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Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 171 May 30 2016

IZENS SHOW UP FOR COUNTY PRESENTAT



Montrose County Manager Ken Norris introduces speakers for the second meeting of "Inside Montrose County" May 25. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Attendance for the second installment of "Inside Montrose County," held on Wednesday, May 25th was lackluster. Of the 20 people present, three were current county commissioners, three Republican county commissioner candidates, 10 county employees doing the presentation ... and five interested citizens.

This session took an overall view of the Montrose County Facilities Division, which is co-directed by Montrose County Manager Ken Norris and Assistant County Manager Dave Laursen. Norris said, "This is our baby. We split up the duties and saved quite a bit of money for the county because we don't have to hire a high priced facilities manager."

The hour-long-plus PowerPoint presentation was impressive, informative and professionally presented. The in-depth look at facilities included the departments of maintenance, custodial, fairgrounds, CSU Extension, fleet communication towers, and building/capital improvements.

Discussion on building and capital improvements included two proposed projects: 1) the indoor arena and events center and 2) the unveiling of the proposed development of the

Continued on page 4

SUMMER OPTIONS ABOUND & KIDS EAT FREE!

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-So, school is out and the long, long days of summer with the kids have suddenly arrived. Thankfully, for local families, affordable activities abound—and yes, free lunch is once more on the menu at several local sites. However, one Montrose mainstay that will not return this year is the Montrose Re-1J School District's Summer Adventure enrichment program, due to the loss of the grant funds that were used to sustain the program from 2001 through 2015.

What other options are out there for local kids? As always, Montrose Regional Library is offering a full slate of fun summer events and programs, including the excellent summer reading program. Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club has summer youth programs in both Montrose and Olathe. Montrose Recreation <u>District</u> serves the community with activities and programs for youth, adults and seniors. At 120 Apollo Road, Black Canyon Gymnastics has offered a summer day camp program

Continued on page 17



Kids eat free all summer at local meal sites, including Centennial Middle School, above.

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

City to demolish house Letters to the Editor at 534 S. First Street! Regional news briefs! Local Obituaries! Regional events Calendar!

www.alpenglowarts.org

Gail Marvel's Cruisin' in Style

COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: TOM WYJACK!



By Gail Marvel

Years ago while watching the Discovery Channel Tom Wyjack became enamored with Bourget motorcycles, "I'm now financially able to own one." Tom, the proprietor of RnR Sportsbar, found the chopper online and has owned it for a year and a half. Enjoying the ride with Tom is his fiancé Brenda Huston. The 2004 Bourget Black Jack Ace Chopper is a six speed and

has a 113 S&S motor. With the exception of the front wheel, the chopper is stock, "I had it re-customized with a 26-inch front wheel." An impressive 11-feet long, the chopper's size is easier to grasp when compared to the average car length of 13-16 feet. The motorcycle has 6,000 miles and Tom rides it every day during the summer. In the eyes of a novice, it's unclear if the extensive chrome work embellishes the

red and black flame custom paint; or if the custom paint accents and draws attention to the chrome. Either way, Tom doesn't want anyone to overlook the small details, "If you get it in the right sunlight there's a ghost joker on the rear fender." Tom, a member of the Black Canyon Classic Car Club, is also one of the sponsors of the rebuilt engine that will be raffled off during the June 3-4 car show.





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Publisher: Caitlin Switzer, Circulation 8,000+

Featured Freelance Writers: Liesl Greathouse, Gail Marvel

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MONTROSEM I R R O R

GET CREATIVE WITH DELTA SECOND SATURDAY STROLL!



Delta's Second Saturday Strolls will showcase the arts and local business. Courtesy photo.

Mirror Staff Report

DELTA—Anyone who has been to Downtown Delta on a Saturday knows how much fun shopping here can be.

Now, some local artists are helping to

further boost the fun factor, with Second Saturday events intended to highlight the diversity of businesses in Delta's Downtown.

"We decided Delta is not really a Friday night kind of crowd," said Ann Barker, who owns and operates Gallery De La Luz with her husband, the artist Fred Honchell. "Most businesses close at 6 p.m. So we are hosting Second Saturday Strolls on the second Saturday of each month. All of the participating businesses will be open by 10 a.m., and we have a list of those who are participating."

Second Saturday Strolls will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Expect everything from art demonstrations to music, and even hula hooping in front of the Backyard Café, she said. "This is a grass roots effort to bring awareness to our Downtown."

The group has created a <u>Facebook site</u> <u>for updates</u>, and a regular "Stroller" list for each event, to highlight activities and fun planned by participating businesses.

Pick up your copy of the Stroller at Dog

<u>House Espresso</u> and other locations on the day of the Stroll.

The <u>Range Legendary Country Radio</u> will be on hand as well, visiting and speaking with local businesses.

"There is no pressure to take part," Barker said. "It's just a bunch of us getting together, providing more opportunity for local businesses, and hoping to bring more artists and creative to our Downtown."

The next Second Saturday event will be June 11, with an early Flag Day Celebration hosted by Delta Elks Lodge #1235. The ceremony will take roughly 30 minutes, and families are welcome.

Participants are also welcome to bring any United States flags that need to be retired. There could even be some historical re-enactors visiting from Delta's <u>Fort Uncompandere</u>, which opens for the season the first week of June.

"We all have to cross lines and pull together," Barker said. "Come on down, get a cup of coffee, wander about, and have some fun!"





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5 CITIZENS SHOW UP FOR COUNTY PRESENTATION From pg 1



Olathe Resident Doug Kimberlin spoke in support of the Arena Events Center and development of the LaSalle property.

LaSalle property for the future location of Road & Bridge, Planning and Development, Fleet, and Engineering departments. Currently the county staff is more in the research phase of Research and Development and specifics on both projects are limited. Request for Proposals (RFP) have been received which will help in the exploration and formulation of decisions. Laursen said, "All the balls are in the air. We have to present it to the public and see what they say. Will the public accept it when we present it? If it won't work, we won't do it." The Indoor Arena and **Events Center is not a new concept:** Olathe resident Doug Kimberlin said, "At least 10 years ago the process of an indoor arena was started. Unlike the rec center I have had a say in this [the arena]." The county, in its effort to be open and transparent, has presented the plans for the indoor arena in several different venues. County Media Relations Manager Katherine Yergensen said, "The public has a say in pretty much everything we do. As you can see by [tonight's] community participation, we don't get a lot of feedback." The feedback that has been received on the arena shows a favorability factor of 10 to one. Economic development is the number one driving force behind building an Indoor Arena and Events Center, followed closely by wanting to meet the needs of the community. The current fairgrounds facility is often booked a year in advance and some organizations are being turned away for lack of available meeting and event space.

Funding options for the project include a \$1,000,000 DOLA grant, Capital Improvement Funds and Certificates of Participation. Development of the LaSalle Property was revealed at the meeting: Development of the property will have a bearing on the proposed Indoor Arena and Events Center since some county departments now housed at the fairgrounds will be relocated to the new facility, which will in turn free up space and parking. The subject 14acre property, purchased by the county in 2014, is located at the junction of LaSalle and Highway 50. Citizen Roger Brown said, "I find it unsettling when I see that plan. You are talking about borrowing money to do it. I'm sure you are aware of some communities that have decided to almost totally eliminate Road & Bridge and go to contract work." Laursen refuted Brown's assertion that money would be saved if work were contracted out to private companies, "We [the county] can do it cheaper."

Following the presentations some questions taken from the floor. Commissioner candidate Roger Rash feels constituents are more concerned with county roads than new facilities, "They want roads and potholes fixed. We need to be looking at everything we can do on roads. People are really concerned about it and how much it will cost; leverage for the fairgrounds and leverage for the [LaSalle] site. Where are we at if the economy takes a dump?" Doug Kimberlin said, "The roads you [the county] have fixed are holding, so we

shouldn't criticize the Road & Bridge too much. We've got State highways that are worse than our county roads!" Laursen said the county will be doing more roads this year than what was originally planned.

