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Issue No. 337 Aug. 12, 2019

COUNTY CONTINUES HEARING ON COMPOST SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO AUG 21 FOR DELIBERATION & DECISION



At the regular BOCC meeting of Aug. 7, Montrose County Commissioners continued a public hearing on a proposal by 3XM Grinding & Compost LLC to open a compost facility at 59039 Amber Road until Aug. 21, directing staff to look into fencing needs, inspections, products going into the proposed composting process, and to ensure that the BOCC has copies of the water monitoring and CDPHE reports.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All three commissioners were present for the [regular meeting](#) of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Aug. 7, and Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris requested one change to the meeting agenda, moving Planning & Development Item E-1, a public hearing on a proposed special use permit for 3XM Grinding & Compost to operate a compost facility at 59039 Amber Road, to follow Item E-7. Commissioners agreed to move Item E-2 as well, a public hearing to consider and possibly adopt an amended Montrose County

[Continued pg 7](#)

CITY UPHOLDS "NO ACTION" RECOMMENDATION ON SHELTER REZONE *Montrose awash in heroin, meth, firearms, Police Chief says*



On Aug. 6, Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall informed Council that Montrose Police have seized 69 grams of heroin and 57 grams of methamphetamine, as well as stolen firearms within the last month.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-At the [regular City Council meeting](#) of Aug. 6, Montrose City Council issued a proclamation declaring Aug. 9 to be Montrose Coworking Day. Agenda items included the 2018 Audit Presentation; a proposal to rezone the property at 931 North Park Avenue from I-1 light industrial to B-3 general commercial district; and award of a contract for replacement of a hydrogritter at the Montrose Wastewater Treatment Plant. All councilors were present for the meeting.

MONTROSE COWORKING DAY PROCLAMATION

Dennis Lankes of Proximity Space was honored, as Mayor Dave Bowman read the proclamation aloud.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard on non-agenda items.

[Continued pg 13](#)

in this
issue

*Art Goodtimes'
Up Bear Creek!*

*Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!*

*City considers regulations
for short-term rentals!*

*Delta County Fair
Parade photos!*

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN!



Pictured clockwise from top left, Yankee Boy Basin, Valerian, Wild Parsley, Sego Lily and bee, and Roseroot. Photos by Deb Reimann.



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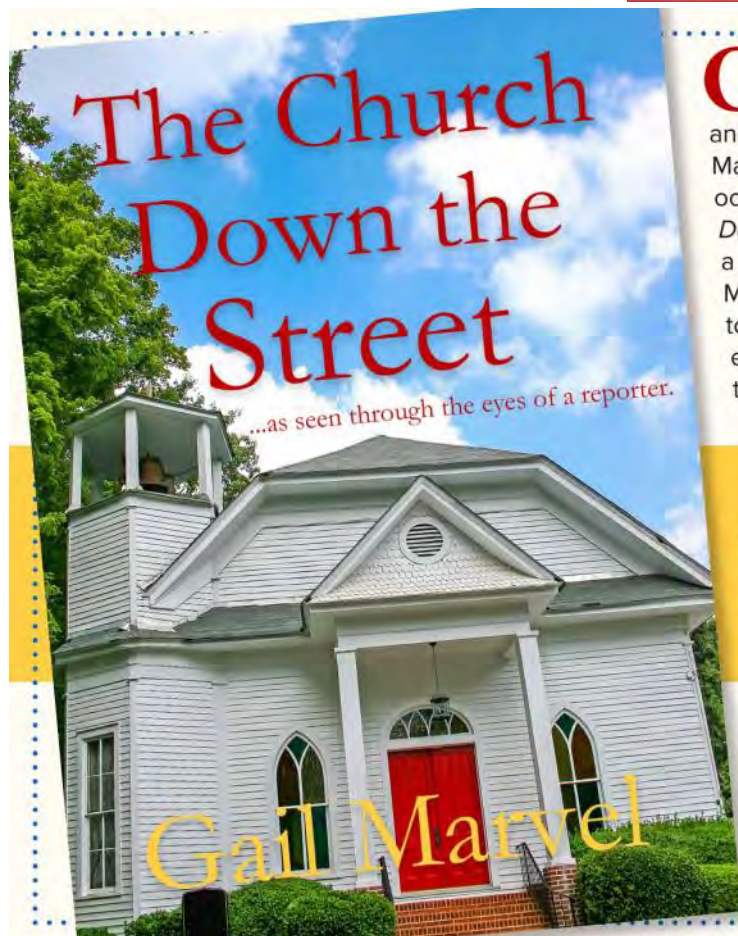
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MIRROR IMAGES...DELTA COUNTY FAIR PARADE!



Photos of the Delta County Fair Parade in Hotchkiss on Saturday, Aug. 10 courtesy of J. Morgan Nelson, [Delta County Living](#).



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](#) and [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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COUNTY CONTINUES HEARING ON COMPOST SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO AUG 21 FOR DELIBERATION & DECISION From pg 1



North Fork EMS thanked Montrose County for 50 years of support.

Building Code Resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Kathy Steckel of the **North Fork EMS** thanked Montrose County for supporting the ambulance service over the past 50 years and presented commissioners with a plaque. "...We are operating now as North Fork EMS, a special district, and, we thank you in advance for your support over the next 50 years."

For the next item, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen convened a public hearing; Justin Musser of the County's Ecological Services Department presented [Resolution 31-2019](#), extending the termination date for the Uncompahgre Valley Pest Control District and setting the mill levy. The mill levy is set at zero and will remain that way, Musser said, noting that the district has a built-in expiration date that must be extended by the BOCC.

"There were still funds available that were collected since its establishment in 1960 and keeping the district intact until funds are expended is an appropriate step forward," Musser said.

Resolution 31-2019 was unanimously approved.

Also unanimously approved was [Resolution 32-2019](#), regarding the [cancellation of uncollectible property taxes](#) in the amount of \$15,460.27.

Commissioners approved purchase of the [2019 precast concrete block wall segments](#) (for the Cimarron Road Bridge B-

154 replacement project) to sole bidder Lindsey Precast of Colorado Springs, in the amount of \$65,824. Road & Bridge crews will complete the project this fall.

"It's good to have our forces doing this type of work," BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Commissioners unanimously approved a [proposal to divide a 35.3 acre lot into three lots](#) for the Narrow Leaf Minor subdivision at 55367 Begonia Road.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen recused herself from voting and left commissioners' chambers when a proposal by the [Owls Roost Minor Subdivision](#) to divide a 29.3-acre lot into three lots at 10990 & 10978 5880 Road was heard, as owner KJ Heinschel is Hansen's husband. BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash filled in as Chair. There are two existing homes on the property; the remaining lot will remain in productive agriculture, Planning & Development Director Steve White said. The proposal was approved, and Hansen returned.

Also approved were a [proposal to divide a 2.2 acre lot into three lots for the Orchard #1 Minor Subdivision](#) at 725 6400 Road; a [proposal to divide a 2.21 acre lot into 3 lots for the Orchard #2 Minor Subdivision](#) at 725 6400 Road; and a [proposal to divide a six-acre lot into three lots at the L.W.C. Minor Subdivision](#) at the intersection of Spring Creek and 6130 roads.

Hansen briefly closed the regular session to convene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Following unanimous approval of the liquor store license renewal for [the Pleasant Valley Store](#) at 84100 East Hwy 50 in Cimarron, the BOCC returned to regular session.

Commissioners continued a public hearing from the July 17 meeting, regarding a [proposal by 3XM Grinding and Compost, LLC to operate a composting facility at 59039 Amber Road](#).

The Staff report on the proposal notes that the commercial composting facility would process waste material into a finished compost to include green waste, food waste, wood fiber, newsprint, construction, and agricultural waste. Plan-

ning & Development Director Steve White provided an overview of the process to date, and noted that any conditions imposed by the BOCC would take precedence over the original proposal if the special use is permitted. "You can be very detailed as commissioners as to what is allowed and what is disallowed."

Applicants Keith and Kirt Mautz spoke in detail about the composting process and said that the project could be eligible for the Enterprise Zone. "At this facility, we are really going to try to do a good job," Keith Mautz said.

DOWL Engineer Dan Quigley discussed findings from a geotechnical investigation of the site. "...We found groundwater between 27 and 33 feet."

Commissioner Roger Rash repeatedly expressed concerns over the impacts of dust, noise, smells, and flies on neighboring homes. "I have concerns about you impacting their way of life—there's a reason we move landfills out of town."

Following further discussion, Commissioners continued the hearing for the purposes of deliberation and decision until Aug. 21, directing staff to look into fencing needs, inspections, products going into the proposed composting process, and to ensure that the BOCC has copies of the water monitoring and CDPHE reports.

