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# the Montrose Mirror

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

Issue No. 347 Oct. 14, 2019

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT IS UP, CASB TO ASSIST IN SEARCH FOR NEW RE-1J SUPERINTENDENT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a work session at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, to consider a proposal by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) to assist with the search for a new superintendent. The proposal was later approved as part of the Consent Agenda at the 6 p.m. regular Board of Education meeting. All directors were in attendance at the meeting.

### BOARD MEETING-STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Students Aleia Masterson and Cara Ogoe joined Adaptive Physical Education Teacher Danielle Musser to remind the board of education that the Amazing Race for Adaptive Sports will return to Montrose for the sixth year on Oct. 26.

Masterson shared slides of herself fishing, biking and rock climbing. She also skis.

[Continued pg 15](#)



At the regular meeting of Oct. 8, Student Aleia Masterson and Adaptive Physical Education Teacher Danielle Musser reminded the school board that the Amazing Race for Adaptive Sports will return Oct. 26.

## BUCKAROOS SLICES AND SCOOPS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING ON EAST MAIN FRIDAY-SATURDAY



Buckaroos Slices and Scoops, owned by the LaJoy Family, celebrates its Grand Opening on East Main Street (next to House of Spirits Liquor store) on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 11 pm.

By Cindy LaJoy, Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose's newest restaurant celebrates its Grand Opening on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 11 pm. Buckaroos Slices and Scoops is a unique, family owned business that is intentionally providing employment opportunities for those with developmental delays and cognitive challenges. Two-thirds of their employees are enjoying supported employment as they gain new skills to better prepare them for the working world.

Operated by Dominick and Cindy LaJoy along with their young adult children, Angela, Olesya and Kenny LaJoy, the idea for a take-out pizza and ice cream restaurant started as a homeschool project that came to life after a year of extensive research, planning, and construction. Located next to House of Spirits Liquors, which their family owns and operates on East Main Street, Buckaroos Slices and Scoops offers pizza that self-

[Continued pg 3](#)

in this  
issue

[Art Goodtimes  
Up Bear Creek!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey  
Visits Camp Robber Café!](#)

[Galloping Geese  
Gather in Ridgway!](#)

[Montrose County  
Presents Draft 2020 Budget!](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MMH CELEBRATES COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AT FALL CLINICS



*(From left to right) Ken Jenks, retired physician assistant, recognized for his outstanding service to the Naturita community, and Dr. Thomas Dwyer, the 2019 Physician of the Year. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-At the 48th annual Fall Clinics on Friday, Sept. 27, the medical community recognized one physician and one community member for their outstanding contributions to the Hospital, the Community and the Medical Staff.

The Fall Clinics Committee recognized

Ken Jenks as an outstanding individual whose impact has a lasting effect on the patients and community he served. Ken is a recently retired physician assistant who practiced for more than 15 years at the Basin Clinic in Naturita. He was known for his calm, quiet, demeanor and dedication to the clinic and area patients. He and his wife Lois continue caring for others as volunteer care providers along the Juarez/El Paso border.

The "Physician of the Year" is chosen based on the on-going contribution to quality medical care, medical staff and hospital activities, community service activities and years of service. The Fall Clinics Committee highlighted the many accomplishments of this year's recipient, Dr. Thomas (Lou) Dwyer. Dr. Dwyer is active in the community with Pope John Paul II Academy, Community Options, and with the Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association in Denver. He is a graduate of Notre Dame, and the University of Colorado, and has practiced with Western Slope Orthopaedics and at Montrose Memorial Hospital for 18 years. He and his wife Tanya have three children, Jack, Gus and Joseph.

The Fall Clinics is an annual educational conference for medical professionals, attracting providers both local and out of state. This year's conference speakers included Dr. Martin Abrahamson, Associ-

ate Professor of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Dr. Guido Frank, Professor in Psychiatry at University of California San Diego; Dr. Peter Hountras, Associate Professor, Medicine - Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care at University of Colorado Hospital; and Dr. Rob Shmerling, Clinical Chief, Division of Rheumatology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The event serves as an opportunity to recognize Montrose's leaders in the medical community.

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)3 nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties. The health system offers a 75-bed hospital and an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center, Acute Rehabilitation Unit and the family birthing center. The health system partners with regional providers on joint ventures to meet local healthcare needs, including CareFlight air ambulance service and Black Canyon Surgical Center.

Montrose Memorial Hospital is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 700 employees and 100 physicians who represent 23 medical specialties.

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado by Caitlin Switzer, to a readership of over 13,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher. For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

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ASSOCIATION**

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## ***BUCKAROOS SLICES AND SCOOPS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING***

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

proclaimed connoisseurs are raving about! Their ice cream is as one-of-a-kind as their employees are, crafted by Farr's Ice Cream, another family owned operation that has been producing a top-notch product for almost 100 years. Buckaroos will also be serving authentic Chicago-style Italian beef sandwiches and pizza-by-the-slice.

Knowing that their family was not the only one locally whose young adults were in need of a more compassionate and understanding employment setting, the LaJoys made the decision as a family to see if they could provide opportunities for others as well. Cindy has earned a certificate of achievement from the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) in Supported Employment and will be an onsite job coach. The younger LaJoys have contributed significantly to the project, developing the business and marketing plans, meeting with investors, and performing much of the physical labor involved in building out the facility. Their self-proclaimed mission is to provide "Pizza with a Purpose for People with Potential".

Learn more at: [www.buckaroosmontrose.com](http://www.buckaroosmontrose.com)

## **MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS**



### **SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

If you have great office skills and a winning personality, we'd like to talk to you. Our vibrant, growing church community in Ridgway is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to produce worship bulletins and our weekly e-news; manage the church office; and serve as receptionist four days each week (Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 a.m.– 1:30p.m.). Experience with Microsoft Word required. Experience with Microsoft Publisher a plus. Contact Pam Stofferahn at [ucsjpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjpastor@gmail.com) if interested or submit a resume or application (You can find one on our website at [www.ucsjridgway.org](http://www.ucsjridgway.org) on the "About Us" page.) to The United Church of the San Juans, P.O. Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432.

### **PIZZA & POLITICS!**

**Oct 24** Event for all registered voters regarding November ballot issues Prop CC---funding for schools & roads or threat to taxpayer rights, and Prop DD---is sports gambling the solution to protect water rights? Special guest speaker Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, will provide informational training on the integrity of election process and upcoming elections. Venue: 121 N. 4th St in Montrose. Program Oct 24 at 6:30pm-8 pm. Q&A will follow presentations. Pizza served at 6pm.

*Montrose Elks Lodge #1053*  
801 S. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401

**Bingo** *Tuesday*  
**October 15, 2019**

**PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS**

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**\$13,223**

Win with 53 #s or fewer, or the game continues for the prize posted

**Progressive Game #4**  
**\$686**

Win with 37 #s or fewer

**Progressive Game #2**  
**\$200**

Win with 37 #s or fewer

**Sloppy Joes Dinner \$5**

**Limited Seating**

**\$3 Pints of Beer**



**Doors Open at 3 PM,**  
**Early Bird starts at 6:30 PM**  
**main Bingo session starts at 7 PM**



# MONTROSE NEWCOMER TOUR

## BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN TOWN

Are you new to Montrose? Join us for an exclusive tour of all the hidden gems in your new community with City Manager, Bill Bell. Sign up today! Space is limited!

**OCTOBER 18, 2019**

Bus Tour: 12 - 4PM

Reception with City Council to follow

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## COUNTY PRESENTS DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2020, THANKS 'CITIZEN WATCHDOGS'

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a special meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 9, to hear the County Manager's [presentation of the 2020 draft budget](#). All commissioners were present for the meeting; the invocation was delivered by Planning & Development Director Steve White.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items, though Commissioner Keith Caddy took a moment to congratulate the Montrose Golf team. "They're a three-peat--they won three straight. They're a great group of kids, and they've represented us very proudly at the state level."

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Consent Agenda items.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Norris said, "Here at Montrose County we've had a very good year this year. In 2019 we've tracked very well financially. A couple of weeks ago (Finance Director) Cindy Dunlap reviewed our financial condition for the year—we were under in expenses and over in revenue. It looks like we're going to have a very good completion of the year for 2019."

Next year's financial outlook is also good, he said.

"The bottom line on 2020 is we show a total \$46.2 million fund budget," Norris said. "...That's after we go through all of our expenses, all of our construction projects, all of the expenses that we will incur in the budget year 2020.

"It's kind of like a report card," Norris said. He thanked the commissioners for creating an atmosphere that allows the staff to keep the county in good financial condition. "The leadership starts at the top," he said.

Though the county has recently taken on large capital projects, "We're still in good shape," Norris said. "What that will allow us to do is take a look at redoing and upgrading the old courthouse."

"For right now, the future really does look good."

Norris discussed the budgeting process, and the methodology used.

"We have adopted a long-range financial planning methodology," he said. "Basically...we look at what the county is doing on a five-year basis. We model it year by year, expense by expense, revenue by revenue, to see where we're trending."

Assistant County Finance Director Lanny Paulson, Deputy County Manager Jon Waschbusch, and Finance Director Dunlap reviewed the budget presentation in detail. Waschbusch noted that the current budget expenditures reflect the "fully loaded" option, and could decrease by December.

Budget highlights from the presentation include the following:

#### Revenue:

- Total revenue of \$63.9M for 2020 is \$2.4M, or 3.8%, more than the revised projections for 2019.
- Operating revenues are projected to increase \$2.6M from \$58.5M in 2019 to \$61.1M in 2020.
- Property Tax collections will increase \$1.5M in 2020. 2019 was a re-assessment year and the increase in the preliminary assessed value is 12.1%.
- The growth rate from 2019 to-2020 for Sales & Use Tax collections is currently projected at 4.1%.
- The Road & Bridge Fund received an additional \$754K in 2019 from the State's Highway Users Trust Fund. The County is also expecting an additional \$200K above what would have normally been anticipated for 2020 resulting from S.B.19-269.
- The County anticipates approximately \$1.9M in grant funding at the Airport in 2020 for the Runway Rehabilitation and Terminal Expansion projects.

#### Expenditures:

- Total expenditures (excludes inter-fund transfers) of \$70.3M are \$4.3M (6.5%) greater than the revised budget for 2019.
- Operating expenditures for 2020 of \$51.4M are \$3.1M (6.4%) greater than \$48.3M revised budget for 2019.
- Personnel costs totaling \$28M are budg-



Montrose County citizen Dee Laird, above, was among those who asked questions at Montrose County's presentation of the Draft budget for 2010.

eted to increase \$1M or 3.9%. These figures currently include; a net of 2.25 additional FTE's, 3% for salary and wage adjustments, and a 8% increase in the benefit allowance for health insurance.

-Non-Personnel expenditures of \$23.3M include increases in the Clerk & Records Office (Presidential Primary), Information Technology (Software Systems and Maintenance), and various programmatic changes in the Sheriff's Office.

-Capital expenditures totaling \$15M are included in the recommended budget for 2020.

