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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 170 May 23 2016

## KERSCHNER HONORED FOR REMARKABLE LIFE

*Mirror Staff Report*

MONTROSE-Montrose County Commissioners recognized a local community leader, philanthropist, and hero at the BOCC meeting of May 16. "My esteemed citizen does not know he is being honored," County Media Relations Director Katie Yergensen said by means of introduction. "Or he wouldn't have come." There were few dry eyes as "Voice of the Valley" Jim Kerschner's many accomplishments were cited, including the fact that he raised more than half a million dollars for Operation Sweet Tooth over 11 years, in support of military personnel far from home.

Though best known as a longtime radio personality and executive with Cherry Creek Radio, Kerschner has devoted countless hours to community service and to small business in Montrose as well. Prior to getting into radio, Kerschner owned and operated the popular Red Barn Restaurant here. He has called Western Colorado home for much of his life, his [radio biography](#) notes. His remarkable generosity of spirit has made him a household name throughout the region. In addition to words of heartfelt praise from Sheriff Rick Dunlap and others on May 16, Kerschner received a hug from County Commissioner Ron Henderson.



*Local leader Jim Kerschner was honored by the Montrose Board of County Commissioners May 16. Commissioner Henderson gave him a hug.*

## SUNSET MESA PARK WELL LOVED, BUT ENTRY NEEDS SAFETY UPGRADE, BETTER SIGNAGE, CITIZENS SAY



*A dog and owner walk on one of the trails at Sunset Mesa Park. The park connects to Baldridge and Cerise parks through its trails.*

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE-If you enjoy spending time outdoors, or have kids who play sports, chances are you have spent time on Sunset Mesa. The youth sports complex and walking trails that connect to Baldridge and Cerise Parks make this a community gem, with breathtaking views on all sides.

However, the hill known as the Hogback to many locals has a rich history as well. Grand View Cemetery, which rests on the South end of Sunset Mesa, contains graves that date back to the 1800's, according to historian Marilyn Cox, in her [Step Back in Time](#) column of Sept. 18, 2013. In the *Montrose Daily Press*. From the 1920's until the 1940's, there was also an airport atop the Mesa, as well as a popular golf course. Early Montrose business woman Georgiana Buckley established a brick factory at the north end of Sunset Mesa in the 1900's, according to Cox.

Though the park area has been well developed, one weakness of Sunset Mesa is the access road. Members of

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*Gail Marvel's  
Cruisin' in Style! (2)*

*Serbian Family torn  
apart by Guardianship*

*Letters to the Editor  
Regional news briefs!*

*Mountain States  
Ranch Rodeo!*

*Regional events  
Calendar!*

# Gail Marvel's Cruisin' in Style

## COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS AND CARLA BROWN!



plan on doing any restorations or modifications in the future. This car is a keeper and not for sale.

The 4.6-liter engine with 330 HP and can go from zero to 60 MPH in five seconds.

With a six speed on the floor the vehicle does a quarter mile in 13.6 seconds reaching 104.1 MPH and it has a top speed of 142 MPH.

Included in the Shelby's pedigree is a Ford Racing Handling Pack, Ford Racing Power Up-

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-It took two visits to the Shelby Auto Museum and Factory in Las Vegas, Nevada before Chris Brown's wife Carla finally agreed to the purchase of a Shelby Mustang.

Specifically, a 2007 Shelby GT Mustang

Fastback.

Chris said, "It took about a year to find it online. We had it checked out and then shipped from Springfield, Illinois."

Chris is the third owner and has had the car for 2 ½ years. All original, the Mustang needed no restoration, nor does Chris

grade Package, Performance X Pipe, Hurst Short-Throw Shifter and a 3.55 Rear Axle.

With 13,000 miles on the odometer the Shelby is driven mostly in the summertime and on weekends.

Chris said, "In the winter it stays in the garage."



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**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**



## CITY LOOKS AT REZONING FIVE PROPERTIES

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Five City-owned properties are proposed for rezoning at the City of Montrose Planning Commission Meeting at 5 p.m. on May 25. The City itself is the applicant for rezoning a. anx15-03: 21.3 acres known as 1933 Townsend Avenue; b. anx15-04 – Approximately seven acres near the corner of Miami and Stanford Lane, between Miami road and the Black Canyon Golf Course; c. anx15-05 –approximately one acre known as 2600 6485 road; d. anx15-06 – Approximately 35 acres located on both sides of the Uncompahgre River between North of Anderson Road and 65100 old Chipeta Trail. e. anx15-07 – Approximately five acres known as 970 Chipeta Road. The City of Montrose Planning Commission will meet again on June 8 at 5 p.m.

## MONTROSE IS START AND FINISH FOR 2016 BICYCLE TOUR OF COLORADO

### Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-June 19-25, more than 600 cyclists from all over the world will participate in the 22nd Annual Bicycle Tour of Colorado (BTC), one of Colorado's ultimate cycling adventures. Riders will be cycling 359 miles through the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Cyclists will be arriving Saturday, June 18 at Columbine Middle School to register. The city will welcome participants next door at Rotary Park, and the public is invited to attend the event, scheduled from 2-8 pm. Music will be provided, and vendors are welcome to participate. Businesses and nonprofits are encouraged to become vendors for a nominal fee: food and retail - \$10; nonprofits - free. Food ven-

dors are needed for both the Saturday celebration between 2-8 pm, as well as for breakfast early Sunday from 4:30-10 am. Shuttles will move participants throughout town to eat, shop, and enjoy Montrose. The Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA) will provide a beer garden and Sharing Ministries Food bank will provide wine and drinks. A tour bus will transport pre-registered BTC participants out to the Black Canyon National Park, and a Bike-In Movie Night, presented by the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance (MABA) will start at 8:30 pm. People are encouraged to bike or walk to the park to enjoy the movie. Popcorn will be available on a donation basis.

Rotary Park is located next to Columbine Middle School (600 S 12th St). Riders will climb Red Mountain Pass, Molas Divide, Coal Bank Pass, Lizard Head Pass, and Dallas Divide.

Kent Powell, BTC director and Colorado native, developed the tour based on his own experiences with biking and hiking in the Rocky Mountains. "This tour, for many cyclists, is a trip of a lifetime. Friends and family members get together to ride one of the most challenging, breathtaking tours in the country," says Powell. Over the last 21 years, the Bicycle Tour of Colorado has catered to over 26,000 cyclists and has raised more than \$400,000 for a number of charities in Colorado.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

### SORTING OUT COLORADO'S FISCAL CHALLENGES AS 2016 SESSION ENDS

The 2016 legislative session ended this past week and, as of a couple of hours ago, I'm thankfully back in La Plata County. I've turned in the keys to the short-term rental that serves as my base during the session and my patient husband has helped me once again pack up my stuff and move home.

Of the 22 bills I was prime sponsor of, 19 made it through the legislative process and either have been signed into law or await the governor's signature. Nearly 2/3rds of those bills had bipartisan sponsorship and all of them had bipartisan cosponsors and, obviously, bipartisan votes to make it through both chambers of our politically split legislature.

You can review the list of my sponsored bills, including the bill language, fiscal notes, history and final votes, at the state's website, [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)

My bills this session covered a number of topics, many generated by my constituents. A good number were aimed at reducing high healthcare costs and increasing access to providers, since so many of my constituents struggle with high insurance premiums and still experience limited access to care. Other bill ideas came from local and tribal governments, interim work I had done last summer and fall, and the devastat-

tating Gold King mine spill above Silverton.

I carried a bill that begins the process of improving the state's cryptic approach to characterizing independent contractors as employees, much to the distress of those unexpectedly caught in that bureaucratic quagmire.

State agencies should not be viewed as the source of expensive and stressful disputes with small businesses owners and, with this bill clarifying the unemployment insurance classification, at last, we seem to be making progress in this area.

While my bill advancing biomass electricity generation was unsuccessful, its primary goal of providing an economically and environmentally sustainable means of removing Colorado's woody biomass and putting it to good use was contained in a different bill of mine that did pass overwhelmingly in both the Senate and House.

Senate Bill 3 provides \$1 million of state funds to mitigate wildfire risks in populated areas across the state. The public safety and watershed protection importance of the state continuing this program can't be overstated and the investment is essential for receiving matching funds from participating federal agencies.

I chaired the Judiciary Committee this year and we heard a total of 76 bills in

committee, many of which were complicated and often on emotional topics. It is a small committee of only five senators and we worked hard, listening to many hours of public testimony and giving each bill its due consideration. There wasn't political posturing or time wasting by any committee members, but a lot of effort was put into the serious understanding and deliberation of a bill's merits and demerits.

As to the legislative session as a whole, as always, there were ups and downs. My legislative aide, Caitlin Roberts, was an awesome assistant and she was most definitely a positive for me this session. My college intern, Trevor Morrin, was also a huge help.

Work still remains on sorting out Colorado's fiscal challenges, but the Colorado legislature met our constitutional requirement of balancing our bipartisan budget, on time.

It was my honor to serve another session as Senate President Pro Tempore and as your state senator.

*Senator Ellen S. Roberts, Senate President Pro Tempore*

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## SUNSET MESA WELL LOVED, WELL USED From page 1



*One of the ballfields at Sunset Mesa. With increased sports participation, the park entry needs safety and signage upgrades, locals say.*

the original Parks Advisory Council (PAC) recall that prior to their being disbanded last year, discussions centered on ways to improve the safety of the road that connects Sunset Mesa with Chipeta Road.

"The driveway up here is dangerous," said Marge Morgenstern, former Parks Advisory Council (PAC) Chair. "There needs to be a fence, or at the very least a rail, and the sign on Chipeta Road is too far away from the left-hand turn lane."

The roadway has become an even more vital link today, with increasing numbers of visitors from other areas attending youth sports events on Sunset Mesa.

Signage can be confusing as well. "Garry (City Planning Dept. Staffer Garry Baker) assured us years ago that they would re-sign the entrance," said Steve Caldwell, who served on the original Parks Advisory Council. "Why not one of these big rock things like they have at the Water Sports Park, especially now that we have one at the golf course?"