Following a public hearing, the BOCC unanimously approved [Resolution 33-2019, amending the Montrose County Building Code](#). The hearing was continued from the July 17 meeting.

Fees are being updated, but in a reasonable rather than aggressive manner, Planning & Development Director Steve White said. White reviewed some of the changes; previously commercial fees have been almost as low as residential, though a commercial building requires far more work and processing. The rate increases help Montrose County cover review costs, he said. "We've had really, really, really low fees for commercial...I believe our fee structure is reasonable...staff does recommend approval."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL'S MAMMOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT PASSES INSPECTION WITH FLYING COLORS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta County Memorial Hospital is proud to announce the mammography center under Radiology Department has once again passed its annual Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) inspection with zero citations.

The DCMH mammography department continues to meet all requirements set by MQSA.

"We aim to be the best," states eight-year DCMH employee and Lead Mammography Tech, Rochelle S. "The team works really hard and quality patient care is our number one priority."

During the inspection, a MQSA certified inspector assesses a facility's compliance with MQSA quality standards. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who administers the inspection, "the scope of the standard inspection questions is designed to check areas that FDA believes have the most direct bearing on facility performance of quality mammography," states the FDA website.

"However, the facility remains responsible for meeting all requirements of the regulations, not only those specifically checked at the time of the annual inspection," (FDA.gov). During the inspection, areas of review include: Quality Control Records for the mammography units, Radiologist, technologist, physicist certifications, continuing education requirements, and Physicists Inspections reports.

"Rochelle and her team consistently do an outstanding job in the mammography

department," said Jeff Richmond, Director of Radiology at DCMH.

"Receiving a perfect score with our

MQSA inspection year after year shows what type of quality care that we provide in mammography."



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MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE PRAYERFEST



A non-denominational gathering of Montrose residents held a prayerfest at South Townsend and Otter Pond on Saturday, Aug.10. All were welcome to join in prayer, organizers said.

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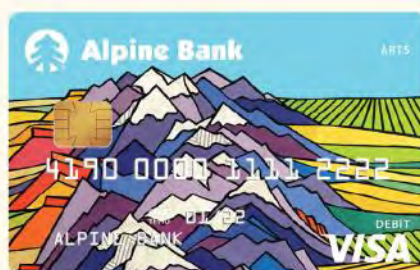
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CITY UPHOLDS “NO ACTION” RECOMMENDATION ON SHELTER REZONE

From pg 1

CONSENT AGENDA

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

2018 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Independent Auditor Drew Laird of Holscher, Mayberry & Company presented an overview of the City's 2018 independent audit report. Expenditures were down and revenues up, he said. General fund net income was \$1.5M compared to \$1.2M last year. In reviewing the City's enterprise funds, the worst performer was the Black Canyon Golf Course, Laird said. Still, the golf course's 2019 net loss of 417K was less than the prior year's loss of \$383K.

Council voted unanimously to accept the annual financial audit for the year 2018.

REZONE REQUEST

Council considered a proposal by the Montrose Lighthouse, Inc. for property owner Robb Ruyle to rezone the property at 931 N. Park Ave from I-1, Light Industrial, to B-3, General Commercial District.

The rezone 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 services to their clients."

Senior Planner Garry Baker presented an overview of the proposal. The 30,000 square-foot property includes an 8,000 square-foot building. B-3 zoning would allow many additional uses. Oral testimony was provided previously at the planning commission hearing, Baker said.

Councilor Judy Ann Files asked whether the applicant could leave the zoning as is and request a conditional special use permit; Baker said that the applicant could apply for a conditional use permit.

Council had two choices, Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen said, either to up-

hold the Planning Commission recommendation of "No action," or to set a de novo hearing.

Council could accept comment, but if a de novo hearing was chosen, any comment made on Aug. 6 would be disregarded, Allen said.

Concerning the planning commission decision, Councilor Roy Anderson said, "These are reputable people, and professional...it's wrong to question them...I feel if we opt for a de novo hearing we are discounting the value of their product and their work."

Council voted unanimously to uphold the planning commission decision of "no action."

CONTRACT AWARD-HYDROGRITTER

In other business, Council voted unanimously to approve a contract to GW Mechanical and Excavation in the amount of \$62,255 for a replacement hydrogritter for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Five bids were received from three contractors, Utilities Manager David Bries said. GW Mechanical and Excavation was the low bidder; Envirodyne Equipment will be custom-manufactured to fit the space.

STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler gave an update on the planned FUNC Fest activities.

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about public safety. "Montrose continues to surprise me," Hall said, noting that 69 grams of heroin and 57 grams of methamphetamine were seized within the last month.

"We had a drug house on Weldon Road," Hall said. He urged citizens to attend the upcoming public safety town hall meetings at the Montrose Pavilion 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. "I really want the public to come out and learn about the challenges we are currently facing."

Baker reminded Council of [upcoming comprehensive plan workshops](#).

Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked police for the work they are doing.

Files gave a brief history of the refurbished D&RGW Engine 278 at the Curecanti Recreation Area. Given to the City in



Turnout was high at the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 6, where Council took no action on a proposed homeless shelter.

1950, "It sat on North Townsend for 23 years," Files said. "I remember going to play in it in the 1950's."

Files said her own children played in the train car in the 1970's, and her grandchildren in the 2010's. Locomotive 278 is now leased to the National Park Service for 99 years. The Park Service paid for the \$1.5M restoration. "It's a great deal for the City of Montrose," Files said. "We leased it out and somebody else paid to make it look great."

"The train looks like it's brand new," Anderson said. "The trestle looks like it was made yesterday."

Anderson shared a story of neighbors helping him catch a newly-adopted, escaped dog. "There must have been 20 to 30 people all participating to help us catch our dog," he said. "We finally did...it's a great place where we live and thank you all."

Bynum gave a "shout out" to public school teachers, who will be heading back to the classroom soon.

Mayor Bowman reminded everyone to come to his Acoustic Tuesday hosted by the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART) in the Pocket Park. "Colorado Boy will donate beer, we'll sell beer to pay the band!" Jedi George will play, he said.

"Bring a chair." Bowman loudly praised the absent *Montrose Daily Press* for its news coverage. "Fantastic article today... it's the duty of every citizen to be educated and informed." With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

OLATHE TAXPAYER DOLLARS FUNDING UNFAIR COMPETITION

Editor:

I would like to thank the *Montrose Mirror* for starting the conversation about government using tax dollars to compete against private enterprise. The article started out strong and finished strong but left out the most important parts. Let me fill the spaces. In 2015 the Olathe Fire Protection District (OFPD) submitted a Statement of Purpose to the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) outlining the district's purpose and political boundaries. The boundaries are very specific as identified by longitude and latitude identifiers. The same Statement of Purpose given to the Commissioners states in part the District would "provide emergency medical service to the **citizens residing within the geographical boundaries of the Olathe District.**" In Feb 2016 an article appeared in the *Delta County Independent* stating that the OFPD was "heading to the ballot...for additional dollars from property taxes to fund the ambulance division." The increase in taxation was to "maintain current levels of service for the community's medical" needs. The mil levy increase was passed. After reviewing budgets from 2016 to 2019 a trend was detected. Each budget stated that "The Olathe Fire Protection District continues to be an **all-volunteer** fire department and **part time paid semi-volunteer** ambulance service." The 2019 budget states "Increased revenue due to implementation of Inter-Facility transfers..." yet there is only one facility which is a nursing home in their district. In fact the OFPD ambulance has served this facility for years. So where is the extra money coming from? Studies show that the OFPD ambulance service is out of the district between 38 and 41 percent of the time so far this year to implement "inter-facility transfers." They are in Montrose constantly driving between Montrose Memorial Hospital and the airport. They are driving back and forth between Montrose Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. They are driving back and forth between Montrose Memorial Hospital and hospitals in the Denver Metro area. Are all these trips for "the **citizens residing within the geographical boundaries of the Olathe Dis-**

trict"? Who is providing medical services when the local ambulance is out of town? The 2016 budget the district presented to the Department of Local Affairs shows a total payroll of \$143,090 while the 2019 budget shows a payroll of \$569,313. That is a 398 percent increase over four years. Demographic information shows that the population of the district had minimal changes during this same time period. Why such a dramatic payroll change for "an **all-volunteer** fire department and **part time paid semi-volunteer** ambulance service? The 2016 budget shows revenues of \$603,370 and expenses of \$387,640. The 2019 budget shows anticipated revenues of \$1,629,557 and anticipated expenses of \$949,366. That is an increase of revenue in 2019 over 2016 of 270 percent and an increase of expenses in 2019 over 2016 of 245 percent. If the population of the district increased on an average of 257 percent then there would be 46,830 people in the district 2019 over 2010. Is the mil levy increase really needed "to fund the ambulance division"?

