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

Issue No. 155, Feb. 1 2016

# DELTA COUNTY BUSINESS OWNER TAKES THE LEAD IN DEMANDING COOT DESIGNATE BYPASS HWY 50

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-Anyone who has driven through Delta recently knows that trucks are still coming through town on Main Street despite the City's recently completed truck bypass route.

One local business owner hopes to change that situation and bring relief to struggling downtown businesses and to the City of Delta's coffers. Because if Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) does not designate the new bypass as the official truck route and as Highway 50, Mark Eckhart believes that it could mean the end of the road for Delta's businesses and the City's municipal budget. In an editorial published in the Delta County Independent Jan. 27, Eckhart outlined the current situation: It is a fact that the residents of the City of Delta voted to fund and build the project. Safety concerns topped the reasons for this decision. Many felt that the current truck and hazardous materials route has destroyed and endangered their Main Street.

Hhave started a petition demanding that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) assume funding of the new truck

Continued on page 7



Trucks are not using the new truck bypass, shown prior to opening above, that the City of Delta completed in 2014. Debt for the project will consume roughly 60 percent of the City's infrastructure budget, says local business owner Marc Eckhart. Mirror file photo.

# EXTENDING GRACE SERVES KIDS, FAMILIES IN SOME OF MONTROSE/DELTA'S MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORHOODS



Children's Valentines brighten the window at one of the Extending Grace After School locations. The outreach ministry supported by Grace Church works with people in five underserved neighborhoods.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Take a look at Grace Community Church, and what can be seen is a beautiful facility in a scenic location. Not visible to the naked eye, however, is the church's strong outreach program, Extending Grace. Extending Grace brings the church and its resources to other locations in support of some of Montrose and Delta's most vulnerable residents.

Minister Arnie Chavez is the face and heart behind the program, which serves four sites in Montrose and one in Delta—Extending Grace sites are located at the San Juan, Cottonwood, Green Acres and Northbrook Mobile Home Parks in Montrose and at Wide Acres in Delta.

We help in any way we can," said Chavez, who originally came to Montrose from Arizona to serve as Assistant Pastor at Calvary Temple, where he worked for eight years prior to joining Grace Church in 2012. Before deciding to make a career change, Chavez worked for many years in the heating and cooling industry.

\*\*Continued on page 10\*\*

in this issue Gail Marvel's Club Connection!

City Council considers Mayfly Feb. 2 Regional News Briefs! Documents reveal bullying at UVWUA

Local Stories, Local photos!

# WORKERS COMP FILING SPOTLIGHTS SUPERVISOR'S PRANKS, USE OF HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES AT UNCOMPANGRE VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION (UVWUA)



The Uncompander Valley Water Users Association headquarters in Montrose.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-A jaw-dropping culture of hazing and intimidation was discovered in a Workers' Compensation Claim filed against Uncompanyare Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA).

On Sept. 21, 2015 Administrative Law Judge Kimberly B. Turnbow presided over a matter of the Workers' Compensation Claim of: Claimant (unnamed) vs. Uncompandere Valley Water Users Association. The —Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order" is dated November 12, 2015.

Judge Turnbow entered the order for Respondents (UVWUA and their insurer) to pay temporary total disability (TTD) to the Claimant covering two periods of time between May 4 and June 30, 2015; and a temporary partial disability (TPD) for June 10-17, 2015, —.. and for the period beginning July 1, 2015 and ongoing until terminated by law."

The source document, case number WC 4-976-398-01, is referenced numerically as it appears in the transcript. The testimony in the claim revealed that the Claimant, a nine-year UVWUA employee was unable to resolve and avoid conflicts with his immediate supervisor, water master Aaron English. Mr. English, a 16-year employee UVWUA, testified that he liked a workplace to be fun and this involved —ressing around,"—hrsing around," and —eracking jokes" with coworkers for at least 10 years (5).

However, after considering the totality of

the evidence Judge Turnbow credited the testimony of the Claimant and witnesses that Mr. English:

built and set off pipe bombs and acetylene bombs to explode when coworkers started company trucks,

hid accelerants in areas where workers were using blow torches, shot coworkers with bee bees,

used a potato gun to shoot golf balls and tubes of calk at coworkers,

added accelerants and explosives to warming fires used by coworkers,

defecated into coworkers' lunches, and defecated above ditches where coworkers were working (84).

Mr. English testified that he built bombs on company time and with company materials that were set to detonate when his coworkers got into the truck and turned the ignition switch on (10). Bombs were built from milk jugs full of acetylene, with four-inch PVC pipe using welding gas, and tubes of spray foam thrown into a fire.

—Mr. English testified that he had filled milk jugs with an accelerant and that he would hide them in a ditch so that when coworkers were clearing brush from the ditch banks using blowtorches, the jugs would explode into flame (15)."

UVWUA Manager Steve Fletcher also testified during the hearing. —M Fletcher testified he knew about some of Mr. English's —pranks" and promoted him anyway (23). However, Mr. Fletcher later testified that he was not aware that one of the explosions set off by Mr. English dented a company truck (25). Mr. Fletcher testified that he was aware that Mr. English was creating dangerous situations involving fire in the workplace (26)."

The Claimant's employment was terminated and he received a letter from Mr. Fletcher through his attorney, stating that he was fired for insubordination (83). Fletcher stated that the lack of Claimant's communication with Mr. English was a fireable offense (77).

Determining what may or may not be a fireable offense Mr. Fletcher testified, —. that setting off explosives close to employ-

ees could be a fireable offense, but that it depended on the —severity of the explosions." He testified that setting fires on purpose was not a fireable offense. When asked whether putting one's feces in a coworker's lunch was a fireable offense, Mr. Fletcher testified that —thre [are] always pranks, and I have seen that happen before in different places." He testified that defecating towards another employee in the field is not a fireable offense, but could be —if it continue[d] (77)."

During the three-hour hearing the story unfolds that other employees had also complained about the antics of Mr. English, but their complaints were not put in writing. It is also evident that UVWUA Board President George Etchart and assistant manager Suppes not only knew about the situation, but had had direct communication with the Claimant on the issues and failed to take action beyond telling the Claimant he needed to communicate with English, his supervisor. It should be noted that board member Zack Ahlberg encouraged the Claimant to send a written complaint to the board, —. because the board needed to know what was going on (39)."

The full transcript of —Fiding of Fact, conclusions of law, and Order," which is public record, can be located online at the State of Colorado Office of Administrative Courts website. Those interested in reading all of the testimony can follow the Worker's Compensation link, go to WC Orders and the November 2015 decisions.

The UVWUA will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at Friendship Hall. Lunch will be served at noon followed by the business meeting at 1 p.m. A quorum of 27,619, which is calculated by voting cards and in-person participation, will be needed in order to hold the business meeting. At the annual meeting nominations will be taken from the floor to fill the three seats open on the board of directors.

Those whose terms expire in 2016 and who may be up for re-election are: George Etchart (Pres.), Steve Shea (Vice Pres), and Ray Schmalz.



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### OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

# THE MONTROSE MOUSE: REMINDER OF A TIME THAT COMMUNITY SUCCESSFULLY WORKED TOGETHER FOR A COMMON CAUSE

Dear Editor:

In response to Paul Wahl's misunderstanding of The Montrose Mouse.

The tattered little mouse is not a symbol of bitterness but a representation of success and of a community that came together for the good of the community and a common cause. As a result of this success Montrose now enjoys a beautiful Uncompanger River without flooding, a water park, excellent fishing and potentially more parks and river walks.

The Mouse stood against governmental bureaucracy and triumphed. There is no bitterness; the mouse is an emblem for accomplishment and success!

It is also part of the history of this community and the un-relentless hard work of many people working together for the betterment of this community.

Unfortunately I agree that there is anger dividing factions within this community at the present time. This is very disturbing and regrettable and makes it difficult for Montrose to move forward.

Maybe The Mouse needs a sibling!

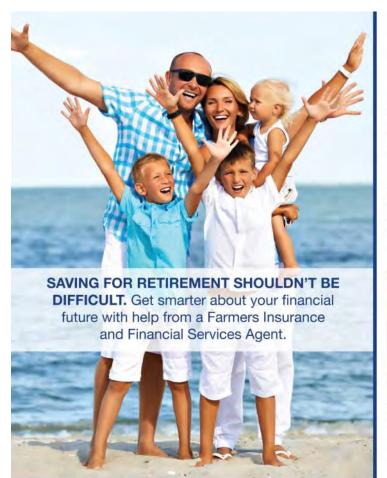
Sincerely,

Christine Peak, Montrose

### 6300 ROAD TO CLOSE FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County Road and Bridge will be closing 6300 Road between Ohlm Road and Orange Road on February 1, 2016, for bridge replacement. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes. For more information please call Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.





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## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

# FOUR-TERM SAN MIGUEL COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELAINE FISCHER ANNOUNCES SHE WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2016!



Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-San Miguel County District 1 Commissioner Elaine Fischer is pleased to announce that she will seek re-election in 2016. Fischer said that she has been honored to serve San Miguel County in a leadership role for four terms, and hopes to continue.

