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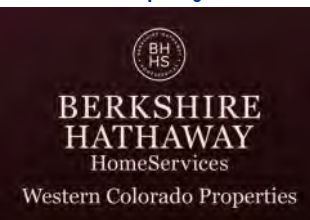


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the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 351 Nov. 18, 2019

RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER HOSTS MRCOG

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-River Valley Family Health Center hosted the quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Organizations represented included the City of Montrose, Montrose County, Montrose Recreation District (MRD), RE-1J School District, Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Montrose Regional Library, Colorado Mesa University (CMU), All Points Transit and Montrose County Housing Authority.

The MRCOG roundtable discussion is an opportunity for community leaders to report on their current projects, discuss collective issues, and identify where they can collaborate with one

[Continued pg 18](#)



On Wednesday, Nov. 13, the River Valley Family Health Center hosted the quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG). River Valley CEO Jeremy Carroll (far right) gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the health center's impact on the community and on the patients they serve. Photo by Gail Marvel.

RE-1J SAYS GOODBYE TO LONGTIME SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The room was packed as the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov.12. All directors were present except for District E Director Sarah Fishing and District G Director Stephen Bush.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Alexis Beller shared a presentation, "Don't Get Chile," about her recent visit to Chile as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

"It's going to be hard to fit my whole year's worth of learning into 10 or 15 minutes," Beller said, as she showed slides of the country and her travels. Rotary Youth Exchange helps thousands of students travel and broaden their horizons each year. "Here in Montrose, 27 students have gone to as many countries," she said.

[Continued pg 11](#)



Superintendent Stephen Schiell called a recess to serve cake in honor of retiring school board members Phoebe Benziger and Tom West at the Nov. 12 School Board-meeting.

in this
issue

Art Goodtimes'
Up Bear creek!

Reader Photo Spotlight
With Deb Reimann!

A Fresh Point of View
With Jack Switzer

Regional news briefs
& much, much more!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CITY RELEASES 2019 SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY EVENTS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—The annual **Montrose Community Christmas Tree lighting** will be held on the steps of the Historic Montrose County Courthouse, 320 South First Street, on Friday, Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

The tree lighting program features Christmas carols performed by area school children, live music, and an appearance from Santa. After the ceremony Santa's cabin, located at 514 South First Street, will officially open for the season from 7 to 9 p.m. Santa is scheduled to appear at the cabin from 4 to 6 p.m. on December 14, 15, 21, and 22.

On Saturday Nov. 30, portions of Main Street will close to traffic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for **Small Business Saturday**. Most businesses in the downtown-shopping district are planning special promotions for the holiday season. Listen to live music on multiple street corners on Main Street, and enjoy free carriage rides, a children's crafts area, and; a live ice-sculpting demonstration. The annual Montrose Bucks sale will be held at the City's Visitor

Center pop-up shop, 324 Main Street. Residents can buy \$100 in Montrose Bucks and receive an \$20 in Montrose Bucks for free. The promotion is cash-only and each household is allowed a \$200 limit, which equals \$240 in Montrose Bucks. Montrose Bucks are accepted at most Montrose area retailers. The sale is open while supplies last.

The annual **Montrose Parade of Lights** is scheduled for Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. along historic Main Street. The annual parade draws thousands to downtown Montrose. This year the city has received applications for several dozen floats participating in the parade. This year's parade theme is "A Very Vintage Christmas," and will feature many unique floats representing Montrose, from illuminated automobiles to themed entries featuring concepts from agriculture to the arts. Santa, as always, will make an appearance at the end of the parade. Main Street will be closed from the intersection at Stough Avenue to Rio Grande Avenue, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please use caution when driving in the

downtown area due to the large gatherings of pedestrians.

The annual **Garden of Lights** will be held at the Montrose Botanical Gardens at 1800

Pavilion Drive on Dec. 14, 21, 22, 23, 26, and 27, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Garden of Lights features unique lighting displays paired with the organic infrastructure of the botanical garden grounds including a tunnel of lights and illuminated garden paths. Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, hot drinks, live music, and; appearances by Santa and holiday storytellers. Admission for children under four years of age is free.

Children ages 5-18 are \$3, adult admission is \$5, and admission for a family of four (up to two adults) is \$12. Tickets are available at Camelot Gardens, located at 16612 South Townsend Ave, and at Fabula, located at 317 East Main Street. For more information visit Montrose-Gardens.org.



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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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PIZZA & POLITICS NOV. 21

Healthcare: Rising Costs & Future of Managed Care

PIZZA & POLITICS will host a special panel of local Healthcare Professionals on Thursday, November 21st. Guest speakers are James Kiser, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital; Jordan Luskin, M.D. of San Juan Urology; Justin Tanner, M.D. of Cedar Point Health; and Joe Adragna, M.D. and co-founder of Peak Professionals.

The panel of experts will discuss how the rising cost of healthcare affects their respective organizations, the impact on patients and local community, and will the future be cost prohibitive or a system of managed care? Panel will offer potential solutions to improve healthcare for all. Q&A will follow.

Location: "Turn of the Century Saloon" on 121 N 4th St in Montrose. Pizza & beverage. Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Please feel free to invite your friends, neighbors, and family.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED EITHER VOTE FOR OR AGAINST 2A

Editor:

I would like to thank those Montrose residents that took the time to either vote for or against 2A, the sales tax to fund the expansion of our Police Dept.

I am disappointed that not every eligible voter took the time to voice their opinion by voting. Looking back, maybe the proposal language lacked the clarity to define why it was needed and of course meeting all the required legalize wording always causes some confusion.

However, each governmental entity has the responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for its residents and visitors. If I'm a visitor to any other city, county, or state I expect to be safe and be protected by local Law Enforcement and other emergency services and facilities. It is a way of life we have grown up with in our country. This is not true in many Countries around the World.

When a non-resident of an area uses any of the local services you pay for that privilege by paying taxes on gasoline, foods, restaurants, lodging etc.

Gee. why do I have to pay to get into a State or Federal Park, I don't live there? But I guess as a citizen of the country or state I'm kind of a part owner.

And by the way, I don't spend much time driving around on Montrose County roads, but I pay a County Road and Bridge and Public Safety tax!! Is that fair?

I did not complain when there was a vote for those tax increases, in fact I voted for it.

I believe it is called working together for the benefit of all.

Doug Glaspell, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BOARD DIRECTOR VACANCY NOTICE: MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The seat of Board Director of District F has become vacated. Letters of Interest and resumes will be accepted until 4 pm on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019.

Below are the legal qualifications for director as stated by law:

- A resident of the school district and a registered voter, as shown on the books of the county clerk and recorder, for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the election
- A resident of the director district that they are seeking a seat
- 18 years or older by the date of the election
- A citizen of the United States

If necessary, the Board will conduct interviews of candidates for the vacancy in public session of any regular or special meeting, but no later than December 10, 2019. They anticipate appointing a person to fill the vacancy at the December 10, 2019 Board meeting and such person will serve until the regular school board election to be held in November 2019, at which time the directorship will be open for election for the two remaining years on a four-year term of office. Visit www.MCSD.org for a map of district boundaries.

LIGHTS OF LIFE EVENT DEC. 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-HopeWest is hosting Lights of Life, a memorial ceremony, on Thursday, Dec. 5. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S. Townsend Avenue. This event is free and open to the public. Our Lights of Life memorial ceremony is celebrated with candlelight, music and an inspirational message that honors loved ones. Join us as we reflect on cherished memories that we all hold close to our hearts. Become part of the HopeWest tradition and honor your loved one with a personalized ornament or luminary of life available at HopeWestCO.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DR. MINDY MILLER MOVING TO MEMBERSHIP-BASED HEALTHCARE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--- Dr. Mindy Miller, a family physician who has practiced in Montrose since 1997, will no longer be requiring or accepting insurance. Administrative burdens and bureaucratic rules are increasing the cost of healthcare and have created barriers between physicians and patients. Dr. Miller will be accepting less than one-third the number of patients than the average physician in the U.S. Dr. Miller is pre-enrolling patients now under a membership-based model of healthcare and will start seeing patients on Nov. 18, 2019.

BUSTANG BUS SERVICE NOW SERVES TOWNS NEAR SKI AREAS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has expanded its statewide Bustang bus service to include Salida as well as daily service to Monarch Ski Area from Dec. 14, 2019 to April 5, 2020. With this expansion, Bustang now serves mountain towns near several Colorado ski areas including Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, Copper Mountain, Echo Mountain, Monarch Mountain, Purgatory Resort, Sunlight Mountain Resort and Telluride Ski Resort. For more information, [click here](#).

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Nathan Perry, PhD

CMU Associate Professor of Economics
2020 Economic Outlook

PANELISTS

Jasen Bronec

DMEA & ELEVATE Fiber CEO
Electricity & Fiber Trends

Debi Harmon

20 Sleeps West Real Estate Broker/Owner
Real Estate & Housing Trends

Sandy Head

MEDC Executive Director
Economic Development Trends

James Kiser

Montrose Memorial Hospital CEO
Healthcare Update & Trends

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION LOSS COST DECREASES FOR 2020 DIVISION OF INSURANCE APPROVES 8.5 PERCENT DECREASE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), has approved a reduction of 8.5 percent for the average "loss costs" component of workers' compensation premiums for 2020. This will be the sixth consecutive year without an increase to this key measurement.

Loss costs are the average cost of lost wages and medical payments of workers injured during the course of their employment. Factors that may increase or decrease workers' compensation costs include: frequency of injuries, duration of claims, number of treatments for each claim, severity of injuries, increasing medical costs and overall costs to cover workers' compensation claims.

Claims experience - what is paid out for claims - is the biggest driver in bringing down the loss costs portion of premiums. And it is a reduction in the number of claims being filed that is driving down

claims experience, going from 31.6 claims filed per million dollars in premiums 2003, to 19.9 claims per million dollars in premiums in 2017 (for wage-adjusted premiums).

"Yet another year with a decrease in loss cost for workers' compensation is another win for Colorado employers," said Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "Large and small companies alike should be able to use this to help their businesses and their employees."

Although statewide average loss costs are decreasing 8.5 percent, it is important to understand that employers may see variation in their workers' compensation premiums, either increases or decreases, based on their particular classification code or industry group.

The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), a rating and advisory organization, collects annual data on workers' compensation claims for the insurance industry, and publishes loss costs that form the basis for all workers' com-

pensation premium determinations. All insurers in Colorado use the NCCI loss costs as a base.

Each insurer's own expenses are added to the NCCI's loss costs to arrive at the rates charged to employers. This is another reason why an individual employer's specific rate change may be different from the -8.5 percent change.

The projected loss cost figures for 2020 were submitted by NCCI to the DOI earlier this year. Independent actuarial consultants were contracted to provide a review of the analysis for all of the industry classes in Colorado. The NCCI filing, the actuarial analysis and any public comments are used by the Colorado Insurance Commissioner to establish the loss costs used for the premium rates for the upcoming year.

To view the NCCI loss cost filing, individual classification codes, reports, and the final order of approval from the Commissioner of Insurance, visit the Workers' Compensation page of the DOI website.

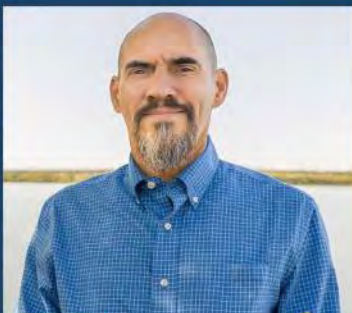
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RE-1J SAYS GOODBYE TO LONGTIME SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS *From pg 1*

Experiences included living with a host family with a number of siblings, seeing a traditional Chilean rodeo, learning traditional dances for Chilean Independence Day, and camping on the beach. Seasons are the opposite there, and students stay together in one classroom while the teachers come to them, Beller said. Visits to Argentina and the Patagonia region were memorable experiences. Patagonia "was one of the most beautiful places I have ever been," Beller said. "We got to climb an active volcano—it smelled really bad at the top, but we got to sled down."

Highlights of the trip included being with in two hours of a beach at all times, and a farmers' market with three times the produce of American markets. Though far from Montrose, Beller did not suffer from homesickness, as her host family was very good to her.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Administrative Assistant Deann Balash introduced Altrusa President Allison Nadel, who presented Apple Awards to local educators. Receiving Apple Awards were Early Childhood Center Teacher Klee Sale, Cottonwood Elementary School First Grade Teacher Laura Patrone; Northside Elementary School Early Childhood and Kindergarten Teacher Sherry Bliss; and Johnson Elementary School Exceptional Student Services Teacher Leah Glasbrenner.

DONATIONS

Balash said that the San Juan Healthcare Foundation donated \$1,390 in support of the Virtual New Me Program for fifth grade classes; the Denver Museum of Nature & Science conducts these classes virtually Nov. 11-15.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Early Childhood Center Director Penny Harris recognized two staff members, Family Advocate Jutta Melgoza and Classroom Paraprofessional Iris McNeer.

Johnson Elementary School Principal Cheryl Gomez recognized two staffers, Day Custodian Ana Rubalcaba and Art Teacher Elvira Butler.