All taxpayers of the Olathe Fire Protection District should ask the Board of Directors of the Fire Department questions regarding the above. Olathe Fire Protection District tax payers are funding direct competition against a private service that came to Montrose County to keep local resources within their response areas for 911 calls. As Chief Tad Rowan of the Montrose Fire Protect District stated in the *Mirror* article, the private agency "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," Chief Rowan said. Maybe the EMS Chief for Olathe Fire Protection District should take notes from the leadership of the Montrose Fire Protection District and Chief Rowan. I am sure when you ask the EMS Chief for Olathe Fire Protection District about why the district taxpayer dollars are being used to compete against a private service you will hear things like: "The district is never underserved. We have an interfacility crew and a 911 crew. We also depend on other

agencies to cover for use if things get busy. **Question...Would you need a second crew (and additional funding for that crew) if you were in district as other 911 services are? Does your current district call volume support a second ambulance crew?**"-We are trained for critical care transports and others are not. **Question....If all ambulance services are licensed the same in Montrose County by the Board of County Commissioners, then how are you better trained? Does this mean that you are better trained than registered nurses at other ambulance services?**-With the increase of inter-facility transports comes an increase in revenue collected. **Questions....Would you need the extra money if you stayed in district ready to serve the "citizens residing with the geographical boundaries of the Olathe District"? What is the dollar amount received vs. the money spent to accomplish the trips (do not include grant or tax dollars)?**

In closing I believe there is sufficient evidence to support the conversation that the Olathe Fire Protection District tax payers are funding government vs. private enterprise for revenues outside their district. I believe that there is deception and disinformation given out concerning this competition. I believe that if we all worked as a system, whether a hospital or an ambulance system, then the citizens and taxpayers of the county would surely benefit. A cooperative effort does work, and saves district dollars. TransCare has worked with the Montrose Fire Protection District since 2008. The relationship has lasted because of the wisdom of their leadership, especially Chief Rowan. A vision of keeping local resources local and yet moving patients out of the district with speed and efficiency has been achieved. I challenge the Olathe Fire Protection District EMS Chief and his officers to say the same thing https://dola.colorado.gov/dlg_portal/files.jsf?sessionId=RokiEITvJfARvnBPofkZu4iAtO8JMSM-7SbEj3q.dolaapp11?id=43011&jfwid=RokiEITvJfARvnBPofkZu4iAtO8JMSM-7SbEj3q%3A0
Allen C.T. Hughes, MS, CEO, TransCare Inc.



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CITY CONTINUES TO WORK ON PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX ISSUE, CONSIDERS SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor Dave Bowman moved an update on the proposed public safety sales tax increase to the top of the agenda when Montrose City Council convened for a [regular work session](#) on Monday, Aug. 5. All councilors were in attendance; Councilor Doug Glaspell was present by telephone.

PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX UPDATE

Mayor Bowman cited the tragedies in El Paso and Dayton. "We are not going to have a moment of silence," he said. "It's not appropriate to be silent."

As he introduced the public safety discussion, Bowman said, "By addressing concerns we can make our community safer."

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about the current situation; a priority-one 911 call now faces a response time of 16 minutes. Over the past week, officers seized 17 grams of black tar heroin as well as 28 grams of methamphetamine.

"My concern...it's not just the drugs, it's the firearms," Hall said, noting a recent arrestee was in possession of a gun stolen in Mesa County. "We have recovered three guns in the last two weeks."

There are four officers on shift at any time. Officers are presently working 12-hour shifts, which can stretch to 14 or 15 hours.

"The officers working the streets are tired," Hall said. "We just need more people."

In addition to regular patrol and investigative work, police must maintain a presence at public events such as FUNC Fest, Hall said. "We need to be there...there's going to be a lot of stuff down there at night...we have a lot of issues with graffiti in our park system. We can't leave that stuff alone at night—it's two nights...it's straining our staff."

Though officers recently shut down a drug house, he said, "It doesn't necessarily mean the problem goes away from the residence," he said. "An individual immediately returned and started guarding something...they had a secret room."



Citizens listen during the Montrose City Council work session of Aug. 5.

In addition to high numbers of sexual assaults, "We have huge traffic issues, a lot of road rage," Hall said. In 2018, a total of 18 threats were made against local schools.

"I want to be proactive rather than reactive," Hall said. The Montrose Police department is now working to target high profile offenders, so that the Street Crimes Unit can work to take those individuals off the streets, he said.

"Right now, we're buried," he said.

Council discussed possible rates for the sales tax increase. According to a summary prepared by staff, a rate of 0.45% would generate \$2,657,271.97; a rate of 0.50% would generate \$2,976,894.75; a rate of 0.55% would generate \$3,274,584.22; a rate of 0.60% would generate \$3,572,273.70; and a rate of 0.75% would generate \$4,465,342.13. The portion of the tax to be used for facility expansion will sunset after 25 years, so that a rate of 0.50% would drop to 0.45%, City Manager Bill Bell said.

Though Council tentatively reached consensus on an increase of 0.50%, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum asked for updated construction numbers. "We are not going back to the voters; this community has very high expectations of government."

Staff will be attending building confer-

ences in September and October to learn more, Bell said.

SHORT TERM RENTAL DISCUSSION

Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen presented a discussion of regulations for short term rentals. Residents of the English Gardens neighborhood have struggled with parking, privacy, and other issues after a four-bedroom family home was sold to an owner who rents individual rooms by the night through AirBnB.

The U.S. Constitution's Privileges and Immunities Clause prevents the City from treating non-residents differently than residents, Allen said. Because an AirBnB is a hybrid type of business rather than a traditional home-based business, the rules on parking are not clear.

Bynum pointed out that there are "no parking" signs in areas of Otter Pond impacted by traffic from Cottonwood Elementary School; Councilor Judy Ann Files said that the City has placed "Permit Parking only" signs on an area of South Fifth Street near Montrose High School.

"It's not enforced," said City Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer. "I live there."

Following further discussion, City Manager Bill Bell said that the problems could be handled as a nuisance, and compared the issues faced by the Air BnB's neighbors to those faced by neighbors of a drug house.

"It's the same thing with this," Bell said.

Continued next pg

CITY CONTINUES TO WORK ON PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX ISSUE, CONSIDERS SHORT-TERM RENTALS *From previous pg*

"You're doing something at your house that all of your neighbors don't appreciate...something not expected."

Council will consider short-term rental regulations at the regular meeting of Tuesday, Sept. 3.

GRAY & BLACK MARKET MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT GRANT AUTHORIZATION

Cramer presented information on the grant, which will provide funds to investigate and process illegal distribution of gray and black market marijuana. Though the City anticipated receiving \$40K, it will receive \$70K, Cramer said.

RIVERBOTTOM DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

According to a memorandum included in the [work session packet](#), Riverbottom Drive is narrow, lacks adequate pedestrian facilities, does not have any formal on-street parking, is paralleled by an open irrigation/stormwater ditch that routinely experiences flooding, and joins Rio-Grande Avenue at a skew without any formal turn lanes. The Montrose Recreation District (MRD) owns and maintains Holly Park at the corner of Rio-Grande and Riverbottom Drive. This park is the MRD's oldest and needs a complete rebuild.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on the projects; the original plan was that the Montrose Recreation District would be responsible for the Holly Park project, while the City would take on reconstruction of Riverbottom Drive.

Eight bids were received for Riverbottom Drive, with the Skip Huston company as low bidder at \$988,458.79. The project Bids for Holly Park came in high, and the project will be rebid in the fall, Murphy

said. Out of pocket expense for the unbudgeted project is \$780K; work is expected to start this year. Staff also recommended award of an engineering support and survey stakeout contract to the roadway designer, Del-Mont Consultants, for work budgeted at \$45K on an as-needed, time and materials basis. Except for final paving, the project is expected to be complete and reopened as a gravel road by April of 2020.

UNCOMPAHGRE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Public Works Director Jim Scheid spoke about the need to update the unsafe bridge. According to information provided in the packet, the bridge over the Uncompahgre River consists of two old rail cars and is located on a pedestrian trail west of Ogden road and Townsend. The bridge has been in place for around 60 years and does not meet FEMA regulations. "It's time to replace it," Scheid said. Three bids were received; low bidder is Con-Sy Inc. of Grand Junction at \$397,570.80.

Said City Engineer Scott Murphy, "Our local contractors are stretched thin...we've got 'em so loaded up. This valley is doing more construction this year than we have ever done."

The bridge gets lots of use, Files said. "We need it to be safe."

