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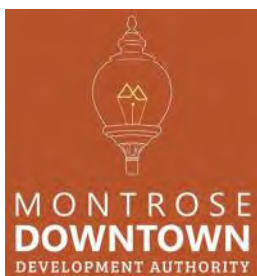
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# the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 313, Feb. 25, 2019

## BOWMAN, GLASPELL QUESTION RIVER VALLEY INCENTIVES; GLASPELL RAISES CONCERNS OVER 'SOCIALIST' PROJECTS IN MONTROSE



*Filling in for City Manager Bill Bell, Montrose Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler (right) listens as METSA Chair Paul Gottlieb (second from left) speaks at the City Council Work Session on Feb. 19.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Because of the Presidents' Day Holiday, Montrose City Council met for a [work session on Tuesday, Feb. 19](#). All councilors were present. Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler represented staff in the absence of City Manager Bill Bell. There were no new employees introduced at the work session.

### CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Items discussed included **business incentives for River Valley Health Center**. City Director of Business Innovation Chelsea Rosty presented information on the proposed incentives. River Valley Health Center had requested \$335K worth of incentives for the \$3.6M clinic project, located at 1010 South Rio Grande

[Continued pg 23](#)

## IT'S OFFICIAL: 2019 OLATHE SWEET CORN FESTIVAL WILL MOVE TO MONTROSE

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-On Thursday, Feb. 21, the Olathe Sweet Corn Festival Committee voted in favor of moving the popular festival to the Montrose County Events Center; financially, the move is important to the festival's continued existence.

"We put together two budgets," Sweet Corn Festival Director Kyle Martinez said. "One budget for if we held the festival in Olathe at the park, and one budget built around holding it in Montrose at the event center."

Rental fees for the Montrose County Event Center are significantly lower than for the Sweet Corn Park, Martinez said.

[Continued pg 7](#)



*The Olathe Sweet Corn Festival, above, is one of the region's best-known agricultural festivals. The 2019 Festival will take place at the Montrose County Events Center rather than the Olathe Sweet Corn Park, but will continue to benefit Olathe youth groups. Photo courtesy Olathe Sweet Corn Festival.*

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# FAMILY FORCED TO FIND NEW TRAINER FOR SERVICE DOG

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-What happens when a non-profit pays a service provider who then fails to provide the service?

Here in Montrose, a dog sent away to be trained as an alert service dog by a reputable trainer returned home untrained and frightened of men, according to the dog's owner. Yet the trainer, who was paid in full through a foundation grant, has yet to return the money.

Jennifer Lujan's youngest child Betty, 11, has had lifelong healthcare needs, and after an illness last summer the family decided to get a service dog for her.

"It was so scary, and such a new thing," Jennifer said. "So, we connected with a trainer to get a dog for our daughter."

An alert service dog can be trained to save a child's life by scent alone.

According to the [American Kennel Club](#), there are three types of service, or assistance, dogs: guide dogs can provide assistance to the blind or visually impaired; hearing dogs can provide assistance to people who are deaf or hearing impaired, service dogs can help people with a variety of other needs. They can help those who use wheelchairs or have balance issues; they can help people with autism and psychiatric disabilities; and they can provide life-saving alerts for those with medical conditions such as low blood sugar.

When the Lujan family's trainer advised getting a new puppy before beginning the training process, they adopted Boots, a German Shepherd who has already bonded with his young owner.

The trainer, who is based in New Mexico, invoiced and was paid in full by a Grand

Junction based foundation, Operation Tender Heart, which has helped the family with equipment and travel assistance since Betty was born.

Jennifer said, "Basically, they have been Betty's guardian angel her whole life."

The trainer promised to work with Boots over the next two years until he was fully trained. However, after two months at the trainer's New Mexico facility, "He came home terrified of men," Jennifer said. "He was not trained. We think he was kennelized the whole time; it was very awkward and didn't feel right."

"Even to have Boot as a really good companion for Betty has been a real blessing," She said, "But he definitely suffered setbacks because of this, which set us back. "It was very unprofessional."

The trainer promised to repay the \$2,500 she was paid by Operation Tender Heart but as yet has made no effort to do so. "I would hate for this to happen to anyone again," Jennifer said. "In the worst case scenario, we will have to go to court."

Rather than send Boots back to New Mexico, the Lujans have found a new trainer in Delta, Marion Lewis. The [Grand Junction Kiwanis Club](#) will pay for half of the training Boots will need. "They sponsor two dogs a year," Jennifer said, "And Marion Lewis is the only trainer they will use."

To contribute, contact the Grand Junction Kiwanis Foundation, PO Box 1377. GJ, 81502. Mark contributions "for Boots training."



*Pictured at right, Betty and Boots. Courtesy photo.*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# THE EROSION OF OUR REPUBLIC HAS BEGUN

Dear Editor:

Members of the executive and legislative branches of government within Colorado swear or affirm an oath to support the constitution of the United States. A majority of Democratic members of the legislative branch have violated their oaths. It appears Governor Polis will be in violation of that oath as well.

Our forefathers knew it to be imperative all states have a representative voice in the election of our executive branch. They knew a popular vote would negate the voice of many across this great land of ours. Therefore, they created Article II Section 1 of the U S Constitution. It defines the electoral vote process to determine the outcome of presidential and vice-presidential elections.

One must keep in mind, **we are a Republic not a Democracy.** "In a republic, a constitution or charter of rights protects certain inalienable rights that cannot be taken away by the government, even if it has been elected by a majority of voters. In a

"pure **democracy**," the majority is not restrained in this way and can impose its will on the minority." One of the inalienable rights under our constitution is your right to vote and that it be counted.

Al Gore won the popular vote yet lost the electoral college vote in 2000. Sixteen years later Hillary Clinton won the popular vote yet lost the electoral college vote. Both were Democratic candidates. The democratic party was devastated by each loss. As a result, there has been a movement to do away with the electoral college. If you can't win by the rules, change the rules. A huge step forward was made on February 21, 2019. The Colorado legislature passed the National Popular Vote Bill. Clearly this was a knee jerk reaction by the democratic controlled house and senate.

Prior to Colorado Legislative action taken on February 21, this was the process in Colorado: "Following the presidential election, Colorado's nine designated electors meet in the Governor's office to cast their

votes for president and vice president. Under Colorado law, each presidential elector must vote for the presidential and vice presidential **candidates who received the highest number of votes in Colorado's General Election.**

Enacting the popular vote for determining our executive branch nullifies your fundamental right under Article II Section 1 of the U S Constitution.

If this new Bill is signed by the Governor state Electors no longer have to abide by the votes cast in our general election. They must delegate our nine electoral votes to the national popular vote candidate. **Your voice no longer matters.**

It's certainly too late to do anything about this now. However, you can show your dismay in the voting booth. I urge each of you to vote for a candidate that wants to represent you, not their respective party.

Let's get back to a representative form of government.

David Stockton, Montrose



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South of Town  
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Horse Property  
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**Tbd 1900 Road**  
Delta, CO  
Productive Farmland  
**\$299,000** | MLS# 748729  
40 acres Irrigated  
72.11 acres



**Lot 23 Pine Drive**  
Ridgway, CO  
Log Hill Village  
**\$139,900** | MLS# 750048  
Borders Open Space  
8.34 acres



**Tbd V66 Trail**  
Montrose, CO  
Deerview Estates  
**\$119,000** | MLS# 748721  
BLM on 3 sides  
40 acres



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



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



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



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



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



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## ***IT'S OFFICIAL: 2019 OLATHE SWEET CORN FESTIVAL WILL MOVE TO MONTROSE From pg 1***

Martinez said.

"The Montrose County Events Center gives us our best opportunity to keep the festival going," he said.

"Saving money allows us to hold ticket prices down. We can hold more activities at the festival and put more money back into Olathe youth programs."

Amenities included at the Montrose County Event Center include bathrooms, air conditioning, and parking.

What's next? "We will work to get our entertainment booked," Martinez said. "We couldn't plan until we booked the venue."

Expect this year's headliner to be announced sometime in March, he said.

The Town of Olathe has been helpful throughout the process, he said. And those who have traditionally benefited from the Sweet Corn Festival will continue to do so, including youth groups, Olathe

High School sports, and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

(The [Sweet Corn Festival web site](#) lists all beneficiaries: Montrose Community Foundation; 4-H; Montrose 4-H Dogs; OHS Boys Basketball; OHS Girls Basketball; OHS Girls Volleyball; OHS Boys Soccer; OHS Cheer; Olathe Future Farmers of America; Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club.)

"We are just trying to do what's best for the festival," Martinez said, adding that the committee is entirely volunteer, and that the festival is labor-intensive.

"Sweet corn is grown in Montrose, Delta, and Olathe," he said. "We still want to celebrate Olathe, utilizing an event center here in Montrose County that could help us modernize the festival and do things we could not do in the past—we plan to offer a V.I.P. element."

"We are excited to put on another Olathe Sweet Corn Festival," Martinez said.



***Expect plenty of Olathe Sweet sweet corn at the 2019 Olathe Sweet Corn Festival. Photo by Nanci Gibbins.***

Stay up to date with the 2019 Olathe Sweet Corn Festival on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/olathesweetcornfest/>.


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## MMH BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESENTS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO BOCC; ATC ATTORNEY ASKS COUNTY TO DENY OR DELAY ATT TOWER



*The Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees presented their semi-annual report to the Montrose Board of County Commissioners Feb. 20. Pictured holding stacks of the reports is Allison Mason, secretary to the MMH Board of Trustees.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—No comments were heard from the public, and County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda when the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for the [regular meeting of Feb. 20](#). All commissioners were present for the meeting.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

#### *MMH Board of Trustees semi-annual report*

The Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees presented the semi-annual report to the Board of Commissioners. "...The second half of the year was much better than the first half of the year for the hospital," Board of Trustees President Mark Rackay told the BOCC.

Commissioners thanked trustees for their work. "There's a lot to do on that board; we really appreciate your dedication, so thank you," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said. *Addendum to Recreation and Public Pur-*

#### *poses Act application*

Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented an addendum to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act application originally approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 21, 2016.

"The County completed a required cultural resource survey as part of the NEPA review for this project," Waschbusch said. "Based on the results of that report, the most feasible way forward was to reduce significantly the acreage that would transfer from the BLM to the County...the project as a whole remains intact with all of the original design elements...the majority of the new single-track system will now be on land that will remain with the BLM...I think we have been able to address both the cultural resource side and the special events side while keeping the project intact."