He has been a privilege to represent the citizens of San Miguel County," Fischer said. I want to continue to serve as I always have, with energy and enthusiasm. Though I have had some health issues, I am dealing with them and have no concerns.

-t-can still get the job done, and I am asking for your vote in 2016."

At left, four-term San Miguel County Commissioner Elaine Fischer hopes to continue to serve San Miguel County in a leadership role, and has announced her intention to run for re-election this year.

### **MIRROR CORRECTIONS...**

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-In Montrose Mirror Issue 154, we identified Scott Riba as Chair of the Republican Party in our story on the Mayfly hearing. However, Mr. Riba specifically stated before speaking that the views he was presenting were entirely his

own and not representative of any group or organization. We are very sorry for the error!

In addition, the article on Farmer Roger Bentley misstated the name of the Western Colorado Food and Farm forum presentation. The theme of the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum this year was **Farming the Future: Tools, Tips, Talent.** This theme was carefully chosen to highlight workshops looking at innovative practices in areas such as minimum till, cover cropping, drip irrigation, specialty crops, and we truly regret the error.



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The Montrose Mirror | February 1, 2016



# Join us for good conversation, coffee, and pastries at The Morning Buzz with DMEA.

What we talk about is up to you. Rates, energy generation, scholarships, efficiency, economic development, bill assistance... the topics are endless. We will be available to answer questions and get to know you, the members! All DMEA members are invited. Stop by just to say hi before work or spend some time asking us questions. Coffee and pastries are on us!





Monday, February 1, 2016 6:45am – 8:00am 845 E. Main, Montrose



Tuesday, February 2, 2016 6:45am – 8:00am 3480 Wolverine Dr., Montrose





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Also visit <u>www.voadementiacare.org</u> for more information on Validation.

**Thursday, February 4, 2016:** 12:45 pm-1:30 pm - Montrose Senior Center (Montrose Pavilion), 1800 Pavilion Drive, Montrose

Tuesday, February 16, 2016: 4:00 pm-5:00 pm - Region 10 Building, 300 N Cascade Ave, Sneffels Conference Room

Contact Erin Berge at 970-275-1220 or eberge@voa.org for more information

## DELTA COUNTY BUSINESS OWNER TAKES THE LEAD From pg 1

route. I believe that CDOT is just as responsible for what has occurred with the truck route as is Delta. CDOT has failed to recognize the danger, noise and filth that is occurring with their truck route on Delta's Main Street," he wrote.

Eckhart spent 17 hours walking Delta's streets as well, to obtain signatures for his petition. —Trucks are still coming down Main Street," Eckhart said. —The City built and paid for the bypass, and out of around \$35 million they still have \$22 million to pay. The annual payment is \$1.4 million, or around 60 percent of their budget for infrastructure. And until CDOT designates the Bypass as Highway 50, the City of Delta can do nothing with the highway—they can't even control the lights.

Truck traffic has been steadily increas-

ing," Eckhart said, —and it has essentially destroyed Main Street."

Delta County Economic Development (DCED) has not been working with Eckhart, but portions of his vision do make economic sense, DCED Executive Director Trish Thibodo said. —What we want to see is for the City of Delta and for Delta County to invest in our community and in our economic future," Thibodo said. —We need to diversify and find ways to do that and to help ourselves.

—I-would love to see a Main Street where it is easier for people to park and to get out of their cars," she said, —and I would love to see trucks using the bypass and clearing some of the congestion off Main Street. Anybody who knows Delta knows the traffic can be a challenge."

If Eckhart and his petition are successful, questions still remain, however. —If we do move the truck traffic off of Main Street, what can we do to reinvest in our community and keep our Main Street safe?" Thibodo asked. —We need to transform our approach, and give opportunity to as many people as we can."

For Mark Eckhart, the way forward is clear enough; the first priority is to get the trucks off of Main Street; the second is to ensure that CDOT designates Confluence Drive truck route as State Hwy. 50; and finally, CDOT must take over the funding while Delta assumes responsibility for Main Street. His petition can be found online at change.org. Simply search for "CDOT." Eckhart can be reached at 970-856-3662.

# HONORABLE MENTION

To Colorado's dedicated snow plow drivers. Thank you!!

To Montrose Olathe Re-1J school bus drivers, for getting kids safely to and from school...

To Looney Bean Coffee House...a great South side option whether you're in a hurry or have time to spare...

To the class of 2016, on the home stretch...

And to the local small business community, where it all begins. Thank you!



The Montrose Mirror | February 1, 2016



Join us for a pet food and supplies drive from Monday, February 8 through Monday, February 22.

Benefitting the Black Canyon Animal Sanctuary in Crawford, Colorado, the event begins with Love Your Pet Day and ends with 22+ Miles or More.

Donations will be collected at the following locations:

Alpine Bank Montrose 2770 Alpine Drive
Alpine Bank Montrose East 1400 E. Main Street
Chow Down Pet Supply Montrose 202 East Main Street

On February 8,
every person that shops
at Chow Down in
Montrose will get a free
gift for their pet from
Alpine Bank.

Chow Down and Alpine Bank together will match all donations collected.









### **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

# PENN STATE MASTERS PROGRAM NAMES SAN MIGUEL COUNTY GIS PRO HEATHER WIDLUND STUDENT OF THE YEAR Recognition to include cash award, complimentary attendance at Esri Summit

Special to the Mirror SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-San Miguel County Geographic Information Systems Coordinator Heather Widlund has been named EDC Student of the Year through the ESRI Development Center and GIS program at Penn State University. Heather, who is currently completing her Master's Degree in Geographic Information Systems, was chosen for her outstanding course work, strong reviews from instructors and excellence in her programmingrelated courses. She was also commended for the honor because of her work on a capstone project involving heavy use of Python scripting. As EDC Student of the Year Heather will receive a plaque and

cash award from Esri, and could be select-

ed for special recognition at the Annual International Users Conference in San Diego. She will also receive a complimentary registration to the Esri Developer Summit in Palm Springs, CA to be held March 8-11. — Ham very pleased to be recognized," Widlund said. — Ad I am very excited to go to a developer-oriented conference—I have not been to one before."

-Heather has been an incredible asset to San Miguel County," said County Commissioner Elaine Fischer. -Her skills are fantastic, and we are very fortunate to have her as part of our team. She is deserving of this award, and we are all very proud of her."

Heather is a valued resource for all of San Miguel County, County Commissioner Joan May said.

We're so proud of Heather,"
May said. She works quietly in her office and gets so much done! We are very grateful to have her here in San Miguel County."

+am just so proud of all of our County



San Miguel County GIS Coordinator Heather Widlund. Courtesy photo.

staff," Commissioner Art Goodtimes said.

Heather's award is yet another example of how hard they work."

# 2016 Health Fair Early Blood Draws

Montrose Pavilion February 3, 4, 5, & 6

6:30-9:30 a.m.

### Additional Locations for Early Blood Draws

January 30th

4H Event Center in Ridgway 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

February 1st

American Legion Hall in Olathe 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

### Appointments may be made online for all three locations at www.MontroseHospital.com

January 17-27

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  - Vitamin B-12 ~ \$40
- · Male Testosterone ~ \$45

## Health Fair 2016 is Saturday, February 27

The lines are long, so MMH offers early blood draws to make it more convenient for you.



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### **EXTENDING GRACE SERVES KIDS, FAMILIES** From page 1



Pastor Arnie Chavez. Courtesy photo.

-My gifts are evangelism and service," Chavez said. -This is what I am supposed to be doing."

Extending
Grace is an unusual ministry in
that it asks nothing in return, he
added. It encompasses not only
an after school
program with

snack and devotion on Thursdays, two youth groups, homework assistance, coat giveaways, vacation Bible school and a Friday night film night with free popcorn and candy. Volunteers have also built physical improvements that improve the quality of life for local youth.

We just want to create a safe place for kids," Chavez said. There are always two

adults present, and everybody who volunteers with us undergoes an application and background check. These are all provided so that everybody is safe."

Support for the program comes from Grace Church, which has made the outreach a serious priority.

-Our volunteers come from Grace Church, and our funding comes from Grace Church," Chavez said.

—We have 20 to 30 volunteers who rotate and help; I started out part-time, and now I am full-time. I run all five sites."

The Church has restated its strong commitment to the program this year, and is always seeking new ideas and new ways to reach people, he said. —This is an organized ministry," Chavez said. —We advertise it by placing flyers on each trailer."

Extending Grace began at the Cottonwood Park.

—We own a trailer there, and at San Juan we use one of the small apartments. At Northbrook we use the Community Center. Once we got started at Cottonwood, we looked out and saw an empty field that needed grass and a swing set."

Extending Grace volunteers have also helped to create community gardens at Anciano Towers and Sunshine Peaks Apartments in Montrose, he said, and fix broken gates in the communities they serve.

San Juan Park resident Eric Bauer, 12, said that the Extending Grace ministry makes an enormous difference for many people. —Arnie is a great man," Eric said. —He has helped many families a bunch. If it were not for him, we would not have had a nice Thanksgiving Dinner, or nice gifts for Christmas.

-He's an awesome guy," Bauer said,
-We were seeing underserved neighborhoods," Chavez said. -We want to help in
any way we can, and we ask nothing in
return.

