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# the Montrose Mirror

Save a tree, Read the Mirror!

© Issue No. 359 Jan. 13, 2020

## CADDY TO SERVE AS 2020 BOCC CHAIR; CITIZEN QUESTIONS FOUNDATION INSPECTION PROCESS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Tuesday, Jan. 7 the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a special meeting, including the annual reorganization of the Board. All commissioners were in attendance; Planning & Development Director Steve White delivered the invocation.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Citizen Tom Mathis spoke during the Public Comment period. "Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you...I am very concerned about the inspection process of footings and foundations," Mathis said, and presented a letter and document to be entered into the record. He read portions of the letter to the BOCC and explained his concerns. "Dear Commissioners, I have forwarded the policy that Boulder County commissioners have adopted...it is based on the provisions of the 2015 IRC and the 2015 IBC. ...please

[Continue pg 6](#)



*Citizen Tom Mathis spoke during the Public Comment period at the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Special Meeting of Tuesday, Jan. 7. Mathis expressed his concerns about the current inspection process of footings and foundations.*

## COUNCILORS SPEAK OUT AGAINST ELIMINATING COUNCIL DISTRICTS; Process of looking at new ideas can be 'cumbersome,' Mayor Pro Tem says



*Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman, left, spoke against a proposal by Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum to eliminate district representation for open Council seats.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council convened for a work session on Monday, Jan. 6. All Councilors were present. Among the discussion items were a request for \$216K in business incentives for a proposed hotel near the Montrose County Justice Center; a resolution in support of a community development block grant for Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club; potential changes to City code concerning modular construction; a recommendation for fleet management software; a recommendation for purchase of equipment at auction; potential changes to the City charter; and an overview of De Novo hearing procedures.

City work sessions have recently been rescheduled for 10 a.m. and are no longer working lunches.

[Continued pg 17](#)

in this issue

*Art Goodtimes' Up Bear Creek!*

*Carole Ann McKelvey's Rocky Mt. Cravings!*

*Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!*

*Letters to the editor! Regional news briefs!*

## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### RESTORATION OF GRAY WOLVES INITIATIVE QUALIFIES FOR 2020 BALLOT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Elections Division at the Colorado Secretary of State's office has announced that Proposed Initiative 107 ("Restoration of Gray Wolves") has qualified for the 2020 General Election ballot.

The "Restoration of Gray Wolves" Initiative is a statewide initiative and therefore requires at least five percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state at the previous general election, which in this case is 124,632. This requirement is outlined by Article V, Section 1 (3) of the Colorado constitution. After reviewing a 5 percent sample of the 215,370 submitted signatures, the projected number of valid signatures is greater than 110 percent of the total number required.

**Random Sample Verification Summary:**

Total number of qualified signatures submitted 215,370

5% of qualified signatures submitted (random sample) 10,769

Total number of entries accepted (valid) from the random sample 6,967

Total number of the entries rejected (invalid) from the random sample 3,802

Number of projected valid signatures from the random sample 139,333

Total number of signatures required for placement on ballot 124,632

Projected percentage of required valid signatures 111.80%

The Calculation of Sufficiency is available here. The text of the "Restoration of Gray Wolves" Initiative is available here.

A record of all accepted and rejected signatures, including reasons for each rejection is on file with the Secretary of State.

The other initiatives approved for the 2020 ballot at this time are Senate Bill 19-042 National Popular Vote Referendum and Initiative 76 ("Citizen Qualification of Electors").



*The Elections Division at the Colorado Secretary of State's office has announced that Proposed Initiative 107 ("Restoration of Gray Wolves") has qualified for the 2020 General Election ballot. Courtesy photo.*

## THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### TIME TO ACT-EXEMPT CITY SALES TAX FROM YOUR GROCERY BILL

*Dear Editor:*

#### **Local Governance out of touch with working class Montrose**

Big wins and small wins, they all count. It is time to act and exempt City of Montrose sales tax from your grocery bill. Working class Montrose needs a win. City Council has the authority to act. Does City Council have the will?

#### *The rare exception of exemption*

The City of Montrose and Montrose County sit in rare USA company as places where one is charged a city and county sales tax on groceries. The State of Colorado does not charge the 2.9% state sales tax on groceries. In fact, there are only seven states – Alabama, Mississippi, South Dakota, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, and Oklahoma – who apply their full state sales tax to grocery purchases.

#### *City amenities over a family necessity*

The local sales tax on groceries is enjoyed by the City of Montrose bureaucracy to support its exorbitant spending. Based on local research that has been presented by respected community members, in 2019 taxing groceries brought in about \$2.8M to city revenue. And, with the historic city sales tax increase of 18% (3.3 to 3.88%) that kicked in January 1<sup>st</sup>, the revenue figure is expected to jump to \$3.3M in 2020.

The money keeps flooding in, and the city keeps spending. While you are paying an increased sales tax on a necessity (food for your family), the city is running on a reckless and murky path of spending that benefits a very few. Currently, there is no accountability to the major dollar spends that failed, nor is there full transparency as to how money is spent today. The lack of accessible financial information to the public makes it more challenging for the public to ask the tough (and real) questions. Folks, in Montrose we are watching a form of governance and policy play out that I do not believe fits the values of the core community citizen. Guess what? The wild spending and lack of full transparency is ridden on the backs of working class Montrose. What does the 18% city sales tax increase mentioned above mean to working class Montrose when it comes time to budget groceries? Based on USDA figures representative of a moderate low spend on groceries, a median Montrose family of four in 2020 will pay around \$350 in city taxes on their groceries (up from \$297 in 2019). Your "it's only 38 cents on every \$100" transactions start to add up. It is time and warranted for this community to get some tax relief. The city revenue coming from grocery purchases needs to be zero.

#### *The time to act is now*

Exempting groceries from local sales tax is a direct and clean topic, it is actionable, and it is needed in the Montrose Community. We need a win, today. Let's do it by putting an estimated \$350 every year back into the pocket of the median Montrose family. City Council has the authority. Does City Council have the will?

*Scott Damman, Montrose*



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### 2020 RESOLUTIONS OFF TO A ROUGH START FOR 348 COLORADO DRIVERS *There were 8,513 DUI arrests during 15 enforcement periods in 2019*

*Special to the Mirror*

STATEWIDE — While some Coloradans rang in 2020 safely with friends and family, others started the year off on the wrong foot — with a DUI arrest. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and statewide law enforcement agencies collaborated for the New Year's Eve increased DUI enforcement from Dec. 27 to Jan. 2 to keep impaired drivers off the roads during New Year's festivities. During the enforcement, 348 impaired drivers were arrested for DUI, an increase from the 334 arrests made during the same enforcement period last year.

The New Year's Eve enforcement began the 2020 The Heat Is On enforcement periods. During the 15 enforcement periods 2019 — which totaled 179 enforcement

days — law enforcement made an average of 48 DUI arrests per day. There were 8,513 DUI arrests during those enforcement periods, a slight decrease from the 9,687 arrests in 2018.

Ninety-nine law enforcement agencies across Colorado participated in the 2019 New Year's Eve enforcement period, with the Denver Police Department (33 arrests), El Paso County Sheriff's Office (23 arrests) and the Colorado Springs Police Department (22 arrests) recording the highest arrest totals. CSP arrested an additional 82 DUI offenders across the state. Comprehensive results from all participating agencies can be found at [codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal](https://codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal). Arrest data is organized by law enforcement agency and enforcement period.

"A vehicle with an impaired driver behind the wheel is a serious threat to everyone on the road," said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of CSP. "There are still far too many impaired drivers that could cause harm to people out on our state's roadways. We hope Coloradans make a concerted effort in 2020 to only travel with sober drivers."

Preliminary data shows 176 people died in impaired-related crashes on Colorado roads in 2019.

The Heat Is On campaign will continue in 2020 with 16 heightened DUI enforcement periods. The 10-day Winter Blitz enforcement period begins on Jan. 17.

CDOT's New Year's Eve and Winter Blitz enforcement periods and DUI-prevention campaign support CDOT's Whole System — Whole Safety initiative to reduce traffic injuries and deaths.

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## KEITH CADDY TO SERVE AS 2020 BOCC CHAIR *From pg 1*

note that the building official is responsible for enforcing the IRC as this is explained in step four of the Boulder County process...work may not progress on any part of the construction project beyond the approved point indicated on the inspection record.

"...It can be very time consuming and costly for the permit holder to uncover walls or demolish construction that has been proceeded past the required inspection point," Mathis said. "Currently Montrose County refers to the 2009 international residential code. The building official here has made it very clear that they only become involved in the inspection process after a framing inspection has been requested.

"...simply put, the code compliance cannot be achieved if the prescribed processes of the IRC are not followed," he said. "This is 2020. A new decade requires a clearer vision for our future. I will continue

to do my civic duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people who choose to reside here now and in the future.

"Please put a moratorium on issuing building permits until a reliable inspection enforcement policy is established." The Resolution adopted on Aug. 7, 2019 was inconsistent with what the IRC prescribes and in conflict with code compliance, Mathis said.

"Thank you, Mr. Mathis." BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said.

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris had no changes to the meeting agenda. "Madame Chair, the agenda stands as written," Norris said.

### REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

As commissioners prepared to reorganize the board for 2020, Hansen expressed gratitude. "I just wanted to go on record and thank my fellow commissioners for

having confidence in me to elect me as chair last year, being totally green and being a novice at this," Hansen said. "I've enjoyed it, and it has been an honor for me to represent this body; it has been a real pleasure."

She nominated Commissioner Keith Caddy as 2020 BOCC Chair; Caddy nominated Commissioner Roger Rash as Vice Chair. Both nominations were approved. Hansen read Resolution 02-2020 concerning administrative appointments into the record.

Appointments included County Attorney Marti Whitmore; County Manager Ken Norris; County Budget officer Cindy Dunlap; County Road & Bridge Supervisor Keith Laube; County Road & Bridge Superintendent David Andrews; County Civil Rights Officer Leslie Quon; County Director of Human Services Jennifer Sherwood; County Director of Public Health James Austin; County Veterans' Service Officer Sheldon Smith; County Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins; County Surveyor William Wiley (per Jan. 2 Resolution 01-20200); and County Community Corrections Board Representative Roger Rash.

Regular BOCC meeting times are first and third Wednesdays as noticed; the bulletin board at the north end of the Montrose County Courthouse will continue to serve as the official posting location for all meeting notices, agendas, and other official business. The *Montrose Daily Press* was designated official newspaper for the east end of the County, with the *San Miguel Basin Forum* designated as official newspaper for the West End of the County. Resolution 02-2020 was unanimously approved.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 03-2020, presented by County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy, regarding deposit of funds by the County Treasurer and designating approved financial institutions to be used for deposit of County funds in accordance with CRS 30-10-708. Murphy listed those institutions, and noted that selections are based on safety, liquidity, and yield. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned after 19 minutes and 24 seconds.

