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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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Issue No. 302 Dec. 10 2018

## BOCC APPROVES 2019 BUDGET, FEB. 23 NED LEDOUX CONCERT @ MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER



Country artist Ned Ledoux will perform at the Montrose County Event Center on Feb. 23, 2019. The concert was announced at the BOCC meeting of Dec. 5. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the supplemental budget for 2018 and the 2019 budget at the [regular meeting of Dec. 5](#). Commissioners also approved an agreement with Buffalo Skull LLC to have Country artist Ned LeDoux perform a concert at the Montrose County Event Center on Saturday Feb. 23.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard from the public.

### CONSENT AGENDA

With no changes to the Consent Agenda, the items were unanimously approved.

[Continued pg 26](#)

## TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION DONATE & RIDE BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO HAVEN HOUSE CHILDREN

By Caitlin Switzer

Olathe-Despite chilly temperatures, Santa Claus arrived with presents, good cheer, and a pack of motorcycles rallied by Tri-State Generation & Transmission to the Haven House Shelter in Olathe Saturday, Dec. 8, for the third year in a row. According to Haven House Executive Director Rose Verheul, the need has never been greater; the shelter is full, with 64 families and 36 children working to transition out of homelessness. Children, parents, grandparents, volunteers and formerly homeless cat named Elvis welcomed the big guy with smiles that would bring sunshine to the coldest day.



Bright smiles welcomed Santa Claus and Tri-State G&T Donate & Ride volunteers to the Haven House Homeless Shelter on Olathe's North River Road.

in this  
issue

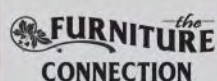
[Art Goodtimes'  
Up Bear Creek!](#)

[Randall White  
Talks ski safety!](#)

[Montrose City Council proclaims Dec.  
18 International Day of the Migrant!](#)

[Reader photo  
Spotlight!](#)





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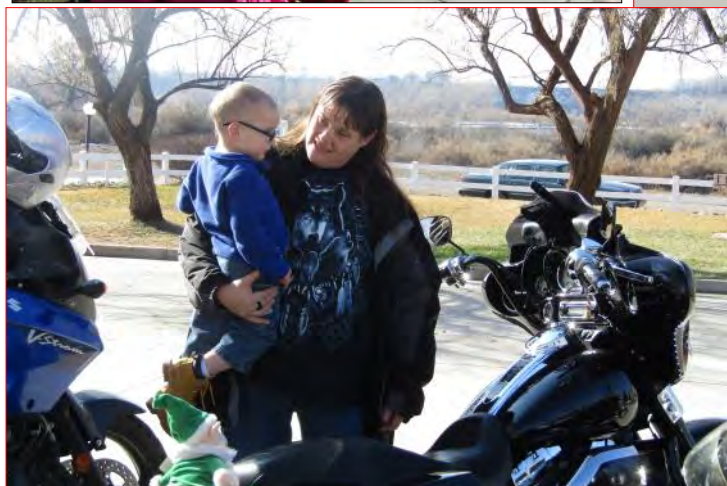
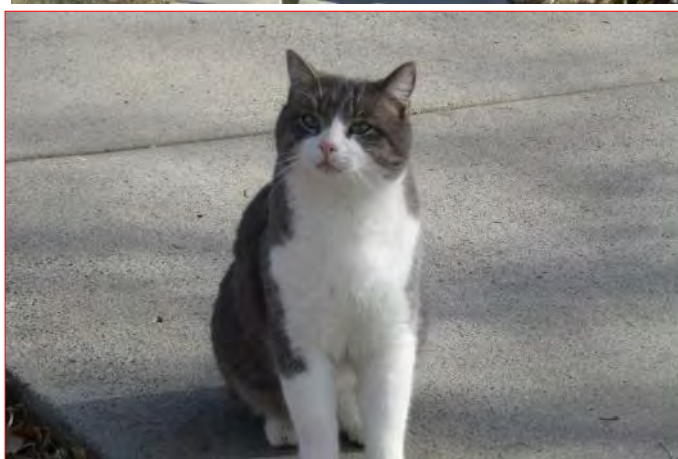
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## MIRROR IMAGES: TRI-STATE DONATE & RIDE 2018



*Little ones could scarcely contain their excitement, running and jumping as Santa arrived at Haven House with a roar of engines and a trailer full of gifts on Dec. 8. Tri-State G&T employees organized the event for the third year in a row, to brighten the season for Haven House families. Helping to welcome Santa and his helpers was Elvis, a formerly homeless feline who joined the Haven House team after being rescued and neutered. Today, Elvis brings cheer to the little ones all year long, Haven House Executive Director Rose Verheul said.*



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## *Thought for the Week:*

**I told my wife that a husband is like a fine wine; he gets better with age.**

**The next day, she locked me in the cellar.**



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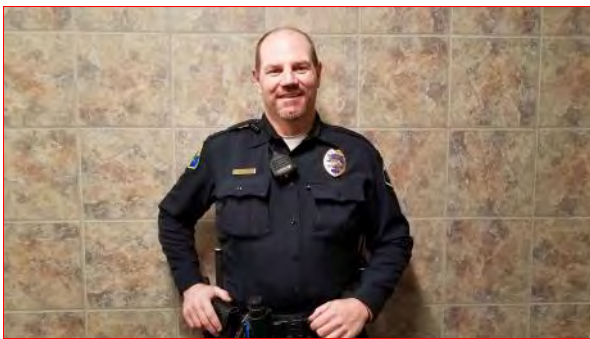
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## **TWO NEW MPD COMMANDERS 'HAVE A TEACHER'S HEART,' POLICE CHIEF HALL SAYS**



**MPD Commanders Matt Smith, above, (photo by Gail Marvel) and Tim Cox, right, (courtesy photo).**



his experience and abilities." Smith left the Montrose Police Department to work for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office as a patrol trainer and investigator, and then moved to the District Attorneys' Office, where he served as an investigator in charge of major cases and as a patrol investigator before returning to the MPD, Hall said.

### **Mirror Staff Report**

MONTROSE-Following a panel process that interviewed seven applicants, the Montrose Police Department (MPD) has hired two new commanders. The two will replace Blaine Hall, recently promoted to Police Chief, and Gene Lillard, recently elected Montrose County Sheriff.

"The Montrose Police Department has hired Detective Sergeant Tim Cox and Officer Matt Smith," Hall said Thursday. Though all seven applicants did very well,

"These two rose to the top," Hall said. "Detective Sergeant Tim Cox has 15 years' experience with our agency--as a patrol officer, as a patrol sergeant, he is currently our tactical team commander, and as a detective sergeant for the last two years."

Officer Matt Smith started with the MPD in 2008, but previously worked for the City of Delta as Superintendent of the Devil's Thumb Golf Course. "That allowed him to gain quite a bit of experience in budgeting," Hall noted. "That lends very well to

"He is able to take a critical view on cases."

Both Cox and Smith are well respected by their peers within the department and in the community, Hall said.

"These two individuals are excellent individuals, and they both have a teacher's heart," Hall said. "They are great listeners; they are going to be responsible to their employer and responsible to the City of Montrose."

"I am thrilled," Hall said. "They are perfect for our community."



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### REWARD OFFERED FOR ELK POACHING INCIDENT IN WESTERN COLORADO

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Colorado Parks and Wildlife is still seeking information about two bull elk killed illegally in western Colorado in early November; and now a \$1,250 reward is being offered for information on the crime.

Operation Game Thief is offering a \$1,000 reward and Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is offering an additional \$250 for information that leads to

an arrest or a citation being written to the person or persons who killed the bulls.

Both bull elk had six-point racks, which indicated they were mature animals in prime breeding age. The animals, found in Game Management Unit 61 in the Sanborn Park area, were killed and left to rot early in the 3rd Rifle season, likely sometime from Nov. 3-8.

The dead elk, which were killed well away from any forest roads, were spotted

by a hunter who reported them to a local district wildlife manager. Evidence has been recovered from the scene which is being used in the investigation.

"Whoever did this shows a total lack of respect for wildlife and ethical hunting," Caddy said. "Colorado's hunters are

ethical, respect wildlife and follow regulations. This was not done by a hunter; it was done by a criminal."

Operation Game Thief is a Wildlife Crimestoppers organization; Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is a nationwide organization with 1,700 members in Colorado and more than 20,000 members nationwide.

"Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is an organization that promotes legal, ethical hunting and fair chase; so we are compelled to speak up on this terrible incident," said Craig Grother, a member of the organization who lives in Norwood.

CPW Wildlife Manager Mark Caddy said, "We greatly appreciated the help that Operation Game Thief and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers are offering."

Anyone with information about this crime against wildlife can make a report to the Montrose wildlife service center at 1-970-252-6000; or to Operation Game Thief at 1-877-265-6648. Informants can remain anonymous and are eligible for rewards.



*This is one of the two bull elk that were killed illegally in western Colorado in early November. CPW courtesy photo.*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CDOT ACKNOWLEDGED FOR PARTNERSHIP AND SECOND CHANCES; PROGRAM WILL EXPAND TO WESTERN SLOPE IN NEXT TWO YEARS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is recognizing the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for its role in providing transitional work to individuals on probation or recently released on parole.