We just go out and give because it's the right thing to do."

Extending Grace can be reached at 970-249-5306.

### WINTER RIM ROMP AT THE BLACK CANYON FEB. 6

Special to the Mirror

BLACK CANYON-The San Juan Mountain Runners are excited to present the sixth Annual Winter Rim Romp at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park on Saturday, February 6th, 10:00 a.m. The Park Service grooms the South Rim Road from the Visitor's Center to Warner Point providing first class conditions for snowshoeing, classic and freestyle skiing. Three options: 5 mile snowshoe race (8K), 10 mile classic / freestyle ski race (16K), or 5 mile non-competitive fun ski. Don't miss the snowy magic of our local National Park in winter. The cost is \$20 thru Feb. 5th atwww.sjmr.club and \$25 on race day and includes post-race brews and food, awards and prizes. All proceeds benefit Mended Little Hearts of Western CO, a non-profit providing support to parents of children with congenital heart defects. For more info check in with Jan at jbridgway@msn.com



# WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

# **AMERICAN LEGION POST 73**



American Legion member Daniel Tyler brings a message during a Memorial Day service at the Olathe Cemetery. Courtesy photo.



An American Legion Riders motorcycle prepared to participate in a Fourth of July parade. Courtesy photo.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The American Legion, a patriotic veteran's program, was established by Congress in 1919 and local Post 73 has a current membership of 105 with an average meeting attendance of 25. Other organizations under the umbrella of the American Legion are the Auxiliary Ladies, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders (motorcycles).

The American Legion meets on the second Monday of each month at Friendship Hall beginning with a potluck dinner at 6 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7 pm. Membership in the service organization is controlled by Congress and only those who've served on active duty during wartime service are eligible. Commander Randy Leonard said almost apologetically, There are some servicemen [and women] who are not eligible for membership because at the time of their service America was not at war or in a conflict." Randy went on to offer what may be an alternative for some, Even if you did not serve in the military yourself, but your father or

grandfather served, you could join the Sons of the American Legion."

Like other military service organizations (DAV, VFW), the American Legion begins their meetings with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation from the Chaplain. Randy said, —We also include a flag ceremony honoring Prisoners of War (POW) and those Missing in Action (MIA)...Lest we forget."

In community outreach the Legion has participated in Toys for Tots, Boys and Girls State, and on Memorial Day places flags on the graves of veterans buried at Valley Lawn Cemetery. Randy said, —Two years ago we started doing a hamburger fry at Cerise Park following the Fourth of July Parade. It's a picnic for anyone in the community who wants to show up."

In the area of fundraising the Legion holds bingo games three nights a week at the Bingo Connection, offers an occasional raffle and sells Poppies once a year. Randy said, —Ninety-five percent of what we make we donate back to the community. We're a 501c3 and we donate to Dolphin

House, Community Options, and the Montrose High School Band.

Randy considers the lack of members as the organization's biggest weakness.

We'd like to get some of the younger guys in because they bring different ideas to the table. Some of our old vets are stuck in their ways and we need younger guys." He laughed and then said, —The older guys sit around telling the same stories!"

In their efforts to promote membership participation the organization is expanding the American Legion Riders and branching out to ATV's, —We have some people who would rather have four wheels than two wheels."

Paraphrasing the American Legion's motto Randy said, —Basically we help vets...
We are proud of our country!"
Contact Information:
American Legion Post 73
Commander Randy Leonard 970-270-8120
Friendship Hall (Fairgrounds)
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month
6 pm pot luck supper, 7-8 pm business



# and smell the coffee NEWS!

meeting

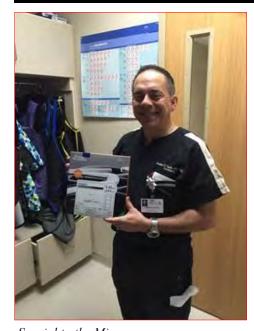
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### **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### MONTROSE MEMORIAL SECOND COLORADO HOSPITAL TO USE SYNERGY™ STENT

MMH patient among first in nation to benefit from revolutionary technology to treat heart disease



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE— Dr. Matthew Smolin,
Cardiologist at Montrose Memorial Hospital, recently treated a patient at MMH with
the newly approved SYNERGY Everolimus-Eluting Platinum Chromium Coronary Stent from Boston Scientific making

her one of the first patients in Colorado to



Dr. Matthew Smolin, Cardiologist at Montrose Memorial Hospital, recently treated a patient at MMH with the newly approved SYNERGY Everolimus-Eluting Platinum Chromium Coronary Stent from Boston Scientific. Courtesy photo.

benefit from this highly anticipated new technology. The SYNERGY Stent was approved for use by the FDA on 10/2/15. Stents are tiny mesh tubes doctors use to prop open clogged arteries, allowing blood to flow freely to the heart.

-Bringing the most advanced medical technologies to our community directly supports our mission to provide outstanding patient care," said Dr. Smolin.

-Early adoption of the SYNERGY Stent, the first and only bioabsorbable polymer drug eluting stent in the U.S., reinforces our commitment to deliver advanced treatment to patients in Montrose and the surrounding communities."

Manufactured by Boston Scientific, the SYNERGY Stent, with its bioabsorbable polymer, offers simultaneous drug and polymer absorption. Designed for faster healing, the SYNERGY Stent offers what you need when you need it; medicine, which inhibits coronary blockages from recurring, and freedom from permanent polymer exposure, which has been associated with complications such as vessel renarrowing and blood clots.

—We are pleased to be working closely with Dr. Smolin and Montrose Memorial Hospital to ensure patients can access this innovative technology," said Kevin Ballinger, President, Interventional Cardiology, Boston Scientific. —In development for over 10 years, the SYNERGY Stent reflects our commitment to bringing meaningful change to interventional cardiologists with the most complete portfolio of clinical solutions to best treat their patients," said Ballinger. —We are excited to bring this transformative technology to U.S. facilities that provide best-in-class patient care."





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I NEED HELP!



The Center for Mental Health is working with the Crisis Text Line to help serve anyone in any type of crisis (13-24 years old), providing access to free, 24/7 emotional support and information via the medium already used and trusted: text.



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## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

# LOG HILL ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF TOM AUSTIN RECEIVES FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Special to the Mirror

LOG HILL-The West Region Wildfire Council is proud to announce that Tom Austin, Assistant Chief for the Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department, was selected to receive a Fire Adapted Communities Fire Service Leadership Award.

"The Fire Service Leadership Award recognizes the efforts of an outstanding member the fire service, who has a bias for action to develop, advocate and implement successful proactive wildfire mitigation and prevention programs in their community."

Tom is one of four recipients of this award nationwide.

The West Region Wildfire Council nominated Tom for this award because he has dedicated many hours to promoting fire adaptedness within the fire protection district. Tom's efforts have helped Log Hill become an exemplary model for other communities to follow.

This award is co- sponsored by The National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association and the United States Forest Service (USFS).



Austin, above right, is one of four recipients nationwide. Courtesy photo.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE AND DELTA COUNTIES CELEBRATES 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL LEAGUE

### Dear Editor:

Feb. 14 marks the 96th anniversary for the national voter's rights group, the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters of Montrose and Delta Counties are joining 800 local, state AND NATIONAL league chapters this month in honoring this milestone by celebrating their rich history in the fight for voter equality, as well as pressing forward in combatting current barriers to voting rights.

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County has been in place for 29 years. In 1987 a group of Montrose area women joined together to form a League of Women Voters unit in the county. In 2010, the Delta County League merged with the Montrose County League. The local League has continued to provide voter service and educational programs to enable voters to make informed decisions at election time, and to educate the public on issues important to the well-being of their respective communities.

The League strives to challenge all efforts to limit the ability of voters to exercise their rights. Leagues support expanded early voting and online voter registration, campaign finance reform, and the regulation of —big money" in elections and they want to instill confidence in the integrity of our democratic process and be assured that our elections are fair, free, and accessible.

Our League is working to learn what local voters deem important so that programs will address their concerns as well as educate on topics that having an impact on the lives of Montrose residents.

Anyone interested in knowing more about our League is encouraged to visit our web site at <a href="http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/">http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/</a> and like us on Facebook.

Karen Connor, President League of Women Voters of Montrose County



The Montrose Mirror | February 1, 2016



Tell us about your favorite couple—aged 65 or older in Montrose or Olathe —who you think should receive a dinner prepared by our chef, delivered to their home, along with dessert and a dozen roses for Valentine's Day! Tell us in 150 words or less what makes them special!

Dinner for 2 Delivered Feb 15th, 2016

Entry deadline: Feb 8th, 2016



### Send nominations to:

Tara Cassidy

Email: tcassidy@voa.org

or Mail: Attn: Tara Cassidy

Valley Manor Care Center

1401 S Cascade, Montrose, CO 81401

970-249-9634



**Valley Manor Care Center** 



Page 17

### LINE-X OF MONTROSE: PROTECTIVE COATINGS WITH CREATIVE EDGE!



"If you can think it, we can spray it," is the motto at Cody and Zach Padilla's company. Line-X of Montrose. Courtesy photos.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-Brothers Cody and Zach Padilla work together to make Line-X of Montrose, which opened Dec. 14, be the best protective coatings company and truck accessory retailer it can be.

