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BY THE TIME IT'S IN PRINT, IT'S HISTORY! FRESH NEWS FOR BUSY PEOPLE...WEEKLY ON MONDAYS!

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Issue No. 210, Feb. 27 2017

COLORADO MARBLE PROCESSING PLANT TO OPEN IN DELTA BY YEAR'S END; WILL HIRE EX COAL MINERS



Colorado Yule Marble Quarry photo courtesy Colorado Geological Service.

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-A famous Colorado product has been shipped out by rail for the past several years, from a location at [1734 Highway 50](#) in Delta. This year, [Colorado Stone Quarries](#) will expand its local operation with a Delta processing plant that is expected to be up and running by the end of 2017.

The product? Colorado Yule Marble--mined in Marble, Colorado since 1873. Colorado Stone Quarries' parent company, according to [Jennifer Richi-nelli writing in Stoneworld](#) is R.E.D. Graniti S.p.A, a leading stone producer based in the province of Massa-Carrara, Italy.

Why Delta? "It's where the rail line is," Colorado Stone Quarries Marble Office Manager Paul Bombalicky said. "We use the train to ship blocks to a port in Virginia, where

[Continued page 4](#)

RESIDENT EXPRESSES CONCERNS, BOWMAN INVITES ALL TO HORSEFLY

By Gail Marvel

The Feb. 21, 2017 Montrose City council meeting lasted a mere 26 minutes.

Call for Public Comment: Citizens are allowed three minutes to voice concerns and discuss items of interest.

Resident Howie Walser acknowledged the city's emphasis on development, such as the Urban Renewal Development; however, he is concerned that street maintenance, cleanliness and neglected property seem to have taken a backseat. As examples Walser mentioned an area by the rec center roundabout and a lot near Woodgate and Alpine. Referencing the entrance to Riverbottom Park Walser said, "It looks like a third world county. The approach should be cleaned up." Susan Beyda, of the History Colorado Center and C.J. Brafford, Director of the Ute Indian Museum gave council a, "public shout out for everything you have done for us." During the renovation of the Ute Indian Museum portions of the museum were house in the city's Elks Civic Building. Brafford said, "I want to tell everyone how much



(L to R) Youth Council Representative Gavi Lightsey and Public Works Director John Harris prepare for the Montrose City Council meeting held on Feb. 21, 2017. Photo by Gail Marvel.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP: CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY



On Nov. 20, 2016 Pastor Gary Hodges of Christ's Church of the Valley presents a sermon of thanksgiving. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONDAY-Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18:20 NIV). Disclaimer: Christ's Church of the Valley is Gail Marvel's home church.

Pre-worship fellowship at Christ's Church of the Valley includes cookies, doughnuts and coffee...which can be a stumbling block when it's time to begin services.

There were more than 100 in attendance on Nov. 20, 2016 and the service began with announcements, prayer requests, and recognition of birthdays and anniversaries. A keyboard accompanied the four-member women's praise team and song selections, a blend of traditional hymns and praise songs, had a Thanksgiving Day theme — "We Gather Together," "Come, Ye Thankful People Come," "Once Again," "Give Thanks."

Presenting the Communion Meditation Milt Giddens reminded the congregation of the crown of thorns placed on Jesus, and that the Lord was blindfolded when he was slapped and unable to tell when a blow was coming. "The Jews couldn't kill him, so they let the Romans do the dirty

work." With a catch in his throat Giddens continued. "Forty lashes minus one...39 lashes were a show of mercy because they didn't want to kill him. He took great punishment on our behalf."

After reading 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 Giddens cautioned, "Remember, don't take it lighthearted. Check your soul and your mind before you take the bread and the juice." As the emblems were served I noticed the sweet Welch's Grape Juice looked a little anemic. It soon became apparent that those who prepared the trays inadvertently grabbed cranberry apple juice rather than the grape juice. Interestingly the tartness of the juice seemed to put greater emphasis on the blood of Jesus. Pastor Gary Hodges used Luke 17:11-19 for the text of his sermon, "Thankfulness in the Minority." The passage of Scripture tells of Jesus healing 10 men who had leprosy. However, after they were healed and sent them to the priest to be pronounced clean, only one of the 10, a Samaritan, returned to thank Jesus.

Describing the relationship between Jews and Samaritans Hodges said, "The Samaritans had cooties...they were not accepta-

ble to the Jews." Lepers were more defiled than Romans, "They were off the acceptability chart. They were defiled because of their disease...they could not help themselves and there was no cure. They knew their place and stood at a distance."

Jews tried to stay out of Samaria by traveling around it and good Jews stayed out of the country. On this occasion Jesus stopped on the outskirts of Samaria, "We know that Jesus broke down this barrier so he could speak about the Father's love, grace and mercy." Making application to believers today Hodges said, "We will never have genuine thankfulness until we acknowledge we have a need. We get a [pay] raise and we think we deserve it. We have an expectation and think, *it's about time they acknowledge how good I am and I deserve this.* We will never be truly thankful if we have a feeling of deserving."

In our relationship with God Hodges said, "We tell God thanks, but no thanks. I can handle this...I can do this...I can step up...I can work through this. And we do this to God when He comes to us through his Word, through a friend, or through the radio. We will never be thankful until we ask for help." Noting that 90 percent of the lepers healed failed to be thankful Hodges said, "Ten percent is a pretty poor return on investment." Hodges challenged the congregation to focus more on the Giver than the gift, and on the One who blesses, more than the blessing. "Real thankfulness must be intentional."

Hodges recently announced his retirement at the end of April and church leadership is in the process of doing a pastor search. Christ's Church of the Valley is an independent Christian Church.

Contact information:

*Christ's Church of the Valley
10 Hillcrest Way
Montrose, Co 81401
Pastor Gary Hodges
970-249-0530
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*



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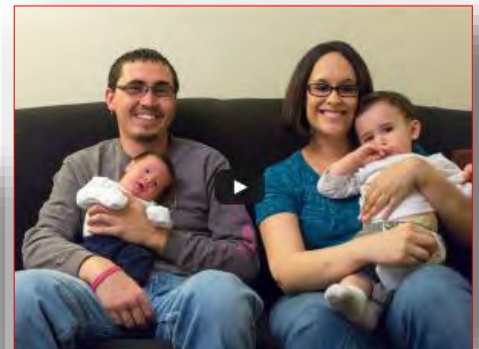
HABITAT DEDICATES JOHNSON FAMILY HOME

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Fabiola and Craig Johnson will receive the keys to their new home this week and Habitat for Humanity of

the San Juans is inviting the community to help celebrate.

Construction of the two-bedroom family home began last March; the dedication

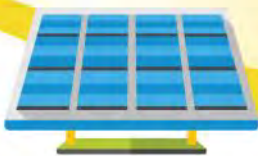


Fabiola and Craig Johnson receive the keys to their new home this week.

Courtesy photo.

is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 1:30p.m., and the community is invited for light refreshments, a commemoration and a ribbon cutting to welcome the Johnsons, and their two young children, to their home. The house is located at 222 Bluegrass Ct., in Montrose. The Johnson home is the 52nd built by the Habitat affiliate which serves locals by building and renovating basic, affordable homes. Like all Habitat for Humanity homeowners, the Johnsons poured over 500 hours of sweat equity working to build their home alongside volunteers and community partners.

On a video on Habitat's website, Mr. Johnson says, "I can't believe this is ours." "We just feel so very blessed," said Mrs. Johnson holding her young son in her arms. Earlier this month Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans announced two new housing triplexes set for construction in both Montrose and Ridgway. Applications are available at their website, buildinglives.org.



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COLORADO MARBLE PROCESSING PLANT TO OPEN From page 1

they are shipped to the parent company in Italy."

Today, Bombalicky is actually the only local employee based in Marble itself. The rest work from Delta, where the number of employees is expected to jump from three at present to between 25 and 40, he said.

"We'll be hiring a lot of ex coal miners," he said. Will there be jobs for locals? "Yes!"

With six trucks a day leaving Marble for Delta, the company's presence has not gone unnoticed.

"We get comments all the time," Bombalicky said. "A lot of people notice our trucks."

Delta County Economic Development (DCED) has been working with Colorado Stone Quarries over the past several years to help pave the way for the processing facility. "We're very excited that they chose Delta," DCED Executive Director Trish Thibodo said. "They are using unique

processes that are not happening elsewhere."

Of Colorado Stone Quarries' two locations, Delta is definitely the more lively, Paul Bombalicky notes. "Here in Marble, they say 100 people live year round. There are [tourists](#). But there's one restaurant, no gas station, and no grocery store."

According to the Marble Tourism Association, though mining here dates to the 1870's, "Major development of the Colorado Yule Mine occurred in 1905, when Col. Channing Meek, with some help from the Rockefellers, raised \$3 million to develop the Colorado Yule Marble Quarry."

Today, the tiny mountain town has a product and legacy that are second to none.

As the company's web site points out, "It is the grain of Yule Marble that gives an appearance of smooth texture, a homogeneous look, and a luminous surface that polishes well."

The [Colorado Geological Society](#) notes



Historic photo courtesy [Marble Colorado Chamber of Commerce](#).

that Colorado Yule Marble is also the state rock. "The Colorado Yule Marble Quarry produces one of the finest white marbles in the world...and is the source of the stone used for the exterior of the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknowns in Washington, D.C.

"Yule Marble was declared the Colorado State Rock in 2004."



MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS!



Montrose Elks Lodge

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.

Bingo:

Bingo Feb. 21, 2017 6:30 PM – "Early Bird" paid \$24 bucks to 5 Winners and the main Bingo session paid 7 Winners \$125.00 per Game. Based on attendance the last Game 8 paid \$500.00 to 1 Winner! Energy filled the Halls as folks were laughing, smiling, and winning.

Feb. 28, 2017 *Fat Tuesday* is going to be an exciting night at Montrose Elks Bingo. Progressive Game #2 is worth \$461.00 and Progressive Game #4 is worth \$675.00. Both can be won in 37 numbers or fewer. **Progressive Game #6 is worth \$10,385.00** and must be won in 53 numbers or fewer or the prize posted will be awarded.

The buzz in the air is to show up early and save a seat for your chance to win ten Grand! Limited seating.

