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Issue No. 354 Dec. 9, 2019

MAYOR ASKS COUNCILOR FOR MORE DATA ON PROPOSED TESLA SUPER CHARGER, SUPPORTS FUNDING INCREASE TO MEDC



On Dec. 2 MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head (third from left) requested that the City increase its share of EDC funding; Mayor Dave Bowman spoke in support.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All Councilors were present for the City of Montrose Work Session of Monday, Dec. 2.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEW

An interview with Historic Preservation Commission Applicant Michael J. Prouty was expedited, as Prouty has already been serving on the Commission for a year. Prouty said that as a local archaeologist with Alpine Archaeology, he is interested in larger-scale historic preservation.

"Thank you for your service," Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said.

Mayor Dave Bowman said that the commission re-appointment would come before City Council for approval at the meeting of

Continued pg 9

BOCC HEARS ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REPORTS FROM SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROAD & BRIDGE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners convened for a regular but rescheduled meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5. All Commissioners were present for the meeting. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Eric Archuleta of Abundant Life Church.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

County resident Derick Moore spoke during the time for public comment on non-agenda items.

"This is in response to the expanded junk ordinance, in response to Ms. Schmidt's testimony," Moore said. "My wife and I own the property Ms. Schmidt described as a toxic wasteland before the board on Nov. 20. Ms. Schmidt's concerns have little to do with caring for the environment and a lot to do with creating difficult situations with neighbors."

He mentioned a number of ongoing issues he has with neighbor Sue Schmidt, who contributed to the discussion at the Nov. 20

Continued pg 10



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners convened for a regular but rescheduled meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5.

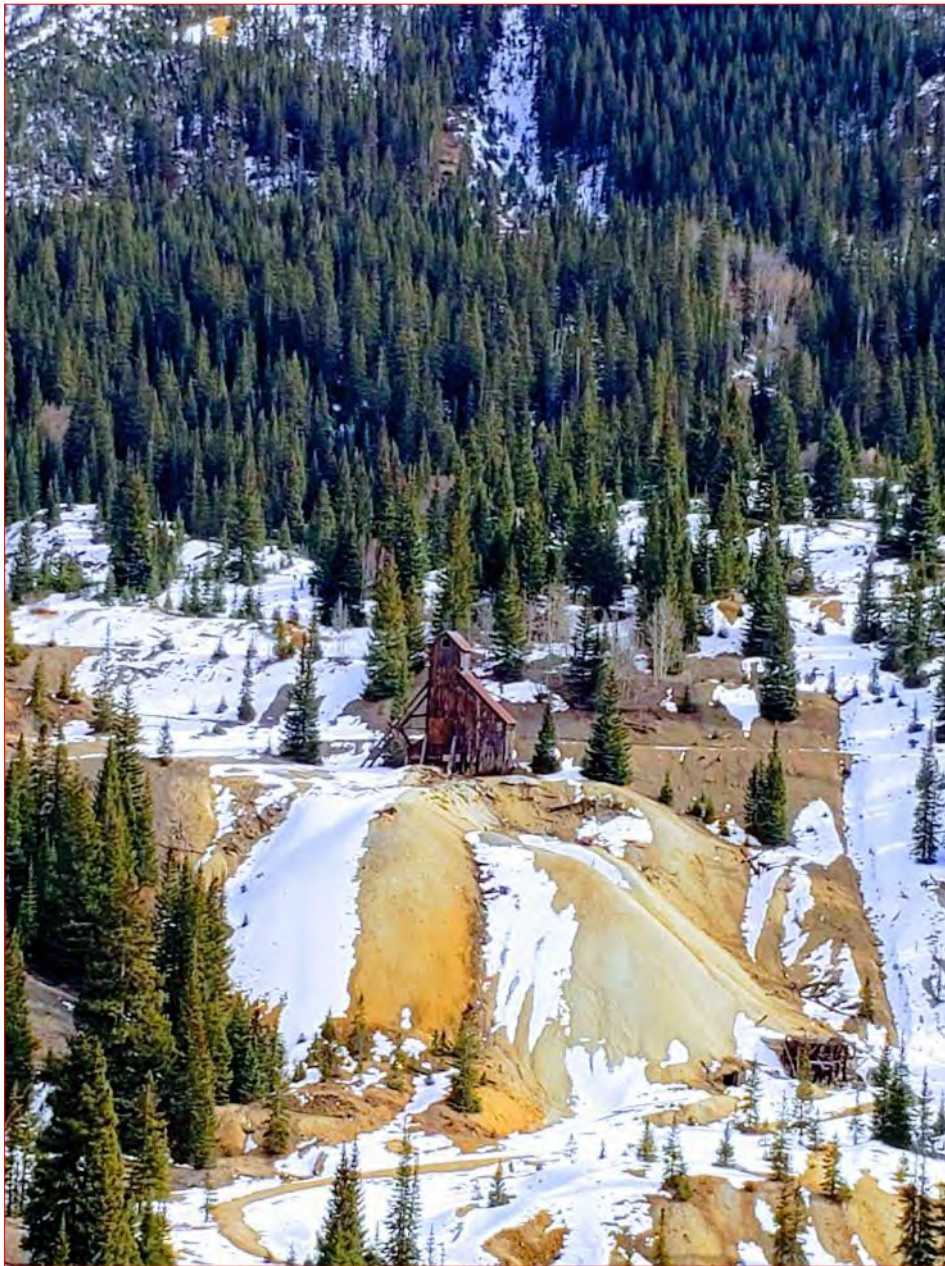
in this
issue

*Art Goodtimes'
Up Bear Creek!*

*City & County
Government!*

*BOCC Chair Sue Hansen Named Freshman
Commissioner of the Year by Colorado Counties, Inc!*

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann snapped this photo of the Yankee Girl structure at Red Mountain several weeks ago. Reimann notes that this is probably one of the most photographed views on Red Mountain. "It is a beautiful piece of mining history," she said.

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REGIONAL

NEWS BRIEFS

CITY'S ANNUAL FREE LEAF CLEAN- UP ENDS DEC. 12

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will end its annual fall leaf cleanup on Thursday, Dec. 12. City of Montrose utility customers who wish to take advantage of this free pickup service before it concludes for the year can fill bags with leaves and place them on the curb for pickup by city crews. Contact Public Works at 970.240.1480 to schedule a pick-up. Leaf bags in bundles of four are available for purchase at City Hall, located at 433 South First Street. Bundles are \$1 each. Any brand of clear leaf bag is acceptable. Please refrain from raking leaves into the street or city storm drains. For more information contact City Hall at 970.240.1400, or visit: www.CityOfMontrose.org.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMISSIONER HANSEN AWARDED FRESHMAN COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR



**BOCC Chair
Sue Hansen.**
Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE— Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen earned statewide recognition from her peers this week as she received the Freshman Commissioner of the Year Award from the Colorado Counties Inc. The award was presented at the annual

winter conference held in Colorado Springs.

"This was truly an honor and a surprise," said Commissioner Hansen. "I am humbled to be recognized by my peers, and I am thankful for the assistance of Commissioners Rash, Caddy, Managers Norris and Waschbusch, and all of the dedicated staff of Montrose County—especially during my first few months in office. I am looking forward to continuing the successes that we have had at the county, and working with intention to address growth, housing,

and core services provided by the county." In the nomination submitted by Montrose County Commissioner Keith Caddy, he noted, "Commissioner Hansen wasted no time in tirelessly learning everything she could about the commissioner role and county government. She never shies away from a decision when she believes it is in the best interest of the public. She is a stalwart defender of the public purse. . . She is an amazing example of the immediate impact that a freshman commissioner can have on their community."

Commissioner Hansen had an early start as a commissioner as she was appointed to fill a vacancy created by resignation in July of 2018. She was already on the campaign trail at the time and handily won the general election in November of 2018. Since that time, Commissioner Hansen has gotten involved at both at the state and federal levels, working to ensure Montrose County and West Slope interests are represented. She is a member on the following boards: National Association

of Counties Community, Economic, and Workforce Development Committee, Club 20, and the Colorado Works Allocation Committee. Locally, Commissioner Hansen also serves as the commissioner representative for the Montrose County Housing Authority Board, Montrose Regional Airport Advisory Board, Montrose Memorial Hospital Board, Weed Control Board, Montrose Regional Library District Board, Regional Housing Committee, Water and Land Use Policy Committee, and the Olathe Steering Committee.

Commissioner Hansen was the driving force behind the establishment of the annual West Slope Water Summit, an event that brings key speakers to the area to discuss immediate and long-term water issues facing the state. Moreover, she is actively involved as a key instructor for "Montrose U," a community-based leadership program. Montrose County would like to congratulate Commissioner Sue Hansen on this prestigious achievement. For more information visit montrosecounty.net.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE PLATEAU ROAD WINTER CLOSURE ORDER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have issued a closure order for the Alpine Plateau Road (National Forest System Road [NFSR] 867) from Dec. 1, 2019 to May 15, 2020.

-The closure area begins approximately 6 miles south of U.S. Highway 50, immediately south of the intersection of Alpine Plateau Road and Arrowhead Properties' "Winter Trailhead" interior road.

-Mid and full-sized vehicles are prohibited

within the closure area. Non-licensed off-highway vehicles less than 60" wide and vehicles designed to operate over-snow may still travel within the closure, although extreme caution is advised.

-This closure has been enacted for public health and safety, along with resource protection due to hazardous winter driving conditions and increased logging traffic. For questions concerning this closure, please call the Gunnison Ranger District at 970-641-0471. For information and updates on prescribed burns, wildfires and

fire restrictions on National Forest System lands and other areas, call the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Fire Information line at 970.874.6602, visit the GMUG Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/gmug), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMUGFireInfo> or Twitter: https://twitter.com/GMUG_NF. For more information on how smoke may affect your health, please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.

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MAYOR ASKS COUNCILOR FOR DATA ON SUPER CHARGER PROPOSAL From pg 1



City Councilor Roy Anderson presented his research on super charger stations on Dec. 2.

Dec. 17. "Thank you, now go and enjoy your day."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A presentation on a **new electric vehicle charging station** by Councilor Roy Anderson stretched to roughly 30 minutes. Anderson presented a slide show that he had prepared on superchargers, and discussed a research process involving Tesla and Charge Point. Anderson said that Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler assisted in the research process.

"Today, all of our electric vehicle chargers are low voltage," Anderson said, noting that the City now has a charging station beside the parking lot at Centennial Plaza. "It can take six to ten hours to charge if your car is fully depleted...this is not for people with electric vehicles in town; it's all about bringing people into town to charge an electric vehicle while they are traveling in this part of Colorado...this is about getting more money Downtown."

A Tesla representative named Jorn came to Montrose after receiving a letter from Anderson, and recommended locating the charging station, which would cost the City \$75K to install and which would be owned by Tesla, at North First and Uncompahgre.

Another company, Charge Point, had previously been contacted by former City staffer Virgil Turner, Anderson said. Charge Point would install a city-owned Supercharger for \$50K but preferred a different location.

Tesla can put chargers anywhere, but

likes the Downtown Montrose location, Morgenthaler said. The company has not shared an exact cost breakdown. Still, "...in a way, our contribution would be so that they place it Downtown...Charge Point wanted it to go to Stop-n-Save." "Both companies are interested," Anderson said. Also, "A lot of people are interested in coming over here and having a charger at their disposal."