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Bill Hellman  
Delta County Resident, Owner of Hellman's Toyota and Ford Dealership in Delta

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FLASHING CROSSWALK COMPLETED AT UNCOMPAHGRE AVENUE AND MAIN STREET

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Contractors working for the City of Montrose recently completed crosswalk improvements at the intersection of Uncompahgre Avenue and Main Street.

The crosswalk project included the installation of four new flashing crosswalk signs aimed at improving safety by helping to alert motorists to a pedestrian using the

crosswalk. On average, there are about 8,100 vehicles a day traversing this section of Main Street. Pedestrians can activate all four signs with the push of a button at any corner of the intersection. The project was funded, in part, by a \$5,000 mini-grant from LiveWell Colorado and their HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Cities and Towns Campaign Small Grants Program. Similar flashing crosswalk signage was

installed at Cascade Avenue and Main Street in 2016. A third flashing crosswalk is planned for the intersection of West Main and Selig Avenue in 2020, once permits are obtained from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The project was driven by the Montrose Development and Revitalization Team (DART). Skip Huston Construction of Montrose installed the signage.

### RIVERS EDGE WEST HOSTS PRIVATE LANDS INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION-What: Private Landowners are invited to join RiversEdge West for an interactive workshop and panel that will connect public land managers and private landowners; providing an opportunity to discuss projects, funding, and other resources as it relates to riparian (riverside) restoration on private lands. Where: Colorado Mesa University's University Center - East Ballroom When: Feb. 6, 2020, 8:30 AM — 12:30 PM

Cost: Private landowners are invited to attend the workshop free of charge (lunch included!).

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/REWLandowner>, email Cara at [Ckukuraitis@riversedgewest.org](mailto:Ckukuraitis@riversedgewest.org) or call 970.256.7400 or learn more at [www.riversedgewest.org](http://www.riversedgewest.org).

Description: Private landowners along western rivers hold the key to riparian (riverside) restoration project continuity and the success of watershed-level restoration.

RiversEdge West continues its efforts to connect public land managers, funders, and private landowners with a half-day workshop on day three of their [2020 Riparian Restoration Conference](#). Not just a collection of presentations, the workshop features a panel of different perspectives including:

Shane Burton, Private Landowner  
Bob and Liz Petrus, Private Landowners

Sparky Taber, Bureau of Land Management (retired)

Callie Hendrickson, White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

Sarah Wilson, NRCS/RiversEdge West

Shelly Simmons, RiversEdge West/Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District. More details are available here:

<https://riversedgewest.org/events/private-lands-interactive-workshop>

# HEALTHfair

## Early Blood Draws & Health Fair

DATES	SCREENINGS
January 25 4H Event Center, Ridgway • 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.	HealthScreen (Chemistry) & Lipid Panel \$50
January 27 American Legion Hall, Olathe • 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Hemoglobin A1C \$38
January 29-February 1 Montrose Pavilion, Montrose • 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.	PSA for Prostate Health \$42
February 29: Health Fair Montrose Pavilion, Montrose • 6:30 - 11:00 a.m. Blood draws end at 11:00 a.m., Health Fair continues to 12:00 p.m.	CBC (Complete Blood Count) \$25
NO walk-ins allowed Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30.	Vitamin D \$45
	Vitamin B12 & Folate \$45
	Male Testosterone \$45
	Advanced Lipid & Heart Health Panel \$85
	NEW! hsCardioCRP \$40
	Colon Cancer Screening Kit (Not a blood draw) \$35

### APPOINTMENTS

Appointments begin January 6, 12:00 a.m. midnight at [www.MontroseHospital.com](http://www.MontroseHospital.com)  
If you are unable to register online or need assistance with registration, please call 1-800-217-5866 Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning January 6.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COLORADO DIVISION OF SECURITIES ANNOUNCES TOP INVESTOR THREATS FOR 2020

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - The Division of Securities, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), today announced the top five investment products or schemes likely to trap Colorado's investors in the new year and recommended steps they can take to protect themselves from investment fraud. The list was developed by surveying members of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), of which the Division is a member, to identify threats investors are likely to see in 2020. The following were most frequently identified by NASAA members as the top five areas of concern for the coming year:

- Promissory Notes
- Ponzi Schemes
- Real Estate-related Investments
- Cryptocurrency-related Investment Products
- Social Media/Internet-based Investment Schemes

"It is important for investors to understand what they are investing in and who they are investing with. Don't fall for

promises of guaranteed high returns with little to no risk or deals pitched with a false sense of urgency or limited availability," said Acting Securities Commissioner David Cheval. "As you begin the new year, make a resolution to protect your money from fraudulent investments and those who may be trying to fleece you." Investment offers that sound "too good to be true" often share similar characteristics. The most common telltale sign of an investment scam is an offer of guaranteed high returns with no risk. All investments carry the risk that some, or all, of the invested funds could be lost. It's best to remember if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Many of the threats facing investors involve private offerings, which are exempt from federal securities registration requirements and are not sold through public stock exchanges. Unregistered private offerings generally are high-risk investments and don't have the same investor protection requirements as investments sold through public markets.

Investors should always ask if the salesperson and the investment itself are properly licensed or registered. This information can be confirmed by the Division of Securities. Working with a properly licensed investment professional affords investors certain legal protections. For the same reasons you wouldn't go to an unlicensed doctor or dentist, you should avoid unregistered investment salespeople and their products. Anyone offering to sell a security without a license is breaking the law and should be avoided.

Information about each of the 2020 investor threats and contact information for all state and provincial securities regulators can be found on NASAA's website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).

The Division of Securities also offers a wide range of free investor education materials and can help investors research the background of those selling or advising the purchase of an investment. The division can be reached at 303-894-2320 or through its website at [www.dora.colorado.gov/dos](http://www.dora.colorado.gov/dos).

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## CSP TROOPER TIPS: OLDER DRIVERS

By Master Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO-Driving is a feeling of freedom you get when you're able to just travel wherever you wish. But, there may come a point in time when either you or someone close to you must make the decision to put the keys away and find another way to commute. Talking to an older person about their driving can be difficult and is often delayed until their driving is to a point of being dangerous. But if delayed too long, it can be a hesitation that can turn fatal.

I speak from personal experience when I lost my grandmother in a crash. The signs were there prior to the fatal crash, but we failed to see them as a serious enough problem and hesitated in having her stop driving. It started with a few scratches here and there on the car, and pulling into the garage a little too far. Perhaps, if we had acted upon those signs we may have had her around longer.

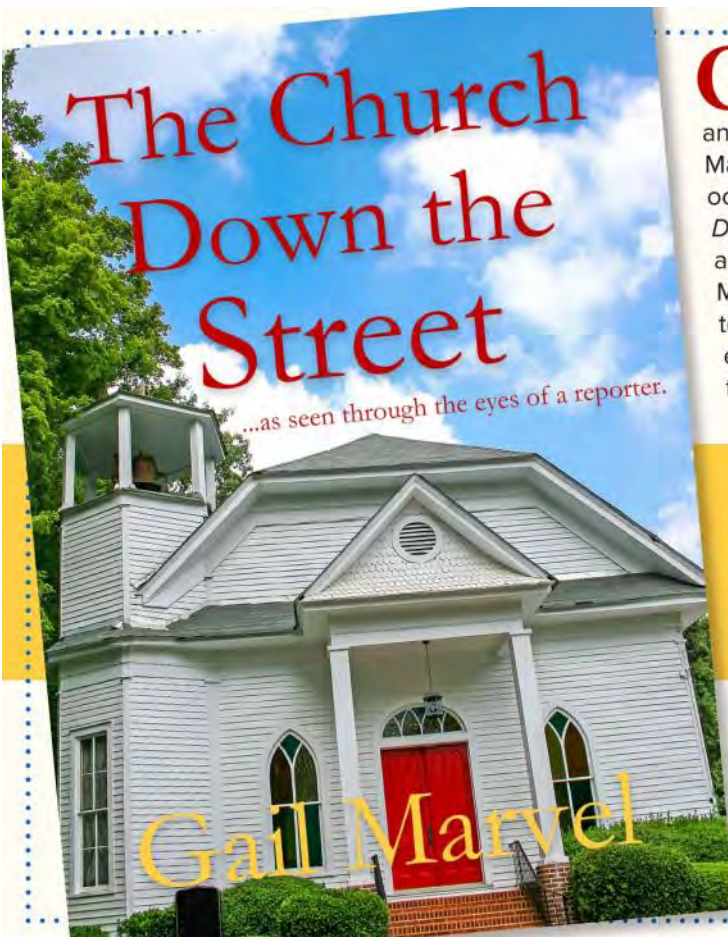
Years later when another driving situation approached my family, we didn't hesitate to take action. My father began to

show signs of having trouble driving due to early onset dementia and we took steps to keep him from driving and possibly hurting himself or someone else. A problem you may face is the older driver believing they are driving fine, when in fact you are seeing dangerous problems. I won't tell you it was easy to have the conversation. My father was upset with us for a while, but I would do it again to make sure it keeps everyone safe. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that in 2018, 19% of all fatal crashes were caused by drivers 65 years and older. Now this doesn't mean just because you turn 65 you should have your driver's license taken from you. Far from it, it just means it's time to start being aware of any changes. For a start, keep track of eyesight, physical fitness, and reflexes.

If you are an older person, try to avoid driving in bad weather, driving at dusk or night, where it may be harder to see things, or if bright lights have started to bother your eyes. Other ways to make

sure you are being safe is to give yourself more distance between cars, and to constantly scan the road ahead. Look to ways you can extend your driving by being aware of any changes that could be dangerous on the roadways for you and others by adjusting those problems as they arise. For family members with aging relatives, plan ahead so when the time comes everyone involved knows what needs to be done. Have a discussion with family members about what should be done, and how everyone should respond when and if the time comes.

Be sensitive to ways you can preserve the older driver's self-respect. Present concerns in non-threatening terms. Use "I" messages rather than "You" messages. Focus on a plan that maximizes community safety and try to look for ways that can put into place that allow the older person to continue to drive if possible by changing habits. Don't wait to take steps that could save lives. For more information on driving for the elderly visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).



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

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



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CITY CASH INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS

*Editor:*

Why is it that our city leadership believes that taxpayers should foot the bill for almost \$800,000 to induce a private business to open a hotel here? I thought all these "conservatives" were believers in the "free-market". It's not free when we are paying this kind of money so that a CEO can take a large bonus home for making a profit from a deal WE are helping pay for. If these rooms were really needed, the free market would provide them for us without Montrose taxpayers "inducing" the Marriott Corp to do so. Let them get their own damn financing and build their own parking lot. And let them pay the tap fees and permit fees just like the rest of us do. I expect the next thing we will hear is that the city council will propose giving them a tax holiday for twenty years and the county too. Absolute hogwash!

