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Issue No. 355 Dec. 16, 2019

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES ANNUAL AUDITOR'S REPORT *Columbine Band Director Uses Technology to Teach Music*



With the help of 7th Grade band students Avery Kingsbury and Ethan Osorio, Columbine Middle School Band Director John White demonstrated the benefits of his new "digital classroom."

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Students, teachers, staff, and community members joined the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10. All school board directors were present; the new District D Director is Shawn Carroll. Newly-appointed Board of Education officers include Board President Gayle Johnson, Vice President Sarah Fishering, Secretary Jacob Suppes, and Treasurer Stephen Bush.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

CPA Lisa Hemann of Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co. presented the annual Auditor's report, in draft form to be finalized later in the week. With the retirement of Finance

[Continued pg 12](#)

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRAISE STAFF FOR HARD WORK ON BUDGET, COMMEND CIVILITY OF PROCESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11. All Commissioners were present for the meeting; Commissioner Keith Caddy delivered the invocation.

COUNTY MANAGER/CONSENT AGENDA

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda. There were no Consent Agenda items.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen convened a public hearing on Item D-1, consideration and possible adoption of Resolution No. 46 -2019, concerning the 2019 Second and Final Supplemental Budget Appropriation. The resolution represents the final supplemental budget item for 2019, County Finance Director Cindy Dunlap said.

The \$15K appropriation is

[Continued pg 5](#)



The Montrose Board of County Commissioners convened for a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

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[With Deb Reimann!](#)

TRI-STATE TOY RUN BRINGS SANTA TO HAVEN HOUSE



For the fourth year in a row, the Tri-State G&T Montrose Employees' Club Holiday Toy Run brought Santa Claus to the kids at Haven House on Saturday, Dec. 14. Haven House Director Rose Verhuel said that there are 45 kids at the shelter this season, with 12 of them under age five and twins on the way.

The Tri-State Holiday Toy Run makes a big difference for children and families, she said.



THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS SELECTED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The newly-elected RE-1J Board of Education directors were sworn in at the Dec. 2, 2019 Special meeting and officers were selected. Gayle Johnson was nominated as Board President; Sarah Fishing was nominated as Board Vice-President; Jacob Suppes was appointed as Secretary and Stephen Bush was appointed as Treasurer. The Board of Education will meet in January to review applications for the open District F seat and plan to appointment a person in February.




REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CURECANTI MEDICAL SOCIETY OFFERS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Curecanti Medical Society is comprised of Montrose- and Gunnison-area physicians who, as part of the larger Colorado Medical Society, are dedicated to furthering health care access and services. One significant way in which the Curecanti Medical Society achieves its goals at a local level is by offering educational scholarships. For the 23rd consecutive year, the Curecanti Medical Society is accepting applications for scholarship awards for health science professionals and students. Qualified applicants must be currently pursuing training in a health-related field-of-study. Nurses, medical students, therapists, hospital or clinic employees, and anyone else seeking additional health-sciences training are encouraged to apply.

Four scholarship winners will be selected by the Scholarship Committee of the Curecanti Medical Society. Preference will be given to applicants from Montrose and Gunnison Counties who intend to return to their local communities to utilize their training. Scholarship winners will be announced in late January.



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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRAISE STAFF, CIVIL BUDGET PROCESS From pg 1

is for the Clerk's Technical Fund for unbudgeted expenditures for software maintenance costs. The item has been reviewed and discussed, Hansen said. Resolution 46-2019 was adopted unanimously.

Hansen closed the first public hearing and opened a second hearing on Item D-2, consideration and possible adoption of Resolution No. 47 - 2019, concerning the 2020 Budget Adoption and Appropriation of Funds for the budget year 2020. Dunlap read the appropriations into the record by fund; budget appropriations total \$87,137,160, including a \$2M Tabor emergency reserve.

"Thank you very much," Hansen said.

Said Caddy, "Thanks so much for the hard work that everybody has put into this budget this year. It's been a long budget cycle as it is every year. I do appreciate all the department heads and Finance for doing this work." Both Dunlap and Assistant Finance Director Lanny Paulson have literally spent hundreds of hours working on the budget, County Manager Ken Norris said. "I think they have put together just an excellent budget," Norris

said.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash thanked County staff for their outstanding work in watching out for County citizens and being prudent with tax dollars. "These folks are the ones who help make it happen, along with Cindy and Lanny...kudos to you guys." Rash also said that he is proud of the way elected officials and staff worked together throughout the budget process. "There's not a whole lot of fighting and stuff that goes on," he said. "It's really refreshing to see that we do this in a very civil manner."

"Civil is good," Hansen said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 47 - 2019.

Dunlap presented Item D-3, consideration and possible approval of Resolution 48-2019, to establish Mill Levies and Levy Property Taxes for budget year 2020. Net assessed value of the General Fund is \$596,245,536. The gross mill levy is 20.528, Dunlap said, and there is a temporary credit mill levy of (0.995). The net mill levy is 19.533. Property Tax Assessment is \$11,646,464, with an abatement mill levy of 0.021 and abatement tax levy of

\$12,358. Total property tax assessment is \$11,658,822. Net assessed value of the Social Services Fund \$596,245,536, with a gross mill levy of 3.000 and net mill levy of 3.000. Property tax assessment for the Social Services Fund totals \$1,788,737.

Overall totals for both General Fund and Social Services include a net assessed value of \$596,245,536, with a gross mill levy of 23.528 and temporary credit mill levy of (0.995). The net mill levy is 22.533; property tax assessment is \$13,435,201. Abatement mill levy is 0.021, abatement tax levy is \$12,358. Total property tax assessment is \$13,447,558. Resolution 48-2019 was adopted unanimously.

Hansen closed the public hearing and thanked County staff for being diligent with the dollars.

"We're accountable to the taxpayers... don't spend it all," she said.

Rash urged staff with vacation time to enjoy a well-earned break and forget about Montrose County over the holidays. "Spend time with family...this is what this time of the year is about," Rash said.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Happy New Year

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GRETA THUNBERG BEHAVES MORE AS AN ADULT THAN THE PRESIDENT

Dear Editor:

I was getting ready to rebut a letter-to-the-editor in the *Montrose Mirror* issue on December 9th, until I read his last sentence, "New people and term limits are needed in Washington".

I never was a big supporter of term limits for our members of Congress. But after reading his letter, I am now a believer. If term limits were in effect, maybe some of the Republican Senators would have the guts to vote for their country, for democracy, and to vote their hearts. They wouldn't be worried about their own re-election. They could step forward, these white males, and vote to have Mr. Trump impeached and removed from office. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell will not allow the "Violence Against Women Act" to go forward nor any legislation regarding firearms. He would be gone. Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, who just voted to block a bill aimed at preventing Russian meddling in our elections, would be gone. Congressman Jim Jordan gone. The list would go on and on.

I support a one-term limit for our current president because of his past and current actions. He knifed an ally in the back when

he withdrew our special forces from the border on Syria and Turkey. Kurdish forces, fighting against ISIS and alongside our troops, were abandoned by Trump. No warning. No plan. Just allowed Turkey to go in and kill Kurdish soldiers and civilians. And where did Trump redirect our American soldiers? Some to protect the oil fields in Syria. Others sent to Saudi Arabia. He did not bring our troops home like he said he would. And has Trump condemned the Saudi's for allowing a "terrorist" on our military base killing members of the Navy? No he has not.

Did Trump, the man who cheated serving in the military service, use his power as commander-in-chief to circumvent the military court system? Yes. He does have that authority legally. But morally? Should he have stepped in? He even pardoned one soldier being tried for murder BEFORE his trial.

"Should any American soldier be so base and infamous as to injure any [prisoner]... I do most earnestly enjoin you to bring him to such severe and exemplary punishment as the enormity of the crime may require... [for by such conduct they bring] the shame and disgrace and ruin to them-

selves and their country." This was written on September 14, 1775, by General George Washington to Colonel Benedict Arnold.

But the lowest rung of humanity played out just now before the Christmas season. *TIME's* "Person of the Year" was announced as the sixteen year old climate change activist, Greta Thunberg. The very next day Trump tweeted, "So ridiculous. Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend. Chill Greta. Chill!" This after a play on words, regarding his son Barron, who can never become a "baron". The GOP cried foul. Yet not one Republican, nor Melania, has spoken out against Trump's attack on Greta Thunberg. Greta's response? She re-wrote her twitter bio stating, "A teenager working on her anger management problem. Currently chilling and watching a good old fashioned movie with a friend." She is a class act. Our president, criminally and morally, is not. She truly is "Person of the Year". She who behaves more as an adult than does our president.

*Sincerely,
Jon Sering, Montrose*



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCSO TO TEST THE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a countywide test of the emergency notifications system on Wednesday, Dec., 18 at 2 pm. THIS IS ONLY A TEST and measures the number of residents reach in an emergency. All traditional landline phones, registered cell phones and Voice over IP (Spectrum/Elevate Internet based) phones will receive a call to validate telephone numbers in the CodeRED Emergency Notification System database for each county.

There is no need to take action if you receive the call. Emergency Management and WestCO Regional Dispatch Center are testing the system to ensure its capabilities and to encourage additional residents to enroll to receive future notifications.

This process helps us continually improve the system. Testing increases the efficiency of the system and speed at which notifications will be delivered during an actual emergency.

If you have not signed up, please take a

few minutes to register your phone number(s), email(s), as well as home and work addresses. The process is free, and only takes a few minutes.

In the event of an emergency, dispatch or emergency management can use the emergency notification system 24-hours a day to send an emergency alert to residents and business owners within an area defined by first responders. If you live or work within the boundaries of the alert area, the system has the ability to call, text, and email an emergency alert to you and your family that tells you the specifics of the emergency and gives instructions on what to do to stay safe.