BOARD ADVISORY UPDATES

The ongoing Olathe Track Project was dis-

cussed, and Property Services Director Philip Bailey provided an update. "It's really an exciting project," Bailey said; FCI Constructors was chosen from among four responsive bidders. "We have a good working relationship with them." The City of Olathe may donate a sewer tape; community members have been generous with in-kind and other donations. Architect Phil Motley donated his services to create the design.

District A Director Jeff Bachman, who is working to solicit donations, said that local businesses have donated a number of needed items. "I think we'll probably see more in-kind donations than cash," Bachman said. A local fundraising dinner will be held Dec. 4, Board Vice President Gayle Johnson said.

Also discussed were issues with the heating and cooling system at the new Columbine Middle School. An outside electrical event caused problems and a loss of heat last winter; the system is complicated, Bailey said. Protective devices have been put in place. FCI was pulled in to help after another recent event. "If it happens again, we will work with DMEA," Bailey said.

Board of Education President Tom West said that as soon as the bugs are worked out, the system will be fantastic. "It's just a hiccup in the system."

COMMUNITY INPUT

No comments were heard from the public.

BOARD RECOGNITION

West presented Johnson with a Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) award.

Johnson honored West and District F Director Phoebe Benziger, longtime directors who are term-limited and stepping down from the Board of Education.

Recognizing Benziger's years of service Johnson noted Benziger's dedication and commitment, "...She's done a lot for our board."

Recognizing West, Johnson said, "I am deeply saddened about losing my right-



Alexis Beller shared a presentation, "Don't Get Chile," about her recent visit to Chile as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

hand guy...I am going to miss you Tom...it has been such a pleasure to work with you; no words can express the joy you have brought to me."

West thanked Superintendent Stephen Schiell and District staff. "I am really proud of what you guys have done for our kids."

Schiell praised the Board; "When a district runs smooth, it starts here," he said, and called for a recess to serve cake to all in attendance. "We have this teeny, tiny cake here."

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Following the recess, District Finance Director Emily Imus presented the Enrollment Report, showing a total student count of 6,228 as of Nov. 1. "Eight students higher than last month."

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

ECC Director Harris provided an update, including a data dashboard and other documents. The number of children not receiving care before Kindergarten is increasing, she said. "It's important to know—they have more difficulty adjusting to Kindergarten."

BUILDING GOALS

RE-1J Director of Technology Steve McEwin led the pack, promising to present goals at a quick, "Nascar-like" pace. Following McEwin in brisk succession were Human Resources Director Michelle Pottorff; Instructional Services Director Jessica Beller; Olathe Elementary School Principal Joe

Continued next pg

RE-1J SAYS GOODBYE TO LONGTIME BOARD MEMBERS From previous pg

Brummitt; Montrose High School Principal James Barnhill; Cottonwood Elementary School Principal Jack Christensen; Finance Director Emily Imus; Oak Grove Elementary School Principal Dana Carpenter; and Johnson Elementary School Principal Cheryl Gomez.

OLD BUSINESS

Revised Board Policies BEDB and CHCA were approved on Second Reading.

CONSENT AGENDA

District B Director Jacob Suppes asked that Item 10, Approval of the Olathe Middle/High School Stadium Improvement project in the amount of \$3,177,940 and related expenditures, be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

"My nephew is going to be supervising construction," Suppes said. "I am pulling myself out so there is no impropriety."

Consent Agenda Items were approved without Item 10.

NEW BUSINESS

Removed from the Consent Agenda, Item 10 was separately approved without Suppes' vote.

The Board reviewed the following Revised Board Policies:

DH, Bonded Employees and Officers

EBBA, Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission

EFC, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

EC, Buildings/Grounds/Property Management/Property Services Department

ECAC, Vandalism

ED, Material Resources Management

FCB, Closing Schools

FCB-R, Closing Schools

In a final act as Board president, West thanked Secretary to the Superintendent Laurie Laird, "the heartbeat of the entire building," he said.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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11.29.19 | 5:30 PM

TREE LIGHTING

HISTORIC MONTROSE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

11.30.19 | 10 AM-2 PM

SMALL BUSINESS CELEBRATION

MAIN STREET | DOWNTOWN

12.7.19 | 5:30 PM

PARADE OF LIGHTS

MAIN STREET | DOWNTOWN

STARTS 12.14.19

GARDEN OF LIGHTS

BOTANICAL GARDENS | 1800 PAVILION DRIVE

STARTS 11.29.19
AFTER TREE LIGHTING | DATES VARY

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For more information please visit: CityofMontrose.org/Holidays

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG TO RELEASE SBEADMR 2020 AND 2021 TREATMENTS FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – On Nov. 11, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will make the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) planned commercial timber sales available for a 30-day, informal, public comment period.

Treatments are identified for the Paonia, Gunnison, Ouray, Grand Valley and Norwood Ranger Districts.

-On the Paonia District, the identified treatments include the following: Hubbard (2020), Overland (2020), Bald (2021).

-On the Gunnison District, the identified treatments include the following: Rainbow (2020), Antelope (2021), Ripley (2021).

-On the Ouray District, the identified treatments include the following: Big Park (2020).

-On the Grand Valley District, the identified treatments include the following: Kannah Creek (2020), Neversweat (2021), Big Creek (2021).

-On the Norwood District, the identified treatments include the following: Lone Cone Aspen (2020), Craver Creek (2021).

Descriptions and maps of the timber sale treatments, as well as a comment form, are available online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/SBEADMRimplementation>

Consistent with the SBEADMR Final EIS commitment to provide continued opportunities for public participation through-

out implementation, the Forest Service is seeking public input on these treatments for a 30-day period. The Forest Service will accept input November 12, 2019 through December 12, 2019.

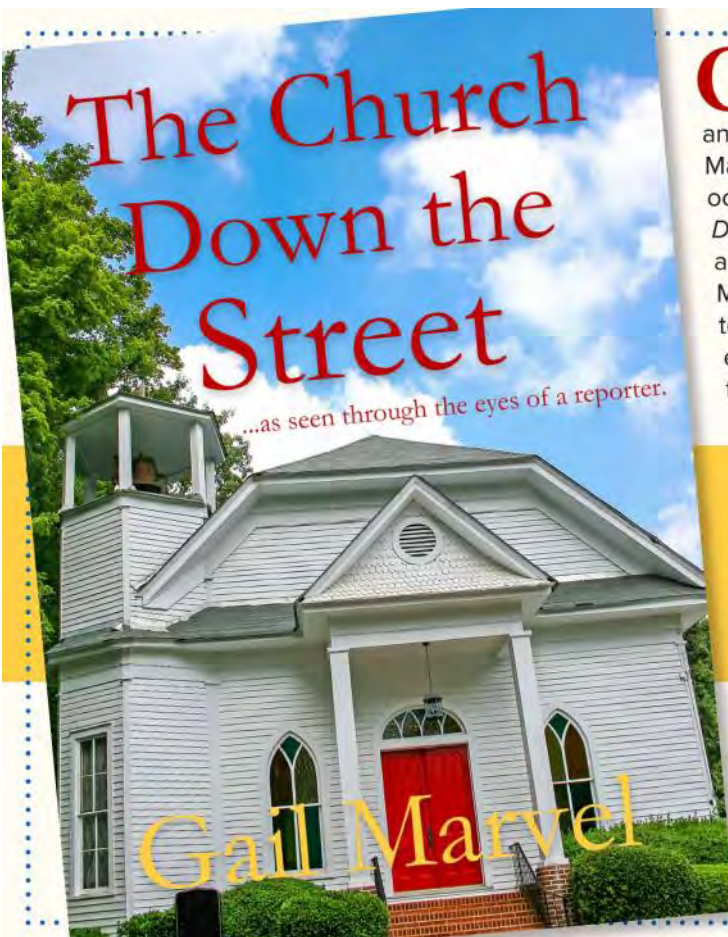
Please include your name and contact information with your comment in case further clarification is needed. Comments can be submitted to Clay Speas in common formats (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) with the Subject Header: SBEADMR via:

Email: clay.speas@usda.gov

Fax: 970-874-6698

Mail: 2250 South Main Street, Delta, CO 81416

Names of commenters will be part of the public record. For more information contact Clay Speas at clay.speas@usda.gov



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/.



Miracle on Main Street



Join the Olathe community in Celebrating the Holidays Season!



Friday
December 13, 2019



5:00 -5:30 OHS Choir
at the Pocket Park



5:30 Parade on Main



6:00 - 6:30 Tree Lighting /
OHS Choir



Call Eric at 970-596-4506 or email paul@region10.net for more information.

Head to the American Legion Post 24 from 4:30 - 7:00 for the annual Chili Supper presented by the Olathe Rebekah Lodge #99. Santa Claus will be at the Post after the Parade.



Presented by The Town of Olathe / Make Olathe Better / Olathe Business Hub / Region 10

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

STATE AGENCIES TO HOLD JOB FAIR NOV. 23

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-More than a dozen State of Colorado agencies will be partnering on a hiring and resource fair serving the Western Slope counties on November 23, 2019. As part of his listening tour, Governor Jared Polis will also be in attendance.

Participating agencies include:

Department of Labor and Employment

Department of Corrections

Department of Transportation

Department of Human Services

Department of Regulatory Agencies

Department of Natural Resources

Department of Personnel and Administration, Division of Human Resources

Department of Public Safety

Department of Public Health and Environment

Department of Revenue

Department of Local Affairs

Colorado State Patrol

Colorado National Guard

Colorado Army National Guard

Census Bureau

Colorado Mesa University

Attendees will also benefit from pre-employment workshops, where they will learn how to apply to state jobs, improve their resume, practice their interview skills, and more.

What: State Agency Hiring and Resource Fair

When: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, November 23, 2019

Where: Montrose County Event Center, 3251 1036 N. 7th St., Montrose, CO 81401, in the community room

To register for the event, click here. People who register early will be entered into a drawing for door prizes.



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RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER HOSTS MRCOG From pg 1

another. Compared to previous meetings, attendance for the November meeting was down.

Organization Spotlighted:

The River Valley Family Health Center opened the doors at their new 11,000 sq. ft. location on Aug. 20. CEO Jeremy Carroll gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the health center's impact on the community and on the patients they serve.

Carroll said, "We are a health provider for the unserved and underserved population. We are serving patients in our community who have nowhere else to go, we serve all patients. We report back to the government and we're not allowed to turn people away. Our mandate is really a primary health care provider." Half of River Valley's board is made up of patients, "It keeps us in tune with our patients."

With a current staff of 84, River Valley's impact to the community is \$16 M. Carroll said, "We had 22,000 encounters (patients) last year and we expect another round of growth in 2020. Part of our mandate is to serve migrant farm workers and 42 percent of our patients prefer to be served in Spanish. We have a bilingual staff."

Carroll noted that River Valley is not an urgent care facility, "But our prevention helps keep people out of ER." Recent data shows that the Montrose region has a high occurrence of diabetes, depression and obesity. Carroll said, "Seventy-three percent of our patients are obese."

Montrose Recreation District (MRD) – Jeremy Master, Recreation Manager.

Master reported the new MRD Executive director was out of town for a previously scheduled appointment, "But she is diving into the budget now. Holly Park has gone out for bid, this is a re-bid. We are hoping it will be open to the public by June."

Montrose Regional Library - Paul Paladino, Executive Director.

Paladino said, "The library is as busy as ever. We were working in Paradox this summer and updating the library. We've taken out 8,000 books and put back about 2,000. On October 17th we went live with a new computer system. The Marmot Library Network and Pika Discovery soft-

ware are working really well. You can click in Colorado Courier Service for a hold and it will tell you the hold will take 10 days, but some people are getting it in two to three days."

During the 2008 recession the library deferred a lot of maintenance. Paladino said, "We are diving into those maintenance issues. The library was designed for a life span of 25 years, it's now 21 years old. The roof needs to be replaced. The library in Naturita is eight years old and the patio needs repaired, or replaced. A reference librarian position was just filled, it took about a year to fill the position. The new book van, which has been delayed for a year, should be in service the first week of December." Paladino mentioned that the three-phase motor on the CMU/Library lift had just gone out and would have to be replaced. In the spirit of collaboration RE-1J Director of Property Services Philip Baily said, "We just took out a three-phase motor at the school district that we no longer need. I was trying to decide what I could do with it, or where I could use it."

Paladino said, "We'll talk."

All Points Transit – Sarah Curtis, Executive Director.

Curtis said, "We've just applied for a planning grant for a partnership with CDOT's Bustang (Colorado Department of Transportation bus service). We're spearheading the application and bringing all the players together. There are no matching funds and we are looking for a stakeholders committee."

All Points has struggled with mandated salary increases. Curtis said, "We're trying to weather the salary increases. Driver's wages have gone up 35–40 percent. We're looking at [staff] reductions for 2020. We have a plan, but we don't like the plan of reducing."

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) – Gary Ratcliff, Campus Director.

Ratcliff said, "President Foster has mentioned that we are the fifth fastest growing university in the nation. We [Montrose campus] have increased 30 percent and have 340 students." Ratcliff attributes the growth on the Montrose campus to CMU

hiring a career counselor, added academic programs, and community support.

