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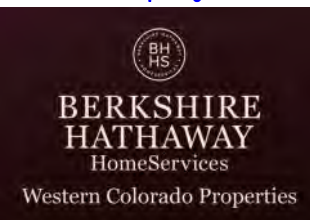


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the Montrose Mirror

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

Issue No. 340 Sept. 2, 2019

DELTA COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS BY SUPPORTING ST. MARY'S BLOOD MOBILE



Tom Huerkamp started Pro Space Interiors in November of 1969.

By Caitlin Switzer

DELTA-Not every entrepreneur gets to celebrate the second 50 years of a successful startup that they built from the ground up. Delta's Tom Huerkamp is one of the lucky few; Nov. 2 marks the 50th anniversary of [Pro Space Interiors](#), a company that Huerkamp started in November of 1969. "I still love this business," Huerkamp told the *Mirror* last week.

"We started out with \$500 borrowed from the bank in Cedaredge," he recalled. Huerkamp still runs the company today, with the help of Manager Sunny Howland. "Sunny is the true den mother of the business," he said.

So when Pro Space Interiors was chosen as a 2019 corporate partner for the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation [Night for Heroes Ball](#), "We talked about open houses and business after hours events, but Sunny suggested that's not really us," Huerkamp said. "We have supported charities throughout Western Colorado, and the blood bank covers the same range we do.

"So instead of doing a typical party thing, we

[Continued pg 7](#)

DMEA APPROVES RATE INCREASE

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Following the regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting held on Aug. 27, the member-owned co-op held a public Rate Hearing meeting.

Those in attendance for the 20-minute hearing were the DMEA Board of Directors, DMEA staff, and five members of the community.

With a brief PowerPoint presentation, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Wade Pynes referenced two market surveys; one from the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) and the other from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

Rate classes slated for increase are residential, small commercial, and large commercial. Pynes said, "What we are passing on to our customers are way lower [rates] than our peers."

The meeting was turned over to DMEA Board President Bill Patterson who, as a microphone was passed



David White (R) was one of two Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) members to make comments at the Rate Hearing on held on Aug. 27. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Continued pg 5](#)

in this
issue

**Art Goodtimes
Up Bear Creek!**

**Reader Photo
Spotlight: Deb Reimann!**

**RE-1J Board of
Education hears Safety Update**

**Regional
News Briefs!**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE ANNOUNCES CLOSURES FOR LABOR DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion and the City Shop will all be closed.

Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open.

The City's Trash and Recycling collection schedule has been modified. For trash routes normally scheduled for Monday Sept. 2, residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, pickup will occur Tuesday, Sept. 3. For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

For recycling collection normally scheduled for Monday Sept. 2, pickup will occur on Friday September 6.

For more information contact City Hall at 240.1400.



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'GETTIN' THERE,' FREE FALL CONCERT @ MONTROSE PAVILION ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Sept. 22nd, 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion.

Transportation is the idea. Can you ride it or ride in it? Does it fly, run, sail, or drive? Come and enjoy a whimsical concert about *Gettin' There!*

The concert is free! For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.



**ONLINE NEWS
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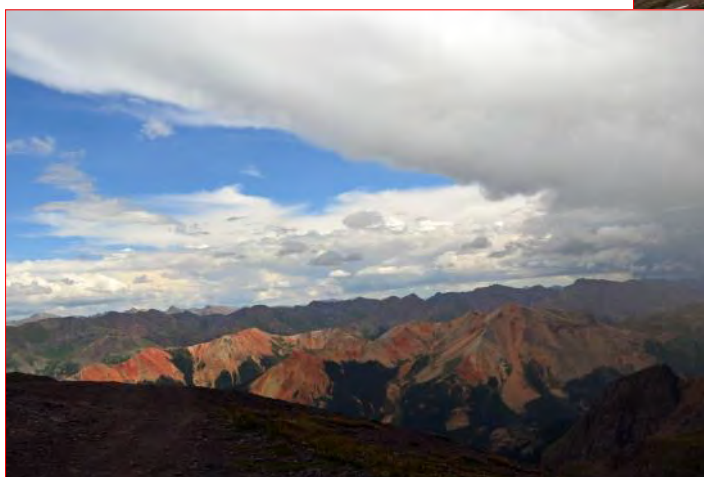
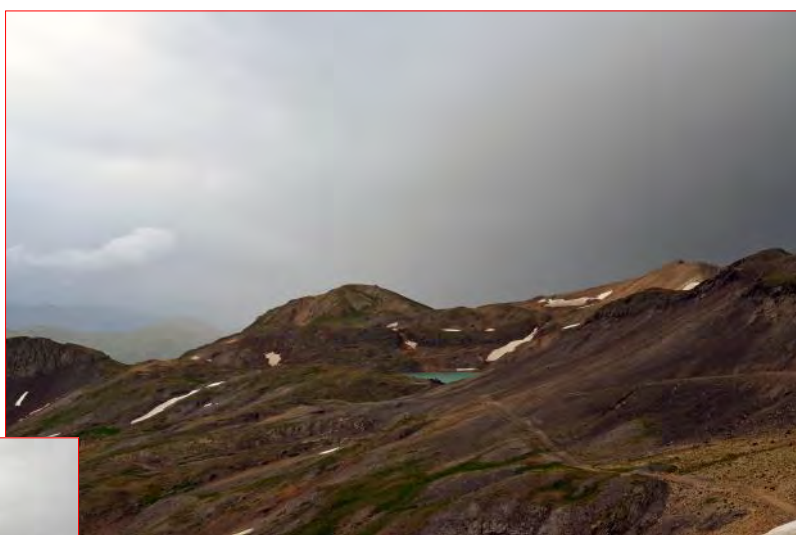
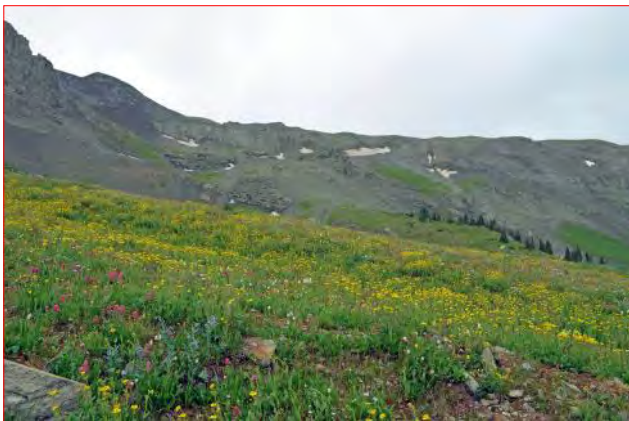
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped these photos of (from top left) a meadow of wildflowers; a high alpine lake, and a Red Mountain View.

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DMEA APPROVES RATE INCREASE From pg 1

called for member comments.

David White said, "So, is that it for the presentation?"

When it appeared there was no more prepared presentation White said, "Since this is a public meeting can you go over the rate increase by class? Where are you going to go and what is it going to look like? There is an increased base fee in every class?"

Pynes said, "Residential is 5 percent, small commercial is 3-3 ½ percent and large commercial is 5-6 percent."

Pynes then put the DMEA Newsletter on the PowerPoint and said, "Do you want me to read the whole thing?"

White said, "How long will this hold for your projections? Are we going to be looking at [another] a rate increase in a year?"

Pynes said, "No sir. Maybe rate adjustments among some classes."

Patterson said, "That would require another rate hearing."

White said, "Essentially revenue neutral at that time. When you transition [from Tri State to Guzman Energy] there will be a rate adjustment."

Patterson said, "We are striving for a 10-year stable rate once we get out of Tri State."

White said, "How does that factor into

buying out of Tri State?"

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jasen Bronec said, "The rate increase is for buying power and to cover the cost that we've incurred up to this time. The cost is going up and the kilowatts are going down. We are projecting a flat usage."

Bronec continued, "Our sales are really flat. We are going into a fixed-rate contract with a new power supplier. We will have a fixed rate for the next 10 years."

White said, "The buyout number is in the new fixed rate?"

Bronec said, "This rate increase is to get everything level as we transition [from Tri State]."

Background: As previously reported in the *Mirror*, the cost to DMEA members for getting out of the Tri State contract will remain confidential. DMEA Attorney Jeff Hurd said, "Next year we expect Tri State will make it public."

Member John Law brought with him a letter from DMEA about the charges being proposed for idle service, and DMEA's suggestion that his buried line be cut. Law said, "What I have is pretty trivial. The idle service on my property. The first and second owners paid for that service. I have an interest in using the service in the next year. I'm already paying for one service, but I know I'll have a need for the other service in a year or so. I'd like to see you not charge for idle service right now."

With no further member comments, the hearing was closed. The DMEA Board went into executive session where they also considered 15-20 written member comments about the rate increase.

The DMEA board voted to approve the proposed rate increase, which will take effect Sept. 1, 2019. The new rates will appear on members statements in October.

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



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Tuesday, September 3 5:30 - 6:30 PM

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We're Celebrating our 50th Birthday this year!

**Join our observance by
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ProSpace+ is turning 50 this year and instead of throwing parties we are asking your aid in raising \$50,000 for the St. Mary's Blood Mobile.

**ProSpace+ will proudly match up
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**Why we're supporting a
new blood bus for
St. Mary's:**

St. Mary's Regional Blood Center serves communities all over Western Colorado from Aspen to Telluride and into Eastern Utah.

The current Blood Mobile is over a decade old and nearing 200,000 miles on the odometer.

In the past 18 months, the Blood Mobile has made over 500 visits in communities served, but had to cancel 20 drives due to maintenance issues.

This is a critical component of health care for all of us!

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and mention "ProSpace 50th"

St. Mary's
MEDICAL CENTER | SCL Health

DELTA COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS BY SUPPORTING ST. MARY'S BLOOD MOBILE From pg 1

decided to put our money into something that would accent our service to the community," Huerkamp said.

Pro Space Interiors is the first Night for Heroes corporate sponsor chosen from outside of Mesa County, and by far the smallest ever selected, he said. And because the purpose of this year's Night for Heroes is to help raise money for a new blood mobile, Pro Space is choosing to help raise \$50K for the new bus with a "\$50,000 for 50 Years" campaign. The current blood mobile has close to 200,000 miles on it, and in the past 18 months has made more than 500 visits in the commu-

nities it serves; still, 20 drives had to be cancelled because of maintenance issues.

"We're excited about this," Huerkamp said. "The blood mobile is a critical part of our health care system here in Western Colorado."

Pro Space Interiors will match up to 20 percent of any customer or individual donation to ensure the necessary funds are

raised. "We will acknowledge the honor given us by saying, here is our check for the rest of the \$50,000," Huerkamp said.

Donations can be made to St Mary's Hospital Foundation, c/o PO Box 1628 Grand Junction, CO 81502--notate: "ProSpace 50." To donate by phone call 970-298-1954 or visit stmarygj.org/donate and mention "ProSpace 50th."

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY WELCOMES NEW HR ADMINISTRATOR

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta County is pleased to welcome Sheryl Coffey, PHR/SHRM-CP as Human Resources Administrator. Sheryl comes to Delta County with more than 25 years of experience in human resources in various industries including software development, healthcare, and government. Sheryl spent 10 years with Mesa County, where her love for the public sector, and government grew from; she was both an HR Analyst and HR manager in her time with Mesa County.