*Tim Conner, Montrose*

### TRANSPARENCY - A WORD OFTEN CLAIMED BUT SELDOM IMPLEMENTED BY GOVERNMENT

*Editor:*

On the very hot topic of Government Accountability, the subject that has consumed the local population (those that actually pay attention to and are engaged in holding government accountable for taxpayer funded operations, which incidentally all too often results in the population paying ever higher and higher, non-sunseting taxes when officials and staff fail to work within budgets), it seems absolutely incongruous to me that out of our two local governments, County and City, only one actually executes fully on the transparency actualization. And folks that is.. TaDa... Montrose County Government. I found out this week that the County utilizes a system by Tyler Technologies ( <https://www.tylertech.com/> ) that really DOES provide real-time accounting detail. It slices and dices by department, category, etc. and can even drill down allocating to full and part-time compensation attributed to various applications and projects. Yup, you dial up Montrose Coun-

ty on your PC and you can drill into this system and acquire a whole lot of financial info. And if the detail isn't in sufficient detail, you can call them up and make a request for additional info. Well, maybe the blue-ribbon City Mgr. and his blue-ribbon finance director are actually aware of this resource from their county colleagues but are so very frugal with expenditures, given their budget issues, they don't want to spend the gobs of money it would cost to implement such a system. But like the TV ads, "But Wait", it isn't as cost prohibitive as you might think. The initial system acquisition is a whopping \$5 thousand with annual servicing at between \$2 - 4 thousand. So first year, out-of-the -box, worst case scenario, is less than \$10 grand. Oh please, the City spills that much at their former catered lunches during work sessions! And who knows, maybe when they get those pesky questions about what line-item they spent "\$965,000" on, they can avoid looking around at each other in bewilderment and

shrug their shoulders as they feign passive concern about answering the question. A couple of clicks on anyone of the expensive technology they all have attached to their hips, and Voila! , 'oh here is the answer'. Yes, that was correct. "\$965,000" not 965 bucks on you-know-who's travel and meeting expense account. Very likely, the City will say that they looked into these systems long ago and just didn't find a system that met their high, blue-ribbon standards for accountability and transparency, so they proactively made a conscious decision NOT to do anything. No more kicking the can down the road. Get It Done.

Lastly, a sincere thank you to Montrose County for coming forward with the details on the recent Event Center concert and doing it so quickly! They don't get a pass for losing money but they do get mega-accolades for being forthright, honest, accountable and .... ahem, truly transparent.

*R. L. Michaels, Montrose*



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### CITIZENS' GROUP PURSUES BALLOT ISSUE REMOVING CITY GROCERY TAX

#### Editor:

A nationwide study last fall found Montrose to be the 3rd most expensive town in Colorado, due in part, no doubt, to its high rate of taxation. When you consider the increase in taxes for the Rec Center, the Library District, the Fire District, real taxes due to increased assessments, and most recently, a whopping 17.6% increase in sales tax on the 2A question, it's no wonder many, especially seniors on Social Security and lower income earners, are seeing their take home pay shrink.

The most offensive tax we all pay is the immoral sales tax on groceries for home consumption, which is certainly a regressive tax, harming those who least can afford such harm. In Montrose we all pay 5.05% for our basic items of subsistence. 3.3% of that is "self collected" by the City. 1.75% of that tax is returned to County coffers via the State of Colorado.

According to information provided in a recent CORA request, the City takes in a yearly average of \$ 2.7+ million in grocery taxes. That equates to over \$85 million in gross grocery sales. Based on those sales, the County brings in an average of \$ 1.4+ million in grocery tax. Combined that's well over \$4.2 million annually sucked out of critical grocery budgets here in Montrose. With a population of 19,500 that equates to \$860 annually for a family of four, not an insignificant amount considering the average income here is under \$ 23,000.

More sobering are some Montrose demographics that show clearly that the sales tax on home food is detrimental to families of lower incomes, as well as those seniors relying heavily on Social Security: Individual incomes and median household incomes are 20% and 19% respectively below the national average, 38.9% of our population is of social security age, the overall poverty rate is 43.96%, 5300 families monthly rely on Sharing Ministries for food assistance, 2500 families monthly rely on the County Food Assistance program for subsistence, and in our School District a staggering 49.7% of our kids are relegated to free or partial assistance. Shameful!

In 2003 a citizens' initiative on the ballot sought to remove that tax on food, but the City fought against it tooth and nail, claiming it couldn't afford to give up that income. They didn't want to give up the tax visitors dropped here, but were perfectly willing to gouge the local citizens who shop here 365/yr and fund local government. Today is a much different situation. With the City averaging collecting \$2.7+ million in grocery tax annually, that equates to about 4.5% of what many believe to be an inflated \$61+ million budget for 2020.

Then, considering that for the last six years, the City has averaged \$2.87 million in sales tax receipts over what was budgeted, it becomes clear that eliminating the tax on home food would not be fatal to the City. As has happened in the recent past, there is no doubt the City will ques-

tion my calculations, but any citizen willing to invest the time, an understanding of basic math, and a working knowledge of high school algebra can come up with the same information.

It's encouraging, now that this grocery tax is becoming a topic of broad discussion, that the City has expressed a willingness to "consider" its possible elimination. It'll be interesting to see where that "consideration" takes us, but I wouldn't hang my hat on the City leading any charge to reduce its tax and spend policies, that for once would benefit the many less fortunate among us.

The good news is that a citizen's group has formed to prosecute the elimination of the grocery tax via a ballot initiative. As that quest progresses more information will be available.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

### DELTA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INTRODUCES NEW CAMPAIGN FOR 2020

THE REAL TRICK IN LIFE IS TO TURN HINDSIGHT INTO FORESIGHT THAT REVEALS INSIGHT. — ROBIN S. SHARMA

Each of us has heard the proverb "hindsight is 20/20" and we generally accept this to be an accurate statement. With the benefit of having lived through an event, we can look back on the experience with perfect vision and derive learning lessons therefrom. While there is great value in employing hindsight so as to avoid repeating our mistakes, the downside of hindsight is that we had to make our mistakes, initially, in order to obtain this level of clarity.

In sharp contrast, "foresight" is our ability to predict future events in order to avoid making mistakes or missteps in the first place. There is no area of our lives where foresight is more important than in the field of health care. If we rely on 20/20 hindsight related to our medical decisions, it could be too late for proper treatment. With the understanding that 20/20 hindsight has no place in preventative medicine.

If we can catch a potential health issue before it becomes a health problem, we can abandon "20/20 hindsight" as nothing more than a cliché, and convert this concept into a movement so Delta County Memorial Hospital can proudly proclaim this upcoming year as: "2020 Foresight For Your Health."

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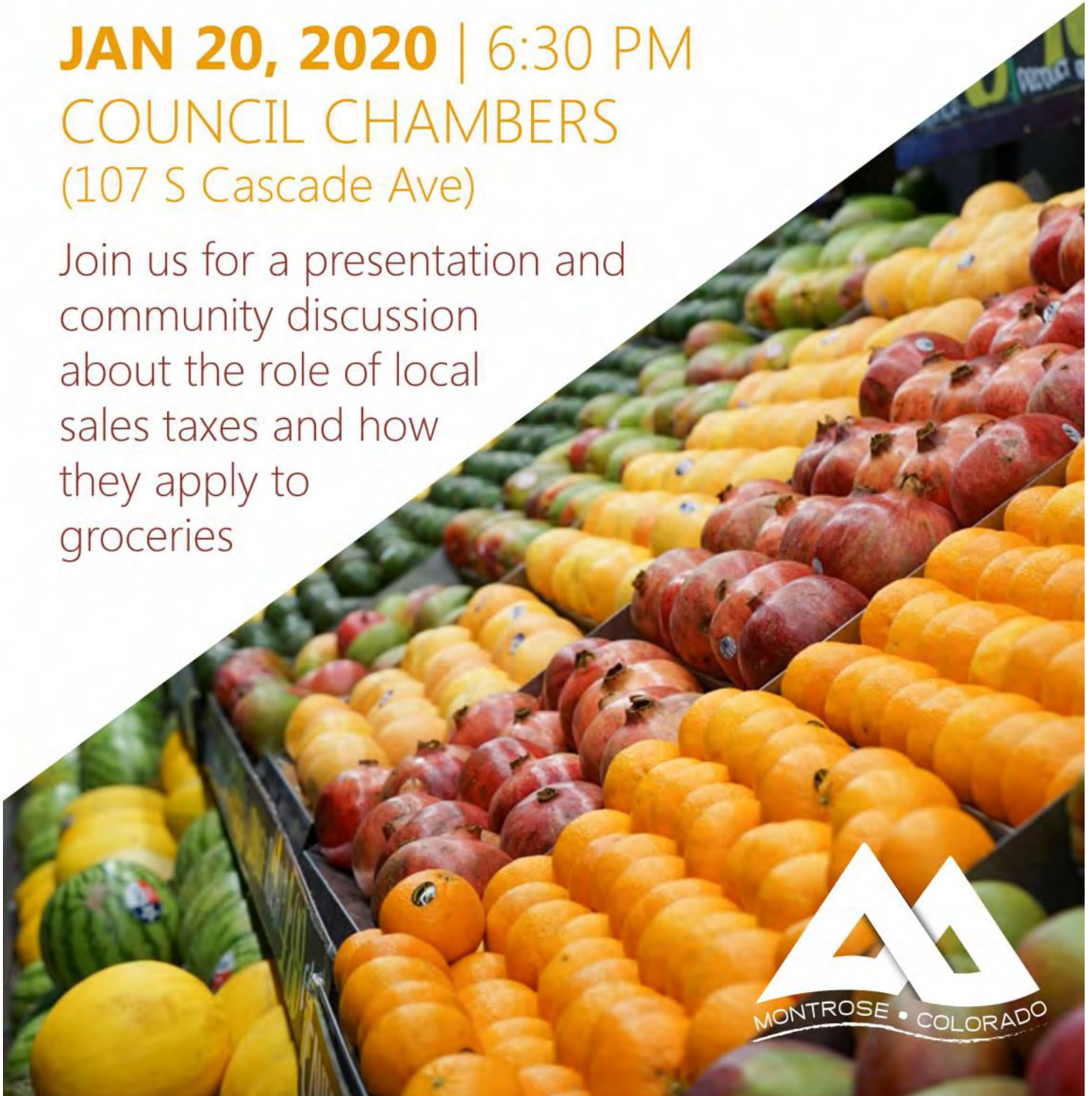


# GROCERIES & LOCAL SALES TAX

**JAN 20, 2020** | 6:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
(107 S Cascade Ave)

Join us for a presentation and  
community discussion  
about the role of local  
sales taxes and how  
they apply to  
groceries





## ***COUNCILORS SPEAK OUT AGAINST ELIMINATING COUNCIL DISTRICTS*** From pg 1

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty presented information on a **request for incentives for a Marriot/Fairfield Inn & Suites** at the Colorado Outdoors Project location across from the Justice Center.

"Our community has not seen a new hotel in over 13 years," Rosty said. The new "very high-end" hotel fills a much-needed high-end hotel niche, she said, adding that the hotel will hopefully be a catalyst for retail.

Guests who come to the Montrose Visitor Center have been asking for a higher-end hotel, she said.