Another recommendation that PAC members had made to the City during discus-

sions on Sunset Mesa was for a gravel walking trail along the uphill portion of the road. "We didn't want concrete, because kids would be skateboarding down into the road if we did that," Caldwell said. "But a gravel walking path would be nice."

Retired forester Wayne Quade, a certified park and

recreation professional and former PAC volunteer, said that in years past, Sunset Mesa was popular among young people as a place to come and park, as well as for kids to ride bikes. "I kind of think that history should be addressed," Quade said. "Youth gathering areas are a real need in our community. This is basically an athletic park, but I like the interconnectivity." Quade also notes that Sunset Mesa is a natural area for xeriscape plantings, because of the abundant sunshine and shortage of available water.

The connections to other parks add to the appeal of Sunset Mesa for many. "I park at the West Main trailhead and hike up here," Caldwell said.

"The bike path and trails are spectacular," Morgenstern said.

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## FAMILY THAT FLED COMMUNISM RIPPED APART & IMPOVERISHED BY COURTS, SON SAYS

### *Ivan Markovic Still Searching for Mother, and for Father's Remains*



*Ivan Markovic, who is still searching for his mother Slavka, holds court documents that he say separated his family and seized their home and assets for no reason.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Ivan Markovic first came to the United States as a child in 1969 with his mother and father, Serbian immigrants

who hoped to leave war torn Europe behind and build new lives in the land of the free. "They were good parents," Ivan said. "We got along great. We are Europeans, and it is automatic over there that you take care of your parents when they grow old, because they took care of you all those years."

Markovic, who earns a living as a computer consultant, had obtained a medical power of attorney for his parents ten years ago, he said. "I had been taking care of them since 2005," he said. Eventually, the family left their adopted home in the Eastern United States to come to Colorado.

At the time the Marcovics' troubles began early in 2015, Ivan's mother Slavka was 89 and his father Gojko 87. With difficulties imposed by dementia, his father's recent stroke, and a language barrier (Ivan's parents spoke only Serbian), their son served as both translator and liaison with the outside world. In order to get things done on his computer or outside of the home they shared, Ivan had arranged through a local homecare agency for regular help with chores and parental supervision. "My parents required much attention," Ivan said. "The only time I could

spend away from them was when someone else was there to help supervise."

Doctor and chiropractor visits were an important part of his parents' lives as well, he recalled. "I knew all of the doctors," Ivan said. "I scheduled work around the appointments, and really backed off on my work schedule so that I could spend more time with mother and dad. Really, I left my girlfriend behind too."

At first, the family tried the non-profit Volunteers of America PACE program, Ivan said. "But dad didn't like it, because he couldn't go to as many doctors." So Ivan had hired a privately-owned homecare business with offices in Montrose, and was happy with the arrangement in the beginning. "And then one day I got a call that mother had gotten outside while the care person was there," he said. "She fell down, broke some bones, and had to go to the emergency room at Montrose Memorial. She eventually healed, but it was very upsetting to me that someone would not pay attention while they were there, and that my parents could get out."

When his mother wandered a second time, Ivan confronted the care provider, who was found asleep in a reclining chair.

*Continued pg 7*

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## SERBIAN FAMILY FLED COMMUNISM, RIPPED APART & IMPOVERISHED BY COURTS

*From page 6*

Calls to the homecare company were not returned, he said. "They usually sent over a lady my parents and I really liked," he recalled. "She did a good job. But every now and then they would send over a stranger. And my parents didn't like those people, especially when all they did was sleep while they were there."

Markovic believes his continued complaints to the Homecare provider ultimately caused the company to go on the offense. "They filed a police report," he said, "saying they feared my parents were going to be murdered by me." When the police contacted him about the report, however, Markovic was not immediately concerned. "My parents were walking around the room," he said. "So I told the police they are fine; come and see."

Montrose Police were satisfied with his explanation, and did not come out, he added, but reported the call to Montrose County's Adult Protective Services, who immediately began to push for a temporary guardianship order on the basis that Ivan planned to murder his parents, according to Ivan. Still, because common sense indicated otherwise, the son brushed aside his worries. "I would never, ever harm my elderly parents," said Ivan, who is physically a very large individual.

Because his father had had an aneurism and was not improving, Ivan placed him at Colorow Care Center and moved his mother there shortly thereafter from another local care facility. Once again, the situation began well.

"And then I got a summons for court," Ivan said. "A company called CM Care was suing for guardianship of my parents. So I stopped working to try deal with it all. Five times I went to court, and every time it got worse."

In the end, the court seized the funds remaining in family accounts as well as the parents' home, and placed Ivan's parents in a guardianship arrangement. "I spoke to all of our doctors and got letters of support," Ivan said sadly, "But Judge Deganhart threw the letters out of court. There was a Serbian language interpreter, but there were 20 people talking at once in

that courtroom, and my parents were like deer in the headlights. The guy was speaking their language, but much too fast. I tried to tell them not to speak too fast because my parents could not hear.

"But I am the only one they did not want to listen to."

No evidence of physical abuse was ever presented to the Court, according to Ivan. A [March 4, 2016 affidavit submitted to the Court by the Guardian, Cheryl Oeltjenbruns of CM Care Management](#), reaffirms Ivan's assertions: "I do not know that Ivan poses a direct physical threat to either of his parents," Oeltjenbruns stated, adding however that Ivan's presence and insistence on speaking Serbian to his parents appeared to agitate his mother and father's mental states and made guardianship difficult.

In a statement prepared for Judge Mary Deganhart, Ivan attempted to articulate what he believed caused some of the miscommunication: "Sometimes older people need extra volume if you want to be heard, and my family's cultural heritage means that conversations are often done with extra use of gestures and a certain gregariousness," he wrote.

Though in most cases members of the public can access Court transcripts, in the case of a Guardianship that is not possible, Seventh Judicial District Administrator Thomas Maxwell said. Colorado Chief Justice Directive 05-01 established confidentiality for such cases, he said. "I can tell you that there was a case, and it is ongoing, but we cannot comment."

Meanwhile, for Ivan, visits to Colorow became increasingly difficult. Because staff were uncomfortable with his increasingly worried presence and his parents' response to it, and did not understand the couple's native language, they were ordered not to speak it, Ivan said. Court documents in his possession indicate that this was indeed the case. Even the relationship of Gojko and Slavka Markovic did not meet the approval of the guardians.

"About four months before my father (passed away), they separated him from my mother," Ivan said. "No contact al-

lowed. Not on birthdays. Not for Christmas. They even suggested in court that they had determined that my parents were not a good match for each other, and it was their duty to keep them separated, or someone could be killed.

"I noticed that the things I would bring to make them more comfortable would disappear," he continued. "And things that other friends would bring to make them more comfortable would also disappear.

"And then one day it was my dad who was gone."

A family friend spotted the brief obituary online, after it was issued by Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors of Montrose: "Mr. Gojko Markovic, 87, passed away at Delta County Memorial Hospital Friday, March 11, 2016. Funeral arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors, 970-240-9870. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Mr. Gojko Markovic please visit our [Sympathy Store](#)."

Though Ivan attempted to claim his father's remains, even that effort was thwarted, he said, because though he received a bill for services, Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors did not make it possible for him to reclaim his father at the time of the funeral, and cannot locate any remains now.

Still, "I miss my parents, Ivan Markovic said. "They escaped communism when I was little, to give me a chance to grow up free. And now communism has followed them here, and they'll both die prisoners of petty tyrants. And if I dare to stand up for our family, it's off to the gulag. Where are the 'checks and balances' this government used to operate under?"

"I keep thinking of my father on his deathbed," he said. "Asking, where is the son who was always there? The son I cared for?" Ivan would like to find and visit his mother now, before it is too late. And when he is no longer busy trying to find and care for her, he has one more wish—to leave the area. "I think it will be time to pull the plug on the Colorado experiment," he said. "Because I really don't think I want to grow old here."

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

### LOCAL WRITER, CARPENTER CHRISTOPHER LARSEN JOINS MIRROR EDITORIAL TEAM AS APPRENTICE JOURNALIST

*Dear Readers:*

Nearly a month ago, through a personal experience, I was thrust into the controversy concerning the need for an up-to-date off-leash dog park in Montrose. After suffering a horrible personal loss, I decided to join the ongoing fight for pet owner rights in our community.

I'm a blue collar guy who still believes in business with a handshake and in the principals that I learned in Sunday school and kindergarten. Please don't let me mislead you, I don't mind mixing it up either, but as I age (notice I don't say mature...lol) I have learned when to fight the good fight for the sake of others and when to turn the other cheek when it's my own gratification that craves satisfaction.

Edward R. Murrow is my champion of the constitution and Abraham Lincoln my favorite G.O.P member. How can we forget the beaches of France and war in the Pacific? History is repeating itself all around the world; only the faces have changed. The tactics are different and the catch phrases morphed into today's vernacular.

Fascism, it seems, has made a triumphant return.

And I have decided to apprentice as a writer and reporter with the Mirror.

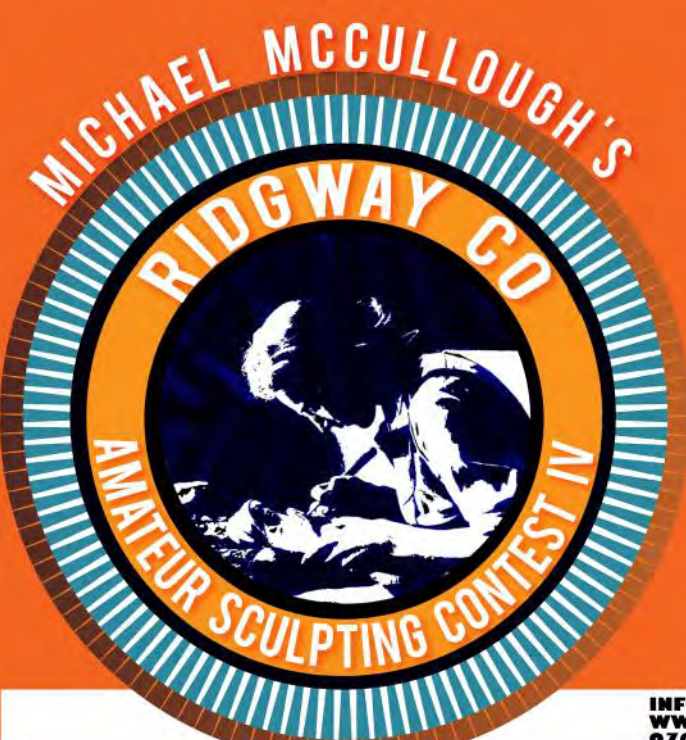
This will be very difficult for me as I wear my heart on my sleeve. There will be no more leaving my work at work, for I am not capable. I will not stop until injustice quashed and balance restored to the people.