Sheryl has a Bachelor's Degree from Metro State University in Management/ Human Resources, and carries certifications in PHR: Professional in Human Resources and SHRM-CP, which stands for Certified Professional by the Society for Human Resources Management. In her spare time, Sheryl loves spending time with her husband, 3 kids, and her two rescue dogs. They enjoy hiking, traveling, golfing, camping and hanging out at home together.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SWEITZER LAKE SWIM BEACH OPENS AGAIN; E. COLI NO LONGER DETECTED



The swim beach at Sweitzer Lake State Park is open again. CPW courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

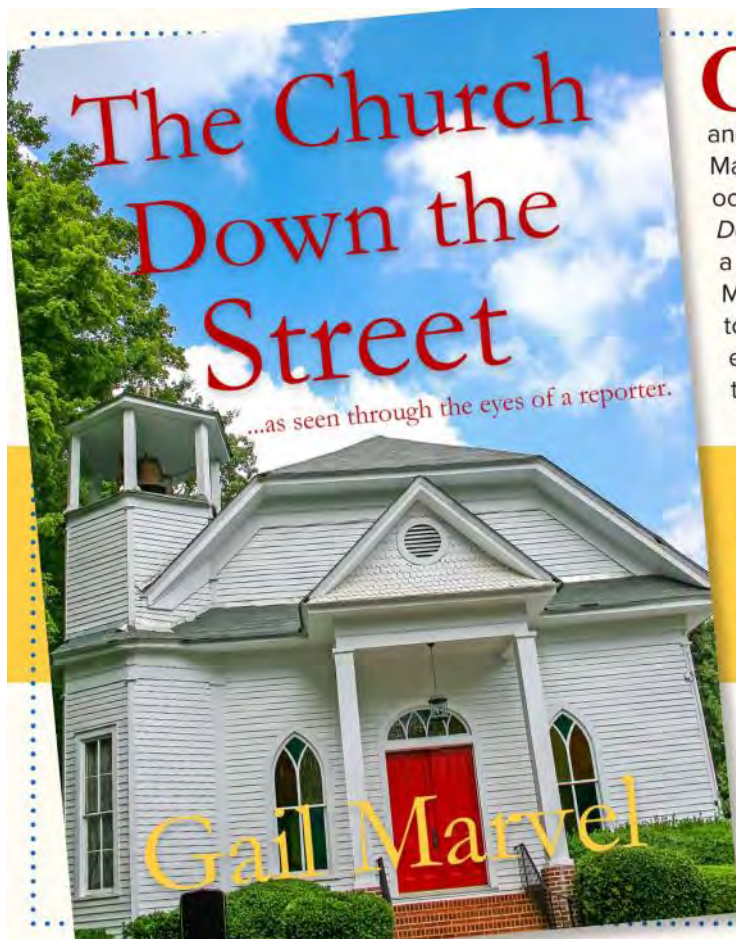
DELTA—Just in time for the long holiday weekend, the swim beach at Sweitzer Lake State Park is open again as tests show that E. coli is no longer detected in the lake.

The beach closed July 18 when tests showed the presence of the bacteria in the water. The source of the problem hasn't been identified.

Due to the long closure, the park's swim beach will remain open daily until mid-September.

Sweitzer Lake State Park, located just south of the town of Delta, is a day-use park that is open for boating, swimming, fishing and picnicking.

For information, call the park at 970-874-4258



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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS FOREST HEALTH, WILDFIRE RISK

Special to the Mirror

FORT COLLINS- Wildfires are both natural and inevitable – including in wildland-urban interface settings where millions of Coloradans live. These fires can be particularly destructive in areas where forests are unhealthy, unmanaged and unnaturally dense.

For those interested in taking action, but who have lacked the means, funding is now available to help address this risk.

The Colorado State Forest Service announced today that it is accepting proposals from Colorado HOAs, community groups, local governments, utilities and nonprofit organizations seeking funding to restore forested areas, improve forest health, and reduce wildfire risk on non-federal land in the state. Approximately \$1 million in total funding is available.

The Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program helps fund projects that strategically reduce the potential wildfire risk to property, infrastructure and water supplies and that promote forest health through scientifically based forestry practices. The competitive grant program is designed to reduce risk to people

and property in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and support long-term ecological restoration. Applications must not only promote forest health and address the reduction of hazardous fuels that could fuel a wildfire – such as trees and brush near homes – but also utilize wood products derived from forest management efforts.

The state can fund up to half the cost of each awarded project; grant recipients are required to match at least 50 percent of the total project cost through cash or in-kind contributions. Projects can be located on private, state, county or municipal forestlands. Program funds also are allowable to fund the purchase of equipment that directly supports and expands on-the-ground opportunities to reduce hazardous fuels. Applicants must coordinate proposed projects with relevant county officials to ensure consistency with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning. Follow-up monitoring also is a necessary component of this grant program, to help demonstrate the relative efficacy of various treatments and the utility of grant resources. The CSFS will work with suc-

cessful project applicants to conduct project monitoring and conduct site visits to assess effectiveness and completion of projects. Additional emphasis will be given to projects that: are identified through a community-based collaborative process, such as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); are implemented strategically across land ownership boundaries; are conducted within a priority area identified in the Colorado State Forest Action Plan; utilize the labor of an accredited Colorado Youth or Veterans Corps organization; and include forest treatments that result in the protection of water supplies.

Applications must be submitted electronically to local CSFS Field Offices by 5 p.m. MST on Oct. 23, 2019. A technical advisory panel convened by the CSFS will review project applications and make funding recommendations. The CSFS will then notify successful applicants next spring. Applications and additional information about the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program are available at [CSFS Field Offices](https://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance) and online at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/funding-assistance>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELICOPTER STREET LANDING, QUICK THINKING SAVE A LIFE AT DCMH

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— On August 21, 19-year-old Troy Rubalcaba was helicoptered to Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) after going into anaphylactic shock due to severe bee stings while working in the mountains an hour and a half outside Glenwood with his brother Raul Rubalcaba.

Due to poor cell phone service the helicopter pilot emailed the hospital stating that there was a passenger having a reaction and that his throat was closing. The hospital didn't have a way to communicate back to the pilot and had to get in touch through the air traffic controller at the airport.

"We notified the air traffic controllers that we had the fire department closing the road so that they could land the [helicopter] at the hospital," said Karen Lyons, the Director of Trauma/Emergency/ICU Services at DCMH. "We didn't know how big their helicopter was and if our pad could accommodate, but we all knew the urgency of the situation and that Rubalcaba needed help immediately."

The helicopter was able to safely land in the road in front of Urgent Care on Stafford Road and the Emergency Department (ED) team was outside waiting for Troy to arrive. Once they landed, Lyons said that the ED began live saving treatments

When asked how his experience at DCMH was, Raul said, "It's like they really care."

The brothers work for Colt I & E, LLC based out of Texas and travel around the country to work. Troy said that he normally keeps his EpiPen on him, but this time he left it at home.

"There was a beehive where my brother and I were working, but I didn't see it," said Troy. "I fell down next to it and that's when they started stinging me. I thought I was going to die. My throat started to close."

Raul was the one carrying the radio and immediately called for help when he saw that his brother was shaking, going into anaphylactic shock. He was afraid for his brother.

"I am more than happy that my brother was there [to help call it in]," said Troy.

Troy said that this has happened once before in Florida where he went into anaphylactic shock while on the job. The brothers are headed to South Carolina next for work and hope that this trip will be hospital free.

Although a scary day for the Rubalcaba brothers, the fast response time and team work shown by the hospital, air traffic control and the fire department saved a life.

"Rubalcaba is now stable and will be discharged home from the ED," said Lyons. "All in a day's work at a rural Emergency Department."



The fast response time and team work shown by the hospital, air traffic control and the fire department saved a life. Courtesy photo.



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MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE ON PUBLIC SAFETY SALES & USE TAX @ AUG. 3 MEETING

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a [work session on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 11 a.m.](#), and a regular [meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m.](#)

WORK SESSION

Council will interview two applicants for the City's Historic Preservation Commission at the work session; applicants are Danielle Godt and Donald P. Cram.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Police Chief Blaine Hall and City Manager Bill will present an update on the Public Safety Sales Tax proposal.

City Engineer Scott Murphy will update Council on the Riverwood Estates Improvement District and Assessment of Utility Extension Costs.

Council will consider special events liquor permits for Oktoberfest and a community block party.

UPCOMING

Items to be considered in future meetings and work sessions include:

Sept. 16-Façade Grant program; Housing Project Incentives;
Sept 16-17-Potato Growers Building State Historical Fund Grant;
Sept. 17-New Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License for Himalayan Pun Hill Kitchen;

Oct. 15-Short Term rentals;
Nov. 5-Retail Liquor Store license Transfer for Pour House;
As yet unscheduled is a Housing Needs Analysis Report.

REGULAR MEETING

City Council will consider Ordinance 2485 on first reading, designating Montrose City

Hall, located at 433 South First Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property pursuant to § 4-15 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose.

Also to be considered is Ordinance 2486 on first reading, imposing a public safety sales and use tax, establishing the Public Safety Sales and Use Tax Fund, and limiting the use of money from the fund to support for the level of service for public safety in the City, making conforming amendments to the Official Code of the



At the regular meeting of Sept. 3, Montrose City Council will consider Ordinance 2485 on first reading, designating Montrose City Hall, located at 433 South First Street, as a City of Montrose Historic Property. Mirror file photo.

City and requiring voter approval prior to the effective date of the Ordinance.

Council will consider Resolution 2019-22, submitting to a vote of the qualified electors of the City at the coordinated election held on Nov. 5, 2019 a ballot issue authorizing a public safety sales and use tax; setting the ballot title and content for the ballot issue; and providing other matters relating thereto.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WELL SPOTTED - THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. Join naturalist Arden Anderson at eh Montrose Field House as he shares images from his travels in the parks and wild areas of Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. These dramatic landscapes ranged from ancient deserts to lush wetlands, high altitude grasslands to the lush forests surrounding the mightiest waterfall on the planet. Through it all, Anderson sought out the distinctive wildlife of this region in world renowned game parks such as Kruger, Etosha and Chobe. Admission is free.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD HARDING



Richard Harding shared this photo of a colorful sunrise at Blue Mesa.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET SEPT. 9

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Sept. 9. join Citizens Climate Lobby at 6:30 Montrose Library meeting rm. The Human Element is by James Balog of Chasing Ice and interrelates Human influence on environment. Citizens Climate Lobby will show 1 hr 15 min film to be followed by discussion. All humans welcome.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 2:00PM

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DRIVERS URGED TO WATCH FOR MOWING OPERATIONS



Mowing operations on CO Highway 140 in La Plata County, southwest Colorado.
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

SOUTHWEST & SOUTH-CENTRAL COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation is urging motorists to watch out for maintenance crews performing the perennial task of mowing vegetation along highways. For the remainder of the summer and into the coming fall months, the traveling public will encounter crews with large mowing equipment used to manage and cut high grass and other plants that grow along the sides of the roads.

Mowing equipment moves at a slower rate than the speed limit. Warning signs are posted at both ends of the operations to caution motorists to slow down.

"For drivers' safety and for our workers' safety, we ask travelers pay attention, lower their speed and be patient as they approach crews and moving equipment," said CDOT Maintenance Foreman, Phillip Bergt. "If the operations are encountered on a two lane road, never pass unless it is safe and legal within a passing zone with no oncoming traffic."

There are several benefits to mowing that help keep a safe driving environment on highways. By cutting high grass and other vegetation, clear sight distances can be maintained for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and even animals.

"When grass grows too high you simply can't see who or what could be on the side of the road. That could be someone walking, riding their bike or a parked car.

And it is very common for wildlife to unexpectedly run into the highway," added Bergt. "Mowing down tall plants increases visibility and ensures that road signs can

be seen clearly."

Keeping vegetation cut low to the ground also helps control the spread of noxious weeds and reduces the risk of grass fires.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY TAX INCREASE NOT THE RESPONSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION

Editor:

With multiple public forums under our belt, it's plain there is a full court press to pass a new City PSST tax to benefit the MPD. Between now and the November election, expect to be bombarded in an attempt to get voters to approve higher taxes. It's common knowledge that crime has risen significantly, and the lack of adequate patrol officers and investigative staff, should raise serious concerns about public safety.

We are being told that an additional sales tax is absolutely necessary, but it is being promoted as the ONLY option available. As Paul Harvey was famous for saying, there is always the "other side" of the story, particularly with tax issues, where proponents are always reticent to mention hidden flaws in reasoning or research in promoting higher taxes, or any negative effects of the question for voters.

Upon suddenly hearing of a critical funding crisis in the MPD, a reasonable person might first ask, how did things get so bad? What brought this on? One would think that the logical place to begin studying the question would first be an in depth analysis of the budgeting/ funding history of the MPD by the City. But, the so called "Blue Ribbon" citizen committee report, concentrated entirely on the fiscal needs of the MPD, with nothing in the report that indicates that committee did any in depth research at all on the history of City budgeting/ funding for public safety. This should have been a critical component in arriving at any decision. If they had, it certainly would have raised questions that apparently were never voiced. Consequently, I can only conclude that the committee simply followed the narrative promoted by the City to reach a predestined conclusion to seek higher taxes.

I've been, and still am, a strong supporter of priority funding for our police department, but after researching MPD and City budgets and expenditures for the last 10 years, MPD funding doesn't seem to have been as high a priority as it should have been.

