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© Issue No. 361 Jan. 27, 2020

CITY APPROVES ELKS RV PARK WITH CONDITIONS; INCENTIVES FOR HOTEL



Nearly every seat in Montrose City Council Chambers was filled for the regular council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The meeting included a De Novo hearing and request for Conditional Use Permit CUP18-0359 to allow a 32-site RV park at 801 S. Hillcrest Drive.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Nearly every seat in Council Chambers was filled, as Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed all to the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 21. All councilors were present; Youth Council Representative was Gunnison Clamp. There were no changes to the agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of the Jan. 7 regular Council meeting.

DE NOVO HEARING

Council held a De Novo hearing to consider a request for Conditional Use Permit CUP18-0359 to

[Continued pg 23](#)

MURA INVESTS IN HOTEL INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING PROJECT

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. Generally speaking, the MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the

Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by Mayfly Outdoors.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Tad Rowan (Montrose



Although not voting members of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA), Colorado Outdoors Project Developers David and Doug Dragoo (far right, L to R) have a seat at the table to give the board a business and marketing update. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Continued pg 17](#)

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issue

[Art Goodtimes'
Up Bear Creek!](#)

[Carole Ann McKelvey's
Rocky Mt. Cravings!](#)

[Outdoor Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann & Sue Williamson!](#)

[Regional news briefs!
Letters to the Editor!](#)

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS PRESENTS AWARD TO FOUNDER JOHN W. NELSON



Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers Founder John W. Nelson, right, was honored for his work on behalf of the organization on Jan. 16. Courtesy photo.

By John W. Nelson

MONTROSE-In December, 2013, then Police Chief Tom Chinn placed a newspaper ad seeking anyone interested in starting a Crime Stoppers program. Don Frey and I

responded. A prior effort had existed briefly many years prior.

I served as President of the 501(c)(3) Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc (MRCS) from inception until mid- 2019.

Support for the program came from both primary law enforcement agencies, the city and county administrations, Alpine Bank and a number of area donors. Susan Byrne, Director of the former Dispatch Center, worked tirelessly to develop the current program as well. Ted Valerio, of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, is currently the law enforcement Crime Stoppers Coordinator.

MRCS has been responsible for well over 60 arrests and 150 charges cleared, with tips on crime and criminals increasing each year.

The Crime Stoppers concept is more than 44 years old and local programs are members of Crime Stoppers USA, the national member driven educational support entity, with more than 500 member programs. Together, Crime Stoppers programs have accounted for over three-quarters of a million arrests and cleared over one million criminal cases.

Crime Stoppers is an invaluable tool of law enforcement but more importantly, is a valuable mechanism of the community to protect itself from crimes and other plagues of today's world.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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

We encourage contributions and commentary. Content may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher. For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REMEMBERING PAULINE'S STEAKHOUSE...

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, as I was driving out of Montrose headed to Delta, I found myself slowing down as I passed the site of Pauline's Steakhouse, near the north Montrose bypass. I say site, because heavy equipment had just torn down this iconic landmark in a small part of Montrose's history. Or at least a brief part of my history.

I moved to Montrose in 1978, and lived for a few weeks in the San Juan Motel next to the restaurant until I could find a house to rent, then later one to buy. It was a winter of heavy snows and cold weather. Every morning, before I headed off to work, I walked over and sat at the counter of Pauline's Steakhouse and ordered breakfast. Two eggs over easy, hashbrown potatoes, coffee with cream, and biscuits with sausage gravy. Before tip, my bill came to \$1.25.

Even after moving into a house, sometimes at work, we'd take a break, and five or six of us would head to Pauline's for a hearty breakfast.

The steakhouse was named for and owned by Pauline Walker. Born Pauline Carrie Weaver in 1928, in Grove Springs, Missouri, she grew up primarily in Hillsdale, Kansas. She moved from Kansas to Cortez, CO in 1957, and in the early 1970s moved to Olathe with her husband Claude Kennedy opening up the Bank of Olathe. After Claude's death in 1994, she moved to Montrose and three years later married William "Bill" Walker. Pauline died in 2005. She didn't just leave behind loving family and friends, but a whole lot of grateful patrons of Pauline's Steakhouse. I but one of many.

One morning, as our group was sitting enjoying breakfast on a cold December day, Pauline walked around with a bottle of whiskey and "doctored up" our coffees. Our waitress, when she dropped off our bill said laughing, "I've never seen Pauline do that before!" Sometimes the Union Pacific locomotives would stop on the tracks, and the employees would come in to eat. And even though it was called a

steakhouse, for dinner I always ordered liver and onions with extra onions.

Farmers, ranchers, businessmen, and government workers like myself were always made welcome there. Or at least the men were. My now wife remembers being in Pauline's one time wearing Dr. Scholl's sandals. She crossed her feet under the table slipping off her sandals. Immediately one of the waitresses walked up, without smiling, and told her to put her shoes back on.

As I continued my drive to Delta, I felt sadness at the loss of Pauline's Steakhouse. But then the happy memories of this small cafe, and images of Pauline greeting her customers and making us all a part of her family while we sat and ate, gave me warmth.

So to Pauline's memory and to the waitresses, cooks, and busboys/girls that worked there, thanks for your part in the town of Montrose. Thanks for that \$1.25 breakfast.

Jon Sering, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OURAY COUNTY CITIZENS DESERVE BETTER: SHERIFF SHOULD RESIGN

Editor:

Like many others in our community, the members of D3 are extremely troubled by the latest news involving the Ouray County Sheriff. It is one thing to make mistakes. We all do. Here however, the Sheriff's behavior demonstrates a pattern of behavior that he appears unable to control.

The latest incident comes on the heels of a recent prior incident involving the same parties. Once again, alcohol appears to have played a role. To make matters worse, the latest incident took place at a law enforcement conference that the Sheriff attended in his official capacity, presumably at the expense of Ouray County taxpayers who he represented at the conference.

The citizens of Ouray County deserve more from the highest law enforcement officer of the County.

We join our fellow citizens in urging the Sheriff to immediately resign from his position. We encourage him to seek the professional help he appears to need at this difficult time. If he fails to do the right and responsible thing, then we will join our fellow citizens in seeking his removal from office through the recall process.

Ouray County deserves stable and competent leadership. The Sheriff has demonstrated that he is unable to provide it.

Roger Sagal, Ridgway

Advisory Board Member, D3

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRAIL OF WOLF TRACKS OBSERVED BY COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Special to the Mirror

MOFFAT COUNTY - Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officials are confirming they have additional evidence that a group of wolves is now residing in northwest Colorado.

On Jan. 19, CPW wildlife officers investigated the discovery of an animal carcass surrounded by large wolf-like tracks in the northwest corner of Moffat County. While conducting their investigation in the field, wildlife officers were surprised when they heard distinct howls within the area.

"This is a historic sighting. While lone wolves have visited our state periodically including last fall, this is very likely the first pack to call our state home since the 1930s. I am honored to welcome our canine friends back to Colorado after their long absence," said Governor Jared Polis. "It's important that Coloradans understand that the gray wolf is under the protection of the Endangered Species Act. While the animals have naturally migrated to our state and their presence draws public interest, it's important that people give

them space. Due to their Protected status, there are severe federal penalties for anyone that intentionally harms or kills wolves in our state."

"Right after our two officers heard the howls from the wolves, they used binoculars to observe approximately six wolves about two miles from the location of the carcass," said JT Romatzke, Northwest Region Manager for CPW. "After watching them for about 20 minutes, the officers rode in to get a closer look. The wolves were gone but they found plenty of large tracks in the area."

According to the officers, the tracks measured approximately 4.5 to 5.5 inches and appear to have been made by at least six animals.

"As we have made clear, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will not take direct action in these cases," said Dan Prenzl, Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "We have the leading experts on wildlife management and species recovery working for our agency, but while wolves remain federally protected, they are under the jurisdiction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We will continue to work with our federal partners and monitor the situation."

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, killing a wolf can result in federal charges, including a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison, per offense.

The public is urged to contact CPW immediately and fill out a report if they see or hear wolves or find evidence of any wolf activity in Colorado. The [Wolf Sighting Form](#) can be found on the CPW website.

FORESIGHT
2020
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It is really important to take your yearly exams and to get tests done because that is how you're going to catch something if it pops up.

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON VEGETATIVE TREATMENT METHODS FOR PUBLIC LANDS MANAGED BY THE UNCOMPAGHGRE FIELD OFFICE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comment on a draft environmental assessment for vegetative treatments to improve wildlife habitat and rangeland and reduce fuels on the approximately 900,000 acres of public lands managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office.

The EA considers the environmental effects of a variety of vegetative treatment methods including mechanical, manual, seeding, and fire.

"Vegetative treatments to reduce fuels helps suppress wildland fire and improve habitat conditions for wildlife," said Uncompahgre Field Manager Greg Larson.

"Fire is a natural aspect to our landscape and these treatments will help reduce extreme fires and dangerous fire conditions."

The various projects will focus on management activities that conserve or restore big game habitat by treating important areas for wintering and residential populations of mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn. The proposal excludes National Conservation Areas, designated wilderness, and wilderness study areas.

The draft EA is available for public review and comment online at: <https://go.usa.gov/xpUHF>. Comments must be submitted by Feb. 20, 2020.

Please send written comments and questions to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Angela Losasso, 2465 S. Townsend Ave. Montrose, CO 81401, or submit electronically to Angela Losasso at alosasso@blm.gov.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

COGCC HEARING TO BE HELD JAN. 29

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) invites the public and stakeholders to the Commission's January Hearing, at the COGCC office, on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

January COGCC Hearing Information:

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020

Time: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: COGCC Office, Wasatch Hearing Room, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver.

Remote Access (Zoom):

Phone: (669) 900-6833

Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/2761805299>; Meeting ID: 276 180 5299

Agenda: <https://cogcc.state.co.us/reg.html#/hearings>

SB 19-181 ensures that oil and gas development and operations in Colorado are regulated in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources. The COGCC is in the midst of reviewing its rules and procedures to evaluate what changes are required to reflect the new law's requirements. On Nov. 21, 2019, the Commission adopted Flowline rules.

HEALTHfair

Early Blood Draws & Health Fair

DATES

January 25
4H Event Center, Ridgway • 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

January 27
American Legion Hall, Olathe • 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

January 29-February 1
Montrose Pavilion, Montrose • 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.

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.

NO walk-ins allowed Wednesday, January 29 and Thursday, January 30.

SCREENINGS

HealthScreen (Chemistry) & Lipid Panel	\$50
Hemoglobin A1C	\$38
PSA for Prostate Health	\$42
CBC (Complete Blood Count)	\$25
Vitamin D	\$45
Vitamin B12 & Folate	\$45
Male Testosterone	\$45
Advanced Lipid & Heart Health Panel	\$85
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
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.

- 12 hour fast required. Drink lots of water!
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO EMPLOYMENT SITUATION-DECEMBER 2019

Special to the Mirror

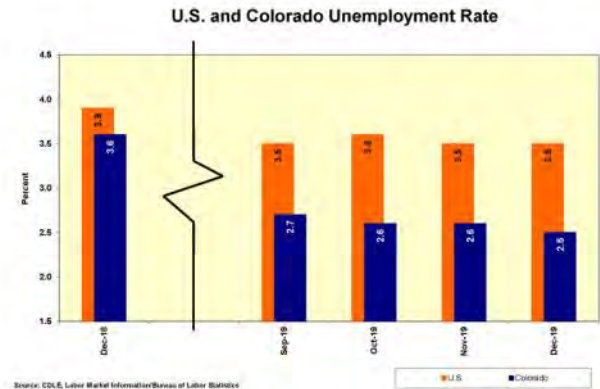
COLORADO-Employers in Colorado added 1,400 nonfarm payroll jobs from November to December for a total of 2,803,500 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased 1,100 and government increased 300. November estimates were revised up to 2,802,100, and the over the month change from October to November was an increase of 9,400 rather than the originally estimated increase of 4,100.