CDOT's partnership with CEO has provided employment for nearly 200 people since May 2017. Participants in the program work within CDOT's Division of Highway Maintenance to help maintain bridges, clear graffiti, and trim or remove unwanted vegetation.

A CEO recognition and presentation event was held at CDOT's Denver Headquarters Dec. 6.

"We're honored to be recognized for helping other people get a new lease on life by providing employment opportuni-

ties," said CDOT Executive Director Michael Lewis. "And in addition to helping themselves, they're helping us maintain our highway system so it's a win-win for everyone involved."

The CEO is a national organization that provides individuals on probation or those recently released on parole, with job training, placement, and support. Its Colorado operation launched in May 2017 after the Governor's Office of Community Partnerships, along with the Department of Corrections, visited CEO's New York office in 2015 and found it a compelling program to reduce recidivism and wanted to bring it to the state. "We are thrilled with, and grateful for, our partnership with CDOT," said National Director of CEO Samra Haider. "Thank you to CDOT for working with CEO to provide returning

citizens in Colorado the tools and opportunities to be successful in finding work and stabilizing their lives." Since the program's inception, 23,000 work hours have included maintenance on 140 bridges, the removal of more than 1,700 bags of garbage, graffiti elimination and clearing the state highway right-of-way of unwanted vegetation. "The initial success of the program has allowed us to expand it to other parts of the state," said CDOT's Director of Highway Maintenance Kyle Lester. "From its start in the Denver area, the program's now grown to include the Greeley-Fort Collins area and the Colorado Springs area."

CDOT expects to expand the program to other areas of the state in the next two years, including to the Western Slope and Southwestern Colorado.

### YAMAHA AWARDS OUTDOOR ACCESS INITIATIVE GRANT TO WESTCORE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-WESTCORE (Western Colorado Riders and Enthusiasts) is pleased to announce it has received a Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OAI) Grant of \$4200 for Maintenance of Multi---Use, Single Track Trail in Western Colorado.

The grant was awarded as part of Yamaha's Outdoor Access Initiative promoting safe, responsible riding in open, sustainable riding areas. With multiple WESTCORE Members having completed USFS sawyer certification training, they have entered into a volunteer agreement with the USFS to keep multi---use, single---track trail in Western Colorado cleared and safe. Yamaha's Outdoor Access Initiative (OAI) Grant will provide WESTCORE with four Stihl Chainsaws, personal protection equipment, saw packs, med kits, and the fuel and oil necessary to maintain Western Colorado single---track trail for all user groups.



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**4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

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**Registration is required.** The workshop will be held in Montrose, at The Homestead of Montrose, located at 1819 Pavilion Drive (in the activity room). Call (970) 243 - 8250 today to reserve your seat or sign up on our website at **[www.browncandbrownpc.com](http://www.browncandbrownpc.com)**



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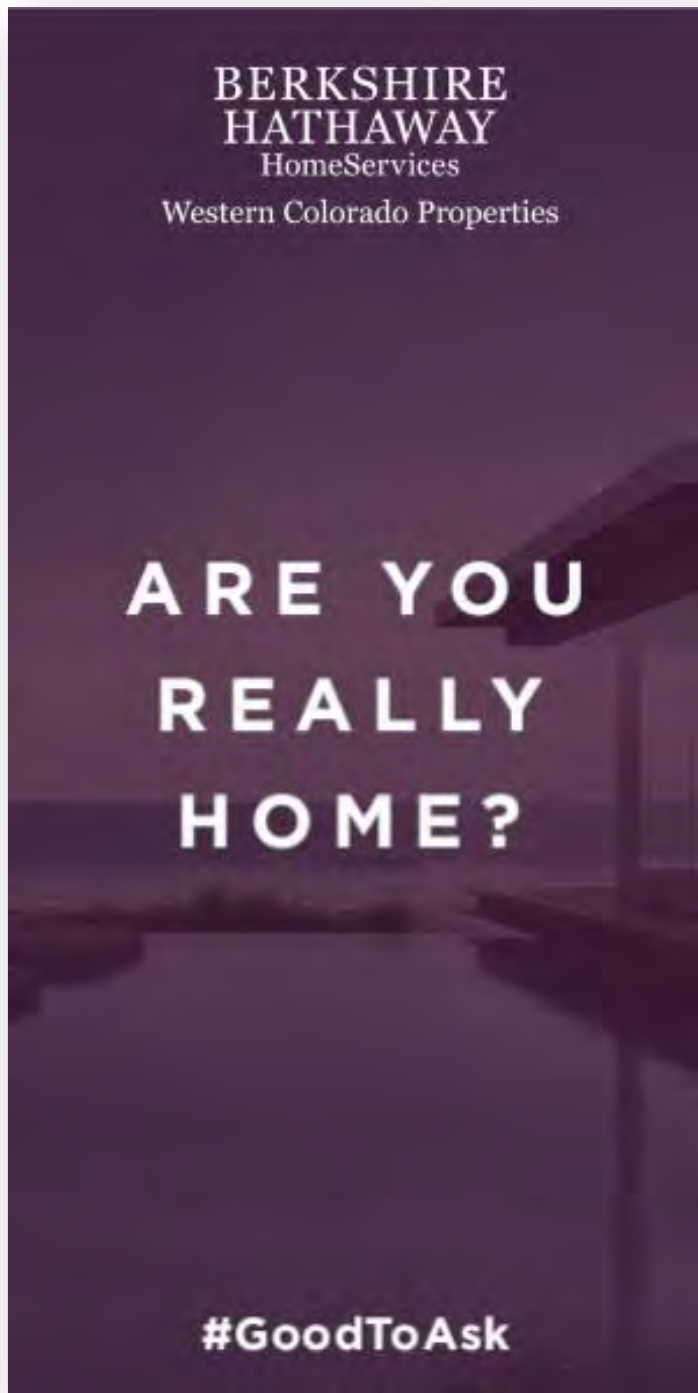
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## MIRROR IMAGES: MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR



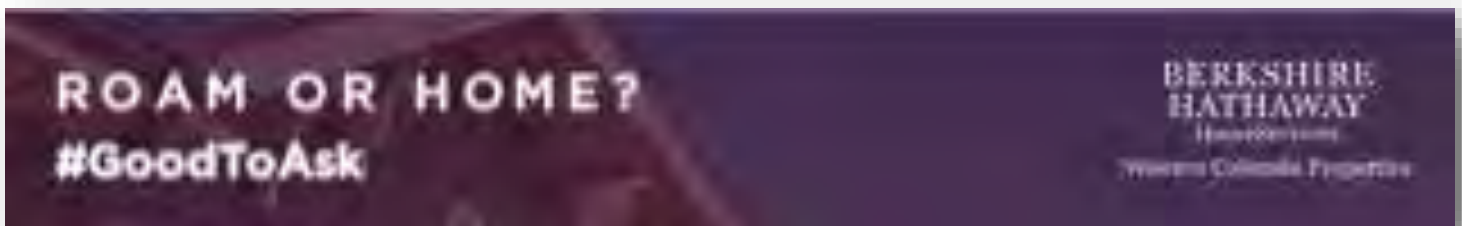
### WINTER COFFEE HOUSE CONCERT @ GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH



*Montrose High School Combined Choirs take the stage with Choir Director Jenna Henry at the Winter Coffeehouse Concert on Dec. 3 at Grace Community Church.*



*MHS Choir student Brianna Bond performs a solo at the Winter Coffee House Concert Dec. 3.*





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## CITY COUNCIL CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIGRANT, INCREASES 2018 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BY \$2M



*At left, Council adopted a proclamation in support of International Day of the Migrant. Above, Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthau, far left, gave a Holiday event report.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council proclaimed Dec. 18 as the International Day of the Migrant at the [regular Council meeting](#) of Dec. 4, and approved an increase to the 2018 supplemental budget of \$2,902, 464.

Mayor Roy Anderson read the [proclamation](#), and with a larger than usual crowd in attendance, Jorge Nunez spoke.

"I would like to thank the Montrose City Council for recognizing International Migrants Day and the rights for the families to migrate together to a better and safety place," Nunez said. "I am a student at Montrose High School, and I am a dreamer, and also I am DACA recipient, and I recently started a landscaping business in the summer...we managed to get some work done for some properties...and right now I am learning to be an electrician. So I will be going to school in Denver, and through a union, to continue my studying as an electrician."

### TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City resident Russell Evans spoke. "...I want to publicly recognize Officer Taylor Deines for his bravery a couple of months ago; both Taylor and Brian Rumbaugh were students of mine back in the day, and I can't give enough praise to those

two young men for what they've done... One of the things that helps police the most in the community is when you can have people go along with a ride-along... sitting in the car and seeing what the police have to deal with on a daily basis builds that level of trust and intimacy and a greater understanding of what's going on."

Still, "It's really hard to convince people to do that," Evans said.