Because the project would benefit Downtown, Anderson suggested using funds from the Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART).

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) could help offset the cost, he said. DMEA Representative Jim Heneghan was present, and said DMEA could possibly assist with upfront costs, and that three-phase power would be needed at any location chosen. DMEA expressed support two years ago and funds are not budgeted for next year. "We have the opportunity now," Heneghan said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that only around four percent of Colorado vehicles run on electricity. "If this is such a good deal there would be entrepreneurs doing it...I feel like we are a little early."

Bynum said, "I feel that by being able to spend some money Downtown we can put Downtown on the map...this fits right in with our tourism plans...I like the idea of partnering with DMEA."

Mayor Bowman concluded the discussion by asking for more data. "Roy, continue your research...when you have enough to take a look we can do that...the more information DMEA can provide about alternate sites in the City...the better educated Council is, the sooner we can make a good decision."

Council discussed a **request for an increase to \$25K in funding for the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)**. MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head provided background information; the amount requested is consistent with the contribution traditionally given to MEDC through its partnership with the City of Montrose beginning in 1996. In 2010, that amount was reduced. Ninety percent of MEDC's operating funds come

from private business. The City and MEDC are now working together more intensely to bring businesses to the Colorado Outdoors Park.

Last year the City graciously raised its contribution to MEDC to \$5K, Head said. Still, "Can we increase the contribution?" she asked. "The City has been very generous with businesses and the incentives they are able to offer."

City Manager Bill Bell pointed out that the City already provides in-kind contributions to MEDC. "We're working really well together."

MEDC Board Chair Buck Miller said that despite careful financial management and only two paid employees, the organization currently has one year of liquid funding. "MEDC and the City have a long history...we are fiscally responsible and we have increased our private funding...we want to get more support from the City and the County...we feel like we are an integral part of what goes on in the City."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that the City has the DART team and Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning to help with economic development. "Have you thought maybe MEDC should downsize?"

"Downsize from two staff?" Head asked. Also, Region 10 provides economic development resources to Ridgway and Ouray counties, but not Montrose because that is MEDC's role, Head noted. "We have an EDC...Montrose is seen as a leading community on the Western Slope," she said. "If we downsize, I don't know what you would gain."

MEDC is a liaison to government, with ties to State of Colorado economic development entities, she said. "We are directly connected to the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and Rural Jumpstart...there is value to being engaged with the state."

Bowman said that MEDC serves not only the City of Montrose but all of Montrose County. "MEDC has been really active...I am comfortable increasing the contribution...I am not sure what the level should be...I am comfortable with at least another \$10,000."

Continued next pg

MAYOR ASKS COUNCILOR FOR MORE DATA ON SUPER CHARGER PROPOSAL

From previous pg

Bell said that MEDC's request for a funding increase could be put to a vote of Council in January.

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented information on a **resolution authorizing the filing of a \$300K Fishing is Fun grant application**. The resolution states that the City desires to complete Phase 1 of 3 of river restoration improvements on 0.65 miles (3,400 feet) of the Uncompahgre River traversing through Montrose at a cost of \$1.6 million, and that river restoration includes re-establishing a resilient channel alignment, creating an active channel which is balanced with flow and sediment load, connecting the river to its floodplain, creating a stable riparian zone adjacent to the channel, improving fish and other aquatic habitat, stabilizing the river banks, and providing river access to the public.

The grant would require a 25 percent match, Cramer said. If awarded the funds would help reduce the local contribution to the river restoration project. The grant award announcement is expected in June.

To date \$500K in grant funding has been secured for river restoration efforts.

City Engineer Scott Murphy discussed **Design change order No. 1 for the Sunset Mesa Water Tank replacement**. What began as a straightforward project has become a complicated two-story system, he said. "The design costs a little more now...it will save \$100K in the future."

On Dec. 17 the City will be asked to approve an \$87,000 change order to Farnsworth Group for out-of-scope design services associated with the project, which will be split into two separate bid packages.

City Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed the 2020 City-owned vehicle disposal list; City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo presented proposed revisions to the City's fee schedule.

Council considered possible changes to the City's **work session meeting schedule**, moving work sessions to 10 a.m. rather than 11 a.m. on first and third Mondays. The change would eliminate the need for catered lunches, Bynum said. "It can be kind of hard for people to hear us if we are eating...it can be hard for people to watch us eating...we don't need to be feeding buckets of people...if we move the time we won't need lunch."

Bowman suggested making the change in January.

Bell said that he and City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg "have talked for years about providing everybody lunch."

Council also discussed **possible changes to the City's Charter**. Bynum suggested eliminating the existing council districts so that all councilors are elected at-large. Candidates with the most votes would be elected regardless of the neighborhood they live in. The change would require a vote of the people.

"This is something that's widely done," Bynum said.

COMMENTS

Gaspeil commended the recent public meeting on short term rentals.

Files said that the high school basketball season has begun, and the City will help sponsor the Black Canyon Classic Basketball tournament Dec. 19-21. Boys and girls basketball teams from all over Colorado will be coming to Montrose to play in the tournament. Small Business Saturday was

a success, Files said.

Bowman said that he has had positive feedback on the short-term rental meeting. Despite inclement weather the annual tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 29 was a success.

City Director of Business Innovation and DART Chelsea Rosty reminded Council of the Parade of Lights on Dec. 7.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said the department had received a complaint about handicapped parking spaces being used by those who are not handicapped; Code Officer Heidi Trimble will now monitor those spaces, "so we're leaving those stalls open for our citizens who are handicapped," Hall said.

Bell discussed the schedule for future Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (URA) meetings. Council will meet with a potential business in closed session, he said, and will talk about the housing at the south end of the Colorado Outdoors project. The MURA board will talk about using the leftover project funds for landscaping and the next phase of development. Bell suggested a work session and meeting to discuss an executive session that is scheduled with a developer. "We could do both the same day."

Files reminded Bell that work sessions are supposed to be held two weeks prior to meetings. Bowman suggested using email to schedule the meeting.

"We'll shoot for 1 p.m. on Jan. 7," Bell said. "I am excited to actually have some projects to talk about."

There will be a DART meeting Jan. 7.

The City will remain open on Jan. 20, 2020, Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Bell said in response to a question from Bynum.



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BOCC HEARS ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REPORTS FROM SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROAD & BRIDGE From pg 1

BOCC meeting on an amendment to supersede ordinance 2015-02, which concerns the accumulation and removal of rubbish and junk in unincorporated Montrose County. Moore said that attorneys are currently involved in a dispute between he and his neighbor. He encouraged commissioners to visit his property.

"We bought into a no-covenant property because I don't want somebody else telling me what I can and cannot do, since they are not paying my bills," Moore said. "...I brought with me 11 vehicles, two race cars, three go-carts, one ATV, a 28-foot enclosed trailer, and a large collection of car parts, accessories, and tools--things I cannot bring with me into a neighborhood with restrictive rules.

"I support the County's desire to keep Montrose safe and healthy," Moore said, "But let's not lose sight of private property rights over vindictive and retaliatory acts."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Keith Caddy drew a round of applause when he announced that BOCC Chair Sue Hansen was honored with the Freshman Commissioner of the Year Award by Colorado Counties Inc.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Item D-1 was a request by Montrose Regional Airport Manager Lloyd Arnold for a resolution to write off the land rent owed by MICAR, Inc. in the amount of \$1,204.39 for invoice number 10823 dated April 1, 2017. Commissioners did not pass the Resolution, instead directing staff to turn the debt over to a collection agency.

Item D-2 passed unanimously, extending the third amendment to the hangar ground lease at Nucla Hopkins Field Airport for Richard Sundquist, who is deceased, until March 25, 2020, if needed, for completion of probate and disposition of the hangar.

Interim Public Health Director Jim Austin presented Item D-3, Amendment #1 to the

original contract CT 2020*262, correcting language in the Statement of Work.

"This is our emergency preparedness and response contract," Austin said. The Contract Amendment was unanimously approved.

Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard presented the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report for 2018-2019. The Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) originated in 2007, and has been a real Godsend to law enforcement, Lillard said. Collections are "very healthy," and have increased with the destination tax now paid on online purchases.

Sheriff Lillard said he has replaced antiquated equipment and created a High Impact Target Team. "We have arrested 24 on warrant arrests," he said. The MCSO has also been monitoring registered sex offenders, he said. "We're going to do that every year."

Burglaries are down, he said. "A lot of our known burglars are in the Montrose County Jail right now."

Lillard expressed thanks for WestCo Dispatch, the County's social media team, and new K9 Officer Tigo. There is a new Administrator at the Montrose County Jail, Dean McNulty. "He's doing an outstanding job," Lillard said. Rick Gawlinski is the MCSO's new code officer. A \$600K JBBS grant has helped improve jail-based behavioral health services.

MCSO goals for 2020 include: Complete the full study of crime mapping to better ensure coverage in higher risk areas; Continue to concentrate on quality assurance, keep training up to P.O.S.T. standards which would include all divisions within the Montrose County Sheriff's Office; Implement K9 and Deputy in the West End; Update Patrol vehicles to Chevy Tahoes; and implement body cameras.

The MCSO has been able to track holiday package thieves or "porch pirates" through use of a device included on a package, and investigations will be ongoing throughout the Holiday season.



Montrose County Sheriff Gene Lillard presented the Annual Public Safety Sales Tax Report for 2018-2019.

"People who are picking up packages on doorsteps should be aware that we have ways of finding them," Sheriff Lillard said. He shared a photo of the first annual MCSO award ceremony and said that award ceremonies to recognize MCSO team members will also be a regular priority. "It's important that we award these people what they have coming.

"The Sales Tax is making an unbelievable amount of difference," he said. "We're proud to serve."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said that Westco Dispatch is "huge" not only because of tax dollar savings, but for the safety of citizens.

Also, "We see it at the parades, we see it at the Fairgrounds...it's a nice change to have our deputies working together," Rash said. "That's another safety thing that I think is just huge, that we work together with other departments and that we share this responsibility of safety for our citizens...and thank you, thank you, thank you for getting a K9 for the West End...that is such a needed tool for safety, for everything."

He thanked Lillard and MCSO staff. "You guys have done an outstanding job...It's a team...it's so much better when we all work together and pull in the same direction."

Said Commissioner Keith Caddy, "Thanks to the people of the County of Montrose

BOCC HEARS ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REPORTS FROM SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROAD & BRIDGE From previous pg

for letting us have the PSST for the Sheriff's Department, and the forethought and the vision they had to put this together to make this one of the best Sheriff's departments in the State of Colorado if not in the United States.

"Without the PSST money that the people of this community and this County allowed you to have, it would not be possible," Caddy said. "Thanks to the people of the community."

Commissioner Rash left the meeting; Hansen and Caddy reconvened following a five-minute break.

County Public Works Director Keith Laube presented the Annual Road & Bridge Public Safety Sales Tax Report for 2019, and five-year plan for 2020-2024.

Sales tax funds represent 60 percent of the department's budget, Laube said. "It has really helped us do a lot of things."

Since 2008, 20 Montrose County bridges

have been replaced, and 111 miles of roads paved. The County maintains 1,360 miles of roads, of which 294 miles are paved, 464 miles are gravel, and 602 miles are primitive, with a native, dirt surface.