The parking and staging areas will remain under county control, Waschbusch said.

Commissioners unanimously approved the addendum to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act application.

*Contract with Western Gravel for AIP Pro-*

*ject No. 3-08-0043-050*

County Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold presented for consideration and approval a [contract with low bidder Western Gravel](#) for AIP Project No. 3-08-0043-050, Schedule I - Extend Apron (Extend Taxiways C & D) and Schedule II - Rehabilitate Taxiway C Cross-Over, in the amount of \$983,000.

Three bids were received, Arnold said. "We do have Federal funding on board for this project.

"This project was in the five-year capital improvement plan," Arnold said. "It will... extend the apron to the east allowing for better clearance behind the commercial service aircraft that are passing behind the aircraft parked on the commercial ramp." Construction is scheduled to start May 6, Arnold said.

Commissioners unanimously approved the contract with Western Gravel.

### *Public Works Items*

Public Works Director Keith Laube presented five items. The County now has a 20-year equipment plan, he noted. "Last summer our staff met and looked at our equipment, and what costs us money," Laube said. "...we came up with a list of equipment that needs replaced."

Commissioners unanimously rejected award of a [bid to Technology International of Lake Mary, Florida for a vacuum tanker with pump](#), the only responsive bid in the total amount of \$131,580, because the amount budgeted for the vacuum tanker was \$85,000. The bid was "Considerably more than the budgeted amount or what we expect," Laube said, and noted that the tanker would be rebid following the rejection, with consideration given to the possibility of purchasing used equipment.

"I want to thank you guys for being frugal...thank you very much for looking after our tax dollars," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said.

Commissioners unanimously awarded [the purchase of two tilt deck trailers](#) to low bidder True North Logistics of Downers Grove, Illinois in the total amount of \$57,374; and [the purchase of two mowers and two tractors](#) from low bidder Western



## MMH TRUSTEES PRESENT SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO BOCC

### From previous pg

Implement of Montrose for \$172,400.

"These actually are flail mowers, so hopefully...as we mow the ditches the grass won't get kicked up on the roads so much as it has with the previous mowers," Laube said.

"I just wanted to say thank you...I think that's great when they can be comparable and we can purchase locally," Hansen said. "Yay!"

Also unanimously approved was the award of a [dozer purchase to low-bidder Wagner Equipment Company](#) of Grand Junction in the total amount of \$287,447. The new dozer will replace an existing 32-year-old dozer with more than 9,000 engine hours, Laube said. "That's usually about the time we need to rebuild the transmission," Laube noted. The County only has two dozers, which are used for gravel pits and in fire protection, he said. "We definitely need them."

Asked Hansen, "It's been a long time since we purchased some of these pieces of equipment," Hansen said. "Is that usual? For a piece of equipment to last 20 years?"

Laube explained that it depends on the specific piece of equipment and municipal policy, "It's the piece of equipment as well as how much we use that piece of equipment."

"When we came in...as county commissioners, there was no replacement plan for the heavy fleet at Montrose Road & Bridge, they were running trucks from the 1970's when we first got here," Commissioner Keith Caddy said. "They weren't running; we had crews trying to work in the summertime and they'd be down for weeks at a time. We had some blades in the shop for two weeks when we should have had them out working on the roads."

"You only have x amount of good days a year in Montrose Colorado...to work on roads," Caddy said. "When your equipment is down for 20 percent of that time it really affects how we get our operations moving and working. Keith was kind enough to implement a replacement plan for our heavy fleet."



*Carolyn Clawson of the Montrose County Attorney's Office (right) speaks to Montrose County Commissioners (l-r) Roger Rash, Sue Hansen, and Keith Caddy at the meeting Feb. 20.*

Older equipment will be surplussed, Laube said, in response to a question asked by Hansen.

"...We are trying to have the right amount of equipment in our fleet," Laube said. "To be more efficient, and just not to have so much equipment to maintain."

Commissioners unanimously approved award of the [2019 Magnesium Chloride contract](#) to GMCO Corporation of Rifle, in the total amount of \$443,240. The County applies mag chloride to approximately 115 miles of gravel roads, Laube said. "It keeps the gravel from wash-boarding and makes a safer road."

In the past, the County has applied all mag chloride. This year, the County bid to have the contractor actually apply the product on 59 miles of roads, mostly higher elevation roads. "We think they can be a little more efficient," Laube said.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint John Reams, Matt Skinner and Katie Brink to the Airport Advisory Board, for three-year terms to expire Feb. 1, 2022. Michelle Haynes was appointed to the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of

Trustees for a five-year term to expire Feb. 1, 2024. Phil Lee was appointed to the Montrose County Planning Commission as Alternate One to fulfill the remainder of Gary Garren's term, which expires Dec. 31, 2020.

"We really rely on public input...we really rely on their level of expertise to help us make good decisions," Hansen said. "I want to thank everybody who has volunteered...I really appreciate people and their dedication to the county."

#### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners convened a public hearing on [special use permit application \(SU-18-0039\)](#) for installation of a 150-foot monopole tower, antennas, and ground equipment for the FirstNet program, a high-speed wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The application was presented by Waschbusch in the absence of Planning & Development Director Steve White.

Evan Brooks of Selective Site Consultants, on behalf of AT&T Corporation (ATT), addressed the BOCC, noting that an additional planning commission condition of placing an obstruction light at the top

## ***MMH TRUSTEES PRESENT SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO BOCC***

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

of the tower is acceptable.

"There was some concern about aircraft that cross through that gap," Brooks said.

"There was a letter that was submitted with regard to co-location," Assistant County Attorney Carolyn Clawson commented. "...it is my understanding that the towers that are (already) there do not meet the height requirements that are needed by ATT for this equipment."

Also addressing the BOCC was Jordan Bunch, outside counsel to American Tower Corporation (ATC), which owns a 100-foot tower within approximately 600 feet of the proposed installation. "[Our concerns](#) touch on the question of co-location," Bunch said. "ATT and ATC had a conversation in 2014 on co-location...ATC is more than happy to extend the height of a tower...we can extend the tower to 120 feet.

"...Our position today is that this application should either be denied or at the very least continued and remanded so that this idea of co-location could be thoroughly vetted by the staff," Bunch said.

"ATC is very much in support of the First-Net program," she said. "It's a more efficient process to extend a tower than to build a new one...our tower is structurally

capable of being extended."

She went on to call ATT's application "fatally incomplete."

Commissioner Caddy said that in the absence of Planning & Development Director Steve White, the matter could be continued.

Waschbusch urged commissioners to make full use of the public hearing to question both the applicant and Bunch, who continued to press on.

"Had AT&T come to us and said, 'these are our needs, could you extend your tower,' those conversations could have happened," Bunch said.

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "...If ATT really wanted to do business with your company they would have negotiated with your company and done business with them...you don't want us to approve this so it forces ATT to use your structure."

"Help me understand...if ATT puts up a tower how does that cause you harm?" Hansen asked.

"...Our position is that...before you all make a decision on whether to grant a special permit, you should have the accurate information," Bunch said.

Waschbusch said the matter could be

continued time-date certain to a time when Planning & Development Director Steve White is present.

Applicant representative Brooks refuted the idea that there were deficiencies in ATT's application or that co-location was an option. "...This is a commercial dispute between two private organizations...the equipment is different than it was in 2014."

Following further discussion, commissioners unanimously voted to continue the application until March 13.

In other business, the BOCC voted unanimously to approve Resolution 7-2019 to amend the County Zoning Resolution to create regulations for Short-Term Rentals for the General Residential District.

#### **MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY**

Commissioners reconvened as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, voting not to authorize an application for Colorado Liquor Sales Room Winery License for Mitch Garrett, dba Garrett Estate Cellars, in the absence of a special use permit, which can be brought forward again at a future time. Reconvening as the BOCC, Commissioners voted to adjourn.



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# CITY APPROVES FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR NATURAL GROCERS, RIVERWOOD ESTATES PROJECT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the regular [City Council meeting of Tuesday, Feb. 19](#), Council voted to approve a new fermented malt beverage license for Natural Grocers at the new store location, 3451 South Rio Grande Avenue. Council also approved Resolution 2019-03, creating the Riverwood Estates Improvement District and awarded a construction contract to Williams Construction in the amount of \$411,809.16 for the Riverwood Water Distribution System Construction project.

Also, several ordinances were passed on second reading. Council approved a material recovery facility services agreement with Waste Management; the 2019 City vehicle and equipment purchases; and a manhole lining services contract extension.

All counselors and youth councilor were present; Youth Councilor Harrison Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public concerning non-agenda items.

## FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

In addition to Natural Grocers General Manager Rhea Flora, the store's attorney and licensing representative were present to answer questions about the application for a license to sell beer at the market, for consumption off of the licensed premises.

"We have been getting a lot of fermented malt beverage licensees," City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. "We have two things Council is going to be looking at today. One is the moral character of the licensee...this hearing is going to be a lot about do the citizens of Montrose want to have another license issued."

A survey was conducted by Oedipus, Inc.; survey results were presented to Council by Oedipus CEO Max Scott.

There were 194 participants; of those, 41 businesses surveyed favored the license, with four against. There were 134 residences that favored the license with 15 against.

Flora said that all Natural Grocers em-



*City Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall and City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg at the regular Council meeting of Feb. 19.*

ployees are trained in proper alcohol procedures. "Every single customer will be carded," she said.

The store's beer selection will be limited to 12 linear feet.

Alcorn asked if the market will carry special types of fermented malt beverages.

"Free-range barley things?"

There will organic beer, gluten-free beer, craft beers, and kombucha, Flora said.

Alcorn read into the record a letter from Liz McCannell of The Liquor Store, opposing the granting of the fermented malt beverage license to Natural Grocers.

Said Mayor Pro Tem Dave Bowman, "I don't think we have much choice but to approve this liquor license. It doesn't make me feel good. Mom and pop liquor stores are supporting non-profits all over this community."

Council voted unanimously to approve the fermented malt beverage license application for Natural Grocers.

## ORDINANCES 2466, 2467, AND 2468 ON SECOND READING

Council unanimously approved Ordinances 2466 and 2467 on second reading, annexing and zoning the Ellsworth Addition.

Also approved on second reading was Ordinance 2468, vacating a portion of South Nevada Avenue where an existing home encroaches on City-owned right-of-way.

