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the Montrose Mirror

Fresh news for busy people... weekly on Mondays!

Issue No. 336 Aug. 5, 2019

PRIVATE AMBULANCE OPERATOR FEELS THE SQUEEZE AS TAXPAYER-FUNDED DISTRICTS EXPAND SERVICES



Backup ambulances at Transcare, Montrose County's only private ambulance service provider. Transcare has found it hard to compete with taxpayer funded ambulance districts.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL- According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of EMTs and paramedics in Colorado is expected to increase by 4.2 percent between 2018 and 2020, and by 32.4 percent by 2026. Here in Montrose County, much of the job growth has been with governmental entities.

When Montrose County reviewed and approved ambulance service licenses at the special Board of County Commissioners meeting of June 26, there were 27 ambulances (an increase of three since 2015) approved to operate in Montrose County, on behalf of nine different service providers. Of those ambulance service providers, just one is structured as a private business, Transcare Ambulance Service, which operates one ambulance here.

PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC

Transcare Chief Executive Officer Allen Hughes believes that a surge in

[Continued pg 7](#)

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REZONING 931 N. PARK

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a [work session](#) at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5 and for a [regular meeting](#) at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

WORK SESSION

Discussion items will include a presentation on short term rentals by Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen; a Public Safety Sales Tax Update by Police Chief Blaine Hall and City Manager Bill Bell; and authorization of a Gray & Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant presented by Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer.

City Engineer Scott Murphy will discuss the Riverbottom Drive Reconstruction contract.



931 North Park Avenue. Courtesy image City of Montrose.

[Continued pg 9](#)

in this issue

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

[2019 Olathe Sweet Corn Festival photos!](#)

[Library Director fails to update behavior policy!](#)

[A Fresh Point of View By Jack Switzer!](#)

DIRECTOR FAILED TO UPDATE LIBRARY'S BEHAVIOR POLICY

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—A change to the behavior policy intended to keep patrons safe was supposed to be posted by Library Director Paul Paladino at the Montrose Regional Library in February—but as of Friday, Aug. 2, the update had still not been made. The proposed change would preclude sleeping at the library. According to the [minutes of the regular board meeting of Feb. 4](#), Montrose Regional Library District Board of Trustees President Caroline Evans “brought up the issue of homeless persons using the library facility, with particular concern for safety issues that may arise.”

The minutes go on to provide a specific example, “The tables that were in the lobby were moved due to a CMU student feeling uncomfortable being watched entering the public restroom. Most issues that arise are approached via the Behavior Policy or referred to the police department in the case of an emergency. Paul plans to have a line added to the Behavior Policy that it is ‘not appropriate to use the library as a place for sleeping.’”

When contacted last week, Evans said, “We have a behavior policy. Staff follows the behavior policy. We are aware that people periodically spend the night on library grounds, but we do not patrol after hours and if they are parked on a public street it is a police matter.” Anyone who feels threatened or unsafe at the library should just call police, she said.

As of mid-July, a white van with Utah plates had been parked behind the Montrose Public Library for more than a month, with at least two individuals regularly sleeping there and making use of the library garden area as personal space by day. When asked about situation, Library Director Paul Paladino professed ignorance. “If they are parking on a public street, I have no control,” Paladino said when pressed for a response. “I can’t, ac-

cording to state law, talk about patron use of the library. It is a criminal offense for me to talk about any patron.”

The City of Montrose prohibits mobile homes and RV’s from being parked on a public street for more than 48 hours; however, Montrose Police Commander Matt Smith said no report had been received as of July 24.

Colorado Mesa University shares the building and campus with the Montrose Regional Library. CMU Montrose Director Gary Ratcliff raised concerns last winter over Lighthouse Homeless Shelter clients being dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon at the library and bothering co-eds on the CMU side of the building. When contacted for this story, Ratcliff said he had not been aware of the most recent “residents.”

Still, “If they are on the East side of the building, it starts becoming the campus and it becomes my business,” Ratcliff said. “They do have their civil liberties—but so do our students.”

The van that was parked at the library in June and July was not the property of the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter, Lighthouse Board member Chris Hauck noted. “We would not let people sleep in our van,” Hauck said. “And our van is in use by agricultural workers at this time of year.”

Hauck expressed frustration that the City’s Planning Commission recently denied an application to turn the former Powderhorn Industries facility at 971 North Park Avenue into a dedicated shelter for homeless people.

“The heck of it is, this is a City problem,” Hauck said. “We are trying to help them solve it with volunteer help and grant funding, and we get turned down by the Planning Commission.”

Though denied by the City’s planning commission, the shelter request is scheduled to come before City Council Aug. 6.



The library's Behavior Policy is not posted on the web site, but was eventually found in the library building (top row).

FEW OPTIONS FOR EXTENDED CAMPING

Despite the official designation of the MADA Facility at 17 North 6th Street as the single point of entry for homelessness, camping is not allowed at that location. Travelers who wish to remain for an overnight stay are welcome at the WalMart on South Townsend Avenue, but few legal options remain for homeless people seeking to camp for an extended period of time.

“Typically, if people are coming through and need a place to stay overnight, we don’t have a problem with that,” Montrose WalMart Associate Jeremy said. “If they are obviously homeless and want to camp for an extended period of time, unfortunately we can’t allow that.”

Montrose has a number of RV parks as well as a [KOA Campground](#), but rates can be prohibitive for those of limited means.

When asked about the van that was parked on South Third Street at the library garden area throughout June and July, Library District President Evans said by email, “The public is free to be on library grounds throughout the day as long as they are not causing a disturbance or breaking any laws.”

“A vehicle as you have described that is parked on the street is subject to police jurisdiction.”



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BENNET OFFICE LISTENS TO MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

Do you need help dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs, IRS, Social Security Administration, or another federal agency? Do you have a suggestion for Congress that will help your family or community? If so, then Senator Michael Bennet invites you to meet one-on-one with a representative from his office at the upcoming listening session.

Listening Session Details

Montrose County

Friday, Aug. 16

9:30 am – 1 pm

Naturita Community Library

Community Room

107 W 1st Avenue

Naturita, CO, 81422

To schedule an appointment, send an

email to [alysa-](mailto:alysa_logan@bennet.senate.gov)

sa_logan@bennet.senate.gov. Please in-

clude a brief description of the issue you

want to address, as this will help Alyssa assist you.

If you are already working with someone in Bennet's office, please include that information in your email, as well.

Those without email access can call 970-241-6631.

Constituents do not need to wait for listening session dates to ask for help or share opinions. Please call any Bennet office at any time for assistance.

PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATIONS PLANNED

Special to the Mirror

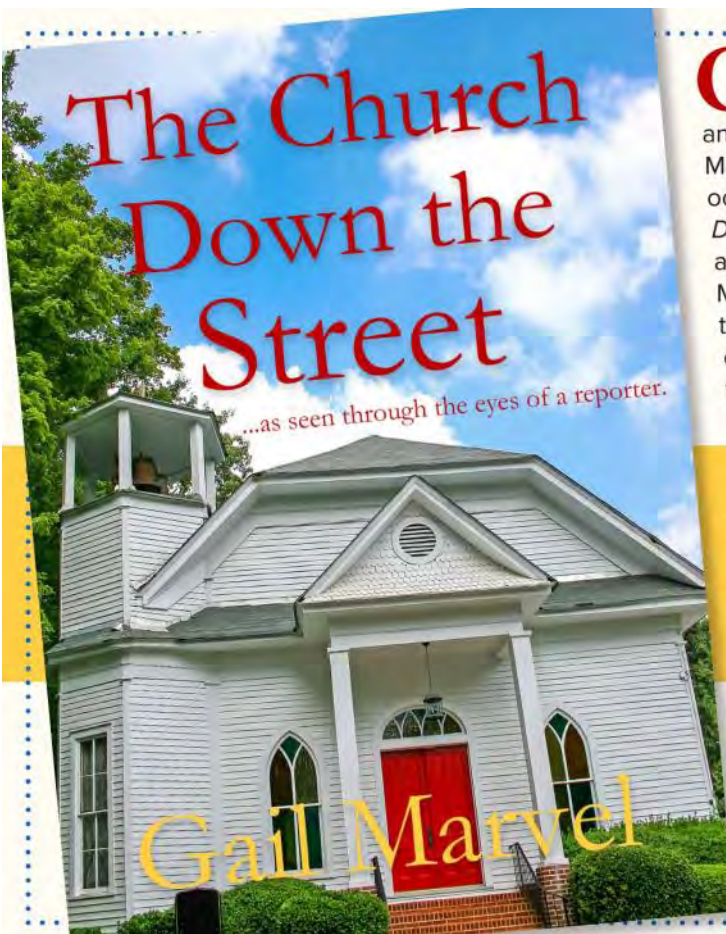
MONTROSE- Senior command staff at the Montrose Police Department will be joined by members of the Blue Ribbon Public Safety Citizen Advisory Committee (PSCAC) to host a series of presentations concerning the City's current law enforcement needs and a proposed Public Safety Sales Tax increase to fund additional offi-

cers and new and renovated police facilities.

