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Issue No. 167 April 25 2016

YOUNG VANDALS TORCH DUGOUT AT COLUMBINE!



The dugout at Columbine Field suffered significant damage at the hands of vandals in early March. In April the vandalism escalated to arson when the dugout was burned to the ground.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-In early March three middle-school aged males were caught in the act of vandalizing one of the dugouts located at the southern end of Columbine Field. The students ducked behind the structure before running full vandals in flight, was filed with the Montrose Police Department.

profiles of

the young

In the ensuing weeks vandals, either these same young men or others, were determined to destroy the dugout and continued to chip away at the facility. During the week of April 11th the vandal's behavior escalated to arson and the dugout was burned to the ground.

With softball season upon us it is a sad commentary that youth would destroy facilities that were built to give them and their peers a place to practice and learn athletic disciplines. The loss to the community goes beyond a financial loss — this senseless demolition strikes at the heart of volunteers, donors, sponsors, and coaches.

Vandals hide behind anonymity and their destructive behavior cannot be stopped unless they are exposed. While there is an ongoing police investigation, parents in the community can talk to their own children and help with the investigation by giving tips and leads to investigators. Information on this crime can be given to Montrose PD Commander Gene Lillard, 970-252-5257.

FINAL DRAFT OF US 550 ACCESS CONTROL PLAN PRESENTED TO BOCC, CITIZENS QUESTION SAFETY, COST

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A healthy crowd attended the meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners on Monday, April 18, to hear Michelle Hansen of Stolfus & Associates present the final draft of the US 550 Access Control Plan. "This is the culmination of several months of work," County Engineer Dean Cooper informed the BOCC and the public. "We are looking at how to consolidate access; we have gone through an exhaustive public process."

BOCC Chair Glen Davis commended the effort and the speed at which the plan has come together. "We hired a private firm," he said, "because we did not want citizens thinking that the County was writing its own plan. And as elected officials, we did not attend the public meetings so that feedback would be more in line with what the people are thinking."

Commissioner David White pointed out that safety improvements are needed in the area regardless of the recent permitting of the Uncompany Gravel Pit. "We came to you in



Montrose resident Wayne Quade spoke to the BOCC about the importance of supporting earth day and conservation efforts on April 18.

Continued on page 5

in this	Gail Marvel's	Conversations On Our	Attorney Slams Council	Local stories,
	Cruisin' in Style! (2)	City Parks (19)	For Police Shooting (3)	Local photos!

Regional events Calendar!



COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: GLENN MARTINSON!



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-It was in the classified ads of *Wheels and Deals* that Glenn Martinson found his 1957 Chevy Bel Air.

Glenn, who has owned the car for a little more than five years, picked up the vehicle in Omaha, Nebraska. He said, "I searched for it for about a year. I'm the second owner and I have the original title from the first owner." The four-door sedan is Sierra Gold with a 283-cubic-inch engine, power glide automatic transmission and 79,000 original miles. With the exception of spinner hubcaps and the add-on Continental package (external mounted spare tire behind the trunk), the car is all original. Glenn considered re-painting, but chose rather to just treat and protect areas where metal was beginning to show through. Since the age of five Glenn has been infatuated with the 1957 Chevy, "I was with my parents and we were stopped at a stop light. All I can remember was seeing red and white, bullets on the hood and fins... and I wanted one!"

Glenn, a member of the Black Canyon Classics, doesn't simply keep his car as a collectable, "I drive my car a lot...right now it's my primary car."

Watch for more of Gail's Cruisin' in Style series...in the Mirror and in Publisher Janine Bush's new Western Weekend Blast on Fridays! Be sure to find the <u>Western Weekend Blast on Facebook for regular updates!</u> To reach the Mirror contact us at 970-275-0646 or via email at editor@montrosemirror.com



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CAREY SLAMS COUNCIL FOR 'UNACCEPTABLE' SHOOTING OF DOG IN DENSELY POPULATED NEIGHBORHOOD



German Shepherd dogs and children mingle at the peaceful memory walk for Zeus on April 19. Zeus's owner to City Council last week to request a dog park with a water feature and fence, and an MPD K9 unit.

Mirror Staff Report MONTROSE-The voice recording from a horrified witness, played during City Council's public comment time by local business owner and resident Lynn Whipple, was chilling, and the strong statement read by longtime local attorney Peggy Carey (sidebar) brought a hush upon the room. When the owner of an avalanche trained German Shepherd dog killed by local police for being at large spoke before the Montrose City Council on April 19, however, newly chosen Mayor Rex Swanson tersely informed him that he was being timed and had one minute remaining to speak.

The citizens were speaking of an incident that had generated great controversy in recent weeks—the triple shooting, on the steps of a local business, of a dog whose owner had dropped the leash to lift a heavy object. The off-duty Montrose police officer has not been named, and the dog's owner, Chris Larsen had approached Council to announce that he did not intend to sue the City.

An emotional Larsen acknowledged his

own mistake in letting go of his pet Zeus' leash on April 4, and apologized for any hasty comments made in the wake of the shooting. "I do not wish to be incendiary...thank you for your service," Larsen said. "I know that as police officers you have zero wiggle room and have to be pragmatic all of the time."

After stating that he does not intend to file a lawsuit, Larsen noted that City officials had promised to replace his dog with one of similar lineage, create a K9 unit within the police department, and asked for fenced dog park areas within the city with water features, where well-behaved pets can run off leash. In addition, "We need the Montrose Police Department to be thoroughly trained to deal with dogs, especially the ones considered dangerous," he said.

Lynn Whipple, who has raced sled dogs for 30 years, expressed concern that the shooting took place in a mixed-use residential area in the heart of Downtown. Noting that the

Continued on page 14



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SENIOR COMMUNITY CARE PACE PROGRAM REACHES 300 PARTICIPANTS MILESTONE!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL– Senior CommUnity Care, a Volunteers of America program, has reached a milestone in serving 300 participants in its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

The PACE program model is centered on the belief that the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs are better served by providing health care and supportive services that enable them to remain living in their home whenever possible.

In Western Colorado, Senior CommUnity Care PACE has three day center locations in their service area - Montrose, Eckert, and Paonia.

The day center is a physical location where medical, recreational, social and other support services are provided to participants in addition to serving a nutritious meal.

"Last November it became clear that we were potentially going to be serving this many participants," Tai Blair, Senior CommUnity Care marketing manager said. "Originally, the program was only supposed to have some 60 participants between both Montrose and Delta Counties. We have helped over 700 people since its inception in 2008 and it was an exciting number to shoot for."

Reaching this milestone has clearly demonstrated a need for services in Montrose and Delta Counties.

"The PACE program provides healthcare, in-home support, and managed care services," Blair said.

"The model is definitely innovative and reaching this number shows that individuals in our service areas are seeing the benefits and responding."

The community at large is impacted by the program in that most of the participants enrolled in the PACE program will remain out of nursing homes and instead will stay independent in their homes.

Senior CommUnity Care Executive Director, Cindy Simmers agrees. "This healthcare model is a definite success for rural Colorado. The PACE program allows our area's farmers and ranchers to remain living in the homes they have occupied their entire lifetime. The integrated PACE model is the way of the future for healthcare."

Other benefits to the general public include overall savings to health insurance and reimbursement providers.

"PACE's innovative approach to healthcare also means that our insurance and health-payment systems see a cost savings while quality of care is provided to those enrolled," Blair said.

"Our model of interdisciplinary preventative care helps to prevent hospital readmissions, emergency room visits, and other costly emergency medical treatments."

PACE serves individuals who are age 55 or older, certified by their state to need nursing home care, are able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment, and live in a PACE service area. For more information about Senior CommUnity Care, visit

www.seniorcommunitycare.org

Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror! Fresh news for busy people! Call 970-275-0646 for ad rates and information! Email us at editor@montrosemirror.com.



