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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE...WEEKLY ON MONDAYS!

Issue No. 197 Nov. 28 2016

HEROES WITH A HEART FOR KIDS



Montrose Heroes 4 Kids include Officer Ted Valerio of the Montrose Police Department, pictured above. This year's Heroes for Kids program will be Dec. 17. Courtesy photo.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE—On Dec. 17, members from the Montrose Police Department, Montrose Fire District, Montrose Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol and several other law enforcement and first responder partners will come together to bless children in need and help them have a Merry Christmas with Heroes 4 Kids.

Originally called Cops for Kids, the program started long ago in Montrose through the Police Department. However, it was not specific as to who could sign up, meaning anyone could sign up, leading to 1000+ participants and a logistics nightmare. That program was halted until eight years ago, when Commander Gene Lillard of the Montrose Police Department and dispatcher Cheryl Hill decided to try something different. They set up Shop With A Cop, which eventually became the current Heroes 4 Kids program. "We changed the name to Heroes 4 Kids to include

[Continued page 33](#)

BOCC VOTES 2-1 TO APPROVE BID AWARD & CONTRACT FOR INDOOR ARENA/EVENTS CENTER @ FAIRGROUNDS

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—Two major Montrose County projects were approved in two to one votes at the regular meeting of Nov. 21 by the Board of County Commissioners, after extensive public comment and discussion. In addition to approving a new Road & Bridge Facility Complex ([see related story](#)), the BOCC approved a bid award and contract in the amount of \$8,500,000 to Ridgway Valley Enterprises for the design and construction of a new Indoor Arena & Events Center at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. In both cases, BOCC Chair Glen Davis and Commissioner David White voted in favor of the project, while Commissioner Ron Henderson voted against it.

The meeting was well attended, with strong turnout by citizens and both commissioners-elect in attendance, and stretched to nearly three and a half hours.

Montrose County Manager Ken Norris showed

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of Worship column!](#)

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Otto Mears!](#)

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Local photos!](#)

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music in our lives!](#)

[Letters to the
Editor!](#)

HOUSES OF WORSHIP - CALVARY CHAPEL

By Gail Marvel

Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18:20 NIV).

MONTROSE-The Calvary Chapel "welcome award" goes to Usher Lester and Pastor Ben Garate. On the lookout for visitors, Usher Lester immediately shook my hand and inquired about my visitor status. Pastor Garate offered a personal greeting and with shades of Luke 14:7-11 invited me to move to the front of the auditorium. When I explained that I get a better sense of the worship service by sitting in the back pew and he said, "Well, then at least let me give you a hug! If you have any questions I'll be happy to answer them."

The worship team on Nov. 20, 2016 consisted of four members accompanied by drums and two guitars. The praise song selections, which appeared on the video screens, were more ballad style than exuberant repetitious phrases.

Announcements for the week included scheduled Bible studies, outreach ministries and kid's activities. Putting the finishing touch on the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project the coordinator said, "If you have a need and you [try to] do it by yourself, you stand alone. Thanks to all the volunteers for the Christmas boxes."

Calvary Chapel does not pass an offering plate, but rather collects tithes and offerings in Agape boxes positioned in the foyer. Explaining the collection helps pay the utilities and the pastor's salary, the speaker said, "The pastor does not know what you give." He joked, "But I know how much you give!" Referring to 2 Timothy 3:2a which talks about people who are lovers of themselves and lovers of money, the speaker expounded, "Modern day psychology says you are to love yourself. One of the realities is that you are not that loveable. The Lord loves you as you are...



During the time of greeting Calvary Chapel Pastor Ben Garate visits with worshippers.
Photo by Gail Marvel.

but you're pretty dirty!"

The first half-hour of the hour-and-a-half long service had a laid back casualness, with a dozen or so worshippers arriving after the announcements and song service but before the sermon. During the congregation greeting people gather in groups and visit with one another.

Prior to the message Pastor Garate said, "Here at Calvary we study...book by book, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse. If anyone does not have a Bible raise your hand and an usher will bring one to you. This is how we go through the Bible. If you miss a week you can go back and pick it up."

The text for this Sunday was Luke 8:40-56, which the pastor read aloud. The passage documents two stories of people who went to Jesus for healing. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came to Jesus on behalf of his 12-year-old daughter who was dying. The second story is of a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12-years and by Jewish law was unclean.

Garate said, "Both Jairus and the woman came to the feet of Jesus to get help. If Jairus were in Montrose today he would have lived in Otter Pond or Cobble Creek... that was his status in life. The woman may have come from tortilla flats, but Jesus called her "daughter."

By touching the edge of Jesus' cloak the woman was healed and her public testimony encouraged others. "The lesson here is Jesus honors faith. Your faith has made you well...not the hem of the garment, not lighting a candle...it is your faith in Me [Jesus] that has made you well. She had no more doctor bills, no more doctor visits, no more feeling sick. She was no longer an outcast."

At the conclusion of the service a prayer team assembled at the front of the auditorium to pray with anyone who has need.

Contact Info:

Calvary Chapel - Pastor Ben Garate
2201 South Townsend Ave. Suite D
Montrose, CO
970-240-9099



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONGRATS AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO THE TRUE HEROES OF THE ELECTION, THE COUNTY CLERKS & RECORDERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ELECTION JUDGES!

Dear Editor:

With the final election certifications due by close of business on November 25th, the Clerks of each Colorado County put this bitter, controvertial and hotly contested election season to rest. Most voters, regardless of the size of the county, have no idea of the scope of the task falling squarely on the shoulders of each County Clerk. The legal and administrative requirements increase each and every year, frequently up until the day before the ballots must be ordered. One such change this year is the requirement that before the accuracy of the election may be certified by the Canvass Judges, no less than 500 of the previously voted ballots must be hand-counted to check the voting machines' accuracy. This year, in addition to a host of other changes, new rules governed the duplication of ballots, security requirements, determination of voter intent, computer program changes and a number of other challenging legal requirements.

Of course, there are always those questionable voters who failed to register properly, did not check their mail for ballots and have a plethora of unimaginable problems with voting, not the least of which is how to sign their name on the ballot envelopes. Speaking only about Ouray County and its outstanding Clerk, Michelle Naurer, I can attest that each and every ballot was accounted for, properly counted or not counted, according to the Secretary of State's rules and state statutes. The County Clerks and their staffs could not do the job alone. It takes a cadre of community-minded volunteers from both major parties to produce an honest, legally compliant, election. While some may be unhappy with any political election results, the Colorado County Clerks, their staffs, and volunteer election judges, perform a critical and invaluable service, often unappreciated, to the residents of Colorado. They all deserve our sincerest gratitude and profound "Thank you".

John W. Nelson

Montrose

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Tri-State G&T Montrose Employee Club's

Montrose Motorcycle Holiday Toy Run



Donate and ride! Dec. 3, 2016

Help us brighten the holidays for our
community's children and teens in need.

Donate

By Dec. 1, drop off a new, unwrapped gift for
boys and girls, toddlers to teens:

Tri-State Montrose Maintenance Center
2200 S. Rio Grande Ave., Montrose

or

Donate and Ride

On Dec. 3, bring a new, unwrapped gift for boys and girls,
toddlers to teens and ride with us:

9:30 a.m.

Tri-State Montrose Maintenance Center
2200 S. Rio Grande Ave., Montrose
meet in the south parking lot

10 a.m.

Kickstands up! Ride and deliver gifts to Olathe and Delta.

If there is snow on the ground, we will deliver gifts by car.

QUESTIONS? Contact volunteer toy run coordinator Mike Bahr at 970-216-1822 or mbahr@tristategt.org

www.tristate.coop/montrosetoyrun

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers and the Montrose Police Department are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) in a pop-up trailer theft from the 1400 Block of Ogden Road.

Between Nov. 11, 2016 and Nov. 18, 2016, an unknown subject took a black and silver Coleman Livin Lite Pop Up Camper from a parking lot in the 1400 Block of Ogden Road. As can be seen in the images, the missing pop up camper contained a number of stickers before it was stolen.

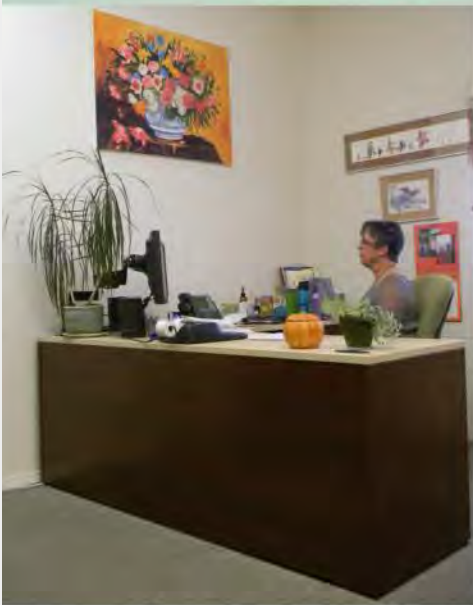
Anyone with information about this crime may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500. Crime Stoppers wants your Information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the caller may receive a cash award.

MEET AND GREET CHIEF OF POLICE CANDIDATES IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The City of Delta would like to invite the public to a Meet and Greet event where the Chief of Police candidates will be introduced. This event will be held at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The candidates will make brief presentations about their backgrounds and qualifications to be selected as Delta's next Chief of Police and they will be available to meet with the public. If you have questions please contact:

Kathy Drayer, HR Generalist, City of Delta, 970-874-7906.