My new career started with my friend Ivan's story. His parents' abduction at the hands of the well-meaning social services system horrifies me. How can a social safety net become so broken?

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to be idealistic and follow my college dream to become a journalist. Sometimes people come into your life and demand your very best, to live up to personal standards and to become a better person for the Sake of others. So it is my distinct honor and pleasure to begin serving the western slope and begin my journey with you. I will do my very best to remain un-impeachable and continue my new quest for the rights of all people and pets.

I therefore humbly ask for a moment of your time each week. Because, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

—Christopher Larsen, Montrose











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## CITIZENS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER BOCC RESOLUTION ON AMENDMENT 69

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—According to the *Denver Business Journal*, Amendment 69, also known as ColoradoCare, would eliminate the existing health-insurance plans being sold in the state and replace them with a state-chartered plan funded by a 10 percent payroll deduction per employee. Like any measure, Amendment 69 has supporters and detractors.

No matter how you feel about ColoradoCare, however, it is not the role of elected officials to tell people how to vote; that was the message a young Montrose County resident shared with the Montrose Board of County Commissioners on May 16 regarding a proposed county resolution (see sidebar) opposing Amendment 69. Citizens Marv Ballantyne and Wayne Quade had expressed opposition to the County's resolution during the time for public comment as well, but it was Kristin Pulatie's courageous appeal on behalf of voter's rights that struck a nerve with one Commissioner.

"While I do work for the County," said Pulatie, who heads Montrose County Health & Human Services, "I am not speaking as a County employee but as a private citizen.

"I take no exception to the level of analysis...and I don't see a problem with the Board of County Commissioners taking a position on the Bill. I only question encouraging citizens to vote one way or another.

I take exception to that as someone who lives here."

Commissioner David White defended the County's stance, saying Amendment 69 "literally could bankrupt the state and drive business out." He pointed out that former Democratic Governor Bill Ritter also opposes the Bill; and called Amendment 69 an "economic disaster."

BOCC Chair Glen Davis had already weighed in during the Public Comment time, stating his opposition to Amendment 69. However, in response to Pulatie, Davis commented, "I agree Kristin, from the standpoint of influencing voters; this is an educational process, because people often vote for something that is really just icing on top of a bad package." Davis went on to call Obamacare "a bad program," a "bad law," and a "job killer."

"Your grocery bill will be affected," Davis said. "This is a bad bill, in my opinion. I do not believe this is a platform to sway voters, but a platform to put forth an opinion."

Commissioner Ron Henderson breathed a visible sigh of relief upon hearing from Pulatie.

"Kristin, your point is well taken," he said. "We are not allowed to use County facilities for political support." Henderson commented on the number of executive orders



*Above, Marv Ballantyne weighed in during public comment May 16 to express opposition to a Resolution opposing Amendment 69.*

issued by U.S. President Barack Obama, saying, "Society is on the horns of a dilemma. But that doesn't take away our responsibility to allow citizens to form their own opinion without interference," Henderson said. "I am really quite glad you said what you had to say. I am sorry that some of those who opposed the Resolution earlier in the meeting did not stay, probably because of the Chairman's bombastic retort. Because I am really quite awash and refreshed by what you have said."

The Resolution Opposing Amendment 69 was approved two to one, with Henderson voting No.

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING AMENDMENT 69

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 69 will appear on the 2016 ballot at the general election on November 8, 2016, which, if approved by the voters, would create ColoradoCare, a health payment system to finance health care for all Colorado residents; and **WHEREAS**, to pay for the new system, an additional ten percent (10%) payroll tax, 2/3 paid by the employer and 1/3 paid by the employee, would be collected, negatively affecting all working families, retirees, and small businesses; and **WHEREAS**, in addition to the payroll tax, an additional 10% would be collected from all nonpayroll income, such as interest income, dividends, tax refunds, capital gains, sole proprietor business income, and retirement income; and **WHEREAS**, the payroll and income taxes for this health system would be in addition to the current 4.63% state income tax rate; and **WHEREAS**, ColoradoCare would be exempt from the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, allowing the system's costs and taxes to grow unfettered; and **WHEREAS**, ColoradoCare would not be agency of the State of Colorado and would not be subject to administrative direction or control by any state executive, department, commission, board, bureau, or agency; and **WHEREAS**, ColoradoCare would require the doubling of the state budget and give Colorado the highest state taxes in the nation, making it less attractive for the retention and growth of employers and their workforces; and **WHEREAS**, ColoradoCare would replace the current health insurance plans for Coloradans with an initial \$25 billion price tag and thousands of employees to administer the new system; and **WHEREAS**, Amendment 69, if approved, would make Colorado more attractive to those with high-cost health care needs to relocate to the state to take advantage of this publicly funded health care; and **WHEREAS**, ColoradoCare would cover in-state health care only, forcing Coloradans to purchase additional insurance when traveling outside of the state; and **WHEREAS**, as a constitutional amendment, it would be exceedingly difficult to amend or remove, as it would require another vote of the electorate. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County, Colorado that the Board formally opposes Amendment 69 and strongly encourages Montrose County residents to become informed about the Amendment and to vote "NO" at the November 8, 2016 general election.





# SUMMER CHILDREN'S ART CAMP

AGES 5-12

JULY 11th - 15th  
9AM - NOON

\$75.00 (additional family member \$65.00)

Cimarron Creek Clubhouse • 901 6530 Road • Montrose

To secure enrollment call Mary at 970.275.0122

The class will include art lessons, mask making, clay sculpture, beading, and outside art games (weather permitting).



Mary Hill, aka Ms Mary, has designed and will teach the art lessons during Summer Art Camp. She has taught drawing, painting, jewelry making and glass fusing to both adults and children since 2001.

\*Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) is a component of the Montrose Community Foundation. It is a non-profit organization fostering the growth of community development and promotion of excellence in the arts through classes, exhibitions and events.

## MOUNTAIN STATES RANCH RODEO: COUNTDOWN TO 2016!

### MURDOCH'S RANCH & HOME SUPPLY JOINS ROSTER OF RODEO SPONSORS!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply has joined the growing roster of regional and national sponsors of the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo. Doug Roberts, managing partner in MSRR confirmed, "Murdoch's will have a prominent sponsorship role in the 2016 series and Finals. Their involvement from the corporate and local store levels is a big boost in building our events."

Anne Baccus, Marketing & Events Manager for Murdoch's commented,

"Murdoch's is pleased to be affiliated with such a quality event as the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo." Melanie Hannafious, Manager of Murdoch's Montrose store added, "This is a wonderful event for our area. We are excited to support the ranch rodeo and look forward to seeing our customers and friends at the MSRR Finals."

Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply, based in Bozeman, Montana, operates 30 retail stores located throughout the intermountain region. Known for quality mer-

chandise, excellent customer service and value, Murdoch's serves the farm and ranch communities as well as home owners and hobby farmers.

MSRR has sanctioned ranch rodeo events in Cortez, Hotchkiss, Salida, Gunnison, Ridgway and in Mesa County, Colorado. Ranch rodeos in Rifle, Colorado and, Santa Fe and Farmington, New Mexico are also in development.

For information about Mountain States Ranch Rodeo visit:

[www.mountainstatesranchrodeo.com](http://www.mountainstatesranchrodeo.com).

## MOUNTAIN STATES RANCH RODEO: 2016 FINALS SCHEDULE!



*Photos courtesy Mountain States Ranch Rodeo and Jenny Gummersall.*



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose, Colorado will host the best of the best in the MSRR Series at the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo Finals!

Top performing teams from the sanctioned rodeos will compete for the championship of the richest ranch rodeo in Western Colorado. There's excitement and fun for the entire family when the cowboys come to Montrose!

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program Charity Event**

MSRR salutes our veterans with a fund-

raising evening to benefit the Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program for wounded and disabled veterans.

The evening includes a barbecue dinner and auction followed by special performances from western troubadour Brooke Turner and buckaroo poet Waddie Mitchell. All proceeds will benefit the JMHP. Advance tickets are required. Contact MRSS at 970/240-4176.

**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Mountain States Ranch Rodeo Finals**

The top performing teams from MSRR sanctioned rodeos will qualify to compete in the series finals. Teams will put their skills to the test as they compete in 5 rodeo

events in pursuit of the championship buckles and cash awards.

Along with ranch rodeo events, there'll be a round of Mutton Bustin' and Catch-A-Calf for the kids.

See the MRSS website for entry and waiver forms. Food and merchandise vendors will offer a wide variety of treats for all attendees.

The Montrose County Fairgrounds is home to Mountain States Ranch Rodeo. Gates will open at 2 PM on September 10th. The rodeo performance begins at 3 PM. Tickets outlets will be announced soon. For group ticket sales of 25 or more, contact 970-240-4176.



# Olen LUND for DMEA



**EXPERIENCED DIRECTOR**



**RELIABLE SERVICE**



**ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP**



*Olen Lund is a native of the North Fork Valley. He and his wife of 29 years, Debbie, raised their three children on the family farm. He has a passion for the area and for the people who call it home.*

His **proven leadership**, unparalleled experience, diverse background and success as a businessman, engineer, farmer, two-term County Commissioner and experience on Delta-Montrose Electric Board itself make him uniquely qualified to represent us on the DMEA Board. He possesses a deep-rooted understanding of the needs and concerns of rate payers in the area. His contributions will continue to benefit DMEA and the cooperative's energy consumers.

Olen will continue to represent District 3 on the DMEA Board by focusing on **keeping costs low** and **improving reliability**, while **providing accountable and transparent leadership**.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

### BRAD HARDING WOULD BRING OUT OF THE BOX THINKING TO DMEA BOARD

Dear Editor:

A couple of years ago I became acquainted with Brad Harding and was most impressed with his knowledge, energy, and approachability. I see Mr. Harding is running for a position on Delta-Montrose Electric Association's board. Our co-op would greatly benefit from Brad's contribution and leadership skills.