Following the Road & Bridge presentation Hansen said, "I see you're getting closer to my neighborhood...it's a pretty aggressive schedule...it's all going in the right direction. It seems like you're achieving a lot."

County manager Ken Norris noted the engineering and planning aspects of Laube's leadership. "He has taken us to a whole new level...that's a very effective operation."

Caddy once again thanked the citizens and the community for the money to improve roads and bridges and maintain the safety of motorists in the County. He thanked Laube for using the funds in the most economical and beneficial way.

In other business, Commissioners adopted Resolution 45-2019 regarding the 2020 Commissioners Board meeting calendar.

Items D-7-11 were approved with one motion: the reappointment of Phillip Booker to the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for a five-year term to expire Jan. 1, 2023; the reappointment of Steven Baker to the Historic Landmark Advisory Board for a three-year term to expire Jan. 31, 2023; the reappointment of Jay Jutten to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable for a five-year term to expire Jan. 5, 2025; the reappointment of Kandis Tomlinson to the Nucla/Naturita Cemetery District Board for a six-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2025; and the reappointment of David Seymour to the Montrose County Weed Commission for a three-year term to expire Feb. 6, 2023.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY OF MONTROSE OWES THE PEOPLE AN ACCOUNTING FOR EVERY DONATION (CASH OR IN-KIND) GIVEN BY CITY TO A NON-CITY ENTITY

Editor:

"Public office is a privilege, not a right, and people who accept the privilege of holding office in the government must of necessity accept that their entire conduct should be open to inspection by the people they are serving". Harry Truman

I have read and re-read the epistle in the MDP 2020 Budget insert. What a useless pile of self-aggrandizing gobble-de-gook! This is no more a budget than an un-redacted copy of the Mueller Report. It is just a "How Great We Art" diatribe about the city government, by the city government put forth by the city government to placate the 'obviously poor dumb electorate' of Montrose. Well we ain't falling for it.

Let us begin with all the "Collaborations and Partnerships". I see no less than 28 different organizations, ten of which receive public funds from other sources, one of which is a private business and four of which are private charities. Fifteen of the 28 have no right to be on the list to receive public funds no matter how small. There is absolutely no justification for contributing tax money to charities, private enterprise or the ten organizations already publicly funded. I and we the people of Montrose demand to see an accounting for every donation (cash or in-kind) given by the city to a non-city government entity AND I see no justification for the city to HIDE behind the city's so called policy of having to have a CORA request paid for by the requesting citizenry. Far too much possible crooked behavior is possibly residing behind these fees. And, by the way, I have the names of two charities that have allegedly received city money that should appear on that list.

We the citizens have a right to know and not a right to have to PAY to know.

Now a little birdy told me that Mr. Bell refused to answer a question about nearly a million dollars of allocated or

reallocated monies at the last council meeting. This avoidance of a legitimate taxpayer question is reprehensible and highly suspicious. I believe it was about low-income housing money from somewhere but where it went no one seems to be willing to venture. I expect this citizen's question to be answered with facts post haste. And by the way, why is Montrose doing anything with public housing?

To me, and I am sure to many others, such dodging of a legitimate query is indicative of one of three things: 1) lousy records and/or accounting practices, 2) ignorance of what is going on by the accountable person or 3) or downright deception. So what is it? Your choice?

These are just two of the many reasons

that EVERY check written or transfer made by the city from the city treasury be listed clearly and precisely in the Montrose Daily Press and/or the Montrose Mirror. It is long past time for this 'hide and seek' baloney with public money by those entrusted to keep it safe and to account for it, be put to rest.

If not, for sure we need to get rid of three council persons and the city manager in the spring election or sooner. I am afraid that the city council does not have the gumption, fortitude, nerve, initiative, integrity or brass to straighten out city hall as it should be and it seems to be a sure thing that the city manager is not going to do it.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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970-964-7023



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555 Spring Creek Rd Montrose, CO 81403
\$249,900 – Commercial – sale/lease – 1,836 SqFt
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59469 HWY 90 Montrose, Co 81403
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CONSUMER ADVISORY: CONSIDER YOUR CHOICES FOR HEALTH INSURANCE DURING OPEN ENROLLMENT

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is reminding those Coloradans who are in need of health coverage and who buy individual health insurance plans (meaning not from an employer) that now is the time to enroll in or renew coverage for 2020.

The annual open enrollment for the individual market runs from Nov. 1 - Jan. 15. If you do not get your coverage from an employer or from a government program such as Medicaid or Medicare, this is the only time of the year to sign up for health insurance, unless you have a major life event during the year like losing your job and your employer coverage, having a baby or getting married or divorced. However, to have coverage in place starting Jan. 1, enrollment must be complete by Dec. 15.

Jake Williams, Executive Director of Healthier Colorado, a policy and advocacy organization, said, "Open enrollment is a critical window for your health and finances that you don't want to miss. It's an opportunity to evaluate your coverage options so that you can get the insurance that best fits your life's circumstances." The 2020 premiums have decreased all across the state and in all levels of plans -

bronze, silver and gold - thanks to the State's Reinsurance Program. However, when it comes to health insurance, the DOI encourages people to take some time to evaluate their coverage options. Your current plan may not be the cheapest, so you will want to do some shopping to find savings.

In Summit County, Glenn Brady, a realtor and a single dad with three kids, has been paying \$1,800 a month for his family's health insurance in 2019. But when he looked at what was available for the coming year, he was happily shocked to see his premium going down to \$1,200 for 2020 due to the reinsurance program. Glenn says this \$600 a month savings is significant for his family and will help pay for his kids tutoring and daycare.

Glenn went on to say that the \$7,000 he'll see in savings in the coming year will mean a lot to his family.

"For 2020, premiums are coming down an average over 20% across the state, and many places in Colorado will see decreases around 30%," said Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "But it's still important for folks to take the time to shop to save as much as possible for a plan that works best for their health care needs. That's especially true for Coloradans that receive subsidies from the federal govern-

ment. On average, they can still save 15% next year, but they may need to switch to the lowest cost plan in their metal level in order to achieve those savings."


Having health insurance is important in gaining access to health care services and maintaining one's health.

But it also helps to protect people financially, as the costs of health care services continue to climb.

Colorado individual health insurance consumers can enroll with insurance agents, directly with the insurance companies or through our state's exchange, [Connect for Health Colorado](https://connectforhealthco.com).


Contact Connect at 855-752-6749 or find in-person assistance through their statewide network of certified experts at connectforhealthco.com/person-help. In addition, Connect for Health offers tools such as the [Quick Cost & Plan Finder](#) that can help you check if you are eligible for financial assistance and find a plan that fits your needs.

If you or a family member need help determining what kind of questions to ask when considering health insurance, or you just want some assistance decoding the language of a health plan, contact the Division of Insurance Consumer Services: 303-894-7490 / 800-930-3745 / DO-RA_Insurance@state.co.us.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT: HELP IDENTIFY & LOCATE SUSPECTS IN AUG. 14 OLATHE BURGLARY

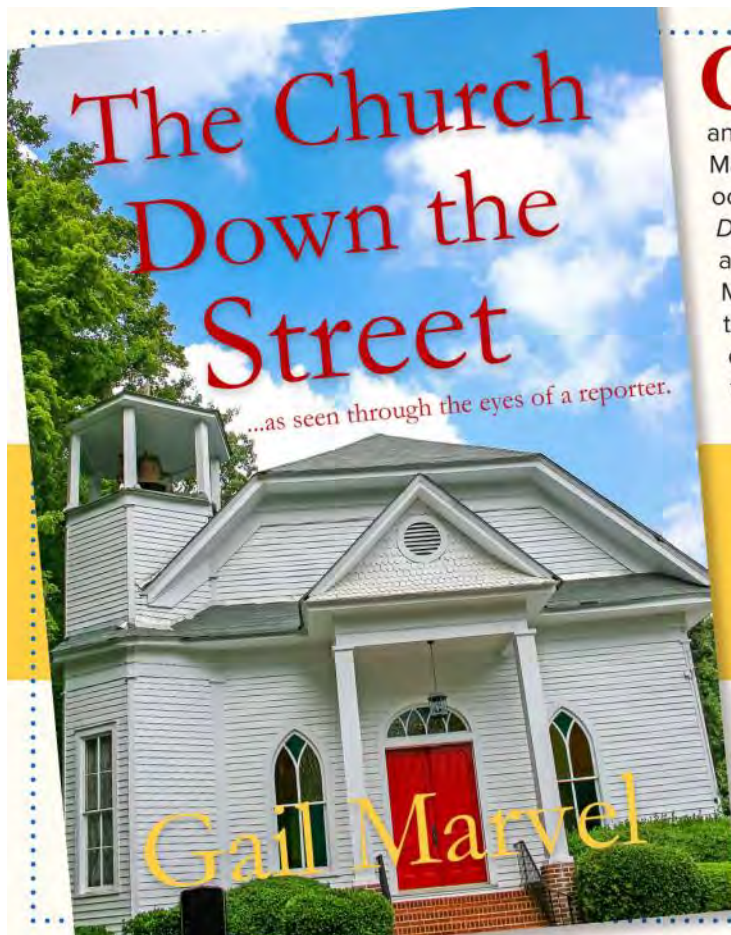
Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers

OLATHE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who committed a Burglary from the residence located at 3064 Highway 348, Olathe, Colorado.

Between August 14, 2019, at approximately 0700 hours and August 14, 2019, at approximately 1300 hours, a person(s) entered the residence and removed two safes containing, multiple gold and silver Mexican coins, as well as American cash. The value of the items stolen totaled more than \$67,000.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) in this case or any other case, may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the mobile P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the tip results in an arrest, the tipster may receive a cash award. The family in this case has also offered a \$3,000 cash reward in addition to a Crime Stoppers reward. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

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



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 and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter



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



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DECEMBER 14, 15, 21, 22 | 4-6PM



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OURAY COUNTY SHERIFF ARRESTED FOR DUI

Mirror staff report

OURAY- According to the Dec. 2 Montrose County Sheriff's Blotter, Ouray County Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald was arrested for DUI on Nov. 28 by a Ouray County Sheriff's Deputy in Ridgway. Bond was set at \$750. This is the second incident of wrongdoing by a top Ouray County Sheriff's officer in 2019. In June of this year, Richard Allen Herman, a longtime Ouray County Sheriff's deputy who was promoted to undersheriff in January by Fitzgerald, was indicted by a grand jury of the 7th Judicial District Court for sex crimes allegedly perpetrated in March of 2018.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ICBA'S INDEPENDENT BANKER NAMES 2019 BEST COMMUNITY BANKS TO WORK FOR

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON, DC-*Independent Banker*® magazine, the award-winning monthly publication of the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA), today bestowed 2019 Best Community Banks to Work For honors upon five community banks that have gone above and beyond to create exceptional work experiences for their employees.

"ICBA is proud to recognize these community banks for creating cultures of success through diverse and inclusive workforces; fostering personal and professional development, and a banking philosophy guided by creating lifelong relationships," ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said. "The community bank relationship-based model, commitment to service and shared goal to make a positive difference all garner high praise and a loyal workforce."

Participating community banks were sorted into asset categories and ranked based on a detailed questionnaire and a nation-

wide survey of community bank employees administered by Avannis, an independent research agency. Only banks that received a 40 percent employee participation rate or higher were eligible for recognition. Key criteria considered in selecting this year's honorees included:

A diverse and inclusive workplace that develops leadership skills, encourages teamwork and provides opportunities to share ideas for improved bank performance.