The Police Department will hold Town Hall meetings at the Montrose Pavilion (1800 Pavilion Drive) on Aug. 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Aug. 20 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Light refreshments provided.

A third presentation will be held Aug. 21

at 8 a.m. at the Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA, building (147 North Townsend Avenue). The presentations will focus on the current assessment of the Montrose Police Department operations, crime statistics and analysis, and what the department needs to grow with the community to achieve the proactive policing goals of the future.



On the Western Slope of Colorado, within a 20-mile radius of the City of Montrose, there are more than 70 churches and houses of worship. Over a 2½-year period, reporter Gail Marvel visited most of these congregations on two separate occasions, resulting in approximately 120 visits. *The Church Down the Street* is a compilation of these visits organized in a topical format — Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message. Similar to the Apostle Paul writing about the church through the eyes of an apostle, *The Church Down the Street* is about the church as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

Gail Marvel's new book, *The Church Down the Street*, is now available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter



The individual stories of these visits were published in *The Montrose Mirror* and the archived stories, *Experiencing the Church* series (issues 90–150); and *Houses of Worship* series (issues 197–250), can be found at www.montrose.mobi/.

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PRIVATE AMBULANCE OPERATOR FEELS THE SQUEEZE AS TAX-PAYER-FUNDED DISTRICTS EXPAND SERVICES From pg 1

governmental entities providing ambulance service poses unfair competition. "Four of my staff left here last year...the Olathe Ambulance District can pay better, and they are a fire department."

For non-profit and governmental ambulance services, available revenue streams can include taxpayer-funded mill levies, Federal and State grant monies, and Federal and State funds for training and education.

Still, "They charge the same rates as Transcare," Hughes said. "The citizens are already paying for it more than once."

In 2018, Transcare (which has operated in Montrose since 2008) responded to 266 calls for ambulance service. By mid-July of 2019, that number was just 69. Still, one area where the company has seen steady growth is in the use of its ambulette service, Hughes said. Calls to date have outpaced last year's, he said. "There is a pent-up need in this area," Hughes said. "We can take someone to the hospital, stay with them, and bring them back—and you don't need to schedule it in advance."

"We are more of a transport company that provides medical escort services as needed," he said. "We provide door-to-door, or door-to-bed service—we make sure you get to where you're going, that there is heat and water there, and livable conditions. We help round up wheelchairs and walkers. Once everything is settled, we leave."

Unlike many providers in the health care field, Transcare sends just one bill to clients, he said, and is funded entirely through user fees.

By offering interfacility transport, private ambulance services allow those required to respond to 911 systems to stay within their geopolitical boundaries, he said.

And as a business, Transcare gives back

to the community, Hughes said. "We give back in the way every other taxpaying person does; we purchase supplies locally and we pay taxes on that. We also host Touch A Truck and career building events."

In Olathe, voters approved a 3.0 mill levy increase for EMS services in 2016, to "maintain current levels of service for the community's medical and fire-related needs." A news release circulated prior to the election cited a 60 percent increase in medical calls since 2003.

[In 2018, the Olathe Fire Protection District](#) acquired a new ambulance through a state grant and began to offer inter-facility transport services in cooperation with the Delta County Ambulance District. Olathe's Deputy Chief of Emergency Services Scott Fitzgerald, who joined the Olathe Fire Protection District three years ago, believes that the community has benefited from the changes that have been made in that time.

"One big thing we needed to do was to bring 911 service up to an acceptable level of patient care," Fitzgerald said. "And Fire and Ambulance were two different organizations in the same building...we didn't work together."

The two entities were combined, and additional staff were brought in, he noted. "We have about 30 people—we're fairly busy right now."

Olathe's Firemen are still volunteers; EMT's are paid different rates for pager time and for call time, Fitzgerald said.

"We answer anything that comes through dispatch," he said. "We have multiple ambulances and we can cover multiple calls." Staff are fully trained and receive continuing education. "We have advanced life support people on our ambulances," Fitzgerald said. "That's im-

portant to me."

Olathe Fire Protection District has been able to increase service levels and decrease response times, he said. Working relationships with other agencies and providers have improved as well.

"We are trying to do what we are asked to do," Fitzgerald said. "All of us are working together now."

"I love my work, and the people I work with," he said. "If you're here for a profit you're here for the wrong reasons—this is a dangerous job and people don't do it to make money."

Citizens who wish to visit with Olathe Fire Protection District Ambulance personnel can attend the upcoming open house event on Aug 8, he said.

In the long run, a County-wide increase in ambulances and emergency medical service benefits users.

"There's no question that services here have improved tremendously over the last 15 to 20 years," Montrose Fire Protection District Chief Tad Rowan said. Still, comparing a private ambulance service to one run by a government entity is comparing apples to oranges, he noted.

"The private ambulance company that is here was never intended to provide 911 service," Rowan said. "They came here to do interfacility and non-emergency transport."

Though other local agencies have now stepped in to compete for those types of transport, the Montrose Fire Protection District has not, he said.

"Our mission is 911 emergency response," Rowan said, "to provide what our taxpayers want us to provide."

"When you call 911, we all have the expectation that we will get a rapid, qualified response in the most efficient manner possible."

CLARIFICATION/CORRECTION

In Montrose Mirror Issue 334, comments made during the city council meeting and attributed to Mayor Dave Bowman were actually spoken by Save the Sculptures volunteer Bob Brown, and should read as follows:

...Brown said he had spoken with the owner's agent Ralph Walchle and was told that timed payments would be acceptable. "I am very happy to get to this point," he said. "This is a very important issue...we are optimistic about a positive solution...thank you all for taking up this issue."

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COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REZONING 931 N. PARK From pg 1

REGULAR MEETING

City Council will proclaim Aug. 9 as Montrose Coworking Day.

Council will consider the Annual Financial Audit for the year 2018, prepared by Holscher, Mayberry & Company, LLC. Copies of the Annual Financial Audit are available on the City of Montrose website at <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/DocumentCenter/View/39304> or by calling (970) 240-1422.

Council will consider a proposal by property owner Robb Ruyle to rezone the property at 931 N. Park Ave from I-1, Light Industrial, to B-3, General Commercial District and decide whether to uphold the Planning Commission recommendation of "No action." The application states, "It is planned that the Property be used to provide personal and social services and support for people needing them, including free food distribution, free hot meals, and

to provide temporary emergency and transitional shelter.

"It is also planned that the Property will become a center that will host and provide administrative support to a variety of social and charitable services providers, and a location from which they can provide case management and related ser-

vices to their clients."

Council will consider awarding a contract to GW Mechanical and Excavation in the amount of \$62,255 for a replacement hydrogritter for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT FATALITY IDENTIFIED

Thomas M. Canfield MD, Coroner
MONTROSE— On the evening of July 25, a 57-year-old Montrose male, Charles Burnen Cantrell, died in a motorcycle accident. The incident occurred on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management north of Montrose on Elephant Skin Trail. The case is under investigation by the Montrose County Coroner's Office of Medical Investigation and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. An autopsy is scheduled to determine the extent of injuries and the manner of death is accidental.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY UNDERSHERIFF INDICTED BY GRAND JURY FOR INTENT TO INDUCE CHILD PROSTITUTION, CHILD ABUSE

by Art Goodtimes

MONTROSE-Claims that Ouray County has been a hotbed of sexual improprieties got new life with accusations against former Ouray County undersheriff Richard Herman last month.

On June 27th, R. A. Herman was indicted on counts of attempted inducement of child prostitution and child abuse, the latter a Class 1 misdemeanor and the former a class 4 felony.

The alleged incident occurred on March 28th of last year, when Herman is accused

of driving up to a Montrose teenage boy and offering him money in exchange for sexual games. At the time Herman was an off-duty deputy and but it was before his appointment by Sheriff Lance FitzGerald as undersheriff.

According to Sue Williamson, a former Ouray County resident, "There are twenty plus years of corruption within the department that has been ignored by its leadership and concealed from the public. Supervisors not knowing of Herman's transgressions is like their not knowing the entire

department was part of a meth ring twenty years ago."