One important question Brad has asked is why are we buying almost all of our electricity from out of our region? Additional-

ly, the owners and shareholders of these giant electric producers could care less about our neck of the woods. I like that Brad is already thinking about ways to produce power in-house or buy power locally.

A few years ago, when I was on Orchard City's Board of Trustees, we wanted to build a hydro-unit. The potential cost savings could have been huge for the town, but the energy credits limited the economic feasibility. The types of proposals Brad has

made would allow towns like Orchard City to become electric producers and sell to providers like DMEA. He sees some major potentials in lowering costs and putting money in the back pockets of Delta and Montrose County residents.

Brad Harding and his out-of-the-box thinking deserves your consideration in DMEA's June 14th elections.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Soper, Austin*

### BELL CREATES NEW PARKS COMMITTEE & WRITES BYLAWS

Dear Editor:

Some observations around the City of Montrose....

If you've traveled any of the City streets you are aware of their disintegration and total lack of maintenance, which at this point is not impacted by winter....The potholes, cracks, moguls, missing pavement, caves and dirt are evident everywhere with weeds proliferating too! What a sad, maddening, disgusting situation....When Jerry Sieverson, Thordy Jacobson, Fernie Rendon, Bobby Morales, Johnny Gorono and all their crews worked, maintenance was performed on a daily basis....If you are in need of experiencing the worst example of a street falling apart, check out SouthThird between Lot and San Juan.....Take your tire-changing tools with you!

The second observation involves Montrose City Manager Billy Bell's *modus op-*

*erandi* which continues unabated: hypocrisy, lies and absolute control! At a recent city council meeting he announced that he is creating a new Parks Board....he is choosing the members and writing the rules! About a year and a half ago, when the then existing Parks Board questioned Billy Bell and was skeptical of his explanation for employees leaving he announced that "a parks board was no longer necessary!" and Bob Nicholson said the Parks Board was infringing on employment, which was out of bounds. And, in the dissolution letter, Billy Bell said "This decision was made in an effort to take some time to evaluate the need for this type of committee moving forward." Guess the time is here. Now, Billy Bell is creating his own Parks Board, selecting the members, vetting them and writing the rules!

A City of Montrose Parks Advisory Board handbook exists which was written by the City Council in November, 2003. It worked very well. Hypocrisy? Lies? Total control? Yes.

One of Billy Bell's often noted distinctions concerning governing this City is that "Council creates policy and the city manager controls employment." Unless I'm misreading Billy Bell's current project, he is creating policy and controlling membership.....Isn't establishing a new board by the city manager policy?

For those of you who have agreed to become a member of this new board, if you question, disagree or confront Billy Bell in any form, you can expect reverberations and retaliation in some form, perhaps dismissal. Enjoy!

*Marge Morgenstern  
Montrose*

### WE CAN BE WISE STEWARDS IF WE APPROACH THE EARTH WISELY

Dear Editor:

As the effects of climate change are being recognized it causes us to realize that we must speed up our efforts to step up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century demand for a sustainable world. Our old fossil fuel based infrastructure needs replacement with the modern sustainable technologies already present. This is the ultimate solution, not only to our serious impacts on climate change, but is also the answer to our concerns for more jobs and an improved economy. What is keeping us from such a necessary transition?

Such things as short-sightedness, skepticism, confusion, fear, and selfishness are human traits needing prayerful addressing. The National Day of Prayer recently commemorated, but still relevant, suggested that there is a solution to human caused problems. Indeed it gives us an opportunity to pray, not only to change these negative states of thought, but to open our minds to the existence of God directed inspiration, energy, and enthusiasm. We can be wise stewards if we approach the earth and society wisely.

*Wayne Quade, Montrose*



## MIRROR IMAGES...OUT AND ABOUT



Above, shoppers browse during the Hwy 50 Yard Sale May 21.



Photos on right, law enforcement officers' Memorial Service at Centennial Plaza May 19.



At left, 2nd graders from Allison Wofford's Pomona Elementary School class learned about launching rockets Friday. Along with parents and friends, Simon and Priscilla Repton of Wicked Wingsuits, a local business, helped the class and shared their love of flight with the kids. Bottom left, Teagen Lovato shows off his rocket.





# DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION Annual Meeting of Members

**Thursday, June 16, 2016**  
**Montrose County Friendship Hall**  
**4:30 - 8:00 PM**

4:30pm: Registration & Voting Begin  
5:00 - 6:30pm: Booths, Activities, & Entertainment  
5:30 - 6:30pm: Grilled Dinner  
6:30pm: National Anthem & Tribute to Law Enforcement  
6:30pm - 8:00pm: Business Meeting, Polls Close

Please join DMEA for its Annual Meeting of Members and celebrate your co-op's accomplishments over the last year. Come early to enjoy the many family-friendly activities and witness the unveiling of Elevate Fiber, our new fiber broadband company.

All registered members will receive a 10" DMEA cast iron skillet and be entered to win a variety of door prizes. The meeting will also conclude the 2016 DMEA Board of Directors elections for District 3, District 4, & the South Region. The results of the elections will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Activities**  
Door prizes  
Expo Booths  
Bucket Truck Rides  
Auto Display  
Covered Wagon  
Photo booth

**Grilled Dinner**  
Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
Chips & Fruit  
Dessert

**Free Gift\***  
DMEA  
Cast Iron Skillet  
(\*one per membership)

**Plus, an appearance  
by Power the robot!**



**JENEVE ROSE  
MITCHELL**

Music and entertainment by  
**Jeneve Rose Mitchell**

Crawford local and American Idol contestant, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, will provide musical entertainment during dinner and perform the National Anthem.

**FREE ADMISSION**



# WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

## MONTROSE WOMAN'S CLUB: SERVING MONTROSE SINCE 1949!



More than 40 ladies attended the Montrose Women's Club April brown bag lunch meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.



On April 18 the Montrose High School Bel Canto Choir performed for the Montrose Women's Club. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

The Montrose Woman's Club was established in 1949 as part of a national organization; however, in the mid-2000's the club broke off and became an independent local club. There are currently 45 members in this service-oriented club and dues are \$15 a year. Although men are not members, some of the husbands do volunteer their time to help with club chores.

Meetings open with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a program, business meeting and committee reports. The program for the April 18 meeting was the Montrose High School Bel Canto Choir and following their performance each student introduced themselves and told how long they have been in the choir.

This club holds two big fundraisers every year; the April Flea Market and the Hobby and Craft Bazaar, which is scheduled for the first weekend in November. Funds are raised through door prizes, gift bags and table rental sales to vendors, and the money earned is given back to local non-profits in the community. Club president Lexy Stevenson said, "The flea market had a vendor waiting list this year, so next year we'll expand into the sales barn to accommodate the number of vendors who want to participate." The club has the longest running flea market and craft boutique in

Montrose. Every year a committee chooses 10-15 non-profits to support and in the last three years they have given \$21,000 back to the community. Funds for 2016 in the amount of \$8,000 have already been allocated. This year eleven of the 14 charities that were supported have acknowledged the gifts with a note of appreciation.

One outreach into the community is making stuffed bears for the Hug-a-Bear project. The bears are supplied to the police department so they can give them to children in stressful situations, such as domestic violence. Easter and Valentines favors are made for Dolphin House and wrapped Christmas gifts are given to nursing home residents. The group also collects toiletries for Haven House. Lexy said, "We just try to be busy."

Standing committees gave reports and Elaine Henderson gave the wrap up on the flea market, "It was a rousing success. Stacked high with people, like cattle going down the aisle. We had 80 vendors, 53 were mom and pops, and we netted \$6,519.47." While everyone in the club contributed to the success of the flea market, special recognition was given to Paulette Wells, Elaine Henderson and Carol Davis.

In unfinished business proposed changes to the by-laws were handed out which

would put the club on a January to December fiscal year. Under new business, officers were elected to serve two year terms.

Laughter rippled through the group when treasurer Nancy Malone reported they earned seven cents in interest on their checking account. She then received groans of sympathy when she revealed her attempts to reconcile the books, "Last month I reported that we had \$3,000.37 in the checking account...the bank statement said we have \$3,000.43."

The lunch meetings are a brown bag, or a potluck, and usually last about an hour and a half. For the April meeting there were a number of new members and guests amongst the 40 attendees. Meetings, which are planned a year in advance, are well organized. An annual booklet with names and address of members, their duties at meetings and the scheduled programs are given to the members. Donna Ancell-Stadler, a member since September 2015 said, "What attracted me [to the club] is that we give back to the community."

Contact Information:

Montrose Woman's Club  
Meets at noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (Sept-May)  
Lions Clubhouse  
602 N. Nevada  
Montrose, CO  
President Lexy Stevenson 970-275-3336.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

By Gail Marvel

**MONTROSE**—On the national level Homeland Security's "See Something, Say Something" campaign may not be a rousing success; however, the program has great potential for local communities.

In early 2000 a Montrose citizen watched as a small neighborhood garage drew an inordinate volume of vehicle traffic throughout the day. The citizen suspected drug activity and reported it to the Montrose Police Department (MPD), however there was little to go on.

Over a period of weeks, the citizen recorded car license plates, make and model of cars when identifiable, and dates and times of vehicle traffic. The information gathered was given to the MPD and they were then able to connect vehicle registration names with known persons of interest and determine their location at specific times.

A raid was conducted on the rented garage, which turned out to be a re-packaging and distribution center for a burglary ring that operated throughout the Uncompahgre valley, from Telluride to Delta. The citizen

was not financially rewarded for the information, but they had the satisfaction of removing a criminal operation from their neighborhood and becoming another set of eyes for local law enforcement.