"They really wish there was a nicer place to stay in Montrose."

The Fairfield Inn would add 90 out of 200 estimated rooms needed; would advance development at the Colorado Outdoors project; and will create 10 full-time and 20 part-time jobs. It is expected to bring in \$93K in annual sales tax revenue. Construction value would be \$14M. \$216K in City incentives would consist of \$55K for signage and infrastructure (paid for from tourism promotion and retail sales enhancement funds) as well as \$161K in permit and tap fees.

"We have historically waived tap fees in the past," Councilor Roy Anderson said. "...this wouldn't be any different."

City Manager Bill Bell noted that the City has not had a new hotel in 13 or 14 years. "The City didn't do economic development before...in the past eight years we have done more direct business development...we have set a precedent in the past eight years...large construction projects benefit the whole community and we waive tap fees.

"There will be a lot more information in the closed session with MURA tomorrow."

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said that offering incentives to business is not unique to the City of Montrose. "...These are the tools we have in our toolbox." Though signage is part of the package, it will not be specific to the business itself "in case the business goes away," she said. City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer

presented information on a resolution in support of a **Community Development Block Grant for the Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club**. Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Bud Taylor and grant Writer Lori Sharp were also present for the discussion. The Club has purchased property on East Niagara Road and has raised more than \$730K to build a new facility, the resolution states. The grant will assist with up to \$600K toward construction of the facility.

"This is a huge grant for us," Taylor said. "It is going to in turn help a huge number of families...this is a project that needs to happen to help our community." There are presently 12 high-functioning autistic youth served by the club, and plans for the new facility, which will have four classrooms and a gym, will also include a "quiet room" so that those youth can "decompress" as needed, he said. "...We've done our homework and the kids are excited."

Children spend long hours and five days a week at the club, Sharp said. "Their parents are working...we do a mandatory power hour every day for academic support...hopefully this grant award will unlock other dollars."

The resolution will be placed on the City meeting agenda for Jan. 21.

Senior Planner Garry Baker presented information on **potential changes to City code concerning modular construction**, which has been discussed previously in work session. Changes to the code will allow the City to keep pace with innovations in the building industry, he said.

Background: A memo prepared by Baker for Council notes, "Currently modular buildings for residential use are administered in the same way as Manufactured Housing, and are allowed only in the MHR, R-5, and R-6 zoning districts. Modular buildings for commercial and other non-residential uses are currently allowed in any zoning district, subject to the use reg-



***Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club Executive Director Bud Taylor presents plans for the Club's new facility on Niagara Road at the City Council work session Jan. 6***

ulations in that zone district...the proposed ordinance creates a new definition for a Modular Building, and clarifies that modular buildings are not a type of manufactured housing. Modular buildings for residential use would continue to be allowed in any zoning district where manufactured housing is allowed and also in any zone district if approved with a Planned Development (PD) Plan."

Councilor Roy Anderson said that modular construction is essentially, "just another building technique."

"I am not sure why, in the past, it needed to be restricted in any manner," he said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that while manufactured housing has been around for years, modular construction is fairly new.

The proposed ordinance will come before Council at the Jan. 21 meeting.

City Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed the **purchase of a web-based version of the City's Fleet Management Software**. The previous version of the software, from Faster Asset Solutions, was used by the City until 2018 when it became obsolete and could not be updated. The new version is web-based, more user-friendly, and will allow tracking of equipment and replacement schedules by department. The purchase is budgeted for 2020, and the purchase amount of \$84,590 is \$1,410 under the budgeted

***Continued next pg***

## ***COUNCILORS SPEAK OUT AGAINST ELIMINATING COUNCIL DISTRICTS From previous pg***

amount of \$86K.

Scheid also discussed **purchase of a skid steer and backhoe at auction.**

Background: A memo prepared for Council by Scheid notes that the City now owns a 2005 John Deere Skid Steer (estimated replacement cost \$60K) and a 2005 John Deere 310 SG Backhoe (estimated replacement cost \$110K) that are scheduled to be replaced in 2020. Both items are included in the 2020 budget and the level of usage justifies buying a used piece of equipment rather than a new piece of equipment for their replacement.

"We are trying to find something lightly used," Scheid said, and added that he will take a mechanic with him to auction to test the equipment, "to make sure we're not buying a lemon of some sort."

As proposed by Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum at a previous work session, **Council discussed possibly amending the City Charter to do away with specific Council Districts** and to instead elect the top three "vote getters" in the municipal election.

"Council is always concerned with attracting quality candidates," City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. "This is all geared toward getting the best quality candidates for office."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that while she is elected in her own District, "We all represent everyone...I have represented anyone who wanted to talk to me...I think our constituents reach out to whomever they feel comfortable speaking with...I think it's very important that we stay with our geographic areas."

Said Mayor Dave Bowman, "I think this is a really bad idea." With the existing District representation, "you all go home every night to your district," he said. The community is to a certain degree segregated economically, he added.

"Everybody deserves a voice," Bowman said. "We could end up with councilors who are all from a certain area...put it on the ballot if you want to, but I will actively

campaign against it."

Bynum said, "I think it would allow more people to run for City Council...I think it is a way we could make our Council stronger."

Glaspell said, "I don't think I could support it...residents feel that they would lose the one-on-one contact that they have."

Anderson said, "I like having people from each part of the City on Council...you could potentially end up with three next-door neighbors."

"I am not sure we have a very diverse council as it is," Bynum said. "...I thought there was room for improvement...I really just wanted to try something new and different...to get hate mail about this is a little much."

Though he is staff and not on Council, Attorney Alcorn joined the discussion. "I am concerned that this will stifle discussion...we're just bouncing ideas off each other."

Files suggested that in future Alcorn not spend time working on proposed changes to Charter without being directed to do so by Council.

Said Bynum, "The process of Council looking at new ideas can be cumbersome."

"That's government," Bowman said.

Also presented was an overview of De Novo hearing procedures, in advance of a Jan. 21 de novo hearing concerning a proposal by the Montrose Elks Lodge for an RV park and conditional use permit.

Bynum said that she owns property in the vicinity of the proposed RV Park and would not be involved in the hearing.

### **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Files suggested that the City host an open discussion on issues related to the tax on food for home consumption.

Bowman reminded Council that the issue of a food tax repeal was voted down in 2004.

City Manager Bill Bell suggested an open house to address the issue be held at 5

p.m. on Jan. 20.

"We should invite the County," Bell said. "Any change to the food tax affects the County's safety tax."

Citizen Yvonne Meek spoke up, asking Council to instead hold the meeting at 6:30 to make it easier for the public to attend.

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo said that there will be a candidate information session for those running for the three open City Council seats from 5 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 4.

Files praised Public Works staff for their snow removal efforts.

Bowman gave kudos to Montrose County for the Jan. 4 concert featuring country artists Lorrie Morgan and Aaron Tippin. "Thanks to them for getting the Event Center up and going."

He also reminded everyone that the Black Canyon Golf Course is closed for golf but open for cross country skiing; "There's a track...put your golf clubs away and get out your skis."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that the City has hired a Community Engagement Specialist.

"We're really excited to have her on our team."

Morgenthaler also noted that discounted corporate passes are now available for the Black Canyon Golf Course, as well as discounted summer passes for local teachers and school district employees.

The Comprehensive Plan Update process will resume now that the Holidays are over, Baker said.

City Engineer Scott Murphy said that while work remains to be done on the Connect Trail project, the trail is fully useable and open to the public.

Petitions to run for City Council are now available, DelPiccolo said.

"There has been a lot of interest in the candidate packet...petitions can be picked up at City Hall."

"Thanks everyone for coming," Bowman said.

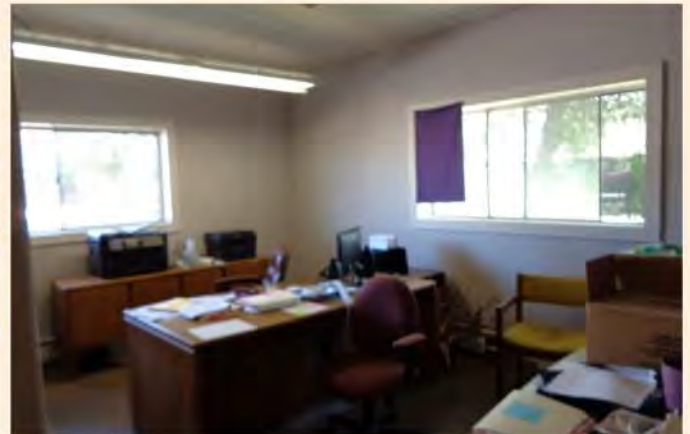




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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SALES TAXES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will host a community meeting to present information related to local sales taxes and how they apply to groceries, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20, at City Council Chambers, 107 South Cascade Ave. The public is encouraged to attend; learn

about the structure of local sales taxes in the funding of local governments and discuss the role of sales taxes related to groceries.

City Council and staff will be in attend-

ance. City staff will give a presentation related to the past and current state of sales tax funding in Montrose, followed by an interactive opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share ideas.

### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS SET FOR 1/14 & 1/15

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District Board of Education launched the superintendent search process and has contracted with the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) to facilitate and support this important endeavor.

To help determine the qualities and characteristics of the district's next superintendent of schools, CASB will hold focus group meetings in January 2020. These meetings will be held to encourage our staff, students, parents and community to be a part of selecting our next superintendent. Below are the scheduled dates for those meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6 pm - Olathe Middle/High School Cafeteria

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6:30 pm - Montrose High School Cafeteria

Following the focus group meetings, the board will be accepting applications to be on the interview teams. There will be two teams of seven individuals, with representation from staff, parents and community. More information will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Laird at 970-252-7902 or at [laurie.laird@mcsd.org](mailto:laurie.laird@mcsd.org).



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## CITY INCREASES FUNDING FOR MEDC; ANNOUNCES MEETING ON FOOD TAX



**City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo administered the formal oath of office to Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen, who recently passed the Colorado Bar.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7. All Councilors were present; the Youth Council Representative was Claire Wilson.

Having recently passed the Colorado Bar, Assistant City Attorney Rachel Allen was sworn in and given the oath of office. Municipal Court Judge Robert Brown administered the swearing-in ceremony for Allen; "It was tailored to Rachel by Rachel," he noted. "Congratulations and thank you for being a part of the community," Brown said when he was finished. City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo administered the formal oath of office.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Two citizens stepped up to address Council.

Local business owner Scott Damman thanked Councilor Judy Ann Files, Council, and City Manager Bill Bell for addressing the issue of exempting groceries from sales tax and for proposing a public meeting on the subject for Jan. 20. He asked Council to consider a meeting format that does not break citizens into small groups but addresses the full group as one.

"...this consideration is very meaningful to many families in the Montrose community," Damman said, and noted that he is

not speaking on behalf of any group but as an individual.

"I know there's various types of formats for a public meeting," he said. "...please consider a format that is full group in nature where everyone can exchange ideas, discuss impacts, and have opinions in a collective, together manner...I certainly would recommend against an open house style.

