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Issue No. 254, Jan. 8 2018

WEATHER OR NOT? WINTER SEASON OFF TO A DRY START



By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—According to the most recent Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) SnoTel Update, the water-year-to-date precipitation level in the Gunnison River Basin is currently just 36 percent of an average year. In the San Miguel, Dolores and San Juan River basins, the news is even more stark—the water-year-to-date precipitation level is just 20 percent of average.

In the Grand Valley, Powderhorn Mountain Resort announced last week in a news release that it would temporarily reduce its operating days because of the ongoing drought conditions, adding, “when snow does arrive, Powderhorn plans to return to a regular seven-day-a-week schedule.”

“It’s a little early to be overly concerned,” Colorado Division of Water Resources Division Four Engineer Bob Hurford said last week, noting that the biggest seasonal snowfalls

[Continued pg 5](#)

Even with recent precipitation, snowpack levels are below average, causing concern for ski resorts and water officials in the West Central Region.

CITY TO APPLY FOR \$500k DOLA GRANT FOR WOODGATE TRAILS SR. APTS, WELCOMES NEW PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—The normal schedule for a City Council Work Session is the day prior to the Regular City Council meeting. However, because of the New Year holiday, this work session was moved to 3 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2018. The regular City Council meeting then followed at 6 p.m.

Introduction of New City Employee
New Public Works Manager Jim Scheid was introduced to the council. Scheid, who grew up in Montrose and went to school in Fort Collins, has been employed in the private sector. Locally he has worked in construction, specifically with steel.

[Continued pg 17](#)



New Public Works Manager Jim Scheid spent part of his first day on the job being introduced to city council. (L to R) City Manager Bill Bell, Public Works Manager Jim Scheid and City Engineer Scott Murphy. Photo by Gail Marvel.

in this issue

Gail Marvel's Answering the Call Series!

Rocky Mt. Cravings With Carole McKelvey!

Art Goodtimes' Up Bear Creek!

Rob Brethouwer on Classical Music!

Local news briefs, Local photos!

ANSWERING THE CALL: MONTROSE PATROL OFFICER ANDREW SPEAR

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-One of 26 patrol officers, Officer Andrew Spear has been a member of the Montrose Police Department (MPD) for four years.

Spear grew up in Akron, Colorado, a small community in the northeast part of the state, and attended Colorado Mesa University (CMU) where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Spear's career choice was simply that, a choice, "I just wanted to do it."

For Spear the hardest part of the Police Academy was, "...learning all the laws we have to know and enforce. They pertain to everything and it was very time consuming [to learn]."

As a patrol officer Spear works 12-hour shifts for four days and then has four days off. He said, "We respond to any calls we get — disturbance, assistance and even animal control on weekends. The calls are never the same, but when someone calls we help them."

When officers are not on a specific call they patrol the community. Generally speaking, during the day officers look for traffic violations.

Spear said, "The night shift differs from day shift when we patrol lots of neighborhoods. Most people don't know we're driving through their neighborhood looking for suspicious activity [peeping-toms, burglars, mischief makers]. We look for anything out of the ordinary and can patrol anywhere within the city limits."

Asked about the most stressful part of



Officer Andrew Spear has been a member of the Montrose Police Department (MPD) for four years. Photo by Gail Marvel.

the job Spear said, "The unknown call. You never know what you're getting into." In mid-thought Spear switched from the stress of the unknown to the stress of the known "...and the overwhelming amount of paperwork!"

For Spear the most enjoyable part of his job is, "The interaction with the people you come across and meet every day." Specifying how he relates to citizens Spear said, "I listen to people and understand their problems. I'm an approachable person and people are willing to talk to me."

Spear has never had to use CPR, "But we are trained to use it." Other components of an officer's training include classes in mental health and counseling.

When he has a few days off Spear like to return home and visit his family in Akron. "It's smaller and quieter than Montrose. There's not as much to do, but there's always something to do."

As for hobbies and interests, Spear is drawn to outdoor activities like 4-Wheeling and fishing, "...but I haven't started hunting yet."

Mark your calendar: National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, will take place at Target on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Don't miss the opportunity to personally meet and greet local law enforcement members and first responders.



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CADDY TO CONTINUE AS BOCC CHAIR, COUNTY VOTES TO TERMINATE LEASE @ AIRPORT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—No changes were made to the organizational structure of the BOCC at the [first Montrose County Board of Commissioners meeting of 2018](#); Commissioner Keith Caddy will continue as chair and Commissioner Roger Rash as Vice-Chair. Commissioners also voted to have State Rep. Marc Catlin represent Montrose County on the Colorado River Water Conservation District board of directors for a three-year term, and to terminate a lease at Montrose Regional Airport.

No comments from the public were heard at the start of the Jan. 3 meeting, though a number of citizens were in attendance. Item D10 under General Business (establishment of a 40 mile-per-hour (mph) speed limit on the section of 6530 Road from Lincoln Road north to the end of pavement) was removed from the meeting agenda for further research; consent agenda items were unanimously approved.

[General Business Item No. 1](#) concerned management of 2018 rate charges for Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA). The METSA surcharge will continue at 70 cents per line for now, County Manager Ken Norris said. “We may want to increase it later.” Commissioner Roger Rash agreed to serve as Montrose County’s representative on the METSA board. The surcharge and appointment were unanimously approved.

The BOCC also unanimously approved delegation of [2018 committee positions and appointments](#) for the manager and commissioners; [designation of Colorado Counties Inc. steering committee proxy](#); and designation of the 2018 [Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association \(UVWUA\) annual meeting proxy](#) for Account Numbers – 13156, 13167, 13248, 13340 and 13407.

“...I would probably recommend (Montrose County Government Affairs Director) Jon Waschbusch to keep track of that water and attend these meetings,” Commissioner Glen Davis said. When asked to comment, Waschbusch said, “Happy to do so if that is the direction the board would like to go...it would be my

pleasure.” Resolution 01-2018, designating official [County Holidays for 2018](#), was unanimously approved. Montrose County Human Resources Director Leslie Quon read a list of the County’s 2018 Annual Appointments for consideration and discussion.

Commissioner Rash said, “Mr. Chairman, I would like to discuss the possibility of us leaving the structure of the board the way it is.” The BOCC voted unanimously to keep the 2017 organizational structure in place.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy took time to recognize that Montrose City Councilor Barbara Bynum in attendance before the BOCC plowed through a lengthy agenda that included approving purchase of a Norstar Chemical Injector Sprayer Bed for the Weed Department (\$68,593) and purchase of light fleet vehicles for 2018 through the Colorado State Bid Program and 1122 Federal Procurement Program for Law Enforcement (\$498,760).

Resolution 02-2018 was unanimously approved, establishing a 30-mph speed limit on the section of 6175 Road from LaSalle Road north to the end of the road. Also approved unanimously was Resolution 03-2018, establishing a 40-mph speed limit on the section of Lincoln Road between 6530 and 6600 roads.

For Montrose Regional Airport, commissioners unanimously approved [release of retainage](#) to Mountain Valley Contracting (\$100,939.14) for AIP Project No. 3-08-0043-046 Taxiway F and Southeast Apron Construction/Rehabilitation; [release of retainage](#) to Jacobs Engineering (\$19,979.25 for AIP Project No. 3-08-0043-046 Taxiway F and Southeast Apron Construction/Rehabilitation; and [Addendum No. 1](#) to the on-airport rental car concession agreement with Enterprise Leasing of Denver d/b/a Alamo Rent A Car, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and National Car Rental



County Commissioners Roger Rash (left) and Glen Davis listen as County Attorney Marti Whitmore speaks Jan. 3.

to relocate the Ready Return Parking Area. In other business, commissioners [appointed Marc Catlin to the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors for a three-year term](#); unanimously approved Resolution 04-2018, regarding the Commissioners’ [2018 Board Meeting Calendar](#); and unanimously approved a Planning & Development proposal to divide 8.39 acres into three lots for the Bentley Minor Subdivision.

A planned executive session to receive legal advice on airport security measures (termination of a lease and potential related security issues) was continued to 3 p.m.; the BOCC meeting was suspended and continued until that time.

Following the executive session, which included all three commissioners, County Attorney Marti Whitmore and County Manager Ken Norris as well as Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold and Airport Contracts and Properties Director Sue Wheatler, commissioners returned to regular session at 3:49 p.m.

The BOCC voted unanimously to terminate the lease “no later than 2 o’clock Jan 4, 2018,” and designated the Chairman of the board to work with county staff to “alleviate a problem at Montrose County Airport with a tenant and security reasons.”

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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WEATHER OR NOT? WINTER SEASON OFF TO A DRY START

From pg 1

tend to come in February, March and April. "But certainly by this time of year we expect more snowpack. This is the time of year our reservoirs should be filling, and they are not filling much.

"There are people who are getting nervous."

With 100 reservoirs on Grand Mesa alone that are expected to fill over the winter, snowpack accumulation can mean the difference between a fruit crop and no fruit crop. "There are orchards below that are going to need water."

Up until now, storms with plentiful precipitation have been tracking north, and bypassing the Gunnison River Basin, Hurford said. "It's best to prepare for the worst and hope for the best; it's too early to panic, but prepare for contingencies. All

we can do is the best we can with what we have."

Meanwhile, Telluride Ski Resort remains optimistic—and open. "We are doing okay," Telski call center operator Corbie told the *Mirror* Jan. 4.

"We're expecting a storm this next week. We have 16 runs open and we're going to open more--people are skiing and they are enjoying it."

And at Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR), "Snow dances are still in full effect," Communications Coordinator Zach Pickett said. Still, "despite the lack of natural snow that we've received, our season is actually off to a good start," he said. "Our snowmaking crews have done a phenomenal job maximizing their resources, and have laid a nice foundation

for the natural snow that will fall throughout the remainder of the season.

"Overall, we have all of our chairlifts open with the exception of two T-Bars that access our Extreme Limits Terrain, and 77 open runs," Pickett said.

CBMR's guest visitation numbers are down 12 percent when it comes to total skier visits (defined as number of skiers on the slopes), Pickett said, "but we are up almost 11 percent in paid skier visits. This tells us that we are down in season pass-holder skier days."

Overall, skiers and riders have been "super appreciative and supportive," he added.

"Once the natural snow begins to fall, I believe that we will see some awesome conditions."

