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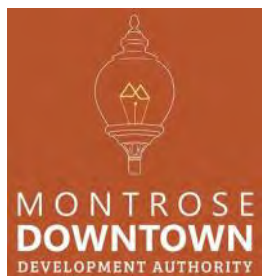
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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 308, Jan. 21, 2018

HAS LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET LEVELED OFF?



The area real estate market, very strong in recent years, may have leveled off, local experts say.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Though rumors of a slowdown in area real estate sales abound, the statistics from 2018 show a robust local market. After all, 2017 was a very strong year for real estate sales in Montrose, and 2018 was stronger still. The latest annual report compiled by Heritage Title Company of Delta notes that transactions in Montrose County jumped six percent in 2018, with 1,469 sales compared to 1,383 in 2017. Dollar volume also increased, from \$335M in 2017 to \$382M in 2018.

Though foreclosure filings remained stable from 2017 to 2018 at 59, the number of foreclosures that were actually completed decreased from 36 in 2107 to 24 in 2018.

Still, don't expect home prices to keep rising, experts say.

Montrose Realtor Betsy Spitzer

[Continued pg 10](#)

ALPINE BANK LOANS TO FURLOUGHED FED WORKERS

'What we do is about people, not just about making money'

Mirror staff report

REGIONAL-When Alpine Bank announced last week that it would be offering loans to furloughed federal government employees to help them survive the partial shutdown, the news came as no surprise to those who have followed the bank's rise to success. While other financial institutions focus increasingly on the bottom line, Alpine Bank has established a reputation for old-fashioned customer service and community involvement.

"Our model is a little different than others," said Glen Jammarron of Alpine Bank Glenwood Springs. "We have become one of the [top three philanthropic](#) organizations in the state, but we're still Western Colorado folks."

Jammarron worked in construction as a young man, taking a job at Alpine Bank at age 22 after hurting his back. Today, he still works for Alpine

[Continued pg 12](#)



From its start in Western Colorado, Alpine Bank has maintained a small-town philosophy that has helped it become the [third largest corporate philanthropy organization in Colorado](#).

in this
issue

*Art Goodtimes
Up Bear Creek!*

*Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!*

*City and County
Government!*

*Regional
News Briefs!*

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ORPHANED BEAR CUBS GET SECOND CHANCE AT FREEDOM



Bear cubs on the move. CPW Courtesy photo Bill Vogrin.

Special to the Mirror

PIKE NATIONAL FOREST – Hopefully, eight orphaned bear cubs are now sleeping peacefully on Pikes Peak, snug inside artificial dens built by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers, staff and volunteers during a recent snowstorm.

Four cubs share two dens built with downed logs, timbers and small branches, pine boughs and a mix of straw, hay and alfalfa.

The cubs should be exhausted after the day they experienced Tuesday when officers from Area 14 in Colorado Springs retrieved them from Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation in Wetmore. The bears spent the summer and fall there after their mothers died either due to being hit by cars, trains, at the hands of poachers or after being euthanized because they entered a home in search of human food. Each cub was tranquilized, weighed (they ranged from 110 to 140 pounds each) and



Bear cubs in their new den. CPW Courtesy photo Bill Vogrin.

placed in a trap for transportation to the den sites on Pikes Peak about an hour away. On the mountain, each bear was blindfolded and hobbled, in case they were to awaken from their drug-induced sleep, then carried by sled through deep snow to their winter home.

And CPW officers, staff and volunteers performed this work under the glare of eight TV news cameras and other media who assembled to report on the bear-release project.

It took about two hours to get all eight bears tucked into the dens. Work was delayed at times as a couple cubs did awaken, abruptly sitting up on their sleds to the surprise of CPW officers who quickly administered second doses of tranquilizer so release work could resume.

Over and over, officers crawled into the dens to precisely position the bears so they could easily breath and rest comfortably.

The officers were soaked and covered



After packing four orphan bear cubs in an artificial den behind a wall of straw, hay and alfalfa, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers relax for a moment before hiking out to their trucks. From left: Cody Wigner, assistant area wildlife manager, and district wildlife managers Phil Gurule, Aaron Berscheid, Sarah Watson and Tim Kroening. CPW courtesy photo by Bill Vogrin.

with hay when they finally administered the drugs that would reverse the tranquilizers – the final act before the dens were sealed with alfalfa and packed with a thick layer of snow.

It was a great day on the mountain,” said Frank McGee, area wildlife manager who oversees Area 14.

“This is the kind of experience that motivates every CPW wildlife officer. We all chose this career to work with wildlife, so this is very personal with us. It’s so rewarding to release wildlife back into their native habitat. It was really gratifying to know we gave them a second chance to be wild bears.”



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**www.montrosemirror.com
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MEDC MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF HEMP SEED PROCESSING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), along with the Colorado Hemp Industries Association (COHIA) are hosting a Community Engagement Meeting on Jan. 24, 2019 at 1 PM at the Montrose County Events Center to gather the best data and potential impacts regarding the feasibility of producing and processing hemp seed grains in the valley. We have been awarded a REDI grant to research the possibility and to evaluate the interest of growers in our region. This project will identify the costs, benefits, risks and potential return on investment for farmers and entrepreneurs in Montrose and Delta Counties. The market for hemp grains for animal and human foods continues growing faster globally and opens more opportunities for producers.

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CLASSIFIED/ EMPLOYMENT ADS FOR THE WEEK OF 01/21/19:**GENERAL LABOR:**

Our client is seeking a **General Labor Workers** for full and part-time job opportunities in Montrose, Delta and Gunnison. Hours and length of assignment vary. Apply today at expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202.

CONSTRUCTION:

Our client is seeking a **Truss Builder**. Hiring individuals physically fit and able to lift up to 50 pounds repetitively in a construction type environment. Must have at least 1 year experience. Pay is \$11.10/hour and the hours are 6am - 4pm, Monday - Friday. Apply TODAY at expresspros.com/montroseco and call 970-249-5202 to schedule your interview.

SKILLED LABOR:

Our client is seeking **Machinist/Finish Grinders** to make the actual diamond tools that machinists use when machining. This is a full-time with permanent potential paying \$16-\$20/hr DOE. Types of machines potential candidate will be using: Mills, Lathes, Ewag, measuring devices and other manual grinding machines. Prefers at least 1 year of machine shop experience. Must be able to stand for long periods of time, and have good eyesight/able to look up-close at work all day. Big company benefits, small company feel. Willing to relocate the right person! Apply today at expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202.

MANAGEMENT:

Our client is seeking an experienced **Project Manager** for a full-time, long-term position. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Pay is \$14-\$18/hour depending on experience. The successful candidate will work with customers to accurately submit production orders, and assist with producing submittal packaging. Must have high school diploma or GED plus an associate's degree or equivalent from two year college or technical school. Education can be substituted for three years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Microsoft Excel and Outlook skills are required, CAD experience helpful. Apply today at expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202.

CLASSIFIED/ RENTAL ADS FOR THE WEEK OF 01/21/19:

Local family looking for **HORSE PROPERTY RENTAL** in Montrose area. Need at least 2 bdrm and prefer a 5-year lease. Excellent references, deposit. 970-308-5311.

THANK YOU

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Alpine Bank

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WIC FUNDING CONTINUES IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose County Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program has received reserve funding that will allow operations to continue as usual through February, amid a partial government shutdown. WIC participants will be notified early of any changes past the end of February.

Current and potential WIC participants and their families should know that no services are being cut back at this time.

WIC clinics will maintain normal schedules. Appointments will not be cancelled and WIC clinic staff is available to assist participants.

WIC transactions at grocery stores will be processed normally.

WIC is still accepting new participants.

[Click here](#) to apply for WIC.

"WIC is a very important program for many Montrose County families," Montrose County Health and Human Services Director Stephen

Tullos said. "Funding for the program locally is distributed through the Colorado WIC state office. They are watching this situation closely and working to maximize reserve dollars."

Tullos said at this time there's no reason for clients to worry and encourages residents who would like to use WIC services to sign-up. The best source for information about WIC is the county's website and/or your WIC educator.

WIC improves the lives and health of its 1,412 active Montrose County participants through nutrition education, healthy food, breastfeeding support, and more, and it also makes a difference for 831 local WIC

families.

WIC lowers Medicaid costs by helping to combat poor nutrition at an early stage rather than treating the effects once it becomes more serious.

For every dollar spent on WIC, up to \$3 is saved in future medical costs.

Women who participate in WIC give birth to healthier babies.

Children in WIC are current on their immunizations and are more likely to have regular health care.

Health care costs are reduced due to the decrease in the number of low-birth-weight babies.