FINAL DRAFT OF US 550 ACCESS CONTROL PLAN From page 1

January with the initial presentation," Hansen said. "Today we will review the access control plan and will what will be required of the County and of CDOT."

Access to state highways is already controlled, she said, requiring intergovernmental agreements between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and local agencies. "This is a living document, a vision of what our highway system will look like with the growth and change in the area," Hansen said. "Working with the County allows us to look at local land use and the local street system and topography.

"This will be a really nice tool for planning and development in your county."

As traffic grows in years to come, the long term vision for Highway 550 South is to have four lanes of traffic and potential signalization at Uncompahyre Road. "Ultimately we recommend a connection between Government Springs Road and Uncompahyre Road," Hansen said. "Today we are proposing that access on the West Side match the ultimate plan, with access points closed." The present access to 550 from Government Springs Road could be closed, she said.

East side access will see no interim changes, though changes could be triggered by such things as adjacent redevelopment and safety and operational conditions. Cooper said that trigger points could become moot in the event that the County chooses to restrict access, which it could do at any time."

Among local citizens commenting on the plan were Roger Brown and Kathy Borinski.

"Who pays for what and how much do they pay?" Brown asked. "Listening to the lady's presentation, payers are the gravel pit, CDOT and county.

"It's not clear to me what the financial estimates are to this over time, and what the budget for the entire project is if it goes through 2035. There are three potential payers and triggers for project components."

Cooper responded to Brown's query at Commissioner Davis' request: "There is no way to predict exact future needs," Cooper said. "In the interim, gravel pit access permit costs are one hundred percent the responsibility of the applicant. No County dollars have been expended relative to their access permit."

Funding is also available to cover any related expenses incurred by the County through what Cooper called "the spoils of war;" or monies remaining from the bond paid by the developers of the defunct Cornerstone development.

Borinski, who suggested the frontage road in the area be paved, told commissioners she believes that what is proposed in the US 550 access control plan is extremely dangerous. "You are going to add more trucks, there is no signal and no speed reduction," she said. "There are not even any warning lights to show trucks are entering the highway.

"I think it is going to be very dangerous to the people driving 550," she said. "Unless an accident pattern develops you won't change anything...you want accidents to happen before any changes? "I am very upset by this."

The new gravel pit will not make or break the highway, asserted Commissioner Davis.

"I can't see what more the County could have done," he said. "...at this point you have access from Government Springs Road, and in all probability the feeder street will be paved. We will do everything in our power to protect you...we are doing the best job we can with our engineering firm, CDOT, and our County planners." Hansen said that the next steps will be to finalize documentation including the traffic and access study, with a meeting to adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement (now in review) May 2.



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JIM ELDER TO SEEK RE-ELECTION TO DMEA BOARD!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Montrose business owner, Jim Elder, has announced his candidacy for the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) District 4 DMEA board seat.

"For the past three years since I was first elected to the DMEA Board, we have made great strides to bring this co-op to the fore-front," Elder said and went on to explain that, "As a small business owner with experience in engineering and finance I have been an asset representing the members at DMEA by being fiscally responsible to the member-owners. I understand budgets, balance sheets and business operations."

Since serving on the board, Elder has been involved in replacing the CEO, replacing the CFO, rebuilding the organizational structure, improving customer service, challenging our power supplier by filing a petition to FERC, and taking on the task of providing broadband fiber to every member. Elder is president of Elderado Financial, a fiduciary financial advisory firm he founded in 1998 and relocated to Montrose along with his family in 2001. The firm specializes in investment management and financial planning whose clients consist of individuals, trusts and businesses throughout the nation.

DMEA Board Member Jim Elder is seeking re-election. Courtesy photo.

Working the land and farming has been an interest for the Elder's over the years, and as a result, they purchased a 30 acre farm in Montrose County. This experience has given Elder a greater understanding of the agricultural community challenges, and he will work for lower electrical rates that are "crucial" and promote a diversified energy policy for this important community.

"It's Your Money & Your Future" explains Jim Elder and asks you to keep that in mind as you vote for your District 4 representative. Elder welcomes member suggestions and questions, 970-249-9900 and or email jim@elderadofinancial.com



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Meet the Candidates for DMEA's Board

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Tuesday, May 17, 2016 (6 - 7pm) DMEA Headquarters

11925 6300 Road, Montrose (light refreshments served)

Thursday, May 19, 2015 (6 - 7pm)

Hotchkiss Senior Center

276 E. Main Street (light refreshments served)



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MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OFFERS FREE CONTROLLERS FOR HEAT TRACE SYSTEMS

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE-The Town of Mountain Village wants its residents to take control of their roof and gutter heat trace system. So the town is funding a new incentive program aimed at improving the safety and efficiency of heat trace systems commonly applied on roofs and gutters by offering a free system controller valued at \$380.

"These systems are heating elements that are applied to gutters, valleys and eaves of roofs to prevent ice damage," explained Building Official Randy Kee. "Although they get the job done more times than not, these types of systems often run when they aren't needed, thereby wasting electricity. We want to create a safer, more efficient system with a state-of-the-art electrical controller."

To take advantage of this free offering, Mountain Village residents will need to follow a few steps. First, a resident will need to hire a Colorado-licensed electrical contractor to inspect their heat trace system. Second, the resident will need to ask their contractor to email the heat trace inspection report with suggested improvements to them and to Kee. Third, Kee will review the report and contact the resident if it is determined that their home, based on the report's findings, would benefit from improved controls. If it does, the town will offer one free controller for the electrical contractor to install. The final step: enjoy the savings.

According to Kee, using an estimated 25 amps and 230 volts supplying a heat trace system on a home without controls from November to March may cost a resident approximately \$2,277 per zone. He said often a home has at least two zones. With the use of controls and a properly installed system, a resident may save 30- to 50-percent of electricity costs per winter, weather dependent.

The \$12,000 Heat Trace Incentive Program is open until funds are exhausted. For more information, contact Kee at <u>rkee@mtnvillage.org</u> or 970.369.8246 and visit <u>https://townofmountainvillage.com/</u> <u>residents/incentive-programs/heat-trace-</u> <u>incentive-program/</u>. This program is part of the town's larger environmental incentive program, which in 2016 includes four others, as a means for Mountain Village residents to

make lifestyle and environmental changes in order to help them save in so many ways.



MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION AWARD WINNERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose High School students left to right: Austin Richardson, Omar Martinez, Nadia Pieczarka, Madisen Schram, Abbey Heide, McKenna Case, Mariah Trujillo, Alex Arellano-Villegas, Jared Burrows, Jessica White, and Kyria Trujillo-Davis.



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WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB: SEEING & SHARING THE WORLD



Above, Brad McMillon presented the program "Adventure Photography" for the Alpine Photography Club at their April Meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Many photographers do not like having their photo taken. Alpine Photography Club (APC) President Betty Fenton said, "Most photographers like to be safely behind the camera and one way to help them come out from behind the camera is to find creative ways to do selfportraits." Not to be confused with selfies.

Founded in 2007, the purpose of APC is "to assemble people who are interested in photography, to provide programs, instruction, education, and gain photographic knowledge." Their current membership is 35, which usually increases as snowbirds migrate back to Montrose. The age demographic of members is between 14-70.

Dues are \$25 for singles, \$35 for a family and \$15 for students. The APC does not have fundraisers, however a couple times in the summer they hold a Saturday event, "Art in the Garden," at the Coffee Trader where members display and sell their work. Members also enter their art in the Montrose County Fair.

According to Betty, community outreach is more on an individual basis, rather than a club basis, "Three members volunteer to do photo sessions at the animal shelter for the cats and dogs. It helps in getting the animals adopted into new homes."

Many photographers have a favorite subject — landscapes, nature, portraits. However, the club gives members an opportunity to try something different at their Meet-Ups (fieldtrips). In late April the group will meet at Recla Metals and Betty said, "It's completely different than photographing landscapes. We'll be looking at



Members of the Alpine Photography Club take a break to visit and go through stacks of giveaway magazines during the April 12th meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.

shapes, sizes and shadows." A previous Meet-Up, titled "Alley Oop," took the group through the alleyways of Montrose.