Following the presentation, commissioners opened the floor to questions and comments, addressing citizen concerns over handling of excess funds, funding for the District Attorney's office and Crime Stoppers, landscaping at the Justice Center, the County Event Center, and more.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen expressed thanks during the budget presentation for the citizen watchdogs who ask questions. "We are accountable to the taxpayers."

Commissioner Roger Rash said, "I am grateful for the hard work our staff has done...being accountable for the dollars we take in and the dollars we spend."

Budget review meetings will take place Oct. 21 through Nov. 1.

On Dec 11, the BOCC will hold a public hearing on the Budget Adoption and Mill Levy Certification.

A balanced budget is due to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) by Jan. 31, 2020.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE...

*Editor:*

One must wonder, watching the gyrations of the City Council and the City Manager, just who is in whose pocket? By necessity, as citizens, we must fund our government but, overall, I want those so-called managers of the public purse out of my pocket. Already they get enough of my money and my neighbor's money as proven by eight years of frivolous mismanagement of the City Budget and Police funding issue. The Simple Six just want more of our money for their non-essential municipal projects.

So they argue that 'the PSST (2A) is just a tiny tax,' 'so very little for what it is destined to do.' 'It will be paid by everybody and so it is a good tax.' 'Our neighboring towns have higher taxes.' 'Oh Yeah! it will support our beleaguered and mistreated Police Officers.' School teachers, when faced with such absurd statements ask 'little Johnny' "if your classmate jumped into the Black Canyon, would you?" Even Little Johnny would say, Hell no! Put this way we all can easily see the absurdity of the statement that 'all our neighboring towns have higher taxes'. Similarly, if all the good citizens of Montrose, or just a couple of them, had over the last eight years called out the Simple Six about the slow but sure degradation of our Police Department we might not be in today 'pickle'. If we had not permitted the Police Department to be put under the su-

pervision of the City Manager, the Department would have issued cries for help. But our Simple Six have covered up their failed supervision which by accident or by design, has put them in a position of crying CRISIS. In fact this crisis was generated by the Simple Six in an effort to get 2A passed as a General Sales Tax, the revenue from which they could spend on anything they wanted.

This is not right. But look at the way the Ordinance is written. It does not mention where the funds are to be spent. It does not mention police. It does not mention Public Safety at all. In fact, when and if this Ordinance is put into effect, these people, the Simple Six, just got another three or four million dollars in tax money to blow on WHATEVER they want to blow it on. To blow on their pet, sometimes even personal, municipal projects. And the Police Department can continue to 'go begging'. The citizens of Montrose can continue to do with underfunded, undermanned and overworked police protection. They purposely allowed the Ordinance to be written as it is when Mr. Bennett provided them with the proper wording in this very newspaper. Obviously, doing it right (for the Cops) was not their desire or intent.

When you look at the City Managers editorial of a few days ago you can see that the Council and he have spent, by his own admission, tax revenues on such or-

ganizations as charities, social clubs and religious organizations. And they have given money to schools and the recreation center both of which have their own taxing sources. None of these expenditures are proper and for sure the gifts or loans to these entities should never be entertained by our municipal government. Certainly any one of these expenditures and most likely all of them, could have been put off for a year or two in order to fix the Police Department----Municipal Government's Priority Number One Obligation. This government largess is funding 'of the ELITE, by the ELITE and for the ELITE. This has got to stop.

Stop 2A. Vote NO on 2A.

And as an aside, vote no on CC also. TABOR prevents runaway property taxes statewide. The passage of CC will take away the prevention allowing any and all 'EXCESS' (that means accidentally assessed, yeah, right) to be retained by the state of Colofornia for use as your legislature sees fit. Do you see any similarity here? As it is now, 'accidental excess' money must be returned to the taxpayer.

The consequence of 'letting' the state keep the excess guarantees that there will be plenty of excess, BUT NONE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED. It will be a Statehouse Slush Fund.

Vote NO on CC.

*Bill Ramsey, Montrose*



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*October - Chill is in the air*



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**249-3668**

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### RESPONSE TO BENNETT: "JUST THE FACTS MA' AM"

*Editor:*

Mr. Bennett, in the October 7, 2019 edition of the Mirror you ask who is funding the 2A initiative. The answer is, a group of concerned citizens, primarily through contributions. Not a single penny came from tax payer money. Why are they doing it you ask. Because they care about Montrose. They saw a need and stepped up to the plate to try and address an issue in a logical manner.

While you might not agree with those that see a need for beefing up the police department, the facts speak for themselves. Crime is on the rise. Our patrol officers are overworked, it's not uncommon for them to be putting in fourteen-hour days. The strategy set forth by the MPD command staff is sound. They just need the support of the community to make it happen.

You also say in your article that the MPD is using a scare tactic or a sob story to ply money from the citizenry and that the new revenue will not go to the MPD. That

is not true. See my comments about the facts. Also, the ballot language clearly states the requested sales tax increase is for Public Safety (read that as Law Enforcement). State law requires any tax dollars raised through a ballot initiative must be spent in accordance with that ballot language.

The City has not gone on a spending spree as some would like the citizenry to think. Montrose is one of a few that can say it is nearly debt free. What happens to excess revenue, it goes toward the emergency reserve fund (90 days reserve for enterprise, 180 days reserve for the general fund). Unlike the federal government which believes it prudent to fund expenses through debt (\$21 Trillion) our locally elected and appointed officials take the prudent path – pay as you go.

Unfortunately, the only way to provide for the required services is through a stable revenue stream, a modest city sales tax. Keep in mind; as of today, Montrose has the second lowest sales tax structure

on the Western Slope AND NO CITY PROPERTY TAX. If 2A passes we will be in the middle of the pack and still NO CITY PROPERTY TAX.

The phrase "just the facts ma'am" was attributed to the character Sgt. Joe Friday from the TV Series Dragnet. He never really said it. But the facts are, if 2A passes we will reduce crime in Montrose by focusing on the top offenders. We will reduce the number of "drug houses" through increased focus on enforcement. We will have safer schools by adding additional school resource officers.

I don't see the elitism you fear. I see a group of dedicated individuals trying to make Montrose all it can be. I also see a group of concerned citizens contributing a lot of time and money in an honest attempt to raise the awareness of the need for a beefed-up police department and the infrastructure to help make them effective and efficient.

A Yes vote on 2A ensures that success.  
*David Stockton, Montrose*

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# ★ IS A PSST REALLY WARRANTED? ★

The PSST Committee failed to research MPD funding history before recommending higher taxes.

## HISTORY OF MPD BUDGETS 2010-2018

Year	City Mgr.	Budget \$	Increase % per yr.	\$ Under or Over Budget
2010	Watt	5,637,147		- 229,355
2011	Sellers	5,739,043	+ 1.8	- 1,905,470
2012	Bell	5,773,462	+ .6	+ 2,050,304
2013	Bell	5,960,783	+ 3.2	- 330,360
2014	Bell	5,792,096	- 2.8	+ 338,984
2015	Bell	6,175,985	+ 6.6	+ 421,022
2016	Bell	6,842,070	+ 10.7	+ 260,028
2017	Bell	7,079,144	+ 3.9	- 30,513
2018	Bell	7,126,768	+ .6	+ 1,927,252
(Avg. Growth Rate of + 2.7% Per Year)				

## CITY vs. MPD BUDGETS 2013-2018

City Budgets			
Year	Total \$	Increase % per Yr.	% Under or Over Budget
2012	41,055,930		
2013	35,375,240	- 13.8	+ 56.1
2014	39,903,390	+ 12.8	- 14.1
2015	40,707,689	+ 2.0	
2016	40,580,448	- .3	+ 42.0
2017	41,944,716	+ 3.4	
2018	57,836,928	+ 37.9	÷ 6.0
(+ 7.0% Annual Growth Rate Per Year)			
Total City Budget Increase \$22.5 Million			

## SALES TAX BUDGETS vs. ACTUAL RECEIPTS

Year	Budget \$	Actual \$	Difference in \$ Millions
2013	12,768,266	14,205,928	+ 1.4
2014	12,262,917	14,356,594	+ 2.1
2015	12,850,174	15,941,550	+ 3.1
2016	13,244,724	16,646,728	+ 3.4
2017	14,329,156	17,451,496	+ 3.1
2018	14,544,093	18,604,978	+ 4.1
Excess Collected \$17.2 Million			

MPD Budgets			
Year	Total \$	Increase % per Yr.	% Under or Over Budget
2012	5,773,462		
2013	5,960,783	+ 3.2	+ 25.0
2014	5,792,096	- 2.8	- 2.8
2015	6,175,985	+ 6.6	
2016	6,842,070	+ 10.7	+ 22.2
2017	7,079,144	+ 3.9	
2018	7,126,768	+ .6	÷ 6.0
(+ 3.7% Annual Growth Rate Per Year)			
Total MPD Budget Increase \$1.2 Million			

**CITY BUDGET vs. MPD 2017-18** City \$57,836,928 + 37.9% = **\$15,892,272** • MPD \$7,126,768 + .6% = **\$47,600**

To  
**CONSIDER**

**BE INFORMED  
BEFORE VOTING!**

To  
**DECIDE**

- Does history indicate priority funding for the MPD?
- When MPD extra funding was really needed, the City magically **found the funds**.
- **Where** did the excess money go?
- **Why** didn't the excess money go to the MPD?
- The City budget grew **333.8 times** as fast as the MPD from 2017-2018
- The City budget percentage growth rate was **almost double** the rate of the MPD

★ **RESEARCHED & PAID FOR BY DEE LAIRD**

## A YES VOTE:

- means higher taxes forever on everything you buy, in addition to current tax obligations
- essentially caps general fund contributions to the MPD
- allows the City to control how MPD expends those funds.

## A NO VOTE:

- Does not change how the MPD operates
- is a mandate for the City to re-prioritize MPD funding from existing sources.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CDOT CREWS TO PERFORM SURFACE REPAIRS ON CO 62 DALLAS DIVIDE *Expect delays next week west of Ridgway*

*Special to the Mirror*

OURAY & SAN MIGUEL COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation will be repairing a section of CO Highway 62 that has developed dips in the road surface.

The road damage must be repaired to prevent water from accumulating in the low areas of the road during and after rain storms.

Accumulated water in the dips may cause vehicles to hydroplane, a condition when water accumulates under the tires and control of vehicles can be lost.

#### TRAVEL IMPACTS

Work will be performed about 2 miles west of Ridgway on the Dallas Divide between mile points 20-21, where several dips have developed.

The three-day road maintenance operations will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week, Oct. 15 through

17, weather permitting.

Motorists will encounter one lane alternating traffic with 15-20 minute delays. Drivers should slow down when approaching the work zone and watch for flaggers, work crews and heavy equipment.

REMEMBER: SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE  
The following tips are to help you stay safe while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones.

Do not speed in work zones. Obey the posted speed limits.

Stay Alert! Expect the unexpected.

Watch for workers. Drive with caution.

Don't change lanes unnecessarily.

Avoid using mobile devices such as phones while driving in work zones.

Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.

Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones.

Expect delays, especially during peak trav-

el times.

Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you.

Anticipate lane shifts and merge when directed to do so.

Be patient!

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travelers are urged to "know before you go."

Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

Road conditions and travel information:

[www.COtrip.org](http://www.COtrip.org)

Sign up for project or travel alerts: [bit.ly/COalerts](https://bit.ly/COalerts)

See scheduled lane closures: [codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](https://codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html)

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*Saturday*  
**OCTOBER 19, 2019**

★ ★ ★



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# Lincoln ★ Reagan

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### ELECTIONS CERTAINLY BRING OUT THE WORST IN US, EVEN IN CARING COMMUNITY OF MONTROSE

*Editor:*

The election results on ballot issue 2A on November 5th will set the future of Montrose for years to come and that future could be bleak. 2A is a sales and use tax of 58 cents per \$100 expended, to be paid by residents but also by visitors and adjoining regional purchasers alike, to fund the Montrose Police Dept. Vocal opponents have misstated, misled and name-called without knowledge of what has been and is being done. In over 40 public presentations, no tax opponent has confronted those with specific financial knowledge with expenditure issues. Several of the members of the pro-tax group, One Community-Safer Together, recently attended a previously respected group leadership meeting which, as the result of a group-think process, an anti-tax mantra and in the absence of analysis of the facts, passed a position statement opposing the tax but supporting the Police Dept. and acknowledging the critical need for more staffing and new facilities. Frankly, such a

position is a "cop out" and indeed, hypocritical. Their solution is for the City Council to "realign" their priorities.

Following over a year of intense analysis by both city officials and an independent group of volunteers, the City Council has done just that and continues to do so. With two City Council members present as visitors, that group never even asked about those changes in priorities and indeed, would not allow one Councilor to speak on the subject. Grand Junction and Mesa County have both passed ballot questions to enhance law enforcement funding since regular budgets are wholly incapable of dealing with the region's massive increase in crime. Delta is about to pass a 1% similar tax as well. Instead of casting stones at Montrose's administration, every Montrose resident should learn the facts of what has been done and is being done. **2A is the only viable solution to an overwhelming crime and drug infestation** which is growing worse by the day. In 2007, a small group of residents

worked to pass a Public Safety Sales Tax originally intended to benefit both Montrose and Montrose County. The 2007 City Council and its Mayor refused to participate in that initiative and that is what has created the current Police Dept. funding crisis.

Every resident and visitor will pay a price if 2A is not passed. Officers cannot continue to be required to work 12 to 15 hours per shift indefinitely from a facility that was horribly inadequate when they moved into it 20 years ago. Crime, drug addiction and increasing mental health issues are permeating the city. A major Main Street merchant said recently that if anything is left outside at night, regardless of chains and locks, it will be stolen. If you reside in the City of Montrose, talk to your City Councilor, City Administration or a police officer.

Learn the facts and only then make a reasoned decision on 2A. The future of Montrose is at stake.

*John W. Nelson, Log Hill*

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## COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NEW LIQUOR LICENSE, \$113K PROJECT CHANGE ORDER

### Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a [work session on Tuesday, Oct. 15](#) and for a regular [meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15](#).

### WORK SESSION

Discussion items include short term rental properties; the Uncompahgre River Temperature and Flow Data Collection Design; North 9<sup>th</sup> and Cascade Sewer Replacement Project Contract Award; Centennial Middle School GoCo Grant Application; and 1306 Brownfields Cleanup Program Grant Application.

A report from the Montrose County Housing Authority is included in the Work Session packet.

Items to be discussed at future City work sessions and meetings include:

- Nov. 4-Municipal Election Code Update.
- Nov. 5-2020 Budget Ordinance; retail liquor store transfer for Pour House.
- Nov. 18-Introduction of new City employees; affordable housing presentation.
- Nov. 19-City Manager, City Attorney mid-

term evaluations.

Dec. 2-Hotel incentives request.

### COUNCIL MEETING

Council will issue a proclamation in support of White Cane Awareness Day.

Council will consider a letter of support for a Community Development Block Grant application for the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club.

Council will conduct additional interviews for applicants to the City of Montrose Youth Council. Following the interviews, Council will consider appointing Rheannon Allen, Clara Carrasco, Gunnison Clamp, Josephine Coulter, Olivia Haga, Kylie Lange, Zachary Oldroyd, Sage Wilber, Claire Wilson, and Mari Wilson to the City of Montrose Youth Council for the 2019-2020 term.

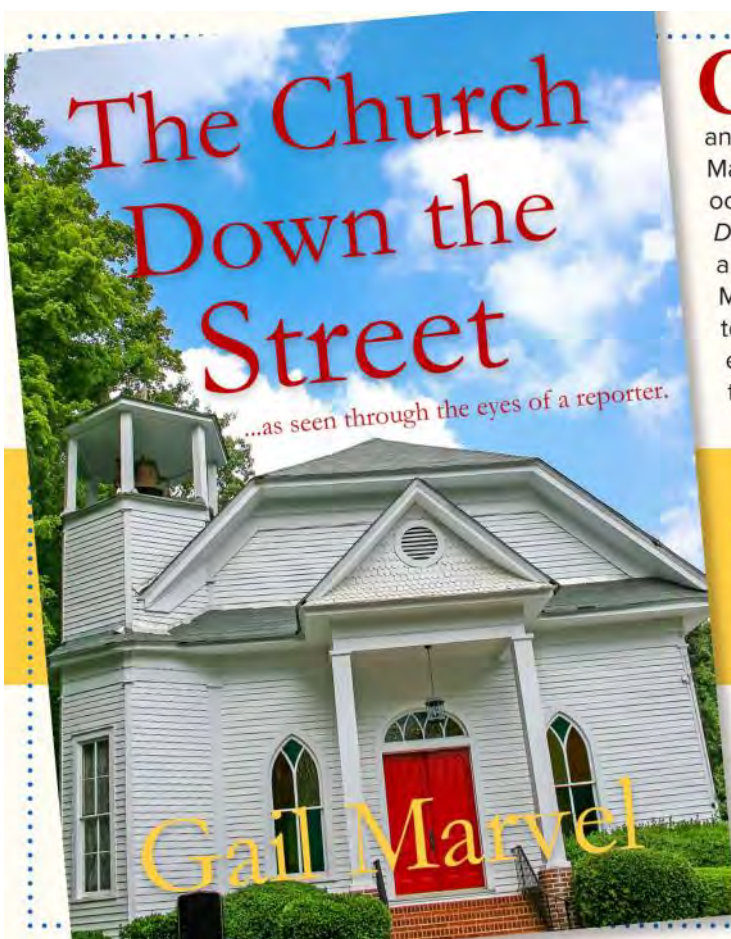
Council will consider approving a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 233/235 N. First Street for MINGLE Sports



**Council will consider approving a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at 233/235 N. First Street for MINGLE Sports Bar LLC.**

Bar LLC for consumption on the licensed premises. Council will consider approving a change order in the amount of \$113,400 to Mountain Valley Contracting's construction contract for the Lift Station Elimination Project.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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/](http://www.montrose.mobi/).

## ***STUDENT ENROLLMENT IS UP@ RE-1J SCHOOLS From pg 1***

"Aleia is one of our strongest in rock climbing," Musser said. "And Cara is an amazing biker." As noted in the meeting agenda, the Amazing Race for Adaptive Sports is a 10k scavenger hunt and fundraiser for the adaptive sports program. The cost is \$200 for a team of four, Musser said. In the past, Amazing Race participants have ranged in age from five years old to mid-70's. "This year, Northside Elementary School is super excited about it," Musser said, adding that funds generated by the Amazing Race are vital to continuance of the adaptive sports programs.

### **DONATIONS**

Administrative Assistant Deann Balash said that Bank of America has donated \$4K to Olathe High School to be used for Scholarships.

### **STAFF RECOGNITION**

Centennial Middle School Principal Joe Simo recognized two staff members with Above and Beyond awards; Eighth Grade Writing Teacher Jamie Gann and District Communication Classroom Teacher Katie Jenkins. "I call Jamie a rock star," Simo said. "Last year, she volunteered many of her personal hours to put on an amazing Shakespeare play with Centennial students." Gann has also written grants that benefit Centennial students, he said.

Jenkins helps with Centennial's behavior team, and works with data for the MTSS (multi-tiered support system) team. She

also volunteers for Centennial's backpack program, providing meals for students on the weekends. Because of Jenkins' efforts, Centennial is on track to receive a playground grant for its handicapped population, one of the first such playgrounds on the Western Slope, Simo said. "If it were not for her amazing drive and focus, Centennial would not be the amazing place that it is," he said.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Stephen Schiell introduced First Student Transportation Services Manager Scott Harold, who presented directors with handouts on First Student services. "I wanted you to have this information tonight...you can take it home for easy reading," Harold said. (First Student is the district's current bussing contractor.)

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented an "unofficial" enrollment report. "We had 6,220 students," she said, "nineteen more than last month...no it's not final, it is open until tomorrow."

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER**

ECC Director Penny Harris presented an ECC update, including [data dashboard](#); 2019-2020 Colorado Preschool Program and Education District Advisory Council Early Childhood [Center list](#); and [ECC goals for the year](#). The final goal is, "to acquire a quality and sustainable facility in Montrose."

### **BUILDING & DEPARTMENT GOALS' PRESENTATIONS**

Board President Tom West shared the goals of the district and the board of education. Principals and department heads presented [goals for the year](#).

[Presenting goals](#) were Principal Chris Lehman of Pomona Elementary; Principal Dan Rosentreter of Northside Elementary School; Ben Stephenson of Columbine Middle School; Thomas Godfrey of Peak Academy; Joe Simo of Centennial Middle School; Assistant Principal Eric Sanchez of Olathe Middle/High School; Scot Brown of Olathe Middle/High School; RE-1J Safety & Security Director James Pavlich; Property Services Director Philip Bailey; and Exceptional Student Services Director Wendy Dawson.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All Consent Agenda items were approved, with one (Item 9, [Personnel Report](#)) removed for separate vote. RE-1J Board Vice President Gayle Johnson did not vote on the Personnel Report. "My brother is in it," she said. Items approved included the [Superintendent Search Agreement](#) with CASB, in an amount not to exceed \$15K, and approval of related expenditures. In other business, two revised board policies were reviewed on first reading, [BEDB, Agenda](#) and [CHCA, Handbooks and Directives](#). The meeting was adjourned.

The Board of Education meets again for a work session on Tuesday, Oct. 22.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CONSIDER STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUES: YES ON DD, NO ON CC

Editor:

We Coloradans have been asked to vote for two state-wide ballot issues. We should consider them as follows:

Issue DD: Vote for DD. The taxation of sports betting for the funding of Water Issues in the State. While we might wish to have no new taxes, the issue of providing funds to promote water issues is important. The state needs money to fight for water issues that are important to Western Coloradans. We must have water and we must not have to fight with the other states for it. The western slope is

water poor UNLESS we keep OUR water from Arizona, New Mexico and California. We do not want more than our share but we surely want our share. So, by voting to fund a fund that can be used in the courts to fight for our rights we are doing ourselves a great favor. Funding a fund to protect our water through issue DD we will have some money to keep Colorado water in Colorado. Most importantly this tax will be on the casinos, as a percentage of their profits, NOT ON THE TAXPAYER per se but it will benefit all Coloradans.

