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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Issue No. 218, April 24 2017

1ST GIVING CLUB AWARD WORKING HARD @ LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES Next Meeting of Montrose Giving Club will be May 1 @ the Bridges



Montrose Lighthouse Ministries furnishes emergency shelter to homeless people, and provides meals at the MADA Building through Shepherd's Hand. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Chris Hauck of Montrose was behind the wheel on Feb. 6 when the phone call came in, driving a van full of people to shelter. He did not pick up. "It was my sister-in-law Annie," he said, "But I was driving." Upon returning home later, his wife Rita informed him that Annie had also called her, to ask about Hauck's organization Lighthouse Ministries. "Something about fundraising," Rita said.

Meanwhile, Annie Hauck took the information about Montrose Lighthouse Ministries and used it to present to the Montrose Giving Club, which was holding its first meeting that evening at the Bridges. And Giving Club members chose to support the mission. "A total God thing for sure," Chris Hauck says today, with awe in his voice.

The \$6,000 award has helped Lighthouse Ministries move forward with its mission

[Continued pg 7](#)

OBT TO TRAC COMMITTEE: ABRAMS FALSIFIED ROOM NIGHT NUMBERS; CITY MUST REPAY CTO FUNDS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE On April 19 the Tourism Retail Advisory Committee (TRAC) held their quarterly meeting. Committee members present were: CJ Brafford, Scott Beyer, Debbie Blanchard, Dave Bowman, Fletcher Flower, Ashley Pietak, Scott Voorhis, Rick Warner and Paul Zaenger. Others present were: Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) Director Rob Joseph, OBT Operations Manager David Spear, Mayor Judy Ann Files, city councilmen Roy Anderson and Dave Bowman and the media.

Announcements:

Co-Chair Dave Bowman announced concerts will be held every two weeks throughout the summer. Paul Zaenger announced first quarter visitor attendance for the Black Canyon National



On April 19 the Tourism Retail Advisory Committee (TRAC) held their quarterly meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.

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in this
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[Liesl talks to
Tia's Treasures!](#)

[Gail Marvel's
Houses of Worship!](#)

[Art Goodtimes'
Up Bear Creek!](#)

[Photos by Jen
McClanahan!](#)

HOUSES OF WORSHIP: FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

By Gail Marvel

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

MONTROSE-In two visits to the First Church of the Nazarene I have yet to hear Pastor Buddy Cook preach. On my first visit missionaries filled the pulpit and during the second visit on Jan. 29, 2017 there was a pulpit switch. Pastor Cook preached at the Delta church and Pastor Larry Chovancek from Grand Junction filled the Montrose pulpit.

Greeters Emory and Julia Arndt welcomed me in the foyer, Peggy and Judy said hello in the auditorium and Andy Penasa introduced himself, "I've been going to the Nazarene church since I got out of the Navy in 1946!"

Announcements included plans for the Aug. 13 celebration for the 100th Anniversary and the homeschoolers collecting donations of slightly used shoes.

There were about 30 people assembled for worship and the accompaniment for the four-member praise team included a piano, guitar and drums. Song selections were a mixture of praise songs and traditional hymns that included, "Ain't No Grave," "Love is Here," and "All Creatures of Our God and King." During the 30-minute song service it was the old, familiar hymns that brought out the best in the congregation. Pastor Larry Chovancek's sermon, titled "Identity," included a handout with 31 statements about who you are in Christ. The statements were not the pastor's idea of who you are, but rather what the *Bible* says about who you are. For instance, "I am made in the image of God" (Gen 1:26); "I am the temple of the Holy Spirit, the dwelling place of God" (1 Cor 3:16); and "I am worth more



than many sparrows" (Matt 10:3).

Chovancek said, "This is the time of year, the darkest, coldest time of the year, that we take down Christmas lights. Who we are in Christ is not determined by light or cold. We are the light of the world, but sometimes we want to turn out the light, pull the covers over our head, and go back to bed. We feel like a victim instead of victorious." The pastor read Isaiah 40:31, "...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (NIV).

Chovancek said, "I like eagles and they are the symbol of America. I'm Canadian by birth, you know what the Canadian symbol is? A beaver."

Laughter rippled through the audience when he conjured up a less than majestic image, "I'm going to fly like a beaver." The pastor said, "If we are living on last Sunday's grace we're already worn out. How many of you are tired and weary? Always on the go, but not fulfilled...eagles

fly on the updraft. They don't fly on their own strength, but by God's provision."

To answer the identity question, people of faith need to start each day knowing who they are.

"People label us and if we are not careful we accept the identity placed on us by others. That may not be who we are...a bag of chemicals, a product of evolution, just another taxpayer, an at risk driver. We can't look to others and we can't look to ourselves for answers of who we are. We need to look to God to know who we are." Chovancek has three citizenships: Canadian by birth, American by naturalization, and a citizen of the kingdom of God. Quoting the Apostle John, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12NIV).

Contact Information:

Montrose First Church of the Nazarene
705 South 12th Street
Montrose, CO
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Buddy Cook 970-249-9213



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SPONSORS NEEDED FOR WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Wine and Food Festival will celebrate its 14th year on Saturday May 20, from 1 to 5 p.m at the Bridges with a Grand Tasting event. The afternoon will feature several local food vendors including Kinikin, Applebee's and the Pitchfork Tavern. There will also be 12 beverage vendors in attendance. Bud Taylor, Executive Director of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club

notes "We have some amazing vendors helping us make this the best year yet for the festival!" The Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club is the recipient of all the proceeds from the event this year. With so many amazing food and beverage offerings, it is an event not to be missed!

On Friday May 19, 2017 at 6 p.m. sponsors will be provided a dinner event, also at the Bridges. The six course meal, featuring a Spanish theme, will serve as a thank you to those sponsors who have generously donated to the event. Along with the dinner, a sommelier will be

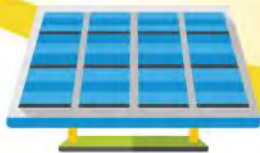
on hand to assist with pairing the perfect wine to complement each course.

The deadline to become an event sponsor is May 1, 2017. Please contact the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club at or visit www.montrosewinefestival.com.

Tickets for the Grand Tasting are on sale now at either Alpine Bank location, The Liquor

Store, The Bridges, The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club, or online at

www.montrosewinefestival.com. Follow the event on Facebook for more details!



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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 April 18, 2017 6:30 PM Tuesday was an exciting night at Montrose Elks Bingo with a party like atmosphere where people were laughing, smiling and having a good time. It was the Game Managers Birthday and the entire crowd had cake and sang Happy Birthday, followed by a 36 kazoo salute! Card sales started at 6:00 and the "Early Bird" games paid \$17 each. The main Bingo session paid 4 Winners \$85 for Regular games and \$90 consolation prizes for 3 Progressive games. Last Game 8 paid one Winner \$225.

Bingo April 25, 2017 6:30 PM Escape to Montrose Elks Bingo as your *destination* to get away and laugh with old friends or make new ones. This week's games include **Progressive 2 valued at \$472.00** and **Progressive 4 is valued at \$ 681.00**. Both 2 & 4 can be won in 37 numbers or fewer. **Progressive 6 is worth \$4,152.00** and must be won in 53 numbers or fewer or the prize posted will be awarded. Based on attendance, last game 8 may be in excess of \$200. For the best Bingo game in the area be sure to visit Montrose Elks Lodge every Tuesday evening to play Bingo. Doors open at 5 PM and Card sales start at 6. 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. It's a wonderful way to spend the evening having fun!



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DOG WASTE CONTINUES TO BE AN ISSUE @ WESTERN MOTEL



The sidewalk in front of the Western Motel on Main Street can be difficult for pedestrians to traverse, due to the level of dog waste that accumulates regularly.

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-A longtime local hotel once known for cleanliness, service and a well-kept swimming pool has transformed over the past several years into an apartment building in which each unit is considered a "household" for pet purposes, and the

pool is filled in with unsightly gravel. Some uptown neighbors are now crying "foul" as well over an increase in the level of dog waste on sidewalks in front of and adjacent to the former Western Hotel at 1200 East Main Street.

Area Best Management now operates the hotel as an apartment complex, Area Best staffer Shelley told the *Mirror*. While she acknowledged that dog waste has been a problem, "They live and reside there," she said.

"Every one of them has a lease. We can't tell anyone that they can't have a dog."

Instead, Area Best is "working on it," she said.

"We serve notices, we remind people again and again. But we are not there physically; we can only go over once a week to clean it up."

Montrose City Code does allow every household to have two dogs and two cats.

Variances for additional animals are now considered as well.

[Colorado law](#), however, allows landlords to refuse to rent to pet owners, and to limit the number of pets in a rental unit.

Research has shown that, just as human feces can be harmful and carry disease, animal waste also contributes to the spread of disease.

In a study released by the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, entitled *The Link Between Animal Feces and Zoonotic Disease*, Veterinarian Emily Beeler writes, "Allowing feces to dry out and disintegrate contaminates the soil and creates an elevated risk for exposure to parasites."

"Most parasite eggs can remain viable in soil for months or years."

Montrose City Councilor Judy Ann Files promised to look into the matter, but had no comment at this time.

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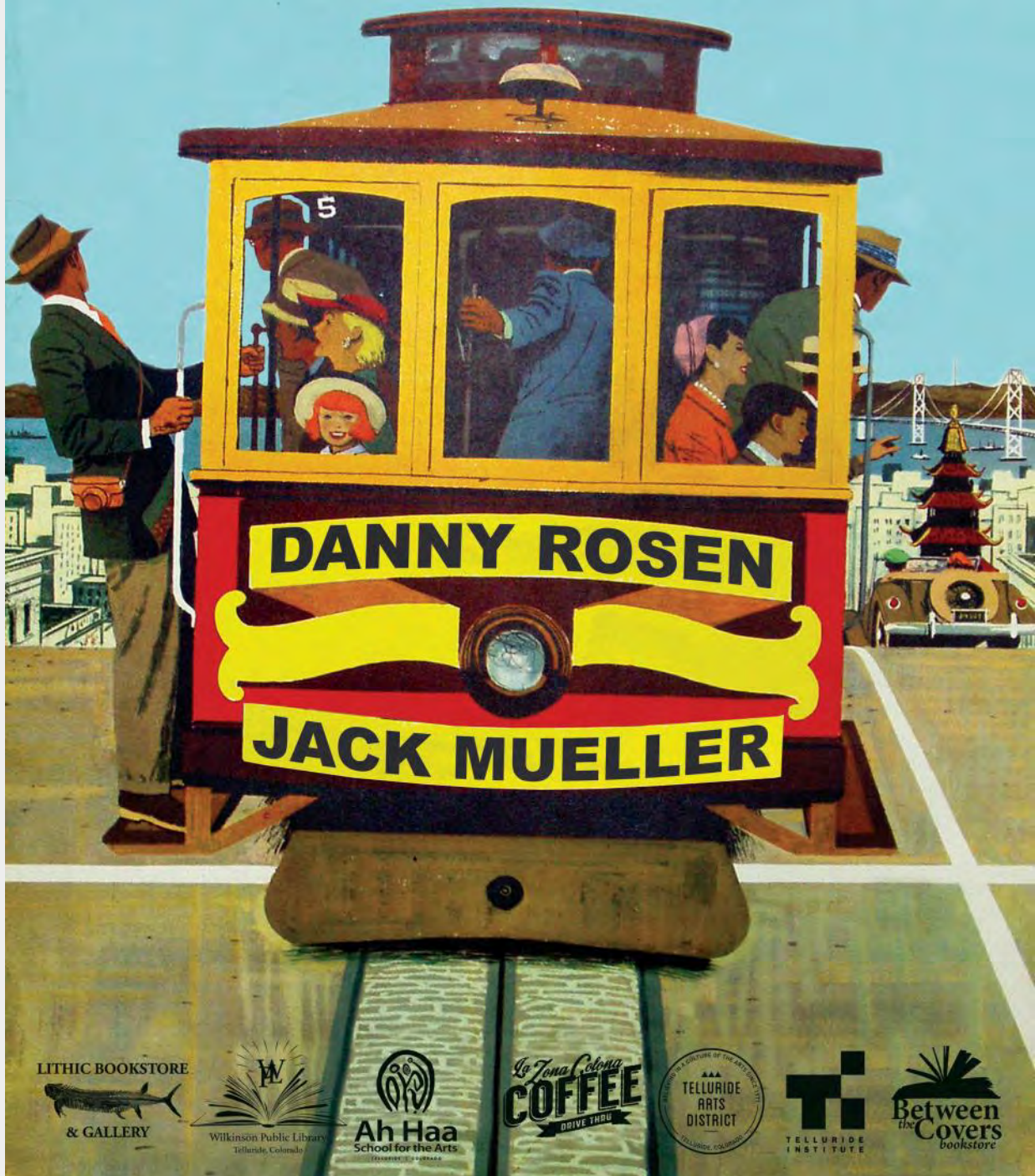
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Wednesday, April 26th at La Zona Colona Coffeehouse • 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 27th at Wisehart Springs Inn in Paonia • 7pm

Friday, April 28th at Lithic Bookstore & Gallery • 7 p.m.