Meetings for the club last two hours and include announcements, a program, a shared monthly work assignment, and a photo tech tip. Betty said, "Assignments help us develop new skills. We try to have programs that reach the beginner, as well as the professional." The last assignment was to shoot slow shutter photos, which were then uploaded to the computer and shared with the group.

At the April 12 meeting Brad McMillon presented the program, "Adventure Photography," to 20 attendees. Professional photographer McMillon likes to photograph in the moment, "There is no time to set up a tripod. The shot is ephemeral and often the picture is gone before you can get set up." The photos used for this presentation were taken in Ethiopia, Turkey, India, as well as California.

McMillon prefers shooting portraits over landscapes or animals, "I can give you a recipe for still shots. Shoot at the right time in the right light...if you miss the shot one day, come back the next day. There is no soul. It could be a desktop photo or a placemat photo. And birds keep trying to fly away."

As for taking photos of people in foreign countries McMillon said, "I learned a long time ago that you don't ask if you can take their picture because they will say, "no." You just take the picture." He also suggested taking a Polaroid photo and then giving the picture to the person. "They don't know what they look like [in Ethiopia], they don't even have mirrors. The polaroid is a permanent record for them to keep."

For his landscape shots in Ethiopia McMillon used a drone, "When I went through airport security they didn't know what it was, so I said, "It's a camera." They like cameras."

McMillon likes photographing people working, studying, or in a religious setting, "A photo of someone deep in thought... that's the story we're always looking for in a photo. Religious subjects speak to the core of people."

Contact Information: Alpine Photography Club Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. St Mary's Catholic Church (St Paul's Room) 1855 St. Mary's Drive Montrose, CO President Betty Fenton apcmont-

roseco@gmail.com

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Dementia & Parkinson's Education Programs

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Tuesday, April 5 ~ 11:00 am -12:00 pm

Validation Dementia Communication for Caregivers

Validation is a way of caring for and communicating with older adults who are often diagnosed as having Alzheimer's-type dementia. Developed by Naomi Feil, a social worker known throughout North America and Europe for her breakthrough approach to elderly care, Validation promotes empathy on the part of the caregiver, communication to reduce stress and increase happiness, and dignity during the final stages of life. Real life examples will be given as well as information on the stages of Validation classification of dementia symptoms. Presented by Brandi Garcia, memory support director, Valley Manor Care Center.

Tuesday, May 3 ~ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Parkinson's Disease Physical and Voice Therapy Techniques

The LSVT BIG & LOUD therapy program is a standardized exercise approach developed from 20 years of research and has shown documented improvements in balance, trunk rotation, faster walking with bigger steps, as well as speech volume and clarity. The program trains patients to make bigger movements and teaches the amount of effort required to produce normal movements and voice in real world, everyday activities. Learn more about this therapy and how it can help you or a loved one. Presented by Suzie Stramel, Physical Therapist and Christi Masimer, Speech-Language Pathologist, Horizons Healthcare & Retirement Community





ROSE MEMORIAL PARLOUR PLANS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE FOR CREMAINS LEFT BEHIND

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When <u>Rose Memorial Par-</u> <u>lour</u> management took over the 1931 era funeral home facility at 505 South Second Street on Oct. 1, they knew they would be remodeling and restoring a bit of Montrose history. Now, they hope to right some old wrongs as well—specifically with regard to 175 sets of cremains that were found in the basement of the building, including some that date back to the 1940's. The remains have been subject to floods over time, and the building itself has been reported to house intense paranormal activity.

"On Memorial Day, after the Sunlight Mass at Valley Lawn Cemetery, we are going to hold a memorial service," Rose employee Chris Larsen said. "We also intend to publish beforehand the names of the people who will put be to rest—if you believe one of your relatives or loved ones is here, come in, let's do some research, and let's figure this out."

The funeral home, which is connected to the century-old Valley Lawn memorial cemetery, has a long history.

According to a <u>Colorado Funeral Service</u> <u>history compiled in 1997</u>, in 1980, there was a merger of two local funeral services-

-Chapel of Roses and McIntire & Sumner-into Montrose Funeral Home at 505 S. 2nd St. Montrose Valley Funeral Home was purchased by the colorful Frank Tucker in 1987. In April of 2002, Montrose Press Reporter Scott Schwebke reported that Montrose Valley Funeral Home had reached a settlement with the state of Colorado regarding a complaint that Tucker sold pre-need contracts without a license. As a District Attorney for Pitkin County in the 1970's, Tucker was known for prosecuting high profile cases such as Ted Bundy and Claudine Longet. According to the Aspen Times obituary for Tucker in 2006, however, Tucker also had a history of working both sides of the law, with convictions for embezzling and misuse of funds.

A year ago, the phone number to <u>Clark's</u> <u>Valley Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery</u>, 505 South Second Street's most recent tenant, was disconnected, and the business suddenly put up for sale. Montrose Daily Press Reporter Allen Lewis Gerstenecker wrote in April 2015 that Grand Junction attorney Joseph Coleman had secured a public trustee deed for the property.

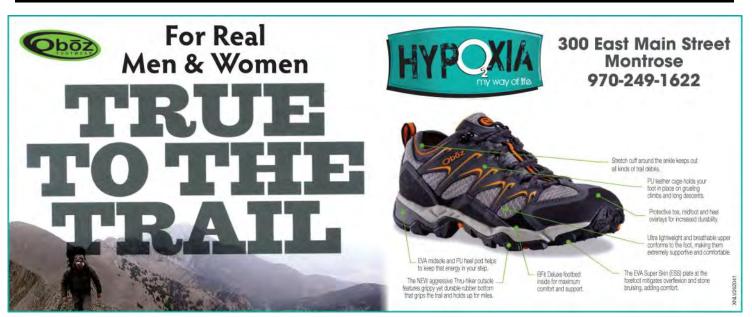
Today, along with justice for those whose remains were left behind in the basement of the building, Rose Memorial Parlour



Valley Lawn Cemetery, where any unclaimed cremains will be laid to rest on Memorial Day.

management plans to provide a true service to more local residents in the form of affordable, honest end of life services. "We will offer all-inclusive funerals for \$2,999," Larsen said, "including the casket. We desire to make an honest living through hard work, dedication, and thrift. There is no need for pressure selling to grieving families. They need closure, and to grieve with dignity." To learn more about the Memorial Day Service or to ask about specific loved ones, call Rose Memorial Parlour at 970-249-4400.

THE MIRROR Welcomes Community Death Notices and Obituaries free of charge. Please send to editor@montrosemirror.com. To reach us call 970-275-0646.



MONTROSE ATTORNEY SLAMS COUNCIL FOR 'UNACCEPTABLE' SHOOTING OF DOG IN MIXED-USE RESIDENTIAL AREA From page 3

officer had approached the dog and stepped on its leash, "The first option of pulling a weapon and shooting to kill three times is unacceptable when it is so near to the front door of a business," she said. An eyewitness at the business was so disturbed that she could not return to work the next day, Whipple said.

"Her first reaction was that the officer had gone ballistic." Whipple then played the recording a hysterical call from a witness at the business on whose front steps Zeus was killed.

"The police department has a tough job," she said. "In small compassionate town they have to make instant decisions. But you don't walk up to a 65 lb. German Shepherd, grab the leash, and then shoot it. I don't want to see this happen to one of my dogs."

Peggy Carey also called the shooting unacceptable, and cited relevant laws and statistics related to the shooting of dogs by police (see sidebar). "The danger to citizens from the shooting is far greater from shooting a dog than it is from the dog itself," she said.

Addressing Council on another subject was Wayne Quade, speaking in support of Earth Day. Quade thanked the City for supporting Earth Day events, and suggested in future that Council consider hosting a central gathering like a community energy fair. "You could also pass a resolution in support of stewardship, conservation, and sustainability," Quade said.