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

2017: YEAR OF CHANGE, TRANSITION AND GROWTH @ MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Dear Editor,

As we begin 2018 and make plans for the new year, I like to look back and see what Montrose Memorial Hospital has accomplished in the past year. As always, we have experienced a year of change, transition and growth. We are fortunate to have incredible staff members, physicians, volunteers and advanced technology and equipment in a town the size of Montrose. Many of the people who work at MMH could work at any hospital – anywhere, and we are fortunate that they chose to be at Montrose Memorial Hospital.

After another successful Health Fair with over 3,500 participants, we added 3D mammography to our Medical Imaging procedures. The image clarity of 3D mammography leads to more accurate breast cancer detection and women are diagnosed with fewer false positive so they don't experience the worry of follow-up tests.

The 3D mammography system, along with our daVinci robotic surgical systems and other critical equipment upgrades provide you and your family with the most advanced care available.

MMH received several honors in 2017 with the biggest being recognized as one of the Top 20 Rural Community Hospitals in the NATION by the National Rural

Health Association. We were the only Colorado hospital ranked in the top twenty. MMH was also rated as a High Performing Hospital for Knee Replacements by U.S. News & World Report for 2016.

The "Best Hospitals procedures and conditions ratings" from US News, show consumers how well their local hospitals stand up-- and MMH was rated as one of the best out of the 4,500 hospitals that were evaluated.

We celebrated the 1,000th robotic assisted surgery case, remodeled the Golden Leaf Gift shop and installed "The Box" which allows for fast and safe disposal of expired or unwanted prescription medications. Support groups, weight loss classes and community lectures help us reach out and be a constant support to those in need. MMH participates in the Career Option Seminars through our high schools as well as many career fairs and internship programs.

Lastly and very importantly, the MMHI Board of Directors, the Board of County Commissioners and the MMH Board of Trustees have reached a settlement regarding the legal issues that have been going on since 2010.

Hours of negotiations, discussions and diligence have paid off and we can move forward and focus on the most important issue which is the healthcare needs of our

communities.

Our MMHI Board Chair Ron Courtney had this to say, "The effort invested in resolving this conflict has paid off in a great way for our hospital and community. The agreement between the parties lays to rest all the distrust and many misconceptions that had been so prevalent and it blazes a clear path of cooperation going forward. I'm very glad to have made a new friend in BOT President Mark Rackay and the Board of Trustees. So much good can come from working together as citizens and now we have a framework to do just that. MMH, like all rural hospitals faces tremendous challenges in maintaining and expanding its exceptional care of our Friends and Family. Concentrating on those challenges without legal distractions is a welcome relief.

"Many thanks go to our current commissioners who looked past the turf war and focused instead on the good of the community. Working together we can achieve so much. The first fruit of this cooperation is the successful refinancing of the hospital's 2003 Bonds in December 2017 which saves over \$500,000 per year in interest payments while removing the mortgage on the hospital's buildings and property. The future is bright!"

Leann Tobin, Montrose Memorial Hospital Director of Community Engagement

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CRYPTIC INVESTIGATIONS FIRM OPENS IN ROSE MEMORIAL PARLOUR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A local funeral home owner is now doubling as a private investigator. A web site called “Cryptic Agents” advertises the investigative services of Matthew R. Boyle; a search of the state licensure board shows that Boyle was licensed as a P.I. in January of 2017 and that the licensure remains in good standing.

Though the Mirror was unable to reach Boyle for comment, his voicemail recording now lists both businesses, the [Rose Memorial Parlour and Cremation Center](#), and [Cryptic Agents Investigations](#). [Cryptic Agents](#) bills itself as Montrose’s only licensed private investigations firm.

“We use current technology, legal investigation practices and guidance from God to achieve our client’s desired results,” Boyle states on the site.

The Cryptic Agents web site shares the same business address as the Rose Memorial Parlour (505 South 2nd Street), a long-time local facility that is attached to the 100-year-old Valley Lawn Cemetery. Matthew Boyle is the current tenant of the Rose Memorial Parlour and Cremation Center, but the building and cemetery are actually owned by Attorney Joseph Coleman of Grand Junction.

Matthew Boyle has had several brushes

with the law himself in recent months, according to the Montrose County Sheriff’s Blotter ([driving while under the influence and failure to appear](#)).

Cemetery owner Joseph Coleman had no comment on Boyle’s recent arrests, other than to say, “As I understand it, he is addressing his issues with the court system in the appropriate way.

“I assume the courts will treat him properly.”

BACKGROUND: The funeral home building that serves the Valley Lawn Cemetery has a checkered history.

According to a Colorado Funeral Service history compiled in 1997, in 1980 there was a merger of two local funeral services--Chapel of Roses and McIntire & Sumner--into Montrose Funeral Home at 505 S. 2nd St. Montrose Valley Funeral Home was purchased by Frank Tucker in 1987.

In April of 2002, the Montrose Daily Press reported that Montrose Valley Funeral Home had reached a settlement with the state of Colorado regarding a complaint that Tucker sold pre-need contracts without a license. Three years ago, the phone number to Clark’s Valley Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery, 505 South Second Street’s prior tenant, was disconnected, and the business suddenly put up for sale.



Rose Memorial Parlour and Funeral Home opened at 505 S. 2nd St. in 2016. Today, the facility also includes an investigations business and 420-friendly AirBnB loft.

Montrose Daily Press Reporter Allen Lewis Gerstenecker wrote in April 2015 that Grand Junction attorney Joseph Coleman had secured a public trustee deed for the property.

Rose Memorial Parlour and Funeral Home opened at 505 S. 2nd St. in 2016. Today, Boyle also rents the top floor apartment [out as a 420-friendly AirBnB, with kegerator](#), according to his web site., which notes, “Rose Memorial Parlour is said to be one of the most haunted funeral homes in the entire US. Matty is always more than willing to give his guests a tour.”

ICE RESCUE FOLLOW-UP: THE ICE IS THIN, PLEASE USE CAUTION



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Dec. 28, 2017 the Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD) responded to the ice rescue for a 12-year-old student who fell through thin ice on Chipeta Lake. The call was dispatched at 3:53 p.m. and responders were on scene by 4 p.m.

The youth, whose name was not released, had taken a shortcut across the lake. Following the accident, the young man had the strength to pull himself out of the freezing water and laid on the ice until responders arrived.

The ice, which was approximately an inch thick, would not hold the weight of an adult and rescuers were forced to break a path in the ice and swim to the victim. In order to cover the 300-foot distance from victim to shore, rescuers tied two ropes together and pulled the youth through the water to safety. The young man was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital. Ten responders, most of whom have ice rescue training, participated in the

rescue. Battalion Chief Craig Willsie said, “We’ve had animal rescues before, but this is the first human ice rescue we’ve had in our district.” When asked if the youth experienced hypothermia Willsie said, “We can’t diagnosis, but let’s say that he was wet and very cold.”

The MFPD would like to thank bystanders. Willsie said, “They did a wonderful job of keeping him calm and trying to reach him [with a rope] without putting themselves in danger and getting into the water.” Montrose Police Department (MPD) played a supporting role in the incident.

Willsie offered a safety warning, “With all the warm weather we’ve had the ice is thin. You need to use caution.”

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Jan 4



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Saturday
Jan 6

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Sunday
Jan 7



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Doors @ 6:30pm
Movie @ 7:00 pm

Thursday
Jan 11

SHERB TALK: "ON MUSHROOMS: THE GOOD, THE WEIRD AND THE MEDICINAL" with John Hollrah
Doors @ 7. Talk @ 7:30. Suggested \$10 donation.



Friday
Jan 12



COMEDY NIGHT "ONE MAN'S STAND WITH QUEVAUGHN BRYANT & FRIENDS" (Quevaughn + 2 Openers!)
Doors at 6:00pm. Comedy starts at 6:30pm. \$20 entry.

Saturday
Jan 13

ELDER GROWN

Doors 7:30pm. Music around 8:00pm. \$10 at the door.



Wednesday
Jan 17



FILM: "ASCENDING AFGHANISTAN: RISING WOMEN"
Doors @ 6:00. Film @ 6:30 pm. \$15 toward the program in Afghanistan

Friday
Jan 19

OPEN MIC NIGHT

5-9 pm, 2 monitors & 2 mics provided, \$ By Donation



Saturday & Sunday
Jan 20 & 21

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SHERBINO NIGHT LIVE!
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Thursday
Jan 25

SHERB NERDS Trivia Night

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Friday
Jan 26



STRANGE AMERICANS

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NO COUNCIL PETITIONS TURNED IN YET AT CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: DEADLINE IS JAN. 22

Councilor Bowman Votes No on Target 3.2 liquor License Application



*Pictured is one of two groups of students who presented their playground designs to the city council. If awarded, the grant request for \$110,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) will construct a nature-based playground at the new Columbine Middle School.
Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The first city council meeting of 2018 took place on Jan. 2 and a large contingent of middle school students and their parents filled council chambers. Mayor Judy Ann Files opened the session and joked, "I appreciate you all coming tonight to help me celebrate my 53rd wedding anniversary!"

Call For Public Comment For Non-Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Resolution 2018-02 – Grant Writer Coordinator Kendall Cramer.

This grant application requests \$110,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to construct a nature-based playground at Columbine Middle School. The city supports, but has no obligation to the grant.

Columbine School surveyed students as to what they want in an age-based playground (climbing boulders, balance beams, rope obstacles). Two groups of students then researched equipment and designed a playground based on the survey results. In their presentation to council the students articulated their proposals in a professional and impressive manner. If

the grant is awarded, one of the two proposals will be selected. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 2018-03 – Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) approached the city to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG). The grant, in the amount of \$500,000, would create a revolving loan fund to help in the development of the Woodgate Trails Senior Apartments. The three-story, 50-unit apartment project is located across the street from South City Market. Construction for the \$13 - \$14 M project is slated to begin May 1st.

Turner said, "This is a complex project and there are a number of funding methods. It's a long-term commitment [40 years] we are making to the project, but it is a role we can play without cost to the city. The money comes to us and we loan it out." There will be some administrative costs. Approved unanimously.

New Fermented Malt Beverage (3.2 Beer) Application – City Attorney Stephen Alcorn.

Council considered an application for a

new Fermented Malt Beverage (3.2 Beer) license at 3530 Wolverine Drive for Target Corporation, d.b.a. Target Store T-2343, for consumption off of the licensed premises.

Similar to grocery and conveniences stores, this license allows Target to sell packaged 3.2 beer. During the hearing council was told that 100 percent of the sales required an ID.

The applicant, Target, was represented by an attorney, the company they hired to survey the community and the local Target manager. During the presentation Councilwoman Barbara Bynum realized that she had a previous association with the survey company and chose to abstain from voting.