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MONTROSE, CO 252-7337.**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS TO BE DEC. 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) is proud to present the annual Parade of Lights on Main Street in historic downtown Montrose on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 5 pm. This year's theme: Winter, Land of Wonder, in honor of the National Park Service Centennial! The event is sponsored by Cherry Creek Radio, AmeriGas, and Montrose Pediatric Associates, and is presented by the OBT, Montrose Police Department, Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, and Montrose Lions Club. For more information and to register, go to CityofMontrose.org/holidays or call [970.497.8558](tel:970.497.8558).

MAKE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRA FUN WITH A VISIT TO SANTA'S CABIN!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Kids! Make holiday shopping extra fun by taking a break to visit Santa! Smile for your free photo with Santa at his cabin in Downtown Montrose Uncompahgre Events Plaza. Enjoy the ambiance of the "Winter Wonderland," roast marshmallows by the fire pit, share in the festivities with your neighbors, and sing carols! Be sure to visit Santa *by Tuesday, Dec. 20* before he leaves Montrose to embark on his annual trip around the world. Presented by the City of Montrose.

Sundays starting Dec. 4 from 1:30 - 4:30 pm and Saturdays starting Dec. 10 from 11 am - 2 pm in the Uncompahgre Event Center (514 S Uncompahgre Ave). Fridays starting Dec. 9 from 4 - 6 pm at Timberline Bank (1561 Oxbow Dr). For a full schedule, go to VisitMontrose.com/events or call [970.497.8558](tel:970.497.8558). Brought to you by the City of Montrose. For more information go to VisitMontrose.com or call [970.497.8558](tel:970.497.8558).

NOEL NIGHT

Ridgway

Friday, December 2

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Treats & Deals along
the way, Santa too!
Light Parade circling
town park at 5 p.m.



Voyager Youth Program is Celebrating Twenty Years!

Drop your kids at Voyager while you shop; Santa is here after the parade!

A kids holiday movie will be shown. Noel Night Gift Wrapping Services!

Art by the Park -- Susan Clark pastels, small art gifts, jewelry. Local artists all weekend.

Cafe Ridgway a la mode -- Treats and local handmade wares, gift cards for stockings!

Cascade Bicycles -- Come test your power!

Cimarron Art Glass -- Glass blowing demonstrations.

Cimarron Coffee & Books -- Discount grab bag, special treats, local art gifts.

Colorado Boy Brewing Company -- Noel Night special cask ale, 42 pints...dark & delicious!

Eatery 66 -- Local farm fresh food, firepits and marshmallows for the kids.

Element Pet Nutrition -- Locally sourced pet foods and treats.

Glow Day Spa & Salon -- Holiday gift certificates available.

Heart & Sleeve Boutique -- Christmas Party while you Christmas shop!

Lupita's Bizarre Bazaar -- Friends, Laughter, Discounts! New artists' works. Christmas Cards.

Mountain Market -- Get your stocking stuffer treats while enjoying cookies, cocoa & coffee.

Pea Pods Uneekaties -- New shop at 1C Cora Street... handmade whimsies.

Ridgway Gallery/Meredith Nemirov Art Studio -- 282 B South Mary on Moffat Street.

Ridgway Liquors -- The Original!

Ridgway Yoga Shala -- Third Eye Visionaries & Singing Springs Botanical Herbs. Discounts.

Rigs Fly Shop -- Quality guided fishing & equipment.

Taco del Gnar -- Tacos...the gift that keeps on giving!

The Stock Exchange -- Storewide Sale! Books and gifts.

Timber Creek -- Western art, clothing, furnishings, gifts. Discounts all day!

Willowcreek Floral -- Now at 145 North Cora... look for the red door!

520 Burgers -- Noel Night treats...cider! donuts! hot chocolate!

Christmas Bazaar at Town Hall

12/2: 5-9 p.m. & 12/3: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jane Dupree, fiber arts • Laura Gerse, cloth baskets, quilted items

Ilene Greene, paintings, ceramics, jewelry • Natalie Heller, award

winning photography • Annette Henry, canvas photos &

calendars • Tanya Jackson, fun winter wearables • Butch Karl,

wooden toys • June Kirchner, pet art • Lisa Knight,

handmade hats • Sharon Lichthardt, aprons & throws

Nina Rea, Waldorf inspired dolls & fairies, jewelry

Joyce Withrow, rosemaling & Nordic design



Shop locally this year!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SHARE THE LOVE: SUPPORT THE WORK OF SENIOR COMMUNITY MEALS ON COLORADO GIVES DAY DEC. 6!



Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL—Volunteers of America and Senior Community Meals invites Coloradans to support our efforts to provide nutritious meals and safety checks to older adults in Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties by donating to us on Colorado Gives Day, Dec. 6, 2016.

Presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to cele-

brate and increase philanthropy through online giving. The event is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round, online giving website.

View our profile on the site at www.coloradogives.org/seniorcommunitymeals and make your safe and secure donation in a few easy steps.

"Colorado Gives Day helps us spread the word about our mission of making sure older adults who can't leave their homes due to various reasons or don't eat well due to lack of resources or other circumstances can receive nutritious food," says Al Shonk, program director.

"Our goal is to raise \$15,000 this year, which would go towards our operational budget and put more food on the tables of area seniors. We would also like to get a share of the \$1 Million Incentive Fund to put to use in our program."

\$1 Million Incentive Fund

Community First Foundation and FirstBank each contributed \$500,000 to create a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day receives a portion of the fund, which increases the value of every dollar donated. For example, if Senior Community Meals receives 10 percent of the total donations made on Colo-

rado Gives Day, Senior Community Meals also receives 10 percent of the \$1 Million Incentive Fund.

"To increase awareness of our organization, we are asking all of our employees in the region to contribute and ask five of their friends or family members to donate regardless of where they live in the country," Shonk said.

"We hope this will help grow our donations exponentially and bring us closer to our goal."

Community First Foundation, a leading foundation dedicated to fueling the power of community to drive positive change, and FirstBank, Colorado's largest locally owned bank, have partnered to present Colorado Gives Day for the past seven years.

By making fundraising simple for nonprofits and giving easy for donors, Colorado Gives Day is one the most successful events of its kind in the nation.

Last year, \$28.5 million was raised for Colorado nonprofits in just 24 hours. Since its inception in 2010, \$111 million has been donated on Colorado Gives Day. For more information about Senior Community Meals, please visit

www.coloradogives.org/seniorcommunitymeals.

For more information about Colorado Gives Day, please visit ColoradoGivesDay.org.

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DECEMBER 17TH AT 2PM
AT THE MONTROSE PAVILION

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\$16 Adult
\$8 Child (12 -)
\$12 Senior (\$65+)

General admission tickets Available at:

Ridgway: Cimarron Coffee, Weehawken Office
Montrose: Tiffany Etc & Montrose Pavilion
Online: www.weehawkenarts.org

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Reserved Section Seats Available in Rows 1-12. Prices range from \$23 - \$30.

Reserved Tickets are Available ONLY by phone at 970.318.0150





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2nd Annual

HOLIDAY SHOW *and* RECEPTION

You Are Invited to Join Us
Wednesday, December 7th, 2016
5:30 – 7:00 pm

AMAZING GLAZE

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**We're showcasing the
Award Winning Artwork
created by our day center art
program participants!**

Refreshments Provided



MIRROR IMAGES...HOLIDAY FAVORITES!



Some of the many unique ways to spend your holiday dollars and time...clockwise from top left...Dale Carter's wonderful spun honey (Homemade by Dale) and Mike and Kathy Wood's Westwood Farms Fine Foods (www.westwoodfarms.com), pictured at the Basement Boutique Craft Show & Sale last weekend...Eric Palumbo's excellent Cimarron Coffee Shop in Sampler Square...Photographer Vince Farnsworth's new photo gallery (www.farnsworthscenics.com) at the entrance to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

BOCC VOTES 2-1 TO APPROVE BID AWARD & CONTRACT From page 1

slides of the proposed arena/events center, and spoke about the reasons the County was considering the new facility. The building will be constructed of steel, with decorative finishing, Norris said. Landscaping will be minimal, with an emphasis on xeriscape plantings to increase efficiency of water use and minimize maintenance needs.

The Indoor Arena/Events Center will be located where the former Montrose County BMX track was situated. Complete build out is intended to take place in phases, so some areas will be left unfinished, Norris said. First phase amenities include ticketing areas, and three large meeting rooms capable of holding 160 people each. 36,000 square feet will be available for agricultural event with dirt flooring, which can be converted to panel flooring for non-agricultural events. The facility will encompass 93,150 square feet overall, Norris said, and can be expanded easily for future phases.

"This a multi-purpose facility with many uses," Norris said. "It will be well-insulated, with LED lighting in the arena and sophisticated controls for lighting, heating and air conditioning." The facility will also include state-of-the-art plumbing and exhaust removal systems.

The Facility would be fully functional from day one, he said. "There are plenty of restrooms; this is designed for peak restroom usage."

Though alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the main Fairgrounds campus, the location of the Indoor Arena/Events Center is not included in that prohibition, and alcohol service will be permitted. Parking will be ADA Compliant.

"This would be a venue with the possibility of actually bringing in economic benefit to the area."