[Click here to learn more about WIC.](#)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT: SUSPECT RAMS TRUCK INTO VENDING MACHINE, BUILDING @ MAIN STREET CAR WASH


Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose Police Department are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who committed a serious act of vandalism and criminal mischief at the Main Street Car Wash at 733 East Main Street in Montrose.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, at 11:44 p.m., a male appeared to purchase something from a vending machine adjoining the building at the property, then returned to a dark colored pick-up truck, believed to be a GMC Sierra truck, between a 1999 to 2006 model, and proceeded to ram the vending machine and building four separate times. Damage to the machine and building is estimated to be in excess of \$5,000. Clear video of the suspect was captured on surveillance, including the suspect and the suspected vehicle.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. In this case, the reward is \$250 or more. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN DECEMBER, 2018

Colorado Workforce Center

COLORADO-Employers in Colorado added 9,800 nonfarm payroll jobs from November to December for a total of 2,762,200 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 9,100 and government increased 700. November estimates were revised up to 2,752,400, and the over the month change from October to November was an increase of 4,400 rather than the originally estimated increase of 1,800.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point from November to December to 3.5 percent. The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 9,600 over the month to 3,118,200 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 4,100 to 3,010,300. The larger increase in the labor force than in total employment caused the number of unemployed to increase 5,500 and the unemployment rate to increase to 3.5 percent. The national unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point

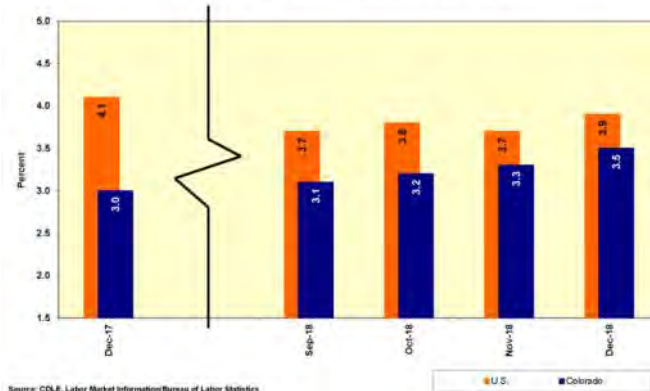
in December to 3.9 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.3 to 33.6 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$28.13 to \$29.63.

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in education and health services, professional and business services, and manufacturing. There were no significant private sector over the month declines.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 75,400, with an increase of 68,400 in the private sector and an increase of 7,000 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and trade, transportation, and utilities. There were no significant

U.S. and Colorado Unemployment Rate



Source: COLE, Labor Market Information Bureau of Labor Statistics

private sector over the year declines.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is up five-tenths of a percentage point from 3.0 percent. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 88,400, total employment increased 72,400 and the number of unemployed increased 16,100. The national unemployment rate declined from 4.1 percent in December 2017 to 3.9 percent in December 2018.



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.

Rent includes:

- All utilities: cable television, Internet and phone
- One nutritious meal per day
- Laundry privileges
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Pricing starts at \$1210 per month, new residents only.

Call or email Denise Swanson, Residence Director to schedule a tour.
970.252.9359 | dswanson@voa.org | 1819 Pavilion Drive, Montrose



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FREE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP IN MONTROSE

“What You Need to Know When Someone Dies”

Presented by the Law Office of Brown & Brown, P.C.

Hosted by Volunteers of America
and The Homestead at Montrose



Monday, January 21, 2019

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

Have you lost a loved one recently? Do you have questions on how to administer their estate? Would you like to know how your own estate will be administered? We'll discuss important issues in the estate administration process, and common mistakes that catch people off-guard. Some of the workshop highlights that we will be covering include:

- ♦ Probate vs. Non-Probate Assets
- ♦ How and When to Distribute the Assets
- ♦ What Taxes may be owed? What about Creditor Claims?
- ♦ What if They Didn't Have a Will? What if There Is a Will?
- ♦ What Happens if the Family Starts Fighting?
- ♦ Does the Court Need to be Involved?

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



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HAS LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET LEVELED OFF?

From pg 1

Spitzer of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services believes the market has cooled. It's partly because of the time of year, she noted, but could indicate a trend.

"I think the market has leveled off," Spitzer said. "It's still a seller's market, we still have somewhat of a shortage of listings, but prices have not gone up and won't go up."

The ongoing Federal government shutdown is also having an impact, according

to National Association of Realtors Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. The shutdown is "delaying some commercial activity that could occur," he said in [a recent report](#).

Yun pointed out that while 75 percent of realtors have experienced no impact, "11 percent are indicating that there are some issues whether there are delays or even cancellation," and another 11 percent say that their buyers are getting cold feet from the greater economic uncertainty

caused by the government shutdown.

Weeks into the shutdown, most home loans are proceeding smoothly, Yun said. Still, the USDA Rural Housing program loans are not able to close right now, as all USDA personnel must sign off on those loans. Other specialty HUD programs—including the Native American Home Loan Program and Reverse Loan Program—are also not able to close during the shutdown.

Congratulations!

After 42 years of assisting many in our community with lending & banking needs, GAYE COX is Retiring!

Please join us for an Open House to wish her well as she sets out on her new life adventures.

Wednesday January 23rd, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 PM

NuVista Federal Credit Union

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Montrose, Colorado

Through the Years...



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF 6100 ROAD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Road and Bridge Department will be closing 6100 Road between LaSalle Road and Maple Grove Road on Jan. 22, for culvert replacement. Motorists are advised to use an alternate route.

For more information, please call Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.





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ALPINE BANK LOANS TO FURLOUGHED FED WORKERS

From pg 1

Bank at age 56. Jammarron believes the bank's clientele appreciates the "high touch" approach to customer service.

"We can't pay the highest interest rates, or charge the lowest rates on loans," he said. "But if you are someone who cares about your community, we are a good fit for you."

"What we do is about people, not just about making money."

Tyler Dahl of Alpine Bank Montrose said that response to the loan program for furloughed federal employees has been very strong, not only here in Montrose, but "across our entire footprint."

"We're happy to help," Dahl said.

"Where we see people in our community who are hurting, we can lend a hand."

LOANS FOR FURLOUGHED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The loans will be set up as ready reserve

lines of credit; payment will not be due for six months after the government shutdown ends. Borrowers may choose to pay the loan off during the six-month period. The loan will be up to each borrower's one-month net salary.

Alpine Bank previously extended support to furloughed federal workers in 1995-96 and 2013.

"In our 46 years of serving our customers, we have confirmed that the success of our bank is a reflection of the strength of the communities we serve," said Alpine Bank founder and Chairman Bob Young. "When our neighbors need our assistance, we will be there to help. This is the third time in the past 25 years that we have implemented this type of support to our valued federal employees. As always, we are honored to help."

To qualify, an applicant must be a gov-

ernment employee currently on unpaid leave due to the recent government shutdown, be able to supply a third-party verification of their monthly income, and a Colorado and federal ID. Furloughed government employees who are not already Alpine Bank customers can open a Liberty checking account with Alpine and then obtain this loan.

Each of the bank's 40 locations are ready to assist qualifying individuals in an effort to ease the loss of income currently affecting thousands of Colorado-based federal workers. The bank's standard loan underwriting requirements will not be exercised for these loans.

To obtain a loan, visit your nearest Alpine Bank Branch. The bank has set aside \$5 million for these loans to be paid back once the shutdown has ended.

To learn more visit www.alpinebank.com.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER BLITZ DUI ENFORCEMENT KICKS OFF

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The weather may be cold, but The Heat Is On for Colorado impaired drivers. To ensure the safety of all winter drivers and passengers, Colorado law enforcement agencies will be boosting DUI enforcement with increased officers on duty and saturation patrols. From Friday Jan. 18 through Jan. 28, law enforcement agencies will dedicate additional resources to apprehending drivers who get behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or other drugs.

In coordination with Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and statewide law agencies, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will amplify enforcement as part

of CDOT's The Heat Is On campaign. The Winter Blitz enforcement is the first of 15 specified enforcement periods held in Colorado throughout the year. Officers arrested 608 impaired drivers during the Winter Blitz enforcement last year.

During the final enforcement period of 2018, more than 100 law enforcement agencies participated in the 2018 New Year's Eve enforcement campaign, arresting 332 drivers for DUI. The Colorado Springs Police Department (24 arrests) and Denver Police Department (24 arrests) recorded the highest arrest totals. CSP arrested an additional 60 DUI offenders across the state. Comprehensive results from all participating

agencies can be found at bit.ly/CDOT-HIO.

Arrest data can be sorted by law enforcement agency, county and enforcement period.

During the 14 The Heat Is On DUI enforcement periods in 2018, law enforcement arrested 9,687 drivers for DUI. This number is down slightly from the 10,271 arrests made in 2017. Over the course of the 185 heightened enforcement days, an average of 52 DUI arrests were made each day.

Preliminary data shows 216 people died in impaired-related crashes on Colorado roads in 2018, which includes alcohol and other drugs. HeatIsOnColorado.com.

2019 Early Blood Draws & Health Fair

Montrose Pavilion
January 30 - February 2
6:30-9:30 a.m.

