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the Montrose Mirror

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Issue No. 363 Feb. 10, 2020

MURA MEMBERS QUESTION SPENDING, MURKY FINANCIALS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Background: The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was formed in late 2016 by a resolution of the Montrose City Council. The MURA Board oversees the Colorado Outdoors Urban Renewal Area and administers the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the funding mechanism to finance public infrastructure. The property, which covers 158 acres along the river corridor between the Justice Center on the north and West Main on the South, is being developed by Mayfly Outdoors.



Dr. Renata Raziano, Montrose Dermatology, Inc. (fourth from right) took time from her medical practice to give the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) a PowerPoint presentation and overview of her business expansion. Raziano hopes to break ground in the Colorado Outdoors development in the spring of 2020. Photo by Gail Marvel.

The 10-member MURA board is made up of Montrose City Council (five members), City Manager Bill Bell (Executive Director), Brad Hughes (Montrose County), Tad Rowan (Montrose Fire Protection District), Gayle Johnson (Montrose School District) and Mark Plantz (Special Districts Representative).

On Feb. 3, the MURA Board of Commissioners met for two-hours. Board member

Continued pg 19

CITIZENS WEIGH IN ON LOSS OF IMMUNIZATION, FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES; EVENT CENTER TO HOST ROCKY MT. OYSTER FEST APRIL 25



Montrose County Event Center will host a Rocky Mt. Oyster Fest April 25, with red dirt bands like Chris Colston, above. Courtesy photo.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Citizens filled the Commissioners' Chambers as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a [regular meeting](#) on Wednesday, Feb. 5. All Commissioners were present; the invocation was delivered by Pastor Buddy Cook of First Church of the Nazarene.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Several citizens stepped forward to address the BOCC during the public comment period.

Citizen Barbara Schmerler spoke. "I would like to ask the County Commissioners to reconsider their decision to cut immunization and family planning services," Schmerler said. "...Not everybody is eligible to go to other places...there are a lot of people that are not eligible for Medicaid,

Continued pg 32

in this issue

Art Goodtimes' Up Bear Creek!

Reader Photo Spotlight with Deb Reimann!

Mirror Classifieds & Regional News Briefs!

City of Montrose Work Session & Meeting!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NAMED FIVE-STAR HOSPITAL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital is a five-star hospital according to the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It is the only hospital within an hour of Montrose to receive the distinction.

“Thank you to the incredible work of our staff and providers who have made this distinction possible,” said James Kiser, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital.

“Being rated five out of five stars is recognition that the care we give our community is truly top notch. With this distinction, we give our communities another reason to be very proud of their hospital!” The overall hospital rating summarizes a variety of measures on Hospital Compare (www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare) reflecting common conditions that hospitals treat, such as heart attacks or pneumonia. The evaluation shows how well each hospital performed, on average, compared to other hospitals in the U.S. The Hospital Compare rankings range from one to five stars. The more



Montrose Memorial Hospital was recently named a five-star hospital by U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services. Courtesy photo.

stars, the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures.

The most common overall hospital ratings are three or four stars. MMH

achieved the elite 5-star rating! According to Medicare.gov, less than 9 percent of U.S. hospitals nationwide are rated five out of five stars.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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Editor@MontroseMirror.com
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Principled: *Acts with integrity and honesty, has a strong sense of fairness for individuals and community.*

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APRIL 7, 2020**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL FEBRUARY DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Montrose High School February Division Award winners, L-R, Ayla Peirce, Amy McCracken, JT Imus, Jose Rubalcaba, Ben Leu, Michelle Padilla, Mackenzie Doolin, Grace Ansell and Jonah Lamprecht. Congratulations to all!