Issue CC: TABOR may be an old law but it is a good one. In short it says that any tax money collected in excess of TABOR money MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TAXPAYERS. CC says that any money collected in excess of the TABOR limits will NOT be returned to the taxpayer but used as the political hacks see fit. As it stands now, taxes collected in excess of the amount permitted must be returned to the taxpayer. Should CC pass, all money collected in excess of the amount TABOR permits will be kept by the state and used as they see fit. Under the current system there is no reward to the politicians to collect more than authorized AS THEY HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK. If CC is approved, the incentive will be to collect as much as possible because they, the political hacks, can use it as they damned well please. A YES vote will increase property taxes astronomically. Hence we need a Vote NO on CC to keep property taxes down.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

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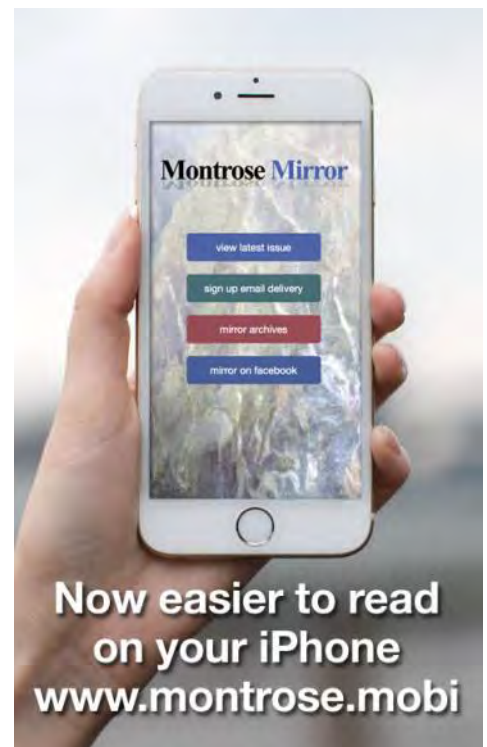
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Pumpkin Decoration Contest - Drop off decorated pumpkins the week of Halloween, judging starts at 4 p.m. on the 31st



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### STATE AGENCIES SEEK FEEDBACK ON DRAFT REPORT

#### *Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - On Monday, the Division of Insurance (DOI) and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) released a draft proposal for a state backed health insurance option, in response to the charge given by the Colorado Legislature in HB19-1004. You can find details about the draft proposal in English and Spanish [here](#).

In order to develop an innovative solution that takes advantage of Colorado's unique strengths while responding to the important needs across the state, the draft was developed through an extensive stakeholder process that included 14 statewide listening sessions, three focus groups, and 42 letters and comments. HCPF and DOI are hosting additional

meetings for stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft proposal during the comment period which runs through October 28th -- extended from the previously announcement comment deadline of October 25. The final report is due to the legislature on November 15. Upcoming sessions will take place at the dates and places below, and details will be posted to the [website](#) as they become available.

#### Upcoming Sessions:

Saturday, Oct. 12, Durango  
3:30-5pm

Durango Community Recreation Center  
Eolus Community Room  
2700 Main Ave. Durango

Monday, October 22, Hugo

Wednesday, October 23, Grand Junction

Date forthcoming, Eagle County  
On Tuesday, October 8, HCPF and DOI hosted sessions in Denver and Pueblo to introduce the proposal.

You can watch the recording from the Denver session [here](#). If stakeholders are unable to attend a listening session, you can submit comments through the [website](#), or to [HCPF\\_1004AffordableOption@state.co.us](mailto:HCPF_1004AffordableOption@state.co.us).

#### **About the Division of Insurance:**

The [Colorado Division of Insurance](#) (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), regulates the insurance industry and assists consumers and other stakeholders with insurance issues. Visit [dora.colorado.gov/insurance](http://dora.colorado.gov/insurance) for more information or call **303-894-7499** / toll free **800-930-3745**.

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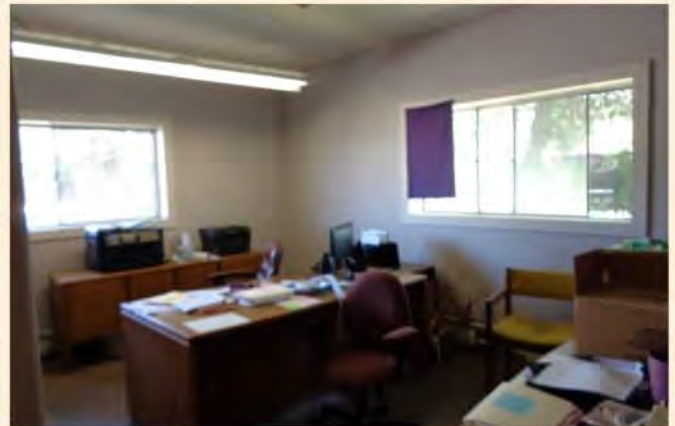
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — In observance of Columbus Day, City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, Public Works, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department offices will close Monday, Oct. 14.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will remain open all day. Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

Trash collection services that would normally occur on Monday, Oct. 14, will be adjusted to occur on Tuesday Oct. 15 and Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Residences located south of San Juan Avenue that are normally on Monday's route will be served Tuesday, Oct. 15. Residences located north of San Juan Avenue that are normally on Monday's route will be served Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Recycling routes will also be adjusted by shifting collection services normally scheduled for Monday, Oct. 14 to occur Friday, Oct. 18.

For more information contact City Hall at 240-1400, or visit [CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday](http://CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTED TO CURBING SUICIDE RATE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-As September's Suicide Prevention Awareness month is behind us and we head into the holiday season, The Center for Mental Health (CMH) wants to continue to make the community aware of the local behavioral resources available. These are especially critical if someone is having suicidal thoughts, or knows of someone who is, and needs intervention or care along the Western Slope. CMH recently expanded mental and behavioral care offerings across the region, so finding a professional who will listen and help is easier than ever before.

"We recognize and know that suicide rates are increasing across our community. While there are several contributing factors, the one thing we can do is increase access to quality behavioral healthcare for those having suicidal thoughts and for family members who are concerned about loved ones," said Shelly Spalding, CEO of The Center for Mental Health. "We need to communicate with our community about the warning signs and the ways we can help save lives."

In 2019, CMH opened new locations in Telluride, Crested Butte, and in Montrose with the new Crisis Walk-In Center (CWC) that opened in September. It has expanded services in several of its Western Slope locations to meet the needs of the community. "The newly opened CWC is open all day, every day. Anyone, of any age can walk in if they feel in danger of hurting themselves or others," said Amanda Jones, Chief Clinical Officer. "In our first few weeks we have already been able to support teens locally experiencing suicidal thoughts. We have given them a safe place, close to home, where they can be treated with their family during a difficult time," said Jones.

Unfortunately, suicide affects everyone at some time. It maybe the loss of a close friend or family member, a member of the community, or even hearing about it on the news. At times, we may worry that someone we know and love might be in danger of hurting themselves. So, in addition to offering urgent care for those in crisis, CMH provides classes in Mental

Health First Aid and suicide prevention strategies such as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Question Persuade and Refer (QPR) so people can recognize danger signs and have tools to help others.

"I wasn't on anyone's radar," said Ian Hatchett of Crested Butte. "I was happy, engaged in my social circles, and employed in a career I loved as a mountain guide. Then, I experienced the perfect storm of personal issues that led me down a dangerous path. If it weren't for the combination of my friends, my therapist, and The Center for Mental Health, I simply wouldn't be here today. I will do anything in my power to share my experience in the hopes that I can make a difference in someone's life." Hatchett isn't alone, in fact, suicide rates nationally are on the rise.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicides are

the leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 and the fourth leading cause of death among adults 35 to 54 years old. In fact, there were more than twice as many suicides (47,173) in the United States as there were homicides (19,510) in 2018. In addition, the Western Slope mirrors the national average of rural suicide rates consistently being higher than those in urban areas.

According to the Colorado Institute of Health, Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the country, and that rate is especially prevalent in the state's southwestern corner and the Western Slope, followed by a handful of eastern plains counties.

Experts agree that the combination of geographical isolation, access to guns, limited or lack of mental health care, and the stigma around seeking help each contribute to those increasing suicide rates.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CITY COULD HAVE FUNDED THE POLICE AT GREATER LEVELS ALL ALONG

*Editor:*

The 2A PSST ballot question is, in many ways like an iceberg. What is seen above the surface, is dwarfed by what is unseen beneath the veil.

A year ago I participated in several discussions with police leaders and several citizens concerned with rising crime rates in Montrose, and the MPD need for additional officers and support staff. At one meeting a PSST was discussed as a possible solution. Seeing that avenue as a windfall of new and perpetual revenue for "public safety", the City appointed a hand-picked PSST Citizens Committee to study the question and come up with recommendations to Council.

What is unseen by voters, unless you have taken time to read the 54 page Committee Report, is that the "charge" to the Committee was narrowly defined as, "should [the City] pursue additional funding for public safety initiatives within the City beyond what is currently allocated through the General Fund." That craftily worded charge implied to the Committee, that any additional funding for police needs simply wasn't available. That has

certainly turned out to be anything but the truth.

A bought and paid for "Facilitator" was brought in from out of town to direct discussion[s] and deliberation. Once the Committee had convened, I wrote a letter to the Committee raising valid questions along with some suggestions for finding a solution. That letter was sent to the Facilitator via email with a request that it be shared with the Committee. I never got a response, and after the Committee Report was published, subsequently learned from two Committee members that my letter was never shared. It became suddenly clear that my comments/suggestions failed to fit the narrative the City was peddling.

The final Report itself shows that the Committee failed to research multi year budgeting for police, that would certainly give an indication if that was a cause of current police deficiencies. As noted by two Committee members, all discussion was steered toward the foregone outcome of recommending higher taxes. Many voters rightly feel the Committee was manipulated to that end from the

very beginning.

Fortunately many citizens are not easily manipulated, and have uncovered vital information voters need in making an informed decision on higher taxes. My own research shared in several issues of The Montrose Mirror, shows that the City could have funded the Police Department at greater levels all along. It becomes painfully obvious that public safety was far from their #1 priority.

It's interesting, that with many voters now questioning the feasibility of higher taxes, the City has gone on the defensive, claiming facts from their very own document center either wrong or "taken out of context". Usually when that happens you know you're getting to the crux of the issue.