Herman was replaced as undersheriff on July 10.

His advisement is set for Aug. 26 in the 7th Judicial District Court at 2 p.m.



Former Ridgway resident Sue Williamson, above, has spoken out about corruption in Ouray County. Courtesy photo.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RELEASE OF PII BY BLM WOULD BE ILLEGAL

Editor:

Looks like a letter to the DOI Inspector General's office is in order regarding the BLM release about the King II coal mine expansion proposal stating that personal identifying info may be released to the public. This needs to be investigated since it would be illegal to release PII on anyone. Of course, anyone that volunteered or provided birth date and SSN in comments would have to be nuts. But it certainly appears to be a scare tactic by the BLM for those not in the know to not provide comments to the proposed federal action.

Douglas Crawford, Montrose

EXPECT SALES TAX HIKE TO HURT BUSINESS IN MONTROSE

Editor:

Last week I wrote about what cancelling TABOR would do to our state and local taxes. This week lets examine what increases in sales taxes, and the costs of doing business, will do to the merchants of Montrose.

Thirty years ago I incorporated a company in Nevada in response to my CPA's urging. Nevada has no corporate income tax. My reward was around \$5,000 a year in state income tax I did not have to pay. Following me, the next year, 46,000 out-of-state corporations were formed in Nevada. Year after year the parade went on with only the Good Lord knowing how many Nevada corporations were formed. Much of this business was taken away from the bordering states of California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Arizona. A small fortune just in fees accrued to the State of Nevada because of their tax structure and some forward thinking. A few years later Wyoming woke up and did the same thing.

When I lived in Northern Virginia, the Friday afternoon pilgrimage was to DC on the subway to buy booze. Why? No state liquor tax in DC. Virginia tried to stop it by posting cops at the Virginia subway stations and on the bridges stopping the Virginians returning from DC with their untaxed hooch. This 'police state' only lasted until the courts put a stop to it.

Salem County New Jersey does not collect the New Jersey state sales tax of 7%. Why? Because across the river in Delaware there is no sales tax and the Salem County folks can just drive across

the bridge, shop and return. And, surprises of surprises, they do!

Across the Connecticut River from Vermont, in New Hampshire, businesses are thriving selling all sorts of merchandise to Vermonters who do not want to support their state's sales tax.

People in Montrose who work in Grand Junction already do their shopping in Grand Junction because of the sales tax differential. Even Delta sales taxes are less---and Delta is closer.

And the list goes on and on and..... Just search the web. I like shopping main street with merchants I know. My neighbors after-all. But they will either need to lower their prices to cover the excessive sales taxes or I must go elsewhere. But they will not be able to reduce their prices because to stay in business they will have to make up for lost sales. Unintended consequences. Unless you are rich, spending wisely is what most of us must do.

This means that the businesses in Montrose will stagnate if the sales taxes in Montrose exceed those of surrounding counties/cities by much. Businesses will move out into the county (or into neighboring counties) instead of staying in Montrose city furthering the decline and decay of Main Street. Montrose already has one of the highest sales tax rates in Colorado and is one of only three jurisdictions that taxes groceries. When the sales tax gets high enough (and until you exceed it you will not know) the underground economy will flourish. Ever more business will be conducted in cash or barter, under the table, further depressing

the businesses in our community.

Of course, the last part of the shopping equation, and a part that businesses should know very well, is that world-wide competitive shopping on-line is now the everyday norm. While some law might be enacted in an effort to collect the sales tax on those purchases, what are those on-line purchases going to do for our local merchant's sales volumes?

The members of our tax and spend city council count on merchants and customers alike who will not notice, who will not recognize the approaching devastation and above all who will fail to speak up until their own government ruins their businesses; their incomes and their lifestyles.

And that archaic argument that the visitors/tourists are really who pay the sales tax is old and stale beyond its years. That was the mantra of the Montrose City Council when the grocery tax was foisted off on Montrose citizens. It is unmitigated balderdash to think that a person who is here for a week will bear the burden of the taxes. Visitors might buy groceries for one week; residents buy groceries for 52 weeks. Repeal of the sales tax on groceries might signal a new beginning toward making Montrose a more friendly place for our less affluent citizens to live. It is a regressive tax. But alas, we all know that taxes once enacted will be with us forever.

If I were a merchant in Montrose right now I would be screaming bloody murder, united with all my fellow downtown merchants!

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY CONSIDERS CHANGE TO OIL & GAS REGULATION APPROACH

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Commissioners will be considering a change in how the County approaches regulation of oil and gas development, in its Sept. 3, 2019 regular business meeting. In 2003, Delta County adopted oil and gas regulations to regulate surface impacts of oil and gas development.

The recently completed Master Plan envisions Delta County will have a vibrant, diverse energy development economy while also being a leader in protecting clean air and water, public health, safety, and welfare.

The master plan supports facilitating responsible beneficial energy development, and encourages the County to work with the State, Gunnison County, and energy producers in our watershed to mitigate impacts of energy development.

The oil and gas regulations that Delta County currently has in place are outdated and need updating; it's going to take time for the County to update the regulations. In the spring of 2019 the State adopted

new oil and gas legislation which changes how the State will regulate oil and gas.

The State has kicked off a multi-year process for updating their regulations; Delta County will work in partnership with the State to update their regulations and in turn, ours.

In the meantime, defending our current regulations, which we believe are inadequate, from lawsuits such as the one recently filed and then dismissed by Citizens for a Health Community is a waste of resources and tax payers dollars.

The State's current regulations are far more comprehensive than Delta County's current regulations. We believe our time will be better spent working with and through the State to achieve protections of public health, safety, and welfare on oil and gas development in Delta County.

The Board of County Commissioners will consider repealing our current oil and gas regulations as an interim step towards revamping Delta County's approach to regulation of the oil and gas industry. We are seeking a comprehensive approach to

oil and gas regulation that does not duplicate regulatory efforts at the state level but is focused and targeted to local needs not addressed by the State. Our current regulations do not achieve this.

We recognize that public participation is of utmost concern, and will be putting forward a new program for engaging with the community on oil and gas related activities in Delta County.

The community is also able to engage with the State through their review process. We encourage anyone concerned about oil and gas activity in our watershed become familiar with the State's process at: <https://cogcc.state.co.us/documents/permits/Permits%20Help/PublicCommentsOnApplications.pdf>

Moving forward, we will continue to work with the Oil and Gas Working Group and Planning Commission to develop a community engagement plan, to be used during a transition phase between our old oil and gas regulations and our future regulation, if the Commissioners opt to repeal the current oil and gas regulations.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MT VILLAGE INCENTIVES ALLOW CITIZENS TO SAVE MONEY, ENVIRONMENT

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE—The Town of Mountain Village is investing more than \$170,000 in community incentive programs focused on the environment that educate and reward residents and businesses for taking a range of environmentally friendly actions. All programs are open until funds are exhausted.

CEDAR SHAKE FIRE MITIGATION | \$50,000 (with support from TMVOA)

The Town of Mountain Village, in collaboration with the Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association as a funding partner, is committed to incentivizing property owners for preventive measures in wildfire hazard mitigation. Through the implementation of a Cedar Shake Incentive Fire Mitigation Program, a rebate is provided toward building permit fees when property owners re-roof their home or building from cedar shake shingles to town-approved fire-rated roofing material. Applicants are eligible for waiving 100 percent of their building permit fee.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION DEFENSIBLE SPACE | \$50,000 (with support from TMVOA)

Mountain Village wants to help its residents create defensible space around homes and buildings on their property to lower their wildfire risk. So, the town, in partnership with the Telluride Fire Protection District, created the Wildfire Mitigation Incentive Program with Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association and the West Region Wildfire Council as funding partners. Through this program, every homeowner received a postcard and a unique personalized website that informed them of their property's wildfire risk rating using a variety of site data. The Town rebates 50% of the cost up to \$5,000 for creating defensible space.

SMART BUILDING INCENTIVE | BUILDING FEE WAIVER – NO FEE WAIVER CAP

In an effort to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, the Town of Mountain Village offers property owners up to 100 percent off building permit fees with its Smart Building Incentive Program. The Smart Building Incentive Program offers

three owner incentives which can be used for individual building permit fee discounts, or collectively for a full fee waiver. This could save home-owners upwards of tens of thousands of dollars depending on project size.

DEED-RESTRICTED HOUSING INCENTIVE | FEE WAIVER – NO FEE WAIVER CAP

To encourage growth and additional deed-restricted housing construction in Mountain Village. The town is waiving all planning, development and building permit fees for deed-restricted housing units. By waiving town fees, the town seeks to encourage owners of deed-restricted units to maintain existing units and offer greater financial incentive to construct deed-restricted units on remaining deed-restricted properties.