Opportunities for advancement that enable staff to obtain key skills to effectively advocate on behalf of customers and help them achieve their financial goals.

Performance standards and recognition, including competitive and equitable salaries with results-oriented goals and objectives.

This 2019 Best Community Banks to Work For award winners include:

\$172 million-asset Farmers State Bank in Hartland, Minn., which received high marks for its corporate culture, which is

based on creativity and accountability. \$315 million-asset Timberline Bank in Grand Junction, Colo., whose collaborative environment and teams-based approach ensures employees have a say in how company goals are achieved.

\$565 million-asset Norwood Bank in Norwood, Mass., whose family-friendly atmosphere fuels camaraderie and cooperation across business lines.

\$864 million-asset Vista Bank in Dallas, whose golden rule to put people first—starting with employees—includes offering financial assistance to employees in need.

\$1.3 billion-asset First Citizens Bank in Mason City, Iowa, which focuses on supporting employees' civic service to promote goodwill within the community.

This is the inaugural year for *Independent Banker's* Best Community Banks to Work For awards, which are sponsored by Shazam. Read the full writeup on this year's winners in the [December issue](#) at independentbanker.org.



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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SHERIFF FITZGERALD, PLEASE STEP DOWN.

Editor:

We were dismayed to read in several newspapers last week that Ouray County Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald was arrested on suspicion of DUI. In our attempt to demonstrate compassion and maintain the Sheriff's dignity, we urge anyone who knows and cares about Lance to encourage him to seek help and to resign his post as County Sheriff.

If Sheriff Fitzgerald were a hired deputy in the Sheriff's office, customarily he would be placed on administrative leave pending the investigation. However, since he is elected by the voters of Ouray County, apparently he can return to work without recourse. If we are mistaken and actions can be taken by the County in accordance with policy, we ask the appropriate party - be it County Administrator, County Attorney, and/or Board of County Commissioners - to act promptly.

We suspect many residents as well as fellow law enforcement officers question Sheriff Fitzgerald's ability to serve our community under the current circumstances. Reports indicate Sheriff Fitzgerald has a history of DUI arrests. We are concerned what his continued leadership communicates to our community - especially our youth. Furthermore, his behavior of driving under the influence endangers himself and the public. In our opinion and with all due respect, it seems best for Sheriff Fitzgerald and for the county for him to resign. Though we all make poor choices at some point in our lives, we don't all take an oath of office.

Robyn Cascade

Jen Donovan

Paula James

John Kissingford

Kate Kissingford

-Ouray County



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- Independent & Assisted Living
- Injury or Post-Surgery Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Long-term, Skilled Nursing Care
- Secure Memory Care
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Community Dining and Homebound Meal Delivery



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montrosemirror.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

NEW PEOPLE & TERM LIMITS ARE NEEDED IN WASHINGTON

Editor:

We've seen a record of the phone call with Trump's 10 second request for the president of another country to investigate his country's corruption.

For this, the Democrats are attempting to impeach the President.

We should compare that 10 seconds by Trump to the Democrat's months of endless meetings, investigations, and outraged TV interviews as well as the millions of dollars they spent in their quest for impeachment of the President.

Both Trump and the herd of Democrats could be accused of attempting to use political power to affect our next election, but the Dem's get the prize for being the most corrupt.

New people and term limits are needed in Washington.

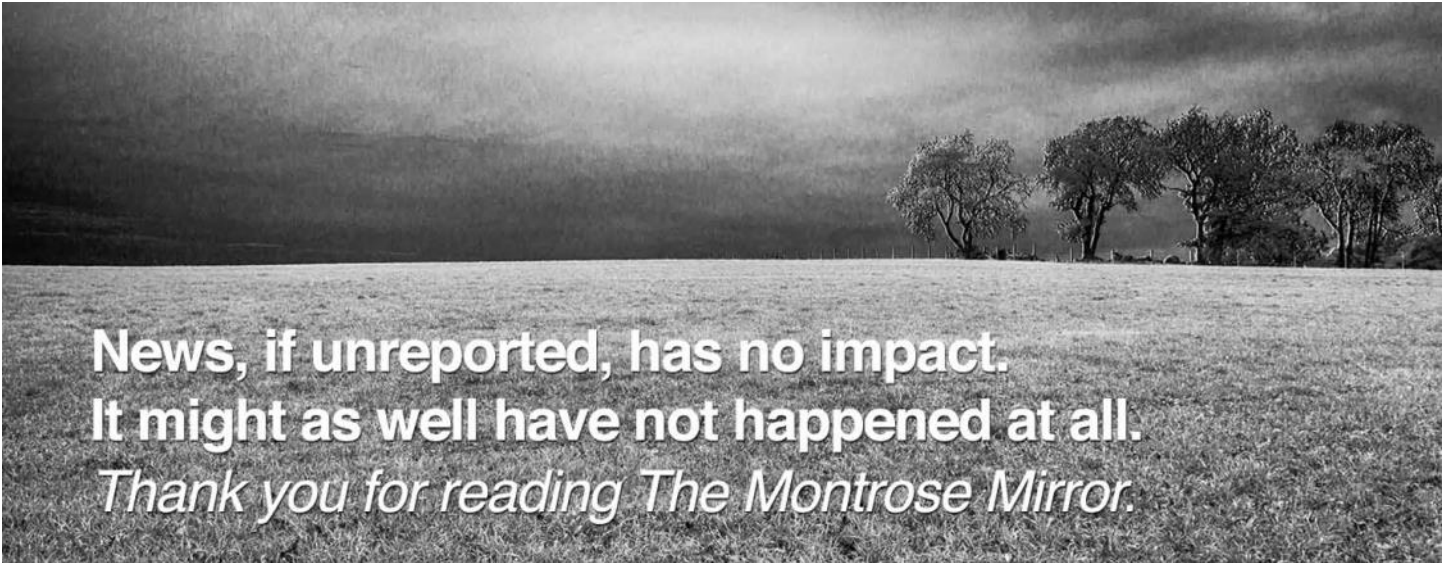
Barry Lindstrom, Montrose

READER OBJECTS TO DEC. 2 STORY LEDE

Editor:

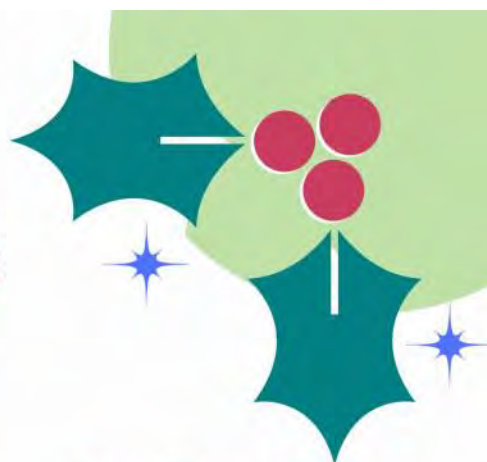
On page 5 of the December 2, 2019 issue of *The Montrose Mirror*, the article on domestic violence provided misleading information. The first sentence of that article is not accurate. Merriam-Webster Dictionary gives the following definition for hate crime, "any of various crimes (such as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group (such as one based on color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation)" <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hate%20crime>. An act of domestic violence should not be referred to as a love crime. Domestic violence is a criminal incident between two intimate partners. Love plays no part in the definition of domestic violence. This first sentence implies that the opposite of a hate crime is a love crime. This is not true. A hate crime and a crime of domestic violence are two very different things. A topic such as this is vital and needed. Readers should be provided with accurate information.

Rob Brethouwer, Montrose



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

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



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For ages 6-11

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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

VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER

1401 S. Cascade Ave, Montrose
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Montrose Real Estate...

The real estate market in Montrose is alive and well. Increasing home values and low interest rates are creating a vibrant atmosphere for both sellers and buyers. Here are a few properties that may be of great interest to you. Brought to you by Kerri Noonan-Inda!



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

**Uncompahgre River runs through
this unique property!
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FOR SALE

**1526 Leeds Avenue
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**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**

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FOR SALE

**59406 Lone Eagle Road
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**1.47 Irrigated Acre Lot, Ready to Build!
Eagle Heights**

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

PUC OPENS DOCKET TO COLLECT INFORMATION RELATED TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today opened a proceeding to gather input from stakeholders relating to distribution system planning by Colorado electric utilities.

Senate Bill 19-236, signed by Gov. Jared Polis in May, directs the PUC to promulgate rules establishing the filing of Distribution System Plans (DSPs). Through a workshop process that ended in late 2018, the PUC and stakeholders developed an understanding that the increasing adoption of distributed energy is accelerating due to changes in customer choices, technological development, cost reductions and public policy. Distribution planning may help the PUC ensure that grid modernization allows for continued safe, reliable and cost-effective utility operations. However, the PUC believes that the collection of additional information is necessary

prior to the development of proposed rules.

Chairman Jeff Ackermann was designated as Hearing Commissioner and will work with PUC staff, stakeholders and other interested participants to collect and organize information, conduct public comment hearings or workshops, and make recommendations to the full Commission as to the next steps in promulgating the rules required by statute.

Persons interested in participating in this proceeding are required to file a notice of participation by Jan. 10, 2020. Initial written comments are due by Feb. 1, 2020, with reply comments and draft rules due by March 13, 2020. Interested persons may submit written comments by using the PUC's on-line comment form at www.dora.state.co.us/pacific/puc/puccomments under proceeding number 19M-0670E.

Visit https://www.colorado.gov/dora/puc_legislation_implementation for updates on PUC proceedings related to 2019 legislation.

About PUC

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) serves the public interest by effectively regulating utilities and facilities so that the people of Colorado receive safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced services consistent with the economic, environmental and social values of our state.

About DORA

The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission. Visit www.dora.colorado.gov for more information or call 303-894-7855/toll free 1-800-886-7675.



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TROOPER TIPS: ARE YOU DRIVING IMPAIRED?



Colorado State Patrol Master Trooper Gary Cutler. Courtesy photo.

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO-How often do you ask yourself if you are driving impaired? I know you're asking why you would ask yourself that if you are not drinking. But are you actually impaired and don't realize it? Think of it this way, have you

ever driven when you were tired or just drove while daydreaming? Let's take a look at this idea.

The official definition of Driving While Ability Impaired is driving a motor vehicle when a person has consumed alcohol or one or more drugs, or a combination of both alcohol and one or more drugs, that affects the person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in

the safe operation of a vehicle.

So when you drive when you're tired and having trouble keeping your eyes open just because you are trying to make it to your destination, isn't that impairment? Have you ever been driving and found yourself daydreaming? Ever wondered how you drove so far when you came out of your daydream? See. It's becoming a little clearer.

Let's go back to part of the above definition: affects the person to the slightest degree so that the person is less able than the person ordinarily would have been, either mentally or physically, or both mentally and physically, to exercise clear judgment, sufficient physical control, or due care in the safe operation of a vehicle.

I know that when I am tired, I qualify under the definition of impairment. I am not in a position to be doing actions in which greater concentration is needed. That's especially true when driving. I know that my motor skills are going to be lacking. I may not see things in front of me. It will take me longer to react to situations and I may not make the right choice due to having what I like to call a brain fog

from being too tired.