According to the survey of households, the unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from November to December to 2.5 percent. This is the lowest unemployment rate for Colorado since the series began in 1976.

The number of people actively participating in the labor force increased 6,000

over the month to 3,176,600 and the number of people reporting themselves as employed increased 8,100 to 3,096,400, causing the number of unemployed to decrease 2,100 and the unemployment rate to decline to 2.5 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged in December at 3.5 percent.

Over the year, the average workweek for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls was unchanged at 33.6 hours and average



Courtesy image.

hourly earnings increased from \$29.88 to \$30.77.

The largest over the month private sector job gains were in education and health services and trade, transportation, and utilities. The largest over the month decline was in financial activities.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 56,600, with an increase of 47,000 in the private sector and an increase of 9,600 in government.

The largest private sector job gains were in professional and business services, education and health services, and trade, transportation, and utilities. Mining and logging declined over the year.

Over the year, the unemployment rate is down one and one-tenth of a percentage point from 3.6 percent in December 2018.

The number of Coloradans participating in the labor force increased 47,900, total employment increased 81,200 and the number of unemployed decreased 33,300.

The national unemployment rate declined from 3.9 percent in December 2018 to 3.5 percent in December 2019.

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Adult Diabetes Support Group

Tuesday, February 4 5:30-6:30 PM
Goal Setting and Problem Solving
Teresa Tomasi-Maloney, RDN

MMH First Floor Conference Room
Questions? Call Teresa at 970-240-7280

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK DONATES TO MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Members of the Board of Directors of Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. receive a donation of \$2,500 from Alpine Bank at a recent monthly Board meeting. Alpine Bank has supported this area non-profit since its inception over five years ago. To anonymously report a crime or criminal, **CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT 970-249-8500 OR SEND IT ELECTRONICALLY AT MOBILE APP P3TIPS OR WEBSITE P3TIPS.com**. Tax deductible donations may be sent to 434 S. 1st St., Montrose 81401. *Courtesy photo by Pam Heisler.*

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2020 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Dear Montrose County Resident,

In January of 1964, a group of dedicated citizens formed an organization to serve the people of Montrose County by assisting the Sheriff in tasks that require additional manpower. Over the past 55 years the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse has served the residents and visitors of Montrose County by participating in numerous activities, such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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| ★ Fire Control and Suppression | ★ Security |
| ★ Traffic Control | ★ Educational Programs for the Public |

The MCSP consists of 40 highly trained volunteers in two divisions based in Montrose and Nucla who donate thousands of hours in service to the community each year. You may notice Posse members at intersections during a bike race, a parade, or one of the emergency management drills such as the Flu Shot Drive Thru Clinic. We may be out of sight searching for a lost hunter, fighting a brushfire, or rescuing a skier or ATV rider injured on a backcountry trail. Posse members utilize their own personal equipment such as vehicles, OHVs, trailers, snow machines, boats, backpacks and gear. The services performed by the MCSP can save the taxpayers of the county thousands of dollars each year.

During our 56 years of operation, the MCSP has acquired a fleet of vehicles, four ATVs and other specialized equipment, and through a very generous donor, we were able to build a rescue facility in Montrose to store the vehicles and equipment and to train indoors. We incur costs each year maintaining, updating and storing the equipment that allows us to provide quick response to an emergency in a competent manner. We also have expenses for training new and experienced posse members in topics such as first aid, firefighting, GPS and mapping, radio communications, safe driving, traffic control and helicopter operations. Donations received from the community help us cover these costs of operations.

Your support of the MCSP through this fund drive provides the financial resources needed to accomplish our mission. Any contribution you can make will be of great benefit to our entire community. As a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit corporation, all donations are deductible for income tax purposes. Please mail your gift today in the envelope provided. The Posse has grown to become an integral part of the Emergency Management Team, and with your help, will continue to do so. Thank you in advance for your contribution and we look forward to continuing our service to the community.

Sincerely,

Montrose County Sheriff's Posse



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BATTLE LINES ARE NOW DRAWN ON THE GROCERY TAX ISSUE

Editor:

The City claims eliminating the sales tax on groceries would “reduce the City’s ability to provide current levels of service”. In my opinion, given the City’s freewheeling spending proclivities, that is pure unadulterated horse pockey.

In their attempt to show eliminating the grocery tax as a disaster, they show the PSST income at \$ 3.1 million, but somehow forgot that tax was sold to us as generating \$3.4 million. Simple mistake or by design? Then they claim eliminating the grocery tax would be a \$3.9 million revenue loss. BUT, a CORA request shows an average of \$2.8 million in revenue annually at the old tax rate, on \$85 million in gross sales. Recalculating the tax on those sales at the new rate shows a potential loss of \$3.2 million-not the \$3.9 million claimed. Mistake or by design.

With multi millions invested in the Mayfly project and another \$800k at immediate risk with MURA, the City has shown it can easily absorb a minor loss of 4.5% of its inflated budget. With the City unwilling to budge, the battle lines are now drawn on the grocery tax issue. Proposed ballot language for a citizen initiative to eliminate the grocery tax is now under legal review. Once approved, the next step is the petition process. Stay tuned to the Mirror for the most up to date information. The citizens of Montrose will have an opportunity to cast their vote on this issue.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE MONTROSE COMMUNITY?

Dear Editor:

What does Economic Development mean to the Montrose Community?

On Tuesday City Council approved another "economic development" deal that kicked in a \$800,000 incentive package to a South Dakota based hotel developer to build a Fairfield Suites on the grounds of Colorado Outdoors (the Mayfly project). I wrote to the Montrose Mirror last week as this vote was pending, with the core focus of the opinion piece being the public process; or, the disgrace of what the City of Montrose public progress represents today.

Please keep in mind, not agreeing with the current format of public process does not equal being anti everything, far from the truth. In fact, fixing the public process is quick and easy, assuming City Council has the will to do so (makes for an important City Council election topic). The bigger question, and one I have been thinking through a lot recently is *what is economic development*, and what does it mean to the Montrose community? I'd ask all of you to really think through that question, over some time, as it may be the pinnacle open topic for Montrose.

To preface, the context of this opinion piece is defining economic development as a higher grade of city government involvement, whether it be in the form of advanced and deeper planning, or direct subsidized dollars. What I am not referring to is the market driven growth, organic economic development, a process that still requires city involvement such as planning, legal, and various city services.

Filling in the dirt

Roping back in the Tuesday Fairfield Suites deal as an example, do I think adding another me-too hotel subsidized by the city represents economic development? I don't. Why? I just do not see it as hitting

a value threshold to the community with that hefty incentive package. We may very well need more hotels beds, but this is a me-too project, and one that directly competes with the numerous other hotel operators.

Unless town is sold-out, every tax dollar collected at the new hotel is a loss for an existing hotel. The Colorado Outdoors project has already been teed-up with millions of tax-payer dollars, that hotel site should had been filled as a 100% private deal, not a subsidy on top of a subsidy which is now the case.

How could a hotel deal not be another me-too and be a visitor *draw*? Think attraction, think scaled-back Great Wolf Lodge (or a like player in that category), where now we are talking a novel opportunity that adds beds while also marking Montrose as a destination. Instead of kids running down the hallway of the Hampton Inn they get a full playground, while the parents get to sip on cocktails. This type of concept is a higher priced hotel, sells a lot of food and spirits, and one that would draw regionally (stay-cation concept) along with the traditional tourist. A Great Wolf type project checks off some important boxes, I think fits economic development, and warrants a public discussion related to incentives. This example is a pretty concrete concept for people to understand, whether you like or dislike the idea or premise.

The creative long play

Here is where economic development gets a bit trickier, the big conversation and essence of adding higher paying jobs and diversifying the economy by nurturing a vibrant *new* economy in Montrose. This is the conversation that syncs up the entrepreneur's vision, the big ideas, and the starting point of every recognizable brand

you use out of necessity or play with today, with the community's long-term economic viability and opportunity. This is the conversation where an idea or invention gets boot-strapped along by the Founder(s), a couple jobs get added, then grows to 20, 30, 40... jobs. No doubt, this is the unknown (I live it) and there is nothing concrete about it, but it does represent the calculated risk required to truly move the needle.

Folks, what I am not referring to is a Russell Stover type of replacement, the State of Colorado policies no longer support growth with that type of industry or job. What I am referring to is innovation that originates directly from the livelihood, lifestyle, and passion of the Montrose community. What I am referring to is the invention and refinement of ag equipment & implements, ways to improve how we deliver irrigation water, a new tool, outdoor & lifestyle products, health & wellness products, tech & software. Think big ideas that can scale, that have full domestic and international sales opportunities, and that are impactful. Think about someone in Asia buying a product, and the box they open says Made in Montrose.

Defining a solution

As I mentioned on my opening remarks, I am still grappling with *what is economic development*. Ideas need to be big, but the bigger local issue is what does economic development mean to this area and to the citizens in the Montrose community? What is the role of local governance as part of that process? Today it is an ugly, fragmented, and misinformed situation. We need to urgently have this community discussion, get some unity, and figure out a path and solutions. Long game.

Scott Damman, Montrose



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MURA INVESTS IN HOTEL INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING PROJECT

From pg 1

Fire Protection District), Gayle Johnson (Montrose School District) and Mark Plantz (Special Districts Representative). On Jan. 21, the MURA Board of Commissioners met for two-hours. Plantz was absent and did not participate by conference call; however, board chair Tad Rowan accepted Plantz's email proxy and allowed him to vote in the affirmative on all agenda items.

The audience of approximately 25 people included city staff, citizens interested in affordable housing and candidates running for city council in the upcoming election. The MURA meetings do not allow for public comment; however, twice during the meeting Yvonne Meek, a candidate for city council, spoke up to ask questions. Chair Tad Rowan would not entertain Meek's questions.

Colorado Outdoors Plan of Development Update – Bill Bell, Executive Director.

Bell said, "We have a 25-year plan and we are in year three." Bell referred the board to page 15 in their packet, the table for Tax Increment Projections and Economic Impacts.

Bell said, "Everything is based on estimates. There are different types of tax increments, sales tax, building, restaurant, excise tax, a lodging tax component, and construction sales tax at the time of building. In 2019 we were a year-and-a-half behind in what we anticipated. We had an aggressive plan. But now we have a private partner at the table, we're now starting to steamroll."

Bell noted there is almost an even split between private and public investment, with \$9-11M in private investment and \$8M in public investment. He said, "The next 18-months is the next phase of public investment in infrastructure. People don't see the underground investment."

Rowan suggested the board ask Anderson Analytics to re-do their analysis. He said, "I would like to see it updated. It would make the decision-making process much easier if it were updated." Bell said he would get a cost estimate for updating the analysis.

Fairfield By Marriott Hotel Project - Bill Bell, Executive Director.

It should be noted that in the overall MURA development plan there are various phases, i.e. Phase I, Phase II, Phase III. However, in relationship to the Housing Projects within the development plan there are also Phase I, Phase II and Phase III.

Part A - Consideration of Development Agreement.

The MURA Board and the City Council met with Lamont Companies twice. This agreement calls for MURA to invest \$600,000 (infrastructure) for the proposed 90 bed Fairfield by Marriott. Pending a MURA commitment, Lamont will then purchase 2.56 acres from Colorado Outdoors for construction of the hotel. It is anticipated that the project will break ground in late 2020 and be completed in 2022.

Mayor Dave Bowman said, "What happens if it is not completed by 2022?"

Bell said, "We are only paying as the work takes place. If they fail, we would go after a breach of contract."