For a more in depth look at the history of police vs City budgeting, as well as the sales tax surplus the City collects, see my ad that will appear in the Mirror each Monday through November 4. City accountability for truly placing public safety as the highest priority seems to demand a NO vote on 2A.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*





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- Mary Ann

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### ELECTRONIC RECORDING TECHNOLOGY BOARD AWARDS GRANTS TO LINCOLN, CHEYENNE, LAS ANIMAS, MONTROSE, PUEBLO, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

#### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-The Electronic Recording Technology Board (ERTB), housed in the Secretary of State's office, has awarded grants to 6 of Colorado's rural counties. The ERTB was created in 2016 with the mission of developing, maintaining, improving, replacing, or preserving land records systems in our state. The grants help counties -- especially in rural Colorado -- invest in technological upgrades. During the August and September board meetings, the ERTB awarded these counties the following grants:

#### **Lincoln:**

**\$9,000** for licensing and annual maintenance fees;  
**\$36,392** for indexing 270 books of historical land records.

**Cheyenne: \$18,780** for cybersecurity upgrades, indexing, internet hosting services, and annual maintenance.

**Las Animas: \$197,000** for digitization and indexing of historical land records, and improved online services.

**Washington: \$41,290** for new hardware and annual maintenance.

**Montrose: \$18,304** for reimbursement of plat printer and annual maintenance.

**Pueblo: \$200,000** for digitization and indexing of 1,526 books of historical land records.

"I am pleased that the Electronic Recording Technology Board is once again able to help counties in rural Colorado invest in much needed technological upgrades. Lincoln, Cheyenne, Las Animas, Washington, Montrose and Pueblo counties will now be able to meet more of their constituents' needs," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

The ERTB was created in 2016, after a working group made up of real estate, title, lending, and legal professionals, as well as county subject-matter experts conducted an evaluation of Colorado's recording systems. Since its creation, the board has awarded more than three million dollars to ensure county clerks are able to improve and maintain property records, marriage licenses, and other important documents.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETS IN MONTROSE OCT. 15

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Neighborhood Watch meeting on Oct. 15, will discuss and demonstrate how to stop the bleed to prevent a person from going into shock and dying. Montrose Neighborhood Watch meets 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.

**PIZZA & POLITICS: GUEST  
SPEAKER CLERK & RECORDER  
TRESSA GUYNES, PROGRAM  
SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 24.**

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Oct 24, Event for all registered voters regarding November ballot issues Prop CC---funding for schools & roads or threat to taxpayer rights, and Prop DD---is sports gambling the solution to protect water rights? Special guest speaker Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, will provide informational training on the integrity of election process and upcoming elections. Venue: 121 N. 4th St in Montrose. Program Oct 24 at 6:30pm-8:00 pm. Q&A will follow presentations. Pizza served at 6pm.

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**Sunday Lectures and Workshops: 10 AM - 4 PM**

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Author of *Climate: A New Story*

With thanks to our sponsors, Ouray County Community Fund, Gerry and Dennis Weaver Family Trust, Shirley Olson, NP-C, IFMCP (Ridgway Center for Whole Health) and United Church of the San Juans.

Charles is a sacred activist, teacher, speaker, futurist, and writer who focuses on themes of **embracing consciousness, civilization and cultural evolution.**

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE SEEKS COMMENTS FOR SPRING 2020 SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT APPLICATIONS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office is seeking public comments on six Special Recreation Permit (SRP) applications for Spring 2020.

“The BLM uses a permit system for managing economic aspects of recreation, and to ensure sustainable and diverse recreational opportunities for all visitors,” said Uncompahgre Field Manager Gregory Larson. “Supporting local economies and providing quality recreation experiences by making public lands available for these activities is integral to BLM’s management objectives.” The SRP applications for review through the Uncompahgre Field Office are:

**City of Delta** – Mountain bike enduro race in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

**Colorado Canyons Association** – Guided interpretive rafting and hiking in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

**Enduro Ranch Ltd.** – Guided motorcycle tours in Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area within the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

**Highland Cycles** – Guided motorcycle tours within lands managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office, including Peach Valley and Dry Creek.

**Mountain Waters** – Guided rafting trips in the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern from Deep Creek to the confluence with the Dolores River, and the Dolores River from its confluence with the San Miguel River to Roc Creek.

**Telluride Fly Fishers LLC** – Guided walk/wade fishing and rafting within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern from Deep Creek to Pinon, the Lower San Miguel from Pinon to the Dolores River confluence, and the Lower Dolores River from Bedrock to Roc Creek.

Permit applications are available for public review at the Montrose Public Lands Center located at 2465 South Townsend Avenue in Montrose, CO. Written comments may be submitted by mail or e-mail no later than November 30, 2019 to Tatyana Sukharnikova, Special Recreation Permit Administrator, Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401, or [tsukharnikova@blm.gov](mailto:tsukharnikova@blm.gov). Please be specific with comments, including how the proposal may affect you. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment -- including your personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### PRESCRIBED BURNING PLANNED IN DELTA AND MONTROSE COUNTIES

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office plans to conduct prescribed burning of slash piles at several different locations this winter. The projects are to remove invasive species, including tamarisk and Russian olive, along the Gunnison and Dolores Rivers. The BLM will conduct the prescribed burns in the following locations as conditions allow.

**Cement Bridge** -30 acres of slash piles twenty miles west of Naturita on Hwy. 141.

**Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area** -11 acres of slash piles approximately eight miles west of Delta along the Gunnison River.

**Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area** -10 acres of slash piles beginning approximately six miles downstream of the Escalante boat ramp on the Gunnison River.

“The goal is to restore native plant communities within the riparian zone and subsequently reduce hazardous fuels which pose a wildfire risk,” said **BLM Fire Management Specialist Rusty Stark**.

The prescribed pile burning may take multiple days to complete. The BLM will monitor the burn throughout the process to ensure public safety. Smoke may be visible in the area at times, but will lift and dissipate during the warmest parts of the day.

“The burn plan for this project includes specific weather and air quality criteria that must be met to help ensure control of the burn and minimize the potential smoke impacts to local communities,” said **Stark**.

The Colorado State Air Pollution Control Division granted the BLM a smoke permit, which identifies the conditions required for the BLM to implement the prescribed burns. Smoke from the prescribed burn may affect your health. For more information, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### THE CITY'S CONTINUED STRAWMAN ARGUMENT OF "TRUTH"

*Editor:*

There are a few layers to dissect from City Manager Bill Bell's ASK THE CITY MANAGER: *What is the Truth About City Finances?* opinion piece published October 7<sup>th</sup> in the Montrose Mirror. Mr. Bell offers the classic strawman argument of explaining legitimate points while skipping over the real questions/concerns, and arguing his "list of accomplishments." Deflection. In addition, Mr. Bell jumps right in to criticize community members of rumor and misinformation, which he repeats in his closing remarks. Yet, there is not even a hint, a puff of wind, or an ounce of humility that just maybe there are legitimate community concerns related to Mr. Bell's fiscal and planning decisions as the City Manager of Montrose.

Let's cut to the chase of today's siloed hot button. The 2A Public Safety Sales Tax initiative. The City has a core responsibility to make law enforcement and citizen safety one of its top priorities. In recent years, it is the opinion of many that this priority has not been taken seriously enough. Why? Because the cost to do so would have gotten in the way of many of the other recent nice-to-haves, pet projects, and grander vision Mr. Bell outlines in his article. Even during today's booming local economy there is only so much discretionary money to go around. Instead of making some agenda slowing budgetary cuts, and prioritizing law enforcement, the easy way out is to wait on a police department crisis and ask for more money. A lot more money.

Folks, at just the 30-year mark this tax has the potential to accumulate over \$100,000,000 into the pot; a different way of explaining that "cost of a cup of coffee" argument we often hear. Oh, and by the way, over 75% of this new tax ask NEVER sunsets. Re-prioritizing the City plan and budget to adapt to the changing crime environment requirements would fit the "fiscally conservative fashion" approach

Mr. Bell purports in his article. But, based on the high level of discussion spurred by 2A, it is rather obvious within this community there is a disconnect.

Let's cut to the chase on sales/use/excise tax revenue, keep it simple, and step out of the world of top line revenue, grant money, URA, loans from City Enterprise (i.e. Water Department), this budget that budget, account transfers, reserves, buckets. Let's step away from the *Land of Confusion*, where Mr. Bell likes to live, preventing the ordinary citizen from understanding what the heck it really going on. The revenue figures speak for themselves: 2012, **\$13,500,000** – 2013, **\$13,700,000** – 2014, **\$14,100,000** – 2015, **\$15,500,000** – 2016, **\$16,200,000** – 2017, **\$17,145,000** – 2018, **\$18,350,000**. The annual sale/use/excise tax revenue in 2018 is 36% greater than 2012. The accumulation of the revenue increases from 2012 through 2018 equals \$4,850,000. And, based on the 2019 indicators (revenue reports through July), that number will exceed \$6,000,000. To me, the alarming point to these revenue facts (applying conservative 2019 projections), it is looking like 70% of that excess revenue (\$4M) comes out of the past four years, AFTER the City understood they had a crime and law enforcement resource issue. But, yet, Mr. Bell's "list of accomplishments" proves where the planning priorities sat.

This crime and police resource issue did not happen overnight. In fact, former Montrose Police Chief Tom Chinn wrote in the Montrose Daily Press (August 23, 2019) the City knew they had a problem back in July 2015, over 4 years ago. Ever since, the crimes have been brewing, while the accomplishment list has been lengthening. The lack of oversight and planning (prioritizing) law enforcement when a drug and crime problem was obvious falls directly into the lap of Mr. Bell. Please keep in mind, in Montrose, the Police Chief direct reports to the City Man-

ager (not to City Council like many other Colorado cities). It was under Mr. Bell's administration that this Police Chief reporting change was amended in the city charter. From an administration standpoint, Mr. Bell is responsible for the police budget and planning priorities, and, he controls the purse.

As a city grows, like Montrose, and the identify shifts, no doubt the community vision needs to be evaluated, and more than likely modernized. Maybe Mr. Bell's stated intentions in the article mentioning the need to diversify the Montrose experience are pure, but you cannot put the cart before the horse. In this case, the cart got loose and is barreling ahead, with no prudent oversight from City Council. In fact, City Council is the enabler. Solution? Let's break-through the blue-ribbon committee "recommendation" fluff, the 40+ sales pitch road show campaign, and hit on the true conversation points that have many in the community ticked off. To this point, and unfortunately, what we have gotten is essentially an orchestrated effort to push a non-transparent narrative, and one that is increasingly being observed as a new general fund tax ask. The disingenuous nature of the 2A campaign, along with the embedded lies of misrepresentation, really bothers me.

Assuming 2A passes, a deeper set of unresolved issues sits within the execution of the plan. Within the implementation of the 2A plan there are many, many unanswered questions related to building cost, true building size requirements, how the building is financed/true cost, the proposed second police building, use of the current police building, what happens when the police department ends up with too much money, how excess funds will be spent, and so on. This process is running very loose (at least what the public sees). And, based on the work session questions I observed coming from Council members as recently as five weeks ago, Council

*Continued next pg*

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### ***CITY'S CONTINUED STRAWMAN ARGUMENT OF "TRUTH" FROM PREVIOUS PG***

jumped the gun on this one; which, in the name of \$100,000,000 dollars anticipated by 2050, is flat out irresponsible. Quite frankly, the bold move by City Council would have been to pull 2A from the ballot, hit reset, and attempt to bring credibility back into this conversation. This reset could be accomplished to set the stage for a revamped 2020 April ballot initiative. Not doing so, whether 2A passes or fails, distrust prevails.