COMMENTS

Files toured the South end of the Connect Trail, currently under construction. "It's going to be a tremendous asset to the City." She also noted the Rec Center's well-attended pickle ball and adult softball tournaments.

Councilor Roy Anderson mentioned refurbished D&RGW Engine 278 at the Curecanti Recreation Area. "It's like a brand-new train just out of the factory...it really is stunning...the trestle just glistens...I want to see us advertise it and have people enjoy it."

Bowman reminded of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) meeting at 3 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the Rec Center but noted he could not attend. He promoted his summer music series, the Olathe Sweet Corn Festival, and the upcoming FUNC Fest. "It's going to be an epic weekend."

Office of Business & Tourism Marketing Director Kelly Brown provided an update on FUNC Fest activities. Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner said that comprehensive plan workshops have drawn an average of 50 attendees.

Chief Hall noted the importance of suicide awareness. "We have had three in the last month, all young men, with a firearm used in all. Parents, family, and friends need to report individuals who are having issues."

Bell said that Youth Appreciation Day will be Aug. 17, starting at 8:30 a.m. The City Picnic will take place at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15; employees will be released at 3p.m. on that day.

"We've had a good turnout the last couple of years," Bell said.

"It didn't used to be that way. People used to boycott the City picnic ten years ago...there's a better morale situation at the City now than there was a decade ago."

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE URGES HUNTERS TO LOG IN EARLY TO NEW HUNTING RESERVATION SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

DENVER— Hunters can head over to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) [Hunting Reservation Page](#), learn more about the hunting opportunities on 21 properties (primarily offering small game and waterfowl), and [log on to their account in CPW's new Hunting Reservation System](#). Although reservations will not be available until Aug. 18, 2019, hunters should visit

the new online system beginning today to make sure they can log into their account and are familiar with the online system. CPW is encouraging the online reservation system option for hunters hoping to quickly secure a popular location. Hunting reservations can be made online or by phone starting at 12 a.m. on the morning of Aug. 18, 2019. Hunters must make reservations for all properties that require them - ei-

ther online or through the new reservation phone number: 1-800-244-5613. Hunt site reservations will continue to be free at participating locations. Please note that reservations will now be available a true 14 days in advance and will no longer be impacted by holidays. For more information regarding the 2019 Hunt Site Reservation system, please visit the [Hunting Reservations Page](#).

DineOutMontrose.com



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LEARN TO HUNT BEARS @ MONTROSE WORKSHOP

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE -- If you've ever wanted to hunt bears or if you want to improve your chances of harvesting one, plan to attend a workshop sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife on Aug. 21.

Bear populations are healthy in western Colorado, providing hunters a unique hunting opportunity. CPW's district wildlife managers will lead the presentation on hunting Colorado's black bears. They'll discuss bear biology, hunting locations and hunting tactics, field dressing and rules and regulations.

The majority of the bear harvest takes place in September when the animals are foraging heavily for acorns and berries in preparation for their winter hibernation. The greater Montrose area offers ideal habitat for bears; so hunters' chances of having a successful hunt are high – if they know where to go.

The class will be held 6-9 p.m., Aug. 21 at the CPW office in Montrose, 2300 S. Townsend Ave. The class will be limited to 30 people and participants must register on-line at:
www.cpw.state.co.us/learn/pages/outreachclinics.aspx.

For more information call the Montrose Parks and Wildlife office at 970-252-6000.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J NUTRITION TEAM ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAMS FOR 2019

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The RE-1J Nutrition Services Team is very excited to welcome each of our customers back to school in August. We have been busy implementing new programs and renovating our menu.

By partnering with Sodexo, we will be able to bring our customers, the students, more fresh, innovative menu items while maintaining the same excellent customer service they are use too. . Sodexo has also brought several other resources to Montrose County Schools such as an interactive online survey tool for student, parents and staff, student cooking competitions, online menus, a mobile friendly app where you can access menus and nutritional information and much more.

Get to Know Our New Programs

Fast Takes: A fast, healthy grab and go menu option at our secondary sites

Taste 4: The Next Generation in High School Dining with several new menu option tailor made for our students

Clubhouse: A fun and inviting elementary brand that offers 3-4 different menu options a day

SoHappy: A mobile app that allows our students and parents to see menus and nutritional information at the tips of the fingers

Did You Know Café: An interactive middle school brand that merges the gap between high school and elementary flawlessly

Future Chef: A student cooking competition for elementary students

2019-2020 Student Meal Charge Policy

We ask parents and guardians to assure money is deposited regularly on their student meal account. It is the Parents and / or Guardian's responsibility to regularly check on their students account balances. This can accessed at Parent Portal on the district website (www.mcscd.org) or your student's school secretary.

Deposits for meal accounts can be made at the schools, on-line at www.mcscd.org with a link in parent portal and the lunch menu option . Make deposits at our office 930 Colorado Avenue, Montrose . Deposits can be made on-line thru the district web site at www.mcscd.org or at any school location.

When a student's account falls below \$5.00, the Nutrition Department will send out a courtesy call or e-mail reminding the parent or guardian the account balance is getting low and to please make a deposit. This communication will help to alleviate any negative balances.

An automated phone message will be

placed to the household when a student reaches a negative balance letting the parents or guardian know that a deposit needs to be made. Preschool and Elementary students with a negative balance will be given a negative balance letter to take home to parents or guardians at the end of each week so the students meal accounts can be paid.

CHARGE POLICY: ANY *Student may incur meal charges up to the equivalent of two (2) meals.

Charges are not allowed for the following: Adult Meals, Non Student Meals, Second Meals, Ala Cart Purchases and Extra Milk

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

-We highly recommend that everyone fills out a 2019-2020 Free and Reduced Lunch Application

-This application should be available mid July

-The on-line meal application can be accessed via parent portal as well on the QR Code below.

-Don't forget that if you received free or reduced meals last year, you will need to fill out a new application this year. Your application from last year will expire very soon. Please contact Kimberly Flatten at 970-252-7912 for additional information.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMS KEEP TRYING TO PLACE BLAME ON A HELPLESS GUN

Editor:

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste", comment from former Obama Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, and, "Never waste a good crisis", comment from Hillary. And, "If your opponents bring a knife to a fight, you should bring a gun". Comment from Barack Obama! He ran guns to Mexico which were untraceable, which was illegal. Now, in a speech this month, he blames guns, white supremacists and President Trump for gun violence! And this despotic attitude seems to be the playbook of the Democrat party. The mass shootings are despicable enough, but Democrats waste no time sinking into the filth and mire blaming law abiding Americans and the Constitution. This is a slap in the face of the victims who they use for their political enjoyment. They wander aimlessly trying to place blame on a helpless gun.

This is another fake opportunity for the leftists to attack the NRA. And for what? None of the shooters were members of the NRA. They lecture gun safety constantly and are proud of their law-abiding membership. The Democrats use "gun safety" as part of their propaganda, but they ignore the NRA has trained gun safety experts nation-wide. Remember, the NRA murders 0 people and receives \$0 government funds. Planned parenthood kills 300,000 babies every year and receives \$500 million in tax dollars annually!

Isn't it ironic that the Democrats attempting to disarm Americans are the same ones luring illegals into this country? And they opposed a push to alert ICE when illegals fail gun background checks! Democrats can't keep drugs off the street or drugs out of schools or out of prisons, but they want to disarm Americans and be trusted to keep guns out of the hands of criminals!

By the way, the shooter in Dayton, Ohio was a registered Democrat.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT THE SAME AS MENTAL ILLNESS

Editor:

Mental Health is different than Mental Illness. You don't have to be sick to learn how to be healthy.

Timothy Storrs, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS CARE MORE FOR THE CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS CRASHING OUR BORDERS THAN THEY DO AMERICAN CITIZENS

Editor:

Suffering through four nights of two Democratic debates clearly showed how far to the radical left the Democratic party has swung. When not pandering to their respective bases, the candidates were either competing to see how much they could promise to give away or engaged in back biting and personal attacks. Never in the over 60 years I have been voting, have I seen a more inept group of Presidential candidates.

All 20 candidates participating in the "debates" support radical unrealistic proposals like open borders, sanctuary cities, higher taxes, a guaranteed income, the Green New Deal, reparations, climate change, Medicare for all. elimination of private health insurance, income inequality, decriminalizing illegal entry into the country, free health care for illegals, tuition free college, student loan forgiveness, and abolishing the electoral college among

many others. As so aptly put in a follow up commentary, "Each of those proposals would harm the integrity of the constitutional republic that our Founders so painstakingly crafted".

With a current debt of some \$23 trillion already committed, the cost of any of these radical proposals would increase that debt significantly, while destroying the booming economy we now enjoy. Unemployment is at it's lowest in decades, tax reductions and wage increases have boosted incomes, and reduction of stifling regulations has increased business investment and expansion. Finally our government is confronting threats from North Korea, Iran, China, and Russia. Like him personally or not, in my opinion, Trump has accomplished more for this country in a short time than any president in my lifetime.