Hughes questioned the statement from the board packet, "Studies show Montrose can sustain at least 200 new hotel rooms with current demand." Hughes said, "Who did the study and where is it at?"

Bell said, "Over the last six or seven years [various] developers have done property studies for hotels, but their projects fell through. Their studies are proprietary, but they shared them with us. The studies show Montrose can sustain 200 more hotel rooms." Approved unanimously, vote included one email proxy.

Part B – Consideration of Tax Increment Financing Site Improvement Loan.

Speaking to developers David and Doug Drago, who own the property proposed for the hotel, Hughes said, "Are you looking at a closing on the land in the next few months?" The Dragoos responded in the affirmative.

City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy said, "We have leftover funds. We did

some cost savings and held off on some landscaping, so we have about \$650,000 left over from previous allocations."

Bell anticipates there will be a three-year payback on the \$600,000. Approved unanimously, vote included one email proxy.

MURA Southern Multi-Family/Phase I Apartments Housing Project – Bill Bell, Executive Director.

Part A - Consideration of Development Agreement.

Range Development proposes construction of 200+ housing units in Colorado Outdoors using a phased approach over the next few years.

Phase I (four multi-family apartment buildings, total of 96 units), Phase II (townhomes), Phase III (single family homes). The three phases will be built on 21 acres.

Speaking about the Phase I apartments Bell said, "These are market-based units, market rate housing. It is not low-income housing, or subsidized housing for seniors. It is modular construction that is built somewhere else and moved here. It is expedited construction. They are very nice apartments. This is a very aggressive timeline, four to six months, by the end of next year."

Councilman Roy Anderson said, "I don't see this as a job creator, but there are intangibles here."

Rowan said, "If we agree to this, we [MURA] are on the hook for \$4.2 M."

Bell acknowledged there could be a \$2 M gap in funding. He said, "We might have to ask the city or county to partner with us. We could approve the agreement and come back in the next meeting and actually approve the financing. We could do a promissory note from the City of Montrose to the MURA. The city could loan money to the MURA."

Bowman expressed concern that the city or county might, in two or three years, have to bail out the MURA. Bowman said, "You could get a future [city] council who does not want to play this game." Anderson noted that a contract approved today would be binding to future councils.

MURA INVESTS IN HOTEL INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING PROJECT

From previous pg

Bell said, "The MURA would not be considered a failure because it leverages private investment."

Hughes said, "I'm not liking the builder not wanting to buy the full parcel until we commit to funding the full project [Phase I, II, and III]."

Bell said, "He wants us to show the MURA is buying into the full project, apartments, townhouses and single-family housing. This is just for the apartments; he will be coming back for the other two phases."

Hughes said, "I'm concerned. Why are we jumping into big residential before we have income from the commercial side? Is the city providing [financial incentives] for other developers? I realize it is not the city, but the MURA."

Bell said, "We have to talk to the city to see if they want to partner with the MU-

RA. Right now, the MURA does not have the cash flow."

Anderson said, "I see this as a chicken and the egg situation. We don't want to discourage the developer. He really wants to invest in Montrose. I don't think we are taking a big risk by approving this."

Hughes said, "I think this board should be concerned about where they are spending the funds when the payback is 50 years." Approved unanimously, vote included one email proxy.

Part B – Consideration of Tax Increment Financing Project and Part C – Project Financing Discussion.

Financial options will be available at the next meeting.

Part D – Consideration of Public Infrastructure Design Change Order – Scott Murphy, City of Montrose City Engineer. Approved unanimously.

Colorado Outdoors Business Development and Marketing Update – David Dragoo, Mayfly Outdoors.

In a PowerPoint presentation Dragoo noted that to date they have had a total of 71 prospects.

For confidentiality code names are given to prospects.

A hot prospect is described as a business who has, "verbally committed, is under contract, or actively pursuing incentives."

14 Hot

18 Warm

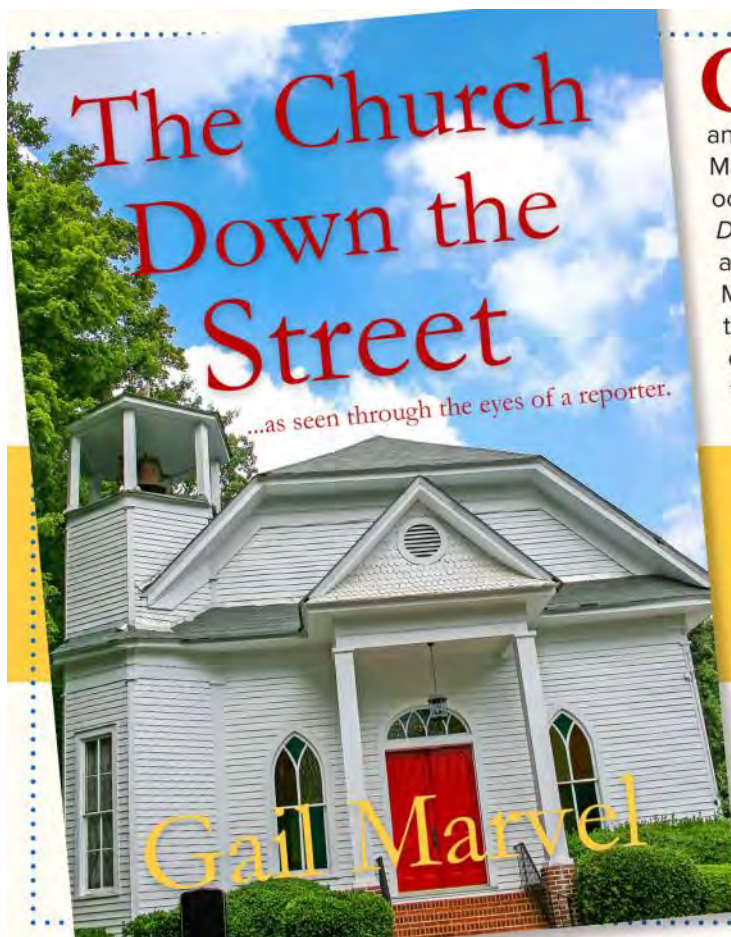
19 cold

6 leads

14 chose another location

Future meetings will be held at 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

However, because of a conflict the February meeting was scheduled for Feb. 3rd from 1-2:30 p.m.



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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter



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



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

LABOR DEPARTMENT ADOPTS NEW COLORADO OVERTIME & MINIMUM PAY STANDARDS RULE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's (CDLE) Division of Labor Standards and Statistics (DLSS) has adopted as final the Colorado Overtime and Minimum Pay Standards Order (COMPS), with the effective date of March 16, 2020. COMPS replaces the Colorado Minimum Wage Order (CMWO), which had been widely criticized for its lack of clarity.

Over a 10-month comment period, CDLE heard from more than 1,000 workers and employers. Many testified they felt the previous wage order was unclear in defining which workers are covered and what criteria make an employee exempt from the various protections in the wage order.

Based on these comments, and extensive research, the three most significant changes to COMPS are:

It applies to all industries;

It raises the minimum salary required to be exempt from wage protections -- starting at \$35,568 in July 2020, gradually adjusting to \$55,000 in 2024 (equal to the proposed \$57,500 by 2026), then adjusting for inflation; and

It clarifies ambiguous wage rules that had generated litigation and confusion for employers and employees.

Below is a summary of the proposed Colorado Overtime and Minimum Pay Standards Order:

It offers expanded overtime, leading to more job creation

Toward its goals of helping workers prosper and employers thrive, DLSS researched the impact of expanding overtime rights. This new research confirms that requiring overtime pay increases job opportunities as it leads employers to spread work to more workers, rather than assign extensive overtime.

Many states are now planning higher overtime-exempt salaries, but four states (Alaska, California, Maine, and New York) did so several years ago, a long enough period of time to see the effect: Each state has seen its unemployment rate drop 0.6% on average.

By 2016, most employers adopted the then-planned U.S. Labor Department ("USDOL") exemption salary of \$47,496. That salary is equal to the COMPS exemption salary of \$55,000 in 2024. The result was that employment kept rising. Investment bank Goldman Sachs estimated the revised exemption salary would have added 120,000 new jobs. The National Retail Federation estimated an increase of 120,000 new part-time retail jobs. The combined estimate of new jobs added is more than 100,000 jobs nationally.

In 1997-1998, when the wage order covered the Construction Industry, construction job growth was higher (+1.0%/month) than before or after (when its job growth was at 0.6 - 0.8%). In addition, pay rose faster.

It offers expanded rights to breaks which will better protect public health and extend a greater work-life balance

Extensive testimony and research confirm the harmful health effects of long hours. Heart disease, injuries, and mental health challenges increase. Tired workers are less able to protect co-worker and public safety at construction sites, factories, and elsewhere. By the year 2030, more than one in four workers in Colorado will be over 55. In an aging workforce,, long hours force many to leave good-paying manual labor jobs for far lower-paid work that under-utilizes their skills.

The salary exceptions will be phased in gradually to sync up with Colorado's economy

The COMPS Order gives employers three options: pay (a) the exempt salary or (b) any hourly wage plus overtime; or (c) limit overtime hours. The gradual phase-in, from \$35,568 in 2020, parallels Colorado's approach of only gradually raising the minimum wage, which has kept job levels better than in most states.

Based on input from various specific industries, COMPS retains partial exemptions for specific jobs that are traditionally exempt or that require added flexibility for employers: for field staff in seasonal camps and outdoor ed programs, a reduced salary threshold; for ski workers, exemption from 40-hour weekly overtime pay; for Medicaid home service workers and agricultural workers, additional rest break flexibility.

The new USDOL exemption salary of \$35,568 is just 20th-percentile pay in the lowest-pay region, the south. In Colorado, \$35,568 is less than our \$12 minimum wage with overtime for 52 hours or more. The minimum salary to be exempt should not be below minimum wage.

CDLE heard testimony from many employers. Some supported the \$35,568 national level; others sought \$62,400; others noted that they, like many, had already adapted the \$47,496 salary in 2016 — which the COMPS salary (\$55,000 by 2024, equal to the proposed \$57,500 by 2026 with inflation) matches. Thus, COMPS will go no further than a level already in use by many and studied extensively. Listening to public comments, CDLE accommodated employers by lowering and slowing the salary phase-in, from the proposed \$42,500 for 2020-21 to, instead, \$35,568 as of July 2020, then \$40,500 in 2020. CDLE also accommodated worker requests to reach the full salary level sooner, in 2024 rather than 2026.



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CITY APPROVES ELKS RV PARK WITH CONDITIONS; INCENTIVES FOR HOTEL

From pg 1

allow a 32-site RV park at 801 S. Hillcrest Drive. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum recused herself and left Council Chambers during the discussion, as her husband is part-owner of a property adjoining the proposed RV park. City Planner Talmadge Richmond reviewed the proposal and showed site plans. Though there is an existing area for travel home parking, there is no conditional use permit in place. The existing facility is considered a legally, non-conforming use, Richmond said, and is grandfathered in.

The City's Planning Commission had previously reviewed the request for Conditional Use Permit, and after extensive consideration and feedback the request was approved by the Planning Commission with conditions on Dec. 11. On Dec. 16 that decision was appealed by a citizen. Arguments both in favor of and opposed to the proposal are included in the Council meeting packet, and a number of individuals spoke at the De Novo Hearing as well. Planning Commission Chair Anthony Russo said that after hearing arguments from neighbors and from those in support of the project, "It was a tough decision; it wasn't easy."