COMPOST INCENTIVE | \$25,000

In support of TMV's zero waste goal, this program incentivizes homeowner's associations, hotels, and multi-unit facilities to install compost unit(s) and help reduce landfill waste. A rebate for 100 percent of the compost unit purchase is available up to a \$5,000 maximum spend. A portion of these funds may be used for composting equipment, infrastructure, advertising & marketing, and consulting experts.

FARM TO COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE INCENTIVE | \$30,000

Up to 60 Mountain Village residents that meet the annual household income qualifications can apply to receive a food share box of locally farmed produce for 14-weeks at a nominal cost. The program also aims to help reduce resident carbon footprint by reducing the need for participants to commute further for specific home food provisions. Additionally, it allows qualifying households to receive fresh locally sourced food items at a minimal cost.

HEAT TRACE INCENTIVE PROGRAM | \$5,000

Mountain Village wants its residents to take control of their roof and gutter heat trace system. So the town is funding this incentive program aimed at improving the safety and efficiency of heat trace systems commonly applied on roofs and gutters by offering a free system controller valued at

\$380. To take advantage of this free offering, Mountain Village residents will need to follow a few steps, which are worth it: using an estimated 25 amps and 230 volts supplying a heat trace system on a home without controls from November to March may cost a resident approximately \$2,277 per zone. With the use of controls and a properly installed system, a resident may save 30- to 50-percent of their electricity costs per winter.

SOLAR ENERGY REBATE | \$5,000

The Solar Energy Incentive Program is another creative way that Mountain Village encourages the responsible use of natural resources throughout the community. With that, the town is offering significant savings to those who install solar on their home or business. First launched in 2014, the Solar Energy Incentive Program provided a rebate of \$0.40 per watt of installed power generated by the sun. In addition to San Miguel Power Association's current rebate of \$0.75 per watt and the current federal tax credit of 30 percent.

SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLS INCENTIVE | \$5,000

This innovative program intends to educate the community about ways to prevent water loss, both inside and outside the home, and will encourage property owners to install devices on their water systems to eliminate water waste and conserve. The Smart Water Controls Incentive Program will reimburse the homeowner's full cost of an Environmental Protection Agency-approved WaterSense irrigation controller installed on lawn irrigation systems. These smart controllers use real-time local weather data, including humidity, wind speed, solar radiation and rainfall, to calculate evapotranspiration rates and automatically adjust irrigation watering accordingly. All residential properties in Mountain Village, West Meadows and Ski Ranches are eligible for this program, and the town will reimburse the homeowner for all controllers needed to serve the entire property.

For more information about each program please visit townofmountainvillage.com/incentives.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A FEW QUESTIONS FOR OUR CITY GOVERNMENT...

Editor:

I have a few questions that we, the people, should be asking loud, clear and in public about our City government.

1. Why is Montrose all of a sudden short of Cops, Cop Cars and Cop Equipment? The crisis of crime, traffic, drugs and increased population did not just appear overnight.

2. Where did the money go that the Department returned to the City each of the past several years? Seems like it should have been used for guns, ammo, radios, vests and the like in those years.

3. Why, if money is so short in the City can every department head have an assistant? Seems like less assistants in administrative jobs could equal more Cops on the beat.

4. Why, if there is such a shortage of policing funds and cars are police cars driven home by off-duty policemen? Most police forces in the United States draw cars from the car pool? That way, three shifts use one car---cars serve three times the number of Cops.

5. I see a lot of Montrose City cars parked at residences. Are all these employees

essential to an emergency? A reduction in personal use of city vehicles could fund more police/police cars.

6. Does using a public vehicle to commute receive a 1099? OR Is every publicly owned vehicle driven to and from work, justified as a job-related necessity as required by law?

This practice might be of interest to the IRS.

I have got a lot more questions for our City government, but we'll see if they answer these six first.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

DineOutMontrose.com



COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE COLORADO DAY WITH FREE STATE PARK ENTRY AUG 5

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - In celebration of Colorado Day, and the 143rd birthday of the state, Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers free entry to all 41 state parks on Monday, Aug. 5. Although the state recognizes this annual holiday on the first of the month, state parks celebrate the occasion with free entrance on the first Monday of August.

Colorado Day was created by the state legislature to mark the anniversary of statehood, granted in 1876 by President Ulysses S. Grant.

"Colorado Day is one of our favorite days of the year. We're always excited to provide this opportunity to all Coloradans to get out and Live Life Outside," said Margaret Taylor, assistant director for capital, parks and trails with CPW. "With recreation activities available for everyone, our state parks are wonderful places to experience what makes Colorado so special."

All other park fees, including camping reservations and fishing licenses, remain in effect on August 5.

This free entry day provides the perfect opportunity to experience Colorado's state parks and the diverse landscapes they showcase. Whether you are searching for a new outdoor experience or revisiting your favorite park, you're sure to find an activity for your family and friends to enjoy while celebrating our state.

There are a huge variety of recreational opportunities at all Colorado state parks. Enjoy our waters by floating your boat or kayak, or rafting a river. View our diverse wildlife, including a multitude of bird species, with our naturalists and volunteers. You can tackle some of the best trails in the state on foot, horseback or bike. Spend some time teaching your children to fish, camp and appreciate nature. Climb a challenging rock face, fly a kite or ride your bike.

Colorado's 41 state parks are ready to welcome you for a Colorado Day celebration on Aug. 5. To begin planning your unique Colorado adventure, visit the [CPW park finder](#) today.



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- Diabetes management and education
- Lab testing and finger stick INRs
- Coordination of additional community services



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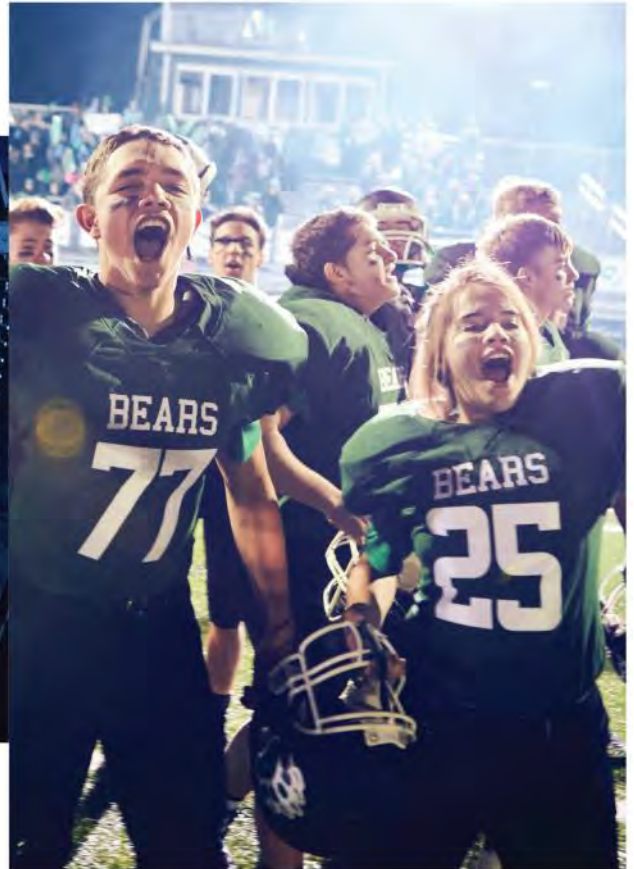


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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOUR SEATS OPEN ON RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Petitions for Montrose County School District RE-1J Board Director Positions will be available on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at the District Office, located at 930 Colorado Avenue. Petitions must have 50 certified signatures for placement on the ballot. The last day to return the petitions is Friday, Aug. 30 at 3 pm. Director Dis-

tricts that will be up for a four-year term in the November 5, 2019 Elections are:

District B - currently represented by Jacob Suppes

District D - currently represented by Tom West

District F - currently represented by Phoebe Benziger

Director District that will be up for a two-

year term in the Nov. 5, 2019 Elections is: District G – currently represented by Stephen Bush

MCSO Board of Education Directors are limited to 2 consecutive terms. Elections are held during odd-numbered years.

Please contact Laurie Laird at (970) 252-7902 or laurie.laird@mcsd.org for further information.

PUC ISSUES PROPOSED RULES ON ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLANNING

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued proposed rules governing electric resource planning for wholesale electric cooperatives.