Ratcliff said, "If President Foster sees the community supporting CMU he will invest in the community."

Legislatively CMU is making an appeal to the State to allow the university the same special funding for tuition that students receive at a community college.

Ratcliff noted that the Montrose campus has an elevated profile because of summer camps, the community lecture series, and scholarships given by the city and county.

Montrose Economic Development

(MEDC) – Sandy Head, Executive Director. Head said, "We had our third Annual Manufacturers Expo, which included a STEMposium. Eight schools were represented, and 60 students demonstrated projects." Head laughed and said, "They flew drones in the Pavilion and used fishing nets to capture those that went astray."

Twenty-six companies were represented at the Expo and Trailer Made Custom Trailers used the event to announce their relocation from Denver to Olathe. Head said, "Custom Trailers will be hiring up to 19 people. The Expo is growing every year."

Montrose County – Ken Norris, Montrose County Manager; Montrose County Commissioner Keith Caddy.

Norris said, "Montrose County is doing very well. In facilities we will refurbish the 100-year-old courthouse. The engineer design is about 50-percent complete. The courthouse was completed in 1923 and the design team is trying to apply 2018 building codes to the building. The west wing of the [county's] south campus remodel will be completed by the end of the year. In next year's budget there is a little money for jail modifications and expansion of one of the pods."

Norris noted the airport is the fastest growing airport in the State. He said, "The airport had 300,000 people passing through. We need 98,000 sq. ft. for a terminal, but we have 40,000 sq. ft."

Commissioner Caddy said, "Stryker is doing a lot of work for us and is doing a good job. We're playing musical offices."

RIVER VALLEY HEALTH HOSTS MRCOG from previous pg

Our office [Commissioner's] will move to the south campus. We divided Health and Human Services. We have two interims now; one for Health and one for Human Services. We're evaluating our efficiencies; what are we doing, where are we going. We've made some cuts in our admin office."

In an update on the Rimrocker Trail missing link Caddy said, "We have about a mile and a quarter of road. It's like a little frontage road. We're pleased to get that done."

City of Montrose – City Councilmen Judy Ann Files and Doug Glaspell.

Glaspell said, "We were happy to see 2A pass [recent ballot issue]. We're doing street repairs, sewer upgrades, getting rid of [sewer] lift stations and finishing up the budget."

Files said, "Riverbottom Drive has been closed all fall. We're doing an underground irrigation ditch. The round-about on Hillcrest is done and decorated for

Christmas." Files noted that the grand opening for the Connect Trail is postponed, "It's mostly done, but we can't have the grand opening until spring."

Montrose County Housing Authority – Susan Barrientos, Executive Director.

Barrientos said, "The waiting list, which was two-years long, has been closed. We are removing people and providing five to seven vouchers a month. We need more of a HUD budget. We keep plugging along, but it is an uphill battle."

In an update on the Woodgate Trails apartment complex located near City Market south Barrientos said, "They needed 150 applicants, but received 200. There are still 19 units available that have to be filled by the end of December." Woodgate Trails, a facility designated for residents 55 and older, uses an income sliding scale to determination eligibility.

Going alone with the housing conversation Councilman Files interjected, "The new Habitat houses being built on South

Park. Someone went in and stole all the interior doors. They left the new appliances and stole the doors. Why would someone steal the doors?"

RE-1J School District – Philip Baily, Director of Property Services.

Baily said, "We have two large grants; a roofing grant and an HVAC grant. We're doing an FCI All Weather Track for Olathe. It will be eight lanes all the way around. The bleachers will cost more but will save us in maintenance. We'll save money by doing it right the first time. We're working on a security consultant."

General Discussion:

The group discussed the need for a stoplight at the airport. Commissioner Caddy said, "CDOT has a 20-year plan for that, but the cost is \$28 M. The meeting adjourned and attendees were given an opportunity to tour the River Valley Family Health Center. CMU will host the next MRCOG meeting which is scheduled for Feb. 12, 2020, 3-5 p.m.



Above, Following the quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG), local community leaders were given a tour of the River Valley Family Health Center.

The health center, located at 1010 Rio Grand Avenue, opened the doors to their new 11,000 sq. ft. facility on Aug. 20, 2019. The center is particularly proud of the pharmacy which allows patients to receive care and then pick up prescriptions on-site before they leave. The pharmacy, which offers a lower cost on prescriptions, includes a drive-up window. River Valley Family Health Center is accepting new patients and they can be reached at 970-497-3333. Pictured taking a tour of the new River Valley Family Health Center are (L to R) Kay Hotsenpiller, River Valley COO; Jeremy Master, Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Recreation Manager; Jeremy Carroll, River Valley CEO; Sandy Head, Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Executive Director; and Paul Paladino, Montrose Regional Library Executive Director.

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BOCC APPROVES WINTER COUNTRY CONCERT @ SPECIAL MEETING



Country Artist Lorrie Morgan will headline the Jan. 4 Winter Country Concert @ the Montrose County Event Center. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a special meeting on Friday, Nov. 15. All three commissioners were present for the meeting. All four General Business items, concerning the Jan. 4 Winter Country Concert at the Montrose County Event Center, were approved two to one, with BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash voting in opposition to all.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public.

COUNTY MANAGER

County manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Consent Agenda items.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first two items concerned contracts with recording artists to perform at the Montrose County Event Center's Winter Country Concert on Jan. 4, 2020. The first concerned possible action on an agreement with artist Aaron Tippin to perform at the Winter Country Concert for a guaranteed fee of \$20,000; and the second concerned possible action on an agreement with artist Lorrie Morgan to perform at the Winter Country Concert for a guaranteed fee of \$20,000.

The items were presented by Montrose County Event Center Manager Emily Sanchez, who apologized for the "lateness" of the meeting. "I can tell you...I have been trying to get an artist...we kind of got turned down by six different artists before we got to this point."

Aaron Tippin is known as one of the hardest working artists in country music and is very well known among Veterans and working people, Sanchez said. As opener, he will play 60 minutes.

Rash expressed concerns over the risk and the return on the investment. Sanchez said that 2,400 tickets of various levels must be sold to break even; additional money will be made on alcohol sales. Alcohol sales at the recent Ned Ledoux concert brought in \$12K. The goal is to sell \$15K in alcohol at the 2020 Winter Concert.

Sanchez outlined a three-county ticket sales plan intended to reach Holiday shoppers. "We're approaching it smart; I absolutely realize the risk I am asking you guys to take, and I am not taking it lightly at all." Assistant County Attorney Julie Anderson reviewed revisions to Lorrie Morgan's tour rider. Hansen noted that specifics seemed excessive given the potential risks.

"True...but I feel like you guys have challenged us to figure out how to make money, and in doing that we have to take a little bit of risk," Sanchez said. "And I know that my staff, although we are maybe overworked, we are super creative...whatever it might be, we will make sure we can accomplish that without spending a ridiculous amount of money."

Hansen asked about the total cost of the concert; the total expenditure, including all expenses, will be \$90K, Sanchez said.

"We have the event center, we need to utilize it," Commissioner Keith Caddy said. "I know we're stepping out of our comfort zone, but I have full faith in our staff...I think we can probably make money or break even on this."

\$10K has been budgeted for advertising, and media relations will help to get the word out through a variety of formats, Sanchez said. She outlined ticket prices,

sales venues, and promotional strategies. VIP Parking will be included on the west side, and there will be a VIP cocktail lounge near the stage.

At the Ned Ledoux show last year, VIP tickets sold out first, Sanchez said. Ninety-eight percent of tickets were pre-sold.

"I feel like we have done our research," Sanchez said. "I think we are absolutely doubling the entertainment factor of what we had with Ned Ledoux, and that we can sell it." County Attorney Marti Whitmore said, "...I think overall...it's a reasonable contract."

"If we can do this successfully, we can continue with other events and reduce the loss that we're seeing on the event center," County manager Ken Norris said. "...I guess I view this as an opportunity. Yes, it is a risk...if we don't take it, we have really kind of signed on for continuing losses, fairly large losses, at the event center."

Sanchez said that the goal is to prove the event center is a viable venue, in hopes of attracting private concert promoters.

"I am a little concerned. Ninety Grand is a lot of money," Rash said. "That's where I'm having a hiccup, is with the initial investment...Aaron Tippin probably should be the highlighter in my opinion."

"Lorrie Morgan has not been relevant for quite a while." Sanchez noted that 90's music is very popular with today's youth, and that Lorrie Morgan has a solid catalog of Number one hits. "A lot of people are going to recognize those songs."

Hansen questioned the date chosen for the Winter Country Concert.

"It's definitely kind of the tail end of everybody's party season," Sanchez said. "That's why we'll really be pushing the tickets ahead of time." Hansen suggested a "full court press" approach to promoting the concert and asked that follow-up efforts include research into the number of out-of-town guests and the impact on local hotels.

Also approved two to one, the third item concerned an agreement with San Juan Events, LLC to provide ticketing services for the Winter Country Concert (a budgeted expense of \$4,500).

BOCC APPROVES WINTER COUNTRY CONCERT @ SPECIAL MEETING

From previous pg

Of three quotes received, San Juan Events, LLC was best able to provide the required level of service and follow-up reporting, Sanchez said.

An agreement with Mountainside Productions was approved two to one, to provide the stage, sound production and backline for the Winter Country Concert (a budgeted expense of \$14,942.75.)

"The vote passes," Hansen said, "We're all in this together now."

"Put me down for two VIP tickets," Caddy said.

Commissioners took time to recognize Colorado Counties, Inc. Policy Director Eric Bergman, who was in attendance after leading a training session in San Miguel County.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The BOCC closed and reconvened as the Montrose County Board of Health, unanimously approving Resolution 40-2019, creating separate Human Services and Public Health Departments. Hansen thanked staff for their hard work.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

AGENCIES DELIVER PUBLIC OPTION RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI) and the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) have delivered their final report for the development of a Public Option for affordable health insurance to the Colorado Legislature. This report is the result of House Bill 19-1004 (HB19-1004), passed in the last legislative session, which directed the two agencies to create a plan for such an option.

On average, the actuarial analysis accompanying the report estimates that premiums will be reduced 10 percent; in many parts of the state, Coloradans are estimated to save more than 15 percent.

"As a four-time cancer survivor who knows what it's like to worry about how you are going to pay medical bills and keep a roof over your kids' heads, I'm encouraged to see our agencies putting together a plan to really help people," said Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera.

The Public Option recommendation is based on extensive stakeholder engagement over the past six months. HCPF, DOI, and the Lieutenant Governor hosted 20 public listening sessions in Alamosa, Aurora, Boulder, Burlington, Denver, Durango, Edwards, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Greeley, Hugo, Keystone, and Pueblo. They received more than 260 written com-

ments, conducted three focus groups, released a draft for comment, and publicly posted all materials. Our recommendation responds to the innovative ideas and thoughtful input raised during this process.

"The stakeholder process was instrumental in crafting the draft solution. I am very proud of the collaboration and thoughtful contributions made by hospitals, doctors, employers and Coloradans across the state," said HCPF Executive Director Kim Bimestefer.

"This diversity of input has helped us address affordability while creating pathways to increase access to quality care in rural communities."

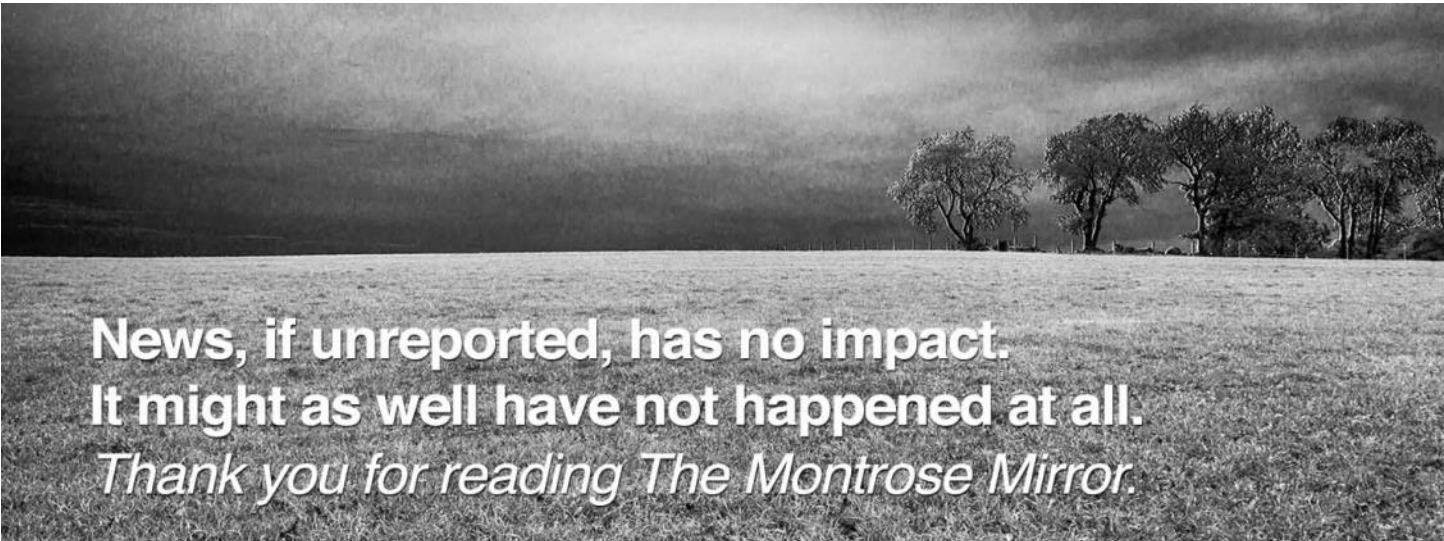
The proposal outlines a public-private partnership designed to make health care more affordable by bringing down the costs of care, reducing insurance premiums, and giving more options to Colorado consumers while helping rural and critical access hospitals succeed - all with minimal impact to the State budget.