City Attorney Stephen Alcorn reminded Council that the Conditional Use Permit must meet the following criteria for Council approval:

- The use will not be contrary to the public health, safety, or welfare.
- The use is not materially adverse to the City's master plan.
- Streets, pedestrian facilities, and bikeways in the area are adequate to handle traffic generated by the use with safety and convenience.
- The use is compatible with existing uses in the area and other allowed uses in the district.
- The use will not have an adverse effect upon other property values.
- Adequate off-street parking will be provided for the use.
- The location of curb cuts and access to the premises will not create traffic hazards.
- The use will not generate light, noise, odor, vibration, or other effects which

would unreasonably interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of adjacent property.

-Landscaping of the grounds and the architecture of any buildings will be reasonably compatible with that existing in the neighborhood.

Mayor Bowman allowed speakers to address Council alternating, when possible, between those in support of the request and those opposed.

Hard copy correspondence had been received since release of the meeting packet, Richmond said, and was included with packets.

"Looking at the conditional use permit that was approved...we had to consider a number of different issues," Russo said. "...We wanted to make sure that the property was well maintained and taken care of and safe...there were some issues concerning the property and safety."

Because the RV park was already in existence, the Planning Commission placed conditions on the Conditional Use Permit, including an eight-foot fence, appropriate setbacks, and a limit of 32 sites.

No conditions were placed on campfires as the City already limits fires to those in a steel enclosure, Senior Planner Garry Baker said.

"We have met every guideline and standard that the City has asked us to meet," Elks Club representative and board member Clint Anders said, "...This has not been an overnight decision...we have really put our due diligence into this, and we have spent a lot of time, money, and volunteer hours to make sure that not only is it going to be viable for our organization but also viable for the City of Montrose," he said. "We have really done our homework and worked with the City...it's been a process...we feel confident in what we've



City of Montrose Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty (center) presented information on a hotel incentives package at the Council meeting of Jan. 21.

done."

There will be a camp host and RV Park manager, Anders said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell raised concerns over past maintenance of the property and over access to the RV park.

"I don't feel like you've maintained your property well in the past. What kind of assurances can you give us that it will be maintained this time around?"

Glaspell also questioned the entryway from Hillcrest for 40-foot vehicles and the impact to traffic of those vehicles.

"Would you be amenable to increasing the width of your entryway so that a vehicle can pull in there without having to stop out on the street and jockey its way in?"

"...we knew we had an issue...we also knew that we had a resource that could add revenue to our organization," Anders said. "...to do that we had to give them a nice place to stay...there will be no fires permitted in the park."

As for access, "We have met all those guidelines...We have met with the City engineer and there's been promises and hopes that they're going to re-do that sidewalk there," Anders said.

"Obviously we have no problem widening that entry way...but currently, right now, we already have those type of RV's pulling into our facility...we have met the guidelines City engineers set out for us."

CITY APPROVES ELKS RV PARK; HOTEL INCENTIVES From previous pg

Only Elks will be allowed to stay at the RV Park, Anders said in response to a question from Councilor Judy Ann Files. "We will be the only full-hookup RV park on the Western Slope for Elks only," he said. There will be a 10 p.m. moratorium on activity at the RV park, "Everybody will sign a contract agreeing to the rules."

Mayor Bowman opened the floor to comments, which ranged from supportive, to concerns over privacy, noise, dust, strangers, and worries that the RV Park could be sold in the future.

Noting that speed has increased on Hillcrest since completion of the roundabouts, neighbor Richard Shannon said, "The idea of increasing the amount of traffic on Hillcrest is worrisome...that's what bothers me about this. This is going to increase traffic in our neighborhood...I don't see good coming out of it."

Elk Cathy Patch noted that Elks all over the United States share values and a commitment to community. Patch said, "We do support our community...with this revenue stream we hope to enlarge that."

Neighbor Jim Ebersol said, "The proposed RV park does not belong in our neighborhood setting...this amount of visitors qualifies as a nuisance in a neighborhood of our size, in my opinion."

Elk Martin Crespin said that in addition to the camp host and manager, "We have Elks." Nearly half the Lodge membership consists of retired law enforcement, and one third is former military, he said. "Our intent is to try to survive as an Elks Lodge...the RV park seemed like a viable option."

Neighboring business owner Martin Lutz said he does want to see the Elks Lodge survive but has observed cases where drivers have taken shortcuts across the Elks lot to neighboring lots. His employees have raised concerns about the presence of nearby campers during early morning and evening hours, he said. "Mostly young women."

Said neighbor Naoma Tipotsch, "This is not about the Elks for me...this is an issue about a high density bumper pull trailer and motor coach park in a largely residential/business/church district...we agree

that all development should be well planned...we believe in less trailer courts and an upgrade condition of the existing ones. We also agree that this ends up being a trailer court, in whatever manner you want to call it.

"...it's also the geographical and population center of Montrose; we're right in the middle of it...this is a part of town that you should want to make lovely...we would ask that you not accentuate trailer parks and create another RV Park in this area," Tipotsch said. "Don't enrich the few at the expense of the many."

Citizen Brian Walchle spoke, "I think I am in support of this...I don't live there," he said. "I've got eight buildings downtown that we should have retail shops in...I have one retail shop in there...the rest are architects, engineers, recruiters...because we can't support the retail shops right on Main. I am in favor of it; we need the tourism. The people traveling this way are spending a lot of money. The Elks do a lot of services for the community. As they travel more those services will grow."

After listening to more comments, Council asked questions and discussed specifics with staff, Russo, and Anders.

Mayor Bowman moved to approve Conditional Use Permit CUP18-0359 to allow a 28-site RV park at 801 S. Hillcrest Drive with conditions including an eight-foot, opaque, privacy fence; setbacks that adhere to the site plan; and if the park is sold the new owners would have to reapply to run the RV Park.

Council approved the motion; Bynum returned to Council chambers.

Following a five-minute recess, Council approved Ordinance 2493 on first reading, repealing and replacing Title 4 Chapter 4 Section 2, Definition of Manufactured Housing, adding Title 4 Chapter 4 Section 2, Definition of Modular Building, and repealing and replacing Title 4 Chapter 4



Clint Anders of the Montrose Elks Lodge speaks during the De Novo Hearing at City Council Jan. 21.

Section 24(C) of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding Zoning Regulations.

Also approved unanimously was a Business Development Agreement involving \$219K in incentives between the City of Montrose and Lamont Companies for the development of a Fairfield by Marriott Hotel at the northern end of MURA's Colorado Outdoors development area. Construction value of the 90-room hotel is \$13M, ground will be broken no later than Sept. 30. Once the ground is broken, the project should take 18 months to complete, City Director of Business Innovation & Tourism Chelsea Rosty said.

Under terms of the agreement, the City will abate \$82K toward the company's building permit and \$82K toward the utility connection for the project. The City's Office of Business & Tourism will provide \$55K toward the construction of infrastructure of a monument sign. The City will not pay for materials that include the Fairfield by Marriott branding.

Citizen Billy Aller spoke.

"I just hope that you guys vote in favor of this," Aller said. "I work for a local manufacturing company, and we bring people in from all over the world to Montrose Colorado on multiple occasions throughout a year...it's become increasingly hard to get rooms in a facility to host all of these people."

Continued next pg

CITY APPROVES ELKS RV PARK; HOTEL INCENTIVES From previous pg

"Some of our events, we bring in between 60 and 100 people from around the planet," Aller said. "...It's just becoming more and more difficult to get rooms for these people to run our functions that we have here. It would be nice to have another place and more room for people, and not fight with all the bus tours that are coming here," he said. In response to a question from Bowman, Aller said he works for TEI Rock Drills.

In other business, Council approved the purchase of Faster Asset Solutions fleet management software for the total purchase price of \$84,590; and authorized the purchase of a medium/large two-speed, hi-flow skid steer and a 310 backhoe at auction for the total not-to-exceed amount of \$170K.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg gave a Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Police Chief Blaine Hall drew applause after reading from a letter of commendation the City is sending to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which recently placed agents in the City of

Montrose to assist the 7th Judicial District Drug Task Force. Last week 13 suspected drug traffickers received federal indictments, Hall said.

"For years the City of Montrose has struggled in combatting drug trafficking in our community," Hall said. "...The DEA contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial resources and placed agents in our community to support our ongoing efforts to combat the serious issue of illegal drugs in our city.

"Today we are dealing with the Mexican Cartel, methamphetamine, and a serious opioid crisis...the recent indictments of 13 suspected high-profile offenders showcase the partnership between the City of Montrose and the DEA as a tremendous success."

Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthau said that the City's Jan. 20 public meeting on food sales tax drew more than 57 attendees.

Youth Council Representative Gunnison Clamp gave an update on youth council activities. Youth Council members age 16 and up were invited to help with a Habitat

for Humanity build. There will be a sports-themed Rock the Rec event at the Montrose Community Recreation Center March 6.

Glaspell thanked staff and Council for their hard work on the De Novo hearing and other agenda items.

"I appreciate all the citizens who spoke out," Councilor Roy Anderson said. "It was a very difficult decision, but one that we had to make."

Bowman thanked Attorney Alcorn and planning staff for helping with preparation. "I am so pleased with our community...what we saw tonight was fantastic...citizens that were civil, they were polite, they were respectful...I couldn't have asked for anything more from an audience.

Also, "Council, you guys are fantastic," Bowman said. "I really appreciate your attention, your thoughtfulness. I think we came up with a really good plan; I didn't see anybody walk out of here that was unhappy."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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SUNSHINE ROAD CLOSURE STARTS JAN. 27

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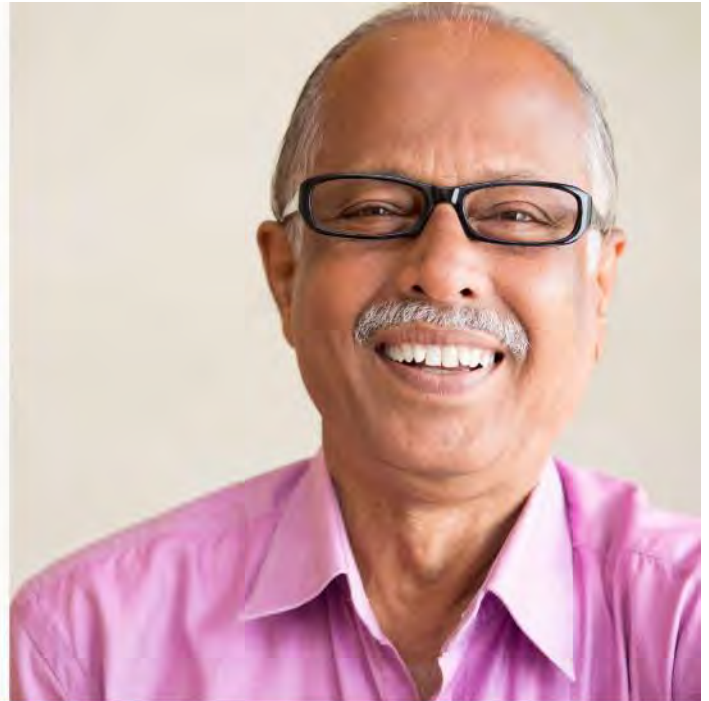
MONTROSE.— Montrose County Road and Bridge is closing Sunshine Road between Ogden Road and Kinikin Road beginning on Jan. 27 for a culvert replacement.

Homeowners in the area are asked to access their residence through either Ogden or Kinikin Road--the closure will be in the 6700 block of Sunshine Road.

The closure is expected to last approximately two weeks depending on weather

conditions.

For more information about Montrose County Road and Bridge Department, please visit: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/918/Road-and-Bridge-Montrose>.