Senate Bill 19-236, signed by Gov. Polis in May, requires the PUC to develop new rules that address applications from wholesale electric cooperatives for PUC approval of their integrated or electric

resource plans. In developing such rules, the PUC must consider, among other factors, whether wholesale electric cooperatives service a multi-state operational jurisdiction, have a non-for-profit ownership structure, and have a resource plan that meets the energy policy goals of Colorado. The PUC's proposed rules build substantively on the stakeholder process already applicable to Tri-State Generation and

Transmission Association, while taking into account differences between wholesale electric cooperatives and Colorado's investor-owned electric utilities. Interested persons will have opportunities to submit written comments on the proposed rules, and to provide oral comments at a hearing scheduled for 9 a.m. on Oct. 15 at the PUC. Submit written comments at www.dora.state.co.us/pacific/puc/



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FREE ADMISSION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS TO CO STATE PARKS IN AUGUST

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Colorado Parks and Wildlife is offering all active-duty military and veterans free entrance to all 41 Colorado state parks during the entire month of August. Free access for veterans and active-duty military in August is a program CPW offers in appreciation to those who serve and have served our country.

"We deeply appreciate our active duty service members and veterans for their service to our nation," said Dan Prenzl, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "There's no way to ever thank our military members enough for their service and sacrifice, but CPW is proud to offer free entry to our parks this month as a chance to get out and spend time in Colorado's great outdoors."

All eligible military members may pick up their hangtag and pass beginning August 1. Proof of service must be presented at any CPW office or state park to enjoy one of the agency's military benefits.

All military personnel honorably discharged, discharged under honorable conditions, or with general discharge, as well as active duty, reservist, and National Guard personnel are eligible to obtain a military hang-tag pass valid for free admission during the month of August. To ob-

tain your pass at any CPW office or park, please bring one of the following for staff to confirm:

Active, retired or veteran military identification cards

DD Form 2,

DD Form 2765,

DD214 with the discharge annotated "honorable", "under honorable conditions", or "general",

Veterans Affairs medical card,

A current and valid Colorado Driver's License or state-issued identification card with the word 'Veteran' printed on it as specified in 42-2-303 (5)(a), C.R.S.

A military seal on a driver's license does NOT satisfy the requirement for military ID for this pass

Once eligibility is confirmed, the military hang-tag pass is issued to the service member. The hang-tag pass is valid when hung from the rear-view mirror of a service member occupied vehicle, and admits all passengers of that vehicle.

Service members and their families can relax and recharge with activities including archery, boating, fishing, hiking, kayaking and wildlife-viewing, along with well-equipped nature centers and picnic areas.

"We wouldn't have these beautiful natural resources and open spaces to enjoy



without the sacrifice of so many veterans and current active duty service members, so we hope that these folks and their families and friends are able to spend some quality time with us in August," said Prenzl.

Though park entrance fees are waived for veterans and active-duty personnel in the month of August, activities such as fishing and camping still require a valid license or reservation. A wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities within each state park can be found in the online Parks Guide.

Visit the CPW Park Finder to locate a state park near you.

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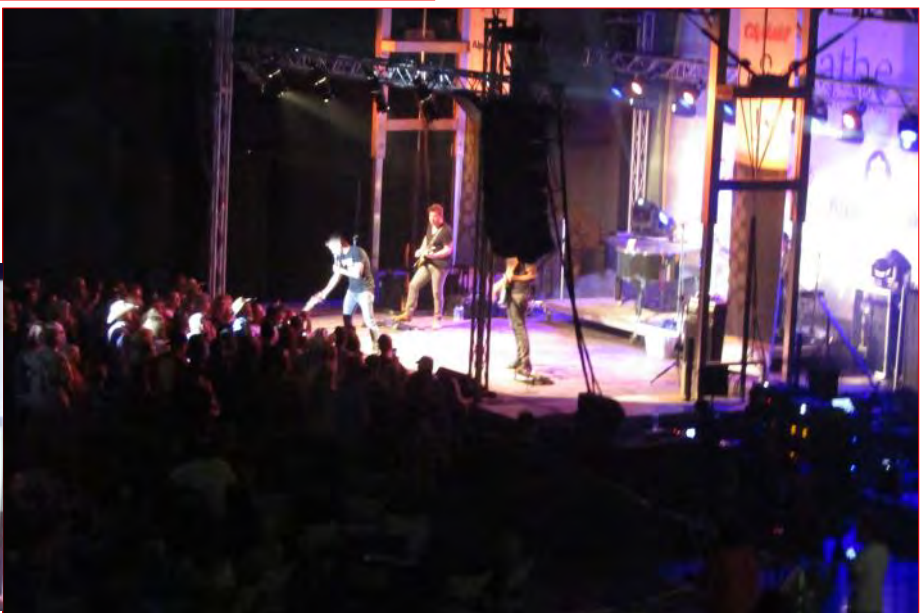
2019 Olathe Sweet Corn Festival Photos by Nanci Gibbons.



2019 OLATHE SWEET CORN FESTIVAL!



2019 Olathe Sweet Corn Festival Photos by Nanci Gibbons. Concert photos of Headliner Craig Campbell by Brendan Compton.





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CHRIST'S KITCHEN TO STOP SERVING MEALS AUG. 16

To the Montrose Mirror:

"All good things must come to an end." (from Chaucer circa 1400 a.d.)

It is with sad hearts our board of directors came to this conclusion at our July 26th meeting.

The management of our building has other plans for our space, and we will discontinue serving meals to our guests on August 16, 2019.

We need to be out of our space no later than September 1, 2019.

It will take this long just to engage the movers and find a storage spot for our equipment.

Our board of directors has decided to store our equipment here in Montrose for six months to see if a new facility becomes available.

We have been on a building search for the past few months and nothing is available in our price range so the outlook for

continued ministry is limited at best.

We would be happy to share our equipment and assets with a church or other organization, willing to take over the daily lunch program. Our answering service is 970-252-7805, kitchen phone during office hours is 249-1774.

Christ's Kitchen has been an important part of the Montrose community and beyond for 15 years. We used to say we were like "Cheers without the alcohol, a place where everyone knows your name!" We became a warm safe place for people without a family in town. We serve families, individuals and also some of the homeless in town.

The homeless population continues to grow, and this is part of the reason we have been asked to leave.

The homeless bring problems that most businesses do not want to tolerate: such as, sleeping outside the buildings, and

leaving their personal belongings and trash everywhere. Customers are afraid to approach a building which has homeless people just hanging around or sleeping in public places.

We cannot solve the homeless issue in Montrose. Our mission has always been to feed the hungry without qualification, whether they are homeless or just hungry. Jeremiah has done a terrific job of creating a healthy, delicious luncheon meal for the past five years.

We would like to continue the mission of Christ's Kitchen, but without a commercial kitchen in the right place, at the right price, we will be forced to give away our equipment to other nonprofits at the end of the six-month period.

We thank you for your support and we welcome your suggestions for the future.

Margo Gallegos for the Board of Directors for Christ's Kitchen

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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW: THE SCHOOL YEAR LOOMS...



Jack Switzer, 16.

By Jack Switzer
RIDGWAY-I crack my eyes open, and the sun is beaming down onto me. I sit up, feeling sand crumble away from my now sunburnt body. I move my arms, and

feel the sting, suddenly regretting my decision to tan for so long. I look over and see some of my friends still swimming. We had been at the Ridgway reservoir for a few

hours, and we still had no plans to leave. Two seemingly long months have passed, and not a soul has whispered anything about school. Or the fact that it was slowly creeping back into the fray. While I was gazing off into the distance, I realized that those two months that have passed have brought us closer than anyone realized to the beginning of a new school year.

School has been dormant for two and a half months, and the doors are about to re-open and welcome everyone back to fluorescent lights and cold tile floors. Teachers will dust off their filing cabinets and kids will pick up the backpacks that had been left in the corner of their rooms. It's never

fun for summer to end, especially when you had two months of unrivaled and unending freedom. I had an especially good summer, and I'm sure lots of other kids did too. We're all going to miss the harsh sun, and the heavy rains. The good days of hanging out with friends, and the relaxed ones just chilling at home. Summer is a chance for everyone to let the stress of the school year just melt and wash away. When those doors re-open, after summer vacation has come to a close and our brains have been reset and relaxed, we're ready to take on the school year and conquer every task given to us on the path to graduation.

Isn't she purr-fect?

MEET PEARL

Pearl is a 2 year old, very petite (under 5 lbs) dilute calico beauty.