Brown again took exception, "It looks like empire building on the backs of the tax payers. Building up the Road & Bridge empire. Those funds are supposed to be funneled through private contractors." Brown then gave his own narrative about the intended use of the Road & Bridge tax. However, Assistant County Manager Dave Laursen, who help craft the ballot issue for the 2007 initiative, told Brown his narrative was incorrect. Laursen offered to meet one on one with Brown to correct any misconception, but Brown preferred his comments to be public. He said, "Make your case to the voters. Go to the ballot box. Expenditures of this magnitude should not be made by three county commissioners, go to the 40,000 registered voters." Kimberlin asked about county properties that are no longer needed. Laursen said some properties can be sold, "We've identified four properties we no longer need and we're getting appraisals. If the commissioners decide to do so, we will surplus them and get rid of them." Tricia Joy complimented the county staff on their presentation and lent a voice of support, "Obviously you have the answers to community questions, but people aren't showing up to meetings. It's a shame that people are instigating things...those who cannot create, obstruct. The RFP says let's get some input. There are those out there who want to show up and complain, but your doors are open; your phone is open. People can meet with you." Yergensen reminded the audience, "County commissioner's meeting are live-streaming and can be viewed on demand."



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THIRD ANNUAL WATER SAFETY AWARENESS FAIR JUNE 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-To kick off the warm weather Swimming Season, the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) invites everyone to their Third Annual Water Safety Awareness Fair on Thursday June 2 from 10 am-Noon.

As the weather warms up, children and their families will be in and around more bodies of water, including pools, rivers, canals, lakes, etc. Staff members at the Montrose Aquatics Center will focus on safe enjoyment of the water by learning and practicing certain basic water safety

skills.

This free event hosted by MRD will engage participants in games and demonstrations that will allow children to have fun, while learning how to be safe in and around water.

Each participant will be issued a Water Smart Passport upon entering the event. Several stations will be set up, where participants can get their passports stamped and earn prizes.

Everyone who completes their passports will have the opportunity for a free swim time in the outside pool until 12 pm. Families are invited to join their children in the swimming fun. Door prizes including free passes to the new Community Recreation Center, and outdoor toys. will be given

Liz Gracesun, MRD Aquatic Coordinator states that "Our goal is to get out as much information this summer as we can to every family. We want everyone to have a safe and fun summer season."

For information regarding free family swim lessons, scholarships and swim lesson schedules, please contact MRD at 249-

MCBRIDE TO TEACH FREE FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP IN OURAY JUNE 9

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-Fundraising consultant Amy McBride will lead a free fundraising workshop on Thursday, June 9, 2016 from 2-5 pm in the San Juan Room of the Ouray Community Center. The workshop, "Raise More Money," is sponsored by the Ouray Chamber Resort Association. McBride, who has worked with western Colorado nonprofits and local governments for 25 years, will focus on strategies to find and retain individual donors. "In this workshop, you will learn how to overcome your fear of fundraising, build donor and membership programs, and correctly use special events," said McBride. "You will walk away with at least ten ideas to raise more money." McBride is a fifth-generation Ouray County resident and has led fundraising trainings throughout Colorado and the West. Most recently, as Development Officer for the Montrose Regional Library District she raised \$800,000 in grants and gifts to build the awardwinning Naturita Community Library, and created the Libraries of Montrose County Foundation, which built a \$300,000 endowment in five years. She was development director and community organizer for Western Colorado Congress for 17 years and increased annual individual giving from \$70,000 to more than \$230,000 and annual foundation income from \$250,000 to \$400,000. To register for the workshop, call 433-8779 or

email ouray@ouraycolorado.com by 5 pm on June 8th. Participants will receive a free drink coupon for that night's Mountain Air Summer Music Series concert, which occurs in Fellin Park from 6-9 pm.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA MEMBER SURVEYS COMING IN JUNE!

By Becky Mashburn, DMEA
Next month, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) will begin collecting feedback from its members about a variety of topics through random phone surveys.
The ongoing quarterly member experience surveys will focus on identifying ways DMEA can continue to improve service to its members.

Members will be randomly selected, contacted via phone, and are encouraged to complete the brief survey in order to help the co-op identify areas of improvement. Typically, calls will be made on weeknights between 5:30 and 8:30 pm. On average, the survey will take seven minutes. DMEA is a rural electric distribution cooperative, located in Mont-

rose, 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.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2016 MONTROSE 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) is now accepting applications for the 2016 Fourth of July Parade scheduled for Monday, July 4. Following a long tradition, the parade starts at 10 am on E Main St. The parade honors the nationwide, year-long celebration of the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial with the theme, America the Beautiful. "While focusing on the traditional and patriotic nature of the holiday, this year's theme also honors the NPS and the

uniquely American idea that the most special places in the nation should be preserved for everyone," explained Stacey Ryan, OBT program coordinator. "It's a chance to celebrate being American on many levels."

All area clubs, bands, churches, organizations, schools, dance/drill teams, and businesses are encouraged to take part in this popular community parade. Registration is required, and entry forms are due on or before Thursday, June 30. Parade rules, regulations, and applications are available online by visit-

ing<u>CityofMontrose.org/July4</u> or by contacting the OBT at 107 S Cascade Ave, 970.240.1402,

or events@visitmontrose.com.

Judges will award prizes to the best of the best. Winners will receive Montrose Bucks: first place - \$50, second place -\$30, and third place - \$20. Judging will be based on the theme, overall appearance, originality/creativity, and crowd appeal. The OBT is proud to present the annual Fourth of July Parade with the guidance and assistance of the Montrose Police Department and the Lions Club.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WOMAN FOUND DECEASED AT SCENE OF FIRE

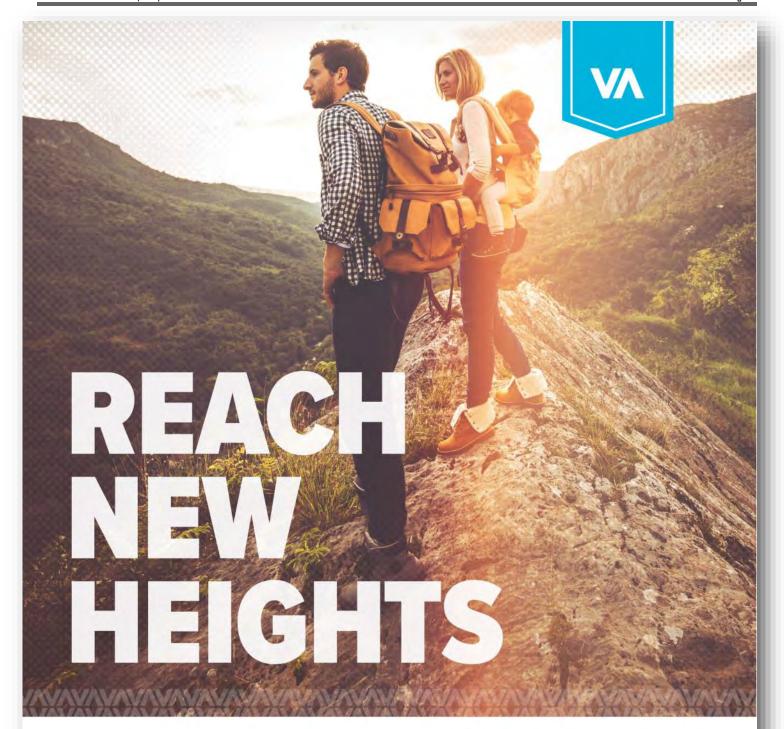
Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—In the late evening of May 26, 2016, Linda Batchelor, a 67-year-old woman was discovered deceased in a burning mobile home in rural Olathe. An autopsy will be scheduled to confirm identity and determine cause and manner of death. The case is under investigation by the Olathe Fire Department, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, and the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation.