Additional Locations for Early Blood Draws

January 26th
4H Event Center in Ridgway 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

January 28th
American Legion Hall in Olathe 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

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

Beginning January 3

If you are unable to register online, please call 1-800-410-3225
Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

NO Walk-ins will be allowed Wednesday, January 30 and Thursday, January 31

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

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

Health Fair 2019 is
Saturday, February 23

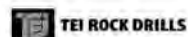
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72.11 acres



Lot 23 Pine Drive
Ridgway, CO
Log Hill Village
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Borders Open Space
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Tbd V66 Trail
Montrose, CO
Deerview Estates
\$119,000 | MLS# 748721
BLM on 3 sides
40 acres



Lot 63 Barnes Point Drive
Montrose, CO
Horsefly Tracts
\$75,000 | MLS# 748714
Close to National Forest & BLM
35 acres



Lot 115,116 Whitehouse Drive
Montrose, CO
Windsor Village
\$89,000 | MLS# 748705
Multi-Family Lot
0.52 acres



TBD Wildcat Canyon Road
Montrose, CO
Horsefly Ranch Tract
\$69,900 | MLS# 748723
Close to National Forest & BLM
40 acres



3169 Silver Fox Drive
Montrose, CO
Fox Park
\$59,000 | MLS# 748707
Close to Everything
0.35 acres



Tbd Happy Canyon Road
Montrose, CO
Southwest of town
\$55,000 | MLS# 748706
Borders BLM
40 acres



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COUNTY REAPPOINTS BOARD AND COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS, REPLACES 5100 RD BRIDGE, REPEALS SAGE GROUSE REGS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Newly reorganized with County Commissioner Sue Hansen as Chair, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) moved efficiently through the [agenda](#) of the Jan. 16 regular meeting. All three commissioners were present at the meeting.

Hansen began the meeting with a note of appreciation. Briefly putting on a small, hand-made crown, she said, "Humor aside, I appreciate your trust and confidence...just as with Commissioner Caddy's reign and time as the chair, and when Roger ultimately will be chair, this board will maintain its responsiveness to the Citizens of Montrose County."

"We will be transparent, we will be honest, we will be responsible and dedicated to making the very best decisions for each and every citizen of Montrose County," Hansen said, "no matter what affiliation, creed, race or color."

Key competencies will be the focus, she said, including public safety, the protection of the most vulnerable people through health and human services, County infrastructure, planning, and effective governance.

"We have a lot to do," she said. "Help us be the board ever—you can do that by being involved, engaged and plugged in."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

County resident Dale Laird asked if the final agenda item could be moved up so that those concerned would not have to wait for hours. Hansen promised that the full agenda would go quickly.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the [meeting agenda](#).

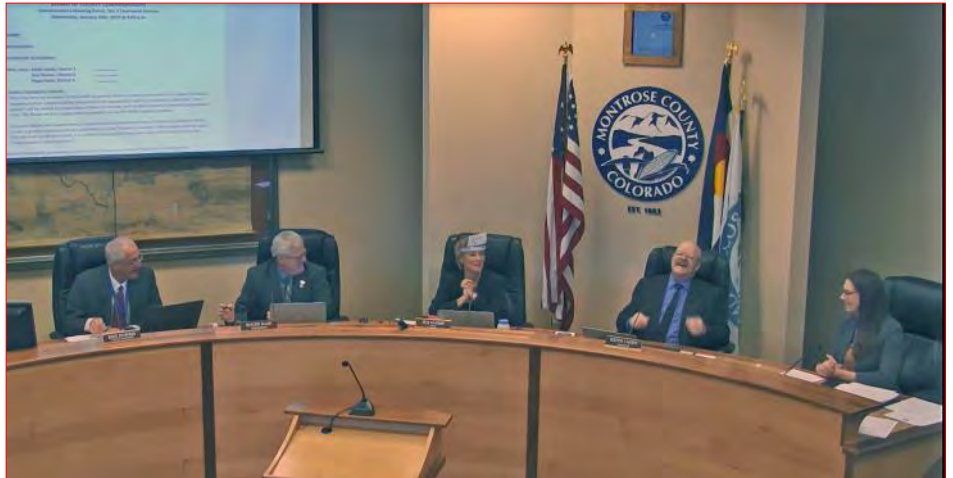
CONSENT AGENDA

[Consent Agenda](#) items passed unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

[Resolution 03-2019](#) was approved unanimously, **outlining the "Annual Reorganization, Notice of Meetings, Appointments and Authorizations."**

Montrose Regional Airport Director Lloyd



Newly named BOCC Chair, Commissioner Sue Hansen briefly donned a small hand-made crown at the regular meeting of Jan. 16. Courtesy photo Montrose County.

Arnold requested release of retainage amounting to \$9,679.43 for Glass Doctor, for the glass enclosure project at Montrose Regional Airport.

"I would just like to thank Glass Doctor for a great job," Commissioner Roger Rash said. "I flew through the airport here right before Christmas; it seemed to function very well."

"It looked good...a nice addition to our airport," Rash said. "Thank you and your staff for getting that project up and running so quickly."

Commissioner Keith Caddy asked, "How is it moving the people getting on the flights into the secure area. Is it working better now than it was before?"

"Yes. It's very effective; we can process an additional 160 people per hour," Arnold said. "We can handle about 500 people per hour through the three TSA lanes because we added an additional dedicated pre-check lane."

"It's working very well."

Release of the [retainage to Glass Doctor](#) was unanimously approved.

Also approved unanimously was [Resolution 04-2019](#), repealing Resolution 39-2013, regarding the adoption of "1041" regulations for the protection of the Gunnison Sage Grouse occupied habitat.

Said Attorney Lane Thomasson of the Legal Department, "Since then the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Gunnison Sage Grouse as an endangered species on the Endangered Species Act.

"That makes our regulation redundant and superceded by the rules of the Federal Government."

Consideration and possible acceptance of the [5100 Road Bridge Replacement Project](#) was presented by County Public works Director Keith Laube. Ridgway Valley Enterprises completed the project, which came in under budget by \$34K, Laube said. The BOCC voted unanimously to accept the project, for a total cost of \$750,831.36. Retainage of \$30,416.58 will be released to Ridgway Valley Enterprises, Inc.

Commissioners convened a public hearing concerning the 2018 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Highway Users Tax Funds [Report](#), and considered possible adoption of [Resolution 05-2019](#) for annual changes, additions and deletions to the County road maintenance system. Both were unanimously approved.

Also unanimously adopted was [Resolution 06-2019](#), regarding the 2019 Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. County Emergency manager Greg Fisher said, "We've been working on this for the last year. Over 100 people have been involved in this planning process. "...the

Continued next pg

COUNTY REAPPOINTS BOARD AND COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS

From previous pg



BOCC Chair Sue Hansen, Commissioner Keith Caddy, and Attorney Lane Thomasson listen at the regular board meeting of Jan. 16.

most important pieces are the priority mitigation action items and projects," he said. "This will open us up to apply for mitigation grants for the natural hazards in our community."

A [contract](#) was approved to have DOWL of Montrose, selected from a field of four bidders, perform engineering services for the Blossom Road Bridge Replacement Project. CDOT will pay 80 percent of the project costs up to \$1,455,000.

REAPPOINTMENTS

The following individuals were re-appointed to County boards and commissions:

Pam Brown was reappointed to the

Montrose County Board of Adjustment for a five-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2023.

Monte Naslund was reappointed to the Southwest Water Conservation District for a three-year term to expire on Jan. 1, 2022.

Lana Kinsey was reappointed to the Montrose County Planning Commission for a three-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2021.

David Frank was reappointed to the Montrose County Planning Commission for a three-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2021.

Gary Garren (Alternate 1) was reappointed to the Montrose County Planning Com-

mission for a two-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2020.

Jim Haugsness (Alternate 2) was reappointed to the Montrose County Planning Commission for a one-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2019.

Sandy Head was reappointed to the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning (Region 10 LEAP) Board of Directors for a two-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2020.

Linda Riba was reappointed to the Region 10 LEAP Board of Directors for a two-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2020.

Robert Brown was reappointed to the Region 10 LEAP Business Loan Fund Committee for a two-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2020.

Angela Goforth was reappointed to the West End Planning Advisory Committee for a two-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2020.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The BOCC reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health to hear presentations on the Nurse Family Partnership from Terry Balet and from Laura Lenihan of HCP, Kids Thrive, and Special Clinics. Environmental Health Program Manager Jim Austin presented information on the newly-adopted Colorado state food code, and on the Radon Project.

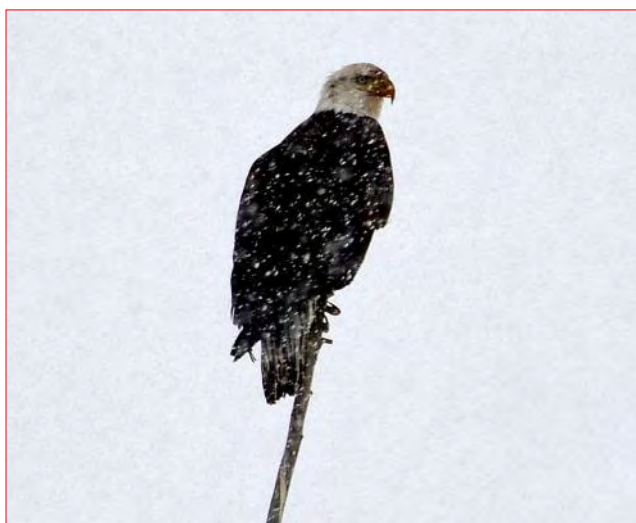
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The BOCC reconvened into regular session.