The facility is not expected to become self-sustaining through user fees, but through enhanced economic development.

"Our figures show a \$4.2 million benefit annually to the local economy," Norris said.

Facilities Coordinator Jennifer DelTonto

explained that 23 [Request for Proposal](#) packets were distributed for the project, and more than 50 participated in a pre-bid meeting.

"We had three responsive bids," she said.

The highest was for 35.5 million. Ridgway's Valley's original low bid was for \$13.6 million, which was reduced to \$8.5 through value engineering, Norris said.

The overall cost per square foot for the Events Center will be \$91 per square foot.

The proposal by low bidder Ridgway Valley Enterprises states that 86 percent of all dollars spent to build the Events Center will be local, and "We made them list their subcontractors," Norris said.

Funding for the Indoor Arena/Events Center will be through debt proceeds of \$4 million in Certificates of Participation; \$4 million from the County's General Fund; and \$1 million in funding from a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant.

"This events center has been in the works for at least five years," Norris said. "It has received a lot of thought, public scrutiny and comment. There have been at least ten public meetings."

During public comment, Maria Fouche spoke of the need for greater economic diversity in the region. "This is the kind of thing that will bring people in, not only from Colorado, but from all of our neighboring states," she said.

"I have a problem with your guys' definition of a need," Derick Moore said. "A need is something like clothes, food, shelter. If this is not going to be profitable from day one, why are we borrowing money to build something? I realize you say you have got it in the budget; it's not fiscally responsible."

Roger Brown said, "...this facility is never to run in the black, it is always going to be a financial burden on the public,"

"There is no business plan, he said. "...the project as it has been referred to has at least three additional capital improvement cycles to go through...It is a phased implementation plan in terms of scope and budget...This to me, I don't live in a cave,

is a project spearheaded by special interest groups.

"It should be approved by the voters and it should not be on the agenda today."

Brown suggested that the project be funded by the private sector. "Step up to the plate and fund it as other places have done."

Donna Valencich said that she is thrilled about the project as a 30-year 4H leader. "I would love to have it for our kids during Fair, but's that's a small thing.

"It's a multi-purpose events center," she said. "In order for us to say we want to have these people who are flying in our airplanes and landing at our airport, we want to keep them in Montrose, let's give them something to do while they are here!"

Commissioner Elect Keith Caddy weighed in. "The Events Center looks like a great thing," he said. "No doubt about it. I think it will bring events to this County and an economic boost to this community.

"My problem is, it's fluff.

"We need a new road and bridge facility," Caddy said, "no doubt about that. That facility over there is no good. But this (Events Center) is something we could live without."

Caddy asked to see a business plan and feasibility studies. A career law enforcement professional, he suggested other priorities. "We've also got a jail we need to look at soon if we don't want the Feds in here; that's what I would like to look at first.

"This is not something necessary to run the County, this is something for when we've got everything else paid for."

"I refer to this as the Davis Center," Citizen Dennis Olmstead said in a lengthy prepared statement. "It's called a lot of different names. I request that you share detailed plans and data with the public. I want costs and I want revenue. So far, it's been, 'trust me.' That's not satisfactory to me; I look forward to receiving the data."

Olmstead also said, "Overall I think it's a good idea. But I think it's a disaster money-wise."

BOCC VOTES 2-1 TO APPROVE BID AWARD & CONTRACT [From pg 12](#)

Olmstead demanded to know the names of those who will use the facility.

"Where do they come from?"

Alcohol consumption could also be problematic, he said.

"Sure it's legal now, you can sell it there. Alcohol is necessary for a rodeo, real necessary. Then you got drunks in the parking lot...most events today at the Fairgrounds are free? Where's the income on free?"

Olmstead also pointed out that Montrose does not presently have an adequate number of hotel rooms to provide service during large events.

"You got 600 hotel rooms; 200 of them are dumps," Olmstead said.

Barrel Racer Jessica Rummell listed a number of barrel racing groups that use arena space. "We go to Utah and New Mexico...Grand Junction is constantly booked all summer long."

Montrose Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Sandy Head spoke on behalf of the organization's board of directors. "Without exception the board is in full support of the County moving forward with this."

A business plan was required for the \$1 million DOLA grant, she said, "due diligence was done on that."

Agriculture is the largest industry in the territory served by Region 10 (Montrose, Delta, Hinsdale, Gunnison, Ouray and San Miguel counties), she said.

"Something such as this arena/events center will be supporting our largest industry in the region," Head said, "and there are a lot of uses. Delta County supports this effort, because they know it is something they can use."

Business leaders like those on the MEDC board pay the highest property taxes in the County, she noted, and "these are the people telling you to go forward...we believe this is a strong plus for Montrose County and for our region, and we urge you to vote favorably."

Commissioner Elect Roger Rash asked the BOCC to table the issue so the incoming commissioners could review it, and put it to a public vote. "Something doesn't add up here...have consideration for the new board of county commissioners and let us look at it as well."

"Sorry Roger," BOCC Chair Davis said, "if we lose a \$1 million DOLA grant, that's a waste of County money in my opinion... Roger, you're going to be in charge of a \$68 million budget. There's no way you're going back to the public on everything."

"We elected you, you and you to make these decisions," Richard Harding told the BOCC. "This is not a democracy, it is a representative form of government."

Commissioner Henderson expressed concerns. "We really don't have a good business plan...we don't have feasibility studies to support the business plan."

"...Economic development and govern-

ment doesn't work, in my mind."

Henderson said that he would prefer to see the debt being used to fund the Arena/Events Center going instead to the Road and Bridge Facility Complex.

"We need to make sure that all the stitches fit the glove pattern before we put the glove on."

"We didn't get this far without having a plan," Commissioner White countered. "Look at what this community has done before...it hasn't always been popular. We are building for the future, which is what we do. Every building we own costs money."

"They're public buildings, and they cost money to keep the doors open, the lights on, to serve the public. It's that simple... we are in fact elected to make these decisions, we fiscally sound and financially well-managed...I am not going to punt on my responsibility. We're going to vote on this today, and it's going to be okay."

As Davis called for a vote, Roger Brown asked to speak again.

After some verbal exchanges, Davis asked Sheriff Dunlap if he would remove Brown for continuing to speak, but Dunlap refused. Brown spoke, urging commissioners to make the business plan public for a few days before voting.

Commissioners then voted two-to-one to approve the bid award and contract for the Indoor Arena/Events Center. Construction is set to begin in December.


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BOCC APPROVES CONTRACT FOR ROAD & BRIDGE UPDATE



The crumbling banks along Cedar Creek are among the issues at the present Road & Bridge Facility, parts of which date back to the 1950's. Photo by Mirror Staff.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE—"The time has come for this particular project to take place."

Those words, spoken by Montrose County Commissioner David White during the regular Board of County Commissioners meeting of Nov. 21, were among many voiced by public officials and citizens during the discussion of Agenda Item 7, which involved approval of a bid award and contract in the amount of \$9,142,877 to Ridgeway Valley Enterprises, Inc to design and construct a new Road & Bridge Facility Complex.

In the end, Commissioners voted two to one in favor of the project; however, the contentious back and forth regarding the Agenda item took more than an hour and a half.

During the time for general public comment, gadfly Roger Brown ignored the requirement that comments on specific agenda items be saved for the time allotted, and demanded that commissioners remove from the meeting agenda Items 7 and 8, regarding the new County road and bridge facility and the planned Indoor arena/events center (see related story). "Please remove them and put them to a public vote," Brown said, a comment he was to reiterate several more times over

the 90+ minutes.

BOCC Chair Glen Davis reminded Brown of the rule that general public comments do not pertain to specific agenda items.

County Manager Ken Norris then began the discussion of the new road and bridge facility with a recap of the problems with the present facility located at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, portions of which date back to the 1950's. The new site, which was purchased by the county two years ago, formerly belonged to United Concrete and includes 14 acres of "perfectly flat, perfectly useable" land, Norris said.

"We have a definite need for the road and bridge facility project," Norris said. "...The condition of the building is poor."

Problems exist with the current heating and air conditioning and electrical systems, he said. Parking is congested, and the potential for security breaches exists due to its proximity to the Fairgrounds.

Also, "Cedar Crick is gobbling away a portion of the bank," he said, "causing structural issues that would require significant amounts of money to remedy."

Like the Arena project, no new taxes will be levied to pay for the Road & Bridge Facility Complex.

"We've talked to our operations folks, we

looked at all of our revenues, expenses and fund balances," Norris said. "...Even with these projects, we are in sound financial shape."

Eighty-one percent of spending for the Road & Bridge Facility project will be local, Norris said. Construction costs will be \$175 per square foot.

Benefits of the new facility complex will include improved productivity; improved operational efficiency; better meeting space; more space for vehicle plug-in; more parking; increased security; space for storing bulk fuel purchases; a car wash; a gas and diesel dispensing station; and increased energy efficiency.

Facilities Coordinator Jennifer DelTonto said that a public Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued, and 22 RFP packages were sent to [potential bidders](#). One responsive bid was received.

Because the project does not involve multi-year obligations, no public vote is required, County Attorney Teresa Williams said. Members of the public expressed support and concerns for the Road and Bridge Facility Complex project, as well as other issues. "I would ask you to rotate the flags," Richard Harding said. "They are in the wrong position."