Originally having worked at Line-X in Grand Junction for years, the brothers had the opportunity to open up their own franchise and expand into Montrose. —We both loved to do it and wanted to do it together," Cody explained. —It has been great so far."

While Line-X is normally seen as a protective coating for truck bed liners, the Padilla brothers can do a lot more with it.—We can spray anything--wood decks, panels on trucks, phone cases, snowmobile fenders, and more," Cody explained.

—We can do the spray in any color under the sun; it is UV stable and has a nationwide lifetime warranty. If you can think it, we can spray it."

-Hf you have a] cool project, we can run with it and add our professional knowledge to it," Zach added. -We like to do out of the box work."

Another benefit to the Line-X coatings for vehicles is that is dries in about 5 seconds, meaning that customers can pick up their vehicles the same day that they drop them off.

The brothers started working at Line-X in Grand Junction as part time jobs while they were in college to study engineering, but they found that their mutual love of



vehicles drew them in a new direction. —We like to make

vehicles look cool and run good, so we decided that we wanted to only work on vehicles and do things with our hands," Cody said. —Our passion is working on vehicles, [so this was a] blessing in disguise."

For the long term focus of their business, they want to make their shop offer more than just protective coatings. —We offer many different products," Cody explained. —We are a Yeti dealer and offer truck gear and accessories."

-We also have someone who works on diesel engines," Zach said. —We want to be a one-stop shop, with lift kits, engines, etc."

While they have been open only a couple months, so far the response has been overwhelming. —We haven't done much marketing, so it has been mostly word of mouth," Cody said. —But it's one of those things that people can see and feel the difference in the quality and texture. It speaks for itself."

-We focus on quality over quantity," Zach added. -We want our customers to be happy."

In the coming months, a big thing the brothers are looking forward to is a new product offered by Line-X, which may revolutionize the way people paint trucks.

We will be unveiling a new Line-X product that will be able to compete with powder coating," Cody explained. It looks and feels like powder, but is better at holding up. We are looking forward to it

[because] it is almost a game changer. While it's a little thicker than paint, its durability is far superior to paint and powder coating."

The thing that helps set Line-X of Montrose apart from other Line-X businesses is their specialty in focusing on custom work. —Bed liners are the staple, but not many do unique work," Cody said. —Our specialty is unique, custom, crazy jobs."

—Aot of Line-X businesses don't do full body armor wraps, which is where we act like we are painting your car and spray Line-X everywhere," Zach added.

Since opening, the brothers have been busy with a wide range of

custom jobs, with each just as unique as the previous one. —hst week we had a girl get a purple bed liner and this week we had someone get a full body wrap in a copper color," Cody said. —We also had someone get their suspension parts in Monster Energy drink green. When we are done with one job, then the next day we get another cool job."

There are a couple things the brothers wish people knew about what Line-X of Montrose has to offer. —People don't understand the creative side," Zach explained.

—They look [at us] and think 'bed liners', but instead we want people that when they think 'I have a crazy project and I need to protect it' to have Line-X pop up in their minds. We are not just bed liners. While that is our staple, we can do pretty much anything. We also back everything with warranties. We want people to use it and abuse it so we can further our knowledge."

One of the best parts of their business so far has been the amazing community support. —We have had an awesome reaction from the community," Cody said.

People have been very friendly and really excited. People are genuinely nice and look out for us. We feel accepted and [part of] really genuine conversations."

-We feel like we have known them our whole lives," Zach added. -We are excited to be down here."

Line-X of Montrose is located at 320 Denny Ct in Montrose. They are open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 249-7777.

The Montrose Mirror | February 1, 2016

# Karen Mercer

# Colorado Singer/Songwriter & THE BOYS







LIVE Acoustic music with Karen's crystal clear vocals

Michael Dosch, Kurt Isgreen, Dave Werdon, Bill Wilson Steve Felberg

Americana \* Folk \* Pop \* Bluegrass \* Originals

Chipeta Sun Lodge/Spa...KIVA room.....RIDGWAY

New date!....Thurs Feb 4th, 2016 Time: 7-9 pm

**BENEFIT for Lynda Alfred...... \$ DONATION only \$** 

The Montrose Mirror | February 1, 2016



## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### PIKAS IN PERIL: TINY MOUNTAIN MAMMAL FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Changing climate likely to squeeze Pika out of some parks by end of Century

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS – Scientists from the National Park Service (NPS) and three western universities predict a complex future for populations of the diminutive and charismatic pika.

The hamster-sized member of the rabbit family lives in rocky, icy patches in the western United States. Funded principally by the NPS Climate Change Response Program, researchers from the NPS, Oregon State University, University of Colorado Boulder and University of Idaho completed a five-year study on pika populations' vulnerability to climate change in eight national parks. The predictions through the end of this century vary by park because of local conditions such as elevation, weather patterns and genetic diversity.

Because of this study, we can see that other factors, like habitat connectivity and gene flow, can influence the extent that climate change disrupts an ecosystem," said Tom Rodhouse, an NPS ecologist and third author of the paper published today in the peer-reviewed journal *Global Change Biology*. —This knowledge can be used to develop management and conservation practices for the coming decades."

As climates change, higher areas in some parks may warm to the point that pika populations can no longer survive in them. In general, the availability of pikas' preferred habitat - cold, highaltitude boulder fields - will decrease as temperatures rise in the coming decades," said Donelle Schwalm, researcher at Oregon State University and lead author of the paper. -But even as we predict extinction of pikas in some parks, other areas will continue to provide adequate shelter for pikas to live and potentially thrive." Beginning in 2010, the researchers used field surveys, genetic analyses, geographic information and climate change forecasting in all eight parks to identify key risk factors that could threaten pikas' survival. Here are brief outlooks for the eight parks in the study:

Crater Lake National Park, OR – Pikas already occupy this park's highest available habitat. Crater Lake is warmer in winter and cooler in summer compared to other parks in the study, and it receives the most snow. As snowpack declines, patches of pika habitat will become more isolated. Researchers predict a steep drop to less than 50 percent occupancy of remaining habitat.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, ID – This lowelevation park is warmer and drier than the others, and research models suggest a variety of scenarios for pikas. Because of the isolation of the pika population, low genetic diversity and small area of current distribution, researchers conclude the pika population is vulnerable to extirpation (local extinction).

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, CO – Changes in precipitation will be important in this cool and arid park. Maintaining connectivity between habitat areas will be an important factor, but pikas are likely to persist in the northern half of the park.

**Grand Teton National Park, WY** – Because this high-elevation park is so

cold and wet, pikas live in warmer and drier areas. Large and well-connected habitat patches are likely to remain into the future, so pika populations are predicted to remain stable or increase.

Lava Beds National Monument, CA – Like Craters of the Moon, this low-elevation park is warm and dry. Surprisingly, models did not provide clear evidence of extirpation as the scientists expected. Inconclusive results may be due in part to the influence of sub-surface microclimates created by lava flows. Continued monitoring will better resolve the question of pika population vulnerability at Lava Beds.

Lassen Volcanic National Park, CA – Although this Cascade Mountains park is comparatively warm and wet, researchers anticipate long-term persistence of pikas here. This may be due in part to increased growing season and availability of forage plants.



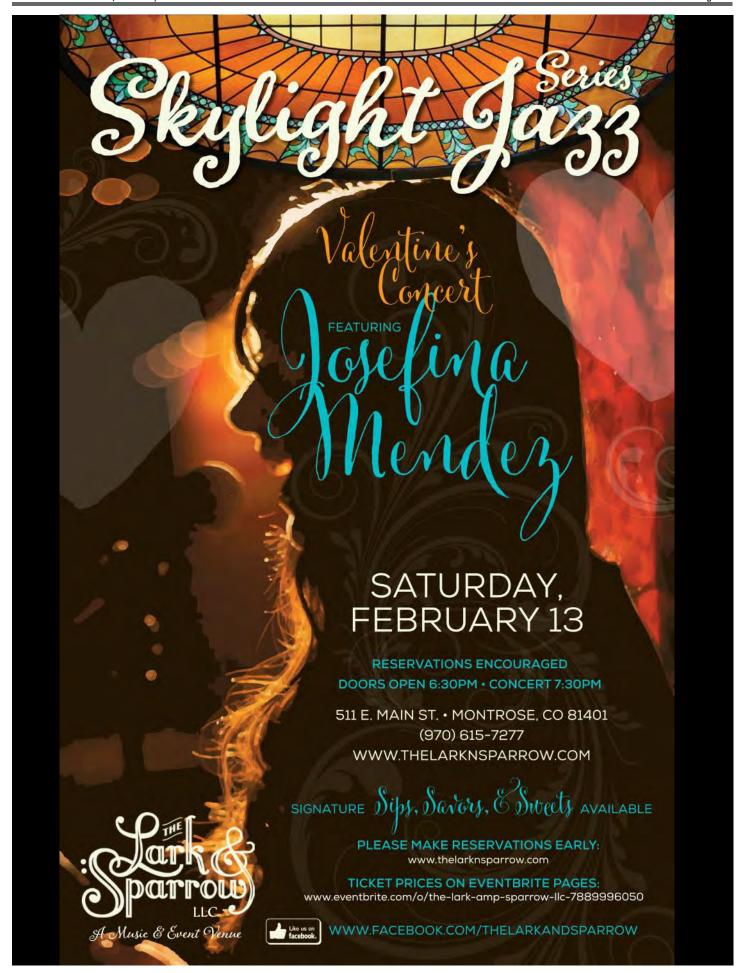
- **FOOD:** In the most affluent country on earth, seniors have to choose between food and medicine.
- **SHELTER:** Imagine having to find a decent, secure place to live on an income of \$800 per month.
- SAFETY: For older adults, home can often become a dangerous place without proper repairs.
  - SUPPORT: Sometimes we all need a little help from our friends.
    - CARE: When living at home is no longer an option, we can help.
- CONNECTIONS: When you outlive all of your friends and family, who do you turn to?