For a great time filled with smiles and laughter be sure to join us to play Bingo at Montrose Elks Lodge every Tuesday evening. Doors open at 5 PM and Card sales start at 5:30 p.m.. An "Early Bird" set of 5 quick games begins at 6:30 and the main Bingo session of 8 games, including 3 Progressives starts at 7 PM. (Open to the Public)



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CITY TO FOCUS ON REMOVING ABANDONED TRAILERS



Three members of Montrose Recycle, (R to L) Lesley Hallenborg, Janet Chapman and Nancy Kelso, speak to council about their recycling efforts in the community.

By Gail Marvel

Agenda Discussion Items for the Montrose City Council Work Session:

Montrose Recycle Presentation – Lesley Hallenborg, Janet Chapman and Nancy Kelso. Montrose Recycle is not an arm of the City of Montrose; however, they do coordinate their recycling efforts with the city. Under various names, the recycling efforts in Montrose have been ongoing for 20 years. Spokesperson Lesley Hallenborg said, "With 12 volunteers we have over 100 years of recycling experience."

Between 2014 and 2016 more than 20,360 tons of recyclables have been collected. Comparably that amount equals 1,200 vehicles. Hallenborg said, "We don't have 100 percent participation in the city. Our hope is that someday it will be a for-gone conclusion that of course we recycle."

Montrose Recycle is strictly volunteer and they get no funding from the city. When asked about not having 100 percent participation Hallenborg said, "About 30 percent of the [recycle] containers were returned to the city. Some people don't have the room for the containers. If we had pay-as-you-throw we'd probably have 100 percent." Pay-as-you-throw is a term used for charging residents for what they fail to recycle.

Discussion Related to Revised Budget Process for 2018 – City Manager Bill Bell.

Bell, Finance Director Shani Wittenberg and Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph have researched the budget process of other communities. Bell said, "What we've found is our system is a hybrid approach that is more tailored to our community, but we can add some elements of priority based budgeting."

In the past the budgeting process started in September. However, at the March 6th council work session the city council, staff and any interested community members will meet to talk about capital projects. Bell said, "We're down to big dollar amount projects and we need to make sure we are on the same team." The most recent household survey showed the need for more street maintenance and improved traffic flow.

Bell told council,

Continued next page

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***CITY TO FOCUS ON REMOVING ABANDONED TRAILERS* Frm pg 6**

"There are a few other big capital projects and we want to bring you in early so you are part of the process because you represent the city [citizens]." The staff is also looking at a multi-year budgeting format which will allow them to look at and plan for projects that are a few years out. It was unclear if such a format would lock future councils into projects preapproved by the former council.

Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA) Ordinance – Assistant City attorney Andrew Boyko. Boyko gave an overview and history of METSA, the organization that directs emergency calls from landlines and cell phones (911). The city retains authority over the amount of surcharge that can be charged on Montrose resident's telephone bills, which currently is a maximum of 70 cents per month. In 2015 METSA hired a surcharge consultant firm to evaluate the surcharge. With increased services (2nd dispatch center) and projected equipment upgrades, METSA is financially in the red and an increase in the surcharge would put them in the black. The consultants determined that an increase to \$1.50 a month per would put METSA in the black by 2020; however, an increase to \$3.00 a month per residence would be ideal. Any increase in surcharge fees must first be ap-

proved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The city ordinance will come before council in two weeks and Boyko recommends that council retain their authority over the surcharge at its current level.

General Council Discussion:

Councilman Dave Bowman discussed the summer music events, "We will have major music events every two week this summer." Councilwoman Judy Ann Files brought forward a suggestion presented to her by County Commissioner Glen Davis. Davis would like the city to consider sponsoring 150 seats in the new event center by using the permit fees (\$30,000) the county will pay for Road and Bridge Facility. Councilman Dave Romero is concerned about the parking issues downtown and the suggestion that the city hire a part-time parking enforcement officer. "It's a hot topic. If it were between a police officer and parking enforcement, I'd hate to lose a police officer."

Councilman Roy Anderson referenced a recent Spanish Affairs meeting, "Trailer parks were a huge part of the discussion." Paraphrasing the council discussion, there are 44 trailers in local trailer parks that are abandoned, dilapidated and identified as needing to be dismantled and removed.

The city has been working on the prob-

lem for two years; however, because the trailers are on private property it poses limits to what actions the city can take. According to the city attorney the cost of removing each trailer is \$5,000. The city has been successful in getting some of the abandoned vehicles removed and trash cleaned up. Chief of Police Tom Chinn said, "The really big issue is the abandoned trailers because they have animals, kids and transients living in them."

Mayor Rex Swanson asked Chinn to discuss the hiring process for police officers. Chinn is now in the process of hiring four new officers; however, it is a long involved process which includes written exams, integrity and oral interviews, a physical agility test and psychological testing. The applicant's employers, neighbors and friends are also interviewed. A large percentage of applicants fail because they mislead interviewers in the integrity and oral interviews. Chinn said, "You are either telling us the truth or not. We are going to verify everything with polygraph and investigation."

Only four of the last 15 applicants are still in the hiring process. While there are four positions open it is unlikely that all the applicants will be able to complete the hiring process and attend the Police Academy before the end of the year.



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RESIDENT EXPRESSES CONCERNS, BOWMAN INVITES ALL TO HORSEFLY

From page 1

the community.” The grand reopening of the Ute Indian Museum will be held on June 10, 2017.

Ordinance 2411, Second Reading – Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner. The ordinance authorized the sale of real property, which is in essence a land swap between the city and Fran Noonan. Council had no questions for Turner and the ordinance was approved unanimously.

Bid Approval – Public Works Director John Harris.

Harris recommended council award the contract for design of the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan Capital Improvement Projects 1 and 2 to DOWL (formerly Buckhorn Geotech) in the amount of \$72,885. Harris said, “It is not necessarily the lowest bid, it’s the third lowest, but the best value for the city.” The contract was awarded unanimously.

Bid Approval – Public Works Director John Harris.

Harris recommended council award the contract for the Sanitary Sewer Collection System Hydrogen Sulfide Assessment to Providence Infrastructure Consultants (Eckert, CO) in the amount of \$90,251.54. Harris said, “This project is substantially over budget, but we added to the scope of the project after the budget was approved.” The contract was awarded unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the 2016 final reports for Sales, Use and Excise Tax; and the Fourth Quarter Budget Review. With the exception of a decrease in Use and Auto Tax, all other areas of tax revenue increased. While there might yet be minor adjustments Wittenberg said, “For the most part this is a final report. All major funds collected

are more than we expended.”

Public Information Officer Report – City Manager Bill Bell.

The theme for Earth Week, April 17-22, is This Land is Your Land.

Youth baseball registration is April 1st – 5th.

Youth Council Gavi Lightsey reported on the upcoming Teen Expo and the Youth Council’s tour of the police department and the waste water treatment plant.

Council Comments:

Councilman Dave Bowman once again promoted the Horsefly Brewery from the dais.

Bowman encouraged those in the audience, as well as those watching online, to come on down and have a brew after the meeting because a portion of the proceeds would go to the city’s youth baseball program. City Manager Bell endorsed the suggestion with a thumbs up.



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STATE SENATE NEWS: SENATOR DON CORAM



Senator Don Coram
Courtesy photo.

DENVER-The first half of the 71st General Assembly is one third of the way through. I have been successful on several bills so far. Three of my bills in one day has been the most. The one thing that makes the Senate a little easier is the

Consent Calendar. If a bill is unanimous in Committee it can be sent to the Consent Calendar, where all those bills listed voted on as a group. It is certainly a time saver.

In my last report, I talked about a bill changing the appellate process for decisions from the Ground Water Commission. The new language would mirror the process for appealing Surface Water cases. I ran this bill last year in the House and it passed by a 60 to 5 margin. Senate leadership prevented this from reaching the floor. This year, there is a new Senate President and it was passed by a 35 to 0 margin. It is scheduled for House Judiciary. Hopefully it will receive the same positive votes as last year's bill. House Ag committee chair, Jeni Arndt, and House ranking Ag committee member, Jon Becker, are the House sponsors. I am confident that they will do a good job. Testimony

has shown that over the last decade, some farmers have spent around \$900,000 on Water Engineers and Attorneys. Litigation designed to break a farmer is the fastest way to force a family to sell out, and current process is an onerous one. It will no longer be a tool of wealthy investors to subject hard working families to spend unnecessary funds on frivolous and unnecessary expenses.

I just brought HB 1078 through committee and on the Consent Calendar changing the Family Support Loan Program though Health and Human Services. Even though HHS inherited this program a couple of years ago, it is in support of this change and testified that this program has been around for nearly twenty-five years and the program has not been adequately operated. HB 1078 will reallocate any leftover funds to community boards that give grants to families with expenses that accommodate special-needs children and relatives. These special needs persons can be provided better services by eliminating this ineffective loan program.

The one bill that has been the most controversial, so far, has been a bill curtailing the forfeiture of property owned by drug dealers, etc. This has been a tool used by police, sheriffs, and district attorneys to help defray the cost of enforcement. Even though this bill was sponsored by a Republican, it was Republicans that killed

this bill. It is my opinion, that if your local drug dealer gets caught, perhaps the forfeiture and sale of property such as weapons, automobiles and other tangible assets should be sold to help defray the costs to our communities for prosecution, task forces and other needs rather than the local tax payer shoulder the burden of protecting our communities from illegal activities.

Another bill that is creating lots of conversation is Senate Bill 35, which deals with increasing penalty for destruction of personal property in the oil and gas industry. This legislation is already in statute and is currently treated as a misdemeanor. The proposal is to change it to a class 6 felony. Opposition has called this attack on their 1st Amendment right of free speech and the right to assemble for peaceful protest. I am in full support of the right to peaceful protest, but do not believe that damaging equipment or cutting locks on pipelines is peaceful. By closing valves or adjusting them, what protestors are doing, is changing the pressure on the pipelines. An individual's reckless actions are putting innocent peoples' lives in harms- way. One case is in litigation now.

Senator Don Coram
200 East Colfax Avenue 80203
Denver, CO
303-866-2955

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OTTER ROAD BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Contractors working for the City of Montrose began to replace the Otter Road Bridge in early January. The box culvert structure is nearing completion. Over the next several weeks, the contractor will finish backfilling around the structure, shape and armor the Loutsenhizer Canal in the vicinity of the structure, and install new fiber optic conduits across the project area. The roadway will then be re-opened to traffic as a gravel surface until weather allows paving in early spring.

The city extends a warm thank you to residents for their patience throughout the project. Questions regarding the project may be directed to City Engineer Scott Murphy at (970) 901-1792 or smurphy@ci.montrose.co.us.

