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# the Montrose Mirror

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

Issue No. 350 Nov. 4, 2019

## LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER NOW OPEN FOR 2019-2020; New Conditions in Place to Address Bed Priorities, Employment



*Centennial Plaza, above, will be the pickup and dropoff point for the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter van this year.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A study released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition in March found that the State of Colorado has a housing deficit, with just 72 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 households with extremely low incomes.

Here in Montrose, affordable residential options continue to be scarce; for those who find themselves without a place to call home, even fewer options exist. An essential resource for homeless people is the Light House Homeless Shelter, which opened for the season Nov. 1.

Last year, according to statistics compiled by the organization, The Lighthouse sheltered 123 individuals, providing 2,603 bed-nights, hot breakfasts and evening meals. The average length of stay for guests was 14 days. Shelter operators anticipate serving approximately 125 individuals this season. The Fire Marshall has determined that the Dorm can safely accommodate a

[Continued pg 11](#)

## GIVING CLUB MEETS TONIGHT @ BRIDGES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Tonight, the Giving Club of Montrose meets at the Bridges for a power-packed 90 minutes of female philanthropy, and one local non-profit organization will walk away with thousands of dollars to further its mission.

Since the kickoff meeting in February of 2017, the Giving Club of Montrose has been raising money for local non-profits and seeing results. Just don't let the name fool you—this is not an exclusive group. "If you know about it and you are a female, you are invited," founding member Phoebe Ben-ziger said.

Members bring a blank check for \$100 and pay a \$10 hospitality fee at the door. The names of nominated charities are placed in a hat, and three

[Continued pg 6](#)



*Sarah Fishering of the Giving Club presented a check to Hilltop Executive Director Josie Anders Mize after the most recent Giving Club meeting. Courtesy photo.*

in this  
issue

[Art Goodtimes  
Up Bear creek!](#)

[Delta Writer Jay Stooksberry  
Reports on Mayor's questionable activities!](#)

[Terri Wilcox to speak @ Centennial  
MiddleSchool Veteran's Day Assembly!](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### USAF VETERAN TERRI WILCOX TO SPEAK AT CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY NOV. 8



**USAF Veteran Terri Wilcox will serve as keynote speaker for the 2019 Centennial Middle School veteran's Day Assembly. Courtesy photo.**

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Please join us at our 24th Annual Veterans' Day Assembly at Centennial Middle School, 1100 S. 5th St., as we honor all veterans on Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. We are pleased to have Terri Wilcox as our keynote speaker.

Terri was born and raised in the Cajun realm of Southern Louisiana and earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now called the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After graduation, she joined the U.S. Air Force where she spent 25 ½ years serving our country in many different capacities.

Upon returning to Montrose, Terri held the position of executive director for All Points Transit (APT) from July 2008 until June 2013.

During her tenure, Terri helped APT grow from 24 to 39 employees and increased assets from 18 to 30 vehicles. She

expanded service to encompass over 3,400 square miles, including Montrose and Delta counties and Norwood in San Miguel County.

Among her most memorable successes was assisting the local Disabled American Veterans Chapter in 2009 by taking over scheduling all medical trips for disabled veterans.

This collaboration continues today.

In September of 2010, under Terri's leadership, APT started the Montrose City Bus Flex-Route Service. In that same year, APT was recognized as the "Colorado Medium Transit Agency of the Year" by the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA).

In 2012 APT received a national transit award for Outstanding Public Service from the Federal Transit Administration. Terri has served the City of Montrose as Human Resources Director since 2013.

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## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY OF MONTROSE OFFERING LEAF BAGS FOR SALE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose is selling bundles of leaf bags for the city's annual fall leaf cleanup. The bundles, which contain four leaf bags each, are available for purchase at City Hall located at 433 South First Street. Each bundle is \$1 each.

Residents can fill the bags with leaves and place them on the curb for pickup by city crews. Contact Public Works at 970.240.1480 to schedule a pick-up.

This is a free pickup service available to all City of Montrose utility customers until mid-December. Pickup began on October 28.

Any brand of leaf bag that is clear is acceptable. Please refrain from raking leaves into the street or city storm drains.

For more information contact City Hall at 970.240.1400, or visit: [www.CityOfMontrose.org](http://www.CityOfMontrose.org).



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GMUG ANNOUNCES PILE BURNING FOR NORWOOD AND OURAY RANGER DISTRICTS

*Special to the Mirror*

NORWOOD-Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts, plan to burn slash piles over the next few months. Most of the pile burns will occur between October through December, pending favorable weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions.

The objectives of pile burning is to reduce the risk of larger wildfires and improve ecosystem health by removing debris and vegetation, or fuels, through the planned ignition of slash piles. Slash piles are constructed from the accumulated debris from fuel reduction and hazard tree removal projects. The piles will be burned in project areas where other means of disposal are not feasible.

"Pile burning is often the last step in the process to completing important fuels reduction projects," said Corey Robinson, West Zone Fire Management Officer. "We will only ignite these burns if conditions are ideal for a safe, effective burn, as well as for good smoke dispersal."

Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn. Fire managers have developed detailed plans and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each of the planned burns.

The following pile burns are planned on the Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts:

Project Area/Name	Location	Number and Type
High Mesa Timber Sale	2 miles east of Silver Jack Reservoir	500 machine piles
Horsefly Thinning	7 miles northeast of Norwood	100 machine piles
TelSki Piles	Telluride Ski Area	2 machine piles
Horse Pasture	3 miles south of Norwood	1 machine pile
Escalante Piles	24 miles west of Montrose	4 machine piles and 50 hand piles

For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at (970) 874-6602, visit GMUG's forest website:

[www.fs.usda.gov/gmug](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), GMUG Fire Information Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo/> or Twitter: [https://twitter.com/GMUG\\_NF](https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF).

For more information on how prescribed fire smoke may affect your health, please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ATTEND CITY BUDGET OPEN HOUSE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Receive information and provide feedback on the City of Montrose's 2020 budget at an open house at 4p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, in the City Council Chambers located at 107 S. Cascade Avenue. The event will begin with an overview of the budget, followed by informal, one-on-one discussions with city officials who will take comments and provide additional information.

The city budgets on an annual basis for a fiscal year that begins January 1. The City Charter (Article V, Finance, Appropriations and Taxation) outlines the basic budget procedure that is used to create, approve, and implement the annual budget.

The city manager is required to prepare a recommended annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year and provide it to City Council by Oct. 15. The draft budget is then presented to City Council for review. Two public hearings are held in November to approve the budget and appropriation ordinance.

Residents who are unable to attend the open house are encouraged to view the proposed budget at [CityofMontrose.org/Budget](http://CityofMontrose.org/Budget). The site includes an electronic version of the budget, a link to submit comments, documents related to past and current budgets, and more information about how the public can actively participate in the budget process.

Copies of the proposed budget are also available at City Hall (433 South First Street) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All interested citizens are encouraged to accept the opportunity to give written and verbal comments.

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# ***GIVING CLUB MEETS TONIGHT @ BRIDGES From pg 1***

## **MEDC's 3rd Annual Manufacturers Expo!**



**Open to Public!  
Free!**

**Date:** November 8, 2019 (Friday)

**Location:** The Montrose Pavilion,  
1800 E. Pavilion Pl. Montrose CO

**1:00 - 2:00 pm:** STEMposium Round Table

**2:00 - 6:00 pm:** Exhibits are Open

### **Featuring:**

Manufacturers from Montrose County  
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choices are drawn from the hat at each meeting. Members who work for or support local non-profits are welcome to join in and pitch the group. Pitches last for five minutes, followed by a question and answer period, and then a vote. The charity that receives the most votes wins the evening's contributions

"This is not a closed group—it's open to all women and we all have an equal vote," Benziger said. "We are averaging a \$14,000 giveaway every time.

"There are people out there doing amazing things, and they all have the opportunity to make a pitch."

Nothing is more fun than presenting the check, she said, unless it is hearing a report from a past winner on how the funds were used.

Those given the chance to pitch the Giving Club this evening should be prepared, Benziger said.

"You've got to be local," she said. "You've got to prove that you need it and that the money is going to stay within the community—this group is going to back you up against a wall asking questions. They want to make sure the money they are bringing to the table stays here."

And once the pitches are made and the votes have been cast, "The winner takes all," Benziger said.

Taking part in the Giving Club has been an incredibly rewarding experience not only for winners and members, but also for the entire community, she said. "People come with friends, and they come by themselves. For new people, it's a great way to get involved. I always meet somebody new, and I learn about non-profits that I never knew existed."

Over the 2.75 years of its existence, the Giving Club has awarded \$149,540 to local charities. Organizations that have been awarded funds by the Giving Club to date include:

2017: \$48,500 (Montrose Lighthouse Ministries, Dolphin House, Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid, Region 10's Community Living Service Program)

2018: \$59,940 (Partners of Delta, Montrose and Ouray, Christ's Kitchen, Montrose Medical Mission, Altrusa Haven House Project)

2019: \$41,000 (just three quarters). (MAPA, Bright Futures, Hilltop Resources Domestic Violence Services).

Founding members of the Giving Club include Benziger, Sue Hansen, Julie Wolverton, Kristy Barrett, and Sarah Piper Fisher.

Members who cannot attend Monday night's Giving Club meeting are still welcome to donate, Benziger said. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1403, Montrose CO 81402.





## CITY TO CONVENE FOR A WORK SESSION MONDAY; REGULAR MEETING RESCHEDULED FOR NOV. 12



**Montrose City Council will convene for a work session on Monday, Nov. 4. The Nov. 5 regular meeting of the Montrose City Council has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m.**

*Mirror staff report*

MONTROSE- Montrose City Council will convene for a work session on Monday, Nov. 4. The Nov. 5 regular meeting of the Montrose City Council **has been rescheduled** for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m. in the City Council Chambers.

### WORK SESSION

Discussion items include a contract award for the East Miami Water Line replacement and an update to the City's Municipal Election Code.

**East Miami Water Line Replacement-** Council will consider the award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting (low bidder of eight received) in the amount of \$536,438.10 for the East Miami Waterline Replacement Project.

**Background-**According to the work session packet, the City's updated water master plan identifies the construction of a dedicated fill line to the City's Sunnyside Tank from the main Project 7 supply line in Highway 50 as a priority capital improvement.

### Municipal Election Update

Council will discuss changes to the election code, allowing elections to be cancelled if the only matter before voters is the election of persons to office and there are no contested seats 64 days prior to

the election.

### Future topics for City work sessions and meetings include:

Nov. 12-2020 Budget Ordinance; Hospice & palliative Care Month Proclamation; American Indian Heritage Month Proclamation.

