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# Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays! THF

Issue No. 169 May 9 2016

### **BACK IN THE BLACK: RE-1J MOVES FORWARD!**



**Re-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell says that** the school district will balance its budget this year.

#### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-With a projected budget shortfall of \$1.163 million, it would have been easy for local schools to fall even further behind in 2016. Instead, Montrose County Re-1J expects to balance the budget in coming months, Superintendent Stephen Schiell said. "We are paying attention to where we are spending," he said. "We have worked very hard to balance the budget because I believe in that strongly. It will be balanced this year."

Another top priority for 2016 is safety. "We have added a budgeted line item," Schiell said. "Some of our school entries need to be a little more secure." But perhaps the biggest shift since Schiell arrived in 2015 is an effort to align District curriculum with Statewide standards. "That should help us a lot," Schiell said, "because it has not been aligned."

The Superintendent said he is excited about the momentum taking place with STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) education. "All of our schools are looking at STEM initiatives," he said. "We're heading toward STEM at Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Peak Academy, Columbine Middle School and Olathe Middle School." School of Innovation

Continued on page 6

### CITIZEN STATES GRIEVANCE OVER DOG PARK

#### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Police, dogs and parks were once again a focus when the Montrose City Council met on May 2. Following pledge of allegiance led by MPD Sgt. Abby Boston, City Mayor Rex Swanson kicked off the meeting (Councilors Files and Romero were not in attendance) by announcing a proclamation in support of National Police Day (May 19) and National Police Week (May 15-21).

"These are our heroes," an impassioned Swanson said. "They go to work every day and they don't know if they are coming home at night...remember the thin blue line."

Citizen Brad Tate spoke during the time for public comment, to address the ongoing condition of the City dog park area. "The dog park is nothing but weeds," Tate said, noting that he cannot bring his Labradoodle dog to the designated dog park because of foxtails, but "you cannot have a dog off leash in any of the other parks," he said. "So I am here to state my grievance as a citizen

Gail Marvel's

Cruisin' in Style!



Citizens are increasingly asking their City to make space available for dogs to play, other than the City's neglected dog park facility at Baldridge Park, above.

DMEA Candidate Statements!	Shark Tank Jr. For Teens!	Moi For

Continued on page 5

ntrose Center the Arts!

Regional events Calendar!

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# COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: RUSS AND BETTY HUGLIN



#### By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Before moving to Montrose Russ and Betty Huglin were already established in a Wyoming Corvette Club with their 1969 Corvette.

While many people think of a classic car as having age, Russ purchased his "new" classic, a 2007 Victory Red Corvette, right off the showroom floor from Turner Chevrolet in Montrose.

The Corvette has a 400 horse power en-

gine, is an automatic with a paddle shift, and is equipped with a steering wheel that extends and tilts.

Russ said, "There are no modifications... it's pretty much all original. We've taken it on a couple of road trips, but mostly we drive it for special events like car shows and the Friday night cruising." The car has 50,000 original miles and is not for sale.

During one road trip the Huglin's went to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Betty said, "We saw a couple of the Corvettes salvaged from the sink hole that swallowed eight classic cars in 2014."

Besides the two Corvettes (2007, 1969) Russ has other vehicles in his collection. A 2001 Mustang (for sale), 1956 Chevy 2 door hardtop that he is currently restoring, and a 1956 Chevy pickup whose restoration is scheduled for, "way down the road."

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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### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: START YOUR ENGINES!



#### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-The Black Canyon Classics Car Club is now selling raffle tickets for this completely rebuilt Chevy 350 long block, four bolt main, block bored .020 over engine — new pistons, cam and roller rockers.

Raffle tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held during the June 4<sup>th</sup> car show held at Columbine Middle School.

Those donating and contributing to the engine rebuild were R & R Sports Bar, Hightower Supply, Kearns Auto body, C & R Custom Coating Powder, and Garage Wraps.

#### FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL SERVICE AND NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Fallen Officer Memorial Service and National Peace Officers Memorial Day celebration will take place on May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Centennial Plaza in Montrose. The service will include past and present law enforcement officers, bagpipes, a color guard and several prominent speakers. The service will be followed by a WestCO Regional Dispatch Center Open House.

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Brenda Swank Agent Producer

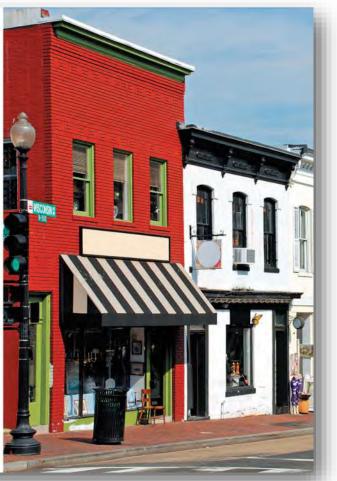
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FYI: MIRROR PUBLISHING GROUP WILL NOT PUBLISH THE WEEK OF MAY 16 SO THAT WE CAN ATTEND OUR OLDEST CHILD'S GRANDUATION FROM COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY. SEE YOU ON MAY 23!

#### SILVERTON SINGLETRACK SOCIETY ANNOUNCES TRAILS INVENTORY PROJECT



Courtesy photo Silverton Singletrack Society.

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-With all the recent snow, it may be a little early to dust off the mountain bikes just yet, but we are already starting to think about trails. Silverton Singletrack Society is proud to announce its Trails Inventory Project. The idea behind this project is to build a comprehensive database of existing trails in San Juan County. SSS is partnering with the Bureau of Land Management to help with their Travel Management Plan for San Juan County and is requesting community input on where bike trails should be for the BLM Plan as well as for future maps.

"Our long term goal is to improve the trail experiences that we currently have and also to add new trails where appropriate. We envision a future where residents and visitors alike see Silverton as a top notch place to ride a mountain bike or find a quick hike. The first step in that process is going to be to catalog what is already here. We will eventually use this information to create a map of all the singletrack in San Juan County and make it available to the public," says Society President Jeremy Yanko.

Anyone interested in helping in this effort can simply bike or hike a trail in San Juan County and email the GPS track to trails@silvertonsingletracksociety.org. No GPS unit is necessary. All you need is a smartphone with a GPS app. The purpose of this project is simply to map the trails that currently exist, not to improve them or build new ones. That comes later, once we have obtained permission from the land managers or private land owners.

Founded in 2014, Silverton Singletrack Society is a Chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). The group organized its first successful trail work day last October, improving the Rainbow Trail which parallels US Highway 550 going from Silverton toward Ouray.

Additional work days are planned for this spring and summer. The group will also be hosting a beer garden at the Ironhorse finish line in Silverton's Memorial Park on Saturday, May 28th.

Stop by for a cold one and join up as a member! Proceeds from beer sales will be used to fund Silverton area trail efforts. For more information on the Trails Inventory Project, upcoming events, or to become a member, visit silvertonsingletracksociety.org



### **CITIZEN STATES GRIEVANCE OVER DOG PARK** From page 1

as a citizen of the City."

Mayor Swanson commented that City Manager Bill Bell is in the process of creating a new parks advisory committee (Bell disbanded the former PAC in late 2014), to be advertised in the *Montrose Daily Press*. Bell said that he is in the process of establishing bylaws, and that the dog park will be an "action item" when his new committee is in place.

Council approved Amended Ordinance 2367 on first reading, which vacates a portion of an alley on behalf of the Sharing Ministries Food Bank expansion, as well as Emergency Ordinance 2368, which declares a state of emergency and authorizes a loan to be incurred for the purpose of refunding outstanding bonds at a lower interest rate for payment of the loan from net revenue derived from the operation of the City's water and sewer system.

"I need to clarify that this is an emergency only because we want to close the deal soon and take advantage of interest rates," City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg said.

Assistant City Manager and Office of Business and Tourism Director Rob Joseph provided an update on National Tourism Week and related events.

The Colorado Tourism Office has honored two local "front line" workers as part of its celebration of National Tourism Week, he said. "Jennifer Loshaw (OBT Visitor Center Coordinator) does an amazing job welcoming visitors from all around the world," Joseph said. "And (Black Canyon Park Ranger) Paul Zaenger who we lovingly refer to as the face of the Black Canyon; he lives and breathes all of the wonderful characteristics that the Black Canyon stands for." Loshaw and Zaenger were honored May 5 during the CTO's tour of the state.

"We are thrilled and honored and can't find enough words that we are one of two overnight stops," Joseph said. "Montrose is one of a handful of destinations they have chosen to visit."

Public Works staffers John Harris and Scott Murphy shared information about upcoming road projects including the Woodgate Road project, Safe Routes 2 School Columbine Middle School; and

Thanks for reading! Reach us at 970-275-0646 Or online at editor@montrosemirror.com. improvements to the intersection of Sunnyside and Hillcrest roads. One lane will be closed temporarily on Woodgate Road for that project; the intersection of Park Avenue and South 12<sup>th</sup> will be closed throughout the summer months for Safe Routes 2 School; and the entire intersection at Hillcrest and Sunnyside will closed for the duration of that project.

During his Public Information Officer Report City Manager Bill Bell reminded the public to attend Pitch Night May 7 At the Abrams Proximity Center. "The City is a sponsor," Bell said. "Please stop by Proximity this week.

Prior to the meeting's adjournment Councilor Dave Bowman asked, "When does Youth Baseball registration start Bill!? "I am glad you asked," Bell said, and while answering noted that registration is up 20 percent thanks to the efforts of

Youth Sports Coordinator Erica Weeks. "We're getting tons of kudos for the bathroom improvements and for getting a sound system in place."

Bowman then pointed out that the Montrose Community Music Contest is May 14, and that in addition to youth baseball the Montrose Wine Festival is coming up. He advised those watching to go the Montrose Music Scene site.

"Come to Montrose!" he yelled. "We got so much going on you gotta like some of it!"



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### BACK IN THE BLACK: RE-1J MOVES FORWARD! From page 1

Centennial Middle School is also focusing on STEM programming, he said.

As far as facility upgrades, RE-1J will hear the status of a roughly \$33 million BEST grant application to replace the original portion of Columbine Middle School before the end of June, Schiell said. Built in 1960, the crumbling school's need for a new facility has been well documented and is known throughout the community.

Though recent district staffing cuts included the district's communications professional, the slack will be taken up by longtime staffer and Assistant to the Superintendent Laurie Laird and others in the district office, he said.

In other district news, MCSD negotiations are open to the public and will be Thursday and Friday, May 12-13 from 8 a.m. to -3 p.m. at the district office.

### LOWV PRESENTS: THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP: PERSONAL STORIES

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-As Americans how much do we know about what it takes to become a U.S. citizen? Could you past the test? Join the League of Women Voters of Montrose County on Tuesday, May 10 at 12:30 PM at the Colorado Mesa University Montrose campus in Room #106 (library bldg. behind large exhibit case on right).