We provide a connected network of services that make a significant difference in our part of the world.

Join us in supporting our vision to enrich and uplift the lives of our local older adults.



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### CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER APPROVING MAYFLY DEAL

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Five new City employees will be introduced at the Montrose City Council Work Session on Monday, Feb. 1: Levi Head, Mike Tarantino and Chuck Cates will join the City as Parks and Special Projects Division part-time staffers; Lynn Vogel joins staff as a part-time guest services assistant; and Peter Vandenhock joins the Montrose Police Department as Patrol Officer. Items up for discussion include Montrose Regional Airport and M.P. 350.27 to M.P. 351.43.

At the regular Council meeting of Feb. 2, Council will consider approving the 2016 Annual Plan of Annexation and Three-Mile Plan as presented as well as a sole source waiver for an Ultra Tech Systems UV Module for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Council will also consider approving the incentives Agreement with Mayfly Outdoors.

### LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF...

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-**Retail Marijuana Petition**--According to the City Clerk's office, Les Logan of Montrose circulated a petition to put an issue on the 2016 ballot which would allow marijuana dispensaries and commercial grow operations within the city limits of Montrose. With a deadline of 6 p.m. January 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Logan was unsuccessful in his attempt to get 599 valid signatures, or five percent of the 11,973 registered voters who live within the city limits, to sign his petition.

Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD)--An agenda item for the January 21 MRLD board meeting was, —Posting of Board Meeting Information, Designated Place." It was determined that the lobby of the library would be the official posting site. Although MRLD has a website, it is not maintained. Executive Paul Paladino said, —We have good intentions to put it [official notices] on the website, but we don't have a webmaster." MRLD Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3. Notice ——Notice of regular and special meetings will be posted in a designated location within District Libraries. Regular meetings will be posted no less than five days prior to the holding of the meeting."

### FORUM TO FOCUS ON INTERNET AND SMART PHONE SAFETY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-This Wednesday, Feb. 3 we welcome back Phil Rosty with the Montrose Police Department, with a program about Internet and Smartphone Safety.

The presentation will cover what smartphones and tablets can do and the ways to be informed and protect yourself, your kids and grandkids. He will include information about:

Leetspeek/hidden messages withing email and text; The lasting footprint of anything said and posted online; App Safety/ App Privacy; The real cost of free apps; Spy apps; Phone/Messaging apps; Social Media; How we are tracked via smart phones; Apple Pay/Mobile Wallets.

We meet from 8 am to 9 am at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli every Wednesday. Heidi's is in the Oxbow Center on South Townsend Ave. Coffee is a dollar and breakfast is available.





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

## 2016 LEGISLATURE SHIFTS INTO FULL GEAR

The 2016 legislative session is moving into full gear these days, with much of our time now being spent in committees as bills get their first hearing in front of these committees of reference. If a bill makes it past its first hearing, it'll then move to what's called the second reading on the senate floor. There, substantive debate and possible amendments determine whether the bill will move on for a final 3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote in the Senate and possible passage to the House, only to repeat the same process there.

If a bill has a state fiscal impact, it detours to the Appropriations Committee before debate on the Senate floor. There are many potential —off ramps" as a bill winds its way through the legislative process; patience and stamina are helpful virtues for legislators awaiting the fate of their proposals.

In addition to chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee and serving as vice-chairwoman of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee, I'm kept busy meeting with people who are interested in providing feedback on my bills and perhaps seeking amendments to them. One of the bills that I'm working on most often these days will, if passed, give electricity generation from woody biomass

an incentive similar to what solar energy received under state law.

This biomass bill is my effort to assist projects in high wildfire risk areas by removing forest brush and small diameter trees and utilizing these fuels to produce electricity at relatively small power plants. This type of project helps move us forward in reducing wildfire risk, thereby improving public safety and avoiding the high costs associated with fighting wildfires. Utilizing the woody biomass in small-scale power plants also creates jobs in local communities desiring new economic opportunities.

Based on feedback I've received on the introduced bill, I'm amending it to provide that the renewable energy multiplier would be for those woody biomass projects that produce biochar which is carbon-neutral or carbon-negative. Solar and wind energy have benefitted from the use of incentives under the renewable energy standard and, while there aren't likely to be many of these small woody biomass power plants around the state, they can offer the significant multiple benefits, mentioned above, without cost to the state.

Left as is, when the woody biomass burns in catastrophic wildfires, we waste that fuel and its energy potential and the fires cause significant damage to air quality. Watersheds located in the burn areas and downstream are negatively impacted as well. It's time we move to a more proactive approach to Colorado's forest health and this is one step forward in that direction.

In early February, I'll also be presenting in committee a bill that would continue the wildfire risk reduction grant program. This competitive state program awards grants to project applicants who provide matching funds and resources, including volunteers, to mitigate the risk of wildfires in their areas. This has been a very successful program and widely utilized in many of the counties of my district.

Remote video testimony for both of these bills will be possible from southwest Colorado, rather than having to drive the Capitol in Denver, by going to the Fort Lewis College campus in Durango on the day of hearing. If you're interested in testifying, please contact my office for more details. Senator Ellen S. Roberts, Senate President Pro Tempore

State Capitol, 200 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203

Phone: (303)866-4884

Email: ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us Website: www.ellenroberts.com





# Karen Mercer

# Colorado Singer/Songwriter & THE BOYS







LIVE Acoustic music with Karen's crystal clear vocals

Michael Dosch, Kurt Isgreen, Dave Werdon, Bill Wilson Steve Felberg

Americana \* Folk \* Pop \* Bluegrass \* Originals

Chipeta Sun Lodge/Spa...KIVA room.....RIDGWAY

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## CITY COUNCIL ELECTION: OFFICIAL CANDIDATE BIOS

### DISTRICT IV CANDIDATE: JUDY ANN FILES



Judy Ann Files. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror MONTROSE-Judy Ann is a long time Montrose native and cares deeply about the community where she was born, raised her children, and given so much to. She has been a member of Montrose City Council since April 2012. During that time she has been

proud to be a part of the realization of the new water sports park, construction beginning on the new recreation center, addition of many hiking and biking trails, acquiring

additional land along the river to expand the river trail system, re-creating the City recycling program, completion of the East Oak Grove street improvements, formation of the broadband gigabit initiative, revamping the City Charter with voter approval, establishment of the City Office of Business and Tourism and Visitor Center. rescue and enhancement of the Black Canyon Golf Course, and, as Mayor, the recognition of Montrose as an All America City in 2013. Prior to being on City council, Judy Ann has been involved with many aspects of the Montrose community. She was an educator in the Montrose County School district for 35 years. She was a volunteer with the Montrose Chamber of

Commerce and the Montrose Public Lands – BLM and USFS. She has also been involved with the Montrose Regional Library and Friends of the Library. Judy Ann continues to serve as a board member with Uncompahgre/Com, Inc. which is a fiscal management non-profit dealing with funding for public lands project, as well as an advisory board member for Hope West Hospice.

Judy Ann has spent most of her life (49 years) in Montrose which has been her mother's family home of 130 years. She hopes to make Montrose an even better place to live, work, and play for everyone who is lucky enough to call Montrose home

### DISTRICT III CANDIDATE: ROY E. ANDERSON

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Roy was raised in Montana and attended Montana State University. Here he met his wife, Sandi, while earning a degree in engineering and a commission in the US Air Force. During his four-and-a-half years of service to our Nation, Roy also attended night school to earn a master's degree in Computer Science.

Pursuing a career in the computer industry, Roy and Sandi briefly lived in Kansas and California before settling down to raise four children in Fort Collins, Colorado. After 35 years on the Front Range, Roy and Sandi both realized their dream of retiring to Colorado's Western Slope, choosing Montrose for its beauty, size, climate and the friendliness of its citizens. During

his software engineering and marketing career with Hewlett Packard, Roy frequently traveled to

numerous countries in Asia and Europe, and while many of these countries are known for their beauty and the warmth of their people, no place quite compares with Western Colorado!