Nov. 18-Introduction of new city employees; Affordable Housing presentation; Mail Ballot Election Plan for the 2020 Municipal Election; Columbine Land Exchange Plat and Intergovernmental Agreement; Potential changes to City Code concerning modular construction.

Nov. 19-MHS Boys Golf Team State Champions Day Proclamation; Small Business Saturday Proclamation; City Manager and City Attorney receive mid-term evaluations.

Dec. 2-Hotel incentives request.

Dec. 3-Retail Liquor Store License Transfer for Pour House.

Dec. 16-Downtown Area Revitalization Team Summary.

## COMMUNITY MEETING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 | 5 - 6 pm

Share input and learn about regulations for Short-Term Rental properties including: Licensing • Taxes • Parking • Safety

If you rent out a bedroom, a portion of a home, or an entire home to guests for less than 30 days – or live next to someone who does – **THIS MEETING IS FOR YOU!**

\*What is a Short-Term Rental? It is a property or portion of a property that is rented for less than 30 days at a time.



City Council Chambers | 107 S Cascade Ave



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CORRUPT INDIVIDUALS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID THE GALLOWS FOR TREASON, WILL DO ANYTHING AND SAY ANYTHING

*Dear Editor,*

Being somewhat of a mystical figure, I have looked into my crystal ball and foresee the future quite clearly:

Having failed to get Hillary Clinton elected, in a rigged primary election, leaked debate questions, rigged general election, and further attempting to do damage control after the fake Russian Dossier failed to produce the downfall of President Donald Trump, "Plan B" goes into affect after a new Attorney General announces an investigation into the origin of the fake Russian Dossier.

Next up, with video documentation; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXA--dj2-CY>, of then Vice President Joe Biden bragging about blackmailing the Ukrainian government into firing the prosecutor going after his son for corruption, a phone call between the newly elected Ukrainian President and President Donald Trump, with the transcript of the call having been released by the White House, the drunk Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi and her boy, Congressman Adam Schiff, outright lie, alter the contents of the call, misrepresent the wording of the transcript and proceed to attempt to impeach President Donald Trump in secret hearings.

President Trump, referring to the bragging of blackmail by former Vice President Biden, requested the new Ukrainian President to look into the situation and speak with our Attorney General looking into the situation. The entire transcript is available from none other than a bias new source CNN:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/25/politics/donald-trump-ukraine-transcript-call/index.html>

Now, let me enlighten you on what is going to happen; the Democrats knowing full well that the Senate will not impeach President Trump, not because there is a Republican majority in the Senate, but, because there are absolutely no grounds for impeachment. The entire purpose is to confuse the public for a year prior to the 2020 Presidential Election into thinking there is something wrong with President Trump, when, what is actually wrong, their candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden, actually did blackmail the Ukrainian government, and then bragged about doing it, and, indictments will be handed down to prosecute those involved with the fake Russian Dossier reaching all the way into the Obama Administration!

This is not a political war folks, this is a spiritual war between good and evil. Sworn oaths are no longer of any consequence, corrupt individuals are attempting to avoid the gallows for treason and will do anything and say anything.

**James 1:25 King James Version**

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

*Richard Harding, Olathe*





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## ***LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER NOW OPEN FOR 2019-2020; New Conditions in Place to Address Bed Priorities, Employment, From pg 1***

maximum of 30 guests.

This year, Lighthouse guests are picked up and dropped off at Centennial Plaza rather than at the Montrose Library as in years past. Those who need shelter will gather at 5:45 p.m. at 434 South First Street for transport to the former Robert Brown Center location, returning around 8:30 a.m. the following day. Monday through Saturday guests will have a hot evening meal at the Shelter prepared by the Shepherd's Hand non-profit. On Sundays, a community supper is served at the Montrose United Methodist Church, followed by transport back to the shelter at 5:45 p.m.

Chris Hauck of the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter said that the non-profit holds a seasonal lease on the facility for only two years. "It was made clear to us when we entered into the lease that it was not a long-term solution."

Still, efforts to secure a building of their own have not been successful. A recent attempt to purchase the former Powderhorn Industries facility at 931 Park Avenue fell through when an application to change the zoning from light industrial to commercial use (to allow overnight shelter guests) was denied by the City of Montrose.

The denial was a setback for the volunteers at the Lighthouse Shelter, Hauck said. "We had scoured the landscape looking for anything with the correct zoning."

With an eight-person board and just one on-site staffer, there are currently no plans to extend operations beyond the two-year term of the shelter lease, though the non-profit may offer case resolution services to clients in the near future.

The Lighthouse Shelter has always had a list of conditions that apply to both guests and shelter staff. New for this year, Supplemental Conditions address bed priorities, employment, and lay-in guests. According to the Supplemental Conditions, those who stay for a designated number

of nights or for a total of more than one-half of the days in a calendar month and are able bodied and otherwise employable are required to seek employment or perform such useful community service as is designated by Staff.

Another local resource for people struggling with housing or living in poverty is the Mexican American Development Association (MADA) at 17 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The coffee pot is always on here, and those

who come through the doors can obtain a variety of day shelter services.

The Closet is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to Noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. Lockers and mail service are available.

Other services include an emergency food bank; computer lab; sewing machine; assessments; emergency assistance; assistance with paperwork; loans of medical equipment; and utility assistance.



## DELTA MAYOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN WATER PARK PROJECT RAISES QUESTIONS, MAY BE VIOLATION OF MUNICIPAL CODE

By Jay Stooksberry

DELTA—Can a public official — let's say, a mayor — objectively preside over public discussions involving publicly owned land, while, at the same time, actively solicit financial contributions to develop the very same land in question, all while leveraging his official title and using public resources to achieve this personal goal? That is a complicated question that the City of Delta may need to answer.

Last spring, Delta Mayor Ron Austin actively solicited financial donations to fund a [feasibility study](#) for the development of an outdoor water park. Austin's fundraising may be in violation of Delta's [municipal code](#). As stated in [Section 2.64.020](#), the Code prohibits city officials from soliciting or accepting gifts that influence them "to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of his or her public duties." A gift is defined as "the transfer of a thing of value," which is further defined as "any tangible or intangible having a market value, including, without limitation, money."

Over the course of several months in 2018, Mayor Austin solicited and received financial donations to fund the feasibility study of an outdoor water park, while also serving as the chairman of the two governing boards — Delta's city council and the Delta Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) — tasked with publicly negotiating with private landholders and attracting hotel developers.

Emails from Austin indicate that he wanted the land parcels in question to be used for his water park project, rather than the proposed hotel. Despite this conflict of interest, Austin never once recused himself during any of the public votes regarding the parcels; he even openly admitted during public meetings that he was involved in what was supposed to be a privately funded project.

Austin also used his elected position to persuade governing boards to table discussions until voting members attended a special presentation that he organized regarding the water park. The presentation, which was billed as a City of Delta work session, used public resources to



*An image from an invitation sent to private developers on a proposed water park by Delta Mayor Ron Austin. Courtesy image.*

solicit support for the Mayor's water park project.

Furthermore, Austin continued to serve as the point person for the water park project, often leveraging his role as mayor to buttress the proposal. Though Austin could have delegated the responsibility of soliciting support to the water park project to others, he openly stated that he would be the primary contact person for the project. Austin consistently claimed that he acted as "a private citizen," as opposed to his official capacity as mayor. However, [his invitations](#) and emails engaging in business regarding the water park all end with the same signature: "Ron Austin-Mayor."

### **Back Story: DURA, Riverfront Project, and the St. James Parcel**

Austin, who was mayor pro tem at the time, befriended a local Delta County resident, Scott Schaible, and encouraged him to attend city council meetings. Over time, the relationship developed to the point of Schaible becoming a confidante for Austin on a number of issues. Two of these issues — the city's projected shortfalls in reserve funds and efforts to attract a hotel development — provided a unique opportunity for this partnership.

In February 2018, Schaible approached the Delta's city council during a work ses-

sion to pitch the idea of an outdoor water park. During the meeting, Schaible requested permission from the board to move forward in determining the feasibility of water park in Delta, reassuring the board that no public resources would be necessary. Though not a voting matter, the city council granted permission for Schaible to move forward with his plan.

During the following months, Schaible frequently attended public meetings for both Delta's city council and DURA. However, Schaible and other DURA commissioners began to publicly clash. Conflict between Schaible and DURA commissioners escalated to the point that it became a topic of discussion among the board, as uncovered by emails obtained through a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request. Austin decided that the water park project needed a new point of contact: himself. In an [email](#) dated May 15, 2018, Austin wrote the following: "I listened to the concerns expressed at our recent Executive Session when the waterpark discussion came up. I understand the skepticism due to your lack of direct involvement in the process up to this point. I am also aware of past comments and personality differences involving Scott Schaible...Scott and I have discussed this and agreed that it is time for me to take the lead as the



## ***DELTA MAYOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN WATER PARK PROJECT RAISES QUESTIONS, MAY BE VIOLATION OF CODE From previous pg***

contact person going forward with the waterpark/hotel/riverfront activation project as a 'complete package'."

While Schaible remained behind the scenes, Austin was now the point person for this project, indicating that he was primary individual responsible for pitching the water park project.

At the same time, DURA was in the early stages of a plan to attract developers to the city. Through a grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Better City, a consulting firm contracted by Delta, conducted [market and feasibility analysis](#) for potential projects that may spur economic development. One such project, referred to as the "Gateway Project," recommended a two-fold strategy of 1) developing tourist attractions that utilize the Gunnison River and 2) attracting the development of a mid-tier hotel and conference center near the river corridor. The DURA board released a request for proposals (RFP) on Jan. 18, 2018, to solicit possible developers for such a project. The board received one proposal from [Mars Hospitality](#).

Over the course of these conversations regarding development of the river corridor, a private citizen, Bill St. James, approached the city to express his interest in a potential land swap of city-owned parcels. The St. James land parcel directly connected with the Gunnison River.

This proposal by St. James sparked the interest of both DURA and Austin for similar but competing reasons. For DURA, the land swap presented "a more attractive location for the hotel," according to a [report](#) by the *Delta County Independent*, due to its proximity to the Gunnison River. For Austin, the St. James parcel was attractive location for his water park. As demonstrated in emails obtained via CORA request, Austin was pursuing the development of the water park project with St. James' land in mind.

"The problem I have is that with [Delta City Manager David Torgler's] ongoing talks with St. James, makes it beyond difficult to proceed with the 'private funded' feasibility study **for the same property**," Austin writes in an [email](#), dated May 15

(emphasis added). "He told me today that if I felt that strongly about it, to 'kill the hotel'."

These competing visions were complicated by the fact that Austin also serves as the chair of DURA, indicating a potential conflict of interest. Despite this potential conflict, Austin moved forward both as the leading advocate for the water park on the St. James parcel and as the chair of the board tasked with acquiring the land for potential development.

