to safety, a subject I have explored several times

with Ashish Jha, professor of public health at the Harvard School of Public Health and one of the country's experts on patient safety.

He told me there has been "clear progress" with reductions in surgical site infections and central line infections, which are down 40 to 50 percent nationally. Yet he said that as many as half all hospitals are not using a simple checklist that calls for four steps including hand washing and wearing sterile gloves to cut down on infections.

"The field of patient safety is full of stories about amazing interventions that can save patients' lives but do not end up getting widely adopted," he explained.

"Why?" I asked.

"It really isn't anyone's priority except maybe the patient's," Jha said. "How many times have you heard stories about hospital CEOs getting fired because of the hospital's infection rates? I haven't." He added there's also no evidence that high infection rates or high mortality rates have any effect on CEO salaries.

So what does affect hospital CEO salaries? Is it all those advertising dollars that bring in gobs of new patients and brand recognition?

I have no evidence one way or other, but I do know I've interviewed enough families whose relatives suffered harm in a hospital to know that someone should be paying closer attention to preventing preventable infections.

The government's list opens a window into the world of hospital safety. If the public looks through that window, takes notice of the penalties and asks what their local hospitals are doing to correct their deficiencies, that's a start at cleaning up the problem.

*What has been your experience with hospital-acquired infections? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED AT LIVING ROOM LOUNGE



Vocalist Deb Barr (left) and Mixed Media Artist Kellie Day (courtesy image by Shauna Tewksbury above) will be the featured artists at the Living Room Lounge at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway Jan. 10.

#### Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Sherbino invites you to wrap up the weekend in Ridgway's Living Room from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sundays at the Living Room Lounge. The Living Room Lounge features art from local artists, live music from local musicians, and the bar will be open—creating the perfect evening to join fellow community members in sharing the artistic talent that flourishes right here in Ridgway. January's Living Room

Lounge is kicking off the New Year with two incredibly talented ladies as the featured artist and musician; Deb Barr is the featured musician and Kellie Day is the featured artist.

About Deb Barr : In 1988 Barr left Colorado for New York to study privately with Ann Marie Moss of the Manhattan School of Music and worked as a solo performer in

Connecticut and on Long Island. In 1990 she returned west to her beloved land of dreams, taking up residency in Albuquerque and the Sandia Mountains of New Mexico. In 1995 the New Mexico Jazz Workshop voted Barr one of the top five jazz vocalists in the state and she was featured in the annual "Women's Voices" concert series in Albuquerque. Barr returned to Colorado in 1996 and resumed her career in Telluride. She completed her

first CD of original music, "Comets & Waves," in 1997 and co-produced a second with Sally Whiting, "From the Mountaintop" (Songs of Praise & Inspiration), in 2000. In 2007 Barr produced a third CD, "My Stories," with David Hammond.

About Kellie Day: Kellie went to college in Indiana, graduated with a minor in Art and a BA in Advertising, and took a graphic design job for a fiberglass manufacturing company in Joliet, Illinois.

That was all it took to send her straight out west for 15 years of voracious traveling, firefighting, wilderness rangers and climbing in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, California, Arizona, and lots of third world countries. Her life experience inspired many commercial illustrations and art. In between travels she brainstormed graphic design projects and learned the ropes of business from a woman who has since become a dear friend.

Kellie finally stopped to catch her breath in Ridgway, Colorado, where she now runs a [graphic design](#) and painting studio, and raises her nine year-old son.

Kellie's goal is to spread beauty and inspire.



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## *Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events*

### ONGOING-

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

**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.

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

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

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

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE**-Save on insurance, keep up on newer traffic laws, and learn defensive driving techniques. For details and schedule for Montrose and Delta, contact John 970-856-6924 or 970-424-1778.

**TAIZE-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. 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](http://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](tel: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.

**Dec. 31**-Paonia's Blue Sage Center for the Arts (228 Grand Avenue in Paonia) presents Global Soul Experience to ring in the New Year. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Evening will begin with a DJ and finish with a champagne toast.

**Dec. 31**-Montrose Pavilion Dance Club New Year's Dance with Ghost River Band. 9 p.m. \$5.

**Dec. 31**-RnR Sportsbar (35 North Uncompahgre in Montrose) New Year's Party 1970's-80's theme with DJ.

**Jan. 5**-Poets Jewell and Judyth Hill to perform at Talking Gourds Poetry Club. 6 p.m. at Arroyo in Telluride.

**Jan. 6**-Montrose County Historical Society Presents: "Exploring Western Colorado History through Livestock Brands" by Tim Force at Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., 7 pm. Admission Free, Public Welcome, For more information call 323-6466.

**Jan. 6**-Talking Gourds Poetry Club poets to appear at Montrose Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 6**-Film Night-Mediterranea to show at Wright Opera House, 472 Main St. in Ouray. Doors open 6:30 p.m. show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets for adults \$7.

**Jan. 8-10**-Mosaics Workshops for Adults, Weehawken Creative Arts. Instructor Ann Cheeks. [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org).

**Jan. 8**-Sherb Nerds Trivia Night at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 9**-Ridgway Photographer Natalie Heller and Functional Artist David Cary are both well known around the area for their stunning work. Her medium is photography including gorgeous views of the San Juan Mountains, Ranch Life, Rodeo and Autos as Art. His medium is functional art including Lamps and Tables made of driftwood and hand painted rice paper. The two friends are teamed up in a joint exhibition of their work that opens at the Ridgway Library on Jan. 9 from 4-7 pm. For more information contact Rachel at (970) 626-5252.

**Jan. 9**-Canyon Creek Laff Inn Comedy Night featuring headliner Jill Bryan, Bridges of Montrose 7 p.m.

**Jan. 10**-Vocalist Deb Barr and Artist Kellie Day at the Sherbino Theater Living Room Lounge. 6 to 9 p.m.

**Jan. 14-17**-Second Annual Telluride Fire Festival. For more about the Festival, to become a sponsor, volunteer, or submit a fire installation for consideration, or subscribe to their enews, visit [www.telluridefirefestival.org](http://www.telluridefirefestival.org) or email [erin@telluridefirefestival.org](mailto:erin@telluridefirefestival.org).

**Jan. 15**-*The Last Lifeboat* opens at Magic Circle Theatre. This drama is the untold tale of the man who built the Titanic. J. Bruce Ismay, head of the White Star Line, was aboard the doomed ocean liner when it struck the iceberg. As the mighty ship began to sink, Ismay tried to save as many passengers as he could. At the last moment, he stepped into the last lifeboat — a decision that would haunt him for the rest of his life. *The Last Lifeboat* is a fast-paced, intense story about a good man forced to carry the guilt for the greatest tragedy of the century. This January, experience what history can't forget from a perspective it never considered.

Tickets go on sale to the general public at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan.12, 2016.

**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](http://www.kafmradio.org). The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.





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*At right, a White Christmas Eve. At left, the Second Annual Telluride Fire Festival will be Jan. 14-17. Pictured is the Numinous Eye by San Francisco Fire Sculptor Ryon Gesink. Courtesy photo.*

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