Since retiring from HP, Roy has managed his own Marketing Consulting company experiencing some of the trials and tribulations of entrepreneurship and business management, while providing opportunities to work with both small businesses and global corporations. The best part is being able to work from Montrose thanks to a robust communications infrastructure and global connections through the Montrose

Regional Airport.
On Jan. 1, 2015,
Roy was appointed to the Planning
Commission, learning firsthand the operations of Montrose municipal government. Roy is currently serving as secretary of the Otter Pond Home
Owners Association, volunteers at the Visitor Center



Roy E. Anderson Courtesy Photo.

and for Hot Wheels (Home Bound Meals program), and is an active member of St. Mary's Parish.

### AT LARGE CANDIDATE: DAVE BOWMAN

Editor's Note: Upon asking At Large Candidate Dave Bowman for his bio and photo, I received the response below. (We had originally blocked him for tagging every post on our site with unsolicited promotions for his own business, Blue Sky Music Presents). We will run his bio and photo if and when we receive it.

Caitlyn, I see I am still blocked from posting on Montrose Mirror on Facebook. I will submit a bio and pic to Montrose Mirror for my Montrose City Council candidacy as requested as soon as I am no longer blocked from Montrose Mirror and an assurance from you that I will not be blocked again.

Dave Bowman Candidate - Montrose City Council.

## CITY COUNCIL ELECTION: OFFICIAL CANDIDATE BIOS

### AT LARGE CANDIDATE: MARGE MORGENSTERN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-I am a retired secondary English teacher who taught for 32 years, in Cascade, Montana, Craig, Colorado, and for 22 of those years, at Montrose High School. I hold a BA from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and am credited with accumulated hours from the Universities of Denver, Montana, Colorado, San Jose State, Santa Clara and Great Falls College. I have been a resident of this area since 1970, some 45 years.

Because I have dabbled in writing for years, I recently published a compilation of poems and essays. I travel as much as budget allows and have visited all except six of the United States, several Central and South American countries, Canada and Western Europe. I reside here in

Montrose with my patch calico kitty, Pebbles, and enjoy my friends, photography, the outdoors, 4-wheeling in the San Juans, classical and folk music, the visual arts, [especially water color] and reading.

Although I have always participated in municipal issues and elections, I have never sought nor held any political office. My concerns have always been with issues that impact fair treatment of local citizens and that those issues need to be addressed by elected officials. If I am elected I hope to influence decisions made by the Montrose City Council which will have a positive impact on the community.



Marge Morgenstern. Courtesy photo.

# COMMIT TO CAUCUS...JOIN YOUR DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEIGHBORS TO CAUCUS TUESDAY MARCH 1!

NO FEAR, JUST ISSUES! JOIN THE COLORADO DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS AT 7 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 1:

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: 1100 SOUTH FIFTH STREET,
MONTROSE PRECINCTS 1.2.3.4.6.7.9.12.13.14.17-28
NATURITA COMMUNITY LIBRARY: 107 W 1ST AVE. NATURITA PRECINCTS 5.8.10.15.16
HOME OF SYDNEY SHAW: 78344 BLACK BEAR TRAIL, CRAWFORD PRECINCT 11

## HILLARY? BERNIE? O'MALLEY? UNCOMMITTED? DEMOCRATS HAVE GREAT CHOICES...VOTE!





## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

# OURAY COUNTY EMS OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO GRADUATING SENIORS

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) is accepting applications for their new scholarship program. Starting in 2016, OCEMS will be following suit with many other EMS and Fire Agencies across the nation in offering a scholarship to one or two graduating seniors from the Ouray County School Districts. The scholarship funds will be coming from donations, fund raising, and a potential state grant match. Ouray County EMT-I Glenn Boyd said of the scholarship program: –OCEMS recognizes that Ouray County has amazing students. We also know that the financial demand for higher education is increasing and we want to do what we can to assist the students in furthering their education."

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

- be currently enrolled as a full time student in one of the Ouray County School Districts;
- currently possess senior status as determined by his or her school;
- attend a University, College, or Certification Program within Colorado; and
- obtain two (2) written recommendations with at least one coming from a member of the faculty or staff at the school which he or she attends

Award recipients will be notified at their school's annual award ceremony. Applications can be picked up at both Ouray and Ridgway Schools or downloaded from the Ouray County Website at http://www.ouraycountyco.gov/143/Emergency-Medical-Services. Applications are due April 5, 2016. If a citizen would like to donate to the OCEMS scholarship fund, they may do so by sending a donation marked —Scholarship Fund" to Ouray County EMS, PO Box 572, Ouray Colorado 81427 or drop it off at the EMS office at the Ouray County Courthouse, located at 541 4th Street in Ouray.

# SWEETHEART DINNER FEB. 13 A BENEFIT FOR TENDER HEARTS CHILD CARE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-There will be a Sweetheart Dinner Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at the New Life Church ,15 W. Main St., from 6 PM - 9 PM.

- Live Music by The Six Street Band
- Food provided by Tami Boggan
- Prize drawings & Silent Auction

Please join us for a fun-filled night of dinner, music, silent auction and prizes! This will be a fundraiser for the purchase and installation of a state of the art security system for our center. This system will include indoor & outdoor cameras. A monitoring center with remote access, a building intercom system with speakers. This system will assist us as we strive to provide the safest environment possible for our children, families and staff. For more information call: 615-7227 or 596-7815.



## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### MOUNTAIN VILLAGE ACHIEVES 22 PERCENT REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS

*Special to the Mirror* 

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE- In 2009, Mountain Village adopted the State of Colorado's Climate Action Plan goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government operations 20 percent by the year 2020. To reach this ambitious goal, the town implemented a long list of efficiency and conservation projects in all government buildings and facilities, including the gondola, where all lights were upgraded to LEDs. This project alone reduced the electricity used for gondola lighting by 70 percent and carbon emissions by 100 tons annually. By 2015, Mountain Village achieved a 22 percent reduction in emissions, five years ahead of schedule. **GREEN GONDOLA PROJECT** 

Opened in December 1996, the gondola that operates between autown" (Mount

that operates between —uptown" (Mountain Village) and —downtown" (Telluride) is, as conceived, a green-leaning machine: by

hauling roughly 2.5 million passengers each year for free, it keeps cars off the road and prevents an estimated 45,000 tons of carbon dioxide in vehicle emissions from entering the environment annually. (The drive between Mountain Village and Telluride is eight miles.)

What's more, the gondola's very existence is in keeping with the vision of the founders that Mountain Village, incorporated in 1995, one day becomes a pedestrian-friendly community where guests can leave their cars behind and access the surrounding mountains by a free and environmentally-friendly public transportation system.

—The gondola is an integral part of the Mountain Village lifestyle," explained Deanna Drew, Mountain Village's environmental services director. —It deserves to be as green as possible."

But the gondola, a solution, also became

part of the problem: it takes energy a lot of energy – approximately two million kilowatt hours of electricity a year or nearly half of the Mountain Village government's total electricity demands – to run the popular people-moving machine.

Enter the Green Gondola Project, which for the past four years has further assisted with the reduction of emissions from the gondola as it allowed the town to raise money through online donations, collection boxes at terminals, and other programs to offset the large amount of electricity that is needed to power the gondola with alternative energy sources.

To date, funds collected through the Green Gondola Project have opened the door for significant solar panel installation on gondola terminals: 160 solar panels at Station St. Sophia and Station Village Parking, bringing the total amount of clean green energy generated annually by the sun to about 60,000 kilowatt hours. Count the zeroes: that's a significant amount of electricity.

So with the Green Gondola Project's success, the need for public donations comes to an end; the project has served its environmental purpose well. Mountain Village is now using town funds collected from its green building program and miscellaneous energy rebates and grants to pay for the installation of additional solar panels throughout town. Of course, these efforts will continue to drive Mountain Village's 22 percent reduction in emissions northward. Mountain Village town continues to offset 100 percent of the gondola's remaining traditional electricity needs with renewable energy Green Blocks purchased from its electricity provider and partner, San Miguel Power Association.

While no doubt central to the overall plan, the Green Gondola Project is not the whole sustainable story. Other Mountain Village environmental programs include a residential and commercial rooftop solar rebate program; Relight Mountain Village, a highly subsidized program designed to encourage property owners to replace inefficient light bulbs with LEDS; a community noxious weed control incentive program; water conservation incentive program; and a new wildfire mitigation incentive program with the Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association and Telluride Fire Protection District as partners.

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS: RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS IN 2015

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON, DC--More than 305 million people visited national parks in 2015, eclipsing the all-time visitation record that the National Park Service saw in the previous year. The unofficial visitation numbers for 2015 were announced by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, as the National Park Service (NPS) is celebrating its centennial year.

The increasing popularity of our national parks comes as we are actively reaching out to new audiences and inviting them to explore the depth and breadth of the national park system," Jarvis said. The 409 parks we care for preserve natural, cultural and historic landscapes across 84 million acres in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories, and they tell stories that reflect the great diversity of our nation."

Record visitation tests the capacity of the park system and challenges parks to continue to provide great experiences for all visitors. Jarvis said park managers are adjusting to make sure they have sufficient staff to provide interpretive programs, answer visitor questions, respond to emergencies and to keep restrooms, campgrounds and other facilities clean.