## RIVERWOOD ESTATES WATER SYSTEM

Council voted to adopt Resolution 2019-03, a Resolution of Intent to Create the Riverwood Estates Improvement District. 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.

Council voted to award a construction contract in the amount of \$411,809.16 to Williams Construction for the Riverwood Water Distribution System Construction Project, as previously discussed in work session.

The total cost of the project will be \$520K, City Engineer Scott Murphy said. Six bids were received for the project,



## ***CITY APPROVES FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR NATURAL GROCERS, RIVERWOOD PROJECT From previous pg***

which was designed in-house by the City.

### **MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Council approved a Material Recovery Facility Services Agreement between the City of Montrose and current vendor Waste Management of Colorado, Inc. City Public Works Manager Jim Scheid reminded that adulterants must be kept below 10 percent or the City will be assessed \$5 per ton. "Contamination is an issue we work very hard to prevent," Scheid said. The City's [recycling guide](#) is on the web site, he said.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**2019 Vehicle and Equipment Purchases** were awarded, including the purchase of six light-duty trucks from Montrose Ford Nissan at a total cost of \$223,741; one

medium-duty service truck from Sill-Terhar Motors at \$128,469; one golf course range cart with ball picker from Potestio Brothers Equipment at \$15,080; and two police patrol vehicles from Sill-Terhar Motors at a total cost of \$110,984.

Council unanimously approved renewal of a contract with Concrete Conservation, Inc., not to exceed \$80,000, for the **2019 manhole rehabilitation program**.

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

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report and Fourth Quarter Budget Review.

Youth Council Representative Harrison Hall shared information on the Rock the Rec event held Sat. 23.

Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked City staffers Garry Baker and Kendall Cramer

for their presentation to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) earlier on Feb. 19.

Councilor Barbara Bynum said that a community forum is moving from Heidi's Brooklyn Deli to the CASA facility.

"I want to celebrate youth," Councilor Judy Ann Files said. "Good week last week; Montrose Wrestling Team qualified seven wrestlers to go to the State tournament; that's the most that have qualified in many years here in Montrose so we wish them luck. Boys' Basketball qualified for the first round of playoffs...the Girls' Basketball team also qualified for state playoff...we just want to celebrate kids and what they bring to our community."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

## **REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS**

### **CRIME STOPPERS ALERT: LOCATE WOULD-BE WALMART SHOPLIFTER**




#### *Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers*

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose Police Department are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who attempted to steal merchandise from the Walmart store at 16750 S. Townsend in Montrose.

On February 4th, 2019, at approximately 3:19 p.m., a Hispanic male wearing a white colored t-shirt, red hat and black jacket attempted to steal unpaid merchandise having a value in excess of \$500. As he was attempting to leave the store, he was confronted by a store employee and handed over the involved merchandise without issues. The male then left the area. Clear photographs of the suspect were obtained.

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



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Assistant for  
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# COLORADO WORKFORCE CENTER: EXPECTED REVISIONS TO COLORADO NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Third quarter 2018 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) results indicate Colorado total nonfarm payroll jobs estimates will be revised down for this period with the release of benchmarked estimates in March 2019. September 2018 estimates are expected to be revised down by about 17,000, or six-tenths of a percentage point. July and August 2018 estimates are expected to be revised down by about five-tenths and three-tenths of a percentage point, respectively.

Applying these results through December 2018 brings estimated total nonfarm payroll jobs in December to 2,745,200. This change brings over the year payroll job

growth estimates through December 2018 to 54,800 or 2.0 percent. The final March 2019 benchmarked series are expected to vary from these estimates due to new seasonal adjustment factors and new estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs not covered by the unemployment insurance program.

Industry sectors expected to undergo an upward revision to payroll jobs estimates in the 3rd quarter<sup>1</sup> include other services (~4,500), financial activities (~1,700), trade, transportation, and utilities (~1,200), and construction (~1,100).

The industry sectors expected to undergo a downward revision to payroll jobs estimates are leisure and hospitality (~11,800), professional and business ser-

vices (~6,300), mining and logging (~2,700), government (~2,400), and manufacturing (~1,000).

Payroll jobs estimates for information and education and health services may also be revised down.

Payroll jobs estimates for the Boulder Metropolitan Statistical Areas may be revised up in the 3rd quarter.

Total nonfarm payroll job estimates for the Colorado Springs (~10,000), Denver (~4,700), and Fort Collins (~1,400) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised down in the 3rd quarter<sup>1</sup> payroll jobs estimates the Grand , Greeley, and Pueblo Metropolitan Statistical Areas may also be revised down.

<sup>1</sup>Values shown are September estimates.

## JACQUELINE JAIME MAYORGA OF MONTROSE ACCEPTED TO UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE

### *Special to Art & Sol*

EVANSVILLE, IN-- Jacqueline Jaime Mayorga of Montrose has been accepted to the University of Evansville for enrollment in the Fall 2019 semester.

Located in Evansville, Indiana, the University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university with over 80 majors and more than 100 areas of study in the arts and sciences and pre-professional programs. UE's diverse student body represents 44 states and 56 countries. UE is the first in Indiana to be designated as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, and its changemaking culture empowers students to improve the world around them. U.S. News & World Report recognizes UE as the number 7 Best College in the Midwest among private schools and one of the top 10 best value schools in the Midwest. For more information, please visit [www.evansville.edu](http://www.evansville.edu).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



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Public Works Office**

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For more information, contact:  
Andrew Amend  
Stolfus & Associates, Inc.  
(303) 221-2330  
andrew@stolfusandassociates.com

## AVALANCHE CLAIMS LIFE OF TELLURIDE BACKCOUNTRY SKIER

### *San Miguel County Sheriff's Office Report*

TELLURIDE-A Telluride backcountry skier was killed in a snowboarder-released avalanche Feb. 19 in the Bear Creek Preserve area in Telluride, Colorado.

The victim was found by Search and Rescue and Telluride Ski Patrol with a probe line near the creek above the boulder at the top of the Bear Creek trail at approximately 1130 am and identified as 47-year-old Salvadore Garcia-Atance.

"Of course this is not the outcome any of us were hoping for and on behalf of myself and all of us involved in this mission, we extend our sincerest condolences to Mr. Garcia-Atance's family," San Miguel County Sheriff Bill Masters said.

The slide occurred some time between 10 and 11am Tuesday, Feb. 19 in the Tempter area of Bear Creek, a couloir off the Telluride Ski area, and ran approximately 75 feet wide leaving a debris field 300 feet long and 15 to 20 feet deep.

Mr. Garcia-Atance was reportedly skinning up the Bear Creek Trail having started his ascent from the trailhead in the Town of Telluride. A two-hour ground search was done in the area with rescuers and Telluride Avalanche dog teams late Tuesday for two hours to no avail.

The search resumed early Wednesday morning with dozens of rescuers, avalanche dogs and assistance from Telluride Helitrax helicopters.

Sheriff Masters said, "We could not have done this mission without the cooperation and expertise of our volunteers, Telluride Ski Patrol, Colorado Avalanche Information Center and Telluride Helitrax. We appreciate all of the people and agencies who came together."

Bear Creek Trail is reopened but with the caution that with the new snow expected, avalanche danger will continue. "Whether you are walking your dog, skinning up, or backcountry skiing, Bear Creek is not a safe place to be," Sheriff Masters said.

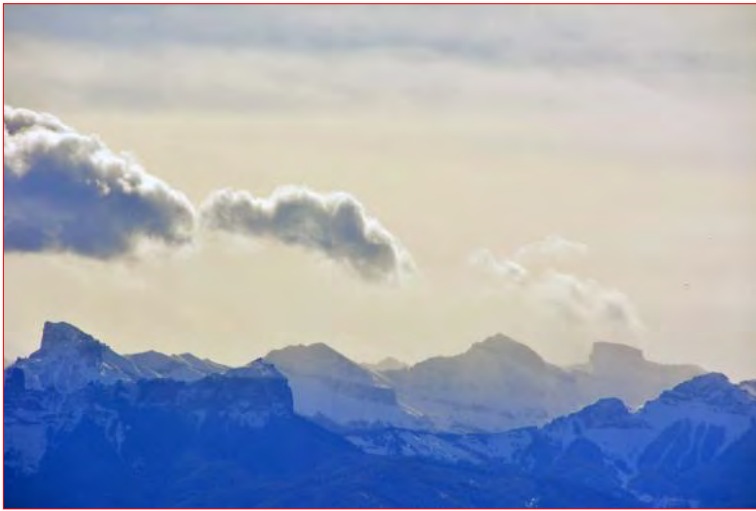
The death is under investigation.



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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT...SUNSHINE & SHADOW



*Photo by Deb Reimann.*

*Photographers Deb Reimann and Jennifer McClanahan captured the Cimarron Range this week...in shadow and sunlight.*



*Photo by Jennifer McClanahan.*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

# THERE IS NOT SUCH A THING AS NEW WATER



**Senator Don Coram.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

*By Senator Don Coram*

REGIONAL-The best news I can offer today is every river basin in Colorado is above the median average for this date. Does this mean that we are over our water issues? No, but we should have enough water for a good Summer. I am currently working on draft language for

"Sustainable funding for Colorado's water future." When I hear people talk about new water, I tend to get a little agitated. There is not such a thing as new water. So called new water to one person is only available because someone else no longer has theirs. All of our water projects are currently funded by severance taxes mainly generated by oil and gas production.

Due to the ebbs and flows of constantly changing production numbers it has been impossible to adequately project revenue.

If we are going to meet our projected growth by the year 2050, we must start now to be financially ready for the issues that will be presented. We must consider all the options that may stretch our current water resources to meet the new demands. Remember there is no new water. Hopefully the drafting will be complete by early March. Remember this this the beginning, not the end.

I recently introduced SB-19-067. This bill deals with creating jobs in rural Colorado. Most of the other economic development programs have mainly benefited metropolitan areas. Over the Summer, I worked with the Office of Economic Development and International Trade to repurpose some the funds available from the Colorado Venture Capital Fund to a new Greater Colorado Venture Fund. This program is up and running with initial 9.1 million and a target of 15 million.

As exciting as this was, I quickly realized that it also left a gap that some entrepreneurs do not qualify for assistance under this program. SB -19-067 will provide seed money for great ideas, but are cash strapped to build prototypes as an example

to prove the concept. Funds available will be up to \$150,000 with a 1/3 match. In the fall, I had the opportunity to visit a business in Durango called Stone Age. This business was created in a garage and today has surpassed 50 million dollars in annual sales and a work force of over 200. I realize that some businesses will fail, but who knows, there maybe another jewel out there with the potential of another Stone Age.