Distrust starts with 2A even being considered a Public Safety Sales Tax ask. Effectively, it is a general fund sales tax ask. Just another piece of the shell game. As we have learned, including Mr. Bell's own words, the opportunity to spend the proposed PSST revenue extends way beyond the promoted public campaign of funding the police department and police related resources.

To quote Mr. Bell during the September 3<sup>rd</sup> work session: "...the terminology public safety includes a lot of things." He added, "it's not only the building that PD goes into and new officers, but putting in cross walks is also public safety, potentially. Putting in lighting in our alley ways so their safer for people who are walking in the dark is public safety. So, if we get to that point where all the building needs are met, all the staffing needs are met, and there's more money in 10 years than the PD knows what to do with, the interpretation of public safety could get broader." Of course, the broad interpretation of public safety quoted from Mr. Bell is not what the community is being sold. And, it is obvious to see how the 2A revenues could start to spill (or gush) into other spending areas managed by the City, the justification of public safety spending

could be a wild ride. Why can't we simply call it what it is? Cut the smoke and mirrors, eliminate the impossible feat of calculating into the future. The police department is part of the general fund today, let's keep it that way. These "carve out" tax revenue initiatives are illogical for so many reasons. If the general fund needs to grow, grow it. If the general fund simply needs more discipline, add some discipline. It would be incumbent upon the residents to elect City Council members who can get the City's fiscal responsibility and planning back on track, and keep it on track. With a responsible City administration and Council in place, a general fund solution works.

There is no doubt that a comprehensive plan needs to be put in place to modernize Montrose law enforcement, priority A. I would rather hit a few potholes in a safe community, versus having a beautiful \$1.1 million roundabout while drug related crime circles around me. Or, \$250,000 going to a private entity in the name of "affordable housing", which is beyond absurd (FYI, get ready for the subsidized affordable housing crusade). The fix is right in front of our faces. True, the community is making up for a bit of lost time related to police resources, a problem that falls directly back to Mr. Bell's planning decisions, not a tax increase bailout. The good news, the voting public gets an opportunity very soon to vote on 2A. Do I wish it was a more candid campaign and fair message to how the community could unite and support the needed resources of local law enforcement? Of course. But, unfortunately, that has not been the case. As a saving grace, there have been enough engaged community members digging

into the facts, asking the tough and real questions, and broadcasting the message. This fragmented group within the community has helped to facilitate a more balanced conversation and deeper discussion, helping everyone sift through the facts and disingenuous nature of the pro 2A campaign. Those community members have recently come under attack from Mr. Bell and the pro 2A campaign group, and it sure appears like some civic minded folks have upset the (orchestrated) apple cart. I am just one voice, but I have done my homework, and entered with eyes wide open.

To me, this is more than the ballot issue. What is most bothersome, to me, is the process, and the disingenuous nature of the process. I know there are many 2A organizational "supporters" who have put in a lot of time and energy into this effort, and I believe many participated with the proper intentions related to supporting the police department and community safety. I admire those who did. I have also personally experienced the wrath of others, and a lot of small dots start to connect.

Mr. Bell's repeated words within his Montrose Mirror article attacked the efforts and credibility of community members, whose core stands for accountability, responsible governance, transparency, and fairness. Sure, a few facts may be off, what else could you expect from concerned citizens attempting to dig into the *Land of Confusion*? Guess what, these fair citizens have it 90% right, and attacking their credibility appears to me as a desperate move, and certainly is inappropriate.

*Scott Damman, Montrose*



**The Mirror:  
many views,  
one newspaper.**

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE FOR DELTA COUNTY

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-The Delta County Department of Health last week reported three additional human cases of West Nile virus for a total West Nile virus case count of 29. For more details on all cases, please see the Delta County Website: [DeltaCounty.com](http://DeltaCounty.com).

The three additional human cases are as follows:

-The twenty-seventh case is a female from the Surface Creek region of the county, diagnosed on Sept. 10th and has resulted in loss of life from West Nile virus.

-The twenty-eighth case is a male from the North Fork region of the county, diagnosed on Sept. 27th and is recovering from West Nile virus uncomplicated fever.

-The twenty-ninth case is a female from the Surface Creek region of the county, diagnosed on Sept. 27th and is recovering from West Nile virus uncomplicated fever. The presence of additional cases is a clear indication that West Nile virus remains present and poses a risk to those who are bitten. August through September is when most human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Colorado. "West Nile virus can be a serious illness and residents should understand the health risks associated with this virus," said Delta County Environmental Health Director Ken Nordstrom.

Health officials say most people bitten by a West Nile virus infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness; however, some people may develop symptoms 3 to 15 days after being bit by an infected mosquito. About 1-in-5 infected persons will have mild illness with fever, and about 1-in-150 infected people will become severely ill. Physicians are urged to test patients for the West Nile virus if they show signs of fever, altered mental status, suspected meningitis or encephalitis, or sudden painless paralysis in the absence of stroke, in the summer months.

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# MARIE LUNA

to read in october

**TUESDAY  
OCT 15**

**-@ 6 P.M.-**

At the  
Telluride Arts HQ



Marie Luna has been writing since she was four years old. She taught herself to read with old encyclopedias while living on a ranch in the range of the Sleeping Ute Mountain. She was obsessed with Lord Byron and E. E. Cummings by the time she was seven. She has been attempting to write poetry that's palatable to humans for over a half century. (Her dogs seem to like it, but they're an easy audience.)



ISSUE 232 Oct. 14, 2019

# ART & SOL

## WEAVERS GUILD SALE MOVES TO MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The San Juan Weavers Guild 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show & Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23, in a new location, the Montrose Center for the Arts at 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose. The event, featuring sales of handwoven and handspun items plus hands-on learning opportunities, runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. one day only, and is free to the public.

The Center for the Arts is accessible for those with limited mobility. Ample free parking is available nearby on city streets and at the city parking lot a half block south. The Weavers Guild is looking forward to using the beautifully renovated facility, which is located just south of Main Street and adjacent to the United Methodist Church.

As always, shoppers can expect a wide array of items for the home, for gifts, and for personal use. Expect dozens of towels, potholders, placemats and runners in many colors and patterns. Rugs, bags, baskets and decorative hangings are often part of the inventory. Warm felted shoe insoles, fiber jewelry, and holiday ornaments are available. A large selection of beautiful scarves is always included, and shawls and clothing items are exciting features. For those who like to create their own treasures, kits made by members may be available, as well as handspun yarn and fiber for spinning or felting.

Show & Sale coordinator Kim Lindel explains why an exact listing of categories

isn't possible in advance. "Most of us involved in the sale don't know ahead of time what will be offered, or how many items will be available. Inventory is checked in only a few days before the sale. The number of participants and the inventory change from year to year, and part of our excitement is seeing at the sale itself what our fellow guild members have created."

Lindel continues, "The Weavers Guild Show & Sale isn't just an ordinary craft sale. Our weavers don't buy fabric and make something from it...we create the fabric itself, and our spinners make their own yarn." A recent customer was overheard telling another, "This isn't a craft sale...this is art!"

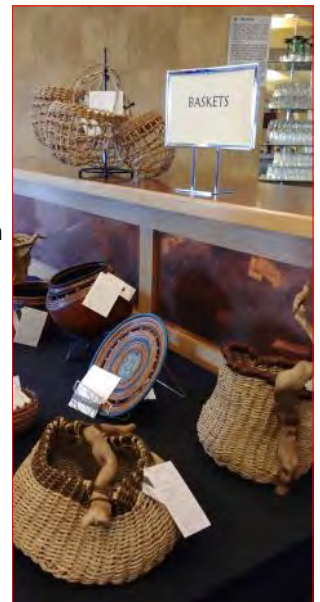
At a typical Weavers Guild sale, much of the inventory is sold, and experienced customers line up early for the best selection. Even at the end of the day, the variety and quality of remaining inventory offers something for everyone, in every price range.

The guild maintains high standards for the items offered for sale. Anything knitted or crocheted, for example, must be made with handspun yarn, and woven items must be primarily made of cloth handwoven by members, with commercial fabric or findings only a minor component. Inventory items are produced in limited amounts, and some are truly one-of-a-kind and available nowhere else. Using a department-store format, the guild groups

creations of numerous members by category, and customers use a central check-out area where cash, checks, and credit cards are welcome.

Skilled artisans will be on hand to assist anyone of any age who would like to try the basics of spinning and weaving, at no cost. This year, the Learning Center has its own room just off the sales floor. Those who want more in-depth experience with weaving can sign an interest sheet for an anticipated class in February. Local teachers Linda Brown and Bobbie Irwin have offered their "Become a Weaver in a Weekend" classes for a number of years, with equipment and yarn included in the modest cost.

One of the longest-running art celebrations in Montrose, the guild's annual Show & Sale was founded 42 years ago, shortly after the formation of the guild. For information about the sale or guild, contact Kim Lindel in Montrose, 720-490-5605, [kimlindel@gmail.com](mailto:kimlindel@gmail.com).



## MIRROR IMAGES...GALLOPING GEESE GATHER IN RIDGWAY



Photos by John Nelson of [Delta County Living](#) and [Dine Out Montrose](#).

**Oct. 11-13 marked a historic Gathering of the Flock of the famous Galloping Goose railcars at the 200 N. Railroad Street location in Ridgway, presented by the Ridgway Railroad Museum.**



# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day



(L-R) Sandra Dorr, Art Goodtimes, Kyle Schlesinger, and Olive [Mueller] at Wendy Videlock's workshop at the Jack Mueller Poetry Festival (photo by Deborah Kelly).



Jeneda Benally of Sihasin rocking out Saturday of Indigenous Peoples Day weekend at the Liberty Bar in Telluride. (photo by Art Goodtimes).

**SINHASIN** ... Saturday last the Liberty Bar had an early show so kids could come with their parents to hear Navajo rock duo Sihasin performing for Indigenous Peoples Day weekend in Telluride once again. A brother & sister combo, Jeneda and Clayton Benally showcased some of their best songs: *Last One Standing*, *Fight like a Woman*, *Shine*. They did a Woody Guthrie remake. One for Geronimo ... And in between they spoke of the earth, the need for peace and love, for a healing from genocide. They were the perfect match for celebrating a historical remake of a national holiday – political, but danceable too. Most folks were avoiding the “C-word” ... Even though the Benally family had to rush off for a performance at the Kennedy Center the next day, they braved van hell and highwater to make it up to Telluride before their flight east. And we at the Telluride Institute were glad they did.

**ANOTHER POET INTO HOSPICE** ... Chris

Ransick was poet laureate of Denver for a term. He taught at Arapahoe Junior College. And was an award-winning poet and poetry workshop leader at the Lighthouse Writers Workshop ... Earlier this fall the Telluride Institute teamed up with the Crested Butte and Gunnison Art Centers to give Chris the Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award for a Colorado poet at the Gunnison Valley Literary Festival. Knowing he was gravely ill, we wanted to honor this marvelous writer and community builder before he passed. It was a moving weekend ... Now his family has written from Oregon, where they had moved for his wife's health, that Chris is in hospice with family, and alerted his friends for his desire for privacy as he makes his passing.