FRIENDS OF MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER HOST RIDE FOR THE ARENA!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-After a somewhat bucking start in the transition of the Board of County Commissioners, it appears to be smooth riding for construction of the new multi-use event center in Montrose.

When completed this will be largest multi-use event facility between Denver and Salt Lake City right here in Montrose Colorado.

To celebrate this much needed facility, a community gathering will be held Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Starting with a Pancake Breakfast, door prizes, and best of all, it's FREE!

Weather permitting, there will be Girls and Ladies Barrel Racing, Kids Stick Horse Races, Wagon Rides and good old down home fellowship! There will be folks on

hand to talk about the multi-use event center, special events headed our way and upcoming rodeo events.

Regional businesses, youth groups, associations, ranchers, farmers and interested parties are working together in support of this facility and its benefit to western Colorado.

Come show your support, join the fun, share in the fellowship, March 25.

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Former Denver Broncos Captain and All-Pro Linebacker Karl Mecklenburg rose from being a college walk-on and a 12th round draft pick to a pro career that included six Pro Bowl and three Super Bowl appearances. Considered the NFL's most versatile player, Karl played all seven defensive front positions.

In 2001, Karl was inducted into the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. Karl has been a semi finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame each of the last five years.



Keynote Speaker:

Karl Mecklenburg



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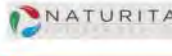
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WHAT'S THE BUZZ IN DELTA COUNTY?

DMEA and Elevate Fiber to Host The Morning Buzz in Hotchkiss, Cedaredge, Paonia

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL – Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is bringing the Morning Buzz to Delta County. The co-op is hosting three of their popular morning coffee events during the months of March and April. The public is invited to join the co-op for coffee and breakfast at any of the following locations between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. Both DMEA and Elevate Fiber representatives will be on hand to answer questions and get to know the membership. The Morning Buzz is free to attend. There will be no formal topic or presentation and the public can come and go as they please. Members are encouraged to ask questions on the topics of their choosing.

Friday, March 3

Coaltrain Coffeehouse, 328 W. Bridge St., Hotchkiss, CO

7 – 9 a.m.

Friday, March 17

The Apple Shed, 250 S. Grand Mesa Dr., Cedaredge, CO

Don't miss our membership ribbon cutting with the Cedaredge Chamber at 8:30 a.m.

7 – 9 a.m.

Friday, April 14

Berg Harvest Mercantile, 73 Samuel Wade Rd., Paonia

7 – 9 a.m.

DMEA kicked off Morning Buzz circuit in late February in Montrose with resounding success. More than 200 people came out to Backstreet Bagel in Montrose to chat with the co-op and ask questions.

"It's always energizing to see such great response from our membership. We had so many wonderful conversations with our members ranging from home efficiency to solar panels to our work with Tri-State regarding local renewable energy. We don't provide a formal presentation, so our members can talk about the exact topics they are interested in," said DMEA CEO, Jasen Bronec.

The Morning Buzz was created as part of the co-op's renewed efforts to be accessible to its members. This year, DMEA is hosting the Morning Buzz in Montrose, Hotchkiss, Cedaredge, Olathe, and Paonia. All events are free and open to the public.

Additionally, members will have the opportunity to learn more about Elevate Fiber, DMEA's fiber internet subsidiary. Elevate staff members will be there to help people preregister for service and answer questions.

"Elevate is always the dominant topic at our events and The Morning Buzz is no different. This is a great opportunity for our members to come out and learn about Elevate or sign up for service. We'll have a great cross-section of employees from both DMEA and Elevate, so we should be able to answer almost any questions. And if we can't, we'll make sure to connect our members with someone who can," said Bronec.

For more information and the full schedule of Morning Buzz events visit www.dmea.com or contact Becky at (970) 240-1263 or becky.mashburn@dmea.com.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE SENIOR CENTER PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR VETERANS



Words & Photos By Marilyn Huseby

MONTROSE-The Senior Center showed up in full force to support the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans! 'Got Your Six' is a military term that means "I've got your back." They pledged to join the "We Got Your Six" drive, and adopted Iron Fan as their mascot to bring attention to this pledge drive. \$6 a month supports a veteran and the money stays here at home in Montrose, a center of support for veterans of every branch and every ability. Iron Fan was created by Joe Holt, a Montrose veteran, and is currently at Camelot Gardens. He is giving out pledge forms and smiles and good feelings about giving back to those who have served our country. Visit Iron Fan along with a look at the first spring flowers.



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with dementia or Alzheimer's?*

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Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month
2:00 – 3:00 pm**

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WESTERN SLOPE SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE PRESENTS INFORMATION ON STATE OF THE EARTH

Agro-ecologist Jon Lundgren explored history and impacts of pesticide abuse in morning keynote



One of two keynote speakers at the Western Slope Soil Health Conference in Delta, Educator and grower Keith Berns of Green Cover Seed addressed the crowd at the Delta Fine Arts Center Feb. 23.

Lundgren spoke at the Seventh Annual Western Slope Soil Health Conference in Delta Feb. 23, closely following the agro-ecologist's every word.

Lundgren's morning presentation, "Managing Pests: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly," presented scientific data on the global impacts resulting from the overuse of pesticides, which Lundgren compared to addictive drugs, and on the history of

the problems in his afternoon session, "Biodiversity and How it Affects You!"

Prior to 1948 when DDT was discovered, chemical pest management did not exist, Lundgren said. Insects, "ate our food and bit our children in the night...the scourge of humanity."

When DDT proved "blindly effective at killing insects," Lundgren noted, "We sprayed it on everything. We sprayed it on our soldiers, sprayed it in the environment, and put it in the kitchen cabinet."

"The chemical was an insurance policy against everything."

While DDT has since been linked to birth defects, brain damage and diabetes, Neonicotinoids such as clothianidin have proven to be ineffective, Lundgren said, calling these "one of the most brilliant marketing schemes ever perpetrated on the farming community."

Still, clothianidin is found in everything now, he said. "One ppb affects learning," Lundgren said, adding that the use of Neonicotinoids correlates to fawn mortality in some areas. And even organic agricultural operations now appear to contain the same levels of the substances as non-organic operations.

"Organic doesn't mean organic anymore," Lundgren said. "Want to know the secret to the bee crisis? I just told you. Poisoned, starving bees die."

Prophylactic pest control methods such as Genetically Modified crops have accelerated a decline in biodiversity and harm to the environment. "One GM seed contains enough insecticide to kill 360,000 birds."

And while RNAi, or gene silencing, technology has been touted as a new pest management solution, "the risks are not trivial."

Along with pollinators, predators can be impacted by chemical pesticides, while the pests continue to thrive. For despite worldwide chemical efforts to eradicate mosquitos, mosquitos still exist, Lundgren pointed out. "We still have mosquitos."

And in any case, pests are a symptom rather than the disease, Lundgren emphasized.

"Agro-ecosystems are the largest biome

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-The crowd was attentive when Jon

chemical pesticide use in U.S. agriculture.

He promised to share possible solutions to

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Wednesday, February 22nd

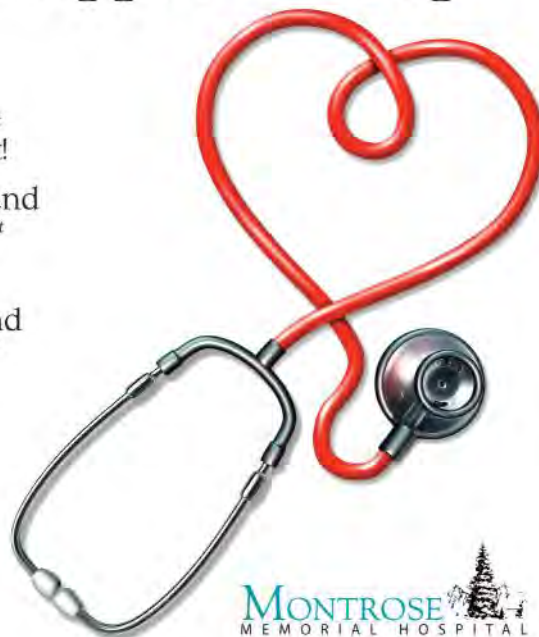
Exercise for the Health of Your Heart
Natalie Allinson, ACSM, EPC,
MMH Cardiac Rehabilitation

Wednesday, March 22nd

What should my blood pressure be?
Judith Collins, APRN-BC,
Montrose Cardiology

6:30-7:30 p.m.

MMH Conference Room B
800 S. 3rd Street



800 South Third Street, Montrose, CO 81401

970.249.2211

MontroseHospital.com

Continued on page 17

2017 WESTERN SLOPE SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE PRESENTS INFORMATION ON STATE OF THE EARTH From page 16

on Earth," he said. "Diversity has been eliminated; we have chosen to build huge monocultures. Insecticides and pesticides are addictions; the more you use, the more you need. The EPA label doesn't mean it's safe; risk assessment is only as strong as the questions we ask of it."

"We can do a hell of a lot better than we are doing right now," Lundgren said. "Every decision has consequences."

The Bee problem that has been making headlines is not a bee problem at all, said Lundgren, but a mass extinction.

"We are living in the Holocene extinction," he said, "the worst mass extinction in the history of our planet. It is more rapid than the one that killed the dinosaurs."

"What's causing it? We are. Look at the big picture: our wetlands are disappearing, we are losing our bees and our butterflies and our terrestrial mammals."

"Pests are not the problem," he said. "There is not enough biodiversity. We need to change agriculture, and focus on regenerating the soil and building biodiversity."

"It's a business decision."

One of two key-note speakers, Jon Lundgren earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, and was a top USDA-ARS Scientist for 11 years.

He has received numerous awards including the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering, and authored scholarly journal articles and books.

Lundgren currently serves as Director of the ECDYSIS Foundation and CEO of Blue Dasher Farm.

The 2017 Western Slope Soil Health Conference "Unlock the Secrets of the Soil,"

brought together an extensive panel of national and regional experts to present, share information, and answer questions. The conference was hosted by Delta County Economic Development (DCED).



"We are living in the Holocene extinction," agro-ecologist Jon Lundgren told Western Slope Soil Health Conference attendees Feb. 23.