From 2013 through 2018, crime rates have risen steadily: assaults up 87%, domestic violence up 44%, property

crime up 43%, misdemeanors up 36%, felonies up 71%, sex assaults up 15%, heroin arrests up 135%, and meth arrests up 118%. Yet, during that same period, MPD budgets rose only by \$1.2 million, an average of just 3.7% annually. In contrast, over that same period, the overall City budget rose by \$22.5 million, an average of 7% annually, or almost twice the rate of the MPD.

In 2017, four years after crimes really started to increase, the MPD budget was increased by a meager 3.9% [just over \$237,000 = 1.2 new officers], but for some strange reason, the MPD failed to utilize \$30.5 thousand of that budget. In 2018, with felonies steadily increasing, the City increased the MPD budget by an infinitesimal .6% [\$47,600 = no new officers, while during that period the City budget grew by \$15.8 million or 37.9%]. But by year end, alarm bells must have suddenly gone off at City Hall, because the MPD got an influx of funding and ended up \$1.9 million over budget. Finally in 2019, the MPD received a needed 14% budget increase [\$998,000], but it looks like too little, and way too late. Now taxpayers are being asked to make up the difference.

Between 2013-18, actual sales tax collections exceeded budget projections by \$17.2 million, and collections for the current year are running 3.7% above last year. Inquiring voters might ask, where did all that extra sales tax money go? If MPD funding was indeed as high a priority as is claimed, a large portion of that windfall should have been directed to the MPD for the additional staffing being requested and the new headquarters building.

Voters are being asked to approve a perpetual tax increase to offset what certainly seems to be a failure on the part of the City to truly prioritize funding for public safety. Most voters are unaware that when the County PSST was passed in 2007, the City had the option to participate, but for some strange reason choose not to. In retrospect that decision was certainly short sighted.

Tax payers should be aware that this is not just a pittance of a .58% increase, because all food, clothing, vehicle, equipment costs, etc-anything taxable-goes up

forever. The City seeking another tax increase is reminiscent of the City seeking a tax increase to fund the Rec Center, when a greater proportion of Rec District voters had no voice in the matter. With this new proposal, all County voters have no say in their taxes going up. But that is just the tip of the tax iceberg! Real property assessments rose this year by 15-30% for single and multi family dwellings, and commercial property rose by 10-25%. So, you can expect a hefty increase in real taxes. Taxpayers are already obligated for years to come for the Rec Center tax. New taxes were recently approved for the Fire District and the Library that will not sunset. School District taxes rose significantly for the new Columbine school, and they won't sunset anytime soon. Finally, don't forget to consider the taxes you pay to cover the costs of the new Road & Bridge facility, as well as the Event Center, whose combined costs, including debt service, are \$37.3 million. Voters might consider their current tax obligations when deciding the question.

I have heard NO arguments opposing much needed MPD funding. The very real question that concerns many voters is how that goal is accomplished. Asking for a tax increase certainly seems like tacit admission of an inadequate budgeting / funding history. In my opinion, seeking a tax increase is not the responsible course of action, given the City history of budgeting/ funding over the last 10 years, as well as the Citizens Committee's failure to thoroughly research the root cause of inadequate funding. The real question for voters is, does the City bear responsibility for re-prioritizing it's budgeting and spending proclivities, with less emphasis on lower tier budget considerations, using available resources? Voters have been placed between the proverbial rock and a hard place, and are certainly faced with a difficult decision.

**** NOTE-**All City financial information presented was obtained from the City document site. Thanks to the County Finance Department for current costs of the Road & Bridge & Event Center, and to the Assessors office for assessment information.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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DMEA APPROVES ELEVATE CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN



Steve Nannested, a 12-year resident of Montrose, addressed the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors at the beginning of their August meeting. Nannested was not against DMEA imposing a \$2 fee on members for paper statements; however, he would like the board to consider waiving the fee for city residents who had signed up for Elevate more than three-years ago and still did not have the promised internet service. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Aug. 27. With the exception of Jock Fleming, all board members were present. Fleming, who was traveling by car, was available by conference call; however, due to poor cell service in the mountains his participation in discussion and casting votes could not be detected.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, an opening prayer, and determination of a quorum.

Steve Nannested, a 12-year resident of Montrose, was recognized by the chair and addressed the board. Nannested said, "It's not the \$2 fee [imposed fee for not going paperless]. I don't care about the \$2, but you have yet to get Elevate to my door. I don't have dependable internet service and you are penalizing me. You need to step up your game. I was one of the first to sign up for Elevate and I put a sign in my yard. It's been three years."

Nannested indicated that his neighbors and people moving to Montrose will have little interest, "...for something they might get in three years. Step up your game and get Elevate. Waive the \$2 fee for those who signed up for Elevate, but who have-

n't gotten the service."

Board President Bill Patterson thanked Nannested for his comments. Board member Kyle Martinez then asked Patterson why Nannested was allowed to speak out of [agenda] order. Patterson said, "We took Steve out of order because he called in advance."

Finance – Audit- Rate Committee (FAR) – Brad Harding, Chair.

Harding said, "We've met twice before today. August 2nd was a four-hour meeting. I won't break down the meeting but will give you general discussion." Discussion items included capital credits and policy. Harding said, "We had an in-depth and robust discussion on cost-of-service studies."

The second FAR meeting was held just prior to the board meeting. Harding said, "We had a broader discussion on idle services, insurance, and the South Canal Hydro."

The committee addressed wildfire challenges and increasing the Federated Insurance policy coverage by \$5M. Harding said, "Currently we have \$15M coverage and the cost is \$25,000 per year." The board voted not to increase coverage and to stay with the current policy.

Discussion also included the employee

benefit plan, where the committee found minor issues, and "bad debt." Harding said, "Bad debt, it's a weakness that we've known about, and that we charge off each year." The staff is considering a deposit policy.

The board voted to approve the 2019 Audit Engagement Letter as presented. In the area of long-term banking strategy trends the committee determined the CFC (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation) is the best partner moving forward.

Engineering – Construction – Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair.

Committee meeting topics included electric vehicles and proactive outage management. Hauck said, "The partnership [grant application] we had with the City of Montrose dissolved. Virgil was the promoter, but he is leaving to join Region 10."

Background: Virgil Turner, the City of Montrose Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement, has been with the city since 1988. Turner has taken a position with Region 10.

In order to transition from Tri State in May of 2020 there are software changes that need to take place to prepare for a new system. The staff requested \$50,000 re-allocation in 2019, with the balance in next year's budget. The total cost for the software upgrade is \$250,000.

Hauck gave an update on the proposed sale of meters to the City of Delta, "It's less than 400 meters and we'll sell them over the next eight to ten years. There is no action required right now."

Member Relations – Energy Services Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez said, "There are no action items. Strategy initiatives were reviewed. October is Member Appreciation Month." Open houses, Sit and Tell, and PowerPoint presentations are planned for October and November.

Depending on availability, the 2020 annual meeting will be held at the Montrose Pavilion. Martinez said, "The style of the annual meeting will be a family-friendly event."

To date 9,399 members have signed up

Continued next pg

DMEA APPROVES ELEVATE CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN

From previous pg

to go paperless.

Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, “We went over the pension information and a lot of different options, looking at other co-ops and trying to come up with a better handle on how we fund. A management audit has been done in the past and we feel it needed to be done. We’re looking at strategy initiatives.”

Referring to the update on the Purpose, Vision, and Values Policy, Patterson said, “The update [is needed] for how we’re going to make the transition [away from Tri State].”

Safety and Occupational Health Report – Mateusz Pena, Engineering Manager.

Pena said, “We had one employee injury. The employee was on a line-locate and twisted his ankle. We had two near misses. An employee worked on his own property without proper approval and it was reported. There was an attempted power theft after a disconnect for non-payment.”

CEO Jasen Bronec said, “We want to make sure our employees are safe in the field. We encourage employees to call the SO [sheriff’s office] if they feel they are in an unsafe situation like [suspected] drugs, disconnects, or reconnects.”

Pena said, “Employees are doing more online training and we’re able to see the training they’ve completed.”

Financial Report- Wade Pynes, CFO.

For the month of July, paperless online billing has resulted in \$50,000 benefit to the organization. Pynes reported three instances where legal fees were questioned, “We pushed back and fees were cut.”

CEO Report - Jasen Bronec.

Bronec said, “You have my written report. The solar in the school system has been completed and it was a job well done. With Virgil moving on [to Region 10] the fast charging facility in Montrose will be a little delayed. This month we’ve had 54 new system designs and 62 new meters. It’s a pretty big workload with new construction and new meter sets.” Other discussion items included increased call-volume, Youth Appreciation Day, and the Newsletter.

Informational Item: Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, “I’ll give my report in executive session.”

Informational Item: Representative Board Reports.

Tri State Report – Martinez said, “Rates will stay the same until we exit in May [2020]. There are mixed feelings on the exit, some are in favor and some are not.”

WUES Report - Damon Lockhart said, “There was no meeting. I am in the process of transferring this [committee] to Jock [Fleming].”

CREA Report – Lockhart said, “This meeting will be coming up on Thursday.”

Other Business:

Vote on Elevate Construction Work Plan

There are two parts to the construction plan. The first part involves the build-out with the remaining grant funds; the second part is to move forward and build-out almost 92 percent of the City of Montrose in 2020, “We want to formally approve the build-out for the City of Montrose, not to exceed \$7.8M.” Motion was approved.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 24. A three-hour budget meeting is scheduled for Oct. 9.

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449,

bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124,

kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [ken-](mailto:ken-nethwatson@gmail.com)

nethwatson@gmail.com

Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900,

1ch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071,

damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 - Mark Eckhart, 970-856-3663,

mark.eckhart@dmea.com

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-

207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-

275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



THANK YOU FOR READING.

#montrosemirror

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LAIRD GOT IT WRONG ON POTENTIAL SALES TAX INCREASE

Editor:

I appreciate Dee Laird's position on the potential tax, however, his facts are not accurate. The City of Montrose has increased our Public Safety budget by around \$2million since 2010 and we are putting almost half of our entire general operational budget to Public Safety. Each year as revenues have grown, our contribution to the Police Department has also grown. Our two largest competing priorities from these general operation funds are Public Safety and Public Works Street Maintenance. If we can't come up with a new source of funding for law enforcement, we will need to continue our efforts to expand police department operations each year, while reducing our investment in Street Maintenance and Street Reconstruction and we will have to figure out where to put any new officers because our current PD building is busting at the seams.

Also, everyone needs to know that the City of Montrose has the second lowest sales tax of other nearby western slope cities and the City of Montrose is one of only 10 cities across Colorado with No City Property Tax...and we are by far the largest of those ten cities.

For more detailed and accurate information and to watch Police Chief Blaine Hall's presentation regarding the current trends affecting local law enforcement, please visit www.cityofmontrose.org/psst

Montrose City Manager Bill Bell

YOU MUST SUPPORT THIS MODEST TAX INCREASE

Editor:

Have you ever started to read a novel and said to yourself I've read this before? That's the sense I get reading the opinions of a couple of prolific writers to this publication. Heck, you may get the same feeling reading my opinion.

In two recent editorials we get the same rant about mismanagement of taxpayer dollars. One goes on to question the integrity of the Blue Ribbon Panel that recommended to City Council to seek approval from the voters of an increase in sales tax to beef up the police force and to modernize its infrastructure. So once again I find myself on the opposite side of those two naysayers.

Folks, we are a relatively small population center. It costs each of us a bit more than those in a larger populated area for the same services. In my mind, City Council and City Administration have been judicious on spending tax payer dollars.

With regard to the Blue Ribbon Panel not doing due diligence, that's just pure ignorance. The Panel (to which I was a member of) did look at the budget. Did we do a line item review, no we did not. But we did have an in depth understanding of it. We had passionate discussions regarding a variety of funding sources. We took into consideration the impact our decision will have on those in the lower level income brackets. The best course of action was to recommend a City-Wide sales tax. Everyone that lives in or visits Montrose pays their fair share.

It's a known fact that predators prey on the weak. To guard against being prey you must build up your defenses. That means a larger police force for your safety and theirs. Let's not wait until one of our defenders loses his or her life in the line of duty. You must support this modest tax increase.

