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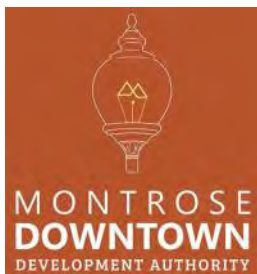
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# the Montrose Mirror

Fresh News for Busy People-Weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 311, Feb. 11, 2019

## CITY HEARS FROM TRI-STATE, TALKS CONTRUCTION PROJECTS @ WORK SESSION *Miami/Hillcrest roundabout Out for Bid, City to Pursue 2nd Entrance to Golf Course*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Councilors heard an update from Tri-State Generation & Transmission's Senior External Affairs Advisor Sarah Carlisle at the [work session of Feb. 4.](#)

Additional items discussed at the work session included a path forward for the Riverbottom Drive Reconstruction Project, the Cerro Reservoir Outlet Works Replacement bid, The Riverwood Subdivision Water System Reconstruction Project, and a facility service agreement for recovery of recycle materials. Council also discussed 2019 City vehicle and equipment purchase recommendations and a contract extension for manhole lining services.

### TRI-STATE G&T UPDATE

Tri State produces electricity

[Continued pg 23](#)



Tri-State G&T Senior External Affairs Advisor Sarah Carlisle, above, gave an update to Montrose City Council and City staff during the work session of Feb. 4.

## COUNTY CELEBRATES VITAL STATISTICS 'ELITE PERFECTION' TEAM *Department earns top honors statewide for six straight years*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the [regular meeting of Feb. 6](#), the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) celebrated a County department that has earned top honors statewide for six straight years.

There were no changes to the agenda and no comment from the public. [Consent Agenda items](#) were unanimously approved.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

County Clerk & Recorder Tressa

Guynes [requested the BOCC's recognition](#) of the Clerk & Recorder's Office of Vital Statistics, which received the 2018 Five Star Performance Award from the State Registrar and Office of Vital Statistics. No other county in Colorado has earned the award every year since its inception. Members of the Vital Statistics "Elite Perfection" team were presented, including Supervisor Crystal Hudnall, Dharma Conant, Rhonda Motsko, and Valerie McGlothlin. Outnumbering staff, the trophies for all



County officials and staff pose for a photo opp with the Clerk & Recorder's Vital Statistics Office "Elite Perfection" team and trophies on Feb. 6.

[Continued pg 12](#)

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*Art Goodtimes'  
Up Bear Creek*

*Reader Photo  
Spotlight: Deb Reimann*

*Unattended  
Death @ City Market South*

*MHS Vocal Effect Raising  
funds for A Capella Finals*





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CHARTER RECEPTION PLANNED FOR NEW BLACK CANYON ROTARY CLUB

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Black Canyon Montrose Rotary Club will host their Charter Reception, taking place at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Montrose (1391 S. Townsend Ave) on Feb. 21, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Charter Reception is hosted in partnership with the Holiday Inn Express, Black Canyon Surgical Center and Dalby, Wendland & Co., P.C.

Black Canyon Montrose Rotary Club is pleased to invite community members, elected local officials, local and District Rotary members to their Charter Reception. Join us for an evening of networking, learn about our new club, and let us know how we can serve the Montrose Community in the most impactful ways possible. Please participate in inducting our charter members into our club, hear how our new club was formed, and partake in an evening full of impactful networking with local/regional Rotarians and business leaders.

For additional information or to RSVP for this event, please contact Club Secretary, Ashley Pietak at 970-417-0041 or [blackcanyonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:blackcanyonrotary@gmail.com)

## MULTIPLE JOB OPENINGS, NO FEES HIRING NOW

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**CONSTRUCTION:**

Our client is seeking a **Crew Foreman**. This is for a growing company here in Montrose. Must have 2 years of experience driving a box truck. Must have 2 years of supervisory experience. Looking for someone with strong communication and teamwork skills. Must have valid Colorado driver's license and clean driving record. Must pass background check and pre-employment drug screen. Apply TODAY at [ExpressPros.com/MontroseCO](http://ExpressPros.com/MontroseCO) and call 970-249-5202 to schedule your interview.

Our client is seeking **EXPERIENCED Carpenters and General Laborers**. One-Way drive time paid. Must be able to lift 50-75lbs. You will need steel toe boots, gloves, hard hat and vest. Must be able to pass a drug screen. Apply TODAY at [expresspros.com/montroseco](http://expresspros.com/montroseco) and call 970-249-5202 to schedule your interview.

Our client is seeking **EXPERIENCED Truss Builders**. Must have minimum 2 years truss building experience. Temp to Hire Position. Salary will depend on experience. Overtime required. This is a great company with amazing benefits! Health Insurance, sick and vacation time just to name a few. Must be able to pass a drug screen. Apply TODAY at [expresspros.com/montroseco](http://expresspros.com/montroseco) and call 970 249 5202 to schedule your interview.

Our client is seeking an **EXPERIENCED Lumber Yard Worker**. Must have minimum 2 years lumber yard experience. Temp to Hire Position. Salary will depend on experience. Overtime required. This is a great company with amazing benefits! Must be able to pass a drug screen. Health Insurance, sick and vacation time just to name a few. Apply TODAY at [expresspros.com/montroseco](http://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. Salary will depend on experience. 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.

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Our client is seeking **Manufacturing Technicians**! This is an entry level manufacturing position. Monday-Thursday-Second Shift-ten hour days. Must be familiar with CNC Machines, have general computer skills, work in a team, have a positive attitude and be to work on time. You also must be able to add, subtract fractions, and decimals and be able to lift 40 pounds consistently. Apply TODAY at [expresspros.com/montroseco](http://expresspros.com/montroseco) and call 970-249-5202 to schedule your interview.



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### STATE RECEIVES ALMOST \$23M IN EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM USDOT *Money used to complete 2013 flood repairs, US 550 rockfall damage*

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-The Colorado Department of Transportation will receive nearly \$23 million as part of the latest \$705 million Emergency Relief funds announced recently by the US Department of Transportation.

In Colorado, the bulk of the money -- \$21.5 million -- will be used to complete the final of the 32 permanent repair projects from the 2013 floods, the Colorado Highway 7 Lower project from Lyons to Raymond. An additional \$1.25 million will be used for the US 550 Red Mountain Pass project in southwest Colorado to repair damage from a rock slide in 2018.

"Since the 2013 floods, and after last year's US 550 rock slide, we have worked persistently to ensure our state has the resources it needs to fully recover, but there is more work to do," Sen. Michael Bennet said. "This funding will make it possible to complete final repair projects — rebuilding our infrastructure and making our communities more resilient to future disasters."

"The disastrous floods in 2013 and rockslide on US 550 last summer both caused significant damage to our infrastructure. I've consistently advocated for and delivered funding to Colorado to help deal with the aftermath of natural disasters, and I'm pleased this much-needed funding has been made available to help our communities recover," said Sen. Cory Gardner.

"We are grateful to the Colorado congressional delegation for helping to secure the funds to fully recover from these events," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew.

"The floods of 2013 were the most devastating natural disaster in the state's history. Having the resources to finish the last of those permanent repairs and pay for the damage caused by the rockfall on Red Mountain Pass is important for the safety and good repair of our state's transportation network."

The floods in 2013 impacted more than 200 square miles of the state, including 486 miles of CDOT roadway — closing 39 of them and damaging 120 CDOT bridges. With this additional money announced today, Colorado has about \$730 million in Emergency Relief money from the USDOT. There were 110 emergency repair projects that opened all the roads by late November 2013 and an additional 32 permanent repair projects throughout the state.

The CO7 project was the last one left unfunded. The permanent repairs on the roadway will include removing and replacing the asphalt placed during the temporary repairs, adding shoulders and rockfall ditches, improving safety, restoring ecological system along the corridor and re-establishing the creek channel and protecting the banks.

US 550 Red Mountain Pass, just south of Ouray, was damaged severely due to multiple rockfalls, flooding and mudflows in July of 2018.

The final repairs were completed in mid-December after several months of work. CDOT used Transportation Commission emergency funds for that operation which will now be returned to the TC upon receipt of the federal dollars.

CDOT has approximately 3,000 employees located at its Denver headquarters and in regional offices throughout Colorado, and manages more than 23,000 lane miles of highway and 3,429 bridges. Gov. Jared Polis has charged CDOT to further build on the state's intermodal mobility options.

### Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus

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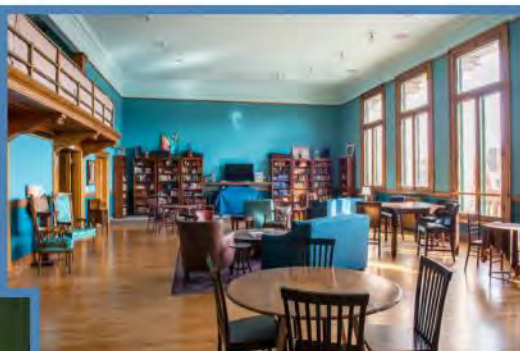
The former **Lark & Sparrow Venue** is now available and is an excellent turnkey opportunity. Uniquely renovated in 2015, the second story Main Street Masonic temple location has two large rooms to host a variety of events from intimate weddings and receptions to small private cocktail parties.

The **Skylight Ballroom with Lark's Bar** seats up to 180 guests. The **Sparrow Library** is perfect for meetings or intimate gatherings up to 60 guests. Chiavari chairs, banquet and cocktail tables, table linens and napkins, Organza chair sashes, sound system and lights, vintage china and glassware, portable bar, 1906 'piano' beverage serving station, mason jar inspired table decor and seasonal decorations included. Optional furnishings negotiable.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MT. VILLAGE'S FARM TO COMMUNITY PROGRAM OPEN TO QUALIFIED FAMILIES

*Special to the Mirror*

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE-After a successful first year, the Town of Mountain Village is pleased to announce an expanded Farm to Community Program for summer 2019.

The program will offer up to 60 qualified Mountain Village families a food share box of locally farmed produce and food items for 14-weeks at a minimal cost.

The Farm to Community Program was launched in summer of 2018 and initially offered 48 families and 60 residents more than 4,500 pounds of fresh, local food to residents over the course of nine weeks for just a \$35 application fee.

In 2019, the Mountain Village Town Council voted to increase funding for the program which can now accommodate 60

families and up to 100 people. The program will also run five weeks longer this summer.

"Qualifications are no longer strictly based on income, and for the 2019 season, families (comprised of at least one parent and one or more dependents) who live in deed-restricted housing are invited to apply," said Zoe Dohnal, the town's business development and community engagement coordinator.

Mountain Village residents who live in deed-restricted housing can visit [bit.ly/MVFarmtoCommunity](http://bit.ly/MVFarmtoCommunity) for qualification requirements and to apply for the program.

"We are really excited about the continued enthusiasm and regional support for

this program," said Michelle Haynes, Mountain Village's planning and development services director.

"The enthusiasm extends from participants, town staff, farm partners, regional groups and organizations up to the Town Council and local visitors who see a greater local food presence at our Market on the Plaza," Haynes continued.

Mountain Village is partnered once again with Norwood's Fresh Food Hub as well as Mountain Roots Produce based in Mancos to supply the shares. Indian Ridge is one of the Fresh Food Hub's suppliers and will provide eggs to the shares this year.

The Fresh Food Hub will have shares available for pick up at this summer's Market on the Plaza (each Wednesday in Heritage Plaza June 19-Aug. 28). And Mountain Roots will set up at Village Court Apartments in the afternoons each Wednesday allowing participants to choose their farm share vegetables.