With this new opportunity in mind, the DURA board met on May 22 to discuss the potential of this land swap, as well as updating the existing RFP. During this May 22 meeting, Austin again lobbied for his water project. He also [encouraged](#) board members to table their vote to revise the RFP, until the board had the opportunity to listen to a presentation on the topic of a water park, which Austin had scheduled for May 29. Schaible also attended this meeting, continuing his efforts to pitch the water park to municipal-level boards, despite his claims that no public resources were needed.

### **May 29th Work Session**

The subsequent presentation — a city council work session, which used public resources, specifically dedicated to the topic of the water park — involved a heated exchange between proponents of the water park (namely, Austin and Schaible) and audience members who were skeptical of the project.

The work session, which took place on May 29, 2018, included a presentation by [Dan Martin](#), managing principal of Market & Feasibility Advisers, LLC, a consulting firm based in Illinois. Martin presented via Skype on a number of topics related to tourism and economic development, as well as laid the groundwork for the possibility of a water park in Delta. Martin's presentation transitioned into the pitch about the water park by Austin and Schaible.

During his presentation, Austin publicly stated that he had already solicited and received financial commitments from community members to partially fund a feasibility study for the water park project,



**Delta Mayor Ron Austin. Courtesy photo.**

which would be conducted by Martin's firm. (Austin also confirmed in emails obtained through a CORA request that he had solicited and received financial commitments.)

As mentioned, the work session devolved into a contentious spectacle. (The *Delta County Independent* [described](#) the event as "heated.") In attendance were several staff and board members of Delta County Economic Development (DCED). DCED was directly involved with the EDA-funded Better City studies, and many of the organization's representatives expressed concern about a "duplication of efforts" by the water park proposal. During the meeting, several shouting matches took place between DCED members and Schaible. At one point, Austin needed to calm Schaible.

### **Updated RFP, Land Swap Ballot Measure, and Private Fundraiser**

In an [email](#) written on May 15, Austin suggested that a possible means to achieving his goal of a water park at the St. James parcel was to "kill the hotel," which is exactly what happened two months after the aforementioned email.

The original RFP received one proposal. However, the land that was originally targeted for development was no longer on the market, so DURA needed to update the RFP to propose the St. James parcel. Based on Austin's insistence, DURA [updated](#) the RFP to include language requesting developers to potentially address a water park in their updated proposal. The RFP was reissued on June 4. Following the July 2nd deadline, the [second RFP](#) received [no responses](#), effectively "killing" the hotel development project for the foreseeable future. The original

**Continued next pg**

## DELTA MAYOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN WATER PARK PROJECT RAISES QUESTIONS, MAY BE VIOLATION OF CODE From previous pg

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updated proposal. The RFP was reissued on June 4. Following the July 2nd deadline, the [second RFP](#) received [no responses](#), effectively "killing" the hotel development project for the foreseeable future. The original applicant, Mars Hospitality, informed city staff that the St. James parcel was too risky of an investment, based on

the need for a voter-approved land swap.

Negotiations between St. James and the city continued throughout the summer. On Aug. 21, Delta's city council [approved language for a ballot measure](#) — City of Delta Referred Measure 2C — concerning the sale, transfer, or conveyance of publicly owned land. If approved, the city would then have the green light to swap land parcels with St. James. (Delta voters [overwhelmingly voted in favor of 2C](#), which passed by a 14-point margin.)

Despite the fact that the land parcels in question were the subject of a public vote, Austin continued his efforts to privately pursue his own vision of the water park. Only two days after convening the city council meeting where ballot language was finalized, Austin — with the assistance of Schaible — hosted a private fundraising event to solicit financial donations in order to fund the feasibility study of his proposed water park. Though claiming that he was making the solicitations as a private citizen, Austin signed [the invite](#) to the event with his traditional signoff: "Ron Austin-Mayor." (The event was invite only, and [requests to attend by the general public were denied by Schaible](#).)

According to the [Delta County Independent](#), the event attracted approximately 40 attendees. Once again via Skype, Martin made a similar presentation to one that he made during the May 29 work session. Austin and Schaible clearly stated that the goal of the event was to raise the \$4,000 needed to fund the feasibility study, which would be completed by Martin's firm. There were no publicly-stated plans to open this project to bids from other firms. Austin denies the allegation of soliciting funds for the water park proposal. In an [email](#), he responded, "For the record, neither I nor any family members or friends have ever received any monies, favors, promises, compensation or gifts as a result of my elected position or my interest to generate revenue for the City of Delta through my support of the 'waterpark idea.'"

His comments contradict those who 1) were invited to the fundraiser with a [letter](#) from Austin using his elected title and 2)

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*Continued next pg*



## ***DELTA MAYOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN WATER PARK PROJECT RAISES QUESTIONS, MAY BE VIOLATION OF CODE From previous pg***

donated money to the proposed water park project as a result of their attendance of the fundraiser. No feasibility study was ever completed, and donations were eventually returned.

Despite his personal interest in the property and his concerted efforts to develop the land parcel based on his personal vision for a water park, Austin never once

recused himself from his role as DURA chair — convening public meetings during the four-month period, as well as voting on related agenda items — when the St. James land parcel was undergoing public negotiations. Instead, Austin continued his efforts to solicit private donations — all while using his title of mayor in his communications to donors. His solicita-

tions appear to be in violation of Delta municipal code. If found to be in violation by a preponderance of evidence presented in a municipal court, the penalty is defined as a civil infraction that carries a fine not to exceed \$1,000. In addition to this fine, a judgement can include twice the fair market value of the prohibited gift against the city official.

## **COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS**

### **SOS RELEASES ECONOMIC INDICATORS REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER 2019**

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-The Colorado Secretary of State, in partnership with the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business, has released [the quarterly indicators report for the third quarter of 2019](#). The report shows that Colorado's economy is slowing but continues to perform well with less unemployment, rapid job growth, and wage growth that is outpacing the national average.

This report shows the relationship between new business filings, new business formation, and employment growth. The increase in business filings indicate continued job growth in the state into 2020. But, in the third quarter of 2019, new entity filings grew a modest .3 percent year-over-year, showing the slowest growth in four years.

"Colorado's economy continues to lead the nation in wage growth and employment, though growth is showing signs of slowing," said Secretary Jena Griswold. "I am happy to see that Colorado's economy

should grow through the end of the year and into 2020, even as business leaders are more pessimistic with economic uncertainty."

The Business Research Division at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business compiles the report using data from the Secretary of State's central business registry. The report looks at a variety of factors, such as energy costs, the labor market, and inflation.

"Although slowing is the word of the day, Colorado still has one of the stronger economies in the U.S. with year over year employment growth at 2 percent," said Richard Wobbekind, executive director of the Leeds Business Research Division.

Trade tensions are impacting Colorado exports. As of August, Colorado's total goods exports for the year decreased 4.9% year-over-year, compared to 3.4% growth in 2018. Colorado's top three trade export partners are Canada, Mexico, and China.

Employment growth should continue through the end of this year and into

2020. Colorado wage growth continues to outpace national wage growth. Around the state, the Colorado Springs, Grand Junction and Greeley areas added the most jobs at the fastest pace. And year-over-year, Colorado's wages increased 3.3% compared to 3% nationally.

During the third quarter, 31,105 new business entities filed with the Secretary of State, representing a 0.3% increase over the same period in 2018. Over the past 12 months, 127,192 new business entities filed with the state, a growth of 1.5%. From Q2 2019 to Q3 2019, the number of entities in good standing in the state increased by 1.2%, and grew 3.4% over Q3 2018. According to the latest Leeds Business Confidence Index, business leaders' confidence decreased from the second quarter and from 2018. Business owners are pessimistic about the national economy, hiring, capital expenditure, and profits.

The full report is available [here](#) and previous reports can be found [here](#).

**The Mirror:**  
Coverage with vision for the future.



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CHANGING DAYLIGHT HOURS MEANS WILDLIFE ON THE MOVE

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO STATEWIDE — Nov. 3 marked the end of Daylight Saving time in Colorado. This means drivers will now see dusk arriving earlier, and should be aware that wildlife movements are likely to conflict with rush hour traffic on highways statewide.

As the sunlight fades during our high-volume commutes, Colorado Parks and Wildlife asks the state's drivers to be cautious in sharing our roads with wildlife.

Autumn is peak seasonal mating and migration for many species, so drivers should stay alert and watch for wildlife as they begin to experience darker commutes.

"This time of year is tough for people and wildlife alike," said District Wildlife Manager Tim Kroening. "People might know wildlife moves mainly between the dusk and dawn hours, but we don't always connect that to our driving patterns. While your work hours stay the same, less daylight means more wildlife movement, which can increase the chances of a collision. Keep in mind, this is also the time of year when many of our big game species are moving to lower ground or actively mating, so it's really important to keep your eyes out for wildlife on and near the roads in the fall."

The Colorado Department of Transportation also advises motorists to stay vigilant, drive with caution and slow down, especially now that several snow storms have set in and have pushed wildlife from the high country into lower elevations.

"Big game like deer, elk and moose are on the move, making their way to terrain for which they can more easily find food and water," said CDOT Wildlife Program Manager Jeff Peterson. "The seasonal movements of these animals can cause more wildlife-vehicle collisions."

An effective measure which attempts to decrease the amount of wildlife-vehicle collisions in Colorado has been the construction of mitigation structures. CDOT has worked hand-in-hand with CPW to

study, gather data and develop solutions on several highways across the state. One such project is located on I-25 between Monument and Castle Rock, where 12 trail cameras were set up along a 10-mile stretch of the interstate to determine the diversity of wildlife present and capture travel patterns.

"With the help of images captured from the cameras, CDOT and CPW analyzed locations along the corridor where wildlife collisions were highest. The team also documented wildlife movements, noting existing game trails, culverts, drainages and bridges. As a result of the study, CDOT will install four new wildlife crossings and more than 30 miles of deer fence as part of the I-25 South Gap project," added Peterson. Colorado has increasingly included mitigation structures over and under highways in construction projects to assist in wildlife crossing the highways, but motorists must remain attentive to their surroundings and pay close attention to wildlife on the move.

CPW and CDOT offer several precautions that should be followed year-round, but especially around the change back to daylight standard time.

Slow down. Traveling at high speeds increases the danger of a crash. Moderate speeds maintain a driver's reaction time and allow an appropriate response to animals on or near roads.

Stay alert. Pay close attention to the roadway, particularly while driving between dusk and dawn. This is when deer and other common wildlife are most active



*The end of daylight saving time means commutes are about to get darker. Motorists are urged to keep their eyes out for wildlife on and near the roads. CPW courtesy photo.*

and more likely to be crossing roadways. Scan ahead. Watch for movement and shining eyes along roadsides. If you see one animal, you should expect it will be accompanied by others.