He suggested offering a program that would implement a stipend to citizens who go on ride-alongs with the police. "Maybe a month's free trash service...at the least you would find the geographic areas where crime is highest," he said. "...The City could see if there was a reduction in crime or at least a better connection with that area and scale that system up."

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall responded. "I would love to hear more about it...we encourage ride-alongs for the public; it is another great way for the community to get to know our police officers."

He and Evans left Council Chambers to discuss the idea further.

Also addressing Council was local business woman Tricia Joy, who expressed hope that Council would remain politically bipartisan.

"...I am here to tell you it is my opinion... and I oppose your proclamation because it is not non-partisan," Joy said. "You have taken the position that this is benign; you have taken the position that this is in support, and I agree, of the Hispanic Affairs Project...I stand before you as an American citizen, not a Republican and not a Democrat...I stand before you as an Irish immigrant. My grandfather came from Ireland; he married an Irish immigrant, coal miner's daughter, they worked hard they died young. But their son, my father, went on to be a first lieutenant in the Navy, worked in the Pentagon for the Navy... went on to Columbia Law School...ended up as a single father. In the first grade in Florida I started learning Spanish over the PA system because of the Cuban immigrants...we are a country of legal immigrants, I believe ...the declaration of this day, on its face is a beautiful and wonderful thing...who could argue with that?"

She noted that International Day of the Migrant is the result of a [United Nations proclamation and convention](#) that has not been ratified by the United States.

"What you've proclaimed tonight is Un-American," Joy said. "I hope to see that it never happens again...if this is not a politically motivated action on your part, perhaps it's just misguided...perhaps it's not understanding the organization behind the Hispanic Affairs Project..."

"Your three minutes are up," Mayor Roy Anderson said

*Continued next pg*

## ***CITY COUNCIL HONORS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIGRANT***

### ***From previous pg***

"...Ninety percent of my crew in Denver on a hotel are Guatemalans," Joy said. "I personally process every one of their documents...I break bread with them, I drink coffee with them...this is not about immigration, it is about the rule of law in America," Joy said. "This proclamation should not have been made."

"Thank you for your comments," Anderson said.

Speaking next was Rick Antolovich of Montrose. "I love seeing all of the immigrants here tonight," he said, "but I concur with the previous speaker...when I see things like this, there is just a sense of, where did this come from, who wrote it, and why is it being proposed here...this kind of thing seems to be coming from the U.N, and it hasn't been ratified by a whole bunch of countries anyway."

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented Ordinance 2462, concerning the 2018 [Supplemental Budget](#), which increases the 2018 budget by \$2,902, 464. Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2462 on first reading.

#### **RESOLUTION 2018-35**

Council unanimously approved Resolution 2018-35, fixing the tax levy for the Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA) at five mills.

Councilor Barbara Bynum asked whether the DDA had requested the amount or had a say in the matter. Wittenberg noted, "We've never had that conversation...it's in the ordinance at five mills; we've always certified it at five mills."

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager Bill Bell reminded City residents to "try to develop a snow removal system that keeps it on private property," and to take care when approaching a roundabout during winter weather. "They tend to ice up before the street is cleared." High priority snow removal routes are published on the City's web site, he said.

Public Works Manager Jim Scheid informed Council that the City and County exchanged several snow removal routes. "Basically, we traded a few City Streets for a few County roads...we took about three miles of their roads and they took about

three miles of our roads...it saves about 20 miles per trip."

"What a make sense idea!" Anderson said. Great!"

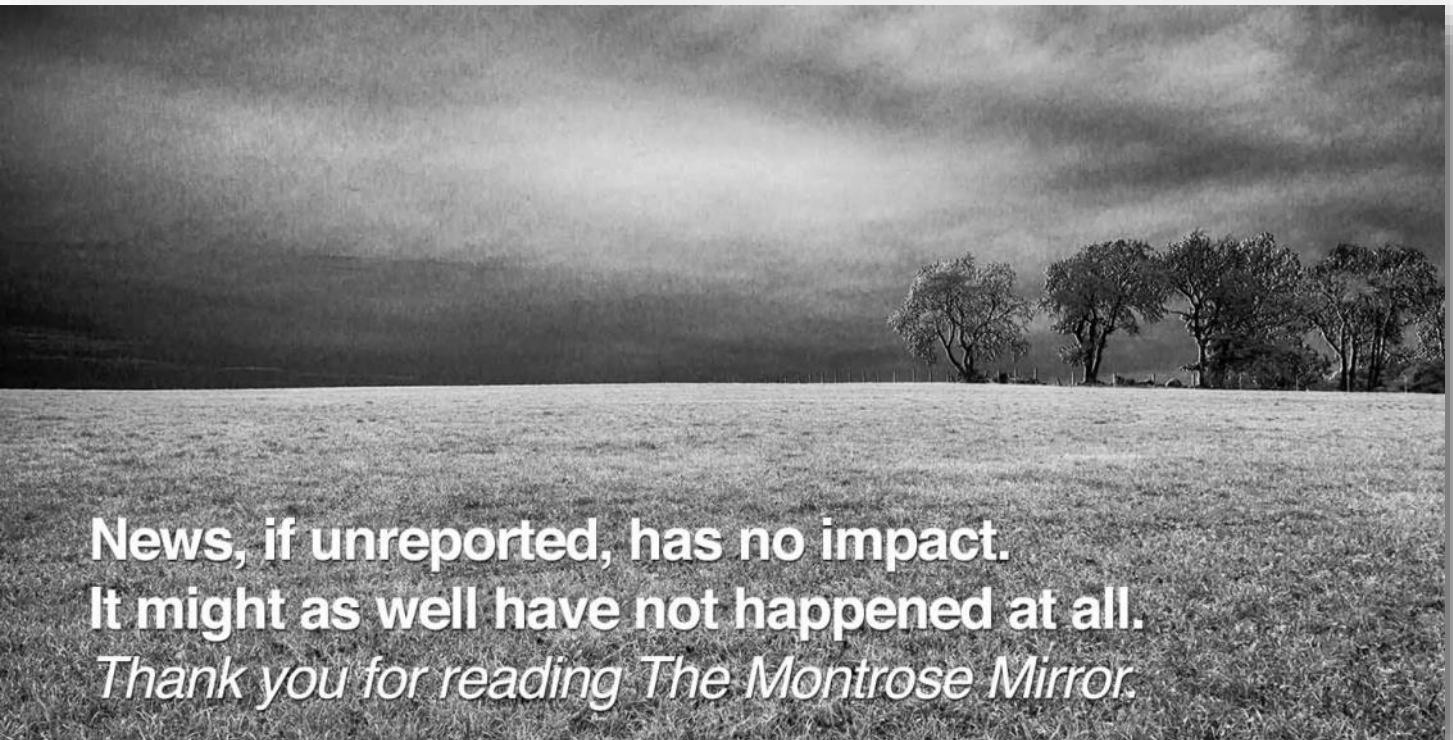
Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaller provided an update on the Parade of Lights, noting that this year's Grand Marshalls were Northside Elementary School students.

"They engaged in a contest to design floats for the parade...two winners were combined to become the official float for Northside Elementary School." Parade winners were first place Tri-State Generation & Transmission, second place Agrupacion Clave 5, and third place Northside Elementary School.

Following further comments by Council, Youth Councilor Mari Wilson asked if the float competition could be opened up to all local schools.

"Great idea," Morgenthaller said. "We will specifically invite all of the schools next year; we would love to have them involved."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



**News, if unreported, has no impact.  
It might as well have not happened at all.  
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***



# LET THEM EAT CAKE? WHY NOT BRING A BROWN BAG LUNCH INSTEAD?

*Mirror staff editorial*

MONTROSE—According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the pre-revolution French Queen Marie-Antoinette is associated with the decline of the French monarchy, though her courtly extravagance was but a minor cause of the financial disorders of the French state in that period. Britannica notes, “She became the main target of the popular agitators, whose animosity contributed to the legend that, on being told that the people had no bread, she callously remarked, “Let them eat cake!”

In the end, Marie-Antoinette lost not only her crown, but the head upon which it rested.

Why bring up the lovely but unfortunate Marie in present day Montrose? Here’s why. The Montrose City Council has gained (whether fairly or not we will leave to the judgment of history) a reputation for extravagance with public funds. Recent letters to the editor reveal a growing distaste for this Council’s habit of awarding large sums of public money to private businesses without a competitive bid process, and for channeling funds to their own pet projects and to those of their friends and cronies.

At regular City Council work sessions, large numbers of catered lunches are shared liberally with not only Council, but a number of high-level staff members. Montrose County work sessions, by way of

contrast, are not catered.

The Kids Count Data Center shows that in Montrose County, 49.7 percent of public school students qualify for free and reduced school lunches. The most recent United States Census data notes that the average value of owner-occupied housing here in the City of Montrose is \$188,500; the median gross rent is \$844, and 21.8 percent of citizens live below the poverty level. Median household income in Montrose County is just \$43,285 according to the most recent Kids Count data report. It’s no secret that the local food bank does a brisk business; the only homeless shelter that serves families, Olathe’s Haven House, has been full for months and things show no sign of easing up.