Incoming Čity Čouncilors Judy Ann Files, Dave Bowman and Roy Anderson were sworn in, and outgoing councilors Kathy Ellis and Bob Nicholson effusively thanked.

. Outgoing Mayor David Romero was recognized for his service during 2015-2016. Nicholson, sporting an embroidered City of Montrose shirt, spoke at excruciating length about the accomplishments achieved during his tenure and about his concerns about Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Following a brief recess, Council heard a City Youth Council Report and appointed former alternate Jenna Holyfield to a full seat on the City Youth Council.

College Interns working on the Community Leaders Fellowship project discussed their efforts to analyze the City's fleet data and incorporate renewable energy into the City's fuel budget. Councilor Anderson weighed in with specific questions on the projects, and called the youth council, "amazing."

"I really look forward to working with you," Anderson said.

Council also approved a bid for the purchase of one Ford F150 Super Crew Cab truck for the Police Department Investigation Division and six Ford Explorer Interceptor Utility Vehicles for the Police Department Patrol Division. During his regular public information officer report City



City Manager Bill Bell, with embattled Montrose Police Chief Tom Chinn, attends the peaceful memory walk on behalf of Zeus April 19. Photo by Brad Switzer.

Manager Bell commended local resident Dick Allison, who was recently honored for his community service efforts by Club 20, and discussed the upcoming youth baseball season.

Following Sales, Use & Excise Tax Reports and Public Information Officer Reports the meeting was adjourned.

MONTROSE ATTORNEY PEGGY CAREY'S APRIL 19 STATEMENT TO THE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Romero, council members, Chief Chinn, and audience members:

My name is Peggy Carey, I am an attorney, and the managing member and caretaker for Solas Animal Safe Home, LLC. It is unacceptable for the police to shoot a dog on the streets of Montrose.

I know that this is a highly emotional issue, and I have been repeatedly told that I don't know what happened that day.

I may not know exactly what happened, but I do know what did not happen. What did not happen was good judgment, calm, rational thinking, and safe practices.

Police shoot dogs every 98 minutes in the United States. That is 5,364 dogs per year. Recently a police officer attempting to shoot a dog slipped and shot the dog's owner instead, killing her in front of her 3-year-old son. Another officer attempting to shoot a dog shot and injured a four year old child. This issue is so important that the Colorado legislature pass the Dog Protection Act in 2015, *requiring* that police officers get trained in the use of not lethal force.

I was the victim of a dog attack in Seattle. The officer who responded explained to me that they were trained not to shoot dogs, EV-ER, because the danger to the citizens was far greater than the dog itself, including the risk that a bullet would go through the dog and strike bystanders or the gas tank of nearby vehicles.

I will not belabor all the mistakes this officer made with regard to dogs and dog behavior, I am sure you have been briefed on that. However, the judgment displayed does not meet the minimum standard of safe conduct.

It is unacceptable for the police to shoot a dog on the streets of Montrose.

CANDIDATES SOUGHT TO FILL VACATED DISTRICT A SCHOOL BOARD SEAT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The seat of Board Director of District A has become vacated. Letters of Interest, resumes and answers

to the following questions will be accepted until 4 pm on Friday, April 29, 2016. Why do you want to be on the School

Board? What can you bring to the School Board? What do you see as the biggest issues our School District is facing? How would you help solve these issues? Below are the legal qualifications for director as stated by law: A resident of the school district and a registered voter, as shown on the books of the county clerk and recorder, for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the election; A resident of the director district that they are seeking a seat; 18 years or older by the date of the election; A citizen of the United States

If necessary, the Board will conduct interviews of candidates for the vacancy in

public session of any regular or special meeting, but no later than May 18, 2016.

They anticipate appointing a person to fill the vacancy at the June 14, 2016 Board meeting and such person will serve until the regular school board election to be held in November 2017. Click here to see the map of the Director Districts. Please contact Laurie Laird at (970) 252-7902 or laurie.laird@mcsd.org for further information.

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MONDAYS WITH MISS LEEANN 3:45-4:30 Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5) 4:30-5:15 Pre-Primary Ballet (ages 4-6)

TUESDAYS WITH MISS NATASHA

10:45-11:30 primary ballet (ages 5-8) 11:30-12:15 Tap 1 (ages 6-10) 12:15-1:15 Ballet 1 (ages 8-10) 1:15-2:15 Ballet 2 (ages 10-11) 2:15-2:45 Pre-Pointe (ages 10-12) 2:45-3:30 Tap 2 (ages 11-14) 3:30-4:15 Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5) 4:15-5:45 Ballet 3/4 ballet (ages 12 and up) 5:45-6:15 Pointe (by approval only) 6:15-7:15 Pilates Mat Class

WEDNESDAYS WITH MISS SHAWNA

11-12:00 Kid's Yoga 12:00-1:00 Wee Hip-Hop (ages 4-6) 1:00-2:00 Jazz and Hip-Hop 1 (ages 7-10) 2:00-3:00 Jazz and Hip-Hop 2 (ages 11-13) 3:00-4:30 Ballet 3/4 (ages 12 and up) 4:30-5:30 Jazz and Hip-Hop 3 (ages 14 and up)

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\$10/CLASS (DROP-IN)



CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORDON RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS



Jon Gordon. Courtesy Photo.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Jon Gordon, who has served as the Executive Director for the Center for Mental Health for the past 20 years, has announced his retirement.

Jon was named the Executive Director of the Center for Mental Health in September of 1996.

The Center has thrived under Jon's guidance growing from a small community mental health center to a vital community resource and a strategic partner to many agencies and organizations.

With Jon's desire to take mental health to the people, he has been instrumental in shaping integrated services as the practice model for the optimal delivery of mental health services across our communities. Through Jon, the Center has partnered with and integrated into schools, private healthcare practices, health and human services agencies, school-based health clinics, two federally qualified health centers, and the four jails in the region. Services span the six counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties with clients numbering more than 6,000 each year.

During his tenure, Jon has represented the Center, and mental health in general, at both the State and National levels serving on numerous boards and committees. It has been

Jon's determined advocacy for so many years that has led to many of the benefits that clients of the mental health system currently experience. Under Jon's leadership the Center was ranked the highest performing mental health center in the state of Colorado two different times in 2002 and again in 2006.

Jon has set a vision for the future that will allow the Center for Mental Health to thrive beyond his tenure. His leadership has been extraordinary and because of that leadership, the Center is well positioned for continued success.

Sharron Baldwin, President of the Board of Directors for the Center said, "Jon is a steady and forward thinking leader, understanding how important comprehensive mental health care is. His commitment to mental health care, substance use intervention, and integrated services across the six counties of western Colorado has been motivating to his staff and the board of directors." Of his retirement, Jon states, "It has been my great honor to serve an organization that is so very deeply committed to the well-being and recovery of individuals dealing with mental illness and substance use disorders.

"The staff at the Center are on track to carry these services well into the future. They are dedicated to work to advance the mission, vision, and values of this organization and to continue to serve the region with outstanding behavioral healthcare."

Jon gave the Board of Directors an adequate amount of notice so that they were able to conduct a nationwide search to find the next leader of the organization.

That search has led them to Shelly Spalding who will be joining the Center for Mental Health on July 1st. The Board is excited to have found such a highly qualified candidate to fill the position. The Center, the Board, and the region is privileged to have the experience and talent that Shelly will bring.

Shelly is a proven leader who is very familiar with the mental health system in Colorado and excited to join the Center staff in providing behavioral healthcare to the area.

She comes to the Center from the Chief Executive Officer position at Behavioral Healthcare Inc. in Aurora, Colorado.

Jon will stay on through September to ensure a smooth and successful transition for the new leader.



MONTROSE CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING: EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS OF MONTROSE!