Obey traffic signs. Many highways have wildlife warning signs intended to alert motorists of known wildlife movement areas. Though incidents can happen anywhere, transportation authorities attempt to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions by posting signage and lowering speeds in areas where wildlife are active. Give warning.

When animals are seen on or near the road, slow down or stop (if no other cars are behind you), honk the horn and/or flash headlights. This warns the animal to avoid the road and alerts other drivers to the potential hazard.

Always wear seat belts. Unfortunately, not every collision is avoidable, and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration state that the risk of serious injury and death in a crash is reduced by half when seat belts are worn.

Drivers involved in a wildlife-vehicle collision should report the accident to the Colorado State Patrol by calling \*CSP (star key and 277).





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# 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



RSVPs encouraged — (970) 249-9634 or [dhayre@voa.org](mailto:dhayre@voa.org)

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MCSO'S K9 TIGO RECEIVES DONATION OF BODY ARMOR

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose County Sheriff's Office K9 Tigo has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. The vest was sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by James Crouch of Bixbi Pet and embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Bixbi Pet."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c(3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers.

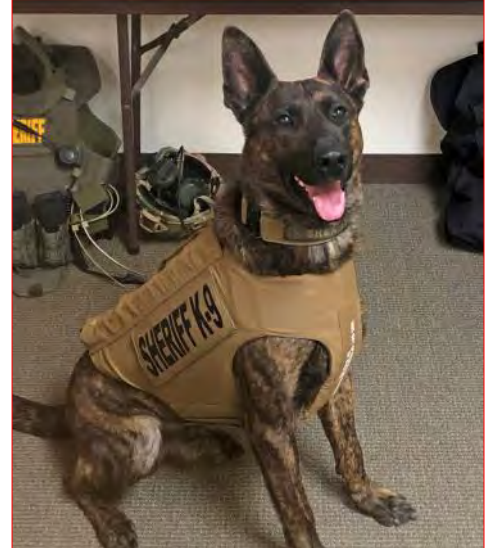
Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 3,500 U.S. made,

custom fitted, NIJ certified protective vests in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$6.9 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation is to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283, and a five-year warranty and an average weight of 4-5 lbs.

There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any de-



*Montrose County Sheriff's Office K9 Tigo. Courtesy photo.*

nomination at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT: SEEKING WALMART ROBBERY SUSPECTS

#### Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

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

The alleged robbery occurred at approx. 8:15 PM on Oct. 27, 2019 and there are clear photographs of the suspect(s) obtained as well as a vehicle that is associated with this crime.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity.

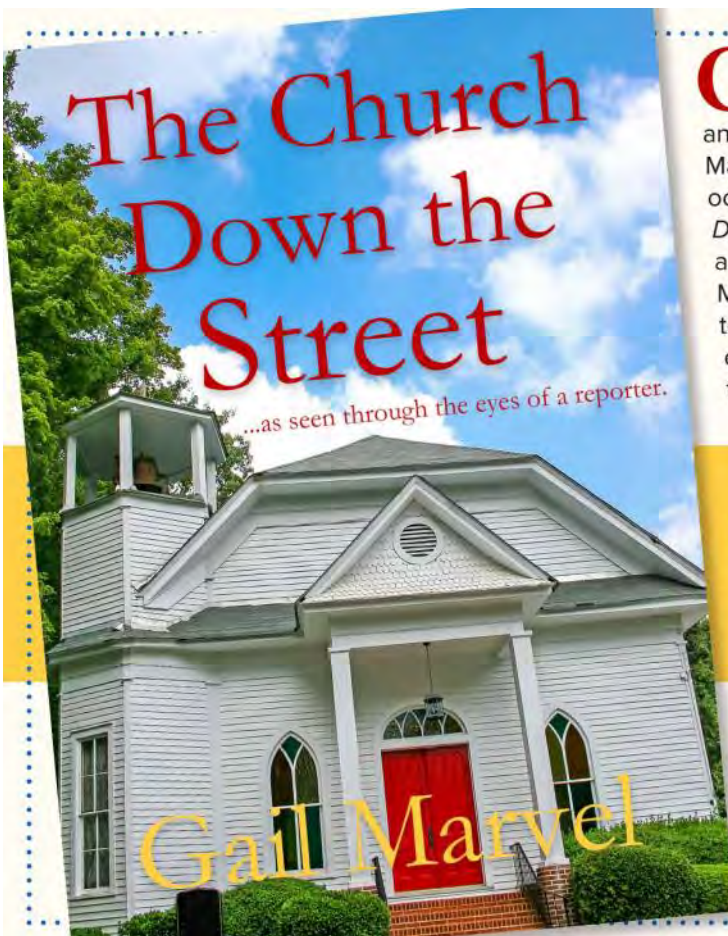
If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers](https://www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers).

Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers  
courtesy photo.



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



# ★ 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

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## 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.



# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO 1 OF 4 STATES CHOSEN BY NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOC. FOR GRIDEX V ELECTRICAL GRID EXERCISE ASSISTANCE

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - Colorado has been selected by the National Governors Association (NGA) as one of four states in the U.S. to participate in the North American Energy Reliability Corporation's (NERC) GridEx V exercise and NGA workshop. The workshop seeks to enhance state and utility emergency preparedness through a simulated cyber and physical incident on the electrical grid.

Representatives from Colorado will include individuals from the Public Utilities Commission within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Department of Public Safety (CDPS), and Xcel Energy.

The biennial exercise, conducted November 13-14, 2019 by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), will focus on incident response planning, local and regional response, interdependent sector engagement, and communication efforts. Participants will remotely respond to the simulated events to determine how their organizations, including governors and states, might respond in a real-world event.

In a joint statement, Executive Directors Stan Hilkey (CDPS), Patty Salazar (DORA), and Theresa Szczurek (OIT) commented, "Colorado is very excited and grateful to have been awarded the opportunity to participate in this important exercise. Our agencies are proud of our collective work to attain this selection by the NGA, and want to thank Governor Polis for endorsing our efforts. We are committed to a continued partnership protecting Colorado's electrical infrastructure, and devising solutions that will benefit the entire United States."

Following the November exercise, participants will examine state and utility energy security planning and coordination and emergency response, and present the exercise results, challenges, and possible solutions to threats facing the electrical grid. This information will be shared with all other states by the NGA, and Colorado will receive ongoing technical assistance from NGA to enact action.



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1/2 baths and a shower. There is a  
commercial kitchen set-up in the lower level, a  
14' hood w/Ansul system and a large walk-in  
refrigeration unit. There's even a large multi-  
level deck with beautiful garden landscaping on  
the East side of the building.

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storage, Handicap accessibility, and all  
furnishings included (furniture, dishes, etc.),  
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SOM FOOTWEAR OF MONTROSE OFFERS HOLIDAY PROMOTION

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-SOM Footwear is offering a Holiday Promotion this year for their customers, to show their Holiday cheer! The promotion starts in November and will last through the end of December or until supplies last:

With the purchase of a regular-priced pair of shoes, SOM Footwear customers will have the wonderful option of adding a pair of high quality, Colorado Made socks for 35% off -which makes them less than

\$10 a pair! Also, along with this deal, customers will receive a free, limited-time, fun, double-sided headband! These additions are great bonuses and would make awesome stocking stuffers! Use DISCOUNT CODE: HeadToToesFun2019 for in-store

purchases. Although not part of the Holiday Promotion, our Inventory Outlet models are being offered - at the factory store only which is located at 1006 N. Cascade Ave Montrose,



CO

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CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR SCENIC BYWAY

*Special to the Mirror*

LEADVILLE – The Colorado Department of Transportation is seeking volunteers to serve on the governing committee for the Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway – one of the highest byways in the U.S. that rarely drops below 9,000 feet through west-central Colorado. Volunteers would be part of a team promoting and managing a byway offering travelers an opportunity to experience high-country scenery and a wealth of natural, recreational, and cultural activities. Duties would include:

- Maintaining a regular meeting schedule, including a minimum of two meetings per year, with one being an in-person meeting.
- Holding at least one public workshop, community event, or presentation to local elected officials or another group.

- Participating in at least four CDOT, Colorado Byways, National Scenic Byway Foundation or other public meetings, trainings, webinars and conference calls per year.

- Completing an annual survey to 1) track the program's accomplishments and the byway's goals, 2) assess that the rationale for corridor designation remains relevant, and 3) make sure progress continues to preserve the corridor.

The Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway, designated as a National Scenic Byway in 1998, provides access to an abundance of attractions, such as:

- Five 14-er's (above 14,000 feet), including Mt. Elbert, Mt. Massive, Quandary Peak, Mt. Lincoln, and Mt. Democrat.
- Three national forests, including Pike, White River, and San Isabel, offering ample opportunities for a variety of activities,

including four-wheel driving, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and camping.

- The Twin Lakes area, popular for fishing, boating, hiking, snowmobiling and photographing Colorado's scenery.

- The Tabor Opera House in Leadville, an elegant, three-story brick-and-stone structure built in 1909, offering seasonal concerts, community events, and tours.

- The Camp Hale Memorial Campground. Fifteen thousand World War II soldiers were trained here to ski, and acquire mountaineering and cold weather survival skills. Interested individuals should contact Colorado Byways Program Manager Lenore Bates at 303.757.9786 or [lenore.bates@state.co.us](mailto:lenore.bates@state.co.us).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HILLTOP SENIOR DAYBREAK COLLECTING SWEATERS FOR SENIORS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Please drop off your gently used sweaters to Hilltop Senior Daybreak. Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations accepted Nov. 4-27. Montrose Senior Daybreak, 200 S. Uncompahgre Ave. Montrose, Co  
Sweaters will be donated to Seniors in need.

### FULL MOON HIKE @ RIDGWAY STATE PARK WILL BE NOV. 15

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-Ridgway State Park Presents the November Full Moon Hike on Friday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.

\*Please meet at the Visitors Center for a short video about the  
*Beaver Moon*.

We will then head outside for a hike up the Wapiti Trail to Elk Ridge then hike down Elk Ridge road. Approximately 2 miles.

\*Campfire and marshmallows for roasting will be available afterwards.

\*Moonrise is at 7:39 p.m. and please

bring a flashlight or headlamp.

\*If there is deep snow, snow shoes are available for check-out (limited supply so please call to reserve).

