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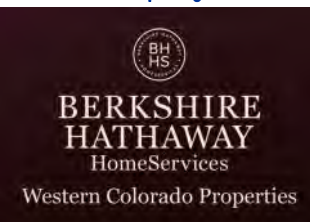


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# the Montrose Mirror

Happy Thanksgiving Week!

Issue No. 352 Nov. 25, 2019

## A PLACE FOR THE WARRIORS TO REST

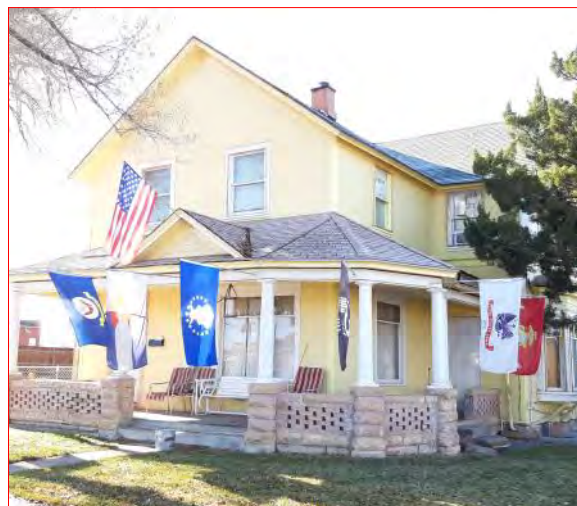
By Richard Harding

MONTROSE-Thanksgiving makes me somewhat emotional, especially this year, I have so much to be thankful for. My wife is two weeks away from her last Chemo treatment, my children and grandchildren are all healthy, surgery in January will restore part of my lungs.

This year I have also hit a milestone, I was 15 years old when I became homeless, the first time, 50 years ago!

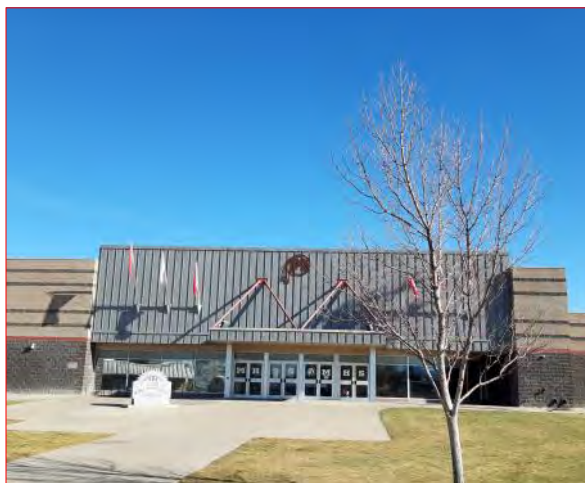
My 15<sup>th</sup> birthday didn't start out like any other birthday, as a freshman, I would receive my first traditional spanking from the paddle above the chalkboard in Brother Quigley's classroom at Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio. I was called down to the principals over the loudspeaker and informed by the Principal that my father was sick, and I needed to go home.

[Continued pg 9](#)



**The Warrior's Rest needs \$130,000 to secure the facility and more to make renovations to this 100-year-old building.**

## VANDALS @ MHS CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ALL



**Vandals have been causing problems with the boys' restrooms at Montrose high School, above.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Recent issues with vandalism have left the boys' restrooms at Montrose High School damaged and without doors to most of the stalls. (See letter to the editor from a concerned parent). "We have had vandalism," RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell said. "The boys' restroom stalls were damaged, and there were sharp edges. The doors were removed for safety reasons. They will be replaced as soon as possible."

Montrose High School Principal James Barnhill would like the community to know that there is at least one stall in each bathroom that is complete, despite recent vandalism in which the doors were ripped off.

Also, "I did not rip the doors down," Barnhill said. "I did not bend the faces, I did not throw wet paper towels against the walls,

[Continued pg 5](#)

in this  
issue

[City & County  
Government](#)

[Reader Photo Spotlight  
With Deb Reimann](#)

[DMEA Talks 2020 Budget,  
Board Questions Expenditures](#)

[Maddie Loh's  
Murderer Draws 40 Years](#)



## MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



*Top left and right, more than a dozen State of Colorado agencies took part in the State Agency Hiring and Resource Fair @ the Montrose County Event Center on Saturday, Nov. 23. Among those was the Colorado Workforce Center, left. Governor Jared Polis also stopped by on a listening tour (not pictured).*



*The Montrose High School Indians took on the Pueblo West Cyclones Saturday in the quarter finals of the state competition @ MHS. Pueblo West scored 31 points; Montrose scored 19 in an exciting and well attended contest. Photos by Brad Switzer.*

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

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ASSOCIATION**

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE THANKSGIVING DAY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices including City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

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

The Black Canyon Golf Course will also be closed.

For residences with Thursday, Nov. 28 collection, trash pickup will occur on Tuesday, Nov. 26 and Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Residences west of Townsend Ave normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Nov. 26. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Recycling collection for customers scheduled for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 28 will instead receive collection service on Friday, Nov. 29.

For more information, contact City Hall at 970.240.1400.



# Happy Holidays

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WEST SLOPE WATER SUMMIT CONTINUES TO GROW



*Special to the Mirror*  
**MONTROSE-**The Second Annual West Slope Water Summit drew more than 200 attendees to the Montrose County Event Center Nov. 19, for information, presentations and a West Slope water update and forecast. The Water Summit is sponsored by Montrose County, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA), Colorado River District and the Ouray County Water Users Association. Photo courtesy of Montrose County.

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## VANDALS @ MHS CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ALL From pg 1

and I did not put wet paper towels in the toilets until they overflowed.

"Do we have a problem?" he asked. "Yes, we do. With somebody."

The High School has not caught the vandals yet, he said.

"I encourage people to go on Safe2Tell, and report what you know," Barnhill said.

Because of the vandalism, other measures are being taken to prevent similar incidents. Teachers are limiting bathroom breaks to one or two students at a time, he said. "It's a punishment for all," he said, though the problems were caused by a few. The outside restroom doors were removed so that administrators can be more aware of what is taking place in the restrooms.

"I am going to take action and fix it," Barnhill said. "I have commissioned our AG department to create heavier, metal doors for stalls, but those probably won't be complete until after Christmas Break. In the meantime, it will be uncomfortable and inconvenient for a lot of folks." Still, "One way or another, we are going to get back to normal."

Due to increasing issues with criminal behavior, Montrose High School is considering once again closing campus for underclassmen, he said.

"We want to treat students like young adults, but certain individuals are not acting like adults," Barnhill said. "This is a case of vandalism, and we can't catch 'em."



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### VIEW UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PLACEMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m., a 100-foot steel pedestrian bridge will be lifted and set in place spanning the Uncompahgre River. The bridge will replace an aging and unsafe railcar bridge that used to span the river near Ogden Road.

The project has been ongoing since September when Con-Sy, Inc. out of Grand Junction, was awarded the project.

The bridge's abutments have been constructed and, once the bridge deck is set in place, concrete will be poured for the bridge surface. The project should be completed by the end of the year.

The public is welcome to attend but is asked to stay well outside of the construction area. The best site for viewing will be on the west side of the river from the safety of the concrete pedestrian trail.

For more information about the project, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact Parks Division Superintendent John Malloy at 970.240.1411 or via email at [jmalloy@cityofmontrose.org](mailto:jmalloy@cityofmontrose.org).





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### JOE HENDRICKS PHOTOGRAPHY HOSTING HELP PORTRAIT EVENT IN MONTROSE DEC. 7

#### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Help Portrait ([www.help-portrait.com](http://www.help-portrait.com)) is a worldwide event that always happens the first Saturday in December. Help Portrait will take place in Montrose on Dec. 7 from 9am-5pm at Columbine Middle School.

Local photographers will be taking photos of anyone who needs them. "It's not just limited to low income families, or people with special needs," said Rhonda Hendricks of Joe Hendricks Photography--[www.joehendricks.com](http://www.joehendricks.com). "If a portrait would make a difference in your life, you're encouraged to come! No one will be turned away. It's a really fun event that is totally volunteer driven--we don't have any charity partner; we are just putting it together on our own with services and products donated from local businesses. My husband Joe is a professional photographer and has helped organize Help Portrait in just about every town we've lived in for the last five or six years. We are SO excited to bring it to Montrose, and to bless these families and individuals who otherwise can't afford photography."

Hairstylists and makeup artists will be volunteering their services for the people who would like to

be a little pampered before a portrait is taken, Hendricks said. Every family/person will receive a print of their photo immediately at the event and can choose a free frame to take it home in and hang it on their wall. The Hendricks are also currently getting coats donated for attendees in

need. "Since this is the first year for Montrose, we are really trying to get the word out because we want to bless as many families as possible," Hendricks said. There are no strings attached and attendees don't need to RSVP, just stop by between 9am-5pm.

#### A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF THE 2020 ECONOMY & BEYOND

## MONTROSE REGION ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE 2020

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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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## ***A PLACE FOR THE WARRIORS TO REST From pg 1***

I ran to the bus stop and kept running in hopes that I would either catch a bus, or it would catch me. I ran all the way home, about 8 miles. When I got there my older sister told me that my father had suffered a heart attack and a stroke, he was in the hospital. He died two weeks later; he was 62.

My mother found herself with two teenagers and an adolescent to raise and become the sole provider for the family. Between this stress, and my looking like a younger version of my father, I had to leave home for my own safety. After several months of counseling I returned home, on Thanksgiving, 1969.

It wasn't smooth sailing after that, there were periods of homelessness, sometimes days at a time, sometimes weeks at a time, until I graduated high school and enlisted in the Air Force.

In 1973 I was working on a switchboard at Wright Patterson Air Force Base helping returning POW's reconnect with family and friends. Lightning struck the building and came through my head-set, I flew backwards and landed on my back. The last clear voice I would ever hear, in my life, was from a POW.

The Vietnam War was over and the Air Force offered to transfer me into the Air National Guard to finish my enlistment. I celebrated my 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1974, the next day ended up being the worst tornado day in U.S. history. I was "called up" to assist with search, rescue and security in Xenia, Ohio. The town was pretty much wiped off the map.

I was placed in what was a modern subdivision and now just a pile of splinters, to keep survivors from getting hurt while trying to recover their belongings. Another storm came through, there was no place to hide. When they found me, I was covered in blood. They took me to a makeshift hospital, held me down, poured betadine on my face and attempted to remove the debris sticking out of my face with a surgical scrub brush. There were over 1,000 people injured or dead, including two members of the National Guard. I was bandaged up, as best they could, and sent back out to keep helping the victims.

I spent three years on antibiotics for constant infections on my face, 45 years later, debris is still working its way out of my skin.

"Shell Shock" was the medical term used to describe people having trouble adjusting after coming back from Vietnam. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD, is a relatively modern term. Whatever label you place on it, there just wasn't a whole lot of help and many of us, including myself, turned to self-medicating.

30 years ago this year, my self-medicating almost killed me and I stumbled through the back door of a recovery program, divorced, broke, homeless and on the streets of Sacramento, California.

While you may think this story is about me, it really isn't. Those who have watched my work in the Montrose community over the past 25 years could never have imagined my history. If you mentally crunched the numbers you pretty much

figured out I turned 65 this year. That number has much greater significance than my age, every 65 minutes another Veteran loses his life to suicide.

Last week I had the opportunity to visit a home in Montrose. When you drive by, you will notice that yellow house with flags representing the various branches of the military hanging off the front porch. There are several Veterans living there, it is their safe place, their refuge, their Warrior's Rest.

If you visit their web page: <https://www.thewarriorsrest.org> you will find out what this home is all about, in their words; "The services we provide are that of a typical Family unit, the camaraderie that the vets give each other is a service they provide each other."

In order to make this a permanent facility, they need our help. With Thanksgiving this week, if you are eating turkey, give thanks for the farmer, since we are eating it in the greatest country in the world, give thanks for a Veteran.

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> has great significance to me, it is the day of my wife's last chemo infusion, by the Grace of God, and the outstanding medical team at Delta County Memorial Hospital, she will be cancer free.

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> is also Giving Tuesday and I am asking that this year you consider The Warrior's Rest in your giving. They need \$130,000 to secure the facility and more to make renovations to this 100-year-old building. Every little bit helps, so give what you can; The Warrior's Rest, 137 North Cascade Ave, Montrose, CO 81401.

# SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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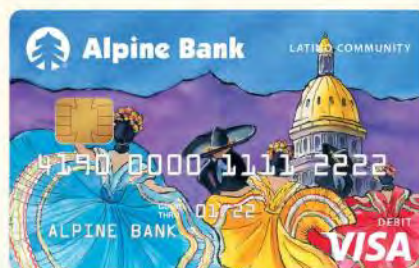
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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY: EDGAR MACIAS-MORENO SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN CO DEPT OF CORRECTIONS FOR MURDER OF MADDIE LOH

#### 7th Judicial District Attorney

DELTA—On November 15, 2019, in Delta District Court, Judge Steven L. Schultz sentenced Edgar Macias Moreno to 40 years in the Department of Corrections. Macias Moreno previously pleaded guilty to second degree murder as an act of domestic violence in connection with the death of Madelaine Loh in June, 2018.

Maddie Loh was reported missing after her mother had no communication with her for several days. Macias Moreno ultimately confessed to strangling Maddie in the trailer the two of them shared near Hotchkiss in Delta County in June of 2018. He then drove her body to a remote location in western Utah where he left her. Macias Moreno gave information to law enforcement that led to the discovery of Maddie's remains more than a week after her death.

The plea agreement between the prosecution and Macias Moreno called for a sentence between 25 and 40 years in the Department of Corrections. Judge Schultz noted the nature of the relationship between Maddie and Macias Moreno in passing his sentence, saying that Macias Moreno violated the trust of a person who loved him.