Special to the Mirror MONTROSE-What a great turn out at the ribbon cutting to help Express Employment Professionals of Montrose celebrate their new location, 813 E. Main Street. They offer this community a great service. As one of the top rated staffing companies in the US, Express helps people find jobs and provides workforce solutions to businesses by providing a full range of employment solutions. Thank you to the Redcoats and the amazing staff at **Express Employment Professionals** (Nina, Shannon, Jammie, Laura, Serena, Aaron and Angelina).

Don't forget...watch for Janine Bush's Western Weekend Fun Blast every Friday! Email her with your events and ad needs at at j9publishing@gmail.com!



PARK HERE! CONVERSATIONS ON CITY PARKS: BUCKHORN LAKES AND CERRO SUMMIT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-For many years, Montrose's system of public parks has been considered among the crown jewels of the West Central region. However, of the roughly 26 parks that fall under City of Montrose control, two are located some distance from town; Cerro Summit, and Buckhorn Lakes.

Buckhorn Lakes became a local park in 1916, a gift created through an act of congress during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson and cannot be sold. And though City Manager Bill Bell sought to make money through logging at Buckhorn Lakes <u>has considered adding a camp</u> <u>host, putting in utilities and imposing a fee</u> <u>for park use</u>, the area continues to be kept in a primitive condition. "The park is either slightly neglected by the city, or the city is keeping it in a rustic condition," <u>Adventure</u> <u>Hounds blogger Dorothy McDaniel</u> wrote in 2015.

"If that is the case, the city is doing a mighty fine job. Plus, the park doesn't appear to get a whole lot of use. As you might expect, since we drove up on a weekday, we only came across a couple of others. There are picnic tables and primitive campsites here and there."

Buckhorn Lakes includes two natural lakes, which are regularly stocked for fishing. To reach Buckhorn Lakes, drive 12 miles south of Montrose on Highway 550 and head east 12 miles on Buckhorn Road. The road is challenging, and includes a locked gate 400 yards before it dead ends.

Montrose resident Marge Morgenstern, who served on the former Montrose Parks Advisory Committee from its inception through its disbanding just over a year ago, believes that Buckhorn Lakes should be upgraded to "a point where people can get to it." Because the road crosses the Montrose-Ouray County Line at various points, Ouray County has been designated to provide maintenance. "The road is horrible," Morgenstern said. "But people go up there to camp—there are no restrictions."

There are 12 campsites at Buckhorn Lakes, but vandalism has been a recurrent problem in the park due to its remote location and lack of oversight. Former Parks Advisory Council Gary Davis, who has researched the history of the park, said that the remote location does appeal to many, however. "It is something for people who want a nice, peaceful, quiet place," he said. <u>Cerro Summit</u>, located 14 miles from Montrose, has been a well-known, very well-used asset for many years. The area includes 110 acres which is managed as open space by the City and volunteers. The popularity of Cerro caused concern for former owner Ken Sanburg in the '50s, Davis said, and the park was sold to the City.

"It's popular for hiking, skiing, sliding, snowboarding, you name it," Morgenstern said.

Cerro Summit also includes a diverse range of multi-use trails for hiking, biking, and running as well as for family walks. Wildlife viewing and birding opportunities also ab



<u>Buckhorn Lakes photo courtesy Dorothy McDaniel of Adventure</u> <u>Hounds Blog.</u>

opportunities also abound, and there are areas of archaeological interest.

Among the volunteer groups who have contributed to the development of the biking trails at Cerro Summit is the Uncompahgre Chapter of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association (COPMOBA).

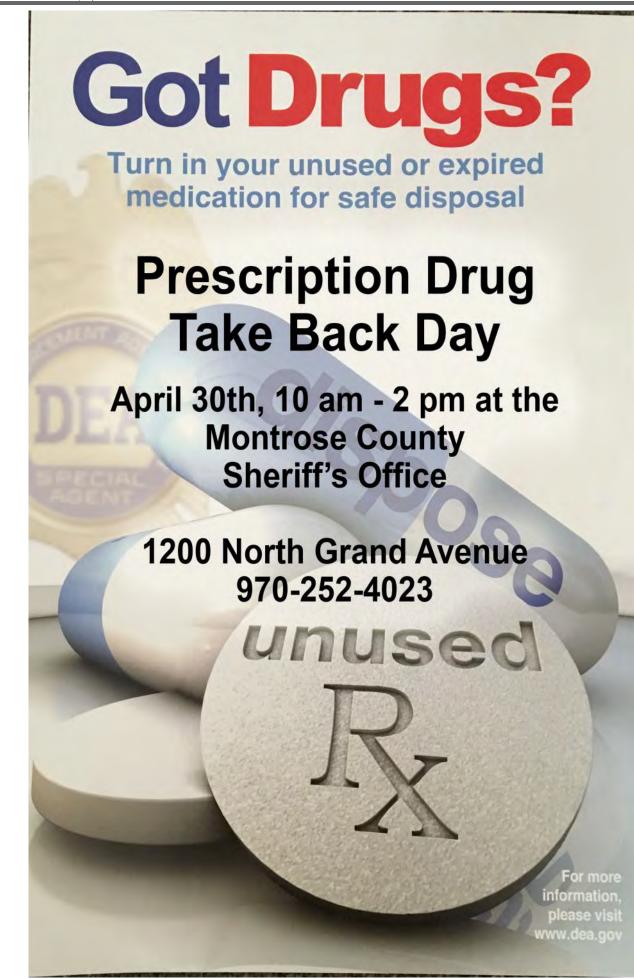
"Cerro has had a lot of improvements because of the bikers," Morgenstern said. Even the many parks located within City limits provide a needed escape, she said. "If I can't go to the hills, a park is second best," she said, "and so many of them have views of the mountains or the river." It also helps to remember that for kids, a one element can make or break a park experience: playground equipment.

"I would like to see more basic kids equipment, things we used to have, like merry go rounds and teeter totters in the parks," Morgenstern said.

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NATIONAL PARK VISITOR SPENDING CONTRIBUTES \$32 BILLION TO ECONOMY Returns \$10 for Every Dollar Invested

Special to the Mirror

ŴASHINGTON – Spending by a record number of national park visitors in 2015 provided a \$32 billion benefit to the nation's economy and supported 295,000 jobs, according to a report released today by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The big picture of national parks and their importance to the economy is clear," Jarvis said of the \$16.9 billion visitors spent in communities within 60 miles of a national park. "Each tax dollar invested in the National Park Service effectively returns \$10 to the U.S. economy because of visitor spending that works through local, state and the U.S. economy.

"This is especially significant news to the gateway communities where national parks can be the community's primary economic engine," Jarvis said. "While we care for the parks and interpret the stories of these iconic natural, cultural and historic landscapes, our neighbors in nearby communities provide our visitors with important services like food and lodging and that means hundreds of thousands of local jobs."

The report comes on the heels of a <u>major policy speech</u> delivered by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell earlier this week. The Secretary called for greater investments in national parks and public lands to prepare for the next century of conservation. The address, delivered during National Park Week, also called for a course correction in conserving America's public lands; made an argument to make our national parks more relevant to an increasingly diverse and urbanized country; and called for implementing smarter, landscape-level planning to support healthy ecosystems and sustainable development on public lands.

Visitor spending in 2015 supported 295,000 jobs, provided \$11.1 billion in labor income, \$18.4 billion in value added, and \$32.0 billion in economic output to the U.S. economy. The lodging sector provided the highest direct contributions with \$5.2 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 52,000 jobs. The restaurants and bars sector provided the next greatest direct contributions with \$3.4 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 65,000 jobs.

According to the 2015 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.1 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.2 percent), gas and oil (11.8 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.8 percent).

The annual peer-reviewed economics report, 2015 National Park Visitor Spending Effects, was prepared by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. It includes information by park and by state on visitor spending, the number of jobs supported by visitor spending and other statistics.

Report authors this year also produced an interactive tool to present data in full color circle and bar graphs. Users can explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage: <u>go.nps.gov/</u><u>yse</u>. National Park visitation is expected to grow again in 2016, the centennial year for the NPS. There are now 411 parks in the national park system, the latest is the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington D.C., established by President Obama on April 12.