Please contact the Visitor Center at (970) 626-5822 updates and snowshoe information.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TRI-STATE, PARTNERS ADVANCE LOW CARBON ENERGY USE ACROSS COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

WESTMINSTER-Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association joins the national Beneficial Electrification League (BEL), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and others today to announce establishment of the BEL's first state chapter, which will advance beneficial electrification in Colorado. Additional participants in launching the Beneficial Electrification League of Colorado (BEL-CO) include the Colorado Energy Office (CEO), the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET). Beneficial electrification (BE) promotes the efficient use of electricity to replace fossil fuels to benefit consumers, help improve the environment and provide a more robust and resilient energy system. BE creates new and exciting opportunities to achieve local, state, regional and national economic and environmental goals. BEL and the Colorado chapter are non-profits focused on the advancement of market acceptance for BE concepts, policies, practices, technologies and business models.

BEL was launched nationally in 2018, with founding support from NRDC and NRECA, to facilitate the exchange of ideas, experience, education, awareness, and market and policy analysis to accelerate BE solutions, such as infrastructure for electric vehicles, access to highly efficient electric heating and cooling systems such as heat pumps, rebates for electric equipment such as lawn mowers or leaf blowers, and a variety of other uses.

While BEL-CO is being launched by Tri-State, BEL and others, it will be an open organization seeking to bring together interested researchers, government agencies, members of the public and other stakeholders, including other utilities, to share the benefits of electrification with all Coloradans. The BEL-CO chapter allows

members and others to participate in educational seminars, exchange information and promote BE.

Organizations and individuals are welcome to join the chapter to advance the broad objective of improving lives and livelihoods in our communities by sharing the benefits of lower-emission and lower-cost efficient electric resources.

"Beneficial Electrification is one of the central commitments of our Responsible Energy Plan at Tri-State. With a cleaner grid and expanded use of electricity, we can advance low-carbon technologies across Colorado's economy," said Duane Highley, Tri-State's CEO. "As an association of mostly rural electric cooperatives and public power districts, we see this exciting opportunity to coordinate with our founding partners and others as key to sharing the opportunities of the energy transition with our rural and urban neighbors."

"Beneficial Electrification is a tool that will help Colorado meet its energy and climate goals, and we are looking forward to working with Tri-State and other stakeholders to advance innovative solutions for our state," said Will Toor, executive director of the Colorado Energy Office. "Colorado's electric co-ops have encouraged the beneficial use of electricity in the communities they serve for many years," added Kent Singer, executive director at CREA. "The creation of the Beneficial Electrification League of Colorado will provide a platform that CREA's members can use to enhance their beneficial electrification efforts throughout the state."

"We are excited to work collaboratively with other organizations to advance electrification technologies that in turn will help Colorado meet its stringent greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals," said Howard Geller, executive director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET).

"Colorado is leading the way in establish-

ing a state-level organization dedicated to advancing beneficial electrification, which can reduce customer

energy costs, cut climate-heating emissions, and help make the air cleaner for all of us to breathe," said Kit Kennedy, senior director of the Climate and Clean Energy Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Replacing polluting fossil fuel equipment with efficient electric alternatives powered by clean electricity is one of the most important and effective opportunities for dealing with the climate crisis." "It's encouraging to see the collaboration around electrification that is taking place in Colorado," said Jim Spiers, senior vice president, Business and Technology Strategies for NRECA. "As consumers and policymakers learn about electricity's environmental and economic benefits, state and local efforts can help pave the way for a more responsible future by electrifying homes, businesses and other sectors of the economy."

Gary Connett, BEL co-chair, welcomes the addition of the Colorado Chapter to the Beneficial Electrification League, added: "This is an important step in bringing the mission of the League from the national to the state and local level where electrification must happen. The BEL of Colorado will work to bring the incredible benefits of Beneficial Electrification to co-op members and other utility customers in the Mile-High State."

With so many opportunities for BE to make a difference for consumers and the environment, the BEL and BEL-CO founders hope the Colorado chapter will be the first of many state or regional chapters.







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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### GMUG ANNOUNCES PILE BURNING FOR GUNNISON RANGER DISTRICTS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

GUNNISON – Fire Management Officials from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District have announced plans to burn slash piles over the next few months. Most of the pile burns will occur between October through January, pending favorable weather and appropriate ground and vegetation conditions.

The objectives of prescribed pile burns is to reduce the risk of larger wildfires and improve ecosystem health by removing debris and vegetation, or fuels, through the planned ignition of slash piles. Slash piles are constructed from the accumulated debris from fuel reduction and hazard tree removal projects. The piles will be burned in project areas where other means of disposal are not feasible.

Safety of firefighters and the public are the most important factors considered when planning a prescribed burn. Fire managers have developed detailed plans and obtained smoke permits from the State of Colorado for each of the planned burns.

The following prescribed pile burns are planned on the Gunnison Ranger District:

<u>Project Area/Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Number and Type</u>
Sage	Los Pinos Pass area	5 Machine Piles
Divide	Domes Lake area	40 Machine Piles
Pauline	Old Agency area	150 Machine Piles
Cathedral	Old Agency area	100 Machine Piles
Stewie	Old Agency area	100 Machine Piles
Big Meadows	Old Agency area	150 Machine Piles
Still Beetle	Old Agency area	50 Machine Piles
Quill	Old Agency area	200 Machine Piles
Cooler	Old Agency area	100 Machine Piles
Willow Mesa	Old Agency area	100 Machine Piles
Skeleton	North Pass area	200 Machine Piles
Millswitch	Sargents area	175 Machine Piles
Last Tree Salvage	Lake City area	150 Machine Piles
Mill Creek II	Lake City area	100 Machine Piles
Slumgullion, HWY 149	Lake City area	600 Hand Piles
Crystal Creek	Taylor Canyon area	10 Hand Piles
Murdie Subdivision	Taylor Park area	100 Hand Piles
Taylor Park	Taylor Park area	50 Machine Piles
West Mountain	Pitkin area	500 Hand Piles

"We will only ignite these prescribed fires if conditions are ideal for a safe, effective burn, as well as for good smoke dispersal consistent with project-specific permit conditions of the Colorado Smoke Management Permit," stated Pat Medina, East Zone Fire Management Officer.

For information on prescribed burns, pile burns, wildfires and fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests fire information line at 970-874-6602, visit the GMUG forest website: [www.fs.usda.gov/gmug](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), GMUG fire information Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo/> or Twitter: [https://twitter.com/GMUG\\_NF](https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF).



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT WE HAVE DEPENDS ON US

*Editor:*

Our Constitution under the First Amendment gives every citizen the right if not the obligation to question our elected officials regarding any subject pertaining to how government operates, funding, expenditures and transparency issues just to name a few. For many citizens speaking truth to the powerful is difficult. Government at all levels does not like to be questioned. Elected officials' and hired bureaucrats' agendas seem in many cases to be all that counts. There are three things that many in government expect from the citizen in spite of the 'you are always welcome' mantra. That is, we are not to notice what goes on, not to care and never to speak up with direct challenges to their positions.

During this election period many citizens have stepped forward to present various positions. I thank them.

I, for one, will continue to ask questions, probe and even expose counter points of views. I hope all Montrose Citizens continue to inspect every aspect of government and demand full accountability.

Vote NO on 2A and on CC. We need and want no more taxes when the bureaucrats already have more than enough of our money.

*Bill Ramsey, Montrose*

### DEMOCRATS IGNORE PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Editor:*

The Democrats' constant personal attacks, vicious lies, and now baseless impeachment attacks on President Trump has nothing to do with him. Instead, their goal is to punish anyone who voted for him and distract attention from all of his positive achievements for America. But it's not working. Within days of Nancy Pelosi's announcement of an impeachment "inquiry", the Trump campaign raised \$13 million from fundraising activities within 72 hours with 50,000 new donors joining in. His rallies draw huge overflow crowds.

Since President Trump's election, 4 million new jobs have been created with unemployment rates at record lows for minorities and women. Wages are up and some 3.9 million Americans are off Obama's food stamps. Poverty levels are the lowest ever recorded. The stock market is constantly breaking new records, the biggest tax cuts and reforms were signed into law from the Tax Cuts and Jobs act with not one Democrat vote!

President Trump has signed extensive legislation concerning health care; Improving National Suicide Hotline, increasing childhood cancer research, changed Medicare 340B program saving seniors \$320 on drugs in 2018, cancelled Obama's individual mandate penalty, repealed Obama's "death panels", proposed Title X to prevent taxpayers from funding abortions, \$6 billion funding to fight opioid abuse. The list is endless!

Why is it Democrats want to destroy this president who loves America and has sacrificed and accomplished so much for her? They haven't done anything for America since gaining House majority almost three years ago. Instead, so twisted by hate, they have attacked, harassed and investigated Trump unmercifully with lies and he has always been found innocent by the Trump-hating lawyers who did the investigation!

Looking at all those who hate President Trump makes him even more likeable!

*Jerry Bartholome, Montrose*



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## GOVERNOR DECLARES NOVEMBER COLORADO APPRENTICESHIP MONTH

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER-Last week, Colorado Governor Jared Polis issued a proclamation declaring November Colorado Apprenticeship Month, in recognition of the increasingly important role such programs play in helping Coloradans gain in-demand skills while earning a paycheck.

"Apprenticeships give people of all ages an opportunity to hone existing skills and gain new ones," said Joe Barela, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

"As we prepare for today and tomorrow's rapidly changing economy, the importance of upskilling and reskilling will only grow. Apprenticeships will provide countless Coloradans with opportunities to remain competitive in a quickly evolving labor market that demands lifelong learning."

During Colorado Apprenticeship Month, CDLE, along with the Business Experiential Learning (BEL) Commission, the Colorado Workforce Development Council, and workforce boards, will be hosting a "Celebration of Excellence" at the Governor's Residence at the Boettcher Mansion on Nov. 5.

The event, sponsored by FirstBank and CareerWise Colorado, will honor appren-

tices, their mentors, and employers who have strong apprenticeship programs, and partnerships that further the adoption of apprenticeship programs.

Governor Polis' proclamation comes as employers struggle to find skilled talent in a state with historically low unemployment rates. At the same time, many Coloradans find themselves without the skills or experience they need to find good jobs. Apprenticeships help alleviate employers' skills gaps while also equipping apprentices with in-demand skills.

An increasing number of employers are recognizing the benefits of such programs; from 2013 to 2018, the number of apprentices grew from 375,000 to 585,000, a 56 percent increase, according to the [United States Department of Labor](#). A [data sheet](#) by the Utah Department of Workforce Services also notes that the return on investment for a registered apprenticeship program is \$1.46 for every \$1 invested, that 90 percent of apprentices retain employment after their apprenticeship ends, and that apprenticeship graduates earn, on average, \$300,000 more over the course of their career than their peers who don't complete an apprenticeship.

To view the Governor's proclamation in full, [click here](#).