Crafting legislation is a lot like making sausage. The process may not be fun to watch, but the results can be quite rewarding. That can happen with the passing of a bill or even the death of a bill. A bill starting in one chamber can dramatically change when it goes the other chamber. For a bill to go to the Governor, both chambers must agree on the exact language. If not, an impasse can occur, and the legislation is dead. Just because you read something on social media may or may not be the truth. In many cases truth is the first casualty of someone promoting their agenda.

Trust, but verify, even when your Mother tells you she loves you.

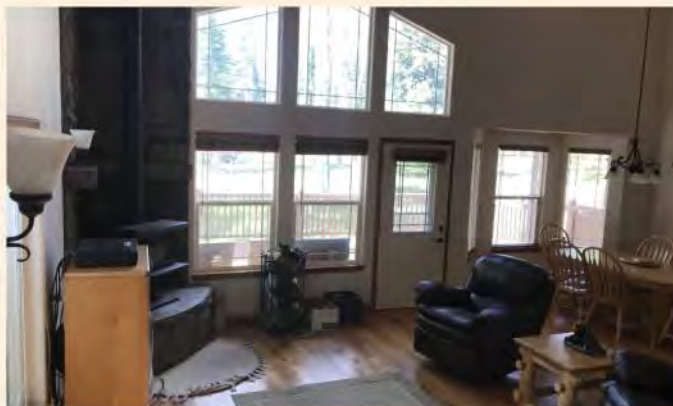
**News, if unreported, has no impact.  
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*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GO CODE COLORADO KICKS OFF 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMPETITION IN GRAND JUNCTION

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION – Last week, Secretary of State Jena Griswold joined community leaders in Grand Junction to Kick-Off the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual [Go Code Colorado Competition](#). Go Code is a competition that challenges multidisciplinary teams to turn public data into useful business insights, analyses and tools.

“Being from rural Colorado, I know that good ideas and innovation happen across the entire state, which is why today for the first time we kicked-off Go Code Colorado on the Western Slope,” said Secretary Griswold. “For six years Go Code Colorado has brought together entrepreneurs and innovators to solve some of our state’s more unique problems.”

This event is hosted by the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office [Business Intelligence Center](#).

The Business Intelligence Center promotes economic growth and good governance by making business-relevant data accessible and useable for informed decision-making.

This is the sixth year of the Go Code Colorado Competition, and the first year that Go Code hosted a Kick-Off in Grand Junction

In six years, Go Code Colorado Competitions have included almost 5,000 participants; 906 team participants including analysts, coders, marketers, entrepreneurs and big thinkers; 169 teams; and more than 200 mentors.

In addition, businesses can now access over 252 published datasets; 210 federated datasets and 37 featured data sets and links for their own use.

The Competition will also host a kick-off in Denver on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019

From 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM at Great Divide Brewery, 3403 Brighton Blvd, Denver, CO 80216.

For a full schedule of events for Go Code Colorado, please visit [www.gocodecolorado.com](http://www.gocodecolorado.com).

Video of the kick off is also available at [www.facebook.com/GoCodeColorado/](https://www.facebook.com/GoCodeColorado/).

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

# LORETTA LYNN'S HIT NOW DESCRIBES OUR OWN COMMUNITIES: THERE'S 'TROUBLE IN PARADISE!'

*Editor:*

We take a lot of pride in our own corner of the universe. The scenery is beautiful, recreational opportunities abound and those who live and work here are caring and compassionate individuals. What more could one ask for! Sadly, we have four cancers diminishing our lives and our communities: Crime, Drug Addiction, Mental Illness, and the Homeless. While the growth rate in Montrose is anticipated to be greater than both the Colorado and National averages (according to the Federal Reserve Bank economist at the Community Forecast Breakfast recently), in recent years, aspects of our crime rate per 1,000 residents have exceeded both the Colorado and the National averages.

The 2018 crime statistics recently released by the Montrose Police Dept. reflect a growing trend in many states. While a few crimes decreased, here are those that exceeded 2017 totals and the percentage of that increase: Assaults +31%; Domestic Violence 23%; Drug arrests (excluding marijuana) +34%; Felony adult arrests +49%; Felony juvenile

arrests +32%, DUI accidents +107% and calls for service +12%. An apparent rise in mental illness may also have contributed to an increase in suicides of +78%. A significant segment of professionals believe that the increase in mental illness, including suicides, is tied to the increase in drug addiction. Under-staffed law enforcement agencies, over-whelmed courts and a District Attorney's Office that is functioning well above its anticipated capacity are all contributing factors to our present state of affairs.

While we provide at least a dozen places to obtain free food and meals, and other resources for shelter, clothing and medical services for our transient population, it appears we have failed to adequately provide for the personal and property security of our friends and neighbors who live and work here. We appear to be rushing to mimic the decline of most large West Coast cities. Perhaps we shall soon also have a mobile app to show the locations of excessive human waste, as San Francisco now has. As a community and as individuals, we absolutely must elevate the

Montrose Police Dept. to a position of much higher priority than other more glamorous city "wants," now and in the future.

Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. is a Colorado non-profit program assisting both law enforcement and our communities by providing a secure and anonymous means of communication between an individual with information about a crime or criminal and law enforcement.

To provide an anonymous Tip on a crime or criminal (not presently occurring), call 970-249-8500, use the P3Tips mobile app or the P3Tips.com website. If the Tip results in an arrest, you may receive a cash reward. The mailing address for tax deductible donations and non-Tip related communications is 434 South 1st Street, Montrose, CO 81401.

Montrose is our community, our home, our workplace and our holiday destination.

What do you want it to look like tomorrow and after a decade of tomorrows?  
*John W. Nelson, Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers*

## WE THE PEOPLE CAN REIN IN GOVERNMENT

*Dear Editor:*

I think about the future because I have grandchildren. I wonder if the United States of America will even exist for them. The federal debt is more than \$22 trillion dollars with no end to spending in sight. Every man, woman, and child living in the United States today owes \$58,000 and climbing towards this debt. This is madness!

Today we have a federal government that continues to over step its bounds. Washington, DC will not fix itself. The rule of law is not enforced. The Supreme Court is making laws from rulings. And Congress stands silent. Who represents we the People?

When the framers gave us the U.S. Con-

stitution in 1787, they knew the people would need to be the ones to protect liberty for America to last. The framers knew it was natural for those in power to want more of it. So, a few days before the Constitution was finalized, the delegates unanimously decided to put a tool in place for proposing amendments to bring the government back under control. The amendment process is detailed in Article V. The two ways to propose amendments are through either the Congress or through State Legislatures by calling a Convention of States.

Article V of the Constitution has been described as a safety valve put in place by our Founding Fathers. They wisely anticipated that a day would come when the

federal government would become too dominant and usurp power that belongs to the states. Article V is the mechanism built into the Constitution to allow the people to take back their power and their rights.

We the people can rein in an out of control government. Click on the hyperlink provided below and read about the Article V Convention of States project. It's "a solution as big as the problem".

*Joe Fockler, Montrose*

*Article V Perspectives*

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[Colorado Convention of States Action](#)

*For more information contact*

[jfockler53@gmail.com](mailto:jfockler53@gmail.com)

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## **BOWMAN, GLASPELL QUESTION RIVER VALLEY INCENTIVES**

### **From pg 1**



**River Valley Health Care Clinic officials listen at the City Council Work Session on Feb. 19.**

Avenue in Montrose. The 11,200 square-foot facility will include 17 examination rooms, with an on-site pharmacy. Fifteen net new jobs will be created, Rosty said.

Though River Valley had originally sought incentives to purchase the former Montrose Athletic Club site, "In exploration of the building, that was very cost-prohibitive," Rosty said, noting that it was less expensive to construct a new clinic facility.

City Manager Bill Bell has already agreed to waive building permit and plan check fees of \$16,362, and the City will abate \$27,705 in water and sewer tap fees.

The [incentive request](#) includes job creation incentives of \$75K. "These jobs will be a great impact to our community," Rosty said. "They are brand new jobs needed as a result of a larger facility needing more employees.

"We are creating a new facility for patients who are not being served elsewhere in our community." She noted that PIC Place, which serves an overlapping population, is near capacity.

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Bowman pointed out that [Exhibit A in the work session incentives packet](#) lists salaries which in most cases would not support a household. "We are not funding new jobs that pay \$30,000 a year," Bowman said. "How can we talk about affordable housing when we are financing positions for people that can't afford to live here?"

Councilor Barbara Bynum pointed out

that in many cases a household has more than one income.

"Are they only going to hire people who are married?" Bowman asked. "...We should not be backing poverty level wages...we are promoting poverty...more kids on free and reduced lunches in our schools is not good for our community...half the kids in our district are getting free lunches, and this adds to that."

Following further discussion, Bynum said, "Staff did

what we asked them to do...I disagree that they are poverty level."

"Whatever we do, we need to be consistent," Mayor Anderson said.

Bowman said that the Western Slope is known for low wages. "We need the health care facility, but there's a bigger discussion here," he said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell questioned the overall management of the River Valley project. "I have concerns about providing a lot of this assistance," Glaspell said. "Sorry if I hurt feelings, but I think the program has had mismanagement...money was spent purchasing a facility that was not even renovate-able...and now we are getting this request."

Glaspell continued. "I don't want to be in the position of providing funding to someone halfway into a project...I have a problem with this occurring...I also have a problem with so many socialist projects in our small community. If we are lifting people, why are the numbers increasing so dramatically...they are already getting tax funding to build this facility...when does free stop?"

Said Bynum, "We are a pro-business city...the things we are doing as a city have really helped us grow."

She asked Glaspell if he was opposed to job creation.

"A lot of this is funded through tax dollars," Glaspell said. "At some medical facilities here in town, people in private business are working to make a profit...this is

in direct competition with those other facilities."

"For job creation, I don't think we should say that one job has more value to the community than another," Bynum said.

Councilors agreed to explore the matter in another work session.

Council considered a **requested encroachment permit** to allow a porch cover and parking of personal vehicles on City property at Montrose Estates; City staff proposed re-designating the 9,457 sq. ft. City "park" area as "right of way."

Also considered was the 2019 Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA) Ordinance, delegating authority to the METSA Board to set the user service rate charge.