**JACKFEST** ... Jack Mueller was an outsize figure on the Western Slope of Colorado, just as he was in San Francisco's North Beach, hard on the heels of the Beat era. Although I lived across town in the Noe

Valley neighborhood, I knew Jack, and was very moved by his poetry, and his Union of Street Poets idea – which many of us in the City adopted. We'd print up poems (mimeo or photocopy) and scotch tape them to laundromat walls, coffeehouses, buses, bars, johns. Anywhere where people might read them ... Giving them away free as part of the public commonwealth. I loved the idea. And loved Jack's poetry, powerfully delivered in his gravelly stentorian style ... So, when he came to live in Ridgway, just an hour away from me, his aerie on a high ridge of Log Hill Mesa became a side-track pilgrimage on the highway to Montrose. Pretty soon we all hooked up with Danny Rosen and Wendy Videlock up around Grand Junction -- along with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Jim Tipton and others, We spent many a night philosophizing, writing, creating, discussing and enjoying poetry, laughs, a little liquor and the shared pipe ... Rosen

*Continued next pg*

# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

and his sidekick Kyle Harvey at Lithic Bookstore & Press in Fruita decided to have a festival in Mueller's honor. The first one was in 2016. They decided to have another one this year ... Maybe the biggest coup of the fest was in having present Jack's former wife Judith from New Orleans, their daughter Cristina and granddaughter Olive from California – three generations of the Mueller family in Colorado ... And great to hear Neeli Cherkovski of San Francisco explaining his Random Poetics.

**TRAGEDY** ... For months Danny & Kyle had decided to spotlight Steve Dalachinsky and his wife Yuko Otomo from New York in the festival this year. Performance poets who'd impressed them when they'd met somewhere. Lithic put out posters. The poets had their tickets. And suddenly a week before the festival Dalachinsky dies of a stroke ... Nevertheless, he was present in a lot of people's minds during the weekend. Invoked by Tate Swindell in a *pièce de résistance* as the last of Saturday's Open Mic readers. Resonant in the full organ baritone of Eric Mingus as he read like a jazz musician improvises ... But

I didn't understand why they were so taken with Dalachinsky's work until I heard a tape Tate played of Steve harmonizing to a saxophone in a Big Apple jazz club. Amazing word riffs and sputter stutter sound poems. Mesmerizing! ... Our hearts go out to Yuko.

**AMOR FATI** ... Former Colorado Western Professor David Rothman, down from Jackson Hole where he's Art Center head honcho now, did a brilliant explication of Jack Mueller's poetics at the JackFest in Fruita's Lithic bookstore beginning of this month. He noted that Jack was a student of Victor Frankl and had borrowed the title of his book *Amor Fati* [Lithic Press, 2013] from Nietzsche. He carefully outlined by sharing various poems how Jack had organized the convergence of a philosophical acceptance of fate with the realization of history's great horrors in charming epigrammatic poetry. Lyrics but argument, observation and analysis nonetheless. All packed into a taco of piquant language ... Highly recommended.

**TRANSPARENCY** ... As a child I lived by the moral imprimatur of Christ's "one true

church." Its rules shaped me. Not all for the bad. Honesty. Charity. Fairness. I keep those habits ... And yet because me & mine held ourselves up to Rome's perfectly impossible candle, our inner lights exposed lie after lie. Our young lives were embedded in them – Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, and (it turns out) most of the accepted laws of geology and classical physics ... When gravitational waves collide with extruded magma... When the quantum entanglement of quarks and bosons spreads to shales and serpentine... When black holes and multiverses spin beyond our control. Or ken... Then it's hard to remember we're each just a loose node in matter's mobile mycelia. Expanding... Doubling... Exploding...

**INCIDENT IN THE CAÑON** ... Swerved instinctively. A controlled dodge. Just skimming the tangled back hair of a black bear ambling along Colo. 145 in the dark of the San Miguel Cañon ...

My rider praised my skill. I hailed my luck. The almost re-smashed-in hood taking a second beating -- not ... No, I avoided disaster by a whisker.

As did the bear.

## THE TALKING GOURD

# Climate Change

is a word bomb

A grenade thrown  
into the public square

We can jump on it  
smother the blast  
with our bodies

Protecting others  
from the truth

Or pretend  
we don't see  
the shards hurtling  
towards us

Is a course correction  
even possible?

Can we re-imagine  
a healing blue planet?



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By Carole Ann McKelvey

MONTROSE – We returned to Camp Robber the other day, just to have a great meal. And we did!

Montrose' Camp Robber just keeps delivering great food. In the past we've tried the New Mexican offerings and were never disappointed. The guac is to die for. Now, my friend Michael and I always share a meal, so I'm going to tell you about the great one we shared. It's a great way not only to save money, but calories to boot.

There are so many choices here it's hard to choose. The owners, Bill and Kim Volk opened the Camp Robber restaurant in 1994 in downtown Montrose, then moving further south off Townsend.

The concept for this unique restaurant began many years earlier when the owner's love of the mountains moved them from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Colorado. They met at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Growing up in New Mexico, it was the culinary influences of their families (primarily Bill's mother)

that inform the menu at the Robber. Bill is chef, Kim promotes and helps with the staff. The Mexican dishes are to die for, but so are the other menu items. Service is impeccable also.

This evening we choose to pick from the Specials board. It's always a good choice, freshly made by the visiting chef for the evening.

This evening it was a stir fry with saucy beef and vegetables. Also, Balsamic rice. So tasty! And we capped it off with a fresh slice of Key Lime pie, home-made of course.

Now, you know me. I usually love my margarita with dinner. But at Camp Robber they make a special Key Lime martini, yum! You can never have too much Key Lime in my book. Mike, he had an iced tea; someone must drive home, you know.

Dinner special off the blackboard, \$14; pie, \$7. Wow!

In addition to its daily blackboard specials, at Camp Robber you will find a variety of appetizers (\$10.79-12.89); soup and

## CAMP ROBBER JUST NEVER DISAPPOINTS



salad combos featuring house-made dressings (\$5-15.89); pasta featuring seafood, veggie, chicken and grilled shrimp (\$12.99-16.79); "At the Grill": burgers from (\$12.74-14.45), Fish and Chips, Smoked St. Louis Ribs, French Dip, Crab Cakes, a Club and wraps from (\$11.59-18.49); New Mexican dishes from street tacos and chile rellenos to Shrimp and Chicken quesadillas (\$12.99-13.79); as well as steak, fish and more from Kinikin meat steaks to prime rib and chicken fried chicken (\$18.59-29.89); desserts prepared by the house baker from \$6.50 to 7. *Camp Robber, 1515 Ogden Road, Montrose, CO 81401; Phone: 970-240-1590. Check out their website at [camprobber.com](http://camprobber.com).*

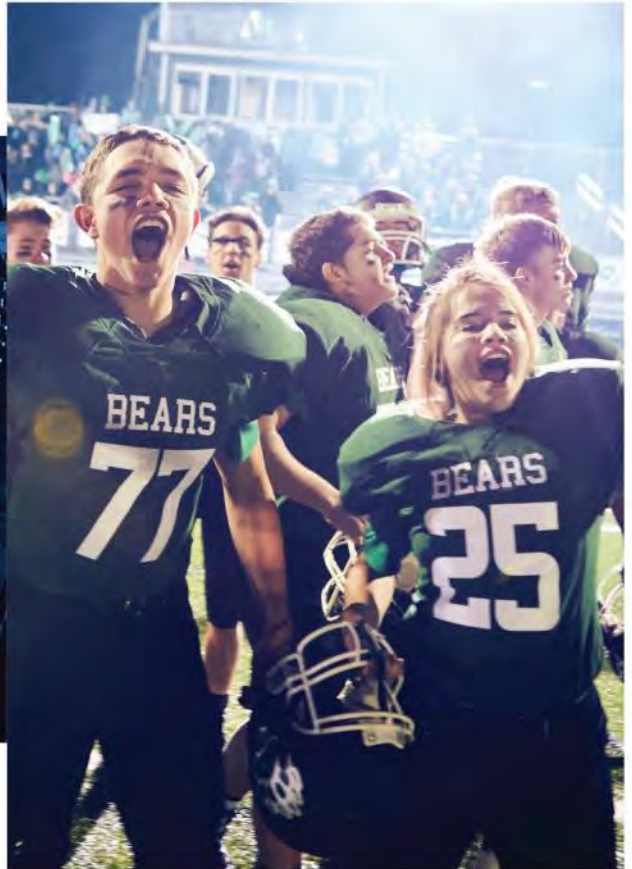


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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

# MEET SLOW TRAVEL EXPERT JENNIFER M. SPARKS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Meet Jennifer Sparks - author of Slow Travel: Escape the Grind & Ex-

plore the World, on Wednesday Oct. 23 at 7 pm upstairs in the Cobble Creek Club House - 699 Cobble Drive, Montrose

Slow travel expert Jennifer M. Sparks has traveled independently through nearly fifty countries on six continents. In this book, she shares simple tips, tools, and techniques for pursuing your own adventures—at your own pace and on a budget.

Copies of Slow Travel: Escape the Grind & Explore the World can be purchased locally at Maggie's Books 345 E. Main St., Montrose or on

Amazon: [Slow-Travel-Escape-Grind-Explore](#)

Join us for this interesting evening and get inspired to follow your travel dreams!



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### STATE MARKETING GRANTS FUND WINTER TOURISM AND CREATIVE CORRIDOR MARKETING EFFORTS FOR RIDGWAY AND OURAY

*Special to Art & Sol*

RIDGWAY—The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and its partners were awarded marketing grants totaling \$35,000 from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) over the last month. One grant for \$10,000 will fund a Ouray County Off-Peak Season Marketing Campaign, implemented in collaboration with the Ouray Tourism Office, while the other will fund marketing of the Colorado Creative Corridor by Ridgway and four other towns along a travel route featuring state-certified Creative Districts.

“Winter (post holidays) is one of the slowest times of year for our businesses community and often a challenging time to keep the doors open and retain employees. Encouraging stronger visitation over the winter months helps businesses rely on more consistent volume, which in turn allows for better planning and employee retention year round,” explained Tim Patterson of RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, who is also the chamber’s board president.

“Visitors and residents in Ridgway benefit from the proximity, access and affordability of our region’s pre-existing winter activities, coupled with our town’s incredibly scenic location. Ridgway is already viewed as a great place to get away from the typical tourist-town feel and have a more authentic experience, even and especially over the winter months,” Patterson said.

Nordic and backcountry skiing, soaking in hot springs, and ice climbing are well-known winter activities in the area, but visitors can also participate in indoor bouldering, adaptive outdoor recreation programs, and a range of wellness activities like yoga, pilates, and massages.

Many local art galleries, music and thea-



*After a day of winter recreation, Eatery 66 in Ridgway is a cozy spot to dine and relax. Ridgway was recently awarded state grants to market winter tourism and its Creative District. Photo courtesy of Latitude Studio.*

ter venues, local eateries, and pubs are also open in January, February and March. San Juan Skijoring, a sport where a horseback rider pulls a skier or snowboarder along a course, is also an increasingly popular spectator event at the Ouray County Fairgrounds.