The Office extends its condolences to the family and friends of Madelaine Loh. The District Attorney's Office extends its appreciation to the Delta County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Millard County, Utah Sheriff's Office, the Emery County, Utah Sheriff's Office, and the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner. All of these agencies worked tirelessly in locating Maddie's body and investigating this crime. The plea and sen-

tence are due to the hard work, diligence, and dedication of the officers in each of these agencies.

This Office works diligently to represent the People of the State of Colorado and to support our victims through the judicial process. This is a case where the criminal process was extremely difficult and traumatic for Maddie's family. We will continue to prosecute these cases and to hold accountable defendants who do not consider the consequences of their actions.



Maddie Loh. Courtesy photo.

# THE GIFT OF MONEY

\*\*\* THE GIFT OF GIVING - PART 3 \*\*\*

The Delta County Memorial Hospital Foundation supports accessible, high quality health services, and enhancing the well-being of those served by Delta County Memorial Hospital through continuing education scholarships and supporting community and DCMH programs that enhance people's health outcomes.

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<p>Research before making a donation to a charity. You can always ask to see an annual report or visit GuideStar.com to help verify their reputation.</p>	<p>The best mentality to have when giving money, items or your time is by giving a gift with no strings attached. That way, the charity can use the donation where needed most.</p>	<p>We quickly donate our old clothes, food or possessions to charity during the holiday season. Even though they appreciate the act of kindness, they can't use broken toys, soiled clothes or half eaten jars of Nutella.</p>	<p>It's easy to give to a disaster relief during the emergency. But sometimes, the most needed donations are during the recovery period, even long after the disaster.</p>	<p>We often tell our children that it is better to give than to receive. Donating to charities with money, items, or your time is the perfect way to show your children exactly what that lesson looks like.</p>

**By making a donation to**  
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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### TURN BLACK FRIDAY INTO FRESH AIR FRIDAY WITH COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE



fresh air! On Fresh Air Friday, Colorado Parks and Wildlife welcomes visitors to any of our 41 state parks by providing free entry in what has become an annual tradition of encouraging Coloradans to get out and give thanks.

"Studies have shown that spending time outside, no matter the activity, is great for your health," said Dan Prenzlöw, Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "We're actively encouraging folks to enjoy their natural surroundings with family and friends rather than participate in the usual

*Special to the Mirror*  
DENVER-Reclaim Nov. 29 by avoiding the shopping hysteria and getting outside for a breath of

shopping frenzy.

After all, the Colorado outdoors are the best deal out there."

However you decide to get outdoors this Fresh Air Friday, CPW has the tools to make it an easy, stress-free experience for the whole family.

Discover your new favorite state park with our [state park finder](#), plan a short stroll or thorough post-Thanksgiving workout with our [free COTREX trails app](#), find a secluded fishing spot with our [CPW Fishing App](#), or have fun with the kids with [Generation Wild's 100 Things to Do Before You're 12 list](#).

To help conserve our natural spaces and keep them wild while recreating, please be sure to follow [Leave No Trace Principles](#). Be Colo-Ready with common-sense practices such as sticking to the trails and packing out all trash (including peels and cores), visiting less-visited and off-peak destinations, and keeping wildlife at

a safe distance (use your zoom for photos and never feed wildlife!).

Several Colorado state parks will also have hikes planned for the day for those looking to walk off that Thanksgiving dinner and to connect with others in nature. Plan your visit to:

[Ridgway](#)

[Chatfield](#)

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

[Mueller](#)

[Barr Lake](#)

For more details on these activities, or to get more ideas on how to Live Life Outside, visit [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).

As you enjoy a day of outdoor adventures, make sure to share it with us by using the hashtag #FreshAirFriday on your social media posts.

Most importantly, no matter where you go, get out and turn Black Friday into a blue skies Friday, a great views Friday, a green trees Friday... a Fresh Air Friday!

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## A VERY VINTAGE HOLIDAY

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### 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

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### IT IS NOT OUR MAYOR WHO MISUNDERSTOOD

Editor:

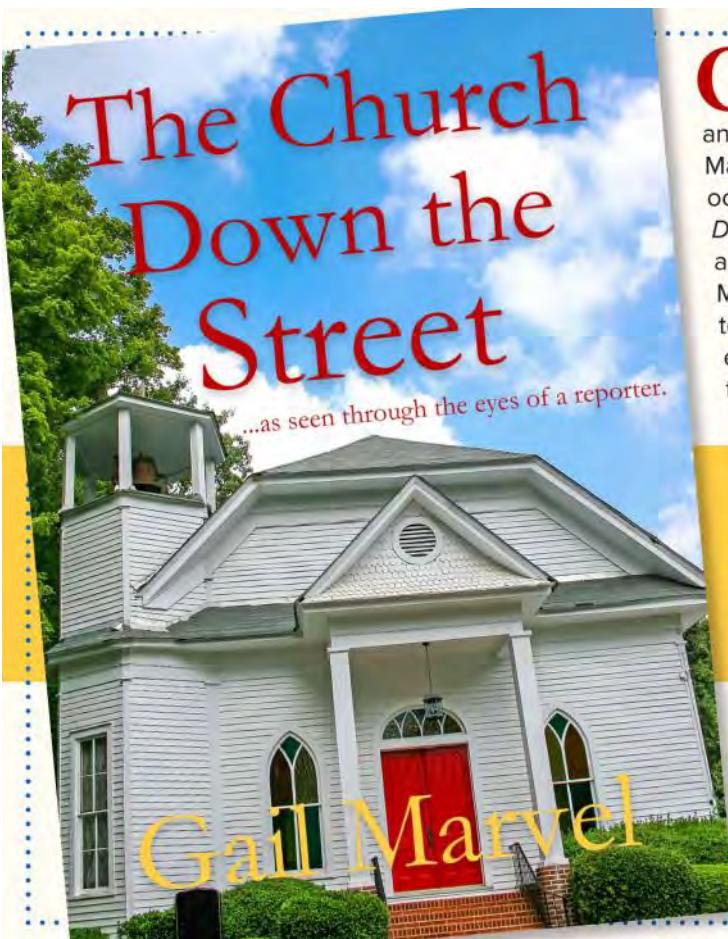
Now, now Mr. Bell do you really expect us to believe all that malarkey about the council giving you total authority over 'line items' of the city budget? Perhaps by their indifference to your behavior it may appear that way, that they allowed you and your staff autocratic control over the past couple of years. A big mistake. Misfeasance. But it is unbelievable that they ever GAVE such authority away to you. Or to your staff. If you think that they have, it is not our Mayor who misunderstood. NO, NOT EVEN 'OUR' COUNCIL would venture to give that kind of authority to their CEO, or would they?

The council should read and reread the city charter because it is obvious from what they have said that they do not understand their position and their obligations in the true order of things. They have misunderstood it as well. COUNCIL! It is long past time that you all went to the woodshed with your 'misunderstanding' of Mr. Bell and straighten a few things out. More probably visa versa?

If the Mayor Pro Tem really believes what she is quoted as having said about the 'transfer', perhaps that office should be declared as vacant for reconsideration.

Mr. Ramsey's article in the Montrose Mirror on the 18th listed our expectations as a result of 2A having been passed. No negotiation, no adjustments, no fiddling around, just a fully funded and equipped Police Department NOW, not too far in the future.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



On the Western Slope of Colorado, within a 20-mile radius of the City of Montrose, there are more than 70 churches and houses of worship. Over a 2½-year period, reporter Gail Marvel visited most of these congregations on two separate occasions, resulting in approximately 120 visits. *The Church Down the Street* is a compilation of these visits organized in a topical format — Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message. Similar to the Apostle Paul writing about the church through the eyes of an apostle, *The Church Down the Street* is about the church as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

Gail Marvel's new book, *The Church Down the Street*, is now available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**

Montrose Author & Reporter



The individual stories of these visits were published in *The Montrose Mirror* and the archived stories, *Experiencing the Church* series (issues 90–150); and *Houses of Worship* series (issues 197–250), can be found at [www.montrose.mobi/](http://www.montrose.mobi/).



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### TO PUNISH ALL THE STUDENTS IN THIS WAY FOR THE ACTS OF A FEW IS WRONG

Dear Editor,

Recently it has been brought to my attention through a social media outlet of the current situation of the boys restrooms at the high school. According to the posts the stalls out of 2 of the 5 boys' restrooms have been removed. I called the school and the district and have confirmed this to be true.

Upon finding this post yesterday, 11-21-2019, I was very concerned. I called the school and yes they did in fact remove the stalls due to severe vandalism causing a possibility of harm to students. I understand why they were removed. When I asked what the plan was to provide these students with some sort of privacy I was disappointed with the answer I received. I was told that there is not an immediate plan at this time but are planning on fixing them in the future. One possible plan is to have the welding class build new ones. I'm cool with that, but what about in the meantime? His answer was even more disappointing. There wasn't one. He told me that in these two bathrooms, that are in the same wing, each one of them have one stall still, one with a door one without. He also stated that there is gender neutral bathrooms that lock that the stu-

dents can use. This doesn't seem like a viable solution for the number of male students that would be in that wing of the school at any given point in time during the school day.

While I understand the need to prevent these students from getting injured due to the destruction of a few, I don't understand why privacy to use the facilities is not. I offered a temporary solution of shower curtains, nothing expensive just something to give these kids a sense of privacy to use the bathroom. Barnhill refused saying he would end up replacing them many times before new stalls could be put in.

So it is now my understanding as well that these facilities had two doors leading into them to help add in privacy, but one has been removed from each one allowing passing students, male or female to be able to see the urinals. In my opinion this is condoning indecent exposure for the boys. I also am under the understanding that there is one roll of toilet to be shared in each bathroom at this time.

Now let's say this was the state of the females' restrooms. It wouldn't be left in this state for more than a day. Something would have been put up for the girls to

have privacy, the double door system would not have been removed. So is the girls privacy more important than they boys? It shouldn't be.

My high school male student is very uncomfortable with the current situation. He stated to me that if the stalls are in use and the gender-neutral restrooms are, he would have to go the other wing to use the bathroom, and then be tardy to classes, which most likely would not be excused.

As parents we need to stand up for our students right to privacy. These kids are not in jail, these students should not be treated as they are in this situation. The stalls need to be fixed. If this is a vandalism, vaping or whatever problem then possibly there needs to be cameras outside of the restroom doors or restrooms monitors to help deter these problems and catch the ones that are guilty of these acts.

To punish all the students in this way for the acts of a few is wrong.

Thank you for your time.

*Sincerely,*

*A concerned parent*

*Editor's note: Name withheld for student privacy reasons.*

## Miracle on Main Street

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2019

MAIN STREET, OLATHE

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

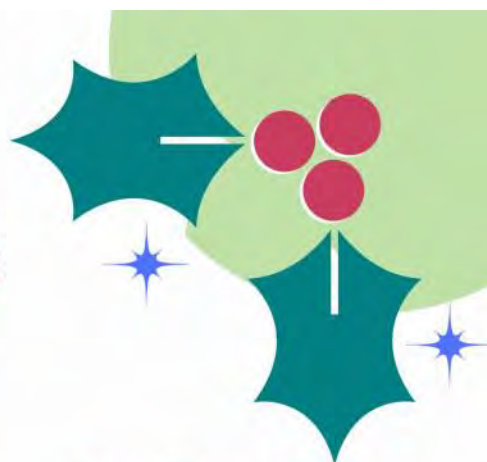
OHS CHOIR - PARADE ON MAIN - TREE LIGHTING

JOIN THE OLATHE COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY  
SEASON AT THE POCKET PARK

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



# VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER 1st Annual **Gingerbread House** DECORATING CONTEST



**Entry Drop-off:**  
**Monday, Dec. 16th -**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 17th**  
**9 am - 6 pm**

**Judging:**  
**Thursday, Dec. 19th**  
**2 pm**

**On display through Dec. 20th**  
**Pick-up after Dec. 20th**

## Four Categories

### #1 Original Creations

No kits allowed,  
house made entirely of  
edible materials  
(except base and supports)

### #2 Groups

Kits allowed.  
For families, clubs,  
teams, coworkers.

### #3 Youth

Kits allowed.  
For ages 6-11

### #4 Children

Kits allowed.  
For ages 5 and under.

Open to all ages. Prizes will be rewarded.

Questions? Please contact Debra Hayre  
at (970) 249-9634 or [dhayre@voa.org](mailto:dhayre@voa.org)

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Western Colorado Properties



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**60545 Kansas Road  
Montrose**

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**3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms  
2,711 sq. ft. + 1,143 s.f. shop  
45.66 Acres**

**Uncompahgre River runs through  
this unique property!  
\$885,000**



**FOR SALE**

**1526 Leeds Avenue  
Montrose**

**5 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms  
2,850 sq. ft. | .29 acres**

**\$365,000**



**FOR SALE**

**6013 5825 Road  
Olathe**

**2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom  
1,196 sq. ft. | 1 acre**

**\$181,500**



**FOR SALE**

**59406 Lone Eagle Road  
Montrose**

**1.47 Irrigated Acre Lot, Ready to Build!  
Eagle Heights**

**\$38,000**

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## BOCC APPROVES HIGHER CHILDCARE REIMBURSEMENT, CONSIDERS CITIZEN FEEDBACK ON AMENDED JUNK ORDINANCE



*County residents wait to address the Board of County Commissioners concerning amendments to the County's existing junk ordinance on Wednesday, Nov. 20.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 20. All commissioners were present. Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church delivered the invocation.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items.

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda. "The agenda stands as presented."

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution 43-2019 applied to Item 7, a proposal to rezone six acres from General Agricultural to General Commercial at the southeast corner of Trout Road and State Highway 550, as approved at the BOCC meeting of July 17.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners unanimously approved an Addendum to the Hangar Lease with Western Skyways Turbine, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Turbine Services, for installation of three-phase electric service to 1681 6450 Road; the total cost, not to exceed \$95,827, will be shared equally between the Airport and Rocky Mountain Turbine Services (\$47,913.50 each).