The official Homeland Security website said, "Across the nation, we're all part of communities. In cities, on farms, and in the suburbs, we share everyday moments with our neighbors, colleagues, family, and friends. It's easy to take for granted the routine moments in our everyday life—going to work or school, the grocery store or the gas station. But your everyday is different that your neighbor's—filled with the moments that make it uniquely yours. So if you see something you know shouldn't be there—or someone's behavior doesn't seem quite right—say something. Because only you know what's supposed to be in your everyday." Public safety is everyone's responsibility and Homeland Security provides a framework for how to report suspicious activity citizens observe:

- Who or what you saw
- When you saw it



*Crime Stoppers electronic sign encourages motorists to be another set of eyes for local law enforcement. Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers is a local non-profit (501c3) organization dedicated to assisting law enforcement with unsolved cases through anonymous tips. Crime Stoppers can be reached at 970-249-8500.*

- Where it occurred; and
- Why it's suspicious

The criminal element in Montrose County will think twice about setting up shop in our communities if citizens send a clear message that they are taking an active role in reporting suspicious behavior to law enforcement. Commander Gene Lillard of the MPD can be reached at 970-252-5257.

## MEMBERS OF SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION,

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...AND FIND OUT!

If you buy your electricity from San Miguel Power, you may be able to collect member dividends! If you see your name on the list at the above web address, call us at 970-626-5549! **Deadline: May 31**

## Contact Us:

Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Call: (970) 626-5549 or (970) 864-7311



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A subsidiary of San Miguel Energy Services, Inc.



## COUNCIL APPROVES PD PLAN FOR MONTROSE LODGE

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council welcomed [Southwest Hearing Services](#) owner and audiologist Karen Mercer, her daughter Bridget Baldus, and members of her staff for the reading of a proclamation in support of May as Better Hearing Month at the [council meeting of May 17](#). Mayor Rex Swanson also read a proclamation in support of local Colorado Mesa University graduates, repeatedly referencing all CMU students as “young adults,” though included in the agenda were names of older, non-traditional graduates as well.

With two council members (Roy Anderson and David Romero) absent, new Councilor Dave Bowman attempted to make a motion approving minutes of the May 3 Council meeting and approving the consent agenda. After repeatedly stumbling over the words and dates, Bowman finally managed a motion, only to have Councilor Files note that she could not approve the minutes of May 3 due to her absence from that meeting. Bowman then separated the motions, and successfully moved to approve the Consent Agenda, changing the date of Council’s June 21 meeting to June 20 at 6 p.m.

Council approved [a PD Plan for the pro-](#)

[posed Montrose Lodge Senior Living Facility](#) as well, an 8.59 acre development in River Landing. The project will encompass a 69 bed senior care facility with 10 independent living cottages and 9,900 square feet of retail space. Developer Terry Claassen discussed the project at length, noting “This will be a flagship property; for everyone coming into Montrose (from the south) this will be the first property they see.” The project is expected to result in 30 to 40 jobs, Claassen said.

In other business, Council approved the appointment of Dan Mohr of Milagro Wellness to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board for a term that expires on June 30, 2016; approved Amended Ordinance 2367 on second reading, vacating the alley in Block 93 of the Selig’s Addition to Montrose on behalf of the Sharing Ministries Food Bank; approved Ordinance 2369 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of 1269 Spring Creek Road, Montrose, Colorado, from B-2 Highway Commercial District, to B-3 General Commercial District; and approved the San Juan Industrial Park Phase 1 Subdivision Final Plat, which divides a 14.2-acre light-industrial tract at North San Juan Avenue and Highway 50



into two, separately-owned parcels.

Following Sales, Use and Excise and Public Information Officer reports, Council discussed upcoming weekend events and Swanson and Bowman both effusively praised the *Montrose Daily Press* for its positive city coverage prior to adjourning. “Kudos to the paper!” Mayor Swanson said. “Thank you for those articles!”

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## MENOKEN NEIGHBORS AT ODDS OVER HISTORIC EASEMENT



County officials and property owners look at maps of the proposed road vacation, which was granted May 16 despite protests of a neighbor who preferred to use the road.

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—An ongoing dispute over a historic easement was finally resolved at the Montrose Board of County Commissioners meeting last week.

In a matter that originally came before the BOCC in July of 2014, K.J. Heinschel and Susan Hansen's request for the County to vacate a portion of McDaniel Road, also known as the extension of Jasmine Road east of 5880 Road, was un-tabled and presented for approval on May 16. Though Heinschel and Hansen own the land, there is a historic county easement on one segment that dates back to 1919, and which is used by one neighbor, Joan Sanderson, to access Jig Road from her property.

"When we bought the place in '78, I've lived on the place 38 years now, I always maintained that easement and when Heinschels bought their property they knew about the easement there, but they want to close it," Sanderson told the BOCC. "It's the closet way up the hill," Sanderson said, "it's the closest I have to a main-tained road."

"They knew that road was there when they bought the place," she said, "I don't know why they want to change it...I don't want to close it. I haven't done any maintenance in a while because Heinschels won't let me. It's pretty bad. There's water coming down. I used to be able to get a stock trailer up the road but I can't no more."

Heinschel, who promised Commissioner David White that he would even help Sanderson with tree removal for another segment of road if needed, said that water on the right-of-way is seep from irrigation ditches, and that he would allow Sanderson to maintain the road any time she needed, given proper warning.

Heinschel and Hansen have presented three separate options to Sanderson over the years, County Planning & Development Director Steve White said, but she has not agreed to any option other than the present easement. "It's really only functioning as a driveway," White said. "It is not used by the public. There is no value to the public, and no cost to the public to vacate. They (Heinschels) own the land... they pay taxes on it...and they want to control it."

"...We are not using it (the right-of-way); we have no intention of using it."

BOCC Chair Glen Davis suggested discussing the matter further in work session, but said he would support a motion as well. After some discussion and public comment, Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the Resolution to Vacate, with a life estate granted to Sanderson for her use, which was approved with two votes and one abstention. "How can they do that?" Sanderson asked. "It's the only way I can get in and out when it storms." White asked her to come in to his office and he would help her review her options.



## DMEA Solar Garden Tour

Join Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and GRID Alternatives for a tour of our new community solar garden.

In Montrose, Colorado, DMEA, CEO and GRID are developing community solar exclusively dedicated to subscribers qualified as low-income. The 150kW array will be built with local power - volunteers from DMEA, families, Solar Energy International (SEI), companies and more. Drop by for a site tour, and find out more about GRID's work to make renewable energy technology and job training accessible in your community. Join us in putting the "community" in solar!

### THE OPPORTUNITY AND IMPACTS:

- Come for the DMEA Solar Garden Tour on Friday, June 3rd at 11:30pm. Refreshments will be provided.
- We will be installing 150 kW of solar panels that will help 30-45 local qualified families each save 50% on their electric bills.

Stop by and learn more on Friday, June 3rd from 11:30am-1:00pm. To learn more, contact Leslie at (303) 968-1630 or email [lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org](mailto:lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org).

**WHEN:**  
Friday June 3rd  
11:30am - 1:00pm

**WHERE:**  
11925 6300 Rd.,  
Montrose, CO 81401

**WHO:**  
You, your community, and  
GRID's job trainees

**HOW:**  
Come by for the DMEA Solar  
Garden Tour or contact us to  
learn about future volunteer  
opportunities.

**Contact Leslie Proudfoot at  
GRID Alternatives  
303-968-1630**

**CONTACT EMAIL:**  
[lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org](mailto:lproudfoot@gridalternatives.org)



LEARN MORE AT - [WWW.GRIDALTERNATIVES.ORG/COLORADO](http://WWW.GRIDALTERNATIVES.ORG/COLORADO)

*Congratulations to the  
Western Slope Class of 2016!*



## THE 2016 SMPA BOARD ELECTION



*Our Bottom Line is You.*

# BALLOTS ARE IN THE MAIL

- CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR YOUR BALLOT
- FOLLOW DIRECTIONS & RETURN BY MAIL BEFORE JUNE 8
- ...OR YOU CAN VOTE IN PERSON AT THE SMPA ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 9

**SMPA NUCLA OFFICE:**  
 170 W. 10<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
 4:30 - 5:30 VOTING  
 5:30 - 7 PM MEETING



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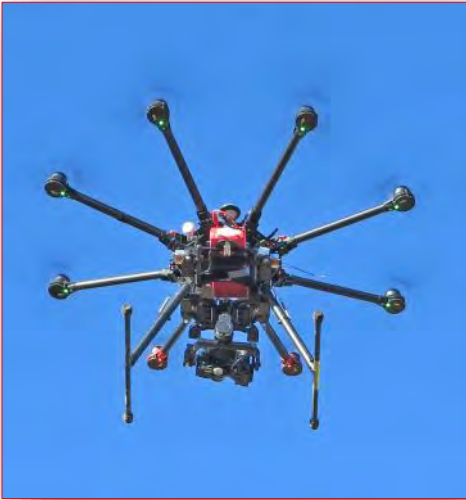
### The 2016 San Miguel Power Annual Meeting

- Election Voting/Results
- Remarks from:
  - Tri-State G&T
  - CO State Rep. Don Coram
- Dinner Provided
- Games/Activities & Prizes
- \$10<sup>00</sup> Bill Credit



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DRONE DONATION ADVANCES MCSO SEARCH AND RESCUE



Photos courtesy of Travis Walchle and Lone Eagle Land Brokerage.

*Special to the Mirror*  
MONTROSE—Police departments all around the world are using or have considered the use of drones, and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is now one of them. Recently, Sheriff Rick Dunlap and Undersheriff Adam Murdie met with Joey Burns at his office, Lone Eagle Land Brokerage, off of Government Springs Road to receive a unique gift: a professional-grade octocopter designed for aerial photography, also referred to as a drone.

Joey is the owner of Lone Eagle Land Brokerage and an avid drone pilot. He has been flying drones now for several years filming and photographing the farms and ranches that his company sells. In that time he has gained a great appreciation for aeri-



al photography and that's what gave him the idea to donate one of his drones to the MCSO.

"There are many reasons to assist local law enforcement, this is our way," said Burns. "We think that providing the sheriff's office with this new asset just might help save someone's life. From helping find a stranded hiker to photographing an accident scene, there are so many uses for a drone and we hope that this gift will bless and be an asset to the community."

"The MCSO would like to thank Joey

Burns and Lone Eagle Land Brokerage for the drone donation," said Sheriff Rick Dunlap. "Deputies are currently being trained on drone operations and regulations, and we hope to use this tool in future search and rescue efforts."