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1ST GIVING CLUB AWARD WORKING HARD @ LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES From page 1

of furnishing emergency shelter to homeless people, Hauck said, and in doing so has become one of two major funders. "We received \$6000 from the Giving Club and \$6,000 from the City."

Lighthouse Ministries grew out of the local Jail Ministries program, when board members realized that establishing a successful life after prison is greatly dependent on access to housing and employment. Also integral to the mission of Lighthouse Ministries are the Shepherd's Hand and MADA non-profits, which support the effort with food and meal service and meal space respectively.

"Without shelter or employment, you are homeless," Hauck said. "My friend Jim Renfrow, who has also been involved with Jail Ministries, took an informal inventory of people living in classic homeless situations a while ago, and he came up with about 50 right away. They were mainly living along the river, well hidden by the trees."

A homeless camp was soon established by Jail Ministries near the roundabout on Grand Avenue, and eventually porta-pots and other small amenities were put in place. However, a new obstacle emerged when surrounding acreage recently was purchased by the Mayfly Outdoor Company. "They have planned an elegant riverwalk along the river," Hauck said. "I talked to the head of Mayfly and he expressed concern and sympathy. But he could not

see how a homeless encampment would be compatible." Help emerged as well, however. "Out of the blue, (Olathe Farmer) John Harold offered to let us use the dorms he built for his non-immigrant seasonal workers," Hauck said. "These are well built buildings, housing 48 people in season." The dorms are vacant from December through April, Hauck explained. Harold also provided use of worker vans to transport people from Montrose to the ag dorms. Around that time, a coalition was formed for help Montrose create a program of its own for homeless people, so as to avoid overwhelming programs in Delta and Olathe, and to serve homeless people when the agricultural dorms are not available. "The City made a commitment to work aggressively on something for homeless people," Hauck said.

From the beginning, Lighthouse Ministries was established as a corporation, Hauck said, and a budget was put in place to delineate the costs of necessary services. Though challenges have arisen even at the dorms—particularly feeding homeless people with no commercial kitchen—the situation worked well enough. It became even better when Garey Martinez of Shepherd's Hand, who was helping to provide food, suggested opening up the MADA facility for meals. Now, Shepherd's Hand serves regular meals for Lighthouse Ministries' clients at the MADA building for a nominal fee from Lighthouse.

"We began sheltering people Dec. 8," Hauck said. "Since then we have provided services to 60 individual homeless people—49 men and 11 women. Through April 17, we have provided 1,604 bed nights; that's one person in one bed for one night. And we served 10 veterans." Several "paid volunteers" provide essential oversight services, such as staying at the shelter during the evening and overnight hours, and driving vans.

Now, however, Lighthouse Ministries once again finds itself at a crisis point. "We are doing everything we can to raise awareness of what will happen May 1," Hauck said. "We have kept people from freezing, but we have no contingency plan when the dorm is not open. The best we are able to do right now is to provide body bags; they provide a place to go inside when it's cold." Donations of and for the body bags are being accepted at the MADA building (17 North 6th Street) and at Renfrow Realty on South Townsend, Hauck said.

As for the Montrose Giving Club, the next gathering of the Club will be at 5:30 p.m. on May 1, at Bridges of Montrose. Giving Club members join as individuals with a commitment to providing \$400 a year (or \$100 a quarter) and all are equal when it comes to casting a vote. For more information on the club contact Hansen @ sue@suehansenspeaks.com or Benziger @ phebenator@hotmail.com.

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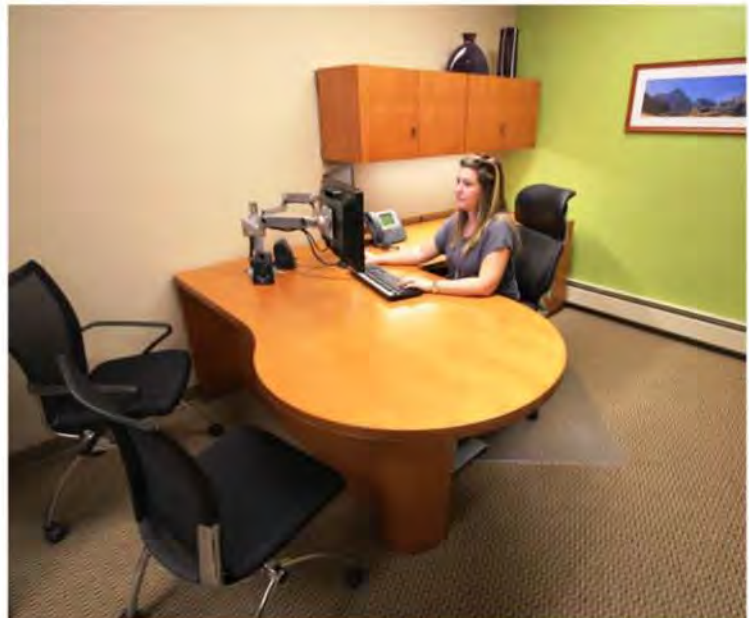
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HEART FOR SERVICE, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED BY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Volunteers of America is proud to announce the recipient of this year's Heart for Service, Volunteer of the Year Award. Each year this award is given to one volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution to uplifting the lives of vulnerable older adults.

This year's award is presented to Casey Linscott-Brethouwer, a volunteer at Valley Manor Care Center.

Each program in the organization's service area that uses volunteers made a single nomination based on the volunteer's amount of involvement, motivation, and positive impact to the program and residents.

Linscott-Brethouwer volunteers at Valley Manor Care Center four times a week for up to 12 hours. She leads morning stretches, plays brain games, helps with baking, gives manicures and makes crafts for and with the residents in both memory care and long term care.

Brandi Garcia, memory care program director said, "Casey truly is an extension of our staff, she goes above and beyond the call of a true volunteer. She is the most reliable, empathetic, loving, caring and compassionate person I have ever met. Memory care truly would not be the same if Casey didn't volunteer her time with us."

"If we have a need, she steps up," said Life Engagement Director, Kate Musgrave. "Casey has many volunteer interests. She also dog sits in her home and most of us here at Valley Manor have had her babysit for our four-legged family members at one time or another."

"She has assisted with activities when staff were out sick or when a resident needed extended one on one attention. They love her and she loves them," Musgrave said.

"Casey has a beautiful heart. She makes it a point every day to help others and better herself."

The Heart for Service award was created to acknowledge the enormous impact volunteers have on the individual residents and their families at Volunteers of America programs and communities in Western Colorado. The local award ties into National Volunteer Week, which occurs April 23-29, 2017.

Regional Director of Operations, Craig Ammermann said, "Casey has played a significant role in the lives of those she has volunteered with. Her commitment to our residents is evident in all that she does. She is incredibly deserving of this honor and we can't thank her enough."

Valley Manor Care Center is a Volunteers of America program providing long-term care, memory care, short-term rehab and



This year's award is presented to Casey Linscott-Brethouwer, a volunteer at Valley Manor Care Center. Pictured are Casey and Todd.

respite care.

Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives.

Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America touches the lives of more than 2 million people each year.

ALPINE BANK TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS — Alpine Bank is committing once again to participate in National Volunteer Week, April 23-29.

Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve. Volunteerism empowers individuals to find their purpose, to take their passion and turn it into meaningful change.

Long supporting and encouraging staff to be involved in their communities, Al-

pine Bank provides each employee with 24 hours of paid volunteer time per year. Employees regularly give back, partaking in a variety of tasks to help ensure that their communities are healthy, vibrant and strong.

This year, Alpine Bank is striving for 640 cumulative volunteer hours during National Volunteer Week, one hour of giving for every employee.

Alpine Bank is also holding a National Volunteer Week contest. Join Alpine Bank

in celebrating National Volunteer Week by entering to win your favorite nonprofit \$2,500. To participate, simply head over to the Alpine Bank Facebook page and like and comment on the National Volunteer Week video telling Alpine Bank which Colorado nonprofit is your favorite to enter them to win.

Visit www.alpinebank.com to read more about how Alpine Bank gets involved with National Volunteer Week and to read the full contest rules.

CITY AMPHITHEATER STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The city council work session agenda for April 17, 2017 was restructured because of technical difficulties and the GIS Mapping Interface presentation held for later in the meeting.

Options given to council for their participation in the budget process were two four-hour sessions, or one eight-hour session. Consensus was to hold one eight-hour session, which will be held on Sept. 22, 2017.

Capital vs. Maintenance Follow-Up from March 6 – City Manager Bill Bell.

The city manager set the stage by reviewing and comparing maintenance projects for the years 2014-2017. He then presented the big picture for three-years of maintenance vs. capital projects, "This is a snapshot to start today. There are rising concerns for street maintenance." Bell wanted council's priorities on whether the city should focus on maintenance, new capital projects, or a hybrid of the two. Bell said, "I just want your general thoughts. Are you more excited about building new, or doing maintenance?" Public Works Director John Harris said, "My biggest concern is a lot of our failing roads are now capital projects. We've done as good as we can do with the money we have. We are at the point where it's really a dollar issue. "How do we maintain roads that are still maintainable?"

Councilman David Romero asked, "Where do sidewalks fall in this?"

The current ordinance puts the responsibility of sidewalk maintenance and replacement on property owners. Harris said, "My opinion is it's a failed program as it is now. It doesn't work. We need to look for dedicated funding to replace sidewalks."

Harris would like to get away from going for federal and state funding until projects are designed. He noted that in the past the city looked for grants and then designed projects around grant requirements. "We have seven or eight [designs] on the shelf and shovel ready." Referencing the sidewalk extension on South



During the city council work session GIS Coordinator Eric Svensen (second from left) gives an update and demonstration of the City GIS Mapping Interface. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Townsend, which used federal funds with a lot of stipulations, Bell said, "It took six or seven years and we could have done it in one."

Returning to the discussion over street maintenance vs. capital projects Bell said the city could get caught up on street maintenance with a \$10,000,000 bond, or Certificate of Participation. Bell said, "We could get a lot of stuff done over a two-year period and we want to see if you want to entertain this [idea]."