"We have needed three-phase for the east side of the airport for some time," Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold said, "I'm

happy that Rocky Mountain Turbine is willing to partner with us in order to get the three-phase to the rest of the Airport...I see it as kind of a win-win."

The company has invested close to \$50K in hangar improvements and is committed to remaining at Montrose Regional Airport, he said.

Said BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash, "I want to thank Rocky Mountain Turbine Services for their efforts in helping us with this, because they're doing some pretty phenomenal stuff out there in that hangar...it's

pretty amazing the process they're going to put together to repair those jet engines.

"That's just a wonderful benefit to the airport."

Also unanimously approved was Resolution 44-2019, to revise and amend the Child Care Assistance Provider Payment Rates Policy, as required by the Colorado Department of Human Services Program Rules, Section 3.9, authorizing Counties to establish local rates of payment to child care providers who enter into a Fiscal Agreement with the County and the CCCAP Program.

County Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood said, "This is a proposal to increase the amount that we pay in-home providers for day care, from \$14 per day per child to \$18 dollars, in hopes to encourage more people to participate in that program so we can mitigate the childcare crisis that is currently happening in this county."

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen commented that the reimbursement rate (the maximum allowed by the State for Montrose County) is still not high enough. "I think that's so low that we need to revisit that at some point and figure out a way to approach the state."

Rash noted that there is a shortage of childcare in Montrose County, and asked about programs that help people learn how to create childcare businesses.

"Yes," Sherwood said. "There is, through

Bright Futures."

Private pay is \$35 per kid per day, Hansen noted. "Even that is fairly low. To ask someone to start up a business where they're pretty much not going to make any money, is a challenge...I think we need to provide a leadership position and some decisions or at least some choices in exploring these things."

Licensed providers qualify for a higher rate, Sherwood said.

There are inherent challenges, Hansen said. A provider must have backup personnel to take classes and become certified.

"..I think we are smart enough to put our heads together to figure out some solutions here...the part that is bothersome to me is that we take people that are in a program where the expectation is an outcome of self-sufficiency, but they can't take a job even when offered a job because they have no place to put their newborn," Hansen said.

The need is greatest for newborn care, Sherwood said.

Reimbursement funds are provided through the Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP).

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

A public hearing was opened for an amendment to supersede ordinance 2015-02, which concerns the accumulation and removal of rubbish and junk in unincorporated Montrose County.

Presently, only general residential properties less than one-acre and multiple-family residential are subject to the ordinance, County Planning & Development Director Steve White said. New changes are specific to the issue, White said, and expand the zoning districts and acreage size. The regulations apply to properties three acres or less, and that are zoned General Residential, Manufactured Home Park Residential, Multiple Family Residential, and General Agricultural District. The ordinance will also apply to other zoning district in which the primary use of the property is residential. The county has received numerous complaints over the past five years concerning junk and litter issues that cannot be enforced, particularly concerning lots that are zoned but not used for commercial endeavors.

*Continued next pg*

## ***BOCC APPROVES HIGHER CHILDCARE REIMBURSEMENT From previous pg***

Rash asked about agricultural properties in which a residential portion has been divided off. White said that in that situation any unused agricultural equipment would have to be kept on the ag side.

Said Commissioner Keith Caddy, "Personally I think the three-acres minimum is not enough; I would like to see it closer to four...that would give us a buffer zone over that three-acre minimum."

The ordinance is not directed to any specific property, but is general, Hansen said.

Comments were heard from County residents.

County resident Matt Goldasich spoke about specific sections of the ordinance, and said, "I think we also should consider big properties within basically City limits that are still within Montrose County." He said that a parcel next to Marshalls is full of junk. "It's right within the City."

Also, since general business and commercial properties are excluded, "We haven't really talked about the abandoned ones..." You go out there in Cimarron and you see all that junk around Cimarron and you've got all these visitors coming in from out state who want to go look at the dam and they want to look at the railroad museum, and all they have is junk...I don't understand why we can't include that."

Fencing off an offensive area does not really alleviate the issues, he said. "The next-door neighbor has got to worry about the vermin running through that property."

The area just off the San Juan Bypass is really an eyesore, he said.

The identity of those who complain should be protected, he said. He asked about the possibility of proactive enforcement by the Sheriff's office.

Finally, the idea of impounding junk would be an administrative nightmare, he said.

"Why impound...it doesn't make any sense to me. As soon as that stuff is picked up by the County they (should) lose any ownership rights." As for appeals, "Let the Sheriff's Office handle that stuff."

Also speaking was County resident Sue Schmidt. "I would to increase the property size to avoid needed changes to this Ordinance in the future," she said. "...frequently these lot sizes are above three

acres."

Schmidt pointed out properties that are zoned agricultural but are used to store junk. One of the properties, containing numerous stripped-down cars and scrap, is surrounded by water. "...It's a problem."

She suggested defining agriculture as land used to generate a profit and proposed adding language to protect agriculture.

"Farmland is really important to us; we don't want a junk yard there."

A neighbor burns toxic waste in a barrel, she said, and throws waste into the canal.

"We have zoning where a junkyard should be," Schmidt said. "We don't have zoning if an agricultural location becomes a junk yard—there's no consequences."

She suggested consequences.

County resident Ken Dolezal spoke as well, mentioning a neighbor (within City limits) with more than 20 acres that are covered with junk. "...I think the county needs to look at long-range planning," he said. "In the long range these sorts of places need to be removed or diminished."

Acreage should not be a limitation, he said. "It should be regardless of acres, because some people are wealthy enough to buy larger acreages, and that gives 'em permission to do whatever on that property?"

He suggested that the County perform a further inventory of properties that are essentially junkyards, noting that there are a significant number on the north end of the county. "We need to understand as the county becomes more populated these problems can increase," Dolezal said. "We need to deal with them before there are even more significant problems."

County resident Mary Rusnak said that property owners in her neighborhood are bringing in automobiles, chopping them up, and leaving them to sit. "They are lining the fence lines with them and stacking them up on the hills," Rusnak said. "They are not using their property for agriculture...we all have to look at the squalor...they have trash, cars, and the tractors of 18-wheelers...there was an explosion of a Winnebago on their property; it was sitting in their pasture for years...he moved it onto the hillside next to where

he's stacking all these cars that people are bringing in.

"Every time we leave our driveway all we see is the burned-out shell of a Winnebago...it's just not right."

Hansen closed the public hearing.

Rash said, "We are an ag community and I don't want to lose sight of that; we do protect property rights as well. There are people out there who pay those taxes on those properties and they have the rights to use those properties...if it's a health issue I think that's something that needs to be turned over to the health department...if you feel that they're doing something that's polluting a waterway or something that becomes a health issue that goes through our health department it also goes through CDPHE, our state health department...I get really concerned when we start telling everybody in the county how they can use their property...the other issue I have is people using this as retaliation...I have a big issue with that."

"I think we need to go in baby steps," Rash said.

"It's our job to be wise about how we look at this," Hansen said. "We want to be smart and wise about this, and thoughtful. This been on the table a long time...be assured that we will put a lot of thought in how we go about this."

Said Caddy, "I still think we need to increase the size of the area at least to four acres as a buffer zone...I don't see a problem with doing that. I am right there with Roger and you; it's personal property rights. I totally believe in that. A person has the right to use their property as they see fit, as long as it's within the confines of EPA, CDPHE, all the other organizations...I don't want to affect agriculture at all."

Commissioners convened a second public hearing, on a Certificate of Designation for the 3XM Composting Facility at 59039 Amber Road, approved by the County in August. "What you would be approving today are the state's approval of their approved plan by the state," County Planning & Development Director Steve White said. The certificate of designation was unanimously approved by resolution.

Hansen closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting.



## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### POST-2A PERSPECTIVE ON SUBJECTIVE MUSE OF OUTCOME

#### EDITOR:

Over the past several months, the city's self-proclaimed 'blue ribbon' campaign machine bolstered by the city's *in-the-tank* Montrose Daily Pravda, posted yet another snarky victory lap by none other than the paper's own publisher, this past Sunday. Once again, contrary to Frances Wick's prior documented protestation of "fake news" versus unbiased, print journalism, his own Montrose publisher just couldn't resist making his contrived subjectivity yet another stomp-down on *We the People* taxpayers that nearly upset the election apple cart! 60 votes cannot by any stretch be contrived to represent a mandate of the people - quite the contrary. Due to space, here are highlights of one of his talking points along with counterpoints:

- proponents more organized... Ha, go figure. The "blue ribbon", well-funded city staffers, council, handpicked committee (with exception of two dissenters that were quickly maligned) and complete with expensive, professional signage planted all around town, 46+ power-point presentation blitzes to public venues by the Police Chief (Hatch Act violations?); how many PD / City staff hours at what cost do you suppose went into that lengthy effort? And the bully pulpit of the bureaucracy has unbridled coverage with suffocating subjectivity. He didn't mention that.

- Opponents not organized... Yes, kind of a disorganized, unfunded, rag-tag bunch of concerned, taxpaying individuals with like-minded concerns and with limited access to public dissemination, on the matter of why the city manager and council members allowed the PD to get to such an abhorrent financial condition in the first place requiring emergency funding measures while painting so-called opponents of yet another sales tax scheme as law enforcement haters and detractors from public safety. Not one of the subject tax naysayers ever once suggested that the PD should not have every single thing on the wish list. We love these folks. What was suggested was that city mgr and counsels have had the money but failed to prioritize the priorities. And how repugnant of the overtaxed to stand up and say, "Just fix it!". And in case anybody missed it, the 2020 Budget item is now unconsciously and unapologetically up to **\$1.3M** for the **Amphitheater**. But wait, that's just for 2020! It will likely hit **\$2 M++** by 2021. Whose name will it bear? Bowman, Bell, Babs? All three B's?

Don't forget that the PD building has been owned since 1991 and Tom Chinn described three times in one article that the building was sorely compromised in size and logistics the day the PD moved in. Over 28 years with a nominal, annual set-aside budget figure into a PD construction fund would have resulted in a multi-million-dollar balance ready to play ball.

By the way, Thank you Montrose Mirror for allowing little people access to a public venue !

R.L. Michaels, Montrose



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ELKS HOST FIRST RESPONDER BREAKFAST TO HONOR LOCAL HEROES

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**—On Nov. 18, Montrose Elks Lodge held an Appreciation Breakfast for Colorado's finest Law Enforcement and Firemen. Overall 52, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders attended the event where Certificates of Service in grateful appreciation to our Nation were presented to leaders of the Montrose Sheriff, Montrose Police & Fire, Olathe Police & Fire, and the Colorado State Patrol. Those attending enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast and had very positive comments regarding the event.

Montrose Elks stressed *"the Certificates only symbolize our respect 1<sup>st</sup> Responders deserve serving in some of our noblest professions.*

*Their self-sacrifice and desire to make our cities, county, and State, a better place in which to live and work is enjoyed by all."*

*In photo from right, Montrose Police Sargent Larry Witte, Olathe Fire Chief Matt Patrone, Montrose Fire Chief Tad Rowan, Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard, Elks West District Leader Nick DeMercurio, and Martin Crespin of Montrose Elks Lodge.*



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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO GOVERNOR JARED POLIS UNVEILS RURAL ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - Colorado Gov. Jared Polis has released the Rural Economic Blueprint. This Blueprint will address concerns and challenges in rural communities by leveraging existing assets, building on innovative programs, and increasing efforts to ensure that all Coloradans have the opportunity to thrive.

"I ran on ensuring a Colorado for all where everyone in our state has the opportunity to thrive. I'm proud of the work we've done together to lower the cost of health care in rural areas and provide free, full-day kindergarten, and keep our economy on the right track," said Governor Jared Polis. "We are excited to unveil our rural economic blueprint, which we believe will lead to more prosperity all across our state from the Eastern Plains to South-

ern Colorado to the Western Slope. With true collaboration between rural communities and the state, we can truly build a Colorado for All."

The administration is focused on expanding rural access to broadband services, tackling high health care costs, repairing rural roads and bridges, investing in rural economic development, and supporting farming and ranching communities.

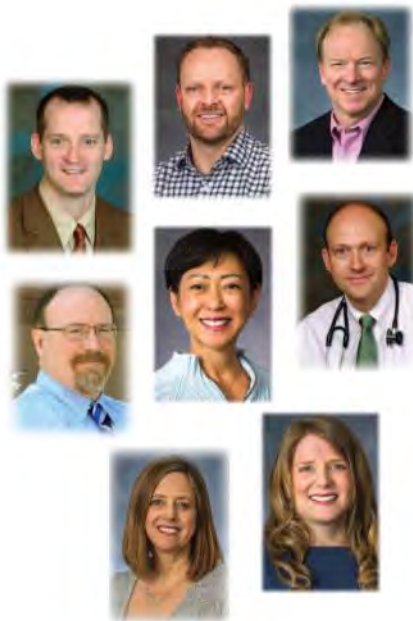
More than 155 meetings and listening sessions have been held to engage Coloradans by several state agencies, including the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Department of Agriculture (CDA), and Department of Transportation (CDOT).

"Our rural communities are part of our

economic life-blood. This blueprint builds upon Colorado's current successful rural economic development programs and encourages innovative practices that work," said Betsy Markey, executive director of the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. "OEDIT's team is here to support and is a resource for our rural communities."

"I'm proud to welcome Governor Polis back to Montrose. It's fitting that the Governor would make this important announcement in our community where we are innovating, investing in our future, ensuring our outdoor economy continues to thrive and our rural quality of life is protected," said Barbara Bynum, Montrose Mayor Pro-Tem.