When patrolling the roads, I have come across people weaving, driving slowly, and going through stop signs all because they were too tired to drive. When I talked with the drivers, all of them had the same attributes of someone that has been drinking. So I ask you, how many of you would never think about drinking and driving, but have gotten behind the wheel and drove while tired? The outcome can be the same; you won't get a DUI or go to jail, but you may get a ticket or be involved in a crash.

So make sure you are awake and aware enough to drive prior to getting behind the wheel. If you are on a trip and start feeling tired, take the time to give yourself a break. Get something to eat, exercise, get some fresh air, or if it's bad enough get some sleep.

The next time you're about to get into your car, stop first and ask yourself if you are too tired to be driving.

You owe it to your passengers as well as the other drivers on the road not to have a brain fog.

As always, safe travels!

TWO NEW MONTROSE POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN 12/3



Montrose Police Patrol Officers Jace Cline and Chelsey Payne were sworn in by Police Chief Blaine Hall, before a crowd of family, friends and community members at the City Council meeting of Tuesday, Dec. 3

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO'S 2019 COORDINATED ELECTION IS OFFICIAL

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has announced that the state's bipartisan canvass boards have submitted their official abstract of votes, thereby concluding the 2019 Coordinated Election.

"Over 1.5 million Coloradans voted in this year's election, a considerable turnout for an odd-numbered year," said Secretary Griswold. "This demonstrates that Coloradans are engaged and want to help determine the future of our state. I'd like to recognize and thank everyone who took part in this year's election, and I'm particularly proud of the tireless work put in by

our elections division team."

Last Wednesday, the Secretary of State's office worked closely with Colorado's County Clerks to complete a risk-limiting audit state-wide.

After which, each county's bipartisan canvass board certified the election results in each Colorado county.

The canvass boards have submitted the final results to the Secretary of State's office and the election is now deemed official. There are still a handful of re-counts in local and municipal races, which are not conducted by the Secretary of State's office.

The official breakdown of voter turnout is

as follows:

Total voter turnout:	1,577,485
Mail ballots:	1,557,115
In-person ballots:	20,353
Provisional ballots:	17
Democrat:	511,254
Republican:	538,515
Unaffiliated:	509,092
Other:	18,624
Female:	815,226
Male:	750,265
Unknown:	11,994

2019 Coordinated Election results by age, party, and gender (PDF)

For complete 2019 Coordinated Election results, please visit www.sos.state.co.us



We know that a diagnosis of cancer is stressful and overwhelming. We also know that you'd prefer to stay near your home, surrounded by friends, family and a supportive, caring community. That's why the San Juan Cancer Center offers every therapy you'd expect to find in a big-city hospital, including medical oncology and chemotherapy, and advanced radiation therapy.



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36.87 acre High Country Parcel that borders Uncompahgre National Forest for direct access to thousands of acres to explore, hunt, hike, ride, bike and ski. Happy Canyon with seasonal creek along the east and southeast sides. Great views of mountains and canyon. Wooded parcel with tall Ponderosa pines, juniper, pinon, spruce and oak brush; great habitat for big game and other wildlife. Located in Game Management Unit 62. Make this your off-grid base camp for recreation and hunting in the Great Outdoors of Colorado's western slope. Winter access is marginal although there are neighbors that live here year-round. Click a picture for Virtual Tour

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MLS# 759425

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Located on the fertile California Mesa, this turn-key hemp farm is perfectly situated and well equipped to produce world-class hemp and other high-value crops. Featuring easy access and ample irrigation water, this farm also enjoys a premium location and an ideal climate for hemp production. The current owner has positioned this farm to produce crops with organic and natural inputs and practices and has also equipped it with the tools and equipment necessary to be resource wise and self-sufficient. This farm features a brand-new irrigation water filtration and injection system, three large and rugged climate-controlled greenhouses, specialized farming implements and so much more. This assembly of land, water, improvements and equipment in this locale and climate is difficult to find and even more difficult to own. Don't chance your 2020 crop to a slow contractor or to a manufacturer that is running behind schedule. Consider this turn-key, self-sufficient farm that's ready to get you growing quality hemp this season.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Western Colorado Properties

Jeff Keehfuss

Broker/Owner

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW SEEKS COMMENTS ON BIG-GAME MANAGEMENT PLANS IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seeking public comments on proposed big-game management plans for the San Juan mule deer herd and the Dolores River desert bighorn sheep herd in Southwest Colorado. Comments must be received by Dec. 22. Herd management plans are developed by CPW biologists and take into consideration several factors, including: available habitat, population trends, hunting preferences, agricultural conflicts, wildlife viewing potential and recreation impacts.

The proposed plans are posted on the CPW web site. Both can be found at: <https://cpw.state.co.us/things/todo/Pages/HerdManagementPlans.aspx>. The location for the desert sheep plan is the Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir to the Paradox Valley. The game management units are referred to as S-63 and S-64. CPW estimates about 175 animals are part of that herd. The location for the deer herd plan extends from the Animas River east to Wolf Creek Pass. It includes Game Management Units 75, 77, 78, 751 and 771. CPW estimates the population of that

herd at about 27,000.

Both plan proposals seek to maintain stable to increasing populations. After public comments are evaluated, the proposals will be sent to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission early next year for review and approval. Comments on the bighorn plan can be sent via email to: Montrose Terrestrial Biologist Brad Banulis at brad.banulis@state.co.us. Comments on the deer plan and the bighorn plan can be sent to: Durango Terrestrial Biologist Brad Weinmeister at brad.weinmeister@state.co.us.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

AREA POST OFFICES EXTEND SATURDAY RETAIL HOURS

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION - Shipping holiday gifts just got more convenient. The Grand Junction Post Office, the Montrose Post Office and the Fruita Post Office will offer extended Saturday retail hours from now through Christmas (Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21). "It's all about customer convenience," said Grand Junction Customer Service Supervisor Chris Buzzell. "As we count down to the holidays, we know how demanding the season can be as we rush to get everything done on time. Staying open later on the remaining Saturdays before Christmas will help our customers' check holiday mailing off their to-do list."

Grand Junction area Post Offices offering extended retail hours on Saturday, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 :
Grand Junction Main Office, 241 N 4th St from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Montrose Post Office, 321 S. 1st St from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Fruita Post Office, 13 N Park Sq. from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

"Customers can count on the Postal Service and our more than 620,000 dedicated employees to deliver their holiday gifts, cards and letters on-time this holiday season," said Buzzell.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the Postal Service expects to deliver more than 800 million packages and nearly 12 billion pieces of mail – for a total of nearly 13 billion cheerful deliveries this holiday season.

2019 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office and domestic addresses*:

Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (**ZIP Code™ 093 only**) Priority Mail® and First-Class Mail®
Dec. 11 — APO/FPO/DPO (all other ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services

Dec. 14 — USPS Retail Ground service
Dec. 18 — APO/FPO/DPO (**except ZIP Code 093**) USPS Priority Mail Express® service

Dec. 20 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)

Dec. 20 — First-class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)

Dec. 21 — Priority Mail service

Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express® service

Alaska

Dec. 18 — Alaska to mainland First-Class Mail service

Dec. 19 — Alaska to mainland Priority Mail service

Dec. 21 — Alaska to mainland Priority Mail Express service

Hawaii

Dec. 19 — Hawaii to mainland Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services

Dec. 21 — Hawaii to mainland Priority Mail Express service

*Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted.

Dates are for estimated delivery before December 25. Actual delivery date may

vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office™ acceptance date and time and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express® shipments mailed December 21 through December 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two (2) business days.

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Consumers don't even have to leave home to ship their packages, simply visit usps.com to order free Priority Mail boxes, print shipping labels, purchase postage and even request free next-day Package Pickup.

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Use Informed Delivery

Informed Delivery is the Postal Service's free daily digital preview of what's coming to your mailbox through a daily email notification. This holiday season, manage your packages and sneak a peek at cards, magazines and catalogs headed your way — all from your mobile app, dashboard, tablet or computer. Sign up is free and easy at informedelivery.usps.com.

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, can be found at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom at usps.com/holidaynews

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



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SMART WAYS TO DONATE

DO YOUR RESEARCH

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.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

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.

QUALITY DONATIONS

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.

EMERGENCY GIVING

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.

LESSON FOR KIDS

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.



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TWO NEW PATROL OFFICERS SWORN IN, MHS BOYS GOLF TEAM HONORED @ CITY COUNCIL MEETING



Montrose City Council chambers drew a sizeable crowd for the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Dec. 3, as City Council welcomed two new police officers and proclaimed Dec. 3, 2019 as Montrose High School Boys' Golf Team State Champions Day.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The room was packed for the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council Dec. 3, as the City welcomed the swearing in of new Montrose Police Patrol Officers Jace Cline and Chelsey Payne. Council also celebrated the accomplishments of the Montrose High School Boys Golf Team, 4A state champions for three years in a row and four-time league and regional champions. All councilors were present for the meeting; Youth council representative was Mari Wilson.

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

Noting that it was a "great, great honor for City Council to be part of this," Mayor Dave Bowman introduced Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall for the new officer swearing in ceremony.

"I do consider it a privilege to be able to swear in two new police officers," Hall said. "...let me just begin by saying that being a police officer truly is a calling, and it's a sacrifice." That sacrifice is not made only by the officer, Hall said. "Your fami-

lies also make a sacrifice. They especially make it at 2 a.m. when they're home with the kids and the kids are sick, and you're out protecting our public."

The City is a team, Hall said. "And above all else, your integrity is key." The families of both officers joined in the badge pinning ceremonies.

Mayor Bowman read a proclamation naming Dec. 3, 2019 as Montrose High School Boys' Golf Team State Champions Day. The proclamation notes that Ryan Lords, Jordan Jennings, Micah Stangebye, Jake Legg, and Coaches Dave Woodruff, Tom Young, and Dave Simmons won the 4A Boys Golf State Championship on Oct. 8, 2019 at The Bridges Golf Course.

"It's quite an honor for our community," Mayor Bowman said. Not all members of the Montrose High School Boys Golf team could be present for the Council meeting--Jake Legg and Jordan Jennings were at basketball practice--but all were applauded as everyone present in Council Chambers rose for a standing ovation.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-

AGENDA ITEMS

Downtown business owner Scott Riba spoke to Council but addressed Mayor Bowman personally.

"Mr. Mayor, Dave, I would like to thank you for maintaining your integrity and your stance on the 2020 budget," Riba said. "Objecting to the \$670,000 transfer and standing by your words was much appreciated." He noted that \$670K had been in the Public Safety Fund and was not to be moved to the General Fund. Still, "It was moved," Riba said. "I think you made quite a statement by voting no on the 2020 budget...I want to thank you and lend our appreciation as taxpayers to that position."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items included minutes of the Nov. 19, 2019, special City Council meeting and regular City Council meeting as well as Resolution 2019-27, authorizing the conduct of a mail ballot election for the City of Montrose General Municipal Election of April 7, 2020.

Prior to approval of the Consent Agenda, Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said that "updated" minutes had replaced those in the meeting packet. Bynum moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the new Nov.19 meeting minutes replacing those presented to the public prior to the meeting.

Mayor Bowman made a statement. "Several days ago, the minutes of our last meeting were sent to all of us," he said. "This morning Barbara...sent out an email saying she wanted to change the comments that I made at that last meeting. "Somehow it turned out that City Manager Bill Bell ended up editing my comments," Bowman said. "I don't believe they truly reflect what I said at that meeting or what I meant."