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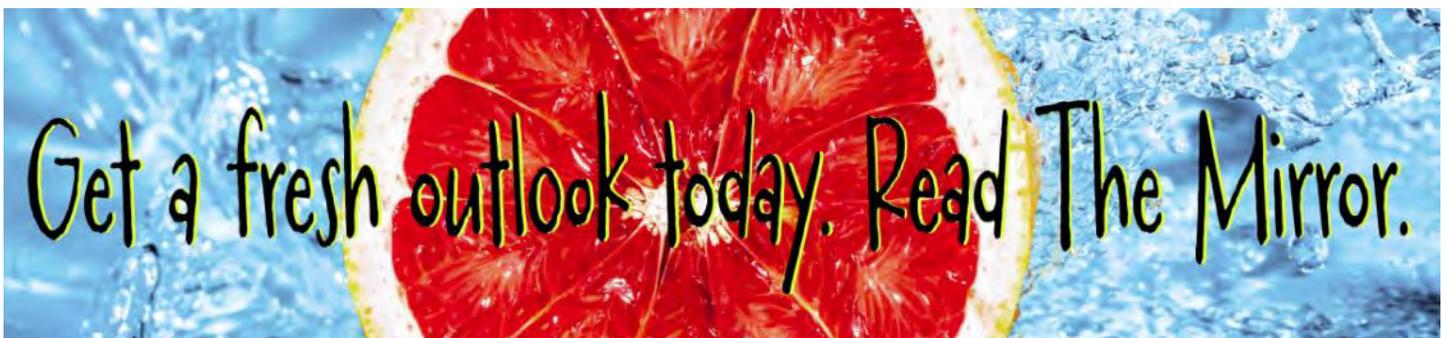
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RE-1J WELCOMES SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH INTERVIEW COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Applications will be available on Tuesday, Feb. 11 to apply to be a member of the Interview Committee's in the RE-1J Superintendent Search. You can get an application from the main page of the website (www.mcsd.org), the district Facebook page ([@montrosecountyschooldistrict](https://www.facebook.com/montrosecountyschooldistrict)) or at the District Office, located at 930 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. Applications must be returned no later than February 28th for review and selection by the school board. Please contact Laurie Laird at 970-252-7902 or laurie.laird@mcsd.org if you have additional questions.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ADVANTAGE HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER OFFERS SPANISH SPEAKING CARE NAVIGATOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE –AdvantAge Health Resource Center, a program of Volunteers of America, has recently added a Spanish speaking Care Navigator who can help guide Spanish speaking clients to accessing assistance programs and community resources. Shelley D. Green, “Conchita Verde”, is available to meet with individuals 60+ in either Montrose or Delta Counties and assess their eligibility.

Through a short activities of daily living assessment, clients may discover they are

qualified for in-home services through the Region 10/Area Agency on Aging community living services program, who AdvantAge Health Resource Center is partnered with to provide assessments and referrals.

These in-home supportive services can include homemaking, personal care, transportation, home delivered meals, caregiver support and companionship. Information and referrals are also provided to a variety of other available resources that may help the individual live a more inde-

pendent life.

Appointments can take place in the individual’s home, in the AdvantAge Health Resource Center offices or another convenient location.

The Montrose office is located at 121 N Park Ave. Suite D and the Delta office is located at 350 Stafford Lane, in the Shoppes at Delta mall. For more information or to schedule an options counseling appointment, call 1.844.862.4968, email advantage@voa.org or shgreen@voa.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

BI-PARTISAN LEADERSHIP IS WORTH CELEBRATING

Editor:

The year 2020 started off with some job losses in Western Colorado. Russell Stover announced a 2021 closure of its Montrose business, putting over 400 jobs on notice. Tri-State, as a result of its necessary transition away from coal, announced 2025-2030 closing of coal plants and mines near Craig, impacting around 500 workers. Stover's move is for corporate consolidation. Tri-State's will result in cheaper and cleaner electricity. But many workers will need some help finding new jobs.

It's important to celebrate lawmakers who are willing to work across the aisle. For over 40 years, the Western Colorado Alliance has brought people from the Western Slope together to make our voices heard at the state and federal levels. WCA would like to thank lawmakers who are stepping up this year with legislation for rural economic development.

Colorado House Bill 20-1003 would extend and expand the Rural Jump-Start Zone Act, which provides incentives for new businesses and new hires to set up shop in distressed communities. It has bi-partisan sponsorship of Representatives Dylan Roberts and Janice Rich, and Senators Kerry Donovan and Ray Scott.

Senator Don Coram and Representative Barbara McLachlan are sponsoring Senate Bill 20-054, the Rural Development Grant Program Creation, to provide leveraged grant money to help fund early-stage small businesses.

Senate Bill 20-002, the Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant Program, from Senators Donovan and Coram, and Representative McLachlan, would provide additional grants to rural communities for economic development.

This bi-partisan leadership is worth celebrating! Too bad it's not also at the federal level.

Marv Ballantyne, Member WCA

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOPEFUL OF MORE TRANSPARENCY, CITIZEN INPUT IN FUTURE BOCC DECISIONS

Dear Montrose County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC):

During and immediately after leaving the February 5, 2020 BOCC meeting I felt that there was a hope that you, the commissioners, were listening to the citizens and stakeholders regarding the fate of the Montrose County Family Planning Clinic PRIOR to any decision making.