The Rural Economic Blueprint can be found [here](#).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MMH EARNS HIGH MARKS FOR PATIENT OUTCOMES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-As part of National Rural Health Day, Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) today announced it has been recognized by The Chartis Center of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) for overall excellence in Patient Outcomes.

"We're proud to receive this national recognition," said James Kiser, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital.

"Being recognized for patient outcomes demonstrates our staff and providers are living our mantra and delivering care that is truly Friends & Family caring for Friends & Family."

Based on the results of the Hospital Strength INDEX from iVantage Health Analytics, the Performance Leadership Awards reflect top quartile performance among all rural hospitals in the United States in either Quality, Patient Perspective or Patient Outcomes.

Patient Outcomes are determined by a number of factors including readmission rates for patients with heart failure or pneumonia, and also by assessing the hospital's performance in handling severe patient cases. Compared to other rural hospitals, MMH had fewer deaths than would be expected according to the risk assessment tool.

The Hospital Strength INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Leveraging data from publicly available



*From left to right: Leann Tobin, Senior Director of Community Engagement; James Kiser, Chief Executive Officer; Erin Skees, Senior Director of Human Resources; Yvonne Wigington, Chief Financial Officer; and Larry Peeters, Chief Clinical Officer. Courtesy photo.*

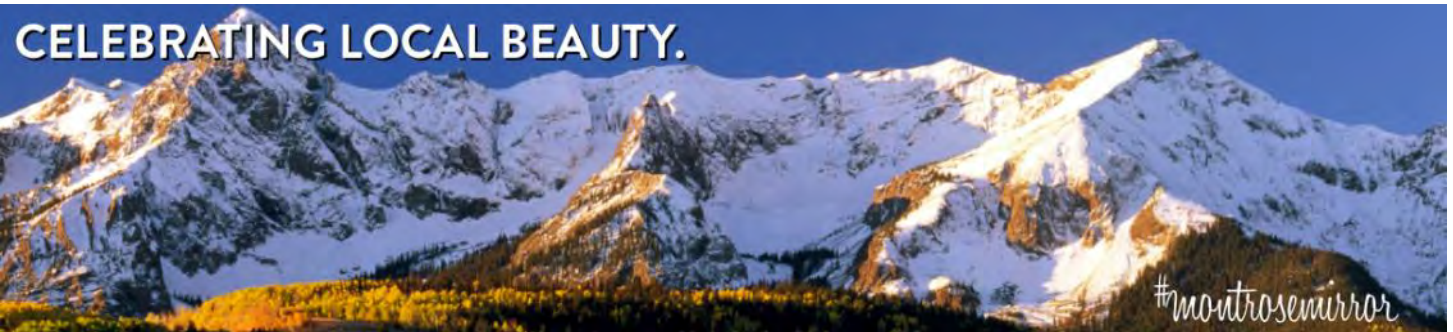
data sources, the INDEX aggregates data from 50 rural-relevant metrics across eight pillars of performance. Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2020, the INDEX serves as the data foundation for a number of industry-leading rural recognition programs and legislative initiatives.

"National Rural Health Day has come to symbolize not just the vital role healthcare providers play in rural communities, but the dedication and hard work that goes into overcoming the unique healthcare challenges that exist across rural America," said Teryl Eisinger, Chief Executive Officer, NOSORH.

"We are proud of the work of the State Offices of Rural Health, their partners and rural hospitals do to improve care across the nation."

"Each year, National Rural Health Day serves as a terrific backdrop for celebrating the power of rural and recognizing rural providers who continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to delivering quality care within their communities," said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "We are delighted to be recognizing these top quartile performers in partnership with NOSORH."

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# HORIZONS CARE CENTER 1st Annual **Gingerbread House** DECORATING CONTEST



**Entry Drop-off:**  
Monday, Dec. 16th -  
Tuesday, Dec. 17th  
9 am - 6 pm

**Judging:**  
Thursday, Dec. 19th  
2 pm

**On display through Dec. 20th**  
**Pick-up after Dec. 20th**

## Four Categories

### #1 Original Creations

No kits allowed,  
house made entirely of  
edible materials  
(except base and supports)

### #2 Groups

Kits allowed.  
For families, clubs,  
teams, coworkers.

### #3 Youth

Kits allowed.  
For ages 6-11

### #4 Children

Kits allowed.  
For ages 5 and under.

Open to all ages. Prizes will be awarded.

Questions? Please contact Megan  
Bardessona at [MBardessona1@voa.org](mailto:MBardessona1@voa.org)



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CDOT COMPLETES AVALANCHE CONTROL PROJECT @ US HIGHWAY 50 MONARCH PASS

*Special to the Mirror*

**CHAFFEE COUNTY** — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor partner, Midwest Rockfall, Inc., recently completed the installation of new avalanche control equipment above U.S. Highway 50 Monarch Pass, about 15 miles east of Poncha Springs, near the Monarch Ski Area.

As part of CDOT's safety initiative, this new remotely controlled avalanche mitigation system, named Gazex, will improve safety for CDOT employees and ski patrol workers who assist with mitigation operations. Instead of handling live ordinances or ammunition, Gazex is a permanent installation on the mountain that uses compressed air and gasses to create a concussive blast to trigger a snow slide under controlled conditions. The system is triggered remotely by operators from a secured distance creating a safer operation.

The system, also improving safety for the traveling public, will allow for increased frequency and nighttime or early morning operations when there are fewer vehicles on the highway. Avalanche mitigation efforts with this system will prevent large accumulations of snow and decrease the risk of unexpected, natural avalanches and long delays due to cleanup and extended closures.

The U.S. 50 avalanche control project included installation of a control shelter, which houses equipment needed for the operation of three remote avalanche control units above a known snow slide path near the Monarch Ski Area, between mile points 201 and 202. Similar remote-controlled systems are also used on U.S. 40 Berthoud Pass and U.S. 6 Loveland Pass in Colorado.



*The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin utilizing a remotely controlled avalanche mitigation system on U.S. 50 Monarch Pass this winter. The photo shows one of three units installed recently, which will trigger controlled avalanches with compressed air and gas to provide safer driving conditions for motorists driving over the pass when avalanche danger is high. The system will also offer safer working conditions for CDOT employees and ski patrol workers who assist with operations. Courtesy photo, RockSol Consulting Group (project management).*

\*\*\* THE GIFT OF GIVING - PART 1 \*\*\*



## THE GIFT OF TIME



With Thanksgiving fast approaching and Christmas close behind, families are already piecing together holiday season plans. From searching for the perfect turkey recipe to clipping out promotional coupons, it is easy to lose focus on what's most important. Mix up tradition this year and explore one of the many ways you can give back to those who need it most.

### Active Involvement

Look for events at churches and shelters in your area, then roll up your sleeves and get ready to help prep food, clean or serve.



**VOLUNTEER AT A SOUP KITCHEN**



The elderly are especially appreciative of visits during the holiday season, so why not consider expanding your family for a few hours?



**VISIT SENIOR CITIZENS**

### Every Bit Counts

Organizations like the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross gear up each holiday season to give back. Check out what they are looking for and donate this year.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS**



**COAT DRIVES**

Start a holiday-giving tradition in your family that teaches your children the value of giving to others. Take your family to shop for a less fortunate child. Teach your children invaluable lessons on thankfulness, empathy, and charitable giving.



**TOY DRIVES**

### Rewarding Yourself

Volunteering yields benefits for those that give as well as receive - one benefit is a boost in health! These unique media interactions can increase your self-confidence, elevate your mood, and bring you closer to your family all while connecting with others.



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## CITY COUNCIL HEARS DOLA PRESENTATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, UPDATE ON MAIL BALLOT ELECTION PLAN



*Four new employees were introduced at the Montrose City Council work session of Monday, Nov. 18.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Four new employees were introduced at the Montrose City Council work session of Monday, Nov. 18. Joining the City team are Police Customer Service/Civilian Report Takers Ernesto Monroy and Shelly Fellin; Golf Course Grounds Superintendent Kyle Schmidt; and Street Division Worker Mace Jensen. Lunch for Council and staff was catered by Heidi's Brooklyn Deli.

Raised in Montrose, Monroy finished his degree at CMU and is excited to have returned to his hometown. "Shelly and I make a great team."

Born and raised in Ouray, Fellin, whose family donated the land for Fellin Park and the Ouray Hot Springs pool, has spent 30 years working for non-profit organizations. "I am very proud of my heritage in Ouray."

Schmidt has worked for the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs; Jensen, from Price, Utah, began his career with the city as a seasonal worker but has a background in business management.

Mayor Dave Bowman said, "Welcome to Montrose!"

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jen Stepleton of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) joined Council for a discussion of affordable housing. She explained the differences between market rate housing, affordable housing, and low-income housing. Categories are based on a median income of \$54,480 for a family of four. Current market rental rates for a one-bedroom unit are \$600 to \$800 per

month; for a two-bedroom, one-bath unit \$800; for a three-bedroom, two-bath home \$1,000 to \$1,200; and \$1,300 to \$1,500 for a three-bedroom, two-bath home.

Affordable housing costs no more than 30 percent of income, Stepleton said, and includes utilities. If spending more, you are rent-burdened.

"We're deciding what kind of housing projects to participate in as a City," City Manager Bill Bell said.

Stepleton discussed HUD subsidized housing, offering local examples such as Sunshine Peak and The Park at Colorado Outdoors. Payments for units are adjusted each year, but there is limited availability, she said. "There aren't many tax-credit projects on the Western Slope; these are projects designed to basically break even."

Bynum said that she attended a Mayor's Summit in Denver over the weekend and saw a presentation by Habitat for Humanity. She also learned about where municipalities can "partner."

Stepleton noted that Municipalities usually contribute fee waivers rather than funding, and that 64 percent of people in rural Colorado are rent-burdened.

"Sometimes they build, like in Vail," Bynum said.

When it comes to mobile homes, if the unit was built in 1978 or earlier, "Don't bother repairing it, just replace it," Stepleton said.

City Planner Garry Baker presented information and a site plan for a 3.16-acre **land exchange plat and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)** with Columbine School, which would transfer ownership of a parcel to the City. A memo prepared by Baker notes that the proposed transfer will dedicate a park, two streets, and a portion of a city parking lot to the City. In 2017 the City dedicated park land and a strip of Mesa Ave. right-of-way to the School District.

The RE-1J School District will receive two acres in exchange. "This has been quite a partnership," Baker said. "It's a fantastic

school and great addition to Montrose."

The IGA speaks to maintenance, approach, and access to the irrigation system, he said. The Board of Education has already approved the draft IGA and plat.

The item will be on the City's agenda for the Dec. 3 Council meeting.

Utilities Manager David Bries discussed an **AMI Upgrade recommendation and Spruce Point Air Injection Vault Bid Award Recommendation**.

According to the work session packet, staff recommends upgrading the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) software to a Software as a Service (SaaS) through National Meter and Automation in the amount of \$85,663.

**Background:** According to a staff memo, in 2014, the City approved a contract with National Meter and Automation (NMAA) for implementation of an ITRON® fixed network AMI system. This system has been extremely reliable in providing hourly meter reading information to more than 99.5 percent of the meters in the City's water service area. Last fall, the city learned that the current version of the software was out of date and would no longer be supported. Staff has been working with NMAA and ITRON to evaluate options.

Councilor Judy Ann Files asked about a notification system that is supposed to alert customers to leaks by letting them know if water usage has gone up. "That was supposed to be a selling point," Files said.

The City has not purchased that capability, Bries said.

Bell said, "We still have live data, so we can get ahold of a customer and let them know they have a leak. We just didn't implement the dashboard."

Files said that all municipalities in Colorado will have to address water conservation and watersheds.

"If it's going to be mandated, we better do it."

Bries said that water consumption in Montrose is very low compared to other areas of the state. "Our citizens are doing a fairly good job," he said.

*Continued next pg*

## **CITY COUNCIL HEARS DOLA PRESENTATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING** *From previous pg*

According to the Work Session packet, Staff recommends awarding the Spruce Point Air Injection Vault contract to low-bidder EFI-Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$123,274 for an air injection vault to be installed at the Spruce Point Lift Station. Two bids were received for the project.

Background: The packet states that the City of Montrose Utilities Department has contracted with Providence Infrastructure Consultants (PIC) to study and design a system to mitigate the formation of Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) along the Chipeta bike path sewer system. H<sub>2</sub>S is a chemical compound that is identified as the primary cause of odor and corrosion in sewer systems. H<sub>2</sub>S is naturally converted to sulfuric acid, which is corrosive towards steel and concrete. During the investigation and surveying process with PIC, peak levels of H<sub>2</sub>S at the manhole located on the bike path closest to Chipeta road were recorded at 1,303 parts per million. The air injection system will inject air into the sewer system at the Spruce Point Lift Station, increasing the dissolved oxygen levels at the beginning of the pressurized system and preventing the development of H<sub>2</sub>S.

In layman's terms, Bries said that the project will eliminate the foul odor that currently be detected along the nearby walking path by creating an atmosphere that does not generate hydrogen sulfide and will not be noticeable above ground.

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on finish options for the **City's water tank on Sunset Mesa**, which is being replaced with a vertical standpipe tank.

"The next step is, what is it going to look like?" Murphy said. He showed photos of tanks completed in a variety of finishes.

Background: The Work Session packet

states that the selected standpipe tank will be 46 feet in diameter and 125 feet tall. Ultimately two tanks would be situated on Sunset Mesa. Lighter colors are most commonly used as they are generally more durable, limit thermal issues with the tank, are most cost-effective, and generally maintain good visibility for aircraft.

Murphy recommended a tannish white. "We are also trying to lease to cell phone companies."

Files said that she would prefer that the tank not be used for advertising purposes. "I think there's some quality we want and some credibility."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that the less distracting the finish is, the better.

The multi-year project will be put out for bid in May or June of 2020.