President Obama established a Centennial Initiative for the NPS anniversary and Congress is considering a <u>centennial act</u>to support a multi-year effort to invest wisely in the park system's most important assets, use parks to enhance informal learning, engage volunteers, provide training opportunities for youth, and enhance the NPS's ability to leverage partnerships to accomplish its mission. For more state-by-state information about national parks and how the National Park Service is working with communities, go to http://www.nps.gov/[statename], for example: <u>http://www.nps.gov/virginia</u>.

	1	6	5		
	Visitation	Visitor Spending	Jobs Supported	Local Jobs	Total Output
2012	282,765,682	\$14.7 billion	242,712	201,040	\$26.8 billion
2013	273,630,895	\$14.6 billion	237,599	197,343	\$26.5 billion
2014	292,800,082	\$15.7 billion	276,960	235,600	\$29.7 billion
2015	307,247,252	\$16.9 billion	295,339	252,030	\$32 billion

National Park Visitor Spending Contributions to the U.S. Economy 2012-15

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 411 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at <u>www.nps.gov</u>, on Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice</u>, Twitter<u>www.twitter.com/natlparkservice</u>, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.



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RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS RETURNS MAY 16-18

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Please join the Community Resource Center and the Anschutz Family Foundation on May 16-18 for an outreach meeting to learn about the June 2017 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days conference, which serves Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties. Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) is a unique program that brings funders into Colorado's rural areas to discuss community needs with nonprofits and local leaders. RPD began in the early 1990's when CRC discovered that only three percent of the funds granted by Colorado private foundations were awarded outside the Front Range. RPD became the bridge to connect foundations with rural nonprofits and provide a marketplace for networking, building relationships and educating each

other on needs and service for their region. The conference revisits the San Juan region once every four years. The last RPD conference in the region took place in Ouray in 2013.

RPD conferences would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers who serve on the regional steering committees. Planning this event requires a significant time commitment and is a highly rewarding process for dedicated individuals willing to work hard for the benefit of their communities. Steering committees are comprised of nonprofit professionals, business leaders and local government officials. Outreach meetings are a fit for veteran participants as well as those who are new to the process. Learn about how we have streamlined planning and improved the Steering Committee experience. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Rural Philanthropy Days program, would like to learn about recent improvements to the RPD planning process, or would just like some additional information, join us at one of our three outreach meetings!

Monday, May 16 | 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm | Telluride

Telluride Fire Protection District 131 West Columbia Ave., Telluride, CO 81435 Tuesday, May 17 | 10:30 am- 12:00 pm | Montrose Montrose District Library 320 South 2nd St., Montrose, CO 81401 Wednesday, May 18 | 9:00 am- 10:30 am | Gunnison

Gunnison Valley Mentors 101 N 8th St., Gunnison, CO 81230

RANCH RODEO TEAMS WITH VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Mountain States Ranch Rodeo announces it will host the Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program's first Colorado Rendezvous in Montrose this September. The JMHP is a skills development and mentoring program for wounded and disabled veterans from all military branches. MSRR is hosting this event in partnership with the Alpine Bank, Semper Fi Fund, Welcome Home Montrose, J and Ray Outfitters, Toads Guide Shop and other area businesses. Bringing this program to Montrose came through the efforts of JMHP Foreman, Col. John Mayer, USMC Retired and MSRR's Doug Roberts. Mayer and Roberts first connected in July of 2015 while on a cattle drive near Sheridan, Wy-

oming. Roberts along with friend and cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell performed for the JMHP vets around a campfire one evening. "After that night, I knew we have to do more for our veterans" says Roberts.

"Spending time with these courageous men and women, learning of their experiences in combat and the challenges of coming home was a life changing experience." Working together, Col. Mayer, Roberts and a group of Montrose business friends set about creating the Colorado Rendezvous. After a scouting trip to the western slope last fall, the Colorado Rendezvous quickly began coming together. On September 9th, MSRR will host a fundraising event featuring a barbecue dinner, auction, and performances by western troubadour Brooke Turner and buckaroo poet Waddie Mitchell. 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program. On Saturday September 10th, Col. Mayer and his group will join in the fun at the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo Finals. Afterwards, JMHP vets will participate in a multi-day backcountry horse packing clinic with Larry Franks, owner of J and Ray Outfitters. Upon completion of the packing clinic, those veterans will pack another group of vets into Black Canyon for a Gunnison River fishing trip facilitated by Tim Kenney of Toads Guide Shop. For more information about the Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program and the Semper FI Funds visit www.semperfifund.org.

HONORABLE MENTION

To School District Re-1J's outgoing communications professional Erica Giron, for doing an essential job very, very well...and because professional, one-source public relations efforts are not optional in today's business and professional environment...

To Colona writer Tanya Ishikawa, for winning so many well-deserved awards for her work from the Society for Professional Journalists...

...Andto Ophir's Brett Schreckengost, for earning first place from Colorado Office of Film, Media and Television for his first-rate Colorful Colorado promotional video. He's head and shoulders above the rest, as always. And the man can write too.

LAST DEFENDANT IN LION MAIMING SCHEME PLEADS GUILTY

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION - The last member of group of poachers from western Colorado to face trial agreed to plead guilty to eight misdemeanor violations of the federal Lacey Act in U.S. District Court in Grand Junction on April 6. Nathan Simms, 31, of Grand Junction will face sentencing in June for his role in what veteran wildlife officers called one of the most disturbing cases they had ever seen.

In the plea agreement, Simms accepted a recommendation that he serve a six-month prison sentence for his involvement in the crimes. In addition, he faces a possible lifetime suspension of his hunting and fishing privileges, pending an appearance before a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Hearings Officer.

"We want to make it clear to anyone that chooses to ignore our laws that we take wildlife violations very seriously and our officers will do what it takes to bring them to justice," said CPW Northwest Regional Manager Ron Velarde. "Criminals involved in this activity can face significant penalties from the courts, which is appropriate when you consider how unethical and destructive poaching is to wildlife."

<u>Christopher Loncarich of Mack</u> was the owner of the now defunct outfitting business that employed Simms and his wife Caitlin Simms - daughter of Loncarich her sister Andie Loncarich of Crawford, Nicholaus Rodgers of Medford, Oregon and Marvin Ellis of Grand Junction. The co-conspirators developed a scheme to capture and maim lions and bobcats in western Colorado and eastern Utah, making it easy for their customers to kill. The investigation revealed that most of the clients, many that came from out-of-state and paid up to \$7,500 for the opportunity, were unaware of their illegal methods.

Officials apprehended the group after a lengthy investigation beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2010, involving law enforcement officials from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After pleading guilty to one count of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act, Christopher Loncarich began serving a 27-month sentence in federal prison in 2014, where he remains. The same year, Caitlin Simms pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor Lacey Act violations, receiving one-year of probation, a \$1,000 fine and sixty hours of community service, thirty of which included time with Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Hunter Education program. Andie Loncarich's sentence for her guilty plea to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation included one-year of probation, a \$500 fine and thirty-six hours of community service, half of which included service to the Hunter Education program.

Rodgers pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to violate Lacey Act in 2014. His sentence included 36 months of probation, six months of home confinement, 50 hours of community service and \$5,000 in fines.

In 2013, Ellis pleaded guilty to a felony charge of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act, receiving three years of probation, six months of home detention and ordered to pay a \$3,100 fine.

Because they were used in the commission of Lacey Act violations, officials seized Loncarich's 2008 Ford truck and Ellis' 1995 Dodge truck.

Loncarich and Rodgers each received a lifetime suspension of their hunting and fishing privileges.

Caitlin Simms received a 20-year suspension.

Andie Loncarich and Ellis each received a 15-year suspension.

Three of Loncarich's clients paid a total of \$13,100 in fines for Lacey Act violations.