However, since that meeting and having done more research, I am feeling very disheartened and manipulated at the very well choreographed political dance that I feel that I witnessed at the BOCC meeting.

The grant application deadline for the Title X funding through the State of Colorado is February 10, 2020. This lengthy application would had to have been started by county representatives a long time ago as it appears to have been by the River Valley Clinic. At the BOCC meeting it became clear that the BOCC has no intention of even attempting to apply for this grant or even listening to the citizens that you serve regarding our concerns in attempting to keep a county clinic open. I want to state clearly that I have no ob-

jection to your efforts in seeking a partnership that does improve services for our neighbors in Montrose County. However, what I do have objection to is that you did not ask for more stakeholders (ie citizens, patients, employees possibly, other medical providers) to have input into the proposed system in an open forum to make it the best possible service. If I was "just sticking to the facts," the media reported that the Montrose County Family Planning Clinic was closing and that our "area had comparable services"; no one publicly knew of the plan for Montrose County to approve the co-partnership with River Valley until the BOCC meeting on February 5, 2020.

The plan with River Family does appear to have a lot of positives but does also appear to have some flaws. I am a strong proponent of what River Valley does ie "wraparound services." But a data flaw, for example, if the Montrose County Family Planning Clinic only saw 391 patients last year, how can River Family justify the hiring of the four to five dedicated staff? If my math is correct, that would be an average need of seeing 1 1/2 patients per day;

why would four to five dedicated staff be needed for this? And I find myself with more questions such as, will you the BOCC promise to supervise and ensure that our citizens are receiving their promised quality services?

Wouldn't a pro-active meeting with stakeholders asking for input alleviate some of the transition "growing pains" for the most important stakeholder: the patient? ...and there are more flaws and questions that should be addressed. In todays heightened political times, it is actions like these, those that you say are well intentioned but can appear deceitful, that cause citizens like me, who are well also well meaning, to become cynical, suspicious and less trusting of your future decision making.

In the future I would hope and encourage that the Montrose BOCC would be more transparent, ask for and incorporate input from its citizens in a timely manner. This type of relationship encourages a positive regard for and working relationship with elected political officials.

Thank you,
Holly L. Speaks, MSW, Psychotherapist



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WELCH NAMED DIRECTOR OF DORA'S DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Executive Director Patty Salazar announced today that she has appointed Aaron Welch as the Director of the Division of Conservation. Welch has been serving as Acting Director since the retirement of Mark Weston in September 2019.

In this role, Director Welch will oversee the Division of Conservation, which was created as DORA's tenth division in May of 2018. The Division is charged with administering Colorado's \$45 million tax credit for conservation easements, assuring that conservation easements protect conservation purposes in perpetuity, and determining the credibility of appraisals that value conservation easements.

In addition to administering the tax credit, the Division certifies non-profit organizations and local governments to hold conservation easements and houses the Conservation Easement Oversight Commission.

"Aaron is the state expert on conservation easements, having been with the conservation program at DORA for many years, and an integral part of its transition from the Division of Real Estate to its own distinct division," noted Executive Director Salazar. "Aaron has a true passion for conserving Colorado's public lands, and is credited with ensuring that the process of conservation easement oversight in our state is one of probity and transparency." Welch joined DORA in 2013 as an examiner for the conservation easement program. He has reviewed hundreds of conservation easement transactions, shaped the certification program for nonprofit organizations and local governments that

hold conservation easements, and worked tirelessly to ensure the integrity of Colorado's tax credit for conservation easements. "Colorado is fortunate to have an effective, voluntary incentive that conserves our landscapes and way of life for future generations," said Welch. "I am proud to lead the Division and committed to ensuring that Colorado's regulation of conservation easements is a model for the country."