Bynum mentioned that she attended a Mayors' conference in Denver and learned about grants for water projects.

Council also discussed the **Mail Ballot Election Plan** for the 2020 Municipal Election. City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said that the only change will be the deadline for write-in affidavits. Information for candidates will be available Dec. 16; candidates can circulate petitions Jan. 2.

"Basically, we are ready to move forward with this (Resolution) on the Dec. 3 Council Agenda."

### **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Files asked for an update on the large Vic Payne bronze sculptures recently purchased by the City.

Said Bell, "We have delivered a signed contract to the Widger Trust and we are waiting for a notarized, signed document." Bowman suggested a dedication ceremony with a band at Demoret Park.

Bynum talked about the Mayors' summit she attended in Denver the previous weekend.

"It was great! I took lots of notes." Topics included workforce housing, affordable housing, water, and transportation. Regarding transportation, "The takeaway is that local municipalities have to kick in and be part of the solution...it prompted me to think of ways we could be partners with CDOT," Bynum said.

Files said that CDOT will hold additional meetings on the proposed changes to the Little Blue Canyon, located approximately 30 miles east of Montrose along Hwy 50. Input meetings were not well attended, and more feedback is needed from impacted groups such as the medical community and logging industry.

"It's definitely going to impact the City and County of Montrose a lot."

Bynum noted that the project will be an opportunity for more collaboration.

San Juan Avenue will also be updated by CDOT, Murphy said.

The Connect Trail Project will not meet the contract completion date of Nov. 19.

Workers at Cerro Reservoir have been working 24-hour shifts for the past three weeks at their own cost.

A City contractor is ready to place a flashing pedestrian light at Main and Uncompahgre, but materials have not yet been received. Glaspell suggested additional signage at that location. "People are not seeing that there is a button to push." The project will be completed after the Holidays, Murphy said.

Montrose Police Commander Tim Cox said that there was a fatal rollover near the Bridges, sexual assaults, and an attempted homicide in recent weeks.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that the bridge at Ogden Road will be replaced Nov. 26 at 10 a.m.

Baker said that COPMOBA helped to replace two bridges in Spring Creek Canyon.

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





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY COUNCIL NEEDS A FACELIFT: THREE SEATS OPEN IN APRIL

*Editor:*

Upon attaining an age of majority [18 in Colorado], an individual's greatest civic responsibility is, not only to register to vote, but to become informed on all issues, and actually voice your opinion by taking the time to vote. In our recent election here in Montrose, 47% [12,840] of eligible voters failed to exercise that basic civic responsibility. Many times I've heard the excuse from eligible non voters that they felt their vote did not count. Nothing could be farther from the truth! In many instances there is a direct monetary cost for failing to exercise that basic responsibility.

A case in point is the slim 69 vote margin of victory for the City's 2A Public Safety Sales Tax. In October the projected City budget for 2020 was \$49,460,435. Immediately after the election, that budget jumped to \$ 61,041,687. That \$11,581,252 increase will be paid by all who shop in the City of Montrose, and that's just the first year.

The only good news about the passage of 2A, is that the MPD is finally guaranteed a much needed influx of funding. The City's Document Center shows budgeting history for the MPD from 2012-18 to average a minuscule 3.7% increase annually. During that same period, actual sales tax receipts exceeded budgeted receipts by well over \$19.6 million. The City's own financial rec-

ords clearly show that ample monies were available in City coffers for priority police funding in the face of rising crime rates, yet no adequate funding for police was approved until passage of 2A.

In 2019, the police budget, according to the Document Center, was \$ 8,124,777. Post the 2A vote, with an anticipated influx of millions in new taxes, the police budget increased 35.4% to \$11,003,550 for 2020.

2A campaign promises were voiced regarding specific funding uses for police monies. With passage of 2A, it should be concerning to voters that Council wasted no time in moving \$ 670,194 from public safety [ie: the police budget] over to the Capital Improvement Fund. Only Mayor Bowman viewed those promises as a matter of personal integrity. All other Council members chose to remove those funds from police use.

It should be additionally concerning that, according to the final 2020 budget document, the projected 2019 year end MPD expenditures will total \$7,659,025. The result, if those predictions are accurate, is that the MPD will fail to use \$465,752 of its \$8,124,777 2019 budget.

During the high pressure campaign to sell voters on increasing taxes via 2A, we were constantly reminded of a dire pressing need for more patrol officers and school resource officers, among others. Consider-

ing the recent transfer of \$670,194 from public safety to Capital Improvements, along with the projected failure of the MPD to utilize \$465,752 of its 2019 allocation, voters may want to begin questioning why some of the needed patrol officers and school resource officers have not already been hired.

During the 2020 budget presentations, the City adopted a "transparency" mode in answering questions about the budget. But the budget presented to the public only addresses the various fund balances. If a taxpayer seeks any detailed line item information within any fund, that "transparency" seems to quickly fade, as the taxpayer will be required to file a CORA request to get any detailed budget information that should be readily available to any and all taxpayers.

As more people begin to delve into the 2A machinations and the fact that the City had the money all along to fund police needs, it would not surprise me if, at some point in the future, there is a move to repeal 2A. But, to that end, Montrose needs a City Council facelift.

Luckily the opportunity to accomplish that comes in April 2020, with three Council seats coming open.

Hopefully some good citizens, with real life business experience, will step up to run for those seats.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*



*ANONYMOUS*

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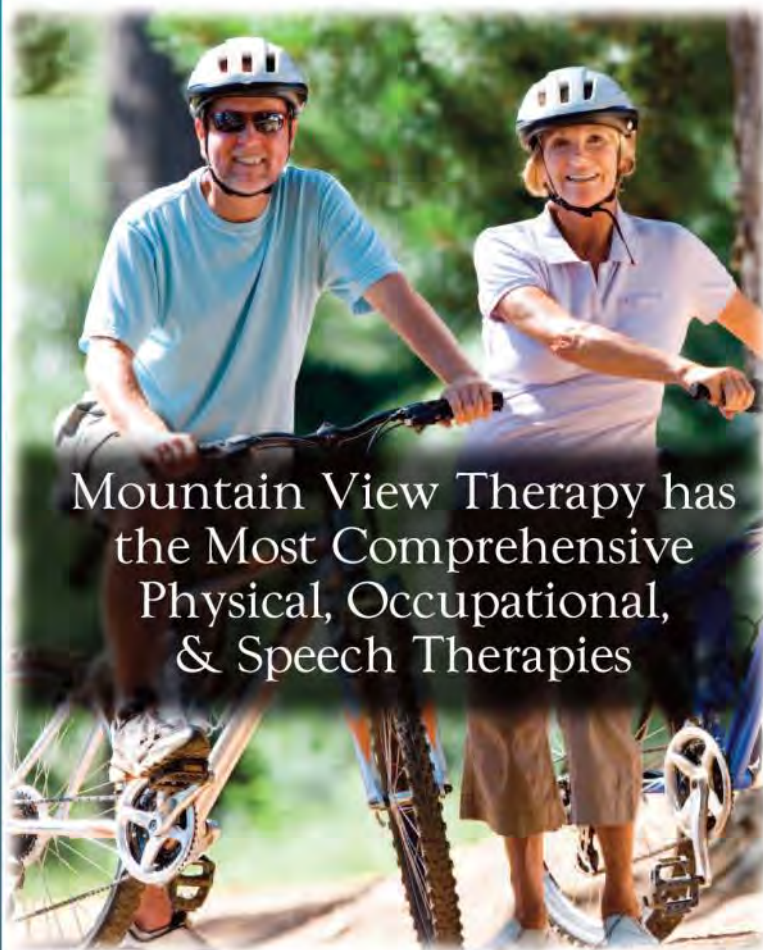
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# CITY COUNCIL APPROVES YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS; MAYOR VOTES NO ON 2020 BUDGET



*Youth Council Applicant Harrison Hall said that teen vaping and drug use are the greatest challenges facing today's youth.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19. All Councilors were in attendance. A planned proclamation in support of the Montrose High School Boys Golf Team was postponed for scheduling reasons; the 2020 Budget Ordinance was approved four to one, with Mayor Dave Bowman voting in opposition.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were heard on non-agenda items.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Nov. 12 regular City council meeting were approved unanimously.

## CITY OF MONTROSE YOUTH COUNCIL-APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed Youth Council representative Olivia Haga, who was taking part in the meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Mikayla Unruh introduced Youth Council Applicant Harrison Hall. Hall was asked what he considered to be the greatest challenge facing today's youth.

"I would say that the greatest challenge facing today's youth is teen vaping and drug use," Hall said. "A lot of teens use vaping as a way out for problems, depression, normal teenager stuff. As we've seen in the past few years, popcorn lung and certain diseases have come up from vaping and are affecting our youth...I'd say the greatest issue we have with our youth is to

try to get them off of it and to try to get them something positive, something besides doing drugs and vaping."

Unruh introduced Applicant Catherine Borner, who was asked in what ways technology has helped or harmed her generation.

Said Borner, "I think it's definitely both a help and a harm; if you misuse technology it's harmful for the generation. People are really obsessed with social media; that causes a lot of negative feelings. But it can also do a lot of really good things. You can share quotes, you can reach out to people, you can stay connected."

Technology is also useful in school, for research purposes, she said.

Unruh recommended appointment of both applicants; the appointments were unanimously approved.

"Welcome back Harrison, and Catherine, welcome to you," Bowman said.

## 2020 BUDGET APPROVAL

Amended Ordinance 2490 was presented on Second Reading, providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg said that the Budget was amended so she could add \$670K from the Public Safety Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund for appropriation following the election.

No comments were heard from the public. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said, "I just really appreciate the process...I appreciate that we started this way back in the Spring with a general meeting with our vision and goals for 2020. Department heads and staff worked on it throughout the summer, we had another retreat with Council in October.

"I just appreciate the effort and the time and all of the thought from my fellow councilors and staff that has gone into this."

Bynum said it was important to her that the additional tax generated by Measure 2A would not replace the current funding for the Police Department. "It stays true to the voters' intent; that the additional

money generated through the sales tax is above and beyond. I think we've done good work here."

Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked the two committee members present, David Stockton and Phoebe Benziger, who worked on the sales tax measure.

Councilor Judy Ann Files noted that Council approves the budget by fund but also has information on the line items. "I can tell you how much is being spent on staples, I can tell you how much is being spent on the Parks Department. It's all here."

Councilor Roy Anderson said that priorities were worked out over many months, with input from staff. "It was a hard job, but one that was done very well. Thank you for recognizing all of the different priorities in our community."

Bowman held up his copy of the budget as he spoke. "On October 3 City Council and staff met and went over this budget. It's a balanced budget," he said. "Nothing was cut, nobody lost their job, everybody got a raise; it was a budget that would meet our needs regardless of what happened.

"Prior to that day, and every meeting that I attended after October 3, I stood up in front of this community and said if 2A passes we could not move money around in the budget," he said.

"We are taking \$670,000 out of this budget for public safety and in this (Amended) budget we are putting it in cap reserve. We really don't know what we're going to spend it on. That will be determined later."

The total cost of the new police facility and the design remains unknown, he said. No loan has yet been received from the USDA. "It is my feeling that \$670,000 should stay in public safety," Bowman said. "As it's not, I cannot vote on this. I told the people we're not going to move this money; it's being moved.

"It's my personal integrity, and at this point I am concerned financially that we have all the money that we need to actually build the building and hire the people.

*Continued next pg*

## ***CITY COUNCIL APPROVES YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS; MAYOR VOTES NO ON 2020 BUDGET From previous pg***

"...By moving \$670,000 out of public safety and into an undesignated fund balance, I just can't agree with that," he said, "so I will be voting no."

"It's actually not being proposed to move it to an undesignated fund," Bynum said. "It's being proposed to move it to capital improvements. Which is where it was on October 3<sup>rd</sup> when we met and decided that if the Public Safety Sales Tax didn't pass, we were going to fund a couple of things regardless."

"We cut money out of those funds and moved them over to police in case didn't pass," she said. "And we're putting it back where it was at the beginning of that day. I think it's disingenuous to say we're moving money around."

"I totally disagree with you," Bowman said. "I was the one who stood up in front of the community and told the community we wouldn't do this."

"...We're absolutely funding the police at the same levels as before," Bynum said, and with the additional tax money."

Said Councilor Roy Anderson, "You can never predict the future...but we have excellent professionals who can make very sound predictions based on their knowledge and our track record in the past. They have studied the costs associated with our planned buildings and hiring people and everything...we are moving forward with the best information available. I personally have a lot of confidence in their ability to make those projections...I don't think it's appropriate to take and bank money in case these projections are way off."

Bynum pointed out that staff had provided a list of projects on which the money could be spent.

Said Councilor Judy Ann Files, "This budget absolutely does what we asked for in the ballot issue; we've done exactly what we said we were going to do. We're allocating the sales tax that's collected in 2020 to the Public Safety budget as well as 44 percent of our General Fund...I think we have done everything we can do to be

true to the ballot issue."

The budget passed four to one with Bowman voting against Amended Ordinance 2490.

Also approved four to one was Resolution 2019-26, adopting the 2020 Municipal Budget.

### **EAST MIAMI WATERLINE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT AWARD**

Council unanimously approved the award of a construction contract to low-bidder Mountain Valley Contracting in the amount of \$536,438.10. The City has previously done between \$5 to 10M in work with Mountain Valley Contracting, City engineer Scott Murphy said. "We have no reservations at all, we have a lot of history with them," he said. "It's all been positive."

### **STAFF REPORTS/COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Wittenberg delivered a Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Files said that in 2020, the report will include information on the new Public Safety Fund; Feb. 20 is the first due date for collection of the new tax.

City Manager Bill Bell said staff is working on design of a Public Safety Report Card as requested by Bowman. "We almost have it done."