Guest Speakers: Grand Junction immigration attorney Imelda Mulholland, Martin Valdez Gonzalez and Judy Kittson share their experiences as immigrants working through the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to



increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, go to www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org and click on Calendar of Events.



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### LIFE CHOICES CENTER LAUNCHES SHARK TANK JR. FOR TEENS



#### By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-To help break the cycle of poverty in our area, one program this Summer works to provide the practical skills and support necessary for high school students to find a good job or start their own business. The program is Shark Tank Jr., offered by the Life Choices Family Resource Center.

But, wait, before you ask what most people have been thinking, let the Center's Education Coordinator Anita Daly explain: "One of the common things we hear from people is, 'isn't there someone else doing this in town?" she said. "Yes, the Chamber of Commerce is offering a 30-week program through the school year, costing \$400, and the Proximity Space is also offering a very well-designed and professional version of Shark Tank. We have just begun communications with them and will incorporate their partnership and help over the summer. It is our desire to encourage our participants to continue their pursuits with either or both of these great programs."

Shark Tank Jr. will a six-week program for girls and guys. Each week students will participate in various labs that will offer skills that could be used to build their own business. Young business owners, who were once Teen Entrepreneurs, will share their journey with participants. Local professionals will share an aspect of running a business, giving the behind the scenes scoop on do's and don'ts. If a participant already has a business idea, they can bring it and develop skills around their brain child. The community 'Project Fair' will allow them to pre-sell their product and get a jump on marketing.

"This is a very hands-on, kinesthetic program that will be very engaging, creative and fun," Daly added. "Each week will incorporate hands-on activities and research assignments for students to complete at home."

Participants will also be encouraged to complete the following concepts: dream up a marketable service or product, create a business plan, develop a financial plan, craft a 30-second elevator speech, write a resume, and complete a mock job interview.

The program runs June 14-July 19, in the afternoon, at 201 S. Selig (Corner of S. 5<sup>th</sup> street) in Montrose. The Project Fair and Shark Tank Presentation are open to the public and will be on July 19 (location to be decided). Cost is \$30 per participant, with partial scholarships possibly available.

The reason for the Center offering the program is for poverty prevention and instilling a cycle of success into students, and Shark Tank seemed to encourage those goals. "With teen summer jobs so hard to find, Shark Tank Jr will give students the needed skills to create a resume, apply for and conduct a job interview in a professional manner or gain the skills needed to start their own small business," Daly explained. "We believe teens are very capable of being creative and productive. Boredom can be a teen's greatest enemy. Giving them affordable opportunities such as this can transform their future. Shark Tank totally affirms our desire to promote the entrepreneurial spirit with everyone; so it seemed a logical format to replicate."

The Center hopes that this program will help change the lives of not only the students who participant, but their future families as well. "Many of today's teens have lost the ability to dream of a successful future," Daly said. "We are bringing in three young adults who were successful teen entrepreneurs to share their stories. When you hear the challenges and successes in others, it inspires a person to believe they can be a success, too. The Cycle of Success that has been shown to reduce the risk of living in poverty down to 2 percent will be a foundational piece of our program. Whoever says, 'When I grow up I want to live on welfare?' Our hope is to reignite the belief that goals can be accomplished and help create the action plan to achieve the dream. When you know someone believes in you and is cheering you on, it empowers you to get up and do the next thing."

So far, Daly is excited about the response to the program from the community. "Every adult, parent or grandparent I have told about this program has been enthusiastic, encouraging, and supportive," she said. "They have all expressed a wish that they could have participated in a program like this as a teen, and their desire to see their student participate now. Parents are encouraged to help their students make this summer program a priority. If it is important to you, it will be important to them, too.

"They will thank you later."

If the program is only able to accomplish one thing, Daly hopes that it will make a change in our community. "If I could see each participant come to realize that they can and will break the poverty cycle for themselves, their future children and families, I would feel we have achieved success."

If anyone would like to scholarship a student or help invest in the Kickstarter Funds for the winners, or to sign up, call 249-4302 or email Anita Daly at lifechoicesedu@gmail.com.



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#### WEDNESDAYS WITH MISS SHAWNA

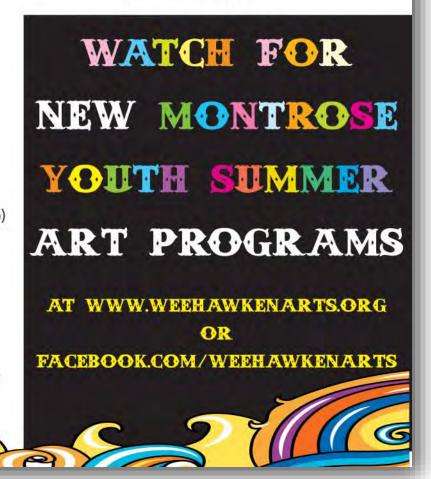
11-12:00 Kid's Yoga 12:00-1:00 Wee Hip-Hop (ages 4-6) 1:00-2:00 Jazz and Hip-Hop 1 (ages 7-10) 2:00-3:00 Jazz and Hip-Hop 2 (ages 11-13) 3:00-4:30 Ballet 3/4 (ages 12 and up) 4:30-5:30 Jazz and Hip-Hop 3 (ages 14 and up)

### MONTROSE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

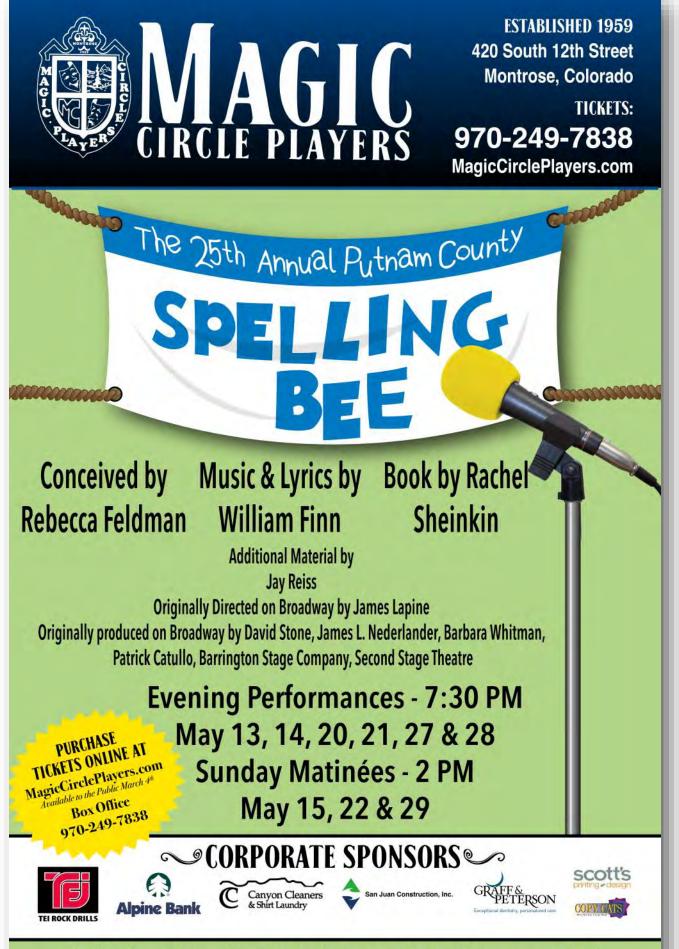
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# WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

### **MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS: FOR LOVE OF THE ARTS**



#### By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) began meeting in June of 2015 and in less than a year their membership has grown to 45. President Jodine Broscovak said, "At the first meeting the group talked in terms of an art co-op, but by the second meeting our goal and vision was to have an Art Center for Montrose. This was not about artists getting together to do things for themselves. We don't just want artists...we want art enthusiasts."

Their mission statement is: "Enrich and serve our community by cultivating the excellence of art through quality education and the promotion of visual and performing arts." The group's long range, 10-year goal is to have a building and establish an arts facility for the city. Jodine said, "In the interim we may look for a temporary building for programs and events."

Dues for 2016 are \$50 for charter members and \$250 for business memberships. The membership demographics includes retired teachers, professional artists, and working people of all ages.

The group is affiliated with the Montrose Community Foundation, who is their fiscal sponsor. Lacking a permanent facility, programs, events and classes are often accomplished through shared venues and partnering with other organizations — Farmer's Market, Funk Fest, Public Art eXperience (PAX), Lark & Sparrow. Monthly business meetings are held at the Hillcrest Congregational Church.

Mary Hill recently volunteered to become the Art Education and Program Coordinator and classes on drawing, clay sculpting, calligraphy, earth painting, and felting are in the planning stages. Jodine said, "All of our members wear more than one hat. We still need a volunteer publicity chairman."

A Children's Art Summer Camp for children ages 5-12 is scheduled for July 11-15 at the Cimarron Creek Club House. The utopia zoo animal type theme will include mask making, beads, and mosaics. Mary said, "There will be two projects every day, snacks and outdoor activities. We'll have the kids look around for a pebble, a leaf, or a blade of grass and describe the shape and color. Not just to categorize everything, but to look at it with more appreciation."

The cost for the three-hour a day, fiveday camp is \$75 per child.

In other areas of community outreach shoe boxes will be decorated by senior citizen residents of Homestead and MCA members will then fill the "heArt boxes" with art supplies for children referred to them by County Health, CASA and Partners. The group hopes to make 50 boxes.

Another member of the organization has taken on a project of interviewing local Veterans and then compiling a poster of photo memories that accompanies the in-



Above, the newly adopted logo of the Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA). At left, Montrose Center for the Arts President Jodine Broscovak presides over the monthly business meeting. MCA Treasurer Al White, who is also the Chief Financial Officer for Montrose Memorial Hospital, is seated to her left. Photos by Gail Marvel.

terview. Jodine said, "It's really a hit with the Veterans."

Fourteen people attended the business meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> where reports were given on applications for grants and community impact awards.

An update on the ongoing efforts to connect all the art organizations in the Uncompahgre Valley was given by Linda, "When everyone knows everyone in the valley we can make things happen collectively."

The new logo design was approved and a detailed treasurer's report was given by Al White, Chief Financial Officer for Montrose Memorial Hospital. Sign-up sheets were sent around the room for projects that are currently on the drawing board and members brainstormed over other projects, events and fundraising ideas. Occasionally people in the community will donate nolonger used art equipment and unused supplies to MCA which they can then resell for fundraising.

Contact Information: Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) Business meeting the last Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Hillcrest Congregational Church 611 South Hillcrest Dr. Montrose, CO montrosecenter4thearts@gmail.com

<u>montrosecenter4thearts(agmail.com</u> President Jodine Broscovak 970-249-5645.