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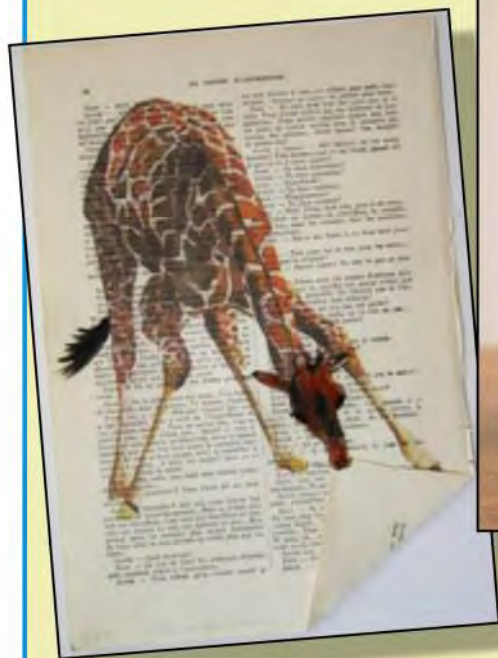
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COUNTY APPOINTS HUGHES AS URA REP, APPROVES REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Citizen gadfly Roger Brown spoke during the time for public comment at the Montrose County Board of Commissioners meeting Feb. 21, providing a handout and telling the County to rein in staff credit card use. "I have a handout... the handout is a periodic handout that I do which is the compilation of public domain information on credit card expenditures...this is the completion of 2016 credit card expenditures as reported in the accounts payable report," Brown advised. "...it's \$348,162.64 which is the 2016 grand total. \$135,000 of that is expenditures to the General Fund. I don't see much if any decline...this is an awful lot of money which apparently is discretionary money.

"You all need to get your arms around this and limit the number of credit cards." Brown also "registered his disappointment" with the County's decision to proceed with the planned events center project.

Dennis Olmstead also spoke about the events center, providing copies of an article that appeared in the *San Juan Basin Forum* about the project. "I have been saying for months, where is the detailed analysis?" Olmstead said. "Clearly, without planning of any sort the horse was hitched to the wrong end of the cart. I look forward to reviewing new and complete documents relating to the arena."

Following approval of Consent Agenda items, Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees Chair Mark Rackay presented the BOCC with the hospital's semi-annual report.

County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch presented Commissioners with a proposed 25-year property tax increment Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (URA) under General Business Item 2. The agreement would allow the URA to keep 100 percent of incremental revenues generated through the URA for the first five years, 95 percent of incremental revenues in years 6 through 10, and 70 percent in years 11 through 25.

"It took a bit of research and discussion to get to this point," Waschbusch said, noting that under the terms of the agreement, "...In aggregate, that works out to

about 75 percent of total revenue being available to the Urban Renewal Authority over the 25-year period."

He thanked County Assessor Brad Hughes and Deputy Finance Director Lannie Paulson for their assistance in coming up with the revenue sharing agreement. "We feel that this is supportive of the URA project but will also allow the County to maintain levels of service as development related impacts occur."

Roger Brown asked for more information on the URA and the County's interaction with it, "and whether and how it intends to pick the pockets of the citizens for any revenue whatsoever...I think we should all be skeptical of anything that ends with A that stands for authority. I certainly am skeptical."

Waschbusch explained that Urban Renewal Authorities can be created by municipalities for purposes of addressing blight in a given area, based on a variety of standards. "...in this instance the City of Montrose, City Council as a governing body, has moved forward and made a determination through an urban renewal plan that approximately 158 acres adjoining the Uncompahgre River does meet those standards of blight, and has created an urban renewal authority in order to address those blighted conditions."

The Authority can implement tax increment financing to fund improvements for the 158-acre parcel, he said.

Brown asked whether revenues were earmarked by the City for a private developer.

A URA is a quasi-public body and taxing entities have the right to negotiate with it, Waschbusch said. "In this instance all of the property is owned by a single private entity," he said. "Revenue is managed by the Urban Renewal Authority to apply within the borders of that area."

The entire project falls within City limits, BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said. "Where do we stand on the concept of revenue neutrality?" Brown asked. "Have you dug into this to know this like the hairs on the back of your hand?"

County Assessor Brad Hughes, who will represent Montrose County on the URA board, offered to go over calculations regarding the project with Brown. Because the property now is largely agricultural,



Roger Brown addresses the BOCC.

the URA will not take anything away from the tax base, Hughes said.

"The land is going to be improved for the public benefit," Hughes said. "It's hard to determine whether it's revenue neutral or not."

Commissioner Glen Davis called urban renewal authorities "a pet peeve of mine," and pointed out the URA is really a City endeavor. Given that the URA had initially asked to keep 100 percent of revenues, "We thought it only appropriate that Mr. Hughes get involved," Davis said. "...we can kick it around, kick it up, kick it down—at the end of the day it's a city project."

Commissioner Roger Rash pointed out that no county assets are going into the URA. "Hopefully this thing develops into a nice, 158-acre industrial park with increased revenue for taxes." When put to a vote, General Business Item 2 passed unanimously. In other business, the BOCC approved County Veteran's Service Officer Sheldon Smith's request for the Chairman's signature on a grant application for \$5,700 in Veterans Assistance, and approved a one-year agreement with Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA) for \$125,000 to be paid to the Montrose Regional Dispatch Center to offset the County's operational expenses.

Twelve pistols and four rifles currently owned by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office that have been removed from service were approved for surplus, and County Assessor Brad Hughes was appointed to serve as the County's representative on the board of the Urban Renewal Authority. Sheldon Smith was reappointed to a two-year term as the County's Veteran's Service Officer, and Resolution 13-2017 to surplus a 19.36-acre county parcel also known as the Hogback Gravel Pit passed unanimously as well.



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(All Genre, All Levels)
9am - 2:30 pm in Montrose. \$75.



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FEB. 26 ALL EYES ON YOU: IMPROVING YOUR PERFORMANCE ON STAGE WITH ROSEMERRY WAHTOLA TROMMER

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BOCC HIRES BOND COUNSEL FOR EVENT CENTER PROJECT

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners met for a special meeting on Friday, Feb. 24.

During the time allotted for public comment, Charles McMurdy of Olathe addressed the BOCC. "I just wanted to talk a little bit about 600 Road and Amber Road. It seems like for 55 years I have lived there and the road is no better than it was then. It'll just about shake your britches off if you don't have your belt tight."

Back in the 1960's and 70's the road was graded, he recalled. "...anymore...when it starts getting holes in it, it's really rough...I just hope it's not another 55 years before they decide to do something a little better to it."

Following approval of Consent Agenda items, the BOCC considered Resolution 14-2017, "expressing the intent of the County to be reimbursed for specific expenses relating to certain capital expenditures associated with the financing of an indoor

arena and events center and a road and bridge facility."

"Normally before you start a project you get your financing in order," County Attorney Theresa Williams said. "Notices to proceed were done in December; we haven't done our financing yet."

Financing must be in place in order for project bills to be paid, she said. "We need to pass this resolution and go back 60 days."

Commissioners voted unanimously to pass Resolution 14-2017.

General Business Item Number 2 concerned a Letter of Engagement with Butler Snow LLP as bond and disclosure counsel to the County with respect to the issuance of debt for the Indoor Arena and Events Center and the Road and Bridge projects in the amount of \$64,000.

"As we are embarking on looking into financing for those two projects it was my strong recommendation that we hire bond counsel," Williams said. "...I recommend

strongly that we hire Butler Snow to help us through this bonding process."

Commissioner Glen Davis spoke. "In a meeting prior to this, you had mentioned it would be a good idea to get out letters of interest. In moving forward...I liked your idea a whole lot better than this movement."

"I respect the opinion of the other two commissioners but I am to a certain extent opposed to this," Davis said. "I feel like the eventual financing will be a part of the plan that was originally in place to finance this. With this and hiring a financial advisor the County will be out \$90,000 real close, give or take."

"Guess I am hard headed; I still believe a letter of interest to all the banks in the local area would solve this problem."

Commissioners voted two to one in support of the Letter of Engagement, with Davis voting against.

The BOCC then entered into executive session for a personnel matter.



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JANINE RUSNAK...MOM, ENTREPRENEUR, AND MORE!

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-Janine Rusnak has a fun personality and cheerful attitude that comes through when chatting with her. I recently talked with the publisher of Western Weekend Blast to get a behind the scenes look at the balancing act of being a mom, an entrepreneur and a volunteer in our community.

Rusnak currently serves as the President of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce Red Coats. "The President comes up with the agenda for meetings and sets up Business After Hours, although that event may be changing to a different format," she explained. "I also act as the liaison for the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Coats, and the community. Right now I'm trying to keep the cohesion of the Red Coats. With the Chamber having many parts under construction right now, which I think is a good thing, we're trying to gain membership, get more members to come to the meetings, and get members to volunteer at a lot of events in town."

The Red Coats are known as the 'ambassador branch' of the Chamber of Commerce. "Our goal is to help the Chamber communicate with businesses," Rusnak said. "We are the social group. We also offer a lot of volunteer time at different events, such as the recent Winter Carnival the Rotary Club puts on. Our main event is Business After Hours."

As an additional nod to her work at the Red Coats, Rusnak recently was awarded 2016 Committee Member of the Year by the Montrose Chamber of Commerce for her work as a member of the Red Coats. "I didn't even know that I was up for the award," she explained. "It was an honor."

Rusnak's volunteering experience, besides the Red Coats, in the past has included various organizations such as the Montrose Underage Drinking & Drug Taskforce, Montrose METH Coalition, Sheriff's Posse, and her church. She joined the Red Coats after moving to Montrose in 2007 for a job and not knowing anyone. "It was a way to get active in the community and connect with people," she said.

In terms of being a new entrepreneur, in April of 2016 Rusnak was also presented with a whole new idea to work on: *The*

Western Weekend Blast. "It kinda fell into my lap at the right time," she explained. "I had chosen to leave a job at the time and I met Caitlin Switzer almost the very next day. We had been friends over the years and she gave me this idea for an events calendar. I kinda had the same thinking, that there are so many entities in our area that all have their own events calendar, that there needed to be one place for all of those events. Businesses were only catching some of their audience. My main goal with the Blast is to help businesses get people to their event and to help people not be bored or say, 'there's nothing to do in this town.'"

Typical of starting any business from the ground up, Rusnak has been spending a lot of time working on her publication. "It is a lot more time consuming than I had originally thought," she said. "Working from home, it's been a blessing, but also kind of difficult. The dishes seem to stare at me, or I see house things that need done, there is a knock on the door or the phone rings. I have learned that I have to manage my time and balance my work in-between."