"Everything about our recommendation is focused on making health care more accessible and affordable for Coloradans," said Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "To do that we must build a system that tackles the costs of care and brings more logic into the process. The Public Option is designed to help

everyone in the individual market and eventually small and mid-size businesses as well. We look forward to working with our partners in the legislature in making it a reality."

The Public Option will be available to all Colorado residents, including those eligible for federal tax credits through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and those not eligible for such credits. It will be another plan available along with others in the individual market, providing more choice and competition for consumers. Plans will be offered by the health insurance companies already in Colorado. The plans will be sold through the existing system of Colorado's exchange - Connect for Health Colorado.

Adela Flores Brennan, Executive Director of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative said, "The Public Option is an innovative opportunity for us to bring more affordable coverage within reach of Colorado consumers. We're excited to work with the State to get the Public Option up and running, and continue our progress toward getting all Coloradans covered." The recommendation also includes the creation of an Advisory Board to advise on the important policy issues throughout the implementation of the Public Option, as well as to keep stakeholder voices and talent involved.



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MAYOR, COUNCIL AT ODDS OVER POST-ELECTION \$670K FUND TRANSFER FROM PUBLIC SAFETY FUND



Tammy Zamoyski of the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance presents City Engineer Scott Murphy with a Bike pin as a thank you for safety improvements.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- "Welcome to the work session," said Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman. before catching his error and welcoming all to the 11 a.m. regular City Council meeting of Nov. 12. All Councilors were present for the meeting. Council issued proclamations in support of American Indian Heritage Month; Hospice and Palliative Care Month; and Small Business Saturday (Nov. 30).

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Zamoyski of the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance addressed City Council.

"I quickly want to thank the City of Montrose, the Public Works Department, and the Planning Department for the recent efforts to make our streets safer for everybody," she said. "The new bike lanes on South Nevada are wonderful, and they provide and encourage a safe, active transportation option for everybody in our community."

Zamoyski thanked department heads Scott Murphy, Ryan Cushenan and Garry Baker personally, and presented them with bike pins as a token of appreciation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Oct. 15 council meeting were unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE 2490 ON FIRST READING

Following a somewhat heated discussion, Council approved Ordinance 2490 on first

reading, providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City for the fiscal year starting Jan. 1, 2020.

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Budget Ordinance.

"...It's an appropriating ordinance by fund," she said. "Our charter does not dictate you all approve by detail, but by fund. You will notice that I have added a public safety fund to that

ordinance, in the amount of \$11,003,550, and I have adjusted the General Fund just slightly because in our original budget we were going to use some of our reserves to fund some of the police function. So it's reduced just slightly, I think it's \$42,000, to \$23,961,771. Other than that, I think those are the only changes from the Oct. 15 proposed budget that I gave you."

She reviewed the budget as it would be presented to the public at the Budget Open House Nov. 14, including fund definitions. Forty-four percent of budgeted 2020 General fund monies are allocated to Public Safety, she said. "That's the \$8M transfer we will make from the General Fund to the special revenue fund for public safety."

Projected revenues from the new Public Safety tax are \$3,453,198.

Said Bowman, "When we did the budget at the Pavilion on October 3rd, all the funds that go into...public safety were like \$8.8M dollars. Where is this other \$800,000 going?"

Wittenberg said, "When we anticipated a tax being passed, we kind of met as a staff and decided that the best thing to do at that point was to take that additional and just put in the capital fund...it's got the TIF funds in it for the Downtown and then it can also just carry over for street improvements from year to year."

"I've got a little bit of a problem with this," Bowman said. "I was the one that stood up and said to the community that we weren't going to move money around if we passed 2A. And right now, I feel like we passed 2A and we're moving money around."

"Part of this is my personal integrity," he said. "I stood up there and said that we were not gonna play bait and switch...moving money that has been designated for specific items into, I won't call it a slush fund, but a fund that is undetermined, just doesn't seem right...we're taking \$800,000 that was originally going to be spent on specific things and we are moving it into an undesignated fund balance, basically."

City Manager Bill Bell said, "All along what went to the voters was that we would match the 2008 expenditures, which was the 43 percent of the general operating, so that's what we've done."

"Right." Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said. "So we're still spending that 43 (percent) out of the General fund. We're not reducing it all...this proposed budget was always, if the tax didn't pass, were we going to put in more money into public safety...that's why we put the meeting off a week, so that Shani could refigure the numbers for us."

"I never felt we really had a Plan A and a Plan B," Bowman said.

Wittenberg said, "The capital improvement fund actually is where we're funding all of our street improvements from. Last I understood, we've got like a \$40M deficit there. So I don't feel like moving money to the capital fund is a bait and switch, it's going to another very vital part of our community, which is streets."

"I stood up there, and everybody agreed, we're not going to move money from the police department to the road department," Bowman said. "And from what I hear you saying, that's exactly what we're doing."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said, "I think we've got to be very careful with that. We stood right up there and specifically said there would not ever be less than 43 percent and anything we budgeted for...is

Continued next pg

MAYOR, COUNCIL AT ODDS OVER FUND TRANSFER From previous pg

going to be used by the Police Department."

Bowman said that he would like an opportunity to once again review the line-item budget, to see what has been moved and to look for a difference of \$800,000. "And begin to talk about what our priorities are as far as using that extra money...I am talking about a difference of \$800,000," he said.

"I would like to know specifically what we are going to do with that money...the criticism that we heard time, and time, and time again from the community was the accusation of just moving money and spending it without being totally transparent.

"And at this point. We're taking the first step down that road."

Bell attributed Bowman's concerns to miscommunication.

"...The goal was just to get us today; we just dropped it into the capital fund rather than put it into reserves, so we could talk about those extra projects...Council doesn't approve the City budget on a line item basis, Council approves it per charter on a fund basis. Bell noted that budget worksheets can be amended.

"I would be much more comfortable leaving that \$800,000 in the Public Safety fund," Bowman said.

Bynum suggested moving the monies back to the General Fund. "It can be used for more things by keeping it in the General Fund or the Capital fund than by moving it the Public Safety fund."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that placing the money in the capital fund ensures it will go to a capital improvement. "It's not that we're robbing public safety; we're not taking it away, they're still getting all of the money that we thought from the beginning."

Wittenberg clarified that the actual amount of money moved was \$670,194 not \$800,000. Bowman asked how quickly police officers would be equipped with their own rifles; Police Chief Blaine Hall said that would be addressed January 1.

"My pleasure would be, we can vote on this today; at the next work session I would like to see a list of possible capital projects that we know need to be done

and that we now know that we have money for," Bowman said. "I really think we need be very, very plain and transparent. Fifty-eight votes is not very many."

Bell discussed the reporting process and benefits of a dedicated Public Safety Fund, "There will be a clear paper trail...any ideas you have on how to make those reports more transparent or more legible for the average citizen, we're totally open for all that...we're all on that same team, and we want to show that we're all on the up and up.

"...We'll start seeing monies from the new tax come in mid-February, after one month of collections," he said.

Bowman convened a public hearing on Ordinance 2490.

David Stockton spoke. "As all of you are aware, I was on the public safety advisory committee; I was also on the 2A Committee to get this passed, and I went to the budget retreat in October."

He disagreed that there was a bait and switch. "Mayor Bowman, I understand your concern...I don't see it that way personally...now that (the tax has passed) I think it's more prudent to transfer that money back to the General Fund."

Bowman closed the hearing. Ordinance 2490 passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2019-25

Grants Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented information on Resolution 2019-25, authorizing the filing of a 1306 Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program application; authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Black Mountain Capital, LLC to prepare the grant application and carry out administrative duties upon a grant award; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) and city staff to act on behalf of the grant award.

Black Mountain Capital intends to purchase an "underutilized" property but is not eligible for a 1306 Brownfields grant on their own; the address of the property



Mayor Dave Bowman read a proclamation in support of Small Business Saturday.

was withheld. Colleen Aller was present as owner's representative.

Resolution 2019-25 was unanimously approved.

UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER TEMPERATURE & FLOW DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM DESIGN

Also unanimously approved was an agreement with Wright Water Engineers for the design of the Uncompahgre River Temperature and Flow Data System in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. The matter was previously discussed in work session. Utilities Manager David Bries presented information on the project, which must be in place and operational by the end of March.

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

There were no staff reports heard. Councilor Roy Anderson said that the first meeting of the 2019-2020 City Youth Council was held last week. "We will have our first youth council representative at the next Council meeting," he said. "We are excited to get underway."

Bynum said that she would be traveling to Denver for a Colorado Municipal League Mayors' Conference that Friday.

Bowman reminded everyone of the City Budget Open House on Nov. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. "Our budget is very open and very transparent," he said. "every penny can be explained."

He thanked the community for passing Measure 2A, "Now comes the hard part."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

CIVILIAN REPORT TAKERS AMONG NEW CITY HIRES

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council will convene for a work session at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 18 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

WORK SESSION

Four new City staffers will be introduced at the Montrose City Council work session of Monday, Nov. 18. Joining the City team are Police Customer Service/Civilian Report Taking Technicians Shelly Fellin and Ernesto Monroy; Golf Course Grounds Superintendent Kyle Schmidt; and Street Division Worker Mace Jensen.

Discussion items include an affordable housing presentation with Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) representative Jen Stepleton.

Also to be discussed are the Columbine Middle School land exchange plat and intergovernmental Agreement; an AMI Upgrade recommendation; Spruce Point Air Injection Vault Bid Award Recommendation; Sunset Mesa water tank finish options; and mail ballot election plan for the 2020 municipal election.

Items to be discussed in future Council work sessions and meetings include: Dec. 2-Hotel incentives request; Interviews for Historic Preservation Commis-

sion Applicants.

Dec. 3-Retail liquor store license transfer for Pour House; Municipal Election Code update.

Dec.16-2019 DART Summary; designation of official posting places.

Dec. 17-Community Development Block Grant hearing for Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club; Historic Preservation Commission Appointment.

As yet unscheduled are potential changes to City Code concerning modular construction.

REGULAR MEETING

At the regular meeting of Tuesday, Nov. 19, Montrose City Council will issue a proclamation in support of the Montrose High School Boys Golf Team State Champions.

Council will consider the appointments of Harrison Hall and Catherine Borer to the City of Montrose Youth Council for the 2019-2020 term.

Council will consider Amended Ordinance 2490 on second reading, an Ordinance of



The Montrose City Council will convene for a work session at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 18 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Mirror file photo.

the City of Montrose, Colorado, providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Council will consider award of a construction contract to Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$536,438.10 for the East Miami Waterline Replacement Project.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MMH CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) PROGRAM HELPS DOCTORS BE THEIR BEST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-How do you nurture a love for learning in the name of providing top-notch medical care, and address the community's most pressing health concerns? At Montrose Memorial Hospital, there's a program doing exactly that.

The Colorado Medical Society Committee on Professional Education and Accreditation recently awarded its highest accreditation level to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program at Montrose Memorial Hospital. This honor, "Accreditation with Commendation," is awarded to CME programs that adhere to all 22 CME criteria of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education – with an emphasis on addressing community health issues.

"Accreditation with Commendation is a significant recognition," says Julie Disher, who – as Director of the Medical Staff Services department at Montrose Memorial Hospital – helps coordinate the program. "It is a credit to our medical staff – we're very fortunate to have our providers' dedication to quality healthcare in our community." To receive commendation, MMH had to demonstrate using CME as a tool to improve quality performance and health outcomes—utilizing provider's insights and community input to address important issues, therefore improving the quality of care.

Topics recently addressed include Vap-

ing, Opioids, Substance Abuse, and Addiction, Pulmonary Hypertension, Eating Disorders and Management of Thyroid Disease. In addition to meeting the educational needs of providers, the CME committee works with area agencies to develop educational opportunities to address community health concerns.

"One of the strengths of Montrose Memorial Hospital has been its Continuing Medical Education program, which has been exemplary for nearly the last 50 years," notes Dr. Mike Benziger, Co-Director of Continuing Medical Education. "The CME Program is part of the foundation that helps our providers offer excellent patient care."

MMH is one of only a few hospitals in the state of Colorado that require physicians to complete CME as part of their medical staff membership. Hospital officials say the program also helps with recruitment of new physicians, builds camaraderie amongst medical professionals, and disseminates important medical information to other providers in the community.