### **CPW COMMISSION TO MEET IN GRAND JUNCTION MAY 12-13**

#### Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meets at Courtyard by Marriot, 765 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colo., May 12-13. The meeting is slated to begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, and is scheduled to adjourn at noon, Friday.

Commissioners will receive briefings on a variety of issues, including: updates from CPW Director Bob Broscheid, regional managers and the assistant director of law enforcement, the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Great Outdoors Colorado.

Informational updates to the commission include the following topics: Gunnison Basin elk management, bacterial kidney disease found in fish in CPW hatcheries, climate science, revenue generation and new regulations and guidelines for citizens petitions.

Action items pending include State Forest State Park lease, changes to parks chapter P-7 and wildlife chapters W-1,

W-2, W-9 and W-11. In addition, 2017 Off-highway vehicle trail grants are slated for approval.

A complete agenda can be found at:<u>http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/</u> Commission/2016/May/Agenda.pdf.

The Commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation in its processes.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for June in Pueblo. Other meetings slated for 2016 will be held in July (Meeker), August (Montrose), September (Creede), November (Lamar) and if necessary, December, (Fort Collins).

Anyone can listen to commission meetings through the Colorado Parks and Wildlifewebsite.

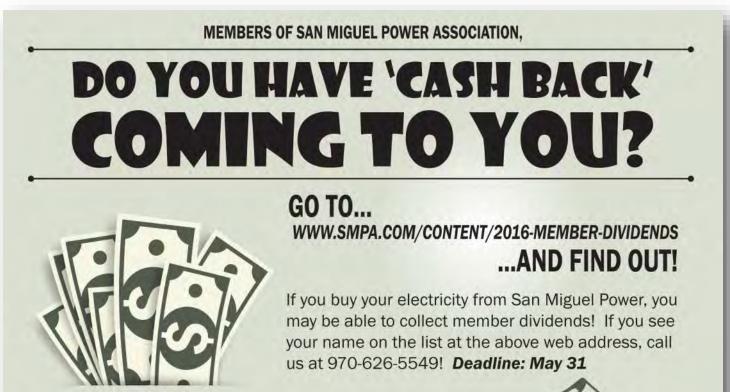
This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation



programs administered by the agency. Find out more at <u>http://cpw.state.co.us/</u> aboutus/Pages/Commission.aspx.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's mission is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.

Learn more at<u>cpw.state.co.us</u>.





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#### Page 13

### **2016 MARKS 65TH NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**



Staff Report/Special to the Mirror MONTROSE-The theme for the May 5, 2016 National Day of Prayer was "Wake Up America." The day began with an invitation-only prayer breakfast held at the Methodist Church to honor leaders who serve the City of Montrose.

Eight-year National Day of Prayer city coordinator Mary Lou Luttrell, with help from county coordinator Janet Eckert-Goforth, held the tightly organized meeting to the allotted one-hour time limit.

Pastor Steve Reinhard opened the session with a prayer written by Dr. Tony Evans, 2016 Honorary Chairman for the National Day of Prayer. While the prayer was uplifting, it was also convicting and called on people of faith to take responsibility for being apathetic, co-conspirators with the enemy, and having the appearance of se-



cret-agent Christians.

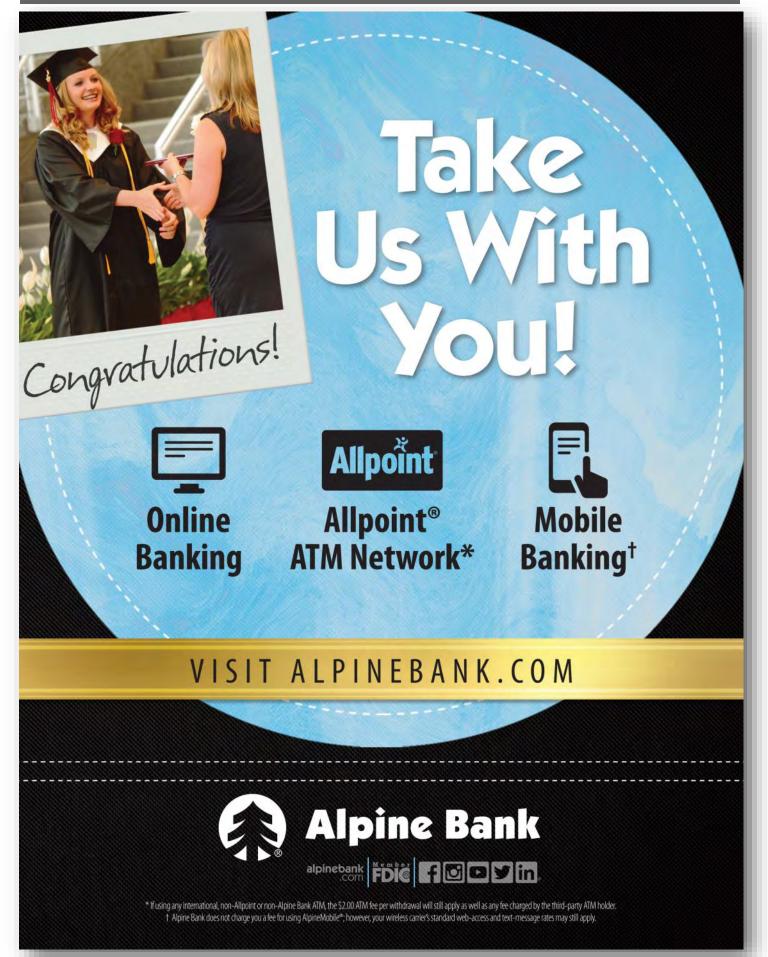
The Scripture call for Christians across the nation to unite behind the theme of "Wake Up America" came from the book of Isaiah, "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet" (Isaiah 58:1a NIV).

A proclamation from Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper was read declaring that the State of Colorado recognizes May 5, 2016 as the National Day of Prayer. More than 80 attendees were divided up in their respective areas of leadership and influence: Government, Church, Military, Family, Education Media, and Business. Each table of participants then prayed for about 10 minutes for their areas of involvement.

This marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the National Day of Prayer.

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### LIBRARY BOARD INTERVIEWS TRUSTEES, PLANS USED BOOK SALE



(L to R) MRLD Board of Trustees Ed Hagins, Caroline Evans, Anne Gulliksen (president), Emily Schneider, Tim Conner, and Executive Director Paul Paladino. Citizen Fredrick Muckerman seated on the far right.

#### By Gail Marvel

The Montrose Regional Library District (MRLD) Board of Trustees met on May 2, 2016. Board members present were Ed Hagins, Caroline Evans, Anne Gulliksen, Emily Schneider, and Tim Conner. The board has yet another vacancy to fill as Nucla trustee Shelley Karo resigned because she is moving to Montana.

The personnel committee reported they met with and interviewed three new trustee candidates for the two open seats with terms ending in 2017 and 2019. The MRLD Board has selected two of the applicants to recommend to the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); however, all three applications will be forwarded to the BOCC, who will then make the selection and the appointments.

During public comment Fredrick Muckerman revisited his comments from a previous meeting about where to find the agenda for the MRLD board meetings. Executive Director Paul Paladino apologized for not getting the agenda posted in the lobby and said, "I'll try to remember to post it when I send it out to the board."

The Friends of the Library used book sale will be held May 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first sale since the library started closing on Fridays and organizers are unsure how the closure will effect sales. Offering a positive element to customer service MRLD Board President Anne Gulliksen said, "The new credit card system will be used. In the

past we've accepted cash and checks, but we want the public to know we're now accepting credit cards."

The Librarian's Report included discussion on the director's four monthly newspaper columns which appear in the *Montrose Daily Press*. Paladino said, "The Press has gotten a lot of positive feedback from the book review column. We need to keep up the columns that say [tell] the challenges of the library and what we are doing."

In a fiber optics update Paladino said, "After 18 years it was time to redo the infrastructure and four of the five networks have been transitioned over to fiber optics." Even though Colorado Mesa University (CMU) is attached to the library facility, CMU has their own complete network system and will not benefit from the library upgrades. The Bookmobile is also in the process of an upgrade. Paladino said, "We're upgrading the audiovisual components with a new DVD player and a flat screen TV."

Ms. Schneider reported for the Finance Committee and Caroline Evans tabled reporting on PR and Outreach until the board meets for their retreat.

Currently the library has \$300,000 in endowments which is held by the Montrose Community Foundation (fiscal sponsor) and the four-percent earned each year is used to buy books.

The endowments, referred to as book-

funds, come from patrons, memorial gifts, and donations. Currently there are 95 book -funds and donors often choose the category of books (history, geography, children's, etc.) they are interested in purchasing; however, some publishing seasons may not see an acceptable book in that particular genre.

Between the library, donors and the foundation there are many moving parts to the management component to the book-funds. Wearing multiple hats Paladino said, "I've treated it as my own project." However, Paladino admitted he underestimated the amount of time needed to sort through, "... the bookkeeping hodgepodge done on Word documents and Excel spreadsheets and combining the two. This is a good opportunity to put together a good system of accounting."

Ms. Evans said, "Most of us have no idea how much it takes [staff wise] to run a public library.

The library website was discussed as being out of date and that money would be needed to bring it up to speed. Paladino stated that presently the main stumbling block is the lack of staff time needed to maintain the website and technical assistance. From Paladino's perspective a website upgrade is a middle-priority and he prefers that the site not be too attractive, "...because we don't want hackers to be attracted to it."

The board however is not as concerned about hackers as they are about making the website upgrade a higher priority. Ms. Schneider said, "We need to build a data base of people who like us. That was sorely missing when we were trying for the mill levy."

Tim Conner said, "We need an integrated media plan where everything fits together. We need to know who are our fans? We need to build a team in social media — Where are we? Where do we go from here? What are we about? What is best for the library?"

Paladino said, "Users of the library have no correlation to supporters of the library. Nationwide the tendency is to not vote for...or to vote against libraries. It was hard for me to wrap my head around [the fact] that library use doesn't mean anything in terms of votes."

The facilitated board retreat scheduled for May 5th was the first time that this relatively all-new board had an opportunity to unify as a governing board.

# **Attention Seniors and Family Caregivers!**



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### MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIBBON CUTTING PARTNERS OF MONTROSE, DELTA & OURAY!



#### Special to the Mirror

**MONTROSE-**Chamber administrator Denise Lambert and the Montrose Chamber Redcoats had the pleasure of welcoming Partners of Delta, Montrose & Ouray back to the Chamber. Partners is a non-profit organization dedicated to building one-to-one mentoring partnerships between young people and responsible, caring adults. They are always looking for volunteers to help make a difference! Check them out on Facebook or give them a call to see how you can become involved. (970) 249-1116.