"I think we saw with the CDOT US 50 open house that it was pretty much a disaster," he said. "You had over 100 people show up to go through Q&A and there was no format. So let's take our

time to do this the right way in a candid nature and make it productive...again, I wanted to thank Council and the administration in the attempt to exempt groceries from sales tax; if we can get there I think it would be a great collective win.

"It all adds up."

He mentioned also appreciation for the news that Maverick Fuels is coming to Montrose. "New competition is great; that's a win. Maybe Maverick will offer a few supercharging stations. Overall, I certainly think we can work together to create and maintain a nice balance of City essentials, amenities, and opportunity."

Also speaking was local business owner Scott Riba.

"Good evening," Riba said. "I did not attend the work session yesterday, but I've heard through various reports that the concept of changing the City Charter to do away with Council Districts was pretty much defeated...is that correct?"

"I wouldn't use the word defeated," said Mayor Dave Bowman, "There's no reason to discuss it anymore."

"Ok, you're not moving forward with it, from my understanding," Riba said. "I also was understanding that, Dave, you had said that if it had moved forward, you would actively campaign against it...I wanted to congratulate and thank the four Councilors who voted to defeat that

or at least table it for now."

"We did not vote, and we did not vote to defeat it," Bowman said.

"It's no longer on the ballot," Riba said.

"Is that correct?"

"It was never on the ballot," Bowman said. "We had a discussion and we've moved on."

"...It was being proposed as a change to the City Charter, and it's no longer being proposed as a change to City Charter," Riba said. "It was my understanding that the majority of Councilors chose to not move forward with it on the ballot as a Charter change...My thanks to the Councilors who chose to not move forward with it. We have a representative form of government in this country and this state, and we should have a representative form in this City that is based off of districts, and not just an at-large group of councilors that are supposed to represent everyone. Thank you very much."

Said Bowman, "We do not vote on things at the work session. We discuss them and we find a direction to move, which is exactly what we did with the issue around electors."

Said Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum, who initially proposed the elimination of districts, "I think the decision to not move forward was unanimous."

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With Councilor Doug Glaspell abstaining because he had not been present, Council voted to approve minutes of the special and regular Dec. 17, 2019 City Council meetings.

### DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL POSTING LOCATION

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted unanimously to approve the City of Montrose website, [www.cityofmontrose.org](http://www.cityofmontrose.org), as the official posting location for meeting notices, with the bulletin boards in the lobby and outside of City Hall for use as secondary locations. Though the Colorado legislature now considers a web site posting 24-hours prior to be sufficient notice, "We are not going to do anything different," City Clerk

*Continued next pg*

## ***CITY INCREASES FUNDING FOR MEDC; ANNOUNCES MEETING ON FOOD TAX***

***From previous pg***

Lisa DelPiccolo said. "Our agendas will be posted as they always were."

"Thank you," Mayor Bowman said.

"I think it's great and transparent that despite the fact the law says we can post it online, we are going to continue to post it in two locations," Bynum said. "...It's a great way to make sure people are informed about what we are doing."

"...It's nice that it's both inside and outside..." Councilor Roy Anderson said.

### **MEDC FUNDING REQUEST**

Council voted unanimously to approve \$10k in additional funding for the local Economic Development entity, Montrose Economic Development Corporation. MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head spoke to Council. "...We are very pleased with the consideration of Council to grant us additional funding," Head said. "In the last several years our relationship with City Council has been greatly improved, and I do compliment councilors and staff for that."

"We have a great working relationship, and we work quite extensively with Chelsea Rosty on prospects," she said. "...As we work with our prospects, what we offer is that go-between between government and companies. "Sometimes they are not comfortable coming and talking directly to government," Head said, noting that MEDC is the local economic development contact for the State of Colorado.

"...We have ten active prospects, one we have been working with since 2015," Head said. "I spoke to them today and they believe that 2020 is actually the year they will be able to start up here and grow."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "Am I correct, that's \$10K in addition to the money that we were already allowing for expenses?"

The City currently provides \$5K to MEDC, Head said. The additional funding was unanimously approved.

Head noted that MEDC will move its meetings to Wednesdays as requested, to avoid schedule conflicts with City Council meetings.

"Merry Christmas...as we all work together, our community just rises up," Bowman

said. "Thank you very much for your work."

In other business, Council approved the purchase of a 2020 Ford Transit van from Montrose Ford for the total purchase price of \$47,311 for the Montrose Police Department, and purchase of a Peterbilt refuse truck with a Labrie Service body from Faris Machinery of Grand Junction for the total purchase price of \$284,770 for the Public Works Department. Both items have been previously discussed in work session.

Following discussion of the refuse truck, Files said to Youth Council Representative Claire Wilson, "It's great to do a ride-along in a trash truck."

"We're talking about different types of ride-alongs," Wilson said, though the rest of her response was obscured by loud Council laughter.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Senior Planner Garry Baker gave an update on an upcoming de novo hearing regarding the Montrose Elks Lodge's proposed RV park and conditional use permit. "What it amounts to...you will be undertaking a de novo hearing on the conditional use permit on January 21<sup>st</sup>."

City Director of Business Innovation and Tourism Chelsea Rosty provided a recap of the Annual Development & Revitalization Team (DART) Summary recently presented at work session.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid said that the City will pick up Christmas trees through January, a separate service from regular trash pickup. Those who would like wood chips from the trees can come by the Public Works Department, Scheid said.

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that the City will host a meeting at 6:30 on Jan. 20. The format has not yet been finalized, Morgenthaler said, and noted that "it could take days" to give all citizens the opportunity to speak. The goal is to for everyone to "hear from one another," she said. "We will have food there," she said, noting that attendees will



***MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head spoke to City Council at the regular meeting Jan. 7.***

not have to miss supper. "Our staff puts together a really good spread of food."

Morgenthaler invited citizens to attend the meeting and become engaged in the process, though she did not state the purpose of the meeting. Mayor Bowman said that it would concern the impacts of removing the sales tax on food for home consumption.

Youth Council Representative Wilson gave an update on recent Youth Council activities, including a well-attended Rock the Rec event that drew 65 people. The next Rock the Rec will take place in February, she said.

Youth Councilors have been enjoying presentations by City staff, she said, and will soon hear a presentation by Erica Weeks of Habitat for Humanity.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Citizens' Police Academy is full and would begin Jan. 8, with a Latino Citizens Police Academy scheduled for later in January. "We are really excited about that." The City will coordinate the Latino Citizens Police Academy with Ricardo Perez of Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP).

Bowman said that three seats are open on City Council in the April municipal election (Districts 3,4, and at-large) and petitions may be picked up from the City Clerk's office.

"We hope people will get involved."

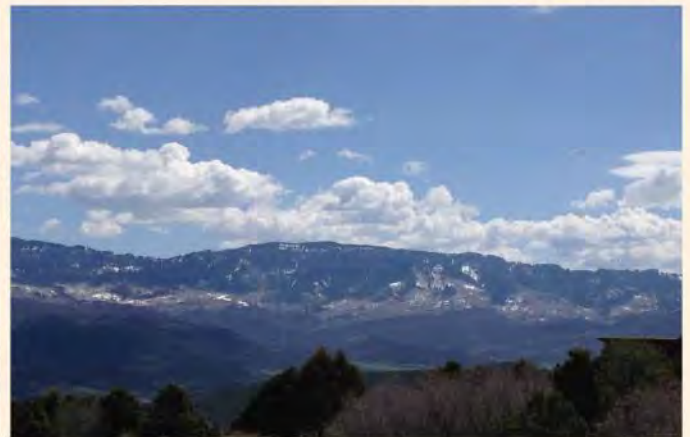
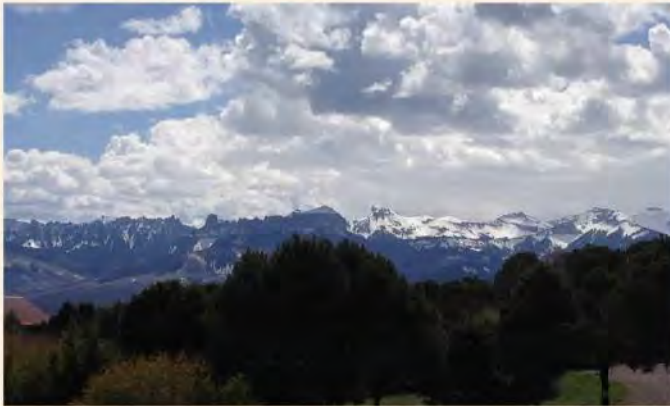
With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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**Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2 | 1,709 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2005**

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## TRI-STATE RETIRES ALL COAL GENERATION IN COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO

*Special to the Mirror*

WESTMINSTER – On Jan. 9, not-for-profit cooperative wholesale power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association announced the retirement of its remaining New Mexico coal-fired power plant by the end of 2020 and its remaining Colorado coal plants and coal mine by 2030.

Collectively, the closure of the power plants and mine will impact approximately 600 power plant and mine employees, who have been integral to Tri-State's and its predecessor generation and transmission cooperatives' ability to supply reliable and affordable power to cooperatives for decades.

"Serving our members' clean energy and affordability needs, supporting state requirements and goals, and leading the fundamental changes in our industry require the retirement of our coal facilities in Colorado and New Mexico," said Rick Gordon, chairman of the board of Tri-State and a director of Mountain View Electric Association in eastern Colorado. "As we make this difficult decision, we do so with a deep appreciation for the contributions of our employees who have dedicated their talents and energy to help us deliver on our mission to our members."

Tri-State will work with state and local officials to support affected employees and their communities during the transition. "Our focus is on making these changes with the care and respect our employees and their communities deserve – easing the transition whenever and wherever possible," said Duane Highley, chief executive officer of Tri-State.

*Retirements fundamentally change Tri-State while maintaining strong financial position*

Tri-State's commitment to the early closure of all the coal facilities it operates, and upcoming actions to be announced next week as part of its Responsible Energy Plan<<https://tristate.coop/responsibleenergyplan>>, fundamentally transform the cooperative power supplier, while maintaining its strong financial posi-

tion.

"We are leading to be the cleanest, most flexible and most competitive cooperative power supplier for the benefit of our members, the communities they serve and the states we live in," said Highley.

Tri-State's strong financial position and cooperative business model helps ensure wholesale rates remain stable, if not lower, during its transition. Tri-State will account for coal assets over time through a to-be-determined use of deferred revenue, accelerated depreciation or regulatory asset recovery. "With our not-for-profit cooperative business model and strong financial position, Tri-State is favorably positioned to successfully transition our resources at the lowest possible cost," said Highley. "The low costs of renewable energy and operating cost reductions help to counterbalance the cost to retire our coal assets early." Tri-State announced the development of its Responsible Energy Plan in July 2019. The plan, which includes significant renewable energy additions, will be announced this week.