Before his turn as a regulator, Director Welch worked to conserve private lands in Colorado's San Luis Valley. He has shared his protected lands experience abroad as a Fulbright Scholar and at UNESCO. Welch is a graduate of the University of Colorado and the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Welch's position as Director of the Division of Conservation is effective as of Feb. 5, 2020.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FREE LUNCH & LEARN FOR FORMER URANIUM AND ATOMIC WORKERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Nuclear Care Partners invites all former uranium and atomic workers to a free Lunch & Learn where they will get expert answers to their EEOICPA benefits questions. Lori Shanks, Benefits Specialist with Nuclear Care Partners, is hosting this event to help former workers determine if they qualify for benefits as well as learn how to maximize the benefits they may already be receiving. Through the EEOICPA, former atomic workers may qualify for up to \$400,000 and no-cost medical benefits due to their workplace exposure. Those who are awarded medical benefits through the EEOICPA will receive

a “white card”, which can cover a wide variety of services related to the approved illness including:

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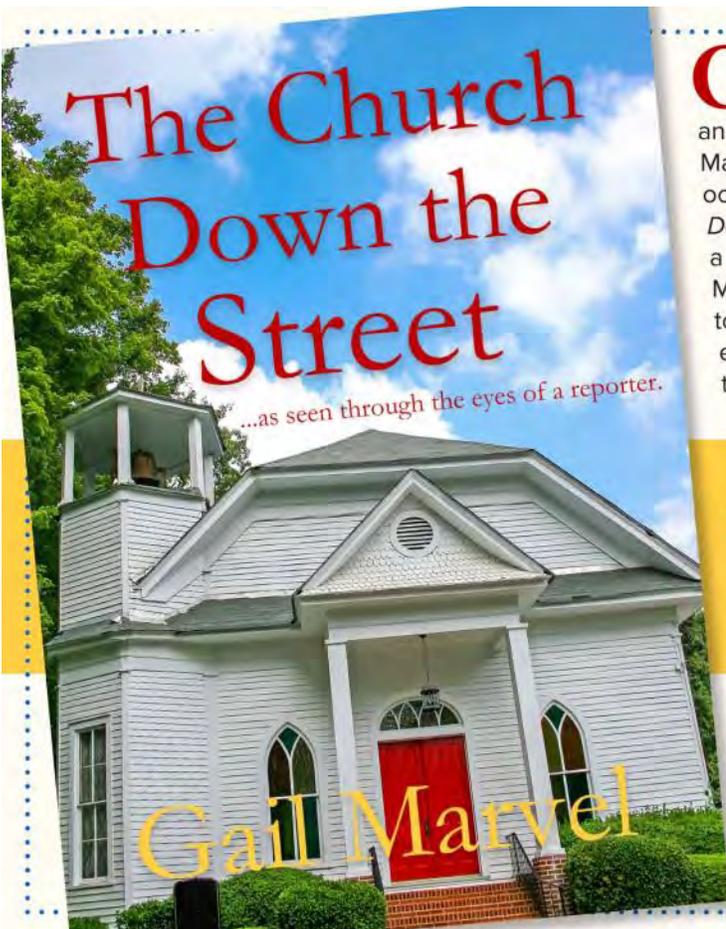
This Lunch & Learn primarily serves to help former workers learn how to maximize their benefits to get the most out of their white card. Lori will also be discussing impairment ratings and how to file for one as well as how to add consequential illnesses to the white card. The Lunch &

Learn event will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at Camp Robber located at 1515 Ogden Road in Montrose, Colorado.

To RSVP, former workers can call 970-404-3021.

“This lunch will provide a comfortable and informal setting where former atomic workers can come together and freely ask questions about their benefits,” said Lori Shanks, EEOICPA Benefits Specialist with Nuclear Care Partners.

“They are so deserving. I want to help them get the most out of their benefits and get clear, honest, and expert answers to their questions.”



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

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



GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMENT ON WILDER-HIGHLANDS MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RESPONSE PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests’ Gunnison Ranger District is seeking public to comment on the Wilder-Highlands Mountain Pine Beetle Response Project. The project will focus on the treatment of lodgepole pine forests experiencing a bark beetle outbreak near the Wilder On the Taylor and Gunnison Highlands communities northeast of Gunnison.

In the summer of 2019, US Forest Service personnel identified trees in declining health near the Wilder Subdivision. Surveys determined that mountain pine beetle was causing the epidemic levels of decline on both private and National Forest System lands. The primary purpose of the project is to treat the mountain pine beetle affected stands, reduce the risk of mountain pine beetle spread, and to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires in the wildland urban interface.