"We are so lucky to have such amazing farmer partners," Dohnal said. "Each partner is incredibly passionate about providing fresh produce to a part of the community that might not otherwise have access to locally grown produce."

For residents who do not qualify for the Farm to Community Program, the Fresh Food Hub is also offering to deliver farm shares for pick up at the Market on the Plaza for \$35 per box.

"What I find most exciting about this program is that we can now offer low-cost, local, healthy food options for our community, while also promoting our local farmers, food providers, and the Mountain Village farmer's market," said Mountain Village Mayor Laila Benitez.

For more information and to apply, please visit [bit.ly/MVFarmtoCommunity](http://bit.ly/MVFarmtoCommunity).

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CHRIST'S KITCHEN SERVES FREE HOT MEALS AT PENN MALL LOCATION MONDAY-FRIDAY

*Editor:*

We are all sorry to see Shepherd's Hand leave MADA and the surrounding area. I'm sure Garey will be able to establish his food outreach in a new location very soon.

In the meantime, **CHRIST'S KITCHEN** located in the PENN MALL has been serving a 4-course hot, healthy lunch for the past 8 years. **CHRIST'S KITCHEN** was located at the MADA building for 6 years before outgrowing the available space. The Kitchen opens about 8 am, Monday through Friday and is only closed on Christmas and Thanksgiving because there are other organizations in town providing a holiday dinner for the public on those days. We start serving lunch at 11:30 and finish serving about 1 pm.

**CHRIST'S KITCHEN** does not charge for our lunches, but we do welcome donations to the program. We are currently serving between 60-80 people for lunch each day, along with 20+ meals delivered at NO CHARGE to homebound seniors in cooperation with Region 10.

Region 10 vets the senior citizens and provides the volunteers who deliver the meals and check on the seniors.

**CHRIST'S KITCHEN** has plenty of seating, both inside and out. We have security cameras for the protection of our guests. We have clean restrooms (no showers or laundry facilities).

**CHRIST'S KITCHEN** welcomes the Shepherd's Hand patrons until they find a new home to carry out their mission.

*Margo Gallegos and the Christ's Kitchen Board*

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## COUNTY CELEBRATES VITAL STATISTICS 'ELITE PERFECTION' TEAM

### From pg 1



**County engineer and Public Works Director Keith Laube presented public works and planning & development items at the BOCC meeting of Feb. 6.**

six years were present as well.

Guynes called the accomplishment "remarkable."

"This is a really big deal," she said, noting that the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment conducts an extensive audit each year of the vital statistics processes and transactions of all clerk and recorder's offices in all 64 counties of Colorado.

"My staff works with highly confidential information," Guynes said. "They are required to follow very strict guidelines with everything that they do. It is outstanding that our office earned this award, outperforming most other counties in Colorado... what really sets our Montrose County team apart is that this team has earned this performance award for six years in a row.

"...this team represents you," she told commissioners.

"I want you to know what an exceptional team you have who represents you. We applaud our six years of perfection."

The team displayed all six years' worth of

trophies. Guynes presented Supervisor Crystal Hudnall with a Serving with Pride award, and Hudnall recognized each staff member.

Said BOCC Chair Sue Hansen, "Just the fact that you have 40 pounds of trophies there, I am really proud that we have a team that has excelled to that degree and for so long.

"Congratulations. I am really proud that you're representing our county," Hansen said.

Said Commissioner Keith Caddy, "I think you lead by example for all of us in Montrose County...we really appreciate it, thank you so much."

Said BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash, "...this just goes to prove that we do have the best staff," he said.

"Outstanding job, ladies. Keep up the good work."

"Leadership is critical," Hansen said. "I really appreciate the attention that you spend...to get to that level of excellence...I am really especially proud. Nice job."

#### **PUBLIC WORKS ITEMS**

Public Works Director Keith Laube presented a series of awards for purchase and service contracts.

Commissioners unanimously approved [the purchase](#) of three 4,000-gallon water tanks for \$89,508.75 from low bidder Klein Products, Inc. of Jacksonville, Texas; the [purchase of](#) two tandem class 8 water trucks for \$315,324 from low bidder Westfall O'Dell Truck Sales of Fruita; and [the purchase](#) of one snowplow truck with snowplow, sander, and hydraulics and two

sanders \$237,003 from low bidder Transwest Truck of Grand Junction.

Commissioners unanimously approved [award of the 2019 Hot Mix Asphalt Material Contract](#) to low bidder United Companies of Montrose, in the amount of \$1,152,000; [award of the 2019 Gravel Crushing Services Contract](#) to Western Gravel of Montrose in the amount of \$248,400; and the [award of the 2019 Asphalt Overlay Contract](#) to United Companies of Montrose in the amount of \$3,346,063.

Between the overlay contract (15.3 miles) and paving done by staff (six miles), the County will complete about 21 miles of paving and overlay this year, Laube said.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Alexander Park and Daniel Lambert to the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, for five-year terms that will expire on Feb. 1, 2024.

#### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Commissioners unanimously approved five planning & development items, presented by Laube in the absence of County Planning & Development Director Steve White.

Approved were a [request by the Double H Minor Subdivision](#) to divide an eight-acre lot into three lots; a [request by the Kate's Minor Subdivision](#) to divide a 36.5-acre parcel into three lots; [a request by the Kindred Spirit Minor Subdivision](#) to divide a 35.86-acre lot into two lots; [a request by the Kovacic Minor Subdivision](#) to divide a 4.75-acre lot into two lots; and [a request by the Freeland Minor Subdivision to divide a 6.91-acre lot into three lots.](#)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**The Mirror:**  
Coverage with vision for the future.





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GMUG SEEKS COMMENT ON DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS REPORT

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-As part of Forest Plan Revision, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests are seeking public comment on which rivers and streams should be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).

Eligibility is the first of the three-step Wild and Scenic River process, each step of which includes opportunities for public engagement.

While only Congress can designate segments as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the forest plan is an important role in which segments are considered.

The draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report is available for public review on the GMUG's planning website at

[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan).

A 31-day public comment period will be initiated on Feb. 19 and comments will be most helpful if received by Friday, March 22, 2019.

The GMUG planning team will host two webinars to review the draft Eligibility Report and answer questions.

Interested community members are invited to join these webinars on Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 3:30-5 p.m. -<https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/gmug-500/> and Friday, Feb. 22 from 9-10:30 a.m. <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/gmug-500/>

The recorded webinars will be available on the GMUG website after these scheduled times.

For audio, please call in to 1-888-844-

9904, participant code 8454465#.

Comments can be submitted by:

E-mail: [gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us)

Web: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan\\_comments](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan_comments)

Mail: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests, Attn: Plan Revision Team, 2250 S. Main St., Delta, CO 81416.

Public engagement is a key element in the ongoing Forest Plan Revision and the Forest Service is using a variety of tools to maintain communication, including webinars, newsletters and updates on the website and through email.

For links to the webinars, information on how to comment, and other helpful resources, please visit the GMUG NFs' planning website at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan).

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROGRAM @ MONTROSE LIBRARY ON FEB. 14

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The League of Women Voters invites the community to attend its program, "What Happens to Your Ballot Once It Reaches the Election Office? Step-by-step ballot processing," on Thursday, Feb. 14 at noon in the Montrose Library Community Room. Guest speakers are the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder and Chief Deputy Clerk.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# APPLICANTS FOR MONTROSE DDA BOARD SOUGHT

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is accepting applications for two vacant positions on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### DON'T LET THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE DISENFRANCHISE YOUR VOTE

*Editor:*

Once again our state legislature is trying to circumvent the U S Constitution. Their latest effort comes by way of SB19-042. That Bill, other wise known as, The National Popular Vote Bill will strip you of your voice in electing the President and Vice President of the United States. It does away with the Constitutionally mandated Electoral College by forcing local electors to go along with votes cast in places like California or New York. For instance, if Colorado voters cast ballots for Candidate A and the coastal states cast

ballots for Candidate B, our Electoral College representatives will be forced to vote for Candidate B. Thus, Colorado voters' decisions would be negated.

Our forefathers created the electoral college to fight just that. Their foresight was to include a set of checks and balances to allow smaller states a say in who our elected officials will be.

If we allow the electoral college to be diminished in any way candidates will not have to campaign in rural regions. They will focus on states with high populations: California, New York, Florida and Texas.

Do you want a handful of states to determine the outcome of future presidential elections? I don't!

I urge you to contact your/our local representative(s) and demand they vote no on this bill.

**Senate District 6 – Don Coram**

E-mail: [don.coram.senate@state.co.us](mailto:don.coram.senate@state.co.us)

Webpage: [Don Coram](http://DonCoram.com)

**House District 58 – Marc Catlin**

E-mail: [marc.catlin.house@state.co.us](mailto:marc.catlin.house@state.co.us)

Webpage: [Marc Catlin](http://MarcCatlin.com)

*Dave Stockton*

*Montrose, Colorado*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### GET THE FACTS ON WILDERNESS PROPOSAL, SIGN ON FOR SUPPORT

*Regards to Ruth L. Sendeki:*

So you own a 4 wheel drive vehicle, ATV, motor bike or other motorized vehicle that you recreate on in the mountains around Ouray. You are upset because there is a wilderness proposal that you think will interfere with your off road experience.

Before we go any further into this conversation let's look at some FACTS, and the FACTS are: Last Dollar and Yankee Boy Basin /Camp Bird roads will NOT be closed. FACT : NO motorized routes will be closed as a result of the adoption of the Whitehouse Wilderness Addition (east). FACT : The above mentioned roads are part of the outside boundaries of the wilderness proposal. FACT : The San Juan Wilderness element of the CORE Act does not close any currently utilized OHV routes and a look at the maps makes that clear. FACT: On the Uncompaghre National Forest alone there are 1,876 miles of roads and trails that are open to motorized recreation. FACT : The protections provided in the San Juan Bill insure that

our public lands are open to the full/broad spectrum of users of our public lands - no one is being cut out.

FACT : Referencing the 1980 wilderness legislation, nothing has happened that disqualifies these areas from wilderness designation. FACT: The areas are being and have been managed as wilderness under the current forest management plan. Any lands that were found unsuitable are NOT included the wilderness proposal.

FACT : ALL outdoor recreation provides economical benefits. The business communities of the surrounding towns have recognized this FACT and have lent great support to the proposed Wilderness Bill. Even the operating silver mine has lent support as well as many hunting and fishing organizations.

Most visitors who visit our public lands are there to enjoy the unadulterated/ undeveloped vistas that are protected by various designations, and the San Juan Bill protects pieces that are meant to insure that those vulnerable areas remain pro-

tected for generations to come so that ALL public lands users can enjoy them, whether by foot or from the seat of a vehicle.

FACT : That of the 3 million acres on the GMUG (Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison) National Forest, a mere 500 thousand or 19% have a high level of protection.

I am also of the AARP generation and the miles on my old body have taken their toll and I can no longer put on the miles that I want. That's a FACT. But I love knowing that the lands that I have enjoyed will still be preserved for my grandchildren and beyond. Wild places, once destroyed, may be gone forever. There are so few of them.

I would urge you to contact your representatives and let them know that you have the FACTS and ask that they support the protections that our public lands deserve. For more information go to [sanjuanwilderness.org](http://sanjuanwilderness.org), and sign on for support.

Stay the trail and leave no trace  
*Jim Stephenson, Ridgway*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THANKS TO MARC CATLIN FOR VOTING NO IN COMMITTEE ON HB19-1032

*Editor:*

Now that Colorado has a homosexual governor, with both Senate and House dominated by liberal progressive Democrats, it's not a surprise the the LGBT agenda being promoted country wide, has been introduced in our legislature, via HB19-1032. What is a surprise is that our own Don Coram has co-sponsored the bill. Many find it troubling that no indication of or reasoning for his support, on an issue concerning many families with children, was given until well after the fact.