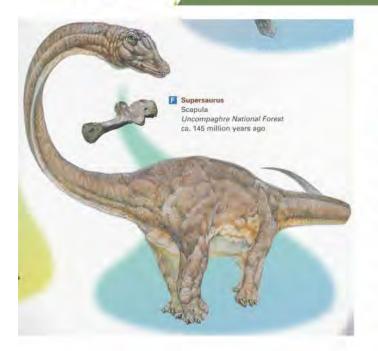
Signed into law in 1900, the federal Lacey Act prohibits trade in wildlife or plants illegally taken, possessed, transported or sold and includes criminal penalties for violators.

Visit CPW's website to learn more about <u>wildlife law enforce-</u> <u>ment</u> and <u>Operation Game Thief</u>, a public tipline for wildlife violations.





Dinosaurs in our Backyard!



May 16th 4:00-5:00

Drop-in Program for kids 1st-5th grade and their families

Did you know that one of the largest dinosaurs ever known was found just 30 miles away from Montrose at Dry Mesa Quarry? Learn more about it and other cool dinosaurs that lived in western Colorado. The program will be a hands-on learning opportunity about dinosaurs and fossils, with 5 stations to rotate through.

Liz Mauch, geologist with the U.S. Forest Service, is leading this fun learning event.

Marguerite H. Gill Children's Room 970-249-9656, Option 2 www.montroselibrary.org Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/montrosekids) and Twitter @MontroseLibKids

MONTROSE REGIONAL



MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS PRIZES TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS!

At left, Denise Lambert of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce awarded the Mirror 500 business cards from Scott's Printing for completing our Chamber survey recently. Thank you Montrose Chamber and Scotts Printing!

Mirror Publishing Group releases three publication blasts each week. Please support our news efforts with ads and news releases. To reach the Mirror and Art & Sol, send to editor@montrosemirror.com. To reach Janine Bush and the Western Weekend Blast, email j9publishing@gmail.com, or call 249-5008 to advertise!



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Above and right, the Makers Market Spring Bazaar at the Knights of Pythias Building on April 22-23 drew shoppers to Downtown for vintage and Colorado-made finds.

Pebbles Morgenstern, at right, sat in on a Mirror interview recently.





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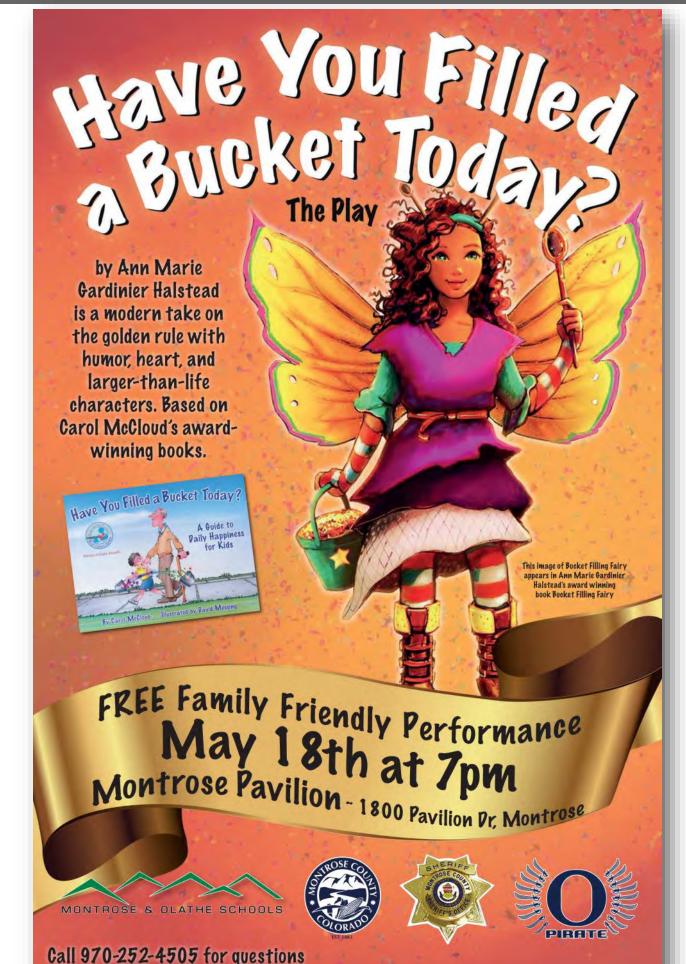
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

COLORADO NEEDS TO ADDRESS ITS BUDGETARY SHORTCOMINGS

Heavy Denver snowstorms and the return of the Colorado Rockies from baseball's spring training join the increasingly frenzied pace at the Capitol to signal that May will soon be here. I'm kept busy with work in both Judiciary and Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy committees and with more hours on the senate floor as we pass or dispense with a flurry of bills from both the House and Senate.

The annual school finance act is still to come and other K-12 education bills are also showing up. One somewhat controversial bill involves funding for charter schools on par with other district schools. I've received a fair amount of email both objecting to and supporting the bill. I understand the concerns expressed about sharing greater funding with charter schools. That said, I am, and always have been, a supporter of charter schools since first becoming familiar with them when my now grown daughter expressed an interest in fifth grade in attending a Durango charter middle school.

Charter schools provide a choice for students, and their parents, to find the best educational fit for the student. In today's world of "traditional," charters, private and homeschooling and even online options, we see that many students do better, academically and socially, in different settings. This has special significance in inner city urban areas of Colorado, but it is also important in the less populated regions as well.

Engaging students and parents in the consideration and selection of the best option for each student helps provide consumer choice and often, although not always, leads to greater engagement and student achievement. I've seen great success stories out of charter schools, yet I recognize that not enough progress has been made in funding them since my daughter attended one more than 15 years ago, so I am supportive of the bill as it now stands.

Another area of school funding that should be seriously addressed is what has been called the "negative factor." The failure to follow the voter approved constitutional directive in funding schools was deemed necessary during the recession as the state budget was strained to provide other state services, especially increased Medicaid spending, besides education. This was the same time period when nearly \$500 million of severance taxes was moved to backfill the budget for all sorts of programs other than to pay for the infrastructure that was to have been built with those taxes.

While state budgeting is tethered to reality more strongly than federal government spending, Colorado needs to address its budgetary shortcomings, which necessarily includes the voters in deciding how we will prioritize our finite resources. If the ballot initiative for a Colorado single payer healthcare system passes, with a projected annual budget of \$38 billion in new taxes, in my view, state funds available for K-12, higher education, transportation and other areas will fall further down the list than they already are. You can read an independent analysis of Amendment 69 at Colorado Health Institute's website.

Colorado's initiative process provides an opportunity for greater voter budgetary prioritization than in states without this way of passing laws and constitutional amendments, but the caveat of "buyer beware" should be printed on each ballot. It's not too early to be learning about the many initiatives that voters will have before them in November.

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

MESA RESIDENTS JOIN IN EFFORT TO FIX COUNTY ROAD



the Mirror LOG HILL--A group of Log Hill Mesa residents are in the early stages of

petitioning for the formation of the Ouray County Road 1 Public Improvement District (PID) and asking mesa voters this November to increase property taxes to fund the following improvements to County Road 1: • Improve drainage, upgrade the road base as necessary, and apply chip seal

layer over the 6.8-mile gravel section, from mile marker 2.6 to 9.4. • Improve drainage, repair surface defects, and where needed apply chip seal or other surface overlay on other areas of the road needing work. • Provide a dedicated reserve fund to pay for ongoing maintenance overlays every 8-10 years. A petition is being circulated and two meetings are scheduled to brief Log Hill Mesa residents and property owners. The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 6-8 PM at the 4H Center in Ridgway, and Thursday, May 5, 6-8 PM in Colona, 26 Sneffels St (CR 1). This is not the first time Mesa taxpayers have taken the initiative to create an improve-

ment district to fund road projects. The escarpment road from State Route 62 to the top of the mesa was funded by property owners through an improvement district in the mid '90s. Greater Log Hill Village residents created an improvement district and paid for paving most of their roads in 2006. The group's goal is to collect the required signatures and submit the petition to the County Clerk by June 1st. The petition, including project details, and a Q&A document are available to interested people on the website, www.CR1fix.com. Contact Dick Kreutzen, 970-729-2168, or Pete Whiskeman, 970-209-0463, for information.