And yet, unlike many communities across the state, the City of Montrose charges a hefty sales tax on food purchased for home consumption.

A quick survey of one establishment favored for the City’s work session lunches reveals an average box lunch price of at least \$5.50 each; multiplied by more than 16 or 17 boxed lunches twice each month, that adds up to a hefty price tag that the citizens are paying for City Council and staff to do the job they are already being paid to do.

Why not bring a brown bag lunch from home?

We believe that if each Councilor had to



*Marie-Antoinette. Courtesy image.*

pay for all the catered food being consumed during these “working lunches,” they would find a brown bag meal a far more attractive option.

Because if City Council continues to spend public money in a wanton fashion while others go hungry, the next Montrose Mayor—current Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Bowman—may, like the unfortunate Marie-Antoinette, end up with a revolution on his hands.



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## Season's Readings

is an annual project by Altrusa International of Montrose. We ask our community to donate new or gently-used children's books.

Donated books, along with new books purchased by Altrusa, will be wrapped and given to children within the Health and Human Services network.

Please drop off your donations at one of the locations listed below starting **November 14 through December 17, 2018.**

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# COUNCIL TALKS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE, GLASPELL OBJECTS TO DAY OF THE MIGRANT PROCLAMATION



*City staffer William Woody listens as Engineer Scott Murphy addresses Council over lunch at the work session Dec. 3.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council held a regular work session on Monday, Dec. 3, with more than 17 Council and key staffers enjoying catered box lunches and fresh fruit. During the work session, Councilor Doug Glaspell expressed dissatisfaction with a proposed Proclamation in support of Dec. 18 as "International Day of the Migrant." Glaspell specifically called attention to the last paragraph of the Proclamation, which reads, "December 18, 2018, is recognized as 'International Day of the Migrant,' and is a day for our country to look closely at our legal immigration policies and practices."

"I am totally dissatisfied with the way this is written," Glaspell said. "It's strongly political...I don't think it's our responsibility to take on the Federal Government's job and take a stand on immigration."

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said that the proclamation was being put before Council at the request of Staffer Virgil Turner; Turner said that the proclamation is based on one approved by the Grand Junction City Council and has been substantially the same since 2015.

City Manager Bill Bell said that proclamations are ultimately "the mayor's decision."

Said Mayor Roy Anderson, "I respect your input, thank you...I don't see it as political."

Other work session items are as follows.

## PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

With five applicants up for consideration for the City's Planning Commission, Mayor Roy Anderson suggested approving all applicants without interviews, and expanding the seats on the Planning Commission to seven. "We will be working on our master plan...the more people we have to work on that, the better."

Applicant Greg Easton

agreed to serve as an alternative to the commission; applicants will be officially approved at the regular Council meeting of Dec. 18.

"We're a tough bunch," Anderson said. "But you guys are all well qualified...thank you for your interest in applying."

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Item A-Discussion to develop public safety committee goals and objectives.

With 20 applicants for the City's proposed Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee, Council discussed how to appoint committee members. Other questions included whether to hire a facilitator. City Manager Bill Bell said that though Council had initially asked all applicants to go through the Citizens Police Academy, "We heard from some of them...now we are talking about doing an expedited form of that." The training will help ensure all applicants understand law enforcement trends and are on the same page, he said.

Those appointed to the Committee should be people "who will roll up their sleeves and dig into these types of questions and topics, and put forth recommendations to Council," Councilor Barbara Bynum said.

Glaspell asked whether the committee would break into separate groups to focus on different areas.

Councilor Dave Bowman said, "Maybe we have a series of educational meetings,

and segment the information into topics... when the time comes for the committee to put a report together, we have a facilitator to help us build consensus."

The facilitator will need to have expertise in the area of law enforcement, Bynum said. "This person isn't just a facilitator but comes with knowledge as well...someone who specializes in helping communities do a deep dive into the police department to see what works and what doesn't."

Also important is an understanding of what citizens want and expect from the police department, she said.

Bowman suggested taking the 15 applicants who live within City limits, though Resolution 2018-25, which establishes the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, states that "Members must either work or reside within the City Limits of the City of Montrose... The Committee shall have no less than 12 Members, but no more than 18 Members."

Glaspell said, "We stated 18 members up front...there are a lot of people who don't live directly within city limits who are affected...it's in our best interest to let people who pay the sales tax serve."

"We can automatically include the City residents," Bynum said, "and select the others from those remaining...I feel strongly that we should take 18...we have already had this discussion."

Said Bowman, "Would you take a County person for the City Planning Commission?"

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said that the City Charter would preclude a County resident from serving on the City's Planning Commission, though "The Charter has no comment on this."

Councilor Judy Ann Files reminded Council that, "We as a group decided not to make a distinction between City and County...we have qualified applicants who live in the County and who might be stronger than some of our City applicants."

Police Chief Blaine Hall suggested making the committee as diverse as possible, "The facilitator's role is going to be very important too."

*Continued next pg*



# CITY COUNCIL TALKS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## *From previous pg*

Following further discussion, Council opted to select 18 candidates from the list of applicants, with each Councilor submitting a list of their 18 selections prior to the next Council meeting on Dec. 18.

"I don't think we can decide to spend more money until we know what we are spending money on," Bynum said. "...we need to know that we are providing the kind of police department that our citizens want."

### **Item B-Ellsworth Addition Annexation**

Senior Planner Garry Baker presented information on the proposed annexation of this four-acre property just north of Oak Grove Road, which is surrounded by City properties. A resolution will come before Council on Dec. 18, with a hearing set for Feb. 5.

### **Item C-Sole Source Justification-Spillman server replacement**

Information Systems Director Rich Willis presented information on the need to replace the Montrose Police Department server, a Unix server that has reached 80 percent of capacity. The current operating system will no longer be supported. The MPD system is currently run on a single platform, he said, "If anything breaks, it goes down...I am proposing a redundant solution."

The City is discussing the possibility of combining law enforcement hardware with Montrose County in future, he noted.

The main part of the purchase is hardware," Willis said, "We would like to continue with the Spillman software that has been used for a long time by the City." The cost of the replacement server would be \$155,400.

Without competitive options, "It sounds like just what we need," Mayor Anderson said.

### **Connect Initiative Recreation Trail**

There were five bids on the project, with the lowest bid coming from Western Gravel Constructors, City Engineer Scott Murphy said. Construction is expected to start in January with completion in mid October. "This should be great for Western Gravel," Murphy said.

Councilor Barbara Bynum noted that part

of the project funding will come from a \$2M Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo) grant.

### **Changes to the 2018 Supplemental Budget**

There were more changes to the 2018 supplemental budget, presented by Finance Director Shani Wittenberg. "Black Canyon Golf Course was not on my radar, but it should have been," Wittenberg said. "There were some issues with contractors in 2017."

City Manager Bill Bell said that the City paid to fix a sand trap and Hole Ten at the Golf Course. "We were fixing water issues...the contractor got busy and it carried over into 2018." A change order for the Cerise Park Amphitheater was approved by Council as well.

### **Comments**

Councilor Judy Ann Files said she was very impressed with the Christmas tree lighting celebration this year, and a presentation by City staff at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli "excelled."

"I loved the pictures of City equipment doing things...my husband pointed out that everyone who spoke, spoke with pride," she said.

The 2018 Parade of Lights was great, she said, and thanked City staff. "I think we have had an amazing last two weeks."

Councilor Dave Bowman said he spoke to "Montrose University" about the difference between the City and the County on Nov. 30. He praised communications assistant William Woody for writing news releases. "You're really making an impact statewide."

Councilor Bynum said that she had asked her son, who will be 18 during his senior year, where students are getting e-cigarettes.

"He told me they get them from friends who are 18...there are a lot of 18-year-olds at the High School."

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked whether the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has any say over the setting of its mill levy.

Finance Director Wittenberg said that she takes the assessed value of property

within the DDA and multiplies it by 5 mills.

Glaspell also said that he was uncomfortable with a proposed proclamation proclaiming Dec. 18 as "International Day of the Migrant" (see first paragraph). "In today's political environment that is really pushing the limit."

Mayor Anderson mentioned that the City has received \$4K from Rocky Mountain Health Plans after receiving the Governor's Award for Healthy Communities.

Anderson then asked for staff comments.

### **Staff Comments**

Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner said that the City is in the middle of completing a workforce study.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler praised the quality of floats in the 2018 Parade of Lights. "It's a great testimony to how involved people are here."

City Manager Bill Bell reminded Council and staff of upcoming meetings.

City Attorney Alcorn said that the City is hiring a new Assistant City Attorney.

City Engineer Murphy said there is a \$50K change order on the Cerro project. "That's the next big one."

Senior Planner Baker said that the City will hire Amy Sharp as a planner.

Communications Assistant Woody said that the City's public access channel 191 will carry a wine and food show from Telluride.

"They are letting us have it for no charge during the month of December...I would like to get feedback." He said he would write a public service announcement about recycling contamination.