Said METSA Chair Paul Gottlieb, "The increase of technology and in things we are mandated to do is basically driving this...it's not a tax, technically it's a user fee—if you don't have a telephone you don't pay."

Landlines are charged at the same rate as cell phones, though the number of landlines has dropped. The METSA user fee has not been increased in 15 years.

Council discussed authorization of \$210K for the **purchase of three used pieces of equipment at auction**—a 6,000-lb Telehandler Fork Lift, 4,000 gallon water truck, and mid-sized farm tractor.

Also discussed was **lease of a 35-acre city-owned parcel at 3645 North Townsend Avenue** to Stephen Taylor for the raising of cattle at an annual lease rate of \$1,000. Staff proposed alternative considerations in lieu of a lease payment, including a possible donation of \$1000 in processed meat to Sharing Ministries in Montrose or 50 manhours of education to community members on sustainable farming practices or "any combination thereof" equaling \$1,000 in value.

Scottish Highland cattle are "very long-haired, beautiful cows, as cows go," City Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner said. He said that keeping the property, which was purchased by the City several years ago as the potential site of an industrial park, is important as it

## ***BOWMAN, GLASPELL QUESTION RIVER VALLEY INCENTIVES***

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

is attached to a senior water right.

Councilor Judy Ann Files asked Turner why he had chosen Sharing Ministries to receive processed meat; Bowman asked Turner to make the proposed meat recipient more generic.

Council discussed the proposed J&L Jones Addition Annexation, consisting of 1.2 acres near 6900 and Oak Grove roads.

Police Chief Blaine Hall presented information on a Peace Officer Mental Health Support Grant program, and an application for grant funds to purchase a vehicle for the department's mental health clini-

cian to allow her more autonomy in providing support to law enforcement officers.

#### **COMMENTS**

Bynum thanked the City for supporting the public forum formerly held at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli and now held at the CASA facility.

Files talked about spending two days in Denver and visiting the state legislature. "There's big stuff coming to our state... cities being able to set their own minimum wage." She also questioned the iciness of the Sunnyside Roundabout

Mayor Anderson discussed the possibility of adding fluoride to local water once again; Utilities Manager David Bries spoke about pros and cons of fluoridation.

Chief Hall discussed a recent Street Crimes operation that resulted in two arrests and seizure of 33 grams of cocaine.

The City will hire 78 seasonal staffers for summer, Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox said.

Kelly Rhoderick of OBT said that the new visitor guide will be released the second week of April, and the new web site will go live on March 25.

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## COURT SYSTEM LEAVES CRIME VICTIMS FEELING UNHEARD, UNSAFE

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL- With a criminal justice system in which hardened criminals are soon back on the streets, just how safe are victims of crimes perpetrated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District?

In some cases, not very safe. Cheryl Boren met her alleged stalker, Michael "Rocket" McCullough, in 2012, when he was not using drugs or alcohol. "I had no idea who he was," she said, though she later learned of his lengthy arrest record and ongoing troubles with the law.

She has been trying to get away from him ever since.

"My case was on the front page of the *Montrose Daily Press* the day after my stalker was arrested with a homemade bomb," Boren said. "I have been left homeless and living in my car with broken out windows because of the running I have had to do from him."

In the State of Colorado, a [multitude of crimes](#) are addressed by the state's Victim's Rights Act (VRA). Approved by Colorado voters in 1992, the VRA defines a victim as, "Any person who is a victim of a criminal act, or such person's designee, legal guardian, or surviving immediate family members if such person is deceased."

In the Seventh Judicial District, a Victim Services Program supports victims of crime in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. Services include criminal justice advocacy, assistance with victim impact statements and the pre-sentence investigation process, crisis intervention, referrals to other victim services agencies, assistance with Crime Victim Compensation applications, and notification of changes in probation status.

However, services don't always reach those who need them most.

"I am now in hiding and can't seem to get any type of help to relocate from the area," Boren said, "although I was promised help. I had to attend a court date on Jan 14th at the 7th judicial courthouse in Montrose; as I left the building and walked

to my car, I was attacked by two individuals.

"Not one officer came out to help me."

It was only when Boren told the attackers that police were on their way to search her car, though it was not true, that the two ran off. Boren said she was later told that nothing had been seen on surveillance cameras at the Justice Center.

"Look at his history of violence," she said of McCullough, who has an extensive record of brutal crimes against women. "But to my knowledge nothing has even been done."

And when it comes to keeping her informed about his court appearances and whereabouts, "They don't notify me," Boren said. "they blow me off on everything. It's ridiculous."

7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Relations Professional Sherry McKenzie said that escorts are available for those who feel uncomfortable leaving the court room. "It does help us if we have communication, whether from the victim or from the witness," McKenzie said. "We don't always know how they are feeling."

If it seems that violent offenders are immediately released back onto the streets, that's because a variety of factors impact the amount of jail time served. Sentencing and bond determination are up to the judge; rules concerning the issuance of bonds are decided by the legislature, she said.

Also, "Many jails, whether rural or metropolitan, are full or at capacity," McKenzie said. "That could have something to do with it."

Every situation is different, she said. Even "victim" status is determined by a variety of factors.

For former Ridgway resident Sue Williamson, not to be considered a "victim" in a



Courtesy image.

case involving her young daughter has had devastating impacts.

"In January of 2015 I reported a sexual assault crime against my minor daughter by my 32-year old boss," Williamson said. "He started grooming her after we lost my dad and my daughters' dad. My daughters were 12 and 14 at the time of our tremendous loss."

Williamson's former boss was finally charged, but pled not guilty at first, she said.

"He finally pled guilty in August of 2017 after 32 months of us suffering slander, attacks, revictimization, harsh judgment, moving, losing our everything," Williamson said. "This criminal process was strung along so long that his victim (now 18) was released from both restraining orders. Her perpetrator is now her manager, at the same ranch where I worked happily and whole-heartedly before this crime."

"He is still on probation for sexually assaulting her."

Still, "The 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Probation would not and still won't take my evidence as I wasn't listed as a victim," Williamson said. "Dealing with the victim advocates, with (attorneys) Seth Ryan and Ian Fowler, with the probation department and with the District Attorney Dan Hotsenpiller was like having three years of additional crime against my family, non-stop."

"I believe most victims would choose not to report a crime a second time after dealing with the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial," Williamson said.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Boren said she is still waiting for victim reimbursement funds for damage that her stalker recently inflicted to her vehicle's windows and tires.

"They tell me I'm first on the list."

# BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



## ATTENTION: EVENT & WEDDING PROFESSIONAL ...

Have you been dreaming of owning/managing your own event venue and wedding business?

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.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### AN APPEAL TO THE PASTORS OF MONTROSE

*Re: My recent experience with Church 180 and other churches of Montrose*

Editor:

All I was doing was looking for a church home, I had no desire to create problems, I just asked questions, to see if your Church was a good fit. I visited maybe four times, the first time I had an excellent time conversing with some members, the second time I was relatively silent, same with the third and fourth time, the fourth time You preached about 'Fake Doctrine' a message I can appreciate, I asked you to show me in the Bible where it says that Jesus is God, instead of explaining your position this is how you responded: (edited for brevity) "It seems as though you are misguided at best. If I thought that you had any intention of learning, I would explain to you where Scripture teaches Trinity theology but you're simply too arrogant minded to accept truth. Know that I will block any correspondence from you going forward. In addition, I'd also let you know that this is your formal written request not to come back to our church. you make several people uncomfortable, you are disruptive, and you come only for bad reasons. Please do not force our hand on this as we will take law enforcement action against you. Bryan Lark Pastor, CHURCH180 " REALLY??? Is this how you teach Love and Forgiveness? By calling the Cops if someone asks a question you don't know how to answer? or does not agree with you? is your Fear so strong that you would throw God out the Window ? For the record, my desire is not to impose my beliefs on you, when I am reviewing a church, I try to pick a belief that you would not agree with, just to see how you handle a disagreement, If you are following Jesus, you would use patience and reason to argue, just as Jesus commanded, this is my test to see if the church practices what they preach (1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.), I could care less if you disagree with me, I have many friends with many different beliefs, we all respect each other's opinions, we don't threaten each other or demean and insult, or marginalize each other, some are believers, some are not, each has something to contribute to the conversation, it's not a dic-

tatorship where we are threatened for not agreeing, it seems like Montrose churches are a dictatorship, if we do not agree with the pastor, we get threatened...I would love to find a church that doesn't threaten, marginalize, blame, or are quick to get offended, but I am beginning to think that church does not exist in Montrose, 'if you don't like the way we do Church, Go start your own', i have heard this from EVERY church i have attended, maybe there is something to this.. Anyone wanna help me start a Church? "Love your neighbor as you would Love yourself" does not include the phrase 'Unless you don't Like them' "44And they too will reply, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45Then the King will answer, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' 46And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Is that how you want to be treated? to be threatened if you don't agree with someone? Montrose has a serious teen suicide Problem, and by my experiences with the local Churches, I can see why; they have no desire to teach Love and Forgiveness, their only desire is to Judge others undeserving, the Church I have been attending, has never threatened me, they haven't asked me to leave, but they treat me with disrespect and condemnation, always trying to tell me what I am doing Wrong, instead of treating me with Respect, they act like I fell off the turnip truck yesterday as if I have not learned to discern, is this how the rest of the congregation in montrose is treated? No wonder there is a high suicide rate, the only thing you care about is your own peace of mind, and could care less about others, who cares if others are struggling with suicidal impulses, as long as they 'Obey' who cares how they feel? I ain't gonna hold back here, YOU are responsible for Montrose high suicide rates, The church is supposed to be a place to come to Heal, to get the Love and forgiveness, that Jesus commissioned you to teach, when someone is at the end of their rope and contemplating suicide

some will turn to the church to get the Love and forgiveness, seeking Healing, patience, understanding to be able to survive...that ain't happening in Montrose. they will get blamed and shamed, marginalized and threatened..this does not Prevent suicides, it encourages them..If you can't step up and start teaching what Jesus commissioned you to teach, and have to result to threats, then maybe you ain't got what it takes to be a Pastor.. It doesn't take a genius to bark orders and threaten people, you have lost your way, you could care less about the well-being of the average person, you just want to fill your seats with people who will kiss your butts and make YOU feel good about yourself. Since when is it ok for a pastor to threaten potential members? Pastors are supposed to be the Poster child of Love, Patience and forgiveness, the Example, and so far I have only met one, and he is about to step down from the pastor role.. I beg of you to quit being so self-centered and start giving a crap about the Well-being of the general population, quit making it about You, quit playing lip service and quit Posturing, and step up and learn what Jesus was teaching., Jesus did not come here just to give us a list of rules that we can beat over other's heads, there is a reason for the rules, and you are so focused on 'Obey' you have lost why the rules are there in the first place. Jesus did not say 'Love just the ones who you like' he said Love EVERYONE, Love is an action, not a feeling, and by the way you have acted, there is no love there, only condemnation and contempt, you have created Echo Chambers of Contempt, not Love.