The bill supposedly seeks to clarify an existing statute involving "comprehensive" sex education in Colorado. The "clarity" sought is essentially an attempt by progressives, to mandate that those school districts teaching sex education, include teachings promulgated by the LGBT agenda. All with a million dollar, tax payer funded price tag.

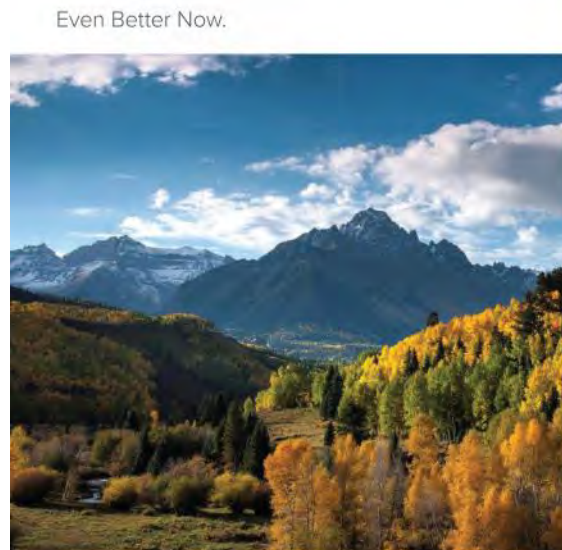
Thanks to Marc Catlin for voting NO in committee on this bill, that many feel seeks to validate that LGBT agenda.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### ARTICLE V PERSPECTIVES: LEARN MORE ABOUT CONVENTION OF STATES

*Dear Editor,*

It is time to reign in the federal government. We need fiscal restraints to deal with the exploding national debt of almost \$22 trillion. This debt equates to almost \$61.2K per person today. The federal government needs to balance their budget like families across this nation. We also need to rebalance the power between states and the federal government. Washington, DC is a bureaucratic maze. In addition to Congressional legislation we have federal agencies publishing so many regulations that it's like having another branch of the government. All of this is imposed upon the states and We the People. Alt-

hough we have some well-meaning representatives in Washington, they have to deal with the federal leviathan, the partisan politics and a system where seniority shows favoritism. Imposing term limits on the servants who come to Washington and never seem to leave may be the only way to deal with this broken system.

How do we do it? Fortunately for us the Founding Fathers anticipated a day when citizens would need to address issues like this. Article V of the US Constitution allows states to call for a Convention of States where amendments can be proposed. It takes thirty-four states to call the convention and thirty-eight states to ap-

prove an amendment to the Constitution. Through their state legislatures, twelve states already have submitted their application.

Many more are discussing it. Texas recently passed SJR2 in the State Senate. House Committee debate is expected in April. For more information follow the link provided below.

Article V *Perspectives*

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For more information contact

jfockler53@gmail.com

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*Joe Fockler, Montrose*

### PREDICTIONS, POSSIBILITIES, & POSSIBLE PROBLEMS FOR 2019

*Editor:*

The Montrose Daily Press Media Community Forecast Breakfast last Friday was replete with positive predictions for the coming year. Tonya Maddox and her participants put on an inspiring and informative conference for a truly packed Pavilion. Kim Volk and her Camp Robber team provided the breakfast in their usual exceptional style and the forecast for 2019 was overall very bright for Montrose. The Bank of Colorado and the Daily Press put on the program with support from TEI Rock Drills. Of special note was the fact that our population increase was higher than both the state and national averages.

One disturbing factor, neither publicized nor brought up, is the fact that the Montrose Police Department, like many of its similar neighboring agencies, remains under-funded and under-staffed. While the City Council increased its funding for the MPD this past year, it appears wholly inad-

equated to assure the staffing and resources for the present and future public safety requirements of our growing community. The City Council created the Blue Ribbon Citizens Public Safety Committee to assess the requirements of this growing community when it comes to law enforcement, including all aspects from staffing to facilities for the Police Department this community requires and desires. Crime is on the increase and the MPD will announce the actual statistics for 2018 later this month.

Like many similar communities, crimes, particularly assaults, domestic violence, drugs and adult felony arrests all increased significantly in 2018. It is hoped that this Committee, consisting of dedicated community members, will result in a reasoned and informed analysis of where the MPD is today and what is required to produce a sustainable safer community for the future. Public safety is a significant

consideration for potential new businesses and new residents considering making Montrose their home.

While independent of all law enforcement agencies, Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. continues to increase its successes in producing arrests based upon anonymous Tips on crimes and criminals. In January, this Colorado non-profit, operated by community volunteers, awarded six more rewards for successful Tips, making the number of arrests to date in excess of 50, awards in excess of \$12,000, and charges cleared in excess of 132.

To make a tax deductible donation to the Crime Stoppers program, mail it to 434 S. 1st Street, Montrose 81401. Together, we can make Montrose and the surrounding region a better and safer place to live and work.

*John W. Nelson*

*Montrose Regional*

*Crime Stoppers, Inc.*

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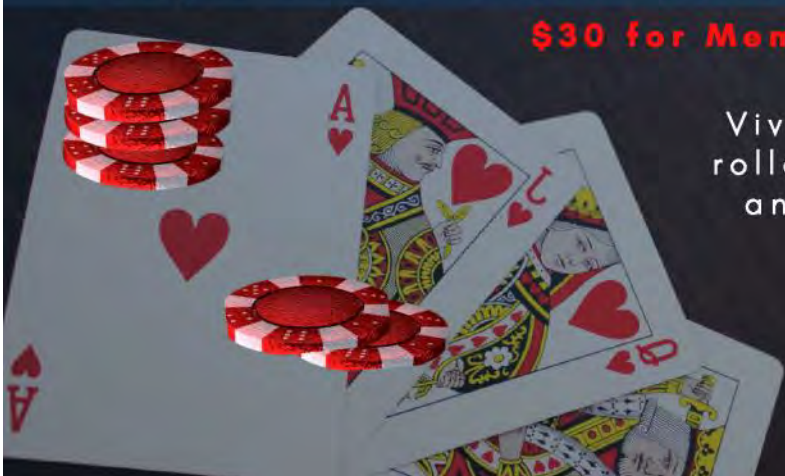
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## NO FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED IN UNATTENDED DEATH DISCOVERED IN CITY MARKET SOUTH PARKING LOT

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE- In a scene reminiscent of prime-time TV, a team of police and coroner's officials converged on the South City Market parking lot on Feb. 1 to remove the body of a 66-year-old homeless man, discovered in a parked van.

It appears that the man had simply passed away, Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said.

Still, "We treat all of these situations the same," Hall said. "We start with an investigation, and we assume it has the potential to lead to foul play."

"The Coroner's office and our detectives removed him and are conducting a dual investigation. The case is still open."

Foul play is not suspected in this case, he said.

For some shoppers, the experience was unsettling. "The whole thing was so bizarre," said Montrose resident David White, who witnessed the incident at South City Market. "There were so many people there. But there has not been one word from the coroner's office, and no obituary."

Still, unattended deaths can happen any

place at any time, and are not infrequent occurrences even in Montrose.

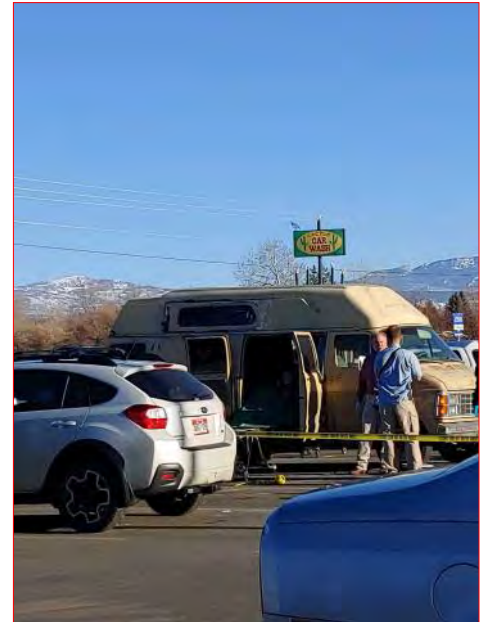
"They kind of come in waves," Chief Hall said, and noted that individuals age 70 or over are represented in such circumstances more often than others.

"Montrose is an attractive destination for retired folks," he said. "We do have unattended deaths frequently; we have to respond to the situation and investigate."

Among the most difficult aspects of investigating an unattended death is having to remove family or loved ones from the area where the deceased person is, he said, while balancing compassion and professionalism. "Families can be very emotional; we have to comfort them and we have to conduct an investigation."

"We do the best we can in these types of situations," Hall said. "We leave no stone unturned, and we treat the family with the utmost respect and decency."

In the case of the man who passed away in the parking lot at South City Market, he appeared to have been living in a van there for some time, Montrose County Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield told County Commissioners in [a work session](#) Feb. 6.



*Tape marks the scene of an unattended death at City Market South. Courtesy photo.*

Though investigating an unattended death is never easy, officers know that it is an important service, Hall said. "For our officers, it makes you value life more," he said. "You realize how mortal you are."

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### DMEA MISLEADING PUBLIC ABOUT TRI-STATE BUYOUT

*Editor:*

As an electric "consumer-owner" of Delta-Montrose Electric Association I would like to comment on the situation between Tri-State G&T and DMEA. There are several factors the management and board of DMEA are withholding from the public and our elected officials.

Kit Carson Elec. is the only Rural Electric Association to back out of their agreement since Tri-State acquired Colo-Ute in 1992, and then later Plains Elec in 2007. Shortly after Kit Carson exited the same agreement DMEA wants out of, Kit Carson had to file for, and received a 21% increase in their rates. I understand Kit Carson is now in the process of filing for another 12% increase.

In 1992, in order for Tri-State G&T to acquire the assets of the bankrupt Colo-Ute Elec. Assoc. and then again in 2007 acquire the financially troubled Plains Elec. it required Tri-State to borrow millions of dollars. They needed a commitment from the member REAs' in order to acquire these assets and provide reliable, and affordable electricity. Hence the "contract."

Guzman Energy is a power broker company. What they do is buy and sell power. My understanding is, they do not own one electric generating facility, either renewable or otherwise, and they do not own any power lines. While badmouthing Tri-State's clean coal generation, Guzman will turn around and buy the cheapest electricity they can buy, and then resale it as renewable energy. Then the only way for DMEA to get power from Guzman, will be to pay Tri-State to "wheel" the power over its transmission lines. Some of these power lines DMEA and several of the forty-four co-ops turned over to Tri-State after the federal regulatory agency F.E.R.C. required that they be maintained at a more reliable level in 2007. This is also an added cost and expense to Tri-State to maintain these high voltage power lines and large transformers that the REAs' did not want to take on. I know for a fact that Tri-State had to hire more people and pur-

chase more equipment to maintain these power lines that the REAs' didn't want. A large portion of Tri-State's last rate increase was due to federal regulations and environmental cost. If DMEA exits the "contract," they will fall under many of the same regulations that Tri-State is currently under.

DMEA is falsely misleading people about renewable energy. I can't help but wonder what will happen when, we as tax paying citizens, stop subsidizing wind and solar generation at the rate of 50% or more.

DMEA has complained about Tri-State's purchase of coal mines.

Tri-State's board, which DMEA has a representative on, decided to buy the Colo-Wyo mine solely to keep the cost of fuel constant and as low as possible for the long term.