At this time, the MCSO anticipates using the drone in search and rescue, apprehension, and recovery missions. So if you see something flying in the sky and it's not a bird or a plane . . . it could be the Montrose County Sheriff's Office hard at work with their newest addition to the force.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER SPONSORS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY- The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor an "Economic Development" workshop with the Town Council on Wednesday, May 25 at 7 PM at the Ridgway Town Hall. This workshop will be presented by the Region 10 LEAP Director, Montrose Economic Development Corp Director, and other Chamber presenters. It will cover: Report out on the SW Tourism Summit (focusing on Adventure & Heritage Tourism); Presentation on "One Ridgway" (a new "shop local" program to be launched this summer); Business Loans (available for Ridgway businesses from Region 10 during the construction period). Report on the Colorado Office of Economic Development's (OEDIT) State initiatives for local & regional Economic Development grants; Community Development vs. Economic Development (differences); Economic Development 101 presentation (How to start the process-How Ridgway can look forward). Something for everyone & every business!!....This workshop will be open to all businesses & residents.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HARTMAN AWARDED CSOC SCHOLARSHIP BY SHERIFF DUNLAP



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap is pleased to announce that Rachel Hartman is this year's recipient of the County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) scholarship award for Montrose County. "Rachel is an outstanding student with aspirations to study athletic training," said Sheriff Dunlap. "I wish her well in her future plans; I know that wherever she goes, she will be an outstanding representative of Montrose County." CSOC, Colorado's state sheriffs' association, offered a total of 31 awards of \$500 each this year to deserving high school and college students in Colorado to fund higher-level

educational expenses for the 2016-2017 academic year.

A citizens' committee selected the winner for each county. Committees made their selections based upon criteria established by CSOC, including leadership, merit, character, involvement, purpose and need. Applicants were required to be full-time, legal Colorado residents who planned to attend a Colorado university, college or trade school. This is the 37th year for the CSOC scholarship program. Monies for the program are derived, in part, from the CSOC honorary membership fund, which consists of contributions from individual citizens and businesses each year.

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## NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT...

### MONTROSE BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU OPENS STUDIO!

By Susan Bony

Not just for men or adults, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) is for everyone! BJJ is a martial art, a sport and a method for promoting physical fitness. It also builds character in young people. BJJ promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend themselves against a bigger, stronger assailant by using proper technique and leverage to take their opponent to the ground. Once on the ground they apply submission techniques to defeat their opponent. BJJ is fun and good exercise for the entire family.

Arthur and Jennifer Lujan became interested in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu several years ago. Arthur traveled to Grand Junction to learn the sport and train. Soon he realized that he wasn't the only one driving to Grand Junction. He met many people who were driving to Grand Junction to study BJJ from all over the western slope. He and his wife saw an opportunity to practice the sport that they love and stop driving to Grand Junction each week. They opened a BJJ studio and held classes in their garage.

At the end of 2015 they decided that they were outgrowing their garage and needed to grow their hobby into a real business. They met with a Region 10 counselor who guided them through writing a business plan and creating a cash flow forecast for their business. They didn't need a loan, they just wanted to launch their business right and increase its odds of success. Their counselor answered questions and helped them develop a long-term growth and marketing plan. Arthur and Jennifer have since "raved to family and friends about the helpful advice and business assistance" from Region 10 Small Business Resource Center.

In March 2016 their plans came to fruition with the opening of their business, Montrose Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Their studio is located at 28 North Selig Avenue in Montrose. Classes are held in the evenings beginning at 5pm and every other Saturday morning. Stop by or call them at (970) 596-5660 to visit with either Jennifer or Arthur to learn more about Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and their classes.



*Montrose Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Studio is located at 28 North Selig Avenue in Montrose. Classes are held in the evenings beginning at 5pm and every other Saturday morning. Stop by or call them at (970) 596-5660 to visit with either Jennifer or Arthur to learn more about Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and their classes.*

*Courtesy photo.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### EXPERIENCE INTERNET AT THE SPEED OF LIFE!

#### ***DMEA to Introduce Elevate Fiber at Annual Meeting of Members***

*By Becky Mashburn, DMEA*

**REGIONAL-**At their Annual Meeting of Members on June 16, 2016, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will introduce Elevate Fiber and demonstrate the fastest internet service on the market.

Elevate Fiber, powered by DMEA, is the co-op's new fiber broadband company that was recently established to bring fast, reliable, and quality internet service to members in Montrose and Delta counties.

At the meeting, DMEA will provide demonstrations of video streaming as well as file downloads and uploads on 1,000 Mbps (1Gig) internet service. Members located within Elevate's first phase will have the ability to pre-sign up for service and select from a variety of speeds and packages.

"This year's annual meeting is so much more than a traditional business meeting. It is truly a celebration of a new era for DMEA and the cooperative business model. We're no longer talking about bringing electricity to the far reaches of the county, but rather a new necessity - high-speed internet. DMEA's service will be the fastest available in the country," said Jasen Bronec, DMEA CEO.

The Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for June 16, 2016, at the Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall. Doors open for registration at 4:30 pm. It will include a free grilled dinner, activities for children, an auto display, bucket truck rides, and a performance by Jeneve Rose Mitchell. Jeneve is a 16-year-old from

Crawford, CO who competed in the most recent season of American Idol, where she advanced to become one of the top 14 contestants. Other activities include various educational and interactive booths, door prizes, and a review of the co-op's accomplishments from the previous year. Registered members will receive a complimentary 10" cast iron skillet. The event is free to the public and no RSVP is necessary.

The meeting will also conclude DMEA's 2016 Board of Directors Election. The District 3, District 4, and the South Region positions are up for election. The official candidates in random order are as follows:

**District 3:**

Olen Lund  
Brad Harding

**District 4:**

Walter von Helms  
Jim Elder

**South Region:**

Tony Prendergast  
John Fleming

Mail-in votes must be received by DMEA's independent election coordinator,

Survey and Ballot Systems, by June 14, 2016.

Members who chose not to vote by mail can vote in person for their director representatives at the Annual Meeting. Polls will close 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.

More information about DMEA's annual election can be found online at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) or by emailing [public.relations@dmea.com](mailto:public.relations@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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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WORKFORCE WELLNESS: HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES LOSE OVER 450 LBS!



#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Late last year, the MMH Employee Wellness Committee designed the 3-month "Lighten Up!" program to incentivize weight loss and inspire a healthier workforce. Starting Jan. 15, all hospital employees were encouraged to lose weight with reasonable goals and cash rewards ranging from \$50 to \$500 or an overnight vacation getaway. "A key focus of our vision is to be the employer of choice in our community," said Steve Hannah, MHA, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital. "It is important to support our employees in their desire to be part of our vision for a healthy and content work-

force."

Twenty-four employees lost at least eight pounds during the competition, with an average weight loss of over ten pounds among participants who completed the program. Fifteen individuals lost at least 5 percent of their bodyweight, earning them a \$50 reward. An additional eight employees lost 10 percent or more of their bodyweight, earning each of them a \$75 reward. Employees could also earn large prizes by placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many employees noted an increased motivation to lose weight during the competition.

According to the Harvard Business Review, "employer-sponsored programs such

as these can reduce employees' health risks, improve quality of life, enhance personal effectiveness, and benefit the organization's bottom line."

"The incentive of reaching 5 percent or 10 percent body fat loss at the end, and receiving recognition was important to me. The prospect of placing was also very motivating," said Xavier Casasnovas, who placed in the competition. Xavier indicated he will continue the healthy habits beyond the competition. The hospital is expecting to repeat the program later this year in a bid to further improve workforce wellness.

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)3 nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties. The health system offers a 75-bed hospital and an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center and the family birthing center. The health system partners with regional providers on joint ventures to meet local healthcare needs, including CareFlight air ambulance service, San Juan Cancer Center and Black Canyon Surgical Center. Montrose Memorial is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 600 employees and 100 physicians who represent 23 medical specialties. The hospital has received patient satisfaction ratings exceeding 90% since 2010.

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## MINDING THE MONEY...MONTROSE COUNTY TREASURER ROSEMARY MURPHY



**Montrose County Treasurer and Public Trustee Rosemary Murphy. Courtesy photo.**

By Caitlin Switzer  
MONTROSE-For Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy, going to work every day is less a job than a calling—a fitting attitude for someone who first joined the County team as the result of a telephone call. At the time she was recruited by former County Treasurer Carla Logan, Murphy had been working at a local bank for more than a decade. “I had gone to work at Columbia Savings & Loan in 1989, when Carla was our branch manager,” Murphy recalled.

After the bank was sold and Logan had gone to work for the County, Murphy got a phone call one morning. “Someone had left her team,” Murphy said. “So she asked me, ‘have you ever thought about changing jobs?’” At the time, filling governmental jobs did not require as lengthy of a process as it does today. “I said, ‘not lately,’ and thought about it for about 30 minutes,” Murphy said. “And I came to work for the County in March of 1999. It has worked out really well.”

When Logan retired, Murphy was encouraged to run for the job of Treasurer and Public Trustee. “It would be very difficult to walk into this job from outside,” she said. “I ran on the basis of my experience.” She was first elected to serve in 2006. “I love it,” she said.

A native of Virginia, Murphy’s poised confidence and professional demeanor come naturally. She spent 14 years in private business management in her home state before moving to Colorado, and believes that looking like a leader is part of the job. “It’s just me,” she said. “It makes me feel better to be well dressed.”

After all, the work she does is perhaps the most essential County function of all. “I

receive and disburse all funds,” Murphy said. “This is the money hub. We collect taxes for 41 internal and external taxing jurisdictions by statute, and distribute funds by the tenth of the next month. The Treasurer is supposed to be on top of everything; everything flows through us.”

As the circulation of money becomes increasingly electronic, the Treasurer’s three-person staff has moved with the times.

“Banking has changed so much; when I first started here, all releases were done on paper,” Murphy said. “We wrote checks. Now, 68 to 70 percent of releases are electronic. We can view them on our system, check them, apply electronic signatures and stamps, and send them electronically to the clerk’s office.”