### **ANYTIME FITNESS OF DELTA TO HOST YARD SALE!**

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-On May 21 Anytime Fitness of Delta, located at 300 Stafford Lane, will host their First annual community yard sale from 8am - 5pm. Come set up, and sell your unwanted items here with us. Enjoy meeting members of the community, selling your unwanted items, and maybe finding some treasures of your own. Food, Family, and Fun!

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### **BOTANIC GARDENS TO HOST INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING**

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On May 12-7:- 8:30 pm-Introduction to Beekeeping-The Montrose Botanical Society will present guest speaker, Gayle Johnson, a local beekeeper, she will share tips about beekeeping in your backyard. Free and open to the public at the Centennial Room off Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

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### DELTA COUNTY ROCK, GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

#### Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Rock, Gem and Mineral Show will be held on June 4, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Drive, Delta, Colorado. Feature items will include lighted mineral and specimen displays, gold panning, a fluorescent mineral display, demonstrations on wire wrapping and filigree and educational displays for children. There will also be door prizes, grab bags, a silent auction, and a wheel of rocks. Over twenty vendors will have gemstones, jewelry, mineral specimens, cabochons, slabs, fossils, and many other types of rocks for sale and on display. This event is free to the public, and children and adults of all ages are welcome. Come and enjoy the Annual Rock Show.

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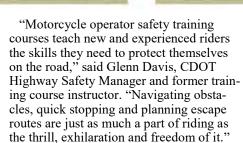
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#### Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — Motorcyclist fatalities surpassed the triple digit mark for the first time ever in Colorado, tallying 106 deaths last year according to preliminary data from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). This figure represents an 11.7 percent increase from 2014 and 20 percent increase from 2013. With fatalities on the rise, CDOT is launching a new motorcycle safety campaign that encourages new and experienced riders to participate in motorcycle safety training courses.



In conjunction with Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May, and as motorcycle riders suit up and saddle up for the riding season, CDOT kicks off its newest variation of the awardwinning Ride Wise campaign to promote training. Using messaging like "live free, die old" and "train for the wind, before you ride like it," this new awareness campaign targets new riders, as well as the population segments and geographic locations over rep-

resented in crash data. The primary objective? Raise awareness about the benefits of, and increase enrollment in, motorcycle operator safety training courses. With a concentrated effort at the start of the riding season, campaign tactics include online <u>videos</u>, digital advertising, billboards and partnering with dealerships to reach riders as they begin to hop on their bikes for the season. All tactics drive riders and interested parties to a website, where it's easy to find certified training courses throughout the state.



### SIX CANDIDATES VIE FOR DMEA BOARD SEATS

#### *By Becky Mashburn, DMEA Special to the Mirror*

**REGIONAL-Six candidates will compete** for a seat on Delta-Montrose Electric Association's (DMEA) nine-member board this spring. The District 3, District 4, and the South Region positions are up for election. The official candidates are as follows: District 3: North Fork Valley, including Crawford, Hotchkiss, Paonia, Somerset, and the surround rural areas Olen Lund, incumbent Brad Harding, challenger District 4: Rural areas north, east, and southeast of Montrose Jim Elder, incumbent Walter von Helms, challenger South Region: Southern half of territory from approximately between Olathe and Delta to the southern territory border Tony Prendergast, incumbent John Fleming, challenger Ballots will be mailed to active DMEA members on May 20, 2016. In an effort to encourage informed votes and member

participation, the co-op has partnered with the League of Women Voters of Montrose and Delta counties to host two candidate forums.

#### SPECIAL DMEA CANDIDATE BIO SECTION TO FOLLOW.

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During the forums, candidates will be asked to provide a brief statement and answer questions from the moderator and audience. The forums will be held on the following dates: Tuesday, May 17 DMEA Montrose Office 11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO 6 – 7 pm Thursday, May 19 Hotchkiss Senior Center 267 West Main Street, Hotchkiss, CO  $6 - 7 \, \text{pm}$ Mail-in votes must be returned by June 14, 2016. Members who chose not to vote by mail can vote in person for their director representatives at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 16 at Montrose County Friendship

Hall. Registration and voting will open at 4:30 pm. An expo display and entertainment will take place from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. Crawford local, and American Idol contestant, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, will perform during dinner and sing the National Anthem. A free grilled dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

The election will conclude at the start of the business meeting at 6:30 pm, which will open with a tribute to law enforcement by the Montrose Police Department. Election results will be announced at the conclusion

of the meeting. DMEA members in attendance will receive a free cast iron skillet and have the opportunity to win a variety of door prizes. More information about DMEA's annual election can be found online at

www.dmea.com<http://www.dmea.com> or by emailing <u>pub-</u>

<u>lic.relations@dmea.com</u><mailto:public.rela tions@dmea.com>.

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

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### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT THREE OLEN LUND – DISTRICT THREE INCUMBENT



Olen Lund District 3 Paonia, CO <u>olenlund@paonia.com</u> Family (spouse, children):

Debra – wife Robert – son Michael – son Laura – daughter

Where are you originally from? Originally from Paonia, Colorado What is your educational background?

High School - Paonia High School, Paonia, Colorado

Bachelor of Science – Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado

Master of Science – The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? Delta Montrose Electric (DMEA) Board of Directors (BOD) president, secretary/treasurer, and chair of DMEA BOD Engineering and Construction Committee

Delta County Farm and Livestock Bureau Board president

Delta County commissioner

Owner/Operator of Lund Laser Technology, Inc.

What unique ability of knowledge do you think you would bring to the DMEA board? Experience is my primary asset. Not only as a small business owner and a county commissioner, but as president of the DMEA Board, Secretary/Treasurer of the DMEA Board, and DMEA Board Engineering and Construction Committee chair. Also I am a Board Director of the Colorado Rural Electric Association. I was a founding member of the Gunnison Basin Round Table and served as a member of the Colorado Inter Basin Compact Committee. Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past.

Delta-Montrose Electric Association Board of Directors - President of the Board, Secretary/ Treasurer of the Board, Chairman of Engineering and Construction Committee

Colorado Rural Electric Association Board of Directors - Legislative Committee member, Policy Committee member

Delta County Commissioner

Delta County Farm and Livestock Bureau Board President

Colorado Farm Bureau Water Advisory Committee Chair Gunnison Basin Roundtable founding member Colorado Inter Basin Compact Committee Colorado Counties, Inc. - Vice Chair of Agriculture, Wildlife, and Rural Affairs Committee What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nation wide? The biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives today is the sourcing of affordable and reliable electricity for distribution to all our member owners.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

DMEA squarely faces the challenge of procuring affordable and reliable electricity for all our members in a locale that is rich in natural resources and electricity generating opportunities.

### What does the word cooperative mean to you?

A cooperative is a group of individuals that jointly own an enterprise to produce distribute, and/or market goods or services for the benefit of the member owners.

### Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

The cooperative business model has been used by many groups, primarily in rural and in agricultural situations, as an effective tool to provide goods and services for their own benefit. What do you think is the most important of the 7 cooperative principles and why?

It is difficult to identify only 1 of the 7 cooperative principles as the most important, but the principle of Concern for Community encompasses the most important elements of the other principles. Cooperatives are a community effort to benefit all the members of that community.

### What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

As an electricity distribution cooperative, DMEA's primary function should always be to provide affordable and reliable electricity in a safe manner to all its member owners. That is not to say that DMEA should not undertake other endeavors (e.g. fiber broadband), but DMEA's core business should always be to provide affordable and reliable electricity in a safe manner to all its member owners.

#### What is your vision for DMEA? My vision is for DMEA to continue to provide

affordable and reliable electricity in a safe manner to all its member owners. However, DMEA must be flexible and nimble to best take advantage of ever changing social and economic conditions. The landscape of the electricity distribution service industry is changing rapidly and DMEA must adapt continually to effectively provide affordable and reliable electricity in a safe manner to all its member owners

How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members? A cooperative board must, as a group, promote (and defend, if necessary) the interests of all the member owners of the cooperative. Promoting the interests of the all the cooperative member owners entails anticipating the future and making the necessary adaptions. Defending the interests of all the member owners requires prudent and responsible fiduciary duty.

Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why?

The only thing I would propose to change about DMEA would be to make it even more responsive to the needs of all its member owners.

#### **Candidate Background Statement**

Throughout my first term as DMEA Director I used my experience, knowledge, and contacts to further develop hydro, micro-hydro, coal bed methane, solar, and other local natural resources for local electricity generation. I was instrumental as President of the Board when we petitioned FERC to allow DMEA to promote responsible electricity generation in our area.

As Secretary/Treasurer of the board I used my common sense business experience to help develop an economically feasible, and practical, method to pursue fiber broadband service to ensure minimal costs and maximum benefits for all DMEA member owners.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Rural Electric Association I have been able to garner the support of electric cooperatives throughout the state in an effort to define within Colorado statute the parameters of competition between cooperative and municipal electricity providers. I operate a farm in the North Fork Valley that has been in the Lund family since 1917. I am president of the Delta County Farm and Livestock Bureau and chairman of the Colorado Farm Bureau Water Advisory Committee.

I was Delta County Commissioner for 8 years and vice chair of the Agriculture, Wildlife, and Rural Affairs Committee of the statewide county commissioner's association. I was a founding member of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, an entity established by Colorado statute to represent the interests of water users in the Gunnison Basin.

I also represented the Gunnison Basin on the Inter-Basin Compact Committee, an advisory committee to the Governor of Colorado.

### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT THREE

### **BRAD HARDING – DISTRICT THREE CHALLENGER**

Bradley R. Harding (Brad) District 3 Paonia, CO <u>bharding@firstcoloradobank.com</u> (970) 527-3257 | (970) 874-5952 | (970) 270 -3692

#### Family:

Christy Harding (maiden name Chinn) Brooke Harding (age 9) and Ashley Harding (age 6).

#### Where are you originally from?

I was born and raised in Paonia, Colorado as a fifth-generation resident. My great, great grandfather and grandmother (Bruce) homesteaded in the North Fork Valley (fruit), as did the Hardings on my father's side.

What is your educational background? I graduated Paonia High School in 1994 (Salutatorian), Colorado State University – Fisheries Biology (Cum Laude) in 1998, and the University of Colorado - Graduate School of Banking (With Honors) in 2013.