A proposed resolution to vacate a portion of public road right-of-way on 5760 Road was continued until the regular meeting of March 20.



READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Local photographer Deb Reimann snapped these photos during a recent visit to Owl Creek.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

Special to the Mirror

OURAY COUNTY-The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, based in Ouray County, is seeking new board members for two-year terms. The partnership's mission is to protect and restore the natural, scenic and economic values of the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed. In addition to monthly board meetings, board members oversee and volunteer for activities including watershed education, Ridgway RiverFest, water sampling, park cleanups, and stakeholder outreach. For more information, please email Judi at uwp-coordinator@gmail.com and visit the UWP website at uncompahgrewatershed.org.



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WORK SESSION WELCOMES SAVE THE SCULPTURES GROUP, NEW CITY STAFF



Save the Sculptures founder Bob Brown, at left, provided an update on the group's progress to City Council Jan. 14. Above, Tricia Dickinson of Save the Sculptures asks City Council for a show of hands.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A lively discussion with the volunteers from the Save the Sculptures organization took center stage at the Montrose [City Council work session](#) of Jan. 14, but the work session began with a welcome to three new City staffers.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Alexis Foran is joining the City as community events coordinator, and Amy Sharp will join the Planning Department as Planner II. Rick Warner was a volunteer with the Visitor Center, now joining the City as a part-time guest services assistant.

Foran called her new job with the City of Montrose, her husband's home town, "a dream come true...we wanted to raise our kids here."

Sharp echoed the sentiment. "This feels like home to us."

Said Warner, "I love growth and I love this town...I like the idea of joining the team."

"Welcome to all of you," Mayor Roy Anderson said.

SAVE THE SCULPTURES DISCUSSION

Save the Sculptures organizer Bob Brown presented information and restated the goals of the group, which is working to close the purchase of two monumental bronze works by Wyoming artist Vic Payne, from the William F. Widger Revocable Trust. The Widger Trust has offered

to sell the pieces for \$250,000 if paid in full by the time the loan period expires on April 12.

The sculptures, "Bad Decision" and "Where Eagles Dare," have an estimated market value of \$980,000, according to Brown, and have been on loan to the City for the past six years. They are placed in prominent locations at Demoret Park (Main and Townsend) and at Main Street and North Uncompahgre. To date, the Save the Sculptures group, which has ceased its fundraising efforts, has raised \$130,907 and has received a contribution from the Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of roughly \$30,000.

"We have raised more than \$100,000," Brown informed Council. "It seems unlikely that we can raise the full \$250,000 asked by the owners by this route alone...I felt strong interest to make it happen...we have time to get it done and should do that."

"How do we do that?"

Should the sculptures be purchased, the likely owner would be the City of Montrose, Brown said. Though it was hoped that the Montrose County would contribute to the fundraising effort, "The County entertained our application, unfortunately they were unable to fund it," Brown said.

"We want to turn this deal over to the

City to close...we have the solid support of the community."

Following further discussion, City Councilor Barbara Bynum about the expenses of the brick and plaque donation program that was used to help raise donations. "At this point we don't know how much plaques are going to cost," Brown said, noting that it was implied during fundraising efforts that the donation bricks and plaques would be placed in Demoret Park.

"Who was responsible for that program?" Councilor Judy Ann Files asked. "I would hate to see to see it come down to City staff."

Files also asked if any thought had been given to relocating the sculptures.

"No," Brown said. "I don't think it would be a huge problem to move them, but it would be an expensive one." He reminded Files that in their current locations, the sculptures have become "iconic to Montrose."

"They are even in the City's literature now...I would personally lobby not to move them," he said.

Councilor Dave Bowman asked if businesses in town had contributed to the fundraising effort. "Has Wells Fargo? Has Proximity? Has the Chamber?"

"We have some fairly good size businesses on Main Street that have chosen not to contribute," Bowman said, "but you want government to contribute?"

If the City were to take on negotiations with the Widger Trust, the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART) could

Continued next pg

WORK SESSION WELCOMES SAVE THE SCULPTURES GROUP, NEW CITY STAFF

From previous pg

take the lead, City Manager Bill Bell said. The possibility of a multi-year payment plan was discussed.

Bowman said that typically a major purchase is considered in executive session; Mayor Anderson asked for an executive session to be scheduled.

Speaking as part of the Save the Sculptures group, former Montrose Mayor Tricia Dickinson asked Council for a sign of support.

"I would like to see a show of hands... whether or not you believe the City of Montrose is willing to be the owners of these fine pieces of sculpture."

No show of hands was received; Bowman asked that no discussion take place until February.

Council agreed to revisit the matter on Feb. 5.

DISPOSAL OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT AUCTION

Council discussed the sale at auction of City-owned property that is no longer of value to the City, including [vehicles, equipment, office items, furniture](#), and police

department evidence.

CERRO RESERVOIR OUTLET WORKS REPLACEMENT BID AND CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed the project, which was put out for bid in mid-December.

"This is turning out to be a complicated project," Murphy said. "...We want to get it done before the irrigation water comes on."

Councilor Doug Glaspell asked about the project's timeline; Murphy said that ground will be broken early in March.

COMMENTS

Councilor Barbara Bynum thanked City staff for including Council in the annual employee recognition event Jan. 12, and said, "Congratulations to those employees who were selected to be recognized on behalf of the City."

City staffer Virgil Turner said that he met with Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) concerning the cooperative's efforts to terminate its contract with Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Though

Turner had planned to add DMEA's presentation as well as an update on DMEA's Elevate Broadband service to the Jan. 15 regular meeting agenda, he had neglected to do so.

"It does affect a lot of members," he said.

Said City Attorney Stephen Alcorn, "You have a fair number of constituents who are frustrated with what was promised and what was given."

"You're exactly right," Mayor Anderson said. "People have even asked me, 'when is it coming to my neighborhood?'"

Presentations by DMEA and Elevate were added to the [meeting agenda of Jan. 15](#) as an addendum.

Turner also reminded Council of an upcoming community meeting of the City's Hispanic Engagement Project in the "Tortilla Flats" neighborhood, on Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the MADA Building at 17 North 6th Street.

"Said Mayor Anderson, "I think it's good to get in communication with those people."



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BARK BEETLE OUTBREAKS EXPANDING IN COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS—Bark beetle outbreaks have continued to expand in parts of Colorado, based on a 2018 aerial forest health survey conducted by the Colorado State Forest Service and U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Every year the agencies work together to aerially monitor forest health conditions on millions of forested acres across the state. Spruce beetle populations caused widespread tree mortality for the seventh consecutive year. Although the acreage affected by this pest annually has declined for the past four years, 178,000 acres of high-elevation Engelmann spruce were affected statewide in 2018. Approximately one-third of these affected acres were “new,” or previously unaffected areas. Primary areas impacted include forestlands in and around Rocky Mountain National Park, and portions of the San Juan Mountains, West Elk Mountains and Sawatch Range.

Since the year 2000, spruce beetle outbreaks have caused tree mortality on more than 1.8 million acres in Colorado, and approximately 40 percent of the spruce-fir forests in Colorado have now been affected. Blowdown events in Engelmann spruce stands, combined with long-term drought stress, warmer temperatures and extensive amounts of older, densely growing trees, have contributed to this ongoing epidemic.

Another native bark beetle – roundheaded pine beetle, along with associated native bark beetles – has continued to increasingly affect ponderosa pine forests in Dolores County, in southwest Colorado. Over the past several years, populations of this insect have risen exponentially, with 27,000 acres impacted in 2018, compared to 11,000 acres in 2017. Record-warm temperatures and record-low precipitation in southwest Colorado have weakened tree defenses, providing an environmental window that may continue to favor increasing beetle populations.

The aerial survey also revealed that Douglas-fir beetle populations continued to impact low-elevation forests in the central and southern portions of the state, at levels similar to what was observed statewide in 2017. Outbreaks of western spruce budworm declined in 2018, compared to the prior year, although this insect still defoliated 131,000 acres of spruce and fir in the state.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ACT WORK READY COMMUNITIES INFORMATION SESSION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Colorado Workforce Center, Region 10, Colorado Mesa University, Montrose School District, Montrose Adult Education Center and the Montrose Chamber are embarking on an initiative that will help employers with their decision-making process when hiring new employees. The initiative is called ACT Work Ready Communities. The initiative involves employers who agree to "recognize" the testing certificates when hiring, as well as students and job seekers who take the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) exam. This exam will evaluate their skill levels and provide them with a certificate citing their level of achievement. The program is also equipped with over 22,000 job profiles that will identify which skills are needed for specific jobs.

To learn more about this initiative in Montrose County and how you as an employer can benefit from it, you are invited

to a free breakfast session Jan. 25 at 7:30 a.m. in the RE-1J School District Board Room. We will cover a number of topics, including how to interpret the exam scores when job candidates list them on their resume and job application.