Anderson asked about the time needed to hire new police officers; Police Commander Matt Smith discussed the requirements and timing of getting new officers on staff. The process could take anywhere from three to five months depending on whether the officer has already been POST (Peace Officer Standards & Training) certified, Smith said. A very aggressive recruiting campaign began in 2019. In addition to six weeks at the police Academy, officers must have 10 weeks of training in the department.

Also, "To build a successful team they have to integrate themselves into the community," Smith said.

Bowman asked that information on response times be included on the Public Safety Report Card, including numbers of crimes committed and clearance rate.



***Mayor Dave Bowman refused to vote in favor of the 2020 Amended Budget.***

Bell said that the City is working with Colorado Mesa University to establish a local police academy. "it's a work in progress and we hope to have it up and running next summer."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler provided an update on Holiday events and said that the Visitor Center would move to Main Street and open a 'pop-up' store on Nov. 25. The parade of Lights will be at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 7.

Haga said that Youth Council hopes to have a float in the Parade of Lights and has adopted a road for cleanup (South San Juan to Hillcrest).

Files reminded that the fourth-ranked Montrose High School Football Team quarter-final game against fifth-ranked Pueblo West for the state championship would be Saturday. "Come join us."

Anderson said that a recent City open house concerning short-term rentals was packed.

Bynum said that she was in Denver last week and got to see the girls' volleyball team play.

"They played really well; I want to congratulate them on a great season."

Bowman wished all a wonderful, wonderful Thanksgiving week and a happy Thanksgiving. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.





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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BURG SIMPSON LAW FIRM WINS JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES OF BODY BROKER

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-In a victory announced last week, the trial firm of Burg Simpson El-dredge Hersh & Jardine, PC secured \$58 million in compensatory & punitive damages—one of the largest civil case results in Arizona history—for families who had donated bodies of their deceased loved ones to Biological Resource Center.

"Today, this jury sent a loud and clear message to body brokers across the nation that failing to treat donated bodies with dignity and respect, and selling off body parts for profit without full informed consent from the donors will not be tolerated in our society," said co-lead trial lawyer David TeSelle, who along with Michael S. Burg and Holly Kammerer tried the four

week long case in Phoenix, Arizona. Biological Resource Center, which claimed to be a legitimate body donation center where the deceased could have their bodies donated to medical advancement, was raided by the FBI in 2014 for illegally selling the bodies it was donated on the black market. After the bodies of the deceased were donated, they would be cut up and sold piecemeal to buyers all over the world—regardless of whether the deceased or family had made specific requests about how the body was to be used. These severed body parts were sold for thousands or even millions of dollars, all of which was pocketed by the body broker. Biological Resource Center is not the only one of these black-market body

brokers using a legitimate-seeming business to source its grisly body parts supply. In 2018, the FBI also raided Sunset Mesa Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado, which had been running a body brokerage business out of the same property. Instead of returning the cremated remains of loved ones to the grieving families, according to multiple reports, Sunset Mesa's owners would keep the corpses and give families back powdered concrete or other false ashes as the deceased's "cremains." Burg Simpson filed in February, 2019 to represent over fifty claimants against the Sunset Mesa Funeral Home. For more information on this case's verdict, the Sunset Mesa case, or Burg Simpson's similar work, visit the [firm's website](#).

*DineOutMontrose.com*





## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### CONSUMER ADVISORY: FIVE TIPS FOR MEDICARE ENROLLEES

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - As we approach the final weeks of Medicare Open Enrollment, which runs every year from Oct. 15 - Dec. 7, Colorado's Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is offering precautions and tips for Colorado's Medicare population.

**Be leery about doing business over the phone** unless you initiated the phone call to a known business number. In a similar vein, be careful when calling phone numbers in insurance ads, whether in flyers or on television or radio. Such ads may promise benefits or services that you may not qualify to receive (notice the fine print

at the bottom of the ad).

**Be cautious with allowing sales people into your home.** Salespeople who make unsolicited visits to your home are usually best avoided. If you need to meet with a salesperson, it may be better to meet with them in a public place. If you chose to invite them into your home, have someone with you during the meeting. And if they do not leave when you ask them to, you may need to call the police. Insurance agents/ brokers or representatives engaging in such behavior should also be reported to the SMP at 800-503-5190.

**Know who you're doing business with.**

Get a business card from the insurance agent / broker so you know who they are and can contact them with any follow-up questions. You should also check that the person is licensed to sell insurance in Colorado, and that their license is in good standing. Call 800-275-8247 or visit the DOI's [Verify a License page](#) to check on a license. And insurance salespeople should not be selling anything but insurance. If they offer to provide some other type of service (such as DNA testing), decline and talk to your doctor about the need for such services. Such behavior should be reported to the SMP at 800-503-5190.

**Don't be pressured into purchasing insurance.** High pressure tactics should be a red flag. It's also important to know that federal guidance now allows insurance agents / brokers to educate *and* sell at the same location. This means that Medicare education events will likely also be sales events. Remember, just because someone provided information, education, or a meal, you should not feel obligated to purchase something from them.

**If you aren't the one doing the enrollment, ask for a copy of the plan information and enrollment confirmation.**

This gives you a record and allows you to continue to review the information. If someone helps you set up a My Medicare account to do the Medicare plan enrollment (through Medicare.gov), make sure it is someone you trust (a family member or a long-time friend - not someone you just met or who just called you).

Always protect your My Medicare account login information. If you don't understand it at a level where you could explain it to someone else, ask questions until you do. If you have any concerns about the behavior of any insurance agent or broker selling Medicare products, report it to the Colorado SMP at 800-503-5190. As the Dec. 7 end of Medicare Open Enrollment draws near, know that you can call Medicare (800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to enroll in a Medicare plan, or go to [Medicare.gov](#) to enroll yourself.



## It's the 45th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show

at the

**Montrose Pavilion**  
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**Friday - November 29th**  
**8 am till 5 pm**

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OCTOBER 2019

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Employers in Colorado added 3,100 nonfarm payroll jobs from September to October for a total of 2,791,500 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 4,200 and government decreased 1,100. September estimates were revised down to 2,788,400, and the over the month change from August to September was a decrease of 2,600 rather than the originally estimated decrease of 1,900.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from September to October to 2.6 percent. This is tied for the lowest unemployment rate since the series began in 1976. The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 4,600 over the month to 3,164,800 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 6,300 to 3,081,300, causing the number of unemployed to decrease 1,700 and the unemployment rate to decline to 2.6 percent. The national unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in October to 3.6 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.3 to 33.0 hours and average hourly earnings increased from \$29.55 to \$30.58.

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities, financial activities, professional and business services, and educational and health services. The largest over the month declines were in leisure and hospitality and construction.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 52,700, with an increase of 43,800 in the private sector and an increase of 8,900 in government. The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, educational and health services, and trade, transportation, and utilities. There were no significant private sector over the year

declines.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down one percentage point from 3.6 percent. The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 36,600,

total employment increased 66,600 and the number of unemployed decreased 30,000. The national unemployment rate declined from 3.8 percent in October 2018 to 3.6 percent in October 2019.



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- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



**Volunteers of America®**

*Contact one of our care navigators to explore all community services and resources or for a benefits checkup.*



## DMEA TALKS BUDGETS: BOARD QUESTIONS VEHICLE, RENOVATION EXPENSES

### *"We are doing well to control our expenses," Says CEO, Now Earning \$455K Annually*



*The regular Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held Nov. 21, 2019. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussion and approval of the 2020 budget. DMEA staff resisted the idea of budget cuts when suggested by Board member Kyle Martinez (center left). Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Nov. 21, 2019. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening meeting prayer.

#### **General Business**

##### **Action Item:**

Membership Report. Approved unanimously.

Minutes from the regular October Board Meeting. Approved unanimously.

##### **Board Committee Items:**

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

Harding said, "We've met three times since the last board meeting, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The three-hour meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> was with Twenty-First Century and we discussed how we might finance the Tri State buy-out, how we could dive in and drill down. They gave us two options and we preferred one option over the other."

Reporting on the Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting Harding said, "It was a loaded agenda as well and included our 2020 budgets. Even though we added 60 meters we continue to see our load flat." In discussing the budget, the FAR committee looked at the DMEA organization, staff, management, tree trimming, safety and training expenses,

facilities upgrades and economic development.

Referring to the upcoming audit Harding said, "Auditors will look for folks who are miscategorized. An example would be people who are running a business but are being charged a residential fee. In pre-audit planning we asked them to drill down on things that we think are important and interesting."

##### **Vote on Budgets**

In discussing the Operations Budget, CEO Jasen Bronec asked CFO Wade Pynes to speak to the Power Supply Audit. Pynes said, "I have nothing to say outside executive counsel [session]."

Bronec reported that he conferred with DMEA Board President Pill Patterson on how to handle a Capital Budget Addendum. Bronec said, "Some vehicles are overweight [added tool boxes and equipment]. A recent safety audit revealed vehicles and weights vary. Being overweight creates a safety issue. We're not fully ready for a recommendation, but we put a placeholder in the budget until the committee looks at it. We have four vehicles that need to be addressed."

Board member Mark Eckhart said, "Is this a State CDOT thing?" COO Virginia Harman said, "Yes."

Bronec said, "It's points and fines on driver's licenses if they get pulled over.

We feel it is easier for the board to create a placeholder rather than a budget amendment later on."

When the topic of Operating Capital was opened, board member Kyle Martinez said, "Our 2020 electric sales, how comfortable are we with those? How did we come up with those numbers?"

Bronec turned the question over to the financial team who took turns tag-teaming a response.

"It's hard to get your revenue numbers spot on. We extrapolate data from previous years and for revenue projections we look 10 to 20 years forward. We are more specific when we looked at the 2017 – 2018 reduction in kilowatts, meter count and kilowatt sales."

Staff continued, "When Delta annexed some meters it reduced forecast growth. Weather had an impact in 2017-2018, and on projections for 2019. In a conservative approach we've increased meters and decreased kilowatt hours. We try to be accurate, but there are outside factors."

Noting the 2008 recession and mines closing (2013-2016) Pynes said, "That kind of stuff hammered us. It's not bad forecasting, but bad economy. Kilowatts may be up, but per-member usage is down. At the end of the day it's anyone's guess." The Operating Budget, with a Power Supply addendum, was approved unanimously.

Board member Stacia Cannon questioned IT software line items 1492 and 1496; as well as Grant Writing line item 1366. Staff explained the two software line items as being one for the billing system, and the other for the database and GIS system. Bronec said, "The integrated software to support our operation is \$285,000 a year for workflow process."

Referencing the Grant Writer line item Bronec said, "We continue because of the grants we get to build out fiber [Elevate]. We get grants and maintain existing grants. It's a DMEA expense because it's a DMEA asset." The Operating Budget with Power Supply was approved unanimously.

Board President Bill Patterson shared an article published in *The Clarion* on the

*Continued next pg*

## ***DMEA TALKS BUDGETS: BOARD QUESTIONS VEHICLE, RENOVATION EXPENSES***

### ***From previous pg***

average residential electricity price among electric associations. He said, "I honestly feel DMEA is doing very well compared to other companies."

In reviewing the Capital Budget, board member Martinez said, "Please tell me why you need a new digger truck." Staff explained vehicle replacement (\$300,000 for digger trucks and \$285,000 for bucket trucks) is based on 12 years, or 6,000 hours. Vehicle replacement is a big portion of the vehicle budget.

Cannon inquired about the line item for carpet. Bronec said, "This is a multi-year plan that we brought to the board. We opted to renovate, over facility improvement. Some general modernization. We were running out of space when we acquired Elevate." Harman said, "The Read carpet is general maintenance and a low priority. There are safety concerns with the carpet, but it is a lower priority."

Bronec said, "Overall the Capital Budget is a little more. The Capital expenditure to finish the build-out [Elevate] for Montrose is \$12.4 M."

Cannon questioned a \$110,000 write-off for obsolete inventory. Harman said, "We've had some retirements and we needed a clean-up of the facility equipment that has been unused and obsolete." Bronec said, "My concern was in making room for Elevate; we needed to clean up space and get rid of obsolete equipment. We kind of ran out of room and had to ask, do we have to build more facilities?" Pynes said, "We're paying for the sins of the past. You should never see another write-off like this one as long as I am here." Better control measures, such as a purchasing agent and modernization in the way employees check out supplies, will be implemented.

Martinez said, "I like to cut things out of budgets. In painting the warehouse, if it is just aesthetics, let it ride." The cost of the painting was not given.

Pynes took exception to the idea of budget cuts, implying that budget cuts could set the stage for staff increasing their budget requests in the future if they thought the board intended to make cuts.

Bronec said, "I don't like playing budget games if we're cutting just to cut."

Martinez said, "I don't think this is a game."

Harman said, "It's been over 20 years with no painting or patching cracks." The staff vetted and defended the decision to paint the warehouse. The Capital Budget, with addendum, was approved unanimously.

#### **Vote on Resolution regarding CFC PowerVision Loan Facility**

The \$50 M promissory note (loan-funding) will be used for DMEA, Elevate, and transitioning from Tri State. The loan, which is not to exceed \$50 M, was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 10, 2019.

#### **Engineering-Construction-Renewable Energy Committee – Chris Hauck, Chair.**

Hauck reported the topics in the committee included fleet trucks, vegetation management, engineering services and hydro power.

#### **Member Relations – Energy Service Committee – Kyle Martinez, Chair.**

Martinez said, "There were no meetings in November. We are recommending going from four billing cycles to two billing cycles."

Harman corrected the number, "Currently we have five billing cycles, every week is a billing cycle." Harman explained the rationale behind the changes. She said, "It's more efficient use of staff and it decreases the number of days from when people use the power, to when they pay for the power. There is no negative impact, but we will work with members to meet their needs [accommodate social security checks, etc.] so it is not a hard transition on folks." Approved unanimously.