As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? I am the President (since August 2012) of First Colorado National Bank (FCNB) located in Paonia, Colorado. Previous to the promotion in 2012, I was the Market President of the Delta, CO branch; serving under this title since the bank was acquired on 4-27-2007. I perform many duties for our financial institution including, but not limited to overall leadership of the financial institution, financial management, executive officer management, oversee operations to ensure quality service is delivered in an efficient manner, engage in contract negotiation, and oversee cost-effective management of all resources, while serving on various bank committees (e.g. Asset Liability, Audit, Marketing, Loan, and Technology). I Chair the Audit and Asset Liability Committees. In addition, I handle the written correspondence submitted to the Bank's national regulator (Office of the Comptroller of Currency), take the board minutes as the

Secretary of the Board, am involved in preparing and revising the Bank's three-year strategic plan and am a member of the Bank's original 8member organizing /ownership group. Previously, I was a Relationship Manager and Vice President of commercial lending for U.S. Bank in Aspen, Colorado, where I spent three years managing a high net worth (mainly commercial) portfolio. Before I began working in the banking industry, I worked in the investment/ insurance industry for seven years, where I held several investment licenses with the Secu-<br/>rities Exchange Committee (SEC) including the<br/>Series 6, 63, and 26. I have been variable annu-<br/>ity/life licensed as well. Overall, I have 17 years<br/>of investment and banking experience.ond to none.<br/>First Colorad<br/>Corp. (FCFC):<br/>- Present (Bc<br/>ber and Secret

#### What unique ability or knowledge do you

think you would bring to the DMEA board? I believe I have a well-defined understanding of the role of a board member in general; that it is the responsibility of the board to attract and retain capable management teams that can execute efficiently the strategic plan of the organization, while providing services that generate sufficient earnings for operations and the accretion of capital. I understand regulatory agencies and how they function and how an organization can effectively partner with such agencies. I understand human capital management, possess an in-depth financial acumen (profit and loss and balance sheet experience) including implementing and executing financing strategies, how to roll-out change management frameworks and possess many risk management skills.

I have been very involved in county-wide (mainly Delta County, but some issues concerning Montrose County) issues as President of Delta County Economic Development (DCED), have familiarity with the service area in which DMEA operates and have numerous connections to and knowledge of area-wide projects and leaders in the area. I also receive, study and engage in discussions concerning demographical data from the service area and am heavily involved in discussions with legislators representing the area at the state level.

I have a well-developed ability to reach out to individuals that may not share the same background or possess the same beliefs about a subject and/or topic and reach consensus or work toward the achievement of stated goals and objectives.

# Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past.

Delta County Economic Development (DCED): April 2008 - Present (Board Member and Board President). DCED is committed to developing a strong economy for Delta County. As a true public/private partnership, DCED works closely with member communities, local companies, educational institutions, financial supporters and other partners to help retain and grow existing businesses in Delta County, recruit new businesses and investments to the area, and markets Delta County as a businessfriendly environment with a quality of life sec-

ond to none. First Colorado Financial Corp. (FCFC): May 2012 – Present (Board Member and Secretary). FCFC is the holding company of First Colorado National Bank. I have served on the Board since 2012 as the Secretary of the Board.



Solar Energy International (SEI): January 2013 (Board Member). Solar Energy International (SEI) was founded in 1991 as a nonprofit educational organization. SEI's mission is to provide industry-leading technical training and expertise in renewable energy to empower people, communities, and businesses worldwide.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nationwide? Many times in organizations, economies of scale and/or efficiencies can be achieved with a certain size or scale. I think effective management of margins through cost control measures and finding ways to increase revenue will grow increasingly important to rural electric cooperatives as the projected cost of wholesale purchase power escalates. In an area like Delta County, where population has stagnated or decreased in some geographic segments, and companies have been lost (ex. Oxbow and Bowie – historically very large power consumers), downward pressure is being placed on top-line revenue.

In general, cooperatives like DMEA are being asked to do more for communities than in the past, as other viable resources and strong partners seem to be decreasing in some rural areas. A project like bringing broadband services to rural areas is such an example, and it requires the cooperatives to stretch, grow and work very hard to meet the needs of members. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

Managing the financial side of DMEA and what could be tightening margins will become increasingly important in the future. Controlling costs amid strains on top-line revenue appears to be a significant problem for the cooperative business model. Two of the area's three underground coal mines, have ceased operation of their long-wall machinery, and are in the process of closing entirely. Area coal mines have historically been one of the largest power consumers. The loss of these two large customers, amid the potential loss of the last coal mine

### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT THREE

### BRAD HARDING -DISTRICT THREE CHALLENGER From pg 21

based on macroeconomic factors affecting coal What do you think is the most important of markets, places stress on margins, and makes it increasingly difficult to maintain low rates for all other members. The challenge of keeping rates low for all members is increasingly problematic when many sources project an increase in overall wholesale purchase power costs. Attention to these details will be paramount moving forward.

I also think that change in general is very challenging for most individuals to deal with. Whether that change comes proactively (ex. broadband deployment efforts) or reactively (ex. regulatory changes like the Clean Power Plan), it must be dealt with in a productive manner. For instance, if DMEA is successful in its pursuit to generate more than 5% of its power from local qualifying facilities (eg. FERC filings and PURPA), the company will be dealing with tough questions about how the cooperative will source its power in the near and long-term. Dealing with this change in a purposeful, efficient manner will be very important.

#### What does the word cooperative mean to you?

By definition, a cooperative business model is rooted in the values of self-help, equality, solidarity, and democratic control. To me, a cooperative is a mechanism where a group of similarly situated individuals pool their resources to gain access to services which fulfill their needs. I believe a cooperative must meet the needs of all of its members.

#### Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

I definitely believe in the cooperative business model. In fact, this cooperative model is still one of the only viable mechanisms that allow citizens within rural areas to gain access to services that would normally be out of reach. Operating in rural areas with low population density does not typically draw the attention of investor-owned companies because we are viewed as uneconomical. Even today, Delta and Montrose Counties, are two examples of the benefits of cooperatives. Without DMEA's involvement in broadband, citizens of the two counties would most likely still be waiting for high-quality, affordable internet services. The cooperative business model is alive and well in rural America, especially when its members and leadership actively look to improve their overall quality of life by leveraging the strengths of the area and its citizens.

### the 7 cooperative principals and why?

Having a concern for the community is the most important of the seven cooperative principles to me. According to state demographer's office data, Delta County is approximately \$17,000 per median household income poorer than the state's average income, nearly eleven years older than the state's average age and roughly 50% less educated in terms of postsecondary education compared to state averages. Montrose County possesses similar statistics. We are simply older, earn less and are less educated than many of our peers. These factors challenge economic stability in the area, and are a detriment to economic vitality, especially as some of the higher paying jobs associated with coal mining have been lost and don't appear to be coming back. Our schools are experiencing declining enrollments in many areas, health care costs are increasing rapidly as the Affordable Care Act has changed the way most people view access to health care. Rural America is once again being challenged on multiple fronts. Now more than ever, cooperatives like DMEA must look at all ways to ensure that they are contributing to various solutions and championing the efforts of the community to better itself.

#### What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

As DMEA's bylaws and mission statement say, DMEA's primary function is to purchase, distribute and generate dependable electric power for consumers within the area served by the cooperative. I believe in the cooperative's original mission to bring affordable power to rural America. The cooperative must meet demand requirements of its members, while providing reliability; meeting the energy requirements of its members at all times with security. First and foremost, DMEA must continue to provide topnotch electrical service to the service area. What is your vision for DMEA?

DMEA is currently, and has been historically, a very positive contributor to the local economy. Suspending disbelief for the moment and allowing ourselves to dream just a little, I believe DMEA can be a significant contributor to further enhancing the economies of both counties. Through the leadership of DMEA and the desires of its members, high speed internet is going to become a reality. Many agree, that this infrastructure improvement will not only enhance the quality of life in the area but will

play an ever increasingly important role in economic development as well. In October of 2014, DMEA filed a petition for a declaratory order with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking for clarification of the Public

Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. The provision mandating the purchase of electricity from small, renewable generating sources (qualifying facilities) is the key aspect of the filing. DMEA asked if that provision applies directly to the cooperative. If the ruling from FERC is positive, DMEA would have the opportunity to increase its wholesale electricity source portfolio with more local generation. This could stimulate much local economic growth and keep capital circulating in the service area.

When broadband is in place and if DMEA had the opportunity to continue to develop its local generating capabilities with a goal of generating a significant amount of its electricity from locally-sourced facilities, the area starts to possess a powerful recruiting story for both individuals and companies (world-class broadband capabilities coupled with a growing energy independence/micro-grid capabilities). Since the cooperative has been managed in prudent manner for many years, the organization is capable of taking leadership roles in other areas that impact its members. Although these endeavors should never take precedence to delivering first class electricity at an affordable price to all of its members, they are very important to the members of the service area and I believe DMEA can have an even greater impact on the two counties.

How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members? The board members, once elected by the cooperative members, have a responsibility to direct the affairs of the entity. They must have a long-term perspective and ensure that the organization is healthy for the current and future members. A key role of a board member is to act as a true fiduciary; always having the best interest of the members in mind. This entails much oversight responsibility and therefore setting and controlling policy, and managing financial performance are paramount.

The second component of these responsibilities is representing the membership as an advocate, and ensuring that ongoing and meaningful dialogue with members is occurring.

### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT THREE

### BRAD HARDING -DISTRICT THREE CHALLENGER From pg 22

Open and honest communication with members is vital to ensuring that a board member is meeting the requirements of this role.

The board also must take seriously their obligation as a regulator as the group has the duty of setting rates for the cooperative. Maintaining affordable rates to the membership is one of the most important jobs of a director.

Because of the importance of the roles of the directors, they carry much responsibility as well. A board member has the responsibility to understand the cooperative business model, key drivers within the business model, its financial and operations plans, objectives and strategies. These responsibilities, among others, are very important for the board to execute effectively.

Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why? I believe that DMEA is a healthy organization and does many things very well. One area that I would like to focus on if elected would be around the area of economic development for both counties. Although DMEA is directly involved with both county's economic development organizations by contributing \$5,000 toward these organizations, and indirectly in

other ways, I believe more could be accomplished economically with a stronger partnership. A stronger commitment to the overall economic development of the service area should be explored. Since, DMEA is such an instrumental component of a healthy economy, I believe they need to play a larger role in such discussions; engaging in a proactive manner and potentially in a leadership role.

I believe DMEA can do even more to strengthen the economy of these two counties and has expertise, knowledge, human capital, financial strength and a voice that has influence that could be further leveraged.

#### **Candidate Background Statement**

A fifth generation Paonia resident, Brad Harding, is the father of two young children, husband of a Cedaredge native (Christy Chinn), son, grandson and great grandson of coal miners and fruit growers, and President of the only locally owned bank in Delta County.

Brad is President of Delta County Economic Development, whose mission is to strengthen the area's economy. In 2014, Brad helped organize and moderate a presentation to DMEA leadership. At this game-changing meeting, the mayors, realtors, business leaders, heads of non-profits and many citizens unanimously testified to the need for high-speed internet. Historic votes by the DMEA board followed, and now fiber-to-the-home is becoming a reality.