UPDATE: GOJKO MARKOVIC'S CREMAINS RETURNED TO SON AFTER DCMH MIX-UP

Following an article in the Mirror last week regarding Serbian immigrant Ivan Markovic's efforts to locate his father's remains and regain guardianship of his mother, who is still alive, Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors called him and returned to him cremains said to be of his father, Gojko Markovic. Sunset Mesa did not charge Ivan for the cremation. The mix-up was caused by Delta County Memorial Hospital's releasing Markovic's body without a next of kin listed, Markovic said, though the son had made every attempt to contact the Hospital and to locate and regain guardianship of his parents. Ivan's mother, Slavka, remains in official "care" somewhere, and he would like her back.





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WRITER GAIL MARVEL'S CLUB CONNECTION

BUTTERFLIES ARE ON THE AGENDA: MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY



Butterfly expert Mike Fisher speaks to a crowd of 40 people during the April meeting of the Montrose Botanical Society. Photo by Gail Marvel.



Butterflies of Western Colorado on display. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

The Montrose Botanical Society, which was incorporated in December 1995, celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. The mission statement for the non-profit organization is to provide, "...horticultural education and leadership for residents of the Uncompahgre Valley through the development of botanic gardens for demonstration, education and leisure." Current individual membership numbers 165 and dues are \$30 for seniors, \$35 for individuals, and \$50 for a family.

Of the 3 ½ acres of land leased from the City of Montrose for the Gardens, one third of the property is now developed. There are no groundskeepers; however, every Wednesday morning a few of the 35 Weed Warriors gather to help maintain the gardens. The Gardens are open from dawn to dusk and admission is free.

One current project underway in the Gardens is a covered stage designed and built by high school students as a memorial to Caitlyn Haynes. Cait's Corner is now complete.

Two big fundraisers for the Society are The Garden Tour, where attendees purchase tickets to visit five local gardens (June 11th); and the Scarecrow Festival (October 15-16) where creative scarecrows are displayed in the Gardens (free admission) and donated scarecrows become part

of a silent auc-

Outreach into the community includes educational classes for kids and adults, as well as scheduled programs. During the April 14th program, Society President Carol Pyle opened the meeting with a pitch to perspective members who might feel held back by physical limitations, "It's not the case that you have to get your hands dirty, or bend low."

About 40 people attended the program, Introduction to Butterflies. Butterfly expert Mike Fisher began, "Butterflies are an incredible creation given to us by the Creator." He then launched into a Q and A, "What's the difference between a moth and a butterfly?" One man quipped, "Butterflies don't eat your suits!"

After a nod of agreement Mr. Fisher said, "Butterflies do not fly at night. Moths fly at night and have more hair. Butterflies have compound eyes and can see up, forward, down and partly to the rear simultaneously." There are 270 species of butterflies in Colorado; 230 of which are resident species, 40 are visitors or occasional strays that establish residency. Throughout Western Colorado resident species number 200. Mr. Fisher said, "They can be rather difficult to find, [because] you must first find the host plants. I've found a place with the right plants that looked perfect, but the butterflies were not there." While some butterflies are attracted to a variety

of plants, others are limited to a specific host plant whose habitat is determined by soil types and altitude.

The record for the number of species in the US, which is 330-340, is held by Texas and Arizona and is attributed to the southern influence of Mexico. "We are blessed to have a lot of species in Colorado, but we're not isolated enough to have a species that is found only in Colorado."

City flower gardens are oases for butterflies, "The most common butterflies in Montrose are the Western Tiger Swallowtail and the Two-tailed Swallowtail. Butterflies live for several months to a few days and the little blue butterflies in the area live about a week." A butterfly's number one purpose is reproduction and they can lay as many as 100-200 eggs.

The number of Monarch butterflies is decreasing and there are some people who would like them to be protected, "But how would you protect something that migrates from Canada to Mexico...and the Monarch that migrates through Colorado you'll never see again."

Contact Info:

Montrose Botanical Society
Meetings/Programs – Centennial Room
(off of Centennial Plaza)
Gardens - 1800 Pavilion Drive (south of
the Montrose Pavilion)
Montrose, CO
montrosebotanical@gmail.com
www.montrosegardens.org

YOUNG VANDALS CONTINUE TAGGING SPREE











Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-During the latter part of the week of May 16th graffiti vandals left their avocado green "Z" mark at the south end of Rotary Park on a newly installed privacy fence and on a City of Montrose sign.

On Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m., two middle-school aged boys were caught in the act of tagging the pump house in the same area with their green "Z" signature. Once they realized they were being ob-

served they scurried to put the can of spray paint into a clear plastic bag to keep it from getting on their person, jumped on their bikes, and refused to stop when confronted. In their escape they split up as they rode their bikes in and around the apartments and houses in the vicinity of South Park Street and South 12th Street; across from Columbine Middle School. The only photo of these young men is of them hightailing it away from the area they

vandalized. While it may be hard for the general public to identify them, the mothers of these partners in crime, as well as their peers, can recognize them through their physical shape, bikes sizes and clothing. Anyone with information on the perpetrators, or suspicions about who the boys are that committed this crime of vandalism, is asked to call Montrose Police Department Commander Gene Lillard at 970-252-5257.

CITY ANNOUNCES PLANS TO DEMOLISH 534 SOUTH FIRST STREET AFTER EXTENSIVE UPGRADES



This was released by City officials Friday: Demolition: 534 South 1st Street Montrose CO 81401. The City of Montrose is requesting formal bids through the Request for Proposal process from professional demolition contractors for the demolition of a two story residential structure. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at 2:30PM at 534 South 1st Street Montrose CO 81401. Proposals will be publicly received and registered on Thursday June 2 2016 at 2:00PM. City Hall, 433 S. 1st Street, Montrose, Colorado 81401. Bids will be received no later than 2 P.M. on the above date.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCSD RE-1J AWARDED BEST GRANT FOR COLUMBINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, SCHOOL BOARD WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO SEEK PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County School District RE-1J is pleased to announce it has been awarded a BEST grant, giving the district \$12,492,021.53. The district has a master plan to use this grant to replace the aging Columbine Middle School building. The district will now turn to a bond issue for the rest of the money needed for construction. This will require voter approval on a property tax increase. The school board will make final decisions on moving forward with a referendum in November.

Health and safety concerns and outdated facilities are just some of the reasons why the school was awarded the \$12.4 million

dollar grant. The grant covers 37 percent of the \$33.7 million to replace the middle school. "This will take some of the costs away from the community" Superintendent Stephen Schiell said, stating that it costs about the same to rebuild the school as it would to renovate.

Schiell and the team of Ben Stephenson, Columbine Principal, Philip Bailey, Director of Property Services, and Administrative Assistant Brenda Bertossi traveled to Denver on May 25 to present to the grant committee. Schiell stated that the success of the grant was largely due in part to the work of Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Bertossi and Erica Jiron giving their time and efforts in

preparing the application. Principal Stephenson added, "This is an awesome day for Columbine Middle School and the Montrose County School District. It would not have happened without the time and efforts of a lot of people."

The BEST program is a competitive grant program available to all public school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.

The BEST assistance fund has four revenue sources: State Land Trust Funds, Colorado Lottery Spillover Funds, Marijuana Excise Taxes and interest income.

HAY PRODUCERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL PUBLICATION

Special to the Mirror

BROOMFIELD-The Colorado Department of Agriculture is accepting listings for the 2016 Colorado Hay Directory. The annual publication, celebrating its 30 to anniversary, markets Colorado hay to buyers. "For 30 years the Colorado Hay Directory has been a vital tool for hay producers and buyers," said Wendy White, marketing specialist for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. "We continue to get calls from hay buyers around the state and nation requesting copies of this popular publication." The listing fee is \$25, and the dead-

line is June 15, 2016. Forms are available at Colorado State University Extension offices or by contacting the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

This free directory will be available in August through CSU Extension offices and various livestock associations in the state as well as at agricultural events such as the Colorado State Fair, National Western Stock Show and the Colorado Farm Show. The directory will also be online at www.coloradoagriculture.com/hay. Each listing includes the type and amount of hay available, bale type and size, whether or

not laboratory analysis is available, certified weed free status and identifies organic hay. Listings are grouped by region of the state.