The Office of the Treasurer works seamlessly with the offices of County Assessor and County Clerk, she said. “Brad (Hughes) and I work so well together,” she said. “Everything we do in here flows through the office of the Clerk for recording and then on to the Assessor.”

Montrose County has accepted credit cards since it was possible to do so, and it is the County Treasurer’s job to administer credit card access for entities such as the Fairgrounds and Health & Human Services that directly serve the public.

“People don’t always realize what a critical function she provides,” County Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen said. “But even with lower staffing levels, they are accomplishing more and maintaining the level of service.”

Murphy and her team have a schedule that is based on the calendar year. “In January, Brad creates the tax roll,” Murphy said. “He then certifies it to me, with documents. We put the roll into our treasurer’s software.” Municipal collections and delinquent payments are included. Forms are printed and mailed by the end of January. “Then we start collecting taxes.”

After June 15, delinquent notices are sent. In August, any investor holding a tax lien will receive a letter, and delinquent notices

are advertised in September. In October, the County will hold a tax lien sale, Murphy said. And after that, preparation for the New Year begins.

Staffing levels correspond to the needs of the office. “Everything we do is driven by Statute,” Murphy said. “I have an excellent staff. We had four people, but releases are down so now we have three.”

“I couldn’t do the job without my wonderful staff,” she said. “We have documented all of our procedures in case I get hit by a truck—because you have got to have things documented so somebody can pick it up, set down and do it.”

During the recent recession, foreclosures reached a peak in 2010 with 386, she recalled. “Last year, we had just 88, which is normal.”

As Public Trustee, Murphy also is charged with releasing Deeds of Trust. “Colorado is the only state that has public trustees to protect lenders and borrowers,” she said. “Fees are protected too, because private fees can be astronomical. Trustees in the other states are all private.”

Murphy is pleased that her office works well very with other local taxing jurisdictions such as the City of Montrose. The Montrose County web site notes that in addition to being responsible for the collection of property taxes and distribution of the tax money to various entities each month, the office serves as the “bank” for the county.

Foreclosures and releases of deeds of trust are the responsibility of the Public Trustee. Part of the job of Public Trustee is to hold foreclosure sales.

“When you bid on a foreclosure, it must be a First Deed of Trust, because if you bid on a second deed you will take on the debt of the first,” Murphy said. “And you need to have cash in your pocket.” The office of the Treasurer and Public Trustee is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reach them at 970 249-3565 or email: [etreasurer@montrosecounty.net](mailto:etreasurer@montrosecounty.net) or [eforeclosures@montrosecounty.net](mailto:eforeclosures@montrosecounty.net).

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3:00 — 3:50PM Private Judging of Sculptures

4:00 PM - Sculpting Contest Awards Ceremony - Public Welcome.





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA WELCOMES NEW REGIONAL REGISTERED DIETITIAN



*Volunteers of America Regional Registered Dietitian Elizabeth Goodman. Courtesy image.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE/ECKERT – Volunteers of America is pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Goodman as the new Regional Registered Dietitian. The position serves all of the Volunteers of America programs in both Montrose and Delta Counties providing oversight and direction to dietary directors and their food service staff members.

Goodwin completed her Bachelors of Science degree in Dietetics at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in

2009. She then completed UNC's distance dietetic internship program that took her to the Colorado Department of Public Health on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Douglas County Schools, Parker Adventist Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, and Medallions skilled nursing facility. In 2013, she became Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition.

Goodwin's experience with older adults began with Morrison Community Living and Christian Living Communities, a Colorado based, not-for-profit organization providing continuum care retirement communities in the Denver metro area, whom she was employed with for six years.

"In that time I was the Nutrition Care Manager, Assistant Director of Dining Services and Regional Clinical Nutrition Manager. I was a registered dietitian for 90 long term care residents including memory care and rehab," she said.

"I supervised a kitchen staff of 19 including an executive chef and part time registered dietitian."

Goodwin soon became the Regional Clinical Nutrition Manager overseeing several accounts in Colorado. With this role, she hired and trained new registered dietitians,

provided clinical coverage, completed mock surveys and clinical reviews.

Volunteers of America Regional Director of Operations Craig Ammermann said, "Elizabeth comes from an organization that shares many of the same goals and philosophies as Volunteers of America. We are very fortunate to have her join our management team and lead us in the future direction of aging nutritional planning, care and services."

She was attracted to the position with Volunteers of America due to its mission of uplifting older adults.

"I wanted to continue to work with seniors and for a company that showed love and compassion to their elders. I found that in Volunteers of America," she said. "My goal is to improve the overall dietary departments with a special emphasis on weight loss control, which is a very important and critical factor for overall good health of our senior residents."

Goodwin is a Colorado native and grew up in Colorado Springs, where her family owned a small motel.

She likes to run in her free time or take a hike or go biking. In recent years, she has been hiking the 14teeners in the summers with her family.


### FLOWER SUBARU AND SUBARU OF AMERICA SHARE THE LOVE WITH DOLPHIN HOUSE



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Subaru of America Inc. and their local dealership Flower Subaru donated \$5,500 to the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center as part of Subaru's 2015 Share the Love Event. Subaru of America Inc. has donated nearly \$20 million to national and local charities during its 2015 Share the Love event, a record total in the eight-year history of the campaign. Held at the end of each year, Subaru donates \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to the customer's choice of one of several national or local charities. In total, Subaru has donated nearly \$70 million to charitable organizations through this initiative over the past eight years.





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMEA BALLOTS OUT: ANNUAL MEETING IS JUNE 16

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-DMEA Ballots were mailed to active DMEA members on May 20, 2016. Mail-in votes must be received by DMEA's independent election coordinator, Survey and Ballot Systems, 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 - 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.

*Watch for Art & Sol No. 46 on Tuesday...featuring 25 years of snowballs, a Tanya Ishikawa looks at a new children's book illustrated by local artist Steven Buetler, Rob shares the next installment in his Metropolitan Opera House mystery...Regional arts calendar, news briefs, and much, much more!*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DMTC GRADUATES FIFTEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY STUDENTS



#### *Special to the Mirror*

DELTA – Delta-Montrose Technical College saw fifteen students graduate from the spring 2016 Law Enforcement Academy on Thursday, May 12. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of sixteen weeks of intensive training in basic law, police procedures, tactical firearms, law enforcement driving, and arrest control techniques. Pictured left to right are Michael Skelton, Tanner Arambel, Omar Melendrez, Michael Parker, Brian Wright, Carlos Gonzalez, Nathan Santos, Alexander Hussey, Stephen Hart II, Brandon Garcia, Wesley Hersberger, Kaitlyn Danielson, Kip Albanese. Not pictured are Jared Farnsworth and Celina Chavez.

Delta-Montrose Technical College is a public career and technical college in Delta, Colorado. It offers 57 secondary and postsecondary certificates in 12 different programs. All certificates can be earned in two semesters or less, with many of them only one semester in length.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LANDOWNERS LEARN SKILLS NEEDED TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF LARGE BURN PILES



*Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON – Every Landowner is strongly encouraged to take wildfire mitigation steps to protect his or her property. Dropping the trees and creating firebreaks is often the easy part. Once this is done the Landowner is left with huge piles of slash and timber that must be disposed of, but how to do this safely?

The Colorado Wild Fire & Incident Management Academy in Gunnison, Colorado is offering the CCBB/RXB3: Certified Burner/Introduction to Agency Burn Boss (RXB3) class, June 10 through 12, 2016.

This class gives the Landowner the same tools and techniques that an Agency Burn Boss uses to perform burning operations. For course information and registration visit [www.cwfima.com](http://www.cwfima.com).



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Participate in fun activities with our Watershed Educators, get stamps on your Watershed Score Card, and earn a FREE popsicle at the festival. Plus, we have lots of other entertainment planned for our youth festival-goers. See you there!

[www.ridgwayriverfest.org](http://www.ridgwayriverfest.org)



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FORT LEWIS COLLEGE RECOGNIZES STUDENTS FROM MONTROSE!

#### BRAYDEN REESE HONORED WITH MATHEMATICS RECOGNITION

DURANGO-- Brayden Reese of Montrose was honored with the College Algebra Outstanding Student Award. This award is for students who consistently demonstrate high quality in all work and attitude. Reese's major is Business Administration. The Freshman Math Program at Fort Lewis College is designed to help all students achieve their goals for higher education by helping them develop mathematical skills and thinking, to increase their confidence in their mathematical abilities, and to inspire students to pursue mathematics with enthusiasm.

#### OWEN PARKER ATTENDED ROBOTICS COMPETITION

DURANGO--Owen Parker, of Montrose, CO, attended the NASA Colorado Space Grant 2016 Robotics Challenge in Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park and competed with a team-built robot. [See the robots in action.](#)

Parker's major is Engineering. His group's robot, Rebecca, was recognized for its outstanding and novel design.

Learn more about the NASA Colorado Space Grant 2016 Robotics Challenge: <http://spacegrant.colorado.edu/statewideprograms/robotics-challenge>

#### LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

DURANGO-- The following area students were named to Fort Lewis College's Dean's List for the Spring 2016 semester. These students took at least 15 credits of gradable hours and achieved a 3.60 or higher grade point average.

Graehme Hilding of Montrose ; Hilding's major is Economics.

Jacob Miller of Montrose ; Miller's major is Political Science.

Paige Ready of Montrose ; Ready's major is Sociology.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN MIGUEL POWER BOARD DIRECTOR BALLOTS IN THE MAIL

#### *Special to the Mirror*

WEST END-The San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Election is going on now. In SMPA district #1, which includes the West End of Montrose County, as well as Basin & Slick Rock, the candidates are Tom Loczy & Doyleene Garvey. In District #4, which includes Colona, Log Hill, and areas surrounding Telluride, the candidates are Jack Sibold & Toby Brown.

"Ballots have been mailed to members of these districts and they should be hitting mailboxes this week," said SMPA Communications Executive, Alex Shelley. Voters are advised to follow the voting instructions carefully and to return their ballots soon. Mail-in ballots must be received by June 8th in order to be counted. Members may also vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Election results will be announced at the end.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the SMPA office in Nucla and will include information about renewable energy, reliability projects and the future of the power industry. "Since most of the energy

we use comes from our wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission," said Shelley, "many of our members are showing an interest in them. So we invited Tri-State to the Annual Meeting, to share their thoughts and ideas with us."