Democrats have proven by their rhetoric and actions that they care more for the

criminal illegal aliens crashing our borders than they do American citizens they are supposed to represent. For two and a half years there has been a concerted effort by Democrats to destroy this President, and, by so doing, they have proven to be a domestic enemy of the Constitution and welfare of our country.

Today's Democratic party, unable to recognize or admit the improved conditions of the country, have resorted to race baiting and name calling in an effort to further divide us. None of the Democratic candidates have shown the mental acuity or ability to improve on Trump's vision or accomplishments. In fact, the candidates have shown they are fundamentally unfit to govern. Absent a strong Democratic candidate, the 2020 election won't be Republican vs Democrat, but will be Trump vs Socialism for our future.

Dee Laird, Montrose

TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP @ MONTROSE LIBRARY

Editor:

I see by the Montrose Mirror that the library is in the midst of a controversy over the "Behavior Policy" which was reported to be scheduled for update [in February](#) and has not yet been done by the director - Paul Paladino. In the story, Paladino claimed no authority or right to A) deal with homeless people sleeping on a public street behind the library in their auto and

B) to talk about any library patron. This is precisely why I resigned from the Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Paladino has done a very good job over his career representing the library and its interest. But now it is time for him to retire and for the library to find younger, more engaged and assertive leadership. There are so many issues that Paladino has demurred or delayed dealing with, thinking they will just

go away. He is strongly supported by the board. Why? This is 2019.

It is time for new leadership and fresh ideas - maybe even a new location that can be secured.

Under its current director and board, that is unlikely to happen.

Too bad. Montrose deserves a better library facility.

Tim Conner, Montrose



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BIG-GAME MANAGEMENT SUBJECT OF AUG. 14 PUBLIC MEETING IN GUNNISON

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff will discuss a variety of big-game management topics at a public meeting 7-8:30 p.m., Aug. 14, in the north ballroom of the Western Colorado University Student Center.

Pronghorn (7 – 7:30): The Gunnison office is revising the pronghorn herd management plan for the basin. This will be a 10-year plan that sets the management objectives. Over the life of the plan, harvest allocations will be determined annually in order to meet or maintain the established objectives.

Black Bears (7:30 -8): The first population

management plan for black bears in the Gunnison Basin will be drafted soon. This will also be a 10-year plan that sets the management objectives. Over the life of the plan, harvest allocations will be determined annually in order to meet or maintain these established objectives.

Hunt-code and local season changes for bighorns, deer, and elk (8 – 8:30): Local CPW staff will be proposing some modifications of some hunt-codes and seasons regarding: bighorn sheep in select units, reinstating mule deer doe seasons in the Gunnison Basin, and some potential modifications to elk sub-unit boundaries in GMU 521 and GMU 54.

For each topic, interested stakeholders are encouraged to come and listen to background information and fill out a questionnaire/comment form at the meeting.

CPW staff will be on-hand to answer questions after the meeting.



A public meeting for big-game management will cover a variety of species in Gunnison, Aug. 14. Courtesy photo.

Isn't she purr-fect?

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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)
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TROOPER TIPS: REMEMBER PATIENCE

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO-Recently I helped with directing traffic for the Iron Man competition held in Boulder County. While I was trying to endure standing in the 90-degree plus temperatures, it got me thinking about safety issues when dealing with special events and emergency situations.

We were tasked to shut down part of Highway 119, which is a divided road. Both north and southbound traffic were on the same side, which as you can imagine, caused slowdowns along with some left turns being blocked. This caused a few drivers to verbally and some not so verbally let us know just how irritated they were about the closures.

What I want to convey from this experience is to have patience. First, law enforcement didn't wake up that morning and decide to shut down roads just to re-route the driving public for no reason. We were tasked to block the road for the event and since we had a job to do, we accomplished the task at hand. So when you're driving through these areas please give us a "brake." When you see cones, patrol cars, police, or signs, they are there for one reason, to keep drivers from entering an area for everyone's safety. This

means you are not permitted to go that way.

We try to make sure there are alternate ways to get where you are going. It may take you a little longer to get there, but you can get there.

So remember patience. Our number one priority is to make sure everyone goes home after an event.

Trying to convince the officer to let you through is not going to get you anywhere and will only back up traffic even more. The officer cannot take the time to talk to drivers when directing traffic. It endangers the officer as well as the driver stopping to ask questions.

Law enforcement, fire, and ambulances do not carry signs with them. This means the cones or an individual in the area directing traffic is all we have sometimes. They are just the same as a sign.

If you are motioned to go a different direction or cones are blocking the road, this means you are not allowed to go through that area. Driving through, over, or around cones is just wrong, and will get you in trouble with the law.

When a driver takes it upon himself to go around cones the consequences can be devastating.

Again, think safety and patience. Just because you don't see a reason for that area to be closed, know that we have deemed it as a safety area.

If cones are blocking your ability to turn, and yet you see traffic from the other direction going that way, sometimes it may not be safe for traffic in your direction to make a turn on that road.

If it's a left turn, it may also back up traffic even more in your lane because the car turning left may have to wait for an opening from traffic going in the opposite direction. This goes the same for crashes, construction, or any type of police activity. Have patience for safety's sake, and know it's nothing personal, but sometimes it outweighs whatever you're trying to get to.

As always, safe travels!



CSP Trooper Gary Cutler.
Courtesy photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: LEADERSHIP

CSU EXTENSION BRINGS NEW RESOURCE TO FARMERS AND RANCHERS



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Colorado State University Extension would like to welcome Kelsi Seymour to the staff as ag marketing and general ag extension agent. Seymour graduated from Texas Tech University in December of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and a minor in advertising.

She has gained experience with agricultural marketing and communications through positions with the American Gelbvieh Association, National Sorghum Producers and more. In her role as ag marketing and general ag extension agent, Seymour will deliver educational programming and resources to producers on the current and potential marketing channels they can use to market local crop and livestock commodities.

She will also work in collaboration with other supporting agencies to enhance the economic viability of all Tri River Area agricultural enterprises. While housed in the Montrose county extension office, Seymour's support and responsibilities cover the Tri River Area.

Seymour can be reached at 970-249-3935 or by email at kseymour@montrosecounty.net.

Pictured at left, Ag Marketing and Ag Extension Agent Kelsi Seymour. Courtesy photo.

COLORADO OIL AND GAS NAMES CHIEF OF STAFF & SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR *Julie Murphy to lead Rulemaking, Hearings and Finance for COGCC*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) today announced that Julie Murphy joined the division to lead rulemaking, hearings and finance for COGCC. In her role as the Chief of Staff & Senior Policy Advisor, Julie will also update administrative guidance, serve as a liaison to operators and stakeholders, oversee special projects, and develop operational strategies.

"Julie's knowledge, background and strong stakeholder relationships will help the COGCC with the implementation of SB19-181, especially in the area of rulemaking where she has extensive expertise," said Director Jeff Robbins. "Julie will also be working to improve our overall organizational strategy, process and best use of our resources as the COGCC implements its mission and culture change."

Prior to her current role, Julie served as the Assistant Director for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. She is well-versed in the multifaceted issues, including conflicts, facing natural resource management from the policy, technical and legal perspectives and works with Colorado's oil and gas stakeholders espousing diverse viewpoints. She has previously served as the Director of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Hearings and Regulatory Affairs Manager for the Commission, and an Assistant Attorney General representing the Commission and the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety.

In the private sector, Julie spent five years representing clients in land use, natural resources, private property, and environmental disputes. Her educational background includes a bachelor degree in wildlife biology from Kansas State University, a J.D. and masters degree from the University of South Carolina and a masters of science from Vermont Law School.



Julie Murphy. Courtesy photo.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: LEADERSHIP

NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS @ VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA & SENIOR COMMUNITY CARE PACE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Volunteers of America and Senior Community Care PACE is pleased to announce Keith Howell as their new Director of Operations. This is a new role created to support the future growth of the PACE program in Montrose and Delta Counties. Howell has been with the organization since 2010. Howell's experience originated in long-term and primary care nursing. He said, "I grew up professionally within Volunteers of America." He has held various positions within the program beginning with Medication Nurse, Medication Department Manager and then Quality and Compliance Manager prior to accepting this new position. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Management from Bellevue University and a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Southern New Hampshire University.

Howell explained that the Director of Operations position was created out of the need to meet the changing challenges of the healthcare industry. Oversight will be provided to various departments including quality assurance, compliance, medical records, medication department, in-home services, clinic/nursing and inte-

grated case management.