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CITY LOOKS AT FINANCING OPTIONS FOR POLICE FACILITY; CONSIDERS INCENTIVES GRANT FOR GEYSER TECHNOLOGIES



Montrose City Council met for a work session on Jan. 20. Discussion items included financing options for a police facility and incentives for Geyser Technologies.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council welcomed five new employees at the work session of Monday, Jan. 20. Joining the City team are Community Engagement Specialist Bethany Maher; Animal Shelter Technicians Linda Sweanor and Chiyo Tirona; Office of Business & Tourism Community Marketing Specialist Caitlyn Love; and Police Officer Chelsea Payne. Police Officer Jace Cline was scheduled to be introduced as well but could not be present.

All councilors were present for the work session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Kyle Thomas of D.A. Davidson presented information on police department facility financing, with three possible financing scenarios: Option One-The City could finance \$16M in project expenses, debt service in the first two years is limited to \$790,000 and is at \$821,805 thereafter; Option Two- The City could finance \$16.46M in project expenses, debt service in the first two years is limited to \$790,000 and is level at \$850,000 thereafter; and Option Three- The City could finance \$17.36M in project expenses, debt service in the first two years is limited to \$790,000 and is level at \$900,000 thereafter.

The City's anticipated bond rating would be AA, Thomas said. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum asked if D.A. Davidson would

present information on project bonds to the Montrose community. "It's important to let our local community know about the sale."

Following further discussion, Mayor Dave Bowman said, "We told the community we were going to borrow \$16M...keep that in mind as you look at these figures."

Council considered a **Job Creation and Business Development Agreement/Incentives grant for Geyser Technologies** of Montrose. Jonathan Ballesteros of Geyser Technologies talked about the company, which now employs seven full-time staff and represents "a new approach to water optimization."

With a portable, hot shower launched through REI, the company hopes to offer more products and expand into the military and natural disaster relief markets.

Per the Incentives grant agreement, The City will forgive up to \$5,000 per net new permanent FTP position that meets the obligations specified. Net new permanent FTP positions created between August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2025 will be eligible for loan forgiveness not to exceed a total of \$155,000. The City will provide \$40,000 in joint marketing incentives to highlight Montrose, Colorado as Headquarters of Geyser Technologies, or any of its subsidiaries. Also, City will reimburse Geyser Technologies up to \$4,500 for the remainder of the company's 2019/2020 lease at the Montrose facility.

"Thank you for the opportunity to grow our roots and our new headquarters," Ballesteros said.

Mayor Bowman asked how many companies have received wage incentives from the City.

The City has given job incentives to San Juan Construction and Back Street Bagel in the past, Bell said.

"What happens if they don't create the jobs?" Bowman asked.

Bell said that the City would "front" the money as a forgive-able loan. "We forgive that loan."

Ballesteros said that 25 to 30 jobs will pay more than \$42K annually. "We will also be growing a large marketing team to educate the public on our approach to water." Starting wage for factory workers will be \$12.75 per hour...we're now in bootstrap and startup mode."

Geyser Technologies will need to expand quickly in April or May, he said.

Council reviewed the **Shared Services Agreement with Montrose Recreation District**. Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer reviewed the updated agreement in detail, noting that only minor changes had been made. Changes are listed in full in a memo prepared by Cramer for the Council Packet. The item will come before Council at the regular meeting of Feb. 4, Cramer said.

Senior Planner Garry Baker presented the City's **2020 Annual Annexation Report and 3-Mile Plan**. The State requires that the City adopt a plan of annexation each year, he said. The 2020 Annual Annexation Report and 3-Mile Plan will come before Council for formal adoption Feb. 4.

Council discussed a **resolution for the April Municipal Election**, officially granting a Franchise Agreement for local natural gas supplier Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. The resolution states in part, "Council finds and believes that it is in the best interest of the City and the inhabitants hereof to grant a limited, non-exclusive utility franchise to Black Hills Energy for the provision of domestic gas and industrial gas."

Black Hills Energy's facilities were acquired, Attorney Stephen Alcorn said, when the company purchased a previous provider (Source Gas) that had purchased a previous provider (KN Energy).

Public Works Director Jim Scheid presented information on a **contract award for asbestos abatement of two structures** located at 439 South 2nd Street and 430 South 1st Street. The structures are the former Wells Fargo Drive-through and a office building to the south. Both are owned by the City and will be demolished in anticipation of construction of the new police facility. Abatement will be done at

CITY LOOKS AT FINANCING OPTIONS FOR POLICE FACILITY

From previous pg

the end of March with a six-week time frame for completion, Scheid said.

The City received 11 bids for the project, of which six were responsive. Scheid recommended award to low-bidder ARC Abatement of Grand Junction in the amount of \$89,700.

Mayor Bowman said that the City is beginning to spend the public safety funds approved by the passage of 2A. "We are collecting and spending it very appropriately."

Scheid also discussed the purchase of 21 Ford vehicles from Montrose Ford. Two bids were received; one from Montrose Ford in the amount of \$1,027,790 and one from Sill-TerHar Motors of Broomfield in the amount of \$997,407. Staff recommended purchasing from Montrose Ford. "When applying local preference, Montrose Ford's bid is \$977,790 for comparison purposes," states a memo prepared by Scheid for Council. "...The budgeted amount for all of the purchases combined is \$1,051,300 which is a savings of \$23,510 if awarded to Montrose Ford in the amount of \$1,027,790."

Utilities Manager David Bries discussed

changes to the City of Montrose Chapter 3-6 Pretreatment Program Regulations. A memo prepared by Bries states, "In 2019, the City received a renewed NPDES permit for our wastewater treatment plant. One of the many requirements of the new permit was to update our Pretreatment Program Regulations in Chapter 3-6 of the Municipal Code to meet the current EPA requirements."

The City hired a consultant to help work through the changes, Bries said. "It has been a laborious process." Testing is more frequent now, and monitoring salinity a priority.

City Engineer Scott Murphy updated Council on the **6530 Bridge Deck Replacement Contract Award.** The project was re-bid after a previous bid process did not produce satisfactory results. Staff recommended award of construction and engineering support contracts totaling \$423,325.50 for construction of the 6530 Road Bridge Deck Replacement Project. Contracts will be awarded to low bidder Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$408,325.50 as well as an engineering support contract to DOWL for work bud-

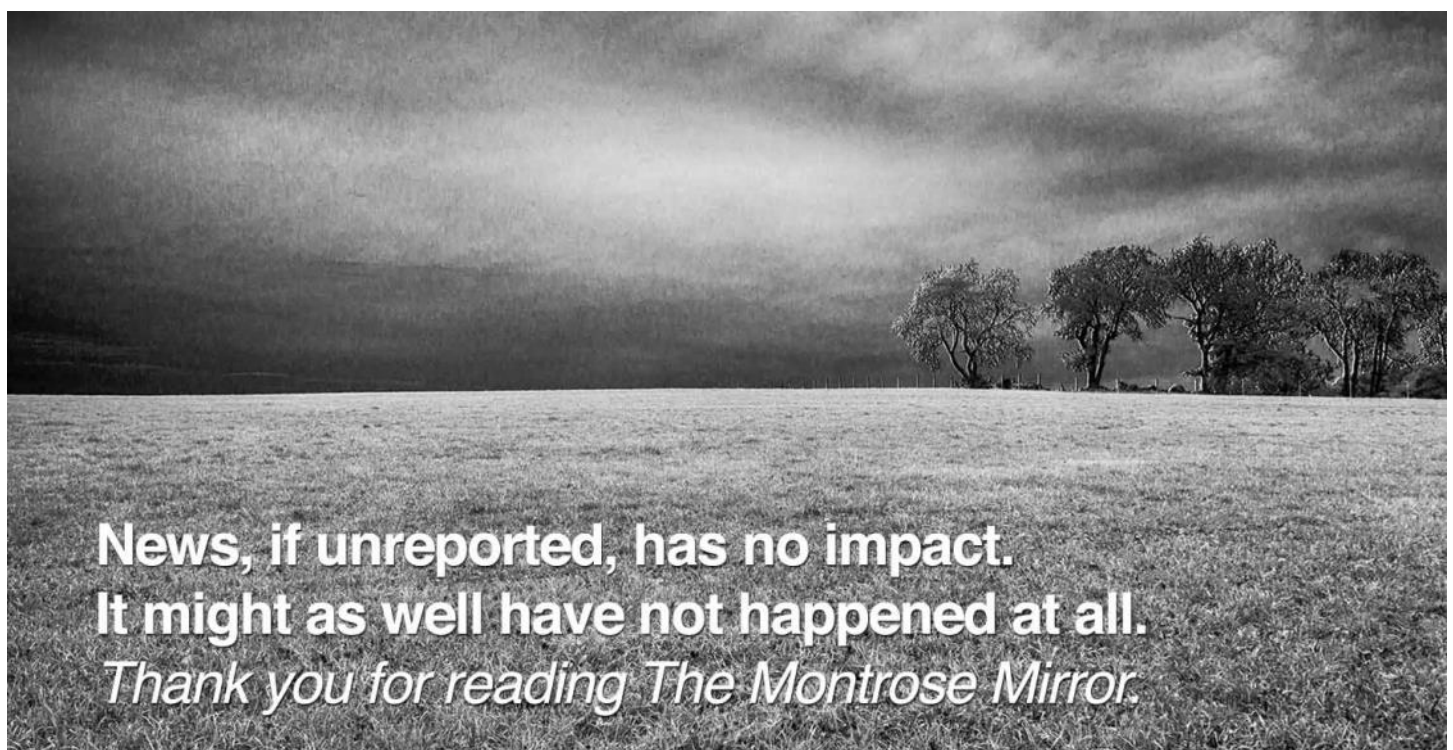
eted at \$15K.

Murphy also discussed award of a professional services contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$99,200 for completion of design studies and civil design associated **with the Woodgate Road Realignment Project.** A memo prepared by Murphy for Council states, "...the City envisions closing off Woodgate's intersection with Townsend Avenue and realigning Woodgate Road to connect with East Oak Grove Road...Once the footprint of the realignment is finalized the City would work to purchase all rights of way necessary for the project and potentially budget its construction in future years' budgets."

GENERAL DISCUSSION/STAFF COMMENTS Police Chief Blaine Hall said that ten police officers have been hired in the last 12 months. The department continues aggressive recruiting efforts; the focus is on certified officers.

Scheid said that a recent statewide recycle audit produced the lowest recorded levels of contamination to date for the City of Montrose's recycle program.

Bowman said he would like to revisit the televising of City work sessions.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NOTICE OF DRAFT DECISION ON POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Grand Valley Ranger District completed the draft Decision Notice (DN) for the Powderhorn Mountain Resort (PMR) Snowmaking and Connector Trail Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA, draft DN, and supporting documentation are available for review online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56710> and hardcopies are available for review at the Grand Valley Ranger District in Grand Junction, CO. After consideration of the analysis in the EA and public comments, Chad Stewart, Deciding Official, has approved the proposed action. The draft decision authorizes the construction of a snowmaking supply line, a pump house, an intake pad, and the Rim View Connector Trail.

The release of the Draft Decision initi-

ates the 45-day objections period. Individuals who submitted timely and specific written comments during the 30 day combined scoping and comment period initiated in September 2019 have standing to file an objection to the Draft Decision Notice under 36 CFR 218.

Objections, including attachments, must be submitted via mail, express delivery, messenger service, or hand delivery (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 1617 Cole Blvd. Bldg. 17, Golden, CO 80401; or by Email to: SM.FS.r02admin-rev@usda.gov. At a minimum, an objection must include the following: objector's name and physical mailing address; signature or other verification of authorship upon request; identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed; name of the proposed

project; name and title of Responsible Official; and name of national forest unit (s) on which the project will be implemented.

Objections must be filed within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*. The legal notice is anticipated to be published on January 24, 2020. The publication date in the *Daily Sentinel* (newspaper of record) is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

If you have additional questions regarding this draft decision or the objection process, please contact Bryan West, Project Leader, at (303) 275-5276, or bryan.west@usda.gov.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW PHYSICIAN JOINS DCMH INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) announced that Alan Saliman is the newest physician to join the DCMH Internal Medicine Associates (IMA) team and will be accepting new patients starting March 1.