The presentation will also include remarks from Colorado State Representative, Don Coram. "As a member of the Colorado House Transportation and Energy Committee, Mr. Coram will bring a broad and highly-informed perspective to the energy issues we face today," said Shelley. "We are honored to host him."

While the meeting will include lots of vital information, there will also be room for some fun. Some of the activities will include Solar energy games, a high-voltage safety demonstration, an "Energy Bike" on which riders can generate their own electricity. Members will be delighted to meet "Power" the robot. They can also sit behind the dashboard of the "Lightning Bug," the student-re-built electric vehicle, or a real bucket truck used by linemen to

keep the power flowing every day. There will also be prizes, free dinner and a \$10 bill credit toward members' next power bill.

An election, great information and fun--it will all be at the SMPA Annual Meeting on June 9, at the SMPA Nucla office. (170 W. 10th Ave.) Election polls are open from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 5:30 pm.

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a member-owned, locally-controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway, Colo. It is the mission of San Miguel Power Association to demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service. SMPA serves approximately 9,600 members and 14,000 meters and supports local communities with \$300,000 annually in property taxes and \$400,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates. SMPA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### NUVISTA TEACHES YOUTH ABOUT EARNING AND SAVING DURING CREDIT UNION YOUTH MONTH MONTROSE



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Monday, May 9th marked the end of NuVista Federal Credit Union's Youth Month Financial Fitness Challenge. During the month of April kids in Montrose, Gunnison, San Miguel, and Ouray counties were invited by NuVista to participate in a financial fitness challenge that entailed opening savings accounts, making deposits, setting Personal Financial Goals, participating in "Power Earning Events" and doing activities that focused on financial literacy. More than 30 youth signed up for and participated in the challenge, and NuVista hopes to double those numbers next year.

"We modeled the program after a Library Reading Program," said Korey Hehn, Community Relations Specialist at NuVista, "We hope to make this an annual event. The kids who participated had a really good time and are looking forward to next year."

To incentivize learning about finances, NuVista gave out prizes including gift cards and yo-yos to youth as they reached different check points by participating in or completing events or activities.

Heather Darbe wanted to give kids a way to earn money, so NuVista also hosted several Earning Opportunity events, including a bake sale and a car window wash. The youth ran the events, and then all proceeds went straight into their savings accounts.

For each activity a child completed, they were entered into a drawing for two Kindle Fires. On May 9 the drawing for the Fires was held, and all youth who finished the challenge by completing at least 12 activities were given a turn in NuVista's Money Booth.



# Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

## ONGOING-

### RIDGWAY CONCERT SERIES 2016-July 7, 14, 21, 28-9th Annual Free Summer Concert Series

Hartwell Park, Ridgway, Thursdays in July, 6pm 'til Dark, July 7, 14, 21, 28 Free Music featuring World-Class Bands! Family Friendly, Children's Activities, Food Vendors, Local Beer, Margaritas & Wine Late Night After-Show at the Sherbino Theater, Live Broadcast on KVNf.

**PAONIA'S PICKIN' IN THE PARK 2016-Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25** *Paonia's 9th Annual Free Summer Concert Series*, Paonia Town Park, Paonia, Thursday Evenings in August, 6pm 'til Dark. Dates are August 4, 11, 18, 25 ~ 2016 Free Live Music, National Touring Acts, Family Friendly, Children's Activities Local Food, Local Beer & Local Wine, Broadcast Live on KVNf! [www.pickinproductions.com](http://www.pickinproductions.com).

**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 [alpinephotoclub@aol.com](mailto:alpinephotoclub@aol.com).

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

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

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

**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. Snowshadowgymnastics@yahoo.com.

## MONTHLY-

**May 22-23**-The first show of the Magic Circle Players' season in September 2016 is "Moonlight & Magnolias", a comedy set in 1939 Hollywood. Auditions will take place on Sunday, May 22, and Monday, May 23, at 6:30 pm at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 S. 12th St., Montrose. There are parts for three men and one woman. For more information contact: Tony Ryan at 275-0035 or Bill Cunningham at 240-6090.

**May 25**-The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor an "Economic Development" workshop with the Town Council, 7 PM at the Ridgway Town Hall. Workshop will be open to all businesses & residents.

**May 26**- The KAFM RADIO ROOM Proudly Presents...Ray Bonneville at 7:30 p.m. 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](http://www.kafmradio.org). The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

**May 28**-New West Guitar Group concert — Big City Rhythms, Saturday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray. Adults \$20, Students \$5 Buy Tickets URL: <http://www.ocpag.org/purchase-tickets/> Info: <http://ocpag.org/event/new-west-guitar-group/> Phone number: 970-626-2970 Email: [ocpaginfo@gmail.com](mailto:ocpaginfo@gmail.com).

**May 29**-New West Guitar Group Master Class, Sunday, May 29, 1-2:30 p.m. Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray \$25 Register URL: [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org) Info: [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org) Phone number: 970-318-0150 Email: [questions@weehawkenarts.org](mailto:questions@weehawkenarts.org).

**May 31**-Montrose Regional Library Summer Reading Program Begins!

**June 1**-Montrose Regional Library Book Reveal Open House, kids K through 6th grade, 1 to 3 p.m.

**June 1**-SMPA Annual Meeting, San Miguel Power Association Nucla Office, 170 West 10th Avenue in Nucla, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

**June 3**-DMEA Solar Garden Tour, 11925 6300 Road, 11:30 to 1 p.m. Refreshments provided.

**June 3**-The Band of Heathens Perform at Montrose Music Summer Series Fri 6/3, 5pm doors/ 6pm show/ 7:30pm BOH; Free ; All Ages. Black Canyon Golf Course 1350 Birch St Montrose CO 81401. [www.montrosesummertime.com](http://www.montrosesummertime.com).

**June 4**-Colorado State Taxidermy Championships will be held at the Montrose Pavilion June 2-4. On Saturday June 4, the exhibit is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and children age 10 and above; children under 10 are free.

**June 4**-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. This event is free to the public, and children and adults of all ages are welcome. Come and enjoy the Annual Rock Show.

**June 7**-Montrose Summer Reading Program Archery event, 9 a.m. to Noon. Youth age 10 to 18, registration required; sign up at front desk.

**June 9**-SMPA annual meeting in Nucla, 5:30 p.m. 170 West 10th Avenue in Nucla.

**June 9**-Friendship Force International meets at Red Cross Training Center, 5th and Gunnison in Grand Junction June 9 at 6:15 pm. The non-profit organization was founded and introduced to the world at a ceremony held at the White House on March 1, 1977. FFI provides opportunities to explore new cultures by bringing people together at the personal level. If you're interested in joining us please call Sue Palmer on 970-260-4653.

**June 9**-Montrose Senior Center \$5 dollar Lunch and Learn... Lunch only Reservations at 252-7797, Lunch at noon and program at 1 p.m. "Home Safety, Fire, Fall and Life Alert Awareness" Mark Bray and April Martinez.

**June 10-12**-The Colorado Wild Fire & Incident Management Academy in Gunnison, Colorado is offering the CCBB/RXB3: Certified Burner/Introduction to Agency Burn Boss (RXB3) class, June 10 through 12, 2016.

This class gives the Landowner the same tools and technics that an Agency Burn Boss uses to perform burning operations. For course information and registration visit [www.cwfima.com](http://www.cwfima.com).

**June 11**-Montrose Garden Tour—9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Self-guided tour of 5 private gardens & the Montrose Botanic Gardens. Enjoy beautiful landscapes, live music & artists painting. Tickets can be purchased at [www.montrosegardens.org](http://www.montrosegardens.org), Camelot Gardens and San Juan Gardens prior to the tour or at the Botanic Gardens the day of the tour. Tour starts at the Botanic Gardens where maps will be handed out. 1801 Pavilion Drive. \$10 members/\$15 non-members. Questions, call 970-765-2237.

**June 11**-Bite the Mic Music Festival to benefit Habitat for Humanity! Brought to you by Tom Barry Productions and Ascending Giants, the event is located at the Habitat Barn in Montrose and will be showcasing over ten Colorado Bands. Headliners include Montrose bands: Ascending Giants, Johnson County Coroners, and the Blue Gators, Gunnison band: Kreature of Habit, and Roy Catlin and the Dudes all the way from Denver Colorado. Side acts include: The Poachers, Sergio Sabaleta, Darcy Figgs, Jeff Fields and a variety of local artists performing slam poetry. There will be local craft beer from 2 Rascals and Colorado Boy, along with domestic beer and a beer garden. Local food vendors will be serving a variety of food. The event is FAMILY FRIENDLY. Ten dollars at the door, 12 and under are free, no pre-sale tickets. Cash only. Doors open at 12 music starts at 1 p.m.

**June 12**-Ridgway Amateur Sculpture Contest, 1 to 3 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall. Adult and youth categories. Visit [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org) to register or call 970-318-0150.

**June 16**-DMEA Annual Meeting at Friendship Hall, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

**June 20**--10am to 11am, Introducing TAI CHI CHIC a 7 week program, Fee \$50. Learn 19 movements that do not require any level of fitness. Anyone can learn these balancing, energizing and flexibility enhancing movements. [www.montroserec.com](http://www.montroserec.com) or call 2497705 to reserve a spot.

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**3rd Wed: Montrose Rec Foundation**

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**5th Wed: Community Options Inc.**

(Note: 5th Wed dates are: March 30, June 29, Aug 31, Nov 30, 2016)

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## GOVERNOR SIGNS SB 16-174 INTO LAW AT GORDON COMPOSITES

### Mirror Staff Report

**MONTROSE**-On Monday May 16, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper joined stakeholders and sponsors at Gordon Composites for the signing of SB 16-174, the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Project. Rep. Don Coram, who sponsored the bill, commented that the means of funding such projects has come severance taxes, which have been declining in recent years. Coram promised to bring pressure to bear on the state for more stable funding for such projects. "We can't depend on severance taxes to provide the water we need 15 years down the road," Coram said. Just as the Governor finished signing the Bill, thunder rolled, the clouds broke open, and a drenching rain poured down.



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