Our goal is to build a pool of job candidates in Montrose who have taken the NCRC exam developed by ACT as well as a pool of companies who will recognize the certificate when looking at candidates. This initiative will benefit employers and prospective employees by:

- Helping employers attract only qualified applicants for their open positions
- Reducing the cost of onboarding new employees, while reducing turnover
- Creating career pathways to help inform students of growing industries

- Identifying Montrose County's skilled labor force and market that to new potential employers

- Helping to shrink Montrose County's skills gaps

- Allowing Montrose County job seekers the ability to use the NCRC as a stackable credential in most industries

The NCRC exam is widely used throughout the nation. It is an established resource for employers in Mesa County. Mesa County has so many residents who have taken the exam and employers who recognize it when hiring, that ACT designated the county as a Work Ready Community. This designation helps Mesa County to recruit new employers to the county by providing objective measures of the local workforce skills.

HEAVY TRAFFIC & WINTER DRIVING EXPECTED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is reminding drivers to anticipate heavy traffic volumes on Interstate 70 and on adjacent highways as the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend wraps up.

Drivers also should expect CDOT to implement safety metering operations at the Eisenhower/Johnson Memorial Tunnels and on Loveland Pass. To help minimize traffic impacts west of Denver, CDOT is suspending its rockfall mitigation project on U.S. 6 through Clear Creek Canyon on Monday for MLK day. Colorado highway information is available at all times on the cotrip.org website or by calling 511.



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COUNCIL HEARS FROM DMEA, ELEVATE, OWNER OF ESCAPED HEIFER



At left, DMEA COO Virginia Harman addressed Council. Above, Valerie Hudson, right, thanked Council (and Animal Control Officer Mike Duncan) for help with an escaped heifer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose proclaimed January, 2019 as National Crime Stoppers Awareness Month at the [regular meeting of Jan. 15](#). An Addendum was also added to the meeting to include presentations by Chief Operating Officer Virginia Harman of Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) and Chief Executive Officer Kent Blackwell of DMEA's Elevate Fiber. Council also announced that the new restrooms in Riverbottom Park are open to the public, with a ribbon cutting ceremony set for 3 p.m. Feb. 5.

NATIONAL CRIME STOPPERS AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor Roy Anderson welcomed those in attendance to the first Council meeting of the New Year, before reading the Proclamation in support of National Crime Stoppers Awareness Month.

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers John W. Nelson, who also heads Crime Stoppers USA, noted that six new arrests were made in the past month, generating another \$1,000 in possible rewards.

TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

County resident Valerie Hudson stepped forward to address Council.

Said Hudson, "...I am here to say a few thank you's...I would hope that people would come up and thank the City and not always bring in accusations or criticisms."

thanked Council for the left-hand turn lane at Main Street and Park Avenue.

"It wasn't just for me, but I do feel it is just for me," she said.

"Back in November when we were moving cattle...unbeknownst to us we had an escapee heifer who jumped out at Hillside and Main Street. My husband didn't notice that the back door had slid open, and so when he got home and all the cows started emptying out before he stopped the truck, he knew he was in trouble.

"He came back, and when he got to Blair's Truck Stop (City Animal Control Officer) Mike Duncan was there with three other people trying to contain our little heifer...thank you very much."

She also noted, "The other thing...there are people within our community who sit out in chairs, they stand on the corners, asking for some type of relief. I have found that you have this Montrose Community Resources Directory; I hand these out."

Hudson also thanked those in the City Clerk's Office. "There is a remarkable reinforcer when you have a team to work with that is the best team..." She quoted former President Theodore Roosevelt. "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Hudson thanked City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo, Deputy Clerk Carolyn Bellavance, and

Hudson everyone in the Clerk's office, "That's what you guys gave me—I miss you all."

DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Virginia Harman, DMEA Chief Operating Officer, addressed City Council concerning the Cooperative's efforts to exit its contract with wholesale power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission.

Harman provided background information on the situation and said, "...Our rates are a key concern for our members and for our businesses...our Tri-State rates...make up about 65 percent of our total costs....as we have seen our rates continually go up from Tri-State they have gone down in the energy market...Tri-State restricts all coops to five percent local generation, or self-generation; we met that five percent cap more than two years ago...since then we are limited in our ability to capitalize on the energy-rich territory we serve...We have exhausted all avenues available to us."

Harman answered Council's questions and asked for support as DMEA moves forward.

"Thank you very much," Mayor Anderson said. "I think you're looking out for our constituency, and that's obviously what we're interested in too."

ELEVATE BROADBAND UPDATE

Kent Blackwell of DMEA and Elevate Fiber discussed the company's construction

Continued next pg

COUNCIL HEARS FROM DMEA, ELEVATE, OWNER OF ESCAPED HEIFER

From previous pg

construction efforts over the past two years. Since the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed 21 months ago, DMEA has constructed fiber optics to 21 zones, Blackwell said. Of those, 12 zones are completely or partially within the City limits of Montrose; nearly 92 miles of fiber optics have been installed within City limits.

Blackwell used slides and maps to illustrate Elevate's progress and noted that the company has achieved 67 percent network penetration throughout the City of Montrose. Subscriber numbers show a 22 percent "take rate" of those subscribing to Elevate service within the City limits; outside City limits, that rate is 43 percent.

"It's a little below expectations; we were hopeful to be further along in take-rate percentages," Blackwell said. Still, "with the 67 percent buildout in 21 months we feel we are on track to meeting that commitment...we will continue to push pre-registration goals...we are seeing good promises at this point."

Councilor Judy Ann Files asked, "So I fall in a zone that evidently is only at 50 percent—what happens in two years if it doesn't get any higher than 50 percent?"

Said Blackwell, "For us, we are committed to the pre-registration goal; it is the fairness factor. Every constituent that you serve is equally a member and part owner in our operation. We are trying to serve them equitably and equally."

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn jumped into the Council discussion, "The MOU is not factoring into your decision?"

"It's not that it's not factoring in," Blackwell said. "We're continuing to build out at a logical, explainable, defensible approach...without commitments, we as a company are looking at putting out millions and millions of dollars...we are trying to do it smart."

Files asked more questions about her zone. "It's just that I live in an area that geographically is huge compared to very few homes."

Alcorn compared Elevate's maps to "gerrymandered political maps."

"It seems that like the City residents that are footing a lot of this bill...are being held back by a large number of people in the

County..." Alcorn said. "...the City is actually investing in this...you don't seem very intent on living up to the MOU you entered..."

Said Files, "I think we could make the point...of the people that sit at this dais, how many of us have Elevate Service? One out of seven?"

Alcorn said, "And we don't know that many people that have it."

Councilor Dave Bowman said, "As the sole person up here that does have Elevate Internet and Elevate TV, it does work very, very well."

Mayor Anderson said, "...I would ask, just keep up the pace. We really want this community to have fiber available. All of our goals are the same but I don't want you to go broke in the process...people should know that their houses are worth more if they have fiber up to it even if they don't subscribe to it..."

"And thank you Virginia; do some more marketing."

DESIGNATION OF APPROVED POSTING PLACES

Following approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of Dec. 18, 2018, Council designated the bulletin board in City Hall and the exterior bulletin board at City Hall as the official posting places for the City of Montrose.

RESOLUTION 2019-01

Council unanimously voted to adopt the 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Montrose County, already approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Colorado, as its official plan. Montrose County Emergency Manager Greg Fisher presented the Resolution concerning adoption of the plan, which has been discussed previously in work session. "At the end of the day this makes us eligible for federal mitigation dollars," Fisher said.

ORDINANCES 2464 AND 2465-FIRST READING-UPDATES TO SMOKING ORDINANCE

There were last minute changes to the smoking ordinance updates, which were updated to prohibit vape use as well. These have been discussed extensively in work session. At the request of the state, Sections 10, 12 and 13, which exempted hookah bars, taverns and clubs, were

stricken. Council unanimously approved on first reading Ordinance 2464, which repeals and replaces Chapter 8 of Title 2 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose Regarding smoking in public places; and Ordinance 2465, which repeals and replaces Chapter 6 Title 1 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding underage possession of tobacco/cannabis and paraphernalia.

Mayor Roy Anderson opened a public hearing on the ordinances. Comment was heard from Montrose County Health & Human Services Director Stephen Tullos, who said "I just want to applaud you and thank you. I think this is a very important step."

REFUSE TRUCK BID RECOMMENDATION

Council voted unanimously to approve a recommended bid for purchase of a Peterbilt Refuse truck with a Dadee Scorpion body from Jackson Group Peterbilt at a cost of \$276,378.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the [Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report](#); City Manager Bill Bell presented a Public Information Officer Report. Bell discussed the annual employee recognition awards, and an upcoming presentation by Police Chief Blaine Hall and Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli on Jan. 30.

Also, "We really need to focus on affordable housing and workforce housing," Bell said.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed a City-owned "speed trailer" that captures information about vehicle speeds when placed on a local roadway. "Seventy-percent slowed down when they saw their speed flashing on it," he said. "We will continue to move this around town to gather information from many streets."

There will be a ribbon cutting event for the new Riverbottom Park restroom, now open to the public, at 3 p.m. on Feb. 5, Scheid said.

City Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner said that there will be a community meeting at the MADA offices for the Hispanic Engagement Project at 6 p.m. on Jan. 31. Councilor Barbara Bynum commended City crews for their recent snow removal efforts.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROPOSED HB19 1032 IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND WRONG

Dear Mr. Coram:

It is my understanding that you support, in fact sponsor, the HB19 1032 which if passed will demand our public schools teach UGBT rubbish and other deviate behaviors to our children as being alright, OK and good physical and mental practices in which they might desire to engage. Except to explain that these practices are unsanitary and foster disease, I do not even want them mentioned.

Your actions regarding this matter are totally unsatisfactory. It might have been nice if you had consulted with your constituents about this first. It certainly would have been proper.

I will take it upon myself to fill you in on behalf of all the spineless do gooders who will not speak out. What the creators (who ever you believe he, she or they are or may be) of the human being put into the human crotch (male or female) is for the reproduction of human beings. And while many of us have found and enjoyed the pleasures of having cohabited with our wives and husbands, and possibly significant others, we recognize that these pleasures are for the purpose of enticing us to reproduce, nothing more or less. To reduce the genitals and their use to the level of playthings, toys, distractions or whatever, is unacceptable. It reduces a beautiful act to an abomination. This is what the gay community does and we do not accept it. We do not accept the LGBT trash as anything that should be taught in the public schools of the State of Colorado, no less our community. Sex education should be limited to the description of the use of the penis and the vagina for reproductive purposes and the results of that use. Anything else in the public spectrum should never be entertained in a public school below university level. These body parts are for the purpose of reproduction of humans. They are not playthings that should be altered or bastardized just because some libertine wants to play like he is a girl or she is a boy. To teach otherwise is not biologically or morally sound.

Nor is it sound for us to authorize any kid to tell us how to address him or her. In the public school spectrum, he is a him and she is a her. End of conversation.

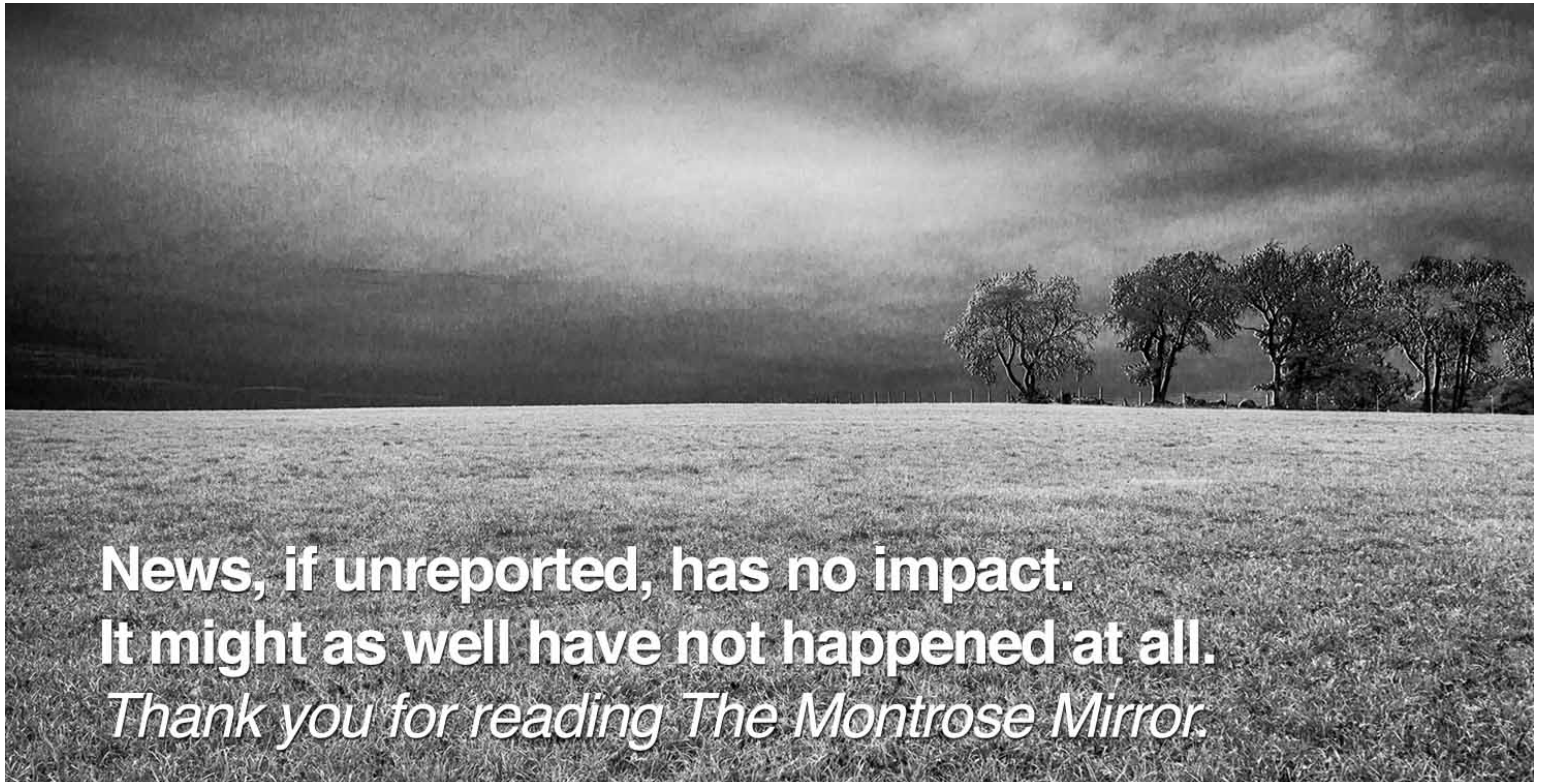
The science is not there to justify exposing our children to these abominable procedures or practices. Suicides among transgenders are far above the normal rate. Many that have tried it want to go back the way they were. Too bad and too late. These practices have about as much science behind them as does cow flatulence to global warming.

It should not matter if the people who condemn these practices are Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindus or Shintos. Most religions condemn homosexual practices. But just as the great religions of the world condemn homosexuality and all the baggage that goes with it, these religions also recognize that UGBT and the libertine practices are themselves a religion. That established, our government should have no part in foisting that religion upon us (especially our children) any more than government has the right to jam Christianity or any other religion down anyone's throats.

I could care less what gays do. They are welcome to their lifestyle and the consequences. But they have no right to teach it to our children. If the kids, as college students, find it and like it when at the university that is their business. I do not want it taught at my expense in my community to the children of my neighbors. That is unconstitutional and it is wrong.

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Coram, that you get off this horse before your constituents buck you off. And we will.

William H. Bennett, Montrose



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



A.J. FULLERTON TO PLAY KAFM RADIO ROOM

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION--The RADIO ROOM proudly presents AJ Fullerton LIVE In Concert on Friday, Feb. 1st, at 7:30 PM. Fullerton is an award-winning Progressive-Roots singer, songwriter and guitarist raised in Western Colorado. A.J. is a multifaceted entertainer, touring the Continental United States full time as a solo artist, a duo/trio, & in full band arrangements. At only 22 years old, A.J. has quickly gained wide acclaim as one of the hottest rising young talents on the scene.

Raised as an only child in rural Western Colorado, A.J. was brought up surrounded by numerous styles of music ranging from; Rock, Folk, Bluegrass, Roots, & Blues. His biggest musical influences ended up being found in his parents' collection of Classic Rock & Blues records.

Playing solo, and in local bands throughout his mid-teens, by age 19 he was playing full-time supporting his rapidly developing solo career. His style of playing falls somewhere between the finger picking and slide of Country Roots music, and the groove based up-tempo sensibilities of Blues and Rock & Roll. In the few short years of his professional career, A.J. has



A.J. Fullerton. Courtesy photo.

won a number of awards & accolades. In 2016 he was the winner of the Colorado Blues Society's "I.B.C Competition", as well as winning the following Colorado Blues Society "Members Choice Awards" for; Best Slide Guitar (2016), Best Acoustic Act (2016), Best Young Performer (2016), & Best Duo Act [A.J. Fullerton ft. Nic Clark]

(2016)

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801 or online at www.kafmradio.org.

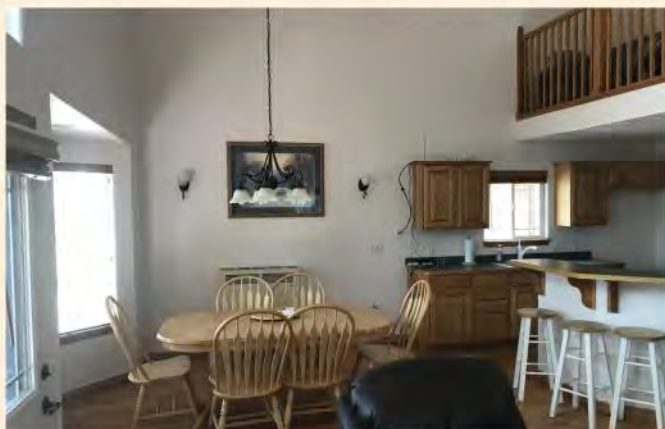
The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY TO HOST DEATH CAFÉ JAN. 26

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-There will be a Death Café, Saturday, Jan. 26, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library Meeting Room. At a Death Café people gather to eat cake, drink tea, and discuss death. This is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, themes, or objectives. It is a discussion group, not a grief support or counseling session. Death cafés are respectful and confidential, with no intention of leading people to any conclusion or action. Our Death Café will be facilitated by Amiessa Jutten, hospice social worker. No registration is required. The Death Café model was developed in England in 2011. Over 7500 events have been hosted worldwide since. The organization's website is deathcafe.com.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH SELECTED BY RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce introduced the new RACC Business of the Month program in January. The Chamber will feature a different member every month, and share information about the business owners, mission, background, and other details to help the community and visitors stay in tune with local services and products.