Dave Stockton, Montrose

RESPONSE TO BILL BELL'S RESPONSE TO MY LETTER OF 8-27-19

Editor:

For the last two weeks I have been researching the City Document site, looking at City budgets, MPD budgets, expenditures, etc. to gain an understanding of the previous 10 year history of MPD funding, before writing my letter. The Citizens Committee report failed to indicate that they had delved into such research to determine the cause of the MPD financial crisis. Instead, that report centered only on funding needs of the MPD, making a recommendation for higher taxes without a cursory glance at the root cause of the problem.

According to Bill my facts are wrong. If that is the case, the information presented on the City Document site is incorrect. If City financials are incorrectly posted, is there any transparency in the City?

Dee Laird, Montrose

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AS HOMELESS POPULATION CLIMBS IN COLORADO, MADA SUPPLIES FOOD BOXES, CLOTHING, LOCKERS; CITY OF MONTROSE CONSIDERS DISCUSSION OF HOMELESSNESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Colorado has far outpaced surrounding states in recent years when it comes to the numbers of people who are considered chronically homeless.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness reports that as of January 2018, Colorado had an estimated 10,857 individuals experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Statewide, that 10,857 was broken down as follows; 990 were family households, 1,073 were Veterans, 593 were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and 2,738 were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Surrounding Western states, by contrast have far fewer unsheltered residents; in fact, Colorado has more homeless residents than any other landlocked state in the U.S.

Also in 2018, a Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Point in Time Report on Shelter compiled data specific to Montrose County. The report counted the following: 16 percent of those who were unsheltered here struggled with chronic homelessness, 62 percent had one or disabling conditions, 56.7 percent were households with no children; 44 percent were households with one child and one adult; and four percent were veterans.

MADA Provides Resources Five Days a

Week

The Mexican American Development Association (MADA) Facility at 17 North 6th Street has been designated a single access point for homelessness in the City by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Long-time MADA director Beth Reidelier is assisted by two staff members and by volunteers.

Though MADA is not a shelter, available services include clothing, food, coffee, mailboxes, lockers, and emergency utility assistance.

MADA respects the privacy of clients, who tend to be low income or homeless. "We don't ask," Reidelier said. "A lot of them, we already know their situation."

"We see between 30 to 50 people per day," she said. "We have food boxes to give out, people can get their mail here, and they can have lockers."

MADA is open five days per week; after more than 30 years on the job, Reidelier said she has seen a definite increase in need in recent years.

"We appreciate donations," she said. "Everything goes to a good cause. We accept all donations except large pieces of furniture."

Though a request by the Montrose Light-



The Mexican American Development Association (MADA) Facility at 17 North 6th Street has been designated a single access point for homelessness in the City .

house, Inc., Jail Ministries, and Shepherd's Hand non-profits to open a facility in the former Powderhorn Industries building on North Park Avenue was recently denied by Montrose City Council, Mayor Dave Bowman has called for a discussion "around homelessness." At the City Council work session of Aug. 19, Bowman noted that he had not taken part in previous discussions of homelessness in Montrose and would like to convene a discussion on homelessness in the City.

"I think it's something we ought to do."

Homeless shelters in neighboring communities include Olathe's Haven House, Delta's Abraham Connection, and Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley.

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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MONTROSE ELKS LODGE ELK TRACKS



Montrose Elks Lodge

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local [Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.](#)

Bingo Night Tuesday Sept. 3, 2019
Come on by the Montrose Elks Lodge for a chance to win great prizes playing Bingo:
MUST GO JACKPOT \$1,199! Progressive Game 4 has reached MUST GO status and \$1,199 will be awarded to the 1st person to reach Bingo, no matter how many balls or numbers are called. Come early to save your seat. Doors open at 5 PM.
Progressive Game 2's Jackpot of \$500 was given away last week so this week, the Jackpot starts over at \$200 and can be won by reaching BINGO in 37 numbers or less.
HUGE JACKPOT APPROACHING \$10,000.
The Big Game, Progressive Game #6 worth \$9,899 can be won by reaching BINGO in 53 numbers or fewer.
Exclusively at Elks Bingo
For the best Bingo game in the area be sure to visit Montrose Elks Lodge every Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM to play Bingo. We are located at 801 South Hillcrest Drive in Montrose, CO 81401. It's a wonderful way to spend the evening! Public is welcome, funds raised playing Bingo support local charities.
Join us Tuesday evenings at Bingo to enjoy a sandwich or food item prepared fresh at the Lodge.



Food Entree' with Soda \$5
Menu: Sept. 3rd Chef Salad
ELKS QUEEN OF HEARTS Progressive Raffle Begins Sept 1st, 2019

Open to the Public. All Persons must be 18 years of age or older to be eligible to play.
Progressive Jackpot: The total prize Jackpot will continue to accumulate weekly until the QUEEN OF HEARTS is drawn. \$15,000 maximum raffle prize limit. When we reach the "Must Go" amount of \$15,000 purchased tickets will be selected one at a time. The purchaser of the drawn ticket (must be present) is given the opportunity to select one of the envelopes containing cards. Tickets will be drawn until the Queen of Hearts is picked and the person selecting this card will be awarded the Jackpot. Once Queen of Hearts is selected, the game is over, and a new game will start with a new set of cards and envelopes the following week.

All raffle tickets are \$1.00 per chance.
Game Cards: Standard playing cards with two Jokers will be used (54 total cards). MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! Each Friday (unless otherwise posted) at 7:00 PM, in the Montrose Elks Lounge, one ticket will



be drawn from the tickets purchased.
Hawaiian Bingo Night Sept 10th, 2019
Bingo September 10, 2019 6:30 PM – Hawaiian Bingo Night

Join us Tuesday evening on Sept 10th for a fun filled time with a Hawaiian theme. Each person will receive a flower lei and free pineapple will be available to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded for Best Men's Shirt and Best Women's Outfit. Should be a great time!

Karaoke Competition September 2019
The first Annual Elks Karaoke Competition reigns in September at Montrose Elks Lodge! Sing for fun or sing for the cash prizes that will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners. Registration for the event is between 5:30 and 6:30 on Sept 4th. Contestants will perform at 7:00 PM on Weds Sept 4th, 11th, and 18th, and the Grand Finale will take place on Sat Sept 21st. A one-time \$20 entrance fee will be gathered that makes up the cash prizes.

Drink specials will be available every night at the competition. Join the fun and celebrated singing by locals rising to the occasion. This will be a fun-filled event! Open to the Public.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WORK CONTINUES ON OWL CREEK PASS: CAUTION IS ADVISED

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Owl Creek Pass road (NFSR 858) re-construction continues-

All roadside brushing has been completed.

All drainage features have been cleaned or replaced.

Final phase of re-construction has begun.

New aggregate surfacing will be placed on approximately 17 miles of road from the Vista Point Lookout to the Cimarron Road intersection.

Visitors and recreationalists can continue to expect up to two-hour traffic delays Monday – Friday.

Surfacing operations are expected to be completed by Nov. 30.

Caution is advised as heavy equipment will be entering and exiting the roadway.

Articulated haulers with up to 32 ton capacity, designed for climbing steep gradients and off-road hauling will be used. PLEASE USE CAUTION.

For additional information, project updates or questions please contact Chris Phelps Chристоpher.phelps@usda.gov.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH KICKS OFF SEPT. 1ST *More than 70 events scheduled statewide*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-September is **National Workforce Development Month** and the month-long celebration will feature workshops, open houses, hiring events (both in person and online), employer seminars, presentations and symposiums throughout Colorado. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), state and county-run Workforce Centers and partners will be showcasing resources and services to both employers and jobseekers, while also highlighting initiatives and career opportunities within some of Colorado's key industries.

The first week of Workforce Development Month is focused on apprenticeships, where CDLE will be highlighting apprenticeship opportunities throughout the state. **Apprenticeships** across many industries continue to emerge nationally. In the years ahead, apprenticeships will play a significant role in virtually all industries and, in fact, in the future of work.

In weeks two, three and four, Workforce Development Month will concentrate on several industries that are having a broad, statewide impact on Colorado's future. The second week will be devoted to the education sector, with an emphasis on career paths, specifically within early childhood education. Week three will spotlight **healthcare** and week four will target **energy**. A full calendar of events and Colorado Workforce Center locations is available at www.COWorkforce.gov. Throughout the month, events will also be posted to CDLE's **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RANGER ZUMSTEIN TO LEAVE NORWOOD

Special to the Mirror

NORWOOD-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests announce the departure of Norwood District Ranger Matthew Zumstein. Zumstein, who has served as the Norwood District Ranger since February 2016, has accepted the position of Carson City District Ranger for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Carson City, Nevada. "Serving as the District Ranger for the

Norwood Ranger District has been a great honor and opportunity, I am extremely grateful for the support of this community and the amazing staff here on the Norwood Ranger District and the GMUG" said Zumstein "I am proud of the all the collaboration we have part of, the partnerships we have built and the work we've accomplished as a result. Additionally, I've appreciated the open, honest, and sometimes difficult conversations we've had

about managing for multiple uses across these amazing landscapes. Thank you!"

"Matt's leadership and emphasis in making change has enabled the district to accomplish some real, progressive land management milestones over the last three years, and he will be greatly missed." said Deputy Forest Supervisor Chad Stewart.

The GMUG wishes Ranger Zumstein a heartfelt farewell and the best of luck in his challenging new position.

PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES OFFER FRIENDLY REMINDER; WILDFIRE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-As we celebrate Labor Day and the start of hunting season, public land agencies encourage the public to be extra careful with all campfires and combustible materials to prevent human-caused fires. Western Colorado experienced an above average snowpack last winter which resulted in a robust growth of grasses this summer. The abundance of grass has now dried out and Western Colorado is experiencing our "highest of summer" fire danger rating providing for the need to be extra careful with the current lower fuel moisture measurements. Drier, windier conditions are expected into next week and fire danger is steadily increasing.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices; Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC); National Park Service (NPS), Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests would like to provide a few helpful tips and reminders for best practices to help prevent an unintentional wildfire while recreating and hunting on public lands this Labor Day weekend. To reduce wildfire risk, please consider the following:
Practicing proper vehicle maintenance;

ensuring that tow chains are secured and a vehicle has no dragging parts, check tire pressure, and properly maintaining your breaks. Even chains dragging along the ground, such as those on ATVs, can spark fires.

When target shooting taking a few simple precautions can prevent devastating results: place your target on dirt or gravel, switch to paper targets, avoid incendiary targets and exploding ammunition, bring a shovel and fire extinguisher, and report any fires by calling 911.

Fireworks are never permitted on public lands.

If you are camping and build a fire outside a designated fire ring make sure you clear the area of debris including, grasses and small vegetation. Clear your fire site perimeter approximately 10 feet in diameter and use rocks or a fire pan to contain your fire. Keep a shovel and water nearby at all times to extinguish the fire.

Never leave a fire unattended and make sure that you completely put out your campfire before leaving your campsite. Practice the drown, stir, feel method when extinguishing your campfire. Use water or dirt to douse the fire, stir the ashes and if necessary continue to add water or dirt until the fire is smothered. When smoking, always dispose of cigarette debris in an ashtray. Avoid driving and parking in tall grasses.

Exhaust particles and hot exhaust pipes can start grass fires. Park your vehicles/trailers and off-highway vehicles away from dry grass or brush.

Even an accidental fire start can result in the individual being held responsible including fines and/or jail time. Visit One Less Spark (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prevent-Wildfire/>) for more great tips on how to prevent wildfire and be prepared for fire season. To learn more about campfire safety visit www.smokeybear.com.

Before heading outside, be sure to "Know Before You Go!" Helpful information about planning your trip can be found on the "Know Before You Go" [webpage](http://www.blm.gov/knowbeforeyougo). Regulations vary between land management agencies, learn what is permitted before you use fire.

Adhere to the [Leave No Trace Principles](http://www.blm.gov/learn/leave-no-trace) of outdoor ethics to leave your favorite spot ready for the next visitors to enjoy. Keep yourself safe while recreating outdoors by checking the weather before you go, taking the appropriate equipment including maps, carrying enough food and water, letting someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back, and utilizing suggested or required safety equipment.

Local fire restriction information can be found online at: <http://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG FIREFIGHTER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Special to the Mirror

COLBRAN— Pat Owens, Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO) for the Collbran Job Corps of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests has been awarded the 2018 Job Corps AFMO National Award.