I hope these facts might help people to understand and maybe wonder like I do, why DMEA is the only REA out of 44 members that wants to back out of the contract they signed in 1992.

*Stan Hoover, Montrose*



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## ***CITY HEARS FROM TRI-STATE, TALKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS***

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

for 43 member cooperatives, "Obviously we are owned by the co-ops," Carlisle said. Tri-State is governed by a board of directors, with each member cooperative having a seat on the board. Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principals, and is taken very seriously by Tri-State, Carlisle said. Tri-State has donated land and water for ballfields, participated in Habitat for Humanity projects, and holds an annual motorcycle run/toy drive in the Montrose area at Christmas. "We enjoy and take pride in being good stewards of the communities where we live," she said.

Carlisle discussed the ongoing attempts by local electric provider Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) to buy out of its contract with Tri-State. "They signed a contract in 2000 to purchase 95 percent of their energy requirements from Tri-State through 2040," she said. "...They want to buy it out for less than the Tri-State board believes is fair."

Though DMEA has filed a complaint with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Tri-State filed a complaint on January 15, 2019, in the District Court in Adams County, seeking a declaratory judgment in the matter. "We still stand willing to negotiate exit terms in the courtroom; if not we feel that it should be settled in court."

Carlisle fielded questions from the Mayor and Council. Mayor Anderson asked about possible impacts to Tri-State's local facility if DMEA succeeds in exiting its contract.

Local staff handle transmission maintenance for a territory larger than that served by DMEA, Carlisle said. "It's too early in the process to speculate what would happen...we've been talking to them for quite a while."

"DMEA and 42 other co-ops have to make this decision together."

Thirty-percent of the energy consumed making electricity and delivering it to member cooperatives comes from renewable sources, Carlisle said. The reason for a five-percent cap on member-generated power? "We're making power decisions 30 years out," Carlisle said. "We can't put up power plants or transmission lines

overnight."

Other questions concerned the use of coal as a power source, and Tri-State's wholesale costs. Tri-State Transmission Manager Doug Dean, also present at the meeting, said that the power supplier's West Region Headquarters is in Montrose. "Our folks here maintain the bulk of the power system...our guys are here 24/7 on call...our role is to maintain the system and get the lights back on when there are issues."

#### **RECYCLE MATERIAL RECOVERY--FACILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that recycle material recovery was put out for bid in December. Bids were received from Bruin Waste and from the City's current provider, Waste Management. Waste Management's bid was lowest, Scheid said.

Councilors discussed items that, surprisingly to some, cannot be recycled through the current system, such as tiny scraps of paper and plastic grocery bags. Scheid said that the City strives to limit recycle "contaminants" to ten percent or less. "We like to say, when in doubt leave it out," he said.

#### **2019 CITY VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Scheid presented information on the purchase of vehicles and equipment from four different suppliers, including six light duty trucks from Montrose Ford Nissan (\$223,741); one medium duty truck from Sill Terhar Motors of Broomfield (\$128,469); a replacement John Deere Gator Range Cart with Ball Picker for Black Canyon Golf Course from Potestio Brothers Equipment of Colorado Springs (\$15,080); and two 2020 police patrol vehicles from Sill Terhar Motors of Broomfield (\$110,984).

Councilor Dave Bowman said, "It's the first time in a long time we've bought



***At the Council meeting of Feb. 5 (see article in this issue), a local mom addressed City Council about the dilapidated condition of the children's playground equipment in local parks such as Riverbottom Park, above.***

trucks from a local vendor."

#### **RIVERBOTTOM DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PATH FORWARD**

City Engineer Scott Murphy led the discussion, with Montrose Rec District Director Ken Sherbenou and Rec District Board of Directors President Jason Ullman and Director Christina Files also present.

Background: The City owns and maintains Riverbottom Drive; the Rec District owns and maintains Holly Park, located at the corner of Rio Grande Avenue and Riverbottom Drive. Both entities started working on the design of the Riverbottom Drive Reconstruction and Holly Park Renovation projects in March of 2018. In August of 2018, after completing the project designs, the City and MRD jointly applied for \$1M in grant assistance from the Department of Local Affairs to help fund the projects. The grant was eventually funded for \$500K. Out-of-pocket costs to the City for the Riverbottom Drive project are expected to be between \$880k and \$910k depending on the MRD's success with their own GOCO grant application.

Said Sherbenou to Council, "It's great to be back in front of friends...this is the next big project for the Rec District and City to work on...we're excited to get \$500,000 from DOLA...it's a really exciting project."

Said Ullman, "It makes a much better park experience if people can get out of there."



## ***CITY HEARS FROM TRI-STATE, TALKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS***

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

Sherbenou said that there has been talk of pursuing additional grant opportunities through entities such as Gates, Boettcher or Daniels Funds, but "We want to save the private foundations for the Amphitheater project."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that it makes sense to do the Riverbottom Drive and Holly Park projects at the same time, and that doing so will "clean up the way Rio Grande looks."

City Manager Bill Bell called the current roadway, "A safety hazard."

"We keep investing," Councilor Barbara Bynum said, noting the new Riverbottom Park restroom, "We need to make the entrance and exit safe."

Finance Director Shani Wittenburg said that the funds were not budgeted for 2019.

"We can just do a budget supplement," Murphy said. "If you are generally on board with moving forward we can work out the details."

Following further discussion, Mayor Roy Anderson said that there was consensus to keep moving ahead. "We love it."

#### **CERRO RESERVOIR OUTLET WORKS REPLACEMENT BID**

"Everything is more expensive than we thought," Murphy said, noting that \$2.2M had originally been budgeted for the \$2.6M project.

Background: Owned by the City, Cerro Reservoir, constructed in 1912, is located on the north side of Hwy 50 near Cerro Summit in Montrose County. A 2017 evaluation with RJH Consultants concluded that the dam's outlet works are essentially at the end of their service life, are hydraulically undersized, and in need of full replacement. In addition to the outlet works replacement, several embankment improvements are also required. The City hired RJH Consultants to design and permit the necessary improvements.

The project was put out for bid in January, with six bids received. Low bidder was Mountain Valley Contracting, with a bid of \$2,087,328.76. Also recommended for award is an engineering support contract

to RJH Consultants in the amount of \$584,900.

#### **RIVERWOOD WATER SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Council is considering the award of a \$411,809.16 construction contract to Williams Construction for the Riverwood Water Distribution System Construction Project. Murphy presented an update on the project, "This is the culmination of a lot of people working together," he said.

Background: Riverwood Subdivision is a 35-lot residential neighborhood located off Marine Road. The neighborhood was created under Montrose County subdivision regulations in 1978 and has remained in the County ever since.

Although the subdivision is not located within the City of Montrose City limits, it is located within the outermost extents of the City of Montrose's water service area. Riverwood residents have complained of poor water quality and reliability associated with the current well system, and indicate they are unable to use their water for drinking, cooking, or even bathing purposes.

"Generally, everybody from the neighborhood hauls their water to drink," Murphy said.

"These folks are really in a pickle," Mayor Anderson said.

The City agreed in 2018 to allow the Riverwood Subdivision to join the City's water distribution network if at least 75 percent of the affected users (27 of the 35 lots) would sign repayment agreements to cover the waterline extension costs. Neighborhood residents have worked with Attorney J. David Reed, and have met the threshold, with 29 of 35 residents signing agreements.

Under the proposed agreement, owners will repay the waterline extension costs up to a maximum of \$550,000 or \$15,714.29 per lot, either up front or by making payments over a period of 20 years at 4 percent interest through an improvement district created by the City. Montrose County will repave all trench

cuts along Marine Road and within the subdivision following installation of the waterline.

"The bottom line is that the citizens of Montrose will not bear any costs when this is all paid back," Anderson said.

A Riverwood resident in attendance at the work session said that she has endured extremely low water pressure for years and has had to take showers at the rec center, "It has been a struggle."

Council also discussed the creation of a Resolution of Intent to create a Riverwood Improvement District.

#### **CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR MANHOLE LINING**

Council discussed extension of a contract for manhole lining services with Utilities Manager David Bries, for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the 2019 manhole rehabilitation program. Bries said that \$100,000 was budgeted this year for manhole lining.

#### **COUNCIL & STAFF COMMENTS**

Councilor Barbara Bynum suggested that Council should look into the possibilities of once again adding flouride to the local drinking water supply, "Even if Project 7 won't."

Anderson expressed support for Bynum's suggestion.

Councilor Files thanked everyone who took part in the neighborhood meeting Jan. 31 at the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) facility.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Department is implementing a joint Street Crimes unit in partnership with the Montrose County Sheriff's Office.

The Street Crimes model has already resulted in two arrests involving the seizure of 22 grams of methamphetamine and a gram and a half of heroin, he said.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said that there are presently two vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board.

Murphy said that the Miami/Hillcrest roundabout is out for bid; "We're also looking at a secondary entry to the golf course," Murphy said.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ALL POINTS TRANSIT SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT TO PLAN FUTURE SERVICES

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-All Points Transit is seeking input from residents throughout their four-county service area, which includes communities in Montrose, Delta, San Miguel and Ouray Counties. The feedback received will be used to guide an upcoming strategic operating plan, slated to be completed this summer.

All Points Transit is working with Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig (FHU), a consulting group that specializes in transit planning, to complete the project. It is not the first time FHU has helped with transit planning on the Western Slope. In 2015, the firm completed a "Transit Implementation Plan" for the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning. The group also recently worked with Grand Valley Transit in Mesa County.

"One of our first steps in the planning is to engage the communities we service in a robust public input process," says Sarah Curtis, Executive Director of All Points Transit. "As a part of that process, we have an online survey out now. We will also be out on the buses, at the recreation centers, grocery stores, senior centers and any community event that will have us to gather feedback from citizens."

The project is made possible through grant funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation. The survey will be available online through the end of February. In partnership with the City of Montrose, residents will receive a paper copy of the survey in their utility bill. All Points Transit is a private 501c3 non-profit organization. You can find out more about current transit services and access the survey online at [www.allpointstransit.org](http://www.allpointstransit.org).

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## CITY URGED TO IMPROVE PARK PLAYGROUNDS, NOT TO FUND SCULPTURES

### *New Park Restroom, “most exciting restroom ever built in Montrose”*



**Montrose Youth Council, Above, issued a proclamation concerning the use of electronic vape products by youth. Holding the proclamation is Montrose Youth Council Mayor Jenna Holyfield.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor Roy Anderson called the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose City Council to order several minutes late on Feb. 5, due to an executive session held prior to the meeting; all council members were present.

**YOUTH COUNCIL PROCLAMATION-USE OF ELECTRONIC VAPE PRODUCTS BY YOUTH** Youth Council Mayor Jenna Holyfield read the proclamation, with fellow youth council members in attendance.

Mayor Roy Anderson said, “I am really proud of these young people. They are the leaders of tomorrow, both of our community and of our nation.”

#### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen Kenneth Otto spoke about recent efforts to purchase the two monumental bronze sculptures by Wyoming artist Vic Payne, presently on loan to the City. “I am here tonight to address the proposal that was brought to the City earlier, to provide funding to preserve the two Downtown sculptures,” Otto said. “While I enjoy the sculptures and support the arts, I urge the Council to reject monetary support for this effort.

“I applaud the efforts of the Save the

Sculptures committee, and what they are trying to do, and I hope they raise the money they need,” Otto said. “However, I think the citizens of the City would be better served if the requested money be utilized in support of the less fortunate members of our community.

“I would be surprised if the many service organizations in Montrose wouldn’t line up to file grant requests for any portion of that \$90,000,” he said, listing a number of local service organizations.