Park visitors can plan their trips to avoid peak crowds by visiting the most popular parks in spring and fall and by visiting early in the morning or later in the day. Visitors can also take advantage of shuttles and walking trails at some parks, includ-

ing <u>Yosemite</u> and <u>Glacier</u> and <u>Acadia</u> national parks. Even with record breaking visitation, visitors can still find quiet places in the parks for those willing to seek them out," Jarvis said. Ecan take you to

Thanks for reading the

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Yosemite Valley on the Fourth of July and within five minutes get you to a place where you are all alone."

Much of the increase in national park visitation is the result of the National Park Foundation's —Find Your Park" media campaign. The campaign has sparked interest from travelers and also from communities near national parks, state tourism agencies and Congress. In late December 2015, Congress approved a nine percent funding increase for the National Park Service, which will help the agency continue to provide excellent visitor services as visitation increases.

—The increase in Congressional appropriations comes at a critical time for the National Park Service and will help us to serve the growing number of visitors," Jarvis said. —We look forward to continuing to work with Congress as it considers additional legislation in support of the

National Park Service Centennial, which would further improve the national parks by encouraging philanthropy and volunteerism, while also allowing us to improve visitor services and connect with a new generation of national park visitors." By the Numbers: Unofficially, the NPS recorded more than 305 million visits during 2015. That is an increase of more than 12 million visits, and more than four percent, over the 2014 figure of 292.8 million visits.

About 365 of 409 parks in the national park system record visitation numbers. The NPS has recorded more than 13 billion visits to parks since park managers began counting visitors in 1904, some 12 years before the NPS was created.

Official statistics including the mostvisited parks of the national park system and the most-visited national parks will be released in late February.



# Women's Heart Talk

### Wednesday, February 10 at Montrose Pavilion

From 5:30-6:30 p.m. No RSVP required. Enjoy refreshments and meet the experts after the talk from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Come to this free event for a "heart to heart" with Montrose Memorial Hospital's expert Cardiology care providers!

No RSVP required.

### Including

- Dr. Riley Foreman
- Dr. David S. Lee
- Dr. Matthew Smolin
- Judith Collins, Nurse Practitioner



## FEBRUARY DEATH NOTICES

Mr. Milton W. Trumble, 76, passed away at Montrose Memorial Hospital on Sunday, January 24, 2016. Funeral arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

Mr. Greg Ball, 55, passed away at Colorow Care Center in Olathe on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. Funeral arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

Mrs. Lois Imogene Murray, 90, passed away at Heidi's Chateau in Montrose Thursday, January 28, 2016. Funeral arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

Mr. Ronald J. Slaugh, 69, passed away at San Juan Living Center in Montrose Friday January 29, 2016. Funeral arrangements are pending with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, (970) 240-9870.

THE MIRROR Welcomes Community

Death Notices and Obituaries free of charge.

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## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### MONTROSE YOUTH COMPETITIVE BASEBALL LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2016 DATES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE –The Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League, a program through the Office of the City Manager, is pleased to announce the 2016 season key dates. Players, ages nine to fourteen who seek the opportunity to play competitively in a regionally traveling league are invited to attend player evaluations. Travel is required at the competitive level. Teams will travel to Gunnison, Telluride, Nucla/Naturita, Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, Paonia, and possibly further, depending on age and division of participation. Some week-day travel is required.

## Changing the Game in Western Colorado, Annual Event

The annual event, featuring national author/speaker John O' Sullivan is slated forFebruary 12 at the Montrose Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fellow panelists Michael Freitag, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Bynum, and Dirk Johnson will join O' Sullivan at 4 pm for a panel discussion. The event is open to parents, coaches, league coordinators and athletes of all sports, across Western Colorado. Visit: http://

www.cityofmontrose.org/607/Upcoming-Events for more information.

### Registration

Baseball registration will begin April 1 and end April 25 at player evaluations. Forms will be available online, beginning April 1. Visit <a href="http://www.cityofmontrose.org/592/Youth-Competitive-Baseball">http://www.cityofmontrose.org/592/Youth-Competitive-Baseball</a> to access those forms.

The registration fee is \$95 per player and is due prior to a player's evaluation.

### **Player Evaluations**

Player evaluations will begin April 23 at 10 a.m. at the Sunset Mesa Sports Com-

plex. Players will complete drills designed for coaches to assess player skills and interactions and are scored anonymously. For athletes unable to attend the evaluation on Saturday April 23, a makeup date is scheduled April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the sports complex.

If a player is not recommended for team placement in the league due to adequate safety concerns, the registration fee will be refunded in full. Registration does not guarantee participation in the competitive league. All decisions are final.

#### **Team Draft**

Coaches will conduct the team drafts on Tuesday April 26 at 6 p.m. and teams will be announced Wednesday April 27. More information on the location and requirements will be published at a later date.

#### **Practices**

Practices will begin Thursday April 28 following team announcements. Most teams practice two days per week in the pre-season with between two and four games scheduled each week during the regular season.

#### **Opening Day**

Opening day is scheduled Saturday, May 14.

### 2016 Season Tournament

The league end-of-season tournament will be held the weekend of June 24.

### **Coaches and Umpires**

For those interested in coaching, please contact program coordinator Erica Weeks ateweeks@ci.montrose.co.us or (970) 497-8525 no later than March 11. Coaches must pass a background test and attend all mandatory meetings upon for consideration. Mandatory meeting dates will be

announced at a later date.

Those interested in umpiring should complete the seasonal hiring application that will be published on the City website and in the Montrose Daily Press in February 2016. Umpires are hired through a competitive process and are also subject to background reviews prior to employment.

For information about the Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League including birthday cutoffs, or the 2016 Changing the Game Event on February 12, call (970) 497-8525.

email <a href="mailto:eweeks@ci.montrose.co.us">eweeks@ci.montrose.co.us</a>, or visit: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> MontroseYouthBaseball.

## About the Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League

The Montrose Youth Competitive Baseball League provides competitive programming for youths ages nine to fourteen with a focus on developing athleticism and skillsets, as well as teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play, integrity, and a community mindset. Information on the league, events, camps, and tournaments, may be found by visiting Cityofmontrose.org/baseball, following the program on Facebook at facebook.com/MontroseYouthBaseball, calling (970) 497-8525, or emailingeweeks@ci.montrose.co.us.

### **About the City of Montrose**

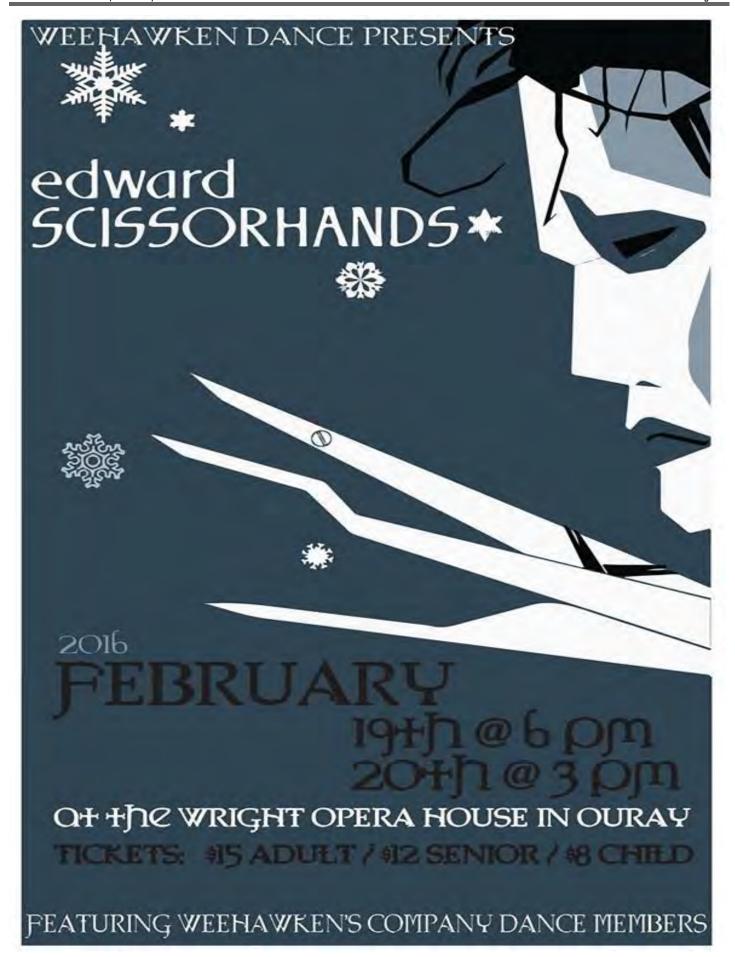
For information about the City of Montrose, visit <a href="www.CityofMontrose.org">www.CityofMontrose.org</a>. Follow the city on Facebook (<a href="facebook.com/CityofMontroseCO">facebook.com/CityofMontroseCO</a>) and Twitter (<a href="@montrosegov">@montrosegov</a>). City Hall is located at 433 South First Street in downtown Montrose and may be reached at <a href="mailto:(970) 240-1400">(970) 240-1400</a>. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.