The road and bridge project did not just come up overnight, Harding said. "This project started ten years ago."

Roger Brown once again asked for the project to be removed from the Agenda and put to a vote. "This decision should be left to the County Commissioners elect," Brown said. "...There is no excuse for not putting this on the ballot we all had in front of us earlier this month."

Brown scolded the BOCC for putting employees at risk by not making repairs to the existing facility. "There are clear OSHA violations." Plans for fuel storage were "a bad deal," Brown said.

Commissioner Elect Roger Rash expressed concern that only one responsive bid was received. "that tells me that high risk is involved. I would request that we look at this very seriously...I would ask that this be tabled until the new Board of County Commissioners can have a look at this, review all the documents, and go

[Continued next page](#)

BOCC APPROVES CONTRACT FOR ROAD & BRIDGE UPDATE From pg 14

from there."

Marv Ballantyne said he was distressed the project had not come to a public vote. "I am disappointed but not surprised." He suggested proceeding "a little at a time," and accused the County of doing something to line its pockets years ago, though he could not recall exactly what it was.

"The people of Montrose County are hurting; it's sweet that Montrose County has lots of money laying around." Commissioner White pointed out that the mil levy has not been raised since 1992.

"I have a background in construction management," boasted gadfly Jim Anderson. "I am not convinced you did get the right price. It's my recommendation that all parties cease and desist...what's the rush? The new BOCC has a certain expertise, and they are willing to open this up."

"There is something a little bit amiss here," Anderson said. "I would like to go back to the bid process."

Matt Brown spoke, saying, "The current facility has served its purpose for a very long time...the cost to repair could only extend its life a dozen years or so. To me, it doesn't make sense to pour money into a facility that has been there 50 plus years and that is falling apart...And to do it a little bit at a time...if you spread out the cost of construction it increases the costs tenfold. Most people are hard-pressed even to build a house for \$130 a square foot." Tricia Joy expressed concern over the motivations of those expressing opposition. "We have a Montrose County Re-

publican group that is really quite split," Joy said, saying that Commissioner Elect Rash had run his campaign by calling the current BOCC "liars" on social media and sharing misinformation about county projects. "He has come before you now and made comments on his experience...we as the public should express that we have a very small, very vocal group of people that represents the worst of cronyism in this County." She thanked Commissioners and staff for their hard work and time.

"We cannot attract good county employees to maintain a tremendous value of equipment without a better facility. I think with our County Manager and our Assistant County Manager we are in good hands to manage this budget."

Rash spoke again, asking "Where do I start...this was placed on the agenda late on Friday. You are not transparent, and that is what I am here to say. What's the rush? The people who will have to administer this program have issues."

Commissioner White said that it is not out of the ordinary for items to be placed on or removed from a draft meeting agenda, even during the meeting itself. "If you want to do it different when you are a commissioner, be my guest."

BOCC Chair Davis said, "Once a decision was made to put it on the agenda you and Keith (Commissioner Elect Keith Caddy) were both informed. We are not trying to hide anything. We do the best job we can, and you will do the best job you can... unfortunately things do not always go our

way." Davis refuted the claim that the incoming BOCC, rather than appropriate county staff, would "administer the project." An argument erupted briefly, with Rash complaining about a lack of information and Davis suggesting that Rash would have been better informed by attending County meetings, which his job prevented during the campaign.

Commissioner White spoke as well, "I am pleased with the turnout and with the sudden interest in projects that the County undertakes...Mr. Rash I understand your concerns, and I understand that your job took precedence over your ability to be at our meetings...but it has become evident that we have reached critical mass."

White said that the "finger pointing" is unfortunate, and that "there are responsibilities that come with being a citizen."


He recounted numerous decisions made over the past eight years that did not draw crowds. "We are using a very similar process to improve the services we deliver to the County," he said. "I have not ever seen anybody turn up to protest what is a decision of the Board of County Commissioners. We are elected to make these decisions." Commissioner Ron Henderson spoke of the importance of the election process. "...I hope people remember the importance of the vote. It's all we have."

Commissioners voted two to one in favor of the Road and Bridge Facility Complex, with Henderson voting no. Construction of the Road and Bridge Facility Complex is scheduled to begin in December.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAKE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FOR KIDS & TEENS WITH FIRST-EVER MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN!

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Bikers and the greater Montrose community are asked to join up with volunteers of the Tri-State Montrose Employee Club for the first-ever holiday motorcycle toy run for Haven House families, who are transitioning out of homelessness, on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The Montrose Motorcycle Holiday Toy Run will deliver donated gifts to Haven House in Olathe. Riders are invited to join the staff and resident families for coffee and hot chocolate before returning to Montrose.

"Half of our kids are from domestic violence shelters and are not used to having anything on Christmas, it's survival for them," said Rose Verheul, Director of Operations and Youth Director at Haven House.

"They are so excited to host a party for the bikers. They have been making ornaments to give to the bikers when they arrive that day."

The community is encouraged to participate in the ride by bringing new, unwrapped gifts and meeting Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 a.m. in Tri-State's south parking lot. Kickstands go up by 10 a.m. The toy run will ride 10 miles north on U.S. Highway 50 to Olathe to deliver toys.

Non-riders may drop off new, unwrapped

gifts by Thursday, Dec. 1 at Tri-State's Montrose Maintenance Center, 2200 S. Rio Grande Ave.

"Rain or shine, we are going to go and anyone is welcome to join us to deliver the gifts," said Mike Bahr, volunteer toy run organizer. "The only obstacle that will stop us is snow on the road. If there is snow, we will use cars. We can't let down these kids."

"Working for an electric cooperative, one of our cooperative principles is concern for community. We work and live by our principles," Bahr said. "I am thankful our staff has the heart to volunteer so those 26 kids have a happy Christmas this year. I hope the community joins us."

Bahr and his coworkers hope to collect enough gifts for the 26 children served by Haven House. The children range in age from a set of 3-month-old twins to a 15-year-old girl.

Any extra gifts will be distributed in the Montrose greater community to children in need.

Long-time riders and Denver holiday toy run supporters, Bahr and his wife Sandy started talking about a local toy run after he accepted the job of Tri-State safety coordinator and they moved to Montrose four years ago. They discovered a compelling beneficiary for a toy run in Haven

House.

"We learned how many Haven House kids and their families are trying to transition out of homelessness and we felt strongly we have to do this so those kids can have a good Christmas," Bahr said.

With an offer of help from Robert and Heather McCarty of Mc Cycles, Bahr took the toy run idea to the office. It was received with enthusiasm by the Montrose Employees Club, a voluntary giving program started more than 30 years ago by Tri-State employees pooling their own money and time to support local needs, said Mac Fellin, Tri-State Transmission Maintenance Manager West.

A motorcycle holiday toy run was a natural expansion of the staff's volunteer efforts. "It's a way for us to give back to the community we live and work in," Fellin said.

Haven House was formed in August 2010 to develop a transitional/transformational living program for the homeless in the Tri-County area of Montrose, Ouray and Delta. Haven House provides shelter, the necessary support services and enrichment programs to help families evolve from an unstable living environment to healthy self-sustaining lifestyles.

For more Montrose Motorcycle Holiday Toy Run details, including a list (age and

gender) of the Haven House children who will receive gifts, visit www.tristate.coop/montrosetoyrun Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association is the wholesale power supplier, operating on a not-for-profit basis, to 43 electric cooperatives and public power districts that serve more than one million consumers throughout nearly 200,000 square-miles of Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming.

For more information, visit www.tristate.coop.

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MIRROR IMAGES...FRESH FROM THE VINE!



Photos by Mirror Staff

MONTROSE-Fresh lettuce options tempt customers from a cooler at The Vine Market on Main Street Saturday. Bunches and build your own bouquets bring color to a late fall afternoon. Gourmet meats and cheeses brought Thanksgiving hangovers to a fresh and delectable end. Locally grown potatoes and gourds reflect the wealth of green thumbs at The Vine Market.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATING SENIORS AGAIN

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) is accepting applications for their annual scholarship program. Last year, OCEMS awarded \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors Cody Blankmeyer (Ridgway) and Mackenzie Web (Ouray). For the second year, a scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from both the Ridgway and Ouray Schools. Funding for the scholarship will be coming from donations and OCEMS fund raising which will include providing the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast formerly hosted by Ouray

Mtn. Rescue.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must: be currently enrolled as a student in one of the Ouray County School Districts; currently possess senior status as determined by his or her school; attend a University, College, or Certification Program within the next school year; and obtain two (2) written recommendations with at least one coming from a member of the faculty or staff at the school which he or she attends. Award recipients will be notified at their school's annual award ceremony.

Applications can be picked up at both Ouray and Ridgway Schools or downloaded from the Ouray County Website at <http://www.ouraycountyco.gov/143/Emergency-Medical-Services>. Applications are due April 17, 2017.

If a citizen would like to donate to the OCEMS scholarship fund, they may do so by sending a donation marked "Scholarship Fund" to Ouray County EMS, PO Box 572, Ouray Colorado 81427 or drop it off at the EMS office at the Ouray County Courthouse, located at 541 4th Street in Ouray.

RE-1J SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County School District RE-1J is looking for volunteers for the District Accountability Committee (DAC). District Accountability committees are required by state law to meet and cooperatively determine the areas and issues to monitor, including budget and educational programming.