Bynum said, "The Minutes as they were written said that you explained something to us about the budget, and I disagree with the fact that you explained the budget to us because I think you have misunderstood the budget. I don't want the meeting to reflect that we had all learned something from your explanation."

Continued next pg

TWO NEW PATROL OFFICERS SWORN IN, MHS BOYS GOLF TEAM HONORED From previous pg

Consent Agenda items were approved.

RETAIL LIQUOR STORE LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

Council considered the transfer of a Retail Liquor Store liquor license at 10 Bristlecone Drive from Trieu and Than, Inc., doing business as Pour House, to K Lingling, Inc., doing business as Pour House, for consumption off the licensed premises.

Because the item involved a transfer rather than a new license, the only question concerned the moral character of the applicant, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. Following questions by Council, the transfer was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2491-FIRST READING

Council considered approving Ordinance 2491 on first reading, revising Chapter 1-17 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding municipal elections. Ordinance 2491 changes the current write-in candidate deadline of 50 days before Election Day to 65 days to comply with the Municipal Election Code and adopts a provision for cancellation. The ordinance would allow citizens to file an affidavit to be a write-in candidate one week beyond the deadline to submit candidate nomination petitions.

Mayor Bowman opened a public hearing. Speaking against the Ordinance was Scott Riba, who said that potential write-in candidates might be discouraged from seeking public office by the 65-day deadline.

By allowing the City to cancel uncontested elections, the Ordinance saves the City money, Bynum said.

Ordinance 2491 was approved on first reading.

ORDINANCE 2492-FIRST READING

Council approved the Supplemental Budget ordinance on first reading, in an amended version. Ordinance 2492 appropriates funds to defray the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2019; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg handed updated versions of the Amended Ordinance 2492 to Council. "I made a couple of

changes to the Ordinance," she said. "...I did find another typo."

Wittenberg verbally noted the specific change that she had made. Mayor Bowman opened a public hearing.

Scott Riba spoke. The updated version represents an increase to the City budget of more than \$2.5M, he said. He asked for explanations on several line items pertaining to the former Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA) which was dissolved by the City in July. As former DDA Chair, Riba asked how the DDA, which was under budget when it was dissolved, had gone over budget afterwards.

The fund in which monies from the former DDA and the TIF collected from Downtown business owners are kept is also named "Downtown Development Authority," City Manager Bell said, noting that DDA funds were used to help with the purchase of the two large Vic Payne bronze sculptures, and with Centennial Plaza tiles.

The fund is a line item under the City's General Fund, Mayor Bowman said. All of the money collected will be used Downtown, he added. "We kept the name of the fund, but it now belongs to the City of Montrose."

The fund will be re-named the "Downtown Development" fund in the 2020 budget, Bynum said.

Riba also questioned how \$63,457 in loans were made in 2019 from the DDA's USDA Opportunity Loan fund, when the organization itself did not make any loans in 2019.

Bell provided background information. "I am the one who created that entire program...the USDA Loan Fund was established with \$150,000 in seed money--\$75,000 from the USDA, \$63,500 from the City and \$12,500 from the DDA." He said that the loan fund was intended as a "joint project" between the DDA and City.

Following dissolution of the DDA, "...we just paid off the original grant agreement with the USDA," Bell said. "There's no more red tape or bureaucracy or strings attached from the Federal Government...any of the monies left in that pot of money...can be loaned out to businesses in our



Finance Director Shani Wittenberg handed updated versions of Amended Ordinance 2492 (supplemental budget ordinance) to Council at the Dec. 3 Council meeting.

Downtown without any Federal strings attached." The Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning (Region 10) provides loan review services, Bell said. TIF funds also remain from the DDA, he said. Though the City could spend them anywhere in town, TIF funds remain earmarked for Downtown improvements.

The exact sum of money returned to the USDA was \$55,525, Wittenberg said.

Riba also questioned Council about the expenditures of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA). "There was an overage of \$965,000...spent on the Colorado Outdoors project over and above the budget," Riba said. "Any explanation as to why that was?"

Bell said that a placeholder can be put in the municipal budget. "...we didn't know exactly how much capital improvements would be done for the public infrastructure piece, and we didn't know how much of that money would carry over...the \$600,000 was a placeholder." Money was spent in the MURA on water, sewer, storm sewer systems, streets, curb, gutter and sidewalks, landscaping, boulevard strips, and lighting, Bell said.

Riba asked whether there had been "a catastrophic budgeting error." Noting the City's supplemental budgets of 2018 and 2019, "...In 368 days the City has come up with \$4.6 Million to pay for over-expenditures of items that were not budgeted from 2018-2019," Riba said.

Bell said, "We can't mislead the public by stating things in such a way...it's important

TWO NEW PATROL OFFICERS SWORN IN, MHS BOYS GOLF TEAM HONORED From previous pg

to know that even though our budget goes up that isn't money that we just magically found. That's grant money from outside that passes through our coffers."

Riba asked how much of the supplementary budget increase consisted of pass-through grant funds.

"It seems to me a \$2.5 Million increase in the budget for 2019 is a pretty big percentage," he said. "It seems to me that there needs to be more accurate budgeting and establishment of budgets... frankly, it doesn't lend a lot of confidence in the budgeting process."

Bynum offered a simplified explanation of the budget process using her family budget as an example.

She also said that supplemental funds are not moved between City funds but come out of designated reserves for each fund. "We use reserves with Council approval as additional projects come up throughout the year," she said.

Riba said that as a businessman, he understands budgeting.

"...I know that things happen that you don't budget for. It just seems as though that this is almost a historical pattern with

the City...if I were running a business and overspent by four percent I would be out of business."

Said Bell, "You can't say things like that because it's not true."

No error was made, and correct fund accounting practice was followed, he said.

"If people came to our meetings and tracked what happens at the meetings, they would know the discussion and know the details of that," Bell said. He talked about the budget process.

"It's frustrating when we want to be really transparent and we just keep miscommunicating," Bynum said. "It's just really frustrating."

Riba suggested displaying the grant funds in the budget in a way that it is easier for people who are not in City government to understand. Mayor Bowman thanked Riba for his comments.

In other business, Council approved the Columbine Middle School Land Dedication Plat and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Montrose and Montrose County School District RE-1J; a contract with National Meter and Automation in the amount of \$85,663 for an

Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) software upgrade, as discussed previously in work session; and a bid for the Spruce Point Air Injection Vault to EFI-Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$123,274, as discussed previously in work session.

STAFF REPORTS/COMMENTS

During staff reports, Youth Council Representative Mari Wilson said that Youth Council performed a street cleanup on Nov. 21 and took part in the annual tree lighting event Nov. 29.

Youth Council has a float in the Montrose Parade of Lights this year; a Rock the Rec event will take place Dec. 13 at the Montrose Community Rec Center.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said the Black Canyon Classic Youth Basketball Tournament will be Dec. 19-21.

Bynum said that the long-awaited Habitat for Humanity Triplex on South Park Avenue would be dedicated Dec. 7.

Bowman praised Office of Business & Tourism events staffer Alexis Foran for taking entertainment in Montrose to a higher level.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AG CONFERENCE FOCUS IS SOIL HEALTH AND GROWING HEALTHY FOOD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Is soil the key to human health? The links between healthy soil, plants, animals, and us are well known, yet remain complex. This year's 8th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum Jan. 24 -25, 2020 at the Montrose Pavilion, takes a deep dive into these relationships through its theme, "Synergy of the Soil: Growing Healthy Food." The conference theme provides focus to 18 workshops on crops, livestock, soil health, irrigation, nutrient dense food, labor issues, orchards, seed sources, agri-hoods, small grain production, and financial management. Farmers, ranchers, ag-students, gardeners, and those interested in food issues will find sessions of interest.

Nicole Masters, the keynote speaker, is an internationally recognized agro-ecologist. She anchors this year's conference with a half-day workshop and is endorsed by many leaders in agriculture. Soil health guru and rancher, Gabe Brown says of her, "For years, many of us involved in regenerative agriculture have been touting the soil health – plant health – animal health – human health connection but no one has tied them all together as Nicole does." Getting to the root of creating productive, healthy, and profitable farming systems that create nutrient dense food is the focus of her workshop, "Turning Your Soil on for Optimal Plant Health."

Livestock producers can explore how to increase stocking rates, profitability, soil health and biodiversity even in drought conditions, in the half-day session, "Greening the Desert and Your Bottom Line." Presenting this workshop is Alejandro Carillos, internationally known for innovative practices that grew his busi-



Keynote Speaker Nicole Masters is an internationally recognized agro-ecologist. Courtesy photo.

ness from a 300-head to a 1,000-head operation using only livestock and six inches of annual rainfall.

Producers interested in further developing their agri-business will explore how to attract, develop, and retain their customers and their team through the session, "Growing Your Farm Family Business." This session goes to the heart of how to create, grow, and sustain a successful business by learning key leadership skills that increase collaboration and trust. Jan Salisbury, one of last year's most popular presenters returns with this powerful half-day workshop.

Topics presented by locally and nationally known speakers include: Practical Field Skills for Assessing Soil Health, Understanding the Microbiome, Improving Weed Management, Drip Irrigation Methods, Positioning Your Operation for Financial Success, Fencing Techniques, Agri-hoods, Unpacking Your Seed Source, Small Grain Production, Orchard Soil Health,



The 8th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum will be Jan. 24 -25, 2020 at the Montrose Pavilion. Courtesy photo.

H2A Labor Solutions for Small Farms, Be First to Market with Strategic Crop Planning, and Planned Grazing for Profit and Planet.

"The conference is designed to provide a rich menu of workshop options and to encourage networking among participants during a sponsored chili dinner Friday, round table discussions, a farmer-to-farmer invention convention, and a post conference bowling night," says organizer Carol Parker.

The conference offers discounts to those registering by Jan. 10th. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers. Locally sourced food is provided throughout the conference. Interpretation and registration materials in Spanish are also available. The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, ENGAGE, and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively.

For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call (781) 264-1882.





“ 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.

Jim found help with the Joint Replacement Program at Montrose Memorial Hospital. He found out he was a candidate for partial knee replacement, replacing just the damaged part of the knee.

Eleven months after surgery, Jim Welch was able to meet his goal: summiting Mt. Sneffels one more time.

Call your provider today to see if our innovative joint replacement program is right for you.



A FRESH POINT OF VIEW...KEEP THOSE YOUTUBE 'LIFE HACK' VIDEOS OUT OF THE WRONG (SMALL) HANDS



Jack Switzer, 16.

By Jack Switzer
MONTROSE-
"Jimmy" (not his real name) sat in his room, playing on his computer. However it was quite late, and Jimmy's friends had all gone offline, so he decided to watch

some YouTube before he went to bed. Jimmy was the creative type and loved watching people build amazing contraptions and gadgets, and every now and then he would stumble upon something he could do at home. That night, Jimmy had found a "Life Hack" video, one that demonstrated how to make slime, a gooey and fun substance that people like to play with. All Jimmy had to do was mix shampoo, toothpaste, and glue. Then just stick it in the microwave. However, when Jimmy mixed the ingredients and powered up the microwave, the goo exploded and splattered all over the kitchen. Even more

difficult to clean up was the smell, a pervasive aroma of hot shampoo, spearmint, and plastic.

