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the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 362 Feb. 3, 2020

Save a tree, read the Mirror!

MHS STUDENTS GAIN WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY AS 'PINTERNS'



MHS Juniors Carmen Puentes, Seydeanna Delgado, and Jordan Copeland will participate in summer STEM internships through Telluride's Pinhead Institute.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—This summer, seven students from Montrose High School will participate in a program designed to further not only their education, but their contributions to society. As interns with the Pinhead Institute (A Smithsonian Affiliate based in Telluride), MHS students Jordan Copeland, Carmen Puentes, Seydeanna Delgado, Natalia Graham, Zack Vincent, Eliram Reyes-Powell, and Caitlin Ogoe will spend hands-on time with professional researchers across the United States.

The internships will help prepare the students—all of whom are now juniors—for the jobs of the future, MHS Work Based Learning Coordinator Kathy Gaber said. "Kids from our area can go to places with cutting edge technology...in some cases they will prepare

[Continued pg 15](#)

ECKHART RESIGNS AT DMEA BOARD MEETING

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—The monthly Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Jan. 28. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening meeting prayer.

General Business:

Action Item:

- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Membership Report
- Approval of Minutes from the December board meeting.

-Approval of Minutes from the Jan. 17, 2020 Special Meeting. The Special Meeting was an Executive Session for review/discussion of Tri-State Withdrawal Information and Related Documents. Following the



During the January 2020 Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors meeting Vice President Mark Eckhart, who had served for almost nine years, abruptly tendered his resignation. Eckhart (standing, L to R), who left the boardroom immediately following his announcement, was quickly approached by fellow board member Stacia Cannon. Photo by Gail Marvel.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INCREASE IN INFLUENZA CASES REPORTED IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Public Health is reporting an increase in influenza cases. There are at least 75 reported cases to date in Montrose County, with a recent spike in Influenza B cases.

"I strongly encourage the public to protect themselves and get a flu shot—it's not too late to get vaccinated," said Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Gallegos. "There is a marked increase in Influenza B cases, which typically affects children and young people."

Montrose County Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield, MD, also reported one death from complications of an influenza infection. The individual did not receive a flu vaccine this year. "The flu vaccine is one of the best methods of prevention," said Dr. Canfield. "The vaccine can reduce the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and even the risk of flu-related death in children. If you have flu-like symptoms, please see a health care provider to get tested and treatment if needed."

Flu vaccines are available at the Montrose County Public Health Clinic at 1845 South Townsend, as well as at several health care providers across the county.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), symptoms of the flu include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (though not everyone with flu will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue

Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. The flu is a highly contagious illness, which is why the CDC urges everyone to take the following steps to protect themselves and others:

- Take time to get a flu shot: While there are many different flu viruses, a flu vaccine protects against the viruses that research suggests will be most common. The CDC says it's not too late to get this year's

vaccine.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

- If you are sick with flu symptoms, you should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs such as the flu.

Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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CITY CONSIDERS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, NEXT STEPS FOR NEW MONTROSE POLICE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Montrose City Council and staff met for a special work session on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as the Montrose City Council convened for a special work session on Wednesday, Jan. 29, to consider a professional services agreement for technical advisory and design assistance services as well as the next steps for the new Montrose Police Department Facility Construction Project.

MCCLAREN WILSON & LAWRIE, INC. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall introduced Jim McClaren, of McClaren Wilson Lawrie, Inc. According to the firm's website, McClaren Wilson Lawrie, Inc. has specialized in the planning and design of public safety and forensic science facilities since 1995, resulting in nearly 450 diverse projects. In Montrose, the firm would serve as technical advisor to the City's

representative throughout the pre-design, design, and construction phases of the new police department facility construction project. With the technical advisor in place, the field of potential project architects is greater, McClaren said. "Instead of limiting the field of architects, you open the door to local providers who don't necessarily have 50 police stations under their belt," he said. McClaren reviewed the firm's approach to the design and construction process in detail and answered questions from Council. "I want civic buildings to be approachable sources of pride," he said, noting that such facilities can also serve as recruiting tools to attract new officers. "You're building a fairly complex organism here...it's like a living thing." Services would be invoiced monthly; proposed services total \$195,010. The profes-

sional services agreement will come before City Council for approval on Feb. 4, City Manager Bill Bell said.

NEXT STEPS-POLICE DEPT. FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum asked whether McClaren could review the City's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an Owner's Representative for the project. "Can he look at the RFQ today for red flags?" she asked. Bell said that McClaren had already provided input on the RFQ.

Bell advised that no more than two City councilors should serve on the police facility project review committee. Still, three councilors expressed interest.

"I definitely want to be part of this," Mayor Dave Bowman said, noting that his current term as Councilor runs until 2022. Both Bynum and Councilor Roy Anderson are up for re-election and facing contests in the April 2020 municipal election.


"I am interested too," Anderson said. "I am interested as well," Bynum said. "I did weekly construction project meetings for the Rec Center for two years."

"You need to wait until after the election," Councilor Judy Ann Files said.

"If I'm not re-elected I'll stop coming to meetings," Bynum said. "I can take a hint." Mayor Bowman thanked all for attending "another great, fantastic meeting," and adjourned the work session.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ANDERSON, BYNUM FACE CHALLENGES IN 2020 CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The individuals listed below submitted nomination petitions by the deadline of 6 p.m. Jan. 27 to run for Montrose City Council. The candidates listed in bold have been determined to meet the qualifications. The other candidates are in the verification process. Names will be drawn for ballot position on Tuesday, Feb-

ruary 4.

District III

Roy Anderson

David S. White

District IV

William Bennett

Merri D. Brennecke

David M. Frank

David Stockton

At-Large

Paul Arbogast

Barbara Bynum

Yvonne Y. Meek

Charli Oswald

Ed Ulibarri



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PARTIES FORM COMMITTEE TO RECALL OURAY COUNTY SHERIFF

Special to the Mirror

OURAY-On Jan. 25, leaders from Ouray County Republicans and Ouray County Democrats met to discuss the public trust regarding Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald.

Attendees agreed to establish a formal committee with the Secretary of State's office and develop a joint recall petition for the removal of Sheriff Fitzgerald.

The petition to recall was submitted to and approved by Ouray County Clerk and designated election official, Michelle Nauer. It states in part, "In the light of the recent arrest and continued negative events surrounding Lance Patrick Fitzgerald, Sheriff of Ouray County, we citizens of Ouray County do not have confidence that Sheriff Lance Fitzgerald can uphold the duties and responsibilities of his elected position."

In making their decision, the group also

considered the language of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics (available through Colorado.gov). This code expresses what law enforcement officers demand of those in their profession and what the public should expect. It includes the following relevant provisions:

"I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department....I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of law enforcement service."

"This matter rises above normal partisan

interests and has become a serious breach of the public trust of the citizens of Ouray County," said Carolyn Dresler, Vice-Chair of the Ouray County Democratic Party. John Mitchell, Chair of the Ouray County Republican Party added, "All of us in Ouray County should band together to address this local issue and to express our expectations for our local and county officials."

Formation of the Committee to Recall Ouray County Sheriff provides for an organizational structure to manage the circulation of the petition and conduct campaign operations for the recall vote. It also allows for the solicitation, receipt and expenditures on behalf of the campaign.

For further information about the Committee to Recall Ouray County Sheriff contact Bob Larson at 970-325-4600 or bob@mmsouray.com.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION INTERVIEWS CANDIDATE FOR OPEN DISTRICT F SEAT

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Jan. 28, four members of the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education met for a work session, for the purpose of interviewing District F Candidate Eric Kelley. Formerly held by Phoebe Benziger, the District F seat did not draw any candidates during the recent election and remains open pending an appointment by the Board of Education.

Present for the work session were School Board President Gayle Johnson; Vice President Sarah Fishing; District B Director Jake Suppes; and District D Director Shawn Carroll. Not present were District A Director Jeff Bachman and District G Director Stephen Bush.

Carroll noted that he has known Kelley for some time. He asked Kelley if he has attended school board meetings in the past, and how he views the relationship of the board to district employees.

“Yes,” Kelley said, he has attended board meetings and has experience both as an employee and an employee. He sees both sides and believes maintaining good relationships is important.

Fishing asked how Kelley would respond to a call from an irate parent who is upset with a teacher; Kelley said that he would ask first whether the parent had spoken to the teacher. “I would be more comfortable if they talked to the whole board or to the superintendent,” he said. “There’s not much I can do and it’s not fair for me to act by myself.”

Fishing also asked what kind of relationship Kelley would like to have with his



RE-1J District F Candidate Eric Kelley answered questions at the board of education work session Jan. 28.

fellow Board of Education members; Kelley said that a “united front” is important. “I think we have to work together.”

His communication skills would help him on the Board of Education, said Kelley, who works as a professional barber and who has two children attending RE-1J schools. “I listen,” he said.

Suppes asked how Kelley would go about gaining feedback from District parents, and about his attitude toward other municipal entities such as the City of Montrose and Montrose County.

Kelley suggested questionnaires, surveys, and open communication. Also, “It’s imperative that we keep a good working relationship with other folks in the county.”

Johnson asked several specific questions, and asked Kelley what he hopes to contribute if appointed. Ensuring transparency, being a good steward of the public schools, and choosing the right individual to replace retiring Superintendent Stephen Schiell were among the goals Kelley cited.

One other candidate for the District F seat will be interviewed before a decision is made, Johnson said. “We will make our selection at the second February board meeting. We will get back to you...you were a very well-spoken gentleman and we enjoyed meeting you.”

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MONTROSE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUTTING CITY OF MONTROSE GOVERNANCE INTO AN OBJECTIVE PURVIEW

Editor:

In view of the City of Montrose's self-ordained, lead business development role that has been pursued with extensive, taxpayer-funded fervor, it seems an appropriate time to look deeply into why this posture is justified as if someone other than faceless, tax payers are footing the tab. For starters, let's remember that in a free-market society, Private Business is compelled to ascertain Capital (the life-blood of any business enterprise) from various sources including self-funding, investors, loans, etc.

These investors and lenders must perform extensive due diligence before embarking on placing their capital at risk in speculation of the subject business being able to return their investment, plus a profit (or equity) recapturing their entire cost of investment. Government is not or should not, by its very charter and pledges as elected officials and hired employees, be in the business of speculative investment. However, the trap that has befallen

our nation at large and perhaps what Montrose has adopting as a tax-payer, blessed endowment foundation is actually nothing more than good old Cronyism.

Fairly new to Montrose since the hiring of the current city manager, but not a new convention in the broader picture. Cronyism is deeply seeded in our culture as businesses are looking for handouts and then we are replete with politicians and bureaucrats that are constantly going out and providing them, as if it's the city's business model. If a business gets a handout, then it becomes an avalanche free-for-all wanting the same thing the other one got - it's only fair. It becomes a destructive cycle and a terrible incentive for a community.