The two main projects on the capital improvements list for 2018 are the Hillcrest extension and the roundabout near the golf course at Miami and Hillcrest. Leaning toward these projects Mayor Judy Ann Files said, "We've promised both of those for too long."

Councilman Rex Swanson said, "We need to get caught-up on projects." Bell informed council that some community members who once pushed for the Miami and Hillcrest roundabout are now backing away from the project. Swanson said, "This is the first I've heard about this."

Councilman Roy Anderson said, "Don't throw out all the capital projects just to do maintenance." The city manager suggested a hybrid approach with the Hillcrest extension capital project as the priority

and then, "Beef up maintenance every year."

The most recent city household survey does not reflect citizen's priorities as to maintenance vs. capital projects. The council requested more data from the staff to help them prioritize; however, the council consensus favored a hybrid approach.

GIS Mapping Interface – GIS Coordinator Eric Svensen.

Svensen demonstrated the new mapping system, which is a work in progress. Using Altrusa Park as an example, information on the area was available with the click of a button — zoning, council representative, trash pick-up days and proximity to schools. When asked who uses the mapping interface Svensen said, "Internal users. Planning uses it a lot and we get calls from title companies and realtors." The site is now more user friendly and as the program gets further along there will be a press release detailing public access.

General City Council Discussion:

Anderson asked about scheduling another discussion on the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). Bell indicated an email report on the recent DDA meeting had been sent to council.

Councilman Dave Bowman asked about

Continued next page

CITY AMPHITHEATER STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET

From previous page

the city bid process and staff directed him the city procurement policy. Clarifying his inquiry Bowman asked about the purchase of a new Subaru by the Office of Business and Tourism (OBT). Stating that city procurement policies were followed, Bell said, "Anything under \$50,000 I have the authority to spend."

Swanson reported on an upcoming golf tournament and the youth council street clean-up project.

Mayor Files stated that MRCOG (Montrose Regional Council of Governments) had not met since October 2016 and requested that a meeting be sched-

uled.

The mayor also requested an update on the Great Homes removal of dilapidated and abandoned trailers. Staff reported that Great Homes had approximately \$67,000, which was 70 percent of the funds needed for the cleanup. The staff indicated they are moving as quickly as they can and discussion ensued on how the city might help. Swanson said, "I have a problem with using any taxpayer funds to help them clean-up. They have been making money all these years, it's their mess to clean-up."

Police Chief Tom Chinn reported that 29

cars have been stolen since the first of January; three of those thefts happening over the weekend. Noting how times have changed Chinn said, "When I started [on the force] if we had one in six months it was exciting."

The last agreement with the Special Districts for the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) has been signed and a meeting of the URA board, possibly using teleconferencing, will be scheduled.

A meeting of the 12-member steering committee for the Amphitheater Project is scheduled and advice from the group will go into the design work.



WESTERN WEEKEND BLAST

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THE IMPACT OF IMPACT FEES: PUBLIC GOOD VERSUS INDIVIDUAL COST



Montrose County Board of Commissioners

MONTROSE-I'll start with an obvious statement. Taxes and fees are necessary, but not popular. It's easy to say that a fee is a wonderful thing

when it's "somebody else" that has to pay it. When you are "somebody else," fees matter a lot. As a County Commissioner, I feel that the individual paying a fee should be given the same consideration as anyone else. In the case of impact fees, we looked at the benefit to the public as well as the cost to citizens building homes and subdividing property.

The following points provide some fact-based detail on impact fees and why Commissioner Rash and I voted to discontinue collection of the fees:

The collection of impact fees in Montrose County began in 2008. From 2011 through 2015, prior Boards waived the collection of fees for **five consecutive years**. From our point of view it's hard to claim that the fees are essential revenue when they have been waived more often than they have been collected.

Additionally, Montrose County has never funded a project out of the impact fee fund. This means that the public has seen

absolutely zero return on the money paid in by citizens. In contrast, the citizens and families paying the \$2,779.80 impact fee in order to get their building permit definitely noticed the charge. Those citizens dividing their property (even a single lot for a family member) were charged \$1,853.20 per lot. In total, the county has collected \$674,160.23 in impact fees and never spent a dime. That's not right and the current Board plans to address this issue.

In a recent opinion piece in the *Montrose Mirror* it was noted that a portion of the impact fees was dedicated to the fairgrounds. This is true. What was not mentioned is that over the course of the past 10 years, impact fees have resulted in a total of only \$15,355.08 being collected for the fairgrounds. At this rate, it would take another **5,861 years** to generate enough revenue to pay for the originally budgeted \$9,000,000 for the new event center. We likely won't wait that long as construction started last year absent any financing and we now need to finalize a means of paying for the facility.

As part of the building permit process, Montrose County collects a 1% road and bridge use tax on the construction materials used. Depending on the size of the home, this tax frequently results in a charge of between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per home. The \$2,779.80 impact fee was be-

ing collected **in addition** to the use tax. In some instances, the amount of the impact fees was 3 to 6 times the cost of the actual building permit fee (see chart below). The net result for citizens was an additional cost of thousands of dollars in order to acquire a building permit. The difference in the charges being that the road and bridge use tax is put back onto the roads while the impact fee was held in an account and not utilized for public benefit. The debate about growth paying for itself is an important one. What is sometimes lost in this conversation is that growth generates a positive economic impact in the community. Just ask anyone that makes a living in construction, banking, real estate, utilities, retail, professional services or any service industry. Since facts speak louder than words, I'll offer the following chart which is based on **five actual building permits issued in 2016**. These are the real costs paid by real citizens in Montrose County.

This chart is a good illustration of the impacts of building on local government revenues. When a new home is built, the county, school district, recreation district, fire district and other property taxing entities collect that increased revenue **every year** going forward. The new growth in the community also generates additional spending which benefits entities collecting sales tax like the City of Montrose and

	Permit A	Permit B	Permit C	Permit D	Permit E
2016 Taxes Owed on Vacant Property	\$1,020.00	\$69.00	\$19.00	\$339.00	\$1,576.00
Square Footage of Home	924	1,350	2,608	2,722	3,167
Building Permit Fee	\$432.20	\$865.94	\$2,471.29	\$2,554.45	\$2,914.81
Road and Bridge Use Tax	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$1,438.00	\$1,498.50	\$2,261.45
Impact Fee	\$2,779.80	\$2,779.80	\$2,779.80	\$2,779.80	\$2,779.80
2017 Taxes Owed on Property with Home	\$408.00	\$544.00	\$2,385.00	\$2,738.00	\$3,529.00
Net Change in Annual Taxes Owed	(\$612.00)	\$475.00	\$2,366.00	\$2,399.00	\$1,953.00
Permit A - Manufactured home added to land previously assessed as "vacant".					
Permit B - Manufactured home added to land previously assessed as "agricultural".					
Permit C - Stick built home added to land previously assessed as "agricultural".					
Permit D - Stick built home added to land previously assessed as "vacant" with subdivision discount applied.					
Permit E - Stick built home added to land previously assessed as "vacant".					

Continued next page

THE IMPACT OF IMPACT FEES: PUBLIC GOOD VERSUS INDIVIDUAL COST



and Montrose County.

I do want to address the outstanding work that Montrose Citizen's for Funding Our Future (MC4FF) did with regard to impact fees and grants. Having grants and impact fees not subject to TABOR still benefits the county to this day. Counties are actually statutorily authorized to implement impact fees. Therefore, if a future Board wants to revisit the implementation of impact fees, they are free to do so in accordance with the law. Thanks to the work of MC4FF and a vote of the people of the county, those funds would not be subject to TABOR.

The current Board values citizen input and participation. In fact, we are in the process of reconvening a Citizen's Advisory Committee that will give county residents the opportunity to directly participate in critical aspects of Montrose County Government. We envision this group advising on strategic planning, capital improvements and many other issues of county government including impact fees.

Opinion pieces like the one offered by Mr. Harding are easy to write because no research is required. If you want facts on your county government, please contact us directly. We work for you.

Sincerely,

Keith Caddy

Chairman

(970)252-4530 or kcaddy@montrosecounty.net

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OBT TO TRAC COMMITTEE ABRAMS FALSIFIED ROOM NIGHT NUMBERS; CITY MUST REPAY CTO FUNDS From page 1

Park is up 42 percent for the winter. Visitors in 2016 were up 14 percent, with April showing a trend.

Colorado Flights Alliance (CFA) Economic Impact Study Update – A study will be conducted in August. Speaking from a councilman perspective Anderson said, “I think it will be really valuable. If we [city] give X dollars to the airport what is the economic impact?”

Note of explanation: *The OBT contracted with Abrams Strategic Group (Josh Freed and Dennis Lankes) to produce and then manage software for an Advanced Reservation System which was intended to track OBT's efforts in filling hotel rooms.*

Pietak said, “The winter airline program did not work. I had four reservations and they all cancelled. Josh didn't reach out to me until February and by March the snow was all gone.”

When asked about the reservation and CFA funds Joseph said, “I don't want to put our partners in an uncomfortable position.” Councilman Bowman said, “We [city council] heard it was extremely successful.”

Joseph explained that originally there was \$75,000 seed money; \$50,000 from the city and a \$25,000 grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO). “The program didn't get off the ground until late. We had committed to having 100 room nights and were told that we had 74. It turned out that that number was not substantiated. We ended up with a big goose egg and a lot of promises.”

Last week Joseph went to Denver and met with the state tourism office, “We will have to return \$16,250 to CTO and pay a little bit of a penalty...we won't be able to apply for any grants in the 2017-2018 season. I can't share with you my disappoint-

ment.”

Beyer cut to the chase, “You keep saying partner, who is the partner?” Joseph acknowledged they were working with Abrams and that the information provided to OBT by Abrams was not factual. Joseph said, “We've terminated everything we were doing with them and are looking to go to a different company.” Bowman said, “This is the first I've heard about it.”

Abrams Strategic Group was paid \$17,500 and both tourism organizations will split the loss, leaving the Montrose OBT out \$8,750. However, Joseph feels the software created specifically for OBT will be beneficial in the future and he will meet with Abrams next week to gain possession of the software that is owned by the city.

Ride the Rockies Update:

The Ride the Rockies concert will be held downtown, rather than in Cerise Park. Bowman said, “We are the only stop where there will be a downtown party on concrete rather than grass!”

TRAC Member Elections:

Outgoing committee members Mayor Judy Ann Files and Rick Warner were recognized with a token of appreciation. All other members were re-appointed, leaving one open seat on the committee. Discussion ensued about many community boards and committees struggling to find members.

New Business and General Discussion:

Retail Sales Enhancement Fund (RSE) is a revenue source for OBT. The role and expectations of the RSE fund will be impacted once city council makes a decision on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Main Street Program. Blanchard, a DDA board member, noted the angst that was caused when the city

manager attempted to dissolve the DDA. “The way in which it was done was inappropriate. It put us back a good two months. We're sorry we didn't go ahead and hire an executive director. It was a little bit of a power grab and it deflated the board.”

Bowman said, “The DDA would like to get rid of the Main Street Program. Bill [city manager] wants to do more with downtown, but the DDA wants to keep it.” Blanchard said, “I don't want the politics.”

Discussion took a walk down memory lane as the group went back to the inception of the RSE funds, the intent of the fund, the different organizations managing the funds (MAMA) and today's misconceptions.

How can TRAC address the perception that OBT does not do anything for businesses?

Byers is bothered by the perception and rejected the idea that OBT is responsible to bring in customers, “Businesses are responsible for bringing customers into their own business. There needs to be a change of philosophy and culture.”