The additional challenges of creating a publication for readers also makes life interesting. "It can be tough to put together a publication, as you are not able to please everybody," she said. "My goal is to inform the public of things that are happening and I only make money when I sell ads. I'm still such a new business, that I have to work to build trust in the publication. Caitlin helped me in the beginning by letting me use her email service and subscription list to send the Blast out. It's a struggle to gain people's trust in your product, but now we are definitely growing each week."

The enjoyment of seeing the final product come together is one of Rusnak's favorite parts of her work. "Friday morning [when the Blast goes out] I wake up feeling giddy, wondering 'what kind of response was there to my column, to the joke, or did anyone try the recipe?' One lady, who owns a small business, told me, 'we get the team together to read the joke in the Blast. We think the jokes are hilari-



Erik and Janine Rusnak with her new business plaque from the Montrose Chamber. Courtesy photo.

ous.' Sometimes people will respond to the recipes with 'oh, I've tried this' or 'thank you for doing something healthy.'"

Rusnak's personal column in the Blast has also become a staple to the publication. "It's just me and it was my idea to start it," she explained. "Some people hate it, some could care less. I was the news director at a radio station and would read the news, then add my thoughts, and people were able to get to know me through that. People like that, it's like a soap opera, I'm basically a character [to watch]. People love to know about other people, either because 'I can relate to her' or 'I'm not pathetic like her.'"

The goal for the Blast is not only to be a one-stop-shop calendar for events in our area, but also to provide some fun when people read it. "I want to give people knowledge of events in our area and also joy," Rusnak said. "I want to bring joy to people, a little laughter to somebody's day. There is so much darkness in the world, I want it to be a little bit of light."

So why does Rusnak do all these projects in the community? "I want to be a contributing member to society," she explained. "I feel like a piece of me needs to be doing something. I want to be a positive influence. I feel that there is a need in our community. Whether it's with the Blast or something else, I want to feel more like I have a place. Maybe I have not necessarily found it yet, but I want it to be a good place."

For more information on the Western Weekend Blast, visit westernweekendblast.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMISSIONERS RELOCATE VETERANS SO TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL VETERANS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In an effort to provide the best possible service to local veterans, Montrose County Commissioners relocated the county's Veterans Services Officer (VSO) to the Montrose County Administration Building located at 317 South 2nd Street in Montrose. The VSO is now a part of the county's Government Affairs Division. The VSO was previously housed and managed by Health and Human Services. VSO Sheldon Smith was reappointed for an additional two-year term by the board in Monday's meeting. Mr. Smith serves veterans from Montrose and Ouray County.

Additionally, the VSO will now offer regular hours at the Warrior Resource Center located at 11 South Park Avenue in Montrose. Once a month, the VSO will travel to the west end of the county to host regular office hours at the meeting room of the Nucla Hopkins Field Airport.

"We want to assure that our veterans have the most convenient, reliable access to the Veterans Services Officer that the

county can provide," said Commissioner Roger Rash, who is also a veteran. "These individuals have given a tremendous amount so that we can be comfortable. It's only right that we do what we can to make them comfortable when dealing with the county. The Warrior Resource Center is a place specifically for veterans and it's a natural fit to have the VSO available to serve at that location."

Chairman Keith Caddy added, "We're listening. On every issue and in every interaction, we're listening and looking for opportunities to improve how Montrose County serves the public. In this instance, we've heard from local veterans and we've taken an action to better address their needs. The VSO is now located in the same building as the commissioners and we want the veterans to know that they are always welcome here." The Montrose County VSO is a position defined by the Colorado Revised Statutes. The VSO assists veterans securing their earned benefits and navigating the government system.

Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and provides a safe, welcoming place for veterans and their families. **VSO Hours & Locations**
Montrose County VSO Office (317 South 2nd Street, Montrose, CO 81401)
Warrior Resource Center (11 South Park Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401)
Nucla Hopkins Field Airport (27696 DD Road, Nucla, CO 81424)

The 2nd Wednesday of each month, the VSO will be available at the meeting room of the Nucla Hopkins Airport from 10:00 to 14:00.

Monday: 08:00 to 09:00 Montrose County VSO Office

09:00-17:00 Warrior Resource Center

Tuesday: 08:00 to 17:00 Montrose County VSO Office

Wednesday: 08:00 to 09:00 Montrose County VSO Office

09:00-17:00 Warrior Resource Center

Thursday: 08:00 to 17:00 Warrior Resource Center

Friday: 08:00 to 17:00 Montrose County VSO Office

NAVAJO RESERVOIR OPENS FOR BOATING MARCH 1!



The aquatic nuisance species inspection station will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day through April 30. All motorized craft must be inspected to assure it is not infested with quagga or zebra mussels. Owners are asked to be sure their boats are cleaned, drained and dry before going to Navajo or any lake or reservoir in Colorado. Non-motorized craft are not required to be inspected.

Boaters are also reminded to make sure their registrations are up-to-date and that all safety gear is on-board.

"Boat owners may register their boats at Navajo State Park or renew boat registrations on line," said Park Manager Brian Sandy. Early in the boating season Colorado waters are always very cold, so recreationists should exercise extra caution while boating in the spring and early

summer. Navajo is also renowned among anglers. To learn more about fishing opportunities, check out "The Fishful Thinker" TV show which will air a program that includes Navajo and other Colorado waters starting March 4 on the Altitude Network, a cable channel. Navajo State Park, located along Colorado High 151 southwest of Pagosa Springs, offers more than 100 camp sites – many with full hook-ups, and three cabins are available to rent. To reserve a camp spot or cabin, go to the reservation section of the CPW web site: <http://coloradostateparks.reserveamerica.com>.

A daily pass to the park costs \$7 per vehicle; and annual pass costs just \$70. For more information about Navajo State Park and the reservoir, call the park at 970-883-2208, or go to the CPW web site at cpw.state.co.us.

Special to the Mirror

ARBOLES – Navajo Reservoir, Colorado's answer to Lake Powell, opens for boating for the 2017 season on March 1. Boaters access the reservoir through Navajo State Park. The reservoir is a major boating and fishing destination in southwest Colorado and provides access to 15,000 surface-acres of water and dozens of scenic side canyons.

ISSUE 86 Feb. 27, 2017

ART & SOL

SEE 'BEYOND THE STORY' AN ALTERED BOOK ART EXHIBITION AND LITERARY EVENT

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-For the creative book lovers in our area, or anyone with a literary interest, the Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) is presenting "Beyond The Story" An Altered Book Art Exhibition and Literary Event.

The event will be April 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Montrose Events Center, 648 South 1st street.

"We wanted to provide an event outside everyone's conventional box, with no minimum age or creative skill required," explained Linda Balas, Vice President of MCA. "We saw this idea online and it struck us, then everything fit into place and we knew it was meant to be. It is a challenge for everybody, so all the participants are on a level playing field, with no set skill or pattern to follow. It's most important to us to have events that include the whole community."

While it is free to attend, the entry fee to participate in the event is \$5 for MCA members and \$10 for non-members. Limit two art pieces per person.

A previous art event similar to the book event was a 'Chair-ity' exhibition last year, where MCA partnered with the Montrose Farmers Market to feature unique chair art pieces. Believing collaboration to be

important, for this book event MCA has partnered with San Juan Publishing, a publishing company that represents local authors. MCA also connected with the Montrose High School, which will have a contest in their art department to select five students to participate in the event as well.

The MCA is, 'a non-profit organization fostering the growth of community development and promotion of excellence in the arts through classes, exhibitions and events.'

"The goal of MCA is to build an art center in town," Balas explained. "It's been a slow go, growing our membership and raising money, but we are making money every year. We had issues of not having a set building, so it was hard to get our name out there. But we are now securing classroom spaces to use consistently. We want people to recognize our name, know what we are doing and know what we are trying to accomplish."

One important component of the event will be providing the artists with an opportunity to sell their pieces at the event and make 60 percent of a sale. "I think that it [sales] is so important because, as an artist myself, we are [often] asked to donate our gifts or time," Balas explained.



Montrose Center for the Arts (MCA) is presenting "Beyond The Story" April 8. Courtesy image.

"But the essence of an artist is to create works and make an income from them. We are hoping for see a lot of new faces, see lots of creative artwork, and hopefully sales that will produce money for participants and MCA."

While there are no set rules for how to create an altered book piece for the event, Balas recommends Pinterest for ideas to help people get started. "You don't really have to go past your computer to get ideas," she said. "We suggested that perhaps people think about a fun book, maybe

Continued next page

SEE 'BEYOND THE STORY' AN ALTERED BOOK ART EXHIBITION AND LITERARY EVENT

from their childhood, that's meaningful to you and do something with it."

Balas will be using her skills in felting combined with a book to create a unique wall hanging. She's also looking forward to the event. "I intend to have fun all day," she said. "[I like] getting to meet a lot of new people, expose people to the possibilities of art, introduce our goals and hopefully they will become a supporter of our goal."

For anyone wanting to help the MCA, volunteers are always needed for their events, especially the book event and a four day Plein Air event in July. "We could always use man power for our events and we are also looking for board members," Balas explained. "Anyone who is interested can contact me. We aim to keep growing our membership, so we can build our dream."

"I just feel art is one of greatest gifts for anybody to play and experiment with," Balas added. "We want to keep bringing in new people who are excited about art, so they can realize the art world is available to them."

For more information and to sign up for the event, call 249-1350, email balasfish@gmail.com or visit Montrose Center for the Arts on Facebook.



A previous art event similar to the book event was a 'Chair-ity' exhibition last year, where MCA partnered with the Montrose Farmers Market to feature unique chair art pieces. Courtesy photo.





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ANNUAL FLOWER

Stocks- Latin name *Matthiola incana*_pinks purples blues and whites. Start them from seed, plant them by a window or door and you will have the sweetest fragrance that you'll become addicted to. Snow will lay upon the blooms in November !



PERENNIAL FLOWERS

Butterfly Milkweed- *Asclepias tuberosa*, Bright orange, Monarch Butterfly magnet, and a plethora of other pollinators are attracted to it. The silvery seeds that burst from the seed pods in the fall are like angel hair extensions... Native to our eastern prairies and takes a couple years to get established but oh so worth it!



Oval Leaved or Cushion Buckwheat- Native, *Eriogonum ovifolium*_Precious plant for crevice or rock gardens. The cream-colored spherical clusters are like fluffy Elf lollipops. You just gotta look at them up close and personal to enjoy the details.