With more than 34 years of experience serving rural communities, Dr. Saliman was born and raised in Denver and received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Colorado. Dr. Saliman's first job out of residency at St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver was in Glenwood Springs where he practiced medicine for 30 years.

"I chose to work at [DCMH] because this group of Internalists has a regional reputation for excellence," said Dr. Saliman. "Working at IMA will be a good way to step back, do patient care, stay involved and work with people I'm familiar with from prior projects. It's a good fit."

Dr. Saliman has worked in rural healthcare his entire career and says that DCMH reminds him of the environment he initially worked in with teamwork at the forefront of the care philosophy. For him, rural healthcare provides a unique opportunity for physicians to use all of their skills, continually grow, and take on new roles.

"I have had the chance to start programs, develop new service lines, hire a lot of new providers and mentor them early in their careers and I have cared for four generations in the same family," said Dr. Saliman. "That is about as rewarding

as it gets."

Dr. Saliman also has 10 years of experience as a hospital administrator where he says he learned the complexity of medicine, the health care system and the obstacles that patients face negotiating the system.

During his career, Dr. Saliman helped to start a cancer care program with the University of Colorado Cancer Treatment Centers, he was the first Medical Director of the Hospice program in the Roaring Fork Valley, ran the Intensive Care Unit and was the first Chief Medical Officer at two different hospitals.

"In that way it's a constant learning opportunity and that's why I went into this," said Dr. Saliman. "I love nothing more than having a respectful two-directional debate with my colleagues about the best form of care for patients. Whatever I can do to contribute and solve problems excites me."

Internal Medicine physicians can be both primary care doctors as well as consultants on complex diagnostic dilemmas. Dr. Saliman said the complexity of issues is what initially drew him to the practice, but in time he realized he is in it to connect with his patients.

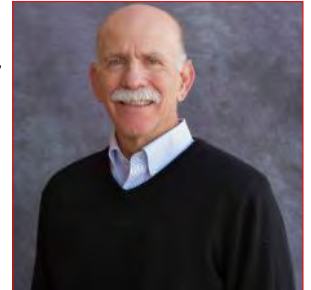
"I don't think it's your knowledge base that makes you a great doctor," said Dr. Saliman. "It is partially your diagnostic acumen, but it's really your ability to connect with the patient and understand the story of their lives to help manage their healthcare and wellness within the context of their reality. That means taking

into account their family life, mental health, and their resources in the community. I think that working in administration helped me develop that context to understand that all-inclusive approach."

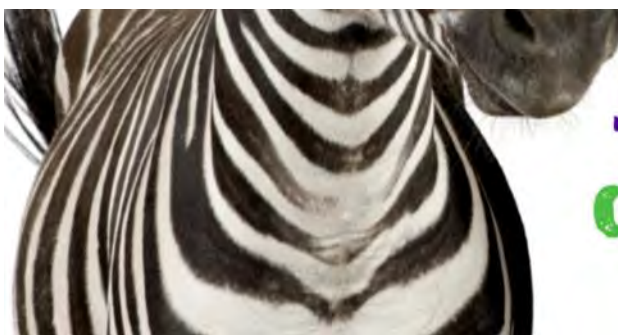
Dr. Saliman said that paying attention to his patients' mental health is extremely important. He will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Mind Springs Health for the next two years, and said he has a personal interest in supporting the Behavioral Health system.

For Dr. Saliman and his wife Deb, this is the most balanced and fulfilling their lives have ever been, he said. Deb is a Registered Nurse and the couple has four kids and two grandchildren. They enjoy landscaping on their three acres of land and spending time with their two dogs.

"When it came time for my wife and I to start looking for a place to settle down, we looked at this area," said Dr. Saliman. "The quality of life is wonderful and the people are content. We are very pleased to be here. At DCMH there is also a sense of teamwork and trying new ideas that I admire. It is a family taking care of the community and each other." To schedule an appointment with Dr. Saliman, call Internal Medicine Associates at 970.874.7668.



Dr. Alan Saliman. Courtesy photo.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THIS CITY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LOSE MONEY, THEY SQUANDER IT

Editor:

HEADLINE IN THE MONTROSE PRESS January 22, 2020

"CITY ATTEMPTS TO SHED LIGHT ON MONTROSE GROCERY SALES TAX". No! The city attempted to obfuscate an already corrupted explanation to further confuse the community---that is what they tried to do.

We must realize that the way to become totally unassailable fount of knowledge is to become elected to public office. This is a postulate.

With a room full of councilors, cops, the city protective club and Ms. Morganthaler, (we will use "M" for short) and staff, all to make the debacle appear well attended. As presentations go "M" did well. Not well for the citizens, few of whom were in the room. For the city it was an attempt to excuse their rip-off of the taxpayers, especially the less financially advantaged. Same old stuff regurgitated with renewed bile.

By the way, do you know that your council people get paid for their service? Most low level political boards DO NOT GET PAID. They perform a public service. Maybe this is the reason these people are so bent on keeping you from knowing what they are doing with your money. (Montrose Memorial Hospital board of directors serve for free and manage a hugely complex business of about \$130,000,000 per year and the financials are open to the public!)

"M" stretched a fifteen minute presentation into almost a half hour, let everyone go for 'eats' for twenty minutes (why the 'eats'?) and then answered a bunch of so-called written questions from the, well not necessarily the audience because she decided what questions would be answered publicly. Maybe none of the questions came from citizens. It was planned that way!!!

Mr. Bell was in the audience. He let "M"

take the point. We with military experience know that the point man usually gets shot first. So he sent "M" to the point and he hid behind her. For his \$225,000 annual remuneration he did not even have the guts to take the heat---he only stood up after half the crowd had left and the 'stove' was turned off. Fine leadership 'King Willie'!

Do you know that the Vice President of the United States is paid \$238,000 per year? I guess Mr. Bell's ego has really run wild!

Do you know that the ballot language for 2A puts ABSOLUTELY NO restriction on how that money is used? "M" seems never to read that because she stated unequivocally that 2A money cannot be used for anything except Public Safety. Our mayor is the only one who stood for what he promised on the run-up to the 2A election. Congratulations for that one Mr. Mayor but you can be sure that promise will soon be overridden if not already. Another postulate: Seldom is an elected official's word is good after their election or when the public is no longer looking or listening.

Whose idea was it to have five cops in attendance? Who is so afraid of their constituents? Why would our council be scared? What are they doing to make them so frightened? And four of the officers them were hidden in plain clothes. This is worse than hiding behind "M"'s skirts.

It is better to be safe than sorry but they would not have to worry about safe if they were not so abominably sorry!

When introduced, two of the council would not even turn to faces their audience. Faces, yes two faced. The gent on the radio Friday morning cited \$3,000,000 in giveaways to private businesses. All of the giveaways were bad but one stands out as most egregious. They are about to ink a deal with a contractor

from out of town to build modular apartments. Here is what is wrong with that. It is an out of town business when Montrose needs business. Essentially all the building costs will be spent outside of Montrose on the modules when we have contractors and merchants who need the work. And when they are all done giving \$800,000 in percs to this contractor he will be renting the apartments for the Montrose MARKET VALUE not a reduced rate for the hard-up in town. NOW WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH OUR PEOPLE? And your council agrees with this? A time for a change, and a big one?

After just having lost 371 jobs (Russel Stover) because the slimy six were asleep at the switch they have the gall to hire an out of town builder when we have plenty of them. I bet no two of them knew who ran the factory until the news came out.

Asleep at the switch? Damned right folks! The whole town knew that the candy factory's fifty year bargain with the city was expiring---EXCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL. Did they ever meet with the executives down there to see what was going to happen? Was the ten year extension option going to be exercised? I would bet not or they would have known. Or they are lying again when they said, "We just found out".

Very little of the money from the Fairfield Hotel deal will be spent in Montrose either and we already have 20 motels in Montrose.

On top of that, the Fairfield debacle is likewise a deal that will take most of the money out-of-town!

It is an investment they say. Warren Buffet says there are two rules of investing. The first is to not lose money and the second is to abide by the first. This city government does not lose money, THEY SQUANDER IT as if they ran the presses.

Now if you are the governing body of a

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THIS CITY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LOSE MONEY, THEY SQUANDER IT ***From previous pg***

town that is doing its best to die, this is the kind of spending and behavior that the citizens might expect. If you are behaving this way to spite your fellow citizens and in spite of them telling you not to, you might feel afraid and the need for five cops at a meeting of law abiding citizens----well at least the citizens are law abiding, not necessarily the council or the city's bankruptcy manager.

I would never want to have say this about my fellow citizens, but with this lack of transparency, lack of shared information and knowledge or where our money is going, the difficulty of getting information with CORA requests, all of this out of town contracting with no significant hope of getting jobs in here and the rush to get the contracting done before the election one could reasonably suspect that there are some payoffs underway. NO LEGITIMATE COUNCIL OR MANAGER WOULD BE THIS SECRETIVE, OBSTINATE OR NON-COMPLIANT WITH THEIR CONSTITUENTS/EMPLOYERS DEMANDS IF HE/THEY WERE NOT HIDING SOMETHING WORTH HIDING. Only transparency can prove honesty and Montrose City Government certainly does not have that!

I suspect that what we do not know is the 'elephant in the room'! How say you?

W.H. Bennett, Montrose

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ISSUE 247 Jan. 27, 2020

ART & SOL

KYCE BELLO OF SANTA FE TO READ AT FEBRUARY POETRY CLUB



Poet Kyce Bello. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE--The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Club presents Kyce Bello of Santa Fe on Tuesday Feb. 11th at 6 p.m. at the Telluride Arts HQ Gallery located at 135 West Pacific Ave., across the street from the Wilkinson Public Library. Winner of the inaugural *Interim* 2018 Test Site Poetry Series Prize, Bello's *Refugia* (Univ. of Nevada Press, 2019) is a bright and hopeful voice in the current conversation about climate change. According to author Amie Whittemore, "Bello elegantly braids together a focus on daily concerns—with an emphasis on family dy-

namics, particularly motherhood—with environmental concerns, as she grapples with the gifts and burdens of living in the Anthropocene. Bello's ability to hold joy and despair in the heart at once is remarkable; her concern for drought, for lost conifers, for the world her children will inhabit and inherit shines in these poems."

Bello was born in Virginia but came of age in the far reaches of northern New Mexico. She currently lives with her husband and daughters in Santa Fe.

In lieu of attending high school, Bello attended the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine, where she received a certificate in Clinical Herbalism. She completed training as a Registered Nurse before attending the University of New Mexico, where she received an interdisciplinary degree in creative writing and Southwest studies.

Kyce earned her MFA in poetry at The Institute of American Indian Arts in 2017. Her poems are informed by the idea that our imaginations and language are the first site of ecological restoration, and explore the contour between culture and landscape. They have appeared in *Kenyon Review Online*, *Boston Review*, *About Place*, *Anomaly*, *The Raven Chronicles*, *Taos Journal of Poetry*, *Sonora Review* and elsewhere. She writes the occasional blog: Old Recipe for a New World at kycebello.com.

The theme/prompt for those wanting to share poems during the Passing of the

Gourd is "Family Tree."

Poetry Club readings in Telluride start at 6 p.m. beginning with Club News & Other Business. Following that, the featured readers share work for 30 to 45 minutes. There's a short break. And then we pass the Gourd, and everyone has the opportunity to share their own poem (on any topic) -- or a piece by a favorite author on the month's theme.