To ensure everyone in your family receives emergency alerts at home and work, please register all phone numbers, emails, as well as your home and work addresses with system. You can also download the CodeRED App from the Google Play and Apple App store. The app allows you to create an account and receive alerts within a specified range of

your location so if you are traveling through an area with an active emergency, such as a wildfire, you will receive the alert on your phone.

To register, follow these steps:

Sign up via Text Message: You can also text "WestRegionENS" to 99411 to register your cell phone. Follow the prompts on your phone.

Create an Account Online: Any resident in Montrose County can register at: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7ED953CC69>.

Having current contact information in our database ensures you and your loved ones will be notified in the event of an emergency near your home and/or place of work. If you have moved and wish to remove your contact information from the emergency notification system, you can visit OnSolve.com and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click on the "CodeRED Opt Out" link. You may also call 866-939-0911 to remove your information from the system.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

COMMEMORATING BILL OF RIGHTS DAY - DECEMBER 15

Editor:

As I send this, today is Bill of Rights Day, established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in honor of the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution on December 15, 1791.

A cornerstone of our democracy, the Bill of Rights enshrines into law the essential rights and civil liberties of each American citizen. For over 200 years, these rights and liberties have helped shape our democracy and define what it means to be an American. Nearly every day, we enjoy the freedoms bestowed by the Bill of Rights:

Thanks to the freedom of the press, we can read a variety of news articles and opinions, as well as publish our own thoughts.

Thanks to the freedom of assembly and petition, we can join fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly – practices that are critical to a healthy democracy.

Thanks to the freedom of speech, we can speak our minds freely without the fear of government persecution or intimidation.

Thanks to the right against unreasonable searches and seizures, we are free from unreasonable government intrusion.

Thanks to the right to a speedy and public trial, we are protected against unfair legal treatment.

The U.S. Constitution was a remarkable achievement in creating our democratic nation. The Bill of Rights built onto that foundation by enumerating what have become our most cherished American freedoms, helping inspire democracies around the world. This December 15th, get re-acquainted with the Bill of Rights and think about how it plays a role in your life!

Jan Edwards, President

League of Women Voters of Montrose County

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BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES ANNUAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

From pg 1

Director Adam Rogers in September and new RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus leading the audit process, "We started a little later this year," Hemann noted, adding, "The District did a really good job... reviewing financial statements and working with us."

Hemann reviewed the steps taken during the audit process. The Auditor is charged with adhering to auditing standards, while planning and executing an audit and issuing an opinion, she said. "We will issue an unmodified opinion that the budget is fairly presented and accurate."

Board President Gayle Johnson thanked Hemann. "It sounds like a great audit...we really did work under the gun."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

With the help of Seventh Grade band students Avery Kingsbury and Ethan Osorio, Columbine Middle School Band Director John White demonstrated how he has recently incorporated technology into his teaching. White has created a personalized, virtual classroom for band students. White said that it started when he created a video of a playing test for a special needs student who had been struggling with his instrument. The student successfully completed a performance test after watching the video repeatedly, telling White, "The video you is better than the live you." Because the student was able to pause the video for increased comprehension, other students soon requested videos. White made videos of every instrument for every kid, and now has more than 250 videos stored on a Google classroom site. In addition to achieving greater proficiency on all of the band instruments himself, "The kids started playing a lot better," White said. "It has really been a fun thing."

Osorio said that the videos have really helped him; "Now I am a grade ahead of everyone else."

The subject of the demonstration, "How google classroom videos have enhanced the student's performances and helped them become better players," was supported by Kingsbury and Osorio on trom-

bone and tuba. The students watched a brief video and quickly played back the assessment for the crowd.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Administrative Assistant Deann Balash told the Board of Education that four Olathe Middle School Choir Students auditioned for a spot in the Colorado Middle School All State Choir and were chosen to represent the region. The students are Ruby Ripley, Rachel Taylor, Marlee Fenske, and Rebecca Taylor.

Montrose Altrusa Representative Sharlene Martinson presented Apple Awards to Pomona Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher Kiersten Brown; Oak Grove Elementary School First Grade Teacher Nicole Bailey; and Olathe Elementary School Counselor Tom Nelson.

Nurse Jennifer Halbach of the Wellness Committee shared board-approved school wellness policies and folders with ideas for healthful school fundraisers. She talked about recent successes and school Fundraisers. Northside Elementary School recently raised \$7,400 with a Laps for Northside event. The Wellness Committee has partnered with the Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance to support Safe Routes to School, provide instruction on safety, and set up bicycle rodeos with regular and adaptive bikes as well as helmets for participants. The Wellness Committee has also seen success with school garden programs, Halbach said. Northside and Johnson elementary schools have gardens; a plant sale by the Step Up to Life kids raised \$850 in donations at the Western Slope Youth Safety Symposium. The upcoming symposium will be two days (April 15-16) and will serve youth across the region. There will be a day for youth and a day for adults, "Creating Safe Spaces for Youth."



Montrose Altrusa Representative Sharlene Martinson presented Apple Awards to Pomona Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher Kiersten Brown; Oak Grove Elementary School First Grade Teacher Nicole Bailey; and Olathe Elementary School Counselor Tom Nelson.

Columbine Middle School Principal Ben Stephenson recognized Columbine Band Director John White and Media Paraprofessional Donna Knaus.

White has been Columbine's Band Director for 14 years. "John is an unbelievable teacher," Stephenson said. "Every year he has more than 100 kids in the band. We are so lucky to have him." White's virtual classroom, "is what technology is for," Stephenson said.

Knaus has been Columbine's media paraprofessional for four years. "When you say Donna is a ray of sunshine, you're not kidding," Stephenson said.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES/COMMUNITY INPUT

District A Director Jeff Bachman gave an update on the Olathe track committee. Community donations have been received, and the project is moving forward. "We expect to break ground in mid-January," Bachman said. "We're super excited about that."

Committee appointments were updated. The open District F Director seat will be filled by appointment at an upcoming meeting. No community input was received.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus presented an

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES ANNUAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

From previous pg

updated enrollment report. December enrollment is 6,239. "We have 11 more students than we had last month," Imus said. There are 129 more students than there were a year ago. The October count of 5,993.5 was up by 205 students over last year, likely the result of the expansion to full-day kindergarten, Imus said.

GATE PRESENTATION

RE-1J Gifted Education John Steele gave an update on the District's Gifted and Talented program and showed a brief video of GATE students. There are presently 471 students involved with the program, or 7.5 percent of the District's student body. Colorado Department of Education (CDE) reviewed the program Oct. 2. All areas are in compliance with State benchmarks with the exception of the Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), which will be improved with respect to Montrose High School, Steele said.

Board President Gayle Johnson said, "I am glad to see you do so much with our gifted students; they are the ones who will help us in every area."

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

Promising "a lot of paperwork," Early Childhood Center Director Penny Harris gave an update on the ECE. A number of supporting documents are included in the [meeting packet](#) as is the [monthly data](#)

[dashboard](#).

OLD BUSINESS

Board Vice President Sarah Fishing reviewed and explained the following policies, all of which were approved by the board on Second Reading.

[DH, Bonded Employees and Officers - minor language change](#)

[EBBA, Prevention of Disease/Infection](#)

[Transmission - added legal reference](#)

[EFC, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services - minor language change in legal references](#)

[EC, Buildings/Grounds/Property Management/Property Services Department - Delete; covered in policy CF](#)

[ECAC, Vandalism - Delete; covered in policies GBGB and JKD/JKE](#)

[ED, Material Resources Management -](#)

[Delete; outdated and no longer supported by CASB](#)

[FCB, Closing Schools - Delete; outdated](#)

[and no longer supported by CASB](#)

[FCB-R, Closing Schools - Delete; outdated](#)

[and no longer supported by CASB](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, including an [updated staff dress code](#) and [Personnel Report](#).

NEW BUSINESS

Fishing gave a thorough review of the following policies, presented on First

Reading.

[BDA, Board Organizational Meeting - updated to CASB recommendations](#)

[EEA, Student Transportation - deleted; no longer supported by CASB](#)

[DIA, Online Schools and Online Programs - updated per CASB recommendations](#)

[EEAA, Walkers and Riders - new policy recommendation by CASB](#)

[GA, Personnel Goals/Priority Objectives - deleted; covered in other current policies](#)

[JHB-R, Truancy - deleted; covered in policy JH](#)

[JICED, Student Expression Rights - deleted; covered in other current policies](#)

[JIE/JIG, Pregnant/Married Students - deleted; no longer supported by CASB](#)

[JJIB, Interscholastic Sports - deleted; covered in policy JJJ](#)

[JJIB-R, Co-curricular and Interscholastic Programs - deleted; covered in policy JJJ](#)

[KCA, School-Community Relations Goals - deleted; no longer supported by CASB](#)

[KCD, Public Gifts/Donations to Schools - deleted; no longer supported by CASB](#)

The Board of Education voted to approve and certify the [Mill Levy for the Property Tax Year 2019](#).

The Board voted to accept the Audited Financial Statements for 2018-2019.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DON'T BE A PIECE OF CLAY: CITY COUNCIL DOES NOT DESERVE THE CRITICISM OFTEN DIRECTED AT THEM

Editor:

In his recently published book, *Hate Inc.*, Matt Taibbi takes a critical look at why there is such divisiveness across America and why we have come to dislike or distrust the media. His findings boil down to this, today's media is selling you a product. That product is subjective reporting. Fox News and MSNBC have a captured audience because they deliver what you want to hear, conservative or liberal points of view. Rarely does either media outlet have a pundit that has an opinion contrary to what the outlet wants delivered. Your opinions are being reinforced or even molded by this biased reporting.