If this is what the Church has become, a place to come to get judged, blamed, accused, threatened...then what is the point of Church? How does that teach the Love of Christ?

"Without understanding there can be no compassion, Without Compassion there can be no Love -Jung" You have failed to understand, you have failed to Love, Step Up, or Step Down. (Edited for brevity—full version on my Facebook wall or Montrose Free Speech.)

*Timothy Storrs, Montrose*



## HARMONIOUS HEARTBEAT TO PRESENT ENDEARING CONCERT

### *Special to Art & Sol*

OURAY-Lyrical, harmonious, upbeat, and intimate Heartbeat will perform at the Wright Opera House in Ouray their “Live As One” concert on Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m.

Heartbeat is an eight-woman a cappella group formed in Telluride by Ulli Sir Jesse and Sally Davis in 1994.

Genres featured at their concerts often include folk, pop, bluegrass, jazz and foreign folk songs. Their current “Live As One” concert is inspired by a line from John Lennon’s song “Imagine.”

Featured pieces will encompass tunes from Japan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Tanzania, Ecuador, United Kingdom, United States, India and more.

The group has performed in many cities and venues around Colorado and Utah, to include the Telluride Bluegrass and Telluride Jazz Festivals, the Blue Sage in Paonia, the Art Center in Moab and the Sand Island Bluegrass Festival in Bluff, Utah.

“But some of our favorite concerts have been the impromptu ones, such as the post office, the bike path tunnel, the stairwell at the elementary school and even standing in the Gunnison River singing to boaters,” says member Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. “I think that part of what

makes our concerts so much fun is that we have a lot of energy and spontaneity every time we perform. We’re up there having a great time making music.”

The group feels singing together is a collaborative creation.

“We all are responsible for finding music, for directing, for setting rehearsals and for doing what needs to be done. We all bring different talents and music tastes to the group.” notes member Nancy DeCastro.

Current members of the group are Suzan Beraza, Nancy deCastro, Donna Burd Fernald, Judith Kohin, Jen Sher Birrittella, Ulli Sir Jesse, Deb Stevens and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. Tickets are \$12 in advance online, \$15 at the door and \$3 for students (18 years and under). More information and tickets may be found at [www.ocpag.org](http://www.ocpag.org). The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is a not-for-profit or-



*(From L-R) Nancy deCastro, Judy Kohin, Suzan Beraza, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Deb Stevens, Ulli Sir Jesse, Jenny Birrittella and Donna Burd Fernald. Courtesy photo.*

ganization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to the local area.

Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County’s residents and visitors.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### OPEN BARD POETRY SERIES TO FEATURE ROB CARNEY



Utah poet Rob Carney. Courtesy photo.

*Special to Art & Sol RIDGWAY*-On Thursday, March 7, the Open Bard Poetry Series will feature Utah poet Rob Carney. The reading will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sherbino Theatre, 604 Clinton Street, in Ridgway.

Rob Carney is the author of five poetry books, most recently

*The Book of Sharks* (Black Lawrence Press, 2018) and *88 Maps* (Lost Horse Press, 2015), which was named a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. Carney

lives in Salt Lake City where he is Professor of English and Literature at Utah Valley University in Orem.

A two-time winner of the Utah Book Award, Carney has received numerous prizes for his poetry, including the Terrain Poetry Prize and the Robinson Jefferson/Tor House Foundation Award.

His poems have appeared in dozens of journals, such as *Cave Wall*, *Columbia Journal*, and *Terrain* for which he has written a featured series called "Old Roads, New Stories."

The precise and sharp lines of the poems in Carney's *The Book of Sharks* build and interrogate mythmakers, turning to sharks to also turn one inward and outward, ex-

ploring one's purpose and place and the stories one tells to make meaning. In one poem, he writes:

their eyes, like pieces of the night  
brought nearer,  
their teeth indifferent as the stars,  
their purpose the same as the ocean's  
purpose:

to move, to arrive, to be full.

Doors as the Sherbino open at 6 p.m. and admission is \$5 or by previously-purchased Bard Card. Students and teachers are always free.

Audience members are advised to come early to get good seats and to sign up to read at the always-popular Open Mic following the featured performance.

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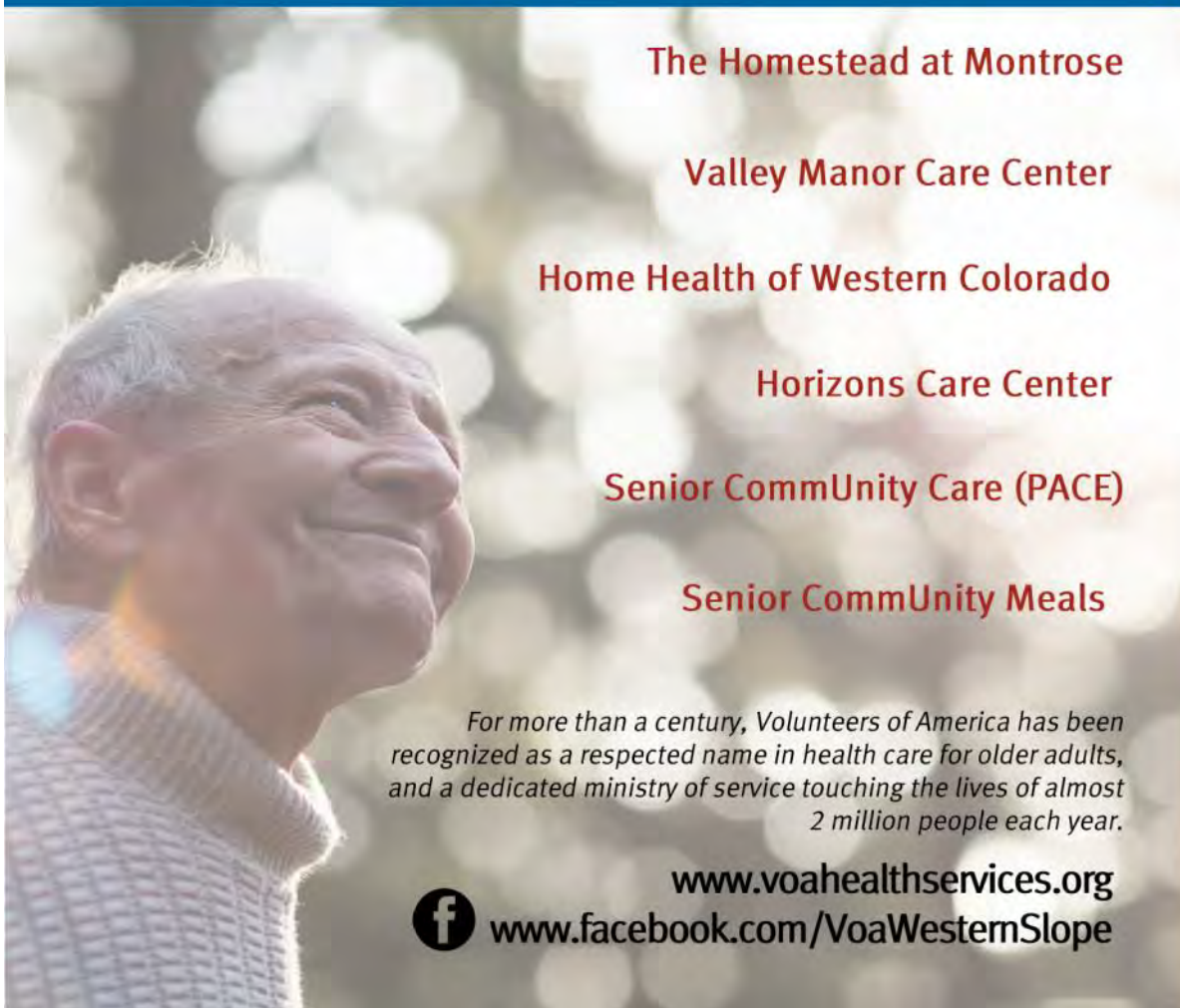
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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: CULINARY ARTS

### TWO MORE MEDALS FOR STORM KING DISTILLING CO. *Agave products gain recognition at national competition*



*Courtesy photos Storm King Distillery.*

*Special to Art & Sol*  
MONTROSE-Storm King Distilling Co. couldn't be more excited to announce that our Agave Especial and Agave Blanco both won bronze at the American Craft Spirits Association (<https://americancraftspirits.org/>) competition this month in the Distilled Spirits Specialty category out of a field of nearly 500 entrants from around the US. 30 judges considered such things as aroma, palate concentration, body and character. Storm King's Agave spirits are made from 100% organic Blue Weber Agave nectar. After fermentation and distillation, the Agave spirits are proofed with our delicious local rocky mountain snow melt. Our Agave Blanco

echoes the tasting notes of its close cousin, Tequila, though with a softer overall pallet and sweeter finish.

Our Agave Especial is a limited edition product, with each batch treated slightly differently during the resting phase. Batch 1 of our Agave Especial spent 47 days in a Napa Cabernet barrel. The barrel was sourced from Llamas Family Wines, owned by the Castillo Family. This spirit echoes the importance of family, quality and technique reflecting the true values of Storm King Distilling Co. Batch 2 also spent 47 days in the same Napa Cabernet barrel as batch 1, but it is now being finished in a used rye whiskey barrel. Batch 3 has been resting in a used rye whiskey barrel alone. Each of these expressions is expected to

provide the drinker with a different flavor profile.

Storm King was also honored to have won the 2018 Montrose Chamber of Commerce's Best New Business, in January. We would like to extend our gratitude to our customers and community for making this possible and for supporting us. We look forward to continuing to find ways to be a force for good in our community and industry.

Next month we look forward to pouring samples of our spirits at the Taste of Colorado event at The Bridges in Montrose on March 7. We will also be hosting a St. Patrick's Weekend Green Party on Friday March 15, complete with drink specials and live music. DLICIOUSFOODCO will be cooking up some Irish inspired food specials. On Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> we'll be continuing the celebrations with Irish inspired brunch specials.