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.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (THE GALLERY • MUSIC BY YOUTH, Second Saturdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery in Sampler Square. THE ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets every second Tuesday at St. Mary Catholic Church in the St Paul Room, 1855 St Mary's Drive, Montrose. The Public is welcome to attend. For more information, email <u>alpinephotoclub(aa).com</u>.

FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC-LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, Montrose County Courthouse (Leslie German self-help center) at 1200 North Grand, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by Uncompany Volunteer Legal Aid and the 7th Judicial District Bar Association. Call 970-249-7202 for information.

FREE JAM SESSION AND SING ALONG, Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

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.

SNOWSHADOW GYM-Zumba classes with Maria Gonzalez week nights 5:30 to 7:30; Swing dance with Kevin Mears Mondays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 535 S. First St. Snowshadowgymniastics@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY-

April 18-29-The 8th annual Montrose County School District Art Show runs through Friday, April 29. Everyone is invited to view paintings, drawings, ceramics and photography representing students in kindergarten through 12th grades. The show may be seen between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Region 10 Enterprise Building, 300 N. Cascade Avenue in Montrose.Contact person: Ann-Marie Fleming 249-6015.

April 28-Leader Training - Healthier Living Colorado-This four-day class is for the person wanting to make a difference in the lives of those with chronic conditions! Participants will: illustrate following the Leader Manual content and process; recognize how to handle problem people appropriately; use positive reinforcement techniques with group members; apply strategies to encourage group participation and use effective modeling strategies. *PDA requirements. A CEU from COAW is equal to 10 contact hours (PDAs).* Cost: \$650 *Scholarship funds are available.*Montrose County Health and Human Services (1845 S. Townsend Ave.), Apr 25, 2016—Apr 28, 2016, 8:30 AM—5 PM Registration: Contact Pam Allen at 303-984-1845 or <u>pam@coaw.org.</u>

April 28-29-Leader Cross Training - Healthier Living Colorado-Diabetes. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of the 4-day Healthier Living. Colorado Leader Training and being a certified Leader of the program.* Cost: \$325 *Scholarship funds are available.* Montrose County Health and Human Services (1845 S. Townsend Ave.) Apr 28, 2016—Apr 29, 2016, 8:30 AM—5 PM. Contact Pam Allen at 303-984-1845 or <u>pam@coaw.org</u>.

April 29-30-Film Buffs Unite and head to The Paradise Theatre April 29th & 30th for the 4TH PAONIA FILM FESTIVAL! Friday April 29th will feature nominated film screenings, an audience choice *"rock the vote"* party and panel discussions with filmmakers. Saturday April 30th features a special curated *"Best of Colorado"* program and other curated short films, a red carpet gala, *"best dressed"* award, winning short films and more! Films are made by both amateur and professional Colorado filmmakers. For tickets and information visit paradiseofpaonia.com.

April 29-30-City of Montrose Annual Spring Cleanup Day.

April 29-Join us at Brookdale Sunrise Creek April 29 at 2 p.m. for our Pie Contest! Pies will be judged by an illustrious panel of avid pie eaters! Contact Brandy Reed at 970-240-0600 or brandy.reed@brookdale.com to enter your pie and for more information! Prizes for the Best Pie.

April 29—Sixth Annual Cobble Creek Compassion Bash — Interactive fashion show for guys and gals, complimentary hors devours with cash bar, dancing, raffles and grand prizes. All to benefit Dr. Mary Vader's Helping Hand Fund, a component of the Montrose Community Foundation. Cobble Creek Clubhouse, 6 pm. Tickets: \$25, available at She She Boutique and D'Medici Footwear and Nina Suzanne's Main St., Montrose, Cobble Creek Pro Shop. For more info call 970-964-4947 or emailinfo@cobblecreek.com. April 30-May 1-Weehawken Dance presents Wizard of Oz at the Montrose Pavilion, 6 p.m. on April 30 2 p.m. on May 1. Call 318-0150 for tickets and reservations.

April 30 – Drug Take Back Day at the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1200 North Grand Avenue in Montrose. 252-4023 for info.

April 30--9:30am -11 am CONTAINER GARDENING WITH FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES: The Montrose Botanical Society will present guest speaker Betty Hall, a Master Gardener, she will share her knowledge of container gardening. In the Centennial Room off Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1 st Street. Free and open to the public. www.montroseaardens.ora.

April 30-For a small \$25 donation, you can take part in the "Aware" walk and enjoy tickets to a comedy show. The walk will raise awareness and support to fight back against child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. The walk begins at 9 a.m., and will leave from Calvary Chapel. In order to register and receive low price do before April 15 included with registration will get comedy night \$25 donation proceeds will go to Dolphin House. To register and receive the lowest rate, visit <u>http://byforceministries.com/</u> by April 15. April 30-Girls on the Run 5K, Cerise Park. 10 a.m. Call 970-257-9267 for info.

May 1-The German American Club Maifest 2016 will be held again at the Edgewater Brewery, 905 Struthers AVE, Grand Junction on Sunday, May 1st from 4 to 7 PM. Music will again be provided by the Alpine Echo Band, there will be NO cover charge. GAC will provide some tables & a few chairs near the stage. It an outdoor concert, so everyone needs to bring their own outdoor chairs. Drinks and food will be ordered directly from the Brewery Staff. Their menu does offer a Brat plate. From 4 to 6 we will get

Happy Hour prices on the drinks. 970-242-2657 or 970-209-9241.

May 3-5-A group of Log Hill Mesa residents are in the early stages of petitioning for the formation of the Ouray County Road 1 Public Improvement District (PID). The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 6-8 PM at the 4H Center in Ridgway, and Thursday, May 5, 6-8 PM in Colona, 26 Sneffels St (CR 1). The group's goal is to collect the required signatures and submit the petition to the County Clerk by June 1st. The petition, including project details, and a Q&A document are available to interested people on the website, www.CR1fix.com. Contact Dick Kreutzen, 970-729-2168, or Pete Whiskeman, 970-209-0463, for information.

May 3-Volunteers of American presents Parkinson's Disease Physical and Voice Therapy Techniques. Delta County Memorial Hospital Oncology Center. 11 to Noon. Free and open to the public.

MAY 3-Join the World Affairs Council of Western Colorado on Tuesday, May 3. 2016 for what should be an enlightening presentation concerning the challenges posed by world population growth. Presentation: Robert Walker, "The Next 2.5 billion: Where population growth poses the greatest challenges." The presentation will be held in Room 138 of Houston Hall on the Colorado Mesa University campus and will start at 7 pm.

May 4-Star Wars Day at the Montrose Regional Library. 4 to 7 p.m. May the Fourth be with You!

May 5-second Annual Cinco-Cinco 5K Walk/Run fundraiser for Latino student scholarships, sponsored by the Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce and the Latin Anglo Alliance, check-in 7:30-8:30am, at Eagle Rim Park Shelter, 2746 Cheyenne Dr., Grand Junction, 9am start, course runs along the Colorado River Front Trail, \$20 adults, \$8 children under 18, closing ceremony at Cinco de Mayo festival main stage. Info: nicoleruiz@hapgj.org or info@wclatinochamber.org.

May 6-Montrose County Family Movie Night, Friendship Hall at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, dinner at 6 p.m. movie at 7 p.m. Free to the public.

May 7- Alpine Bank Shred Day at 1660 Highway 92 in Delta from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.



MONTROSEMIRROR

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



Spring blooms on South First Street...shoppers enjoy the sunshine outside of the Makers Market Spring Bazaar on Saturday, April 23.



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