WHEREAS, Colorado has recognized "earn while you learn" apprenticeships as a foundation of the State's continually growing and developing economy; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans require new skills and training for their future in the workforce—a future that can be lived with hope, knowing that your children can experience the American Dream where there are doors of opportunity, and the keys to unlock them are available to all; and

WHEREAS, for years, the state path has been high school graduation immediately followed by higher education, graduation, and then work, yet most high schoolers will not experience that ideal, as we must create more doors of opportunity, have the keys to unlock them, and celebrate and honor all paths; and

WHEREAS, registered apprenticeships in construction, manufacturing, and the skilled trades, and now, through innovation and industry leadership, apprenticeships in non-traditional areas such as healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, transportation, logistics, aerospace, energy, and housing fields, the keys are at work; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has become a national leader in work-based learning by identifying high-demand jobs and the skills they require; connecting industry sector partnerships to address skills gaps, offer in industry-designed apprenticeships leading to credentials and career pathways, and enabling a labor market-based on identified skills; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's industries are building apprenticeships at scale for high school students and workers facing mid-career job changes alike, such that Colorado has more than 8,000 apprentices with an average age of 28, working in hundreds of occupations; and

WHEREAS, we plan with urgency and anticipation for the next generation of all Colorado high school students to be non-traditional apprentices, exploring well-paying career opportunities, and shaping roles, industries and belonging to tomorrow's workforce; and

WHEREAS, we see this future and embrace it, as first Colorado will build a thriving workforce whose competencies will fuel our industries to shine on the global marketplace for years to come;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby proclaim the month of November, 2019 as,

### COLORADO APPRENTICESHIP MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of November, 2019.



*Jared Polis*  
Governor

*Courtesy image.*

To find out more about how your organization can adopt an apprenticeship program, visit [Apprenticeship Evolution](#), a product of the BEL Commission.

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





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**Bathrooms:**

**Area: 6,733 Sq. Ft.**

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LEARN ABOUT CURRENT RESEARCH ON PINYON JAYS NOV. 7



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-At 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Montrose Field House, Black Canyon Audubon presents "Current research on Pinyon Jays."

Biologist Shawn Conner will speak about current research on Pinyon Jays which are declining across their range. These local birds nest in large colonies, and flock together in groups of up to 500 birds in search of food. They have an expandable throat which allows them to collect as many as 40 seeds and cache them for later use. While they live in pinyon/juniper forests, flocks frequently visit local bird feeders where they devour sunflower seeds. For more information, call 970-688-0757.

*Pictured at left, a group of pinyon jays. Courtesy photo.*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE FOR DELTA COUNTY

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA-The Delta County Department of Health is reporting 1 additional human case of West Nile virus for a total West Nile virus case count of thirty-five. Please see the Delta County Website: [deltacounty.com](http://deltacounty.com) for more details on previously reported cases.

The additional human case is a male from the Surface Creek area of the county, diagnosed on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The Health Department strongly urges the public to take precautions and take preventative measures against being bitten by mosquitoes and becoming infected with the virus.

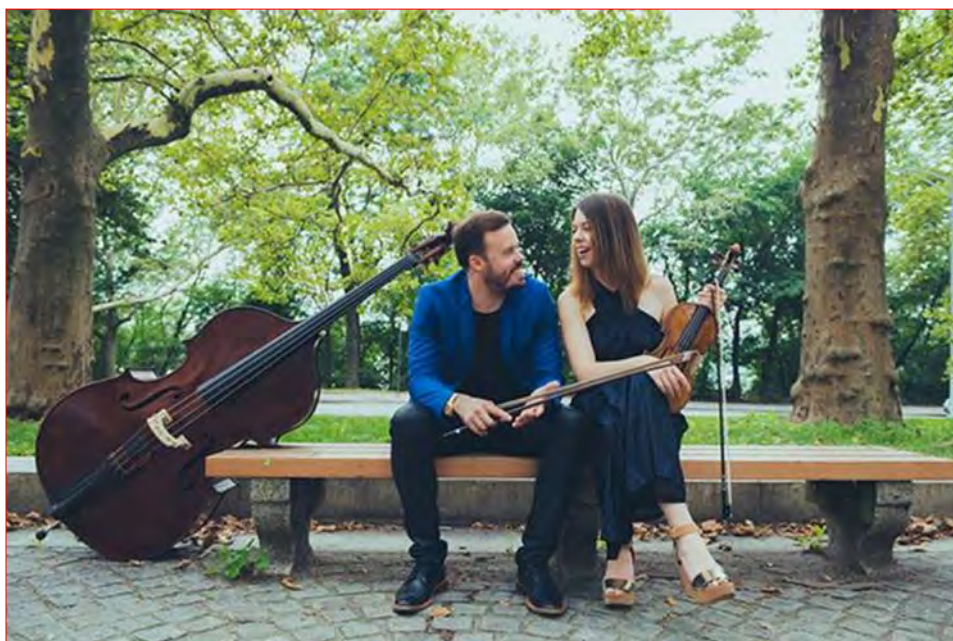
The following prevention tips are encouraged:

- Drain standing water on property.
- Dusk and Dawn- avoid being outdoors at this time when mosquito activity is high.
- DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in bug repellent.
- Dress in long sleeves and pants during dusk and dawn and in areas where mosquitoes are active.
- Screen windows and doors of your home to keep the mosquitoes out.

ISSUE 235 Nov. 4, 2019

# ART & SOL

## HEAR AWARD-WINNING VIOLINIST TESSA LARK & COMPOSER MICHAEL THURBER IN TELLURIDE



*Award-winning violinist Tessa Lark and virtuoso composer/bassist Michael Thurber have come together to create a duo unlike any other. Courtesy photo.*

tre in Telluride.

Award-winning violinist Tessa Lark and virtuoso composer/bassist Michael Thurber have come together to create a duo unlike any other.

By fusing their classical and American music influences, they have created a wholly original sound, which they bring to audiences around the country in a charismatic live show.

Highlights of their 2019-20 season include a headlining debut performance at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival; a debut at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center in collaboration with legendary flautist Marina Piccinini; and the guest-hosting of a live broadcast of NPR's From The Top.

The duo's debut album *Invention*, which intersperses arrangements of J.S. Bach's Two-Part Inventions with original compositions by Lark, Thurber, and Eddie Barbash, was released on August 8, 2019.

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

Holiday Kick-Off at Bob Saunders Theatre; Tickets: \$25 Student, \$45 Adult \$10 more at the door.

*Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE-Palm Arts and the Telluride Chamber Music Association Present

Award Winning Violinist Tessa Lark and Composer Michael Thurber on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 PM at the Bob Saunders Thea-

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS 'BIG FUSS ABOUT A SMALL POT: THE MICKELSEN POT FROM CENTRAL UTAH' NOV. 20

#### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Charmaine Thompson of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Price, Utah will present a talk in Montrose. It will be about a whole vessel found in that area of Utah, and what scientists were able to learn from studying it in context with all that is known about the archaeology of Eastern Utah. Says Thompson, "Utah was occupied between about 100 BC and AD 1300 by two groups of people who farmed, lived in villages, and made beautiful pottery. Archaeologically, we call them by different names, the Fremont in central and northern Utah, and the Ancestral Puebloans in southern Utah. Who were these people, and what was the nature of their relationship? The amazing discovery of a whole Ancestral Puebloan ceramic vessel in central Utah give us insights into these questions. This little pot provides us with a window into the time and people of ancient Utah." Thompson has worked over 30 years in archaeology and public education in eastern Utah. The public is invited to the free presentation at the Chipeta Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Methodist Church of Montrose, 19 S. Park Street.

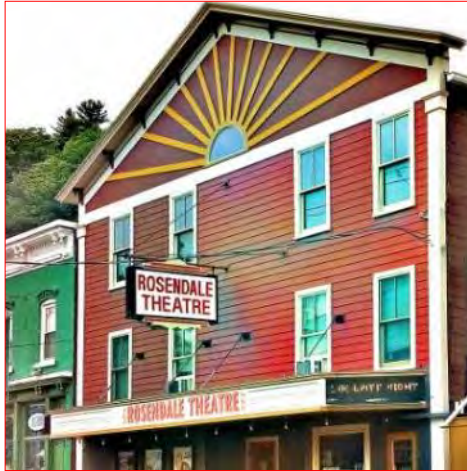


# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## Back from a visit to upstate New York



*Fishing for Rainbows in an upstate lake with Gerry McDonald (photo by Gerry McDonald)*



*Rosendale's historic Theatre (courtesy photo)*



*On a foray for mushrooms in New York's autumn woods (photo by Gerry McDonald)*

**COEYMAN'S HOLLOW** ... Pronounced "quee-mans," this section of a township in Albany County's foothills outside the state capitol is the home of Gerry and Carol McDonald – locals who grew up in the Hudson Valley and whom I met on a mushroom trip to Chile last year. Three weeks traveling the southern half of that long narrow Pacific Rim nation last spring (their fall) turned us into good friends. Going to visit this year was a way to deepen that friendship ... Retired Dr. Joel Kaufman, a long-time buddy from Alamosa, also made the Chilean trip, and decided to join the visit to the McDonald's – although other priorities made our visits only partially overlap, he arriving before me and then leaving halfway through the week. A glorious time for all. The autumn colors were just peaking, although more muted this year for being late ... The McDonalds have a stunning home on more than 100 acres with broad lawns, gardens, and a pond. Gerry is a fine wood craftsman, building cherry and black walnut furniture to last -- using joinery instead of nails. The house he constructed is spacious, with a graceful gambrel roof and an eyebrow dormer. Both Joel and I had our own rooms, his the guest bedroom and mine the study where Gerry used microscopes to examine spores and other tiny mycological features ... Carol -- a top administrator with Albany Medical Center Hospital, one of the top ten medical facilities in

New York State -- keeps a beautifully stylish house, an incredible garden of dahlias and is one of those special people who pays close attention to all those compassionate touches of gifts and surprises that make a guest feel more than welcome. More like family.

**CHILE** ... The visit's timing coincided with deep social unrest in Chile as protesters all over the country had risen up to rampage against the income inequality that has accompanied this Southern Hemisphere country's economic success following the disastrous years of the military coup. With many friends in Chile, it was a time of concern for us. But our friends like mycologist Giuliana Furci and photographer Vero López were safe, we learned, and they expressed support for the demonstrations ... Giuliana: *"Things are in turmoil. But equality, peace and hope are the underlying feelings that momentarily surface amid fright, worry and anger. We will be ok. Our people cannot continue to tolerate this inequality. It's just too much"* ... Vero: *"We are trying to stay calm in this hard moment that Chile is living -- tyranny against the people. But people are not afraid anymore."*

**FANTASTIC FUNGI** ... This amazing Louie Schwarzberg film was playing in Rosen-

dale, a nearby tourist gem, shortly after I arrived. So, Joel, Gerry, Carol and I drove down there for a delicious dinner at the Garden House Café and to see the movie at the historic Rosendale Theatre. John Michelotti of Catskill Fungi whose family has an old farm in Big Indian was another of our friends from the Chile trip, and he was slated to join a panel to talk about the film. Luckily we got our tickets early as not only was it sold out, but the theater had to turn 100 people away ... As I make a brief appearance in the film, John invited me up to the panel with local independent filmmaker Pam Kray and Fantastic Fungi executive producers Marcina Hale and Stephen Apkon. The questions were many and the crowd enthusiastic. The film has been enjoying sold out audiences all over the country.