Councilman Dave Bowman offered no comment other than to clarify that council had 30-days to make a decision. Council approved the license on a 3 to 1, with Bowman voting "no" and Bynum abstaining.

2018 Annual Annexation Report and Three-Mile Plan – Senior Planner Garry Baker.

As stipulated by Colorado State Statutes, Baker submitted the City of Montrose 2018 Annual Plan of Annexation and Three-Mile Plan. The plan must be adopted each year.

Information in the council packet explained, "The Plan contains verbal policies and maps to illustrate annexation priorities, eligible enclave annexations, existing city limits, growth areas, and transportation routes." Approved unanimously.

Recalde Addition Annexation - Senior Planner Garry Baker.

As described in the council packet, "The Recalde Addition is located northeast of the Main St. bridge across the Uncompahgre River. The current use is residential. The City has been working with the land owner on acquiring a portion of the property for an extension of the river trail. Total Size: 1.39 Acres."

The Recalde Addition was initiated by the landowner to enable future subdivision and sale of a portion of the property to

Continued next pg

NO COUNCIL PETITIONS TURNED IN AT CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: DEADLINE IS JAN. 22
From previous pg

the city. There will be two zoning designations for the divided property; "P", Public District and "MHR", Manufactured Housing Residential District.

Resolution 2018-01 – Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Recalde Addition. Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2441 (first reading) – For the annexation of the Recalde addition. Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2442 (first reading) - Senior Planner Garry Baker.

Provides for zoning of the Recalde Addition. Approved unanimously.

Professional Service Contract Approval - Grant Writer Coordinator Kendall Cramer.

The City of Montrose has been awarded an EPA Brownfield Community Wide Petroleum and Hazardous Materials Assessment Grant totaling \$300,000.

The staff recommends entering into a Professional Services Contract with Ayres Associates for environmental and engineering consulting services for the not-to-exceed amount of \$296,000.00. The balance of the grant funds will reimburse the city for expenses incurred related to staff training and/or direct costs related to community engagement efforts. There is no cash match; however, there is an in-kind match of \$15,500 for Cramer and anyone else who works with the grant.

Although the grant funds can be used city wide, the city anticipates the majority of the funds will be used within the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) boundary. Approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Public Information Report – City Manager Bill Bell.

Bell deferred to Montrose City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo, "Today is the first day [city council] candidates can begin circulating petitions. Petitions will be accepted until January 22." As of Jan. 4, the clerk's office has not received any petitions. Anyone with questions can call DelPiccolo at 240-1422.

City Council Comments:

Bowman noted that the design plans for the amphitheater stage would be unveiled on Jan. 3. Councilman Roy Anderson reminded the public that the Police Academy begins on Monday, Jan. 8. Registrations can be made online.

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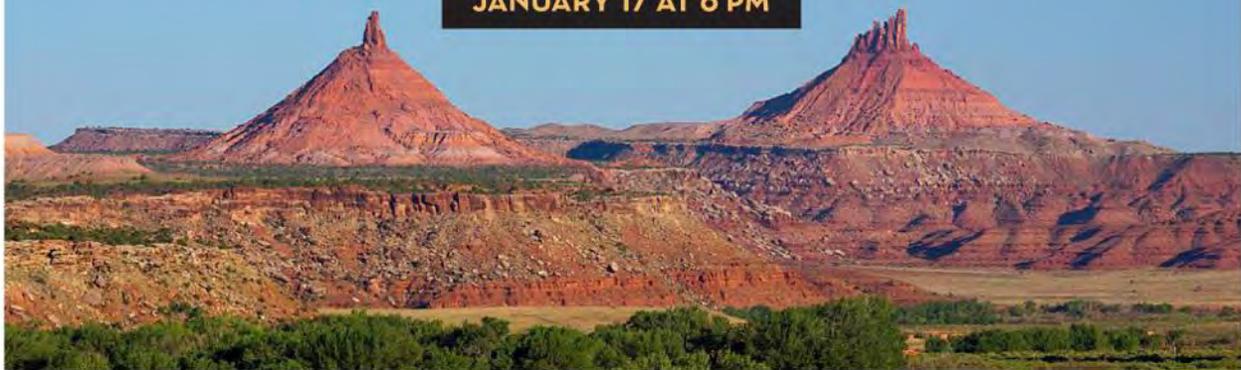
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MURA AWARDS PHASE I INFRASTRUCTURE TO RVE

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board of Commissioners met on Jan. 2, 2018. With the exception of School District Representative Gayle Johnson, all members were present. **Consideration of Design Change Order** - City Engineer Scott Murphy.

The MURA previously approved \$6.75M for infrastructure in the first phase of the project.

Murphy said, "Now we start spending the money that was authorized."

The \$105,425 change order request was due, in part, to making the flood plain modeling larger, documentation of a historical site and addressing insufficient fire flows.

In areas of savings Murphy said, "We were able to shorten the design by a month. The best one was when we bought the county property and redesigned the interior roadway. We saved \$1M on construction." Approved unanimously.

Consideration of Expenditures - City Engineer Scott Murphy.

Mayor Judy Ann Files questioned the cost to MURA of installing service lines for DMEA and Black Hills Energy. MURA Executive Director/City Manager Bill Bell noted there were different philosophies.

Bell said, "I'm having coffee with DMEA soon. They assumed this was a private project and I have to explain that it [the infrastructure] is a city project and this is just going to the public."

Assessor Brad Hughes, representative for Montrose County, asked about an access road issue, "It needs to be clear if the public is paying for it."

Murphy said, "We're trying to find a fine line. It is a rough trailhead area and access is public, but it is a [private] parking lot."

Following the approval of the Expenditure Authorization the remaining construction balance will be \$4.25M.

The commission authorized \$1,976,674.60 in direct purchase expenditures associated with construction of Phase I public infrastructure. Approved



On Jan. 2, 2018 the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Board of Commissioners awarded a \$4,254,692 construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises. Audience members with a vested interest in the awarded contract were (front row, L to R) Todd Haynes, owner of Haynes Excavation and Steve Putnam, General Manager of Ridgway Valley. Photo by Gail Marvel.

unanimously.

Consideration of Contract Award - City Engineer Scott Murphy.

The construction contract for Phase I of the public infrastructure project totaled \$4,254,692. Speaking to the bid selection process Murphy said, "Ridgway Valley Enterprises is local, the most qualified and they were also the lowest bidder."

Hughes questioned the contract baseline of \$3.9M with the requested authorization of \$4.2M. He said, "Why are we authorizing \$4.2M when the baseline is \$3.9M?"

Bell explained that approving the \$4.2M would give him authorization to spend the contracted amounts as presented by Murphy. At the next meeting Bell will report on the construction expenditures.

The construction contract in the amount of \$4,254,692 was awarded to Ridgway Valley Enterprises. Approved unanimously.

Bell said "We are really excited to see the money stay local."

General Discussion:

Hughes noted the effort being put into

the MURA by the city, but said, "I haven't seen anything on the developer's side." Bell said, "I'll reach out to Dragoos [developers] and get an update for the next meeting. We [the city] want to show tangible results. The Marriott can't start [construction] until the roads are in."

Realtor John Renfrow, who was in the audience, came forward to contribute to the discussion. Renfrow said, "They do not want to be there by themselves. They are really waiting to see what is going on with Ross Reels/Able Reels. What I can tell you right now is I have three letters of intent. [When] moving from letters of intent to contracts some things have to happen."

Renfrow spoke about the momentum of the development and the huge number of moving pieces.

He said, "There are folks in other communities and municipalities who want to understand what you've done so they can get ahead of you guys. They are trying to figure out how you are doing this."

The next MURA meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. in council chambers.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMH HEALTH FAIR SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Montrose Pavilion. Early Blood Draws, held in conjunction with the Health Fair, will be Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-3 from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the **Montrose Pavilion**. Early Blood Draws will also be available on January 29 at the American Legion Hall in **Olathe**, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and on January 27 in **Ridgway**, at the 4-H Events Center from 7-10 a.m.

Appointments for ALL three locations must be made for the Early Blood Draws. Appointments can be made at www.MontroseHospital.com Jan. 7-24th. Appointments are not necessary on the day of the Health Fair.

The following blood tests will be offered at the Early Blood Draws and the Health Fair. The HealthScreen (Chemistry) & Lipid Profile evaluates kidney function, elec-

trolytes, triglycerides, HDL and LDL cholesterol levels and over 15 components in the blood. The profile also includes iron, Ferritin, iron binding and TSH (Thyroid Screening).

The cost of this test is \$45.00. The PSA blood test for prostate cancer, offered for men 40 and older, is \$30. The CBC (complete blood count) blood test is \$20.00. The Hemoglobin A1c, which is an additional screening for diabetes, will cost \$35.00. Additional screenings include the Vitamin D screening for \$40.00, the Vitamin B-12 screening for \$40.00 and the Male Testosterone screening for \$45.00. MMH encourages you to talk with your healthcare provider to determine which tests you should choose.

If you have questions, please call 970.252.2513

About Montrose Memorial Hospital

(www.MontroseHospital.com)

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)3

nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties.

The health system offers a 75-bed hospital and an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center, Acute Rehabilitation Unit and the family birthing center. The health system partners with regional providers on joint ventures to meet local healthcare needs, including CareFlight air ambulance service, San Juan Cancer Center and Black Canyon Surgical Center. Montrose Memorial is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 700 employees and 100 physicians who represent 23 medical specialties.

The hospital has received patient satisfaction ratings exceeding 90 percent since 2010.

CITY RECEIVES GRANT FOR INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has awarded an \$18,000 grant to the City of Montrose to have the Western Colorado Conservation Corps complete invasive species removal work at Taviwach, Riverbottom, and Cerise parks next spring.

"This project and similar projects around the state funded through this grant will help put young people to work on our public and protected lands that are in great need of labor," said GOCO Executive Director Chris Castilian.

Invasive species removal projects provide more space, sunlight, nutrients, and water

for native species like cottonwood and willow and help provide better habitat for a more diverse wildlife population. As with the city's past invasive species removal efforts, the project will also improve wildlife viewing opportunities and access to the river along the length of the project area. A project schedule and any accompanying trail or park closures will be announced as the project start date approaches.

The city will partner with Paul Zaenger, supervisory park ranger at Black Canyon National Park, Jon Horn, archaeologist and historian, Julie Jackson, recreation planner at the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment Uncompahgre Field Office, and Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, education director at the Ute Indian Museum to provide an educational experience to the young adults who work on the project.