Up-to-date paid members of the Poetry Club are eligible for a free broadside copy of a select poem of the featured reader(s) crafted by Daiva Chesonis -- co-owner of another of our partners, independently-owned Between the Covers Bookstore. Non-members can purchase the broadsides at the store. Membership forms are available at the club meeting, and help support the continuation of the program. But Poetry Club events are free and open to all. In March we're planning to have poet Amy Wray Irish from the Front Range for St. Paddy's Day as our featured reader -- on the 17th. Mark your calendars.

Last month Talking Gourds sponsored a new student poetry contest, the Rella Awards, thanks to a grant from the Bardwell Donachy Family Fund. The contest is named for Ettore Rella (1903-1988), a poet and playwright who was born in Telluride, studied in Rome, and went on to become a celebrity in New York City. Contest winners and their marvelous poems can be found on the Telluride Institute website.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

OPEN BARD LITERARY SERIES HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL YOUTH NIGHT

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-On Tuesday evening, Feb. 11, the Open Bard Literary Series will host its seventh annual Youth Night at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Night is a special poetry reading and performance event, now in its seventh year, featuring high school and middle school students, including those who homeschool in Ouray, San Miguel, Montrose and Delta counties. At the event prizes will be awarded in three categories: Best Original Poem, Best Performance of an Original Poem, and Best Recitation of a Poem by another writer.

To participate students should send an email with their name, age/grade, school, the title of their submissions, and say whether they will read/perform alone or in a group. The email should be sent to tessa@weehawkenarts.org with copies of the poems attached.

For further information, students or teachers can contact co-directors Tessa Cheek or Beth Paulson (bpaulson@ouraynet.com).

The Open Bard Literary Series is grateful to the Ouray County Community Fund, the Woman's Club of Ouray County, and the Ouray Bookshop for their generous sponsorship of this year's Youth Night.

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**Bedrooms: 5 | Bathrooms: 3
2,850 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1992
\$365,000**



FOR SALE

**60545 Kansas Road
Montrose**

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



FOR SALE

**6013 5825 Road
Olathe**

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

VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER RECEIVES QUALITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Valley Manor Care Center has received a 2020 American Health Care Association (AHCA) and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) Quality Initiative Recognition Program award. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE – Volunteers of America is

pleased to announce that Valley Manor Care Center, their long-term care and short-term rehabilitation facility in Montrose, Colo. has received a 2020 American Health Care Association (AHCA) and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) Quality Initiative Recognition Program award. The AHCA/NCAL honors members that achieve one or more of the program's quality initiative goals and measurable targets. Valley Manor Care Center achieved goals in the hospitalization and antipsychotics categories.

The nursing staff was able to safely reduce long-stay and short-stay hospitalizations by at least 10 percent since the first quarter of 2017 or maintained a rate of 10 percent or less. The staff was also able to safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics by at least 10 percent since first quarter 2017, or maintain a rate of eight percent or less among long-stay residents and one percent or less among short-stay patients.

The award recognizes the commitment of Valley Manor Care Center's staff to

quality care and to the improvement of the lives of individuals they serve.

"Valley Manor Care Center is honored to be recognized by this national organization," Executive Director, Jim Burrell said "This award reflects the hard work and commitment of our dedicated staff as they improve the quality of life of those seniors we serve in Montrose and the surrounding area."

The team has been invited to attend the upcoming Quality Summit in Grapevine, Texas March 9-11, 2020, where they will be recognized at the presentation luncheon and ceremony.

About Volunteers of America

Valley Manor Care Center is a program of Volunteers of America. Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America touches the lives of more than 2 million people each year.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GMUG WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY FOREST SUPERVISOR

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests welcomes Anthony (Tony) Edwards as the new Deputy Forest Supervisor. Tony reported to the GMUG in early January 2020. Tony will be replacing Chad Stewart, who was selected as the GMUG Forest Supervisor in August 2019.

"I am truly excited to be a part of the GMUG" said Edwards. "I look forward to getting to know the forest and the sur-

rounding communities."

Tony comes to the GMUG from the USDA Forest Service's Washington Office where he spent the last nine years serving as a Legislative Affairs Specialist. In his former role he prepared Forest Service leadership as witnesses before congressional committee hearings, worked with Congressional staff in drafting legislation, assisted Congressional offices with constituent issues related to the Forest Service, and briefed members of Congress and

staff on numerous subjects. Prior to this Tony served as the Physical Resources Forest Staff Officer for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, and as a Civil Engineer for the Coronado National Forest.

Tony received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona. He will be joined by his son Alec, who looks forward to learning to ski and enjoying all the Western Slope has to offer.

ROUGH & TUMBLE ROLL INTO MONTROSE FEB 28

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Road-based folk-Americana duo The Rough & Tumble are coming through Montrose to play at Healthy Rhythm on Friday, Feb. 28 at 6:30PM.

The Rough & Tumble are as easy to detect as a stray dog on your doorstep-- and as difficult to send home.

The dumpster-folk, thriftstore-Americana duo, consisting of Mallory Graham & Scott Tyler and their menagerie of classic folk and homemade instruments, have been hobbling around the country in their 16ft camper with their dogs since 2015, taking their songs to the far corners of the US and to the weird little towns they pass along the way. Written during a time of doggedly trying despite the odds and a self-proclaimed "year of honesty," The Rough & Tumble will release their new studio album *Howling Back at the Wounded Dog*. Join the pack live on their Howl Back Tour for their September 2019 release. For more information, visit www.theroughandtumble.com.



Road-based folk-Americana duo The Rough & Tumble are coming through Montrose to play at Healthy Rhythm on Friday, Feb. 28 at 6:30 PM. Courtesy photo.



FRESH, LOCALLY PRODUCED NEWS
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THE MIRROR,

COULD YOU ASK FOR IT TO GET ANY BETTER?

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Letting go of our family familiar



Simba with the kids Sara and Gregorio on the trampoline at Cloud Acre, 2008 (photo by Art Goodtimes).



Simba out for a walk along Lone Cone Road on Wrights Mesa, 2015 (photo by Art Goodtimes)

SIMBA ... You know how there are some things that you firmly don't want, but that you end up getting, anyway, which then become great gifts? Simba was like that ... The kids named her because she looked the part of a lion. A ruddy-white Chow with a leonine jaw, black tongue and a proud tail ruff curled above her rump. A Hurricane Katrina rescue dog. Mary picked her up from a foster home in Denver. I had told her and the kids I didn't want a dog, but they promised me they'd take care of her. It wouldn't be my responsibility ... Hah! Life! I should have known better ... Simba was exceedingly loyal to the kids & Mary. Me, not so much. She barked the first couple years every time I drove into the driveway. Chows aren't affectionate dogs anyway. More independent. Almost like cats ... And she had reason to be aloof. Stories about Simba pre-Colorado suggested she had to be

captured before being rescued in Louisiana. Must have been tricked with food. Would never eat when I filled her bowl, until I walked off. Had traveled with a partner, they said, living off the land after Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast Aug. 23, 2005 [CE]. Above all, she was a survivor ... For me she was untrainable and restless. On the move. A ferocious hunter, if she smelled small game. And she didn't like fences. Or boundaries of any kind. But I kept her as an outside dog. Hantavirus with the mice. Bubonic plague with the prairie dog fleas. The vectors for disease via a traveling family pet at Cloud Acre made this old pre-school teacher nervous. Mary & the kids always let her roam inside and out. And she deserved that. Loved that. If Mary hadn't died in 2012, her life would have been easier. With Mary gone, Sara took her for a year, living with her godparents in Telluride. But then Simba

bit a little boy who was pulling on her hair. And she ended up at Cloud Acre for the second half of her life ... She became my responsibility. I fed her daily. Had to arrange her feeding whenever I left for a couple days. She was the burden I didn't ask for ... But I came to love her irascible soul. She was a good guard dog. Her bark always alerted me to visitors -- from her pen under the largest of the three Siberian elm along my place's fenceline with Lone Cone Road ... Another consistent bennie over the last decade and a half, as Sara always pointed out, has been taking Simba for a walk. Although that stock phrase gets it all backwards. She ran and pulled me along -- at as fast a pace as she could manage, tugging a slow human behind her. I came to think of her as my trainer (especially in my Sixties) ... Because her sense of smell was fine-tuned, I learned to use a retractable leash. Otherwise she would literally knock me over, changing course abruptly, especially at night. But most often we'd race along the county roads of Wrights Mesa at dusk, watching impossible constellations of clouds circle round a Sun sinking into the La Sals. The landscapes were spectacular. As was the dark sky, if we got our exercise in the evenings, particularly if there was some kind of Moon teasing us along ... But gradually her eyesight went. One eye. Then both

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

eyes. She could barely hear at the end. I'd have to yell her name and whistle and beat the garbage can cover on the fence to rouse her from her doghouse. And then she'd shuffle around the pen, bumping into things, the trunk of the tree, the fence. Before eventually finding her bowl of food, as if for the first time. Her bowl of water ... The kids & I took her to the vet this morning. They were very nice at the clinic. Explained how it would go. Let us all be there with Simba. And it was quick. Her head cradled in Sara's lap. I'd dug a grave and had warmed topsoil and a large stone to rest atop her resting place. Resting at last. Dear Simba.

POTPHOBIA ... It's been a couple generations of demonization of cannabis by the government, big corporations (who stood

to profit from outlawing hemp), and even the medical establishment (based on bad science). Now, most everyone agrees that it has many useful values, although a few still can't get over their inbred bias for something they usually have never tried and know little about. That appears to be the case down in Cortez last fall when a hearing for a dispensary got turned down by the city council. After Dr. Malik Hasan, owner of NuVue Pharma, LLC and former personal health care advisor to Pres. George W. Bush, sued, a judge overturned the city denial of a license, since it failed to follow its own rules ... During the original hearing before the city council, Cortez native Charlotte Jones – clearly an expert on the subject -- fought the dispensary permit when she likened legalizing cannabis to putting "a prom dress on a prosti-

tute."

KOMBUCHA ... As a paleohippie, I remember Haight-Ashbury kitchens where a bottle of curing kombucha was a common sight. So it's a bit surprising to see it bottled and sold almost everywhere these days, often containing probiotics – i.e., live micro-organisms claimed to be good for one's health ... And so many different kinds. Since I'm always looking for healthy beverages (in lieu of sodas and sugared drinks), I've tried lots of brands. And hands down, one scores better on the taste chart than any other – for me that's *Wild Tonic's Jun Kombucha Raspberry Goji Berry*. It's as close to ambrosia as anything I've ever tried. I buy it by the case. It makes sugar sodas taste like mouthwash in comparison.

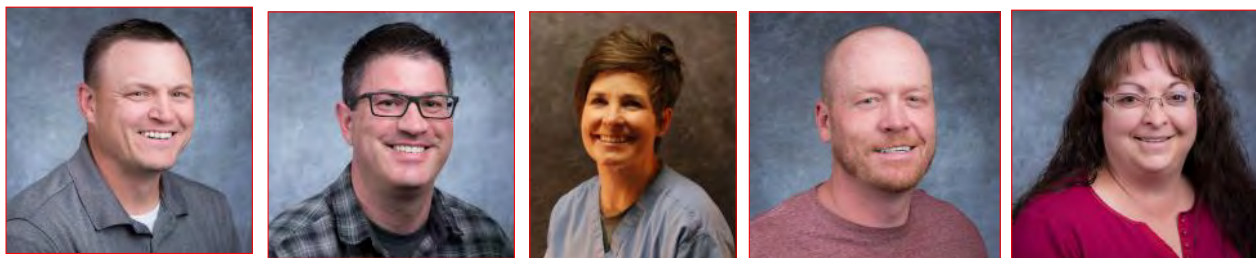
leg hair

I started shaving my legs at 11
not because there was hair
but so the routine would be there when the hair showed up
at 21 a boy told me he'd puke if I didn't shave
at 22 a girl told me I hated women if I did
though each of these people were on opposite sides
they both shamed me
they made me wear pants
because all of a sudden my legs
my choices
belonged to them
but my body is my vessel
so I skip my legs and shape my brows
and maybe no makeup
but these nails are pristine
your body deserves whatever feels good to you
so whether you feel the wind in your leg hair or not
make sure you thank the body that took you outside

-Tori Miner
Fruita

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DCMH CELEBRATING CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK



DCMH CRNA's are pictured from left to right: Joseph McBeain; Jos Foley; Heather Driver; Clint Pitchforth; Christine Hamilton.