"Providing healthcare services in rural settings presents several unique challenges. Coupling this with an ever-shifting regulatory environment, a growing older population, and limited resources, all healthcare providers are continually faced with the demand to do more with less," Howell said. "We are committed to meet this challenge head on by continuing to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PACE services while maintaining the high quality of care that our organization is known for." Working with older adults has been a highly rewarding experience, Howell said. "I have been honored to be a small part of so many individual journeys, I truly value the rich personal histories, experiences, and insights shared with me over the years. I am a strong proponent of the PACE model of care, which affords older adults the dignity of choice all people deserve and might otherwise be significantly limited."

"It has been and continues to be a privilege to work with such an amazing and skilled group of individuals as on the Senior Community Care PACE team, who truly are a demonstration of Volunteers of

America's mission of service to others." Volunteers of America was founded by Christian social reformers, the Booths, in 1896 as a movement to "reach and uplift" the American people. The early organization nursed the sick, fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless and visited those in prison. Cindy Simmers, executive director of Senior Community Care PACE said, "We are all appreciative of Keith's desire to learn and grow over the last nine years. We like to promote from within whenever possible and it has been a true pleasure watching him take on more and more responsibility. We are excited for the future under Keith's leadership." Howell grew up in Fort Collins, Colo. He and his family – wife, Amanda and three teenage children – Jory, Hunter, and Aolyn – have resided in the Montrose area since 2010, drawn to the Montrose area by the amazing natural beauty and variety of at-your-doorstep activities Western Colorado offers.



Keith Howell.
Courtesy photo.

FORMER ROCKY REPORTER JOHN ENSSLIN MOURNED

Special to the Mirror

INDIANAPOLIS — The [Society of Professional Journalists](#) is mourning a beloved [former national president](#), long-time award-winning journalist and friend today as it [grieves the sudden passing of John Ensslin](#).

Dedicated, devoted, kind and genuine are words friends and colleagues across the country use repeatedly to describe him.

"John was one of the best, as dedicated to SPJ as any past national president could be," said SPJ National President J. Alex Tarquinio. "After his term, he supported our election process with his podcasts of the candidates and freely gave advice to SPJ leaders coming up the ranks. He remained a committed journalist, moving

halfway across the country twice to keep doing the work that he loved. He was also a good friend and a class act, and our hearts all go out to his family and friends."

Ensslin [started his career as a journalist](#) by posting accounts of the 1964 World Series on his front porch for neighborhood kids to read.

A graduate of [Columbia University](#) in 1976, Ensslin worked as a reporter at the Rocky Mountain News for 24 years. He was with the paper when it closed in February 2009.

"I'm heartbroken," a gracious Ensslin told the [Denver Post](#) at the time of the Rocky's closure.

"I've given 24 years of my life to this paper, and I really liked it. I had a goal when I came to Denver: to work for a great

American newspaper, and I met that goal, and I got to stick with it."

He won numerous awards throughout his career and covered stories ranging from the JonBenet Ramsey case to visits from Queen Elizabeth and the Pope.

In 2012, he sat down with the Columbia School of Journalism [to discuss "Ethics in a Modern Era"](#) as part of the school's 100th anniversary activities.

"It was a great run," he told The Post in 2009.

He worked for The Gazette in Colorado Springs from 2009-2011; The Record in New Jersey from 2012-2018; and returned to Colorado in February to work at Colorado Politics.

[He was inducted into the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame](#) in 2007.



SAN JUAN CHAMBER MUSICFEST FEATURES RENOWNED MUSICIANS



Violinist Markus Placci performs at the Classical Café' with the San Juan Chamber MusicFest Artistic Director Max Levinson held at the 4H Center in Ridgway. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is pleased to present the annual San Juan Chamber Music Fest, OCPAG's flagship event, featuring a group of musicians of international acclaim, under the artistic direction of renowned concert pianist Max Levinson. Markus Placci returns on violin, Melissa Reardon will feature the viola and Raman Ramakrishnan on cello.

Venues in Ouray, Ridgway and Montrose during the week of Aug. 19 - 24 will feature several events, from a larger concert theater to intimate private home affairs in

music pieces, talk about their instruments and answer questions from the audience.

The Classical Café' is on Tuesday, Aug. 20 at the 4H Events Center in Ridgway which offers an appetizer social before the concert for an additional cost. The appetizer social begins at 6 p.m. and then the concert, featuring composers highlighting "A Trip Around the World" with pieces by J.S. Bach, Frederic Chopin, George Gershwin and more, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 21 brings the Afternoon Salon at a private home in Montrose featuring "German

splendid settings.

The week begins with a Free Children's Concert on Monday, Aug. 19 in Ridgway at the United Church of the San Juans at 10 a.m. Children, their families, and community members are invited to this interactive engagement with the musicians as they perform child-friendly classical

Masterpieces", appetizers and fine wines. Weather permitting, the house will be opened to the sounds of flowing water and the cooling breezes off the Uncompahgre Valley high grasslands.

A favorite event since 2005, the Dinner Salon on Thursday, Aug. 22 will be held at a beautiful private home in Ridgway with music featuring "German Masterpieces", a spectacular view of the San Juan Mountains and a delectable catered meal by the Secret Garden Catering. Weather permitting, dinner will be served on the patio outside.

To finish the week of incredible performances, the 36th Festival Concert will be on Saturday, Aug. 24 at the historic Wright Opera House in Ouray with an impressive concert presenting the "Soul of Russia" by Russian composers Alexander Glazunov, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is a not-for-profit organization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to Ouray and Ridgway. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors.

For more information about the SJCMF and tickets, visit ocpag.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

POETRY FESTIVALS, READINGS, WORKSHOPS, PRIZES POPPING UP LIKE MUSHROOMS

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE--The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program handed out its national [Fischer Prize](#) and statewide Cantor Award this past spring, and now is gearing up for an extensive summer/fall season of literary events.

Judge Rafael Jesús González, poet laureate of Berkeley (CA), chose Carlos Andrés Gómez of Forest Hills (NY) for his poem "C(h)ord" as the 2019 Fischer Prize first prize winner (\$1000), and Renee Podunovich of Dolores (CO) for her poem "The Poet's Broken Heart" as this year's Cantor Award recipient for the best poem submitted to the Fischer contest by a Colorado poet (\$500).

Finalists included Kurt Luchs of Kalamazoo (MI) for his "Tokyo Rose," John Macker of Santa Fe (NM) for his "Happiness," Rev. Donald Marbury of Rockville (MD) for his "Sunday Dinner," Phyllis Klein of Palo Alto (CA) for her poem "A Compassionate Judge at the Veteran's Court," and Susan Browne of Oakland (CA) for her poem "Critical Thinking." Each received \$200.

Runners-up got a Talking Gourds Club membership with its half-price entry to next year's Fischer/Cantor contest: Greg

Bell of Los Angeles (CA) for "Oración del Sueño Americano (Prayer of the American Dream), Jonathan Greenhouse of Jersey City (NJ) for "Un Incendio Difícil de Tra-ducir," Albert Flynn DeSilver of Woodacre (CA) for "The Dolphins at Big Sur," Devreaux Baker of Mendocino (CA) for "Finding Solace," Robert J. Hejna of Ann Arbor (MI) for "Grandpa Frankie's Notes," Deborah Kay Kelly of Boulder (CO) for

"Brother on the Bridge," and Gwylum Cano of Edgewater (CO) for "Chat at the End of the Pier."