#### **Vote on Credentials Committee/Ballot Holding Company**

The board voted unanimously to retain the Credentials Committee and Ballot Holding Company that has been used for the last four years. However, one board member asked staff to consider doing an RFP in the future.

The next meeting will be in January.

#### **Executive Committee – Bill Patterson, Chair.**

There was no executive committee meeting to report. The next meeting will be held at noon on Dec. 16.

#### **Safety and Occupational Health Report – Virginia Harman, COO**

Harman said, "In October there was one employee injury. He hurt his knee while setting a pole. There was one near miss when a member cut through an energy line with a handsaw."

Training included active shooter training and safety in opening transformers. There has been a review of the building and plant facility inspection; as well as the truck and equipment overweight issue.

Bronec said, "We continue to talk to employees about CBD creams. Some of these creams have THC levels that you are not aware of. If you go to a health provider or therapist who uses a topical cream or oil with CBD you run a risk. CDL (Commercial Driver's License) holders are concerned and our employees need to be aware. Only a trace of THC from using CBD products can cause you to fail a drug test."

#### **Financial Report – Wade Pynes, CFO.**

Pynes said, "Over the last month 3,000 members converted to paperless [billing]."

Bronec said, "I've observed that we are doing well to control our expenses and that helps with some of our anomalies with the reserves."

#### **CEO Report - Jasen Bronec, CEO.**

Bronec said, "I've attended several economic development meetings. The DCED (Delta County Economic Development) is doing a re-alignment in Delta. They are trying to combine and consolidate into one entity, One Delta County. Region 10 is pulling it together. They are seeing some good economical development traction with opportunity zones."

Bronec compared area economic development. He said, "They have different perspectives between Delta and Montrose. Montrose is focused on hemp production. MEDC (Montrose Economic Development Corporation) just held a manufacturer's expo. We (DMEA) are going to

***Continued next pg***



## ***DMEA TALKS BUDGETS: BOARD QUESTIONS VEHICLE, RENOVATION EXPENSES***

### ***From previous pg***

get more active in economic development. The new EV Charging Station in Montrose will be placed at North First and Uncompahgre."

#### **October SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report**

There were 62 outages, with an average of 3.7 minutes outage. Bronec said, "We've had a lot of small outages affect a small number of members."

#### **Reported:**

55 new system designs  
11,400 calls received by Customer Service Representatives; 3,000 outgoing calls  
1,300 trees trimmed  
846 trees removed  
Sip & Tell community meetings numbered seven, with attendance of more than 100.  
DMEA will do more advertising for Operation Round-Up and promoting electric vehicles.

#### **Legal Report** – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd said, "In the snowmobile litigation it appears there is a possible settlement." The cost of the litigation and settlement will not be paid by DMEA.

#### **Tri-State Report** – Kyle Martinez.

Martinez reported that United Power (Brighton, CO) and La Plata Electric Association (Durango, CO) have filed to get exit numbers from Tri State. Similar to DMEA, their concerns are about local control and rates.

Martinez said, "Tri State wants to have a set of practices on how exits can be conducted. There are some core issues Tri

State is working through. I think we will be surprised by what they are trying to do to stay relevant."

#### **WUES Report (Western United Electrical Supply)** – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "This was my first meeting. I sent out a report, but the minutes disappeared. Western is looking to expand warehouse space in Utah and they are running into environmental problems. Western is going great guns."

Bronec said, "They like their margins, but if it's all about the margins I'd like to see it in lowering prices. Forty to 60 percent of the bonuses came through margins. Salaries are doubling through bonuses. The last manager was offended that I would question them."

#### **CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association)** – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, "I went to a class and didn't attend the board meeting, so I can't report on CREA."

Martinez said, "I can report that CREA will raise rates in the next two years." Martinez was uncertain of the amount of the rate increase, but thought it would be in the range of seven percent.

In discussion that followed the DMEA board determined they do not want a seven percent rate increase. Patterson said, "We need to know if this is salary increases, or if they are adding more people. What are we getting out of this?" It was suggested that one reason for the rate increase is the cost of pensions.

#### **Member Comments:**

There were no member comments. The DMEA Board took a recess for dinner and then reconvened for the Executive Session.

#### **Executive Session:**

General Counsel Legal Update  
Discuss Board Self-Evaluation Results  
Discuss Timeline for 2019 CEO Evaluation/Compensation Review  
Power Supply Update.  
Adjournment. The next DMEA Regular Board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 17.

#### **DMEA Board Members**

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, [bpatterson@montrose.net](mailto:bpatterson@montrose.net)  
Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, [kyle@touchofcarepcp.com](mailto:kyle@touchofcarepcp.com)  
Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, [bharding@firstcoloradobank.com](mailto:bharding@firstcoloradobank.com)  
Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, [ken-nethwatson@gmail.com](mailto:ken-nethwatson@gmail.com)  
Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, [1ch@haucks.cc](mailto:1ch@haucks.cc)  
Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, [damon.lockhart@dmea.com](mailto:damon.lockhart@dmea.com)  
Dist 7 - Mark Eckhart, 970-856-3663, [mark.eckhart@dmea.com](mailto:mark.eckhart@dmea.com)  
Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, [stacia.cannon@dmea.com](mailto:stacia.cannon@dmea.com)  
Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, [jock.fleming@dmea.com](mailto:jock.fleming@dmea.com)

**[For information on current DMEA salaries and expenditures click here for the 2018 Form 990.](#)**



## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

# 'TOGETHER WE GROW' CONSORTIUM JOINS CSU @ NATIONAL WESTERN CENTER IN DENVER

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER—Together We Grow (TWG), a consortium of some of the world's largest agribusiness interests focused on building a skilled, diverse, and inclusive agricultural workforce, today announced plans to expand the organization's reach by establishing an educational and research center at Colorado State University.

TWG's Center for an Enhanced Workforce in Agriculture will be headquartered at the CSU System Campus at the redeveloped National Western Center in Denver. The Center will be led by newly named executive director Kristin Kirkpatrick, a leader in promoting food literacy education in schools nationwide, and will focus on building a more diversified pipeline of talent for the agricultural industry.

"Our industry has a unique challenge and opportunity to nourish the world, and diversity and inclusion are the proven keys to the success we need to address this challenge," said Michael D'Ambrose, senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), who founded the TWG consortium. "Together We Grow gives us a platform to freely and openly share best practices across the industry and demonstrate the power of an aligned group committed to taking innovative industry-wide actions. The creation of TWG's Center for an Enhanced Workforce in Agriculture will help us to take these efforts to the next level, and we are excited that CSU and Kristin have stepped in to lead the way forward."

Kirkpatrick most recently directed the Colorado regional office of the national nonprofit Big Green, which integrates food literacy education into school curriculum across the country. "Kristin's background in public health, policy advocacy, and community planning make her an exceptional candidate to lead this exciting new partnership," D'Ambrose said. "She is passionate in her belief that agriculture is our future, and creating more opportunities for more people in agriculture means a more secure future for all of us."

Kirkpatrick also has been an instructor with the Colorado School of Public Health at CSU and served as chief of wellness planning for Bellissimo Development Inc., which created the landmark Bucking Horse and Jessup Farm developments in Fort Collins. She earned a bachelor's in Health and Exercise Science from Colorado State and a master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado.

"The Colorado State University System and our excellent College of Agricultural Sciences at CSU in Fort Collins are delighted for the opportunity to work with Kristin and Together We Grow on this important new center," said CSU System Executive Vice Chancellor Amy Parsons. "We all share the same goal: to create awareness and opportunities for more people to do the important work of feeding our world." "Diverse perspectives and experiences are how we innovate quickly to solve some of the world's most pressing global challenges. TWG's Center for an Enhanced Workforce in Agriculture will leverage and embrace these perspectives to shape our industry and future leaders," said consortium member Melissa Harper, senior vice president of Global Talent & Inclusion, Bayer Corporation.

Another consortium member, LeighAnne Baker, corporate senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Cargill, said: "If we want to live up to our mission of nourishing the world, we need a workforce that is passionate about the challenge, culturally and technologically adept, and reflects the communities we serve. For Cargill, being part of Together We Grow and this new center is just smart business. It's an investment in the future of our company, our industry, and our world." Hosting the Center is a great investment for the university system, Parsons said, given the opportunities it creates for more students to pursue productive agribusiness careers and the chance for CSU faculty to connect with industry in more innovative ways. CSU System will fund Kirkpatrick's salary and provide space

for the headquarters, and TWG will provide operational funds for the center. The office will be located at the CSU Campus at the National Western Center, slated to break ground in 2020 with a 2022 completion date.

As an initial offering of the Center, Kirkpatrick will present on a panel discussing the challenges and opportunities on the journey of creating diverse, equitable, and inclusive cultures, at the CSU Ag Innovation Summit on the CSU campus in Fort Collins on Dec. 5-6.

"CSU and Together We Grow share a strong commitment to expanding opportunities and attracting more people from all walks of life into the agricultural workforce," said Dr. Tony Frank, chancellor of the CSU System. "We need a diverse, inclusive, and well-prepared workforce to confront the complex challenges of global hunger and food insecurity. Through this partnership, we aim to help more people from diverse backgrounds see their own future as leaders in agriculture."

### Together We Grow

Together We Grow is an agribusiness consortium with more than 20 members, including major agricultural commodities companies, educational institutions, government agencies, and others committed to improving and expanding diversity in agribusiness. The consortium sponsors research and provides a platform to share best practices for building future workforce capacity. For more information, visit [TogetherWeGrowAg.org](http://TogetherWeGrowAg.org).

### CSU System Campus at the National Western Center

The CSU System Campus at the National Western Center will focus on research and educational programming in the areas of food, water, and human and animal health within its three buildings: the CSU Water Building, CSU Animal Health Complex, and CSU Food and Agriculture Center.

What's inside the buildings will bring together the brightest minds, inspire the next generation, and address global challenges. For more information, visit [nwc.colostate.edu](http://nwc.colostate.edu).



ISSUE 238 Nov. 25, 2019

## ART &amp; SOL

## POMPEII EXHIBITION OPENS IN SALT LAKE



**A simulated 4D eruption theater allows visitors to experience the deathly impact Mount Vesuvius had on this ancient city. Courtesy photo.**

#### Special to Art & Sol

SALT LAKE CITY, UT-The Leonardo Museum of Creativity and Innovation provides a glimpse into history with the opening of *POMPEII: The Exhibition*. POMPEII premiered Nov. 23, will run through May 3, 2020, and promises to be one of the most historically significant and immersive exhibitions The Leonardo Museum has ever hosted.

*POMPEII: The Exhibition* tells the tale of this city, hidden from view and forgotten for centuries until its rediscovery more than 250 years ago. The sudden disaster

that destroyed it also preserved it

and over time archaeologists have

uncovered a unique record of its daily life — roads, buildings, municipal services, paintings, mosaics, artifacts, and even preserved bodies.

Ongoing excavations at the site provide an ever-evolving picture of everyday life at the height of the Roman Empire.

The Exhibition experience includes: -Introductory theatre where the scene is set in a video with dramatic reconstructions that describe Pompeii and the nearby volcano. -Visitors are then transported back in time to 79 A.D. and find themselves in a reproduced atrium from a Roman villa, where they will embark on a journey through the ancient city. Through the use of projections, audio, video, photographic murals, and graphic reproductions of frescoes and mosaics,

visitors experience different locations that existed in the city, including a market, a temple, theater, and baths.

-More than 150 authentic artifacts help bring the story of Pompeii to life. These remarkable objects include: Mosaics and frescoes, gladiator helmets, armor, and weapons, a ship's anchor, lamps, jugs, cups, plates, pots and pans and other household objects and furniture, jewelry, medical instruments, and tools.

-A simulated 4D eruption theater allows visitors to experience the deathly impact Mount Vesuvius had on this ancient city, culminating in the reveal of full body casts of twisted human forms, asphyxiated by extreme heat and noxious gases and forever frozen in time. Members of The Leonardo will enjoy a \$12.50 price for *POMPEII: The Exhibition*. General Admission ticket prices are \$24.99 for adults, \$19.99 for children 3-15 and \$21.99 for Seniors (65+), and Military (With Valid ID) \$21.99. School Group pricing is \$8.99. And Groups of 15 or more are priced at \$18.99. Advance ticket reservations are recommended by visiting [theleonardo.org/Pompeii](http://theleonardo.org/Pompeii) or The Leonardo Box Office. For more information about Group visits or how to become a member of The Leonardo, please call 801-531-9800 ext.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### CAITLIN MCKINNEY ATTENDED SITKA WHALE FEST SYMPOSIUM

*Special to Art & Sol*

DURANGO—Fort Lewis College student Caitlin McKinney of Montrose attended the Sitka Whale Fest science symposium and conference held in Sitka, Alaska, on Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 2019. McKinney is a Biology major and attended scientific talks, spoke with the seminar speakers, participated in educational workshops, and went on a whale watching tour.

The conference and travel was funded through the Biomedical and Student Training (BLaST) grant from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The conference focused on the topic of OneHealth, which is an idea that the health and well-being of the environment, animals, and humans are all interconnected. The Sitka Whale Fest has been a program of the Sitka Sound Science Center for two decades.

As the Four Corners' stronghold of academic excellence, Fort Lewis College blends small class sizes, engaged faculty, and unparalleled research opportunities to help students earn college degrees and chase dreams. Guided by real-world experiences and a bountiful landscape, our students develop critical thinking and communication skills to fuel further studies or rewarding careers. A broad range of subjects and diverse student body weave cross-cultural knowledge throughout signature programs focused on environmental studies, education, the health sciences, creative arts, and business administration. Find an education to live by at FLC.