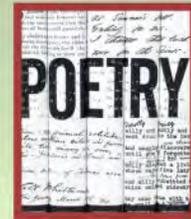
Funds for this project were awarded by GOCO, which receives a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds, to the Colorado Youth Corps Association for use by accredited youth corps.

The goal of the program is to employ youth and young adults throughout the state on critical outdoor recreation and land conservation projects in partnership with local governments and open space agencies.

Weehawken Winter Programs

January 3

Poetry of Presence: A 5 Week Discussion Series with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer in Ridgway



January 10



Introduction to Art Materials and Techniques with Allison Wofford in Montrose- Ages 4-8

January 17

The Wild World of Watercolor with Mike Simpson in Montrose



January 17



The Basics of Stitching with Allison Wofford in Montrose- Ages 4-8

January 24

The Art of Eric Carle with Allison Wofford in Montrose- Ages 4-8



January 27



Arcanum: The Mystery and Abandon of Asemic Writing with Kierstin Bridger in Ridgway

February 3

Contemporary Mosaic Art with Carol Newman in Ridgway



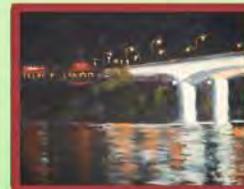
February 6



Writing An Untamed History with Kierstin Bridger in Montrose

February 7

Develop More Interesting Oil Paintings with Mike Simpson in Montrose



February 21



Introduction to Acrylics: 4 Week Series with Ann Cheeks in Montrose

And look for our Spring/Summer Workshops Online...

We are offering Photography, Acrylics, Mixed Media, Bookmaking and more!

For more information, or to register, go to www.weehawkenarts.org or call (970) 318-0150



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ADVANTAGE

Health Resource Center

Call us to schedule an appointment for free assistance with the following:

- Resource Education with a Care Navigator
- Housing Assistance
- Long Term Care Options
- Short Term Care Options
- Benefits Checkup
- Form/Application Assistance

Connecting You To Information and Options

Two Office Locations:

Montrose: **Park Avenue Professional Building**
121 N. Park Ave, Montrose

Delta: **Senior Community Meals office**
350 Stafford Lane., Delta

Call us to arrange an in-home meeting or at a location convenient for you!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TWO HOMETOWN BABIES ARRIVE FIRST IN 2018!

Mirror Staff Report

REGIONAL-The Mathis Family of Montrose are proud parents of the first baby born here at **Montrose Memorial Hospital** in 2018. Carson Randall Mathis was 8 lbs., 10 ounces and 19.5 inches long at birth. "He's great," daddy Ryan Mathis said. "He will be a fun addition to our family!"



Mom is Marissa Mathis, and Carson has an older sister.

In Delta, Laura Pacheco's little son Jose was first baby of 2018, born at 5:53 a.m. Jose Jeremias Pacheco, born New Year's Day at **Delta County Memorial Hospital**, was 19.5 inches long at birth and weighed 7 lbs., 11.2 ounces. Jose and his family are also residents of Montrose.

Jose Jeremias Pacheco was Delta County Memorial Hospital's first baby of 2018. Courtesy photo.



Carson Randall Mathis was the first baby born at Montrose Memorial Hospital in 2018.

SNL/VOA/008

CITY TO APPLY FOR \$500k DOLA GRANT FOR WOODGATE TRAILS SR. APTS

From pg 1

Discussion Items:

Montrose Lighthouse Proposal – Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner.

The Brown Center, which is located near the Wastewater Treatment Plant, is owned by the city and no longer leased by Hilltop. The adaptive reuse of the building was put out for bid to non-profits on Oct. 22 and the city received one bid from Montrose Lighthouse, Inc.

In the written application Lighthouse proposes, "...to use the Brown Center Complex as a homeless shelter for approximately six months per year (November through April). The other six months (May through November) it would be utilized by an agriculture producer who has pledged a substantial financial commitment to the Center operations for the summer."

Lighthouse President Chris Hauck and agriculture producer John Harold brought the council up to speed on the needs of the homeless, migrant workers, and those

served by the jail ministry.

Hauck said, "The center would have to be brought up to government [HUD] standards. We're asking for an agreement to proceed. We'd like you to give us time, until the end of April, to come up with a definitive plan."

Community Development Block Grant Application - Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner.

The city will apply for grant funding, "...in order to provide financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, and development of low to moderate income and senior housing within the City of Montrose." The city will administer the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant in the amount of \$500,000 to create a revolving loan fund.

Four Corners Development, L.L.C., is in the process of developing the Woodgate Trails Senior Apartments. The three-story, 50-unit affordable senior housing project is located across the street from South

City Market. The revolving loan fund will be available for their project and span approximately 40 years. Once the loan is repaid, future councils will have those funds available to continue the revolving loan.

The Woodgate Trails Senior Apartments, a \$13 - \$14 M project, is slated to break ground May 1, 2018. Construction will take 14 - 16 months, with another three to four months for full occupancy.

Disposal of City Property – Utilities Manager David Bries.

The list of property slated for disposal came from City Fleet Vehicles and Equipment (cars, parks mowers), Public Works Department Property (fencing, old electrical boxes) and Police Department Evidence (knives, jewelry).

Bries said, "The bulk of items are from police evidence that has been acquired over the years."

Jim's Auction will handle the sale of property.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG NFS ANNOUNCE PUBLICATION OF DRAFT WILDERNESS INVENTORY

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL– The GMUG is initiating the wilderness process as a required component of plan revision, and we are pleased to announce the publication of the draft Inventory. This first, very inclusive step of the mandatory four-step wilderness process identifies a broad sweep of lands that are generally unroaded, relatively undeveloped, and either adjacent to existing wilderness or at least 5,000 acres in size.

While the GMUG has a lot of areas that qualify for the Inventory, being included in this initial map does not mean that an area will be managed in any special way. It's the first filter in a series of steps, each step of which will include opportunities for you to provide input.

As you review the draft Inventory, please let us know: Did we miss any areas that meet the criteria and should be evaluated

at the next stage? Do some entire areas have so much development and activity that it's substantially noticeable, and if so, should they be screened out now? Because these files are large, particularly the map, please be patient as they load:

Draft Wilderness Inventory [Criteria](#)
 Draft Wilderness Inventory [Map](#)
[Interactive Storymap](#) and [Navigation Guide](#)
 Feedback can be submitted through the Wilderness [comment tool](#), the interac-

tive storymap, through email to gmug-forestplan@fs.fed.us, or via post to the Delta office. Comments are most helpful if received by **January 22nd**, as this is the first in a series of multiple opportunities to provide input.

To find out more about the Wilderness process and how you can get involved, please check out the [Wilderness Guide](#), and consider joining us for one of our webinars later this week.

Wilderness Inventory Webinar Thursday, January 11th 4:00-5:00 p.m. https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/gmug-500/	Wilderness Inventory Webinar Friday, January 12th 8:30-9:30 a.m. https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/gmug-1000/
For audio, please call in to 1-888-844-9904 , participant code 8454465#.	For audio, please call in to 1-888-844-9904 , participant code 8454465#.

ISSUE 131 Jan. 8, 2017

ART & SOL

OURAY ICE PARK IS HAPPENING NOW

23rd Annual Wild West Ice Festival Kicks off Jan 18



Jaron Hall, left, Pasha Shestakov and his sister, Ana Shestakov, enjoy the Ouray Ice Park Friday. Four friends from the University of Utah (Colton Gordon is not pictured) drove to Ouray to try their skills at the park, which draws climbers from throughout the US and the world. Hall was climbing for the first time and Ana Shestakov said she'd been "climbing for awhile." (Photo by Michael Lawton).



Colton Gordon climbs at the Ouray Ice Park on Friday. He is part of a group of University of Utah students who made the trip to test their climbing skills. Gordon made the trip with Ana Shestakova, her brother Pasha Shestakova and friend, Jaron Hall. (Submitted photo)

By Carole Ann McKelvey
Ouray Bureau Reporter
OURAY – All you have to do is look at the license plates in the Ouray Ice Park parking lots to understand how this human-

made ice climbing venue draws people from everywhere and remains the biggest winter event in this little mountain community on Highway 550. Driving up to the Ice Park from Ouray, it is obvious that it is open for climbing. On Friday, climbers from all parts of the country (and the world) were either getting ready to climb, prepping for competitions, or ogling other climbers on the sheer, ice faces. Four young people from the University of Utah were braving the ice walls to see what the ice park was all about.

Colton Gordon, 25, and his friends, Ana Shestakova, 22, her brother Pasha Shestakova, 18, and another friend, Jaron Hall, 24, made the trip to Ouray to test their climbing skills. They said they were having a great time in Colorado, but unfortunately had to return to Utah that weekend and would miss the Ice Festival.

"It's been awesome," Ana Shestakova said, "Ouray is not like anything I've ever been to! There's nothing better than a day of ice climbing and then soaking in hot springs to relax." All four Friday were decked out in climbing gear, complete with helmets and crampons, along with ice axes.

Climbing in the park is free, but any

Continued next pg

OURAY ICE PARK IS HAPPENING NOW From previous pg



This panoramic photo of the Ouray Ice Park shows a climber on a portion of the man-created ice walls challenging climbers. The Ice Park Festival will open for competition and camaraderie in Ouray Jan.18-21. (Photo by Michael Lawton).

climbers must adhere to Ice Park rules and wear crampons and a helmet at all times while in Park climbing areas. Additional equipment needed to climb are rope, anchor materials, harness, ice axes, and warm clothes. The park does not rent equipment; but equipment rentals are available at various vendors in the city of Ouray. As of publication date not all Ice Park areas are open, but most are, including: South Park; New Funtier; Schoolroom; The Kids Wall; Pic-o-vic; Lead Only Area; In Between the Bridges; The Trestle; The Mixed Alcove; and Cowboy Up.

The Ouray Ice Park climbing venues are operated in a spectacular natural gorge within walking distance of the city. The 2017-18 season is home to more than 200 named ice and mixed climbs, most within a 15-minute walk of the Park entrance.

The park and its infrastructure are jointly owned and managed by the City of Ouray; the nonprofit Ouray Ice Park, Inc. (OIPI); and a mix of other private/public land-owners. This season, the Ice Park kicked off before Christmas with beckoning, clear ice walls. The real action, however, takes place Jan. 18-21, when the Ouray Ice Festival opens to outdoor enthusiasts.

This festival mixes ice-climbing competitions with nightly events, including multimedia presentations by leading climbers, music, food, dance parties and a live and silent auction with deals on the latest outdoor gear.