This pathology is proffered repeatedly in the name of being pro-business and almost any spending can be justified with a promise that it will for example, create jobs in the future. A true, business metrics analysis may very well present the real weaknesses because these government

people are not trained in the highly technical world of business financial analysis. The policies denounced by those who recognize it, see it as Corporate Welfare usually involving big announcements, high hopes, photo opportunities, holding shovels and the public rarely pays much attention, until it's too late.

And, then there are the other hand-outs that are boldly held up as "community investment" but is slammed through with little to no public scrutiny, let alone discourse.

In the public sector, it's only money and those taxes just keep coming in year after year - it's not like the city has to turn a profit or justify bad business decisions. Public officials are just Private Sector wanna-be's. They just don't have the talent and personal fiber to "do it the old-fashioned way, I earn it".

Cronyism and using somebody else's money is just so easy and besides, there's always the next sales tax increase.

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ECKHART RESIGNS AT DMEA BOARD MEETING From pg 1

executive session, the board voted on the resolution authorizing agreements relating to the Tri State withdrawal. Approved unanimously.

Board Committee Items:

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

Harding said, "We had no meeting in January. The fourth quarter of 2019 was very busy."

Update on Sales Tax Audit - Wade Pynes, CFO was available through conference call.

Pynes said, "Mistakes that happened years ago are smaller in scope." The audit exposed issues with those claiming tax-exempt status. Pynes said, "The burden of proving tax-exempt status falls on them. We've let people self-certify, but the State wants proof. Members will have to petition the State to get the tax-exempt status and tax-exempt accounts."

Anticipating calls from membership, board member Kyle Martinez asked staff to provide a list to the board of those affected. He said, "Mainly so we can be prepared if we are contacted by a member." CEO Jasen Bronec complimented Pynes' work on the audit and tax-exempt adjustments.

Review/Discussion on New Mortgage Brad Harding, Chair.

Harding said, "We are out from under the old mortgage. The new mortgage is a 34-page document. There are no major concerns."

Engineering-Construction-Renewable Energy Committee - Chris Hauck, Chair.

Review and Vote on Vegetation Management Bid Contract

Two bids for high-voltage, hot-line tree trimming were received; one from Wright and the other from Asplundh. DMEA has worked with both companies in the past and staff did not recommend one over the other.

Vegetation Management for 2020 was budgeted at \$750,000. An additional \$200,000 was approved to hire local crews for both Montrose and Read.

DMEA is trying to better manage tree

trimming by using the required certified trimmers around high voltage lines (hot space) and local tree trimmers for other vegetation (non-hot space). Bronec said, "We are trying to clean up our system and get ahead of it. We are getting more aggressive with our program. We have to get stuff out of there before it gets up into the lines."

COO Virginia Harman said, "We are on a five-year tree trimming cycle. If a member refuses to let us remove a tree, and only trim it, and if we have to come back before five years, the member will be required to pay for the removal."

Board member Mark Eckhart said, "These companies are the poster-child of inefficiency! I hope you understand. Membership needs to know when these companies spend three-hours [on their property] and they don't do a thing, they are paying for it. It's not in their interest to chop down trees. It's a scam! I'm not harping on DMEA, but these companies are taking advantage of the members."

Harman said, "If 2020 isn't getting any better we can look at bringing it in-house."

Bronec said, "It would take about six-months to ramp up. If you buy equipment, you're looking at 10 years [return]. We are getting better performance out of these companies. Local crews do a better job."

Eckhart said, "I don't know what you are going to do with the big boys, but just drive their asses."

On a 7-2 vote the one-year contract was awarded to Asplundh. Eckhart and Martinez voted no.

Review and Vote on DMEA Ownership of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment. (EVSE)

Jim Heneghan provided the backstory on DMEA owning the proposed EVSE, which included grants, partnership with the City of Montrose and cash flow. Heneghan said, "The alternative to us owning it would be the city owning it." The City of Montrose is also negotiating for a Tesla charging station; however, both stations could be located together.

Bronec said, "This promotes EVSE per our strategic initiatives. We could own this as

a pilot, and take this as our first step as a pilot."

Member Relations - Energy Services Committee - Kyle Martinez, Chair.

Martinez reviewed events for 2020, which include the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Annual Luncheon and the upcoming DMEA Board of Directors Election. Martinez said, "I think Mark (District 7), Stacia (North Region) and Damon (District 6) are up for election." The next Member Relations Committee meeting will be held on Feb. 14 at 2 p.m.

Executive Committee - Bill Patterson, Chair.

Patterson said, "The Executive Committee Policy is up for review. I'll defer to Jeff [DMEA Attorney Jeff Hurd]."

Hurd said, "This is the Conflict of Interest Policy. Three years ago, we did a substantial re-draft. This is a clean-up. Only minor changes. It reminds you to keep your fiduciary duties in mind." DMEA board members sign a conflict of interest statement every year.

Board Policy 2-8, approved unanimously. Board Policy 2-7, approved unanimously.

Safety and Occupational Health Report - Virginia Harman, COO.

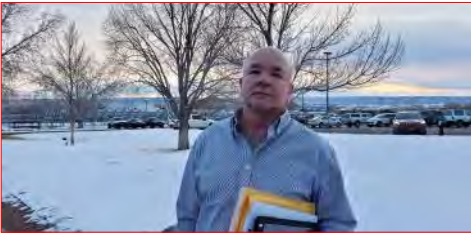
Harman said, "We've combined DMEA and Elevate Safety Committees and have oversight together. We'll report on both when we give the safety report. In December there were no employee injuries. One minor accident, no significant damage. One near-miss. We've been testing equipment and doing annual tests."

Financial Report with Variance Report - Wade Pynes, CFO (conference call).

Pynes said, "November was a pretty steady month mostly due to the rate increase. December was pretty cold, so pretty good sales. Large commercial sales are down slightly. We're coming in under budget with controllable expenses."

Bronec said, "Sale and projection sales, things you try to anticipate, didn't happen this year. We've been able to hold to our budget. DMEA has been a well-run co-op. We'll close out the year pretty good when

ECKHART RESIGNS AT DMEA BOARD MEETING *From previous pg*



Longtime Board member Mark Eckhart resigned his seat after suggesting term limits for the DMEA Board President. Photo by Gail Marvel.

we see the year-end report.”

CEO Report – Jasen Bronec, CEO.

Bronec gave a brief update on legislative bills that DMEA is involved in, HB 20-1137, SB107 and SB 20-128. Bronec said, “There is another bill not yet given a place holder, to revamp the broadband bill. We meet with legislators and have a presence there.” Bronec also reported on a conference where he networked with federal regulators, special interest groups, industry leaders, academics, and developers.

December 2019 SAIDI (Systems Average Interruption Duration Index) Report.

Bronec said, “We did well ending the year as far as our performance. We continue to be a top performer responding to outages and getting it back on line quickly.”

Legal Report – Jeff Hurd, Attorney.

Hurd touched briefly on a few items, i.e. the new mortgage, but held his remaining comments for executive session.

Tri State Report – Kyle Martinez.

Martinez said, “Tri State’s energy plan includes closing of some mines and powerplants. There are still some things they need to change to make themselves relevant. They are keeping things in the legislative committee and not letting the board in on the strategies, so the board members won’t have to report back to their boards. Our [DMEA’s] exit is being handled by staff; the board doesn’t seem to be aware of what is happening.”

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

Fleming said, “We have a meeting on Thursday. I need to get up to speed so I can have some information on dues. Next month I’ll probably have something to

report.”

CREA Report (Colorado Rural Electric Association) – Damon Lockhart.

Lockhart said, “We are collaborating on legislative bills.

Other Business

Review of Unclaimed Capital Credit Donations (incl. future donations not expensed).

Bronec said, “Our biggest category is scholarships. Our new power supplier [Guzman Energy] does scholarships. That might be an area where we could work with them.” As of 12/31/19 the balance for unclaimed credits is \$98,482.34.

Approval of Funds for Operation Round Up Audit

Operation Round Up allows participating members to automatically round up to the nearest dollar when they pay their bill. Those funds are placed in a charitable trust and distributed based on need and community impact. Fleming, a former Operation Round Up Board member, said, “DMEA has done a good job supporting that project.”

Motion to Term-Limit DMEA President

Eckhart made a motion for term-limits for the president of the board, to serve no more than three years as president and to take effect in June 2020. Eckhart said, “I see new people coming on the board and we need to have opportunities and new ideas. Seven years as a president...we can eliminate some stagnation.”

Taking the discussion in a similar, but different direction, Lockhart said, “As a fairly new guy I’ve been on WUES and CREA for two-and-a-half years. I plan to re-run, but along the same lines and for the same reasons, I think it would be good for others to get fresh ideas.

Hurd said, “Are you wanting to change board policy?”

Eckhart said, “Yes. No one would hold one board seat for more than three years, effective June 2020.”

Fleming said, “I don’t agree. In terms of leadership on the board...if five of the nine [board members] want the guy to be on for nine years [it’s their decision]. If people don’t like the current board president, they can vote him out. I have concern

about making it 2020. May 1st we are out from under Tri State. I don’t know how long Bill Patterson has been president, but to have the person who led the charge to get out of Tri State, to say that he cannot...”

Patterson indicated he has been president for five of six years.

Martinez said, “I can see both sides of the coin.”

Lockhart said, “I like to see the board look for someone else [for his committee assignments]. The classes are good and I’m trying to learn what I can. Someone else may want to step up. I have other commitments. A fresh look, maybe people who have more legislative experience.”

Hurd suggested that rather than a board policy change, they look at a By-Law change.

Harding said, “We have an organizational meeting after the election. That might be more effective than changing board policy.”

Bronec said, “Our concern is losing seniority on boards, speaking to consistency.”

Patterson said, “I can remember the reason I stepped up for president. We focused our efforts to get out of Tri State. At that time, we voted not to do Elevate. I thought that was a serious mistake. We need to present the same [leadership] face when we negotiate with Tri State. I’d like to follow through and get it done. I didn’t want to make being president a career.”

Harding said, “We have an organization process coming up. That is the time to look at it. The process is designed to be bold and say we have an interest [in becoming president]. Stacia Cannon felt that succession planning is important, but questioned forced succession with term limits. Eckhart said, “I’ve always tried to make people happy. I have my letter of resignation to the board. I support what DMEA is doing.” With a catch in his voice he continued, “I would encourage everyone to keep working for the membership. Keep the board meetings open for the membership. It’s becoming more and more difficult to serve. My business is suffering so I can be here.

ECKHART RESIGNS AT DMEA BOARD MEETING *From previous pg*

"A couple of things that really irritated me. A couple of weeks ago I talked to [attorney] Jeff Hurd. We boiled it down to a question. That was three weeks ago. I haven't heard a word. I know when I've exceeded my welcome here. I'm not welcome. There is a committee out there to fill an existing director seat. A group actually working to unseat an elected. I've done some things that really piss people off. The membership should pick the people on the board, not the board."