The January 2019 Business of the Month is Stacie's Apothecary Shoppe, at 112 Village Square West, Ridgway, Colo. 81432. Stacie's is a place that owners Jacob and Stacie Veatch want to become part of the community.

"We want the town to give us input on items they would like us to carry and let us know what type of educational classes surrounding health they would like to attend. We want it to be a gathering place

to talk about health and wellness goals.

We do not want to be a place where you just pick up some meds and walk out the door. That is not how we build a healthy community," Stacie said. "We build a healthy community one conversation at a time and help connect people with similar struggles and successes. Optimal health can be difficult to achieve and maintain as individuals, but if we work together as a true community, we can all benefit and achieve amazing outcomes."

The Veatch's invite people to come in and share their experiences with health and wellness, whether they have tried acupuncture, Yoga, Pilates, or meditation. These conversations will help the Apothecary Shoppe achieve its goals of serving the community. Besides being a full-service pharmacy, filling prescriptions, the business will be stocking related health products requested by customers.

Learn more about the business



Stacie's Apothecary Shoppe. Courtesy photo.

at: <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/medical-health-wellness>.



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the
talking
gourds
announces



2019

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Judge: Rafael Jesús González, Berkeley Poet Laureate

www.tellurideinstitute.org/fischer-prize



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Home Health of Western Colorado

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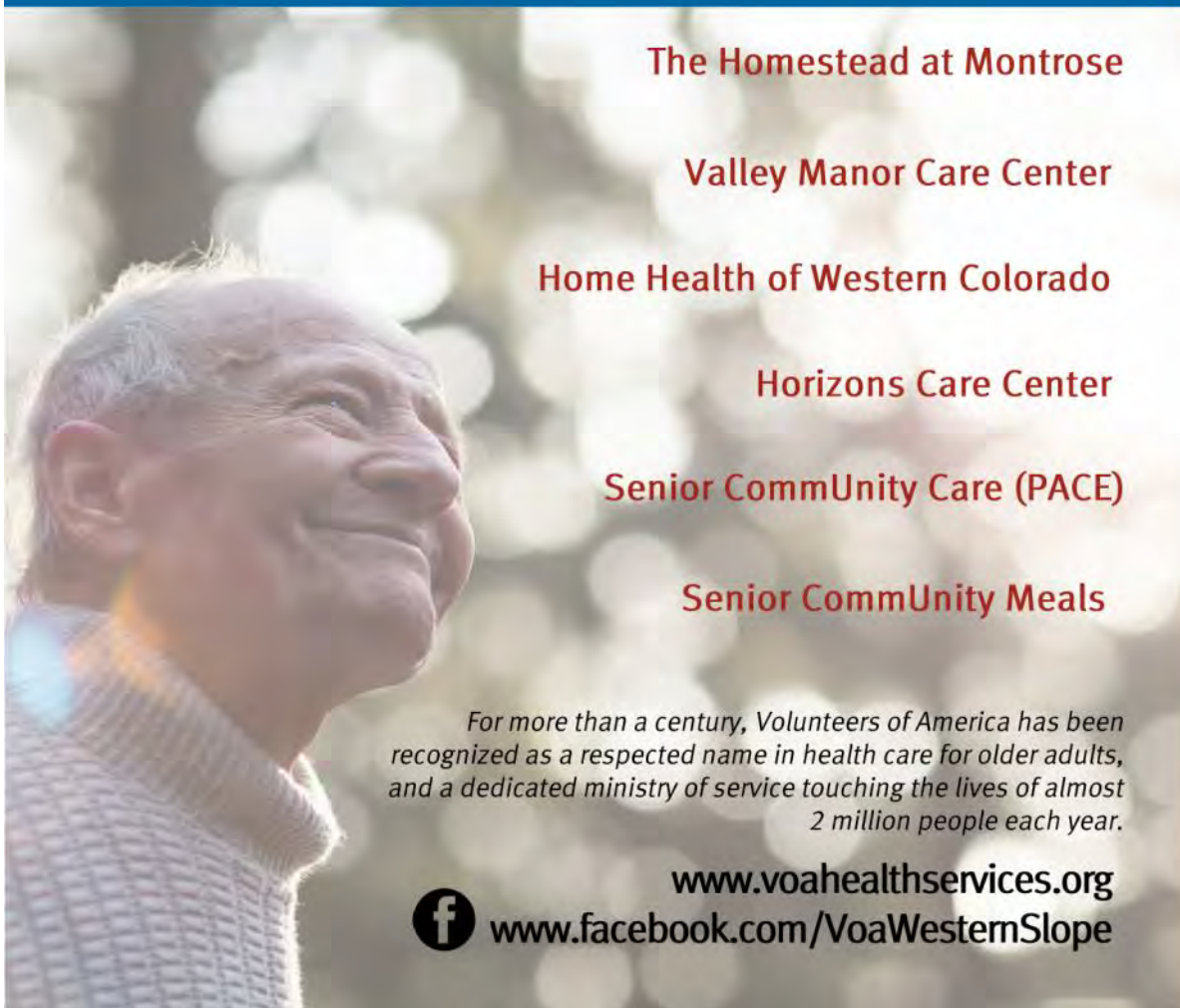
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www.voahealthservices.org
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL! CELEBRATE FAT TUESDAY WITH TWO NON-PROFITS @ THE MONTROSE PAVILION

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Did you know that the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) Olathe Unit visits Colorow Care Center every Wednesday? It is on these days that the elders from Colorow and the Club kids get to interact, learn from each other, and enjoy each other's company. In honor of

that thriving partnership, the BCBGC and Colorow are throwing a Fat Tuesday fundraising celebration! Join the two non-profits on Tuesday March 5, 2019 at the Montrose Pavilion at 6 p.m. for a creole feast, live jazz band, photo booth, silent auction, and more. All proceeds will benefit the continued programming partner-

ship between Colorow and the BCBGC. So grab your mardi gras beads and head out for a festive evening. Tickets are \$50 and are available online at www.bcbgc.org/events, or at the Colorow Care Center at 885 S Highway 50 Business Loop in Olathe or at the BCBGC Montrose Unit at 2900 Sunnyside Rd in Montrose.

BLUE SAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS 'LINES'

Special to Art & Sol

PAONIA-Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia is excited to present our first Final Friday of 2019 with the exhibit "Lines." Our featured artists are: accomplished clay artist Sara Ransford with her unique

paper clay style, talented Tom Calenberg who uses mixed media to "celebrate the process of creation that gives my soul its voice," and Chris Gentry who makes a spirited collection of weavings and sculptures using locally gathered, organic mate-

rials. There is a meet and greet with the artists Jan. 25th from 5-7 pm in the Blue Sage Gallery in Paonia. Contact us at info@bluesage.org or call us at (970) 527-7243 for more information. The show will run through Feb. 16.

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

End of an Era

OP-ED COLUMNS ... I've been writing personal columns in Telluride since January of 1981 ... My first "Pandora's Box" column appeared in the defunct *Telluride Times* in January of 1981.) gone on to write columns for most of the papers that appeared in Telluride – the *San Miguel Journal*, the *Telluride Mountain Journal*, the *Telluride Times-Journal*, the *Daily Planet* and of late the *Watch*. Either as Pandora's Box or Up Bear Creek ... I had a column in the old *Mountainfreak* magazine (that Commissioner Hilary Cooper edited) called "Far Freakin' Out" that came out of Telluride ... And I have a long-running monthly column in the *Four Corners Free Press* out of Cortez and a weekly on-line column in the *Montrose Mirror* ... Not to mention lots of shorter-lived columns in regional papers and newsletters ... For an English major – one of those college degrees that usually don't get you very far in the job market – I've managed to turn my love of language into a successful journalism career ... And I look forward to continuing it for as long as I can still put pen to paper, fingers to the keyboard ... But not for the *Telluride Watch* anymore.