The directory also includes listings for companies that offer hay related products or services. Advertising opportunities are also available at \$50 for a half-page ad or \$90 for a full-page ad. For more information or to receive a Colorado Hay Directory listing form, contact the Markets Division at (303) 869-9175, e-mail Loretta.Lopez@state.co.us or visit www.coloradoagriculture.com.



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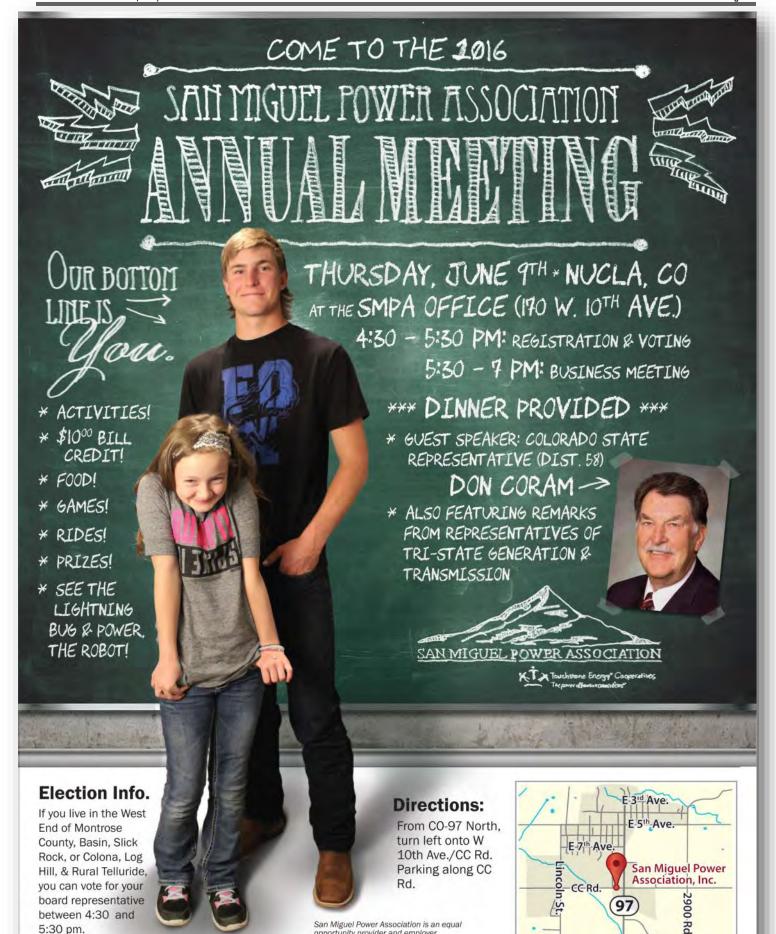
Senior CommUnity Care (PACE) SeniorCommUnityCare.org 970-252-0522 • Montrose, CO 970-835-2900 • Eckert, CO

Valley Manor Care Center ValleyManorCare.org 970-249-9634 • Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FANTASTIC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR DELTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – On Saturday, May 7 despite the cool weather Alpine Bank still held its Free Community Shred Event. The event was a success, especially for the Delta High School Football Team. Alpine Bank Staff were joined by 6 amazing high school volunteers from the DHS Football Team. "It was fantastic to have all the volunteer support for the shred event, I was blown away by the energy that these individuals brought to our rainy day event" said Allison Nadel, Regional Marketing Director for Alpine Bank.

This year in Delta, over 9,400 pounds of paper was collected, shredded, and then later recycled. According to the EPA's Waste Reduction Model, this saves about 72 trees and over 29,610 gallons of water. This is the equivalent of 13 cubic yards of landfill space. In addition to the successful paper shredding, the Delta Community and surrounding areas were generous in their donations to the Delta High School Football team. The total amount collected at

the event was \$1023.07. which was then matched dollar for dollar by Alpine Bank. (The attached check presentation photo was taken at Delta High School; two checks were presented one for the total collected from donations and the other as the match from Alpine Bank. Include in the picture are Coach Ben Johnson, Several DHS Football Players and Barbara Wolfe, branch manager at the Alpine Bank in Delta.)

About Alpine Bank

Chartered in 1973, Alpine Bank is an employee-owned organization with assets exceeding \$2.8 billion. With headquarters in Glenwood Springs, Colo. and 38 banking offices across Colorado, Alpine Bank employs nearly 600 people and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, wealth management*, mortgage

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and electronic banking services. Alpine Bank has a 5-star rating for financial strength by BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation's leading bank rating firm. The 5-star rating is BauerFinancial's highest rating for financial institutions. Learn more at www.alpinebank.com.

*Alpine Bank Wealth Management services are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not guaranteed by the bank.



OBITUARIES MARGARET LENORE (PEGGY) ERICKSON 1929-2016



Peggy passed away on May 24th 2016 at Montrose Memorial Hospital surrounded by her family.

She was born August 7, 1929 in Denver, Colorado to Maude Virginia

Staab and Albert Henry Horst. She was later adopted by her step father Sterling J. Petersen. She was raised and attended school in Denver and then moved to Walsenburg, Colorado prior to her senior year in high school where she graduated from St. Mary's High School. It was in Walsenburg that she met the love of her life, Kenneth Alfred Erickson, and was married in Walsenburg on September 6, 1947. They celebrated 54 years of marriage before his death in September of 2001. They lived in Pueblo Colorado for 10 years and then moved to Montrose in 1957 where she lived, except for 5 years in

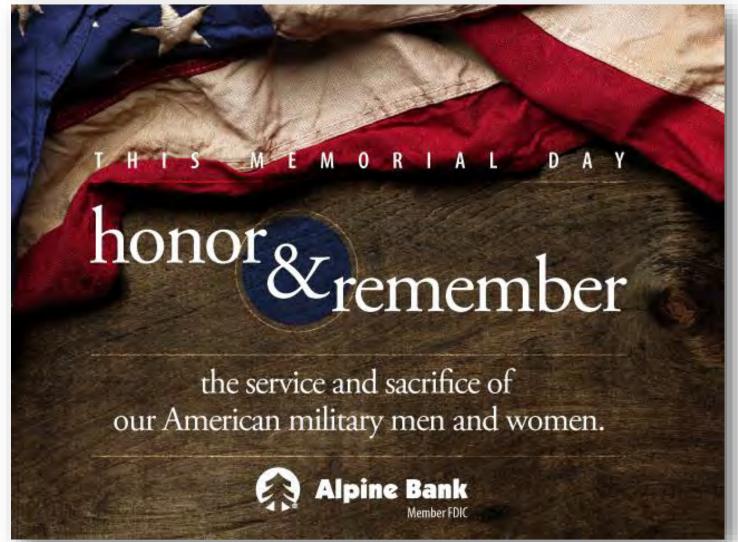
Tucson and Green Valley Arizona.

She was a member of the Montrose United Methodist Church where she worked as executive secretary for over 23 years, retiring in 1990. She loved to sing and took voice lessons at the Lamont School of Music in Denver Colorado. She sang numerous solos for various occasions around Montrose and for many years appeared in musicals with the Magic Circle Players. Her favorite role was that of 'Aunt Eller' in Oklahoma. She was a member of the Methodist Church choir, and in previous years sang with the Kappa Phi Notes, a women's chorus of the Kappa Phi Sorority.

She was proud of her family of four sons and one daughter and enjoyed spending time with them and her 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling with her husband during retirement, sewing, quilting, and playing games, especially with her jolly hour pinochle group. She volunteered for her church, Montrose Memorial Hospital, and hospice.

She was preceded in death by her hus-

band Kenneth, and her parents, Sterling and Virginia Petersen. She is survived by her children, Kenneth Allen Erickson (Maggie), Dennis Lars Erickson (Mary), Katherine Ann Erickson Aust (David), Dale Leonard Erickson (Anne), and Eric Dean Erickson (Joyce). Grand children Cody Erickson, Wesley Landson, Amber Schlater, Addie Erickson Muransky, Lars Erickson, Dr. Michaelangelo Aust, Danielle Aust, Julie Erickson Smith, Crystal Erickson Fletcher, Jason Erickson, and Oliver Erickson as well as her many great grandchildren. Memorial services will be held Saturday May 28, 10:00 am, at the United Methodist Church, 19 South Park Avenue, in Montrose. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to HopeWest (hospice) 725 South 4th Street, Montrose, CO 81401. Visit the tribute website and send condolences to her family at www.SunsetMesaFuneralDirectors.com. Arrangements are being handled under the direction of Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors (970) 240-9870.