I'm sure this has happened in more than one house, and even though little Jimmy is a hypothetical little boy and not my real sibling, the threat of these fake internet videos for children still affects many families. I mean after watching a few of them I was just about ready to quit the internet as a whole, watching people perform these useless and dangerous life hacks, such as pouring eggs into our socks for a nice "comforting" feeling or putting maple syrup in your HAIR to give it a "natural shine." These videos are targeted towards children, who will most likely end up doing the things these videos tell them to, which not only waste house hold ingredients but which can be dangerous too. Telling kids to microwave chemical substances that aren't food never ends well. And not only are there the "life hack" videos, but there also the YouTube creators who create "sexually enticing" videos with cartoon

characters, to lure children in and make money off of their views. Not only are they exposing children to a form of media they shouldn't be aware of until they're much older, if ever, but they're profiting off of it.

Keep in mind YouTube is a safe platform made for creators, but those who control the platform are unable to control the types of media distributed on the site. So the solution to keeping your kids away from this type of harmful content, is to be more in control of what they can watch using the YouTube kids app.

Not only is that kind of harmful content not available on the YouTube kids platform, but it's much easier for parents to moderate and watch over while their kids are watching videos. And I'm pretty sure no mother or father wants to come home to their kids filling their socks with eggs or tossing toxic chemicals in the microwave.

Please moderate the type of content your kids are watching.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS UPSET WITH COST OF CITY MANAGEMENT & COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO MANAGE THE CITY MANAGER

Editor:

This is Montrose. A small town that owes no obligation to keep up with any other city or town. It does not need to be competitive, what it needs to be is American, governed by laws not petit bourgeois or elected or appointed self inflated petit dictators who want to do it their way (or else). For Montrose, a berg of 20,000 mostly working or retired stiffs to pay almost a quarter million dollars salary and benefits of both the city manager and the city attorney is not only astronomically atrocious but it is rude and inconsiderate of the people who work to support our overly elitist city monarchy. Then to provide a chariot of a limo category to boot for another \$30,000 adds insult to the other injury. Does he even get a 1099 with it? I would ask his minions, but they, as well as he, shun answering legitimate questions. They stonewall. Maybe I should suggest the IRS take a peek---I bet they could get some answers. This city-provided white elephant he cruises around in is fit for luxury car shows---for this town he should be driving a John Deere lawnmower. Oh yes, a trailer hitch (what for), a bike rack (what for) and leather seats? Maybe Aspen but not Montrose.

Our citizens are upset with the management, the cost of management, city council's inability to manage the city manager and to be even modestly honest in their conduct with citizens at meetings. The idea, of course, is for the citizen to ask a question, use his three minutes and shut up. Then he is given the stonewall treatment and if he does not behave, the bums' rush. 'I dare say the poor bugger dared to question the Lords and Ladies of the city manager (Kings') court for a simple answer.' Nay, nay! Remember, the monarchy does not answer to serfs. How dare they demand transparency. We know what's best. Well for sure we know what we want and are going to do.

Marie Antoinette told the people to 'eat cake.' Soon thereafter she could not answer their questions.

We want ALL expenses published so we can see who is being fed from OUR public trough. Only transparency will assure us that the number of such swine are limited (and who they are). Only by publishing a list of every dollar spent can we the citizens know WHO is getting our dollars and what WE are getting in return. To date the city continues to refuse to accede to this request in spite of the county doing the same thing with their 'checkbook'. In the absence of easy transparency one should suspect corruption and evil doing.

Montrose is a city in crisis. The 'monarchy' are puffed-up by their perception of a recent win at the 2A ballot box. Well they did not win---they got told, whether they believe it or not---that they are not far from being booted out. Instead they should remember that "One symptom of a business in crisis is the unreliability of or even corruption of its own auditors (city council)". Montrose has reached just such a point and the realignment of this mess is likely to be very unpleasant.

Good work. The city just hired two cops! Where are the other 22? We are waiting, so far patiently.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

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ANONYMOUS CALL

**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**



'CAROLS AND CHEER' FEATURES OURAY COUNTY CHORUS

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The community is invited to the "Carols and Cheer" choral concert performed by the Ouray County Chorus on Sunday, December 15.

It will be at 7 p.m. at the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton Street in Ridgway. The concert is free, however donations are appreciated. Donations help offset the purchase of music for the choir and compensation for the director and accompanist.

The OCC will sing music of the season featuring many popular favorites in a variety of arrangements, as well as a few new winter pieces. There will also be additional special musical numbers by chorus and community members in addition to the prepared music by OCC.

The chorus is represented by soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices of numerous community members from all around Ouray County. They are under the direction of Laurie Wenzel from Montrose, who has directed the group for the past three years and accompanied on piano by Dee James of Ouray.

Anyone from the local area is welcome to join OCC next spring, and rehearsals for the spring concert generally begin in Feb-



OCC December 2019. Courtesy photo.

ruary. The chorus rehearses at the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway in the months leading up to the Winter and Spring concerts. For more information about future rehearsal dates, email ocpag-info@gmail.com.

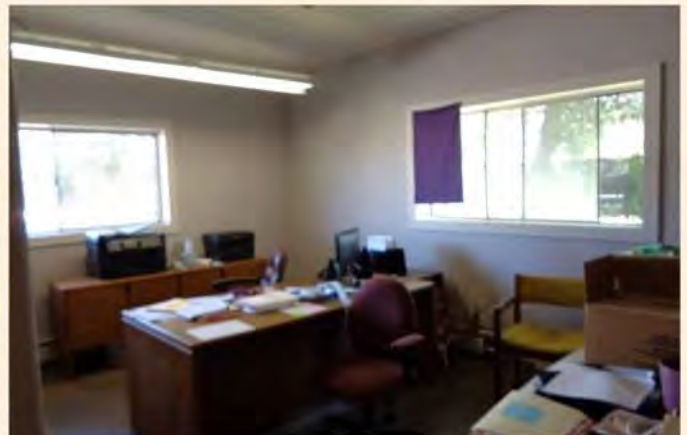
The OCC is supported Ouray County Performing Arts Guild, a not-for-profit organi-

zation bringing quality music, dance, theater and other genres events to Ouray and Ridgway. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors. To view an upcoming event schedule, visit www.ocpag.org.

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Commercial Building Zoned Light Industrial. 7,560 square feet. Many business possibilities. Building is divided into 3 sections and includes 5 offices, manufacturing or fabrication space, warehouse space and restrooms. Two sections have hot water baseboard heating and the newer section to the north has in-floor radiant heat. 6 Evaporative coolers. One roll-up door. Three-phase power. Also includes a detached garage with 576 square feet. Great access off Park Avenue, very close to San Juan Bypass and Hwy 50 North. Nice grassy yard to the south side of the property, watered with HOA irrigation water. Irrigation pump is included. Real estate only - Business Opportunity is not included. Building will be vacant at the end of September. Business Elevate Fiber Optic internet is available at this location.

0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

435 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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

Special to Art & Sol

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



Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

No nukes is good nukes



Uranium Drive-In sign in Naturita (courtesy photo)

SCIENCE ... I've come to love science ... Measurement was never my thing as a child. And as an adult I loved diving into experience's flow and swimming with the current. Or against it. Feeling its subjective tingle on my skin. But as I age, I find so many curious stories like mica flecked in dull stone when I read the science magazines. *Science News. Nature. Scientific American.* There's poetry in that prose. The wildest imaginings revealed in the latest theories. Catalogues of obtuse facts. Experimental hypotheses that tantalize ... But, unlike religion, which trapped me early in their cassocks of true belief, I don't believe everything that purports to be "science." Nor does the scientific method encourage such blind acquiescence. Science teaches us to doubt. To criticize. To argue. If a story can't stand scrutiny, then it's unlikely to measure up to fact ... Like I found it unbelievable that *Scientific American* — one of my go-to science advisers -- chose "Safer Nuclear Reactors" as #8 in its end-of-the-year Top Ten Emerging Technologies. "Accident-tolerant fuels." "More efficient." "Cost competitive." "Other safety measures." "Fourth-generation [reactor] models." "A dozen U.S. legislators recently proposed measures to restart licensing for Yucca Mountain" ... It's a familiar litany of booster claims and pro-industry spin. None of it deals with our inability to safeguard radio-



Jack Micheline riffs with Charles Mingus at the Great American Music Hall (Photo by Bruce Polonsky courtesy of Lithic Press)

active waste for even a fraction of its half-life. Nor the catastrophic black swan impacts of nuclear gone wrong, as it has several times already in our lifetimes. So, no, I don't think Nuclear is one of my top-ten emerging technologies. Unless we're talking about technologies that could lead to species extinction. Our species.

HAPPY DRUNK MEMORIES ... Slamming down beer mugs on a well-worn table a bit harder than intended, with good buddy Jack and my alcoholic, soon-to-be-ex wife Linda, yelling "Prost!" (at the Little Chef bar in Ridgway) ... Staying to the last call in the basement dining room over beer and margaritas -- arguing philosophy, water, growth, and obtuse facts of Colorado history and political science with the legendary Ed Quillen (at the Cattleman's in Gunnison) ... Wading through a benefit bar crowd to come face-to-face with my Wrights Mesa redneck nemesis: "Art, you're a goddamn hippie," he says with a scowl. "Yep," I retort, smiling, "and you're a goddamn cowboy." Both of laughing in spite of ourselves. So we shook hands (at the Hitchin' Post in Norwood).

JACK MICHELINE ... I remember the poet. Seventies San Francisco. North Beach. Noe Valley. He read all over town. Ended up dying on a BART train. Heart attack. He was himself a kind of heart attack. Restless

love on the move.

On the road. Kerouac blurbed an early book. Always barreling off to his next gig. Going from flophouse to couch to seedy hotel. A foul-mouthed, tough-talking little big man New Yorker, sucking a cig. Maybe wearing a thrift-store sports coat with his trademark scarf, dancing Isadora in the breeze. A paradox. Street savvy, but his lamb & dove message worn smooth, primitive like his art. Playing in a sandbox of metaphor & cliché. Sometimes rants. In a push could shout out the Muni buses. He cut quite a figure. Lived for the stage. Bigger in life than in death ... Lithic Press of Fruita has just brought out a gorgeous new edition of his work, edited by Tate Swindell and with an introduction by Eric Mingus: *On Valencia Street: Poems & Ephemera*. lithicpress.com

RIDGWAY ... Simmering questions about law enforcement, tolerance for questionable behaviors, whistleblowers run out of town and an unwillingness to prosecute misdeeds got new life with the newspaper accounts of the Ouray County Sheriff being involved in an alleged drunken brawl with a ladyfriend the end of last month and his subsequent arrest for an alleged DUI ... I thought only a county coroner in Colorado could arrest a county sheriff ... Back in Telluride's early days, not long after San Miguel split off from Ouray County, a judge in Ouray ordered the Ouray County Sheriff to arrest the San Miguel County Sheriff of the time for the shanghaiing of Western Federation of Miners union members and running them out of town, but Ouray officials were legally prevented from making that arrest by state law.

MOSQUITOES ... You've probably heard of proposals to tweak the DNA of these blood-sucking bugs and eradicate the lot. Bad idea. As the December issue of the *Smithsonian* points out, "Mosquitoes form

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

an important source of biomass in the food chain.” They’re food for fish as larvae, and birds, bats and frogs as adult flies. According to Yvonne-Marie Linton, research director at the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit, out of the more than 3,500 species of mosquitoes, only around 400 can transmit diseases to humans. Most don’t feed on humans at all.