Patterson said, "I would disagree. As far as I know, there is no active board committee to go out and get someone to run against you. We are all members, we can have a preference [on who we'd like to serve with]."

Getting up from his seat Eckhart said, "I'm done." Handing his formal written resignation to Patterson he said, "Here's your gift Bill."

Patterson said, "It's not my gift."

Follow-Up Note: Responding to an email on the process for selecting Eckhart's replacement, President Bill Patterson said, "Regarding your questions on the replacement of Mark Eckhart, the Board policy

requires the Board to name a replacement within four months of the resignation. It is four and a half months until the next election. Mark was up for election this cycle. We did have a short discussion about this last night but no decision. I would prefer to have the members elect Mark's replacement. Virginia is looking at alternatives to accomplish a member's election of Mark's replacement."

Member Comments:

Donation Request from Art Coalition of Delta County – Richard Weldon.

The Art Coalition requested a \$50,000 donation to help build a Performing Arts Center at the Delta-Montrose VoTech Center.

Weldon said, "We will be the biggest center between Denver and Salt Lake." The current need is for a place to perform productions. However, the long-range goal is a 50,000 sq ft auditorium, expected to cost \$10-\$12 M.

Review Partnership Opportunity with Habitat for Humanity

Erica Weeks, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, presented a proposal for in-kind contributions to build affordable

housing.

Weeks said, "We want to build 18 homes by 2025. The in-kind donations would be for the hook-ups." Weeks wants to partner with the city and utility companies for a non-profit affordable housing development in Montrose.

Executive Session:

General Counsel Legal Update

Power Supply Update

DMEA Board Members

Dist 1 - Bill Patterson, 970-209-1449, bpatterson@montrose.net

Dist 2 - Kyle Martinez, 970-615-7124, kyle@touchofcarepcp.com

Dist 3 - Brad Harding, 970-270-3692, bharding@firstcoloradobank.com

Dist 4 - Ken Watson, 970-275-2100, kennethwatson@gmail.com

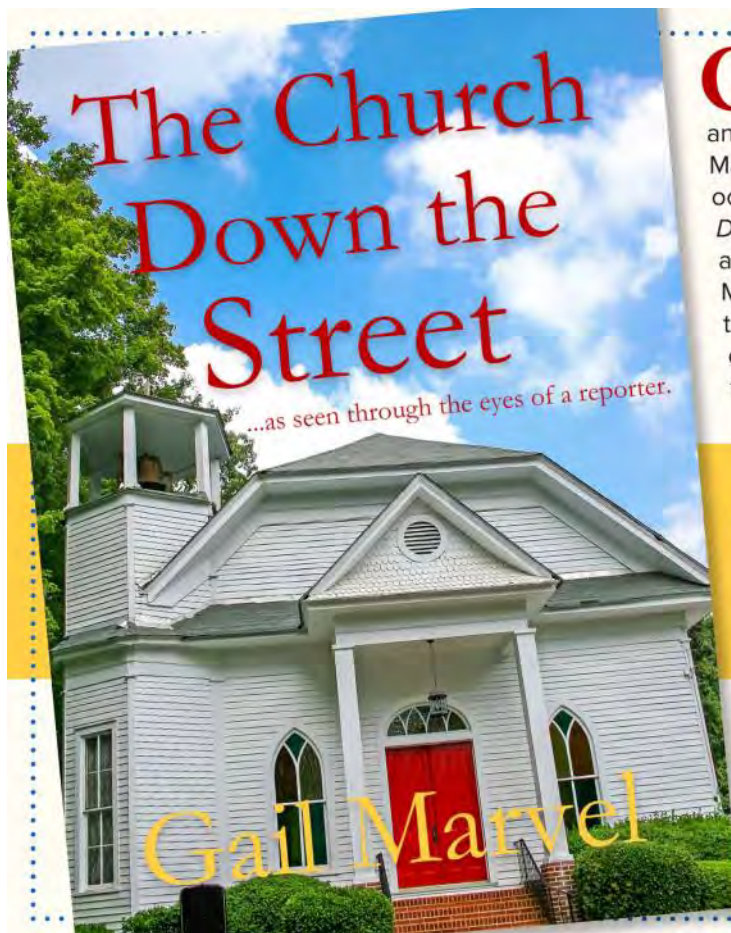
Dist 5 - Chris Hauck, 970-497-0900, 1ch@haucks.cc

Dist 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist 7 -

Dist 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



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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MHS STUDENTS GAIN WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY AS 'PINTERNS'

From pg 1



2019 and 2020 Pinhead Interns from MHS also include (l-r) Caitlin Ogoe, Zack Vincent, Trey Schwerdtfeger (2019), Ryan Fife (2019), and Eiram Reyes-Powell.

students for jobs that don't even exist today," Gaber said. "They will be challenged as they have not been before; they can see different types of problem solving."

For Jordan Copeland, being a Pinhead Institute Intern means the chance to study at the George Lab in La Jolla, California, where she will focus on neuroscience and addiction. "I have always been interested in the central nervous system," she said. "I also like emergency medicine, and I wanted to get out of my comfort zone...I am so glad to be able to participate." Despite her youth, Copeland has attended emergency medical conferences in the past and is involved with Colorado State Patrol Youth Leadership. As for a career path, "I am torn between medicine and law enforcement," she said.

And while either choice will require hard work, "If you are passionate and driven, it's not difficult at all," Copeland said. She feels that genetic profiling holds great promise for more effective treatment. "I think that we can start making attempts at

more specific treatments."

"It's a really cool opportunity for summer," said Seydeanna Delgado, who hopes to study zoology and conservation biology and eventually attend veterinary school. She will spend her summer internship working with a conservation organization. "It can be hard to get internships in a small town," Delgado said. "Pinhead does a great job of making it accessible—I want our underclassmen to know it is an opportunity you can take.

"I think it's really important for people to know about wildlife and species diversity," she said. "I would like to contribute as much as I can and educate people."

Carmen Puentes learned about the internship program during her freshman year, through a teacher. "I was very interested in the idea of being able to experience what a scientist does, at my age." Puentes' interests are in pharmaceutical research, with a focus on botanicals and medicine. She expressed gratitude for the chance to pursue a career in the sciences. "I am the first in my family to become

interested in science," she said. "By having these choices, we can explore the world of science and see what interests us...even if you are not interested in certain things, every kind of experience is helpful to make you understand what people do in different fields."

Natalia Graham's sister did a Pinhead Internship last summer. "She had a really good time," Graham said. "I want to study architecture myself; I am excited to try it out." Tiny houses are an inspiration for Graham, who has already spent time shadowing a local architect. "I think it would be really fun to do tiny houses," she said. "To help homeless people, and to make it so more people can just have a decent house." Though she has not finalized the details of her internship, Graham thinks that she may go to Miami to study architecture and design.

Zack Vincent became interested in the Pinhead Institute Internship program after hearing about it from friends. "I thought it would improve my resume," Vincent said. "It's a really cool opportunity." He hopes to learn more about the importance of science and technology education throughout history and said that the chance to live independently before heading off to college is also a benefit.

Eiram Reyes-Powell came to Montrose from Mexico City, and hopes to eventually major in mathematics or physics. "When they told me I could do this, I thought it was a great opportunity," he said. "Math can be applied to many different things, for data analysis and statistics. It can help us build sustainable things."

After attending presentations by Pinhead affiliates and researching opportunities, Caitlin Ogoe is considering the study of computational biology. She will participate in the Albert H. Small Normandy Institute and hopes to eventually attend Carnegie Mellon University and establish a career in computer science. "I want to be one of the people who push the boundaries of computer science, and make them work for us," Ogoe said. "Computers are far more capable than our small brains

MHS STUDENTS GAIN WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY AS 'PINTERNS'

From previous pg

can comprehend.

"I want to be one of the people who decide what we are going to do about artificial intelligence."

Past Pinhead Interns from MHS include Ryan Fife and Trey Schwerdtfeger.

Fife spent her internship studying with the Rehab Neural Engineering Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. "I gained a skill set," she said. "It was very helpful doing that before my senior year; being in that setting reassured me of what I want to

do." She encourages other students to explore the possibilities of Pinhead Internships. "Even if you are not into STEM," she said. "There are lots of different opportunities, and professional relationships. You get to be part of the world outside of school. It's a great learning opportunity, and you are not expected to know everything."

Said Schwerdtfeger, who used his internship to study naval architecture in Connecticut, "I got the chance to do some-

thing I would not have done without the program. I was able to further my knowledge." He will study Naval Engineering in college. If he could solve one societal problem through education, "It would be the fact that some people forget important history," Schwerdtfeger said. "You cannot really move forward without understanding where you've been."

More information on the Pinhead Institute Internship Program can be found at www.pinheadinstitute.org.

GARDENING IN THE UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY SERIES FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-This free 8-session series meets Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 17 - April 6 at the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Topics will include seed starting; hands-on outdoor planting; early, growing, and late season activities & challenges; fall harvesting; improving soil health; and trees. Time will be available for questions and discussion. Sessions taught by Larry Wobeter, Dave Dearstyne and Reed Irwin. For more information visit www.montroselibrary.org.



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Nathan Perry, PhD
CMU Associate Professor of Economics
2020 Economic Outlook

PANELISTS

Jasen Bronec
DMEA & ELEVATE Fiber CEO
Electricity & Fiber Trends

Debi Harmon
20 Sleeps West Real Estate Broker/Owner
Real Estate & Housing Trends

Sandy Head
MEDC Executive Director
Economic Development Trends

James Kiser
Montrose Memorial Hospital CEO
Healthcare Update & Trends

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CITY CONSIDERS EXTENDING MAYFLY JOB CREATION AGREEMENT, GRANTING INCENTIVES TO GEYSER TECHNOLOGIES



At the work session of Feb. 3, Montrose City Council will talk about an extension of the Mayfly Outdoors Job Creation Agreement.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council will convene for a work session at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 3 and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

WORK SESSION

Four new employees will be introduced at the City of Montrose work session of Feb. 3. Joining the City team are Assistant Finance Director Erin Capron; Street Division Workers Travis Triesch and Jesus Hernandez (Tony) Cruz; and Vista Volunteer Matt Kojm.

Discussion items include the recent Hispanic Affairs Committee (HAP) Photovoice Project; an extension of the Mayfly Outdoors Job Creation Agreement; Public Infrastructure Capital Improvements in Conjunction with the MURA Southern Multi-Housing Project; Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Application; 2020 capital project carryover expenditures; and the televising of City Council work sessions.

Items scheduled for future work sessions or council meetings include:

Feb. 18-Special meeting/executive session-contract discussion; Cobble Creek Golf Course liquor license transfer; planning commission applicant interviews; Project 7 water treatment plant presentation; annual grant report; Montrose Dermatology

Business Expansion Project; Weed Management Plan; Treatment Plant discussion.