City Clerk Lisa Delpiccolo said that 34 attended the recent alcohol server training, and were well taught by Officer Courtney Jones of the Montrose Police Dept.

Human Resources Manager Terri Wilcox thanked staff who used open enrollment for health insurance this year.

Office of Business & Tourism Marketing Director Kelly Rhoderick said that OBT will launch its new web site in the first quarter of 2019 and has surpassed Black Canyon of the Gunnison in Facebook likes.

OBT has hired a full-time assistant.





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

# WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE

Editor,

I'm writing to address the comments that were attributed to me in an article that appeared in issue #299, titled "Citizens Call For More Transparency, Internal Investigation Of Ouray County Sheriff's Office".

While I take full responsibility for those comments, I did not intend for them to be published. I humbly apologize to all your readers for the hurtful and disrespectful nature of those comments, but particularly to Sue Williamson.

Sue, assuming you will read this, I am truly sorry, and do not in any way believe that you are "vicious".

While you have said extremely harsh things to me (and about the Town of Ridgway) that I honestly believe are undeserved, I respect that you have been through a harrowing experience here in Ouray County. I empathize with your experience,

and the emotional trauma that it caused, and understand how that has led you to say such things.

Not to diminish the anguish and hurt my printed comments surely caused, I am extremely encouraged by the turnout and ensuing discussion that occurred at the event sponsored by VAST, the victim's advocacy group covered in the above-mentioned article. I believe we are on the path to addressing the group's concerns, which will hopefully educate the public, and of course law enforcement, about just how prevalent and serious the issues of sexual abuse and assault are in the county, the state and our entire nation.

As was mentioned in the article, our hiring of Tammy Stroup as the new Ridgway Marshall last year, with her extensive background in investigating sexual assault as well as victim's advocacy, is already an

important step in the right direction. Also, the county now has a part-time Victim Advocate, partially funded by a state grant, housed in Ridgway Town Hall, and shared with the City of Ouray and Ouray County through an intergovernmental agreement.

More needs to be done of course. Another development that came out of last week's event is the formation of a new group which I have joined, Men Against Rape Culture (MARC), which will meet monthly to discuss what we men can do to address rape culture, and hopefully implement some ideas to do just that.

My hope is that the MARC group will eventually be another example of how we can do great things when we work together to bring about change.

Sincerely,

John Clark, Ridgway



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# ANOTHER COLORADO ELECTION IS IN THE BOOKS

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER-The 2018 general election, which set records for turnout, is officially over. In all, 2,583,580 Coloradans cast votes that were counted by their county clerks. "The administration of the election went extraordinarily well," said Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams. "I'm very proud of the work done by our office and by Colorado's county clerks to ensure that a record number of Coloradans were able to vote."

The Secretary of State's website provides [the election results](#), complete with maps that show voter turnout by county among other things.

One result of the higher turnout is that the signature requirement for a citizens initiative for the next four years will be 124,632 valid voter signatures. It had been 98,492.

The state constitution requires signatures from "at least 5 percent of the total

number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state at the previous general election."

Voter turnout can be calculated in several ways:

Turnout by active voters: 75.7%  
(2,583,580 / 3,410,856)

Turnout by registered voters: 65.5%  
(2,583,580 / 3,946,475)

Turnout by voting eligible population: 63.0% (2,583,580 / 4,103,903)

Voting eligible population, or VEP, is the national standard, and Colorado scored second highest in the nation.

### 2018 VEP Top Five:

Minnesota 64.3%

Colorado 63.0%

Montana 62.0%

Wisconsin 61.7%

Oregon 61.5%

The national VEP turnout for the Nov. 6 election was 50.1 percent. Colorado has scored higher than the national average

this entire decade. In fact, Colorado's turnout this election was higher than 32 states during the last presidential election.

### How Colorado voted

Mail ballot: 2,465,083 or 95.3%\*

In person total: 120,960 or 4.7%

In person on Election Day: 91,131

Provisional ballots: 455

- Mail ballot includes ballots returned by the post office, dropped into 24-hour ballot drop-boxes or delivered in person to a Voter Service and Polling Center.

- That breakdown is not yet available.

### Demographic turnout

Women: 51.5%

Men: 47.2%

Unknown: 1.2%

Democrats dominated in the 2018 general election, winning all statewide offices, including Secretary of State.

Williams, a Republican, leaves office on Jan. 8.

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## **BOCC APPROVES 2019 BUDGET, FEB. 23 NED LEDOUX CONCERT**

### ***From pg 1***

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **Resolution 71-2018**

County Finance Manager Lanny Paulson presented information concerning adoption of the 2018 second and final supplemental budget appropriation, consisting of \$100,000 for the Fleet Management Fund, for tires and diesel fuel. Resolution 71-2018 was approved unanimously.

##### **Resolution 72-2018**

Paulson presented information on Resolution 72-2018, concerning the adoption of the 2019 budget, which totals \$81.4 million, and appropriation of funds for 2019. "I'd like to thank staff throughout the organization for all the work they did over this last eight months developing this budget, that includes department directors, elected officials, the county manager, and the board," Paulson said. "It's a lengthy process, we made it through it again...this process results in what I believe is a very solid and improved operating plan for 2019. It will allow us to continue to provide a quality level of services to the citizens of Montrose County in both an efficient and effective manner."

Paulson read the appropriations into the record by fund.

"I appreciate all of the work you've done on that," Commissioner Sue Hansen said. "I can't wait to start in a month on next year's budget."

"I want to thank you guys...they work their tails off, they really do," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said. "We are so fortunate to have this staff to help manage our County finances...we don't do this work...we sit in meetings and they bring it to us, we make a few of the hard decisions, but the real grinds are these guys and gals who sit there and work through this budget diligently to try to serve our citizens of Montrose County."

"I am so proud of this group."

Rash asked for and received a round of applause for staff.

Said BOCC Chair Keith Caddy, "Thank you so much Lanny for putting this together, and all the departments heads working diligently...and making sure that we are serving the public the most efficient and

effective way with the funds given us to steward over."

Resolution 72-2018 was approved unanimously.

##### **Resolution 73-2018**

Paulson presented information on Resolution 73-2018, establishing mill levies and levying or property taxes for 2019.

The total net mill levy for 2019 is 23.597, applied to net assessed value of \$532,574,287. The total property tax assessment is \$12,567,350.

"That represents about a \$32,000 increase over the property levy for 2018," Paulson said.

Resolution 73-2018 was approved unanimously.

##### **Montrose Regional Airport**

Also unanimously approved was a waiver of first refusal to purchase a hangar at 27696 DD Road in Nucla, owned by Reed Mitchell, to permit its sale to William H. Arthur.

"The Airport does not have a need for this hangar in Nucla," Airport Contracts specialist Susan Wheeler said.

##### **Fairgrounds Event Center-Ned Ledoux concert**

Fairgrounds Director Emily Sanchez asked the BOCC to consider authorizing an [agreement](#) with Buffalo Skull LLC to have Ned LeDoux perform a concert at the event center on Saturday Feb. 23. The guaranteed fee is \$17,500.

Ledoux, son of the late country star Chris LeDoux, has a multigenerational following, Sanchez said.

"For our community, we could draw from several different age groups...he provides a really quality show. He's an outstanding artist, he's easy to work with...the people are going to feel like they got their money's worth when they come to it."

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked about marketing to surrounding communities, and asked Sanchez, "What is your biggest concern?"

"The concert business is super hard," Sanchez said. "I have not seen it done quite right. I think the Bridges is doing it really well, and I am trying to kind of copy their format at a more affordable price."

There will be several different ticketing levels, she said.

Rash thanked Sanchez for the work involved in putting the concert together. "I know it's a lot of hard work and stressful trying to come up with these shows."

Hansen spoke to concerns of citizen Dennis Olmstead, who was in attendance and who has repeatedly expressed concern over Fairgrounds expenditures.

"Dennis, you have to sometimes spend money to make money," she said. "This is an effort of the board of county commissioners to make that happen."

The agreement passed unanimously.

##### **Revised Fairgrounds bylaws**

Commissioners approved a change to bylaws of the Montrose County Fair Board, allowing the president to have voting rights unless the sitting board has an even number of voting members. If an even number exists, the president will refrain from voting unless a tie-breaking vote is required.

The fair board has two new members, Fairgrounds Event Coordinator Stoney Field said, bringing the total to 11.

Both Rash and Caddy expressed thanks for the hard work of the fair board.

"What would we do without our volunteers on our boards and all our different committees...I just want to throw out a big thank you to those folks, especially this board," Rash said. "I appreciate everything they do."

"When it comes to fair time, literally thousands of hours are spent by fair board members...it's very, very time consuming, the people who do that are very dedicated to making sure the Montrose County Fair continues at the level it is," Caddy said.

##### **Public Works-Exchange of Snow Plow Routes**

Commissioners unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Montrose for the exchange of snow plow routes. County Engineer Keith Laube called the MOU a "win-win" situation.