Montrose Memorial Hospital's CME program was first accredited in 1978 and holds the distinction of being the first program accredited in the state of Colorado. Over 100 hours of instruction are offered each year and includes formal lectures from a variety of medical specialists, case presentation conferences and videoconferencing with other institu-



From left to right: Dr. Michael Benziger, Co-Director of MMH Continuing Medical Education; Julie Disher, Director of Medical Staff Services; Nancy Abel, Medical Staff Services Coordinator; and Dr. Michael Brezinsky, Co-Director of MMH Continuing Medical Education. Courtesy photo.

tions. Dr. Mike Benziger and Dr. Mike Brezinsky oversee the development of CME programs along with Julie Disher and Nancy Abel, with input from the hospital's Continuing Medical Education Committee and the Fall Clinics Committee. "We're thankful for the dedication and leadership of our medical staff. Their commitment to the Continuing Medical Education program demonstrates to our community that our professionals are truly Friends & Family caring for Friends & Family," said James Kiser, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital.

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issues and all the fixings.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS



Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401. Nov 18 08:30 to 11:00 am Police/Fireman/First Responder Breakfast. *Time to give back.* Montrose Elks honor our local Police Dept, the Fire Dept, Sherriff's Office, and Colorado State Patrol by providing them a sumptuous breakfast cooked and served by Elk volunteers. This event is only one way to show our support for those that

risk their lives everyday trying to save ours. Cheer on our Local Hero's!

Bingo on Tuesday Nov. 19, 2019

"Must Go" Jackpot of \$500 in Progressive Game 2. The first person that reaches Bingo, no matter what in Game 2 will be \$500 better off.

This Tuesday is also Turkey Night!

All players will receive a ticket that will be drawn for Winners. Each Winner will get a 10-12 lb. Turkey, just in time for the Holiday. This Bingo event should be a good one!

For good food & great Jackpots, stop by the Elks Lodge to play Bingo Tuesday nights. We

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



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS KNOW THEY CAN'T BEAT PRESIDENT TRUMP AT THE BALLOT BOX

Editor;

The lies written in a letter to the Montrose Daily Press (mind blown) on 11-17-19 are disgraceful. It said President trump was fined \$2 million for "misusing"(?) veteran's funds. That is simply not true. The truth is that prior to May 31, 2016, 11 veteran's charities were paid by Donald Trump's foundation. Trump released a list of 41 charities that were given \$5.6 million as part of a philanthropic event in Iowa. NBC News confirmed with 27 of the charities that received a combined \$3.82 million from the Trump foundation and entities working on Trump's behalf. The biggest recipient was the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation receiving a \$1 million personal check from Trump. The truth to keep in mind here is that all of this occurred BEFORE Trump was elected president.

It's also outrageous to say Trump used veteran's funds for his "campaign and personal" expenses as that letter stated. President Trump paid for his campaign with his own money. And now that he's president he donates all of his salary to a variety of charities! How can anybody with a conscience say President Trump is "dishonest and selfish"?

Democrats know they can't beat President Trump at the ballot box and they are furious. That's what their despicable Russia, China, N. Korea-style kangaroo impeachment tirade is all about. They need to get over it and start working on America's business!

Oh, and the stale rant from the radical extremist left that Trump didn't win the popular vote, should remember that Bill Clinton didn't either! Bill Clinton only got 44,909,889 votes against Bush and Ross Perot splitting the conservative votes with 58,848,371. So, doing the math, Clinton was outvoted by 13,938,482 votes! Only 43% of the vote went for Clinton and 56% voted against him with the Bush and Perot totals. If Perot hadn't shared the conservative votes, Bush would have won easily.

And can you imagine the wall the democrats would build if illegal immigrants voted for Trump? We have to remember we are only one election away from open borders, socialism, gun confiscation, and full term abortion nationally. Most Americans are definitely fighting evil.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY OF MONTROSE NEEDS A HOUSECLEANING

Editor:

The word on the street. 'Bell takes \$800,000 from the General Fund police budget.'

If this be true, it verifies my prediction of a few months ago. I just thought it would take a bit longer for him to rip off the cops. I thought it would be on a cold, dark, rainy night with no one at the council meeting. But alas, this guy has brass! I heard the Mayor had the right instincts, lacked the metal and folded.

I wonder why the council voted a few years back to let the City Manager effectively be the Police Commissioner.

That gross malfeasance or misfeasance ought to be changed back and make the council, maybe I should call them 'the folding five', be accountable at the polls for their negligence. I have no idea what qualification Bell has to run a police de-

partment, (was he a cop?) (could he tell us?) maybe he should put on a blue uniform and make a 'felony stop', alone in the dark with an old pistol and no vest. If he had to do that maybe he would have more respect for their needs. I HAVE done a few 'felony stops' and I can tell you that various tender parts pucker. And I had a vest and a good gun! Our councilors likely have not done this either BUT in that crowd, at least three of them must make the mistake, not just one autocratic bureaucrat.

These six people and maybe some of the city staff (who seem to have an inordinate amount of influence about city policy) need a comeuppance. That is a long word. I see it to mean that Montrose needs a housecleaning. A flushing if you will. Prompted perhaps by a cleanse. Our sick situation was very well described by

Bill Babel. Congratulations Bill and I hope you stay on it. Stick to it like 'flies on a dung heap'. A very good expression for an overgrown cow-town. Without saying it, he pointed to the GOB system---the 'Good Old Boys'. In DC they call it the 'Deep State'.

Have any of our councilors ever taught history? I hope not because they sure don't know how the government of the people, by the people and for the people is supposed to work. Citizens of Montrose let's give them a lesson in American Government---they need it!

This stuff just needed saying and I felt that a little lighthearted criticism might alter the tone of the day.

Next week I will get serious again, after my sources squeal on what is not out in the open.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

CITY MANAGER'S JOB IS TO MANAGE THE CITY, NOT TO MAKE POLICY

Editor:

Just who is it that represents the citizens of Montrose?

It surely is not the City Council. The City Manager moves money from everything and to whatever he wants. The five "figure heads" just 'rubber stamp' their approval. Oh yea, they pretend to argue with him but in the end, they approve.

The City Manager's job is to manage the City, not to make policy or to determine where and how much is spent. He is supposed to recommend, the council decides where, what, when and how. It not quite that way in Montrose. So why have a council?

We, the public, have repeatedly been stonewalled by this crew. NONE of the questions we have asked (all are unreasonable) over the past few months have even got a 'kind of' answer.

WE WANT TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT! In my opinion, the apparent hands off approach by this City Council has brought this town to a lack of confidence in our government. Under parliamentary rules we would have an election and express 'no confidence'. A new government

would be formed. Maybe that is not a bad idea. With only a 60 vote 'victory' on 2A such a movement might just be possible.

CORA requests have just begun to fly the city's way but they should not be unnecessary. With open and transparent government we would have our answers as a matter of course. Each and every city expenditure would be listed in the press for all to see. Our county does it, why not our city? Only then will the public see what has been considered by many to be misguided priorities on unnecessary and lavish spending. By nature, not to be transparent and open on these matters, smacks of dishonesty.

We want that 43% (\$8 million) in the General Fund for our police department and ALL OF THE 2A money to go to the Police Department. It was the council who claimed they needed that much! No negotiation until all of the shortfalls in our police department, neglected by the council and manager over the past ten years have been totally rectified. NOW! And not next year! As soon as the money gets into the city coffers. We want the 14 cops that you have refused to hire for the last 8

years; we want equipment updates (vests, pistols, Tazers, etc), vehicles and radios as appropriate, extensive training so they know what they are doing and pay raises so that once we get them trained they do not leave for greener pastures. NOW! We want the 8 resource officers for our schools hired, trained and on station BEFORE we have a problem!

We don't much care about the loose wording of what we voted on, we want 2A money spent as you TOLD us you would. On our cops. We want it ALL SPENT ON OUR COPS before virtually anything is spent elsewhere.

You might view these demands as unreasonable. Well, you were unreasonable funding nice to have items before our police for the last ten years! You juggled their funds to do other things then; now you should juggle other funds to fix the mess you made.

Transparent accountability is to come only through each citizen demanding it. What we know about city hall is concerning. What we don't know is likely much worse.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HOSPITAL PHARMACY TEAM COMPLETES NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— When it comes to the pharmacy department at Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH), their contribution to patient care is vital. From mixing IV medications to completing medication reconciliation, pharmacy technicians are essential in providing high quality pharmaceutical care. In June 2019, Governor Jared Polis signed HB19-1242 to regulate pharmacy technicians. Effective March 2020, Colorado will require pharmacy technicians to pass a national certification exam and pass a criminal background check to obtain licensure from the Colorado Board of Pharmacy. With news of the bill, DCMH is excited to announce that all of their pharmacy technicians have passed the national certification exam ahead of the deadline. Part of pharmacy technician's effort to provide high quality patient care starts with maintaining a high level of knowledge and education about their profession. They will be required to complete the continuing education requirements to maintain licensure.

"The new certification definitely challenged my team to ask questions and prompted them to think differently," said Mark Carlton, Director of Pharmacy at DCMH. "It is a challenge to pass the test, but it is great to have a requirement that raises the standards for providing pharmaceutical care." The new requirements will raise the professional standards needed for pharmacy technicians in Colorado. Prior to the bill passing, technicians were able to obtain certification in a few different ways like completing 500 hours of experiential on-the-job training under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. "Having the new certification process will only make our profession better," said Kelly Morfitt, Pharmacy Technician and Medical Staff Clerk at DCMH. "It will help our patients and will improve our overall patient care. Our top priority is always patient care at DCMH."

"We're handling medications that are extremely important for our patients," said Sergio Corona, Certified Pharmacist Tech-



From left to right are Kelly Morfitt, Kayla Meza, Maribel Ruiz and Casey Atchley, all recently CPhT certified. Courtesy photo.

nician. "With the new certification, it is important that we keep our knowledge up to date. It makes us feel more fulfilled and proud of ourselves." The pharmacy department plays an important role in patient care. Pharmacy actively participates in medication safety, dispensing medications, clinical rounds with providers, discharge counseling and medication reconciliation. Our pharmacists promote evidence based medicine working collaboratively with doctors. Pharmacy works to ensure patient safety by making sure that medication lists are accurate so the patient's transition to home is as seamless as possible.

"When patients come to DCMH, a pharmacy technician will visit with new patients to create their medication list. Pharmacy technicians work hard to ensure the medication list is accurate. At every transition of care, there is an opportunity for error, so we really have to be diligent. Medication list accuracy is vital for any transition of care" said Carlton. Pharmacy works in partnership with nursing to ensure medication safety for our patients. The pharmacy team at DCMH

continues to strengthen its commitment to quality patient care and it shows.

"We have the lowest turnover in any department in the hospital and have a great reputation on the Western Slope," said Carlton. "People know this is a great place to work and they know that we are partners. When you create partnerships in a working environment where people can use their energy for positivity – it really pays off."

Carlton said that he asks his team to grow beyond what they might be comfortable with, but it is all in an effort to maintain the high standards the team has created.

"We've built a staff where we hire the best people we can find. It feels like it's a magnetic kind of place," said Carlton.

"People see that we are happy and they want to be a part of that. The barrier for entry is high, but once you are in, you are fully part of the team."

"We're really proud of our team. We see our techs as colleagues and we work together toward the same goals. We always include the whole team in our strategic planning. We've built this strong culture and it's working," said Carlton.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Bureau of Land Management will be offering Christmas tree permits in the greater Montrose area from Nov. 18- Dec. 24. Permits may be purchased for \$8 per tree at the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2505 S Townsend Avenue in Montrose, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. BLM accepts cash, credit card, or check.

BLM permits are valid for piñon pine or juniper trees. Permit holders are required to keep the permit on them at all times while cutting and transporting the tree. Additional information regarding cutting areas will be provided upon purchase of a Christmas tree permit.

"The BLM Christmas Tree permit pro-

gram creates a unique opportunity for our community to bring their local public lands into their holiday traditions," said BLM Uncompahgre Field Office Manager Greg Larson.

The BLM recommends bringing along a handsaw, eye protection, rope or twine, extra food, water and blankets when you

cut your tree. Tire chains, a shovel and emergency supplies are also recommended. Remember to watch the weather conditions and let someone know where you will be and when to expect you back.

For more information about Christmas tree cutting on BLM-managed lands near Montrose, call (970) 240-5300.

OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOV. HEARINGS

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) invites the public and stakeholders to engage, participate and provide public comment at the Commission's Flowline Rulemaking Hearing in Greeley next week. The Commission's rulemaking hearing addresses flowlines, the first of the four rulemakings SB 19-181 identified to be completed by July 1, 2020. The public is invited to provide the Commission with comments on the proposed flowline rules on the evening of Nov. 19 at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). The flowline rulemaking hearing will continue from 4:40 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 20-22, in the University Ballroom, 2101 10th Ave., Greeley at UNC.

This rulemaking will change the rules and regulations of the Commission regarding the oversight of flowlines and operators returning inactive wells to production or injection within Colorado.