Those in the know began signing up for Ice Festival clinics as early as Nov. 16. Clinic athletes participating this year include Conrad Anker (North Face/Yeti) Aaron Mulkey (Grivel/Rab); Kitty

Calhoun (Patagonia/Scarpa); Katie Bono (Arcteryx/CAMP); Marcus Garcia (Osprey/Adidas); and Margot Talbot (OR). Those signing up as members of the Ouray Ice Park get a \$10 discount on clinics and seminars.

This Fest is being unofficially called the 23rd Annual Wild West Ice Festival. A special Ice Festival poster was created by local artist Kellie Day, with her original artwork on display at Ouray Mountain Sports. The original poster is available for purchase at the live auction during the Festival.

For updated conditions at the Ice Park, visit the [Ouray Ice Park "conditions page"](#) or follow park activities on Face book and Instagram. Park hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4 pm and Saturday - Sunday from 7:30 am - 4 pm.

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



SHERBINO NIGHT LIVE



SKETCH COMEDY

SAT & SUN: JAN 20 & 21

Doors @ 7. Show @ 7:30. \$15 @ the door

Sherbino Theatre Company Strikes Back with SHERBINO NIGHT LIVE!

Ready for a good laugh to brighten the short winter days? On January 20th and 21st, the Sherbino Theatre Company presents "Sherb Night Live", a sketch comedy show. In the tradition of Saturday Night Live, we will be poking fun at all that is funny - including those things that make Ridgway so special. We'll also be celebrating classic sketch comedy by reproducing some of our favorites.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

ELISSA DICKSON DOES SECOND JANUARY GOURDS SHOW



San Miguel County Poet Laureate Elissa Dickson. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE – San Miguel County Poet Laureate Elissa Dickson will perform in January again this year as part of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club series.

"Her performance last year was riveting," explained Poetry Club co-director Art Goodtimes. "She's a local favorite. I'm

expecting a full house."

The reading begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday Jan. 23rd at the Telluride Arts Gallery Office, 135 West Pacific, across the street from the Wilkinson Library entrance.

Elissa is the adult programs coordinator at the Wilkinson Public Library. Her love for poetry began when she was in college at the University of Michigan and has continued to grow ever since.

In her free time, she enjoys performing and dancing with Telluride Theatre and is also an avid mountain biker, rock and ice climber, whitewater rafter and skier. She thinks nature and ice cream are the coolest. When she grows up, she hopes to be a river otter.

Poetry Club announcements are followed by the featured performance. Then, following a short break, the gourd is passed and everyone has a chance to read a poem or two (their own, or one from a

favorite poet) that speaks to the theme, "Animals."

Coming up next month are the dynamic Naturita Creek duo Daiva Chesonis & Craig Childs Feb. 20 (Theme: Birth).

The Traveling Gourds Tour will have its final appearance in March with Jennifer Rane Hancock of Grand Junction. Then, after taking our usual summer break, we will continue our regular Poetry Club readings in Telluride starting in September.

Simultaneously, we will be exploring special guest readings throughout the year, with planning underway for a Western Slope visit from California's Claire Blotter in April. In May we will host the winners of the Fischer Prize poetry competition at the Telluride Literary Arts Festival.

Submissions for the 2018 Fischer Prize are now being accepted at talk-inggourds.weebly.com/fischer-prize.html

RESOLUTION RESET AT MONTROSE NATURAL GROCERS JAN. 19

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- Every January, 45 percent of all Americans – or 135 million people – make New Year's resolutions. Research shows approximately 80 percent of those resolutions will fail by February. Natural Grocers, America's Health Education ExpertSM, is resolving to help Americans with their 2018 health and wellness goals by creating the first ever **Resolution Reset Day at Natural Grocers** in Montrose on **Friday, Jan. 19**.

The Natural Grocers store in Montrose, CO is located at 3451 S Rio Grande Ave. "Without the right guidance, support and access to affordable, good-for-you foods, it can be difficult to achieve your health and weight goals," says Charlie Spears, Natural Grocers Nutritional Health Coach in Montrose. "Instead of dropping your resolution this year, Natural Grocers is

here to help you reset it and stick to it."

Natural Grocers is uniquely positioned and qualified to help Americans reach the full potential of their health and wellness resolutions. Natural Grocers offers nutritional health coaching year-round, free of charge, to all customers. All stores have a Nutritional Health Coach (NHC) position. NHCs are highly trained health education experts and serve as your go-to resource for all things related to nutrition and health. They also offer free nutrition classes and personalized, one-on-one sessions.

Natural Grocers Resolution Reset Day in-store activities and giveaways

On Jan.19, all Natural Grocers customers are invited to stock up on items needed to reset their resolutions the right way, including 100-percent organic produce, 100-percent free-range eggs, 100-percent pas-

ture-based and non-GMO dairy, antibiotic and hormone free naturally- raised meats and the highest quality dietary supplements and body care products.

Additionally, customers can take part in these exciting activities and giveaways on Jan. 19:

12 to 2 p.m. – Customers at all 142 Natural Grocers stores can check out the "Hack Your Coffee Bar" to unlock coffee's hidden health potential, including MCT Oil and Collagen to help kick-start your day and your brainpower.

Free Natural Grocers reusable shopping bag, with purchase.

Hot Deals 3-day sale Jan. 18 to 20.

\$5 off \$35 coupon to use on a Feb. 3 purchase. Special {N}power[®] members-only offers. To learn more about the nutrition classes offered or to schedule a one-on-one session contact us at 970-249-2724.

Give Back Days

At Mi Mexico Mexican Restaurant

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

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

Over 200 entrees to choose from!

1st Wednesday: **The Homestead at Montrose**

2nd Wednesday: **All Points Transit**

3rd Wednesday: **Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club**

4th Wednesday: **Valley Manor Care Center**

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

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

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



**SUPPORTING IS
NOW DELICIOUSLY
REWARDING.**

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

*Coupon must be present

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMEMORATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY IN A NATIONAL PARK *All Parks will have Free Entrance on Jan. 15*

Special to Art & Sol

WASHINGTON – On Jan. 15, commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with free admission and special events at national parks.

“A national park is a meaningful place to remember and honor Dr. King, whether one participates in a day of service or visits a site with a direct connection to the man who moved hearts and minds in the struggle for civil rights and equality,” said National Park Service Deputy Director Michael T. Reynolds.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an official day of service in remembrance of the man whose commitment to community bridged barriers. Many parks will host service projects on this day on, not off.

All National Park Service sites will have free admission on Jan. 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It will be the first of four nationwide. Normally, 116 national parks charge admission fees which range from \$3 to \$30. The other 301 national parks do not have an entrance fee.

2018 Early Blood Draws & Health Fair

Montrose Pavilion
January 31, February 1-3
6:30-9:30 a.m.

Additional Locations for Early Blood Draws

January 27th
4H Event Center in Ridgway 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

January 29th
American Legion Hall in Olathe 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Blood Tests Offered

- HealthScreen (Chemistry) & Lipid Panel ~ \$45
(includes iron binding, TSH and Ferritin)
- Hemoglobin A1C ~ \$35
(additional screening for diabetes)
- PSA for Prostate Health ~ \$30
 - CBC ~ \$20
(complete blood count)
- Vitamin D Screening ~ \$40
- Vitamin B-12 ~ \$40
- Male Testosterone ~ \$45

Appointments may be made online for all three locations at
www.MontroseHospital.com
Beginning January 7

Phone appointments will be taken January 8th and 9th from
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1-888-592-6255

NO Walk-ins will be allowed on January 31 and February 1

12 hour fast required. Drink lots of water!
We will NOT bill your insurance. Checks and cash only.

Health Fair 2018 is
Saturday, February 24

The lines are long, so MMH offers early blood draws to make it more convenient for you.



Co-Sponsors

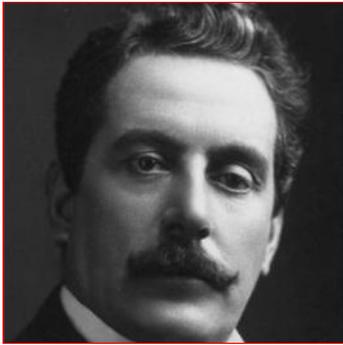




NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY...

Exploring Classical Music With Rob Brethouwer

THE FINAL OPERAS OF PUCCINI, VERDI, MASSENET, AND WAGNER...



Pictured from left to right are composers Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi, Jules Massenet, and Richard Wagner. Courtesy photos.

The first operas of composers Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi, Jules Massenet, and Richard Wagner were discussed several weeks ago. It is time to put the other bookend on this discussion and present the last operas of these same composers. The circumstances surrounding several of the first operas were a quest for a prize in a competition for composers. The circumstances surrounding the final compositions are quite different. A composer's complete body of work is behind him; the final works come at the time of old age, sickness, or simply from the fact that very few operas were written during the career of the composer.

Giacomo Puccini gave opera audiences some of the most well-known and oft-performed operas in the repertoire. One, *La Bohème*, is considered to be the most popular opera ever composed, and is likely the best opera for new listeners to hear and/or see when being introduced to opera. Memorable tunes, a great story, and a running length that will not cause even the most impatient opera goer to become frustrated. Puccini rarely waited for long periods between operas and would begin looking for new material soon after the premier of his last work. This was true following the initial performances of *Il Trittico*, "Puccini lost no time in searching for his next opera libretto. Among the subjects he considered was *Christopher Sly*, based on a character in Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* and a new play by David Belasco, who had already

provided him with two subjects, *Madama Butterfly* and *La fanciulla del West*." (Osborne, 348) He finally decided on *Turandot*, a tragicomedy in five acts with a setting in Ancient China. The structure of the story ended up being written for three acts. Near the end of the composition process, Puccini underwent surgery for throat cancer. He died five days later on November 29, 1924, his final work left unfinished. The opera had its premier at Teatro Alla Scala in Milan, Italy on April 25, 1926. "Arturo Toscanini, who conducted, laid down his baton at the end of Liu's funeral procession in Act III and turned to the audience with the words, 'here ends the opera left incomplete by the maestro, who died at this point.'" (Osborne, 349) The opera was ultimately completed based on sketches left behind by the composer. Not only was *Turandot* the last opera of a career, but is also left behind a legacy and "It is perhaps the grandest of grand operas, a huge spectacle with a prominent role for chorus and one of opera's most sophisticated orchestral scores. It is usually cited as the last grand opera of the great tradition (Berger, 268)." Seeing it on stage is truly a spectacle, the stage littered with dozens of singers, costumes glittering, the very embodiment of a Chinese fantasy, and a score that pours from the orchestra pit. A 2005 production at the Santa Fe Opera opened with the front of the stage lined with decapitated human heads impaled on long, sharp stakes. Who says opera is boring?