WEEKLY QUOTA ... “We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don’t have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth’s beings.” - Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2014)

THE TALKING GOURD

Story

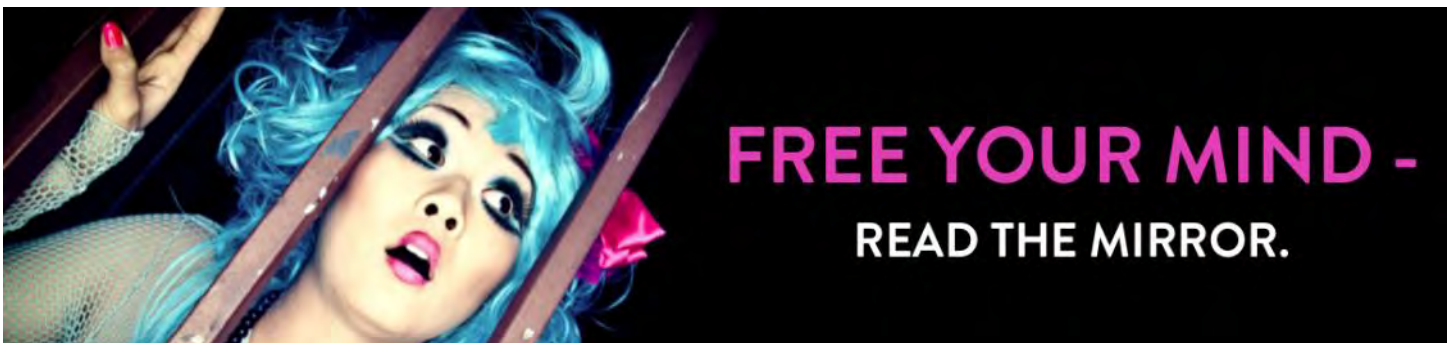
An old story, an old struggle, the haves and have nots.
Who wins? Nobody. Who cares? Damn near everybody.
But not in the same way, not about the same things.
Wanting more, giving less: ask, take, refuse, protect.

An old story without a happy ending, but all stories end.
This one too. What is it the haves have? Money or things?
Is there even a difference? What do the have nots want?
Just the same, but what do they—all of us really—need?

A future. What we all need, and see slipping away,
Day by day, a livable planet, a planet we can call home.
We thought we were telling this story, but we aren’t.

The earth gets to write the ending now, we had our turn,
And yes, we blew it, the haves and have nots will go on
Fighting, asking for more and more, getting less and less.

-Lito Tejada-Flores
Lago Carrera, Chile



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTHS OF THE MONTH

Special to Art & Sol

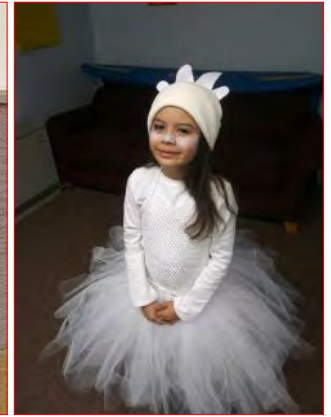
REGIONAL-Check out the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club's (BCBGC) latest Youths of the Month!

Karcarryn (Carry for short) was chosen as the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Pictured here in her Halloween finest, Carry is seven years old and in 2nd grade. Her favorite things about Club are the library and art room as well as hanging with her friends. Carry is a special little girl and not just because she is so sweet. Carry is a factor 7 hemophiliac which means her blood doesn't clot like it should and, because of this, Carry isn't able to do many of the activities her peers can do. Traditional sports are out of the question because simple scrapes and bruises that would be no big deal for most kids can quickly become hospital trips for Carry.

That's why the Club is so important to her. It's a place where she gets treated like everyone else, where she can participate in almost any activity she wants, and is a place where she can just be normal in her own exceptional way. Kendall was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. Staff chose to recognize Kendall because of her awesome attitude and willingness to help out. Kendall regularly goes above and beyond to help clean up or do whatever staff asks of her. Kendall cares deeply about her friends and family and has a great way of showing others how much



Kendall was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month.



Karcarryn (Carry for short) was chosen as the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month.

she cares. Way to go Carry and Kendall! We are proud to call you Club kids. For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.

TELLURIDE INSTITUTE'S ETTORE RELLA AWARDS FOR LOCAL YOUTH



Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Thanks to a generous donation from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund, Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program is proud to offer two \$200 local student poet-

ary awards, honoring the literary career of Ettore Rella -- a Telluride native who became a poet and playwright in New York City. One Rella Award will go to a poem submitted from a High School student, as selected by the Talking Gourd Poetry Club members. The other to a poem submitted by a student in Grades 1-8. All students attending classes in the Telluride School District R-1 are eligible to enter the contest -- that is, students from the Telluride Public Schools, the Telluride Mountain School, or those who are home-schooled within the district. Rella studied at the University of Rome, taught at Bennington College and eventually lived in New York

City. But he came from our frontier mining town in the Rockies. Rella wrote a large body of plays in verse. He received a Rockefeller Fellowship and grants from the Theatre Guild and the National Foundation for the Arts. His first play, *Please Communicate*, was produced in San Francisco. Later works, *Sign of Winter* and *The Place Where We Were Born* were off-Broadway productions in New York City.

Contest Rules & Details:

All styles of poetry are welcome. In English or Spanish. A two page limit to submitted poems, and only three submitted poems per person. Printed or handwritten (legibly). Poems must be accompanied by a Rella Award **entry form** that can be found at the Telluride Institute's website: go to [Rella Awards](#) and look for hotkey "here" to download. Or can be sent directly via email to an entrant as a Word document upon request to Art Goodtimes. Or can be found as a hard copy at the Wilkinson Public Library, our partner in this program.

Deadline for submitting poems is midnight Dec. 31, 2019.

Contest packets may be submitted electronically by email, including both the poem and completed contest form and sent as Word file attachments to shroompa@gmail.com, or mailed hard-copy to Talking Gourds Rella Awards, Art Goodtimes, P.O. Box 160, Norwood CO 81423. An Awards Ceremony is tentatively slated for Tuesday Jan. 14th at 4 p.m. at the Telluride Mountain School campus in Lawson Hill. Winners and runner-ups will be invited to read their poems.

There will be a Talking Gourds Poetry Club meeting that same evening at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts Gallery HQ across Pacific St. from the Wilkinson Public Library. Featured guest reader will be Eduardo Rey Brummel of Salida. Student readers will be invited to attend and read a poem at the Club meeting as well.

For more information, contact Art Goodtimes at 970-729-0220, by text (no voicemail). Or shroompa@gmail.com

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Visit us at any
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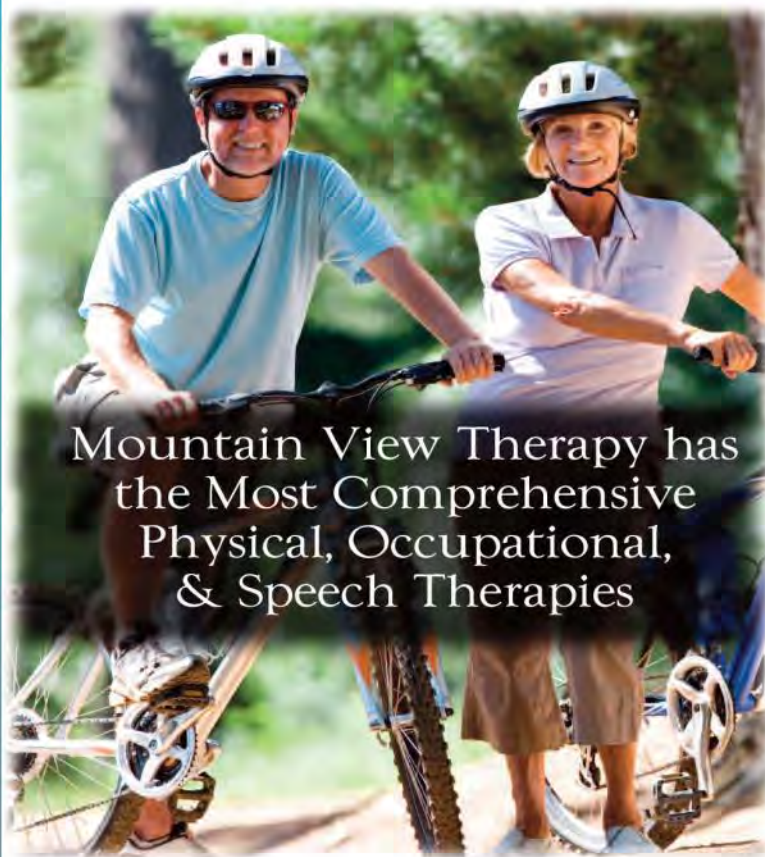
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Give Books

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-

MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS welcomes *FIRST FRIDAY STROLL* on Main Street in Montrose. Montrose Center for the Arts is exhibiting a *WINTER themed Members Art Show* for the month of December. Join the fun and meet the artists at the opening reception on Dec. 6, 5-7pm. Also, check out the Christmas Store at the Art Center. Appetizers and beverages available for your enjoyment. The Art Center is at the corner of Main and Park Ave., 11 Park Ave., Montrose.

BOSOM BUDDIES OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets every Wednesday from noon till 1 pm at 645 South 5th Street in Montrose. For more info email info@bosombuddiesswc.org.

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

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

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

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

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-

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. 13-Olathe Miracle on Main Street, 5 to 6:30 p.m. OHS Choir, Parade, Tree Lighting.

Dec. 13-Ridgway State Park Presents: December Full Moon Hike, *Friday, Dec. 13 7 p.m.* Please meet at the Visitors Center for a short video about the "*Cold Moon*," then head outside for a hike up to the overlook on Elk Ridge and back, approximately three miles. Campfire and marshmallows for roasting will be available afterwards. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp. If there is deep snow, snowshoes are available for check-out (limited supply so please call to reserve).

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. 15-7 p.m. – Ouray County Chorus Holiday Concert. Sherbino Theater in Ridgway. Free admission, donations appreciated. ocpag.org

Dec. 15-O Holy Night, a Christmas musical presentation, 5 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1521 S Hillcrest Dr. Admission is also free.

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, or locally at The Paradise Theatre and The Cirque in Paonia.

Jan. 10-All cattlemen and women are invited to attend the 2020 Western Slope Beef Cow Symposium held Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m. at Friendship Hall located at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. For more information about the 2020 Western Slope Beef Cow Symposium, please visit <http://2020bcs.eventbrite.com> or call 970-249-3935. Online or phone registration is required by Jan. 3, 2020, to attend this event.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

MAD RUSSIAN BREWING COMPANY OPENS IN OLATHE



At left, community members gathered to welcome a new brewpub to Olathe on Thursday, Dec. 5. "We're really excited to see this new business opening here, it's a big step for our little town," Photographer Erik Westesen said.



Clay Bernhardt's Mad Russian Brewing Company has opened at 519 US-50 Business Loop in Olathe. Plans for the establishment include a tasting room, horseshoe pits, food truck roundups and music nights. Courtesy photos by Erik Westesen.

READ THE MONTROSE MIRROR!



Fresh News for busy people...

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