March 3-Special meeting/executive session-City Manager, City Attorney evaluations.

March 17-Electric vehicle charging station.

REGULAR MEETING

At the regular meeting of Feb. 4, Council will consider rescheduling the April 6 work session and April 7 City Council meeting to March 30 and 31 respectively due to the 2020 Municipal Election on April 7.

Council will consider adopting Ordinance 2493 on second 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 Section 24(C) of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding Zoning Regulations.

Council will consider approving the 2020 Annual Annexation Report and Three-Mile Plan as presented.

Council will consider adopting Ordinance 2494 on first reading, repealing and replacing Title 3 Chapter 6 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding pretreatment program regulations for industrial users.

Resolution 2020-01 will be considered for

adoption, granting a franchise to Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. in the April 2020 Municipal Election.

Resolution 2020-02 will be considered for adoption, authorizing the filing of a Community Development Block Grant application to fund economic development opportunities for persons of low and moderate incomes within the City of Montrose, Colorado; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract with DOLA; and authorizing City staff to act in connection with the CDBG grant application, follow CDBG regulations, and DOLA requirements, and to provide such additional information as may be required by DOLA.

Council will consider approving the updated Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Montrose and the Montrose Recreation District Regarding Shared Services as presented.

Council will consider approving an Incentive Grant Agreement between the City of Montrose and Geyser Technologies, LLC.

Council will consider approving a Professional Services Agreement with McClaren, Wilson & Lawrie, Inc. for technical advisory/design consulting services.

Also to be considered are: the award of a contract for asbestos abatement of structures at 439 S. Second Street and 430 S. First Street to ARC Abatement of Grand Junction, Colorado, for the not-to-exceed amount of \$89,700; award of the purchase of 21 new Ford vehicles to Montrose Ford for the total purchase price of \$1,027,790; approval of the purchase of 2.815 acres of Montrose County Parcel 376729107002 along the Uncompahgre River at a purchase price of \$183,000; award of a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$408,325.50 including a ten-percent contingency, and an engineering support contract to DOWL in the amount of \$15,000 on an as-needed, time and materials basis; and award of a professional services contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$99,200.00 for completion of design studies and civil design associated with the Woodgate Road Realignment Project.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

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Don Bailey

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MIRROR DELIVERS TIMELY LOCAL NEWS AND PHOTOS THAT MATTER

Editor:

I can always depend on the Montrose Mirror to deliver timely breaking local news and photos that matter. It helps keep me informed in a way no other local media does. The best use of the Montrose Daily Press (only produced 6 days per week) is to see by the obituaries that I am still among the living.

Tim Conner, Montrose

IMPEACHMENT IS AN ACT OF DESPERATION;TRUMP DRAWING MASSIVE OVERFLOW CROWDS TO HIS MANY RALLIES

Editor;

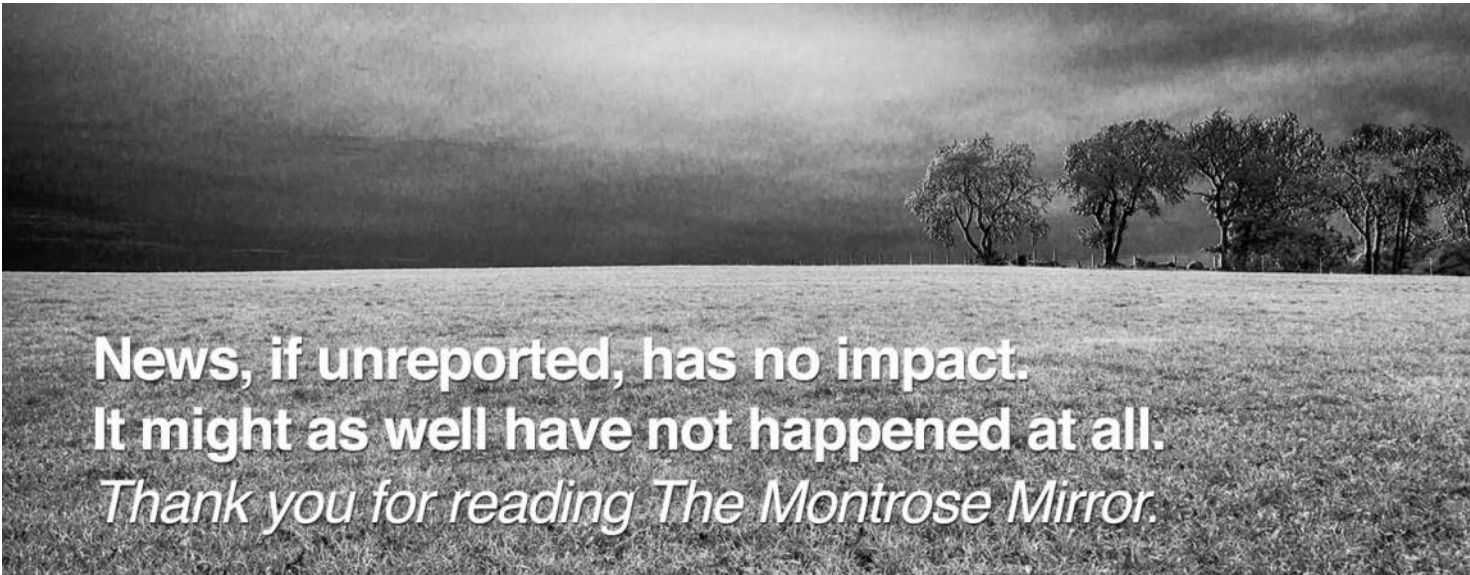
What fun it is to watch the many Trump rallies carried on c-span and Right Side Broadcasting on the internet. He has given many of them since his election and everywhere he goes he draws massive overflow crowds. The one on Jan. 28 was in Wildwood, N.J., a so-called "blue" state where there were approx. 175,000 free tickets issued for an arena that held approx. 9,000. People started lining up in the cold two days ahead of time and the lines quickly grew extremely long. People in line were interviewed for hours and their excitement and positive attitudes toward President Trump were remarkable. They were all happy and enjoyed having fun

talking to each other adorned in their patriotic clothes. Once inside, everyone was patient and happy while waving Trump 2020 signs and MAGA and KAG hats. The mega thousands who couldn't get in stood in the cold outside and watched the speech on large screen television. During Trump's speech he was constantly interrupted by thunderous applause and celebrations for all he has accomplished. All his rallies are like that including the most recent one on Jan. 30 in Des Moines, Ia. After the rallies, it's saddening to turn on the news and see the hateful look on the faces dripping with virulence of democrats who have tried to impeach Trump ever since he beat Clinton. Their impeachment

inquiry is an act of desperation and an orchestrated charade and nothing short of an attempted coup and wild abuse of the Constitution! Clearly, Joe Biden is the one who should be investigated for threatening to withhold funds from Ukraine if they didn't fire the prosecutor investigating Burisma, his son's employer (and he was fired!). Hillary should be prosecuted for giving Russia our uranium just before they paid Bill mega thousands for a so-called speech. The stench of democrat hypocrisy is nauseating!

Maybe democrats would like to investigate the 62,984,828 Americans who voted for Donald Trump!

Diane Bartholome, Montrose



News, if unreported, has no impact.
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRESERVES LAND FOR WILDLIFE



A 1,345-acre land conservation easement created in cooperation with the landowner, the Montezuma Land Conservancy, and San Miguel County will preserve and maintain habitat for wildlife. Photos courtesy of Janet Kask (left) and Montezuma Land Conservancy (right).

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY—With the creation of a 1,345-acre land conservation easement in cooperation with a local landowner and the Montezuma Land Conservancy, San Miguel County will preserve wilderness and maintain habitat for wildlife.

"San Miguel County has a strong history of preserving wildlife habitat, working ranches, scenic vistas, and historic locations and structures," said San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper. "We are proud to partner with the Montezuma Land Conservancy to continue that tradition and preserve this special landscape."

With the new easement in place, 20 home sites will be retired in favor of maintaining critical ecosystems, San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask said. "The property is a beautiful composition of old growth ponderosa pine and aspen groves with stands of scrub oak and sage intermixed at varying elevations," she said. "There are also various water sources for wildlife including springs and seeps, wetland type areas, and seven ponds, which have been installed by the landowner."

In addition to a year-round herd of 200 to

300 elk, the acreage known as Elk Springs Ranch provides summer and winter range for elk and is adjacent to their winter concentration grounds and a migration corridor. The acreage includes habitat for mule deer. The landowner has also observed badgers, Albert's squirrels, black bears, Merriam's wild turkeys, lynx, mountain lions, bobcats, porcupines, coyotes, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, Western Tanager birds, Mountain bluebirds, Western bluebirds, Great Horned owls, Yellow-rumped warblers, Meadowlarks and three varieties of Hummingbirds on the property, Kask said.

According to mapping, the entire parcel is identified as historic Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat and the southern end of the parcel, totaling 272 acres, is identified as GuSG production area range. The landowner is interested in continuing to manage for habitat for grouse and interested in protecting critical eco-systems for successful sage grouse populations. Colorado Parks & Wildlife has identified the presence of Dusky Grouse on the property.

There is a historic element to this property as well. The historic Barlow Homestead was acquired by the landowner through a

land trade with the United States Forest Service, and a cultural resource inventory report has been prepared for the site.

Any time that acreage can be set aside for wildlife habitat, the entire community benefits, Montezuma Land Conservancy Executive Director Travis Custer said.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to protect some critical wildlife habitat on the Uncompahgre Plateau," he said, noting that the owner of the land is focused on conservation. "We're very excited," Custer said. "This is a great way to start the year...I encourage more local landowners to reach out to your local land trust."

San Miguel County will contribute Land Heritage Program funds in the amount of \$52,500 to the Montezuma Land Conservancy, to be matched by the landowner's cash contributions totaling \$88,250. The land has a donated conservation land value estimated at \$1,345,000 and is located off Highway 62 between Placerville and Ridgway on Iron Springs Mesa. Of the total 1,345 acres, 1,271 are in San Miguel County and 74 in Montrose County.

For more information, please contact San Miguel County Parks & Open Space at 970-369-5469.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GAIN CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING; JOIN MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Interested in gaining confidence in public speaking? Join Montrose Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 PM-7 PM. Also, Toastmasters will host an OPEN HOUSE. March 16, 6-7 PM. Meet and greet @ 5:45PM. Toastmasters meets on the 2nd Floor, Montage Creek Senior Living, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, CO 81401.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who committed Identity theft/Fraud in the County of Montrose, Colorado.

Between October 20, 2019 and October 21, 2019, an unknown male party may have fraudulently used a reported stolen credit card at several businesses within Montrose County. The unknown male party of interest can be seen in the attached photo. Also attached is a photo of a vehicle similar to the one driven by the male party. It is a blue 90's model GMC Jimmy or Chevy



Crime Stoppers courtesy photos.

app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3Tips.com.

Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award.

For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers.

Crime Prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

Blazer. The wheels of the driver's side do not match.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the

DineOutMontrose.com



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOWARD DAVIDSON AGENCY & JESSE DRYER AGENCY, FARMERS INSURANCE ANNOUNCE MERGER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Howard Davidson Agency and Jesse Dryer Agency at Farmers Insurance announced the two agencies have merged and are now operating as the Jesse Dryer Agency Team. Davidson is a leading force in financial services, while Dryer's expertise lies in auto, home, life and business insurance. This partnership between two of the nation's leading agents will result in more service options for clients on the Western Slope.

Following a successful 30-year career working as an investment banker for Barclay's Bank in England and later, Morgan Stanley in Asia, Davidson purchased the Montrose Farmers Insurance Agency in 2013.

"The demand for financial services is more than I expected, yet I happily welcome it," said Davidson. "Partnering with Jesse, who will focus his expertise on the insurance side of the business, will greatly benefit our clients and allow me to focus exclusively on those seeking financial advice and strategy."

After 13 years with Farmers Insurance, Dryer's team has expanded to 13 licensed agents, placing him as one of the top agents in the company.

"I've always credited the accomplishments and growth of our agency to the meaningful relationships we've built with our clients and community partnerships," said Dryer. "I'm looking forward to leading our Montrose agents and providing them with the tools necessary to best prepare our clients to make informed decisions regarding their insurance needs."



Howard Davidson Agency and Jesse Dryer Agency at Farmers Insurance announced the two agencies have merged. (L-R) Jesse Dryer and Howard Davidson. Courtesy photo.

Both agencies have been recognized as President's Council agencies which are awarded to less than one percent of Farmer's agencies nationwide, not only because of reaching business benchmarks, but also community involvement. The new company, The Jesse Dryer Agency Team, will focus on continuing to build community relationships and remain the leading resource for financial services and insurance in Montrose Colorado. The business will remain at the same location 1551 Ogden Road, in Montrose.

About The Jesse Dryer Agency Team

The Jesse Dryer Agency Team is a group of agents providing Farmers Insurance® covering automobiles, homes and small businesses and a wide range of other insurance and financial services products.

The Jesse Dryer Agency Team is proud to serve more than 10 thousand policies across western Colorado, through the efforts of our 13 licensed agents and employees. For more information about The Jesse Dryer Agency Team, call 970-241-9474, visit JesseDryerAgency.com, Instagram, [@JesseDryerAgency](https://www.instagram.com/JesseDryerAgency), or [Facebook.com/DryerInsurance](https://www.facebook.com/DryerInsurance).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER RECEIVES AED TO SERVE THE PUBLIC *Colorado Rural Health Center facilitated CDPHE grant program to increase public access to AEDs*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Montrose County was recently awarded a free Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The lifesaving AED device will be placed at the Montrose County Event Center and was made possible through the passage of Colorado House Bill 19-1183.

"The addition of an AED at the Event Center is big step forward in being able to address emergency medical situations in just seconds," said Emily Sanchez, Fairgrounds and Event Center Director. "The AED awarded to our community will be located inside the Event Center under the

grandstands and near the bathrooms."

House Bill 19-1183 was passed to provide funding to place AEDs in public places across Colorado. An AED is a portable electronic device that diagnoses and attempts to treat cardiac arrhythmias. 12 AEDs were distributed across the state as a part of the funding provided through HB 19-1183.

The Colorado Rural Health Center, the State Office of Rural Health, was awarded a contract with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to place AEDs in public places to be accessible to any individual to retrieve and use during perceived cardiac arrest emergencies. This opportunity was only open to Colorado

entities or people who owns, operates, or manages a public place capable of holding one hundred people or more to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted.

"The Colorado Rural Health Center has worked with CDPHE extensively in the past to provide assistance to emergency medical services agencies across the state. I cannot emphasize enough how important public access to these devices is to saving lives," said Colorado Rural Health Center Emergency Services Programs Manager Ron Seedorf. To learn more about the AED recently placed in Montrose County, please contact the Montrose County Event Center at 970-964-2180.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RYAN CRICK ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR DELTA CITY COUNCIL *Crick Campaign to Focus on Hometown Heritage*

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Ryan Crick is running for Delta City Council April 2020. Ryan Crick was raised in Delta, is a 1995 graduate of Delta High School, and a graduate of Adams State University in Alamosa, CO. After living in several places coast to coast, Ryan Crick and his wife Amy settled down in Delta in 2016 after the birth of their twin boys-Charlie and Lincoln.

Staying busy and involved locally Crick is engaged with many activities in Delta. Crick is a multi-sport coach for the youth of Delta- coaching 5th & 6th grade football for the past 3 years, youth tee ball, and youth soccer. He also serves on the City of Delta Planning Commission.

As an active citizen Crick has recognized the need for Delta to move forward into a new era of prosperity. He aims to protect the heritage of rural small-town life in Colorado, while making Delta a better place to live- a place that will attract future generations back to this area. Crick's enthusiasm is clear, and he believes, "The

time has come for a 'Can-Do' attitude in our city government, and I hope to be a catalyst in setting and accomplishing goals. Delta is ready to take on new and exciting growth while preserving our heritage."

Among Crick's goals for the City include a robust refreshed attitude around how Delta does business with business owners, continued and executed movement around river front development and main street revitalization, and turning the City toward a partnership-oriented culture-engaging collaboration with local organizations. Crick realizes the need for more detailed project management within the City's projects, and is a champion for the small wins. In this- he will pave a path where the constituency can expect diligence, consistency, and reliability from his seat on the Council. Crick will be an engaging presence on the Council, listening to the constituents and representing the desires of the people of Delta.

Crick looks forward to seeing you at the

community discussions he will host. The first opportunity to meet with Crick and share your support will be at his Kickoff Fundraising Event- February 7th, 6:00pm at CB's Tavern on Main St in Delta. The following week Crick will be at Doghouse Espresso 8 am-10:30 am on Saturday, Feb. 15- he'd love to hear your thoughts. Your ideas for Delta are important to him, and he looks forward to meeting you!

Your vote is appreciated in April, together we can take Delta into a new era of prosperity.

The Crick campaign encourages you be proud of our Hometown Heritage by; honoring the past, engaging the present, and propelling the future.

Ryan Crick is willing and appreciative of any opportunity to hold audience with the public- large groups, small groups, clubs, societies... Please contact VoteRyanCrick@gmail.com for any opportunity! Stay up to date with the campaign by following us on Facebook @VoteRyanCrick; and online at www.VoteCrick.com

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE LAUNCHES IN-HOME COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE- The Mountain Village Green Team is proud to announce its new composting initiative offering in-home composting units for Mountain Village residents to help the town achieve its goal to be zero-waste by 2025.

The first 20 qualified applicants will receive a subsidized Biocompet composting unit and a scale in order to track and report the amount of waste that is diverted from landfills to the Green Team.

The composting units weigh only 22 pounds and can live inside your home.

Mountain Village's Business Development and Sustainability Senior Manager Zoe Dohnal explained that this program

will help the Green Team learn more about waste diversion in Mountain Village.

"We want to make sure the units work for everybody and that those who participate are dedicated to our data tracking efforts," Dohnal said. "We're really excited to see how this program goes and can't wait to work with residents as they begin composting."

Applicants are also required to attend one of three trainings to learn how to use their composting unit, those meetings will be: Friday, Feb. 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, March 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

These meetings are to ensure residents

fully understand how to operate their composting unit.

Participating households are required to track and record the weight of the compostable materials input into the units and the output result, contributing to the Green Team's study of potential waste diversion.

"The residential composting program is an important first milestone that we hope represents a sea change in our community approach to waste management," Said Mountain Village Town Council and Green Team Member Patrick Berry.

To learn more please visit townofmountainvillage.com/compost or call (970) 369-8236.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS ALERT



Photos courtesy Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers.



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose Sherriff's Department are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who stole a truck and trailer loaded with a snowmobile.

Stolen from the parking area on Dave Wood Rd. and South Divide Rd. between 6 PM on Feb. 1 2020 and 7 AM on Feb. 2 2020, was a red 2000 Ford Powerstroke

Crew-cab pickup, with Co. Lic. 006 DAK. Attached to the truck was a 1994 YCH trailer with Co. Lic. 237 DAR. Loaded on the trailer was a 1991 red and white Yamaha snowmobile. Pictures of the truck and snowmobile are attached to this Alert. Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers

wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

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

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.



ISSUE 248 Feb. 3, 2020

ART & SOL

EARLY DAY DALLAS CREEK PLACER PROJECT HARNESSSED
THE POWER OF WATER TO SEARCH FOR FREE GOLD*By Bob Cox*

OURAY COUNTY—Ouray County is well known for its mining history, but most of that history is focused around famous mines in the Red Mountain and Sneffels areas. Mines like the Idarado, Camp Bird, American Nettie and Virginus come to mind, but less than 25 miles south of Montrose was a mining operation that also held big dreams.

Just north of the intersection of Ouray County Road 24 and U. S. Highway 50, at the confluence of Dallas Creek and the Uncompahgre River, is the location of one of the few placer mining operations in Western Colorado. It is now part of Ridgway State Park. The Town of Dallas was located just south of the operation, and when the mining there first started, there were some who proposed that the name of the new town be Gold City.

Of course, those who wanted to honor George Mifflin Dallas, the 11th Vice President of the United States, prevailed and the town took his name. Crofutt's Grip Sack Guide of Colorado, published in 1885, shows the town as Dallasville. Crofutt, while promoting rail travel in Colorado, gave little attention to the Town of Dallas and never mentioned the mining operation. He did highlight many of the mining camps in the south end of Ouray County.



A William Henry Jackson photo taken in about 1884 shows the hydraulic mining process used at the Dallas Creek Placer Project. Photo from the Denver Public Library History Archives and is reproduced pursuant to license by the Denver Public Library.

As a general rule, gold comes in two forms in Colorado. First is what is called lode gold. It is gold that is locked in another medium such as quartz or granite. Rock containing lode gold must be crushed and put through some sort of extraction process to recover the gold. The other form is placer gold, often called 'free gold.' The gold is in the form of nuggets, or more commonly flakes, that settle into stream and riverbeds as the various materials are carried down from the mountains.

Lode gold is the most common in the Ouray/Telluride area, but people speculated that some of the gold locked up in other media had to become dislodged in the raging fury of mountain streams and end up in the beds and banks of select rivers.

Abe Lee, who developed a large placer gold operation in California Gulch just east of Leadville, first looked at the Dallas/Uncompahgre confluence in about 1860, not long after his discovery in California Gulch. There is some speculation that the

Continued next pg

EARLY DAY DALLAS CREEK PLACER PROJECT From previous pg

suggestion of naming the town of Dallas 'Gold City' was attributed to Lee, who called his California Gulch diggings Oro City.