Discussion included marketing strategies, social media, newsletters and grants for special events. Joseph suggested hiring a part-time (28 hrs.) event coordinator. However, the committee strongly suggested the part-time position would be set up for failure and that it was a full-time position. Beyer said, “In the city you have a lot of people wearing a lot of different hats. Eventually your programs will fail.”

OBT Fleet Purchase and Budget Approval Process:

See accompanying story: “Backstory and Follow-Up Report on the Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) purchase of a new Subaru.”



OBT WRAP SUBARU BUDGETED UNDER TRANSIT IN 2014, PURCHASED IN 2016



Once wrapped, this 2016 Subaru will become a roving advertisement for the Office of Business and Tourism. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) is a relatively new organization which was established in 2014. The funding stream comes from a combination of the Retail Sales Enhancement Fund (retail tax paid by vendors) and the Tourism Promotion Fund (lodging and restaurant tax).

Aside from Director Rob Joseph, the organization has one-part time and four full-time employees holding positions in marketing, guest services/visitor's center, special events and technical (website, video).

At the inception of OBT, Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph was tapped to become the director. Joseph has 15 years' experience in the private sector, seven years teaching at the college level and five years in the public sector. His education includes three Masters (Public Administration, Arts in the Western Classics and Arts

in the Eastern Classics), and a Bachelor of Arts.

Starting out, Joseph had a learning curve in the area of tourism. However, in the last three years he has earned certification as a Destination Management Executive.

The OBT budget comes under the purview of the Tourism Retail Advisory Committee (12 community members), the city manager and ultimately the Montrose City Council for approval.

In the past few weeks the *Mirror* learned city council was unaware that the OBT purchased a new Subaru and that the vehicle was scheduled to be wrapped (advertising) in the near future. In a follow-up to the story the *Mirror* interviewed Joseph and this report is an accumulation of our research.

Unspent funds in the OBT budget roll over each year and while the expenditure for the vehicle was approved in the 2014

budget, it was not purchased until August 2016. This non-descript line item is listed under Programs, with the subcategory "Transit Project - \$30,000." Once the vehicle was purchased it was put into the city fleet and will be swapped out for replacement in five to seven years.

The \$30,100 used to purchase the vehicle came from the Tourism Promotional Fund and since the city manager has authority to approve all expenditures under \$50,000, this purchase did not go before city council.

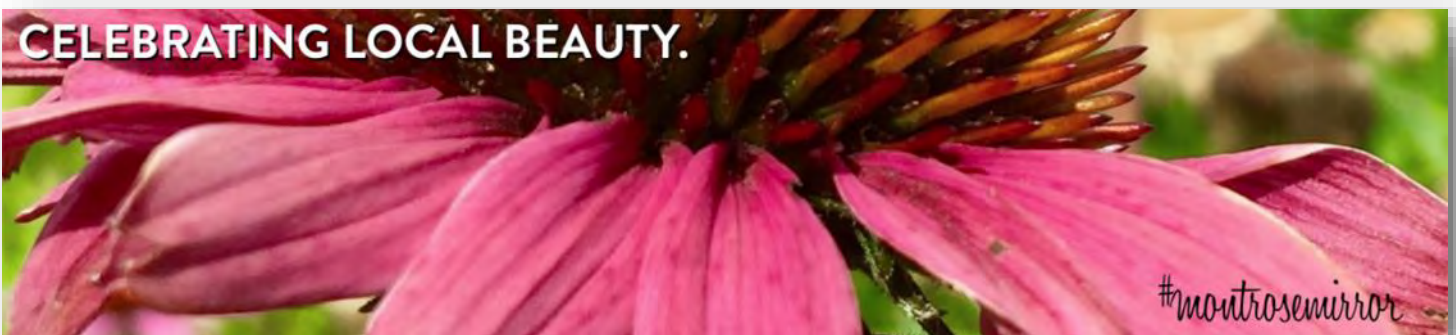
The Subaru was selected because of style, which Joseph thought represented the recreational and tourism image, and purchased locally. The vehicle did not go out for a competitive bid; however, Joseph went to other dealers in town and did a cursory comparison of sticker prices.

Joseph said, "From an advertising standpoint there is nothing that gives us more bang for the buck than a wrapped vehicle." Request for Quotes for the advertising wrap went out to four local sign companies. Two responses were received, but only InDesign is in a position to do the work at this time. Joseph said, "We are working on final design options now." Approximate cost for the wrap is \$2,500.

Recently the OBT purchased a raft for about \$4,000 and a promotional logo that brands Montrose will be applied.

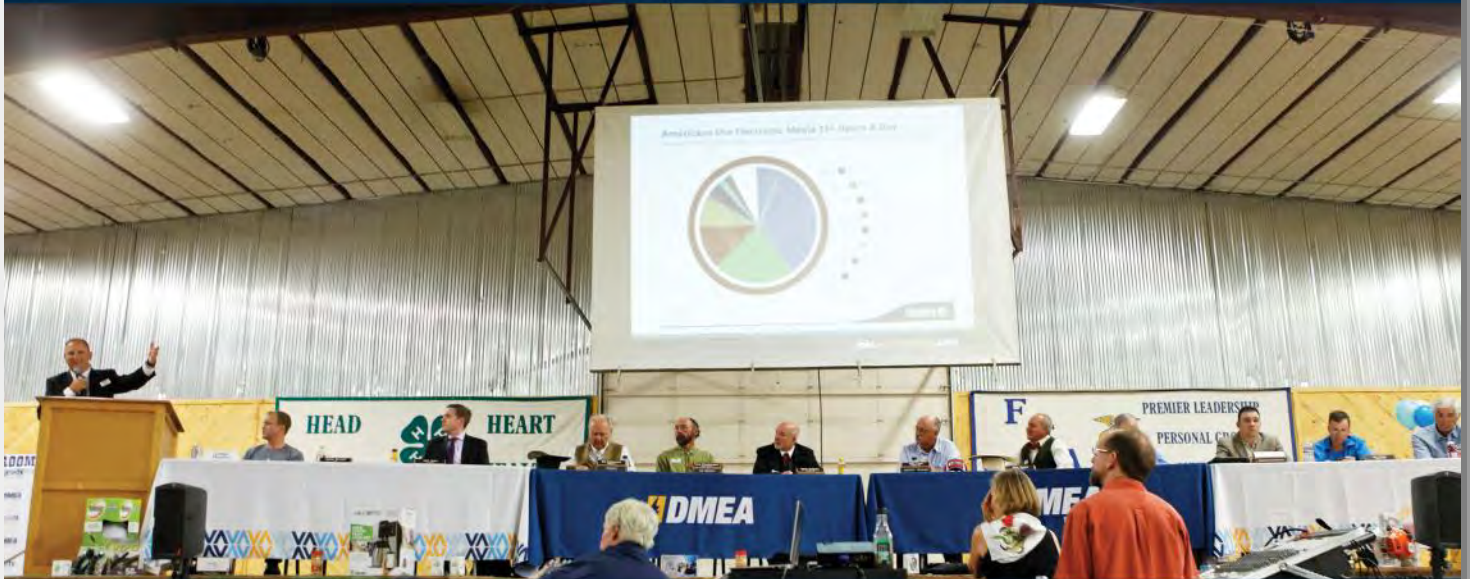
Joseph said, "We are going to take people down the river when they want to invest in our community. The raft will open Fun Fest. City government is no longer just health, welfare and safety. Marketing and sales are relatively new for city government." Other promotional city vehicles include two golf carts and plans are in the works to put advertising on three other city vehicles.

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District #7: The Surface Creek region extending from HWY 92 north to the Grand Mesa

North Region: Delta County

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COUNTY HOLDS THREE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT HEARINGS



Airport contracts specialist Susan Wheeler took time to address specific concerns expressed by gadfly Roger Brown with regard to recent airport ground transportation contracts.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Nancy Medlock spoke during public comment time at the April 17 meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). A 23-year law enforcement professional from Maricopa County, Arizona, Medlock reminded commissioners of the importance of honoring law enforcement Memorial Day (April 18). "I attended 13 line-of-duty deaths," Medlock said. "One of them was my partner, shot and killed four months before retirement. Remember what these people do, and what they put up with."

Wayne Quade also addressed the BOCC. "This is Earth Week," Quade said. "I suggest the County does something that indicates how you are looking to protect our natural resources, especially the river."

Quade also evinced concern over the new location of the County motor pool. "We're getting comments...the river that we have is one of the jewels of the area...

let's give consideration to the fact that this is Earth Week and protect our resources."

Also taking time to speak to commissioners was Dennis Olmsted, commenting on the Montrose Events Center Feasibility Study; "I found the report quite complete," and the Montrose Arena Financial Projection of March 21.

"Net loss from all activities is estimated at \$14 million over the first ten years," he said, noting a \$7 million increase in that estimate since March of 2016. "The major cost difference was new stuff which was not part of the original plan...not included anywhere is more necessary stuff."

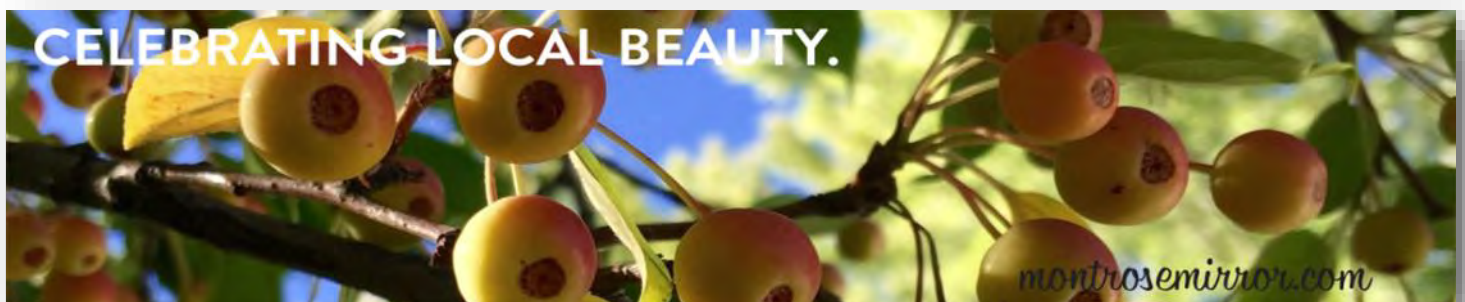
Commissioners also heard a funding request from the Nature Connection; recognized the County's vital statistics team; and Airport contracts specialist Susan Wheeler took time to address specific concerns expressed by gadfly Roger Brown with regard to recent airport

ground transportation contracts. Commissioners approved the Consent Agenda unanimously.

Three Planning & Development hearings were held in the course of the meeting. Planning & Development Item 1, Resolution 19-2017, to vacate a portion of Mailbox Park Road and dedication of a new easement located on property owned by Thomas Flynn, Jr., was approved unanimously, as was Item 3, or Resolution 20-2017, which addresses the "purging" of Manufactured Homes. Item 2 involved a public hearing on dedication of right-of-way for a portion of Highway 90 near the intersection of Poplar Road. Though the road is private, it has been used over the years to access a cemetery and county gravel pit. The property itself is presently under contract for purchase by Matt Miles, who questioned use of the road by the county. "For government to claim access, that dog don't hunt, prescriptive or otherwise," Miles said, and asked for a "straight-up vote" on the easement.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said that he would like to drive out to the road in question. Item 2 was tabled until May 1 for further review. "I won't even mouth off about how you guys are ready to spend huge amounts of money," Miles joked.