"With this agreement we don't have to send plows through the City to plow a quarter mile of a county road," Laube said.

**Continued next pg**



## **BOCC APPROVES 2019 BUDGET, FEB. 23 NED LEDOUX CONCERT**

### **From previous pg**

"It saves time on our routes."

Said Hansen, "I appreciate the vision on this...the planning...it's great that you actually want to put a plan in place so there was no redundancy and that people aren't wasting their time and that there's clarity."

"I think it goes to show that (we're) working together with our other governmental partners, this is just another example of that," Caddy said. "I am very

pleased that you guys worked out an efficient way to serve the public again--I think it's great."

#### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved three items presented by Planning & Development Director Steve White; **Resolution 74-2018** involved the dedication of a road right-of-way plat of a portion of Bostwick Park Road within the Sinner large tract exemption owned by R.

Paul and Nicki Sinner; Item 2 involved a proposal to divide a 41.5-acre lot creating a new 5.7-acre lot owned by Jim Day; Item 3 involved a proposal to divide a 6.11-acre lot into lots owned by Raymon and Mary Snyder. Commissioners reconvened into executive session to receive legal advice and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations related to a construction contract with Ridgway Valley Enterprises.

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## **RANDALL WHITE WARNS OF SKI INJURIES:**

### ***Safety workshop sounds alarm on 600,000 annual ski injuries***

*By Carole Ann McKelvey*  
*Montrose Feature Writer*

MONTROSE- Ski Safety Advocates founder Randy White of Montrose delivered a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse, sounding the alarm on mostly hidden industry-kept injury figures.

The workshop, sponsored by the Montrose Recreation Center, was the latest in White's efforts to inform families on how to have safer ski experiences. Alarming, there are more than 600,000 ski injury accidents requiring ski patrol attention and rides on what White calls "the orange meat wagons."

White is a former ski instructor at Telluride Ski Area and has mounted a campaign to change the game on ski safety. He describes himself as a "whistle blower."

Several years ago, Olathe youth Luis Olide was killed in a school-sponsored ski club event at Crested Butte Ski Area. White says it was a "totally avoidable accident," where Olide became separated from his group, after a half day lesson, and struck a tree on a ski run much above his skiing ability. The Olathe student was wearing what White calls "a defective" ski

helmet rented from Crested Butte Ski Company. White said, "...all of this was completely avoidable..."

Saturday White warned that the ski industry has a dismal safety record even for its own employees, third worst in the nation of more than 1,000 OSHA industry categories.

The problem, says White, is that "...the families know nearly nothing about this..." Saturday White said his efforts last year to engage local school ski clubs via principals and ski club sponsors were either ignored or politely dismissed.

Efforts via school boards and superintendents this year have been similar.

White noted exceptions to the disinterest are local school board member Phoebe Benziger, Peak Academy and Olathe Middle School (OMS). Principal Scot Brown last year told White that "...not a single morning goes by that I don't wake up thinking about Luis Olide." Last December Brown invited White to OMS to deliver a workshop to a group of students. That



***Ski Safety Advocates founder Randy White of Montrose delivered a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 1.***

story was carried in the *Montrose Mirror*. Benziger has campaigned her colleagues, but the reaction seems to be complacency.

Saturday, Montrose Memorial Hospital's Sherman Mathieu asked White why "there appears to be little interest in ski safety," noting, "we have to do something."

White replied that although there is a current Ski Safety Act passed by the State Legislator, "no one appears to want to

***Continued next pg***



## **RANDALL WHITE WARNS OF SKI INJURIES**

### **From previous pg**

want to take responsibility for enforcing the law.” White’s efforts to improve ski safety have led him on an investigative trail involving area ski area operators, Colorado ski patrol personnel, the National Ski Area Association (NSAA), Colorado law enforcement, the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Board.

White even went so far in November as to travel approximately 200 miles to Burlington, CO., to attend the monthly meeting of the State Fish and Wildlife Board, where he was allowed to make a

presentation.

His efforts began about two years ago after learning of the death of five-year-old Elise Johnston from Wyoming in a ski accident that claimed her life.

The ski-boarder (later found to be high on Marijuana) who collided with the child also died; her mother Kelli Johnston, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury from which she’s recovered to champion ski safety.

White said he saw a video put out on the loss of the child by the NSAA, partially

funded by the Johnston’s, that actually ended up downplaying the ski area’s responsibility in the accident.

White described crying when he first saw the video, realizing the beautiful child died unnecessarily.

The video is available on-line through You-Tube, but viewing has gone down since the first year.

White stated he will have more presentations on ski safety in the future, provided he can get the local school ski clubs to attend. <https://youtu.be/BDg19asqud8>

## **COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS**

### **CORY HENRY & THE FUNK APOSTLES RETURN TO TELLURIDE AT CLUB RED**

*Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE- Cory Henry & The Funk Apostles return to Colorado after packing Town Park this summer during their debut performance at the 2018 Telluride Jazz Festival weekend. The band is slated to return to Telluride on Thursday, Dec. 27, for a highly anticipated follow-up performance at Club Red.

The three-time Grammy-winning pianist, singer, and composer has toured with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Diddy and The Roots. Since debuting at the tender age of six on the hallowed Apollo Theater stage, this profoundly talented keyboardist has an array of Grammys on his mantel for his work with Snarky Puppy.

With his new group of handpicked musicians, The Funk Apostles, Cory stretches the boundaries of what funk should sound like and where it should take the listener. The band unleashes driving grooves as a platform for inventive but in the pocket improvisations. Their fresh takes on classics like Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On,” stud their set list.

Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles is his newest passion and project, comprised of

five of the world’s best musicians, hand-picked to bring his musical concepts to life. Cory is currently on tour with The Funk Apostles and has been featured on “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon,” BBC’s Proms Quincy Jones Tribute, National Public Radio, and The New York Times Facebook Live with Erykah Badu, among other media outlets.

His solo wizardry and charismatic nature have garnered millions of views via YouTube and other social platforms, giving birth to a rabid fan base excited for what’s to come. The upcoming self-titled Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles album exhibits his vocal talents and emphasizes the new sound and vibes he wants to innovate for the world to sing along with. “We are on our way. Tell Everybody. How many bodies? Everybody!”

The show is open to all ages, with doors opening at 8 p.m. and the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$35 for general admission with preferred seating tickets available at \$50, \$60 and \$79 for an exclusive VIP Meet & Greet Experience featuring early entry, a photo opportunity with Cory, a masterclass led by Cory focusing



*Cory Henry. Courtesy photo.*

on soloing, writing, and finding your voice as a musician, signed journal and a commemorative laminate.

Limited tickets are available to purchase online at [clubredtelluride.com](http://clubredtelluride.com) and locally at Telluride Music, located at 333 West Colorado Ave.

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: OUTDOOR RECREATION

## COLORADO SKI COUNTRY 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PASSPORT PRICE INCREASE DEC. 15

DENVER – The popular Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) 6th Grade Passport Program will increase in price from \$105 to \$125 on Dec. 15. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Passport provides four days of skiing or snowboarding at 22 ski areas across the state. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Passport remains completely free and allows fifth graders three free days at the same 22 ski areas. Substantial early season snowfall has blanketed the state creating excellent early-season conditions. Parents are encouraged to enroll their sixth graders in the Passport Program before the price increases to \$125 on Dec. 15.

The Colorado Gems Card, a great companion product for parents of 5th and 6th Grade Passport holders, provides discounted skiing and riding access to eleven of Colorado's most authentic ski areas through buy one, get one free or 30 percent discounted adult lift tickets. Kendall Mountain, owned and operated by the town of Silverton, joined the Passport and Gems Card programs in the middle of the 2017-18 season.

"The 2018-19 ski season has delivered some of the best early-season snowfall Colorado has seen in many years," said Melanie Mills, President and CEO of Colorado Ski Country USA. "Conditions are great across the state, with soft snow and plenty of open terrain for skiers and riders to enjoy. It's a great time for families to arrange their ski season plans, whether they're long-time participants or first-time beginners to Colorado's signature sports of skiing and snowboarding."

### **CSCUSA 5th and 6th Grade Passport Program**

The 5th Grade Passport provides fifth graders three days of free skiing at 22 CSCUSA member ski areas. The 6th Grade Passport allows sixth graders four days of skiing at the same 22 ski areas for \$105 if participants register before December 15, after which the price will increase to \$125



*Photo courtesy Colorado Ski Country USA.*

until January 31, 2019. Additionally, CSCUSA's First Class lesson program complements the 5th Grade Passport Program and provides fifth graders who have never skied or snowboarded one free ski or snowboard lesson and equipment rental.

To register for the Passport Program and for more information about First Class Lessons, parents can visit [www.ColoradoSki.com/Passport](http://www.ColoradoSki.com/Passport). The CSCUSA Passport Program enjoys the support of presenting sponsor Christy Sports, which provides a free equipment rental to all Passport families, and program partners Credit Union of Colorado and HEAD Wintersports.