*Escalante Station in New Mexico retiring by the end of 2020*

Escalante Station, a 253-megawatt coal power plant near Prewitt, N.M., will close by the end of 2020. The power plant was constructed by Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative and began operations in 1984. Plains Electric merged with Tri-State in 2000. The closure of the power plant will impact 107 employees.

"The timeline to retire Escalante Station by the end of 2020 is driven by the economics of operating the power plant in a competitive power market, and by Tri-State's addition of low-cost renewable resources," said Highley. "Our Escalante Station employees work safely and tirelessly to serve our cooperative's members, and we're committed to support them through this difficult transition."

Escalante Station employees will receive a generous severance package, the opportunity to apply for vacancies at other Tri-State facilities, assistance with education and financial planning, and supplemental

funding for health benefits.

Tri-State will also provide \$5 million in local community support, and is working with the New Mexico Governor's Office, legislative leaders and local communities in Cibola and McKinley counties to address the impacts of the transition, including workforce retraining and other economic development efforts. Tri-State will also address issues related to the McKinley Paper Company, which purchases steam and water from Escalante Station.

"Tri-State will provide local communities with resources they can utilize where they see fit, and we are pursuing all available avenues for additional support," said Highley.

Tri-State previously retired its coal ownership capacity in Unit 3 of San Juan Generation Station in New Mexico in 2017. *Craig Station and Colowyo Mine in Colorado retiring by 2030*

Craig Station, a 1,285-megawatt, three-unit power plant located in Moffat County, Colo., will close by 2030. The power plant's units were constructed by Colorado Ute Electric Association and began operations between 1979 and 1984. Tri-State acquired Craig Station and other assets from Colorado Ute in 1992. The power plant employs 253 people.

Tri-State previously announced that the 427-megawatt Unit 1 will close by the end of 2025; that date remains unchanged. The 410-megawatt Unit 2 and the 448-megawatt Unit 3 will close by 2030. Tri-State operates Craig Station and owns 24% of Units 1 and 2. Tri-State owns 100% of Unit 3. Tri-State is working with the other plant owners to determine the specific details for the retirement of Unit 2.

Colowyo Mine, located in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties, produces coal used at Craig Station and will cease production by 2030, at which time operations will turn entirely to reclamation. Tri-State purchased Colowyo Mine from Rio Tinto in 2011. The mine currently employs 219 people. Tri-State previously retired its coal capacity at Nucla Station in Western Colorado in 2019.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COUNTY RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO TEST HOMES FOR RADON IN JANUARY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of nearly 21,000 Americans each year. Montrose County is offering free radon test kits during the month of January in an effort to protect county residents and their families. Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk and testing--at the correct time--may help prevent unnecessary exposure. January is National Radon Action Month and Montrose County urges homeowners to take this simple step to protect their families from radon exposure.

"The radon test kits are part of a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and we are grateful that the region has received grant funding for the past several years to offer this service to homeowners in Montrose

County," said Interim Public Health Director Jim Austin. "The kits are an easy way to protect your family and know your risk. There are also resources available to aid with mitigation assistance."

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas responsible for hundreds of Colorado lung cancer deaths each year. The colorless, odorless, tasteless gas can enter homes through minuscule cracks in the floor or small spaces around utility pipes. It can accumulate unless properly mitigated. Long-term radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second-leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. More Americans die from lung cancer than any other cancer.

Governor Polis has declared January as Radon Action Month, and state environmental officials hope residents will take the time to test their homes. According to

the Governor's proclamation, approximately 50 percent of Colorado homes have radon levels in excess of the EPA recommended action level of 4 pCi/L and all of Colorado's 64 counties are rated at high risk for elevated radon.

Testing is easy and affordable. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's [website](#) also lists contractors certified by the National Radon Proficiency Program who install systems to mitigate radon. Colorado residents also can call the state's Radon Hotline at [1-800-846-3986](tel:1-800-846-3986).

Free test kits are available while supplies last (one per homeowner) at Montrose County Public Health offices at 1845 South Townsend Avenue or at the Montrose County Public Health and Human Services building in Nucla at 851 Main Street.



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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### STOP THE CITY'S UNNEEDED AND UNWANTED WASTEFUL SPENDING

*Editor:*

A few years ago our fair city spilled its treasury on bringing Mayfly to town. One of the gimmicks publicly stated at that time was that the deal included extra land to Mayfly in return for their 'promise' to bring a Marriot to town near their building. Apparently the deal went south when Mayfly (it was rumored) asked Marriot for too high a price for the land. It really doesn't matter, any dim-whit would have told the council that Marriot will not build a Marriot in a burg as huge as Montrose.

Obviously the deal never came to fruition but what did come about is that apparently our current council members have been convinced to do a replay of something they never knew about, paid attention to or cared about.

With that debacle unfolding as it did last week they now feel that it is their duty to bring a Fairfield to town with another bunch of incentives----from large amounts of cash, city services and city give-aways to re-incarnate the old dead project

(already incentivized once) with another and new incentivized life!

Of course, now that we have 2A with no real restrictions on how the largess of that tax is spent, our elitist council is going on a spending spree. With historical hiring procrastination of the past 10 years the city has already hired all of two of the promised 18 policemen. All this profligate waste is under the guidance of the 'city spending manager' or is a more correct title 'waste manager'.

We are told that Montrose needs an upscale Motel/Hotel to cater to the nuevo riche who patronize Telluride. The 38% of Montroseans who are retired don't know of the need; the parents of the 43% of our children receiving free lunches don't know it; the Montrose motel owners/operators who so often have empty rooms for many nights don't know that Montrose needs more rooms available. If people who plan a visit to Telluride come to Montrose it is to catch a 'cab' to their destination. They don't want to stay here, they are only here

because there is no direct air service to Telluride. All they stop here for is liquor and a rest room----and heaven knows we have a plethora of very expensive johns in our local parks.

America, and Montrose, was built on private enterprise---not government give-aways. If a Fairfield motel is needed, PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD DETERMINE THE NEED, RAISE THE FUNDS AND BUILD IT. Not the petit bureaucrats with minimal business experience presently ensconced in the city council.

The city council and their 'waste manager' need to get out of the private enterprise business while on in the public sphere.

I say NO to paying tax money to private business for any reason except direct goods and services to the city.

Yes, I know that it has been a habit around here BUT it is long past time that the habituates are weaned and take the cure.

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

**249 8500**

*ANONYMOUS*

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ISSUE 245 Jan. 13, 2020

## ART &amp; SOL

## BEATLES VS. STONES TRIBUTE SHOW TO RETURN TO GRAND JUNCTION STAGE



Courtesy photo.

## Special to Art &amp; Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-The debate between the Beatles and the Rolling Stones has been going on ever since they first crossed paths on the charts 54 years ago. The argument at the time, and one that still persists, was that the Beatles were a pop group and the Stones were a rock band: the boys next door vs. the bad boys of rock. So who's better?

These two legendary bands will engage in an on-stage, throw down - a musical 'showdown' if you will - on Friday, March 13 at the Avalon Theatre courtesy of tribute bands *Abbey Road* and *Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show*. The show has played to a sold out audience at the Avalon last year.

Taking the side of the Fab Four is *Abbey Road*, one of the county's top Beatles tribute bands. With brilliant musicianship and authentic costumes and gear, *Abbey Road* plays beloved songs spanning the Beatles'



Courtesy photo.

career. They face off against renowned Stones tribute band *Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show*, who offer a faithful rendition of the music and style of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and the bad boys of the British Invasion.

Where did the idea for the show come from?

"Music fans never had a chance to see the Beatles and the Rolling Stones perform on the same marquee," said Chris LeGrand, who plays "Mick Jagger" in the show.

"Now, music aficionados can watch this debate play out on stage."

The Grand Junction show is part of a 125-stop tour of the U.S., Australia and Canada and has been touring since 2011.

The show also performs long term residencies for a number of the Harrah's Casino properties. The production includes some of the more popular songs from the two rock pioneers and covers the scope of

their musical careers, although the set list for *Satisfaction* usually includes Rolling Stones songs up to the 1980s. "They certainly have more pop songs but we're a really great live show. The fans are in for an incredible night of music!" says LeGrand.

During the two-hour show, the bands perform three sets each, trading places in quick set changes and ending the night with an all-out encore involving both bands.

The band members have their outfits custom-made, since avid fans know exactly what the Beatles and Stones wore on-stage during different time periods in their careers.

There's a lot of good-natured jabbing between the bands as well.

"Without Beatlemania, the Stones might still be a cover band in London," said Chris Overall, who plays "Paul".

"There's no question that the Beatles set the standard."

The audience naturally enjoys top shelf tributes to two legendary bands in the same evening. Like *The Idaho Statesman* said: "If you see only one tribute show, see this one...smart and loads of fun."

"It's just a fun time and a cool back-and-forth nonstop show," Overall said.

"We're going to bring it all. It's going to be an evening of high-energy music," said LeGrand.





## NEEDLE ROCK BREW PUB BREWS UP GREAT FOOD IN DELTA

DELTA – Michael and I found ourselves in Delta the other day, looking for the town of Austin, just East on Highway 92. We were trying to find the new location for one of our favorites, The Wildflower Bistro. Well, it was hard to find.

Hungry, we ended up at the Needle Rock Brew Pub along Highway 92. I'm not saying we were glad we got lost and couldn't find our destination, but it was a happy discovery. The Needle Rock Brewery is a great place and well worth a stop.

Food and the beer are great and the prices also. It's a family friendly place with a huge playroom for the kids downstairs.

The brew pub is known for its beverages and some superb burgers. Steaks get high marks too.

With a price range of from \$7 to \$28, vegetarian-friendly and gluten-free options, we had a lot to choose from including lunch, dinner, and drinks. Before we could order the waitress sat down a small bucket of buffalo chips (spicy!) for us to nosh on. Free for the first order; I couldn't take the heat so no reorder – but I'm a whimp that way. So much so that I was never able to eat authentic Mexican dishes in New Mexico, from where I moved to Montrose.

If you're into appetizers with a drink, the menu goes like this:

Hotchkiss Sliders. (Served with waffle

fries) \$4.99; Big Potato Waffle Fries, big potato fries \$4.99, for sweet potato fries, truffle Fries or duck fries add \$1, you can also load them up with sour cream, cheese and bacon for \$2 more; Bavarian pretzels (served with whole grain mustard cheese sauce.) \$6.99; Grilled Flatbread (topped with blue-cream cheese, cider poached pears, caramelized onions, hopped-up mixed greens and a balsamic reduction) \$10.49; Crispy Duck Rolls (egg rolls stuffed with duck confit, spicy cream cheese and served with JoJo sauce) \$11.99;

Grilled Artichoke (seasonally available heart of artichoke served with garlic aioli and salt & vinegar chips) \$10.99; Big Country Wings (mild to wild, Delta County wings in a choice of mild buffalo, dry buffalo, chef's gourmet, salt & vinegar, nitro stout BBQ, garlic parmesan or ghost in the dark hot. Served with carrot sticks, celery and peppercorn ranch or blue cheese). \$12.49; Beer Battered Onion Rings (served with house made dressings.) \$8.49; Dip Duo (freshly made tortilla chips served with queso and fire roasted salsa) \$6.99.