Storm King's spirits are now also available at The Liquor Store in Montrose, Pheanias, Horsefly Brewing at Montrose Regional Airport and Remington's at the Bridges. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook (@StormKingDistilling) to keep up to date on manufacturing news and happenings in the tasting room. We look forward to seeing you at: 41 W Main St, Montrose, CO 81401. Come hungry and check out DLICIOUSFOODCO's menu. Winter Hours: Thursday and Friday 4-9pm, Saturday 1-9pm and Sunday 10-2pm.



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# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## What box do you check on the census?

**RACE** ... It's a great symbol of this country's failure to fully embrace science that in so many places in our lives, not just the census, we are required to describe our race ... As Clara Moskowitz of the *Scientific American* (July 13018) observes in reviewing DeSalle & Tattersall's *Troublesome Science: The Misuse of Genetics and Genomics in Understanding Race* (Columbia Univ. Press, 13018), "Genetically, race is a meaningless concept, yet our society seems far from ready to stop dividing people into racial categories" ... I think of all the trouble Sen. Elizabeth Warren has had with her family ancestry claim of being Native-American ... I have Spanish blood on my mother's side, so I always cite that I am Hispanic, even though it is just a small percentage (based on our family's oral history – not on any genetic testing so far). And I go back and forth on calling myself "white." Truth is, I'm olive-skinned, of mostly Italian heritage, but with a mélange of Scots-Irish, English and maybe some Japanese tossed in there (my maternal grandmother was born and raised in Japan) ... But I really do not like calling myself "white." "Anglo" works for me because of some English ancestors, but really I've taken to calling myself "Euro-American" or just plain "Euro" these days. If we have to call out our ancestry on documents, unscientific as it may be, adding a prefix to "American" levels the playing field. African-American. Native-American. Asian-American. Euro-American ... To quote Moskowitz, "Evolutionary biologist DeSalle and paleoanthropologist Tattersall debunk the idea as a useful scientific classification, explaining how the technique of taxonomy – the grouping of organisms based on shared characteristics – fails to find significant genetic differences among groups we commonly call races. They bemoan the fact that they have to keep refreshing this debate (this is their second book on the topic)" ... As DeSalle and Tattersall note in the book, "As science, race may (or should be) be a dead issue, but it shows zombie-like tenacity on the

social and political fronts."

**DE COLORES** ... A recent study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* tested for color discrimination in infants and found they could distinguish five basic colors even before they could name them: red, green, blue, purple and yellow ... Not all color names do that. In Vietnamese, the color category for the sky and grass is *xanh*.

**ODDITEMS** ... No Colorado city made USA Today's list of 50 worst cities to live in America ... As a former Roman Catholic seminarian it pains me to learn that 6,721 American Catholic priests were reported to U.S. bishops for allegedly abusing children between 1950 and 2016, according to BishopAccountability.org where you can find an incredible archive of information on this lingering religious scandal ... Prominent public nutritionist watchdog, Marion Nestle, author of *Food Politics* and *Unsavory Truth* has debunked the current wisdom about the importance of breakfast, "Most of the research on why breakfast matters is done by the breakfast cereal companies – big surprise!" ... Swiss researchers have found a chemical compound in liverworts, perrottetinene, that has a similar --although slightly less potent -- effect as the THC found in *Cannabis spp.* According to *Science News* (Nov. 24, 2018 C.E.), "...lab tests with human brain cells and in mice revealed that, like THC, perrottetinene dampens the effects of pain signals" ... Recent archaeological finds in Saudi Arabia are suggesting that our *Homo spp* ancestors migrated through a lush green Arabian peninsula between 300,000 and 500,000 years ago. Stone tools among animal fossils at the *T'is al Ghadah* site and butchery marks on bones seem to confirm this new estimate.

**UNIONIZING** ... The Park City ski patrol, affiliated with the Communication Workers of America, reached a new contract with Vail Resorts last month. Crested

Butte ski patrolers are still in negotiations. The union also represents Telluride and Steamboat Springs patrolers ... The unions, tossed out of Colorado mining camps by heavy-handed militia tactics a hundred years ago, seem to be making a comeback in those camps turned ski resorts. Big Bill Heywood would be proud.



**CANNAPHOBIA** ... Pot has been around a long time. And so has the slang we use to name it. Our state has chosen to make the legal term for this plant the crypto-racist Hispanic slang, "marijuana." Some of us go high tone and scientifically correct by calling it "cannabis." Or we can go back to its Sanskrit roots and call it "ganja" ... In referencing David Crystal's *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* recently, it was surprising to find a slang South African term for cannabis dating back to 1670s – "dagga." That cannabis use pre-dates the founding of the Republic you would think might temper the "demon weed" mentality of some of our fellow Americans. But in this time of Trump, when Fox News, it would appear, has a lock on the truth *de jour*, facts are suspect. Science is clearly untrustworthy.

**WEEKLY QUOTA** ... Speaking of the current rate of species extinction that appears to be occurring somewhere between 100 to 10,000 times nature's regular pace, World Wildlife Fund Director Mike Barrett was quoted in *The Week* (Feb. 22, 2019 C.E. issue), "We are sleepwalking toward the edge of a cliff ... This is far more than just being about losing the wonders of nature, desperately sad thought that is. This is actually now jeopardizing the future of people. Nature is not 'nice to have' – it is our life-support system."



# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## THE TALKING GOURD

### A love Poem

Charred air tangles with stale beer  
 as a man curls into a sidewalk  
 that is stained with footprints  
 of people who, with tilted heads  
 gaze at shimmering boxes creeping heavenward  
 while off-key horns hum so loud,  
 you worry that the melody could carry you  
 from Union Square to West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
 and as a bitterness bites your tongue  
 you think, "I am in love."

-Allison Snyder  
 Ophir

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & OUTDOORS

### CPW VOLUNTEER LEADS RESCUE OF BALD EAGLE NEAR ELEVEN MILE PARK

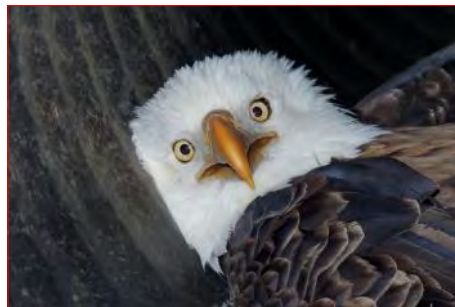
*Special to Art & Sol*

TELLER COUNTY-It took more than three hours and required crawling through a narrow drainage culvert under a road as a Colorado Parks and Wildlife volunteer and a team of concerned neighbors rescued an injured bald eagle near Eleven Mile State Park. The dramatic rescue occurred in temperatures near zero and involved pulling the eagle out on a sled through deep snow.

It all started Sunday afternoon as a man walking his dog in Eleven Mile Canyon below the dam and park and noticed a bald eagle sitting on an unusually low branch. He notified a neighbor who tried to catch the eagle, but only scared it into the drainage culvert.

A call for help reached Teller County and CPW volunteer Joe Kraudelt, who was recently honored by CPW's Southeast Region for his volunteer work with the agency since 1990 including serving on the county Bear Aware team and frequently transporting injured wildlife to rehabilitation facilities.

Kraudelt drove to the canyon armed with a fishing net and a large plastic dog



*CPW Courtesy photos of injured bald eagle near Eleven Mile Park by Denise Kelly.*

kennel to catch and transport the eagle. "It was trapped under the road in a culvert that was 24-inches in diameter and 20 feet long," Kraudelt said. A slender member of the rescue team squeezed inside to chase the injured eagle toward Kraudelt and other rescuers at the other end of the culvert.

"We worked three hours until finally I was able to get my net over it," Kraudelt said. "One of the guys grabbed its wings and I grabbed its talons and we put it in our dog crate. It was a real team effort."

The eagle was taken to Catamount Wildlife Center in Woodland Park where rehabber Terri Collins had it checked by a veterinarian on Monday. It was deter-

mined the eagle had a bruised wing and a claw missing from one talon.

The eagle was taken Wednesday to the Wildlife and Nature Discovery Center's raptor campus in Pueblo for rehabilitation. It is expected to make a full recovery. "This is a great example of the dedicated work of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's volunteers," said Tim Kroening, CPW wildlife officer in Teller County who works closely with Kraudelt. "They care so deeply for the wildlife and will go out in terrible weather on weekends and holidays to help perform a rescue like this. Our agency, and the wildlife of Colorado, are so fortunate to have committed volunteers like Joe."

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### MONTICELLO COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT METHODIST CHURCH

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-In America: *Killing the American Dream*, Monticello College president Shanon Brooks presents hands-on solutions for restoring an America that is quickly disappearing. These remedies for re-energizing the forgotten principles of liberty have been forged on a unique college campus, and will inspire those who are wondering if it's too late to restore our great American Legacy. Dr. Shanon Brooks, President Monticello College, will speak March 14, at 7 p.m. at Montrose United Methodist Church 19 South Park Avenue (use basement door facing Park Avenue)

Contact Liz Ackerman for more information – 970-249-1033/ejmackerman@live.com

### KAFM CELEBRATING 20 YEARS THIS SPRING FUND DRIVE!

*Special to Art & Sol*

GRAND JUNCTION-KAFM Community Radio is turning 20 years old! This year's annual Spring Fund Drive is focused on celebrating 20 years of community radio and involvement. The KAFM Community Radio Spring Fund Drive takes place from March 8-15. KAFM Community Radio is a non-profit, member powered radio station that relies on member and volunteer support to provide The Grand Valley with a variety of musical and community affairs programming. This year's Spring Fund Drive features a give-away for two tickets to Tedeschi Trucks Band at Red Rocks Amphitheatre with lodging on July 27th. Pledges of \$120 or more to KAFM Community Radio during the fund drive will be entered to win this exciting package valued over \$600! Pledge online through [kafmradio.org](http://kafmradio.org).

KAFM was founded in 1999 by a group of civic minded citizens and has grown tremendously since then. Along with the variety of musical programming, KAFM also works alongside the community with special interest programs, partnerships with non-profit organizations, special events, and engaging concerts in the Radio Room and the East and West Galleries. KAFM Community Radio is proud to provide a place for local citizens to explore volunteering while connecting with their community and introducing themselves to new ideas and musical genres. KAFM Community Radio has found amazing success and growth over the past 20 years with the help and continued support of dedicated volunteers and community members.