It's unfortunate we are subjected to the same pattern of opinion-based writing here in Montrose, not necessarily by the press (electronic or print) but by those

that submit letters that are not really objective based.

There is a core set of writers that express nothing but inflamed articles about City Council and our Administrative staff. The intent of their letters is to incite outrage. They are looking for a coup, I believe they would like to see anarchy.

Those that are constantly presenting a pessimistic view are demanding a wholesale changeout of our elected officials. I would question why anyone would want to serve and subject themselves to this unwarranted criticism. I believe the pessimists in question would question the motives of God himself.

When I look at the makeup of City Council, I see a group of individuals dedicated to public service. Three of your councilors served as school teachers and or a school

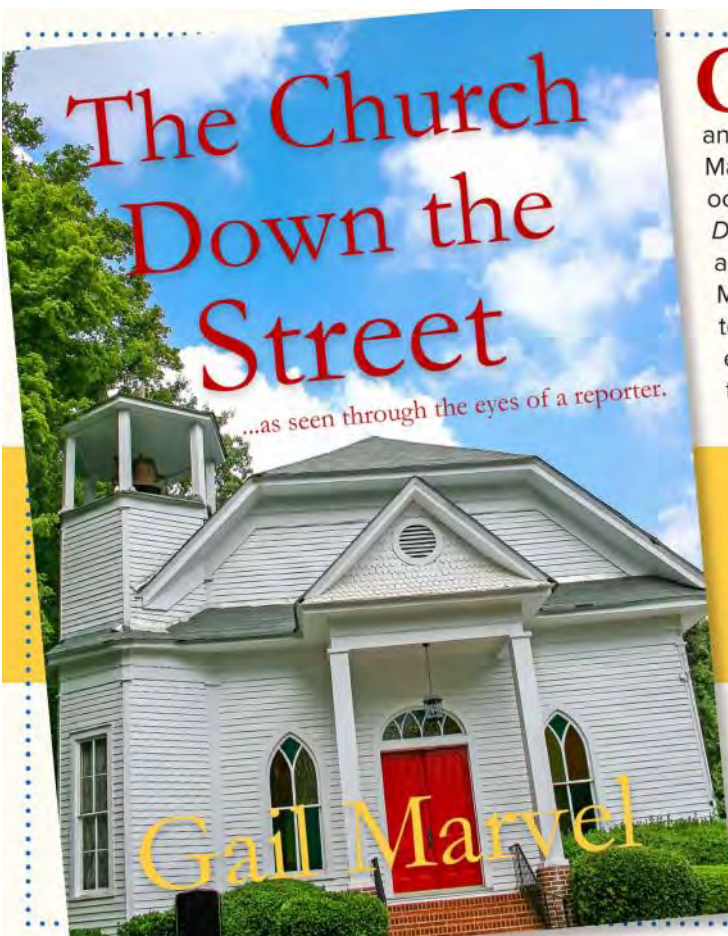
board administrator. One of your councilors served as a U S Air Force officer during the Vietnam War (in theater). He put his life at risk to serve his country. The fifth councilor served your community as a volunteer in different veins. There lifetime willingness to serve their community is a selfless act.

This collective group does not deserve the criticism often levied at them.

My whole point of this discussion is – don't let the likes of Fox News, MSNBC or pessimistic opinion writers mold your views like a piece of clay.

I believe each of the incumbent councilors would sit down with you over a cup of coffee to discuss your concerns, I know I would if I were to have the privilege to serve. Help them help you.

Dave Stockton, Montrose



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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter



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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY OPENS NEW BRIDAL VEIL CREEK TRAIL TO THE PUBLIC

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-San Miguel County residents and visitors have a new trail to explore and enjoy, the Bridal Veil Creek Trail. The trail's alignment traverses San Miguel County property as well as property owned by the Idarado Mining Company, which has granted the County a recreational trail easement.

"We're extremely pleased that the collaborative efforts of Idarado, San Miguel County, the Telluride Mountain Club and the Town of Telluride with the able assistance of the Southwest Conservation Corps have come to fruition with the Bridal Veil Creek Trail," San Miguel County BOCC Chair Kris Holstrom said. "Trails are a high priority for us. This one keeps hikers and motorized vehicles separated in a heavily used area. We appreciate the cooperation that made this possible, and hope folks will enjoy the new connection." "Idarado is excited to help bring this new trail to the beautiful Pandora box canyon," said Devon Horntvedt, Idarado Mining Company's Director of Colorado Legacy Site Management Sustainability and External Relations. "Our hope is that the trail provides a new and safer recreational experience for hikers seeking to take in

the majesty of Bridal Veil Falls. We're proud of our partnerships with San Miguel County and the Town of Telluride, and we look forward to future collaboration on improvement opportunities throughout the San Miguel Valley." The Telluride Mountain Club was also a key player in this project, as they handled the initial negotiations with the Idarado Mining Club for the easement, which then transferred over to the County. The new Bridal Veil Creek Trail was identified as a "priority trail" by the Telluride Mountain Club in their Trails Sustainability Plan. Primitive and steep, the new .85-mile Bridal Veil Creek Trail crosses scenic, rugged, natural terrain and includes a stream crossing, San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask said. "It allows hikers to meander through the wooded area safely and feel completely separated from vehicular traffic. This new trail starts at the Valley View parking area and links with the Bridal Veil Trail to take hikers all the way up to the base of the falls along a safe route."

A future bridge will cross Ingram Creek, and will be located .3 miles up from the Valley View parking area trailhead. The proposed location of the bridge will divert



slightly from the current trail alignment.

"The physical challenge of locating a bridge crossing over two very large boulders will ultimately provide for a unique bridge design (steel and cables) and concept (estimated 42' span), to offer stellar views and an incredible hiking experience," Kask said.

The Town of Telluride offered to pay for the new trail and for the cost of accompanying environmental studies and worked with San Miguel County to determine the trail's alignment. The Bridal Veil Creek Trail was constructed by workers from the Southwest Conservation Corps and has been added to the County's trail system for maintenance purposes. For information, please contact San Miguel County Parks & Open Space at 970-369-5469.

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TUESDAY, FEB 11TH 1:30 - 2:30 PM

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VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER



CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR 2019 DART SUMMARY, CONSIDER APPROVING CHANGE ORDER FOR SUNSET MESA WATER TANK PROJECT



Montrose City Council will convene for a work session Dec. 16 and meeting Dec. 17.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE—On Monday, Dec. 16 the Montrose City Council will convene at 11 a.m. for the final work session of 2019.

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, Council will convene at 6 p.m. for the final regular meeting of the year.

WORK SESSION

Discussion items will include: the 2019 Downtown Area Revitalization Team (DART) Summary with Director of Business Innovation and Tourism Chelsea Rosty; a recommendation for purchase of a new

Police Department van; a recommendation for purchase of a refuse truck; and the designation of official posting places.

Items to be considered at future City Council meetings or work sessions include: Jan. 6-Potential changes to City Charter; Shared services Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Montrose Recreation District.

Jan. 7-Montrose Economic Development Council (MEDC) funding request.

Jan. 21-Special meeting/executive session.

Still unscheduled are the Annexation Plan and Report; Modular Construction; Potential Changes to City Code; and Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

REGULAR MEETING

Council will consider the reappointment of Michael J. Prouty to the City of Montrose Historic Preservation Commission for a term that expires on Oct. 16, 2022.

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2491 on second reading, an Ordinance of the City of Montrose, Colorado revising Chapter 1-17 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose, Colorado regarding municipal elections.

Also to be considered for approval on second reading is Amended Ordinance 2492, amending Ordinance No. 2461 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, 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.

Council will consider approving Resolution 2019-29, authorizing the filing of a grant application for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fishing is Fun grant program; agreeing to provide a matching contribution of 25 percent; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract and authorizing city staff to act on behalf of the grant agreement.

Finally, Council will consider approving a change order in the amount of \$87,000 to Farnsworth Group for out-of-scope design services associated with the Sunset Mesa Tank Replacement project.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

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Judging:
Thursday, Dec. 19th
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On display through Dec. 20th
Pick-up after Dec. 20th

Four Categories

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

#2 Groups

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

#3 Youth

Kits allowed.
For ages 6-11

#4 Children

Kits allowed.
For ages 5 and under.

Open to all ages. Prizes will be rewarded.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OF MONTROSE ANNOUNCES 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION *Seats in District III, District IV, and At-Large position will be on the ballot*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The City of Montrose will hold a municipal election for three city council seats on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Council seats in District III, District IV, and the At-Large position will be on the ballot.

Candidates elected to the District III and IV positions will serve four-year terms, while the At-Large representative will serve a two-year term. To view a map of Montrose's council districts, candidates can visit www.CityofMontrose.org/Districts.

Access the candidate packet via the city website beginning Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, or pick up a paper version from the City Clerk's Office between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

To qualify as a candidate, individuals must be registered electors, eighteen years of age or older, and have resided within the city and the district they wish to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day.

While candidates for the At-Large seat can reside anywhere within city limits, they must meet the minimum residency requirement.

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, voters adopted revisions to the City Charter in 2014 requiring all City Council candidates to be clear of felony convictions.

Candidates may circulate nomination petitions beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, and no later than January 27, 2020. Candidates must collect 25 valid signatures to be included on the ballot.

For more information, contact City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo at 970.240.1422 or ldelpiccolo@cityofmontrose.org.

MCSO SEES SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MAIL & PACKAGE THEFT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Montrose County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) would like to urge residents to be aware of a significant increase of mail and package theft. The MCSO has received several reports of mail and package theft from the Olathe area to Government Springs Road, and investigators believe there may be more homes affected. The MCSO is utilizing a bait package to assist in efforts, and so far have been successful in apprehending individuals through this GPS-enabled device.