Blazing Star- *Liatrus ligulistylis*_Native. Simply outstanding. Watch the hummers party! Monarch Butterfly magnet, striking magenta color with wiry flowers trailing up a tall stem. Beautiful to mix with Coneflower, Firecracker penstemon and Black footed Daisy all Natives. Low to moderate water.



Eye of the tiger- Dutch Iris. Iris is the Greek work for Rainbow and Lord knows the colors in this stunning late iris are jaw dropping!

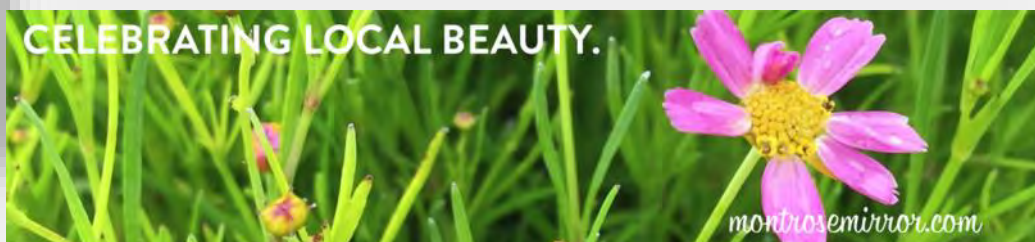


TWO OF MY FAVORITE DECIDUOUS TREES

Ginkgo or Maidenhair tree-Ginkgo biloba, no known diseases. It is known to be the oldest living fossil in the plant division Ginkgophyta. All others are extinct. Fossils go back 270 million years! I am obsessed with this plant. It is part of my business logo.



Wasatch Maple- *Acer grandidentatum*, one of the three native maples in Colorado. Incredible orange red yellow fall color, low water requirements and tolerant of our salty soils.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

RESULTS OF LONG TERM CUCKOO STUDY TO BE SHARED AT HEDDLES MARCH 2

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-The western yellow-billed cuckoo, one of the rarest birds in Colorado, is now the subject of a long term study to determine how many pairs of birds might be breeding in this area. The study is being conducted by local birding expert Jason Beason of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. He will be giving a presentation of his latest findings at the Bill Heddles Center in Delta on 2 March.

"I first got interested in the western yellow-billed cuckoo in 2008 when I heard several cuckoos calling on my farm near Paonia," Beason said. At that time no one knew of any nesting cuckoos in western Colorado but Beason was able to locate a nest near Hotchkiss. Since then he has located several nests but they are difficult to find.

"I'm guessing there could be as many as fifty pairs in western Colorado but that is a

very rough estimate," he added.

One of the difficulties is finding enough money to do extensive surveys as well as just locating the birds which prefer to nest very dense vegetative cover. "I'd love to be able to survey the entire Western Slope but that will take quite a bit of funding."

Beason has been studying birds professionally since graduating from Ohio State University in 1990. His first job was in Arizona. He went to work for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in 2002 (called the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory at that time) and has been involved in numerous projects including a land mark study of the black swift which was recently discovered to be wintering in Brazil. He is starting a DNA project on the brown-capped rosy finch that is found, for the most part, only



in Colorado.

Beason's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge. The presentation is being sponsored by the Black Canyon Chapter of the Audubon Society. For more information contact Sandy Beranich, [970-240-4913](tel:970-240-4913).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

upstART: THEATER THAT MOVES PRESENTS 'JERICHO' AT THE WRIGHT

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-Don't miss *Jericho* by Jack Canfora at the Wright Opera House April 6, a play presented by a brand new, local professional theater company UpstART: *Theater that moves*. (Adult material, not suitable for children.)

When Beth accepts her boyfriend's invitation to Thanksgiving, she has no idea what she is stepping into. His witty, charming, troubled Jericho NY family will serve a nice turkey dinner, along with plenty of revelation, resolution, and redemption. Everything is on the table in this funny and moving play about the things that tear us apart... and the things that help put us back together. *Jericho* by Jack Canfora, a play presented by brand new, local professional theater company UpstART: *Theater that moves*. Adult material, not suitable for children. Thursday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. (preview performance \$12); Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 9, 4 p.m. (\$15 tickets). The Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray, Colorado. For information, <http://www.upstartmoves.org/plays>.

MARCH AND APRIL EVENTS FOR THE MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The March 1st program is, "The Challenge of researching the Delta Bank Robbery of 1883 for the book *Bank, Bullets and Bodies* by Jim Wetzel. It is open to the public and starts at 7 pm at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. We will also have copies of the new book *Montrose* available at the meeting. The cost is \$24 including tax. Author ZillaMay Brown will also be on hand to sign books.

April 22nd will be spring clean-up at the Museum starting at 9 am till Noon. The annual Yard Sale will be April 28th-29th, so collect your donations and helping hands for this fundraiser.

May 1st will be opening day for the Museum and May 9th will be Volunteer Orientation.

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

FINDING WAYS TO COUNTER DAESH

COMBATting TERRORISM ... In the unrestrained rhetoric of partisan politics, our priorities seem terribly out of whack. We are slated to spend billions on the Great Wall of Trump to keep out dangerous Mexicans who once owned most of the West, and settled a good chunk of Colorado before American immigrants ever arrived. And the new administration has promised to spend millions more in a beefed-up Homeland Security bureaucracy to “protect us from terrorists” ... And indeed there have been terrorist incidents on American soil, since the thousands that were killed on 9/11 on Pres. George W. Bush’s watch. And what’s the death toll from 2001 to 2017 from terrorism in the U.S.? Exactly 123 people ... Meanwhile, 1.34 million American lives have been lost from gun violence in that same period. I’m not particularly pro-gun or anti-gun, but the numbers clearly suggest that we have a gun problem. So why are we dedicating so much of our common wealth to a perceived threat of terrorism? And one has to ask -- just how effective are these massive government expenditures in combatting the problem? ... It’s interesting to see what the Carter Center is doing on a shoestring, without government money, in this regards. First of all, Dr. Houda Abadi, associate director of the Center’s Conflict Resolution project, doesn’t like how we’ve named the bad guys.

“Calling them the Islamic State lends legitimacy to the idea that they are a state, and that they are following Islamic principles. Neither is true. ‘Daesh’ is an acronym of the Arabic words ‘Islamic State in Iraq and Sham.’ But ‘Daesh’ in Arabic sounds similar to the Arabic words ‘Daes’ and ‘Dahes,’ which mean, respectively, ‘trampling or crushing something underfoot’ and ‘sowers of discord.’ The group hates to be called Daesh” ... The Center’s Conflict Resolution Program is starting its efforts by changing the name of the game. And it has analyzed more than 300 Daesh videos and all issues of its on-line magazine, *Dabiq* -- an on-going effort. Simultaneously, it is convening workshops with religious and community leaders to pro-

vide a more nuanced understanding of Daesh communication strategies for recruitment, ways to counter Daesh narratives, and opportunities to engage alienated youth ... For more information on the real work combating

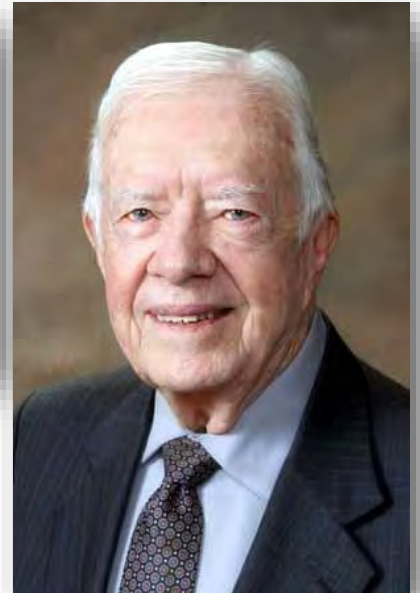
terrorism done by an American president who truly deserved his Nobel Prize, visit: (www.cartercenter.org/peace/conflict_resolution/index.html)

SHROOMFEST ... Even though there’s still snow on the ground up in the mountains, some of us are already thinking of summer monsoons and the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival (Aug. 16-20). It helps to subscribe to *Fungi* magazine <www.fungimag.com>. The winter issue just arrived (V. 9, No. 4) ... Lots of great stories. Poems. The photographs are stunning. If you don’t know much about the fungal world, just paging through the snaps of all the wild species will change your attitude about mushrooms. They are quite amazing ... One of the best articles tells about a great place to go to identify mushrooms on line -- ones you pick and bring home but have no one to tell you what they are. Nathan Wilson runs a site called Mushroom Observer <mushroomobserver.org>. Once you join, you can submit photos of your unknown mushroom, write down all the observational details -- where you picked, when, by whom -- and then get the other members to help identify the specimen for you. It’s a great free service. And a great aid for those who aren’t expert at identification or at keeping up on changing nomenclature for species.

TALKING GOURDS ... La Zona Colona



Above, Dr. Houda Abadi (Photo courtesy of Academica.edu). At right, Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (Photo courtesy of Mercer Univ.)



Coffeehouse has taken over the Wednesday night Ouray County segment of the Traveling Gourds Tour -- the monthly poetry project offered by the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds program ... And Paige Blankenbuehler of *High Country News* and KVNf fame has spearheaded a new Thursday night slot on the tour at the Wisheart Springs Inn near Paonia ... Last week Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and I were the featureds on the tour -- drawing a big Tuesday night house at the Telluride Arts Gallery and lots of spirited readings by Poetry Club regulars, including Ruth Duffy, Michael Olschewsky, Daiva Chesonis, Elle Metrick, Kyra Kopentonsky, Dean Davis, Lee Taylor and others. Teenager Mari Boyd of Norwood read for the first time in public, and got lots of applause. Local thespian Buff Hooper did a great riff on etymologies (Did you know “tragedy” comes from the Greek for “goat ode”?). It was a very inspiring evening ... Veterinarian and poet Frank Coons of Grand Junction will be the featured poet in April. Watch for details.

LINGUIST TICKS ... Or maybe I should say tricks ... Did you know that *jazz*, which was first spelled “jass,” was originally a word used to describe baseball players with pep?

WEEKLY QUOTA ... “No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.” --poet Stanislaw Jerzy Lec in the *New Yorker*

Up Bear Creek from previous page

THE TALKING GOURD

Haiku

Buddhist retreat, morning meditation
Afternoon burrito & beers
Pagosa Bar enlightenment

-Jerry Roberts
The Rôbert Report

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

OCPAG PRESENTS 'APPALACHIAN SPRING' AT WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE ON MARCH 12



Acclaimed violinist Rachel Lee Priday will play @ the Wright March 12. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild's 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series arrives like a breath of fresh air at the Wright Opera House on Sunday afternoon, March 12 with "Appalachian Spring", a delightful program of piano and violin duos that celebrate the beauty and burgeoning spirit of the season.