Brad mourns the decline of the local coal industry, where his father has worked his entire career, but realizes to preserve the wonderful lives we have, new economic foundations must be created. He honors the past and its traditions and looks ahead.

Brad serves on the board of Solar Energy International and an economic development committee exploring further hydro-electric generation, coal mine methane production, and rooftop and utility-scaled solar arrays to avoid sending millions per year to purchase power from outside our region.

In addition to having a vision for our future, Brad brings valuable financial skills to DMEA with 17 years of investment/banking experience, ensuring that rates are kept low and capital credits are returned to members.

His formal education includes a degree in fisheries biology from Colorado State University (cum laude) and a graduate degree from the University of Colorado (honors).



# DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT FOUR

### **JIM ELDER – DISTRICT FOUR INCUMBENT**



Jim Elder District 4 Montrose, CO jim@elderadofinancial.com (970) 275-1110 Family: Janet, spouse 2 Grown daughters: Jaimee, Jessica Where are you originally from? Elkhart, Indiana What is your educational background?

Colorado State University, engineering As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? My profession is a registered investment advisor, which means we are fiduciary financial advisors for our clients.

As a result, I am clearly aware of my fiduciary responsibility for my work and for being a trustee on the DMEA board.

### What unique ability of knowledge do you think you would bring to the DMEA board?

I owned one of Colorado's largest solar installation and repair firms from 1981 to 1993. After that, I entered the financial services field and in 1998 I started a fee-only fiduciary financial advisor firm. I have been serving on the DMEA Board for the past 2.75 years. I have extensive knowledge in running a business and managing finances.

Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past. Montrose Rotary Club Montrose Rotary Board

Montrose Chamber of Commerce and Red Coats

Montrose Library Board

Attends Grace Community Church Delta-Montrose Electric Association Board **What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nation wide?** After serving on the DMEA Board and working with other Colorado co-ops, I feel that we need to continue to update and move forward in the areas of innovation, technology, and operations. By doing so we will be better equipped to answer a nation that is demanding changes in how energy is developed and supplied. What do you think is the biggest challenge

### What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

There are several challenges DMEA is working to benefit its members:

DMEA wants to be able to purchase more local renewable energy but their supplier is against it. DMEA petitioned to F.E.R.C. to allow this change.

DMEA is beginning a major endeavor of providing fiber-optic internet service to every member.

### What does the word cooperative mean to you?

A cooperative means people working together for the good of the whole. Co-ops were first formed in the 1930s in rural areas where forprofit utilities didn't want to spend money for minimal profit customers.

### Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

The cooperative business model is a great idea. It has worked in the past, but it is now lagging with the changing times. I'm concerned about the "co-op culture", slow moving organizations to keep the status quo.

The combination of lethargy and pensions makes for a poor future for co-ops. However, the DMEA board and staff has been pro-active and working to keep DMEA ahead of the curve. **What do you think is the most important of the 7 cooperative principles and why?** All seven principles are equally important.

What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

To provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

#### What is your vision for DMEA?

To continue to push for more local renewable energy.

To provide broadband fiber to every member. To move forward with new technologies and innovation. To provide excellent customer service to our members.

How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members? DMEA Board Members are the eyes and ears for the staff. We actively listen to the members and bring these concerns to the board. Other responsibilities are to provide vision and direction for DMEA and act as a fiduciary for our members.

Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why? Since I have joined the Board we already have

made major changes:

Replaced the CEO with a new, energetic CEO Replaced the CFO with a person with vast knowledge

Have pleaded our power supplier to allow more local renewable energy

Started a broadband fiber project to every member

#### Candidate Background Statement:

Jim Elder was first elected to the DMEA board in 2013 on the platform of fiscal responsibility, management efficiency, local renewable energy and broadband internet. Since Jim's tenure on the DMEA board, we hired a new CEO and completed major organizational changes.

We have pleaded with our energy supplier to allow DMEA to purchase more local renewable energy and we have begun the enormous task of providing broadband fiber to every member. Jim has served as board secretary, finance committee chairman, Colorado Rural Electric Association representative and Western United Electric representative.

As a business owner since 1981, Jim's background is relevant and crucial to the future of the co-op.

For more than 18 years, Jim has been president of Elderado Financial, a successful fiduciary financial advisory firm.

His solid business experience and knowledge of finances includes a hands-on understanding of balance sheets, budgets, business operations and maintaining customer trust.

He and his wife Janet have been married for 29 years. They have two adult daughters, Jaimee and Jessica.

"As a small business owner with my experience in finance and engineering, I have been a fiscally responsible representative for our member-owners at DMEA to keep electric costs down."

Jim will work on your behalf as a DMEA board member and asks for your vote of confidence once again to protect the future of DMEA.

### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: DISTRICT FOUR

### WALTER VON HELMS – DISTRICT FOUR CHALLENGER

#### Walter von Helms

District 4 Montrose, CO vonhelmswh@montrose.net (970) 964-5135

#### Family:

Wife, Holly von Helms Son, Kurt W. von Helms Son, Eric R. von Helms Where are you originally from?

#### Chicago, IL

What is your educational background? Graduated January 1957 – Lane Tech H.S., Chicago IL. Started working a summer apprentice electrician in 1956. Started my 4 year apprentice for the I.B.E.W. local 134 in Chicago and became a journeyman in 1962. Completed a 4 year electronics course from Michael J. Kennedy Electronics School 1964. Took evening classes in four colleges.

#### As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? Have always lived within my means, paid all

my debts and invested wisely in real estate, stocks and bonds, and mutual funds. Ran my own Electrical Contracting business in Boulder, CO for nearly 7 years (Von Helms Electric) after becoming a master electrician. Was an electrical inspector for Boulder County in 1975.

What unique ability of knowledge do you think you would bring to the DMEA board? Just common sense and 45 years of electrical experience.

# Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past.

Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout, Troop Leader, Camp Counselor

Boulder Luncheon Optimist Club – Vice President

Friends of the Library, Montrose, CO – Mostly repaired books for 3 years.

Coached Little League and Pony League Baseball and umpired games for 18 years. Coached hockey in Chicago and Boulder, CO.

Church Council – property manager. Partners – mentoring youth for 1.5 years. Volunteer at Pomona Elementary – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade for several months.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nation wide?

Keeping costs down for all members and supplying clean energy for the environment in the most cost-effective manner.

### What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

Same answer as #8, plus for a larger population.

### What does the word cooperative mean to vou?

Working and planning for he common good for all the members of the cooperative who are also the owners.

Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

Yes, because together we can supply a source of energy for all concerned.

### What do you think is the most important of the 7 cooperative principles and why?

To act only in the best interest of the cooperative for the benefit of all members.

### What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

To supply a clean-energy source at the most reasonable rate possible and continue to function in a clean and safe manner. I spend forty-five years working as an apprentice, a journeyman electrician, and a master

#### What is your vision for DMEA?

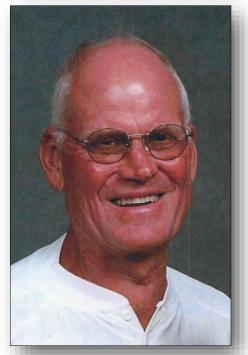
To continue with what DMEA is doing and consistently improve as time goes on. **How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members?** Board members should work together for the common goal to become the best in supplying the energy needs to all members of the cooperative.

#### Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why? Since I have joined the Board we already have made major changes:

Not at this point, do I see any reason to make any changes, except to add more solar systems to supply electrical energy and keep looking for more places to add hydro-electrical energy.

#### Candidate Background Statement:

My hometown is Chicago, Illinois where I was raised with eight siblings. I have been a Coloradoan since 1972 when I moved to Boulder, Colorado and a Montrose resident since June 2000. My wife and I retired to Montrose where we had our home built south of town. I have two sons who live in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and Glenview, Illinois. I am 'Grandpa' to three beautiful children.



I spend forty-five years working as an apprentice, a journeyman electrician, and a master electrician for 26 of those years. I wired many of the major buildings in downtown Chicago and Denver and worked on fossil fuel power plants and nuclear power facilities in a few other states.

In addition, I was an electrical contractor for seven years, electrical inspector for Boulder County and an electrical estimator. In 1998 I was awarded the IBEW Life Saving Award for saving the life of a passenger in a plane crash near the Erie Airport in Colorado.

I am currently a substitute teacher for the Montrose, Olathe, and Ridgway schools, teaching all grades and all subjects. I feel that is a great way to contribute to the youth in our community.

I am an Eagle Scout, participated with Partners Inc., as a mentor and helped repair books for the Library District. I am compelled to contribute to my community, and would like to continue making a significant contribution by serving on the DMEA Board of Directors.

I feel that I could be helpful to the Board of Directors because of my electrical experience and training.

My focus would be in harnessing as much clean energy as possible and keeping our most respected linemen safe on the job.

# DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: SOUTH REGION

### **TONY PRENDERGAST-SOUTH REGION INCUMBENT**



Tony Prendergast South Region Crawford, CO <u>Tony.prendergast@dmea.com</u> (970) 361-7126 Family: Darby, Tara Where are you originally from? Gunnison, Colorado What is your educational background? Some college

As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? Owned and operated small businesses. Board officer and leadership positions with non-profit organizations.

What unique ability of knowledge do you think you would bring to the DMEA board? Long running interest in energy policy. Leadership skills and good ability to work in a group or team setting.

Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past.

Saddle Mountain Ditch Company – President Delta County Planning Commission

Western Organization of Resource Councils – Board Member

Western Colorado Congress – Board Member Black Canyon Land Trust – Board Member Crestone Charter School – Founding member of steering committee

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nation wide? Adapting to sweeping changes affecting the electric utility sector, distributed generation, carbon regulations, and technology. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

Tri-State; its stability and sustainability, its management and governance structure, its prospects for adapting to change and being cost competitive.

#### What does the word cooperative mean to you?

In this context it means being member owned, controlled, and driven. It means non-profit. It means being focused on what is best now and in the future for our members and communities.

### Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

Yes. It works. It is truly a model of a democratic, grassroots controlled and driven organization that has to function within the demands of market forces.

What do you think is the most important of the 7 cooperative principles and why? Democratic member control.

What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

Distribution and retail sales of electricity to members at cost competitive rates.

#### What is your vision for DMEA?

To be proactive in taking advantage of opportunities and nimbly adapting to changes in the energy sector. DMEA can continue developing and integrating more local distributed generation resources, can provide leadership and put pressure on Tri-State and be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century G&T and can provide a range of other services to members such as using energy more efficiently, and particularly at this time, providing fiver broadband to members throughout the service territory.

How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members? Board members are where the buck stops, as well as where the leadership direction for the co-op starts.

Board members must work as a group to set policies, provide direction, and hire, evaluate, and compensate the CEO. Once direction is set, directors should allow the CEO opportunity to execute strategic direction and manage the company and all other employees.

Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why? I think it is healthy for more competitive market forces to be brought to bear on electric cooperatives, including DMEA and Tri-State. Development of distributed generation technologies, batteries, and DMEA's foray into fiber broadband will sharpen DMEA's ability to survive and compete in a more open market.

#### Candidate Background Statement:

Tony Prendergast was first elected to the board in 2007 on the platforms of developing local renewable energy, improving efficiency and conservation, and providing reliable, affordable electricity. By this summer there will be 5 hydro generators producing 18 megawatts of electricity on irrigation canals, as well as several micro-hydro installations net-metering on local farms. DMEA has built two community solar arrays and provides solar net-metering opportunities for over 150 homes and businesses. As a result of distributed generation several million \$ are recirculating in our local economy instead of being sent to Tri-State in Denver.

As DMEA strove to improve efficiencies through technology, it became clear that we were also strategically positioned to provide fast, reliable fiber internet service to our communities and rural areas. Tony became an early board advocate for developing an internet provider business.

Tony has earned the NRECA 'Board Leadership Certificate' with a focus on governance. He has served as board president, is currently vicepresident, and chairs the Marketing/Energy Services committee. He has chaired the CEO Evaluation, Policy and various ad hoc committees.

Tony also serves on the Delta County Planning Commission and as president of the Saddle Mountain Ditch Company.

Tony is a fourth generation Western Coloradoan, born in Gunnison, who runs Landsend Outfitters and raises hay and grassfed beef on his ranch near Crawford.

Tony has a deep understanding of rural communities, a pragmatic approach to problem solving and energy to serve.





### DMEA CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: SOUTH REGION

### **JOCK FLEMING-SOUTH REGION CHALLENGER**

John J. "Jock" Fleming Jr. South Region Montrose, CO jock@mountainlawgroup.com (970) 249-6015 | (970) 240-2812 | (970) 275 -1808 Family: Ann-Marie, wife of 40 years

#### Melli, daughter John, son Anna, daughter

Where are you originally from? Washington, D.C.

What is your educational background? BA from Georgetown University; JD from George Mason University

As a board member you would have a fiduciary responsibility to the members of the cooperative, what is your financial background? I have run my own business for more than 30 years – a law firm serving Montrose, Delta, Ridgway, and Ouray, which has emploued up to 10 people. Prior to that, I was responsible for administering a \$20M budget for the City of New Haven, CT, as well as \$20M worth of federal contracts. I am the author of *Money: How* to Raise it & How to Spend it and The Financial Management Guide for Head Start Directors. What unique ability of knowledge do you

think you would bring to the DMEA board? For the past eight years, I have served on the Colorado Utilities Consumers Board, as an appointee of Governor Hickenlooper, and in that capacity I am responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Office of Consumer Counsel on electric as well as other utility issues. Therefore, I have a statewide perspective on the issues DMEA is currently facing. I also have lived in Montrose for 30 years, where I have been both a DMEA coop member and an influential member of the community, so I have a strong understanding of the specific needs of DMEA coop members.

# Please list your involvement in community organizations, or boards on which you currently serve or have served in the past.

Utility Consumers Board, State of Colorado 2009 – Present

Committee on Judicial Performance 2005 – 2009

Montrose/Olathe Board of Education 1992 – 2004: President 1999 – 2003, Vice President 1997 – 1999 and 2003 – 2004

Colorado Municipal Judge's Association 2000 – 2002

Colorado Bar Association 1996 – Present

Seventh Judicial District Bar Association 1996 – Present

Montrose City Planning Commission 1988 – 1990: Chairman 1999

American Bar Association 1996 - Present What do you think is the biggest challenge facing electric cooperatives nation wide? How can we meet the renewable energy requirements that more and more states seem to be mandating while keeping electricity affordable?

#### What do you think is the biggest challenge facing DMEA?

How can we increase local energy generation, thus helping the local economy, while maintaining affordability for our members? What does the word cooperative mean to

#### you?

An organization run by its member and accountable to those members.

### Do you agree with the cooperative business model? Why or why not?

I do agree with the model. It allows the consumers of electricity to have a say in the generation and transmission of the electricity. The organization's first responsibility is to its own ratepayers rather than to shareholders.

### What do you think is the most important of the 7 cooperative principles and why?

I believe the second and third principles are the most important. Members are able to control the policies of the organization and are able to participate in the financial benefits the organization creates. This means the organization is focused on the consumers rather than shareholders.

### What do you feel is the primary function of DMEA?

The reliable delivery of electricity to local businesses and residences at an affordable rate. What is your vision for DMEA?

I would like to see DMEA continue its groundbreaking work in locally-generated energy, as well as paving the way for adoption of renewables as mandated.

How would you describe the roles and responsibilities of cooperative board members? Board members must understand and be open to the needs of the cooperative members, and must maintain communication with members about issues facing the coop. Board members must make decisions in the best interests of the coop members.

Is there anything about DMEA that you would like to change? If yes, what and why?



I would like DMEA to continue to increase its local generation and to increase its participation in the local economy by creating jobs through that local generation.

#### Candidate Background Statement:

I have lived in Montrose for 30 years. During that time, I served on the Montrose/Olathe Board of Education for 12 years and the Montrose City Planning Commission for two years. I am currently serving on the Colorado Utility Consumers Board, representing the interests of Western Slope electric and gas consumers at the state level.

As the owner of a successful Montrose law firm, I have employed more than 20 people. Before practicing law, I administered a \$20 million budget for the City of New Haven, CT, as well as \$20 million in federal contracts. I wrote two books on budgeting and financial management for public organizations.

After having represented our community's electric consumers at the state level, I look forward to bringing my experience back to the local level and helping DMEA stimulate the local economy through local energy generation, while keeping the costs to our members low.

#### DMEA'S DISTRICT 3 CHAIR OLEN LUND ANNOUNCES INTENT TO SEEK RE-ELECTION

#### Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-All through his first term as Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Director Olen has used his experience, knowledge, and contacts to further develop hydro, micro-hydro, coal bed methane, solar, and other local natural resources for local electricity generation within our service area.

Olen and his wife, Debbie have been married for 29 years and have three children that have graduated from Paonia High School (as did Olen in 1978). In fact, in 1907 Olen's grandmother was the third person to ever graduate from Paonia High School! Olen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and a Master of Science degree in Welding Engineering from The Ohio State University.

Olen was instrumental as President of the Board when DMEA petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow DMEA to promote responsible electricity generation in our area. As Secretary/ Treasurer of the board, Olen used his common sense business experience to help develop an economically feasible, and practical, method to pursue fiber broadband service to ensure minimal costs and maximum benefits for all DMEA member owners.

In addition to serving as President and Secretary/Treasurer of the DMEA Board, Olen has also been chairman of the DMEA Board's Engineering and Construction Committee. He has been certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as a credentialed Electric Cooperative Director.

Currently Olen is a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Rural Electric Association (the Colorado "statewide REA") and has been able to garner the support of electric cooperatives throughout the state in an effort to better define

within Colorado State Statute the parameters of competition between cooperative and municipal electricity providers. Olen currently operates a farm in the North Fork Valley that has been in the Lund family since 1917.

He is president of the Delta County Farm and Livestock Bureau and chairman of the Colorado Farm Bureau Water Advisorv Committee. Olen was a Delta County Commissioner for 8 years and vice chair of the Agriculture, Wildlife, and Rural Affairs Committee of Colorado Counties, Inc., the statewide county commissioner's association.

Olen was a founding member of the Gun-



nison Basin Roundtable, an entity established by Colorado State Statute to represent the interests of water users in all the Gunnison Basin, including Montrose and Delta Counties.

Olen also represented the Gunnison Basin on the Inter-Basin Compact Committee, an advisory committee on water issues to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and to the Governor of Colorado.

Mr. Lund is honored to have served all the members of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association as a Board Director the past three years, and the citizens of Delta County, and, in fact, the citizens of all of the Gunnison Basin the past several years.



### MEN: LEARN TO FISH, HUNT, SHOOT, JUNE 24-26

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Isn't it about time you got away from that computer screen and got into Colorado's backcountry for some real adventure? Men, ages 18-14, who are interested in learning how to fish and hunt are invited to a weekend "Cast and Blast" sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, June 24-26.

"There is no better way to burn off the stress of this 24-7 world than to get out of town and into Colorado's mountains for some hunting and fishing," said Mark Caddy, district wildlife manager in the Montrose area, "We want to teach you some skills to make you comfortable in the woods."

The weekend class is especially designed for men who have no experience or limited experience with firearms, archery, hunting and fishing, and camping. Participants will learn some of the basics of wildlife biology, fly fishing, shotgun shooting and archery while relaxing in a remote corner of Colorado.

The weekend event will be held at the beautiful Lone Cone-Jim Olterman State Wildlife Area located in San Miguel Coun-



ty in southwestern Colorado. Firearms and fishing gear will be provided. Attendees will be selected from applications submitted to the Montrose Service Center of Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 2300 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401. Applications can be obtained by calling 970-252-6000 or by e-mail at <u>darlene.trainor@state.co.us</u>. A \$40 refundable deposit is required

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

To Hilltop Community Resources, for help and support when it is needed most...

... To CDOT Western Region Communications Pro Nancy Shanks of CDOT on her retirement, and for doing a great job for our region all these years!

... To Wollert Automotive and Bill Barba for the best customer service ever...

...and to Claire Clemens and Marissa Isgreen, because four years goes by so fast. Congrats CSU grads!

...to the MHS and OHS graduating classes of 2016, and to about-to-be graduates across the Western Slope, congratulations!

DEB BARR • BARB BERNHARDT • TERESA DESPRES PAULA GEORGE • GLENDA FLETCHALL • YVONNE MEEK KAREN MERCER • SUSAN WALTON ZOE WERDEN • BETH WILLIAMS

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### **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEGOTIATIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District negotiations are open to the public. They are on Thursday and Friday, May 12 & 13 from 8-3 at the district office. Come support your local educators and our community's students.

### FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL SERVICE AND NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Fallen Officer Memorial Service and National Peace Officers Memorial Day celebration will take place on May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Centennial Plaza in Montrose. The service will include past and present law enforcement officers, bagpipes, a color guard and several prominent speakers. The service will be followed by a WestCO Regional Dispatch Center Open House.

#### MIRROR PUBLICATIONS WILL NOT PUBLISH NEXT WEEK, DUE TO OUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF OUR OLDEST CHILD FROM COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY. SEE YOU IN TWO WEEKS! *MIRROR PUBLISHING GROUP*



#### **CDOT RESUMES CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST WILDLIFE UNDERPASS ON US 160**

#### Special to the Mirror

LA PLATA COUNTY – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is continuing a project started last fall to construct a wildlife underpass on US 160 between Bayfield and Durango (located at Dry Creek, about five miles east of the junction of US 160 and SH 172, between MM 97 and MM 98.) CDOT's contractor for the project, Crossfire LLC, resumed construction last month, with impacts to travel remaining minimal. The total cost of the project—from design through construction—is estimated at \$6.5 million. The project will be completed in August of 2016.