Today Mike and I were in the mood for something different and not quite so heavy. We quickly eyed the house-made

pastrami on warm rye bread and began thinking about a cold Needle Rock Red. No disappointment here.

We shared, as we often do, a wonderful sandwich featuring Needle Rock's own pastrami, swiss cheese, 1001 island dressing and the not-so-sour sauerkraut on marbled rye. Sweet potato waffle fries on the side please! And we each had a glass of the red. Now, I'm not so sweet on beer, really, but this tasted perfect with the sandwich. The sandwich was so big that we even considered taking some of it home, although we were sharing. Nope, finished it off it was that good. Our meal, including the beers set us back about \$25 plus tax and tip.

We also perused the dessert menu, everything looked good, but we were just too full. Choices from \$5.49 to \$6.99.

The lunch and dinner menus are the same with prices from \$7 to \$28, depending on what you're in the mood to eat. They also serve pizzas and soup or salad.



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**\$365,000**



**FOR SALE**

**60545 Kansas Road  
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Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2  
2,711 sq. ft. | Year Built: 2007  
**\$885,000**



**FOR SALE**

**6013 5825 Road  
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Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 1  
1,196 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1920  
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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### OURAY ELKS TO HOST SCOTTISH BURNS NIGHT DINNER JAN. 18

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

OURAY-The Ouray Elks lodge will host a unique fundraiser on Saturday night, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – a traditional Scottish Burns Night dinner and entertainment. “This is a great event for southwestern Colorado,” said event chairman Jim Pettengill. “It will be a really interesting and fun evening, both for people with Scottish roots and for the general public. Scots throughout the world celebrate the birthday of their most famous countryman, the great poet Robert Burns, with an evening of food, music and toasts. We’ll have a great roast beef dinner, live bagpiping, recitations of some of Burns’ poetry, and a great Celtic band from New Mexico for music and dancing. There will be haggis, we’ll have several single-malt Scotches available for tasting, and a slide show of Scotland’s most impressive scenery.”

The event is open to the public, with the bar opening at 5 pm and dinner served at 6 pm. Proceeds from the event will benefit local scholarships. The cost is just \$35 per person, or \$60 for couples. Attendees with Scottish heritage are encouraged to wear their clan tartan, and kilts if they have them. Although not necessary, Pettengill would appreciate RSVP for planning purposes. He can be contacted at 970-626-4239 (landline).

### DAN DEUTER’S CRITIQUE SESSIONS PRESENTED BY MCA

#### *Special to the Mirror*

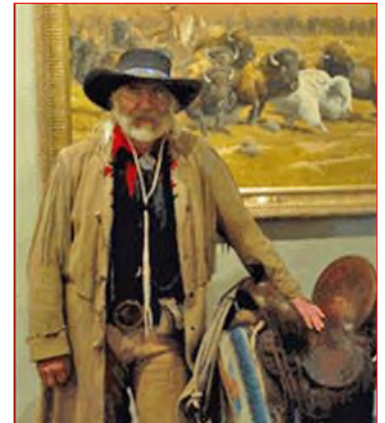
MONTROSE-Having problems with your painting? Composition, palette, color values and/or creating depth got you down? Dan will be available at MCA to work with you to find the answer.

He will be available at the Center the third Thursday of each month to work with you on your painting. This month’s session will be Thursday, Jan. 16 from 6 – 9 PM at the Center.

Bring your problem piece with you if possible. Dan will also bring his latest project to help you visualize the solutions. Keep in mind that Dan is an Oil Painter, and yet, many problems are universal.

Montrose Center for the Arts is located at 11 S. Park Avenue. Call MCA at 970-787-9428 with Questions. MCA will charge \$10 for the session to help defray expenses.

At right, Artist Dan Dueter, courtesy image.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTHS OF THE MONTH



*Alex. Courtesy photo.*



*Cody. Courtesy photo.*

Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) December Youths of the Month!

Cody is the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Cody is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Olathe Middle School.

His favorite part of the Club is the staff as he really values the adult connection and learning how to help out with the younger kids.

He is a natural leader and we see strong potential in him being a junior staff member when he is older.

He is a great role model for the rest of

the Club kids.

Alex is the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month.

Alex was chosen because of his great attitude and willingness to help out.

Recently Alex has made it his mission to keep the bookshelves neat and organized. Without staff asking him to, he just started lining up books and has spent his free time for the past week making sure the shelves stay organized.

He has been a huge help to Club! Alex is always excited to be at Club and is always an eager, active participant in activities.

Way to go Cody and Alex!

We are proud to call you Club kids.

For more information on the BCBGC, visit [www.bcbgc.org](http://www.bcbgc.org)

*Special to Art & Sol*

REGIONAL-Check out the Black Canyon

# Need Catering?

Holiday Parties  
Birthdays  
Weddings



*DineOutMontrose.com*

# Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

## Grateful Dead, Harvey Milk and the Sixties/Seventies in San Francisco



*Popocatepetl erupting (photo courtesy of Jerry Roberts)*

**SEASON OF THE WITCH** ...As I explained last week, I missed David Talbot's national bestseller (subtitled "Enchantment, Terror and Deliverance in the City of Love") when it came out in 2012). Big mistake. It's a blockbuster book, as all Talbot's ventures seem to be. His books on the Kennedy Years and the Dulles Brothers kept me in thrall front to back ... What was surprising was that none of my San Francisco friends told me about it. I was born there. Grew up there. Turned from priest-in-training to full-fledged hippie in the Summer of Love. Stayed there for ten years after ... I lived through nearly everything Talbot touches on. I danced to the Dead on acid in Speedway Meadow and the old Fillmore more than once. Living poor in the Duboce Triangle, I went to the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic regularly. When I moved to Noe Valley, I still had to get cross town to the Ma-

sonic St. side of the Panhandle where I directed a pre-school by day at old John Adams High School and was one of Cloud House's merry band of street poets by night ... Harvey Milk was my supervisor. He'd come to neighborhood meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> Street. I'd talked to him on the Muni. Marched my candle down to City Hall by way of Castro/Market the night Dan White assassinated Milk and Moscone ... All of this came alive for me again reading Talbot. I'd had friends who'd left Jones' Peoples Temple in time. Heard stories. But never knew how Jones had infiltrated and coopted Milk, Moscone, Joe Alioto, Joe Freitas, Willie Brown, Herb Caen, the Chronicle – and how most had defended him right up until Jones' faithful killed Rep. Leo Ryan in Guyana ... Of course, when it came to the 49ers, that was a Cinderella story that I followed for years. I was one of

those Niner faithful (really the #1 son of a lifelong fan) who had never seen them go all the way. And with Joe Montana, Dwight "The Catch" Clark, and Coach Bill Walsh they won a Superbowl. It did come, as Talbot suggests, as a kind of civic healing of sorts ... And, I have to admit, as being one who follows them to this day (and they aren't doing too bad right now, in no small part to ace play by ex-Bronco Emmanuel Sanders) ... Of course, Talbot's book was one look – admittedly from a very well-researched perspective – of the City by the Bay at one slice of its history. I go back to visit my grand-daughter every year, and there's a very different story to tell each time. And it was a bit hard to swallow Diane Feinstein's political apotheosis as any kind of "deliverance." For those of us urban progressives, her mayor-dom was a step backwards that propelled her into the Senate, where she has remained, impregnable, to the current day ... But quibbles like that only underscore how valuable Talbot's book is. I learned political facts, disputed accounts, scandals, gossip, all the juicy tabloid fodder about San Francisco wrapped in a great taco of a story of enchantment, terror and if not deliverance, at least distraction ... And I guess I can see why my San Francisco friends from my seminary days weren't about to recommend the book to me. Many of them became cops – all of us having grown up in the same Italian-Irish Roman Catholic establishment milieu. And the picture Talbot paints of San Francisco's political and law enforcement establishment is anything but pretty.

**RELLA AWARDS** ... The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program hosted a local school district competition in Telluride and announced the winners this week in the two \$200 categories: Kelly Stellmacher in the High School category, and

*Continued next pg*



## Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

co-winners Mikayla Ialeggio and Forest Olson in the K-9 category. An awards ceremony with readings by a dozen Honorable Mention students will take place Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Telluride Mountain School in Lawson Hill, followed by a Poetry Club reading with the students and Eduardo Brummel from Salida at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts HQ Gallery. For more info and a list of honored students and their poems, visit [tellurideinstitute.org/rella-awards](http://tellurideinstitute.org/rella-awards).

**WORLD WATCH** ... Popocatepetl ("Smoky Mtn" <Nahuatl) blows her top this week, releasing blasts of sulfur dioxide amid the 20,000' plume southeast of Mexico City ... Iran on high alert shoots down its own citizens on a Ukrainian airline flight leaving Tehran airport (one of those military

tragedies in times of warring) ... Taiwan gives a second term to the independence party President Tsai Ing-wen. Her opponent of the pro-Beijing party got barely over a third ... Cruise ship tourists killed in the sudden volcanic eruption of White Island not long ago, off the coast of New Zealand.

**WEEKLY QUOTA** ... "In one of the sorrier developments of the times, the Black Muslims took over the old Fillmore Auditorium at the corner of Geary and Fillmore – the scene of so much ecstatic, black-and-white harmonic convergence – after it was abandoned by Bill Graham in 1971, and they turned the venerable building into a mosque known as Muhammed Temple no. 26. It was his mosque that gave rise to the Zebra mur-

der cult that terrorized San Francisco from the fall of 1973 to the spring of 1974." – David Talbot

**POETRY** ... The lyric arts just took a big step forward nationally with a new section in the January issue of the redesigned *Scientific American* under the tutelage of acting editor Curtis Mainard – *Meter*, edited by Dave Sobel. The initial poem is from Diane Ackerman, "Maria Sibylla Merian, January 1670" ... Very impressive.

**ELISSA DICKSON** ... She's a dynamite performer who's been wowing crowds all over the Western Slope. She gave a powerful performance Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Telluride Arts HQ Gallery to a SRO crowd. Lee Taylor's Talking Gourd entry this week is in homage to her.

## THE TALKING GOURD

### Excerpts & Ingredients

Salvation  
such as you offer  
in your fearless swirl of words  
that lift us out of the ordinary,  
coalesces  
us into an unlikely  
tribe of the awestruck,  
our hearts plundered,  
surrendered with  
no need,  
no pause  
for prayer.

-Lee Taylor  
Lawson Hill

# Saturday Night Dance

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**Great Dancing to Classic Country & Rock 'n' Roll**





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- Mary Ann

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### ORDER TREES THROUGH SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM FOR JUST ONE MORE MONTH!

#### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The CSU Tri River Area Extension, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service, is once again offering seedling trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses for conservation purposes. There is NO acreage restriction; you just cannot resell these plants. The Tri River Area is selling plants in Mesa, Delta, E. Montrose, and Ouray Counties. Order from the office you where you plan to pick up your plants. But HURRY, we are only taking orders thru Feb. 3, so place your order now for mid-May pickup. These Colorado sourced plants are great for wildlife, screening, pollinator gardens and other conservation efforts.