"Unfortunately this sort of theft occurs every year and we are ramping up efforts to let the thieves know this won't be tolerated in Montrose County," said Lieutenant Ted Valerio. "We are asking for the public's assistance in working to prevent mail and package theft by reporting any suspicious activity around mailboxes and paying attention to scheduled deliveries."

While the vast majority of mail arrives intact, thieves persist in their efforts to steal it and are specifically targeting holiday gifts being sent via mail and package delivery service. Here are some tips to help protect your mail from thieves:

- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, hand it to a letter carrier, or deliver it to one of the local U.S. Post Offices.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.

- Keep your mailbox in good repair and make sure it's properly installed.
- Consider getting a locking mailbox. Ask your local postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes.
- Don't send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.
- Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector. Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

If you see a mail theft in progress, please call 9-1-1 immediately. If you believe your mail was stolen, please contact WestCO Regional Dispatch Center at 970-249-9111, then contact the U.S. Postal Inspector at [1-877-876-2455](tel:1-877-876-2455) or report a crime online at <https://www.uspis.gov/report>.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE CITY MANAGER COSTS TOO MUCH FOR SMALL TOWN *Bell Earns More Than Aurora City Manager, with 4-day week*

Editor: I am not a really good at computer research, but I have some friends that are extremely good at it. I was sitting here pondering how I could find out in what financial league our city is in when a chart popped up on my machine. The chart is great, the City of Montrose should have one just like it.

We all know he makes about \$225,000 salary and benefits. But then there is that nine passenger "gas guzzler" with bike racks, trailer hitch and leather seats. Did the bikes come with it? We, the taxpayers, are not sure what he gets for bennies like gas, food and lodging (or conveniences) when scooting around the state to out-of-town meetings but we do know that there is \$12,000 in the budget for his attendance at some kind of a 'professional meeting'. Is it a self-promoting boondoggle? Six thousand dollars per week for two weeks of swapping Aesop's Fables with contemporaries must represent some pretty powerful information. Most Montroseans cannot conceive what 'tips' on governance are worth that much that cannot be had on the internet. It is difficult to believe that there is \$10,000+ of information (\$6K + \$4K salary) passed out per week. But the same goes for the city attorney who has no business at a conference to get information that can easily and cheaply be attained elsewhere. He already knows enough to protect the council and manager. Or maybe he does not, eh? One might imagine that at the price we pay for these two bureaucrats, that they would come to us already infused with the required 'learning'.

But they are keeping the list of expenditures away from us. Calls from the citizenry to report every dollar spent in the press will only tell the truth when the list is printed. Ever wonder why this request is being ignored? At a conservatively calculated \$225,000 annual remuneration we are uncertain where Mr. Bell should be employed as a city manager. WELL

City of Montrose
Records Request
11/26/2019

	2020 Annual Wage budgeted	**2020 Benefits Budgeted	Base Salary Market*		
			Low	Median	High
BELL, WILLIAM E	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 55,220.78	\$ 106,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 216,315
ALCORN, STEPHEN	\$ 153,000.00	\$ 43,843.46	\$ 119,184	\$ 157,599	\$ 186,300

*Market survey includes the following entities:

Cortez, Delta, Durango, Erie, Evans, Glenwood Springs, Golden, Grand Junction
Greenwood Village, Gunnison, Lafayette, Louisville, Steamboat Springs and Montrose County

**Benefits include things such as social security, Medicare, health/dental/vision insurance and retirement contributions

MONTROSE CERTAINLY IS NOT IT! Not with only a 20,000 population. Five thousand dollars a week (that, my friends, is a thousand bucks a DAY) for his 'exemplary' services is a bit 'rich' for little old Montrose, is it not?

I am proud of Montrose but not THAT proud. Mr. Bell's financial burden on Montrose is grossly out of whack! AURORA COLORADO, is a city of 367,000 people run by a CITY MANAGER who gets \$178,000 per year. That is 49 cents per citizen per year, whereas Montrose is paying Mr. Bell \$12.50 per citizen per year. Mr. Bell costs us 25 times more than the Aurora city manager gets per citizen per year. In other words, folks, I pay \$12.50 for Mr. Bell's services whereas the manager in Aurora is paid only 49 cents. Does this rape of the public purse sit well with you? Will it ever end? Seems a bit unreal.

Even worse is the five incompetent 'quacks' who have allowed this to happen. If they were not the ones to approve of it initially, this five have allowed this travesty to continue from those last five 'Mallards'. A city government that permits this abominable rip-off of its citizenry has no conscience, no ethics, no honesty, no integrity, no backbone and no guts.

In fact their actions garner the support of those organizations (see last week's article) and many more to support their frivolous expenditures and to support passage of such aberrations as 2A.

With a blink of an eye after passage of 2A public safety money to a tune of \$670,000 was transferred out of public safety accounts. Does this not tell us all what these six intended to do all along? Council may have no idea how much distrust has been engendered by this action. I believe they are afraid to ask. How GAUSCH!

Most of the merchants on our main street are too cowed, fearing retribution, to speak up. This fear should never be a part of the American way!

"Governments do not want an intelligent population, critical thinkers can't be ruled. They want a public just smart enough to pay taxes and dumb enough to keep voting for them".

Should we have Christmas bonuses? Certainly not for the self-anointed elite of the kingdom of Montrose.

This is what Montrose has become and this is just what your council and manager want. For those of us who do not like being taken to the cleaners, it is time to wreck this lucrative dictatorship and cast this flock of 'ducks' adrift.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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9 am - 6 pm

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

#3 Youth

Kits allowed.
For ages 6-11

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

D.A. SEEKS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR PENDING DUI CASE AGAINST OURAY COUNTY SHERIFF

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The District Attorney of the Seventh Judicial District has requested that the Court appoint a Special Prosecutor in the pending DUI case against Ouray County Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald. The Motion was filed Dec. 12, 2019.

A District Attorney can request that a Special Prosecutor be appointed in any case, and it is not appropriate to publicly comment about the reasons for such a request. As a general matter, a DA has full authority to prosecute law enforcement officers acting within the District Attorney's jurisdiction and doing so does not create a conflict of interest. However, in any case, one involving law enforcement or lay defendants, circumstances may exist which make it advisable for a District Attorney to seek a Special Prosecutor. Such circumstances can include knowledge of information or the existence of relationships that might affect a prosecutor's "duty of fairness and neutrality."

The District Attorney's Office does not make the decision to seek a Special Prosecutor lightly, and the District Attorney consulted others prior to making this decision. The most important consideration must be adherence to the highest standards of ethical conduct and adopting a course of action that assures the community that public officials will be prosecuted fully consistent with the duty of fairness and neutrality practiced by Colorado prosecutors.

Any criminal charge against a defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHERE DO OUR NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS TO CREATE BLIGHT END, AND OUR RIGHTS TO MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF THIS LAND START?

(Editor's note-The following letter refers to statements made by County resident Derrick Moore and quoted in Montrose Mirror Issue 354, BOCC meeting article, Public Comment section)

Editor:

As someone who started as a journalist major years ago before turning to business and education degrees, I understand the value of the truth in reporting. Since you reported Mr. Moore's comments "My wife and I own the property Ms. Schmidt described as a **toxic wasteland** before the board on Nov. 20." and "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.**", I thought you may want to report on legitimate concerns by taking a look at the other side of the coin.

When we purchased our property (3 acres) in 2017, both our property and Mr. Moore's were and still are designated as Agricultural. The primary intent of agricultural property per zoning regulations is "to provide for the conduct of agriculture related to ranching, farming, and forestry production . . ." So when we purchased the property knowing it had no covenants, we expected people to freely raise livestock, grow crops, and enjoyed the idea of living around the farming/ranching community. Little did we know that the only crop that would be growing next to us on Moore's property was a crop of dismantled junk vehicles and used auto parts.

Junkyards are defined in the zoning regulations as: "An area, lot, land or parcel, or part thereof, used for the storage, collection, processing, purchase, sale, salvage, or disposal of junk; but not including the storage and use of salvaged materials as part of a manufacturing operation on the same property." And junk is defined as: "Scrap, waste, reclaimable material, or debris stored for sale, or in the process of being dismantled, destroyed, processed, salvaged, baled, disposed of, or other simi-

lar use or disposition, such as; unregistered or inoperable vehicles, tires, vehicle or machinery parts, equipment, paper, rages, metal, glass, building materials, household appliances, machinery, brush, wood, and lumber." Only properties zoned as "Heavy Industrial District" have "Use by Right" to have junk, scrap metal, auto wrecking, storage, and salvage yards and are required to fully screen them from visibility to public roads.

Why is this distinction in "Use by Right" for junkyards to be located on industrial versus agricultural property so important? Here are a few reasons:

The products and practices used by auto salvage businesses have the potential to pollute the land, ground water and the air. Contaminants include:

- a. gasoline diesel fuel oil
 - b. transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid
 - c. mineral spirits, washer fluid, gear oil
 - d. battery acid, solvents
 - e. mercury from switches, lamps and electronic devices (navigation aids, CD players)
 - f. lead from lead-acid batteries, wheel weights, battery cable ends
 - g. CFCs and other refrigerants
 - h. sodium azide from air bags
 - i. asbestos from brake shoes and clutches
 - j. tires (whole, shredded)
 - k. PCB from foam rubber, carpets and plastic components
 - l. metals: aluminum, cadmium, copper, iron, zinc, lead
 - m. plastics
- transmission and oil filters See <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/>



Photo courtesy Sue Schmidt.

www3/region9/enforcement/auto-compliance.html.

Colorado has specific procedures in place for salvage yards to properly capture waste streams from vehicle dismantling – see Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Automotive Salvage Yard Waste Management Practices in Colorado -- <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/HazSubMap/docs/Salvage/COSYWMPractices.pdf>.