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## "IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION: TALK TO THE KIDS"

### MHS OFFICIALS WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESS TO IMPROVE STUDENT OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR



Montrose High School is in the middle of town and all but first semester Freshmen may leave over the lunch hour. Safeway officials say that they have greatly improved student behavior in the store during the lunch hour by talking to students and school staff.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Presently, Montrose High School students may leave campus for lunch, with the exception of first-semester members of the freshmen class. While local businesses that see students over the lunch hour have not always been complimentary about their young clients' behavior, in at least one instance the business managers were able to establish a better relationship with students simply by talking to high school staff and to the kids themselves.

The Downtown
Montrose City Market
sees an influx of students each day due to
its location several
blocks from the high
school, and store has
had a —n backpacks"
rule in place for years;
however, officials there
are not able to comment. Montrose Safeway managers do

acknowledge, however, that as a small store, there have been times in the past when the influx of students over the lunch hour has posed challenges.

Hink we've gotten (any behavior issues) under control," Safeway store assistant manager Scott Davison said, noting

that instances of troublesome behavior have become less frequent.

-We showed the students that if there was trouble, they would be hauled up in front of their vice principal," Davison said.
-Most kids now are respectful. And as long as they are their best behavior, it's really more than ok for them to have a little fun in our store."

In cases where more discipline is needed, the Montrose Police Department works with Montrose High School officials.

—They are the ones who largely deal with off campus complaints," Montrose High School Vice Principal James Pavlich said. He also pointed out that Montrose Safeway is the only business that has come in to talk to school administrators about student behavior and how to deal with it.

H's all about communication," Pavlich said.

—We are in the middle of town, and while we have great kids, they are kids. If you have a problem with some of them, talk to the kids. Tell them your expectations for their behavior. They want to do right; when they are asked to do something, they usually listen. In the end, it's about treating others the way you would want to be treated."

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## Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

#### **ONGOING-**

LARK AND SPARROW VENUE-Fridays beginning in February-Every Friday from 4:30 to 7 pm : Sparrow's Social Hour, Live @ 5 ... Music by Local Artists in Sparrow's Library. 7:30 pm : Lark's Skylight Jazz Club. Live Jazz Weekly : The House Blend Combo & Guest Artists. Every Third Friday : Cabaret "Open" Stage.

MONTROSE WINTER FARMERS MARKET 10 am - 1pm Beginning Saturday Jan. 2, 2015

Location: Behind Straw Hat Farm Kitchen Store

5/14 S. 1st Street (Every other week through April 23) January 2, 16, 31; February 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9, 23.

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.

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.

#### **MONTHLY-**

- Feb. 1-DMEA Morning Buzz 6:45 to 8 a.m. at Coffee Trader, 845 East Main St.
- Feb. 2-DMEA Morning Buzz 6:45 to 8 a.m. at The Looney Bean. 3480 Wolverine Drive, Montrose.
- Feb. 3-Montrose County Historical Society Presents is hosting the program "Using the Montrose Library Resources to Conduct Historical Research," on Feb. 3rd in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd Street, at 7 pm. Montrose Library District Head Reference Librarian, Tania Hajjar, and Assistant Reference Librarian, Sara Rinne will demonstrate techniques and share resources available locally to find and access diverse information. Free admission and public welcome. For more information call 323-6466.
- Feb. 4-Validation Method & Dementia-Learning to Communicate Better. Presentation by Brandi Garcia of Volunteers of America. 12:45 to 1: 30 p.m., Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive. For information call Erin Berge at 970-275-1220.
- Feb. 5-7 Snowscape 2016: "Back to the Future." Silverton's annual winter celebration will be a weekend full of fun family entertainment featuring events such as snow golf, night skiing at Kendall Mountain Ski Area, the world famous Cardboard Derby Race, a Kids' Talent Show, and the first annual Dual Slalom Fat Bike Race. During the weekend there will also be bands and Check out <a href="https://www.silverton.co.us">www.silverton.co.us</a> or Events in Silverton on Facebook for more information.
- Feb. 5-Free Family Law Day, Seventh Judicial District, for people representing themselves in family law court proceedings. The event will offer services including legal advice, mediation and parenting education free of charge to self-represented parties involved in domestic relations cases. To attend parenting classes, obtain legal advice, or seek mediation service must register before Jan. 29, 2016, by call 970-642-8330.
- Feb. 6-Silverton Whiteout Fat Tire Bike Race! Come check out the Second Annual Whiteout Fat Tire Bike Race. These fun bikes trek through the snow-covered course for 10 hours to see who can outlast, outpace, and come in first. Check outwww.silvertonwhiteout.com for more info and to register.
- Feb. 6-The public is invited to the First Annual Variety Extravaganza at the Montrose Pavilion on Saturday, Feb. 6th from 3-5 pm. This family-friendly event features magician Ty Gallenbeck, and fire dancing, aerial acrobatics, and an LED light show by Lumina Entertainment of Denver. Free tickets are available at Alpine Bank. Though the event is free, tickets are required, and are available at both Alpine Bank locations (2770 Alpine Drive and 1400 E Main Street).
- Feb. 6-Rev for Kev, Taco Del Gnar in Ridgway. 3 to 8:30 p.m. Fundraiser for Kevin Vernon.
- Feb. 11-12-The Sixth Annual Western Slope Soil Health Conference will be held at the Delta Center for Performing Arts, located at 822 Grand Avenue in Delta. Nationally renowned speakers Gabe Brown and Jay Fuhrer will highlight the 2016 conference. The conference will feature a mixture of keynote speakers, 2015 local cover crop date and testing information, as well as breakout sessions. This conference is the premier area educational event designed to educate producers, or chardists, ranchers, government officials, and the broad community about ways to increase organic matter and increase the health of our soils by using cover crop, green manure, grazing, composting, entomology and other sustainable practices. For more information please visit www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.com or call DCED at 970-874-4992.
- Feb. 12-Author John O'Sullivan to speak on youth sports, "Changing the Game," from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion.
- Feb. 13-Art Show at the Lark & Sparrow venue (511 East Main St.), to feature artist Linda Nadel. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet the Artist reception 2 to 4 p.m. For info call 970-615-7277.
- Feb. 13-14--Seventh Annual Silverton Skijoring. Horses and riders pull skiers in a race up Notorious Blair Street in the Wildest Winter Event in the West. For more information check out www.silvertonskijoring.com or Events in Silverton on Facebook.
- Feb. 13-Valentine's Concert at the Lark and Sparrow Venue (511 East Main St.) with Josefina Mendez. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information visit <a href="https://thelarknsparrow.com/events">https://thelarknsparrow.com/events</a>.
- Feb. 13" Sweetheart Dinner Saturday, fundraiser for Tender Hearts Child Care, New Life Church 15 W. Main St. 6 PM 9 PM. Live Music by The Six Street Band; Food provided by Tami Boggan; Prize drawings & Silent Auction. Please join us for a fun-filled night of dinner, music, silent auction and prizes! For more information call: 615-7227 or 596-7815.
- Feb. 14-Valentines Day Brunch at Garrett Estate Cellars Winery, Sunday Feb. 14 from 10:30 am-2 pm. \$40 per person. Call Michele for details and reservations 970-596-4346.
- Feb. 14-1st Annual Flurries & Flames Lantern Festival. Join us for the inaugural Lantern Festival at Kendall Mountain Recreation Area for this beautiful evening event. Buy a biodegradable lantern to send your wishes up into the sky. Lanterns can be purchased ahead for \$10, or \$15 the night of the event. Check out <a href="www.silverton.co.us">www.silverton.co.us</a> or Events in Silverton on Facebook for more information.
- Feb. 16-Validation Method & Dementia-Learning to Communicate Better. Presentation by Brandi Garcia of Volunteers of America. Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning Building at 300 North Cascade. 4 to 5 p.m. For information call Erin Berge at 970-275-1220.
- Feb. 19-Weehawken Dance presents Edward Scissorhands, at the Wright Opera House in Ouray at 6 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15, for students \$12, and for children \$8.
- Feb. 20-Montrose County Historical Society and Museum Fifth Annual Pioneer Social. Featuring the Flowers family. For info call 970-249-2085.
- Feb. 20- Weehawken Dance presents Edward Scissorhands, at the Wright Opera House in Ouray at 3 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15, for students \$12, and for children \$8.
- Feb. 27-March 5-Gallery 88.1 Art Interplay. Gallery 88.1 Art Interplay exhibition will involve more than 70 regional artists, artisans and musicians representing the best of Grand Valley with art, music, food, wine and spirits. Each day of the exhibition will be a unique experience and interplay. For a complete schedule visit the event pages at the KAFM Community Radio website at <a href="www.kafmradio.org">www.kafmradio.org</a>. The event will be held on the lower floor of the KAFM Community Radio building at 1310 Ute Avenue in Grand Junction. Contact Brian Gregor at (970)241-8801, extension 0 for more information about the Gallery 88.1 ArtInterplay event.
- Feb. 27-Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, Feb. 27 from 6:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be Feb. 3-6 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws will also be available on February 1 at the American Legion Hall in Olathe, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on January 30 in Ridgway, at the 4-H Events Center from 7-10 a.m.Appointments for ALL three locations must be made for the Early Blood Draws. Appointments can be made at <a href="https://www.MontroseHospital.com">www.MontroseHospital.com</a> January 17-27th or by calling 1-888-592-6255 January 18 and 19 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm. Appointments are not necessary on the day of the Health Fair.



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