The peer nominated award recognizes Pat's exemplary work with Collbran's wildfire program, camp crew and dispatch academy during the 2018 fire season. Owens' wildland fire crew, the Buzzard Creek crew, went on 5 14-day assignments, logging over 18,900 hours of work between April and September. Throughout the year Buzzard Creek supported the GMUG as smaller fire modules of 4 to 8 personnel were strategically positioned anticipating initial response to emerging wildfire events. Over 23 percent of the Job Corps student body participated in the fire program with 45 students training as firefighters and completing 93 fire assignments. Overall, the Collbran program contributed to the Regional and National efforts for fire suppression, logistical support and dispatch with 179 students involved with the program.

"Pat's professionalism and dedication to work with the JCCC students, JCCC staff, partners and Forest Zone FMOs is a credit to the US Forest Service, the Rocky Mountain Region and the GMUG National Forests" said GMUG Fire Management Officer CorDell Taylor.

At left, courtesy photo.



GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICT TO DECOMMISSION ILLEGAL ROADS, TRAILS

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON—The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District has begun work on a travel management project to decommission illegal, user-created roads and trails in the vicinity of Taylor Park.

The targeted illegal, user-created routes have existed for some time, causing considerable resource damage, leading to the erosion of hillsides, watershed contamination and the degradation of wildlife and

aquatic habitats. Additionally, illegal, user-created routes do not receive regular maintenance causing public safety concerns, while increasing the need for unplanned resource impact repair.

"The intent of this notice is to inform the public in advance so riders understand the underlying rationale and are not surprised when these illegal, though longstanding, routes are decommissioned," said Gunnison District Ranger Matt McCombs.

The project was planned and will be executed in accordance with the 2010 Gun-

nison National Forest Travel Management Plan and the work is anticipated to last for two weeks. Work crews will also be performing maintenance and water drainage improvements to legal routes within both project areas.

For information on the project please contact the Gunnison Ranger District at 970-641-0471, visit the GMUG Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GMUG.NF>) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF).



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET SEPT. 5 - 6 IN RIFLE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will discuss transferable hang tag parks pass analysis, annual review of "Parks and Outdoor Recreation Lands" regulations, annual review of "Passes, Permits and Registrations" regulations, "General Provisions" regulations, "Wildlife Properties" regulations, "Damage Caused by Wildlife" regulations, and review of draft regulations related to adjusting license fees and license agent commission rates based on adjustments to the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Consumer Price Index at its September meeting.

The Commission will also discuss Big Game Season Structure, Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program, annual review of turkey hunting regulations, annual review of fish-

ing regulations, consideration of "General Provision" regulations updates that allow for the future use of electronic licenses and passes, future state parks criteria update, CPW Planning Park Management Plans overview, CPW Planning Policy, and herd management plans for the Sangre de Cristo (E-27) and Grape Creek (E-28) elk herds.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. on Sept. 5 at Colorado Mountain College, 3695 Airport Road, in Rifle. The meeting will resume at 8:30 a.m. at the same location on September 6 and adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Additional agenda items include:
-Department of Agriculture Update
-Department of Natural Resources Update
-Financial Update

-GOCO Update

A [complete agenda](#) for this meeting can be found on [the CPW website](#).

The commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can [listen to commission meetings](#) through the CPW website.

This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency.

Find out more about the commission on [the CPW website](#).

The next commission meeting will take place November 14 - 15 in Wray.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE REFERENDUM MAKES 2020 BALLOT

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Elections Division at the Colorado Secretary of State's office announced that the Senate Bill 19-042 National Popular Vote Referendum has qualified for the 2020 Colorado General Election ballot.

On Aug 1, 2019, the proponents submitted 228,832 signatures. After reviewing a 5% sample of the submitted signatures, the projected number of valid signatures is greater than 110% of the total number required. Referendum proponents are required to gather signatures equal to 5% of the total votes cast in the previous Sec-

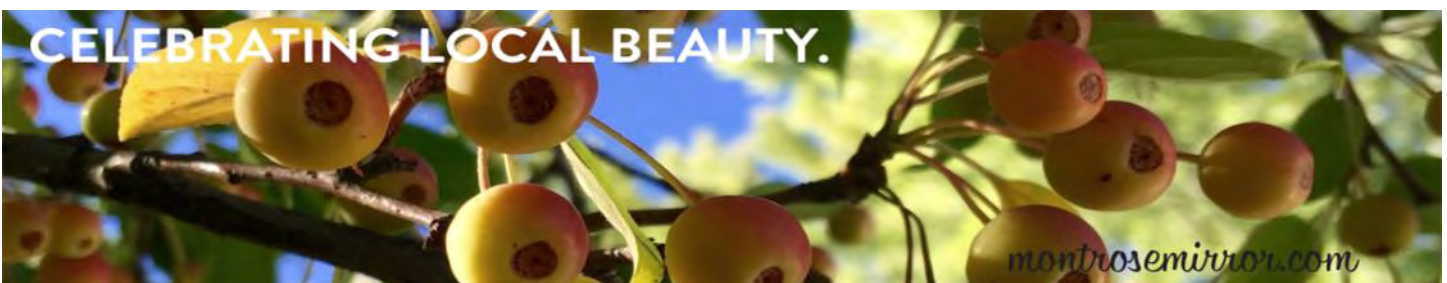
retary of State General Election contest, which is 124,632.

A referendum petition is a petition circulated by Colorado voters who wish to have a bill passed by the legislature approved by voters as a statewide ballot question. The right of referendum can be found in [Article V, Section 1](#) of the Colorado Constitution. The question on the ballot will read, "Shall the following Act of the General Assembly be approved: An Act concerning adoption of an agreement among the states to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote, being Senate Bill No. 19-042?"

The text of Senate Bill 19-042 is available [here](#). The Statement of Sufficiency is available [here](#).

The last time a referendum was put to a vote on the ballot in Colorado was in 1932 after the legislature passed a tax on Oleo margarine.

You can read about that referendum in the [October 6, 1932 issue](#) of the *Colorado Transcript*. The tax was overturned by Colorado voters as reported in the [November 17, 1932 issue](#) of the *Wray Gazette*. These citations were provided by the [Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection](#).



"Eye of newt, and toe of frog ..."



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AN OPINION ON A MATTER OF CONSISTENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND A LACK OF FULL DISCLOSURE

Editor:

It appears that our City Council and our City Manager have been managing the numbers and funding less important priorities (than police) to the detriment of the Montrose Police Department. Most disturbing is that it appears that the Montrose Police Department leadership itself has not asked for much more than one or two additional police officer per year over current manning levels over the past few years. Secondly, our elected Council obviously has been unwilling or unable to even satisfy those minimal requests and to bring manning levels up gradually over the past seven years as a prudent and competent municipality would have done. Our publicly elected Council neglected to get their job number one, Police Protection, done. It is not the public's fault that the Montrose Police Department is in such horrible shape. It is solely the responsibility of the city administration and city council to foresee such deficits and plan for them. This whole mess could have been averted with a measly \$300,000 per year. Now the Manager/Council are proposing millions of dollars in the form of a huge tax hike for THIRTY+ years to fix the mess that they and their manager fostered and could have forestalled.

With a shortfall of such a small amount over seven years and the bail out being so large 'all of a sudden' it is hard to believe that this whole thing was not a set-up just to get a huge tax increase. Maybe not but it sure looks that way.

It is long past time not only for a full accounting for the monies managed by the city but a full accounting of what we have been told by them. Because once I am told a falsehood by poor records or by a person, I believe neither anymore. This accounting should be done and publicized now, long BEFORE the election in November. If the accounting cannot be done by then, take two million dollars out of the sidewalk budget and give it to the cops, then fix it right next go-round. Numerous

questions must be asked and answered by our City Council prior to going to public vote.

According to Mr. Thoe, he and the "Blue Ribbon" committee were told NOT to look at the city budget for a funding solution but only to look at the sales tax. Well then, why did we need a "Blue Ribbon" committee and an expensive moderator to tell the City Council that the Police Department was under funded? They and the citizenry already knew that. The so-called citizen committee was and is nothing more than a political shield for a disastrous City Council/Manager to hide behind. Recent developments have shown this to be so. The outcome of this charade was predictable.

The City Manager/Council have stated that they will not cut city budget funding of the Police Department when the Sales Tax is implemented. That 'protection' in the proposed Ordinance is so flimsy and thin as to be totally ineffective; a license to steal. And while I do not believe in building fences around budget money, if it is not done in this case there will be no budgeted funds for the Cops in five years. It will have all been ripped off by the City Manager/Council who will rape the Cops budget line for a toilet in a park or an extra fly shop we don't need. We the citizens of the City of Montrose have an urgent need to see some, if not all of the following records, in readable, complete and accurate form and we should see them BEFORE this issue is even placed on the November ballot.

The following should be published for all to see as follows:

1. A list of all city expenditures of \$5,000 or more.
2. A list in detail of all Administrative contracts of the City Manager and City Attorney.
3. The costs of all perks for City employees especially the costs of vehicles driven to and from work.
4. The expense accounts, including credit card charges, of all city employees.

5. A list of all city credit cards and who has them.

6. A list of funds, (money or credit) given to other municipal, non-municipal agencies, groups and the like including any and all separate taxing districts.

7. List of all expenditures, projects and for whom on behalf of the Downtown Revitalization project, DART.

8. List of all concerts and similar activities, their cost and the municipal contribution thereto.

9. The cost to maintain bike paths, water projects, companies like Mayfly and business projects.

Note: designate by asterisk all expenditures on any of these lists that the Manager/Council deems more important than COPS!

I just received the text which is supposed to go on the ballot as the proposed taxing Ordinance. It is sufficiently vague and loosely worded so as to permit the Public Safety Sales and Use Tax monies to be re-appropriated to other uses, to take all authority to spend the funds from the Chief of Police and to allow the City Manager to manage the funds budgeted for the Police Department pretty much as the Council/City Manager please.

This should never be allowed to happen. The City Manager should NOT be permitted to become a de facto Police Commissioner. By neither experience nor job description should this be permitted or justified and this Ordinance will do just that. The Chief of Police should be answerable only to the elected body, where three elected officials would have to vote to allow or disallow any request or policy.

If we cannot trust our Police Chief to handle the funds of his department correctly and with integrity, he should be replaced. DO NOT EMPOWER THIS AUTOCRATIC City manager to run the Cops any longer. I have absolutely no doubt that Chief Hall is perfectly capable of running his department AND, as part of that duty, his budget. Both are his job, let him do it.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

RE-1J BOARD HEARS PROPOSAL ON CITY SAFETY SALES TAX INCREASE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education President Tom West welcomed everyone to the work session of Tuesday, Aug. 27. With the exception of District A Director Jeff Bachman, all directors were in attendance.

SAFETY UPDATE--City of Montrose

Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman introduced a Public Safety Sales Tax Presentation to the board; Bowman was joined by Blue Ribbon Safety Committee Chair J. David Reed, City Manager Bill Bell, and Police Chief Blaine Hall.

"It's been a long time since I've been to one of these meetings," Bowman said, and reminded the Board of Education that he and his wife are retired teachers.

Chief Hall provided numbers and statistics, documenting a 57 increase in felony crimes over a ten-year period. "We are seeing more than two a day," Hall said. "We arrested more than 272 felons last year."

The drugs on the streets are not only increasing in number but in variety; "In 2010 we had a meth problem, but we did not have a heroin problem," Hall said.

With just four officers on a shift, response times are high and officers are overworked and often overwhelmed. Chief Hall described a recent incident in which four disturbances occurred at one time.

Montrose averages 69 sex assaults each year, many of them involving children. So far 2019 has seen four death investigations and eight robberies, and, "If you do not think Montrose has a sex trafficking problem, think again," Hall said.

At times, Montrose has ranked third in the state for the downloading of child pornography by IP address, Hall said. "We know who these people are...we can find these people."

Though the police department budget has increased by \$2M in the last eight years, it has been hard to keep pace. "Crime goes where there aren't resources," Hall said, noting that Mesa County has seen a 30 percent reduction in crime since introducing the Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) model.

Here in Montrose, the ILP strategy could help turn the tide, he said. "If we focus on the top six percent of offenders, we will see a 30 percent reduction in crimes."

Targeted enforcement can disrupt drug dealers and drug houses, he said.