But there was a problem with the location of the Dallas exploration: It belonged to the Utes. When word of possible gold findings reached the Denver area, a reporter for the *Rocky Mountain News*, hoping to be the first to expand on gold rush news, contacted Lee. Lee declined getting specific and did not acknowledge the rightful possession of the area by the Utes. He was quoted as saying simply, "The area has been well guarded by hostile Indians." It was in late 1871 when, taking advantage of the Brunot Agreement, mining began in earnest in the San Juans.

Lee's discoveries continued to pique the interests of some mining speculators. In the late 1870s and early 1880s the Colorado Gold Rush was waning somewhat and a group of speculators took a new interest in the possibilities of placer mining in western Colorado. The Dallas placer project was hatched in early 1878, but in order to use the techniques developed in places like Fairplay, the developers need-

ed to find a source of high-pressure water.

Taking advantage of several displaced Chinese railroad workers, and without really big investors, several people from Lake City formed the Dallas Placer Mining Company in 1883 and excavated a ditch that diverted water from Dallas Creek 11 miles south of the confluence with the Uncompahgre. The ditch started at an elevation of about 7500 ft. and entered the head gate and pressure box above the project at about 6700 ft. From the pressure box the water entered a piping system that sent high-pressure water through a monitor and washed the gravel from the sides of the riverbed. The slurry then entered a sluice, where the gold settled, separating it from the other material.

The project was in operation by October of 1883 and was capable of processing 2,000 cubic yards of gravel per day. While 140 years of development, erosion, construction and natural growth have nearly obliterated most of the evidence of the ditch, a careful look at the side of Log Hill Mesa from the current Dallas Day Use Area in Ridgway State Park will reveal a

few clues that the ditch existed.

Not a lot of gold was recovered in the project and records show that most of it was about 760 fine. The word fine is used two different ways when it comes to gold. Gold that is 760 fine means it is 76 percent pure. If the developers sold one troy ounce of their gold at the time, it was worth slightly over \$15 - not nearly enough to keep the operation viable, but it did not entirely go away.

After the Dallas Placer Company dissolved, several Chinese immigrants registered a placer operation in the same area as the Old China Mine and used water from the ditch to sluice gold. Records show that the Chinese operators recovered enough gold to supplement income they had from laundry services in Ridgway. Until 1905 they sold most of the gold directly to the Ridgway Bank.

The Old China Mine still showed on USGS reports in the early 1930s, but production was almost nothing.

So, is there gold in that creek? Well maybe, but before you grab a gold pan and head for Ridgway State Park, be aware that panning for gold within the park boundaries is not permitted.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$60K IN GRANTS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE – The Montrose Community Foundation (MCF) is making an impact on the 25 local nonprofit organizations that recently received a grant during their 2019 Impact Grant cycle. The Impact Grants range from \$1000 to Montrose Memorial Hospital to purchase booklets that will educate patients on how to advocate for end-of-life rights, to \$5000 to Kids Aid Montrose to feed low-income children on the weekends. To be eligible for an Impact Grant the organization must be a registered 501(c)3 or have a fiscal sponsor, and the project or program must show a benefit to this community in one of the following areas: arts & literature, basic needs, community development, education, health & wellness, recreation. The grant recipients will be celebrated and will receive their checks during a February 5th Impact Grants Reception hosted by MCF.

"It is such an honor to host this event every year. Giving away money to such worthy causes is the best part of my job. We hope these grants move the needle on their abilities to continue advancing this community," said Sara Plumhoff, Executive Director, MCF.

Since 2012, MCF and the City of Montrose have partnered to provide grants to local nonprofits through the annual Impact Grant Cycle - this year's grants total \$60,000. Impact Grant applications were due in November of last year, selections were made in December. A Grant Review Committee, made up of individuals from the community and MCF board members, considered the 2019 Impact Grant winners out of 45 grant applications. A list and synopsis of the 2019 Impact Grant Winners are below and can be found at www.montrosecf.org:

- All Points Transit (Montrose County Senior Citizens Transportation) provides public transit services for seniors, people with disabilities and the general public in communities throughout Montrose, Delta, San Miguel and Ouray counties. The

\$2,000 Impact Grant will support its volunteer driver program. <https://www.allpointstransit.com/>

- Colorado Mesa University (Montrose) received a \$2,000 Impact Grant to help fund a textbook loan program offered to high school students enrolled in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the Montrose campus. <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/montrose/index.html>

- Common Ground/Kids Aid Montrose works directly with schools to provide food in backpacks to low-income children who often go hungry on the weekends. The \$5,000 Impact Grant will purchase non-perishable foods to provide meals which are sent home with the children for the weekend. <http://kidsaidmontrose.com/>

- Community Options facilitates services and provides support the nearly 500 people in the six counties of Region 10 - who meet the definition of intellectually and developmentally disabled. The \$4,500 Impact Grant will be used toward the purchase of new wheelchair accessible vans. <https://www.communityoptionsinc.org/>

- Friends of the Ute Indian Museum received a \$1,000 Impact Grant to establish and promote an annual cultural heritage festival at the Ute Museum. <https://www.historycolorado.org/ute-indian-museum>

- Hilltop Community Resources provides a vast array of essential services for underserved populations in the Montrose community. The \$1,000 Impact Grant will help pay for parenting education classes. <https://www.htop.org/>

- Hispanic Affairs Project serves to meaningfully integrate immigrant communities in Western Colorado including the counties of Mesa, Delta, Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Gunnison. The \$3,000 Impact Grant will help pay for increased legal fees and community education. <https://hapgi.org/>

- HopeWest provides a wide array of programs and support for palliative care,

hospice and grief to patients of all ages. The \$2,500 Impact Grant will help provide palliative (serious illness) care for the growing number of underinsured in 2020. <https://www.hopewestco.org/>

- Montrose Area Bicycle Alliance received a \$2,500 Impact Grant to promote the safety and convenience of bicycling in the Montrose community for all ages and abilities. <https://www.facebook.com/montroseareabicyclealliance/>

- Montrose High School Mountain Bike Team received a \$2,600 Impact Grant to pay for a tent for the team to seek shelter during competitions.

- Montrose Lighthouse provides food, shelter and other basic services to the communities' homeless. The \$3,000 Impact Grant will help pay for operational expenses including utilities for shelter, fuel and van driver. <http://montrose-lighthouse.org/>

- Montrose Medical Mission is an all-volunteer group that provides funds for medically uninsured and indigent Montrose County residents. The \$3,000 Impact Grant will help pay negotiated medical bills.

- Montrose Memorial Hospital received a \$1,000 Impact Grant to purchase "Five Wishes" booklets, end of life booklets to help educate and advocate patient rights. <https://www.montrosehospital.com/>

- Montrose Regional Library District received \$1,500 to purchase new technology for Adult/reference and Outreach departments to help bridge the accessibility gaps for patrons. <http://www.montroselibrary.org/>

- Ouray County Youth Baseball received a \$2,000 Impact Grant to help rehabilitate and expand an unusable baseball field in the Ridgway Athletic Park, currently there is no usable baseball field in the town of Ridgway.

- The PIC Place provides integrated and healthcare and education to low-income community members, including full dental care. The \$4,000 Impact Grant

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$60K From previous pg

will help replace a roof that experienced structural degradations in 2018. <http://www.pic.place/>

- Region 10 - Aging and Disability Resources of Colorado received a \$2,000 Impact Grant to help pay for minor critical home repairs for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners in the community. <https://region10.net/>

- River Valley Family Health Center received a \$3,000 Impact Grant to help pay for food, prescriptions and unmet needs for low-income and underinsured patients. <https://www.rivervalleyfhc.com/>

- San Juan LEADS Serves provides special adventures for adaptive needs athletes, youth, U.S. military veterans and their families to experience the great outdoors. The \$1,000 Impact Grant will help fund a new outdoor youth program targeting youth leaders and teens dealing with trauma. (LEADS: Leadership, Education, Adventure, Development, Services)

<https://www.facebook.com/Sanjuanleads/>

- Second Chance Humane Society provides low cost veterinary care, education, outreach and training services to improve relationships between pets, people and their community. The \$2,500 Impact Grant will help fund its traveling Veterinary clinic, specifically to provide more service to the West End. <https://adoptmountainpets.org/>

- Time Bank of the Rockies facilitates a time bank, or time exchanges, in which people helping other people in a system where everyone's skills are equally valued and where everyone benefits. The \$1,500 Impact Grant will help improve the organizations website to include a more user-friendly and interactive platform. <http://timebankoftherockies.com/>

- Valley Youth Orchestra serves Western Colorado by inspiring, nurturing and mentoring string musicians K-12

grades. The \$900 Impact Grant will provide scholarships for young string musicians to purchase instruments. <http://valleysymphony.net/vyo>

- Weehawken Creative Arts received a \$1,000 Impact Grant to be used for youth scholarships. <https://www.weehawkenarts.org/>

- West End Family Link Center provides low to no cost supportive services to families and individuals living in the West End of Montrose and San Miguel counties which are both physically and financially isolated from the eastern portion of both counties. The \$4,500 Impact Grant will help with general operating costs. <http://www.weflc.org/>

- Wright Stuff Community Foundation, located in Norwood, serves youth and families. The \$3,000 Impact Grant will serve as daycare scholarships for families who don't qualify for CCAP. <https://www.wrightstufffoundation.org/>

BOOKLET PROVIDES ANSWERS ON OURAY COUNTY WATERSHED

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-*The Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County* is a first-of-its-kind publication that provides answers about water quality, supply and other features of the Uncompahgre River, its tributaries and the water sources in Ouray County. Just published by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of protecting and improving watershed resources, the booklet is available for free online (<http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links/>) and soon at public facilities and businesses around Ridgway and Ouray.

To determine the most valuable content to include in the compact booklet, UWP gathered input from around the county through various stakeholder outreach activities for many months in 2019. In February, UWP representatives will be presenting the watershed booklet at meetings of the Ouray City Council, Ouray County Board of Commissioners and Ridgway Town Council, and delivering copies to businesses, schools, libraries and other locations with an interest in sharing the useful information with their patrons.

"I know it was a lengthy production process and carefully written project after many months of research. Both my husband and I read it and found the information useful and interesting," said Sue Hillhouse, a committee member for the Ouray County Community Fund, which provided the primary funding for the booklet. "We are proud to have been a part in making this possible. We look forward to its distribution and use."