After all the changes in Telluride they were still paying me less than I got 12 years ago, before the Downturn ... People look to government to solve our housing crisis, but there's another culprit that makes it near impossible – some members of our business community that pay predatory wages ... So, no more print columns for me. I'm moving into the cyber world Find my column weekly at MontroseMirror.com

KYRA ON THE ROAD ... Kyra Kopentonsky lived on Fall Creek in San Miguel County



Evening at Casa Marmol (Courtesy photo by Linde Waidhofer).

for the last few years. Her most memorable incident was her encounter with a Mountain Lion, face to face. They stared each other down from about 20 feet away for a good 20 minutes, the cat coming closer every time she stepped back. Finally she sang to the creature, and it wandered off at last. It made wire service news. She's off traveling now, and sending me postcards. I wanted to share them with you. So, here's number one ... "Greetings from the Grand Canyon! I'm here for a few weeks, staying at my ranger friend's apartment on the South Rim. I like walking along the edge of the canyon at night in the moonlight, feeling the immensity of the canyon beside me, and the upwelling of air from its depths. A continuous rush of powerful energy from the deep."

WEEKLY QUOTA ... "Poetry has become for me a language I studied in high school but no longer really understand. Like German, or Trigonometry." -Scott Nicolay

SAN MIGUEL POWER ... As a Green who leans socialist when it comes to cooperative movements, I was delighted to find that my power provider in rural southwest Colorado -- when I came here 40 years ago from California -- was a rural cooperative energy distribution company. We had a cooperative food market or two in the Bay Area, but Pacific Gas & Electric had a lock on energy distribution and transmission, and PG&E was a multi-national corporation. I know. I worked for them one college summer ... So I was delighted to be a customer/owner of SMPA, and jumped right into voting at its annual meetings. I loved getting my disbursement rebate some years. Most employees went out of their way to be helpful, whenever I had need of them. And not long ago, SMPA awarded my youngest son a college scholarship ... Good deeds aside, it's been a pleasure to see how progressive our changing local boards have been, and what a great job the new manager Brad W. Zaporski has done.

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

THE TALKING GOURD

Otoño in Patagonia

Árbol tras árbol el otoño avanza,
Pero hacia dónde? Hacia qué?
Hoja tras hoja se echa al fuego
De días, cada día más colorado,

Más corto, más intenso, más rojizo.
El fuego de otoño, ya quemando,
Aunque lentamente, casi imperceptible.
Los días se parecen, pero no son iguales.

Cada hoja se suma a un incendio
Forestal de pura belleza, mañana,
O pasado mañana, consumirá todo.

La mitad del bosque, del mundo,
Está todavía verde, pero lo sentimos
Venir: esta fogata de colores locos. . .

Autumn in Patagonia

Tree by tree autumn moves on
Where is it heading? Where will it end?
Leaf after leaf thrown onto this fire
Of days, each day more colorful,

More intense, shorter, redder.
Autumn's fire already burning,
But slowly, almost imperceptibly.
One day like the next, but not the same.

Each leaf adds to a forest fire
Of pure beauty, and tomorrow
Or the day after, everything will burn.

Half the forest, half the world
Is still green, but we feel it coming:
This bonfire of crazy color. . .

*-Lito Tejada-Flores
Chile*

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: AWARDS & RECOGNITION

CITY RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



The city's IT Department from left to right, Drew Biermann, Wayne Nation, Kevin Hawkins, Drea Cole, Juan Haro, and Bill Bell. (Not pictured is IT member David Gilmore). Courtesy photo.

who demonstrated a high level of public service in their roles. The theme of this year's banquet was "Tailgate Party." Staff was encouraged to represent favorite sports teams.

City Manager Bill Bell presented the city's Employee of the Year award to Mike Norris whose work is essential to operations at the city's wastewater treatment facility.

Bell presented the 2018 Manager's Excellence in Service Award to Archie Byers in recognition of his "steadfast commitment to excellence and customer-focused leadership within the Building Services Division."

The Team of the Year award was presented to the city's IT Department. The team was tasked with setting up a new Spillman system for the WestCo Dispatch Center.

This complicated system can take months to purchase, set up, and make operational.

The city's team was able to complete the work in about a month. This effort was critical for the WestCO Dispatch Center to operate.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose celebrated the work done in 2018 at the city's annual employee banquet held at the

Montrose Pavilion Jan. 12.

Each year senior city administration highlights the work achieved over the past year and presents awards to employees

GAVAN STEPS DOWN FROM DMEA BOARD FOLLOWING PUC APPOINTMENT

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL—Last month, a long-time board member of Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), John Gavan, was appointed by the then Governor Hickenlooper to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

"This appointment is a great honor for John and DMEA. It's also a testament to the vision and leadership he and our entire board have shown on electric utility and telecommunication issues," said DMEA CEO, Jasen Bronec. With Gavan's four-year term as PUC commissioner starting this month, he officially stepped down from DMEA's Board of Directors.

"I have truly enjoyed being a part of this wonderful organization [DMEA] and seeing it deliver so much good for our communities. I will cherish my time on the board and will always have a fondness for DMEA, its staff, board, and members," said Gavan.

Gavan served as the North Region representative, which encompasses much of Delta County. His resignation became effective on January 7, 2019, and now DMEA will fill the vacancy by appointment as is outlined by the co-op's bylaws.

"The DMEA Board is excited for John as he takes on his new role with the PUC. We believe he will be an excellent commis-

sioner and that all of Colorado will benefit from him serving in that capacity. While we are glad for his sake, we are sorry to see him leave DMEA and Elevate. We are thankful for all the effort, time, energy, and passion he brought to his roles on both the DMEA and Elevate boards. He was a great asset for our membership and will be missed," said DMEA Board President, Bill Patterson. Members living within the North Region who are interested in being considered for the vacant seat should contact their board representative. Director contact information is available online at <http://www.dmea.com/content/board-directors>.

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

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET WINTER MARKET will be open the following Saturdays 10am-1pm. 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.

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.

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. 2nd 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. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

MONTHLY-

Jan. 23-Retirement party for Gaye Cox, 3 to 5 p.m., NuVista Federal Credit Union, 2711 Commercial Way, Montrose.

Jan. 25-26-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. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call 970-765-6170.

Jan. 25-Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia is excited to present our first Final Friday of 2019 with the exhibit "Lines." Our featured artists are: accomplished clay artist Sara Ransford with her unique paper clay style, talented Tom Calenberg who uses mixed media to "celebrate the process of creation that gives my soul its voice," and Chris Gentry who makes a spirited collection of weavings and sculptures using locally gathered, organic materials. There is a meet and greet with the artists Jan. 25th from 5-7 pm in the Blue Sage Gallery in Paonia. Contact us at info@bluesage.org or call us at (970) 527- 7243 for more information. The show will run through Feb. 16.

Jan. 25-To learn more about the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative in Montrose County and how you as an employer can benefit from it, you are invited to a free breakfast session Jan. 25 at 7:30 a.m. in the RE-1J School District Board Room. We will cover a number of topics, including how to interpret the exam scores when job candidates list them on their resume and job application.

Jan. 25-A celebration of Robert Burns KAFM Radio Room. 7-9:30 pm, 1310 Ute Ave, Grand Junction.

Jan. 26--FREE monthly coffee cupping at Cimarron Coffee Roasters, 72 S. Grand Ave, 10-11 a.m.

Jan. 26-There will be a Death Café on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Death cafés are respectful and confidential, with no intention of leading people to any conclusion or action. Our Death Café will be facilitated by Amiessa Jutten, hospice social worker. No registration is required. The organization's website is deathcafe.com.

Jan. 29-April 2- Mending Hearts GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP, Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3 p.m., Montrose HopeWest Office

725 South 4th Street. Mending Hearts is free of charge and open to anyone coping with the death of a loved one. Pre-registration is encouraged.

For additional information or to pre-register, please call (970) 240-7734. HopeWestCO.org

Jan. 31-"Buddy Mondlock :: Live at Healthy Rhythm" (Special Guest, Chris Mullen)

<https://healthyrhythmartgallery.bigcartel.com/product/hrms-presents-buddy-mondlock-live-at-healthy-rhythm>

On Sale Online Starting Dec. 27, 2018, at 12:01 a.m.

Feb. 6-Changing the Narrative in Colorado, A three-hour workshop is being offered on Feb. 6, 2019 from 9 am to noon at the Montrose Pavilion Event Center. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and practice the effective strategies taught during the session. Registration for the workshop by Jan. 25, 2019 as space is limited. The link to register for the workshop is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-narrative-about-aging-workshop-in-montrose-colorado-registration-54242655242>.

Feb. 9-Sled dog and skijoring demo at Ridgway State Park, 11 a.m. Meet at Dallas Creek Entrance. Champion sled dog and skijoring racers Lynn Whipple and Laurie Brandt will share their passion for these sports along with their dogs! Call Visitor Center at 970-626-5822 for updates. Park pass required.

Feb. 9--Join Ouray Historian Don Paulson for a fun, informative snowshoe adventure into historic mine sites. Moderate difficulty level (elevation: 8,000-plus). Feb. 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ouray Community Center, 320 6th Ave, Ouray, CO 81427 (from there we will carpool to CR 31) Registration: spaces are limited to 20. Do not delay, sign up now! We kindly request a \$30 donation to support our nonprofit tour hosts, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Ouray County Historical Society. Email Tanya at uwpcommunications@gmail.com to get a registration link or leave a message at 970-325-3010.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

*The 2019 Montrose Women's March took place in Downtown Montrose Saturday, Jan. 19, starting at Demoret Park.
Photo by Brad Switzer.*



WANT NEWS?

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