The concert, which begins at 3 p.m., features acclaimed violinist Rachel Lee Priday and concert pianist Susan Ellinger performing Beethoven's Spring Sonata, Copland's Appalachian Spring and Brahms' Sonata in G Major.

Priday, acclaimed for her beauty of tone, riveting stage presence, and "irresistible panache" (Chicago Tribune), has appeared as soloist with major international orchestras, including the Chicago, St. Louis, Houston, Seattle, and National Symphony Orchestras, the Boston Pops, and the Berlin Staatskapelle. Critics have praised her "dazzling, forceful technique," "rich, mellifluous sound," and "silvery fluidity." Combining a fierce intelligence with an imaginative curiosity, her wide-ranging repertoire and eclectic programming reflect a deep fascination with literary and cultural narratives, as an artist who seeks contemporary resonances with the masterworks of the past.

Ellinger has been praised for her "refined, poised and singular" vision, and has capti-

vated audiences throughout North America. She has performed extensively as both a soloist and chamber musician, presenting recitals from the Lincoln Center to Tanglewood, and has been the featured soloist in a series of concerts with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra under the baton of acclaimed conductor Marin Alsop. Ellinger programs a classical concert series at Paonia's Blue Sage Center for the Arts, where she consistently performs to sold-out audiences.

Tickets for "Appalachian Spring" are \$5 for students 18 and under, \$25 for adults, and \$30 at the door, and can be purchased in advance at www.ocpag.org.

"Appalachian Spring" is the first of five concerts in OCPAG's 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series, taking place from March through September. Patrons can purchase concert tickets individually, or opt for a \$100 season pass, which allows them to attend all five concerts, with additional perks including reserved premium seating, a complimentary catered reception and more. Additional concerts in the series include: **June 29 – Blue Sage Chamber Trio: "The Lyrical Clarinet"** with concert pianist Susan Ellinger and Aspen Chamber Music Festival fellows Bill Kalinkos, clarinet, and Darrett Adkins, cello, performing works by Beethoven, Brahms and Nino Rota, 7:30 p.m. at Wright Opera House in Ouray.

Aug. 17 – San Juan Chamber MusicFest Classical Cafe, featuring Max Levinson, piano, Nurit Pacht, violin, Allison Eldredge, cello, and guest musicians TBA, with catered pre-concert reception, 7:30 p.m. at Ouray County 4-H Event Center in Ridgway.

Aug. 18 – San Juan Chamber MusicFest Festival Concert, featuring Max Levinson, piano, Nurit Pacht, violin, Allison Eldredge, cello, and guest musicians TBA, 7:30

p.m. at Wright Opera House in Ouray.

Sept. 9 – Apollo Chamber Brass Quintet, 7:30 p.m. at Wright Opera House in Ouray.

The 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series is made possible with generous underwriting from the Western Colorado Community Foundation's Dave and Mary Wood Fund, named after beloved former Ouray residents Dave and Mary Wood, who left behind a legacy to nurture the performing arts in the community they loved.

The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild (OCPAG) is a not-for-profit organization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to Ouray and Ridgway. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors.

FULL OCPAG CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR 2017:

Sunday, March 12, 3 p.m. – APPALACHIAN SPRING classical concert at the Wright Opera House in Ouray, featuring Susan Ellinger and Rachel Lee Priday with a program of violin and piano duos celebrating the beauty and burgeoning spirit of the season. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$25 in advance at www.ocpag.org, \$30 at the door. Part of the 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series.

Monday, April 24, 7 p.m. – COLORADO CHILDREN'S CHORALE takes to the stage at the Wright Opera House for a lively evening of family-friendly entertainment, combining infectious enthusiasm and powerful performing energy of with lots of audience participation to create an unforgettable experience. Local students from Ouray and Ridgway will be invited to join in the fun, getting up on stage to perform pieces they learned from the Chorale at in-school workshops earlier in the day. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$15 for adults at www.ocpag.org. Free admission for students 18 & under. Made possible with

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

OCPEG PRESENTS 'APPALACHIAN SPRING' AT WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE ON MARCH 12 ***From previous page***

generous funding from the Mt. Sneffels Education Foundation and Ouray County Community Fund.

Saturday May 27 & Sunday May 28, 7:30 p.m. – **TRACE BUNDY**, “The Acoustic Ninja,” two nights in a row at the Wright Opera House in Ouray! Hailing from Boulder, Bundy’s music is poetry in motion, using harmonics, looping, multiple capos, and his unique stage presence to deliver an unforgettable concert. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$20 in advance at www.ocpag.org, \$25 at the door, \$5 students. Special thanks to underwriter ElderAdo Financial.

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. – **BLUE SAGE CHAMBER TRIO: “The Lyrical Clarinet”**. Aspen Chamber Music Festival fellows Bill Kalinkos, clarinet, and Darrett Adkins, cello, and concert pianist Susan Ellinger perform works by Beethoven, Brahms and Nino Rota. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$25 in advance at www.ocpag.org, \$30 at the door. Part of the 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series.

Sunday, July 2 – PETER DAVISON VAUDEVILLE FAMILY SHOW at the Wright Opera House in Ouray. Juggler, dancer and mime extraordinaire Peter Davison ushers in the July 4 holiday week with a family-friendly vaudeville show. Choose from two showings – one at 2 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets, \$15 adults, \$5 students, at www.ocpag.org

Thursday, Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m. – **SAN JUAN CHAMBER MUSICFEST CLASSICAL CAFE** at Ouray County 4-H Event Center in Ridgway. Opening event of the 2017 San Juan Chamber MusicFest. Gather up a group of friends and enjoy this informal concert with seating at cafe tables. Featuring Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Allison Eldredge, cello; Rami Vamos, classical guitar; and more! Program TBA. Premium ticket holders are invited to attend a catered reception prior to the concert at 5:30 p.m. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$40 premium, \$25 standard, in advance at www.ocpag.org, or \$30 at the door.

Part of the 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series.

Friday, Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. – **SAN JUAN CHAMBER MUSICFEST FESTIVAL CONCERT** at Wright Opera House, Ouray. Join the world-class musicians of the San Juan Chamber MusicFest for a stunning festival concert featuring Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Allison Eldredge, cello; Rami Vamos, classical guitar; and more! Program TBA. Tickets \$25 in advance at www.ocpag.org, \$30 at the door. Part of the 2017 Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series.

Sunday, Aug. 20, 3 p.m. – **SAN JUAN CHAMBER MUSICFEST AFTERNOON SALON CONCERT**. Chamber music as it was meant to be experienced! This memorable concert offers an exquisite program of chamber music performed by the world class musicians of the 2017 San Juan Chamber MusicFest, afternoon tea catered by Secret Garden Catering, and amiable conversation with friends and neighbors, all in an intimate setting at a private home at Cobble Creek in Montrose. Featuring Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Allison Eldredge, cello; Rami Vamos, classical guitar; and more. Program TBA. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets must purchase in advance by calling [970-626-2970](http://www.ocpag.org).

Monday, Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m. – **FREE FAMILY CONCERT** at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway. Professor Wolfgang Amadeus Schmutzinberry (aka classical guitarist and music educator Rami Vamos) introduces kids and their families to the curious delights of classical music! A free event that is part of the San Juan Chamber MusicFest. Also featuring Max Levinson, piano, Nurit Pacht, violin, Allison Eldredge, cello, and more! Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild.

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m. – **SAN JUAN CHAMBER MUSICFEST SALON DINNER CONCERT**. Chamber music as it was meant to be experienced! This memorable concert offers an exquisite program of chamber music performed by the world class musicians of the 2017 San Juan Chamber MusicFest, catered gourmet dinner by Secret Garden Catering, and amiable conversation with friends and neighbors, all in an intimate setting at a private home in Ouray County. Featuring Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Allison Eldredge, cello; Rami Vamos, classical guitar; and more. Program TBA. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets must purchase in advance by calling [970-626-2970](http://www.ocpag.org).

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. – **JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE** with John Adams Band at the Wright Opera House. Tickets \$30 at www.ocpag.org. (Snow date 12/28)



Concert pianist Susan Ellinger will perform Beethoven's Spring Sonata, Copland's Appalachian Spring and Brahms' Sonata in G Major @ the Wright Opera House March 12. Courtesy photo.

CHAMBER MUSICFEST SALON DINNER CONCERT.

Chamber music as it was meant to be experienced! This memorable concert offers an exquisite program of chamber music performed by the world class musicians of the 2017 San Juan Chamber MusicFest, catered gourmet dinner by Secret Garden Catering, and amiable conversation with friends and neighbors, all in an intimate setting at a private home in Ouray County. Featuring Max Levinson, piano; Nurit Pacht, violin; Allison Eldredge, cello; Rami Vamos, classical guitar; and more. Program TBA. Presented by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets must purchase in advance by calling [970-626-2970](http://www.ocpag.org).

(note: both salons will have the same programming)

Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. – **APOLLO CHAMBER BRASS QUINTET**. The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild's second annual Dave and Mary Wood Classical Concert Series wraps up with a rousing concert at the Wright Opera House featuring the Apollo Chamber Brass Quintet. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 in advance at www.ocpag.org, \$30 at the door.

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. – **JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE** with John Adams Band at the Wright Opera House. Tickets \$30 at www.ocpag.org. (Snow date 12/28)

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE!

RADIO ROOM WELCOMES THE HAYMARKET SQUARES MARCH 14!



The Haymarket Squares. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The RADIO ROOM Proudly Presents...The Haymarket Squares on Tuesday March 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM! Armed with tight vocal harmonies, bluegrass instruments and a heaping dose of righteous anger, The Haymarket Squares are Arizona's premier purveyors of punkgrass.

Known for long sets and short songs, a typical Haymarket Squares show features ecstatic dancing, blindingly fast mandolin, and broad smiles. Who knew changing the world (or at least singing about it) could be so much fun?

Blending acoustic instruments, fast tempos, rich harmonies and rabble-rousing lyrics, The Haymarket Squares have been

bringing punkgrass to audiences since 2009. "They're smart. They're funny. They're raging against the machine in four-part harmony," says the Arizona Republic of the group's incisive lyrics and boundless live energy.