The term to serve on the DAC is one-year, with meetings scheduled for each quarter and a report to the School Board at the June regular business meeting.

This committee has broad responsibilities for ensuring the district's continued educational success and cost-effective management. If you feel that you would like to be a part of this committee, please check the website website at www.mcsd.org or contact Laurie Laird at 970-252-7902 for more information.

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Ann Scarry
Laboratory Education Coordinator
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TELLURIDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ER: 'YOU WON'T BE TURNED AWAY'

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-Patients arriving at the Telluride Regional Medical Center Emergency Room need not worry they'll be turned away at the region's only emergency department based on health insurance coverage, according to medical center CEO, John Gardner.

"If you do not have insurance, you will be treated and may be billed full price. However, if you have low income and qualify, you may be enrolled in Medicaid on the spot," said Gardner.

The medical center also offers payment

plans for large balances and discounts for prompt payment.

"We are currently exploring banking relationships which will give patients the ability to finance large bills at reduced interest rates," he added.

Likewise for those with insurance providers who do not have contracts with the medical center. "We treat all patients," said Gardner, "though the insurance coverage will differ based on whether or not we have a contract with your insurance provider."

According to Gardner, the Telluride Re-

gional Medical Center is working to restore an emergency services contract with a popular provider, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, after past proposals were rejected by the Telluride Hospital District for failing to compete with reasonable repayment rates. "A contract with an insurance provider has to make basic economic sense for our organization," said Gardner, who remains confident they will strike a deal with them once again.

"And in the meantime, it's imperative that the public know they'll always find emergency care at our clinic," he said.

PARTICIPATE IN THE RIDGWAY NOEL NIGHT PARADE

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-On Friday Dec. 2, the Parade will precede Noel Night. Get creative! Decorate and light up yourself, your dog, your vehicle or your bike! Parade begins at 5 p.m. with a route around the park and through Downtown. Meet on Railroad Street at 4:30 to prepare. Any questions please call Pam Kraft at 970-628-5308 ext. 11.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CPW INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN 4 CONVICTIONS FOR ILLEGAL HUNTING



Two men from Colorado and two men from Tennessee have been convicted of illegal hunting activities.

Special to the Mirror

DENVER -- Two men from Colorado and two men from Tennessee have been convicted of illegal hunting activities. As a result, two of them have paid substantial fines, one man will spend time in jail and another is performing community service. All of the men could also lose their hunting and fishing privileges in Colorado and 44 other states.

The convictions followed long-term investigations by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The violations were committed over the course of a decade in prized Game Management Unit 61 where few elk licenses are available each season and many people wait 20 years or more to draw a tag. GMU 61 is located on the Uncompahgre Plateau west of Montrose.

"We take it seriously when poachers steal wildlife from all of us, especially when they are profiting from that poaching; and we will do everything we can to see that those individuals are brought to

justice," said Renzo DelPiccolo, area wildlife manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Montrose. "Sometimes it takes years to investigate and settle wildlife cases, but that does not deter state and federal investigators from pursuing these crimes."

Beginning in about 1999 and continuing through 2011, Gerald Lee Sickels, 42, of Nucla, operated as an illegal unlicensed outfitter and took clients on multi-day hunts for which he charged \$1,000 to \$3,000. During that time at least 17 bull elk were killed illegally in GMU 61 by Sickels and his out-of-state clients. At least one mountain lion was also killed illegally. Sickels instructed his clients to purchase other hunting licenses to help cover up the illegal activity.

Sickels and his assistant, Jay Remy Grierson, 46, also of Nucla, were indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2014 for violations of the Lacey Act, a federal law that bans illegal trafficking of wildlife. They faced six counts of conspiracy and

interstate sale of unlawfully taken big-game.

Sickels eventually pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act. On Nov. 7, he was sentenced in federal court in Denver to one year of "intermittent incarceration" and one year of probation for conspiring to violate the Lacey Act. Sickels must report to a local detention facility on all non-work days, on all vacation days, and on all holidays during the one-year period. During the probation, he is prohibited from hunting or acting as a hunting guide. He also had to give up his 1996 Toyota pick-up truck and a Fleetwood camping trailer, both of which were used in the commission of federal crimes.

Grierson pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act and was sentenced in March 2016 to two years of probation and 40 hours of community service.

Ben Williamson, 61, of Morristown, Tenn., during a trip in 2004 to GMU 61, unlawfully killed two bull elk, one a 6x6 and the other a 7x8. In 2009, his son, Brett Williamson, 26, who did not have a hunting license, killed a 6x6 bull elk. He returned in 2010 and, again without a license, killed two 6x6 bull elk. The two men were charged with misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act and each paid fines of \$6,500. They also were required to forfeit their trophy mounts.

Officers from the Tennessee Department of Wildlife Resources assisted in the investigation by conducting interviews and seizing evidence.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Hearing Examiner will review each case and make a determination regarding suspension of the men's hunting and fishing license privileges.

Through a nationwide cooperative agreement known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, the men could lose their license privileges in the 45 participating states.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DALLAS FLIGHTS NOW YEAR-ROUND TO TELLURIDE/MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE— The Colorado Flights Alliance has announced that Dallas (DFW) flights to the Telluride/Montrose (MTJ) airport on American Airlines will now operate year-round.

This will add a second daily, year-round option for MTJ travelers, along with Denver (DEN) flights on United Airlines.

"We have been working with our partners at American on this for several years, and through strategic growth in flights, seats and passengers, we are thrilled to be able to offer our locals, visitors and businesses an added year-round option to the region," said Matt Skinner, COO of Colorado Flights.

This announcement comes on the heels of an added second daily flight from DFW to MTJ in the core of winter season along with the increase in aircraft size for the summer.

Service in April-May and October-November will consist of one flight daily on a regional jet.

"The growth in our core tourism seasons, and the expansion and diversification of our regional economy, have allowed us to push through with added year-round de-

mand for flights," continued Skinner.

The new travel option broadens the accessibility of the region, providing a viable resource for business, pleasure and lifestyle.

"The achievement of solidifying year round service will be a boost to our economy, in particular serving our visitors and second homeowners hailing from Texas, a key market for our community," says Mountain Village Mayor, Dan Jansen. As Colorado tourism leads the nation in growth, ease of travel is pertinent to capturing market share in the industry. Access to the region provides a very marketable travel message.

"The addition of another year-round flight is an exceptional marketing opportunity for us and will absolutely contribute to the entire region's continual economic growth – including tourism, business development, and ancillary sectors to them both," said Michael Martelon, CEO of the Telluride Tourism Board.

The Telluride/Montrose Regional Airport is the key aspect to the economy for the region and tourism market for Telluride and the surrounding area.

Air service is a major factor for travelers

around the country and world when considering where to visit and spend their tourism dollar.

"This is another step forward for the growth of the airport, which is the largest economic driver in the region.

A year-round DFW flight is yet another example of the county's successful partnership with the Colorado Flights Alliance and its diligent work," according to Montrose County Commissioner David White. The year-round DFW flights are currently available for sale, with travel bookable through August 2017.

Colorado Flights provides non-stop service from Dallas (DFW), Phoenix (PHX), Chicago (ORD), Newark (EWR), LaGuardia (LGA), Atlanta (ATL), Houston (IAH), Los Angeles (LAX), and San Francisco (SFO), along with Denver (DEN) service, giving Telluride (TEX) and Telluride/Montrose (MTJ) direct flights from ten major hubs.

For area and reservations information, please visit www.visittelluride.com, www.tellurideskiresort.com, www.visitmontrose.com or www.ouraycolorado.com, and for flight schedule information, please visit www.coloradoflights.org/schedule.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMEA CONSIDERS FEASIBILITY OF TRI-STATE EXIT

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL – On Nov. 2, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) and Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State) agreed to collaborate on an analysis that will determine the feasibility of DMEA withdrawing from Tri State's membership.

DMEA currently has 23 years remaining on a wholesale power contract with Tri-State. The parties have begun a process that will include discussing operational issues and the cost to DMEA of a potential early exit from the Tri-State power contract. More than 65 percent of DMEA's costs go

toward wholesale power purchases from Tri-State. "As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, DMEA has a responsibility to its members to continuously evaluate existing and future power costs and to do what we can to ensure that the safe and reliable service that our members expect comes at rates as low as possible," said DMEA's CEO, Jasen Bronec. "This analysis with Tri-State is part of that process," he continued. "As we have explained to our members, we will see a 4.3% increase in wholesale power costs from Tri-State in January. Planning for and addressing projected increases in whole-

sale power costs is a key component in determining our future as a cooperative," Beyond these fiscal matters, over the past couple of years DMEA's board has been carefully considering the co-op's unique challenges, vision of the future of our industry, and the needs and wants of our members here in Western Colorado. Each of these factors further led the board to believe that a careful feasibility analysis of a Tri-State withdrawal is warranted.

"As we work through this information gathering process with Tri-State, we will continue to keep our membership informed," stated Bronec.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES FEE FREE DAYS FOR 2017 *Ten More Great Reasons to Visit a National Park*

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON – Combine great scenery and history with great savings and visit a national park for free on one of 10 [fee free days](#) in 2017.