A wide selection of snowshoe, ski and fat bike destinations are available at the edge of Ridgway and Ouray as well as within an hour’s drive up Red Mountain Pass, Dallas Divide and several Ouray County roads. Ouray has its own ski and snowboard slope with a free tow rope, Lee’s Ski Hill, plus sledding at Vinegar Hill and ice skating at Rotary Park.

The Colorado Creative Corridor is another year-round opportunity to visit the Ridgway Creative District, and the town

and chamber were awarded state funding to market the initiative for a third year. The \$25,000 grant is shared by Ridgway, Paonia, Crested Butte, Carbondale, and Salida.

Together, these five towns offer a collective experience of unique arts and cultural event programming and activities, alongside mountain town eclecticism, majestic vistas and outdoor recreation.

“We are excited to be directly involved in \$35,000 of CTO grant funding for 2020. The Colorado Creative Corridor and off-peak season marketing grants are important for promoting a more sustainable model of year-round visitation and consistent economic opportunities for our local businesses,” said Hilary Lewkowitz, the chamber’s marketing director.

THANK YOU FOR READING.



#montrosemirror

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### SEE STRAY GRASS LIVE IN CONCERT @ RADIO ROOM

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Stray Grass, a popular bluegrass band in the Grand Valley, is returning in Concert on Friday, Dec. 7, 2019 in KAFM's Radio Room. Come out to enjoy the band's smooth sounds. Their sound includes a high-energy interpretation of acoustic music. Although played on traditional instruments, the musical styling of Stray Grass are anything but traditional!

Stray Grass musicians include guitarist/vocalist Ted Shook, Byron Walcher on banjo, Dave Rowley on bass, and Garry Tullio on mandolin and vocals. Stray Grass has opened for the Infamous Stringdusters, Cadillac Sky, Hot Buttered Rum, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and many others.

Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets, go online at [kafmradio.org](http://kafmradio.org), or call 970.241.8801 to pay by phone during business hours. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 7pm, and concert begins at 7:30pm.



*Stray Grass, a popular bluegrass band in the Grand Valley, is returning in Concert on Friday, Dec. 7, 2019 in KAFM's Radio Room. Courtesy image.*

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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.

### Tuesday October 15, 2019

Jackpot is getting BIGGER! Progressive Game #6 is now at \$13,223. This Jackpot will be yours if you reach Bingo with 53 #s or fewer; if not, the game will continue for the prize posted based on attendance. This Tuesday is the best day to play Bingo at the Elks for your chance to win this BIG Jackpot

Progressive Game 2 Jackpot is valued at \$200 and Progressive Game #4 is worth \$686.

Games 2 & 4 can be won by reaching BINGO in 37 numbers or fewer or the posted Jackpot will be paid.

**Seating for this event is limited.** One seat per Bingo player. Once capacity is reached, ticket sales will stop. *Doors will open at 3 PM, Early Bird Bingo starts at 6:30, and the main Bingo session starts at 7 PM.*

**Sloppy Joes will be served in the Kitchen for \$5**, that includes a soda pop. The lounge has **\$3 pints of beer available**. For a good time with a chance to win great Jackpots, stop by the Elks Lodge to play Bingo Tuesday nights.

We are located at 801 South Hillcrest Drive in Montrose, CO 81401. It's a wonderful way to spend the evening having fun! *Public is welcome, funds raised playing Bingo support local charities.*





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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO HUNTERS CAN EXPECT GOOD WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE 2019-2020 SEASONS



*Colorado hunters should be able to find good waterfowl hunting opportunities during the 2019-2020 seasons. Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

COLORADO-Despite drier conditions across most of the state as we head into the fall, Colorado hunters should be able to find good waterfowl hunting opportunities during the 2019-2020 seasons. Waterfowl hunting seasons in Colorado extend from September teal and Canada goose seasons to light goose conservation seasons ending in April.

Local waterfowl production in 2019 was likely average to good due to the wetter spring conditions across the state. However, most ducks and geese in Colorado during the fall and winter hunting seasons are migrants arriving from states to the north and Canada. Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts surveys of waterfowl and their habitats in these primary breeding areas.

In 2019, the total duck breeding population estimate in the surveyed area was 38.9 million birds, 6 percent lower than the 2018 estimate of 41.2 million but 10 percent higher than the long-term average (1955 - 2018). Numbers of the five most harvested ducks in Colorado showed similar patterns.

#### **Mallard**

Estimated mallard abundance was 9.4 million, similar to the 2018 estimate of 9.3 million but 19 percent above the long-

term average of 7.9 million.

#### **Green-winged teal**

The estimated abundance of green-winged teal was 3.2 million, similar to the 2018 estimate of 3.0 million and 47 percent above the long-term average.

#### **Gadwall**

Estimated abundance of gadwall was 3.3 million, similar to the 2018 estimate but 61 percent above the long-term average.

#### **Blue-winged teal**

The 2019 estimate for blue-winged teal was 5.4 million, 16 percent below the 2018 estimate and similar to the long-term average of 5.1 million.

#### **American wigeon**

Abundance estimates for American wigeon was 2.8 million were similar to the 2018 estimate and the long-term averages of 2.6 million.

Habitat conditions were similar to or slightly drier across the survey area compared to last year, but improved in eastern Montana and the western Dakotas, important areas for ducks migrating through Colorado. Canada goose production in Colorado appeared to be average to good, and variable habitat conditions across the region likely resulted in average breeding success for Canada geese that winter in Colorado. For Arctic-nesting cackling geese and snow and Ross's geese that occur in Colorado, average spring thaw conditions led to better production than in 2018. Populations of Arctic-nesting geese remain at relatively high numbers.

Colorado's waterfowl environments are diverse, ranging from shallow wetlands to large reservoirs. Typically the best hunting is available when cold fronts push birds south from southern Canada, the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming.

Colorado's waterfowl season dates and bag limits for 2019 - 2020 are similar to

2018 - 2019. One exception is that hunters may only harvest one pintail per day this season, compared to two per day last season. In addition, the South Park/San Luis Valley dark goose zone has been split into two separate zones, each with different season dates. In the South Park Zone the dark goose season is October 5, 2019 through January 17, 2020; in the San Luis Valley dark goose zone, the season is October 5-23, 2019, and November 23 through February 16, 2020.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Avian Research Leader Jim Gammonley suggested hunters get out to areas ahead of time for a successful season. "Conditions and the timing of migration are always changing," Gammonley said. "Take a look around areas where you want to hunt and see local conditions. Even if you always hunt the same area, water, habitat, and patterns of bird use can change every year. Doing some scouting can help you plan your hunt and you may find new areas."

For more information about Colorado's waterfowl seasons and hunting regulations, see the [2019 Colorado Waterfowl brochure](#), available at statewide license agents and CPW offices or online. Duck and goose hunting in Colorado requires a small-game license and both federal and state waterfowl stamps, available for purchase through CPW's [online system](#). In addition, hunters are required to obtain a [Harvest Information Program \(HIP\) number](#).

[Colorado Outdoors Online](#), in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, offers a [Waterfowl Resource Guide](#) to help hunters get the most out of their time in the field. For most waterfowl hunters, finding a place to hunt is often more challenging than the hunt itself.

Fortunately, Colorado offers a variety of public land hunting opportunities. [Here is some information and tips on hunting waterfowl on public land.](#)



# MEMORY SUPPORT OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Nov. 14th  
2 pm - 4 pm - Open to the public

Enjoy guided tours of our warm, welcoming Memory Support neighborhood while learning about our exceptional programs, specialized services and gracious amenities. Discover Valley Manor Care Center's person-centered approach to care and explore available resources. We look forward to meeting you!

- Proclamation for National Alzheimer's Awareness Day
- See our new kitchen allowing residents to observe & engage in meal prep
- Refreshments served
- Live music
- Receive a small token of appreciation for attending



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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](mailto:info@bosombuddiesswc.org).

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP** meets every third Tuesday of each month at the Centennial Meeting Room at 6pm, behind City Hall. New Watch Groups are formed and guest speakers alert us to safety issues. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact 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 970-209-8173.

### 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-

**Oct. 14**-Citizens Climate Lobby meets on Monday Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Montrose Library. CCL monthly meeting reports on climate strike day worldwide. Attendees to Wild West conference share. All welcome.

**Oct. 15**-Neighborhood Watch meeting will discuss and demonstrate how to stop the bleed to prevent a person from going into shock and dying. Montrose Neighborhood Watch meets 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.

**Oct. 18-20**-Friends of the Montrose Library Used Book Sale, Friday Oct. 18 thru Sunday Oct. 20; Montrose library meeting room; 970-249-9656 for information.

**Oct. 18-20**-[Ridgwayspiritfest.com](http://Ridgwayspiritfest.com) presents world authority on climate and how to address the crisis, ([Charleseisentsein.org](http://Charleseisentsein.org)) in Ridgway. He is coming here directly from the Netherlands, Austria and Germany and appearances on Oprah and other media. A rare opportunity to interface with an amazing mind. Contact 970 325 4598 and the above websites.

**Oct. 19**-Lincoln Reagan Dinner, Montrose County Events Center. Buy tickets online (\$50 speaker and dinner, \$25 speaker only) at [www.lincolnreagandinner.com](http://www.lincolnreagandinner.com). Dinner by Jimmers BBQ & Steakhouse; 5:30 p.m. cash bar, 6 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton.

**Oct. 20**-Terry Robb will perform Oct. 20 at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand Ave. in Montrose. Doors 1:30 p.m., Show 2 p.m. \$15-\$20 adv; \$17-\$22 door. <http://healthyrhythm.net>

**Oct. 23**-Adulting 101: Adaptive Tools for Applying for a Job. Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m. Montrose Library Meeting Room. Presented by Janice Becker of Becker Career Counseling, LLC, this is a course to teach people with disabilities how to apply for a job. All adults are welcome to join these free, informative discussions. Refreshments are provided.

Oct. 23-Meet Jennifer Sparks - author of Slow Travel: Escape the Grind & Explore the World , on Wednesday Oct. 23 at 7 pm upstairs in the Cobble Creek Club House - 699 Cobble Drive, Montrose.

**Oct. 31**-Trick or Treat @ Valley Manor Care Center, 3:30 p.m. until candy runs out.

**Nov. 2**-San Juan Healthcare Foundation invites you to experience The Jersey Tenors at the Montrose Pavilion. VIP tickets \$100; General Admission \$35. Call 970-252-2580 for VIP reservations. General Admission tickets at [www.ourtownmatters.net](http://www.ourtownmatters.net).

**Nov. 4**-Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges of Montrose, 2500 Bridges Drive 5:30 to 7 p.m. Club meets once per quarter to select the next non-profit to receive quarterly donations. Each member pays \$100 per quarter plus a \$10 hospitality fee to participate and has the chance to nominate a non-profit. Members must be present to vote.

**Nov. 14**-Memory Support Open House, Valley manor Care Center, 2 to 4 p.m. 970.249.9634

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

970-275-0646

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

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## MIRROR IMAGES...OUT & ABOUT!



*Halloween Decorations on Spring Creek.*



*Bright leaves beckon on a country road. Photos by Brad Switzer.*

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