“The children and adults in our community need warm coats and food,” Otto said. “And it is recognized that Montrose lacks affordable housing for those that are lower earning citizens. Certainly our police force can use additional support.

“All of these things, I believe, would be better utilized than supporting those sculptures,” Otto said. “...We have enjoyed these works for some...years now; I believe that many citizens share my desire for something new,” he said. “If another community is willing to put up the amount of the purported value of these sculptures, then they should enjoy these sculptures themselves.”

Otto suggested Council follow the lead of

other communities and implement opportunities for local artists to display their work in the City of Montrose as well. He also asked Council to seek more input on whether there is actually widespread public support for keeping the Payne sculptures in Montrose.

Next to address Council during the call for public comment was Citizen Chelsea Price, who said that she is the mother of a two-year-old.

“I have been spending lots of time at our parks,” Price said. “I do see that we are making a lot of progress at Riverbottom Park. Our water park is beautiful; our web site exemplifies this, of the direction we’re going as a community together and our parks and rec and what that will do to bring tourists to the area.

“However, I do have some concerns about our playground equipment for the children,” Price said. She noted that Riverbottom and Buckley Parks have playground equipment that could be replaced.

“I think it could put a better face for our community to people visiting with children in the area to see a nicer playground, up-to-date, not sun faded, not dirty, missing parts and elements that are broken over the years,” Price said.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

[Consent Agenda items](#) were unanimously approved.

#### ORDINANCES 2464 AND 2465 ON SECOND READING

Council unanimously approved Ordinance 2464, repealing and replacing Chapter 8 of Title 2 of the City’s official code regarding smoking in public places; and Ordinance 2465, repealing and replacing Chapter 6, Title 1 of the City’s official code regarding underage possession of tobacco/cannabis and paraphernalia.

The Ordinances have been discussed extensively in previous work sessions and meetings, and no comment was received from the public.

The changes become law March 1, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said.

“I think every kid in town knows this is coming,” he said. “It’s already illegal in the schools...I suspect that many of the kids

*Continued next pg*

## ***CITY URGED TO IMPROVE PARK PLAYGROUNDS, NOT TO FUND SCULPTURES***

***From previous pg***

have already been talked to about this... the days where they just cross the street and whip out the vape pen and smoke during the lunch hour while staring across the street at the school administration I think will be ending."

Mayor Anderson thanked Alcorn for his comments. "It's just democracy at work, I am happy to see this new action for our City."

### **2019 ANNUAL ANNEXATION REPORT AND THREE-MILE PLAN**

Council unanimously approved the [annual annexation report and three-mile plan](#), presented by Senior Planner Garry Baker.

### **ELLSWORTH ADDITION ANNEXATION & ZONING**

Council unanimously voted to approve [Ordinances 2466 and 2467](#) on first reading, for annexation of the Ellsworth Addition and zoning of the Ellsworth Addition as an R-1A large estate district.

### **ORDINANCE 2468-FIRST READING-VACATING A PORTION OF SOUTH NEVADA AVENUE**

Presented by Garry Baker, the situation involves a house at South 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Nevada Avenue, of which an 11-foot portion encroaches on City right-of-way.

"Staff is at a loss as to how this happened in the first place," Baker said, and noted that under a tentative agreement, the City can sell a strip of land 62.5 by 12.5 feet to the homeowner, who has had trouble selling the home because of the encroachment. "We can help at least one house get into the affordable housing pool," Baker said.

ORDINANCE 2468 passed unanimously on first reading.

### **SUNRISE CREEK III FILING NO. 1 FINAL PLAT**

Council unanimously approved a request to final plat eight lots suitable for construction and several outlots reserved for future development in the Sunrise Creek Subdivision, zoned R-3A Medium High Density and located just west of the Montrose Pavilion.

### **CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR CERRO RESERVOIR OUTLET WORKS REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Previously discussed in the work session, Council voted to award a construction



***Councilor Judy Ann Files commented on the newly-opened restroom at Riverbottom Park, calling it, "probably the most exciting restroom ever built in Montrose."***

contract in the amount of \$2,087,328.76 to Mountain Valley Contracting and an engineering support contract to RJH Consultants in the amount of \$584,900.

Work will begin in coming weeks, and will extend into the fall, City Engineer Scott Murphy said, with the reservoir to be re-filled in the spring of 2020. "We will also be working to restock that fishery as soon as it is back up."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "I am really glad to see that we were able to go with a local company."

"It's a big chunk of work...it's really great when these large projects stay local," Murphy said, "just to keep the talent pool and build the talent pool here locally and keep that money in our economies."

Both low bidders were local, he said.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Police Chief Blaine Hall updated Council on the progress of the Public Safety Citizens Committee, which has begun meeting. An experienced law enforcement professional has been hired as facilitator, Consultant Jack McGrath.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that he was impressed after sitting in on the first half of the meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Committee; "It looks like a really good mix of people."

"It was really a great group of really engaged citizens," said Councilor Barbara Bynum, who also attended the meeting.

"I am really looking forward to hearing what they have to advise us about."

Councilor Files commented on the new public restroom at Riverbottom Park.

"This afternoon we got the opportunity to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for a restroom," Files said. "It doesn't sound really exciting but it's probably the most exciting restroom ever built in Montrose; might be the most expensive, for being a free-standing one. I was really impressed."

"...It's beautiful, it's very attractive, it fits the area, it fits the theme of the City," Files said.

"I like the rusted metal and the stone on the side of the building itself, and all the functionality. I am sure it's going to be a huge addition to all of our functions that go on, including FUNC Fest."

Councilor Dave Bowman said that snow is melting at the Black Canyon Golf Course.

"For all you duffers out there, It won't be long before we're gonna be back on the Black Canyon Golf Course. Keep your eye on the snow."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### BURG SIMPSON FILES SUIT FOR 64 GRIEVING FAMILIES IN SUNSET MESA BODY BROKER CASE ON ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FBI RAID



*Federal agents raided the Sunset Mesa Funeral Home in January of 2018. Mirror file photo by Gail Marvel.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DENVER—On February 4, 2019, Colorado-based National Trial Firm Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine, P.C. filed a lawsuit in Montrose, Colorado on behalf of sixty-four grieving families against Megan M. Hess, the owner of both Sunset Mesa Funeral Home and the Donor Services body-donation business, as well several other companies and individuals who benefitted from an outrageous body broker scheme. The lawsuit alleges that in exchange for payment, Hess engaged in a fraudulent scheme where she promised bereaved families that Sunset Mesa would perform contracted cremations, and return sacred cremains to the families, but instead—without the Plaintiffs’ knowledge or consent—mutilated their loved one’s bodies and sold them piecemeal around the country, and even overseas, for profit.

In many cases, the families were returned what they were told were bodily “cremains” but instead were composed in whole or in part of dry concrete and/or cat-litter. Substantially all of the named Plaintiffs are individuals contacted by the

FBI during its on-going investigation of Hess and Sunset Mesa, and informed that their loved ones’ bodies or body parts, which they believed had been cremated, had instead been located around the world. Some of these Plaintiffs’ loved ones had passed years ago, and for years the families believed that the cremains they were holding were those of their loved ones. While the FBI investigation is on-going and not yet complete, deadlines under Colorado law require family members who have been contacted by the FBI to act promptly to protect their rights.

“Our grieving clients need answers,” said David K. TeSelle, Burg Simpson Shareholder and Co-Chair of the Complex Commercial Litigation Department at Burg Simpson. “It’s been a year since the FBI raid. It is time for the facts to come out and the full story to be known. It is time for those who were responsible for this scheme, and those who benefited from it, and those who allowed this scheme to continue unchecked for years, to be held to account.”

“One can only imagine the horrifying

revelation in thinking that your loved one’s ashes are in an urn on your mantle, or buried in a memorial park, or around your neck in a keepsake necklace, or scattered on a loved one’s favorite Fourteener, only to find out years later that instead your loved one’s body was cut up and sold for profit without your consent. And worse, that the sacred “cremains” you were given was nothing but dry cement or kitty litter. That is unacceptable in any civilized society, and certainly in Colorado, and we will not let it stand without those responsible being held to account.”

According to the *Denver Post*, this is the [fourth lawsuit](#) against Megan Hess, the former director, and her funeral home and body broker business, Sunset Mesa Funeral Home, which was shut down by the state after an FBI raid in January of 2018.

Also named in the suit are Hess’ parents, Shirley and Alan Koch; Montrose County Coroner Thomas Canfield; the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County; a freight company; and a local hospice provider.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### OLATHE SCHOOLS BRIEFLY CLOSED FOLLOWING CREDIBLE THREAT, YOUTH IN CUSTODY

*Special to the Mirror*

OLATHE—On the evening of Feb. 6, Montrose County School District Re-1J and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office received a Safe2Tell report of a credible threat to an Olathe school made by a student. Agencies determined the threat was credible after reviewing the student's social media account. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the Montrose County School District Re-1J immediately began investigating the situation, and the decision was made to cancel the schools in the interest of student, faculty, and public safety. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office made contact with the student and the student's family shortly after mid-

night. A search of the residence produced no weapons or ammunition. . Following the investigation by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, the juvenile was taken into custody and charged with felony menacing and interfering with faculty, staff, students at an educational institution. The juvenile was transferred to the Grand Mesa Youth Services Center. "I have full confidence that our schools are safe. These types of threats will not be tolerated," said Sheriff Gene Lillard. "I'd like to commend the individuals that came forward with the information and used Safe2Tell as the method." Olathe Schools resumed as normally scheduled on Feb. 8. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office and Olathe

Police Department will increase the law enforcement presence at Olathe Schools.

"Montrose County School District takes all threats seriously. The safety and security of our students, staff and community is paramount. We thank the MCSO for their quick and thorough response," said RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell.

These matters are of serious concern to the community and we continue to encourage students and parents to report potential threats of violence. As always, if you are aware of a threat to the safety of any school, call 911, or if you prefer to remain anonymous, report to Safe2Tell at [safe2tell.org](https://safe2tell.org), or by calling 1-877-542-7233 or you can download the Safe2Tell app.

### INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY @ MONTROSE LIBRARY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Calling all girls! Join us Feb. 21 at the Montrose Library Meeting Room 2 TO 4 P.M. for a fun program of STEM and engineering activities for girls of all ages. Special guest speaker Becky Sproul, flight paramedic with CareFlight, will talk about her job. Activities will include: pendulum painting, helicopter craft and activity, and conductive (electric) thread art. This program is geared towards girls five and up but everyone is welcome to attend.

## BLM SW RESOURCE COUNCIL TO MEET IN DOLORES

*Special to the Mirror*

DOLORES—The Bureau of Land Management will hold a meeting of the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC), demonstrating that partnerships are vital to managing sustainable, working public lands. The public is welcome to attend the meeting which will occur on Friday, March 8 at the Dolores Public Lands Center, 29211 Hwy. 184, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Planned agenda items at the meeting include training for member participation on the Recreation RAC, recreation fee proposals and close-out of the Dominguez-Escalante Advisory Council.

"The Southwest Resource Advisory Council is made up of partners with diverse backgrounds and interests who are dedicated to providing valuable insight into public lands management" said

Stephanie Connolly, BLM Southwest District Manager. "We look forward to gaining their perspectives during a robust discussion on a variety of topics at the meeting."

A half-hour comment period, during which the public may address the RAC, will begin at 11:30 a.m. Individuals who want to make a statement during the public comment period should register with the BLM by sending an email to [jbaranga@blm.gov](mailto:jbaranga@blm.gov) by Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Speakers should also submit a written copy of their statement at the meeting for the administrative record. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and time available, the amount of time for individual oral comments may be limited.