SUMMER OPTIONS ABOUND & KIDS EAT FREE! From pg1

for years, with flexible scheduling and diverse programming. The summer schedule kicks off May 30, and offers whole and half day options. Kids who stay all day bring a sack lunch.

For those who believe summer is a time to encourage creativity, **Artist Mary Hill and Montrose Center for the Arts** will host a summer art camp for kids from July 11-15, from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Cimarron Creek Clubhouse. The charge is \$75 for the first family member, \$65 for the second. To register call 970-275-0122.

Artist Dee Miller is offering kids arts classes at Hillcrest Congregational Church throughout the summer months. For information or to register, call Miller at 970-260-3534.

Weehawken Creative Arts brings summer dance programs to Montrose and Ridgway, along with numerous other arts programs for all ages. Visit the web site to sign up or learn more http://

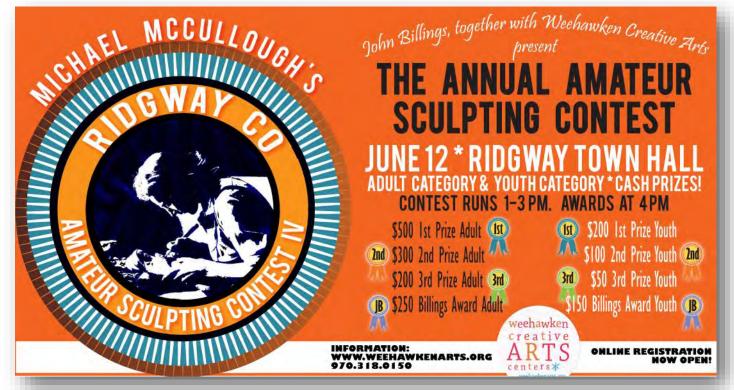
www.weehawkenarts.org. There will be a Yogini Circus Stilt camp six-day Stilt Build & Walk Workshop for kids (and their adult) age seven and up in Ridgway June 13th-15th & June 20th-22nd from 6 to 7:30 PM. The Build will be in the Cimarron Coffee Parking lot, with the Walk in Ridgway Town Park. Cost is \$75 per participant, and participants must preregister by calling (970) 765-4627 or emailing heather@yoginicircus.com.

A host of local churches are offering summer camps and programs too. At **Grace Community Church** (16731 Woodgate Road), the very popular **Camp**

Creativity returns this year, from June 6-9, serving ages four to 12. In the past, Camp Creativity has welcomed from 200 to 250 kids, and this year's program is shaping up to be even bigger, Grace Church staffer Valerie Good said. "It's summer, and we get to explore our creative side," she said. "We have drama, dance, crafts, pencils and paints and music—the idea is to get kids out and be creative with a minimum of stuff." Camp Creativity runs from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and on the last day there will be a presentation of work and a family BBQ. Kids who have worked on performances will give five minute presentations, and campers' artwork and crafts will be on display. To learn more call 970-249-5306. Montrose United Methodist Church has a cross-cultural vacation Bible school program that is free to those who need assistance, though the cost per child is just \$10. "Thailand Trek" will take place June 13-16, and welcomes kids from preschool age through Fifth grade. Hours are from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m., at 19 South Park Avenue. Call 249-3716 for more information. Registration is online at http://www.montroseumc.org/? childrens-ministries-2. June 20-24, Rosemont Baptist Church at 1598 E Niagara Rd offers "Submerged," vacation Bible school from 9 a.m. to Noon for children from age four through 6th grade. A Women's "VBS" Bible Study will also be available for any woman who would like to attend. For more information or to register visit atwww.rosemontbaptist.org/

summer2016 or register in person or by phone at (970)249-4887. Office hours are Tues-Thurs 11:30 am-4 pm.

Finally, for families with hungry kids, the Kids Eat Free Monday through Friday program continues this summer in Montrose and Olathe, beginning June 6 and continuing through July 29. Local sites include Centennial Middle School and the Montrose Recreation Center. The Centennial School site is open to anyone. Montrose County School District Re-1J Nutrition Services Director Kathleen Deltonto said. "You don't even have to be from here—you can just be passing through. There are no applications, and no questions asked." Breakfast and lunch are free to those age one to 18, and for adults-who must wait to make sure all kids are served—lunch is \$3.50. The noon meal at Centennial runs from Noon to 1 p.m. At the Montrose Rec Center, the site is also open, but serves lunch only, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Though meals are served at the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club location in Montrose and Migrant Head Start in Olathe, those sites are not open to the public. However, the Black Canyon Boys & Girl's Club's Olathe site serves all comers, DelTonto said. "It's an open feeding site." Though plans to acquire a traveling food truck for the school district have not yet come to fruition, Deltonto said that she hopes to have one in place by August. "It would be a great way for us to get more high school kids to eat," she said. "And we could use it year round."



The Friends of Ridgway Schools and Ridgway Elementary School truly appreciate the many businesses and families who supported the 2016 Fun Run fundraiser. Together, we raised more than \$14,000!

THANK YOU to our financial sponsors: San Miguel Power Association **Alexander Orthodontics** Allison Construction Co Alpine Edge Engineering **Alternative Power Enterprises Billings Artworks** Double RL Ranch Dynamic Fire Protection Systems Kroger Middleton Accounting Mountain Market Mountain Medical Center Montrose Memorial Hospital Panny's Pizza Ridgway Family Dentistry **RE/MAX Cimarron Realty** Ridgway Real Estate Agent Cathy Redmond

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Additional thanks to donors of services & products: Alpine Scenic Tours Box Canyon Lodge & Hot Springs **Bryce Chismire** Chili's Grill & Bar **Exotic Earth Coffee Roasters** Gumpshun Junction Light House Coffee Shoppe Montrose Mirror Mouse's Chocolates & Coffee **Orvis Hot Springs Ouray County EMS & Sheriff** Ouray KOA & Creekside Café Safeway Ridgway Volunteer Fire Dept. Second Chance Humane Society **Taylor Family Telluride Newspapers** Weehawken Creative Arts Wiesbaden Hot Springs Spa & Lodge Wildflower Boutique

Info: friendsofridgwayschools.org

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE, GRID ALTERNATIVES AND DMEA TEAM UP ON COMMUNITY SOLAR ARRAY

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— The Colorado Energy Office (CEO), GRID Alternatives (GRID) and Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) announce the development of a community solar array that will lower the electric bills of qualified low-income residents in the DMEA service territory. The project is part of a statewide initiative designed to demonstrate how the community solar model can be optimized to reduce energy costs for utilities' highest need customers - those who spend more than 4 percent of income on utility bills. "Today we are symbolically and literally breaking new ground, as this will soon be the largest community solar array in the nation dedicated solely to low-income households. We want to thank Delta-Montrose Electric Association and GRID Alternatives for making this vision a reality, and we look forward to additional rural utility projects coming this summer," said Colorado Energy Office Director Jeff Ackermann.

GRID received a \$1.2 million CEO grant in August 2015 to partner with utilities to implement low-income community solar. Earlier this year, CEO and GRID announced utility project partners, each of which is piloting a slight variation on the low-income community solar model to address the unique needs of rural utility service areas and their customers. The projects selected are both affordable and scalable for utility partners, and offer great potential to expand across the state.

"This community solar installation with DMEA will be GRID's largest solar project developed to date. Being able to deliver impactful projects and programs at larger scales will continue to make GRID's work more efficient and include more families we haven't previously been able to reach. Offsetting energy burden for low-income families has never been done at this scale, and we are excited to be working with great partners like DMEA to bring these impacts to fruition," GRID Executive Director Chuck Watkins said.