Reporting information on junk and salvage vehicles to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS)—supported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)—is required by federal law. Reporting protects consumers from purchasing unsafe parts/vehicles and from unlawful dismantling of stolen vehicles. Junkyards are required to comply with rules and regulations not followed by the backyard unlicensed chop shop that ignores State and federal rules and has little concern for the rights of neighbors.

Unfortunately, although the zoning laws are quite clear about where junkyards should be located, gray areas within Montrose zoning regulations make it difficult to stop those who choose to disregard the intent of agricultural zoning and disregard what is right by transforming our rich

Continued next pg

WHERE DO OUR NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS TO CREATE BLIGHT END, AND OUR RIGHTS TO MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF THIS LAND START? From previous pg

land into graveyards for junked auto parts and vehicle hulks.

Over the past two years, Mr. Moore has increased the number of junk vehicles he has on his property, has installed two lifts to strip down cars/trucks/vans, and once he's taken parts off the vehicles he acquires, he lines them up along our fence line demonstrating that he has no regard for others or for the water that runs right by these dismantled vehicles and into the irrigation canal. He stores his excavator with the shovel skyward -- not typically a position you use when storing this equipment and placed in a position prominent to my view. He has also placed a truck cab

on top of his shipping container pointed toward my property.

And, after two years of smelling burning oils, fuel filters, etc. he burned in a burn barrel (illegal in the State of Colorado), I asked the fire department to talk to him. This is the only action I've taken other than to ask the Planning Department what my rights are and attending the hearing on changing the zoning ordinance on junk.

For others in Montrose County, I suggest when you purchase your beautiful piece of property zoned agricultural thinking that it will be used for livestock and harvesting of crops of just a quiet place where people

can build their home and enjoy the views, you think twice. With the expanded number of junked vehicles from floods, fires, and just general turnover, that lovely piece of farmland may be the next target for those who care more about their property rights and little about yours. While building a house, we've gladly complied with many building requirements to ensure that what we construct a home that adds to the value of Montrose County. The question so many of us have is where does our neighbors' rights to create blight end and our rights to maintain the beauty of this land start?

Sue Schmidt, Montrose

WE MAY NOT LIKE HIS STYLE, BUT PRESIDENT TRUMP & HIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE BROUGHT POSITIVE CHANGE TO AMERICA

Editor:

I love America.

The Salvation Army kettle is collecting fives and tens this year instead of ones and change.

Gasoline prices are fairly well suppressed ---well not in Commiefornia for sure.

Welfare rolls have shrunk.

Unemployment is lower than in modern memory. Especially in the minorities. This means greater wellbeing for families and the here-to-fore underprivileged or underclasses.

And the guy who presides over this reversal is slammed because he gives his salary to charity; he combs his hair funny; he can afford gold and loves it and he gets his money from business not from government jobs.

Our president is making the rest of the free world pay for their freedom with their money and their soldiers lives. Oh how they squawk! It is suddenly awful to consider armed conflict because their army will have to bleed and die instead and/

or alongside of Americans. He is making the rest of the world 'attempt' to carry their share of the load instead of "Let America do it". And our leftists are grousing up a storm. Oh oh, to 'Make America Great Again' has a ring to it that most real Americans love---and the people who just live here and suck us dry, hate it.

Our First Lady is a genuine lady of beautiful stature and great concern for the people. A super well educated woman of whom I can be proud to have represent the U.S on the international stage. We admire her dignity, intelligence and loyalty both to her adopted country and family. A truly class act for sure.

In my lifetime 'Donald' was a 'duck'. No more! This "The Donald" is smarter, more brilliant and far greater than the ignorant blabbermouths who chip away at him.

All of this tripe bubbling out of the sewer formerly known as congress has our attention while he is making the economy grow, building the wall, appointing massive numbers of sorely needed federal

judges and cleaning out the mis-named 'Justice' Department. And all the while the opposition churp and chip trying to pin a tail on the elephant when the only tail ought to be pinned on the butt of the donkey or more specifically the democrat ass.

We might not like his style. We might be jealous of his wealth. We might be of the opposite party. We might not like his kids. We might not like a lot of things he does, he says, his wording, his expression, his face or the way he ties his shoes but how can you not acknowledge and respect all the positive things that his administration has brought our country---the country we are all supposed to love? Personally I vote for performance and in the last three years we have got it! The only things the last administration was good at was corruption and I have to admit they were, and for the most part still are, extremely good at that.

I love America.

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

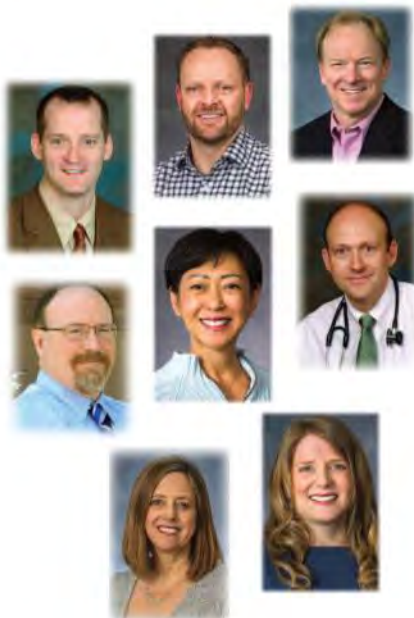
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZES DECEMBER DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose High School December Division Award winners -From Left to Right: Nyobie Cramer, McKenzie Howell, Cole Simmons, Brenton Widener, Abigail Peterson, Megan Norwood, Ethan Hall, Byron Perez-Oxlaj



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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ELECTRONIC RECORDING TECHNOLOGY BOARD AWARDS \$723K IN GRANTS TO 7 COUNTIES

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Electronic Recording Technology Board (ERTB), housed in the Secretary of State's office, this month awarded grants to seven Colorado counties totaling \$723,000 for enhancements to land recording services. With this latest round of grants, the ERTB has now awarded more than \$5 million to counties across Colorado since the board was created in 2016 with the mission of developing, maintaining, improving, replacing, or preserving land records systems in our state. The grants help counties -- especially in rural Colorado -- invest in technological upgrades.

At the December 9, 2019 board meeting, the ERTB awarded the following grants:
Custer (\$31,000) – Digitization and index-

ing historical land records

Delta (\$28,000) – Purchase of Records Preservation and Disaster Recovery software modules

Otero (\$183,000) - Digitization and indexing historical land records, creation of Otero County searchable website

Saguache (\$88,000) – Land records indexing and annual maintenance fee

Moffat (\$32,000) – Missing image import process, document auditing, annual maintenance fee

Alamosa (\$11,000) - Missing image import process, document auditing, annual maintenance fee

La Plata (\$350,000) – Extensive hardware replacement, digitization and indexing of historical land records (1874 – 1989)

“The Electronic Recording Technology

Board is helping Colorado counties upgrade technologies to meet their constituents’ needs,” said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. “To date, the ERTB has invested over \$5 million across Colorado. These investments have been critical to rural communities’ ability to upgrade their systems.”

The ERTB was created after a working group made up of real estate, title, lending, and legal professionals, as well as county subject-matter experts conducted an evaluation of Colorado’s recording systems.

Since its creation, the board has awarded more than four million dollars to ensure county clerks are able to improve and maintain property records and other important documents.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HOLIDAY SEASON SHIPPING DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING *Mail Call for Overseas Military, Diplomatic Service Members*

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Thousands of men and women in the nation's military and diplomatic corps are serving abroad during the holidays. The mail is a great way to stay connected with them by sending cards, letters, presents and care packages for the festive season.

To send packages to loved ones serving in the military abroad, the Postal Service offers a discount on its Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box.

The \$18.45 price includes a \$1.50 per box discount for mail sent to APO / FPO / DPO destinations worldwide. Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available at no cost at local Post Offices, or can be ordered online at usps.com/freeboxes.

To help with timely delivery of holiday wishes by Dec. 25, cards and packages to military addresses overseas should be sent no later than:

OVERSEAS MILITARY DEADLINES

Dec. 11 – Cards, Letters, and Priority Mail Packages

Dec. 18 – Priority Mail Express

FREE MILITARY BOXES AND SUPPLIES

The Postal Service has created a free Military Care Kit based on the items most frequently requested by military families. The kit contains address labels, tape, boxes, and customs forms.

To order the kit, call 800-610-8734 or go

to: store.usps.com/store/product/shipping-supplies/military-care-kit-P_MILITARYKIT. Guidelines for packing, addressing and shipping items to U.S. troops can be also found at: <https://www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-dpo.htm>.

Postage, labels, and customs forms can be printed online anytime using Click-N-Ship at usps.com/ship. While you are at usps.com, you can also print your shipping labels, pay for postage, and call for your letter carrier to pick up your Priority Mail or Priority Mail Express items at your home or business for free (where available).

MAIL PREPARATION TIPS:

Use good strong boxes and good strong packing tape. No duct tape or masking tape. No string or wire. No shoeboxes. Don't use boxes from a liquor store. Boxes that indicate there is alcohol inside cannot be mailed.

Don't ship anything with a lithium battery. Always include a return address on the parcel, and include destination/return address on a card inside the parcel (in case the address on the parcel is rendered unreadable).

Never use holiday wrapping paper around your parcel. Wrapping paper is very thin and isn't suitable in the high-speed sorting machines.

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Do not write the country name where the service member is stationed in the address. Include a return address.

Inside the box, include the service member's name and address as well as the sender's name and address on an index card in case the shipping label gets damaged in transit.

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.