RACs provide advice and recommendations for the BLM to consider on resource

and land management issues within the BLM. The BLM maintains 38 chartered advisory committees located in the West. RACs are sounding boards for BLM initiatives, regulatory proposals and policy changes. Each citizen-based council consists of 10 to 15 members from diverse interests in local communities and they assist in the development of committee recommendations that address public land management issues. Resource councils are critical in assisting the BLM in continuing to be a good neighbor in the communities that the agency serves.

For more information about the upcoming RAC meeting, please contact Jayson Barangan, BLM Colorado Lead Public Affairs Specialist, at [jbaranga@blm.gov](mailto:jbaranga@blm.gov) or (303) 239-3681. To learn more about the Southwest RAC, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xE9Gs>.





## HELP MHS VOCAL EFFECT MAKE IT TO THE ICHSA SEMI FINALS IN TEXAS MARCH 9!

### *Mirror staff report*

MONTROSE-When the International Championship of High School A Capella Semi-Final Round takes place at Marcus High School in Flower Mound Texas on March 9, some of America's most elite young vocalists will be there to compete. Among those top competitors will be 14 young people from Montrose High School-the school's premier, modern, a capella ensemble, Vocal Effect. The MHS Vocal Effect is the only a capella group from Colorado to be represented in the competition.

The students have worked hard for this honor, meeting four days a week at 7 a.m. to practice, in addition to the many other classes and activities in which they take part. They have held fundraisers to defray expenses, but still need to raise \$4K.

According to MHS Choir Director Jenna Henry, Vocal Effect students include freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. "It's a diverse group of kids," she said. "Voice is the only instrument they use; there are no recordings or playback audio."

Each of the students has written their



*Montrose High School Vocal Effect. Courtesy photo.*

own cover of a song for the competition, she said.

A [GOFUNDME site](#) has been set up to help the young singers raise the funds needed to get to the Semi-Finals. The cost for each student to attend is \$300.

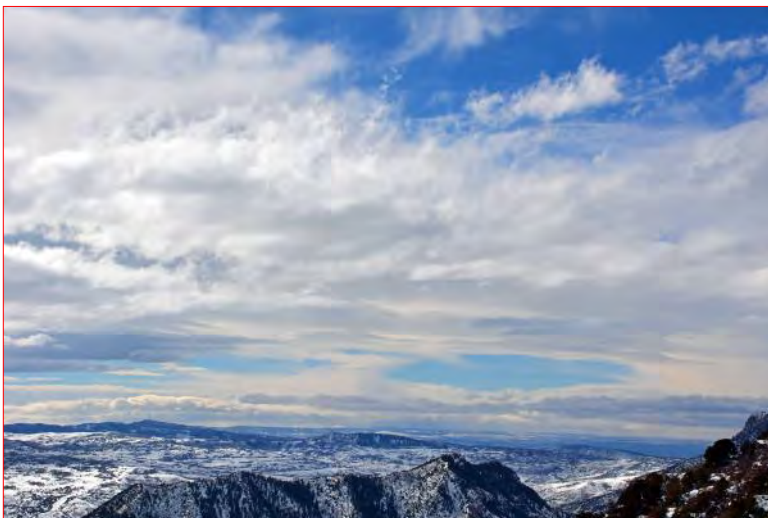
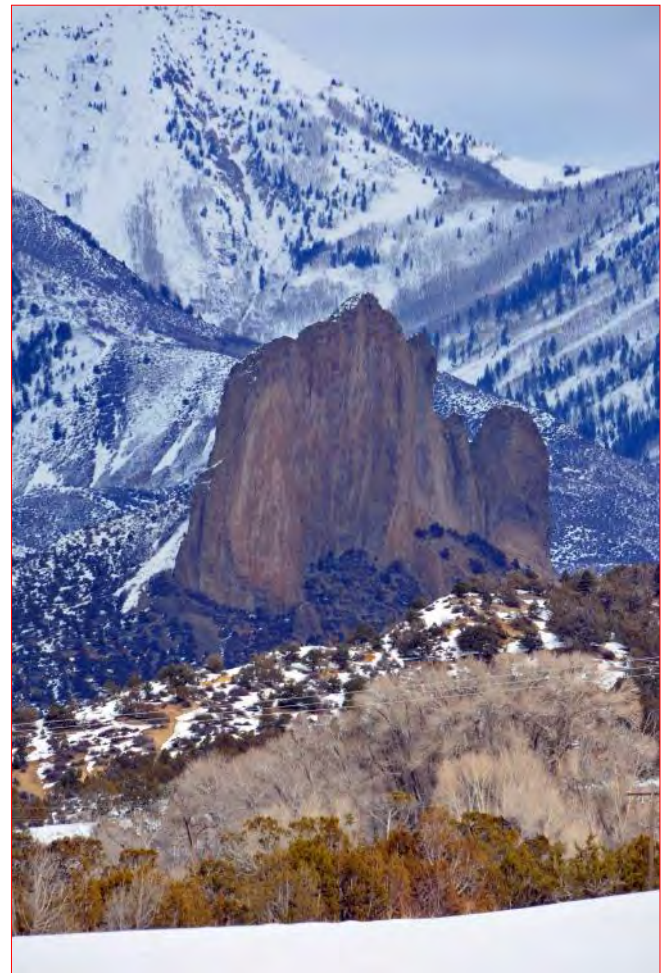
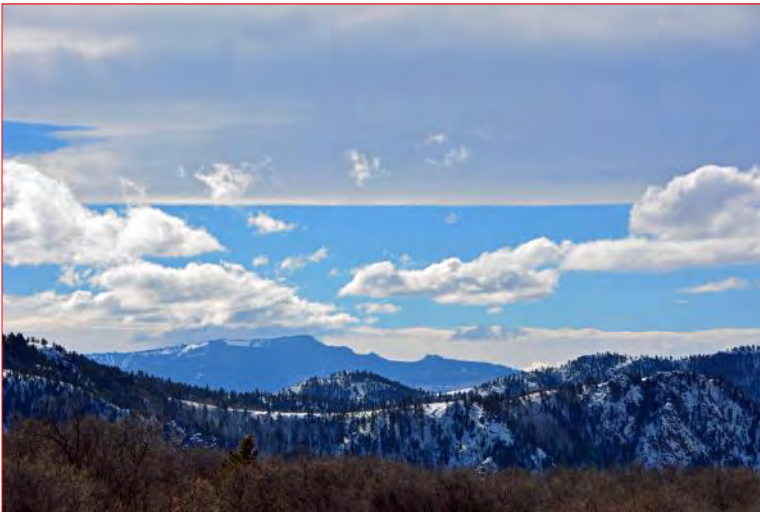
The students have made it to this level of competition through their own efforts, Henry said. Now, the Montrose community can help them achieve their goal. [Click here to donate to the Montrose High School Vocal Effect.](#)



## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*Photographer Deb snapped these photos during a recent visit to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Clockwise from left, a rock formation near the Black Canyon; Needle Rock near Crawford; looking over the BC toward the Uncompahgre Plateau; unusual cloud formation over the canyon.*





## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PARK SERVICE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR HISTORIC REVITALIZATION SUBGRANTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

*Special to Art & Sol*

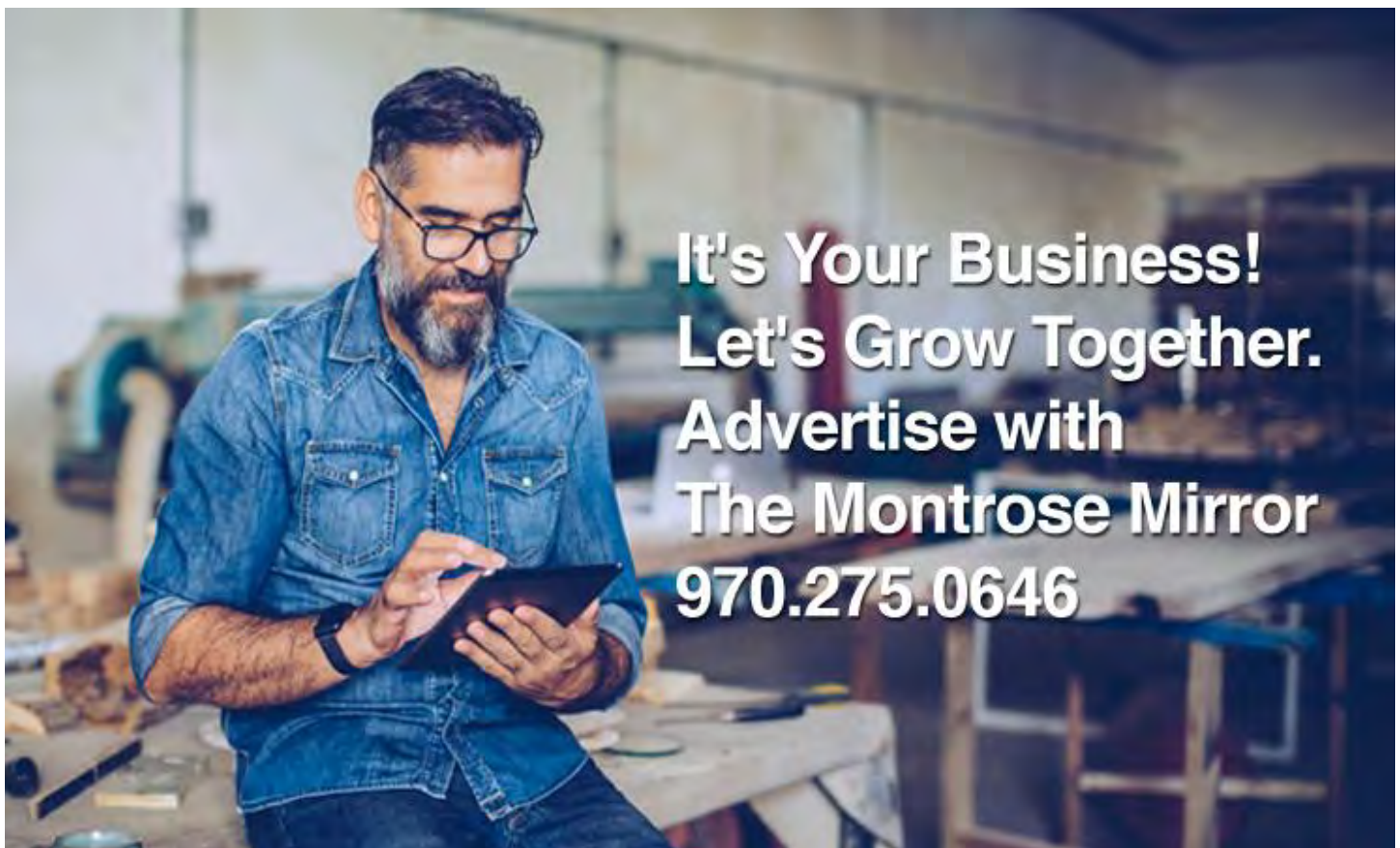
WASHINGTON — The National Park Service is now accepting applications for \$5 million in grants to support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the country that are listed in or eligible for inclusion in the [National Register of Historic Places](#) through the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP).

"Historic preservation projects have consistently proven to spur economic growth," National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith said. "The goal of this new competitive subgrant program is to support the rehabilitation of historic properties in our nation's rural communi-

ties, shine a light on their unique local history, and foster economic development."