**CLARA** ... That was the name of the McDonalds' family dog, a Kuvasz approaching her last years. Hungarian livestock guardian dogs, kuvasock are very protective and not "pettable" by strangers. They gave me biscuit treats



## Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

when we arrived to help friend her, and she only tried to nip me once, when over-eagerly I reached out to stroke her head. A no-no at first. But eventually she let me pet her, although I was advised to steer very clear when she was eating and to not step on her accidentally ... Ironically, the Snyder Ranch that surrounds Cloud Acre uses multiple kuvasock to protect their sheep. So I actually knew the breed. And had learned to be respectful. Beautiful dogs, but not for the inattentive.

**CHILEAN TRIP REUNION** ... A couple nights later the McDonalds invited for dinner Irene Lieberman, widow of the late mycologist Gary Lincoff (for whom a street in Manhattan was recently named), and the couple Alan Esner and Jamie Newman, as

well as John Michelotti and his lady Brittany. It was fun sharing stories again, and catching up on lives. I had an especially wonderful talk with Irene, whom I'd known for 39 years, but only in passing at the mushroom festival. A gifted graphic designer, she is a marvelous woman in her own right. Excited about her son's upcoming marriage ... Earlier in the day we took a lovely walk about the Hudson River on a public trail and later a second jaunt about the McDonald estate, where we found various mushrooms, explored the rock wall ruins that dot the property from old Dutch homesteads, and marveled at the diversity of hardwoods on the property ... Although no one found any ticks, in spite of traipsing through the woods off-trail at times, Gerry did pull a tick off Clara, and it

was devilishly tiny, the size of a small ant. Had me scratching every slightest itch for the rest of the week.

**WEEKLY QUOTA** ... "We Americans are reluctant to learn a foreign language of our own species, let alone another species. But imagine the possibilities. Imagine the access we would have to different perspectives, the things we might see through other eyes, the wisdom that surrounds us. We don't have to figure out everything by ourselves: there are intelligences other than our own, teachers all around us. Imagine how much less lonely the world would be." -Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

## THE TALKING GOURD

### Hudson Valley fishing

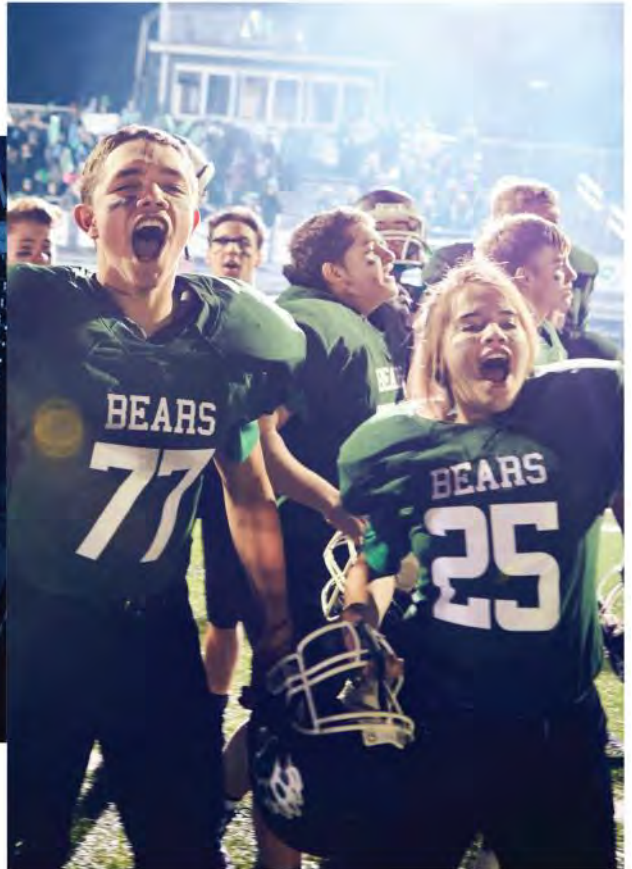
Two of us on a lake  
in a canoe with oar locks  
Small hooks. Canadian worms

Ripping out the gills  
after pulling the hook  
with an angler's metal tongs

Stringing a line  
through their open lips  
& dangling them over the side

Later pulling them on board  
& depositing the catch on ice  
in a plastic chest

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sauteed with rosemary  
& eaten. Full circle



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### WANT TWO VIP TICKETS TO THE 2020 MONTROSE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL?

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Do you want to win two VIP tickets to the Montrose Wine & Food Festival?

Then become a monthly donor of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC)! Starting Nov. 1, 2019 through

Dec. 31, 2019, anyone who becomes a monthly donor, for any monthly amount, will be entered into a drawing to win two VIP tickets to the Montrose Wine & Food Festival (valued at \$200). The winner will be chosen and announced on March 1, 2020 (existing monthly donors will be automatically entered to win). As an added bonus, for any amount you donate to the BCBGC, you will be eligible to receive 50% back of that donation on your Colorado state income tax as part of the child care tax credit. So sign up to become a monthly donor today at <http://coloradogives.org/BlackCanyonBoysGirlsClub> to not only get a chance to win an awesome prize but to help make great futures start here in the Montrose and Olathe communities. For questions on becoming a monthly donor, please contact Executive Director, Bud Taylor, at [btaylor@bcbgc.org](mailto:btaylor@bcbgc.org). For more information on the Montrose Wine & Food Festival, please visit [www.montrosewinefestival.com](http://www.montrosewinefestival.com).



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- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



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### MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS HISTORY OF THE IDARADO MINE

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. *Montrose County Historical Society Presents: "The Idarado Mine,"* the history of the largest mining operation to ever exist in the San Juan Mountains. Bob Larson, geologist and longtime employee guides us through Idarado's geology, years of production and current reclamation activity. Held in Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Admission is free and the public is welcome. For more information call 323-6466.



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CPW HOPES ENHANCED WETLANDS WILL HELP BOREAL TOAD SURVIVAL

*Special to Art & Sol*

CREEDE – In mid-September Biologist Dan Cammack walked slowly along the edge of a boggy pond in the San Juan Mountains high above the San Luis Valley and peered into the mud and black water looking for a camouflaged critter the size of a dime.

After just a couple minutes, he saw the jumping movements of tiny boreal toads. The amphibians, colored a brownish-black, sat in the mud, on rocks, in the grass or moved on the top of the water attempting to stay clear of danger. Cammack had placed the toads in the ponds for the first time a few weeks earlier.

"Watch where you step," Cammack said, "We don't want to step on them."

The toads are precious. Twenty years ago, they were abundant throughout Colorado's high country. Today, however, they are scarce as they battle the mysterious chytrid fungus that is threatening amphibians throughout the world. CPW biologists are working statewide to revive populations of these high-altitude amphibians that live from 8,000 to 13,000 feet. But as is the nature of wildlife research, biologists will not know for at least three years if the work will help toads survive.

To start the process, Cammack and his crew collected eggs from two wetlands in the Triangle Pass area near Crested Butte. The fertilized eggs, collected in early summer, were then taken to CPW's Native Aquatic Species Hatchery in Alamosa where they were hatched in captivity.

By late summer, they grew into tadpoles and were ready for stocking in the San Juans.

In the high country above the San Luis Valley, the West Fork fire in 2013 burned through 100,000 acres of forest. Paul

Jones, a now retired CPW biologist, had seen research that suggested burned areas might prevent development of the chytrid fungus. He also knew, based on historic records, that toads had once inhabited the area. So he worked with the Rio Grande National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the San Luis Valley Water Conservation District to build small levies in a wetland area to enhance and enlarge optimal reproductive boreal toad habitat. The area mimics wetlands created by beaver ponds – favorite breeding areas for toads.

In late August, Cammack and his crew released about 2,700 tadpoles for the first time into the ponds. He traveled back to the area in mid-September to check if the tadpoles had transitioned to toadlets. All along the edge of the five-acre pond, he saw toadlets moving, swimming and hiding.

"It looks like we have a lot of survival," Cammack said. "The next critical test comes when we come back next spring to see if they survived the winter and hibernation."

What is particularly challenging for the biologists is that young toads are less likely than adults to contract the fungus. So biologists have to wait to know if toads are affected.

"Making a determination about whether the site is positive for chytrid will not be established for about three years," Cammack explained. "And reproductive maturity is not reached for five or six years, so it will take patience to see if the toads will breed in these ponds."

Until then, Cammack and his crew will continue to collect eggs and release tadpoles into the ponds. The ongoing work is



*In an ongoing conservation project, CPW recently release 1,700 boreal toad toadlets in a wetland in the San Juan mountains. CPW courtesy photo.*

needed to maintain multiple "age classes" of the amphibians.

Cammack noted that he has found a few boreal toads at various locations in the mountains. However, outside of the Triangle Pass area, breeding in the wild has been unsuccessful.

"While each sighting is encouraging, the numbers are a mere shadow of the past when toads were once thriving in the region," Cammack said. "We hope that careful management and novel approaches to encourage reproduction will keep boreal toads from disappearing."

CPW biologists throughout the state are working on a variety of boreal toad conservation projects.

"We're working on creative ideas to help bring these toads back. Building these ponds in this burn area is one idea. Hopefully, one of them will work; but it will take time," Cammack said.

And he's hopeful: "With wildlife we have to manage with optimism."

Link to this video to see how CPW biologists are working on boreal toad restoration.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS-d8JL11\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS-d8JL11_o)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRESENTED WITH DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The Montrose chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women was presented with the Gold Achievement Award for its efforts in community outreach and voluntarism during 2018-19. The Colorado Federation of Republican Women accepted the award during the 40th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. CFRW Executive Director, Marilyn Harris, said it was one of only two awards given to the state of Colorado. With much pride, Harris presented the award to MCRW President, Dianna Coram at the Annual CFRW Convention and Meeting.

MCRW, focusing on its mission of educating women, awarded scholarships to two Montrose High School graduates during its District Meeting. The recipients of the \$1000 scholarships are Jayden Cassidy and Jenna Holyfield. The young women were celebrated for their academic achievements, as well as, their interest and knowledge of the need for women to participate in the cause of good governance.