In other business, the BOCC voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Stoney Brook Subdivision Lot 1 for \$28,980.00 (plus closing costs), located near the Fairgrounds on the east side of N. Stough Ave from Nancy Turley; appointed Carroll Warner to the Community Corrections board; and approved a request by County Road & Bridge Director Joe Budagher to use Paradox Valley brine provided by the Bureau of Reclamation as an alternative to magnesium chloride for road preservation, dust abatement, and maintenance.



'I JUST THINK MY STORY SHOULD BE TOLD' LOCAL MOM FACES HEARTBREAK, HOMELESSNESS



Mom Jodine Cress in happier times with her kids, right, and remembering son Dustin James Overturf, above.



seven children, one, Dusty "D. J." Overturf, was killed in a drunk driving accident several years ago. Cress learned of his death on Facebook. "I had been calling him that morning to see if he wanted to go fishing."

"Now, I have six children," said Cress, who has been single since 2007. "Since Dusty's death my whole family has lost our minds; we don't talk about it."

And though some of her children are now grown, son Mike Overturf continues to struggle with medical needs due to kidney trouble. "He is in Denver now, at the top of the transplant list," Cress said.

"He had to borrow a car to get there."

Another son has been diagnosed with depression and anxiety at age 19, she said. Cress herself has had surgery for a brain tumor that has left her unable to think as clearly as she used to, she said. "I am going to be homeless for the first time ever in two days," she told the *Mirror* last week. "My brain still swells, and I am forgetting everything. I live on \$735 a month, and I am unable to work because of my brain tumor."

Michael, whose kidney troubles date back to his childhood, actually earned his GED and went to college to become an EMT. However, "He doesn't have enough money for the test," Cress said. "He has had nothing but severe medical issues; he looked at me one day recently and said, 'Mom, I'm not going to be here long.'"

Cress does not know what the future holds, but she believes her story should be told. "I still remember them telling me, there has been an accident and Dusty was killed," she said. "I got to hold his hand in the mortuary; it will stick with me forever. 'I don't like to ask for anything,' she said.

"But with his death, my brain tumor, Mikey's troubles...I lost my home; I lost everything."

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-Jodine Cress of Delta has more than the first two letters of her name in common with the Biblical character Job. Like Job, Cress has also lived a life filled with difficulty, tragedy and loss. Of her

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APRIL 18 COUNCIL MEETING LASTS 19 MINUTES

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Including the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call of city councilmembers, approval of the minutes and approval of the consent agenda the Montrose City Council on April 18, 2017 lasted a mere 19 minutes.

Ordinance 2414 (second reading) – City Attorney Stephen Alcorn.

This ordinance permits swimming in Taviwach Park incidental to use of non-motorized watercraft in accordance with posted signage. Alcorn said, "This is not a swimming hole, but allows classes to take place in a supervised way." Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2415 (second reading) – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This ordinance amends zoning in the Uniwest Minor Subdivision and Edstrom Minor Subdivision. Baker said, "This was recommended by the Planning Commission. There have been no further public comments." Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2416 (second reading) – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

This ordinance is a land transfer of 1.9 acres of city owned property for the Columbine School rebuild. Approximate value of the land is \$150,000. Montrose School District Superintendent Stephen Schiell was available to answer any questions; however, no questions were asked. Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2417 (first reading) – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

Council held a hearing on the transfer of a tract of land on Sunset Mesa. However, rather than publicly giving the details on the transfer and land exchange, Baker simply referred council to the discussion that took place during the April 3rd work session. Work sessions are not video recorded.

Although the information and description was not publicly presented during the hearing, the council packets contained the following:

"As discussed on the April 3rd Work Session, this plat will create a transferable tract adjoining Sunset Mesa Sports Complex. Tract 1 is 17.61 acres. Tract 1 is under-utilized open space. This plat will



(L to R) Montrose School District Superintendent Stephen Schiell and city resident Howie Walser enjoyed a short, 19-minute city council meeting on April 18, 2017. Photo by Gail Marvel.

make the tract available to trade for other lands, which may help implement the Comprehensive Plan and other public purposes. The attached aerial photo and plat are included in this packet."

"WHEREAS, the City of Montrose and the Adamson Family Trust No. 1 desire to exchange real property within the City of Montrose; and WHEREAS, the Adamson Family Trust No. 1 owns a parcel of land along the Uncompahgre River, which is important to further recreational opportunities within the City of Montrose, as well as important for planned public improvements; and WHEREAS, the City of Montrose and the Adamson Family Trust No. 1 have agreed to terms that provide an equitable exchange of property."

Councilman Rex Swanson started to comment on the long time negotiations for this property; however, Baker cut him off and said, "This is part of a larger project. The action tonight just makes the transfer available for trade."

Councilman Roy Anderson said, "This is really a beneficial trade for the citizens."

The second reading of this ordinance will be introduced, read and adopted on May 2, 2017.

Staff Reports:

Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report – Finance Director Shani Wittenberg.

Shortly before the meeting Wittenberg discovered reporting errors on the council's written report and the report on the city website. She corrected the errors during her presentation, "We have a slow start to the year. It's still good, but not as good as it looked on the report!"

In an unusual situation, when comparing February 2016 to February 2017 Retail Sales Tax there was 0%. YTD sales tax collected for the Montrose Recreation District (.3%) totals \$226,042 (.3%). YTD collected Retail Enhancement Fee (vendor's fee) totals \$44,893.

Public Information Officer – City Manager Bill Bell.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo announced an upcoming alcohol server training class scheduled for Tuesday, May 30th, beginning at 5 p.m.

Anyone is welcome and can register on the city website.

Bell announced the Montrose Competitive Baseball League will have their opening day on May 13th.

City Council Comments:

General community updates included kudos to Ross Reels for the 2017 Manufacturing Award. The Montrose Recreation District has 54 soccer teams comprised of K – 6th graders.

Information on Earth Week is available on the city website.

JEN'S IMAGES: EYE ON MONTROSE...



Photos by Jennifer McClanahan



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOUR YEARS OF TOP PERFORMANCE BY VITAL STATISTICS TEAM HONORED



(L to R: Tressa Guynes, Dharma Conant, Pearl Lynch, Crystall Hudnall, Carol Mastrangelo).
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The CO Department of Public Health & Environment conducts an extensive audit each year of all 64 Colorado Clerk & Recorder offices.

For the fourth year in a row, the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder Vital Statistics Office has once again scored 100 percent on these audits, earning the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environ-

ment's Annual 5 Star Performance Award.

Montrose County received this award as the result of having perfect scores and 100% compliance throughout the 2016 year on audits conducted by the state. Out of 64 counties in the state.

Montrose is one of six to receive the award for 2016. However, what makes Montrose stand out even further is that Montrose is one of only **two** counties in the State of Colorado to consistently receive this award four years in a row.

Tressa Guynes, County Clerk & Recorder said, "What really sets our Montrose County team apart is that they have earned this performance award for four years in a row. We share that distinction with only one other office out of the 64 Colorado counties. This team represents you on the state level. I want you to know what an exceptional team you have representing you." Tressa also commended her other offices for their exemplary work during the most recent Primary & General Election, and also for serving customers on a daily basis with vehicle registrations and titling. "I'm very proud of my entire team at the County Clerk's Office."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROSS REELS RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION IN PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Ross Reels, one of the world's premier fly fishing manufacturing businesses, was recognized this week for innovation in product manufacturing presented by CompanyWeek and Manufacturer's Edge. Ross Reels was nominated by the City of Montrose and selected as a finalist for the 2017 Colorado Manufacturing Awards. A finalist reception was held at the Art Hotel in Denver on Thursday evening, with Bart Taylor, founder of CompanyWeek magazine, presiding as master of ceremonies. The award nominees were some of the most respected businesses from across Colorado. MOOTS Cycles from Steamboat Springs, Wagner Custom Skis from Mountain Village, and Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle Co. from Denver were the three other finalists.

The winner for the "Consumer and Lifestyle" category was announced after all other nine categories, making for a highly-anticipated reveal. In his description of

Ross Reels and its work, Taylor noted "[They] changed course.

Understanding what primary jobs meant to the community and what the community might ultimately give back to the brand, Ross Reels now sets the bar for innovation in [its] competitive sector."

The award was highlighted by the attendance of Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph who attended the event on behalf of the City to support Ross Reels.

Joseph noted, "Since moving to Montrose, Mayfly has demonstrated its promise to be a conscientious community-minded partner through its corporate culture which holds dear a sense of excellence in work and sense of pride in community. The awards ceremony further displayed to me that Mayfly commands respect and is



Pictured L to R: Heidi Dragoo, David Dragoo, and Rob Joseph. Courtesy photo.

held in high regard by its industry peers. The Dragoos, their exemplary staff, and worldclass products well complement the City's efforts to position Montrose as a leader in the world of outdoor recreation."

ENROLLMENT OPENS FOR COLORADO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Special to the Mirror

ENGLEWOOD – Colorado Connections Academy schools, a network of full-time, tuition-free statewide online public schools, announce that enrollment for the 2017-18 school year is officially open. Colorado Connections Academy schools offer an individualized approach to learning which combines state-certified teachers, an award winning curriculum, technology tools and socialization opportunities. There are no tuition costs or fees to attend.

In the months ahead, Colorado Connections Academy schools will host free in-person and online information sessions.

A complete list of events and a link to the on-demand session are available at <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/>

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- **SUPPORT:** Sometimes we all need a little help from our friends.
- **CARE:** When living at home is no longer an option, we can help.
- **CONNECTIONS:** When you outlive all of your friends and family, who do you turn to?

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FROM THE SENATE: BUILDING RURAL BROADBAND



Senator Don Coram.
Courtesy photo.

By *Senator Don Coram*
Only three weeks left in the 71st General Assembly, but the pace will certainly change. It is always a lot of and hurry up and wait, but from now on it will be hectic.

I have had some days with four or five bills which I have been the prime sponsor of on the same day. Hopefully, those days are behind me. In the past, I have seen bills that will be run four or five years before it finally pass. The longest I remember was a driving while under the influence of drugs bill.

My own three year battle in protecting farmers and ranchers in the appellate process for a change of use in ground water rights is finally over after three years. This bill was signed by the Governor on April the 18. I am glad that I stayed the course. This bill actually does not affect my district all that much, but to be a voice for agriculture, not matter what part of the State has been my philosophy.

The "Coal Rolling" bill has cleared committee and will be on the floor of the Senate this week. This is the second round of this issue this year. I expect this to be on the Governor's desk soon. I received hundreds of emails and phone calls in support of this bill, and I have only received one email in opposition. The constituent's con-

cern was that if a diesel pickup puts out a small amount of smoke, the owner may be subjected to a citation for this violation. First of all, agricultural and commercial vehicles are exempt from this statute, and the fact of the matter is that they are not the ones causing the problem. Some diesel truck owners will change the computer setting and exhaust systems to inject far more fuel that the engine can burn, causing a thick cloud of smoke from the pickup. This modification is done for intimidation and harassment only. Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement as well as the Colorado Carriers are in support of this bill. Google "Coal Rolling" if you care to see how harmful it can be.

It appears that Senate Bill 117, guaranteeing that hemp production and the irrigation of it, will be passing through the House next week. Hemp has the potential of being the most valuable cash crop available for a farming operation. Although it has been raised in Colorado for only three years, Colorado is leading the nation in hemp production. The State of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Agriculture have been great allies in this exciting new venture.

I plan on introducing a new bill this week to greatly increase the availability and band width of Broadband in Rural Colorado. I propose using funds from what is a fee now paid on your phone service to begin transitioning some of those dollars

from areas where it is no longer needed to expanded service to all of Colorado, not just the metropolitan areas. Hopefully, \$20 million a year for five years will give communities the boost they need to get real service into their area.