In a new partnership, Talking Gourds has teamed up with the Gunnison Arts Center, the Crested Butte Center of the Arts, and Western Colorado University's Graduate Program in Creative Writing to co-host the first [Gunnison Valley Literary Festival](#) Aug. 9-11.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

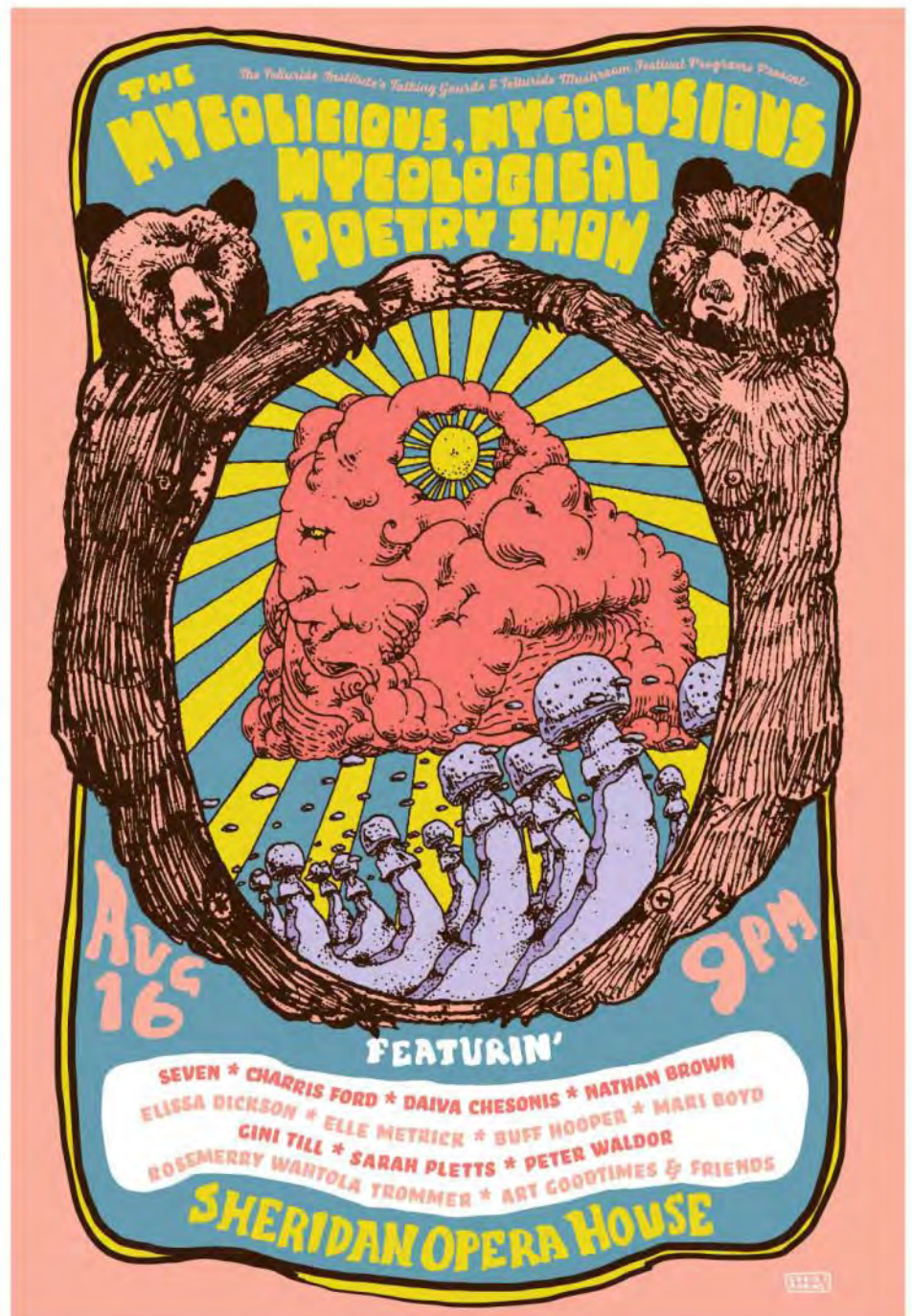
Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on the city's Historic Preservation Commission following a recent vacancy. Historic Preservation Commissioners can reside within the city or the surrounding area. The current vacancy is for the remainder of a three-year term set to expire in March 2022.

The commission is appointed by the City Council.

The deadline to apply is the close of business on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Applications are available at City Hall, 433 S. First Street, at www.CityofMontrose.org/History, or by calling 970.240.1430.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FORTUNA TIERRA CLUB IS SPONSORING THE FOURTH ANNUAL LOG HILL HUSTLE

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The Fortuna Tierra Club is sponsoring the fourth annual Log Hill Hustle Fun Run fundraiser on Sunday, Aug. 25, with a start time of 8 AM. Same-day registration and pre-registration packet pickup begins at 7 AM. For advance registration, visit www.fortunatierra.com. Registration and race packet pickup will also be available during the Ridgway Farmers Market at Hartwell Park in Ridgway on Friday, Aug. 23, from 10 AM to 1:30 PM. Both a 5K and 10K course are offered. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcomed.

The courses will be through the roads of Fairway Pines. At the end of the race there will be a continental breakfast and silent auction. All proceeds from the Log Hill Hustle are used to provide scholarships for graduates of the Ridgway School district and purchase educational materials and equipment to enhance the Ridgway K-12 student learning experience.

THE RADIO ROOM PRESENTS LIPBONE REDDING

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Lipbone Redding is an award-winning vocalist, guitar player, voiceinstrumentalist, storyteller, songwriter, author, teacher and traveler. He is best known for his one-man orchestra show; simultaneously playing, singing and making instrumental sounds with his mouth and without the use of a loop pedal. Lipbone incorporates a full spectrum of musical styles from American Roots and Jazz to throat singing and Indian Classical. Lipbone Redding will be performing LIVE in the KAFM Radio Room on Saturday, August 24th at 7:30 p.m.

A one-man orchestra with no electronic effects, his natural human sounds of throat singing, bass and beat-boxing, and his astonishingly realistic lip-trombone are a must-experience evening of entertainment—as he weaves his stories with

funky rhythms, catchy melodies, brash humor, soulful singing, and inventive guitar playing.

He has shared the stage with many great artists including Marcia Ball, John Mayall, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Tab Benoit, Cyril Neville, Jimmy Hall, Jonathan Edwards, Rita Wilson, Shemekia Copeland, Tommy Castro and others.

An engaging and entertaining show for all ages and musical tastes...there is truly 'something for everyone at a Lipbone show! Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Pictured at right, Lipbone Redding. Photo courtesy Washington-The Magazine.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY ELKS HOST GRILLIN' AND CHILLIN' PIG ROAST AND BREWFEST

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-On Saturday, August 17 the Ouray Elks Lodge will be serving up its first Grillin' and Chillin' pig roast and brewfest in Elks Centennial Park, next door to the lodge. The event features all you can eat roasted pork, slaw and beans and all you can taste beer from six area brewers. Live music will be provided by Ridgway's Alive in the Woods band, who will play classic rock, blues and country. "This will be really a fun day," said event chairman Danny Wesseling. "We'll be cooking the pig slowly all night, and we'll have great beers to taste from top area brewers. We're having an appetizer contest for area restaurants at 11 am, and the pig, beer and music start at noon and last until 4 pm. This is an important fundraiser for our building fund, and we hope to get a big crowd."

Cost of the event is \$25 for the pig, \$25 for the beer tasting, or \$40 for both. "You

can save 10 percent by buying your tickets early," said Wesseling. "Just go to our website at www.ourayelks.org or to www.eventbrite.com/d/co-ouray/events.

If you like our July 4th barbecues, this will be even better. It's open to the public, so come pig out, we guarantee a rockin' good time."



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- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



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DON'T MISS LEGENDS & TRUE TALES WALKING TOUR!

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Take the "Legends and True Tales" walking tour...you will enjoy the "Unknown Stories of Downtown Montrose" on Aug. 13, starting at 7 pm. This short walk will take you to the alleys of our historic downtown and where you will learn the locations of our first jails, courthouse, and stories that had happened behind the closed doors in our historical buildings. Along with some of the stories of our famous visitors that had "come" to town to work, live or visit. The cost is \$10/person, and space is limited. Please call 249-2085 for reservations or information.

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Mushroom festival in Telluride next weekend



Paraders at the festival last year (courtesy photo).

39 YEARS ... It's nearing the end of my fourth decade celebrating mushrooms in Telluride. I haven't done anything else in my life this long, except maybe writing poetry ... Poetry involves reflection, insight, epiphany, and a certain skill with language. Having learned Latin and Greek early in my life, and having loved reading, writing, and performing, poetry was a good fit. And it allowed me license to range widely in the arts and sciences. Not to specialize but to generalize, philosophize, explore the landscape of my own mind and seek experiences widely ... If there is one thing Dolores LaChapelle taught me it was reverence and fascination for the natural world. And mushrooms gave me a chance to get specific. To learn names. Identify characteristics. Differentiate between edibles and interesting specimens ... The art of poetry. The science of mushrooms. For me the world of mushrooms has provided a welcome balance to my artistic bent. Plus, I've seen science seeping into my poetry, and the arts flourishing among the mushrooms ... The mushroom gathering started as a conference. Low-key and intimate. Dr. Emanuel Salzman and his wife Joanne hosted the event, and made sure we all ate meals together, which created a kind of intimacy that gets lost in big events. We had major speakers: mycologists Rolf Singer and Bob Harris in 1981, psychiatrist Thomas Szasz in 1983 whose talk on scapegoating still resonates in my mind, ethnobotanist Wade Davis in 1986 talking about the zombie phenomenon in Haiti, mycologist

David Arora, psychopharmacologist Dr. Alexander "Sasha" Shulgin, author Joan Halifax, Dolores LaChapelle, Terence McKenna. The list itself is amazing – including scientists, a Nobel Prize winner, artists, and activists. For the first 25 years Dr. Andrew Weil, Gary Lincoff, and Paul Stamets were part of the regular faculty ...