The last of twenty-eight operas com-

posed by Giuseppe Verdi was *Falstaff*, which had its premier at the Teatro Alla Scala in Milan, Italy on Feb. 9, 1893. Once again, the story comes from Shakespeare and "Before composing a note of the opera that he and Boito decided to call *Falstaff*, Verdi reread not only *The Merry Wives of Windsor* but also the other Shakespeare plays in which Sir John Falstaff either appears or is referred to: *Henry IV* (Parts I and II) and *Henry V*. The intention of both composer and librettist from the beginning was not merely to create an opera based on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, but to put the larger-than-life character of Falstaff onto the operatic stage in all his splendor and vividness." (Osborne, 539) The opera is a comedy and provides some relief from the often heavy and dramatic works that Verdi produced over the course of his career. The character of Falstaff is joyful, playful, fat, and desperately trying to seduce two women for the sole purpose of gaining access to their fortunes. With this last opera came controversy; it was reported that between Verdi's score and the printed copies produced, there were 27,000 discrepancies. This was a problem because of the "great importance of the musical signs written by Verdi himself, and therefore clearly felt and wanted by him, for all that concerns melody, harmony, tempos, dynamics, phrasing, accents, and articulations. Signs that, although perfectly evident in the original scores, strangely have not been reproduced in the printed editions of the operas in question." (Gossett,

Continued next pg

THE FINAL OPERAS OF PUCCINI, VERDI, MASSENET, AND WAGNER... FROM PREVIOUS PG

108) This was a problem not only because of the need for accuracy, but also because the public image of Giuseppe Verdi at this time was one of a national hero in Italy. The public was not kind to this misrepresentation of their national hero of more than five decades.

For the purposes of this discussion, the last opera of French Composer Jules Massenet will be *Amadis*, which had its premier at Opera de Monte-Carlo on April 1, 1922. This opera was completed in 1895 but did not have its premier until nearly ten years after the composer's death. It was one of three Massenet operas to be premiered posthumously. The opera has gained no lasting popularity in the reper-

toire.

Richard Wagner's final offering of immense and intense operas was *Parsifal* which premiered in Bayreuth, Germany on July 26, 1882. Coming in at a running time of four hours and 30 minutes, *Parsifal* should be considered to be at the long end of running times for the operas of this composer. Additional productions were planned to be performed only at Bayreuth and, "Cosima Wagner attempted to restrict productions of *Parsifal* to Bayreuth until thirty years after Wagner's death. However, despite her wishes, the work was soon being staged in New York, Boston, New Orleans, Amsterdam and several other towns (Osborne, 590)." The operas

of Wagner are rich in myth and folklore and provide the listener and audience member with lengthy musical journeys that are rich not only in sound, but also in visual drama. The views of Richard Wagner are seen as racist and anti-semitic; he is not loved as a human being, but his operas will live on forever.

Sources:

Berger, William. Puccini Without Excuses. New York. Vintage Books, 2005.

Gossett, Philip. Divas and Scholars: Performing Italian Opera. Chicago and London. University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Osborne, Charles. The Opera Lover's Companion. New Haven and London. Yale University Press, 2004.



MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS!



Jan. 2nd was a relaxing evening playing Bingo at Elks Lodge as players were laughing and having a good time. The doors opened at 5 o'clock and card sales started at 6 PM. "Early Bird" paid \$21 each for 5 games, with one game having 5 Winners! *No one won Progressive Games 2 & 4 and both have reached "Must Go" status.*

Consolation Jackpots for the three Progressive Games paid \$100 each. Five Regular Bingo Jackpots paid \$95 each and last Game 8 paid \$161 to one Winner! *No one won Progressive Game 6, so the Jackpot increases to \$7,505.*

Jan. 9, 2018

Progressive Games 2

& 4 Jackpots are "MUST GO" worth \$500 and \$1,199 respectively.

Both Jackpots will be awarded no matter how many ball/numbers it takes to reach BINGO.

Progressive Game #6 worth \$7,505 can be won by reaching BINGO in 53 numbers or fewer or the posted Jackpot will be paid.

For the best Bingo game in the area be sure to visit Montrose Elks Lodge every Tuesday evening to play Bingo. We are located at 801 South Hillcrest Drive in Montrose, CO 81401.

It's a wonderful way to spend the evening having fun!

Public is welcome, funds raised playing Bingo support local charities.

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. Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE GIVING CLUB ANNOUNCES MEETING DATES FOR 2018

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Montrose Giving Club celebrates a very successful first year, and has announced Giving Club meeting dates for 2018: meetings will take place Feb. 5; May 7; Aug. 6; Nov. 5.

In 2017, its inaugural year, The Giving Club gifted \$48,000 to four local non-profit organizations: Lighthouse Ministries, Dolphin House, Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid, and the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning. Founding club member Phoebe Benziger noted that all Giving Club awards are given by women who donate \$100 at each meeting and then together decide a big winner.

“Our attendance has grown from 67 at our first meeting to 110 at the meeting in November,” Benziger said. “It is still open to ALL women who can afford the \$100 and a \$10 hospitality fee.

The Giving Club meets at the Bridges Golf & Country Club of Montrose. The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 5.



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DOORS AT 6:30. SHOW AT 7:00 PM. \$20.

HEADLINER: QUEVAUGHN BRYANT

TWO OPENING ACTS: MAURICE NORTHUP AND REZA ASGARI

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

A Ouray baseball legend remembered



Smoky Joe Wood. Courtesy photo.

SMOKY JOE WOOD ... I hadn't heard of him. He was before my time, although I had a 1950s baseball game with a spinning wheel that spit out strikes, walks, and various hits, as well as little cardboard players you moved around the game board field. Primitive, given our current digital gaming prowess. But it opened my eyes to some old-time baseball greats – Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig, the Babe ... But staying at a friend's last month, I found a copy of Lawrence S. Ritter's *The Glory of Their Times: The Story of the Early Days of Baseball Told by the Men who Played It* (Harper Centennial, 2010). It's a classic. It's been reprinted many times from its original copyright of 1966 ... Although I loved football, as I explained in an earlier column, I was too small to be much good, hard as I tried. But with baseball I did okay as a little guy. Could hold my own in Little League and Babe Ruth League, and even amateur fastpitch softball when I got out of college. I was mesmerized by this baseball book ... I read some wonderful accounts in the words of the players themselves, which was completely intriguing. But it was the account of Smoky Joe Wood that really caught my eye. A famous Boston Red Sox pitcher and later a Cleveland Indian outfielder, it turns out he had a local connection to Colorado As his Wikipedia entry notes, he played his first amateur ball for a miner's team in Ouray. Here's his account as it appears in Ritter's book ... *"At the turn of the century we lived in the little town of Ouray in the*

southwestern part of Colorado, not far from places with names like Lizard Head pass and Slumgullion Gulch. And every day I'd see these big stage coaches go by, drawn by six horses, two guards sitting up there with rifles, guarding the gold shipment coming down from the mines. Dad was a lawyer there – his law partner was later the attorney general of Colorado – and he was involved in some big case for the Western Federation of Miners. During several of those cases they had to send in the state militia to guard him. Feeling ran high about unions in Colorado back then. He was a great trial lawyer. Hardly ever lost a case in front of a jury."

METAPHOR ... I'm reading George Lakoff's *Moral Politics* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2002) and metaphor is the ruling word. According to Lakoff, the metaphor of government as family is how we as Americans envision politics. The Conservatives follow the Strict Father child-rearing practice of rewards and punishments, and the Liberals the Nurturant Parent system of protecting and educating – and all our divided belief systems spring from those opposing conceptual metaphors ... Well, reading an old *National Geo* special issue on Climate Change from three years ago, I ran across a perfect metaphor ... On the island nation of Kiribati in the South Pacific, folks are worried about the global warming effect as the ice melts and threatens to flood them from off their homelands. A king tide in 2015 lifted a shipwreck off the reef of a small islet on Kiribata's capital and largest atoll, Tarawa, and flung it ashore at Red Beach – the site of a 1943 bloodbath in WWII when Navy generals miscalculated tides and invasion landing craft got stranded on the reef ... The wreck pierced a sea-wall and it's stayed in place. The name of the wreck seems an ironic comment on the chances of surviving the rising seas -- *Tekeraoi, "Good Luck."*

INDIGENOUS ROUNDTABLE ... My friend Shaun Chapoose is a straight-shooter. He's

been a chair of the Ute Indian Tribe in Utah and a strong spokesperson for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Council. Since Telluride and San Miguel County have started to engage the three Ute tribes in the region, apologizing for past outrages and starting to create cultural dialogue among Native-Americans and Euro-Americans, he wants to do his part. ... He's offered to come and have a free-form roundtable where folks can ask questions – nothing off-limits – to clear the air between natives and non-natives. We at the Telluride Institute have accepted his concept, and are hosting just such an event at the Wilkinson Public Library Wednesday, January 17th at 6 p.m. ... It's free to all. Come with questions.

HIGH COMPLIMENT ... One of my loyal fans, Dr. Jimmy Schmidt of Houston, likes to send me clippings and cartoons, and some wry comment on something I've written ... Last month he really made my day. Commenting on my writing, he said, "You'd make Herb Caen proud" ... Since that legendary ace columnist has been an inspiration since back when I was a kid, reading the pre-Hearst *San Francisco Chronicle*, I was jazzed. Caen was the one who invented, as he called it, three dot journalism.

SPEAKING OF COMPLIMENTS ... It happens every couple months. Someone who looks familiar, like the portly rancher in Norwood's Happy Belly Deli last month, someone like that comes up to me and thanks me for my service as a county commissioner. They don't look like Greens. Or even liberals, necessarily. And they aren't thanking me for how I look, or what my politics were, or are. They are expressing gratitude for serving the people – all the people, whether I agreed with them or not ... It's moments like that which make you realize, it isn't just money that's a reward for public service. It's earning the respect of people who didn't expect to even like you, let alone thank you.

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

THE TALKING GOURD

Southern Summer Solstice 2017

This grey wet evening, low clouds, impossible
To see across the lake, a soft grey screen
Hiding blue water and darker blue peaks
That aren't there, solstice sun sound asleep. . .