The ten entrance fee-free days for 2017 will be:

Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 20: Presidents Day

April 15-16 & April 22-23: National Park Week Weekends

Aug. 25: National Park Service Birthday

September 30: National Public Lands Day

Nov. 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

“National parks are known for their priceless beauty,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “They are a bargain anytime but on these ten days in 2017, they really will be priceless. We want everyone to visit their national parks and the fee free days provide extra incentive to experience these amazing places.” During the fee free days, all National Park Service sites will waive their entrance fees for all visitors. Usually, 124 of the 413 national parks charge entrance fees that

range from \$3 to \$30. The other 289 sites do not have entrance fees. The entrance fee waiver for the fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for things such as camping, boat launches, transportation, or special tours.

To continue the national park adventure beyond these fee free days, the annual \$80 [America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass](#) allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks.

There are also free or discounted passes available for senior citizens, current military members, fourth grade students, and disabled citizens.

The National Park System includes more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 413 sites including national parks, national historical parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, national battlefields, and national seashores. There is at least one national park in every state. Last year, 307 million people visited a national park. They spent \$16.9 billion which




supported 295,000 jobs and had a \$32 billion impact on the U.S. economy. In addition to national parks, the National Park Service works with tribes, local governments, and partners across the country to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Programs such as the National Register of Historic Places, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program revitalize communities, celebrate local heritage, and provide places for people to get outside, be active, and have fun.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CSP TROOPER LOSES HIS LIFE PROTECTING A MOTORIST



Colorado State Patrol Trooper Cody Donahue was killed on the job on Nov. 25. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO SPRINGS-Nov. 25 was a sad day for the Colorado State Patrol. A trooper was investigating a property damage crash on Northbound Interstate 25, just south of Castle Rock. While out of his vehicle the trooper was hit and killed by a passing commercial vehicle.

Trooper Cody Donahue, an 11 year veteran of the CSP, assigned to the Castle Rock office, lost his life while keeping a motorist safe. The Colorado State Patrol sends our condolences to Trooper Donahue's family and we will remain steadfast as a patrol family through this difficult time. The criminal investigation is being conducted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Department and they will release all information pertaining to the investigation. The Colorado State Patrol is asking for thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. The family of Trooper Donahue is respectfully

requesting their privacy from inquires and media as they attempt to navigate the grieving process. Any questions as they relate to Trooper Donahue should be directed to the Colorado State Patrol Public Affairs Unit. When and if the family releases a statement they will coordinate the efforts with the CSP Public Affairs Unit to have it distributed. Please do not contact the family for statements, information, background, etc.

An official GoFundMe page has been set up by a family member and is currently accepting donations. This is the only legitimate account online that has been established for the Donahue family. Please feel free to distribute as appropriate.

<https://www.gofundme.com/Cody-Donahue-memorial-fund>

Funds may also be made to the Colorado State Patrol Family Foundation, marked for the Donahue family.

A collage of various embroidered patches and designs. The text "Custom Embroidered Apparel" is at the top in a large, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, stylized font, are the phrases: "~ Graphic Design ~", "~ Logos ~", "~ Original Art ~", and "~ Patches, shirts, and more ~". At the bottom, the contact information is listed: "jeremaya.art@gmail.com", "615-375-6292", and "www.etsy.com/shop/jeremyrobinson". The background is a dark blue with various colorful, intricate embroidered designs, including floral patterns, geometric shapes, and abstract art.

ISSUE 73 Nov. 28, 2016

ART & SOL

RECALLING OTTO MEARS: PATHFINDER OF THE SAN JUANS



Courtesy photo Silverton Northern Railroad Gallery and San Juan County Historical Society.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—Today, most road building is done by governmental or public entities, as few private citizens have the funding or

the inclination to construct major transportation corridors. According to the [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) (CDOT), it was in 1909 that the state's first highway bill was passed, forming a three-member Highway Commission to approve work and allocate funds. The State Highway Department (CDOH - Colorado Department of Highways) was formed in 1917.

However, in the earliest days of Colorado's Western Slope expansion, transportation to the mountain communities was the province not of government, but of private businessmen.

A *Historical Atlas of Colorado* released by historian Thomas Noel (1994, University of Oklahoma Press) affirms that early access to the State's high mountain passes required a special breed of hardy explorer. "Native Americans first found these gateways," Noel recalled. "...Early Spanish explorers...and trappers discovered many of the passes, road builders strove to make them passable for wheeled vehicles."

And it was an orphan entrepreneur named Otto Mears who first built 382 miles of toll roads through the high San Juans, and later created the Silverton, Silverton Northern and Rio Grande Southern

Railroads.

Mears' importance to early travelers in the San Juans is hard to overstate. His role was captured by historian Ken Reyher in *Silver and Sawdust: Life in the San Juans* (Western Reflections 2000). "The lack of roads plagued the San Juans until a man named Otto Mears took it upon himself to begin connecting the region with what ultimately became a network of toll roads connecting most of the mining towns and camps. Mears had come to America as a Russian orphan not yet in his teens," Reyher wrote.

Following a stint in the Army in New Mexico, Mears came to Colorado. "...still in his early 20's, (Mears) involved himself in several successful business ventures, one of which involved milling flour," Reyher wrote. "When he found it impossible to get his product across the mountains in wagons, he solved the problem by building first one road and then another and charging others to use them as well. Throughout the 1870's, Mears and his road construction crews traversed the San Juans from one end to another, hacking and blasting their way through more than 200 miles of mountainous terrain."

Roads were

[Continued next page](#)

OTTO MEARS PATHFINDER OF THE SAN JUANS From page 1

18 feet wide when possible, and rarely exceeded grades of 12 percent. "Of all his works, Mears took the most pride in opening a wagon road between Silverton and Ouray," Reyher wrote. "Travelers traverse the same route today over the famed Million Dollar Highway."

Though toll charges were standard from one road to the next, prices varied based on the number of animals. And road conditions could be abysmal.

"Mears was often so busy building roads that he did not have time to maintain what was already built," wrote Reyher.

Also essential to pre-railroad transportation were crews of Hispanic teamsters from New Mexico, who were highly skilled with oxen and with larger loads.

"One miscalculation, one slip, and a fortune in irreplaceable equipment could easily plunge down the face of a mountain dragging both men and animals to their deaths. These New Mexico specialists were so reliable that many mine operators insisted on their services for a particularly harrowing journey up the mountain." Eventually, freighters and packers were replaced with the rail lines that were snaking their way across the nation. Though it cost \$25,000 to build just one mile of track through Colorado's high mountain regions, the riches to be had were enough of an incentive, and by 1883, Reyher wrote, "the San Juans were connected to both the east and west coasts by rails."

Once again, Otto Mears was quick to see the advantages—and the potential for profit. "He entered the railroad business with enthusiasm," Reyher wrote. "Where the Denver & Rio Grande ended, Mears continued, pushing track deeper into the mountains...he sold construction bonds for six percent annual interest, payable every April and October in gold." To build the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, thou-

sands of workers, along with a commensurate number of horses and mules, blasted, filled roadbed and placed track throughout the rugged, unforgiving terrain. Teams approached the project from the Durango side, while others worked between Ridgway and Telluride. "Dozens of bridges had to be built," Reyher wrote. "Then in 1891, the two construction crews met south of Telluride in Rico. A solid silver spike was driven into the last tie, dynamite blasts reverberated off the nearby mountainsides, and visiting bands (brought in by the new railroad) marched down Rico's Main Street playing their loudest.

"The saloons were filled to overflowing, and Otto Mears was proclaimed the hero of the day."

Among those who called Mears a friend was Dave Wood, known as "King of the Freight Lines." A book written by Wood's daughters, *I Hauled These Mountains in Here* (the Caxton Printers, Ltd. 1977), tells the story of an early meeting between Wood and Otto Mears.

The encounter took place shortly after Wood and his team had forced their way through a toll road run by Mears.

"Some time later I was in the hotel at Gunnison one evening," Wood recalled, "and Charles Munn, who was manager of all the Mears toll roads, introduced me to Otto Mears. Mears said, 'Vell, are you the man wot pulled my tollgate out up at Sargents? I could haff made you trouble. Vot for you do that?' I said, Mr. Mears I wanted to go through and there was no other way."

The two quickly struck a deal, and Wood eventually helped Mears by selling toll tickets for the Mears Road, charging their own teams as well as others, and sending the money to Mears at month's end.

Wood was quoted by his daughters, "I say all honor to Otto Mears. He was a good

sport, did great work for Colorado development in the pioneer days, and never flinched to put his money where he thought it would help build the state." Another early day business owner who became fast friends with Mears was David Frakes Day, the publisher who created Ouray's *Solid Muldoon* newspaper, which debuted in 1879.

Ouray County writer and historian Jim Pettengill (Ouray County Historical Society Magazine Vol. 3 2005) notes that when Mears issued silver passes for the Silverton and Rio Grande Southern Railroads in 1890 and 1892, "he made sure that Day got pass 01 each year."

In return, Mears received mostly favorable press from Day. Pettengill quotes a typical passage from the *Solid Muldoon*: "...Otto Mears has done more for the development of the San Juan Country than any ten men in Colorado.

To his wealth and energy Ouray owes a large share of the boom she is now enjoying." The two men were political opposites—Day a Democrat and Mears a Republican—but remained lifelong friends. Pettengill notes that some believe Day's eventual move of the *Solid Muldoon* to Durango to be based on Mear's need for increased publicity in that community.