The Hospital Provider Fee and Transportation Bonding will be the biggest issues facing the General Assembly in the next two weeks. These issues cut a swath, because what happens here will affect some individuals much more than others in areas such as health, education, and transportation (just to name a few). I am, however, looking forward to this debate. Senator Steve King, a Republican from Mesa County was persistent and after many years finally got to the Governor. Steve along with his office mate, Senator Ellen Roberts from Durango were an awesome team.

I watched how Senator Roberts and Senator King approached the business of legislation. They were always prepared and respectful to those they worked with in Legislature as well as those providing testimony. They knew how much I respected them, but perhaps I never let their constituents know how much I respected them.

Thank you Ellen and Steve for your hard work and being my friend.

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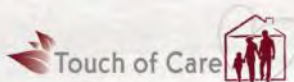
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PLANT TREES TO PREPARE FOR EMERALD ASH BORER, INCREASE DIVERSITY

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Many Coloradans plant trees in the spring because it's the best time of year to get new trees established, and communities around the state will be hosting plantings this week to recognize Colorado's Arbor Day – which this year falls on April 21. With the exotic, tree-killing emerald ash borer (EAB) establishing its presence in the state, there's one more reason for planting in Colorado communities this year. "Now is a great time to consider planting trees for any reason," said Keith Wood, community forestry program manager for the Colorado State Forest Service. "One good reason is to ultimately replace ash trees that may later succumb to emerald ash borer."

EAB, a non-native pest responsible for the death of millions of ash trees and billions of dollars in costs in more than 25

states, was confirmed in the City of Boulder in 2013. Last year, EAB also was detected in Longmont, and further spread is anticipated in Colorado.

Although EAB has not yet been confirmed in Colorado outside Boulder County, one of the reasons the exotic pest is a concern for communities all over Colorado is that an estimated 15 percent or more of all urban and community trees in the state are ash.

Wood says that with EAB expected to kill thousands of Colorado ash trees in the coming years – and because it takes decades for most planted trees to reach maturity – it makes sense for homeowners to not only assess the health of their ash trees this year, but to also plan for the possible loss of those trees down the road. He and other experts with the inter-agency Colorado EAB Response Team also

want to make sure that Coloradans avoid planting any true ash species (genus *Fraxinus*), and that they remember to always plant for tree diversity on their properties and in their neighborhoods.

"No one species should comprise more than 10 percent of the planted trees growing in any urban or community setting," said Wood. "Whenever too many of the same type of tree are planted together, we are setting ourselves up for potential problems with insects and diseases."

The Colorado Tree Coalition offers online descriptions of trees suitable to plant throughout Colorado, and also a list of recommended trees to plant along the Front Range. For more information, go to www.coloradotrees.org.

More EAB information for homeowners is available at www.csfs.colostate.edu/emerald-ash-borer.

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TIA'S TREASURES: BUY, SELL, SHOP, OR GET DIRECTIONS!

Serving Locals, Visitors @ Main Street & the Highway

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-Looking for interesting and affordable furniture, jewelry, antiques, collectibles and more? Or perhaps you have such items that you want to sell? Then check out Tia's Treasures on Main Street in Montrose.

Owners Bill and Tia Masterson opened the store as their business model evolved over time. "We had an online store and as people's needs in the community grew, as far as needing a place to sell and get money for their goods, so our business grew and expanded," Tia explained. "We still operate our online store but Tia's Treasures...[was] born out of our customers' needs."

Also inside Tia's Treasures is Montrose Gold & Silver which offers buying and selling services for all gold and silver, jewelry, coins, and bullion. They pay on average 45 percent higher than all other buyers.

"I hope everyone knows that we offer the most comprehensive buying service in Western Colorado," Bill said. "Some people think we only buy gold and silver, which we do, but we purchase dressers, book cases, electronics, swords, knives, ammo, interesting items, antiques, vin-



Tia's Treasures is located at 1246 Main Street in Montrose and is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment. Courtesy photo.

tage items, art-glass, fine art, signed prints, comics, antique toys, antique tools, name brand tools, records, DVD's, video

games, bicycles, men's items, women's items, hunting items, tools, belt buckles, turquoise, rocks, minerals, jewelry,

Continued next page

TIA'S TREASURES: BUY, SELL, SHOP, OR GET DIRECTIONS!

From previous page

stamps, coins, and more!"

Comments from their customers show how it's all a balancing act when running their business. "Some of the comments we hear are 'I didn't know you sold furniture, I thought you were a pawn shop' or, 'I didn't know you had all this great stuff in here, I thought you only bought and sold gold,'" Tia explained. "We get all kinds of funny comments. I guess because our business is so multi-faceted that people are unsure what we do. I guess we do it all!"

With their ever-evolving inventory, the store is always having some sort of special deals. In addition, their everyday prices are on average 64 percent less than other stores like theirs, even averaging 50 percent less than charity stores when comparing similar items.

Being able to own their own store in Montrose helps the Masterson's build their connection with their family and their community. "We enjoy working as a couple together, working as a family and

having time with our family with our flexible hours," Bill said. "We like always having different items, meeting new people, and even being a tour guide/map service for vacationers."

"We get lots of direction seekers since we are on the corner of the highway and Main St."

Looking ahead, the Masterson's are focused on simply keeping their customers happy.

"We plan to continue to supply the needs of our customers and maybe to add on to the building and expand one day," Tia said.

"We absolutely love our customers," Bill added. "We have a customer base that reaches from Moab and Grand Junction to Durango. Our customers are the best!"



With an ever-evolving inventory, Tia's Treasures is always offering some sort of special deal. For more information, call 901-8138. Courtesy photo.

Tia's Treasures is located at 1246 E. Main St in Montrose and is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment. For more information, call 901-8138.



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APRIL 21 & 22- Weehawken Dance's CINDERELLA Ballet, Directed by Natasha Pyeatte in Montrose

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Cinderella vividly delights audiences with the beauty
and majesty of classical ballet, wrapped in the promise
of "happily ever after," and generously sprinkled with a
wonderful dose of humor. Tickets online at
www.weehawkenarts.org and also at Tiffany Etc and
the Weehawken office. Tickets: \$16 adult. \$12 Senior. \$8 child.

starting APRIL 24 or 26 and running for 5 weeks - RAMS

(Ridgway Area Mountain Bike School Program)

BEGINS! Grades K-5 on Mon-
days from 3:45 - 5:15 pm. \$100.
Grades 6-8 on Weds from 4 until 6 pm. \$120.
(Scholarships may also be available - call for details)



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based on student interest and need. Show up on first day
to discuss with the teacher. \$200 for the 15 days of class
(some need-based scholarships are available).

starting APRIL 26 - LIVING WITH
UNCERTAINTY a Poetry Discussion
Series with Rosemerry Wahtola
Trommer A 4-week series that runs on
Wednesdays from 12-2 pm in Ridgway.
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starting April 27 - JUMP START SPANISH

with Christi Berry Ridgway.
6:00-8:00 pm. Running weekly
on Thurs until May 18. Ages
13 through Adult. \$130.



APRIL 29 - AN INVITATION TO PLAY WITH ENERGY

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9-Noon. An invitation to experi-
ence an energetic Body Process
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**APRIL 30 - THE BUSINESS OF
ART: GROWING INTO AN
ARTISTS LIFE** with Patricia Morrison
of Inner Fire, Outer Light in Ridgway.
Noon-5. Helping artists find work/life
balance that leads to more successful
use of time and creativity. \$50

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & HERITAGE

HISTORIC HANGING FLUME CONTINUES TO ASTONISH AND AMAZE

Special to Art & Sol
WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY — There is something about the tattered remnants of a 126-year-old mining marvel that keeps drawing the curious back to this remote area along Colorado 141 located in Colorado Canyon Country, mostly on public lands operated by the Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field office. Those who keep returning to measure, survey, photograph and examine the mysterious structure known as the Hanging Flume call it “flume fever.”

The afflicted wake in the middle of the night to puzzle over how enterprising but misguided gold seekers pinned a 10-mile-long wooden water chute to a sheer cliff to create a hydraulic gold separator.

Previous preservation efforts on the Flume identified the need for additional investigative work to better understand the diverse construction, innovative engineering, and significance of the Flume to mining history in Colorado.

The red sandstone cliffs of the Dolores and the San Miguel Rivers are the site of one of the longest and most intriguing heritage sites in Colorado: running parallel to the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway, this storied and iconic western slope structure has awed international travelers and regional passersby for decades. Sparking such questions as, “What was it for?” “How long did it take to build?” “Who built it?” “And how?” Years of research by local residents, BLM archaeologists, and national specialists have provided many conclusive answers however answers to the question of the flume’s construction have remained speculative at best, until now. *From April 26 –May 5th Anthony & Associates, Vertical Access and Alpine Ar-*

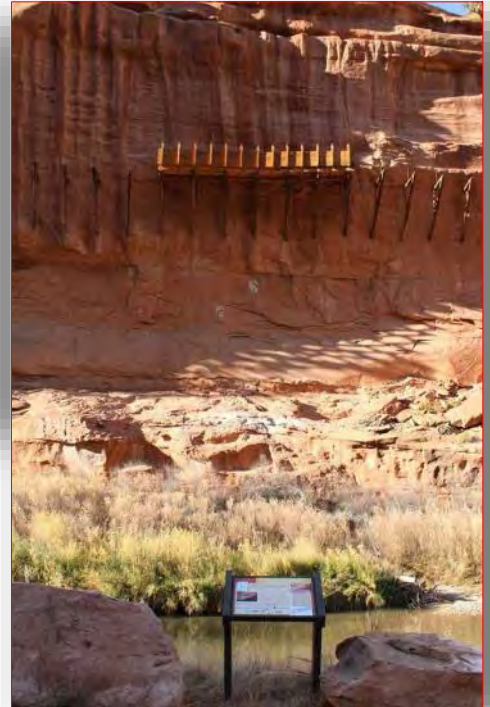


From April 26 –May 5th Anthony & Associates, Vertical Access and Alpine Archaeological Consultants will be completing Phase Three of an Archaeological Survey of the Historic Hanging Flume, funded by History Colorado and the Colorado Div. of Reclamation, Mining & Safety . Courtesy photos Interpretive Association of W. Colorado

chaological Consultants will be completing Phase Three of an Archaeological Survey funded by History Colorado and the Colorado Div. of Reclamation, Mining & Safety The team of experts will conduct investigation of construction methodology at approximate six drop locations.

Project Manager Ron Anthony, of Anthony & Associates, a wood scientist from Fort Collins, CO, believes the technical questions about the flume's construction methods will be best answered with careful research and investigation. “Construction of the Hanging Flume in the 1880s was accomplished in a time and place that we can barely imagine,” Anthony says, “It would be selfish and irresponsible to allow these construction, engineering and human achievements to vanish without doing our best to make them available for future generations.”

The flume carried 80-million gallons of water in a 24-hour period to the hydraulic mining operations of the Montrose Placer Mining Company. Taking 3 years and 25 local men to complete, the water was used to provide hydraulic power to separate gold from alluvial rock deposits which originated in the San Juan Mountains be-



fore being deposited along the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. “We know what they built; we just don’t know how they built it and to our knowledge, the construction technology was not documented. Over 100 years have past since its construction and the flume is showing its age.”