The HRSP is funded through the Historic Preservation Fund, which is supported by revenue from Federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Certified Local Governments, and non-profits may apply to the NPS for funding to support a subgrant program, that will in turn fund multiple physical preservation projects in their rural jurisdictions. Applications for funding are now being

accepted in [Grants.gov](#) through April 1, 2019 (11:59 p.m. EST). Applicants must define a subgrant program that covers areas defined as rural by the U.S. Census (less than 50,000) and preserves multiple National Register listed or eligible properties in support of economic development. Applicants must also demonstrate that they are capable of managing a federally funded subgrant program. More information about the HRSP grants, including application materials, is available on the program website: <http://go.nps.gov/revitalization>. To confirm rural eligibility: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ENTREPRENEURS

### SAN JUAN HUT SYSTEMS SELECTED AS FEBRUARY 2019 RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



*Photo courtesy San Juan Hut Systems.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected San Juan Hut Systems as the February 2019 RACC Business of the Month. San Juan Hut Systems is operated by the father/daughter team of Joe Ryan and Kelly Ryan, whose mission is to provide low-impact, human-powered, lightweight backcountry adventures of a lifetime.

"One of the things that is so great about our area and unique about our business is that we are able to provide one-of-a-kind experiences, just about year-round. Right now, in the winter we have backcountry ski huts that you can link together

from Telluride to Ouray, Nordic ski into one for the night, or use to access truly awesome backcountry ski and ski mountaineering terrain," said Kelly.

"We also have our Spring Creek Hut on the Uncompahgre Plateau, which is great for fat biking and cross-country outings. In the spring and fall, we offer our newest route, the Tour of the Canyons, a mixed-surface bike ride from Grand Junction to Moab. In the summer, we offer two mountain bike routes ending in Moab, one that starts in Telluride and the other in Durango. These hut-to-hut mountain bike trips are probably our most unique offering and what we are best known for," she added.



*Joe and Kelly Ryan of San Juan Hut Systems. Courtesy photo.*

To learn more about San Juan Hut Systems, go online to [sanjuanhuts.com](http://sanjuanhuts.com), call 970.626.3033 or email [info@sanjuanhuts.com](mailto:info@sanjuanhuts.com). For information about recreation businesses in Ridgway, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/recreation>.

The Ridgway Chamber is organized to achieve the objectives of promoting business and community growth and development in the Town of Ridgway and the surrounding area. The chamber's Business of the Month program features a different member every month, and shares information about the business owners, mission, background, and other details to help the community and visitors stay in tune with local services and products. RACC is proud to showcase this business. San Juan Hut Systems may be reached at 970.626.3033 and [info@sanjuanhuts.com](mailto:info@sanjuanhuts.com). Also go online to: <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/recreation/151-san-juan-hut-systems>.

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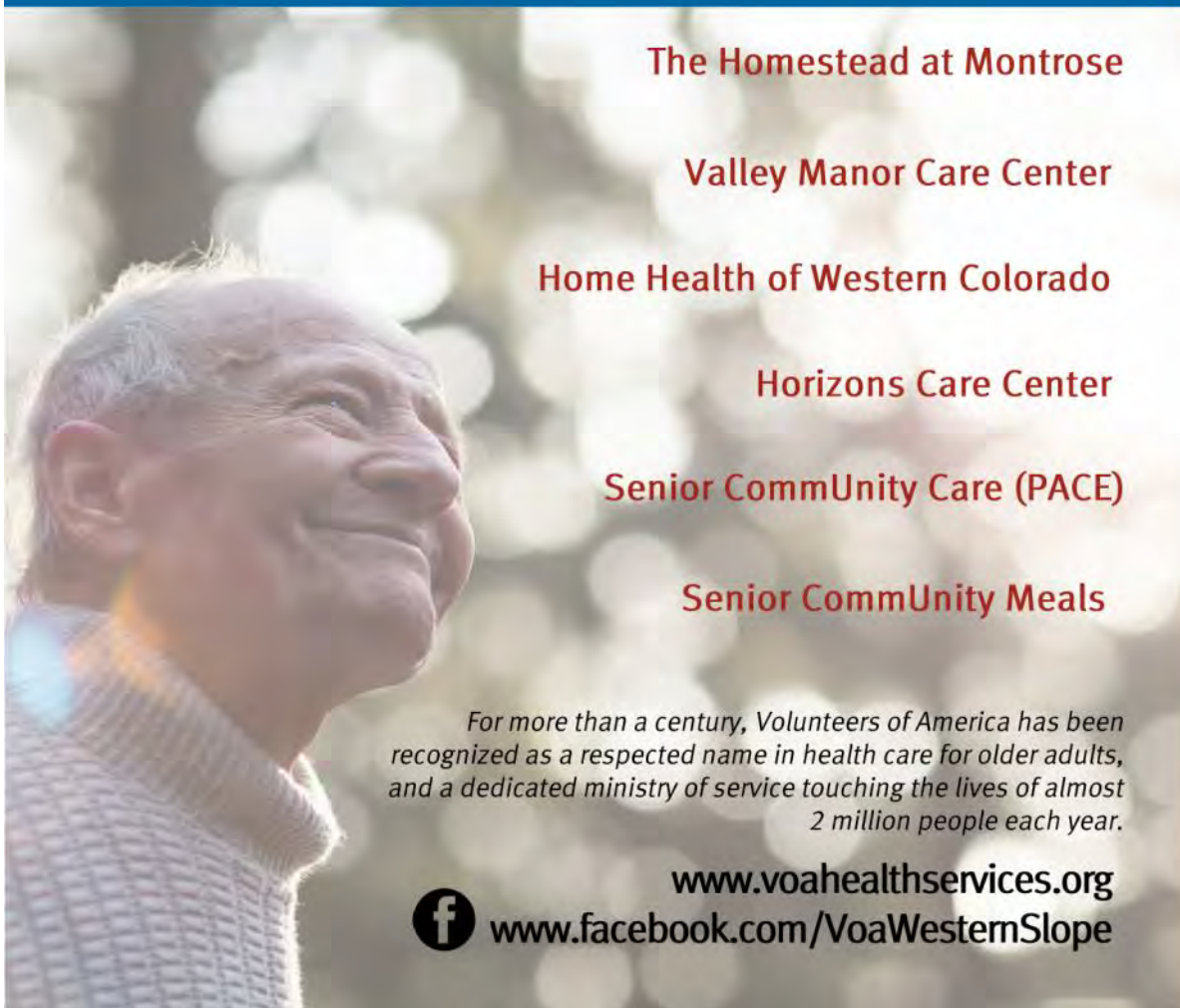
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[www.facebook.com/VoaWesternSlope](https://www.facebook.com/VoaWesternSlope)





## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### COCO MONTOYA & TINSLEY ELLIS BRING TOUR TO TELLURIDE

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE-Alligator Records artists Coco Montoya and Tinsley Ellis will make a stop in Telluride on their current "Blues Rock Titans" tour. Montoya and Ellis will each perform a full headline-length set at the Sheridan Opera House on Thursday, at 8 p.m. on March 7, 2019. Legendary blues-rock guitarist and vocalist Coco Montoya will feature songs from his latest Alligator Records release, *HARD TRUTH*. He's currently at work on a new album due later this year. Tinsley Ellis is among the blues world's best loved, hardest working and most well-traveled statesmen. Ellis' latest release, 2018's *WINNING HAND*, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Blues Chart. The two "Blues Rock Titans" will also join forces each night for an unforgettable jam session. Sheridan Opera House is at 110 North Oak Street, 970-728-6363. Ticket price: \$30-\$45. Website:

[www.sheridanoperahouse.com](http://www.sheridanoperahouse.com) \*See website for detailed ticket information.



*Artists Coco Montoya and Tinsley Ellis. Courtesy photo.*

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# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## Good sugars instead of “white death”



**Doc Dachtler's new book from Longhouse Press, *Why Am I Telling You This* (courtesy photo).**



**Scott Armentrout (BPA courtesy photo).**

study cited -- de Cock, Bosscher and Bonnema -- work for Cargill Research & Development, while the other three are associated with Maastricht University's Department of Toxicology in the Netherlands.

**ERYTHRITOL** ... My non-sugar, zero glyce-mic index sweetener of choice these days – usually in combination with stevia. Stevia can have a slightly bitter aftertaste, although it is deeply sweet, so I tend not to use it alone in place of sugar ... Erythritol (1,2,3,4-butanetetrol) is a sugar alcohol (also known as a polyol), found naturally in some mushrooms, pears, soy sauce, wine, cheese, sake, watermelon and grapes. It has 60-70 percent of the sweetness of sucrose. Part of the structure of polyols resembles sugar and part resembles alcohol, but they contain no ethanols. And they do not cause tooth decay. Other polyols include maltitol, sorbitol and xylitol. The latter gives me the runs a lot. While erythritol can have a small laxative effect, I find it not as extreme on my gut microbiome ... “Erythritol has a higher digestive tolerance compared to all other polyols because about 90 percent of the ingested erythritol is readily absorbed and excreted unchanged in urine,” according to Boesten, den Hartog, de Cock, Bonnema, Bosscher and Bast, *Health Effects of Erythritol*, Nutrafoods 14 (1):1-7, March, 2015. “We conclude that erythritol could be of great importance and could be considered to be the preferred sugar substitute for a rapidly growing population of people with diabetes or pre-diabetes.” This study and others like it

have found sugar alcohols to be safe for human consumption on a daily basis and in high amounts ... Erythritol is made by fermenting the natural sugar found in corn. It is heat stable up to 160 degrees C. While some polyols are low calorie, erythritol has zero calories. It does not raise plasma glucose or insulin levels. More than 90 percent of erythritol is absorbed in the small intestine, so minimal amounts reach the colon where other polyols end up causing gas, bloating and diarrhea. Studies have shown that erythritol is easier to digest than xylitol. Both have been shown to have no carcinogenic properties. An antioxidant, erythritol helps fight free radicals, being so readily absorbed by the body but not being metabolized (it is excreted unchanged) ... Erythritol is the most expensive of the polyols to make, and so is often combined with a bit of organic stevia to give it that extra sweet kick ... My sweet product of choice right now is Pyure's *Organic Stevia Blend* from Naples, Florida. It is primarily erythritol (in spite of its name) mixed with stevia and some natural flavors. I use it for sweetening my hot morning dandelion-chocolate-lapsong souchong drink. It's most noticeable as well in my dark chocolate hit (Lily's Sweets from Boulder) ... But every good review should have at least one negative comment, to show that the piece is not simply a booster for some marketing program. So, you should know that erythritol can be fatal to fruit flies, and it has been suggested as a possible insecticide ... And you might also be interested that three of the researchers in the

**SCOTT ARMENTROUT** ... I was surprised to learn that our former Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest supervisor had left town. He'd even left the agency. Instead of the Dept. of Interior, he'd moved to the Dept. of Energy and taken a job as Executive Vice President of Environment, Fish and Wildlife for the Bonneville Power Administration ... He has extended family in the Northwest, and he says he gets to work with lots of tribes dealing with the Columbia River system ... I certainly will miss him. I thought he did a fine job for us and the USFS, following in the footsteps of the excellent Charlie Richmond. I really appreciated his gift of Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees* (Ludvig Verlag, Munich, 2015 C.E.) when I left office ... A deeply inspiring book, and a model federal administrator. Thank you to both.