Nurse Anesthetists.

DCMH's CRNA team has over 55 years of combined experience. With the development of the CRNA

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA – For more than 150 years, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) have been educated, trained and licensed to administer anesthesia to patients in nearly every clinical setting where there is a procedure requiring anesthesia to be done.

Today, in many rural hospitals CRNAs are used in surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms and physician and dentist offices. At Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) there is a team of five CRNAs with experience providing anesthesia care to patients.

"DCMH prides itself on having an exceptional team of CRNAs that always provide high-quality care for our patients," said Jody Roeber, Chief Clinical Officer at DCMH.

"They provide a great level of support to the rest of the medical staff and ensure that we withhold all standards and procedures to keep our patients safe while administering anesthesia."

CRNAs have a long history of safe patient outcomes and CRNAs have been recognized by some managed care plans for providing high-quality anesthesia care with reduced expense to patients and insurance companies helping to control healthcare costs.

According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), CRNAs are

the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America.

"I came to Delta because it is the type of rural practice and independence that I enjoy," stated Christine Hamilton, CRNA at DCMH since 2006. "[I am also able to have] more autonomy of my profession. Both my husband and I grew up in Grand Junction, so being close to family is also nice."

CRNAs enable healthcare facilities in medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management, and trauma stabilization services, says the AANA. In Colorado, 99.9% of counties with surgical services use CRNAs to administer anesthesia in various health care settings, with 71% of Colorado rural hospitals using CRNAs as the sole anesthesia provider.

"This region allows me to practice very specialized care for folks," said Heather Driver, DCMH CRNA who recently received her doctorate in nurse anesthesia. "I fell in love with Colorado when I moved to the state 30 years ago and have always felt called to rural communities and their unique healthcare challenges."

Today, CRNAs receive their Masters or are Doctoral Prepared Advance Practice Nurses who enjoy a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. Currently, there are 49,000 nurse anesthetists in the United States, and 512 CRNAs in Colorado according to the American Association of

department by Chris Marshall and Jerry Young in 1982, DCMH has been providing anesthesia care for DCMH patients for over 35 years.

"Developing the CRNA department at DCMH is important to us because we knew what an asset they are to the hospital and to the community of Delta County," said Joseph McBeain, Chief CRNA at DCMH. "I also chose to come to DCMH because I like smaller hospitals where everyone knows each other no matter what department they come from."

The CRNA staff each joined the DCMH team for varying reasons. For Clint Pitchforth it was about having an overall better quality of life.

"I was really looking to expand my practice and improve my quality of life by being part of a high quality anesthesia and surgical department," said Clint Pitchforth, CRNA at DCMH.

For Jos Foley it was a chance to put roots down in a place with strong family ties. Foley said that his wife's family has been on the Western Slope for over 120 years and they wanted to reintegrate back into the town that they love – Cedaredge.

"It's like a family," said Driver.

"I think everyone works really hard. Everyone jumps in to help each other. It is based on empathy and compassion (with one another) for the best patient outcomes."

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 - Mary Ann

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GIVE THE GIFT OF SONG: BOOKCLIFF BARBERSHOP HARMONY CHORUS OFFERS SERENADE SERVICE

Special to Art&Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Are you looking for a great way to impress your sweetheart, teacher, mother, boss or true love on Valentine's Day? Are you spending a lot of time shopping for a memorable and special last minute gift for Valentine's Day for someone you love? Why not hire a barbershop quartet from the Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus to serenade your loved ones on Valentine's Day?

Quartets will be delivering a cappella Singing Valentines from Palisade to Mack from 8 AM to 8PM on Thursday February 13th and Friday February 14th. The non-profit Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus has acted as 'Cupid' near Valentine's Day and have offered this fundraising service to those in love in the Grand Valley annually for more than 20 years.

The quartets will go anywhere in the area dressed in tuxedos to impress and will serenade any woman or man or several people with two sweet love songs. Often it happens at schools, in the workplace or at a restaurant and is a complete surprise for the recipient, making it an unforgettable emotional event!

In addition to four-part a cappella harmony singing, the quartets present a red rose, a small box of Enstrom's candy, and a card with a personalized message and will of course be willing to pose with the recipient for a keepsake photo. Call 970-257-SONG [7664] to order yours NOW!!!



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DEPENDABLE, DELICIOUS PANDA PALACE DOESN'T DISAPPOINT

MONTROSE – Hankering for some Chinese food and don't want to travel to get it? No problem.

Michael and I were in the mood for something spicy and tangy, so we headed over to Townsend to the Panda Palace.

The Palace is always good for great Chinese grub and didn't disappoint this evening.

If you're in the mood for something spicy head for the Kung Pao. We opted to share a heaping dish of Kung Pao Deluxe which is a combo of shrimp, beef and chicken in a spicy sauce with peppers and peanuts. The serving is so large that we enjoyed it the next night as well. It's a house specialty here. But there are many more to choose from.

Now, our dinner of steamed rice and Kung Pao Deluxe didn't come with a high price, even with the addition of a cup of hot & sour soup each and hot tea. Most of

the house specialties at the Palace run from \$13.50 to \$15.95 (for the Honey Walnut Shrimp). But for \$13.50 you have a choice of the dish we enjoyed or Shrimp with W/eggplant in Garlic Sauce, Sweet and Sour Combination, or Happy Family.

Those are just the specialty dishes. Many others on the menu range from \$9.75 to \$15.95. Or you can bring the gang and go for a family dinner combination – Canton Dinner is \$14.45 a person, Peking Dinner goes for \$15.45 each and the Panda Palace Dinner is \$18.45 each, (For that you get wonton soup, an appetizer, fried rice and a choice of one main course); or there is a choice for a complete dinner, with soup of the day, an appetizer, one entrée and fried rice for \$10 - \$10.45 each.

You'd be mighty satisfied and happily waddle out after that meal.

As you might expect, Panda has the total variety of dishes you should see on a Chi-

nese restaurant menu, including pork, beef, chicken and vegetable dishes; shrimp, scallop & fish, moo shu, chop suey, egg foo young, chow mein and lo mein, pan fried noodles and fried rice dishes.

Lunch? Specials run from \$8.10 - \$9 to \$9.50.

No dessert, but the fortune cookies are fun. Hmmm, mine came up blank. But, not to disappoint, the waitress gave me another which ensured me a fortune. It was vague, so there you go.

Panda Palace is open daily from 11 to 9 p.m. Dine in or take out. 531 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, call 970252-3435 for takeout.



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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.

MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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. 29-5-6:30, Montrose Library Meeting Room. Unwind, a monthly knit & crochet night at the Montrose Library. All ability levels welcome. Supplies provided, or bring your own project. Call 249-9656 for more information.

Feb. 3-Monday Feb. 3rd ,6:30 Citizens" Climate Lobby presents National Geographic "Years of Living Dangerously" with Sigourney Weaver visits China. Montrose Library meeting rm. Nonpartisan, all welcome

Feb. 3-Montrose Women's Giving Club meets at Bridges, 5:30 p.m.. Open to all women; each member donates \$100 per quarter at each meeting.

Feb 6-6:30-8:30 pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "Climate Change and the Global Order." -Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Feb. 6-There will be a Disabilities/Inclusion focus group meeting at Over the Rainbow Behavioral Consulting on Feb. 6, 6-9 pm. The address is 18th N. Uncompahgre Ave Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Feb. 11-Play and Learn. Montrose Regional Library. Feb. 11. 0am - 12pm. Join us for an early literacy playdate! Stations and activities to promote early literacy. Designed for ages 0-6.

Feb. 11-On Tuesday evening, Feb. 11, the Open Bard Literary Series will host its seventh annual Youth Night at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested) but free to all students and teachers. Doors will open for Youth Night at the Sherbino at 6 p.m.

Feb. 12-On Wednesday, Feb. 12: Winter Bike to Work Day. Pedal over to the Montrose Visitor Center from 6:30-9 am for a free hot breakfast. After work, celebrate at 2 Rascals at our Love Your Bike Party from 4:30-7 pm.

Feb. 12- Montrose Neighborhood Watch meeting, presentation on Crime Scene Investigations. Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Feb 13-6:30-8:30 pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "India and Pakistan." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Feb. 15-Sweethearts Dance Feb. 15-The *Gary Russel Band* will be providing music for listening and dancing pleasure at the Montrose Elks Lodge. The theme for the dance is "Continental Honky Tonk." Western dress is encouraged. Cost will be \$25 for couples and \$15 for Singles. (Open to the public).

Feb. 20-2pm - 4pm Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Montrose Regional Library. Calling all girls! Join us for a fun program that will give girls the chance to think like an engineer! Everyone welcome! Young children must have a caregiver present.

Feb 20-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "Red Sea Security." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Feb 27-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Mar 5-6:30-8:30 pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Mar 12-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "China's Road into Latin America." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

Mar 19-6:30-8:30 pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "The Philippines and the U.S.." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

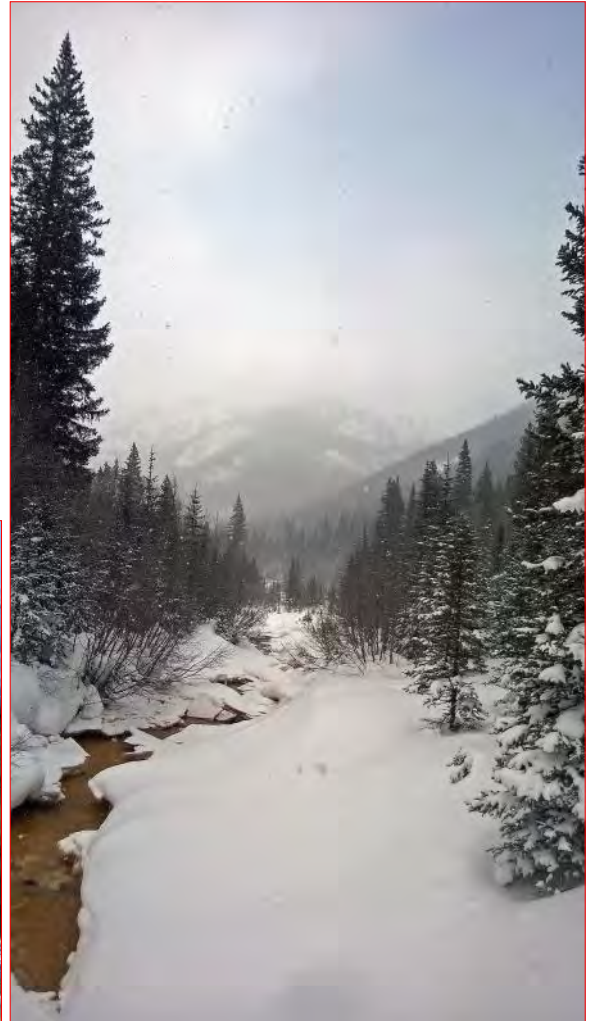
Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

OUTDOOR PHOTO SPOTLIGHT!

*Below left and top, Sue Williamson
captured these images of wildlife
near Ridgway...at right, Deb
Reimann took this photo at Ironton.*



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