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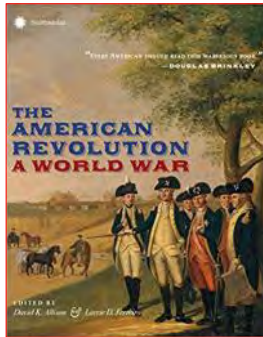


# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## Our Revolutionary War was in fact a European World War



*Suzanne Cheavens reading at the Talking Gourds Poetry Club on Nov. 19 in Telluride (photo by Art Goodtimes)*



*bookcover (courtesy photo)*

**SMITHSONIAN** ... I ended a subscription to the *Smithsonian* magazine a few years back, and then on my last issue, there was a wonderful historical review of an old topic that completely turned my head around. I re-subscribed and have never looked back. It's one of the best sources for historical perspective on the American experiment of any popular magazine in the country -- to my way of thinking. Its prestige has only increased after its publication last year of a collection of historical essays entitled *The American Revolution: A World War* (Smithsonian, Wash., D.C., 2018), edited by David K. Allison and Larrie D. Ferreiro ... I had a good education -- private Catholic schools for elementary, a boarding school/seminary for high school and junior college, and a public university to finish up my undergraduate years. I did post-graduate classes at Univ. of California Berkeley night school and earned a

lifetime teaching credential. I've been active in politics, read historical novels and magazines. You'd think I'd have a pretty good handle on the origins of our country ... But it wasn't until I read Allison & Ferreiro's book that I really un-

derstood how the American colonists won their independence from the greatest economic and military power in the world at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. What we call our "Revolutionary War" was in reality a conflict among the major European powers that ranged all over the world at the time. And if Britain hadn't been fighting battles on so many fronts, the American experiment would have ended badly right from the beginning. That's not the story we tell ourselves, but as this book makes clear -- that is exactly what happened. As historian Ferreiro, a Pulitzer-Prize nominee in 2017, notes in the first sentence of his introduction, "The American Revolution was just one theater in a world war." He goes on to set the stage for the fight for American independence by tracing the history of continuing British warfare and George Washington's assault on a French scouting party that "triggered the massive, globe-spanning Seven Years' War (1754-63), known in American as the French and Indian War." Ferreiro suggests that "most colonials recognized that their own fight for independence against Britain would necessarily involve other European powers, notably France and Britain." Our famous Declaration of Independence, "approved on July 4, 1776, was in reality an engraved invitation to France and

Spain to go into battle alongside the Americans." That is what happened, and -- if examined carefully as historians do in the dozen or more essays in the book -- it becomes clear that foreign involvement was what decided the American independence question, not some David v. Goliath American exceptionalism.

**TIMELINE** ... One of the most effective visualizations of the book's theme is the timeline that comes after's Ferreiro's introduction showing the Revolutionary War's key events involving the major national players from 1775 to 1783 -- when individual peace treaties were negotiated for the world-wide hostilities: the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain, the Dutch Republic, and India (Mysore).

**GLOBAL REVOLUTIONS** ... In his essay, historian Alan Taylor -- the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair at the University of Virginia -- notes, "The British success in the Seven Years' War had upset the balance of power, arousing fear and jealousy in other European capitals." Given that tension, he adds, "To win independence, the new United States had to cultivate military and economic ties with European allies. Lacking industries, the Patriots needed to import arms, ammunition and uniforms to sustain their forces" ... It was the American alliance with France of Feb. 1778, the Spanish alliance with France against Britain -- but not in alliance with the United States -- in April of 1779, and the British declaring war on the Dutch, that eventually forced all hands to the negotiating table in 1783. With battles in India and the West Indies, as well as the American colonies, Britain kept its lucrative trade monopolies and its port at Gibraltar, in exchange for granting the American colonies independence ... In the end, Spain gained little, and France

## Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

doubled its national debt – paving the way for the French Revolution that changed the political map of Europe. And although Britain lost the colonies, it gained a new trading partner and an expanding market for its goods in the new American nation.

**TO SLEEP PERCHANCE TO DREAM** ... For those of you were influenced (or disturbed) by University of California neuroscientist Matthew Walker's international bestseller *Why We Sleep: The New Science*

*of Sleep and Dreams* (Scribner, 2017), take heart. Independent Russian-educated researcher Alexey Guzey has done a masterful job debunking many of the conclusions and facts presented in Walker's much-heralded book ... Guzey's essay demonstrating Walker's book as "riddled with scientific and factual errors" appear at his website: [guzey.com/books/why-we-sleep/](http://guzey.com/books/why-we-sleep/)

**WEEKLY QUOTA** ... "Joanna Macy writes that until we can grieve for our planet we

cannot love it—grieving is a sign of spiritual health. But it is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair." -Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2014).

## THE TALKING GOURD

Hands slick with peach juice I  
stabbed myself two times.  
Wresting fruit from the stone, filling bags that,  
come the dark days, will fill the house with summer.  
A prize from the freezer, dated August 2019,  
and needlessly, "Summer" writ in orange marker  
— Because it's always good to say the word  
out loud when ice fangs curl around the roof  
and into my dreams  
— Because saying summer in winter is  
an incantation of the finest kind.  
Especially if peach cobbler is in the oven singing  
memories of ripe times and bare feet and  
no more ambition than to read a book  
in a desultory fashion, swatting harmlessly  
at flies and wondering how many gin and tonics  
it will take to stop time.  
The little wounds are like badges,  
A stinging reminder that everything feels  
good in the summer, even where I prick my skin,  
To let it in.

-Suzanne Cheavens  
Telluride





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## KIDS SKI AND RIDE FOR FREE IN COLORADO SKI COUNTRY THIS SEASON



*Scott DW Smith, Purgatory Resort.*

### *Special to Art & Sol*

DENVER-Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) member resorts provide fun and affordable opportunities for families to hit the slopes, including kids ski free programs offering children free or discounted lift access.

These programs provide all families—those new to the sport and those who are experienced skiing families— an easy, low-cost way to experience skiing and snowboarding in Colorado.

### **5th and 6th Grade Passport Program**

Colorado Ski Country USA offers any fifth grader the chance to ski or ride three days at 22 participating member resorts across the state for free.

That's up to 66 free days on the slopes. Fifth graders who have never skied or snowboarded are eligible for the First-Class program which provides "never-ever" skiers and riders one free full-day beginner lesson and equipment rental at the resort of their choice.

All Passport holders also receive one complimentary junior rental from Christy Sports. The corresponding Sixth Grade Passport Program offers four days of skiing at the same 22 resorts for only \$110, with prices subject to change. To register for the Passport Program, visit [www.coloradoski.com/passport](http://www.coloradoski.com/passport). Participating resorts include the following:

### **Arapahoe Basin Ski Area**

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

### **Aspen Snowmass**

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

### **Cooper**

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

### **Copper Mountain**

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

### **Echo Mountain Resort**

<https://echomtn.com>

### **Eldora**

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

### **Granby Ranch**

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

### **Hesperus Ski Area**

[www.ski-hesperus.com](http://www.ski-hesperus.com).

### **Howelsen Hill Ski Area**

[www.steamboatsprings.net/131/Howelsen-Hill-Ski-Area](http://www.steamboatsprings.net/131/Howelsen-Hill-Ski-Area).

### **Kendall Mountain Ski Area**

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

### **Loveland Ski Area**

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

### **Monarch Mountain**

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

### **Powderhorn Resort**

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

### **Purgatory Resort**

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

### **Steamboat Resort**

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

### **Sunlight Mountain Resort**

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

### **Telluride Ski Resort**

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

### **Winter Park Resort**

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

### **Wolf Creek Ski Area**

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

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### EXPERIENCE DARK NIGHT @ PAONIA'S PARADISE THEATER

#### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The longest nights of the year are weeks away, marked by Winter Solstice when western Colorado will experience 14 hours of darkness. Paonia has been marking this event for the last 11 years with a dynamic storytelling show called "DARK NIGHT," held in the historic

Paradise Theater. This year, the two performances will cross Winter Solstice, Dec 20th and 21st.

Produced, directed and performed by local, nationally celebrated author Craig Childs, Dark Night is a series of stories told through spoken word, visual multimedia, and live musical accompaniment. This

year's theme is "time", and Childs says the show will range from "archaeology to the end of the universe."

Childs is known for his writing about adventure, nature, and science. The Los Angeles Times says "his writing is like pure oxygen" and "stings like a slap in the face." The New York Times calls him "a modern-day desert father." With a backdrop of dazzling and haunting natural images and a troupe of talented musicians, he takes the audience to wild places, "riding the fringes of the natural and supernatural."

Tickets for evening performances are available online at BrownPaperTickets.com, or locally at The Paradise Theatre and The Cirque in Paonia.

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For more information call: 970.874-8349

### MONTROSE LIBRARY OFFERS PROGRAM ON ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA

#### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Join Montrose Regional Library Dec. 10, from Noon to 1 p.m. for Alzheimer's & Dementia program. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging. It is a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, disease stages and risk factors, current research and treatments to address some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources. On Dec. 17, Noon to 1 p.m., the Library welcomes Communications Strategies for Alzheimer's. This program teaches caregivers to decode verbal and behavioral communication by someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Participants leave with strategies for meaningful connection with people in early, middle and late stage dementia.





“ My goal from the beginning was to summit Mt. Sneffels one more time. Eleven months after my surgery, I did just that. ”

Pastor Jim Welch had arthritis causing debilitating pain in his knees, making fishing, backpacking and mountain climbing difficult. Even conducting church service became painful.

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### OHV GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 100% OF PROJECT COSTS

*Special to Art & Sol*

DENVER - Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Trails Program encourages local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations to apply for available Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant funding before the application period ends on Dec. 2. CPW's OHV Program works to improve and enhance motorized recreation opportunities in Colorado while also promoting the safe and responsible use of OHVs in the state. The grant program combines OHV registration and permit fees with federal Recreation Trails Funds (RTP) to fund the annual OHV trail grant process.

OHV Grants are available for projects related to the recreational use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on lands open to the public. Last year, \$4,456,258 was awarded from the OHV grant program to fund 57 projects.

"Since the OHV Program started in 1991, more than \$62 million dollars from OHV registration fees have been allocated to-

wards 'on the ground' improvements for motorized recreation. This is literally OHV fees going right back into trails," said CPW State Trails Program Manager Fletcher Jacobs.

Organizations or agencies with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for Good Management Trail Crew Grants or Programmatic (competitive) Project Grants through the December 2 deadline. Federal, state, local government agencies and non-profit OHV project sponsors are eligible to apply for grants of up to 100 percent of the project cost.

To be eligible for a Good Management Trail Crew Grant, applicants must demonstrate a three-year track record of fulfilling the fiscal and field objectives presented in their annual OHV grant proposals and achieve all aspects of a Good Management Program. Good Management crews must take a holistic management approach that preserves riding opportunities while protecting sensitive resources within



the areas they service. These trail crews must also use "best practices" to maintain and restore OHV riding areas.

OHV programmatic or competitive project grants address the full spectrum of OHV recreation support needs in Colorado. Eligible grant-funded activities may include but are not limited to construction, reconstruction or maintenance of OHV routes or multi-use trails that allow for motorized use; OHV trail corridor revegetation and erosion control; OHV Education and safety programs; or salary, compensation and benefits for crew members or project employees.



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# 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](mailto:info@bosombuddieswc.org).

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP** meets every third Tuesday of each month at the Centennial Meeting Room at 6pm, behind City Hall. New Watch Groups are formed and guest speakers alert us to safety issues. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact Chris Hebert at 970-901-5876 for details.

**ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING**-second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 24** hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS** meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

### MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Brookdale Sunrise Creek, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

**MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**-“Montrose County Historical Society Presents” is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

**MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING** 6:30 p.m. second Wednesday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-209-8173.

### MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

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

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

### MONTHLY-

**Nov. 28**-Thanksgiving Day

**Nov. 29**-Montrose Christmas tree lighting, 5:30 p.m. at the Montrose County Courthouse, followed by opening of Santa's Cabin.

**Nov. 30**-Small Business Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Downtown.

**Dec. 1**-Mountaintop Retreat's Second Annual Free Christmas Concert, 339 Bible Camp Road, 2:30 p.m.

**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. 3**-Special showing of National Geographic Years of Living Dangerously Tuesday Dec. 3rd @ 6:30 at Montrose library meeting rm. presented by Citizens' Climate Lobby. All welcome.

**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](http://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. 5**-Community members volunteer to give a fast-paced presentation (five minutes and 20 slides) on topics ranging from hobbies, travel, adventures, jobs, interests or passions. Be inspired! Join us for an entertaining and motivating evening. Dec. 5 at 7 pm Intrinzik, 512 East Main, Montrose.

**Dec. 7**-Help Portrait ([www.help-portrait.com](http://www.help-portrait.com)) is a worldwide event that always happens the first Saturday in December. Help Portrait will take place in Montrose on Dec. 7 from 9am-5pm at Columbine Middle School. Local photographers will be taking photos of anyone who needs them. The event is being organized by Joe Hendricks Photography--[www.joehendricks.com](http://www.joehendricks.com). There are no strings attached and attendees don't need to RSVP, just stop by.

**Dec. 7**-Parade of Lights, Downtown Montrose. 5: 30 p.m.

**Dec. 11**-Adulting 101: Basic Car Care, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. A course to teach driving adults ways to inspect and maintain their vehicles. Presented by Dennis Goodhue, Founder and Owner, Diamond G Repair. \*Please note: this class meets at Diamond G Repair, 65790 Racine Rd. #3, Montrose, Colorado, not at the Montrose Library. It's never too early or too late to brush up on life skills, and the library's Adulting 101 classes are a good place to start! All adults are welcome to join these free, informative discussions.

**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>.

**Dec. 20-21**-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](http://BrownPaperTickets.com), or locally at The Paradise Theatre and The Cirque in Paonia.



Contact the Montrose Mirror:  
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## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*"This little cabin tucked near Prospect Gulch surrounded by the mountains was a treasure to find," Photographer Deb Reimann said.*

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