The COGCC has posted final draft rules to its [website](#). The COGCC Commissioners will hear comments from the public and stakeholders on these draft rules, as it considers adoption of the draft rules. University Ballroom, 2101 10th Ave.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRI-STATE EXPANDS OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR

Special to the Mirror

WESTMINSTER-Rural electricity consumers will have expanded opportunities to participate in community solar under a new program recommended by the membership of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and approved by the cooperative's board of directors at their November meeting.

The community solar program supports member-owned or controlled solar photovoltaic systems, which are marketed to cooperative retail consumer-members under subscription arrangements. Consumers can participate in community solar projects and gain the benefits of clean energy and lower power costs, regardless of the orientation or location of their home.

"Our members are working together to create more flexibility for local renewable power generation. Expanding opportunities for co-op members to participate in community solar is another step toward that goal," said Duane Highley, Tri-State CEO.

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (PVREA) presented and advanced the community solar proposal through the mem-

bership's Contract Committee. The northern Colorado distribution cooperative has three community solar projects for its consumer-members.

"Community solar provides every co-op consumer-member with the opportunity to go solar, and now more consumers will have the option to benefit from clean, low cost solar power," said Jeff Wadsworth, CEO of PVREA and a member of Tri-State's Contract Committee.

The Contract Committee of Tri-State's membership continues to review options to allow members with more flexibility for power supply, including partial requirements contracts and additional local renewable energy.

"Tri-State's board of directors acted quickly to address our members' desire to support community solar, and our membership continues its work to evaluate proposals for further flexibility through partial requirements contract options," said Rick Gordon, Tri-State board chairman and Mountain View Electric Association director.

Solar generation under the program will not be included in the 5% self-supply provisions agreed to by members in their

wholesale power contracts with Tri-State. Tri-State's total commitment to the program, if acted upon by all members, would be 63 megawatts of community solar projects.

Currently, approximately 31 percent of the electricity consumed by Tri-State's members comes from renewable resources. With the addition of two recently announced projects, Tri-State's wind and solar resources will be increasing by an additional 45 percent. This increase in renewable generation allows Tri-State to serve the equivalent of more than a half a million rural homes with renewable resources. Tri-State will further increase that amount from our sixth renewable energy request for proposals, which was released in June 2019.

Tri-State is a not-for-profit association of 43 member electric cooperatives and public power districts in four states that together deliver reliable, affordable and responsible power to more than a million rural electricity consumers across nearly 200,000 square miles of the west. For more information about Tri-State and our Responsible Energy Plan, visit tri-state.coop.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNITY JOINS TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SEX ASSAULT RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-On November 14, 2019, Ouray Interim Police Chief Gary Ray, in association with the District Attorney's Office and the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) Project, hosted an all-day training about improving the response and investigation of sex assault crimes. Sixty-two people attended the event at the Ouray Community Center. Attendees included professionals from health and human services agencies, victim's advocacy groups, mental health providers, law enforcement personnel, and the district attorney's office.

EVAW Executive Director Linda Johnston conducts trainings in rural districts across Colorado and commented that this large turnout exhibits the strong commitment our community has in working together and improving the response and investigation of these serious crimes. Topics included trauma informed victim interviewing, drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assaults, child forensic interviewing, sexual assault nurse exams, and advanced investigation techniques.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Seth D. Ryan, who taught the advanced investigations section, talked about the importance



Sixty-two people attended an all-day training about improving the response and investigation of sex assault crimes at the Ouray Community Center on Nov. 14. Courtesy photo.

of groups working together to support sexual assault victims.

Ryan observed: "I was impressed that so many of our communities were represented. We had participation from Delta, Montrose, Mountain Village, Ouray, Ridgway, San Miguel, and Telluride. Only by working together as a team can we do what is necessary to hold sexual predators accountable." Several Law Enforcement attended the training, including Ouray

County Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald, Ouray Police Department Interim Chief Gary Ray, Mt. Village Police Department Deputy Chief B.B. Burke, Olathe Police Chief Rogelio Pacheco and Ridgway Marshal Shane Schmaltz.

"Leadership starts at the top," said Ryan. "It is great that these leaders made time to set an example for our younger officers and to send a message that this topic is of critical importance."

A graphic featuring the text "Yes, WE'RE OPEN" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The word "Yes" is in a script font, while "WE'RE" and "OPEN" are in all caps. The text is set against a dark, textured background with a white border.

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FIBER ARTIST SUZANNE HEBERT TO SHOW @ 45TH ANNUAL BASEMENT BOUTIQUE CRAFT SHOW



*Artist Suzanne Hebert, above, with samples of her work.
Courtesy photos.*



By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-The 45th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show (Nov. 29-30) will feature 31 creatives from surrounding communities and from Montrose—among those who will show for the first time this year is Montrose fiber artist Suzanne Hebert.

"I have been sewing all my life," said Hebert. "I have now gravitated to wool—wool Christmas stockings, embroidered and hand appliquéd—a little elaborate, and all one-of-a-kind."

Hebert's quilt, "Solstice Dreams," earned the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges (NACQJ) Award of Excellence at the 2019 Black Canyon Quilt Show. She serves on the board of the Quilt show and is in

the Friendship Quilters Guild.

Recently, Hebert has been working with a variety of fabrics, creating pieces made with old linen and wool appliques.

"I have not been to the Basement Boutique before," Hebert said. "It's a leap of faith for me—they invited me to join, and I am very excited. I have got my setup all ready, exactly as I want it to be."

As always, Basement Boutique shoppers can expect artistic excellence and skilled craftsmanship.

"Because the show is juried, everything is very carefully thought out," Hebert said. "It's fun for the vendors as well as the people who come to the show."

Her work is both visually appealing and

enticing on a tactile level. Expect gorgeous zippered pouches, and natural rope bows, made on a sewing machine with clothesline and embellished with stones, beads, and feathers.

Stop by the weekend of the show, to meet the artist and see an abundance of local talent on display. Hebert said. "Come and meet me—we'll be wandering around!" The Basement Boutique Craft Show takes place at the Montrose Pavilion (1800 east Pavilion Place). Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30.

And of course, with a central checkout area, shoppers are free to browse uninterrupted.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE'S WARDROBE COMMITTEE VINTAGE COAT & FUR SALE

Special to Art & Sol
 MONTROSE- Dress up for the holidays, get a great bargain and help your local, live theatre at the same time! Magic Circle Theatre's Wardrobe Committee is hosting a vintage coat and fur sale on Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. All proceeds will



Courtesy photo.

go to benefit Magic Circle. Stop by and register to win two tickets to an upcoming performance of your choice and a swag bag from Magic Circle. Vintage coats will be \$30 each and furs will be \$10 - \$20 each. Save and style at Magic Circle Theatre's coat sale, 420 S. 12th Street.

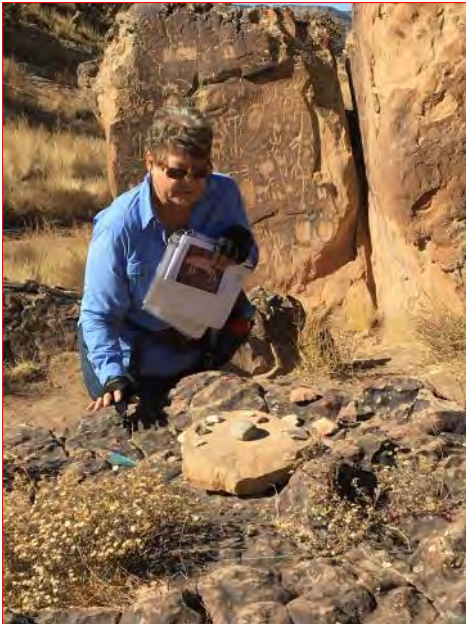
THANKSGIVING MEAL FUNDRAISER FOR RAINBOW ACRES NOV. 24

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-First Baptist Church, 720 Grand Ave., will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving meal Sunday, Nov. 24 from 12 Noon to 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased until November 17th at a cost of \$10 per person, \$5 for children under 5. The menu includes traditional turkey with all the fixings, rolls, desert and beverage. Proceeds go toward a mission project to Rainbow Acres, a home for developmentally challenged adults in Camp Verde, AZ. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the church office at (970) 242-5645. For more information on Rainbow Acres, check out their website at www.rainbowacres.com.

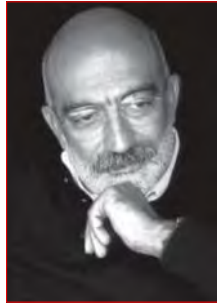
Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

The rock art of the Shavano Valley



Dr. Alma Evans explains an arrangement of stones near a rock art panel in the Shavano Petroglyph Park (photo by Art Goodtimes)

DR. ALMA EVANS ... I'd always wanted to visit the petroglyphs and rock art in the Shavano Valley, and finally this fall I got to walk the cliffside preserve, thanks to my earth science buddy Dea Jacobson of Cedaredge -- who arranged a tour for us with Alma Evans. Alma comes from an old Shavano Valley family. Many of her relatives still live there. Good fertile bottomlands. Sugar beets once. Mostly in hemp by these days. She left as a young woman, got her doctorate in education, and when she retired came back to the Delta-Montrose area. Now she leads tours as one of the official interpretative guides for Shavano Petroglyph Park ... There's a bit of walking up and down. I'm in my seventies so I used my sticks. But it wasn't too arduous. A few tricky spots if balance is an issue. The tours last about two and a half hours, the fee is minimal and Alma is a great one with stories. So the time passes pretty quickly. Lots of photos. All in all, a lovely mid-day jaunt back in time ... For more info, call or text Alma at 970-250-5816 ... Recommended.



Turkish novelist Ahmet Altan (courtesy photo)

SERING ... In these ultra-partisan times it's nice to see Jon Sering stand up for what used to be good old American values in the letter section of last week's *Mirror* ... But just because I agree with his point of view doesn't mean I don't need to listen to others who think this country is heading its citizens (and the world) in the right direction ... I should warn you, though, I don't condone lying, sexual improprieties, or bullying. No one in leadership should ever be guilty of those three. It's why I have so little respect for Clinton. He told a baldface. He should have resigned, like Nixon, even if the impeachment charges didn't stick.

AHMET ALTAN ... One of Turkey's most celebrated novelists has been jailed on trumped-up charges for several years now -- following a putative coup and subsequent crackdown by the government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. A Fifth Avenue publishing house has released Ahmet's prison diary *I Will Never See the World Again* (Other Press, New York, 2019). By turns haunting and distressing, we see a man full of life and its sensuous flourishes forced to submit to the deprivations of a tyrannical regime's permanent confinement -- "life without parole." We learn his tricks for surviving. Doing the unexpected. Smiling in the face of great tragedy. Turning to his dreamlife for freedoms only his mind can find ... There are meditations on absolute time, the piety of his cellmates, mirrors, books. He probes the depth of his emotions as the banal days cut into his well of imagination, like tightening cuffs on his wrists ... This is a beautiful book. A sad book. That we humans lock up some of best fellows on flimsy charges

to serve a dictatorial leader. So wrong! ... Let's hope that those of us on one side of the culture wars don't end up like the Japanese in World War II -- locked up because of national hysteria and racism, forced migration, or these days migration denied ... Ahmet writes: "We will spend the rest of our lives alone in a cell that is thirteen feet long and ten feet wide. We will be taken out to see to the sunlight for only one hour each day. We will never be pardoned and we will die in prison. That is the decision. I am being convicted just like the hero of my novel. I wrote my own future. I hold out my hands and they handcuff me" ... Recommended.

FUNGIPEDIA ... My intrepid explorer/scientist friend Larry Millman has come out with a delightful stocking suffer titled *Fungipedia: A Brief Compendium of Mushroom Lore* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2019). Wit and clever good humor are never lacking, the whimsy doesn't belie the deep knowledge, and its diminutive size makes it useful, as well as readable ... Beginners - add to your foray basket.

FUNGAL INVADERS ... While there's many reasons to hope that mushrooms will save the world, there's a shadow side ... Our long-evolved animal immunity system and mammal high body temps have long worked to kill off spores of harmful mycelia. But as the climate continues to change, some fungi are adapting to warmer seasons -- species like *Candida auris*. In the last three years there have been 725 confirmed cases of *C. auris* infections in 12 states. Fatalities have ranged from 30 to 60 percent of the infected ... As reported in *Science News* (Sept. 14, 2019), John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health microbiologist Arturo Casadevall publicly warned: "The fungal [kindom] is just so vast." If another fungus dangerous to humans can evolve to "defeat our thermal barrier, who knows what it will do to us?"

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

WEEKLY QUOTA ... “Philosophers call this state of isolation and disconnection ‘species loneliness’ —a deep, unnamed sadness stemming from estrangement from the rest of Creation, from the loss of relationship. As our human dominance of the world has grown, we have become more isolated, more lonely when we can no longer call out to our neighbors.” -Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2014)

THE TALKING GOURD

El Derecho Vivir en Paz

To live in peace
ought to be a right
as Victor Jara sang

but it's the impossible
dream of dreamers
Auld lang syne

Sing in the new
if still nominally Christian
millennium

McRedeye sez
So what's the Free World plan
for Resilience?