A proposed public safety sales tax increase of .58 percent would sunset down to .44 after 30 years, and would fund 14 officers (including three additional detectives) and six civilian staff (including a civilian crime analyst, public safety attorney, two additional records technicians, and two civilian report takers) as well as a new police facility at the site of the former Wells Fargo Drive-up.

Additional personnel will cost \$2M per year; the new facility would cost \$16M with 340K per year in support costs. Hall said. "Everything in there is designed to enhance our response."

Said Mayor Bowman, "Public safety, especially school safety, is something very, very important to me and my family...we have no property tax here and we're proud of that...we feel we are being very responsible as far as the ask."

Citizens Safety Advisory Committee Chair J. David Reed spoke. "I think it's pretty obvious we have a serious problem in this community."

If the Public Safety Sales Tax increase is not approved by voters, "The only people who are going to win are the criminals, and we don't want to see that happen," Reed said.

RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell asked about use of the current police building. "What will be done with that?"

City Manager Bill Bell said that the long-term plan is to renovate the current police station for use by the Municipal Court once the new public safety facility is constructed.

District E Director Sarah Fishing asked whether the police department is currently staffed at capacity; Hall said that the



Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman (seated) and Police Chief Blaine Hall presented information on the City's proposed public safety sales tax increase at the Board of Education meeting Aug. 27.

department is currently down four officers but has seen a recent hiring boom and strong interest in employment opportunities. "Our best recruiters have been our officers," he said. Officers now start at \$54K per year, with a competitive pay scale.

Board of Education Vice President Gayle Johnson recalled the recent "Call Center Fiasco," in which a second dispatch center was created at the instigation of the City, resulting in increased response times overall. Johnson asked how the new resources would benefit County residents. "How much are you going to share with our Sheriff's Department so we don't have something like the Call Center fiasco?" Johnson asked.

In addition to a shared clinician, the proposed increase will allow Sheriff's Officers to once again focus on the County, rather than providing constant backup support to Montrose Police, Hall said.

"More officers are really needed," said District B Director Jacob Suppes, a retired Montrose Police Officer.

Ballot language for the sales tax increase will be ready by Sept. 3.

Mayor Bowman reminded those in the room to come to his "free" upcoming Montrose Summer Music Series Event at the City's Black Canyon Golf Course.

SAFETY UPDATE-RE-1J SAFETY & SECURITY DIRECTOR

RE-1J Safety and Security Director James Pavlich also provided an update to the Board.

Continued next pg

RE-1J BOARD HEARS PROPOSAL ON CITY SAFETY From previous pg

Pavlich said that Montrose Police have been supportive of the school district's threat assessment efforts, and reminded the board of the Sept. 12 Threat Assessment Training at the Montrose County Fairgrounds with student threat assessment experts Allan Rainwater and John Van Dreal. "There are almost 60 registered already," Pavlich said. "...We will talk about how to expand into adult threat assessment as well."

He discussed the new comprehensive radio system to be implemented in 2020, and efforts to understand the environmental constraints and interpretation of safety policy in each of the district's schools.

"We have asked Dispatch to do a radio check with each of our schools," Pavlich said. "...By this time next year, we will all have a common language."

GOALS FOR 2019-2020

The following [board goals](#) were reviewed:

- Support our schools, students, teachers and support staff.
- The standard of excellence applies to all schools and students; therefore the percentage of students not meeting or exceeding expectations on the PARCC ELA and Math assessments will decrease by three percent.
- The Board expects SAT/PSAT10 scores to be at or above state average;
- Schools will continue to maintain high participation rates in state testing;
- Continue to have a balanced budget;
- Prioritize a safe and healthy school environment.

"Is the three-percent decrease in No. 2 feasible?" District B Director Jacob Suppes asked. "...I would like to see that they do meet that goal...it brings up morale."

Fishering said, "You don't help morale by making things unattainable...I want to

make sure that we can achieve those goals...it has to be sustainable."

Board Secretary/Treasurer Phoebe Benziger suggested instead a decrease of two percent, which was approved by the board.

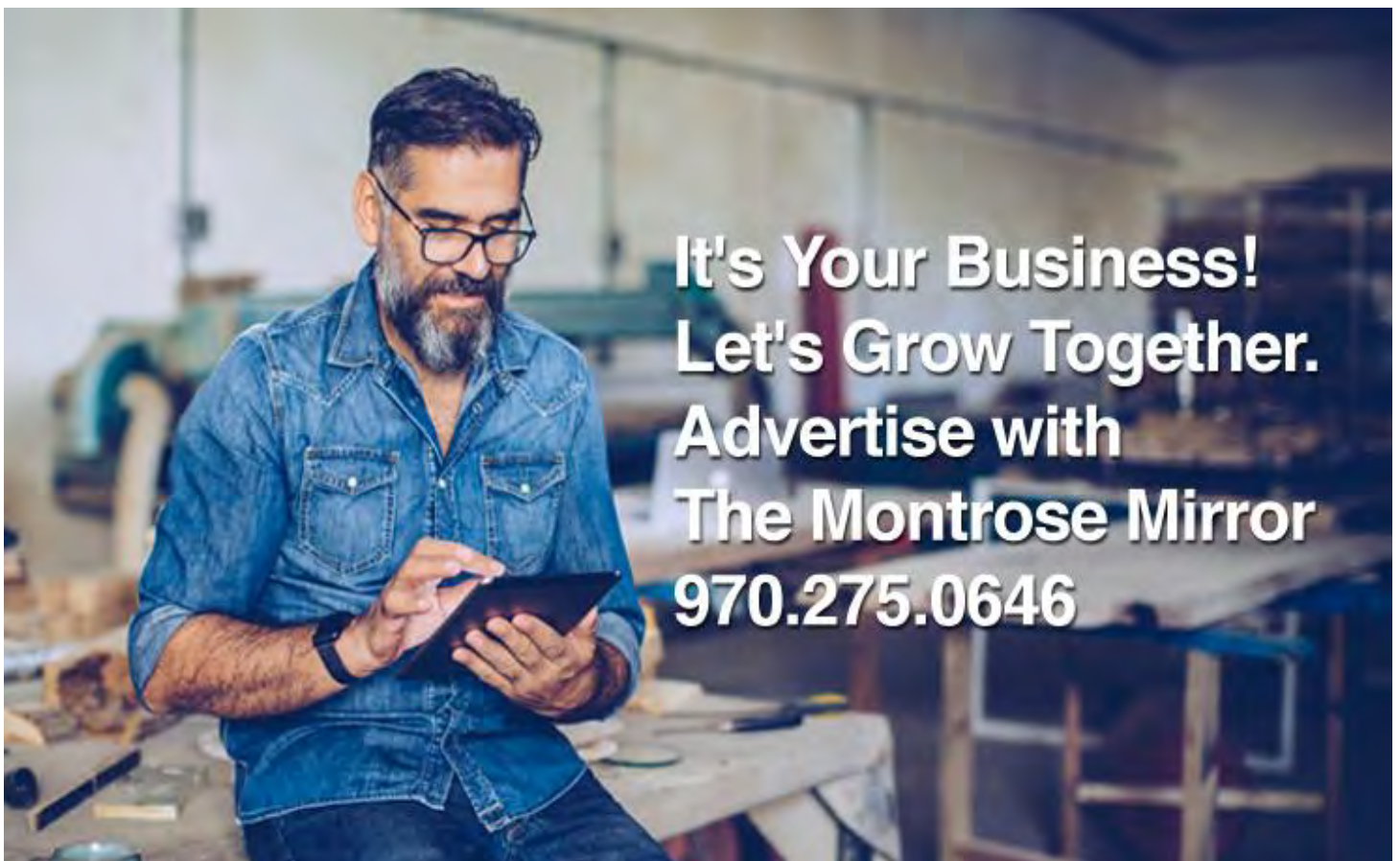
CASB CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2019 Region 11 Meeting of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion on Oct. 2.

Prior to adjournment, Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird updated the Board on the upcoming school board election.

Two certified candidates will run for District B, three certified candidates will run for District G. Two additional petitions have been received, but have not yet been certified, she said.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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LOCAL YOUTH THEATRE TO PERFORM AT AREA SCHOOLS



At left, the cast of "Elves and the Shoemaker." Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE-Magic Circle Youth Theatre Travels is hitting the road again for their annual performance tour to area elementary schools. This year's play is *The Elves And The Shoemaker* - an enchanting tale by Kristin Walker. Brought to life by a troupe of young, talented actors, the story

features a poor, bumbling shoemaker who can't make comfortable shoes until his daughter gets help from magical elves.

The shoemaker gets wealth and fame, but his family realizes that money can't buy happiness when they see how they have overworked the elves. Of course, there is a lesson to be learned and, to the

delight of all, there is a happy ending.

"Magic Circle Youth Theatre Travels is local kids performing for local kids," said Director Casey Dukeman. "Our tour begins September 6th and we'll visit eight elementary schools over a five-week tour."

"Our young actors have worked hard to bring the fun of theatre into the schools," said Assistant Director Kim Santich. "The costumes are so much fun; we may just see elves and a shoemaker around Halloween time!"



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER GEARS UP TO WELCOME MORE THAN 500 COWBOYS, OVER 120K IN PRIZE MONEY

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- Montrose County Event Center is gearing up to host four separate cowboy competitions over the next 30 days. Over 500 cowboys and their families are expected to visit the venue with more than \$120,000 in prize money up for grabs.

Events include the Mountain States Ranch Rodeo on Friday, Sept. 6 and Saturday, Sept. 7, the Colorado Championships National Team Roping (NTR) on Sept. 14 and 15, the Colorado Reined Cowhorse

Association (CRCA) Colorado Finale Sept. 19 - 22, and the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association (CPRA) State Finals Rodeo Oct. 4-6.

"It is an exciting month here at the Event Center," says Fairgrounds & Event Center Director Emily Sanchez. "Each of these events has the potential to draw cowboys from across Colorado and neighboring states. We are excited to welcome them and their families to Montrose and showcase what our community has to offer."

The Mountain States Ranch Rodeo will have ticketed rodeo performances each

evening. For more information on the event schedule and ticket prices visit mountainstatesranchrodeo.com.

The Colorado Championship NTR and the CRCA Colorado Finale offer free admission. For full schedule of events visit nationalteamroping.com and coloradoreinedcowhorse.com.

The CPRA State Finals Rodeo will have three ticketed rodeo performances. Tickets and additional information are available online at montrosecountyeventcenter.com or at the gate.

MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Planning Commission invites the public to attend an open house to learn about the Montrose County Master Plan update. The event is Monday, Sept. 9 from 4:30 pm to 7pm at the Montrose County Public Works Building (63160 LaSalle Road). This is an opportunity for county residents to share input and learn about the master plan, view maps, and other information.

"The master plan is a guiding document for planning and development of the unincorporated areas of the county," said

Planning and Development Director Steve White. "The master plan was last updated in 2010 and the commissioners want to ensure the document is updated to reflect changes in the community and economy."

The master plan is available on montrosecounty.net under the Planning and Development page. It is a "living" document that is reviewed quarterly by the Planning Commission. The public is an important part of the master plan update process as input is weighed and considered. Once the updates are complete, the Planning Commission will present a draft

to the Board of County Commissioner who will consider the document in a regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Montrose County Planning Director and Planning Commission board members will be available to discuss ideas, goals, and objectives. No formal presentations will be given. Anyone interested in sharing their input on this discussion is welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided. For more information on the master plan, please visit <https://www.montrosecounty.net/308/Master-Plan>.



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T MISS MADAMS, MURDER AND MAYHEM SEPT. 6

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Madams, Murder and Mayhem historical walking tour will examine the seedier side of local history. This new walk will visit the sites of the notorious saloons, jails, and historical buildings. The tales will intertwine history and legends on the famous and scandalous local characters of the area. This tour is available only on Sept. 6 starting at 6 pm., at the Montrose County Historical Museum. Limited spaces are available. Please RSVP at 970-249-2085. Admission is \$10/person.

SUPPORT THE MONTROSE WRESTLING SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Come out to Black Canyon Golf Course on Saturday Sept. 14 to support the Montrose Wrestling Scramble Tournament. Proceeds will Sponsor the Montrose Wrestling Association, Martine Luna Sponsorship Fund, Align With Kind, Rec District Sponsorship, and Gateway. The cost is \$50 per person, there will be a shotgun start at 8 am. Hole sponsorships available. Sign up in the Pro shop.