Mears eventually went on to build other railroads, both here and back East. He served in the Colorado legislature before losing control of his Colorado railroad holdings in the Silver Crash of 1893. And when the Colorado State Capital dome, which was covered in copper, grew tarnished, it was Mears who persuaded the State Mining Association to donate the gold first used to gild the dome.

Though he resided in California at the time of his death in 1931, immigrant and lifelong entrepreneur Otto Mears helped to shape the Colorado that we know today.



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HEROES WITH A HEART FOR KIDS from page 1



Heroes 4Kids with Kids. Courtesy photo.

our brother firefighters, and other law enforcement," Lillard explained.

Montrose County Media Relations Manager Katie Yergensen believes that the program helps kids interact with law enforcement in a positive way. "It's a way for law enforcement to give back and adds a human element," she said. "I have attended a few and it's special to see the interactions and friendships that form through the event."

The selection process for participation in the program is something that Lillard and his volunteers do not actually have any control over. Names of kids who are considered indigent within the community are collected by the school district and school resource officers, taking names from elementary schools in the immediate Montrose County area, including Olathe. 15-20 names are then draw at random for the program, with all lists of names destroyed for privacy reasons. "We would love to reach out and touch more children, but that begins to make the pro-

gram a big thing [again]," Lillard said. "It's easier to manage that number as we have two-three volunteers assigned to each kid."

The main event is held on Dec. 17, when everyone meets at the Montrose Police Department at 8 a.m. The kids are paired up with volunteers who include dispatchers, fire fighters, EMTs, deputy sheriffs, police officers and civilians looking to help out.

Everyone piles into squad cars, fire engines and other marked vehicles to go the McDonalds south of town, where the kids are treated to a hearty breakfast. With sirens and lights on, the group then forms a single-file caravan to Target, where each kid receives a \$100 Target gift card to spend as they wish.

The thing that really hits home for Lillard and all the volunteers is that fact that the kids do not usually spend all their gift card allotment on themselves. Often the kids will purchase basic household necessities that benefit their entire family. "One little

gal bought a roll of paper towels for her mother," Lillard explained. "That really makes you appreciative for what you have. The kids are great and will buy things for their parents, grandparents and siblings."

The 'heroes' who volunteer with the program will often offer additional help to the kids. "While we try to stick with our gift card limit, if there is an overcharge, often the volunteers will take money out of their own pockets to pay," Lillard said.

And the volunteers don't look to be quitting anytime soon. "Volunteers always look forward to next year," Lillard said. "It's a win/win situation and there is a lot of good will in it. The goal is building relationships with kids and how they feel about fire fighters, law enforcement, etc. They may have seen a negative image, so it builds good relations and it generates good will for the kids and law enforcement."

Donations for the program are accepted right up until the day of on Dec. 17, with any extra money being held onto for next year. There is an account set up at Wells Fargo for those who wish to donate. "The outpouring of this community is incredible to say the least," Lillard said. "I'm very impressed by it, although not surprised as our community does give like that. We're very grateful."

Lillard's favorite part of the program is something that is probably shared by all the heroes who volunteer: "It's a very rewarding program for kids and all who participate, to spend time with kids who might not have Christmas," he said.

"It's being able to meet these children when they arrive and they're quiet, then we bond with them and after a while they're whooping, hollering and having a good time. It's the twinkle in their eye that puts a smile on our face."

For more information or to donate to the program, contact Commander Gene Lillard at 252-5200.

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NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY...

Exploring Classical Music With Rob Brethouwer

THE MUSIC WE HEAR BRINGS MEANING TO OUR LIVES

Why classical music? This question has come up several times, asked by people who simply don't like this kind of music. Offering an answer that is short and without a full explanation is just not adequate. A life's passion deserves much more attention, and the question deserves an answer that does not merely skim the surface.

We all have a soundtrack to our lives. Music we heard when we were very young sticks with us into adulthood. The music is connected to memories and thinking back we discover that this soundtrack was somehow ever present. This soundtrack follows us into adulthood and manifests itself into the music that we love and listen to on a daily basis. We turn the radio dial to a station that offers music that is our own personal soundtrack from life. Those that have asked "Why classical music?" likely had a life soundtrack that had nothing to do with this kind of music. My question to them would have been "Why country music?" The answer is much deeper than simply liking the sound of the music. It is part of our very life fabric and is ingrained into who we are.

Early memories of Rachmaninoff preludes and piano concertos playing in the background are the foundation of my life soundtrack and why this column is in existence. Attending the opera beginning at age 12, seeing Luciano Pavarotti in recital at Madison Square Garden at age 14, and playing and studying music since age 10

have channeled musical interests in a very specific directions. Travel with friends has included attending performances of world-class opera and chamber music. The purchase of tickets is a line item in the yearly budget and often blows the budget. Chamber music, classical music, and opera go beyond being a mere hobby, this is a lifestyle and a passion that will never change.

Chamber music, classical music, and opera require true listening and not just simple hearing. Listening to this type of music elevates emotions and can take the listener on a roller coaster ride from joy to sorrow and back again. Often the listener will not know what caused a change of emotion but will simply be swept up in the music. An example of this was when I went with a friend to the opera in the late 1990's. After the first act I looked over at her and tears were running down her face while at the same time she was smiling from ear to ear. She said, "I really have no idea what just happened but it was beautiful." That is the power of music, changing our emotions even when we do not know why.

To this listener, there has always been an academic quality to classical music that has been very appealing. The theory behind the music, the written analysis and critique of music, the training involved to become a world-class performer. This ivory tower element to classical music is often called elitist and that is just fine. Something being elite is not a bad thing



and it is truly only the elite and the exceptional who can make a career in classical music. We often hear about being around "my people" or "my tribe," and this is certainly true for this writer. Being at a chamber music performance in Santa Fe or an opera performance in Denver or Paris certainly makes me feel as if I am surrounded by like-minded people and nowhere else do I feel more at home. Is it an elitist crowd? Without a doubt many will see it this way. Having a few extra dollars and likely more education than other demographics is immediately categorized as elitist. With this fact in mind, ask those in attendance why they are there and the answer will almost always come back to the music. The sound of the orchestra, the players, and the singers is a direct connection to the soundtrack to their lives.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE!

MONTROSE IGNITES @ 2 RASCALS BREWING CO NO. 29!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Ignite Montrose is Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7 pm at 2 Rascal Brewing Company (147 North 1st street). Approximately ten ignite presentations will be featured with topics ranging from the Sentinel Rock avalanche at Zion National Park, pre-historic and historic residents of the Uncompahgre Plateau, creating a fire wise community, recycling options, holidays at the botanical gardens, and more. You are sure to get a lot of ideas in a short time. And, if you are bored, each one is only 5 minutes- enough time to take a break, grab a beverage and catch the next one. Don't let the long nights of winter get to you - come to Ignite and get inspired.

CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET DEC. 5 IN CENTENNIAL ROOM

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The next meeting of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will be on Monday Dec. 5, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room off of Centennial Plaza. Citizens' Climate Lobby networks to influence legislators to pay attention to the Earth's environment. All are welcome.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

DONATE GENTLY USED COATS AND COLD WEATHER OUTERWEAR

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE – While the need for cold weather outerwear has never been greater, it has also never been easier to meet this vital need in our community. The Montrose Young Professionals (a committee of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce) and the Montrose Community Foundation (MCF), invite area residents to join them in an effort to ensure that no one goes without a warm coat this winter.

The 5th Annual Montrose YP & MCF Coat Drive kicks off November 14 and runs through Dec. 16. We are collecting clean, gently used warm coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and even blankets. The

collected items will be distributed and delivered to people in need. The coat drive program provides an easy way for individuals and families to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors by simply passing along coats, jackets, and other items that are no longer needed. Montrose YP & MCF invites you to bring your clean, gently used coats and other cold weather outerwear Nov. 14 until Dec. 16 to the following drop-off locations: Montrose Chamber of Commerce (1519 East Main Street), Alpine Floral (1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit G), Dalby, Wendland & Co., P.C. (501 East Main Street) and Timberline Bank (1561 Oxbow Drive). The process is simple: you drop off your extra

items and we will take care of the rest! All donated items will be given to a Montrose resident for distribution to local people in need, this donor requests to remain anonymous.

Montrose Young Professionals is a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of Montrose Young Professionals is to connect, empower, and engage the young professionals of Montrose by providing educational, social, and philanthropic activities that include community and civic involvement to help actively shape the future of Montrose. For more information, please call Ashley Pietak at 970-417-0041 or email in-vonne@montrosethchamber.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & NATURE

BATS IN NATIONAL PARKS MORE DIVERSE, MORE AT RISK THAN PREVIOUSLY KNOWN



Photo courtesy of Save the Bats.

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS—A new, first-of-its-kind study shows the National Park Service (NPS) is home to a whopping 53 unique species of bats, which is good news at a time when bats face tremendous threats. For the past decade, park staff and researchers have witnessed unprecedented declines in bat populations, spurring the need for a comprehensive review of bat species and habitats. The study highlights the high diversity of bats in the NPS as well as the need for more strategic conservation measures.

"This is the first time we've had a complete view of all the bats in parks across the country. It's really exciting because we have so many bats to celebrate—including as many as 21 species in Big Bend National Park—but it's also sobering because of the huge responsibility we have to try and keep all those bats in parks safe," said Tom Rodhouse, NPS ecologist and lead author of the paper.