Participating resorts in the 2018-19 Passport program include: Arapahoe Basin, Aspen Highlands, Aspen Mountain, Buttermilk, Cooper, Copper Mountain, Echo Mountain, Eldora, Granby Ranch, Howelsen Hill, Hesperus, Kendall Mountain, Loveland, Monarch, Powderhorn, Purgatory, Snowmass, Steamboat, Sunlight, Telluride, Winter Park and Wolf Creek.

### **Colorado Gems Card**

Appropriately named, the Gems ski areas are among Colorado's best hidden treasures.

With affordable prices and world-class terrain, the Colorado Gems ski areas offer an authentic Colorado skiing and snowboarding experience.

For just \$25, the Colorado Gems Card provides either two 2-for-1 adult lift tickets or two 30 percent off adult lift tickets at each of the eleven Colorado Gems Resorts, providing up to 22 days of discounted skiing or riding at Colorado's hidden gems.

For more information or to purchase a Colorado Gems Card, visit [www.ColoradoSki.com/Gems](http://www.ColoradoSki.com/Gems). The CSCUSA Gems card enjoys the support of presenting sponsor HEAD Wintersports.

Participating resorts in the 2018-19 Gems Card program include: Arapahoe Basin, Cooper, Echo Mountain, Eldora, Granby Ranch, Hesperus, Kendall Mountain, Loveland, Monarch, Powderhorn and Sunlight.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO SWEITZER STATE PARK

*Special to Art & Sol*

DELTA-Children of all ages are invited to give Santa Claus their wish list at Sweitzer Lake State Park, 1-3 p.m., Dec. 16. Entry to the park is free for everyone coming to visit Santa. Santa's helpers will also take photos that will be emailed to you. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Sweitzer Lake State Park is located south of Delta, just off U.S. Highway 50. For more information about the event and the park, call 970-874-4258. For more information about Colorado's state parks, see: [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).



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# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## The danger of aboveground powerlines



*Above, Transmission towers (photo by Mountain Town News); Right, Nucla Telluride Powerline (photo by the U.S. Forest Service).*



**UNDERGROUNDING** ... Back when Tri-State Generation and Transmission -- a co-op utility (which I like) that seems mired in the dark ages of coal-fired generation (which I don't like) -- decided to run a generation line from Nucla to Telluride through San Miguel County a dozen or so years ago, I was a commissioner. And our regs required powerlines to be undergrounded in our Land Use Code. It was an epic battle that saw Gov. Owens and a Republican-led legislature change the rules in the middle of the game, taking away local control of powerlines (can you believe, it was the Republicans who took away local control, one of their long-time political mantras) and gave the decision to a three-person Public Utilities Commission, appointed by the Governor ... It's like the deficit issue that Republicans complain about when Democrats are in power, and then, when they're in power, it's the Republicans who shoot the deficit up into the stratosphere-- another of those two-faced stands that so infuriates progressives. ... Anyway, one of the main arguments the County and mesa landowners presented to the PUC was the option of direct burial, which is common in Europe, and which would have been cheaper than aboveground power towers. And one of the issues I testified to when I was a wit-

ness in the PUC hearings was the danger of fires with abovegrounding. However, my testimony was ignored, and the avoided cost of fires from undergrounding (which took place over the mesa portion of the route, but in heavy concrete bunkers which cost everyone a bundle) was never figured into the cost equation of the cost-sharing between Tri-State and its affected SMPA owner-customers over the line's final cost ... Now we learn that the Camp Fire -- the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California and the sixth worst ever in the United States -- is being attributed to the failure of a PG&E transmission tower, according to a Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> story in the *Sacramento Bee*. Journalist Dale Casler goes on to say that the report has led to a lawsuit and "a steep decline in parent company PG&E Corp.'s stock price amid speculation that the company, already facing billions in claims from last year's wine country fires, could be in deep financial distress." ... According to a June 8, 2018 [C.E.] Reuters story by journalist Steve Gorman, "A dozen of the wind-driven blazes that swept northern California's wine country last fall, killing 46 people in the deadliest firestorm in state history [pre- Camp], were sparked by PG&E-owned power lines" ... And it's

not just in California. According to the Texas Wildfire Mitigation Project, powerlines "have caused more than 4,000 wildfires in Texas in the past three and a half years" ... How long can Tri-State and the Colorado PUC ignore the obvious threat and danger from aboveground powerlines and not begin calculating the avoided cost value of powerline undergrounding -- as San Miguel County argued years ago and Colorado's previous Republican-appointed PUC ignored?

**CHILE** ... Here's a story from Valdivia, one of my favorite cities, while on the mushroom tour of Chile I took last spring. Our group had attended the Fungi Fest at the grounds of the local university. It was a mini-Telluride Mushroom Festival, and we had a great time. Afterwards, several of us walked to a nearby restaurant that Giuliana and Vero, two of our hostess guides, led us to. As I was walking in the door, a lady called out to me from a patio table where she sat alone, "Hey, Mushroom Man." I figured she'd attended the Fungi Fair, where I'd done a poem at a little assembly they held. So I walked over to her table. She must have been 40 or so, a very beautiful woman, smartly dressed. Her

*Continued next page*



## *Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes*

smile was hard to resist. And I was hardly in the resisting mode. Pretty soon she was leaning into my chair, telling me all kinds of things, asking questions, touching me in that casually suggestive way that makes most men melt in their boots. I was no exception. She was coming on pretty strong. Had some crazy story about a break-up. She spoke some English and I a little Spanish. She'd had a few drinks, and wanted to buy me one, but something about her – in spite of my being (of course) attracted – warned me that this wasn't a good situation. But I felt like a mouse staring into the lovely eyes of a cobra. I couldn't bring myself to walk off. Eventually, after reading my palms, rubbing her leg against mine, and a number of other cues that had me realizing where this might be leading and how crazy it was in a country I was visiting with a group – a group that was waiting for me inside the bar – to be kind of trapped by this beautiful woman with crazy stories that didn't quite make sense. Finally, some of my friends rescued me. I made it into the

group inside, with my tour-mates, who snickered and made some risqué remarks at my expense. But I felt relieved. From what I'm not certain. But whatever game was afoot, I was clearly overmatched by this temptress. Later, we heard from the bartender that she'd left without paying her bill. I was glad I'd escaped from her. But also, just a tad proud of having been the object of such a beautiful woman's attention, as misplaced and probably conning as it seemed to have been ... It's not often a 73-year-old gets to have a brief tête-à-tête with an exotic seductress.

**OPEN BARD** ... Kierstin Bridger and Beth Paulson have done a great job building a loyal following for their monthly Open Bard poetry series at the Sherbino in Ridgeway. They bring wonderful poets from out of town, and provide an open mic space for local poets ... I drove over Dallas Divide the other night to hear Jose "Tony" Alcantara from Carbondale. And he was terrific. Giving us funny stories and poignant political poems, speaking to the news in a

powerful slant manner that Emily Dickinson would have heartily approved of. He even invoked Fernando Pessoa, Portugal's most famous poet, and did a lovely poem in response to one of his pieces ... In the middle of the poetry, Tony's partner Ellie did a stunning a capella aria that would have challenged any opera soprano, trilling a lovely flutter at the very highest note ... And one of the locals at the open mic did several fine workings in the vein of the Chinese master Li Po ... A wonderful evening of poetry.

**DARK NIGHT** ... Don't miss the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Dark Night show Dec. 13 and 14 (Thursday and Friday) at the Paradise Theatre in Paonia. \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door – although many past shows have sold out beforehand ... Craig Childs is a marvelous storyteller (as well as a fine writer) and has a slew of friends backing him up this year (yours truly included) ... The theme this year is Emergent Kingdoms, which includes Fungi ... Highly recommended.

---

## THE TALKING GOURD

Bailing wire twisted, turned  
 Knotted symmetrically  
 I don't even know the conjugation  
 For what the pliers inspired  
 In that thin metal column  
 But it held fences  
 Transcended politics  
 Conducted electricity  
 Wired together communities

-Zoey McKenzie  
 Shiprock

**Always digging for  
spot on news.**

A white dog with a black collar is shown from the side, digging its head into the sand on a beach. The dog's tail is raised and curved. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & AGRICULTURE

### LOCALS HEADLINE AG CONFERENCE WITH NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE – Local farmers and ranchers take center stage with nationally known speakers at the 7th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Jan 25-26, 2019 in Montrose. Friday half day sessions are held at the Montrose Fairgrounds and Saturday workshops at the Montrose Pavilion.

The conference theme of Healthy Fields, Farmers, Futures provides focus to 20 workshops on crops, livestock, water rights, ag management and marketing. Farmers, ranchers, gardeners and those interested in local agricultural issues will find sessions geared to their interests.

Using the theme of Healthy Fields, Farmers, Futures, Joel Salatin, known as the “most famous farmer in America” kicks off the conference. His hilarious and insightful delivery illuminates how farmers can create a healthy bottom line and still manage to create balance between life and work. The author of 12 books, Salatin also presents a session called, Dancing with Dinner: Healing the Nutritional Deficit in the Urban Rural Divide Rural. This session is open to the public and will begin at 4:30 pm on Saturday.