Chief Executive Officer Jason Bronec, said DMEA is interested in expanding renewable energy access with this impactful and innovative model:

"As a member-owned cooperative, our true purpose is to improve the quality of life for our members and the communities they live in. Our affordable community solar array helps further this purpose by providing access to local renewable energy for members that are often underserved."

In the region, GRID partnered with Solar Energy International (SEI) to expand solar education for GRID's job trainees - bringing experience in the field together with an internationally renowned certified training organization. GRID also worked with Delta High School solar students - a unique group of students who are preparing for jobs in the solar industry. The students toured the DMEA job site, and GRID presented its mission, program with DMEA, and its workforce training opportunities. Students from the class will be able to gain hands-on experience as volunteers installing the 151 kW system, and build on their classroom training with SEI.

On Friday June 3, in Delta, GRID's programmatic barn-raising model will engage members of the community to come together to install the 150 kilowatt solar array. Participants will include employees from the utility, the subscribers benefitting, local elected officials, schools and others to install 570 solar panels that will help as many as 45 qualified families cut their electric bills in half.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

VALLEY MANOR RESIDENTS SAY THANK YOU TO EMS STAFF



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Valley Manor Care Center memory care residents created handmade thank you cards for the EMS staff at each of the three fire stations in the Montrose area. Several residents and memory care staff took an outing to deliver the cards and goodie baskets to the downtown station. The residents wanted to personally thank local fire and rescue for all they do for the community during national EMS week



Join us June 9th for our 2016 annual Downtown Deltafest! 5:30 - Dusk



Music - Food - Booths - Fun & Games! Sidewalk Sales and Local Business Specials!

For vendors who would like more information please call the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce at 970-874-8616

Grand Mesa Motorsports proudly presents Moto Mayhem of Delta at Downtown Delta Fest 2016



The moment you've been waiting for ...

Sneak Peek Breakfast Book Talk

Come have doughnuts and juice, and hear about all the newest books at the library.

Then, check out your favorites!

Wednesday, June 8 10:00 am-11:00 am

In the Library Meeting Room

320 S. 2nd St. (970) 249-9656 www.montroselibrary.org www.facebook.com/MontroseLibraryTeens



CUSTOMER SERVICE RECOGNITION

GROCERY WORKERS: DOWNTOWN MONTROSE CITY MARKET



Mirror Staff Report MONTROSE-Customer Service Recognition...Grocery workers! Linda has worked for the Downtown City Market for 29 years...though she did take time to help open the "new" store south of town in 1996. She still loves her job...thank you Linda!!!



Landowners Can Receive Financial Assistance to Protect Forestlands

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS- The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting Forest Legacy Program proposals from Colorado landowners. The program authorizes the CSFS or USDA Forest Service to purchase permanent conservation easements on private forestlands to prevent those lands from being converted to non-forest uses. Forestlands that contain important scenic, cultural, recreation and water resources, including fish and wildlife habitat and other ecological values, and that support traditional forest uses, will receive priority. Landowners who elect to participate in the program are required to follow a land management plan approved by the CSFS. Activities consistent with the management plan, including timber harvesting, grazing and recreation activities, are permitted.

Forwarded proposals will then compete at a regional level; those selected at the regional level will compete nationally for funding.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. July 29, 2016, for federal fiscal year 2018 funding. Proposals must be submitted by standard mail.For additional information or to obtain an application packet, contact Naomi Marcus at 970-491-6303. Applications also are available online at http://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS EARNS TRIPADVISOR CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Montrose, Colorado today announced that it has received a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence. Now in its sixth year, the achievement celebrates hospitality businesses that have earned great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor over the past year. Certificate of Excellence recipients include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

"We are delighted to accept the 2016 Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor and are proud to continue our legacy of excellent hospitality and customer service in Montrose, Colorado. Our first priority is always our guests comfort and satisfaction with their stay." -General Manager Betina

Souza

"With the Certificate of Excellence, TripAdvisor honors hospitality businesses that have consistently received strong praise and ratings from travelers," said Heather Leisman, Vice President of Industry Marketing, TripAdvisor. "This recognition helps travelers identify and book properties that regularly deliver great

service. TripAdvisor is proud to play this integral role in helping travelers feel more confident in their booking decisions."

The Certificate of Excellence accounts for the quality, quantity and recency of reviews submitted by travelers on TripAdvisor over a 12-month period. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

About Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Montrose, CO

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Montrose is on the beautiful western slope of Colorado. Only an hour from Telluride and easy access to the Montrose Business District. The comfortable Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites Montrose is a perfect oa-

sis for all travelers. With friendly service and exceptional amenities, this hotel provides a carefree stay in Montrose, CO. Our meeting rooms can accommodate up to 200 people in a banquet or conference environment. We offer you such perks as an indoor salt pool with a 60 ft. lap lane, 2 whirlpools and a Fitness Center. Free airport shuttle service is available. Stay connected with our free Wi-Fi and 24-hour Business Center. The Express Start Breakfast Bar starts each morning at 5am for ease of travelling.

About TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor® is the world's largest travel site**, enabling travelers to plan and book the perfect trip. TripAdvisor offers advice from millions of travelers and a wide variety of travel choices and planning features with seamless links to booking tools that check hundreds of websites to find the best hotel prices. TripAdvisor branded sites make up the largest travel community in the world, reaching 340 million unique monthly visitors***, and 350 million reviews and opinions covering 6.5 million accommodations, restaurants and attractions. The sites operate in 48 markets worldwide. Released by Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Montrose, CO Sales Team. For more information or to book your stay with us, please call us at 970-240-1800 or visit our website at <u>www.hiexpress.com</u>.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SUCCESS OF CPW'S YOUTH TURKEY HUNTS DUE TO GREAT PARTNERSHIPS, EXPERT MENTORSHIP



From left to right, 12 year-old Jordan Breck of Grand Junction, 8 year-old Peter McDonald of Fort Collins, and 10 yearold Judd Harvey of Meeker. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife's long-running efforts to help youths experience the joys of hunting continued this year as CPW District Wildlife Managers Mike Swaro of Craig and Bailey Franklin of Meeker, along with fellow officers and volunteers, all took time from busy schedules to give seven lucky young hunters memories they will not soon forget.

As part of the agency's <u>Hunter Outreach</u> <u>Program</u>, the hunts took place in early May on private land, made possible with access donated by local landowners from Craig and Meeker.

According to the officers, the key to stirring a lifelong passion for hunting is patient guidance from experts. They add that CPW's guided hunts help build a good foundation for the young novices if they decide to continue hunting in the future.

"Good mentoring is the most important consideration for kids that do not have someone at home that can teach them," said Franklin. "Hunting is one of Colorado's most treasured traditions and is very important for the successful management of our wildlife. Kids like this will be the

future stewards of our natural resources, but unless someone shows them how to hunt safely and ethically, they probably would have never tried it on their own."

"Too many kids spend a lot of time indoors, usually with electronics," added Swaro. "But I'll bet once any kid experiences something like this, it will change their lives. They may even become lifelong hunters."

All of the youths selected for the experience earned the opportunity by submitting an essay describing why they should be selected for the hunt. Preference went to youngsters that have never hunted and do not come from hunting families.

During a half-day orientation prior to the hunts, the youths learned about the safe use of firearms and hunting basics, ethics and safety. When they were ready, 10-year -old Judd Harvey of Meeker, 12-year-old Jordan Breck of Grand Junction and 8-year -old Peter McDonald of Fort Collins followed DWM Franklin and other officers from the Meeker area to hunt on private land with access provided by several local landowners.

"High quality hunts like this would not be possible without key partnerships with private landowners and access to their lands," said Franklin. "Special thanks to the Jensen Family Ranch, Clark White River Ranch, Seven Lakes Lodge, M/R - K/K Ranch, Elk Creek Ranch, Mike Fritzler, Pete Swenson, Scott Casto and Jim Goff. I would also like to thank several property managers, including Travis Flaherty, Brett Harvey, Bill Wheeler, Tom Hazelton, and John Etchart for their tremendous efforts to support CPW's Youth Hunter Outreach program."