Pearl is gentle, mellow, and gets along very well with the other cats and children. She is a lovely girl looking for a family who will love and take care of her forever. Call

Pat at Katmandu Rescue
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ISSUE 222 Aug. 5, 2019

ART & SOL

RIDGWAY FARMERS MARKET SELECTED AS AUGUST 2019 RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Ridgway Farmers Market as August 2019 RACC Member of the Month.

The first Ridgway Farmers Market opened Sunday, July 9, 2000 at the Ouray County Fairgrounds in Ridgway. In 2012, the market migrated to the local hub of Ridgway's Hartwell Park where vendors are easily accessible under the glorious shade of the trees. Now in its 19th year, the Ridgway-Ouray community continues to embrace the market every season.

The nonprofit market was created to provide a cooperative and organized alternative for small-scale agricultural and specialty products. It promotes local production of agricultural and specialty products and offer opportunities for producers to enhance their market skills, as well as striving to improve the variety, taste and freshness of products available to customers in our area and community.

The board and staff of the market promote strong, trusting relationships between consumers and vendors by insisting on honesty and transparency in all aspects

of the creation of the products. They create a space for interaction between the consumer and the producer, based on the belief that consumer, producer and community benefit when food is grown, purchased and consumed locally. Plus, the market enhances the quality of life in the area by providing a community activity at a wholesome social gathering place.

To learn more about Ridgway Farmers Market, go online to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/397-august-2019-member-of-the-month-farmers-market>, call 970.316.1389, or email manager@ridgwayfarmersmarket.com. Also go online to: <http://www.ridgwayfarmersmarket.com/>. For information about shopping in Ridgway, go to <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/shopping>.



Courtesy photo Ridgway Farmers Market.

The Ridgway Chamber (<https://ridgwaycolorado.com/about>) is organized to achieve the objectives of promoting business and community growth and development in the Town of Ridgway and the surrounding area. The chamber's Member of the Month program features a different member every month, and shares information about the business owners, mission, background, and other details to help the community and visitors stay in tune with local services and products.

COLORADO EXPANDS SMOKE-FREE LAW

New protections for workers, residents and visitors



PUBLIC PLACES ARE NOW VAPE-FREE



In 2019, the Colorado Legislature updated the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (passed in 2006) to expand smoke-free protections.

STARTING JULY 1, 2019:

- Vaping will not be allowed in indoor public places, including in all bars and restaurants
- People will have to stand at least 25 feet from entrances while smoking or vaping
- All hotel and motel rooms will be smoke and vape-free
- All business will be smoke and vape-free
- Common areas of assisted living facilities will be smoke and vape-free

Nicotine vapor products are dangerous for the user and expose bystanders to second-hand pollution that is not safe to breathe. These can include cancer-causing chemicals, heavy metals and nicotine.¹



¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. Public Health Consequences of E-cigarettes. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

WHERE WILL SMOKING AND VAPING BE ALLOWED?



Cigar bars, that meet certain requirements.



Tobacco and vape retail shops that meet certain requirements.



Marijuana tasting rooms that meet certain requirements can allow smoking and vaping of marijuana only.



Buildings that are neither homes nor public places on farms or ranches earning less than \$500,000 per year in gross income. These could include barns or other outbuildings.



A majority of Coloradans (55.8%)

said they had to "put up with" someone smoking around them in public places. Outside the doorway to a building is the most common place Coloradans report being exposed to secondhand smoke.²



HELP MAKE SURE YOUR COMMUNITY IS PROTECTED

For more information: tobaccofreeco.org/smokefree

² University of Colorado, Community Epidemiology & Program Evaluation Group (2015). Tobacco Attitudes and Behavior Survey (TABS), Adult Tobacco Use and Exposure Colorado Results. Retrieved from: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/community/CEPEG/TABS/Pages/TABS.aspx

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GRAND MESA ONCOLOGY PATIENT CELEBRATES END OF TREATMENT



Christy ringing the Celebration Bell at Grand Mesa Oncology. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA— It was supposed to be a routine mammogram for Christy Hawk. She had been getting them every year since she turned 40 and never had any issues. But on March 25, 2018, Hawk received news that would change the next year and a half of her life. The mammogram detected a small spot prompting a second scan. The second scan detected a larger mass that was then biopsied and diagnosed as malignant. “If you would have asked me 10 years ago if I thought this would happen to me, the answer would be no,” said Christy. “But the fact is that you really never know. Dr. Nickel, my surgeon, told me that by me coming in for my yearly saved my life and our ability to catch it early.” After getting diagnosed, Christy encouraged her daughters and friends to get their mammograms taken care of.

“It only takes 20 minutes of your time and it can save your life – it saved mine,” said Christy. “One of my best friends called me and told me that she got a mammogram done because of what I’ve gone through.” Christy worked with Dr. Goldberg, Oncologist and Dr. Nickel, Surgeon, to come up with a treatment plan that they believed would save her life. It started with a mastectomy on May 25th, 2018. From there she started six treatments of chemotherapy on June 25th and in November started 28 radiation treatments. December 5, 2018 marked the end of her radiation treatment and in January she finished her immunotherapy treatments.

“It was hard for me to turn the control over to someone else,” said Christy. “It’s scary to put life changing decisions in someone else’s hands, but I had to surrender and trust that I was in great hands. I remember when Dr. Nickel sat me down and told me the direction he thought my treatment should go. He told me: ‘If you give me a year and a half of your life, I will give you 25 more.’”

Those words stuck with Christy and she trusted that she was in the best hands. With the support of her doctors, her family and her husband, Darold Hawk, Christy began her journey to recovery.

“One of the hardest parts about this process was the waiting and the unknown,” said Darold. “As a husband you want to be the protector, but I wasn’t able to fix this. I had to come to terms with the fact that some of it she had to do by herself. She had to come to terms with it by herself and find that inner peace.”

Christy and Darold are high school sweethearts and have been married for 37 years. Darold grew up in Crawford and Christy grew up in Paonia. The couple still lives on the same family ranch that Darold grew up on. Their six children and grandchildren have kept them both strong.

“Darold is my rock,” said Christy. “I couldn’t have gotten through this without him. I always say that I would do this again if no one else in our family had to get it... I’d do it again. It’s tough, but you really find out how strong you are. You reach in and you find that inner strength.” The solo drives to Delta from Crawford were the times when Christy had time to reflect. She learned the importance of keeping up a normal routine as much as possible and keeping her mind busy. “As much as I could I would stay busy with different things around the ranch,” said Christy. “I hate when people say this is your new norm, you have to stay as close to your normal [life and routine before the diagnosis]. I would go on walks with one of my friends down the road, and we would sometimes walk four or five miles. That was really my saving grace and gave me

something to look forward to.”

Deciding to receive treatment as DCMH was a no brainer for Christy and Darold. Christy had previous surgeries at the hospital and all of her kids were born at DCMH.

“I always had respect for [the team at DCMH] that they knew what they were doing,” said Christy. “I know these people and I know that they will take care of me. You don’t get that from big cities.”

Christy says that the nurses and staff she met while receiving treatment gave the couple a strong sense of community support. Many of the nurses became friends with Christy and would ask her about her kids, grandkids and life at the ranch. They always told Christy that if she needed anything she was always free to call them.

“I always tell the staff at [GMO] that although they were [essentially] poisoning my wife every three weeks, she always looked forward to come here to see them because of the way they treated her,” said Darold. “It wasn’t just professional it was personal. They cared for us – every single one of them, and it made us feel special.”

Now that Christy is on the other side of her journey, she is using her experiences to help other patients going through similar situations.

It was with great pride that Christy rang the celebration bell for her 101st time on July 23 in front of her husband and her new friends at the Oncology Center. Ringing the bell signified the end of her treatments and her being cancer free.

“It’s kind of surreal, actually,” explained Christy. “Because I never thought I would get to the end. It’s just that time is a killer. But here I am – you have to find that inner peace that this is the hand you were dealt, and I’m okay with it and I will get through it.” With the treatments behind her, Christy is now looking forward to what is next.

“When you come here you get the best care,” said Christy. “It’s all about those lifetime acquaintances that you make along the way. I can’t say enough about Delta Hospital. For me it was the right choice, and I wouldn’t change that.”



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For any questions, contact Brandy at BReed@voa.org or (970) 249-9634

**Register and pick up your word list (for practice)
by 4 pm on Aug. 12th**

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ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL AUTHOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER PUBLISH WILDFLOWER BOOK

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL—With the amazing moisture from abundant snowmelt in the San Juan Mountains this year, the wildflowers are more prolific than ever. Throughout the summer, at different elevations, hikers, jeepers, and other explorers can better identify and understand this year's amazing flower display if they bring along a recently published guide.

Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains by Ridgway writer Mary Menz and Montrose photographer Jim Pisarowicz is a guide to the most common species in the high country of Ouray, Hinsdale, San Juan, and San Miguel Counties.

The book is organized by flower color and includes a handy checklist of species where hikers can log where and when they find a wildflower. Instead of thumbing through a book with several hundred images—many of which may or may not occur locally—readers can identify a local species quickly and with less frustration than other guides allow.

"There are many guides to the wildflowers found in the Rocky Mountains," said Menz, "But this guide focuses on the most common species of the four-county re-

gion, based on our own experiences hiking and photographing these species."

In compiling wildflower selections for the book, they also looked at species lists created by other hikers and lists by botanist-led hiking events. The result is 123 of the most discovered wildflowers in the area.

"Most of us wildflower enthusiasts keep lists of our sightings while out hiking," said Pisarowicz, whose photo image library includes more than 200,000 photographs. Pisarowicz is routinely found in the field photographing specimens right after sun-up.

More than 100 copies *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains* were sold in the first week after publication, primarily at local booksellers in Ridgway and Ouray. By mid-July, the book will be in all four counties as well as around the state.

"Wildflowers are just now popping up in the high country, and finally people can



Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains by Ridgway writer Mary Menz and Montrose photographer Jim Pisarowicz is a guide to the most common species in the high country of Ouray, Hinsdale, San Juan, and San Miguel Counties. Courtesy photo.

get to them" noted Menz, who referenced the recent openings of several alpine roads in the San Juans. She makes it a habit of getting out to hike at least once per week to monitor the blooms.

Menz is an award-winning writer and a Colorado Native Plant Master®. Pisarowicz is a former park ranger, professor, and world-class cave explorer, whose images have been published in numerous magazines.

The book (ISBN 978-0-578-47087-0) is available at local bookstores and other merchants.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GRILL & CHILL WITH OURAY ELKS AUG 17

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-Grillin' and Chillin' pig roast and brew fest at the Ouray elks Aug. 17! Noon 'till 4pm, six brewers, a whole pig with the works, T-shirts and live rock, blues and country by Alive in the Woods. It's a summer celebration and fundraiser for the Elks' building fund. \$25 all you can eat pig, \$25 beer, or \$40 for both. Don't miss this! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

DURANGO-- More than 400 Skyhawks graduated from Fort Lewis College on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, 2019. The students enjoyed Commencement Addresses from FLC alumna Jennifer Trujillo and Colorado Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera. They include:

Matthew Cascia of Montrose who received a degree in Business Administration
Patrick Felberg of Montrose who received a degree in Business Administration
Kyle Freeburg of Montrose who received a degree in Exercise Physiology
Melissa Pope of Montrose who received a degree in Psychology
Brayden Reese of Montrose who received a degree in Accounting
Kyle VanBrunschot of Montrose who received a degree in Economics

Fort Lewis College is the Southwest's crossroads of education and adventure. Our blend of small classes, dynamic academic programs, and a liberal arts perspective leads to transformative learning experiences that foster entrepreneurship, leadership, creative problem solving, and lifelong learning. And our unique & beautiful mountain campus, on a mesa above historic Durango, Colorado, inspires an active and friendly community with a spirit of engagement, exploration, and intellectual curiosity.



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- Independent & Assisted Living
- Injury or Post-Surgery Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Long-term, Skilled Nursing Care
- Secure Memory Care
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Crested Butte & Gunnison share a new literary festival this Aug. 9-11



Blue lily [*Nymphaea caerulea*] (courtesy photo).

GUNNISON VALLEY LITFEST ... For several years, Gunnison Arts Center sponsored an annual poetry festival with Dr. David Rothman as director. He has moved on to Jackson Hole, where he directs the Arts Center there ... So, Gunnison Arts has teamed up with the Crested Butte Center for the Arts, Western Colorado University's Graduate Writing Program, and the Telluride Institute to sponsor a literary festival with workshops, keynotes, and an awarding of the annual Karen Chamberlain Award ... The award was started in 13014 [2014 CE] to commemorate a founder of the Aspen Poetry Festival and a renowned Western Slope poet and writer from Carbondale. It was intended to recognize lifetime achievement for poetry in Colorado. The first recipient was the nationally honored poet and writer from Boulder, Reg Saner ... The following recipients have also received the award: the late Jack Mueller of Log Hill Village outside Ridgway, Bruce Berger of Aspen, Mark Todd of Doyleville, and Veronica Patterson of Loveland. This year the Chamberlain Award winner is Chris Ransick – the former Denver Poet Laureate who now lives in Oregon ... Ransick will give a workshop beginning at 4

p.m. Friday Aug. 9th at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts, entitled "The Next Voice You Hear: A Voice-Shifting Workshop" ... Saturday morning I will lead a "Poetry and Storytelling Gourds Circle" at 9:30 a.m. at the Gunnison Arts Center ... There will be an open mic from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Blackstock Bistro in Gunnison, followed by readings and the Chamberlain Award ceremony at the Gunnison Arts Center at 6:45 p.m. ... For a full schedule, go here:

<https://www.gunnisonartscenter.org/events/gunnisonvalleyliteraryfestival>

HOME SCHOOL ... Several years ago I got this great reference work at a Telluride library sale, the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. As a poet whose primary tool is the written word, language fascinates me. I gauge the world by using language to make music. Make sense ... Once, fifty years ago, returning to college after a year as a VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America), I worked up a paper for an intro Linguistics class comparing a Crow word list I'd gathered on the Rez in Montana in the mid-Sixties with a word list that Robert Lowie had collected in the Thirties. The professor tried to enlist me into his ranks and make linguistics my major, Dr. Neal Snortum. I still use his idiosyncratic pronunciation incantation for Chaucer's prologue – a favorite recital piece ... So now I make use of the encyclopedia as text for my own home study course. Researching online if I run up against questions. I review a few pages each time my normal stack of periodicals peter out by the kitchen table: *The Week*, *High Country News*, *Scientific American*,

the *Smithsonian*, *Science News*, *Colorado Central* and the *Catalyst* from Salt Lake City ... In a chapter on "Graphemic Symbolism" I learned that flashing a V-sign is done with the palm out, but if done with the palm in, it's "a crude symbol" meant as a sign of "contempt" ... And in a chapter on "The Alphabet" I learned that our alphabet derived from the 3000-year-old North Semitic alphabet (22 letters, like Hebrew, with all consonants, no vowels), which led to the Phoenician, which spread counter-clockwise around the Mediterranean to Greece> Rome> Britain> America.

DEAD COMPUTER? ... Just as I was opening a window to an online credit card, my screen went blank. A MacBook, no longer Pro. Luckily I have an older hand-me-down. Just a plain MacBook. I'm getting by ... If there's one good thing about computer technology, there's almost always backup systems. A dead computer doesn't mean dead in the water. Usually.

BLUE LILY ... As we get close to Telluride Mushroom Festival time, I remember my good friend John Winslow from Eugene (OR) who'd bring us herb blends (like Cognitol) to keep us sharp-eyed and thinking clearly at the turn of the millennium (if you follow the Christian calendar). His theories about the Egyptian use of Blue Lily (*Nymphaea caerulea*) made for fascinating lectures ... He passed away several years ago. He was a well-known figure at the Oregon Country Fair ... I remember how amazing the scent of blue lily was – he gave me a small vial. But after years of sniffing, it had eventually dried up. Luckily, his wife Barb had kept his business going, OmChi Herbs, LLC ... I just ordered a second tiny bit of the fragrant elixir. It may not completely wash away your troubles, but just inhaling a smear sends me into ambrosial heaven ... Highly recommended.

Continued next page

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

THE TALKING GOURD

Paper Too?

Even the cash tip
didn't ameliorate
my questioning of

her skill & attention
at doing her barista job
because I was in

double check mode
having already told her
to add the newspaper

to my mocha breve
but under the influence
& aware of the risk

of losing everything
Reminded me
of the gal hitchhiking

up Dallas Divide with
a handful of oxeye daisies
Her mom's favorite flower

Redneck real estate maven
who'd told her daughter good
advice never taken

& we both started talking
about how often the women
in our lives had been right



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THANK YOU FROM 1ST ANNUAL RISING ALLSTARS JR RODEO



Congratulations to all the contestants and winner of the 1st Annual Rising Allstars Junior Rodeo. Courtesy photo.

By Lacey Greenhalgh

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Congratulations to all the contestants and winner of the 1st Annual Rising Allstars Junior Rodeo that was held July 13 at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. A big huge THANK YOU to all the

sponsors who helped make this event a success!