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“ 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.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA & OURAY COUNTIES TO TEST CODERED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Delta, Montrose and Ouray Counties will each be conducting a county-wide test of the CodeRED Emergency Alert System on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6 pm. THIS IS ONLY A TEST and measures the number of residents we can reach in an emergency. All traditional landline phones, registered cell phones and Voice over IP (Spectrum/Elevate Internet based) phones will receive a call to validate telephone numbers in the CodeRED database for each county. Here's what you need to know:

- **There is no need to take action if you receive the call.** Emergency Management and dispatch are merely testing the system to ensure it is operating as expected and to encourage additional residents to enroll to receive future notifications.
- **This process helps us continually improve the system.** Testing increases the efficiency of the system and speed at which notifications will be delivered during an actual emergency.
- **If you have not signed up, please take a few minutes to register your phone number(s), email(s), home and work address.** The process is free, and only takes a few minutes!

In the event of an emergency, Dispatch

or Emergency Management can use CodeRED 24 hours a day to send an emergency alert to residents and business owners within an area defined by first responders. If you live or work within the boundaries of the alert area, CodeRED's system has the ability to call, text and email an emergency alert to you and your family that tells you the specifics of the emergency, and gives instructions on what to do to stay safe.

To ensure everyone in your family receives emergency alerts at home and work, please register all phone numbers, emails as well as your home and work address with CodeRED! You can also download the CodeRED App from the Google Play and Apple App store. The app allows you to create an account and receive alerts within a specified range of your location so if you are traveling through an area with an active emergency, such as a wildfire, you will receive the alert on your phone!

To register, follow these steps:

1. **Sign up via Text Message** – You can also text "WestRegionENS" to 99411 to register your cell phone. Follow the prompts on your phone.
2. **Create an Account Online:**
 - a. Any resident in Delta, Montrose,

Ouray, Gunnison, Hinsdale or San Miguel County can register at: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7ED953CC69>

b. You can also access the CodeRED registration page by visiting the following links:

- i. OurayCountyco.gov – click on the CodeRed logo on the homepage.
- ii. DeltaCounty.com – click on the CodeRED Sign-up Button in the middle of the screen.
- iii. MontroseCountysheriffsOffice.com – Click on the "Register for CODE RED" button in the top right corner of the screen.

Having current contact information in our database ensures your family will be notified in the event of an emergency near your home and/or place of work. If you have moved and wish to remove your contact information from the CodeRED system, you can visit OnSolve.com and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click on the "CodeRED Opt Out" link. You may also call 866-939-0911 to remove your information from the system. More information about Emergency Alerts can be found on your county website as shown above or by visiting <https://www.onsolve.com/solutions/products/codered/>



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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OURAY NATIVE RETURNS TO LEAD DANCE FOR A CAUSE!



Abigail Purcell at At San Juan de Dios retirement home, San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico. Photos courtesy of JUNTOS Collective.

By Tanya Ishikawa

TELLURIDE-A family movement workshop, led by former Weehawken dancer Abigail Purcell, will help fund her upcoming dance therapy course at a Guatemalan shelter. Every workshop ticket sold will aid Purcell in implementing a four to six-week dance curriculum for the women of La Alianza, a Guatemalan shelter for female victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The aim of dance education is to help them reclaim their identity, empowerment and self-confidence after enduring life-altering trauma.

Purcell is a professional dancer who grew up in Ouray, dancing for years in the Wee-

hawken Creative Arts productions. She majored in dance and earned her high school diploma at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. Residing in Chicago for the past three years, she danced with Cocodaco Dance Project while on scholarship at Lou Conte Dance Center. Then, she spent the last two years with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Professional Training Program. Her first experience with the nonprofit JUNTOS Collective was a dance exchange trip to Mexico in January, and she returned for another



Dancers at an elementary school in Zunil, Guatemala.

dance exchange in Guatemala in June. Afterward, she joined the JUNTOS Ambassador 2019/20 Program, where she has been responsible for planning and raising funds for another dance therapy program.

As part of her fundraising efforts, Purcell has organized a movement workshop for all ages and abilities on Friday, Dec. 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Wilkinson Public Library, 100 W. Pacific Ave., Telluride.

Continued next pg

OURAY NATIVE RETURNS TO LEAD DANCE FOR A CAUSE!

From previous pg

Free chips and guacamole will be donated by La Cocina de Luz, and a short informational presentation about the project will be given. Tickets (\$20 for adults and \$10 for children online; \$25 for adults at the door) are available through <https://www.eventbrite.com/> by searching for Dance for a Cause and clicking on the Telluride event. Donations are also accepted at <https://juntoscollective.networkforgood.com/projects/83753-abigail-purcell-s-fundraiser>

An interview with Abigail Purcell about her work with the JUNTOS Collective- *Why did you get involved in JUNTOS?*

I wanted to bridge the gap between people of different backgrounds and saw that dance was a way of bringing cultures together. I always thought dance was a way of healing and connecting with others, and this program has more of a global impact. Being on the stage doesn't always feel like you are as connected to your audience. When I found out about the program, I immediately perked up and thought this sounds amazing, a way to use dance as a way of traveling and get a better sense of how dance has a place in the world.

What have you learned through the dance exchanges?

I think the biggest lesson I learned was that dance is a universal language. There is a language barrier when you go to these places but that ends up not really being a barrier at all because dance is so universal. It has shown me how important dance is in the world, not just on the stage. It's a way to build community and connection with people. It's really inspired me and shown me the strength of different cultures and how we really aren't that different, but also each one has something really valuable to give to the other. It's a true exchange. A lot of programs like this can be misunderstood, in that it feels like the white person is going over to shed light,

but it's not that way at all; it's definitely an exchange. Both sides take something out of it.

Why is it important to share dance when money, shelter, food, and other necessities are also lacking in the areas you go?

I think we so often forget the sense of touch. We so often rely on seeing, hearing and talking, but I feel dance offers a pure sense and a more visceral way to connect to one another. Dance and movement is a true therapy. Dance also started as a tribal experience. It is how people came together to celebrate and build community. It has always been a way to connect with each other. I think we have kind of lost a lot of that. I've also seen how much dance has helped heal and bring strength to people. It takes them away from their pain for a second, into their imaginations and building their own realities.

At an HIV center we visited, for example, these kids have been abandoned because people don't understand HIV. In the States, we have medicine and know we can't get sick just from being around those who are infected. In Guatemala, it is considered sinful to have it. It's very misunderstood, and people are ashamed, though many should be embraced. They don't make it to adulthood. At these centers, and other shelters we visit, there is so much security, the kids don't have a childhood at all. Dance really gives them a chance to exercise their imaginations and play and enjoy themselves as children. Life is so hard for them. Many are deaf or blind, and have brain injuries and physiological challenges. Dance is a really important way to give them a chance to express themselves.

How will the money that you raise be used?

All the money donated will go toward the tools necessary to teach them dance. I will have training in how to work with people who have dealt with trauma. The money will help with all the resources that it

takes to bring dance to a community that doesn't have access to it. I will be working with them a lot on movement that can aid them in rediscovering confidence, building agency and ownership in who they are, and getting them comfortable in their bodies again. Then, there will be a final performance at the end.

What impact will this have on the residents of the shelter?

When I first started working with JUNTOS, I wondered why I was there. I knew there were really important components of this work, but I wanted to make sure it had value in a place like Guatemala, where the resources are so limited and you see the most extreme cases of trauma you can imagine. In the places where I go, they are already being provided with basic needs like food, but they are still lacking in a key thing that will help them get through the rest of their lives: joy and happiness. You can't get that just from eating a meal. Obviously, they are happier if they have full bellies. But, pain in the heart that can only be relieved through some type of therapy. Movement therapy is the easiest to do on their own, once they have been introduced to it. They will have an outlet to be able to deal with those stressors in life.

What will you do at the fundraiser in Telluride?

It is a movement workshop, and I really want to stress that all abilities are welcome, I've worked with all different kinds of abilities and everyone can benefit. It's truly based on celebrating community and connection. I want people to know it will be a fun evening, when they have nothing to prove and everything to share.

No previous exposure to dance is necessary. It's truly about moving together and finding our love.

If people want to just come to eat and watch the presentation, that is totally fine, too. If they bring kids to dance, that is great, but it would be great if everyone moved together.

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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Western Colorado Properties



FOR SALE

**60545 Kansas Road
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Stunning custom home, beautifully maintained and private. *BRAND NEW stunning engineered hardwood flooring installed November 2019.

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

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



FOR SALE

**1526 Leeds Avenue
Montrose**

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

\$365,000



FOR SALE

**6013 5825 Road
Olathe**

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

\$181,500



FOR SALE

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

\$38,000

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RESTORATIVE CARE NURSING IS IMPROVING ABILITIES IN NURSING HOME SETTING



Darlene Sprague, RN has successfully completed a training course in restorative nursing. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

ECKERT-Volunteers of America healthcare services are pleased to announce that Darlene Sprague, RN has successfully completed a training course in restorative nursing.

Sprague, a long-time employee of Volunteers of America health services, is now

certified as a restorative nurse which allows her to help long term care residents maintain or improve their abilities related to activities of daily living (ADLs). These activities can include walking, dressing or grooming, range of motion (active or passive), transfers, toileting, eating and swallowing, communicating and prosthesis care.

Restorative nursing refers to nursing interventions that promote the residents' ability to adapt and adjust to living as independently and safely as possible. This concept actively focuses on achieving and maintaining optimal physical, mental, and psychosocial functioning.

Sprague works closely with the physical therapy team at Horizons Care Center in Eckert and Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose, she said.

"Some of our residents have never exercised in their life," Sprague said. "When they have a life-altering event like surgery or illness, they may need therapy at the start of recovery and then work in conjunction with restorative therapy to keep them going at the level they were accustomed to or the level that was attained from the physical therapy."

Residents are assessed for restorative programs when first admitted to long-term care, after discharge from therapy or

after a significant change of condition, Sprague said.

"I feel like I can empower people as a nurse by accepting them where they currently are physically and mentally and then helping them realize what they can do, what they are capable of doing," Sprague said.