The Healthy Fields theme features sessions highlighting local innovative soil health practices. George Rosenbaum of Olathe details his innovative use of cover crops to build soil health on his hog farm. Bill Parker of Gunnison offers the half-day session, Performance Based Planned Grazing, and Paonia producer, Jacob Gray presents, Pastured Poultry Principles. Jen Mueller of Yurtstead Farm near Olathe presents Low Tech Low Cost Season Extension. With 30 years of local experience, Dave Dearstyne looks at the benefits of integrating livestock with cover crops to build soil health. Creating a habitat for pollinators and managing risks from invasive species is the topic of Mesa County entomologist, Meredith Schrader.

The Healthy Farmers theme acknowledges the fact that agriculture is a stressful,

risky business that involves long hours and the pressures of managing relationships while typically running a family business. The recent drought put even more pressure on local producers. Sessions addressing this theme include Ben Hartman, author of The Lean Farm, who delivers a plenary session titled,

What’s Wrong with A Farmer Working a 35 Hour Week? Additional sessions include The Power of Healthy Teams, and How to Enjoy Farming Again, presented by the Center for Mental Health. These sessions deal with how to manage stress through improving communications, managing teams, and developing coping skills.

Healthy Futures takes a look at the relevance of the emerging technology, including Blockchain for the family farm. Additional future forward topics include Top Ten Mega Trends You Can Use: Predicting the Future in A Fickle Market with Sylvia Tawse and Kenny Meyers, local forager for Whole Foods Markets. Dr. Janelle Peck looks at future weather patterns specific to Western Colorado, climate change predictions, and creating weather-ready operations. Land Link helps producers create a future by helping farmers access land for lease. This theme is rounded out by a session on the future of cider making in Colorado with heirloom apples, and how to plan a secure future with local financial planner Lisa Isaacson, CPA Teresa Campbell and Jim Plumhoff, Attorney.

Friday’s half-day sessions offer an opportunity for in-depth learning and include The Western Colorado Water Workshop, hosted by the National Your Farmers Coalition. Colorado’s chief water engineer



**Joel Salatin, known as the “most famous farmer in America” kicks off the conference. Courtesy photo.**

presents at this timely session. In the afternoon, a session geared from crop producers is led by Ben Hartman called Lean Concepts Applied to Crop Production. For livestock producers, Bill Parker of Parker Pastures delves into planned grazing, how to create drought reserves, and maximizing livestock performance.

“The conference is designed to provide a rich menu of workshop options and to encourage networking among participants during a free chili dinner Friday, round table discussions, a farmer-to-farmer invention convention, and a post conference bowling night,” says organizer Carol Parker. The educational conference offers discounts to those registering by Jan. 11th. Scholarships sponsored by Montrose County are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers. Numerous farmers provide delicious local food throughout the conference. Concurrent translation and registration materials in Spanish are also available.

The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, ENGAGE, 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](http://foodfarmforum.org) or call 970-765-6170.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

### HOLIDAY CONCERT FEATURING OURAY COUNTY CHORUS



*Ouray County Chorus. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-The community is invited to "A Bit of Holiday Cheer" choral concert performed by the Ouray County Chorus on Saturday, December 15. It will be at 4:30 p.m. at the 4H Event Center, 22739 US-550 in Ridgway.

The concert is free, however donations are appreciated. Donations help offset the purchase of music for the choir and compensation for the director and accompanist.

The OCC will sing music of the season featuring many popular favorites in a variety of arrangements, as well as a few new

winter pieces. There will also be additional special musical numbers in addition to the prepared music by OCC.

The chorus is represented by soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices of numerous community members from all around Ouray County. They are under the direction of Laurie Wenzel from Montrose, who has directed the group for the past two years and accompanied on piano by Dee James of Ouray.

Anyone from the local area is welcome to join OCC next spring, and rehearsals for the spring concert generally begin in February. The chorus rehearses at the United

Church of the San Juans in Ridgway in the months leading up to the Winter and Spring concerts. For more information about future rehearsal dates, email [ocpag-info@gmail.com](mailto:ocpag-info@gmail.com).

The OCC is supported Ouray County Performing Arts Guild, a not-for-profit organization bringing quality music, dance, theater and other genres events to Ouray and Ridgway. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors. To view an upcoming event schedule, visit [www.ocpag.org](http://www.ocpag.org).

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## Save the Date! Upcoming Regional Events

### CURRENT/ONGOING-

**YOGA HOUSE**-Yoga House has added HIIT Yoga on Wednesday's at 5:45p AND Hot Yoga and is held on Fridays @ 4:30p.m. and Saturday's at 10a.m.; Yoga House is holding 75-minute Inversion Workshops every Sunday in January at 9:45a.m. SUP (Stand up paddle board) Yoga is Held at Montrose Rec Ctr

\$25/class, Held the Following Thursday's at 7p.m.

Dec. 20; Jan. 10 & 17; Feb. 7 & 21; March 7 & 21.

For more info on classes and workshops: [ColoradoYogaHouse.com](http://ColoradoYogaHouse.com)

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET WINTER MARKET** will be open the following Saturdays 10am-1pm. Holiday Market: Nov. 3, 10th & 17th – Dec. 1, 8th, 15th & 22nd. Beginning Jan. 5, 2019, open every other Saturday through April 27, 2019. We are located at Centennial Plaza – Indoor Market in the Centennial Meeting Room, 421 S. 1st Street, Building #1.

**ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING**-There will be no meeting in December; regular meetings resume in January of 2019, on the second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Place: Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

**GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT THE MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS**-5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 15 & 16; Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 22 & 23; Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 26 & 27. Illuminated garden paths and displays, horse drawn wagon rides, music. Check the website for details. [www.montrosegardens.org](http://www.montrosegardens.org)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 24** hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS** meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call [\(970\)964-4375](tel:9709644375).

### MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Meetings every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Centennial Room, 431 South First in Montrose.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

### MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING

6:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month. MC-GOP Headquarters at 242 E. Main. Information: 970-765-7406

### MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, [1980 North Townsend Ave.](http://1980NorthTownsendAve.com) Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

### MONTHLY-

**Dec. 10**-On Monday Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m., Montrose Library 320 S 2nd meeting rm- Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meeting:Be aware of renewed ways to mitigate climate change. Come network to influence legislators on nonpartisan ways to help our environment. [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) 970-240-9146

**Dec. 12**-Express Pros Hiring Event, Montrose Workforce Center, 504 North First Street, Montrose, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Dec. 13-14**-Dark Night returns for its 10<sup>th</sup> annual show at the Paradise Theatre in Paonia, Thursday and Friday, Dec 13 & 14. Join renowned author Craig Childs and friends for Emergent Kingdoms, a visceral experience of storytelling, spoken word, visual multimedia and live music. Family friendly! Tickets available online at [BrownPaperTickets](http://BrownPaperTickets.com) and in Paonia at The Paradise Theatre, The Cirque and Lizzy's Market.

**Dec. 15-27**-Montrose Botanical Gardens Garden of Lights,-5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 15 & 16; Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 22 & 23; Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 26 & 27. Illuminated garden paths and displays, horse drawn wagon rides, music. Check the website for details. [www.montrosegardens.org](http://www.montrosegardens.org)

**Dec. 15**-4:30 p.m. – Ouray County Chorus Holiday Concert. 4H Event Center in Ridgway. Free admission, donations appreciated.

**Dec. 16**-Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 pm for a free Christmas concert at the Montrose Pavilion. The band will be playing a variety of Christmas music sure to get you in the holiday spirit. For more information visit [www.montroseband.com](http://www.montroseband.com) or call [970-596-1188](tel:9705961188).

**Dec. 16**-Children of all ages are invited to give Santa Claus their wish list at Sweitzer Lake State Park, 1-3 p.m., Dec. 16. Entry to the park is free for everyone coming to visit Santa. Santa's helpers will also take photos that will be emailed to you. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Sweitzer Lake State Park is located south of Delta, just off U.S. Highway 50. For more information about the event and the park, call 970-874-4258. For more information about Colorado's state parks, see: [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).

**Dec. 19**-Pace Homestead Holiday Art Show & Gift sale. 1 to 4 p.m. Homestead activity room, 1819 Pavilion Drive Montrose.

**Dec. 27**-- Cory Henry & The Funk Apostles return to Telluride on Thursday, Dec. 27. The show is open to all ages, with doors opening at 8 p.m. and the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$35 for general admission with preferred seating tickets available at \$50, \$60 and \$79. Limited tickets are available to purchase online at [clubredtelluride.com](http://clubredtelluride.com) and locally at Telluride Music, located at 333 West Colorado Ave.

**Dec. 29**-FREE monthly coffee cupping at Cimarron Coffee Roasters, 72 S. Grand Ave, 10-11 a.m.

## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT:

***Photo by Deb Reimann***



*"It was a delight to find this festive holly plant nestled in the new snow on a recent hike on the Uncompahgre Plateau,"*  
Photographer Deb Reimann said.

### **MICHAEL LAWTON** entrepreneur

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