MARY OISHI TO BE FEATURED POET AT SEPT. TALKING GOURDS

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-The Telluride Institute's [Talking Gourds](#) poetry program kicks into lyric gear with the first autumn Poetry Club meeting featuring Mary Oishi on Monday Sept. 16 in Norwood and Tuesday Sept. 17 in Telluride.

Oishi, who lives in Albuquerque, is a Japanese American poet and public radio professional who was raised by the KKK. She started her 23-year public radio career at KVNf in Paonia, Colorado, and worked for 2 more public stations as both Development Director and on-air host of blues programming, most of those at KUNM in Albuquerque. Currently she is host of Wang Dang Doodle, a blues show on KSFR in Santa Fe.

She is also in the final edits stage of her memoir, *The Little Jap That Lillie Raised*, and several children's books about a dog named Mingus. Oishi is the author of *Spirit Birds They Told Me* (West End Press, 2011), and co-author of *Rock Paper Scissors* (Swimming With Elephants Publications, 2018) -- finalist for the 2018 New Mexico/Arizona Book Award for Poetry.

She is one of twelve U.S. poets in

12 *Poetas: Antologia De Nuevos Poetas Estadounidenses* (La Herrata Feliz and MarEsCerto, 2017), a project of the Mexican Ministry of Culture. Her poems have appeared in numerous anthologies, poetry journals, newspapers, and digital publications. The reading on Monday Sept. 16 will be in Norwood at Million Miles Away and Tuesday Sept. 17th at the Telluride Arts Gallery across from the Wilkinson Library. The theme for the reading will be Blue.

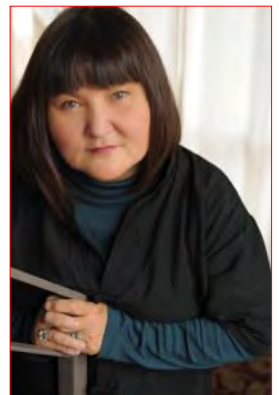
In October, the 14th in Norwood and the 15th in Telluride, Marie Luna of Paonia will be the featured reader. The theme will be Growing.

In November we will have two readings. Nov. 5 Barbara Rockman of Santa Fe will be the featured reader at the Telluride Arts Gallery. Author of *Sting and Nest: Poems* (Sunstone Press, 2011), which won the New Mexico-Arizona book award, she teaches at the Santa Fe Community College and has a new book out: *to cleave* (Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2019). The theme will be Going Home.

Nov. 18 in Norwood and Nov. 19 in Telluride, local poets Suzanne Cheavens and Stephanie Osan will share the spotlight. The theme will be Fall Colors.

And for our last reading of the year, on Dec. 16th in Norwood and Dec. 17th in Telluride, San Miguel County Poet Laureate Emerita Elissa Dickson will give a holiday show before she leaves for a six months sabbatical.

Theme will be Time. Poetry Club readings in Norwood begin at 7:30 p.m. and in Telluride at 6 p.m. with club news -- readings, books, etc. Next the featured reader shares work for 45 minutes to an hour. There's a short break. And then we pass the Gourd, and everyone gets to share their own poem -- or a piece by a favorite author on the month's theme. The Norwood address of Million Miles Away is 1150 Z42 Rd. (map available upon request) and the Telluride address is 135 W. Pacific Ave.



Mary Oishi, Albuquerque poet, who will read in Telluride Sept. 17th.
(photo by Kyle Zimmerman)

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Decriminalization has everyone talking about entheogens

MAGIC MUSHROOMS ... Even celebrities are owning up to ingesting entheogens. Nicholas Cage recently told the *New York Times Magazine*, "A friend of mine gave me this bag of [psychedelic] mushrooms, and my cat would go in my refrigerator and grab it, almost like he knew what it was. He loved it. Then I started going, 'I guess I'll do it.' It was a peaceful and beautiful experience."

HALLUCINATIONS ... That's what happens when you take certain drugs, right? Well, not exactly, if we're to believe the latest issue of *Scientific American*. Anil Seth is a professor of cognitive and computational neuroscience at the University of Essex in England and co-director of the Sackler Center for Consciousness Science. In his article, "Our Inner Universe" for SA's special issue on Truth, Lies and Uncertainty, he suggests that "our perceptions come from the inside out just as much as, if not more than, from the outside in" ... He believes "the brain is a kind of prediction machine and that perception of the world – and of the self within it – is a process of brain-based prediction about the causes of sensory signals" ...

To this way of thinking, the reality we perceive is not a direct reflection of the external objective world. The property of realness that accompanies our perceptions may serve to guide our behavior so that we respond appropriately to the sources of sensory signals ... Notes Seth, "Rather than being a passive registration of an external objective reality, perception emerges as a process of active construction ... A growing body of evidence supports the idea that perception is a controlled hallucination ... The contents of our perceptual worlds are controlled hallucinations, brain-based best guesses about the ultimately unknowable causes of sensory signals."

KEEWAYDINOQUAY ... That's the name of *Stories from My Youth* by Keewaydinoquay Pakawakuk Peschel as edited by Lee Boiswert – published seven years after her passing (Univ. of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2006) ... Imagine being thrown back to the time before indigenous peoples were citizens. Back when it was illegal to practice ancient customs and ceremonies. That is the time of some of these vignettes of a mixed blood Anishinaabeg woman -- trained as a girl in the Midéwewin medicine way of her tribe -- who went on to earn several degrees and to teach ethnobotany and indigenous philosophy as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ... With a foot in both worlds, she takes us back to the days of self-sufficient indigenous life on the islands and lakes of northern Michigan learning the old ways from teachers, recounting moves and escapes and stories of ancestors. It is a fascinating account, told in a way that Euro-American ears can assimilate ... Keewaydinoquay tells the story of how the medicine woman she was apprenticed to was herself apprenticed to a "well-known medicine man." He knew his herbs, but he misused power and was careless in healing others. She explained, "This ... medicine man ... called a number of elders together for a meeting and then fed them a certain mushroom that harmlessly causes urine to run bright red. Instead of telling the elders what he had done, he used their all too natural fright and worry to control them for his own gain" ... And then how her teacher's family had to leave their village in the middle of the night and fly by canoe to a distant island to escape the vengeance of the medicine man, who would have killed them all ... A different world. Fascinating tales told by an extraordinary woman who bridged both her indigenous culture and modern American society ... Highly recommended.



IN BAD FAITH ... If you haven't seen Emma Penrod's investigative scoop on long-time questionable water quality at a Mormon Church camp in the Sept. 2 issue of *High Country News*, then you are missing out on a startling story about our religious citizens to the West.

RECIPE FOR A GREAT ISSUE ... Start with Kim Raff's excellent cover shot. Add Paige Blankenbuehler's note on accountability, San Juan County (UT)'s indigenous reversal of power, and a positive story on our polygamous neighbors, plus the opening up of Colorado's state trust lands to public access. Mix in biocrust skin grafts, Wyoming's self-dug coal pit woes, and flying goats in the Cascades. Season with the tragedy of tribal land returned only to be heavily burned, Paul Larmer's pleas to include our home state of California in *High Country News*'s West, Sarah Gilman's ace review of Wilkins' books, Rachel Turiel's charming epistemology story, Ruxandra Guidi's personalizing the immigration issue, and finally some significant mainland coverage of the ongoing struggle of Native Hawaiians on Mauna Kea (thank you Rosalyn LaPier). All good ingredients ... But what made the cake for me was Emma Penrod's outstanding investigative piece. Living in Colorado for the past 40 years, I've come to really appreciate Mormon culture and their championing of family values. This unfortunate incidence of state/religion collusion and putting children at risk is disturbing. And quite rightly exposed.

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

THE TALKING GOURD

i need poems

these days i need poems
between my fingers
bulking my pillows
spinning off the ceiling fan

i need poems to sweet the oatmeal,
to cream the morning coffee

i need cupboards so full of poems you
couldn't squeeze in another can of soup

i need a poem to lock my door,
to start my car
i need poems to
bubble up through the storm drains
on my way to more poems,
an office full of poems
i need poems to populate my screens
to ring my phone

i need poems to jump into the headlines
in Arial Black 200 point type, push out
all that is not poem

i need a world of poems--
a 7-billion-voice poem
speaking through 14 billion eyes

i need trillions of poems
twinkling at me across light years

i need poemspoemspoemspoems
a universe of nothing but--
just to keep the light on
just to keep my head
in a world gone madmadmad

-Mary Oishi
Albuquerque

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RADIO ROOM WELCOMES THE JADEN CARLSON BAND



Jaden Carlson Band. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The Jaden Carlson Band is a power quartet from Boulder, Colorado, led by 18-year-old guitarist Jaden Carlson. The group is comprised of some of the best talent to be heard, with varied influences coming together from all over the country. The Jaden Carlson Band will

be performing LIVE in the KAFM Radio Room on Thursday, Sept. 5.

Their newest album, "Keep It Movin,'" taps into their unique chemistry to develop their blend of jam, funk, hip-hop, electronic, and jazz. The Jaden Carlson Band is comprised of guitarist, vocalist, keyboardist, and producer, Jaden Carlson, keyboardist Chris Beck, drummer Eric Imbrosciano and bassist Fred Reisen.

The band has been appearing at some of the nation's most notable festivals: Suwannee Hulaween, Summer Camp, The Friendly Gathering, The Vertex Festival, 80/35, Bumbershoot, LEAF Festival, The Workout Music and Art Festival, Jazz Aspen Snowmass, ARISE Festival, Bohemian Nights, Nedfest and many others. The Jaden Carlson Band has headlined major venues all over Colorado, as well as played direct support for national touring bands

Twiddle, The Revivalists, The Nth Power, The Werks, Robert Randolph and the Family Band, Kung Fu, DeVotchKa, The Motet, Robert Cray, Anders Osborne, and Marco Benevento, just to name a few.

Jaden is the youngest musician to play on the Red Rocks Stage at age 11, with Michael Franti and Spearhead, and again the next night with Blues Traveler. She has also had numerous sit-ins with Umphrey's McGee, The Revivalists, Lettuce, Dumpstaphunk, The Main Squeeze, The Nth Power, Twiddle, The Werks, TAUk, SOJA, Zoogma, The Motet, Dopapod, members of Snarky Puppy, Vulfpeck, Big Gigantic, The String Cheese Incident, and many more. Tickets are \$20 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.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO LAUNCHES AUTHORS' HALL OF FAME

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER—A group of dedicated authors and publishing providers in Denver, Colorado, the Mile-High City have announced the launch of the Colorado Authors' Hall of Fame, the first in the nation to celebrate and honor the breadth of work of authors connected in some way with the state of Colorado. The Authors Hall of Fame will host its first Induction on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019.

Eleven of the sixteen living Inductees will be present to accept their award; representatives of those who couldn't make it will be here; and family members of the five who have passed—all will share stories of their journeys.

Why an Authors Hall of Fame ... and Why in Colorado?

"Words matter. The words authors write

together can alter lives; launch a career; solve a problem ... even save a life. Words are a fountain of joy, entertainment, and revelation. Yes, words matter," per the Founder of the Hall, Dr. Judith Briles "Authoring requires preparation, unbelievable stamina and courage. Facing that blank page is like starting an ascent. When you reach the top by completing your book, you can suddenly see farther than ever before. Having a book in hand—seeing your name in print is something every author delights to. And knowing that their ideas, concepts, and stories have the possibility of becoming an out-reached hand for countless readers in providing entertainment, enlightenment and solutions is immeasurable."

Dr. Briles and her founding board members—several of whom are accomplished

authors themselves—are choosing to honor their peers by participating in the all-volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Members of the public nominate extraordinary candidates whose works were vetted for induction into the Hall.

The Hall strives to educate the people of Colorado and the country about the stories of the authors who shaped their works using their personal presence and the environment of our State with courage, leadership, intelligence, compassion, and creativity. It wants to include authors who've made a major impact on others with their words. To make sure their legacies never die.

Information about the upcoming Induction event, donations, events, board members and future inductees can all be found at www.ColoradoAuthorsHallofFame.org.

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR FOR ELIZA PICKRELL ROUTT AWARD KICKS OFF

Special to Art & Sol

DENVER—On the 99th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, and in honor of the award's namesake, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold is kicking off the 2019-2020 school year for the Eliza Pickrell Routt Award. The Eliza Pickrell Routt Award is given to Colorado high schools that have 85 percent of eligible seniors registered to vote.