Throughout 2019, KAFM is excited to host special events to celebrate 20 years

of community radio and recognize the journey along the way.

The Spring Fund Drive will feature a Beer Tasting on Friday, March 8th from 5-7 pm, a Bloody Mary Brunch on Saturday, March 9th from 9 a.m.- 1p.m., and Food Frisbee Tacos on Tuesday, March 12th from 12-1pm. Additionally, KAFM will be hosting two exciting musical performances in The Radio Room to celebrate the Spring Fund Drive! Moors & McCumber will be performing on Sunday, March 10th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. To close out the fund drive, Embodying Rhythm: Marimba Ensemble will perform on Friday, March 15th at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. To purchase tickets and receive more information on events, visit [kafmradio.org](http://kafmradio.org) or call 970-241-8801.

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### MODERN MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BLUE SAGE CENTER IN PAONIA MARCH 1-2

*Special to Art & Sol*

PAONIA-Modern Music Festival: March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm at Blue Sage in Paonia. March 1<sup>st</sup> will be the World Premiere of "The River Whispers" composed by Angel Lam, performed by Hub New Music Ensemble and Kojiro Umezaki. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be "Soul House" with performances by Hub New Music Ensemble and Susan Ellinger. Contact us at [info@bluesage.org](mailto:info@bluesage.org) or 970-527-7243 for more information.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-STATE & JUWI LAUNCH 100-MEGAWATT SPANISH PEAKS SOLAR PROJECT

*Tri-State is currently top solar generation and transmission cooperative in nation*

#### Special to Art & Sol

WESTMINSTER-Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the nation's leading generation and transmission cooperative for solar energy, will more than double its emissions-free renewable energy from the sun through a new project announced today with Boulder, Colorado based juwi Inc.

The 100-megawatt Spanish Peaks Solar Project is Tri-State's second utility-scale solar energy project with juwi, the U.S. subsidiary of Germany-based renewable energy company juwi AG. The project is adjacent to the 30-megawatt San Isabel Solar Project in Las Animas County, Colorado, which was developed by juwi and began producing power for Tri-State in 2016.

Tri-State, a wholesale cooperative power supplier owned by 43 member electric cooperatives and public power districts, will purchase the entire output of the project over the 15-year term of Tri-State's power contract. The 660-acre project includes more than 300,000 photovoltaic solar panels on single axis tracking arrays to follow the sun throughout the day and serves the energy needs of 28,000 rural homes.

This is Tri-State's fourth utility-scale solar

project and the first renewable energy purchase agreement announced by Tri-State following the issuance of its request for proposals for renewable energy supply in June 2018.

"Tri-State secures renewable energy with the highest value at the lowest cost for our member cooperatives, and this is our largest, most cost-effective solar project to date," said Mike McInnes, Tri-State's chief executive officer. "By developing renewable projects through Tri-State, our members take advantage of an economy of scale unavailable in smaller projects."

"We're pleased to once again collaborate with juwi on a project that benefits all of our members and further diversifies our power supply," said McInnes.

"juwi is proud to support the economically-savvy and environmentally-sound vision of Tri-State and will continue working with Tri-State and the people of Las Animas County to ensure the Spanish Peaks Solar Project delivers reliable solar energy for many years to come," said Michael Martin, juwi's chief executive officer. "As a Colorado company, our team is particularly excited to develop, build and operate a power plant of this magnitude within our home state."

The Spanish Peaks Solar Project is located

approximately 20 miles north of Trinidad, Colorado, within the service territory of San Isabel Electric Association (SIEA), a Tri-State member system serving all or parts of seven counties in southern Colorado. Like Tri-State, SIEA is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative.

"This project is just another significant step forward into the future not only for San Isabel Electric's members but for electric co-ops across Colorado and the west," San Isabel Electric Chief Executive Officer Reg Rudolph said.

In addition to the Spanish Peaks and San Isabel solar projects, Tri-State also purchases the full output of the 30-megawatt Cimarron and 25-megawatt Alta Luna solar projects in New Mexico.

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Tri-State is currently the largest solar generation and transmission cooperative in the nation. Nearly a third of the energy consumed by Tri-State's members comes from emissions-free renewable energy.

Construction of the Spanish Peaks Solar Project is expected to begin in 2022, supporting 150 jobs during the peak construction period.

The project is anticipated to be completed in 2023.



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: PEOPLE ON THE RISE

### HABITAT NAMES ERICA WEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

REGIONAL-Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans has named Erica Weeks as new executive director of the non-profit.

Weeks brings experience in the public sector, non-profit administration, grant writing and fundraising as well as an appreciation for safe, affordable housing to the position.

"Housing is a top priority for our region and I share the vision that every family in Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel county deserves access and opportunity to a home that meets those standards," said Weeks.

"After an extensive national search, it's great to find our new executive director right here in western Colorado. She brings great leadership and experience to the helm and the Board looks forward to working with Erica in continuing our efforts to provide affordable housing to the region," said John Eloe, Chairman of the Board. Weeks grew up in the Olathe and Montrose area and graduated from Olathe High School. She completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science

at the University of Colorado at Denver and will graduate in May with an advanced degree in Public Administration from Villanova University. She also holds several certificates in city management and grant writing and management. "My vision has always been to serve the community and region I call home in a meaningful way. It is an honor to step into this position and I'm excited for the opportunity to work with the Habitat board and staff," said Weeks.

Weeks returned to Montrose in 2007. Since then, she has helped raise and manage over \$17 million in grant procurements. Most recently, she has worked across the state with RPI Consulting to tackle many of the unique challenges that face rural communities, such as employment, business attraction and retention and community development.

The local Habitat affiliate has seven homes, including triplexes in Montrose and Ridgway, slated for construction by the end of 2020. Weeks is excited to roll



*Habitat Chair John Eloe and new executive director Erica Weeks. Courtesy photo.*

up her sleeves to see each of these projects through to completion, as well as to plan the organization's next steps. "If I don't show physical investment in the mission, I can't expect others in the community to invest either." To learn more about Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans or to join their efforts to connect more local families with safe homes and affordable mortgages, visit [build-inglives.org](http://build-inglives.org).

### DANIKA GILBERT TO PRESENT MOUNTAINEERING PROGRAM

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE--Danika Gilbert, mountaineer from Ridgway, captivated the community with her program last year about the difficulties and rewards of climbing mountains with young Afghan women. She joins the friends and members of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas on Friday, March 1st, at 7:15 pm in the Chipeta Room of the Ute Indian Museum for a film and lecture program.

She will show the HBO Vice Impact Production documentary film, "Ascending Afghanistan: Rising Women," which follows Afghanistan's first female mountaineering team as they attempt their first ascent of a previously unclimbed peak in the stunning Panjshir province. Thirteen

Afghan women were the first to summit this 17,000-foot peak. They not only conquer the mountain, but also conquer the complex social boundaries of being young women in Kabul returning home victorious.

"As Expedition Leader, I am responsible for team excursions in Afghanistan to climb mountains," she explained, "beyond that, I am mentor to the young women, responsible for gear and logistics and training. I am much more than a guide."

Gilbert has been the Expedition Leader and team guide with Ascend since 2015. The goal of Ascend is to "foster unity, teamwork, and leadership skills through exceptional athletic achievement with the belief that, working together, young peo-



*Ascend climbers. Courtesy photo.*

ple can play a central role in a nation's transition from war to peace."

The program begins at 7 p.m. with a short annual meeting, followed by Gilbert's presentation at 7:15 p.m. Chai and cookies will be served.

Donations are welcome at the door.

For more information contact 970-275-3671.



# 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.

**March 1**-Danika Gilbert, mountaineer from Ridgway, joins the friends and members of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas on Friday, March 1st, at 7:15 pm in the Chipeta Room of the Ute Indian Museum for a film and lecture program. The program begins at 7 p.m. with a short annual meeting, followed by Gilbert's presentation at 7:15 p.m. Chai and cookies will be served. Donations are welcome at the door. For more information contact 970-275-3671.

**March 3**-4 p.m. – Heartbeat "Live As One" a cappella choir concert, Wright Opera House in Ouray. Advance tickets \$12, \$15 at the door, \$3 Students (18 and under) [www.ocpag.org](http://www.ocpag.org)

**March 5**-Fat Tuesday Fundraiser which supports Colorow and Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday March 5, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Tickets are available at [www.bcbgc.org/events](http://www.bcbgc.org/events)

**March 5**-6:30 – 8 pm at Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, author and fort volunteer historian Dave Fishell will present a fascinating program on the fort and the trail. During the early 1800s Fort Uncompahgre, once located near today's town of Delta, was a busy fur trade era post. Fishell will also cover horse stealing, the slave trade that probably passed through the fort, flintlock rifles, and how not to throw a tomahawk.

**March 7**-Hwy 550 Open House, 5 to 7 p.m., Montrose County Public Works Office, 63160 LaSalle Road, Montrose.

**March 7**-Open Bard Poetry Series will feature Utah poet Rob Carney. The reading will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sherbino Theatre, 604 Clinton Street, in Ridgway. Doors as the Sherbino open at 6 p.m. and admission is \$5 or by previously-purchased Bard Card. Students and teachers are always free. Audience members are advised to come early to get good seats and to sign up to read at the always-popular Open Mic following the featured performance.

**March 7**- Taste of Colorado 2019 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at The Bridges in Montrose

Tickets are \$30 online at [www.montrosewinefestival.com](http://www.montrosewinefestival.com) or at The Liquor Store. All proceeds benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club.

**March 7**-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. 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.

**March 8**-Join author and adventurer Jon Waterman at the Montrose Library Meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m., as he shares his observations from 40 years of mountaineering on Denali. The evening will culminate with a visit to his latest book, *Chasing Denali: The Sourdoughs, Cheechakos and Frauds Behind the Most Unbelievable Feat in Mountaineering*. Book sales and signings will follow the presentation. For more information, please call the library at 249-9656.

**March 8**-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. 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. 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>.

**March 11**-6:30 Montrose Library meeting rm: Citizens' Climate Lobby tells about Legislation in new 2019 Congress to curb carbon emissions. All interested in environment welcome [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) 240-9146.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

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[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN

*Of the photo below, Deb said that she snapped it Thursday, Feb. 21, "...as the Cimarrons became enveloped in an ethereal blue haze."*



Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror...



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