Joining DWM Mike Swaro and fellow officers were 11-year-old Chase Blaisdell of Grand Junction, 11-year-old Shiv Ghosh of Littleton, 11-year-old Sophie Hough of Craig and 10-year-old Nathan Bomgaars of Aurora.

This group of young hunters found adventure on private lands belonging to John Raftopoulos, Jimmy Horton, Dawn Nottingham, and Scott and Debbie Estes, all of whom allowed access for the hunts.

With tough weather conditions, including snow, rain and cold temperatures adding to the experience, each young hunter saw and heard turkey, but only two of the four were successful.

Although young hunter Shiv Ghosh did not harvest a bird on his first hunt, he gained valuable, first-hand experience hunting in tough conditions. In an essay he wrote about his hunt, Ghosh stressed that he learned one of the primary lessons the Hunter Outreach program espouses.

"To me, hunting is more than the harvest; it is experiencing the adventures of being outdoors and creating memories with family and friends that will last a lifetime," wrote Ghosh. "It left me wanting more."

"I couldn't be prouder of these kids," said Swaro. "They all understand that this is all about getting outdoors - even when the weather is not the best - learning new skills, experiencing the thrill of the hunt in beautiful scenery and seeing wildlife up close; and I'm pretty sure it won't be long before Shiv bags his first gobbler on his own."

Landowners interested in supporting CPW's youth hunting programs in Northwest Colorado are encouraged to call Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Meeker office at 970-878-6090. Anyone interested in learning more about youth hunting opportunities can also call the same number and request an application for upcoming youth hunts.

For more information about CPW's Hunter Outreach programs, go towww.cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/

HONORABLE MENTION

In memory of all who have served our nation, fought for our freedoms, and paid the ultimate sacrifice. We honor your memory on this Memorial Day.

To teachers everywhere, for educating the next generation of Americans!



SUMMER READING



An Evening of Stargazing

Monday, June 13
Meet at Cerise Park!

(Shane's Way, off of Chipeta, by the picnic tables)

8:00-10:00 pm

Families are welcome!
We recommend you dress in warm layers and bring bug spray!

320 S. 2nd St. (970) 249-9656 www.montroselibrary.org www.facebook.com/MontroseLibraryTeens



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MH RANKS IN TOP 5% OF RURAL HOSPITALS NATIONW

MONTROSE-According to a new report, Montrose Memorial Hospital ranks in the top 5 percent of rural hospitals nationwide. iVantage Health Analytics, a leading provider of healthcare analytic and decision support tools, studied more than 2,000 rural hospitals to ascertain top performers. Focusing on over 70 indicators to measure hospital strength including quality, affordability, efficiency and patient outcomes, the report is "the industry standard for assessing – and benchmarking – rural and Critical Access Hospital performance" according to iVantage.

"I'm proud of the remarkable work of our MMH team members, including caregivers, support staff, physicians and healthcare providers," said Steve Hannah, MHA, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospi-

"Their dedication to our valuesincluding our focus on integrity, compas-

sionate service, leadership, and excellence—plays a big part in our ability to be the healthcare resource of choice in our community. We're grateful to be recognized as one of the top rural hospitals in the entire nation."

According to iVantage, the report "reveals that these top performing hospitals...outperform peer facilities across each pillar of the Hospital Strength INDEX."

"Our data analysis shows that this group of top performers exhibits a focused concern for their community benefits and needs, regardless of scale, reimbursement and people's ability to pay," said Michael Topchik, senior vice president of iVantage Health Analytics

"As a community we can be proud of our hospital, which is really a system of people, and their focus on quality for all patients without regard for how they pay. Safe, quality care for all is the foun-

dation of our hospital culture and this outside recognition demonstrates that MMH is achieving the objective of financial sustainability while providing outstanding care. My hat is off to the entire team, said Ron Courtney, MMHI Board Chair." Ranking in the top 5 percent of rural hospi-

tals places MMH in iVantage's Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals list. More information about the study can be found at www.iVantageINDEX.com.

Recently, Montrose Memorial Hospital received additional national recognition when it earned three awards relating to cleanliness and patient satisfaction by Avatar Solutions, a prominent healthcare quality improvement service.

Late last year, the hospital was recognized by healthcare financial consulting firm Cleverley+Associates as a Community Value Five-Star Hospital for the fourth year in a row.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL THINK TANK TO FOCUS ON INNOVATIONS IN MINING, WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO-Collaborating on innovative solutions to the impacts of mining, developing reclamation projects and addressing water quality concerns are the focus of the 2016 San Juan Mining and Reclamation Conference. The multi-watershed forum brings together representatives from the mining industry, government agencies, nonprofits and citizens groups for discussions, information sharing and partnership building. This conference will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Durango, Colo. on August 3-5, 2016. In its sixth year, the San Juan Mining and Reclamation Conference will continue to build on the shared understanding of the impacts of our local mining activities and history. This year's conference will also consider the Gold King Mine spill to understand how mine disturbances affect our communities, especially our water resources, and ways to engage stakeholders to prepare and implement innovative responses.

Individuals and organizations interested in this collaborative exchange are invited to join the welcome reception, the daylong conference and a day trip into the Durango and Silverton mining districts. Presenters will come from a wide range of agencies, nonprofits and companies including Trout Unlimited, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, GeoSolutions, Harrison Western, Alamosa Riverkeeper, EPA, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and Animas River Stakeholders Group. The agenda and presentations will be finalized and registration forms will be available by early June. The annual event is organized by the Mountain Studies Institute, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety, Uncompality Partnership, Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, and Animas River Community Forum. Sponsors are being sought to reduce or eliminate conference fees. Lodging is available at the DoubleTree or other nearby accommodations. FOR MORE INFORMATION, go to http://www.mountainstudies.org/sjmrc.

For information on the nonprofit organizers, go

to: www.mountainstudies.org, mining.state.co.us, www.uncompahgrewatershed.org, www.willowcreede.org, and www.animasrivercommunity.org.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL PROMOTE AWARENESS, EDUCATION



"Safety is of the utmost importance to our REALTOR® members," said CAR's Colorado Project Wildfire Chair, Bonnie Smith. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY – As the next step in the expansion of its *Colorado Project Wildfire*, the Colorado Associa-

tion REALTORS® has teamed up with the West Region Wildfire Council to offer educational programming for REAL-TORS® and property owners in the west/ southwest counties of our state. The partnership was announced at the Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department near Ridgway where wildfire mitigation experts provided an informational session and tour of both mitigated properties and those in need of mitigation. Over the past two decades, frequent, large, destructive wildfires have claimed hundreds of thousands of acres of land, damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and structures, caused deaths and injuries and displaced residents for extended periods of time across the state of Colorado. "Safety is of the utmost importance to our REALTOR® members," said CAR's Colorado Project Wildfire Chair, Bonnie Smith. "We act out that concern with each of our clients through careful selection of safe properties, the use of professional inspections and providing access to resources homeowners can use themselves to enhance the safety of their properties. Everyone – not just those living in a WUI – is affected by wildfires. Helping homeowners (and future homeowners) in those areas understand how to mitigate the danger is the very reason we started Colorado Project Wildfire."

According to the Colorado State Forest

Service, more than two million Coloradans live in the <u>wildland-urban interface</u> (<u>WUI</u>), an area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation, and where high potential for wildland fire exists. With continued development throughout the state's WUI areas estimated to grow by 300 percent in the next 15 years, the wildfire threat is real and it is not going away.

"As a regional organization that works to reduce wildfire risk and promote fire adapted communities, we're excited to collaborate with the Colorado Association of REALTORS®," said Lilia Falk, director of the West Region Wildfire Council. "We have a collective responsibility to prepare our homes, properties and communities for the possibility of wildfire. Colorado Project Wildfire helps promote this message while connecting residents with local resources, like the West Region Wildfire Council, that are available to assist with wildfire education, mitigation and preparedness efforts." The Colorado Association of REALTORS® (CAR)

launched *Colorado Project Wildfire* last year, an education program designed to help reduce and/or prevent the destruction of land and property, injuries and loss of life by raising awareness of and access to wildfire mitigation resources. With 23,000-plus REALTOR® members spread across the state, CAR and its members are working in partnership with other likeminded fire prevention organizations to

bring education and awareness, as well as access to local resources directly to residents.