Sprague has been employed with Volunteers of America for 19 years. She started her career in home health, then moved into nursing focusing on pain management. She developed a pain management program through massage to help relieve patients' pain while working at Valley Manor Care Center. She operated a successful massage therapy practice in Santa Fe, Denver and Montrose.

Sprague is also a certified validation presenter, a method of communicating with older adults living with dementia, which is a training program offered through Volunteers of America.

Sprague said, "I love what I do, so it's never work. It's the residents and patients that make it worthwhile. And the staff; we are all very close. Volunteers of America does what's right for the patient."

Her advice to those thinking about nursing as a career is to follow your heart and do the type of nursing that fits your personality.



Style to boot.
Coverage to last.

The Mirror

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ONE TO REMEMBER AT MONTROSE ELKS LODGE



Mini horses came to visit. Courtesy photo.

Montrose Elks Lodge
MONTROSE--Wow! They had mini horses, cookies, Santa and everything. It was a good day Dec. 8 when the West District Elks hosted a Christmas Party for the Colorado National Guard (CONG) and their families. More than 200 people were on hand when Santa strolled into the halls where a huge jubilation from the kids resounded. Santa brought Mrs. Claus and his elves to deliver presents to the good boys and girls. Three rounds of enthusiastic stick horse races took place with \$289 collected as donations for the CONG Fund. There was a games room for coloring

books, making snowflakes, and having fun! The Elks and Guard sang a few Christmas carols with good bass and an impressive soprano section. After a sumptuous lunch, two mini horses arrived for the kids to pet; one named "Sweet Dreams" and the other "Ima a Little Gold Mine or Goldie". The miniature horses were a huge hit with the



Santa brought Mrs. Claus and his elves to deliver presents to the good boys and girls. Courtesy photo.

kids where all had a chance to pet and visit with them. Overall, this Christmas Party was unforgettable! This was the first Annual Christmas Party for the Colorado National Guard by Colorado Elks to express gratitude to the honorable men and women serving to protect our Nation.

RADIO ROOM WELCOMES SIR KEMPSON LIVE IN CONCERT JAN. 24

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION--See Sir Kempson live in Concert at the Radio Room Jan. 24. Doors at 7, Show at 7:30 PM. Sir Kempson is an alt-country trio that started in April of 2018. Originally from the Grand Valley, and now based in Carbondale, they are starting to make waves in the regional music scene. Featuring Guitar and Vocals from Hugh Phillips who delivers his originals and rare covers with a unique vocal dynamic. The rhythm section is made up of Pete Langford playing bass and Duane Moore on percussion, whose experience really round out the band's sound. The result is as moving as it is intriguing. Come see Sir Kempson! Tickets are \$15 Pre-sale \$18 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

MONTROSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS ART EXHIBITION BY LORETTA CASLER

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE--Montrose Center for the Arts will present an art exhibition by Loretta Casler of Ridgway from Jan. 3 through Feb. 3, 2020. Loretta works in a variety of media, including watercolor, oil, colored pencil and pen and ink. There will be an artist reception January 3 from 5-7pm at the Art Center, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose. Join us for refreshments and a chance to meet Loretta and enjoy her artwork.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ELISSA DICKSON'S LAST HURRAH FOR DECEMBER POETRY CLUB

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-A dazzling performer, Elissa Dickson is a past San Miguel County Poet Laureate. Last month Elissa took first place at the Western Colorado Writers' Forum's *Art of the Slam* competition at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts in Grand Junction.

But now she has some big changes in store. She's planning to move on from Telluride this winter, and her appearance at the Telluride Arts Gallery HQ across the street from the Wilkinson Library for the Talking Gourds Poetry Club reading Dec. 17 starting at 6 p.m. will be her last performance in town for a while. Don't miss out.

Using her trademark slam style, Elissa will be performing poems to warm your heart in this darkest time of the year. She cultivated a love of slam during her time as an undergrad at the University of Michigan and continued to its pursuit when she moved to Telluride in 2008.

As San Miguel County Poet Laureate Emerita, she is still very active in the school system, facilitating poetry workshops with youth of all ages. She also spreads her passion for learning and creativity as vehicles for personal and societal change in her working roles as Adult Programs Coordinator at the Wilkinson Public Library and Tour Emcee with Mountainfilm.

The theme prompt for December will be

"Time."

Up-to-date paid members of the Poetry Club are eligible for a free broadside copy of a select poem of the featured reader(s) crafted by Dai-va Chesonis – co-owner of another of our partners, independently-owned Between the Covers Bookstore. Non-members can purchase the broadsides at the store.

Membership forms are available at the club meeting.

Starting this month, Talking Gourds is sponsoring a new student poetry contest, thanks to a grant from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund – the *Rella Awards*. Named for Ettore Rella (1903-1988), a poet and playwright who was born in Telluride, studied in Rome and went on to become a celebrity in New York City.

The award ceremony for the two winning students will occur Jan. 14th at 4 p.m. at the Telluride Mountain School, and later that evening at 6 p.m. at Telluride Arts the student winners will join Eduardo Rey Brummel of Salida as featured readers. Theme/prompt for January's Passing of the Gourd will be "Snow."

Time & Place

Poetry Club readings in Telluride start at 6 p.m. beginning with Club News & Other Business. Following that, the featured reader shares work for 30-45 minutes. There's a short break.



Poet Elissa Dickson. Courtesy photo.

And then we pass the Gourd, and everyone gets to share their own poem (on any topic) -- or a piece by a favorite author on the month's theme. The Telluride address of the Telluride Arts Gallery is 135 W. Pacific Ave. -- across the street from the entrance to another of our partners: the Wilkinson Public Library.

An advertisement for The Montrose Mirror. It features a large black bear on the left, looking towards the right. In the foreground, a person's hands are holding a tablet computer. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with clouds. The text "Save a tree – Read the Mirror!" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle. Below this, the logo for "THE MONTROSE MIRROR" is displayed, with the tagline "Your Source for Local Business News and Information" underneath. At the bottom right, the text "Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646" is written in a white, cursive font.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

OURAY COUNTY RESIDENT LAUNCHES LOCAL POLITICAL FORUM



George Kerber.
Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
OURAY COUNTY-Ouray County resident George Kerber wants people to talk about local politics. As founder of the new Ouray County Politics Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OurayCountyPolitics/>, Kerber does not expect to

control the conversation. “This group is a place for Ouray County citizens to discuss Ouray County politics,” Kerber said. “Being civil is expected. State your opinion without personal attacks and without misrepresenting and distorting the comments of others.”

One reason for starting a political discussion group is to inspire others to pay more attention to local government; Kerber said that he felt the need to speak out in the face of “endless taxation coming at us.”

“The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners are not as open and transparent and forthcoming about taxation and future plans as the citizens deserve and expect,” he said. “My group and its members work to get the unspoken details out in the open for discussion, so Ouray County citizens have complete information.”

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

International Mtn. Day celebrated



21/Borosov -- the first observed interplanetary comet (courtesy photo)

MOUNTAIN RESILIENCE COALITION ... The Telluride Institute joined a large swath of mountain organizations to celebrate the United Nations 17th Annual International Mountain Day this Dec. 11th on the campus of Western Colorado University in Gunnison and in the Crested Butte Resort Ballroom at Mt. Crested Butte's Lodge at Mountaineer Square ... Founded in 2003 by the United Nations General Assembly, International Mountain Day (IMD) has been celebrated under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FOA) of the U.N., a separate and independent membership agency with 197 members and headquartered in Rome ... Recently retired FOA project coordinator specializing in forestry, Doug McGuire was a special guest speaker at several IMD events last week. He spoke briefly and gave an introduction to the FOA and its work at a student-sponsored Mountains Matter arts social Tuesday night the 10th at Western's Coffee Lounge, where I read mountain poems, including the "Valley Floor Rant" with its last line celebrating the "mountains' mother hum" ... McGuire also spoke at the early morning project information sharing with international students and researchers from 10 universities around the world at the distance learning room at Western's School of Environment & Sustainability ... I don't think I appreciated how powerful the partnerships "Doctor John" Hausdoerffer had brokered with

various mountain organizations were until I sat through two hours of these reports of mountain projects from around the world – many of them supported by graduate students from Western's Masters in Environmental Management (MEM) who complete real world international projects rather than shelf-bound theses on the way to getting their degrees. It was particularly moving to hear from youth around the world at this session after FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu announced the year's theme for IMD at the UN's Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid: "Mountains Matter for Youth" ... A YouTube video of the entire two hours is available at <<https://youtu.be/enL2mbGqPgc>> and a short two-minute video celebration of the event can be seen at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTDnlcZT1RI&feature=youtu.be> ... Other traditional activities on campus included a Mindfulness session, Mountain empowerment options and a Mountain prom in the evening ... But the high point of the celebration was a fancy banquet at Vail Resorts newly-acquired ski area with speeches by McGuire, the Executive Direc-



Dr. John talks with international students via Zoom at Western's School for the Environment and Sustainability Distance Learning Room the morning of International Mountain Day (photo by Art Goodtimes)

tor of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory Ian Billick, MEM's Hausdoerffer, and a poem/letter from poet and professor Aaron Abeyta of Antonito – probably the most moving presentation of the evening ... Hausdoerffer used the occasion to announce yet another mountain organization -- MEM's Center for Mountain Transitions with its partners the Mountain Institute, Butch Clark's Coldharbour Institute, the mountain-based Sister Cities Network, Americorps, and the Western Alliance for Restoration Management -- to add to the mix of the U.N.'s Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Resilience Coalition (Telluride Institute, Aspen International Mountains Foundation, and Western's School of Environmental and Sustainability). For more info on the great projects MEM students are involved with visit <www.western.edu/center-mountain-transitions>

TECH OR TEK ... One fascinating point came in the presentation where Ms. Huizhao Yang, a student at the Centre for

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

Mountain Futures, Chinese Academy of Sciences, explained the importance of TEK – traditional environmental knowledge – in developing seasonal calendars for agriculture and food production. It gave me a whole new perspective on what “tech” could mean.