Having played more than 500 shows in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, the 5-piece band will support their new album with a busy regional touring schedule, highlighted by a main stage performance at Arizona's largest music gathering, the McDowell Mountain Music Festival (headlined by Beck and the Avett Brothers).

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext 211 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Radio Room Concert Series

Radio Room concert series are held in the KAFM Radio Room, located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO. The Radio Room is a live music venue in an intimate environment, with only 75 seats and great acoustics. KAFM Community Radio is a public access radio station serving Mesa County in Western Colorado. KAFM has been on-air since 1999 and is programmed by a passionate staff of over 150 volunteers.

Lifelong Learning Series

These are lectures and presentations that

we present in the Radio Room on a regular basis. They are part of a lifelong learning initiative involving storytelling, theatre and lectures.

Topics have included: a young man who spent a year in Antarctica, a Marine One helicopter pilot telling stories of his years at the White House, a presentation on the Burning Man Festival along with a fire dance exhibition in our parking lot, a program of a staged reading of a new play along with interactive feedback with the playwright, a lecture and demonstration on naturopathic medicine and a storytelling/musical performance by John Winn, a musician who was part of the folk revolution in New York City during the 1960s with the likes of Bob Dylan and Judy Collins.

The Gallery at the Radio Room

Located in the Radio Room at KAFM, 1310 Ute Avenue, the Gallery at the Radio Room features the work of some of the area's finest artists.

Works in every medium are represented in ongoing exhibitions throughout the year. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 1 pm and at all events at the Radio Room.

The Gallery is also open by appointment. Call 241-8801, ext. 223 to arrange an appointment.

A portion of all gallery sales benefit KAFM Community Radio.

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NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY...

Exploring Classical Music With Rob Brethouwer

SEXINESS & CLASSICAL MUSIC...A STYLISH HEAD SHOT

Topics for articles are often based on comments or questions that people say and ask. At times the topics are a result of several statements that are then rolled into one unified topic. This article will be no different and I believe it important that it is addressed.

The general comment has been about the lack of sex appeal in the world of classical music. The comparison has been made between the performers of pop music and the perceived appearance of performers of classical music. This comment of course is very one sided as it is the appearance of pop performers that is the only known variable in this misguided equation.

To begin with, a disclaimer. Any comments made about pop music will in no way include Lady Gaga as she is amazing and heads and tails above the vast majority of pop "music" performers.

Talent simply oozes out of every fiber of her body and she is not a vacuous entity spouting nonsense for the sake of merely publicity.

Okay, let us move forward.

To look for the physical sex appeal in the world of classical music is merely a way of seeing out the least common denominator in order to avoid a true discussion.

Not everything in our world needs to be summarized in a 30-second spot using

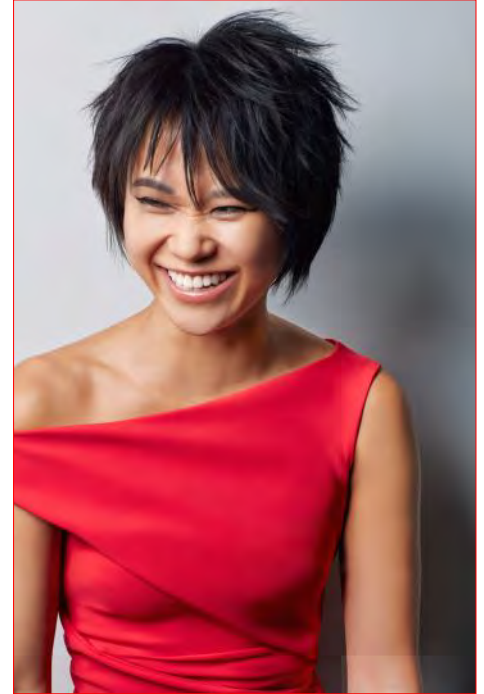
bright lights and physical aesthetics. This is simply an attempt to dazzle the audience into compliance and stun them with sparkly bits. The focus is on the appearance and by doing that the question of whether or not the "artist" has any true talent. While the eyes of the consumer/fan are rolling back into their skulls the famous person can easily get by without presenting much substance on any level.

Talent is almost always sexy and appealing to human nature. Now, combine talent with the passion and dedication that it takes to mold and design talent into something that equates to an international career.

Hours and hours in the practice room, the sacrifices made at young ages in order to pursue the education and training needed to even think about being on one of the world's major stages. What we as audience members see is the culmination of countless hours spent on the craft of being a musician.

The audience is presented with the shining gemstone in the spotlight and is rarely privileged enough to see the gem cutting process. This dedication and the trials and turmoil's that each artist must endure is something that is truly sexy and full of passion.

Now, if you must still be presented with physical appearance to understand the essence of musical sexuality then please



Yuja Wang. Image by Kirk Edwards

do a little research on any or all of the artists listed below. Just remember what it took for these artists to be presented to you in the form of a stylish headshot.

Jonas Kauffman, Sol Gabetta, Noah Stewart, Joshua Bell, Yuja Wang, Ana Vidovic, Sara Alice Ott, Daniil Trifonov, Helene Grimaud, Stephen Hough, Nathan Gunn, Hilary Hahn, Terry Tahu Rhodes.

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Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

JANUARY ONGOING-

AWANA EVERY WEDNESDAY: @ Rosemont Church 1598 E Niagara Rd Montrose CO. FREE Awana Clubs for Preschool—6th Grade. EVERY WEDNESDAY beginning January 18, 2017. We will have snacks/meal, certified teachers & tutors. 2:15- 3:30 pm - Homework/Tutoring/Study Time. Middle and High school students are welcome! 3:30- 5: pm - AWANA for Grades Preschool - 6th grade. 5- 5:30 pm - Meal provided for all Awana kids & adults present. Register/more info at 970.249.4887, email: office@rosemontbaptist.org or at www.RosemontBaptist/Awana.

MONTROSE SENIOR CENTER LUNCH & LEARN: \$3 lunch& Learn, admission to program, is free. Lunch \$5. Programs are Feb. 13 and Feb. 21 @ Noon.

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-

Feb. 28-Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication: Feb. 28, 2017 1:30p.m. 222 Bluegrass Ct., Montrose. Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans invites the community to welcome the Johnson family to their new home with light refreshments, a commemoration and a ribbon cutting. More info at buildinglives.org.

March 1-Montrose County Historical Museum presents, "The Challenge of researching the Delta Bank Robbery of 1883 for the book *Bank, Bullets and Bodies* by Jim Wetzel. It is open to the public and starts at 7 pm at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. We will also have copies of the new book *Montrose* available at the meeting. The cost is \$24 including tax. Author ZillaMay Brown will also be on hand to sign books.

March 2-The western yellow-billed cuckoo, one of the rarest birds in Colorado, is now the subject of a longterm study to determine how many pairs of birds might be breeding in this area. The study is being conducted by local birding expert Jason Beason of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. He will be giving a presentation of his latest findings at the Bill Heddles Center in Delta on 2 March. Beason's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge. The presentation is being sponsored by the Black Canyon Chapter of the Audubon Society. For more information contact Sandy Beranich, [970-240-4913](tel:970-240-4913).

March 3-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is bringing the Morning Buzz to Delta County. Friday, March 3 @ Coaltrain Coffeehouse, 328 W. Bridge St., Hotchkiss, CO 7 – 9 a.m.

March 3-Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Luncheon, Montrose Pavilion @ Noon. \$30 investors, \$35 non-investors. 970-249-9438 for ticket information.

March 5-CASA of the Seventh Judicial District Dancing with the Stars 2017. Montrose Pavilion, 2 p.m. (tickets \$15) and 6 p.m. (tickets \$35). **For tickets visit <https://tickets.montrosepress.com/>.**

March 6-Citizen's Climate Lobby meets @ 6:30 Centennial room behind Montrose City Hall, off plaza: Come share good news on progress with Legislators on environment sustainability with Citizens Climate Lobby.240-9146.

March 7-Presentation on reverse mortgages, Montrose Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid.

March 14-Alpine Photography Club meets Tuesday, March 14, 2017, @ 7 p.m. @ Megapixel, 104 S. First St., Montrose for tour then Colorado Mesa University, 245 S. Cascade Ave., Room 106 for regular meeting. Tip: iphone Photography By: Betty Fenton. All are welcome to attend.

March 16-Back to 4H Night at Friendship Hall. 4 to 8 p.m.

March 17-Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is bringing the Morning Buzz to Delta County. Friday, March 17 @ The Apple Shed, 250 S. Grand Mesa Dr., Cedaredge, CO Don't miss our membership ribbon cutting with the Cedaredge Chamber at 8:30 a.m.7 – 9 a.m.

March 18-The Kiwanis Club of Delta invites players and sponsors to join in the fun for the club's 6th Annual Poker Tournament on March 18 at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center. Registration for players begins at 4 p.m. with tournament play scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. To pre-register for the poker tournament, or for more information on table sponsorships or prize donations, contact Clay Speas, 970-361-2950.

March 22-Colorado State University Extension's Open House will be held on Wednesday, March 22 from 5-7 PM, located at the Montrose Friendship Hall in the Pioneer Room.

March 25-Ride for the Arena, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Starting with a Pancake Breakfast, door prizes, and best of all, it's FREE! Weather permitting, there will be Girls and Ladies Barrel Racing, Kids Stick Horse Races, Wagon Rides and good old down home fellowship! Sponsored by: Friends of the Montrose County Event Center. Contact Information: Doug Roberts – 970-240-4176.

Mar 31-HRMS Presents "Nathan McEuen: Live at The Gallery", Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery (Montrose) 7p, more information and tickets here • <https://www.facebook.com/events/362656074100817/>

Apr 1-HRMS Presents "Nathan McEuen: Live at The Gallery", Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery (Montrose) 7p, more information and tickets here • <https://www.facebook.com/events/1141509805965527/>

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(Note: 5th Wed dates are: Mar. 29, May 31, Aug. 30, Nov 29th, 2017)

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Despite cool temperatures, locals took advantage of a school holiday to enjoy Baldridge Park and the Uncompahgre River on Feb. 21.



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Michele Gad is a Certified DeGiaccio Neuro Art Therapist, who assists individuals with cognitive or mental health challenges to live life as fully and independently as possible. She developed **FAME** in 2010 to better assist her clients. Sessions are specifically designed to meet client's individual needs, goals, abilities, and level of commitment...and have fun!