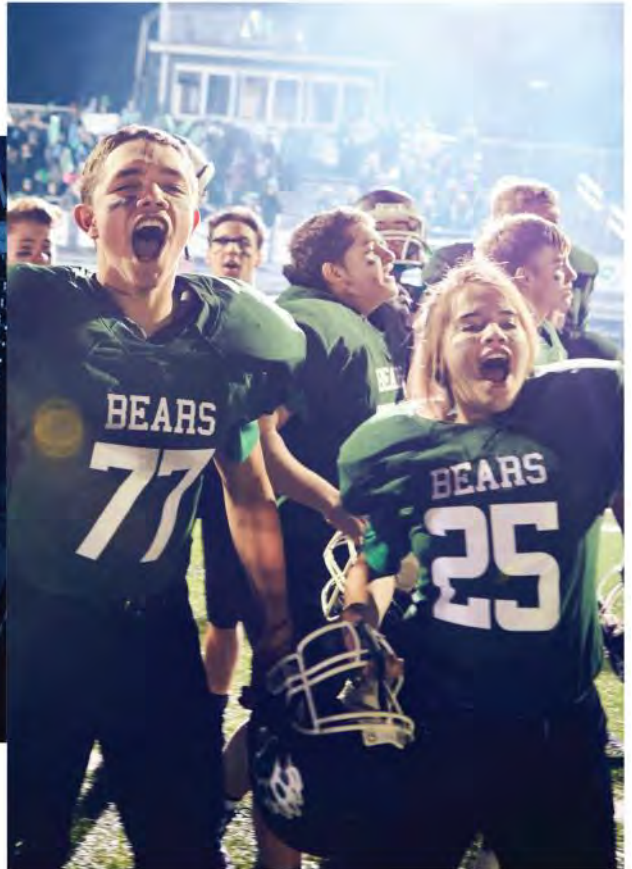
Build walls?
Break promises?
Call every critic a traitor?

Why, the NationState's right
to defend the leader
& wage war



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE MONTH



Heath is the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Courtesy photo.



Gracelynn is the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-Check out the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) latest Youths of the Month! Gracelynn was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. She has been a Club member for a few years and has always been a great kid. Gracelynn is extremely smart, helpful, and kind. She always puts a smile on staff's faces, even on their hardest days. Thanks for being so amazing Gracelynn! Heath was chosen as the Olathe

Unit's Youth of the Month. Heath is the voice of reason in his friend group. He is constantly keeping his friends out of trouble by reminding them of the rules and suggesting smarter choices. He is only in second grade but is very mature for his age. He always runs and jumps to greet his parents when they pick him up, giving them a hug with a huge smile on his face. He truly loves his parents, he loves the Club, and he is a perfect example of how to love life! Way to go Gracelynn & Heath. We are proud to call you Club kids. For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.

It's the 45th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show

at the

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8 am till 5 pm

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FREE COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC. 15

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-On Sunday, Dec. 15, @ 3 p.m., Come to the Montrose Pavilion and enjoy a wide variety of Christmas favorites performed by the Montrose Community Band, the Sax Ensemble and Flute Choir. The concert is free! For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PRIME TIME TRIO TO PLAY DELTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Prime Time Trio. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-Featuring Bobby van Deusen at the piano and vocals, Bassist Steve Pikal and Drummer Tony Martin, this high energy trio will perform at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave., on Thursday, Nov. 21, starting at 7 pm. Prime Time Trio plays here as part of the Delta-Montrose Community Concert Association's current series of concerts.

Bobby is based in Florida but has been an occasional guest performer with the Barbary Coast Show Band. Bobby really gets the audience involved by way of Sing-A-Longs and non-stop fun on stage and in the audience.

He is a Philadelphia native, and was trained classically at The Eastman School and the Curtis Institute. In 1976 he turned pro and moved south migrating into the world of Dixieland and jazz piano. For many years he was a regular pianist for Pete Fountain, Al Hirt and other big names in New Orleans.

By the 1980s Bobby had become known as a major player and was touring with Sammy Davis, Jr. More recently Bobby lives in Pensacola and plays throughout

Florida and other parts of the country.

Bobby's a ham and loves to entertain the audience.

His song list is huge including everything from the Pink Panther and Alley Cat to show tunes from Sound of Music, Phan-

tom, My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, Fiddler and many others.

He offers sing-a-longs with Side By Side, Shine on Harvest Moon, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Sentimental Journey, Tie a Yellow Ribbon and others.



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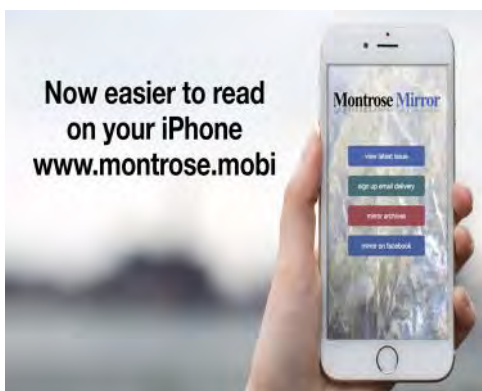
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COMMUNITYNEWS BRIEFS

OURAY NONPROFITS HOLD ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-More than twenty local nonprofits will participate the 2019 Ouray County Nonprofit Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ouray County 4H Event Center in Ridgway. This event is the perfect opportunity for shopping, visiting with your neighbors, information and delicious food of all kinds. As a bonus, get that seasonal photo taken with Santa!

Shopping opportunities will be provided by the Woman's Club of Ouray County,

Ouray Elks Lodge 492, Ouray County Republican Party, P.E.O., Ouray Mountain Rescue, Ranch History Museum, Parents and Teachers Together (PATT) and the Olathe Rebekah Lodge 99. Pick up holiday homemade baked goods, dog treats, seasonal decorations and don't forget a stop by the Ouray Public Library mini book sale to stock up on your winter reading materials! To fuel your shopping, the Mt. Hayden Lodge #54 will get the day started with delicious breakfast items (can you say sticky buns, biscuits and gravy to name a

couple of yummy menu items?) and the Friends of the Ridgway State Park can see to your lunch needs!

Take some time to then stop and visit with the Great Old Broads, Ridgway Railroad Museum, Alpenglow Arts Alliance, Ouray County Historical Society, Ouray County Rodeo Association, Eco Action Partners, Ouray County Young Life, Thunder Heart Haven and the Voyager Youth Program. Wear comfortable shoes!

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there for Holiday Keepsake photos with children and friendly, well-behaved, leashed pets. The cost for a photo is \$10 and the photo will be emailed to those who make a purchase.

This event is made possible with the support by Ouray County. Come on by, have some fun shopping and support local Ouray County nonprofits. We thank our community for their past present and future support!



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Survivor of Suicide
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10:30 AM - 1:00PM
CASA BUILDING
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MONTROSE, CO**

PARADISE THEATRE WELCOMES 11TH ANNUAL DARK NIGHT EVENT DEC. 20-21

Special to Art & Sol

PAONIA-The 11th Annual DARK NIGHT event returns to the Paradise Theatre in Paonia, Dec 20 & 21, celebrating the longest night of the year with renowned author Craig Childs and friends. The subject will be "time," ranging from archaeology to the end of the universe. Told through spoken word, visual multimedia, and live musical accompaniment, this series of adventures will be thought provoking and palatable to adults and curious kids. Tickets are available online at BrownPaperTickets.com, or locally at The Paradise Theatre and The Cirque in Paonia.

For more information contact
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T MISS TUCKER FALLS ON STAGE @MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE THIS MONTH

*Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE-- (Photo courtesy of
Montrose Photography) - Carl
(Anthony Rodarte) and Katie
(Amy Lucskai) discuss their fu-
tures in Tucker Falls—on stage at
Magic Circle Theatre Nov. 22 and
23 7:30 p.m. For tickets visit
www.magiccircleplayers.com or
call 249-7138.*



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Montrose CO 81401**

RIDGWAY SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Tanya Ishikawa took these photos in Commerce City on Saturday, Nov. 9, as the Ridgway School Soccer Team celebrated their state championship win against Dawson School of Lafayette. Pictured at left, Ridgway High School 12th-grader Robert Beserra holds up the state trophy next to Coach Jon Kornbluh (with ball in hand). The whole Ridgway soccer team competed their hearts out with around 250 fans supporting them in the stands during the Colorado 2A High School State Championships. Ridgway won the game 2-1 with Beserra scoring both points, and goal keeper Kaden Forrest playing a key role in the victory. Below, the team together.

Photos by Tanya Ishikawa



A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...WITH JACK SWITZER



Jack Switzer.

By Jack Switzer, 16
MONTROSE-I toss and turn in my bed, unable to sleep. I am afraid to close my eyes. The lyrics to that same song repeat in my head, buzzing like mosquitoes in my brain. Every year, when it gets close to

Christmas that movie haunts me; it stalks me every waking moment of the day. It's something that I just can't seem to escape. Like a ghost, or maybe a virus.

"Grandma got run over by a Reindeer" Is what people apparently classify as a Christmas classic, a heartwarming tale of a child trying to find his grandmother after she disappeared. However at the same time, there's poison fruit cake, evil business men, and a character named "Slime."

The plot of the movie is confusing, and honestly doesn't work very well. They should've just stuck with one plot instead of fitting in three of them. Grandma's been kidnapped by Santa, cousin "Mel" is trying to sell off the store to a businessman so he can turn it into a mall. Oh, and Cousin Mel kidnaps grandma again and forces her to give her the deed to the store so she can sell it. Not only is the plot awful, but the characters themselves are poorly written and don't strike a connection. While some people say it's a charming movie, I just can't seem to find any way to agree with them. Most Christmas animated classics are charming in their own right, but this one just doesn't strike a chord with me.

Another thing that most people remember about the movie is the music, calling it relaxing and nice to listen to. Apologies to

anybody who enjoys the movie, but hearing two women sing about how they're going to have their grandmother "sue the pants off of Santa" for a minute and a half fills me with immense dread. Like they're going to crawl out of the TV and kidnap me too.

The only redeeming quality about this movie is its humor. Whether it was intentional or not is beyond me, but I can always count on a good chuckle anytime I watch it. From the cheesy dialogue to the poorly written characters I just can't help but laugh. However I don't expect to find myself watching it very often unless I'm feeling nostalgic.

This "review" may have been too harsh on the movie. But it was mostly formed out of my own opinions, so if there are any diehard "Grandma got run over by a Reindeer" fans out there, I'm sorry.



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REMEMBERING: MIRACLES AT MILE MARKER 143



Richard Harding.
Courtesy photo.

Twenty years ago today I experienced something few people ever have the opportunity to experience, I held someone's life in my hands. It changed my life forever and demonstrated to me on that stretch of high-

way the awesome power of a merciful God!

By Richard F. Harding

OLATHE-As my eyes opened at 3:45 a.m. on that chilly western Colorado morning, November 16, 1999, the urgency to begin my 1,100-mile trip didn't seem quite as important as it had the night before. By 7:00 a.m. I was ready to begin the journey. As I was walking out the door my wife handed me a pillow and two blankets, survival gear for winter travel in the mountains.

9:30 a.m., I had traveled 150 miles and mentally calculated I could be through Denver by noon. I was in the right-hand lane, about 20 feet behind a sports Utility Vehicle in the left lane. Approaching a right-hand curve, the SUV went off the left side of the road. In an attempt to get back on the pavement, the SUV skidded sideways and was headed straight for my driver side door. I remember screaming "Oh my God".

Just before the SUV got to my door, it rolled. I speed up; thinking it might roll into the back end of my car. I was looking in the rearview mirror to see where it landed when the spiraling vehicle came over the top of my car. It hit the road in my lane, landing on its right front fender and then flipped onto the driver side and slid along the Interstate. I hit my brakes and skidded about 300 feet, stopping 20 feet short of where the SUV came to rest. I jumped out of my car and ran to what was left of the SUV and looked inside. A young girl lay bleeding and screaming in the twisted wreckage. She was in the shape of a "V" with her rear against the center console. Her legs were crossed and pinned between the window frame on the door and the support for the windshield, her head was pinned under the headrest against the pavement, the seat belt was

fastened and around her neck.

I went through the sunroof to assess the situation, remembering all the things stated about accident: "Don't move them", "Don't allow their blood to come in contact with your skin". Smoke was coming out of the engine compartment and into the vehicle, a decision had to be made. Another man arrived at the crash and asked if he could help. I asked him to try and lift some of the pressure off the door so I could get her legs out. Since the design of this SUV is half hard top and half convertible, the only place he could lift was where I was through the sunroof. He straddled my body and was able to lift enough for me to free her legs. Holding her in one hand, I released the seat belt with the other hand. I placed my hand behind her neck and lowered her to the pavement where the glass in the driver side door once was.

I still couldn't get to the laceration on her forehead, which had formed a pool of blood about a foot in diameter under her. She couldn't move her arms, and without her help there was no way I could free her and get her out through the sunroof. Something came over me, I cannot explain it, I backed out of the sunroof, stood up and lifted the SUV off of her and placed it back on its wheels.