In 2006 the Hanging Flume made the World Monument Watch list of 100 Most Endangered Sites. Since that time, the BLM has developed partnerships with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Colorado Preservation, Inc., the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway Association, the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado, History Colorado and Colorado Div. of Reclamation, Mining & Safety to help determine how best this unique western slope artifact can be preserved for public education and historic interpretation for future generations. For more information about the Historic Hanging Flume project please contact Chris Miller, Executive Director, Interpretive Association of Western Colorado at [970-874-6695](tel:970-874-6695) or visit www.hangingflume.org.

'LIFE GIVES YOU CHOICES; WE GIVE YOU RESOURCES'

By Liesl Greathouse
MONTROSE—"Life Gives You Choices, We Give You Resources" is the mission of the Life Choices Family Resource Center here in Montrose. They have been offering a variety of services to help empower people with needed information to navigate life events for 33 years now.

"We are here to provide life affirming options to those seeking help by offering practical assistance, education, including parenting classes, prenatal classes, pregnancy tests and ultrasound," explained Executive Director Gigi Bechthold. "All of our services are free. There are no criteria to use our services; they are available to anyone who has need. We have so many helpful resources that are a great help to new moms, dads and grandparents and also young ladies from middle school and up. Our Earn While You Learn classes are where you can earn baby bucks and use those bucks to spend and get most things you would need for a new baby. Also we have support classes for different things. Come by for a brochure or just to see our Center."

Currently they are in the middle of their second biggest fundraiser of the year for them, their Baby Bottle Fundraiser. During this Fundraiser, which will currently run through Mother's Day this year, churches and individuals receive empty baby bottles from us and they distribute them to their members. Each member then fills the bottle with change or a check and returns it back to Life Choices FRC. The simple process makes it a popular fundraiser with families and individuals.

"The baby bottle fundraiser has been going on for many years," Bechthold explained. "I'm not certain of the year it began. This is a fundraiser that many centers [such as ours] use. Since we serve young parents it fits. The fundraiser has remained pretty much the same and has-



The Baby Bottle Fundraiser, above, is ongoing. At right, Life Choices Center staff.

n't changed too much over the years. It works and we appreciate the support from the Montrose community."

Since all the services Life Choices FRC provides are free, the money raised from this fundraiser helps them tremendously. "Besides having free services the money also helps our general operating expenses and also allows us to be able to provide free ultrasounds and pregnancy tests," Bechthold said. "It also includes our curriculum for our pre-natal and parenting classes, our after school programs and relationship classes, our support classes and Bible Studies, our Baby Boutique including diapers and wipes, and many other things."

People enjoy the Fundraiser and are always supportive. "This fundraiser is great and the kindness and support we receive is amazing and such an encouragement to all of us," Bechthold said. "We have so many wonderful services for the Montrose County community and it helps us continue to help our neighbors. We would love to help many more parents."

Those interested in participating in the Baby Bottle Fundraiser are welcome to stop in, get a tour of the Center and pick up a baby bottle or two at the time. Volunteers are also always welcome, and if anyone is interested they are welcome to call Life Choices FRC to set up an appointment for an interview.

Additional fundraising opportunities include 'Taco Tuesday' at Crossroads Victory



Church on April 25, 6-7 p.m. This is fun event is very casual and offers great food. It is free but donations are appreciated. Their annual 'Night of Life' banquet will be on Sept. 30. Tickets to the event sell out quickly, so beginning in August they recommend calling them to reserve your tickets.

With all the services Life Choices FRC does, Bechthold loves being able to see how they can help people at various stages in life. "I love watching lives be transformed by getting people the practical help they desperately need, as well as emotional and spiritual support," she said. "It's a blessing to be a positive influence in someone's day."

As a pro-life organization, one of the goals for Life Choices FRC is to offer life-affirming options to those that may be at a crossroads or crisis regarding their pregnancy. "We aim to offer help in a non-judgmental, practical way that allows the woman to make an informed decision regarding her pregnancy," Bechthold explained.

"Our hope is that each client that comes through our door feels valued, understood, and that they are important."

The Life Choices Family Resource Center is located 200 S 4th St in Montrose.

They are open Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

For more information, call 249-4302.



Montrose



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

BUCKLE UP FOR APRIL'S SHERB TALK WITH FEATURED SPEAKER DANNY THOMPSON

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Have you ever wondered what would it feel like to experience 406.7 miles per hour in a piston driven car? What kind of car is capable of reaching 406 miles per hour? And, better yet, who is the person behind the wheel of a car traveling at 406.7 miles per hour? Danny Thompson, the featured speaker of April's Sherb Talk, *Resurrecting the World's Fastest Hot Rod*, is one of the only individuals in the world who can answer all of these questions... and more. Throughout the evening, Danny Thompson will share stories from his racing career, taking audience members

on a wild ride into the world of land speed racing. Don't miss this special Sherb Talk on the evening of April 27, doors at 7 pm with the talk starting at 7:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

More about Danny Thompson: Step by step, Danny Thompson has maintained and expanded his family's celebrated history in motor sports. He began his career in Motocross, winning his first eighteen consecutive events, before switching to cars and progressing through the Formula Atlantic Series, Supervees, and CRA Sprint Cars. He won the opening night of the Mickey Thompson Off-Road Championship

Grand Prix, and continued performing as a Chevrolet factory driver for the next seven seasons. After a decade of retirement Danny came to Bonneville for the first time in 1999 and subsequently became a national record holder in multiple classes. He gained notoriety in 2007 for building and piloting the world's fastest Ford Mustang in partnership with Hajek Racing. In 2016, Danny broke the national record in his class in the restored and updated Challenger 2, with a speed of 406.769. For more information on Danny Thompson you can visit his website at <http://thompsonlsr.com/>.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET IN THE CENTENNIAL ROOM ON MAY 1

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Monday May 1, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room behind Montrose City Hall, off plaza-Citizens' Climate Lobby networks with a national ,nonprofit, nonpartisan to educate and influence legislators to support a sustainable environment.

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

TAKE A CHANCE ON POETRY



Above, Danny Rosen reading at the Naturita Library (photo by Art Goodtimes. At right, Sunset over Grand Gulch (photo by Carl Marcus).



TRAVELING GOURDS TOUR ... If storytelling is something you enjoy, you ought to check out the performance poetry opportunities in Telluride, Colona, Paonia and Fruita this coming week. Danny Rosen of Lithic Press in the Grand Valley is the featured poet for the Telluride Institute's monthly Western Slope series. He's a fine reader, with deep interests in astronomy, geology and the natural world.

Tuesday the 25th he'll be sharing work from his new book, *Primate Poems*, at the Telluride Arts Gallery and offices across from the Wilkinson Library at 6 p.m. Wednesday he'll be at La Zona Colona Coffeehouse at 5 p.m. Thursday he appears at Wisheart Springs Inn near Paonia at 7 p.m. And Friday he winds up the tour at his own Lithic Bookstore & Gallery in Fruita, also at 7 p.m. All performances are free and open to listeners of all ages. We'll also be honoring the dean of Western Slope poets, Jack Mueller of Log Hill Village near Ridgway, who is unfortunately too sick right now to go on tour. Bring a poem of your own or of a poet you admire to share in the gourd circle after the reading. The theme for National Poetry Month is "lost."

EVIL ... Now there's a concept. Interesting that "evil" spelled backwards is "live." And, in a funny way, that's not a bad a definition. Living life to the fullest is one idea of the good. And evil seems to be

somehow anti-life.

Then, as a poet, I can't help considering the sound itself. Eve + ill, which conjures up the Bible's first woman and all the ill Eve brought us with that bite of nature's bounty, if that's a story you believe in. Some folks believe in an ethics gauge that starts at good and ends at evil, that's another definition. The opposite of the good. Something not-kind, not-respectful, not-nice. Evil is on negative side of that ethics spectrum, and seems to apply particularly when the spectrum's negative limits have been exceeded.

I remember hearing the psychiatrist/sociologist Erik Erikson speak not of good and evil as polar opposites. He preferred evaluating all actions and behaviors as to their strengths and weaknesses. In that context, things weren't so much evil, as overbalanced with weaknesses. Or heavy with strengths.

Personally, I've always felt that evil, for me as an existential phenomenologist, was someone who intended to do me harm. That's clearly evil in my book. But years ago, when I asked my teacher, Dolores LaChapelle, about evil, she just smiled. "There is no evil," she said, "except among humans. If you perceive something as evil, go out into the natural world, and the idea of evil will drop

away."

DISTRACTED DRIVING ... I'm guilty. But this is the Inner Basin West, for goodness sakes. So sparsely populated the U.S. Census calls it "frontier," not just "rural." It's marked by long stretches of open road, often with nary another car in sight.

If you do a lot of driving, it can turn into a kind of game – a race with the clock, hide & seek from the law, how little one has to use one's brakes going downhill. These days for me it's pretending I'm a bot. A self-driving car. I set the cruise control to just under the speed limit and lean back to steer. Listening to music. Alert to the cellphone's siren call to tell me I'm wanted.

Sometimes I eat a snack. Sip a lemonade. Or even scribble notes. I know. I'm aware it's dangerous dividing one's attention as a driver. Misdriven vehicles have lethal potential. So I'm super careful. But I'm a poet. The Muse often whispers in my ear and I have this overwhelming urge to write down a phrase. A word. Some quick thought.

Then I grip a mini-clipboard to the wheel, and a pencil in my free hand. Over the years I've perfected the art of intermittent scratchings. Often I scribble words syllable by syllable. Glancing at the empty road. At

Continued next page

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

my pad. At the road. At my pad. Sometimes a piece emerges, though mostly I wait until I arrive somewhere to piece things together.

And if the writing urge is too strong, I pull over. Write unencumbered by divided attention. I don't recommend this to non-writers. And it's only when I'm relaxed in cruise control mode, keeping under the speed limit.

But on long stretches of empty road dur-

ing the daylight hours, one begins to feel like a bot, steering between the endless lines. And when the Muse visits, I pay attention to her and the road.

WEEKLY QUOTA ... "Brain development, like other complex processes in nature, proceeds by a one-two punch of overproduction, followed by selective elimination. Like Michelangelo's David emerging from a block of marble, many cognitive advanc-

es arise during a sculpting process in which unused or maladaptive brain cell connections are pruned away. Frequently used connections, meanwhile, are strengthened. Although pruning and strengthening occur throughout our lives, during adolescence the balance shifts to elimination, as the brain tailors itself to the demands of the environment."

—Jay N. Giedd, in "The Amazing Teen Brain," *Scientific American* (June 2015).

THE TALKING GOURD

Gratitude to the State Patrol

Walking up on the unknown
Prepared for anything

Protecting us from ourselves
Facing fawning hostility

Tall-tale ploys and
Sometimes deadly force

Playing umpire to drivers
Intent on stealing bases

Giving warnings when needed
Or passing out penalties

Making few friends but
Earning our deepest thanks

**The Mirror:
many views,
one newspaper.**





NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY...

Exploring Classical Music With Rob Brethouwer

SOME SHOWSTOPPERS OF THE OPERA WORLD

The true purpose of these weekly articles is to give readers an overview of the classical music world and to hopefully inspire some remote glimmer of interest in looking at things further. Pursuing things at a deep and serious level will not achieve this goal. Every so often it is important to provide background on the “hits” in the world of classical music, opera, and chamber music. Once again this is what will be done in this week’s offering of sweet, sweet knowledge.

Opera aficionados are a passionate group of people and during a performance will let those on stage know that what they are doing is appreciated, or more rarely, what they are doing is not to the liking of the audience. We will focus on the positive end of this spectrum and discuss what are known as “showstoppers” in the opera world.

These are arias that are so beloved and well done by the performer that the performance will literally come to a full stop while the audience applauds, whistles, and yells bravo, brava, bravi, or bravissimo!