No hurry to light up this landscape, not tonight,
Invisible is just as beautiful. What's visible?
The faintest line between lake and sky, real? unreal?
Doesn't matter, but it feels right, so much emptiness,

But still it's full, full of space, full of time,
No hurry, this is Patagonia, clocks slow down
Calendar pages don't turn, but seasons fly by

And here we are, tonight, at the top of the year
Refugees from a frightening future, almost ready
For that long slide, downhill, toward winter

*-Lito Tejada-Flores
Lago Carrera, Chile*



Introducing Independent Living at The Homestead at Montrose

If you are over 55 and independent but would like to live in a community offering socialization and peace of mind, schedule a tour of our private one and two bedroom apartments. We're conveniently located across from the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

WEEHAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS PRESENTS ARCANUM: THE MYSTERY & ABANDON OF ASEMIC WRITING

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Weehawken is excited to offer a new and unique writing workshop with Kierstin Bridger: Arcanum: The Mystery & Abandon of Asemic Writing. Kierstin says, "In this class we'll look beyond dark and light, yin and yang, the quarrel of opposites and turn our attention towards other forms. We'll consider anti-balance, and the inverse of what we know. We'll explore the alchemy of the invisible poem, the gestural art known as asemic writing (a worldless, open semantic form) and prose works that sparkle with layers under layers; the palimpsest of deep image. Together we'll uncover the arcs and mysteries that settle inside us when work is read aloud, when art and lyric combine. Let's discover what happens when we travel with our discomfort until it begins to transform. There's more than one way to tell a story or to write a poem. Some-

times we have to shake ourselves out of our usual rhythms and modes. We are all wired to make and create, to process the world's joys and sorrows through our work. Our subconscious minds are often the best storytellers but we have to write, draw, paint, dream or play in order to coax the voice to the surface. We will write, read and discuss the place where lyric and story give way to the articulation of image and of voice."

Kierstin encourages you to bring a fast pen and lots of paper. "If mystery is a word you embrace you'll like this workshop, if you want to open your work to new inspiration and invention, this class is for you," she says. This class is open to beginner to advanced writers. Kierstin will provide some calligraphy pens, brushes and ink, and other materials, students are encouraged to bring any materials they would like to experiment with.

Kierstin Bridger is a Colorado writer and author of *Demimonde* (Lithic Press) which won the 2017 Women Writing The West's Willa Award for Poetry. *All Ember* (Urban Farmhouse Press) is her full collection. Bridger has won the Mark Fischer Poetry Prize, the 2015 ACC Writer's Studio award, and was short-listed for the Manchester Poetry Competition in the UK.

She is both editor of Ridgway Alley Poems and Co-Director of Open Bard Poetry Series. She co-hosts Poetry Voice with poet Uche Ogbuji. She earned her MFA at Pacific University. at Kierstinbridger.com.

Arcanum: The Mystery & Abandon of Asemic Writing will be offered Jan. 27 from 10 am to 3 pm at Weehawken Ridgway (1075 Sherman St.). Tuition is \$75 for the workshop. For more information, or to register, go to www.weehawkenarts.org or call 970-318-0150.




**J-M
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & EDUCATION

LEARN TO TRAP AT MONTROSE WORKSHOP JAN. 17

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-If you've ever wanted to learn the basics of live-trapping or if you want to improve your chances of live-trapping animals, plan to attend a workshop sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Jan. 17 in Montrose. This is an introductory course for participants to learn the basics

of successfully using cage traps. Small game and furbearer populations are healthy in western Colorado providing trappers a unique opportunity. Officers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife will lead the presentation on cage trapping. They'll discuss animal biology, trap location, trap sets, use of lures/baits/attractants, skin-

ning, fleshing and stretching.

The class will be held at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife office in Montrose, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, 6-8 p.m., Jan. 17. The class will be limited to 25 people, and registration is required. To register, call the Montrose Parks and Wildlife office at 970-252-6000.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR WESTERN COLORADO STUDENTS ALL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WC.CF.ORG

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The Western Colorado Community Foundation (WCCF) is accepting applications for a wide variety of scholarships available to students residing in western Colorado.

A total of 36 different scholarship funds managed by WCCF are available to students through one online application at

www.wc-cf.org. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000+ and many are renewable for up to four years.

Criteria varies from financial need, to GPA scores, to chosen field of study and covers both four year degree programs and vocational institutions. Deadline for applying is March 1, 2018. For more information contact Cecile Aday at

970.243.3767.

The Western Colorado Community Foundation serves seven counties in western Colorado, managing charitable funds for community good.

The Community Foundation manages charitable funds totaling over \$65 million in assets and awards over \$3.5 million in grants and scholarships.

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WOW, IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED TRATTORIA YOU REALLY MUST

Craving real Italian food in Montrose? Look no further, Trattoria Di Sofia is here in Montrose.

I don't know why it took me so long to discover this place, but my editor steered me there and boy am I glad. Tiny Italian place on Townsend, best call for a reservation.

Michael and I stopped over the other night and enjoyed a really great Italian meal. We will definitely be back.

Of course, we started our meal with wine and there are some good offerings here. I opted for a wonderful rich red, and my friend had his normal Pinot Grigio. Both delicious!

We couldn't pass up the soup of the day, a lovely creamy mushroom, we shared.

The specials of the day were many; I had the Spaghetti de Sofia and Mike, Shrimp Scampi. His came with a caper-loaded white sauce over fettucini, my spaghetti with a nice white sauce as well with garlic.

Now, the Italian here is pretty darn authentic and the prices really affordable. Our specials were \$12.99 and \$13.99. Wines run from \$7-8 per generous glass.

You can choose appetizers from Caprese (sliced red tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, basil and extra virgin olive oil) from \$5.50, or a Bruschetta con Pomodoro, \$4.85 to a Calamari Fritti or Polenta E Salsiccia at \$8.99. Salads run from a mixed-greens topped with carrots, kalamata olives, julienned red onions, cucumbers and apples (Insalata Della Casa) at \$6.75 to a Ceasar \$7.50 or spinach salad at \$7.85. Add chicken (\$3) or shrimp (\$3.99).

Now, the pastas really are something else, running from a simple Fettuccine Alfredo at \$9.99 to a Linguine Al Pesatore (linguine pasta, sauteed garlic with shrimp, green mussels, calamari and fish with olive capers in a light marinara sauce) for \$13.95. Add grilled chicken (\$3) or shrimp (\$3.99).

Entrees run from the Pollo Alla Parmigiana (A breaded fried chicken breast topped with tomatoe sauce, mozzarella cheese and parmesan) \$12.95 to the enticing Scaloppine Di Vitello Al Funghi (thinly sliced veal sauteed with mushrooms and white wine) for \$17.50. Fresh meat of the day and fresh fish of the day are at prices the server will give you. Check out the chalkboard for daily specials. For dessert we shared a large piece of cheesecake with a fresh berry sauce, so good. Could have had a giant piece of rich chocolate cake with strawberries as well.

The restaurant notes that everything they serve is cooked to order, so allow a longer time. This evening the place was packed and service really great. No wait for a table in this small place tonight, or for food either.

You can dine in or take out, phone 970-249-0433. Trattoria Di Sofia is located at 110 N. Townsend Ave in Montrose. Open Monday - Saturday for lunch and dinner, closed on Sundays.

Please forgive the confusion on last week's Rocky Mountain Cravings; the review was of the Montrose Chili's restaurant. We unfortunately put an incorrect headline on the story.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

STRANGE AMERICANS RETURN TO SHERBINO THEATER JAN. 26



Strange Americans will play the Sherbino Theater on Jan. 26. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-Strange Americans out of Denver are coming back to play the Sherbino, bringing their "a little raw, a bit loud, unapologetic and honest" sound back to the stage on Jan. 26.

Strange Americans music "is the kind that the Carhartt-wearing, hard-working, industrial beer-drinking, regular Americans would listen to — the ones who could end up on an episode of TV's Dirty Jobs. It's Americana rock and roll and it's something

that Denver's Strange Americans are crafting with both brawn and finesse, like a hot rod mechanic bringing back an old barn find. In a sense, Strange Americans are rescuing something from the rust pile — straight-forward, no frills rock and roll, and a matching aesthetic that is heavy on songwriting and storytelling, but presented with reverb-drenched punch and passion — the way The Band or Crazy Horse would have done it."

Born in Denver on Sept. 1, 2009, Strange Americans has enjoyed participating in music scenes from Colorado to Oregon to New York, making friends along the way. Strange Americans has four albums available, *A Royal Battle* (2012), *That Kind of Luster* (2014), *Places* (2015), and *Borrow You, Brother* (2017).

Strange Americans will play the Sherbino Theater on Jan. 26, with doors opening at 7:30 and music beginning around 8.

Advance tickets are available online at sherbino.org for \$10, or at the door for \$12.

For more information, go to sherbino.org or call 970-318-0150.

A.J. FULLERTON CONTINUES TO PILE UP AWARDS, RECOGNITION FOR BLUES

Special to Art & Sol

COLORADO-Montrose High School graduate A.J. Fullerton continues to draw crowds and rave reviews for his roots Blues sound, most recently landing a place on the prestigious [Chris K's Colorado Playlist Best of 2017](#). The playlist web site notes, "At the [2017 Colorado Blues Society 'Members' Choice Awards](#) A.J. won an unprecedented *eight awards* for: *Best Guitarist – Best Solo/Duo – Best Band – Best Male Vocals – Best Slide Guitar – Best Songwriter – Best Acoustic Act – Best Local Recording (Kalamath)* .. ADD Best of the Colorado Playlist 2017. A.J. is as much one of our top blues players as he is one of our most outstanding up and coming singer-songwriters."



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

UTE LEADER SHAUN CHAPOOSE TO HOLD INDIGENOUS ROUNDTABLE



Shaun Chapoose. Courtesy photo by Tim Peterson.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE – The Telluride Institute is proud to invite local citizens to come to an Indigenous Roundtable at

the Wilkinson Library, Wednesday, Jan. 17th at 6 p.m.

Shaun Chapoose, Uncompahgre Ute Representative on the Ute Indian Tribe Business Council in Utah, will speak and entertain questions on all aspects of Ute history and his Tribe's current situation.

"Shaun and I spoke at the Chipeta Rising celebration in Salida this fall," said TI's Ute Reconciliation Program Director Art Goodtimes, "and he asked if he could come to Telluride and meet with local citizens. He wants to help explain how things work in Indian County in the 21st Century, and to field questions by those interested in learning more about the Utes forced removal from Colorado, native sovereignty, legal struggles, tribal lawsuits, Bears Ears and whatever other topics people want to discuss."