This award, created in 2016, is named after Eliza Pickrell Routt, the first woman registered to vote in Colorado after the state's passage of women's suffrage in 1893. Eliza served as Colorado's first First Lady -- her husband John Routt was elected as Colorado's first governor in 1876. In this role, she dedicated herself to equal rights for women and the passage of women's suffrage. Routt helped Colorado become the second state to allow women to vote, the first by popular vote. In honor

of her commitment to the passage of women's suffrage, Routt was the first woman registered to vote in Colorado.

"Eliza Pickrell Routt's legacy exemplifies the importance of using your voice and fighting to expand and protect the right to vote," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "This award honors that legacy by reminding young Coloradans that they have the opportunity to help shape the future of our state and our country with their vote."

Next year, eligible 17-year-old Coloradans can register and vote in the Presidential and State Primaries if they will turn 18 by the November General Election. Eligible 16- and 17-year-old Coloradans can also pre-register to vote.

Eliza Pickrell Routt did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment, but her work in Colorado paved the way for its passage. It took more than 25 years for

the rest of the nation to follow Colorado's lead and pass women's suffrage. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. This did not translate to all, as many women of color across the United States continued to face barriers to vote. Colorado ratified the 19th Amendment on December 15, 1919. In 1973, Congress designated Aug. 26th Women's Equality Day in commemoration of the day the 19th Amendment was certified to the U.S. Constitution.

The Colorado Secretary of State's office is asking teachers, students, principals and community members interested in learning more about the award to sign up on the Colorado Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/RouttAward.html>. Eligible Coloradans can register to vote at govotecolorado.com.

MONTROSE ELKS LODGE



KARAOKE COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

7:00 PM

★ Sept 4th Sign Up at 6:30 & Sing
Sep 11th, 18th Sing

★ Grand Finale on Sat Sept 21st



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TOP MCF GRANTS SERVE DIVERSE COMMUNITY NEEDS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When the Montrose Community Foundation presented its annual [grant report](#) to the City of Montrose at the Aug. 19 work session, the two largest awards were for \$5K each, to the Center for Mental Health and to the Hispanic Affairs Project of Western Colorado (HAP).

Though still not accepting clients, the Center for Mental Health [Crisis Center](#) is a highly visible project, slated to open “soon” at 300 North Cascade Avenue in the former Region 10 Facility. The \$5K Crisis Center grant was for furniture that could be used with ligatures, Community Foundation Executive Director Sara Plumhoff said at the work session.

The \$5K awarded to the Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP), located at 1010 S. Cascade Avenue Suite A1, was less specific, to be used simply for “basic rights for immigrants.” According to the Montrose Community Foundation’s Ann Back, the grant funds will be used to assist migrants with citizenship applications; affordable legal services and intake; advanced community outreach; work permits for young people; outreach to assist victims of crime or domestic violence; and assistance in accessing the local non-profit community.

According to [the web site](#), Hispanic Affairs Project of Western Colorado was first created by Hispanic immigrant leaders of the communities in Grand Junction, Delta, Olathe, Montrose and Hotchkiss and obtained 501C3 status in 2010. The [HAP Facebook site](#) states that Hispanic

Affairs Project began with the 2006 movement for comprehensive immigration reform. “HAP Committees across the Western Slope are working to achieve reform and to support immigrant families affected by the broken immigration system,” the site states.

The City awards \$30K to the Community Foundation each year for the grant cycle, and grantees are selected by the Foundation, Plumhoff said. “When we give to a regional organization, we do ask that it be used largely in our area,” she said. “The number of people it affects is important.

“We feel good about giving to Hispanic Affairs Project; it seems like they are serving a lot of people.”

HAP is also fairly unique in the constituency that it serves here, she noted.

Karen Sherman Perez of Hispanic Affairs Project also provided information on the way HAP will use the grant funds to help local people. “Our whole focus is on immigration, and helping people in our community, specifically our immigrant community...we were founded to support the rising tide of immigration from Latin America.

“Funding from the MCF goes to support our Immigration Legal Assistance program. The funds go specifically toward the salary of our accredited representative



The Center for Mental Health Crisis Center is set to open soon, according to [the web site](#). Photo by Gail Marvel.

under the U.S. Department of Justice/DHS Office of Legal Access Program that helps eligible individuals with their immigration adjustment of status applications,” she said. “These include DACA renewals, legal permanent residency, and naturalization applications. Pretty much all of the people we serve through this program have some sort of immigration status. During the last 12 months our program has provided direct legal assistance or referrals to at least 195 individuals from across the region, although the majority are folks who live in the Montrose area.”

Still, “Because this is such a small grant, I can’t tell you the exact number of people helped directly with the \$5k received,” she said.

To learn more about the Center for Mental Health Crisis Center, [visit the web site](#).

To learn more about Hispanic Affairs Project of Western Colorado, [visit the web site](#).



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OPENS FALL SEASON SEPT. 18 WITH 'THE INVISIBLE PANEL: A NEW ROCK ART SITE IN EASTERN UTAH'

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society will host Dennis Devore on Sept. 18, 2019 speaking about his own discovery of an unknown Barrier Canyon Style painted rock art panel in the eastern Utah two years ago. His presentation will describe finding the faded, barely visible but spectacular pictographs, where they fit in the recognized prehistoric imagery styles of the area, and how the images have been given a new lease on life through modern photographic processing techniques. Dennis is a resident of Grand Junction who explores and photographs the Four Corners area rock art as a post-retirement passion. He is a long-time member of the C.A.S. and the Utah Rock Art Research Association. The public is welcome at the presentation, which will

be at 7 p.m. at the Montrose United Methodist Church, Baldrige Hall, 19 S. Park

Street. Please contact Leigh Ann at 970-835-5228 for more information.



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PIZZA FOR HISTORY: A TASTEFUL FUNDRAISER

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Montrose Pizza Hut is sponsoring a fundraiser for Montrose County Historical Museum/Society on the First Sunday of the Month, Sept. 1st, between 5pm-9pm on carry-out, dine-in and now delivery. What a great way to support the local history with your hometown Pizza Hut. You need to order between 5 pm and 9 pm especially now that football has started! Please spread the word about this event "Pizza for History" to friends and family!

HAWAIIAN NIGHT BINGO

SEPTEMBER 10TH

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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

READING TO ROVER-Montrose Library. Every Tuesday, Sept. 3rd – Dec. 10. 3:30 - 4:30pm. Read to a Morningstar Therapy Dog. Call 970.249.9656 option 2 or visit the children's desk to sign up for a 15-minute reading time.

THE BOLD AND THE ITALICIZED (ST). Montrose Library. Every Wednesday, Sept. 4 – Dec. 11, 10am - 11am. Family-friendly story time featuring stories, songs, and activities. Toddler-preschool age appropriate.

MONTHLY-

Sept. 3-Chess Club, 4pm - 5pm. Join us in the Montrose library meeting room for once monthly chess club, chess boards and pieces provided. Children under age 7 must have an adult with them, no sign-ups required.

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.7-The 2019 Montrose County/City of Montrose Household Hazardous Waste Event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City of Montrose Public Works Shop located at 1221 64.50 Road. Fee Schedule published at: www.cityofmontrose.org/337/Household-Hazardous-Waste

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.

Sept. 9-6:30 Montrose Library meeting rm. The Human Element is by James Balog of Chasing Ice and interrelates Human influence on environment. Citizens Climate Lobby will show 1 hr 15 min film to be followed by discussion. All humans welcome.

Sept. 10-ROCK ART OF THE PARADOX VALLEY, 1 p.m. @ Montrose Senior Center (1800 East Pavilion Place). Take this picturesque journey through the ancient lives in Paradox Valley through the rock carvings they left behind. Presenter: Glade Hadden, geologist.

Sept. 11-Wednesday, Sept. 11th at 6 pm. 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!

Sept. 12-Ignite Montrose. Join us for an evening of fast-paced presentations. Community members share their adventures, hobbies, travels, ideas or other passions in 5 minutes (20 slides). Be inspired, entertained and motivated! Sept. 12 at 7 pm at Intrinzik, 512 East Main, Montrose.

Sept. 13-Friday Flicks, Montrose Library. 4 - 5:30PM. Join us in the story time room! As the days get shorter, let's head to Hawai'i and celebrate the little monster in all of us by watching Lilo & Stitch.

Sept. 14-15-Montrose Regional Airport Tribute to Aviation, 9a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to the public.

Sept. 14- 'ALIVE AND STILL KICKIN' VARIETY SHOW, 11 a.m., \$5. This VARIETY SHOW is full of surprises, great talent and good BBQ along with all the fix in's. Start at 11 PM with BBQ and entertainment that includes Cheryl Clapton, Bruce Pollard, The Huck, Tim Veazey, a Magic Show, Barber Shop Choir, comedy skits and much more!!! JOIN THE FUN as All donations support our 'Pay It Forward' Senior Lunch Fund. Info: Marilyn Huseby 970 901 9914.

Sept. 14-Smart Cycling 101. Sept. 14 @ 9 am - 3 pm \$25. Montrose Rec Center. Become empowered to ride your bicycle on the road with confidence and competence! This course combines indoor instruction and discussion, a bike handling practice session, and a guided ride around Montrose to experience and discuss the principles of vehicular cycling.

Sept. 14-Montrose Bicycle Alliance Full Moon Cruiser Ride, (FREE). Leaves at 8pm from Storm King Distilling.

Sept. 19-Art Club, Montrose Library from 3:30pm - 4:30 pm. We will be using pastels to create pop art inspired by Keith Haring's graffiti art; leave with 1-2 completed works. This program is intended for kids ages 4-12 and their caregivers, but families are welcome.

Sept 21-Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival! For more information visit www.lakecityfestival.org

Sept. 22-“Gettin' There” Free Fall Concert-Sunday, Sept. 22nd, 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Transportation is the idea.

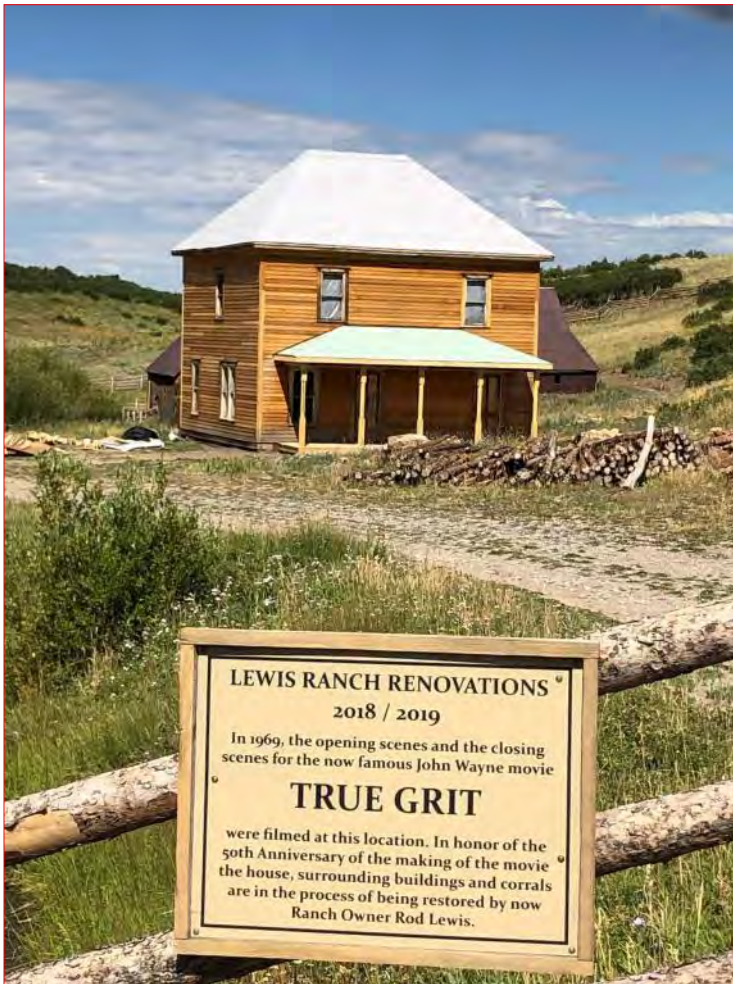
Contact the Montrose Mirror:

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MIRROR IMAGES...by Brad Switzer



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