**GOING TO POT** ... Finally, research is coming in on *Cannabis spp.* For so many years our foolishly Draconian drug laws have prevented scientific research on this recreational and medicinal plant ally. And since it had been unfairly targeted by the government, those of us who disagreed with Uncle Sam on this one were super defensive regarding the plant's benefits or dangers, and would accept no word of any harmful effects (especially since the government wasn't above spreading negative fake news about it) ... But times have changed. A large number of states have legalized some form of *Cannabis spp.* in their jurisdictions and a number of blue states like Colorado have even legalized it recreationally ... New scientific studies are starting to dribble in. Like the one this past fall from researchers at the Massachusetts General Hospital in the Boston area – published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*. It finds that

*Continued next pg*

# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

quitting smoking for a month for 80 some young adults who smoke at least weekly saw improvements in memory (particularly the remembering of lists), if not in the ability to pay close attention. Abstinence had no effect there ... Few things in life are completely good. Most things have strengths and weaknesses. It will be important to learn more about the scientific realities of cannabis use as more people start to study this amazing herb.

**DOC DACHTLER** ... One of the great mountain poets of San Juan Ridge in the foot-

hills of the Sierras, his bardic tradition takes him from cricket reverie to yard sales and community potlucks, from crowded sidewalks and antique stores and to the lines at the post office. He hears the American tongue spoken in his rural highlands and gives voice to its music. These are found poems that we could all find in the dazzling kaleidoscope of life shifting around us, if we listen. Doc just writes 'em out ... His new book out of Bob Arnold's legendary Longhouse Press up in Vermont, is *Why Am I Telling You This?* (13019). It's a question I had no trouble

answering. Doc is a storyteller. He has a carpenter's eye for the sway of the beams and the bell of the windowpanes. He can't stop telling you stories. It's just his nature. And they will make you smile. Maybe laugh. Definitely see that little corner of the universe that blew in on a quick wind as something worth keeping ... I'm going to be sharing poems from this book for a time. See today's Talking Gourd. Get the book yourself here: <http://longhousepoetryandpublishers.blogspot.com/2018/10/new-from-longhouse-doc-dachtler.html>

## THE TALKING GOURD

### A Penny for Your Thoughts

Many years ago I was having some big troubles,  
couldn't figure out what to do.  
My best friend was sick of hearing of them,  
suggested I consult the I Ching.  
The I Ching, also called the Book of Changes,  
is an ancient Chinese book of divination  
in which 64 pairs of trigrams  
are shown with various interpretations.

I don't know how it worked.  
"Get 3 pennies and cast them down o the table," he said  
I shook the pennies in cupped hands  
like heating up dice for luck  
and threw them down.  
One penny does a tiddlywinks swirl around,  
comes back up,  
stops,  
stands there right on the edge!  
One heads, one tails, one on edge.  
"Throw that one again," said my friend.  
I looked at the penny for a long time.  
"Go on!" said my friend.

"Nope." I said, "For these problems  
that penny  
is right on  
the money."

-Doc Dachtler  
Nevada City (CA)



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE LIBRARY PLANS DEATH CAFÉ EVENTS

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Montrose Library Death Cafés will be Feb. 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and Feb. 23, from 3 to 4 p.m. 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 social worker Amiessa Jutten. Pre-registration is required. Sessions will be limited to 12 participants. The Death Café model was developed in England in 2011, and more than 7,500 events have been hosted worldwide since. The organization's website is [deathcafe.com](http://deathcafe.com).

### CRAFTING A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WORKS

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to "Crafting a Strategic Plan that Works," a workshop that will provide the tools you need so that your plan can help your organization be all that it can be: increasingly effective and increasingly attractive to funders. It will take place on Feb. 21 at the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton, Ridgway,

from 1-4 p.m. The guest presenter is Illene Roggensack, one of Colorado's best-known nonprofit consultants. She says: "A plan must inspire, guide, be measurable, and be useful. This workshop will address all these things." The cost is \$35; there is a discount for 3 or more from the same organization. To register, go to the link at [www.cfgv.org/nonprofit-network](http://www.cfgv.org/nonprofit-network). This is the third in a series of workshops to help

nonprofits in the region become increasingly focused and stable, continuing the impact of Rural Philanthropy Days. It is guided by a regional team of nonprofit board and staff, and managed by the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley in concert with the Community Resource Center of Denver. For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, [maryo@cfgv.org](mailto:maryo@cfgv.org), 970-641-3570.

### SNOW MOON HIKE/SNOWSHOE @ RIDGWAY STATE PARK FEB. 17



#### *Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY-Ridgway State Park presents: "Snow Moon" hike/snowshoe event on Sunday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. Please meet at the park visitors center for a brief presentation then head outside for a hike up to Elk Ridge. (Snowshoes available to borrow. Please call the visitors center to reserve at (970) 626-5822.) If cloudy, please bring a headlamp. February's full moon is traditionally called the "Full Snow Moon" because usually the heaviest snows fall in February. The actual full moon is Feb. 19 this year. Please call Ridgway State Park at (970) 626-5822 for more information. At right, courtesy photo.



**MONTROSE  
MIRROR**  
Real news. No trolls.



ELECTION INTEGRITY/SECURITY

# BALLOT PROCESSING

**WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BALLOT ONCE  
IT REACHES THE ELECTION OFFICE?**



**- ONCE!**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AT NOON  
MONTROSE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM  
GUEST SPEAKERS: TRESSA GUYNES, MONTROSE  
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER, AND KIM  
WRIGHT, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK**

**Q & A SESSION WILL FOLLOW – COMMUNITY INVITED TO ATTEND**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information about the topic go to [www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org) and click on *Calendar of Events* or "Like" us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VoteMontrose>.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### FLOYD DAY AND KAREN KEENE DAY WILL SHOW WORK @ WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE IN OURAY MARCH 1-APRIL 20

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

OURAY-Floyd Day is a pastel artist who paints cows and landscapes found in the Uncompahgre Valley of Colorado. He has exhibited in galleries and shows in Ridgeway, and in Beaufort, SC. Floyd has a degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan where he also lettered in football.

"Noble, majestic, powerful, beautiful...it is these qualities of wild mustangs that Karen Keene Day sees, and through her paintings, reveals their spirituality in a celebration of life through color and movement." For the past 20 years, Karen has traveled extensively to research wild mustangs of the western US. Her main

focus for the past 16 years has been the Spring Creek Basin Herd of Disappointment Valley in Colorado, as well as Marsh Tacky wild horses on Cumberland Island, GA, and St. Helena Island, SC. Karen has shown her work throughout the country and most recently in Telluride, and Ridgeway, as well as Charleston, SC. Her work is represented locally by the Skol Gallery in Ouray.

Opening reception for "Colorado Ranch Cattle and Wild Mustangs" will be held on Friday, March 1, from 4-6 pm at the Wright Opera House, 472 Main St, Ouray. Come experience Western Colorado Heritage through the eyes of these two gifted local artists. Refreshments will be served.



*Local artists Floyd Day and Karen Keene Day. Courtesy photo.*

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*For coverage that never leaves  
our readers out in cold ...*



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**Always digging for  
spot on news.**

# The Mirror

*now weekly*

*Making sure readers don't bury their heads in the sand.*



**MONTROSE, CO**

# DAY OF MOURNING

2 / 23 / 2019

**THE LARK & SPARROW**

511 E. MAIN ST, MONTROSE

**11 AM ~ 2 PM**

**LIVE STREAMED EVENT**

~ **FROM ALBANY, NEW YORK** ~

BENHAM BROTHERS ~ ELIZABETH JOHNSON

**JUSTIN REEDER ~ DAVID J. HARRIS JR.**

PHIL KING & CODY RAY LEE ~ BLYTHE MULLEN

~ **IN MONTROSE, COLORADO** ~

YVONNE MEEK

*Join us for "A National Day of Mourning" for the  
millions of children lost to abortion.*

*Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves, for the rights of all  
who need an advocate." Proverbs 31:8*



#DayOfMourning | [www.DayOfMourning.org](http://www.DayOfMourning.org)

# SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

## CURRENT/ONGOING-

**BOSOM BUDDIES OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets every Wednesday from noon till 1 pm at 645 South 5th Street in Montrose. For more info email [info@bosombuddiesswc.org](mailto:info@bosombuddiesswc.org).

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP** meets every third Tuesday of each month at the Centennial Meeting Room at 6pm, behind City Hall. New Watch Groups are formed and guest speakers alert us to safety issues. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact Joyce Loss at 970-249-4217 or 970-275-1329 for details.

**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.; SUP (Stand up paddle board) Yoga is Held at Montrose Rec Ctr \$25/class, Held the Following Thursday's at 7p.m. 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. 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**-second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., 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. 29-April 2-** Mending Hearts GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP, Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3 p.m., Montrose HopeWest Office

**Feb. 12-** Alpine Photography Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Colorado Mesa University, 245 S. Cascade Ave., Room 100. Flash Photography By Paul Hurschmann. Sharing Theme: Portraits (3-5 images). Photo Critiques: Open & Anonymous (up to 3 images). Free to the public.

**Feb. 14-** Presentation on Election Integrity and Security: Ballot Processing, sponsored by Montrose County League of Woman Voters, Montrose Library Community Room, Noon. Speakers include Montrose County Clerk & Recorder Tressa Guynes and Kim Wright, Chief Deputy Clerk. Q&A to follow.

**Feb. 17-** Ridgway State Park presents: "Snow Moon" hike/snowshoe event on Sunday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. Please meet at the park visitors center for a brief presentation then head outside for a hike up to Elk Ridge. (Snowshoes available to borrow. Please call the visitors center to reserve at (970) 626-5822.) If cloudy, please bring a headlamp. February's full moon is traditionally called the "Full Snow Moon" because usually the heaviest snows fall in February. The actual full moon is Feb. 19 this year. Please call Ridgway State Park at (970) 626-5822 for more information.

**Feb. 20-** Colorado Archaeological Society presents Casey Dukeman discussing the use of 3D camera-based photogrammetry and drones to research archaeological features and create fascinating models of sites and settings, 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 at the Montrose United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Street. The public is invited; free admission.

**Feb. 21-** Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to "Crafting a Strategic Plan that Works," a workshop that will provide the tools you need so that your plan can help your organization be all that it can be: increasingly effective and increasingly attractive to funders, held at the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton, Ridgway, from 1-4 p.m. The guest presenter is Illene Roggensack. The cost is \$35; there is a discount for 3 or more from the same organization. To register, go to the link at [www.cfgv.org/nonprofit-network](http://www.cfgv.org/nonprofit-network). For more information, contact Maryo Ewell, [maryo@cfgv.org](mailto:maryo@cfgv.org), 970-641-3570

**Feb. 21-** Calling all girls! Join us Feb. 21 at the Montrose Library Meeting Room 2 TO 4 P.M. for a fun program of STEM and engineering activities for girls of all ages. Special guest speaker Becky Sproul, flight paramedic with CareFlight, will talk about her job. Activities will include: pendulum painting, helicopter craft and activity, and conductive (electric) thread art. This program is geared towards girls 5 and up but everyone is welcome to attend.

**Feb. 21-** Black Canyon Montrose Rotary Club will host their Charter Reception, taking place at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Montrose (1391 S. Townsend Ave) on Feb. 21, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Charter Reception is hosted in partnership with the Holiday Inn Express, Black Canyon Surgical Center and Dalby, Wendland & Co., P.C. For additional information or to RSVP for this event, please contact Club Secretary, Ashley Pietak at 970-417-0041 or [blackcanyonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:blackcanyonrotary@gmail.com).



Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

[Editor@montrosemirror.com](mailto:Editor@montrosemirror.com)

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## **MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION AWARD WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 2019**



*Left to Right: Brendan Compton, Robert Ramirez, Ethan Jackett, Keaton Loyd, Drew Maness, Asheley Flores, Benjamin Robuck, Mia Bartschi, Titus Diaz Ruiz, Madison Vandehey, and Sierra Medina.*



# Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror...



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