The project constructs a large mammal underpass—a pre-cast concrete arch structure with a natural earth bottom. This arch span bridge will be 37 feet wide and 13 feet high. Half of the bridge structure was installed last fall next to the existing highway. Crews are now paving a two-lane detour atop the completed portion. Once detour lanes are paved, traffic will be switched to drive over the completed half of the bridge while Crossfire installs the other half.

Once the entire project is complete, the detour will be closed and fenced off but will remain in place to accommodate possible future widening from two to four lanes, as called for in the US 160 Environmental Impact Statement or EIS. The roadway above the completed underpass will remain a single lane in each direction with widened 10-foot shoulders. Crews will also install some 10,700 linear feet of wildlife fencing and eight wildlife escape ramps.

"Between 9,200 and 9,600 vehicles travel this stretch of US 160 each day," CDOT Program Engineer Ed Archuleta said. "Crash data over the last five years show that 58 percent of all collisions are wildlife -vehicle crashes at this location. Reports also show a high number of single-vehicle overturning crashes are occurring here. The underpass and wider highway shoulders will help prevent these types of collisions."

La Plata County tops the list for highest Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) in the state at 252 in 2013; Jefferson County, 248; El Paso, 201; Douglas, 199; Garfield, 128; Moffat, 116; Larimer, 106; Montezuma, 106; (view more county and statewide data, here: <u>http://www.coloradodot.info/</u> <u>programs/environmental/wildlife/</u> wildlifeonthemove/data-and-charts.

This underpass is the first of several wildlife crossings recommended in the US 160 EIS between Durango and Bayfield. Wildlife features were identified in the EIS in coordination with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

#### **PROJECT IMPACTS/**

**INFORMATION:** Work will be done between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day, though much of it will be accomplished off the highway and with the use of the detour. Lane closures are not anticipated until the end of the project, when the new alignment is tied to the existing. During construction the speed limit will be reduced to 40 mph.

Home Health of Western Colorado Montrose, CO

The Homestead at Montrose Montrose, CO

Senior CommUnity Care (PACE) Montrose, CO • Eckert, CO

> Valley Manor Care Center Montrose, CO

Senior CommUnity Meals Eckert, CO

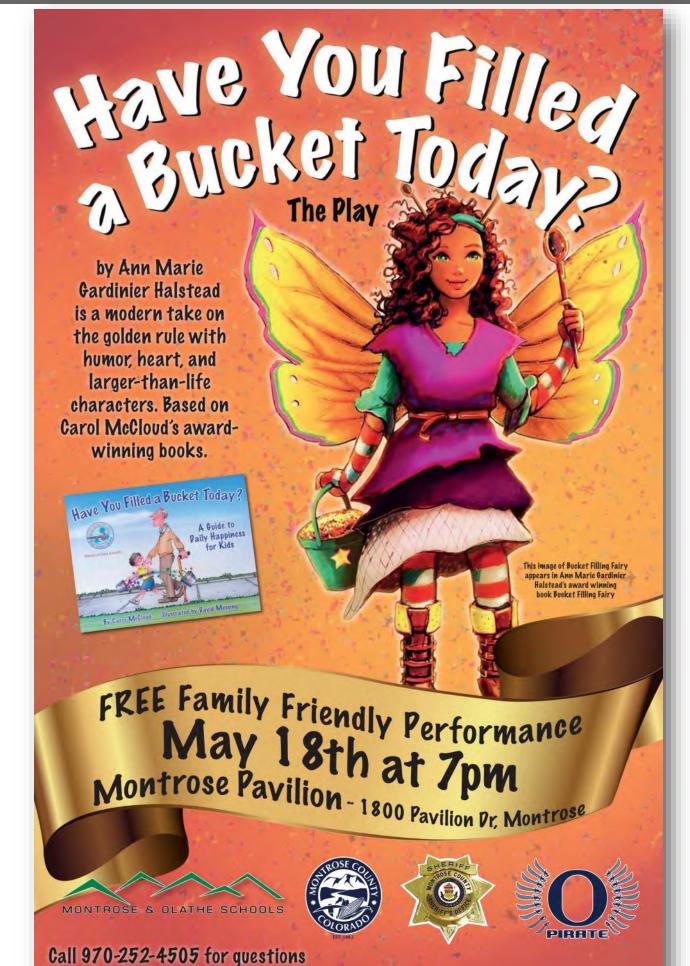
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### Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

**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@aol.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. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

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-

May 9-Montrose Regional Library Comic Book Day, kids 6 to 12 stop by between 2 and 7 p.m. for your free comic book!

May 9—Monday, May 9 at 6:30 Meet with concerned people at Citizen's Climate Lobby gathering, Centennial room off Centennial Plaza Montrose . Nonpartisan way to have an effect.

May 10--6:30-8:30 pm, Healthy Rhythm Gallery in Sampler Square presents "An Evening with Southeast Arkansas Artist, Historian, Explorer & Filmmaker, Rob Reep". Artwork will be on display & available for purchase. Free & open to the public.

May 10-Montrose-Delta League of Women Voters Presents: the Path to Citizenship, in the Montrose Library at 12:30 p.m.

May 11-Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to a workshop on "Great Volunteer Management" from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on May 11 in Delta. The location is Westminster Hall, 145 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The guest presenter is Carlene Goldthwaite of Grand Junction, former Director of the Colorado State Council of the Society of Human Resources Management. The fee is \$35. To register, go to <u>www.crcamerica.org</u>, click on Rural Philanthropy Days, then on San Juan Region. For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, <u>maryo@cfgv.org</u>, 970-641-3570.

May 11-Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to a workshop on "Great Volunteer Management" from 2-5 p.m. on May 11 in Ridgway. The location is the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton. The guest presenter is Carlene Goldthwaite of Grand Junction, former Director of the Colorado State Council of the Society of Human Resources Management. The fee is \$35. To register, go to <a href="http://www.crcamerica.org">www.crcamerica.org</a>, click on Rural Philanthropy Days, then on San Juan Region. For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, <a href="http://www.maryo@cfgv.org">maryo@cfgv.org</a>, 970-641-3570.

May 12-13-MCSD Re-1J negotiations are open to the public. They are on Thursday and Friday, May 12 & 13 from 8-3 at the district office. Come support your local educators and our community's students.

May 12-13- The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meets at Courtyard by Marriot, 765 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colo., May 12-13. The meeting is slated to begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, and is scheduled to adjourn at noon, Friday. Action items pending include State Forest State Park lease, changes to parks chapter P-7 and wildlife chapters W-1, W-2, W-9 and W-11. In addition, 2017 Off-highway vehicle trail grants are slated for approval. A complete agenda can be found at: <a href="http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/commission/2016/May/Agenda.pdf">http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/commission/2016/May/Agenda.pdf</a>.

May 12-14-The Friends of the Montrose Library will hold a used book sale Thursday, May 12, through Saturday, May 14, in the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Hours are Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (FOL members only 8-11 a.m.; you may join at the sale); Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday from 2-4 p.m. customers can fill a reusable bag with books for \$4. Information, 596-3909.

May 12-KAFM RADIO ROOM in Grand Junction proudly presents... Ameranouch, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 AT 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext. 201 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

May 12-7:- 8:30 pm-Introduction to Beekeeping-The Montrose Botanical Society will present guest speaker, Gayle Johnson, a local beekeeper, she will share tips about beekeeping in your backyard. Free and open to the public at the Centennial Room off Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st Street

#### www.montrosegardens.org.

May 13-Magic Circle Players-*The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*" opens May 13 for four weekends of performances: Fridays and Saturdays May 13 and 14, 20 and 21 and 27 and 28 and June 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees May 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Online tickets sales for the general public open May 10 at *magiccircleplayers.com*. General public ticket sales by telephone at (970) 249-7838, or in person at the box office beginning May 10 from 2 to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

May 13--6:30-8:30 pm, Healthy Rhythm Gallery in Sampler Square presents Opening Night for art exhibition "The Path of Most Resistance." Santa Fe, New Mexico artist, Bernard Lieving, will be on hand to answer questions about his art. Artwork will be available for purchase. Free & open to the public.

May 14- Healthy Rhythm Gallery in Sampler Square presents Saturday Night Live @ The Gallery: Music By Young People. May 14th, 6-8 pm. <u>\$3</u> cover charge. Bring 3 new people and get in Free. Come out & support Colorado youth & Live Music.

May 14—Magic Circle Players Audition Workshop. 9am to Noon at Magic Circle Theatre Kids ages 7-13 years are invited to prepare for Annie auditions through a FREE workshop. Registration forms available at Magic Circle Theater and www.magiccircleplayers.com Audition Workshop attendance is not mandatory for actors to audition for Annie. Attendees must be able to read from a script.

May 14-Women Songwriters of the Uncompandre Valley, Lark and Sparrow Venue, doors open at 6:30 p.m. concert at 7:30 p.m. Reservations encouraged. May 14-Montrose Music Contest 2016! Centennial Plaza, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Youth and adult divisions. \$10 entry fee, Call Ellen Bailey at 970-275-6975 for more information.

May 14-Canyon Creek Bed & Breakfast Comedy Night will be at the B&B, 820 East Main Street, starting AT 8 P.M. ON May 14.

May 15-The Ouray County Historical Museum opens fulltime for the 2016 season on Sunday, May 15. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Saturday and noon – 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$7 per adult and \$3 for youth, ages six-15. Children under six are free. The museum is located at 420 Sixth Avenue in Ouray. For more information and group rates, call (970) 325-4576 or e-mail <u>ochs@ouraynet.com</u>.

May 16-18- 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. Rural Philanthropy Days-Monday, May 16 | 3:30 pm- 5 pm | Telluride; Telluride Fire Protection District, 131 West Columbia Ave., Telluride, CO 81435; Tuesday, May 17 | 10:30 am- Noon | Montrose, Montrose District Library 320 South 2nd St., Montrose, CO 81401; Wednesday, May 18 | 9:00 am- 10:30 am | Gunnison Valley Mentors , 101 N 8th St., Gunnison, CO 81230.

May 17-DMEA Meet the Candidates, 6 to 7 p.m. at DMEA headquarters, 11925 6300 Road. Light refreshments served.

May 18-Free Family Friendly Performance at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive. "Have you Filled Bucket Today?" 7 p.m.



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### MONTROSEMIRROR

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





The Lions Carnival returned to the Montrose County Fairgrounds this past weekend, and wet weather did not keep kids or families away.

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