*Senator SD6 Don Coram, Representative HD58 Marc Catlin, Scholarship Winners Jayden Cassidy, Jenna Holyfield, Senator SD8 Bob Rankin, and 3rd CD Member of Colorado State School Board Member Joyce Rankin. Courtesy photo.*



*Montrose County Republican Women President Dianna Coram accepting award from CFRW Executive Director Marilyn Harris.*



*Montrose High School 2019 Graduates Jayden Cassidy and Jenna Holyfield. MCRW \$1000 Scholarship Recipients. Courtesy photo.*

## A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...CAN WE PICK UP THE LITTER PLEASE?



**Jack Switzer.**  
**Mirror file photo.**

By Jack Switzer, 16  
MONTROSE-A cold, October wind was blowing past, leaves had already littered the ground. Everyone was wearing hoodies or winter coats. It wasn't supposed to be this cold that morning, but we live in Colora-

do. We knew what to expect. It was around 11:50 a.m., ten minutes after the school had let everyone out for lunch break. I had been chatting with a few friends I hadn't seen in a while.

Despite the cold, I was having a good time. That's when one of the freshmen tossed her plastic food container to the leaves beneath us.

"Hey pick that up, don't litter!" I said. She looked at me, puzzled as to why I would call her out. Instead of responding, she

motioned to the other piles of trash that had accumulated over time. After seeing that I couldn't think of anything to say, other than; "That's fair I guess."

Montrose has a litter problem, just like every other town. Big, small, or gigantic, it's become normal to turn a street corner and see empty bags of chips on the side of the street. Or a plastic bag being carried along by the wind. Still, this is something that shouldn't be called normal, and something needs to be done about it.

One possible solution would be to reinstate the regular street sweeping crew we seemed to have a few years back, I remember when I was younger City streets and sidewalks were much cleaner and well kept. What happened to them? Why is there so much litter now? This is a question of mine that I couldn't seem to find answers for while researching.

Still, I feel that if we were to bring the City street cleaning crew back, Montrose

would look much more appealing to anybody visiting; it would be beneficial in multiple ways to our small town.

Finally, I wanted to mention an organization that's working for the betterment of our Earth and taking on a seemingly impossible mission. Planting 20 MILLION trees in every continent on earth. So far, they have accumulated over 12 million dollars.

All of it is going to planting trees around the world. The organization is called "#Teamtrees" and every single dollar that is sent to them, means there will be one tree planted. They've even managed to partner up with Arbor Day.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### LEARN MORE ABOUT SISTER LIBRARIES: PLOVDIV, BULGARIA & MONTROSE, COLORADO

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Please join Montrose Regional Library on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-7 p.m. for a reception celebrating a photographic exhibit of life in Montrose and our sister library city, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Browse the wonderful display of photos provided by our friends in Plovdiv, as well as the companion photos of Montrose and surrounding areas. The same display occurred earlier this year at the Ivan Vazov National Library in Plovdiv. Light refreshments will be served, and as a special treat, distinguished former Colorado State Librarian Nancy Bolt will have an assortment of authentic Bulgarian jewelry available for purchase.

### OURAY ELKS VETERANS' DINNER AND TURKEY BINGO NOV. 9

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

OURAY-It's November, and that means it's time for Ouray Elks Lodge 492's annual Veterans' dinner and Turkey Bingo Saturday, November 9th, open to the public. The lodge is providing a delicious spaghetti dinner for \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12, or \$25 for a family of four, beginning at 5:30 PM, followed by Bingo at 7:00 PM, and all veterans eat for free! Bingo cards are \$5.00 each, and winners of each of the 10 games will get a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings. There will also be a harvest dessert auction, and drawing for the Elks' gun raffle.

"This is a very popular event, and every dime we take in will go directly to Veterans' support programs," said veterans' event coordinator Manette Steele. "Support of our veterans and active troops is one of the Elks' most important programs, both nationally and locally. Plan on having a great evening of food and fun with us that will directly support America's Veterans. Last year we raised \$1000, and we'd like to beat that this year. Come out, bring the family and enjoy the whole evening."



## Commercial Possibilities



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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@bosombuddieswc.org](mailto:info@bosombuddieswc.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 through 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 through Dec. 11, 10am - 11am. Family-friendly story time featuring stories, songs, and activities. Toddler-preschool age appropriate.

### MONTHLY-

**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. 4**-Monday Nov. 4 at 6:30 at Montrose Library, Citizens' Climate Lobby presents National Geographic's Global Meltdown with Bill Nye and Arnold Schwarzenegger explores Earth's warming through the 5 stages of grief to seek solutions and help ease polarization. All welcome.

**Nov. 5**-Talking Gourds Poetry Club is delighted to welcome “mother poet” Barbara Rockman of Santa Fe to our early November club meeting as featured performer. Mark the date: Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at the gallery headquarters of our partner -- Telluride Arts, 135 West Pacific Avenue in Telluride.

**Nov. 5**-From 4-5 p.m., Montrose Regional Library Chess Club-Join us in the library meeting room for once monthly chess club, chess boards and pieces provided. Children under age 7 must have an adult with them, no sign-ups required.

**Nov. 6**-Adulting 101: Diet & Exercise. On Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m., in the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Learn how to maintain a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise. Move more – exercise less: Tips for embracing the body's need for movement and escaping the exercise doldrums. Presented by: John Wagner, Fitness Leader, Montrose Recreation District, and Lindsey Fishering MS, RD, CNSC, Dietitian, Montrose Memorial Hospital. This program is free and open to adults of all ages. Refreshments are provided.

**Nov. 6**-On Wednesday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. *Montrose County Historical Society Presents: “The Idarado Mine,”* the history of the largest mining operation to ever exist in the San Juan Mountains. Bob Larson, geologist and longtime employee guides us through Idarado's geology, years of production and current reclamation activity. Held in Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Admission is free and the public is welcome. For more information call 323-6466.

**Nov. 7**-At 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Montrose Field House, Black Canyon Audubon presents "Current research on Pinyon Jays." Biologist Shawn Conner will speak about current research on Pinyon Jays which are declining across their range.. For more information, call 970-688-0757.

**Nov. 8-9**-Join Ridgway Creative District (RCD) and Ridgway Chautauqua Society at the Sherbino Theater for the fifth annual Ridgway Independent Film Festival on Friday and Saturday evenings, Nov. 8 and 9 from 6:30 – 9:30PM. Doors open at 6 PM at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton St., Ridgway.

**Nov. 9**--Veterans turkey bingo and spaghetti dinner, Ouray Elks lodge, all proceeds go to veterans support. Spaghetti dinner 5:30 pm \$10 adults, \$5/ kids under 12, or \$25 family of four, all Vets eat for free! Bingo starts 7 pm, \$5/card, all 10 game winners get a turkey with all the trimmings. Special harvest dessert auction, too! Open to the public, come support our veterans! 970-626-4239 for information.

**Nov.11**-Monday, Nov. 11, 2019 at 11 a.m. Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 784 presents a Veterans Day Remembrance at Grandview Cemetery on Hogback Road. There will be lots of flags and a guest speaker.

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

**Nov. 14**-City of Montrose Budget Open House, 4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 107 S. Cascade Avenue.

**Nov. 15**-5th Annual Crab Crack! All you can eat crab & shrimp with all the fixings. Friday Nov. 15, 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Tickets at <https://www.blackcanyontickets.com/event/5th-annual-crab-crack/>. All proceeds benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club.

**Nov. 15**-Join us for Friday Flicks at the Montrose Regional Library. Meet in the story time room! 4 to 5:30 p.m. Ever wanted your own dragon? Come watch How to Train Your Dragon to satisfy all fire-breathing, flying needs.

**Nov. 16**-Native American Heritage Program, 11 a.m. to Noon at the Montrose Regional Library. Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with guest flutist Bobby Jimenez and a craft and game provided by the Ute Indian Museum.

**Nov. 18**-Montrose Regional Library welcomes Library Voices: Saving Creation, presented by Robin Smith on Monday, Nov. 18, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Montrose Library Meeting Room.

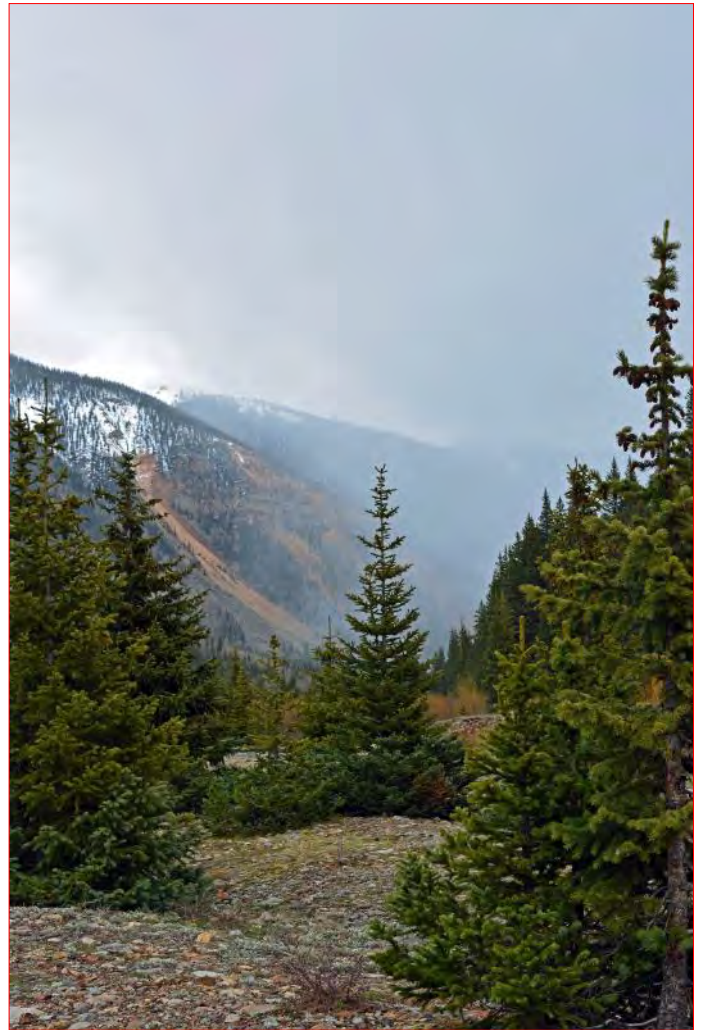
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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN

*Photographer Deb Reimann captured this image of a snow squall at Mineral Creek, Silverton.*



## MIRROR IMAGE: OUT & ABOUT

*A fisherman casts a line in the Uncompahgre River Sunday in this Mirror staff photo.*



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