The young girl laid in the fetal position on the cold pavement, the pool of blood had frozen, and she didn't have a coat on. I yelled to the man to get the pillow, blankets and roll of paper towels out of my car. I laid one blanket on the pavement, I laid the pillow on the blanket and gently rolled her on her back. I straightened her legs and covered her with the other blanket.

I opened the roll of paper towels and held one on the laceration on her head. The bleeding stopped immediately. With everything that had happened to this point being suppressed, I thought to myself, "That's strange, for the size of the laceration from ear to ear, and the amount of blood she had lost, how could it have stopped so fast?"

A woman handed me her cell phone to talk to the 911 operator. We were on a stretch of remote Interstate with 7 miles

between exits and uneven eastbound and westbound lanes. The ambulance and fire department could not find us. I asked where we were and one of the bystanders said "Mile Marker 143". I told the operator and began answering questions from the ambulance crew being relayed through the 911 operator. The victim couldn't move either arm, her pupils were not dilated, the bleeding had stopped. A woman ran up behind me with a yellow toolbox with a red cross on it. I asked if she was a nurse, she responded "a medic". I got out of the way so she could finish the examination and continued to relay vital signs to the 911 operator. What seemed like an eternity has passed when the emergency personnel started arriving. First a police officer and sheriff, then another medic, then the ambulance and fire crew arrived.

She was finally in good hands, I could relax. I began to notice things around me. The truck driver with the fire extinguisher standing on the side of the road, her front bumper sitting on the road, broken glass, pieces of automobile and personal effects covered both lanes of the Interstate and flew beyond where the SUV came to rest. I don't know what I looked like at this point, but it couldn't have been good. I had on a T-shirt and an insulated vest. I had blood up to my elbows on both arms and cuts on my right hand. I wasn't sure whom the blood belonged to, some mine, some hers. A paramedic from the ambulance handed me some alcohol wipes so I could see if I was bleeding. The police officer handed me a bottle of something and told me to rub it on my arms. He asked me if I thought I could fill out a police report, I thought, "What a dumb question". As I began to write I began to shake, when I got to the part of the report about lifting the vehicle off her, I started second guessing myself; "How did I do that?" I hadn't thought about it to that point.

About this point in time I remembered the instruction of my surgeon after my umbilical hernia repair some four weeks earlier; "Don't lift anything for six weeks!". I couldn't feel much of anything; I was dazed and numb. I asked the officer what hospital she was taken to and he told me

Continued next pg

REMEMBERING: MIRACLES AT MILE MARKER 143

From previous pg

Vail Valley Medical Center. I asked if I could leave and he asked me if I was O.K. to drive. I told him I was going to the hospital and I could drive myself.

As I got into the car I noticed a book on my passenger seat, I grabbed it at the last minute as I left the house and hoped I would get to read some on the trip. The title of the book is A Course In Miracles. A million thoughts rushed through my head in that twenty-minute drive to the hospital. What had happened defied all logic, rational thinking and common sense, but none the less, it happened. I arrived at the emergency room and explained who I was to a young lady in "civilian clothes". Being married to a nurse, if they don't have on scrubs in a hospital they can't help you. I was quite wrong this time, I would find out later not only was she a registered nurse, Joyce has her BSN and is the Emergency Department Manager. Joyce was my angel. She got me checked in and I was able to call my wife, who was quite shaken up by the ordeal. Both of us cried on the phone and I kept saying over and over; "I don't know how I picked up that car". Joyce took me to a quiet room down the hall, away from all of the commotions of dealing with the accident victim. I think Joyce could sense I was pretty shaken up. She was so kind and understanding. She took my medical history and was just plain there for me. The lab technician came in the room and called me the "Good Samaritan". He drew my blood and then the Doctor came in, talked with me and examined the hernia repair for any rupture. There were several things I was perfectly clear on when I left the hospital; 1) I was alive, 2) I wasn't hurt, 3) I wasn't crazy, and most of all 4) I had unmistakably witnessed the awesome power of a merciful God.

I drove another 400 miles that day and checked into a motel in North Platte Nebraska. I called the hospital and the young girl was still in surgery. I told the nurse who I was and gave her the number of the motel. The nurse thought the mother of the girl would be in her room in about an hour. I waited about an hour when the

phone rang; It was the mother of the girl. The verdict was in head laceration from ear to ear, broken neck two places, broken back two places, both hands and fingers were broken, her elbow crushed, compound fracture in her wrist, bruised lung. She would be in a back and neck brace for quite a while, but the Doctors said she would make a complete recovery. The mother and I cried together on the phone.

The mother told me her other two daughters had been in separate accidents one had driven off a 100 foot cliff landing upside down in the river, and the other was driving through ditch burning smoke and went into the burning ditch and the car started on fire and minutes before it exploded another hero got her out of the car. All three girls survived and the mother stated her children were protected by guardian angels. I asked her to give her daughter a hug for me and thank her for allowing me to experience several miracles that day.

The "What ifs" danced around in my head the remaining 650 miles of the trip, and still do. There is no doubt in my mind that my body was both protected and guided by a power greater than myself. It is one thing to know there is a God; it is totally different thing to experience His love in service to another human being.

EPILOG:

Eleven days after the accident I returned to where it happened. To my surprise, the location of the accident was one mile from the ambulance and fire station. The actual location was between mile markers 145 and 146, not 143. As I drove west on the Interstate I could not see the eastbound lanes. In order to reach the accident, the emergency equipment had to drive to the next town, 7 miles away, to get to the eastbound lanes of the Interstate.

The name of the young girl is Brittany; she is 17 years old and will graduate from high school in January. She plans to attend college and study medicine. Her mother, Cynthia and I communicate almost every day via e-mail. I learned this morning, that Brittany went to the Doctor and they have

discovered she has a broken left shoulder also.

When I returned home I had a Thank You card, waiting from Cynthia and Brittany, with graduation pictures. The message inside the card reads as follow:

"I know I've said this so many times, but I'm so thankful for everything you did. I know she would not be here if it wouldn't have been for you. We wanted you to have these pictures. She says to everyone that you're her hero. I know God was with you both. One day she would like to meet you and thank you in person. God Bless you. Love
Cynthia"

I don't handle the label "hero" real well, I chose to thank any person placed in this situation would have done the same thing. Perhaps the message printed on the face of the Thank You card says it best; "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:16
E-mail from Brittany 12/01/1999

Richard,

You are truly an amazing man. I don't remember what you look like from the accident because I remember not being able to see, but could hear voices. I would really like to meet you. You are most definitely my guardian angel, and if it wasn't for you I know I wouldn't be here. The story you wrote was great and brought back many memories of what happened that day. The first thing I remember is opening my eyes and seeing I was not driving on the road. I guess I over corrected myself. The next thing I knew my car was falling to the drivers side and then I have only heard what has been told to me about the rest. I remember the seat belt around my neck I was trying to get it off, but could not move my arms. I also remember being very cold. And I remember that pool of blood on the road I turned my head and could see it but I couldn't see straight ahead.

Through all of this, I felt no pain, and I still don't. To me that is a little strange. I was very lucky to have you there to help me

Thank You, Brittany.

Give Books

Season's Readings

is an annual project by Altrusa International of Montrose. We ask our community to donate new or gently-used children's books.

Donated books, along with new books purchased by Altrusa, will be wrapped and given to children within the Health and Human Services network.

Please drop off
your donations at
one of the locations
listed below

**November 5 -
December 10, 2019**

COFFEE TRADER - both locations
COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY - hallway near Library entrance
LOONEY BEAN COFFEE
MAGGIE'S BOOK STORE
NATURAL GROCERS
STARBUCKS



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.

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 18 08:30 to 11:00 am Police/Fireman/First Responder Breakfast. *Time to give back*. The Elks honor our local Police Dept, the Fire Dept, Sheriff's Office, and Colorado State Patrol by providing them a sumptuous breakfast cooked and served by Elk volunteers. This is only one way of showing our support for those that *risk their lives everyday* trying to save ours.

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.

Nov. 20-Around the World in 60 Minutes at the Montrose Regional Library, from 10 to 11 a.m. Join us in the library meeting room for a multi-lingual story time event.

Nov. 20-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.

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. The public is invited to the free presentation at the Chipeta Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Methodist Church of Montrose, 19 S. Park Street.

Nov. 21- See Mush! with Iditarod Competitor Karen Land, Presented at the Montrose Regional Library on Nov. 21 From 6-8pm. The sport of dog mushing is a dance across some of the most remote wilderness on Earth. Karen Land ran sled dogs for veteran Iditarod racer Terry Adkins for nearly four years before starting her own kennel and race team. Join Karen and her sled dog Noggin for a fun program for all ages, 6-8 pm on Nov. 21.

Nov. 21-PrimeTimetrio-Featuring Bobby van Deusen at the piano and vocals, Bassist Steve Pikal and Drummer Tony Martin, this high energy trio will perform at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave., on Thursday, Nov. 21, starting at 7 pm. Single admission for this concert is \$20/ Adult; \$5/Student. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, call Bob Brown, 970-835-4480, or Elaine Baker, 970-249-3735.

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

Nov. 23-International Survivor of Suicide Loss day, From 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CASA Building, 147 North Townsend Ave. For information call 970-901-1595 or 928-640-1106. Sign up at AFSP.org.

Nov. 23-10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Ouray County Nonprofit Holiday Bazaar, 4H Event Center, 22739 US-550 in Ridgway. womansclubouraycounty.org

Nov. 28-Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 3-Montrose Regional Library Chess Club, 4pm - 5pm. 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.

Dec. 5-HopeWest is hosting Lights of Life, a memorial ceremony, on Thursday, Dec. 5. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S. Townsend Avenue. This event is free and open to the public. Our Lights of Life memorial ceremony is celebrated with candlelight, music and an inspirational message that honors loved ones. Join us as we reflect on cherished memories that we all hold close to our hearts. Become part of the HopeWest tradition and honor your loved one with a personalized ornament or luminary of life available at HopeWestCO.org.

Dec. 5-Montrose Regional Library, Club Anything, 4pm - 5:30 pm. For kids 10-14. Hang out at the library. Games, activities, and snacks.

Dec. 15-Free Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., Montrose Pavilion. Come and enjoy a wide variety of Christmas favorites performed by the Montrose Community Band, the Sax Ensemble and Flute Choir. <http://montroseband.com/concert-schedule>.

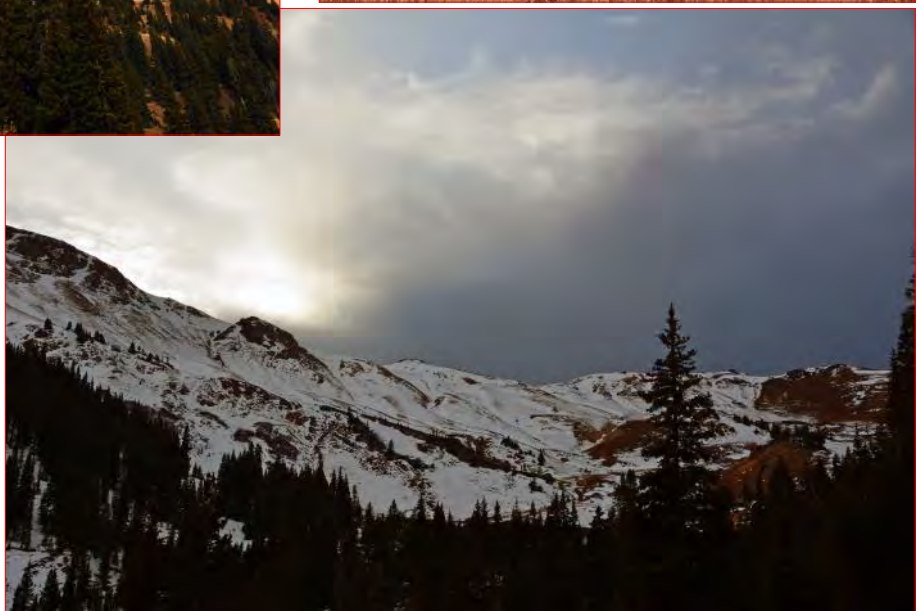
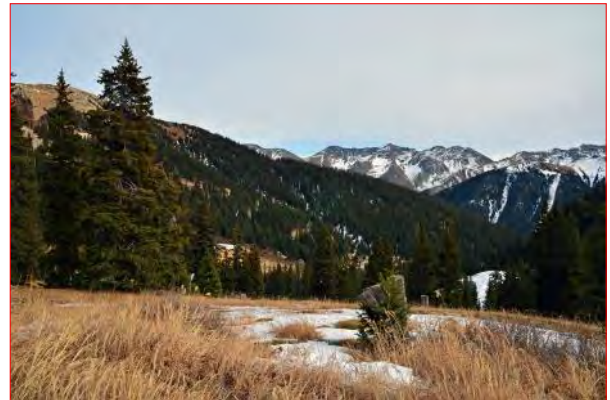
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured these images on a recent visit to Prospect Gulch outside of Silverton. Clockwise from top left, Blue Skies Over Prospect Gulch; Prospect Gulch; Dusk closing in over Prospect Gulch.

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