UWP used information garnered from its first six years of work on researching, monitoring, analyzing, and reporting on watershed conditions to produce the guide. The nonprofit produced a watershed plan in 2013, with 143 pages of geography, history, geology, data, maps, and other detailed information. Since then, UWP volunteers have taken water samples around the watershed for various projects, including the Colorado River Watch, a citizen scientist program collecting monthly samples at several sites coordinated through Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

UWP also pulled information from its various public meetings and collaborative

projects, such as three mine remediation projects completed in 2017. The partnership is preparing to participate in two additional mine remediation projects in 2020 and 2021, the Governor Basin Restoration Project and a restoration project at the historic Atlas Mill that adds to work done previously. Both projects are identified on the centerfold map in the new watershed booklet. "I'm thrilled with what our little nonprofit and our partners have accomplished. I'm most excited about the progress made towards cleaning up Governor Basin. In 2017, all we knew was that Governor Basin had very poor water quality and large mine waste piles. To make the project a reality, we've dug through heaps of information to better understand everything from land ownership to sediment chemistry, and together with our partners, secured more than \$220,000 in commitments to restore that sensitive, high alpine area," said UWP Technical Coordinator Ashley Bembenek in her message in the nonprofit's annual report (available at <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/2019-annual-report/>).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLUE MESA RESERVOIR LAKE TROUT TOURNAMENT STARTS FEB. 1; \$10K IN CASH PRIZES



CPW courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GUNNISON—A six-month-long fishing tournament with \$10,000 in prize money sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife starts Feb. 1 at Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison in western Colorado.

The tournament, which continues through July 31, is aimed at maintaining adequate kokanee fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout. Anglers are asked to target smaller-sized lake trout, those that are 24 inches in length or smaller.

“By sponsoring this tournament, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to be our partners in helping to manage the renowned Blue Mesa Reservoir fishery,” said Dan Brauch, aquatic biologist for CPW in Gunnison. “We know we can have an

excellent kokanee fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery, but we need to continue our work for both species and we need the help of Colorado’s anglers.”

Here’s how the tournament works: Anglers who catch lake trout 24 inches or smaller will remove the heads and place them in a plastic bag provided at one of three boat ramps at the reservoir: Iola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork. Heads can also be turned in at CPW’s offices in Gunnison (300 W. New York Ave.) or Montrose (2300 S. Townsend Ave., U.S. Highway 550). There is no fee to participate in the tournament.

Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories at the conclusion of the tournament:

- 1) CPW has tagged 23 fish in the reservoir but anglers won’t know if they’ve caught one. CPW will scan the heads later to check for tags and those who caught them will receive \$250 for each.
- 2) Anglers catching the most fish: 1st place, \$1,000; 2nd place, \$500; 3rd place, \$250.
- 3) Anglers will be entered in a raffle for every lake trout head turned in. A total of 20 winners will be selected and each winner will receive \$200.

Kokanee provide the greatest draw for overall catch and harvest while lake trout provide the greatest draw for their trophy potential. Lake trout require plentiful kokanee as prey to achieve trophy size. Some lake trout that weigh over 50 pounds and 44 inches in length have been caught at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

A change in water management in the early 1990s at BMR resulted in improved conditions at lake trout spawning areas in the fall and now they reproduce naturally.

As the number of lake trout grew, they feasted on kokanee which resulted in a significant population decline.

Recently, through angler harvest and CPW’s lake trout suppression work, the number of predatory lake trout has been reduced and kokanee abundance has improved.

CPW research shows that smaller lake trout, those 24 inches and smaller, consume the most kokanee. Consequently, the lake trout harvest tournament is focused on removing fish of those sizes. “Anglers harvest about 6,000 lake trout each year,” Brauch said. “But we need increased harvest of small lake trout to keep population growth in check and to reduce the need for additional lake trout suppression work by CPW.”

Maintaining abundant kokanee will support quality fishing opportunities for kokanee and a source of kokanee eggs for restocking needs at up to 25 waters in Colorado while allowing for continued growth of trophy lake trout.

There is no limit on the number of lake trout under 32 inches that can be caught in a day at BMR, but only one fish more than 32 inches may be kept.

“By utilizing anglers’ skills and expertise we’re confident that we can maintain balance of the BMR fishery,” Brauch said.

For more information about fishing at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including how to catch lake trout, research studies and management planning go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BlueMesaReservoirFisheryManagement.aspx>.

You may also call the Gunnison wildlife office at: 970-641-7060.

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Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Back to (the future) San Francisco



Aurora Willow Fan and Grandpa Goodtimes at a streetside cafe in San Francisco (photo by Iris Willow)



Father John Coleman (center back row) and St. Joseph's School Mountain view grads at the reverend's 94th birthday lunch in Palo Alto, California (photo by Lou Scavarda)

HOMETOWN ... I always leave a little bit of my heart in the place where I was born.

BERNAL HEIGHTS ... The best part of elderhood for many of us comes from being a grandpa, if one has been so blessed ... My oldest child Iris Willow and her family -- a granddaughter Aurora and my new in-laws Bert, Audrey, Peng & Paulyn Fan -- live on the Left-leaning Coast. And the Willow-Fans have bought a house in a neighborhood just over the hill from the Mission's César Chávez -- with Cortland as their commercial hub. It reminds me of the old Noe Valley I lived in before gentrification upscaled The City, as we called it then. Great restaurants, coffeehouses, a healthy market, parks and a library ... Skip a couple decades and I come back to a silicon valley dot.com outlier city gone housing bezonkers, in spite of rent control and with homelessness rampant ... But for the kids, the new Claw tower on Twin Peaks is their Golden Gate bridge, and a direct connection to that great Server in the sky. Bert works as a top programming engineer for Slack, one of the successful IT startups that just went public. Iris teaches enameling classes in her basement studio and sells her jewelry

on line and at local fairs. Aurora

is one lucky girl with two loving parents who share child-rearing and spend most of their free time as a family, traveling around the City and around the region, and living in a small SF wall-to-wall entirely given over to their three-year-old. I fit neatly into that routine, giving them a couple breaks together by baby-sitting my granddaughter, reading her stories, putting her to sleep. Her mom and I spent a day at Aurora's pre-school on the low-end of Cortland towards the Bay -- a small parent co-op with one paid project coordinator taking them up the hill to the Library playground or leading them in games and activities, inside a residential home's one-room classroom with an ample and well-equipped backyard. And we spent another morning visiting the amazing Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School located a short walk into Glen Park -- one of those wildly overgrown blackberry niches of native trees and eucalyptus that dot the Bay Area ... Will share more stories from the Left Coast in the next few columns.

FATHER JOHN ... For the oldest of three

sons of an Italian working class family, admittance to the Archdiocese of San Francisco's St. Joseph's Seminary in Mountain View was the crowning apotheosis of an altar boy whose baby book predicted "he would make a great priest". But it was probably the example of some admirable church leaders that most called me to the priesthood. And Fr. John Coleman was among the first ... From second grade at St. Joseph's Parochial School on the current Santa Clara Valley site of St. Francis High School, Fr. Coleman was our hero. Blessed with a cousin who played second base for the Yankees, our parish priest would knock us fly balls far into the outfield where all the boys would vie to catch them. He'd talk to us in class about religion with enough humor in his easy-going Irish-American lilt to keep us engaged and a-ga-ga. We loved the man ... And sixty-plus years later our eighth-grade class from St. Joseph's Mountain View is holding a luncheon in Palo Alto to celebrate Fr. John's 94th birthday. Actually they do it every year and have for a while now. I flew back for it several years ago,

Continued next pg

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes, continued

and this year I wanted to do it again. Connecting with kids I grew up with – a milieu from which I'd sharply deviated. And yet they were my early friends. A deep part of me. And I still liked them – especially as the occasion wasn't a hokey reunion but the honoring of a man we all loved, who richly deserved being honored. Who served the poor in the most difficult of parishes without ever seeking advancement. Plus, Father John himself is still that gracious angel of kindness and grace and gentle humor that drew us to him in the Fifties ... He remembered our names. Shared memories as he shook hands with each of us. At the luncheon told about Fr. Doyle's purchase of the St. Francis property, and how (seemingly to us, stern) Sister Leo argued for a co-ed high school that the Holy Cross Order of nuns didn't heed. How the order had to close their all-girl high school within a few years. And my

classmates and I reminisced how difficult Sister Estelle Marie, bless her, had taught us the lost art of diagramming -- which has helped us all through our lives ... A grand time really. Reconnecting to the people and to the loyalty and spirit ideals that motivated me as a youngster and continue to motivate me as an elder.

MY DEM DREAM TEAMS ... With all due respect to De Tocqueville, it seems that the tyranny of the minority-acting-as-the-majority is what we currently have most to fear. And, of course, the unscrupulous Mr. Trump (After watching Netflix's Designated Survivor, I'd daresay "illegitimate," given he lost the popular vote by three million ballots. So, given how partisan and unable to put the whole country's good ahead of extreme beliefs, as the Republicans are currently demonstrating (although the Democrats are not at all

exempt from such perfidy), I want to suggest an alternative idea ... As a Green, I'm not participating in the Dem primary battle. Standing back, I can see that whatever the shortcomings of the Repub party's leader, the conservative agenda and a full third of the country's citizens have been well served by this administration. A point, no wise Repub candidate can overlook ... The two-party system has some things to recommend it, but Hamilton's view has triumphed over Jefferson's in this late stage of the American experiment. It's time we got the people's progressive majority back in control. So I'm urging the Dems to team up the two wings of the party that appear to be vying for the Dem presidential nomination. What about a Biden/Warren ticket, or a Bernie/Amy team, or a Warren/Buttigieg matchup? ... Not every Dem's gonna be happy, but both wings will be fully engaged.

THE TALKING GOURD

Self Portrait

Huffing up an incline
past a lone magpie atop a stunted piñon
on a creamy alfredo afternoon

If the day were a canvas
paint it obsidian
edged in dusk's charcoal embers

Memory's foreground
bristling green spines from fine-grained quartz
once backlit with blue meringue

And leaving the tablecloth of
the mind's museum
I look up into Wrights Mesa's dark skies

at the tiny facets of star crystals
polished to a mirror sheen
starting to crest along the ecliptic

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

VOCAL DUETS CELEBRATE LOVE THROUGH THE AGES



Husband and wife team Graham and Stephanie Anduri. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

OURAY-The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild presents a journey through the heart of romanticism and enduring love stories presented in song on Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Wright Opera House at 472 Main Street in Ouray.

"Evolutions of Love - Vocal Duets" will be presented by husband and wife team Graham and Stephanie Anduri (Baritone

and Soprano) and accompanied by pianist Susan Ellinger.

The program will tour through the centuries with memorable love stories in song, to include works by Dvorak, Leoncavallo, Schumann, Grieg, musical theater and jazz favorites. Following the concert, there will be a chocolate dessert reception.

Graham Anduri, Baritone, is a Doctor of Music Arts and the director of vocal studies at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, as well as an ambitious performer, director and teacher. He has sung throughout the United States, Europe and South Korea, performing musical theater, opera as well as solos in major orchestral works. Graham holds a DMA in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Southern Mississippi, and MM in Vocal Performance from the University of Florida and a BM in Music Education from Colorado State University.