And eventually a conference morphed into a festival (as repeat events do in Telluride) and now it has reached a new level of importance with the changing attitudes towards fungal, plant, and chemical entheogens ... Check out the schedule on line and see if any of the many offerings entice you. And bring your kids on Saturday, dress up like mushrooms with our free costume and sign-making workshops, and join the annual parade down Colorado Avenue.

DOLORES LACHAPPELLE ... It's been more than a decade since my teacher, mentor and friend passed on. An auto-didact, Dolores took a holistic approach to knowledge and tried to interpret our society in terms of the past and the future. She did it outside the academy, and with little external support. She was a hermit scholar in the best of the Chinese traditions. Never famous in popular culture, she was savored and appreciated by many who had the privilege of meeting her in person or reading her half-dozen or so of books. *Deep Powder Snow* (Kivaki Press, 1993) was her most popular. *Sacred Land Sacred Sex Rapture of the Deep* (Kivaki Press, 1992) is her magnum opus, and one of the most important books in my life. It has entirely shaped what I do and how I do it ... So it's always a pleasure to share her earth wisdom with others. The last few weeks I've been able to do that a lot ... I got to do an inspired workshop explaining her Way of the Mountain philosophy at the Hotchkiss fairgrounds with the Shaman's Drum gathering organized by Julia Widdop and my good friend Chi Sullivan ... This past weekend I got to do a

Talking Gourds sharing circle – a practice inspired by Dolores – at the Gunnison Valley Literary Festival. And today, Monday, I'm lecturing on consciousness from a LaChapelle perspective at Intersect's Science and Spirituality conference in Telluride at Christ Presbyterian Church. And finally, next weekend is the Mushroom Festival, where we get to exercise Dolores' belief in ritual with a parade where we humans dress up like fungi – a completely different kindom [sic] in the biological world.

SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ... As a co-director of the Telluride Institute's Ute Reconciliation Program, I subscribe to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's weekly newspaper (www.sudrum.com). It helps me keep up on all the interesting things happening with our neighbors in Ute country. It's a handsomely done operation, and this year it took 13 honors at the Native American Journalists Association's annual Native Media Award competition, including a first-place win for general excellence and another first place for best digital publication. Congratulations to Editor Jeremy Wade Shockley and his excellent staff. NAJA is located in Norman (OK) in association with the University of Oklahoma ... I love reading Don Oliver's Fly-Fishing column each week. Talking about a daughter's wedding trip to the Cayman Islands and his fishing adventures there, he refers to his partner as "She Who Must Be Obeyed (SWMBO)."

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS ... First it was the mountain lion scampering across Highway 62 just above Placerville in broad daylight ... Then the largest wasp I've ever seen, a mud dauber, maybe *Sceliphron caementaria* -- carefully investigating the leaf surface of a sunflower, about to bloom ... Tonight, a dark skinned salamander crawls under the bathroom curtain as I'm taking an evening dump and reading Jerry Mander's *In the Absence of the Sacred* ... Seems like I've got the sacred all around me.

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

THE TALKING GOURD

Countdown

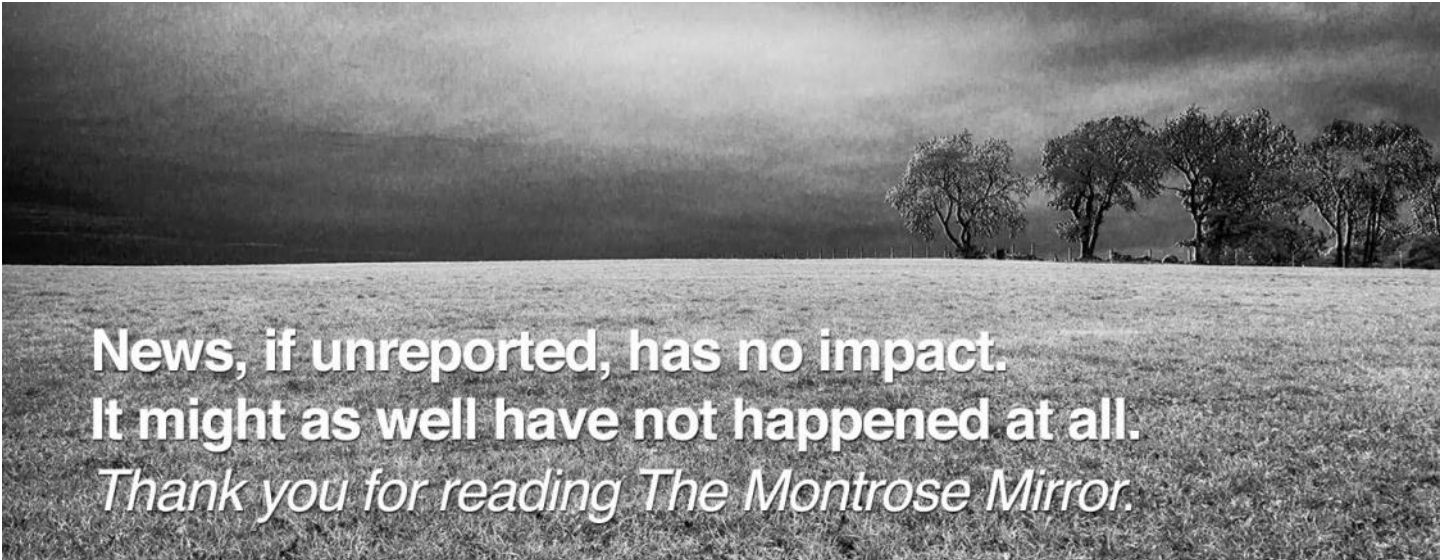
... to what? tomorrow? next year?
a future we don't want to think about?
a future we can't stop thinking about?
maybe just counting: hours, days, years, lives?

everything counts, what I did today, or didn't,
what I'll do tomorrow, or maybe won't do
or won't have enough time to ever do,
life's a countdown and time is running out

but we'll get there, wherever, whenever,
whatever *there* is.... I can guess,
I think it's where we don't want to be,

time was always elastic, stretching ahead,
but now we can see the end—of something,
of a lot—suddenly the countdown's all too real.

-Lito Tejada-Flores
Crestone & Chile



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



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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. 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. 16-@ 7:30pm, Ridgway State Park. “Birdology: Birding for Beginners” with Sheryl Radovich, Audubon volunteer. Join us for a fun evening with Sheryl as she talks about summer residents and beginning identification skills. Slide show and bird specimens. Visitor Center.

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. 17-@ 8:30 a.m.-11_“Take Me Fishing,” Ridgway State Park. Learn a new skill or practice what you know. Free poles provided along with worms and salmon eggs. Meet down at the fisherman's restroom and ponds at Pa-Cho-Chu-Puk.

Aug. 17-7:30 PM., Ridgway State Park. “Hiking the San Juans and Beyond” Join Steven Van Sickle, professional guide, for pictures and stories of his rock climbing and ice climbing experiences in the San Juan Mountains, Alaska, and beyond. Visitor Center.

Aug. 18-9:30 am. Ridgway State Park_“Reading in the Park” Elk Ridge Camper Services Building. Theme this week is: “Nature Journals” Share a book, look at journals and make your own to take home. Meet at the Elk Ridge Camper Services building.

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. 19--10 a.m. – Free Children's Concert, Ouray County Performing Arts Guild San Juan Chamber MusicFest – United Church of the San Juans, 295 N Lena, Ridgway. Free concert for children, their families and the community.

Aug. 20-7:30 p.m. – Classical Café' Concert, Ouray County Performing Arts Guild San Juan Chamber MusicFest – 4H Center in Ridgway, 22739 US-550, Ridgway. Tickets \$20 adults, \$5 students (18 years and under) www.ocpag.org

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.

Sept. 8-Savor the San Juans Home Tour: Local Foods, Chefs, Homes. The 6th Savor the San Juans home tour features Centennial Ranch. Taste your way through six inspiring properties, each with chef prepared gourmet bites from local farms and decorated tables by local designers. Toast the tour with local libations at the Ute Museum. More info and tickets at valleyfoodpartnership.org, Tiffany, Etc., Honey Acre Farm Stand, ElderAdo Financial, and San Juan Gardens. (781)264-1882.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

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MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT

From top right, 970 Rewind brought extra fun to the FUNC Fest, Mirror staff photo; a sarcodon imbracatum; a surfer on the river at FUNC Fest Aug. 10; visiting high school students from Salt Lake performed a big band concert at Elks Park in Telluride last Friday. Photos by Brad Switzer.



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