For this study, Rodhouse combed through park bat records in NPSpecies, the service-wide database of all species' status and occurrences, and compared those records to species range maps. He also studied how the spread of the bat disease

comprehensive review of the many species of bats in parks and also of the important bat resources, like caves and abandoned mines, as well as the existential threats facing bats in parks.

The analysis uncovers gaps in data—places where certain species of bats are possible in a particular area but haven't yet been documented. Equipped with this information, park biologists can focus their efforts in these areas and develop a more complete inventory of the species of bats and habitats used by bats in national parks. This approach offers opportunities for bat conservation in any park—not just the so-called "bat parks," known for their large caves.

"I discovered that literally hundreds of parks are all dealing with the same challenges. For example, 10 years ago we thought widespread species like the little brown bat and the hoary bat were fine," Rodhouse said. "Now, they're suddenly facing extinction because of white-nose syndrome and wind turbine collisions." It's crucial for park staff and researchers to know where bats live, hibernate, and migrate in order to protect them. Bats face many significant threats that are decimating bat populations all over the US.

white-nose syndrome (WNS), wind energy development, and climate change will affect bats in parks.

Published this week in *Ecosphere*, the paper *A macroecological perspective on strategic bat conservation in the US National Park Service* provides a

Wind turbines endanger migratory, tree-roosting bats; WNS, a fungal disease that affects hibernating, cave-dwelling bats has killed millions of bats since 2006; habitat loss, like deforestation or fragmentation, affects many species of bats; and climate change is a challenge for all bats because they are so sensitive to changes in temperature and water availability.

WNS is one of the most dangerous threats at this point. This summer, a bat sick with WNS was found in Washington near Mt. Rainier National Park. This discovery far out-paced predictions of WNS' spread, and it further underscores the need for large-scale studies of bat populations and movements to better understand impacts of the disease and pathways of spread.

Threats to bats don't respect boundaries, crossing from federal to state to private lands and often disrupting migratory paths. Bats themselves are also so wide ranging that bat conservation efforts will be most effective when done collaboratively across broad regions using similar methods. Parks can serve as places for study but will need to be part of larger partnerships in order to have the context to really understand how their bat populations are faring. This study helps the NPS make strategic investments in bat conservation and provides a baseline of bat diversity that can be used for future comparisons.

Visit nps.gov/bats to see [this map](#) that shows how many species of bats have been confirmed in individual parks, as well as parks that possibly contain bats that haven't been documented. You'll also find a complete [list of bat species](#) in national parks.

[Read the full paper](#) by Rodhouse et al. published on Nov. 9, 2016.



FRESH, LOCALLY PRODUCED NEWS
DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR
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COULD YOU ASK FOR IT TO GET ANY BETTER?

NEW! FRIDAY AFTERNOON ART CLUB IN MONTROSE FOR YOUTH

AGES 2ND - 5TH GRADE WITH MISS ANN CHEEKS

at Precedence Music & Art Academy

Register for three-class series: \$70 (includes all supplies).

Or, register for a single class: \$28/class (includes all supplies)

Running weekly for 3 weeks on Fridays from 4 pm - 6 pm each week.

Minimum 6 students pre-enrolled to make the class "Go". Maximum, 12 students.



DECEMBER 2nd

December 2nd: The Artful Notecard - using monoprinting/monotype techniques, students will make their own one-of-a-kind seasonal notecard sets. Students will leave with at least 10-20 original handmade notecards!

DECEMBER 9th

December 9th: The Artful Mosaic Frame - using real glass mosaic techniques, students will create a mosaic design on a wooden frame that will perfectly embrace a favorite photo -- just in time for the holidays!



DECEMBER 16th

December 16th: Tiny Treasures Original Miniature Paintings - Work with acrylic paint and your favorite photos of a landscapes or objects to create at least one miniature painting masterpiece



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REGISTER TO ENSURE THE CLASS HAPPENS: WWW.WEEHAWKENARTS.ORG

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL, 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. Friendship Force of western Colorado's regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meeting location - Red Cross Training Center, 5th and Gunnison in Grand Junction, 6:15 p.m.

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 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-

Nov. 14-Dec. 9-Ouray County Cares Angel trees are located at Ouray and Ridgway Schools, the Ridgway Library and both Ridgway and Ouray locations of Citizens State and Alpine Banks. Choose an angel ornament to buy a gift to brighten a Ouray County resident's holiday and return your gift accompanied by a gift receipt before Dec. 9.

Nov. 29--Ignite Montrose is Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7 pm at 2 Rascal Brewing Company (147 North 1st street). Approximately ten ignite presentations will be featured with topics ranging from the Sentinel Rock avalanche at Zion National Park, pre-historic and historic residents of the Uncompahgre Plateau, creating a fire wise community, recycling options, holidays at the botanical gardens, and more. You are sure to get a lot of ideas in a short time. And, if you are bored, each one is only 5 minutes- enough time to take a break, grab a beverage and catch the next one. Don't let the long nights of winter get to you - come to Ignite and get inspired.

Nov. 30-Meet and greet for Delta Chief of Police candidates, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bill Heddles Rec Center in Delta.

Dec. 1-Holiday Craft Fair at Homestead of Montrose, 1819 Pavilion Drive, 1 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 2-3-See the musical *Annie* at the Magic Circle Theatre, 420 South 12th Street, performances are 7:30 p.m. Call 970-249-7838 for box office information.

Dec. 2-Celebrate Noel Night in Ridgway! 5 to 9 p.m. Treats & Deals along the way, Light Parade around the Park @ 5 p.m.

Dec. 2-First Annual Holiday Reception, Cimarron Song Gallery, 901 East Main Street. 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Dec. 2-Cobble Creek 5th Annual Watercolor Show. Reception Friday 4pm-7 pm, Saturday December 3rd 10am-3pm. Upstairs at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. 699 Cobble Drive. 249-5645 for more information.

Dec. 2-First Annual Cookie Walk & Exchange, Delta United Methodist Church, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 3-2016 Downtown Montrose Parade of Lights scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3, starting at 5 pm, along Main Street between Stough and Rio Grande Avenues. This year's parade theme is, "Winter, Land of Wonder."

Dec. 3-Donate & Ride! Join the Tri-State Montrose Employees' Holiday Toy Run! Bring a new, unwrapped gift for boys or girls, toddlers to teens, to the Tri-State Montrose Maintenance Center (2200 South Rio Grande) at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 3. At 10 a.m. we ride to deliver toys in Olathe, Montrose and Delta. If the weather does not permit we will deliver the gifts by car.

Dec. 3-Mini Global Market, Delta Presbyterian Church, 4th and Meeker, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 3-Weehawken presents Family Gingerbread House Workshop, 10 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 to 2:30 at the Ouray School. Call 970-318-0150. Houses are \$15.

Dec. 4-6-Montrose Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. Montrose Library Meeting Room. New Days, new Hours. Sunday Dec, 4 noon to 2:30 PM. Members only, you may join and shop, 2:30 PM until 5 PM everyone welcome. Monday Dec 5, 9 AM until 6 PM. Tuesday Dec 6, from 9 AM until 6 PM. Bag Sale Tuesday, December 6, 4:00 — 6 PM, free reusable bag Fill for \$4. Questions call the Library 249-9659.

Dec. 5-The next meeting of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will be on Monday Dec. 5, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room off of Centennial Plaza. Citizens' Climate Lobby networks to influence legislators to pay attention to the Earth's environment. All are welcome.

Dec. 7-Volunteers of America Homestead Art Show, 5:30 to 7 p.m. @ Amazing Glaze, 209 East Main Street in Montrose.

Dec. 10--The Radio Room Players present War Of The Worlds on Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2016 at 7 pm and on Sunday Dec. 11th 2 pm. Tickets are \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Seniors and Students and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext. 0 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 30 minutes before show time.

Dec. 11-Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium for a free Christmas concert. The concert features Christmas favorites and is sure to get you into the holiday spirit. For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Dec. 15-Volunteer to organize and set up food items for Ouray County Cares holiday boxes. Please arrive at Ouray County 4-H Event Center at 2 p.m.

Dec. 16-Volunteer to fill Ouray County Cares gift and food boxes. Ouray County 4-H Event Center at 9 a.m. Please telephone Jennifer Jossi 970-626-3693 or Anise Herod 303-810-8593 to volunteer. Lunch will be served. If you can bring cookies or brownies, please call Vonnie Kuijvenhoven 970-209-3822

Dec. 28-Ari Hest Holiday Concert @ Healthy Rhythm Gallery, 68 Grand Avenue. 7 to 11 p.m.

Dec. 29-Montrose Regional Library presents, Ye Olde Toy Shoppe. 45 minute puppet show for all ages @ 10 and 11 a.m.

Jan. 20-21-Please join us for the 5th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum: Healthy Land, Food, People at the Montrose County Fairgrounds on Jan. 20 and the Montrose Pavilion on Jan. 21, 2017. The Food and Farm Forum has a wide array of breakout sessions which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops.

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
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Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 252-1000
(970) 252-1111 Fax

*Coupon must be present

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

Below, a careless motorist destroyed a portion of this beautiful Delta mural on Thanksgiving. The mural is on the Davis Clothing Building.



Above, the Montrose Community Dinner welcomed everyone to Friendship Hall on Thanksgiving.

F A M E

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FAME can benefit healthy aging adults and be effective in treating:

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