Our first showstopper is *Nessun Dorma* (None Shall Sleep) from Puccini’s opera *Turandot*. This aria is often called the most well known aria for tenor in all of opera. It appears in the final act and is sung by Calaf, the unknown prince who falls in love with the beautiful Princess Turandot. From the very beginning of the recording we hear the familiar opening notes from the orchestra. The aria begins with its title and is at first a rolling and calm offering. At 0:48 the intensity and volume builds and it is very clear that Calaf has something important to say. The tenor voice and the orchestra play off of one another perfectly and each offers an accompaniment to the other. At 1:45 we hear a brief statement from a background chorus before the tenor once again comes roaring back at a high volume. This short aria comes to an end with cries of *Vincero!*

(I will win! I will win!) and comes to a dramatic conclusion with the tenor holding a glorious high note before concluding and allowing the orchestra to bring the aria to an end.

The opera *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi offers several well-known showstoppers. We will take a step away from the usual suspects and discuss a short tenor opera that appears in Act 2 titled *Parmi veder le lagrime* that is sung by the lecherous Duke. After discovering that someone has abducted Gilda after he seduced her, the Duke sings a short lament speaking of his complete unhappiness that someone would have the nerve of taking his “beloved” away from him. The aria is short and comes in at a brief 2:30. It is beautiful and flowing but the reader must remember that the Duke is complaining that someone took the young girl that he seduced in a not so pure manner. He is whining that someone committed an act worse than his own and simply does not see the problem with his made up personal problems.

In Verdi’s *La Traviata* we have the stereotypical beautiful leading lady who is slowly being consumed by consumption or what is better known as tuberculosis. As in more than a few operas, the weak and frail soprano is somehow able to say what she has to say in dramatic and virtuosic ways that no person with tuberculosis would ever to pull off.

We have our first taste of this in Act I when our dying leading soprano uncorks one of the greatest coloratura soprano arias in all of opera literature. *Ah fors’ e lui... Sempre libera*.

Using about 12,359 notes, Violetta wonders if she should be with Alfredo and if his love is true and honest even after his many flings. She then decides that she will live only for freedom and pleasure. The audience knows that they are in for some fireworks at the 2:00 mark when the so-



Opera Made Easy. Courtesy image.

prano comes completely unglued and is singing notes high into the stratosphere showing almost inhuman vocal ability. The tenor offers a few lame comments in the background and the soprano responds in dramatic fashion and buries the tenor under an onslaught of notes. Everybody except the featured soprano needs to take a break and hydrate after the 3:59 performance.

Explaining and breaking down further arias would defeat the purpose of exploration. The idea is to plant the seed and let the reader grow from that point forward. The recording where the above were taken is listed below.

The CD offers an additional 16 tracks that are all showstoppers in their own way. This CD is readily available and inexpensive.

There is an entire series of the “Opera Made Easy” CD’s and they are all worth your time and money. Recording: Pavarotti’s Opera Made Easy. My Favorite Showstoppers. London Records 443 821-2.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE WELCOMES CHARLIE HUNTER MAY 4

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The Wright Opera House is proud to present an intimate performance by world renowned musician and improvisational master Charlie Hunter and his trio on May 4th at 7 pm.

Charlie has a unique jazz funk style playing on a custom seven string guitar where he plays bass lines, chords, and solos all at the same time.

Charlie Hunter began his musical journey in the Bay Area jazz scene in the early 90's and has continued to reinvent his sound and style through the years.

He has recorded nineteen albums as a leader including his latest effort *Everybody Has A Plan Until They Get Punched in the Mouth* released in 2016 on the GroundUp label.

Charlie has also been a member of some of the country's leading avant garde jazz community including being a founding member of the groundbreaking *Garage A Trois*.

Charlie has been said to play with "freakish virtuosity" and "100% live



Courtesy photo of Charlie Hunter by Greg Aiello.

groove and vibe, no added artificial ingredients, and no mixing" and his live performances can range from upbeat standards to dark and sultry slow melodies.

Whatever the song Charlie brings a fresh

new approach and one of a kind interpretation to everything he plays. Tickets the day of the show are \$25.

Doors and bar open at 7 pm with the show starting at 7:30 pm.

ENJOY AN INTIMATE EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC WITH JEFFERY FOUCAULT ON MAY 6

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Known as a songwriter's songwriter, the Sherbino welcomes Jeffrey Foucault on the evening of Saturday, May 6. A songwriter and artist with multiple Ride Festival performances (Telluride), Jeffrey Foucault describes himself in his own words; "I take the small roads when I can. I hit the small rooms with a couple old guitars and a five-watt Skylark amp. Sometimes with a band, and then I stand up. Mostly it's just me and my friend Billy Conway, the best drummer I ever heard. Then we both sit down and I stomp my foot. I own a Smith Corona typewriter and a Western Bell rotary phone, and I use both. I wore a pearl snap cowboy shirt in my Kindergarten school picture. Irony isn't my thing. I write songs about love, memory, God, desire, wilderness and loss." For more information, and to buy tickets for the show in advance, please visit www.sherbino.org. Doors for the show open at 7:30pm with music starting at 8:00pm. \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

THE TWO TRACKS TO PERFORM AT THE KAFM RADIO ROOM

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The Two Tracks come to the KAFM Radio Room on Sunday, May 7. Americana covers a broad spectrum of music these days, and it's easy to get lost in trying to define its particular parameters. However, if one was to determine an overreaching definition, then it's best to describe it as music that reverberates with heart-felt emotion, songs that come from the soul and speak to the listener with honesty, conviction and integrity.

If that's the case -- and indeed, it should be -- then **The Two Tracks**, a band based out of Sheridan Wyoming clearly fits the bill. Their forthcoming album, **Postcard Town** further affirms the promise and determination shown on their eponymous debut, which *No Depression* described as "creating an instant connection...in truth there's not a single offering here that doesn't engage the listener practically from the get go," and by *The Alternate*

Root as "rural warmth...infusing their tunes with a feel for the open spaces of The West."

Postcard Town continues this trajectory and confirms, both in song writing and delivery that this enticing new ensemble has something special to offer.

Produced by the legendary Will Kimbrough, with eleven new tracks performed by the band -- Julie Szwec (guitar/vocals), David Huebner (cello, electric guitar, and vocals), Fred Serna (drums/percussion), and Russell Smith (upright bass)-- It also features contributions from special guest Bruce Bouton, Garth Brooks' long time pedal steel guitar player.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext 223 or online at



www.kafmradio.org.

The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

APRIL ONGOING-

NOW - JUNE 26, ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN

Artists' Alpine Holiday 57th Annual Juried Art Exhibit

Categories: Oil/Acrylic, Watercolor, Drawing & Printmaking, Pastel, Mixed Media, Sculpture, Photography and a Student Division. All entries will be eligible for Best in Show (\$500) and each category will have awards for first (\$400), second (\$200) and third (\$100) place. Show will be held at Ouray Community Center, July 27 - Aug. 5, 2017. Go to ourayarts.org for more information and to register!

OURAY MUSEUM-The Ouray County Historical Society Museum is now Open for Spring Season. April 13 - May 14 - Thursday through Saturday 10 am - 4:30 PM. Further inquiries please contact 970-325-4576 , Email: ochs@ouraynet.com or visit our website: ouraycountymuseum.org.

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.

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 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.

MONTHLY-

April 24-Colorado Children's Chorale – Monday, April 24, 7 p.m., Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray. Sponsored by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild. Tickets \$15 adults, available online at www.ocpag.org or at the door. Free admission for students ages 18 and under!

April 26-The Stone House Restaurant will be hosting a Wine Dinner benefiting the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center on Wednesday, April 26 at 6 pm. The cost is \$65 per person (tax and gratuity not included).

Reservations are required. For more information or for a reservation please contact Jack at 240-8899 or 209-9100.

April 26-A Taste of Colorado - Western Slope Edition, Wednesday, April 26, 5:30pm at The Bridges
\$25 online \$30 at the door.

April 28-29-Montrose County Historical Museum Annual Yard Sale! Collect your donations and helping hands for this fundraiser.

May 1 Opening day, Montrose County Historical Museum.

May 1- @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room behind Montrose City Hall, off plaza-Citizens' Climate Lobby networks with a national ,nonprofit, nonpartisan to educate and influence legislators to support a sustainable environment.

May 1— Montrose Giving Club at the Bridges of Montrose, 5:30 p.m. Quarterly Giving Club meetings for 2017 are scheduled for Feb. 6, May 1, Aug. 7, and Nov. 6, and are open and inclusive to all. For more information contact Hansen @ sue@suehansenspeaks.com or Benziger @ phebenator@hotmail.com.

May 6- HRMS Presents "Scott Ibex & Jacob Raab: Music for the Soul", Live at the Gallery, 7:30-10:30 p.m., For tickets and more information go to www.healthyrhythm.net.

May 9-Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for Sharing Ministries Food Bank. Tuesday, May 9th from 10 am to 2 pm. The ribbon cutting will start between Noon and 12:15 pm.

May 20--The 42nd Annual Black Canyon Ascent sponsored by the San Juan Mountain Runners takes place on Saturday, May 20. The race starts at the junction of US Hwy 50 and CO Hwy 347 just east of Montrose, walkers @ 7:30 a.m. and runners @ 8 a.m. Go to <http://www.sjmr.club/> for a link to runningguru to register and for more info. Race day registration is also available 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the start.

May 20-Montrose Wine & Food Festival, 1pm-4pm at The Bridges. General Admission \$50.

June 10-Ties that Bind will be shown at Gallery De La Luz, 128 Palmer St., during the month June, with an artists reception and opening on Saturday, June 10, 4-8 p.m. For information: AnnMBarker@hotmail.com.

June 14-17-The 2017 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days Event will be in Montrose, CO June 14-16, 2017 - learn more at www.sanjuanrpd.org . For Scholarships Available: Apply by April 7th! For Early Registration at \$125 rate: April 3 - 28th. For Regular Registration at \$150 rate: April 29 - May 31st. **July 21-23**-The 22nd annual Black Canyon Quilt Show, Kaleidoscope of Stars, will take place at the Montrose Pavilion July 21-23, 2017. Entry forms, challenge information, class schedules, and questions can be answered at the web site: www.BlackCanyonQuiltShow.com.

June 25-Free Concert:Montrose Community Band Free Patriotic Concert: Strike Up the Band. Come and enjoy the music of America. Sunday, June 25th, 7 p.m., Montrose Pavilion. www.montroseband.com.

Aug. 7— Montrose Giving Club at the Bridges of Montrose, 5:30 p.m. Quarterly Giving Club meetings for 2017 are scheduled for Feb. 6, May 1, Aug. 7, and Nov. 6, and are open and inclusive to all. For more information contact Hansen @ sue@suehansenspeaks.com or Benziger @ phebenator@hotmail.com.

Nov. 6— Montrose Giving Club at the Bridges of Montrose, 5:30 p.m. Quarterly Giving Club meetings for 2017 are scheduled for Feb. 6, May 1, Aug. 7, and Nov. 6, and are open and inclusive to all. For more information contact Hansen @ sue@suehansenspeaks.com or Benziger @ phebenator@hotmail.com.

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5th Wednesday: Community Options Inc.

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Above, Gail Marvel snapped this photo of the gift shop area in the newly-remodeled Ute Indian Museum; at right, Centennial Middle School teacher Meghan Waschbusch ran in the Boston Marathon earlier this month. Photo by Jon Waschbusch.



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Michele Gad is a **Certified DelGiacco 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!