Soprano Stephanie Anduri has a Doctor of Musical Arts, Vocal Performance and Pedagogy. She teaches voice lessons, lyric diction and song literature courses at Colorado Mesa University. Her passion is opera and art of the 20th and 21st centu-

ries, foreign languages and cultures.

Pianist Susan Ellinger grew up learning to play the piano and the alphabet at about the same time. Ellinger has performed extensively as both as soloist and chamber musician, presenting recitals at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium, Harvard University and many more. She has won top prizes as both as soloist and chamber musician at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music. She joined the Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia as the Artistic Director in 2012 to create and direct a comprehensive concert series program.

Advance tickets are \$18, \$20 at the door and \$5 for students (18 years and under). A cash bar will be available. More information and tickets may be found at www.ocpag.org.

The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild is a not-for-profit organization bringing quality events in music, dance, theater and other genres to the local area. Its purpose is to sponsor presentations and performers of the highest caliber in the performing arts for the enjoyment of Ouray County's residents and visitors.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-The Black Canyon Audubon February program will be Thursday, Feb. 6 from 7 – 9 pm @ Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta.

Young scientist Aaron Yappert will share his experiences and the results of his research from last summer which he spent on the North Slope of Alaska in Arctic Refuge. One of the most remote yet important areas of the United States, the Arctic Refuge is home to one of the last swaths of pristine breeding habitat for a wide variety of bird species including Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Pacific and Red-throated Loons, and many, many more! Aaron will share photos of the birds, caribou, and camp life while retelling his experiences living in a remote field camp. He has previously spoken about the on-going research of Rosy-Finches in Southwest Colorado and now hopes to bring a distant place closer to those might not be able to visit it!



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CURECANTI MEDICAL SOCIETY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Curecanti Medical Society (CMS) proudly announces that four area students have been awarded scholarships in honor of the late Doctor George G. Balderston. The CMS Scholarship program originated over thirty years ago to assist students in pursuing a career in the medical field. The Montrose area physicians of the CMS fund the scholarships, which are awarded annually by the Curecanti Medical Society. Each student was awarded \$1,000 to further their education.

Dr. Gayle Frazzetta, far left, President of the Curecanti Medical Society, is pictured with the 2020 scholarship recipients. Recognized this year from left to right are Connie Ronngren, currently pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Psychology at Colorado Christian University and will plan to begin her Masters in Counseling fall of 2020, Rheann Smedly, who will complete the AAS RN Program at Colorado Mesa University in the spring of 2020 and will begin her Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN) in



the fall, and Robyn Hood, currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing

(BSN) at Colorado Mesa University, which she will complete in December of 2020.

MOUNTAIN GIRL GALLERY IS RIDGWAY CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Mountain Girl Gallery is now the cooperative effort of blacksmith Jill Rikkers of Beautifully Served by Jill, potter Deidra Krois of Wishing Star Pottery, jeweler Lizzie Fike of EK Metals, and fiber artist Lucy Boody. Courtesy photo.

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce

RIDGWAY-In an ongoing effort to promote and get to know our local businesses and organizations, the Ridgway Area Chamber

of Commerce has selected Mountain Girl Gallery as February 2020 RACC Member of the Month. The Mountain Girl Gallery was the brainchild of Ridgway artists Deidra Krois and Kellie Day. In 2017, the two artists were interested in a gallery space to sell their work and the location at 609 Clinton Street with great natural lighting and high traffic was the perfect spot. They invited two other artists, Jill Rikkers and Shauna Tewskbury, to join them in their leap of faith. The Mountain Girl Gallery is now the cooperative effort of four local artists: blacksmith Jill Rikkers of Beautifully Served by Jill, potter Deidra Krois of Wishing Star Pottery, jeweler Lizzie Fike of EK Metals, and fiber artist Lucy Boody. Other artists have come and gone, but the current Mountain Girl Gallery team has been a great fit since 2018. "We continually create new and unique items, so there

is always something 'fresh' in the gallery," said Krois. "Popular items include artisan kitchen serveware by Jill, local mountain-themed jewelry by Lizzie, felted soap by Lucy, and my handmade mugs."

The gallery's winter hours are Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. Summer hours usually start Memorial Day Weekend, and are five days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Throughout February, the artists are offering a gallery-wide 10 percent discount to anyone who mentions Mountain Girl Gallery's selection as RACC Member of the Month.

To learn more about Mountain Girl Gallery, email mountaingirlgallery4@gmail.com, call 970-318-0382, or go online to <https://www.facebook.com/mountaingirlgallery/>. You can also connect with the artists on Instagram: @mountaingirlgallery.

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SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CURRENT/ONGOING-

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY WORD WEAVERS -Calling all writers, scribblers, poets, and fans of the aforementioned! The library is hosting Word Weavers, a spoken word open-mic on the first Thursday of each month! From 6 to 8 pm, join your fellow word enthusiasts and read your work to a supportive audience, or just attend as a fan of the spoken word! Settle in next to the library's cozy fireplace and be inspired by all the Montrose writing scene has to offer. Young and old, novices and experts, all are welcome!

GARDENING IN THE UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY SERIES-MONDAYS, FEB. 17 - APRIL 6

This free 8-session series meets Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 17 - April 6 at the Montrose Library Meeting Room. Topics will include seed starting; hands-on outdoor planting; early, growing, and late season activities & challenges; fall harvesting; improving soil health; and trees. Time will be available for questions and discussion. Sessions taught by Larry Wobeter, Dave Dearstyne and Reed Irwin. For more information visit www.montroselibrary.org.

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.

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

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 Montage Creek Senior Living, 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-

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.5-Montrose County Historical Society Presents Bill Cunningham recounting the "History of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade." Plan to join us as we learn the real story of this widely romanticized period of our past. Feb. 5, 7 pm at Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd. Admission is free and the public is welcome. For information call 323-6466.

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. 7-First Friday Reception for Mike Simpson at Montrose Center for the Arts. Mike is a highly accomplished and nationally known artist, who works in oil and watercolor. He paints the landscape, the people, the buildings and the animals of the West. The show will hang from Feb. 7 -29. Please join us, and meet Mike at the First Friday reception Feb. 7, 5-7pm at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park Ave. Free refreshments.-Also showing in the Centennial Room is the Homeschool Students' exhibit.

Feb.11-Alpine Photography Club Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7pm, Colorado Mesa University, 245 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, Room 206, Presentation: Gear Share; By: APC Members; Sharing Theme: Winter (up to three images); Tech Tip: Firmware Updates. The public is welcome!

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. 14-On Friday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. - Evolutions of Love-Vocal Duets through the Ages, Wright Opera House, 472 Main Street, Ouray. Advance tickets \$18, \$20 at the door and \$5 students (18 and under) at www.ocpag.org.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

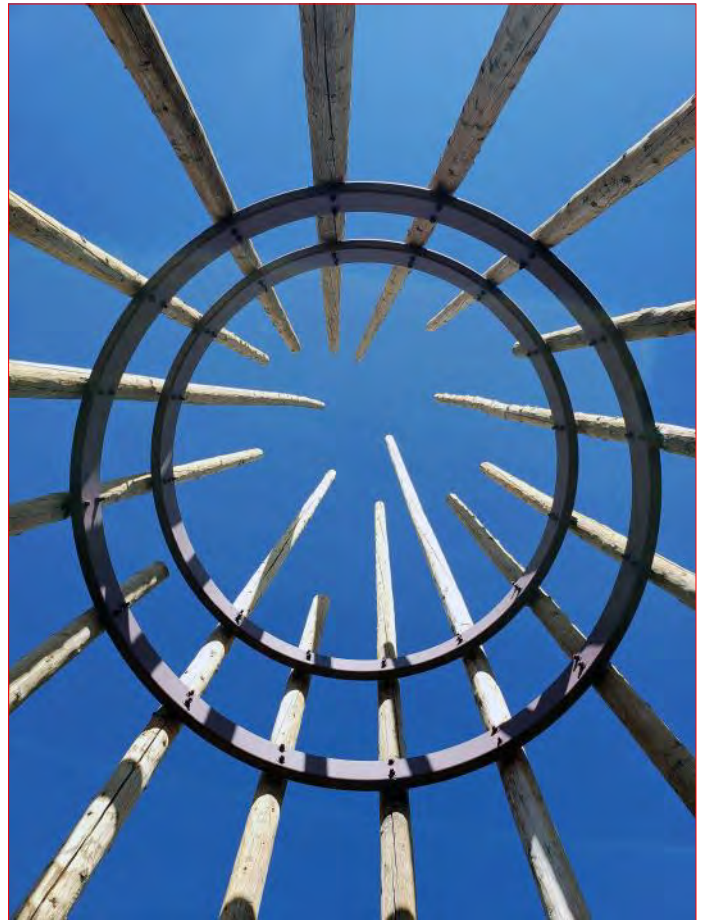
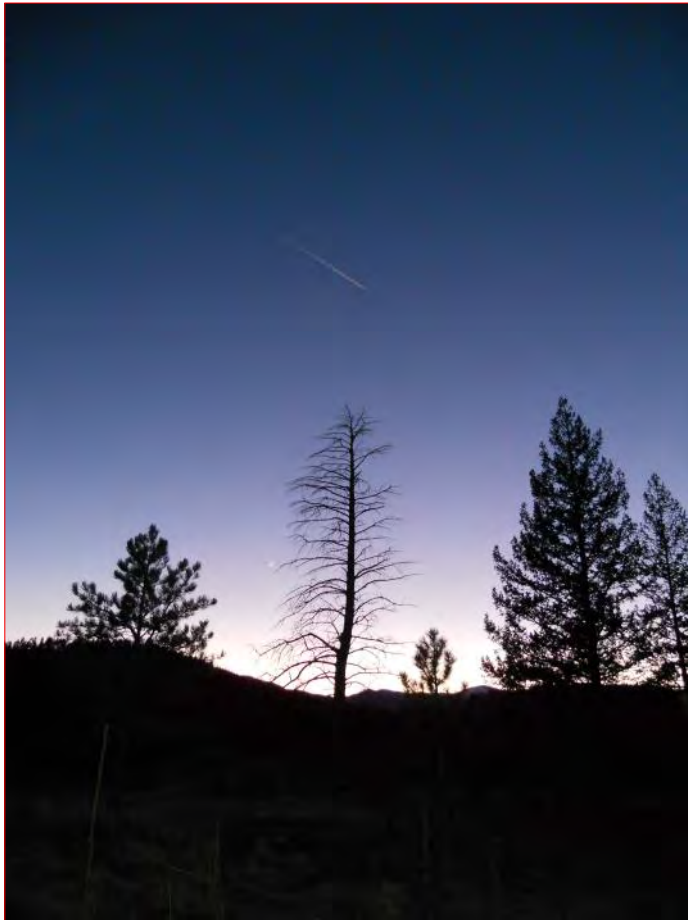
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT...

BY DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured these images of (left) a tree, moon, and jet; and right, Teepee poles reaching for the sky at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose.

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