CAR's Colorado Project Wildfire website, http://

www.coloradoprojectwildfire.com, provides information and direct links to information regarding:

Protecting Your Home Before a Wildfire Current Colorado Danger Zones; and Who is Affected by Wildfires.

From basic property cleanup recommendations and wood chipping programs to detailed action plans and property evaluation services from fire and safety professionals in local communities, the website offers access to city, county, state and federal resource organizations, mitigation education and more through its Resources and Tool Kit tabs.

"We are very excited to partner with the West Region Wildfire Council on this event," Smith said. "Their experience in bringing together WUI residents, fire districts, agency representatives and other partners in educating, promoting risk reduction and providing resources to help homeowners and communities reduce risk will be invaluable to our REALTOR® members."

Log Hill Fire Department Assistant Chief Tom Austin added, "Our highest priority is the safety of our residents and firefighters. By collaborating with the West Region Wildfire Council, we have enabled our homeowners to take concrete steps to protect their homes and therefore reduce the danger to them and our firefighters. The tools offered by Colorado Project Wildfire and the Colorado Association of REALTORS will further empower homeowners to protect their property and lives from the danger of wildfire.

Joining representatives from CAR and the West Region Wildfire Council were representatives from the Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Ouray County Commissioners, Colorado State Forest Service, Firewise of Southwest Colorado, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control and the office of Emergency Management. Six area REALTOR® organizations - Durango Area Association of REALTORS®, Delta County Board of REALTORS®, Montrose Association of REALTORS®, Telluride Association of REALTORS®, Gunnison Country Association of REAL-TORS® and the Four Corners Board of REALTORS® - are co-sponsoring the program and helping educate their members, clients and residents throughout their communities about wildfire danger and mitigation.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OFFERS FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS



Pictured left to right (Kim Mitchell EMS Chief, Mackenzie Webb, Glenn Boyd EMS Scholarship Chair). Courtesy photo.



Pictured left to right (Kim Mitchell EMS Chief, Cody Blankmeyer, Glenn Boyd EMS Scholarship Chair). Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
OURAY-Ouray County Emergency Medi-

cal Service (OCEMS) is pleased to announce their first scholarship recipients. Mackenzie Web from Ouray High School, who will be attending Colorado University in Boulder, and Cody Blankmeyer from Ridgway High School, who will be attending the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs have each received a \$1000 scholarship from OCEMS's new scholarship program. The scholarship program, which was started in September 2015, began fundraising and receiving donations in an effort to offer scholarships to a senior in each school. "We really wanted to come up with a program that gives back to the community and reward those who want to go into a career that gives back," said Glenn Boyd, scholarship committee chair. "It became evident, very quickly that the schools within Ouray County send an outstanding caliber of students into the world."

OCEMS scholarship program was funded this year through donations and the EMS budget, next year we will take donations and serve the Fourth of July breakfast as a fundraiser for the scholarship. If you would like to donate to the Ouray County Scholarship fund please send donations to: Ouray County EMS Scholarship Fund, PO Box 572, Ouray Colorado 81427.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE FUTURE OF CLEAN ENERGY, OUR PLANET IN OUR HANDS

Dear Editor:

A commenter in the May 20 edition of the *Montrose Daily Press* was correct in calling on us to prod our officials to "start making progress on a clean energy future". He also pointed out that both "Colorado and the Western Slope are well positioned to play a significant role in renewable energy production and a clean energy future", but we need the support of our elected officials. This is not only a non-partisan issue, because it leads to a better future for us all, but will lead to more jobs and an improved economy as we develop the sustainable infrastructure of the future. We already have the technology; we only lack the will. *Wayne Quade, Montrose*



Creepy, Crusty Pond Critters



June 21st 1:00-2:00

Outside at the library

For kids 8-12 years old

Have you ever wondered what creatures lurk in shadowy ponds and streams? Meet some awesome arthropods, crayfish, and aquatic insects and discover their secrets for survival in a watery world.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED—Registration opens June 7th Please call the library at 970-249-9656 x2 or stop in to register

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



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 & WineLate 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 ActivitiesLocal Food, Local Beer & Local Wine, Broadcast Live on KVNF!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.

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY-

May 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 2-To kick off the warm weather Swimming Season, the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) invites everyone to their Third Annual Water Safety Awareness Fair on Thursday June 2 from 10 am-Noon. For information regarding free family swim lessons, scholarships and swim lesson schedules, please contact MRD at 249-7705.

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.montrosesummermusic.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 8-Montrose Regional Library Sneak Peek Breakfast Book Talk, 10 to 11a.m., Library meeting room.

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 organizationwas 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 9-The KAFM 88. IRADIO ROOM Proudly Presents...Justin Payne on Thursday, June 9th, 2016 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext. 201 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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.

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, 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 preforming 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 aa 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-The Montrose County Historical Museum (21 N. Rio Grande Ave) invites history enthusiasts to join us for the "Sunday History Series" on June 12 from 3 pm to 5 pm. This month we will be hosting six local historical authors and one special guest. The authors will be showing their newest accomplishment along with their past books. The authors will be Steve Baker, Greta Hemstrom, Elaine Hale Jones, Carol Patterson, Jack Rairden, and Judy Buffington Sammons. The special guest will be Raymond Tyler, the brother of Muriel Marshall (the late local Historian). Please join us for this reception, it is free and open to the public. For more information call 970-249-2085.

June 12-Ridgway Amateur Sculpture Contest, 1 to 3 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall. Adult and youth categories. Visit www.weehawkenarts.org to register or call 970-318-0150.

June 13-22-There will be a Yogini Circus Stilt camp six-day Stilt Build & Walk Workshop for kids (and their adult) seven and up in Ridgway June 13th-15th & June 20-22nd from 6 to 7:30 PM. The Build will be in the Cimarron Coffee Parking lot, Ridgway - Walk in Ridgway town park. Cost is \$75 per participant, and participants must pre-register by calling (970) 765-4627 or emailing heather@yoginicircus.com. Registration deadline June 10. Maximum 10 walkers. Participants must attend all six sessions.

June 13-An evening of Stargazing, Montrose Summer Reading Program at Cerise Park, with Black Canyon Astronomical Society. 8 to 10 p.m.

Give Back Days

At Mi Mexico Mexican Restaurant

Come enjoy a delicious meal and we'll donate 20% * of your total check to a local non-profit.

Every Wednesday...Every Month...All Day (11 am - 10 pm)

Over 200 entrees to choose from!

1st Wed: The Homestead at Montrose

2nd Wed: All Points Transit

3rd Wed: Montrose Rec Foundation

4th Wed: Valley Manor Care Center

5th Wed: Community Options Inc.

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

After dining, attach the coupon to the bill and deposit it in the box labeled "Give Back Days." 20% of your total bill will be donated to the designated charity.

SUPPORTING IS NOW DELICIOUSLY REWARDING.

*Coupon must be present

Mi Mexico Restaurant 1706 E Main St (Hwy 50) Montrose, CO 81401 (970) 252-1000 (970) 252-1111 Fax

MONTROSEM I R R O R

Contact the Montrose Mirror: Post Office Box 3244 Montrose, CO 81402 970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

John Mercer sets up his booth at the Montrose Farmers Market on May 28. John and Emily Mercer own Life Cycle Pastures, a local business that brings fresh eggs and other products to the Farmer's Market each week. John can be seen pedaling the farm "truck" to work on Saturdays—a bicycle with a ladder attached, complete with cartons of eggs on top. If you see him riding through town, be sure to wave!



Do you need health insurance?

These Life Changing Events may qualify you to enroll into health insurance outside of Open Enrollment:

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☐ Loss of health insurance or Medicaid

☐ Relocation or permanent move

Call your <u>LOCAL</u> office to schedule a free in-person appointment

970-252-0660