Please call or stop by for availability and an order form. This is a statewide program, so order early while supplies are good.

Contact CSFS for Montrose and Ouray (970) 249-9051, CSFS for Delta and Mesa Counties: (970) 248-7325 or contact CSU Ext Agent Susan Carter at (970) 244-1834 or [susan.carter@colostate.edu](mailto:susan.carter@colostate.edu).

For order forms contact : Montrose/Ouray counties 970-249-3935; Delta County 970-874-2195; Mesa County 970-244-1834.

### MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT ANNOUNCES TECH TALK

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-A Tech Talk will take place Jan. 14, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Montrose Library Meeting Room. People of all ages and experience levels are welcome to this informal gathering of tech newcomers and enthusiasts alike. Whether that means you're just starting out on the computer, learning all about a new phone, or itching to talk to someone about drones, all are welcome! A staff member will be on hand to answer basic questions and provide resources, but you will find your peers are your best resource! Tech Talk will be held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, starting Jan. 14.

# Ed Brummel and Rella Awards Students January 14th

6:00 p.m.

Jan. 14, 2020

Telluride Arts HQ

Eduardo Rey Brummel of Salida  
and student contestants in the Rella Awards

Rella Awards ceremony for student contestants  
will take place at 4 p.m. at the Telluride  
Mountain School at Lawson Hill



For more info, visit  
[www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)



## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### TELLURIDE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF RELLA AWARDS FOR LOCAL YOUTH POETRY WRITERS

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE ... The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program announced the winners of a local school district student poetry competition: Kelly Stellmacher in the High School category, and co-winners Mikayla Ialeggio and Forest Olson in the K-9 category. Stellmacher will receive a \$200 award, and Ialeggio and Olson will receive \$100 each.

Stellmacher is a student of Emily Shoff of the Telluride Mountain School (TMS) and her poem is called "One Nod". Ialeggio is a Fourth Grade student of Sue Hehir at the Telluride Intermediate School (TIS), and her poem is "The Light Blues." And Forest is a Second Grade student of Cici James at the Telluride Elementary School, and his poem is "Watching the Stars."

An awards ceremony will be held Tuesday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at the Telluride Mountain School with readings by student poet winners, as well as those who received Honorable Mention in the contest.

Honorable Mention winners are: Delaney Spires, "To Write." (Junior, Telluride High School, Bonnie Emerick) Ruby McHarg, "No More Wolves." (Frosh, TMS, Mary Hearing) Gabriel Waldor, "A Study on the Human Condition." (7<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing) Siri Shoff, "Where Does Santa Go?" (8<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing) Charlotte Guest, "Shoes." (7<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing) Ellery Welch, "Tucked Away." (8<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing) Jula Ciecuch, "Passion." (7<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing) Breton Hampton, "Fire Fly." (8<sup>th</sup> Grade, TMS, Hearing)

Lana Kenworthy, "Polar Bear." (6<sup>th</sup> Grade, TIS, Caroline Farkouh) Peter Calderon, "Snowstorm." (4<sup>th</sup> Grade, TIS, Hehir) Rita Hynes, "Fire." (4<sup>th</sup> Grade, TIS, Hehir) Miles Silbergeld & Finnegan Smith, "Inside a Snow Globe." (4<sup>th</sup> Grade, TIS, Hehir) Abigail Pepper Tyson, "Turquoise." (4<sup>th</sup> Grade, TIS, Jill Anderson)

In total there were 81 entries from high school juniors to a kindergarten student. The winning poems and the honorable mention poems are in the process of being uploaded to the Telluride Institute website [here](#).

Thanks to a generous donation from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund and help from Peter Waldor, Talking Gourds was able to initiate this student poetry contest this year. The intent is to make it an annual event.

Born in Telluride in 1907, Rella studied at the University of Rome, taught at Bennington College and eventually lived in New York City.

As he explains it in the introduction to one of his books: "My most exciting times as a child in the mining camp up near timberline in the Rocky Mountains were those when I would get my first look at some species of wild animal – right there before me for that breathless moment. The animal, each time, was to me so incredibly and intolerably real that as soon as it had darted off I could hardly believe I had seen it. But I also knew that this animal was to be in my head forever – fabulous and in precise detail, as if I had seen it through a telescope..."

"My intense reaction to these sudden discoveries in some open patch in the

woods way up above the town has always been related, for me, to my recognition of poetry. It is also, I am sure, deeply related to my interest in the theater – and more completely, to my particular attitude to life as a whole. It was all already there to be seen and felt in those open patches in the woods: the tension of the amazing revelation in the concentrated light – and the claustrophobic coming in upon the light from the dark and inscrutable periphery."

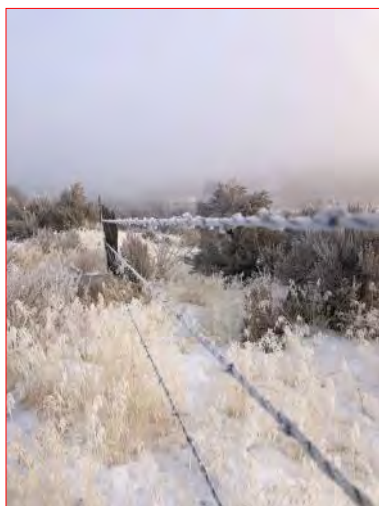
Rella wrote a large body of plays in verse. He received a Rockefeller Fellowship and grants from the Theatre Guild and the National Foundation for the Arts. His first play, *Please Communicate*, was produced in San Francisco. Later works, *Sign of Winter* and *The Place Where We Were Born* were off-Broadway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

As the two-term U.S. Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz wrote, "Ettore Rella's work is the courageous adventure of a rich and subtle mind through the labyrinth of our time."

Student winners will be invited to read their poems at the Talking Gourds Poetry Club meeting that same evening, Tuesday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts Gallery HQ across Pacific St. from the Wilkinson Public Library. Featured guest reader will be Eduardo Rey Brummel of Salida. The theme prompt for the evening will be "Snow." Our next featured reader will be Kyce Bello of Santa Fe on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> (with a storm date of Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> if we get snowed out on the 11<sup>th</sup>). For more information, contact Art Goodtimes at 970-729-0220, by text (no voicemail). Or [shroompa@gmail.com](mailto:shroompa@gmail.com)



## MIRROR IMAGES...FROST & FOG



*Photos of last week's fog...from top left, San Juan Cinema sign by Gail Marvel; early morning fog east of Montrose by David Gillenwater; frost on a wire fence by B. Switzer.*





## SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

### CURRENT/ONGOING-

**READING LITE STORYTIME**-Every Wednesday, Jan. 15 - May 6, 10am - 10:30am. Enjoy Singing, playing, reading, and a craft all in about 30 minutes. Ages 2-6.

**READING TO ROVER**-Montrose Regional Library, Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 3:30 - 4:30pm. Read to a Morningstar Therapy Dog. Call 970.249.9656 option 2 or visit the children's desk to sign up for a 15-minute reading time.

**MONTROSE LIBRARY-CHESS CLUB** Every Tuesday, Jan. 14 - May 5, 4pm - 5pm. Join us in the library meeting room for once monthly chess club, chess boards and pieces provided. Children under age 7 must have an adult with them, no sign-ups required.

**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. 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](mailto:info@bosombuddiesswc.org).

**MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** meets the second Friday of every month at the Montrose Regional Library, Room 102 from 1:30 PM – 3 PM. Contact Chris Hebert with questions at [970-901-5876](tel:970-901-5876).

**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-

**Jan. 13**-Monday January 13 ,6:30 Montrose Library mtg rm -National Geographic "Years of Living Dangerously " next episode presented by [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) ,nonpartisan. all welcome. ? call 240-9146.

**Jan. 14**-Alpine Photography Club MeetingTuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, 7pm at Colorado Mesa University, 245 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, Room 206. Presentation: Getting Cold Feet, the Rewards of Shooting in the Winter, By: Vince Farnsworth. Sharing Theme: In the Spirit of the Holidays (3-5 images). Critiques: Open & Anonymous (up to three images). The public is welcome!

**Jan. 14**-A Tech Talk will take place Jan. 14, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Montrose Library Meeting Room. People of all ages and experience levels are welcome to this informal gathering of tech newcomers and enthusiasts alike. Whether that means you're just starting out on the computer, learning all about a new phone, or itching to talk to someone about drones, all are welcome! A staff member will be on hand to answer basic questions and provide resources, but you will find your peers are your best resource! Tech Talk will be held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, starting Jan. 14.

**Jan. 15**-The public is invited to a presentation on prehistoric stone features found in Montrose and Delta counties, by Rand Greubal, co-owner of Alpine Archaeological Consultants in Montrose. Greubal will present results of recent field examinations and new theories about the inhabitants of these ancient dwellings. The talk will be at 7 pm in the Montrose Methodist Church, Baldrige Hall, 19 S. Park Street, Montrose. Free admission.

**Jan. 16**-Montrose Library Teen Advisory Board. Montrose Regional Library is excited to announce that we are recruiting for our Teen Advisory Board (TAB)! What exactly is a Teen Advisory Board, you ask? Fun, pizza, and helping re-design the teen space. Teens 13 to 18 years old are welcome to join us on Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Library Meeting Room for our first meeting! Get here any time between 3:30 and 5 p.m. A presentation will start at 4 p.m.

**Jan. 18**- The Ouray Elks lodge will host a unique fundraiser on Saturday night, Jan. 18 – a traditional Scottish Burns Night dinner and entertainment. The event is open to the public, with the bar opening at 5 pm and dinner served at 6 pm. Proceeds from the event will benefit local scholarships. The cost is just \$35 per person, or \$60 for couples. Attendees with Scottish heritage are encouraged to wear their clan tartan, and kilts if they have them. Although not necessary, Pettengill would appreciate RSVP for planning purposes. He can be contacted at 970-626-4239 (landline).

**Jan. 23**-from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Montrose Library Meeting Room, readers are invited to a community book discussion of "Church of the Graveyard Saints," by Chuck Greaves. The title was selected for the first annual Four Corners/One Book literary program by the towns of Montrose, Cortez, Dolores, Mancos, Ignacio, and Moab. The evening will include a public book discussion and Q&A with the author, facilitated by Rhonda Claridge of Colorado Mesa University. Refreshments will be served.

**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](http://www.kafmradio.org). The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

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

**Jan. 25**-Montrose Pavilion Dance Club with The Scones. Dance begins at 7:30 p.m.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:  
970-275-0646

[Editor@montrosemirror.com](mailto:Editor@montrosemirror.com)

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

## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN

*Photographer Deb Reimann captured this image of an eagle in a snowstorm near Ridgway. "I used a telephoto lens so as not to disturb him," she said.*



## READ THE MONTROSE MIRROR!



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