LITHICPRESS.COM ... *Eviscerare* by Kevin Carey (Lithic Press, Fruita, 2017) ... The title is disturbing. The Italian verb *eviscerare* means to disembowel. To gut like a chicken. And the chapbook isn't a collection of poems, but one long poem. A story. About a dad taking his kids to the woods. Setting up camp. Running into some anglers at a nearby lake. Nothing too earth-shattering ... The title and the poem don't exactly jive at first. It seems quite ordinary, this dad and his two kids. It's a narrative. The writing is spare. Taut almost. But the interactions start to hint at

things. There's a lot unsaid that gets revealed in the acts of unloading the car. Pitching a tent. Gathering lichen for a fire ... There's also dialogue. The dad using a swear word. The son repeating. The dad calling him out. Then apologizing for having used the language himself. Soon it's veering into a conversation about the best place to put the tent, daughter and dad. And then it's enigmatically taking on the mom's absence. Not explained. But alluded to ... At one point it breaks into a four-line list, like a jump-rope chant, about the rock the anglers are standing on: “Petros. / Peter. / Pater. / Rock.” Narrative abandoned. Almost pure lyric ... We have entered this strange parent/child world and the dialogue seems to mean more than just what it says. The actions too. We have walked into something beyond a camping scene. The story takes on a mythic aura. And the final action, description

and interchange with the fisherman -- who “look almost tribal” -- takes a disturbing turn, but only gently so.

The language is powerful. The image unforgettable. Dead fish gutted and tossed on the ground where the dad and kids pass by. “Baited. / Lured. / Violently ripped / from / the swim of life.” ... I'm struck as much by what isn't said as what is. There's this unsettling quality. The very simplicity juxtaposed with the stripped minimalist language and elliptical dialogue gives a mysterious feel to the poem, the story, the encounter. There are a few descriptions, and a metaphor or two. But at the end, the whole piece is a metaphor. Like a hand reaching out instinctively to pet a dog, and coming up with very guts of our relationship to the natural world ... In the end it's a dazzling poem. Images that haunt me still.

Highly recommended.

THE TALKING GOURD

21/Borisov

ice cube from beyond's
approach to the sun's
trailing mystery & dust

-Don Rōbert
The Rōbert [Cholo] Report (pron: Rō'bear Re'por)
theroberreport.net



A photograph of a white dog, possibly a Weimaraner, with a black collar, sitting on a sandy beach. The dog is leaning forward with its head buried in the sand, as if digging. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

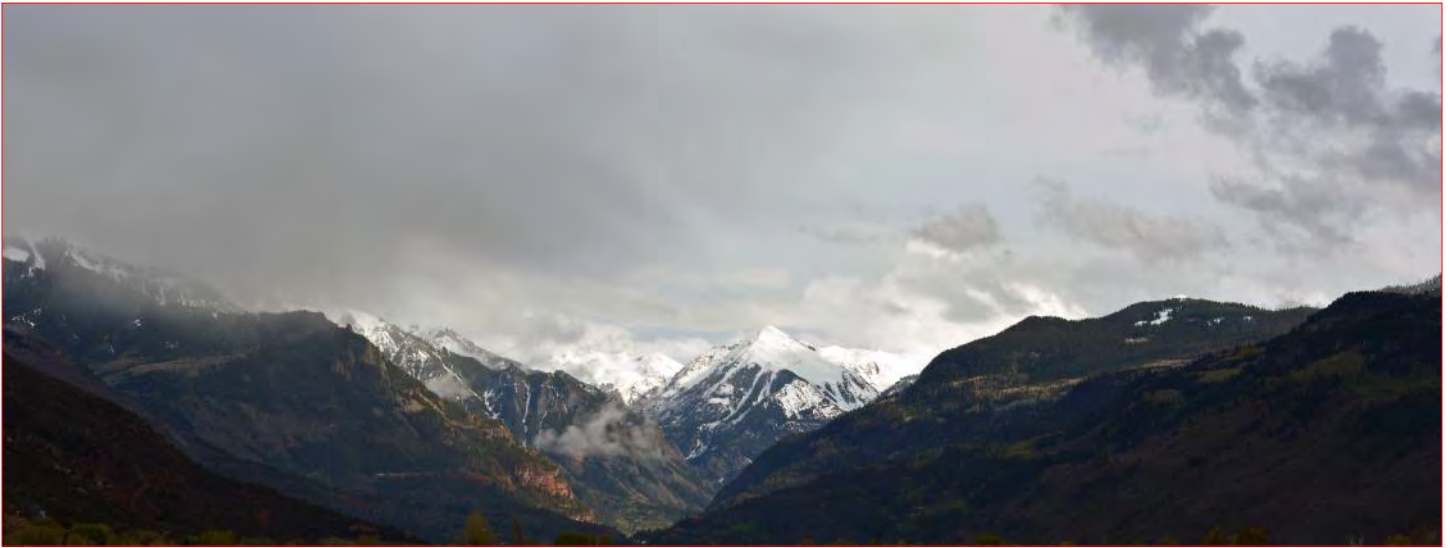
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann took this picture of winter majesty near Ouray several years ago. The view reminds her of the words of John Muir... "Going to the Mountains is going home."

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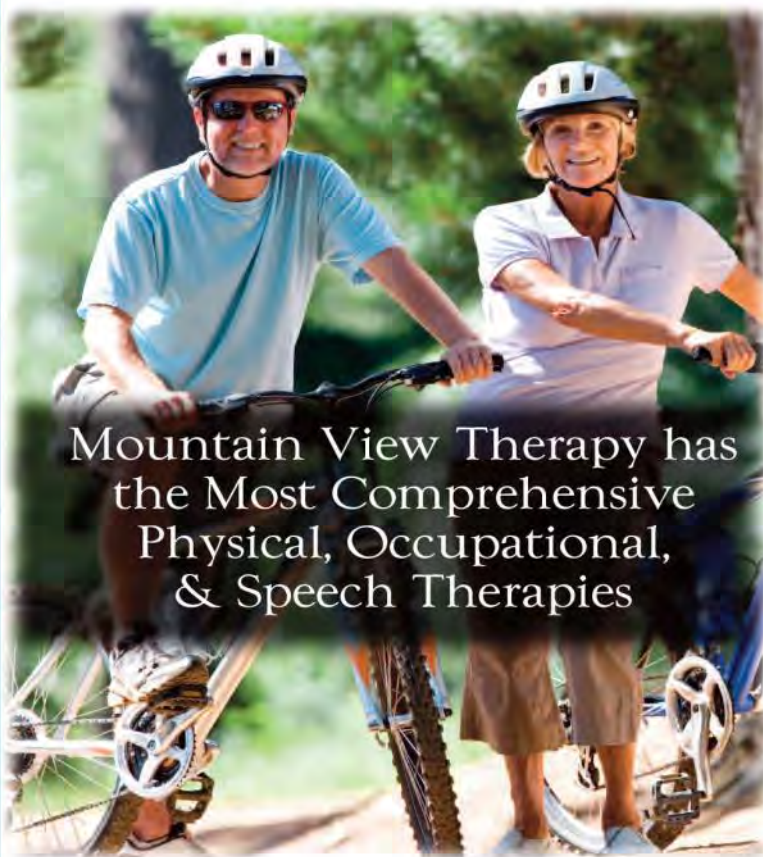
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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

MONTROSE FREE THINKERS meet the first Sunday of each month. Call 417-4183 for more information & location.

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

MONTHLY-

Dec. 17-Montrose Neighborhood Watch Meeting Tuesday Dec. 17th from 6-7 pm at the Centennial Room behind City Hall. Tim Cox of the Montrose PD and Ty Cox of the MCSO will discuss the 2018-2019 crime statistics and trends.

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.

Dec. 20-On Friday, Dec. 20 Santa Delivers stocking stuffing potluck 6 pm. Ouray Elks lodge. Help prepare for Santa's visits on Christmas Eve.

Dec. 24-Celebrate Christmas Eve at Grace Church, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. 16731 Woodgate Road. www.gracemontrose.org.

Dec. 24-On Tuesday, Dec. 24 Santa Delivers. Ouray Elks facilitate free in-home visits for Ouray County kids from Santa between 5 and 8 pm. Reservations required by Dec. 21, call Peg Lindsey at 970-596-1219 or email peg_lindsey@yahoo.com.

Dec. 31: Ouray Elks New Years' Eve party, 6 - 12:30, Karaoke starts at 7 pm. Open to the public.

Jan.3-Feb.3-Montrose Center for the Arts will present an art exhibition by Loretta Casler of Ridgway from January 3 through February 3, 2020. Loretta works in a variety of media, including watercolor, oil, colored pencil and pen and ink. There will be an artist reception January 3 from 5-7pm at the Art Center, 11 S. Park Ave., Montrose. Join us for refreshments and a chance to meet Loretta and enjoy her artwork.

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.

Jan. 24-See Sir Kempson live in Concert at the Radio Room. Doors at 7, Show at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 Pre-sale \$18 at the door and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

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

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

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MIRROR IMAGES... OUT & ABOUT

At right, Ouray County resident and Mirror Correspondent Sue Williamson looked up from her desk just in time to see this sweet little guy, taking a rest, chewing cud...and to take this photo.



Below left and right, Citizens and public officials gathered for the US 50 Little Blue Mesa Creek Canyon Project Open House held at the Montrose County Public Works Conference Room Dec. 12. Photos by Scott Damman.

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