Also, thank you to all the contestants who participated and to all those who helped the day of the rodeo! We appreciate it! Thank you to the sponsors: Cowboy Brand Furniture

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BENEATH BLUE MESA: THE GUNNISON RIVER VALLEY BEFORE BLUE MESA RESERVOIR

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 PM in the Montrose Library Meeting Room, Library Voices presents David Primus, with a slide show of the history of the Gunnison River Valley before Blue Mesa Reservoir was completed in 1965. Learn about fishing resorts, ranches, towns, and the narrow gauge railroad that now lie beneath the reservoir as remembered by local residents.

David Primus, a 3rd generation Coloradoan, has lived in Gunnison since 1978, graduating from Western Colorado University in 1981. He has researched the history of the American West throughout his life.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GREAT WHITEWATER AWAITS LATE-SEASON RAFTERS

Special to Art & Sol

SALIDA— After weeks of water surging down the Arkansas River at levels not seen for a couple decades, flows have calmed along the 152 miles of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) and rafting conditions are the best they've been all season.

"Flows are fantastic for this time of the year," said Rob White, AHRA park manager. "And we expect to see great whitewater conditions throughout August and well past the Labor Day weekend."

River flow rates, measured in cubic feet per second, or cfs, are trending at or above 1,500 cfs in Salida and anywhere from 1,200 cfs to 1,800 cfs at key checkpoints along the river including Browns Canyon, Wellsville, Parkdale and the Royal Gorge. Those levels are well above historic averages entering August.

"Right now, whitewater boating in the Numbers, Browns Canyon and the Royal Gorge has never been better," White said. "These water levels are perfect for enjoying a whitewater trip with an AHRA commercial outfitter."

Andy Neinas, owner Echo Canyon River Expeditions which offers raft trips up and down the river, said he can't recall sustained flows this late in the season in any of his 33 years on the Arkansas.

"Water levels are in the sweet spot right now," Neinas said. "The river is spectacular now. It's sunny and warm and that makes the water feel so cool and refreshing. We have whitewater that's perfect for families and challenging for the adventure-class of boaters."

"And we're going to have great water well into September. It's incredible how much snow is still up in the mountains."



Courtesy photo Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

Grant Brown, Colorado Parks and Wildlife's boating safety program manager, said it is a relief to finally be talking about river rafting again after a string of river fatalities statewide with the majority resulting from private boaters.

"The news this season to date has been about high water conditions," Brown said. "But now rivers flows have returned to their normal levels and that should make for an exciting and extended floating season."

That's also the message from Bob Hamel, director for Arkansas River Outfitters Association. "We're way past the high flows of runoff," Hamel said. "But the sustained flows are providing exciting rafting and splashy waves conducive to families while

still offering challenges to advanced rafters.

"We're expecting a strong finish to the season and that's good news for residents of Colorado. August and September will be a great time to go rafting for locals as the out-of-staters leave. We should finish the season very strong."

Last year, the 50-plus outfitters along the Arkansas River counted about 225,000 rafting customers who challenged the Arkansas River through the AHRA.

Safety is always a priority when recreating within the AHRA.

If you are not familiar with the Arkansas River or current conditions, please contact the AHRA Visitor Center in Salida at 719-539-7289.

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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.

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 Chris Hebert at 970-901-5876 for details.

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

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Brookdale Sunrise Creek, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

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 Wednesday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-765-7406.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

BINGO AT OURAY ELKS-Every Wednesday night, June 5-Aug. 28, @ 7 p.m. Light refreshments available, open to the public.

MONTHLY-

Aug. 4-Sunday Aug. 4, 59th Artists' Alpine Holiday Art Show - featuring more than 300 works of art by 146 artists. Ouray Community Center, 340 6th Avenue. 10 am-6 pm.

Aug. 5-Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges of Montrose, 2500 Bridges Drive 5:30 to 7 p.m. Club meets once per quarter to select the next non-profit to receive quarterly donations. Each member pays \$100 per quarter plus a \$10 hospitality fee to participate and has the chance to nominate a non-profit. Members must be present to vote.

Aug. 5-Monday, Aug. 5, 59th Artists' Alpine Holiday Art Show - featuring more than 300 works of art by 146 artists. Ouray Community Center, 340 6th Avenue. 10 am-5 pm.

Aug. 5-Monday Aug. 5, 6:30 Montrose Library meeting rm. Citizens' Climate Lobby ,nonpartisan networking to influence legislators to pay attention to environment, Upcoming showing of Human Element by James Balog at 2 Rascals on August 20. All welcome.

Aug. 6-Tuesday, Aug. 6, 59th Artists' Alpine Holiday Art Show - featuring more than 300 works of art by 146 artists. Ouray Community Center, 340 6th Avenue. 10 am-5 pm.

Aug. 6-YOUNG AT HEART Learn the researched benefits of enzymes and supplements that support a healthy heart. 1 p.m. @ Montrose Senior Center (1800 East Pavilion Place). Presenter: Charlie Spears, Health Coach.

Aug. 7-Learn how to save a life! Wednesday Aug. 7! 6:30 PM @ Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand Ave, Montrose, CO! FREE and Open to the Public! RSVP to Jordan Gruppuso at jordan@coloradocorp.org.

Aug. 10-11-Ridgway Arts & Crafts Rendezvous, Ridgway. Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm; Sunday from 10 am until 5 pm. Free parking is available at the 4-H Fairgrounds parking lot and a free shuttle will run on Saturday starting at 11 am between the parking area and the event.

Aug. 13-NO INDIVIDUAL HEROES, 1 p.m. Power point dramatic presentation of the heroic stories of the Ouray Co Mountain Rescue Team. Montrose Senior Center (1800 East Pavilion Place). Presenter: Karen Risch, Author.

Aug. 13--6:30 PM in the Montrose Library Meeting Room, Library Voices presents David Primus, with a slide show of the history of the Gunnison River Valley before Blue Mesa Reservoir was completed in 1965. Learn about fishing resorts, ranches, towns, and the narrow gauge railroad that now lie beneath the reservoir as remembered by local residents.

Aug. 14-Wednesday, Aug. 14th at 6:15pm. Yoga for Cyclists, at the Brewery! Cost: \$10 (cash only). Experience a deep release for those tight legs, hips & back! This unique class will take place on the outdoor patio at 2 Rascals Brewing Co. All mats and props will be provided by Yoga House. All abilities are welcome! After class, grab a cold brew and talk cycling with us!

Aug. 15-Thursday, Aug. 15 Full Moon Cruiser Ride-(FREE) Cruise around town under the full moon while spinnin' to some awesome tunes! We will leave from Storm King Distilling Co. at 8 pm.

Aug. 16-Listening session with Senator Michael Bennet, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Naturita Community Library Community Room, 107 West 1st Avenue, Naturita. To schedule an appointment, send an email to alyssa_logan@bennet.senate.gov. Those without email access can call 970-241-6631.

Aug. 17- Grillin' and Chillin' pig roast and brew fest at the Ouray elks! Noon 'till 4pm, six brewers, a whole pig with the works, T-shirts and live rock, blues and country by Alive in the Woods. It's a summer celebration and fundraiser for the Elks' building fund. \$25 all you can eat pig, \$25 beer, or \$40 for both. Don't miss this! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Aug. 19-WHY WALK THE CAMINO de SANTIAGO? 1 p.m. Slide presentation with true stories of life lessons learned by walking this historic pilgrims' path. Presenter: Kit Riley Cassingham

Aug. 27-DMEA Rate Hearing, 5 p.m., Delta-Montrose Electric Association Headquarters, multi-purpose room.

Aug. 31-Solo guitarist David Rogers performs Saturday, Aug. 31 at 7:30 pm at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 (323) 270-6284. \$15 - \$20. To learn more visit <http://www.healthyrhythm.net> or <http://www.davidrogersguitar.com/>

Sept. 4--Boomers & Bicycling 10. Sept. 4 @ 9 am - Noon Free. Montrose Senior Center, You are never too old to ride a bicycle... or get back on one! This FREE 3-hour class includes an indoor discussion on bicycle safety and rules of the road, tips for selecting the right gear, and time on your bicycle practicing bicycle handling and balance skills.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

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MIRROR IMAGES...MAYFLY TRAIL OPEN

The new trail along the Uncompahgre near the Mayfly Facility is now open, offering a fresh experience for bikers, hikers, and anybody seeking beautiful river views and unspoiled wetlands. Just be sure to wear mosquito repellent if you are planning to head over this month or next.



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