Former Chair of the Ute Indian Tribe in Fort Duchesne, Utah, Chapoose is currently one of two Uncompahgre Ute representatives on the Tribe's Business Committee. He is descended from the band of Utes that were moved out of the San Juan Mountains at gunpoint in 1881.

His tribe has been fighting a number of legal battles in Utah, trying to preserve tribal rights. And, as a member of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, Chapoose has been a gifted spokesperson, seeking to protect the Bears Ears National Monument from the Trump Administration's attempts to slash its boundaries and open up thousands of acres to industrial devel-

opment.

As Chapoose said at a news conference last year, "As Tribes, we will gather ourselves together to continue the fight to save our lands for the future of not just Native people, but all people who connect with these lands." He lives on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation with his family.

The Library event is free. Donations to continue TI's cultural outreach programs are encouraged (Visit www.tellurideinstitute.org/ute-reconciliation.html). A Ute Youth Ski Day was held last month for kids and chaperones from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and a second ski day is planned in the

spring.

"We could use help from volunteers to provide for lodging and general assistance with Ute Reconciliation programming," added Goodtimes. "Please contact me at shroompa@gmail.com if you are interested in assisting."

The Institute is partnering for this event with the Ute Indian Tribe, the Wilkinson Public Library, the Telluride Historical Museum, Durfee Day and other local groups as it pursues its Ute Reconciliation goal of bringing Ute cultural programming to town to heal old wounds and provide education for Native-Americans and Euro-Americans alike.

EARN \$100 FOR 90 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

Do you want to see residents of Southwestern Colorado work together to build a healthy community?

I am a professional market researcher. My client is interested in what Montrose County residents, from a range of political perspectives, are thinking about issues facing the community.

Would you like to attend a small focus group to collect opinions and discuss the issues? We are meeting at a co-working space in downtown Montrose called Proximity on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 14.

In return for their thoughts and time, participants will receive payment of \$100. The session will last about an hour and a half.

To see if you qualify to participate, please take this brief online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VWKM7MY>

Questions? Contact me at annebrownresearch@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you, and to a lively discussion, on Jan. 14!

**Anne Brown
Senior Qualitative Researcher**

HEDWIG

and the

The Angry Inch

February 1,2,3,4
Sherbino Theater

Text by John Cameron Mitchell,
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Trask

Doors 30 minutes before showtime

Thurs-Sat Showtimes: 7:30pm
Sunday Showtime: 4:00 pm

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THEATER THAT MOVES

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Locally based professional theater company **UpstART: Theater that moves**, presents the rock musical: Hedwig and the Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell, music and lyrics by Stephen Trask. **Adult material, not suitable for children.** Winner of both an Obie and Tony award, Hedwig and the Angry Inch tells the story of a fabulously entertaining, yet woefully ignored rocker with a legitimate axe to grind. What could be more entertaining than a story of love, betrayal and a sex change operation gone bad in what Rolling Stone Magazine calls the first rock musical "that truly rocks"!!

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch brings theater alive with the pounding sounds of Rock 'n' roll and the funny sad voicing of a painful past...it is also an adult, thought-provoking musical about the quest for individuality...the kind of Rocky Horror Picture Show-style event that may inspire a rabid cult following" -The New York Times

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business & Cultural Events

ONGOING-

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL, non-profit organization, was founded and introduced to the world at a ceremony held at the White House on March 1, 1977. FFI provides opportunities to explore new cultures by bringing people together at the personal level. Friendship Force of western Colorado's regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meeting location - Red Cross Training Center, 5th and Gunnison in Grand Junction, 6:15 p.m

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 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-

Jan. 9-Alpine Photography Club Meeting, 7 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2017, 7 pm at Colorado Mesa University, [245 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, Room 106](#). Presentation: Members share 17 of their best photos from 2017. Tech Tip: Auto ISO By Betty Fenton / Shooting Gap Light by Ken Whitlow. Sharing Theme: Winter Images / Photo Essays. Photo Critiques: Open. All are welcome to attend.

Jan. 10-On Wednesday Jan. 10, Citizens Climate Lobby meets at 6:30 Montrose Library meeting rm. Proposed presentation by Solar Energy International and Delta Montrose Electric renewable energy representative. The audience to be staff of all of the Congressional offices in G.J. to be fully informed of the sustainable technologies we have right in our state, and even Congressional district. Also, joint effort with Grand Junction groups to promote renewable energy education.

Jan. 11-Montrose League of Women Voters presents, "Is Our Democracy in Danger? How Money Impacts elections. Three Political Perspectives," Noon in the Montrose Library Community Room.

Jan. 11-Brett Dennen @ Club Red in Telluride. Brett Dennen is a folk/pop singer-songwriter from Northern California. He has played Telluride many times over the years, with multiple performances at The Telluride Bluegrass Festival. This show will be a solo seated acoustic show. Por Favor, Dennen's intimate and revealing 6th studio album released on May 20. Produced by Cobb, fresh from his Grammy-winning work with Chris Stapleton and Jason Isbell, the record strips Dennen to his core as a songwriter with nothing to hide. Tickets start at \$30.

Jan. 13-The Motet @ Club Red in Telluride. Fusing fiery funk, simmering soul, and improvisational inventiveness, the Denver, CO seven-piece—Lyle Divinsky [vocals], Dave Watts [drums], Joey Porter [keyboards], Garrett Sayers [bass], Ryan Jalbert [guitar], Gabriel Mervine [trumpet], and Drew Sayers [saxophone]—have continually provided an escape for listeners over the course of seven full-length albums since 1998, including their latest release Totem and with an upcoming 2018 release. Tickets start at \$25.

Jan. 15-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All National Park Service sites will have free admission on Jan. 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It will be the first of four nationwide. Normally, 116 national parks charge admission fees which range from \$3 to \$30.

Jan. 17-Weehawken is excited to offer a one-day class, "The Wild World of Watercolor," taught by Mike Simpson, a Signature Member of the Plein Air Artists of Colorado, the Western Colorado Watercolor Society and a member of the New Mexico Plein Air Artists, the Laguna Plain Air Painters Association, The Oil Painters of America and the National Watercolor Society. Join Weehawken Jan. 17 from 9 am to 3 pm at Montrose Field House (25 Colorado Ave). Tuition is \$95 per student. There is a six-student minimum pre-enrolled to make the class "go," so pre-registration is highly encouraged (and needed). For more information, visit Weehawken Creative Arts at www.weehawkenarts.org or visit facebook at facebook.com/weehawkenarts - or call them at 970.318.0150.

Jan. 21--Sunday Serenades: Montrose Regional Library, 12 noon, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018. Celebrate the return of this popular program! Featuring the Western Slope Singers: Kristin Mauk, Kenneth Easton, Daniel Easton. Rachel Blankmeyer. Join this musical family, who have been making music together for 30 years, on a journey through musical theater, from the early 1900s to today.

Jan. 25-27 -- With a three-state draw, the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum enters its sixth year with workshops on sustainable agriculture January 25 - 27th. Registration is now open at www.foodfarmforum.org. The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call 970-249-3935.

Jan. 27-In January Palm Arts brings in American electric blues singer, guitarist, and songwriter Seth Walker to the Black Box Theatre at the Palm. The Jan. 27 performance is at 7:30pm and tickets are available at www.telluridepalm.com.

Jan. 27-Arcanum: The Mystery & Abandon of Asemic Writing will be offered Jan. 27 from 10 am to 3 pm at Weehawken Ridgway (1075 Sherman St.). Tuition is \$75 for the workshop. For more information, or to register, go to www.weehawkenarts.org or call 970-318-0150.

Jan. 31-STS9 @ Club Red in Telluride. 20 years before the emergence of STS9, NASA sent Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 on a mission to the farthest reaches of the solar system and beyond. Each of these probes was equipped with identical Golden Records, special messages attached to what Carl Sagan called "a bottle launched into the cosmic ocean." They contained numerous images and sounds from throughout the world, pieces of music from various cultures, a map identifying the location of our planet, and other information for whomever, or whatever, might find them. Tickets start at \$35.

Feb. 5--Montrose Giving Club meets at the Bridges Golf & Country Club of Montrose, 5:30 p.m. Open to ALL women who can afford the \$100 donation and a \$10 hospitality fee.

Feb. 11-The highlight of the Palm Arts 2018 winter season is national touring ballet company Ailey II presented at Telluride's Michael D. Palm Theatre Feb. 11th at 7 pm. Tickets for this one of a kind performance are available at www.telluridepalm.com. For more information on upcoming events and tickets please visit www.telluridepalm.com or call our ticket line at (970) 369-5669.

Feb. 17-18-Karl Denson's *Tiny Universe* @ Club Red in Telluride. Karl Denson is fresh off The Rolling Stones' No Filter tour of Europe where he performed across the continent in his ongoing role as a tenor saxophonist with the legendary rock band. He wastes no time, however, getting back on the road with his band, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, for a string of tour dates around the U.S. Highly regarded as one of the best live bands on the planet, KDTU will be showcasing material from their long-awaited forthcoming studio album, as well as previous acclaimed KDTU recordings like 'New Ammo' and 'The Bridge.' Tickets start at \$35.

FEB. 24-Montrose Memorial Hospital's annual Health Fair will be Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Montrose Pavilion.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

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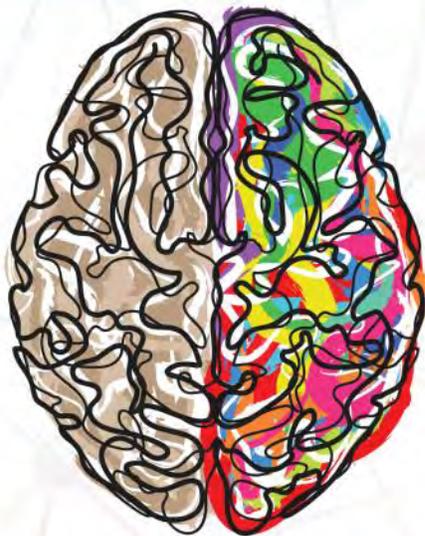
www.montrosemirror.com



Local veteran SPC Steven Baskis, above, was honored in a community kickoff organized by Homes for Our Troops (HFOT), who will build a new home for Baskis here in Montrose.



U.S. veterans, community leaders and well-wishers joined the HFOT Kickoff celebration at Crossroads Victory on Saturday, Jan. 6. Photos by Bradley Switzer.



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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!