The project’s proposed action includes sanitation, salvage, and long-term preventative treatments on potentially 2,860 acres of private and National Forest System lands. The GMUG will coordinate a

cross-jurisdictional response effort with the Colorado State Forest Service and National Forest Foundation. This joint effort will allow mitigation treatments to occur on both public and private land. Under the Wyden Amendment (Public Law 109-54, Section 434), federal funding can be used for treatments on private lands. The amendment authorizes the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with willing private landowners for the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and reduction of risk from natural disasters, including insects and disease. “This project is designed to rapidly respond to this outbreak with the goal of minimizing the beetles spread,” said Gunnison District Ranger Matt McCombs. “Mountain pine beetles are a normal part of the ecosystem and regularly snack on small pockets of pine forests every year; the similarly aged, tightly growing lodgepole forests of the Taylor Basin are a readymade feast for these critters and our work here will hopefully keep them snacking versus the banquets we’ve experienced in other parts of the state” McCombs continued.

Additional information is presented in the Scoping Letter and supporting documentation, which can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57554>. A public meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 from 10 am -1 pm at Western Colorado University, Kelley Hall room 151. Options will be available to join the meeting remotely. An opportunity to collaborate in the development and implementation of this project will be available for interested members of the public. Comments on the project will be accepted through February 20. See the Scoping Letter for more information on the public meeting, collaboration and commenting on the project.

Wilder on the Taylor and Gunnison Highlands landowners interested in participating or looking for more information can contact Mike Tarantino, Colorado State Forest Service Forester, at Mike.Tarantino@colostate.edu or at 970-641-6852.

For additional questions, please contact Pamela King, USFS NEPA Planner, at 970-642-4436 or prking@fs.fed.us.

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MURA MEMBERS QUESTION SPENDING, MURKY FINANCIALS

From pg 1

Plantz was absent.

The audience of approximately 15 people included candidates running for city council in the upcoming election. The MURA meetings do not allow for public comment. However, similar to the January meeting, city council candidate Yvonne Meek spoke up from the floor to ask questions. Chair Tad Rowan did not entertain Meek's questions, but told her she could ask questions of individual board members following the meeting. Meek said, "Comments need to be spoken in a public meeting, not to individual board members."

Note: Rowan did not apply the same criteria to Doug Dragoo, Colorado Outdoors developer. The elder Dragoo is not a member of the MURA board, nor was he on the agenda; however, he was allowed to speak to the board.

MURA Southern Multi-Family Housing Project – Phase I Apartments.

a. Project Funding Discussion – William Bell, Executive Director.

The board packet contained a one-page fact sheet which highlighted a general view of the project. The project consists of 96 units of modular three-story apartment buildings. The developer is Kurt Soukup, Range Development.

Bell said, "So far we financed the MURA from the [city] Water Fund Balance. Once the project gets going, URA's borrow funds. There are two types of infrastructure; public infrastructure and horizontal site improvements."

The proposed financing calls for \$2.8 M public infrastructure, plus \$1.36 M for horizontal site improvements.

Note: Paying for horizontal site improvements began in 2018 when Colorado Outdoors requested and received \$805,937 for the Mayfly parking lot. Since that time other horizontal site improvement requests include the Marriott (\$600,000), the apartment complex (\$1.6 M) and the combine projects of dermatology business expansion (\$250,000) and the Dragoo medical/commercial project (\$250,000).

Horizontal site improvements are not public infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, gutters), but rather private improvements

for the developer and new businesses (parking lots and landscaping) paid for by the MURA. Bell said, "How to pay for that. If we borrow that amount, we would pledge the property to pay back the debt. Property tax on residential does not generate as much revenue as tax on commercial."

Bell suggested borrowing \$2 M to create cash flow, "We could put the financing package together with the [city] contribution from the Special Improvement Fund."

Brad Hughes said, "I'm not following some of your numbers. I just want us to be clear."

Kyle Thomas of D.A. Davidson (bonding company) spoke by phone, "You can manipulate the numbers and pull out of [different funding sources] wherever you want. The URA can borrow just like the city, county, or school district on their own standing. There is no requirement to have a TABOR. You can do this without an election."

Thomas explained the lag in property tax collection; for two-and-a-half years there would be no revenue. He said, "Because of the speculative nature interest rates are higher."

Councilwoman Barbara Bynum said, "It's confusing."

Hughes said, "I've never seen a schedule of payment from the MURA to the city."

Bell said, "We have a lot of flexibility."

Hughes said, "This has a 50-year payout. Debt service is for interest only for the first three years."

Another option is the city's ability to borrow at a lower rate. Bynum said, "The city could be a co-signer for the MURA."

Hughes said, "Every business that comes to us with property is going to want us to build their parking lot."

Mayor Dave Bowman said, "I just want to make sure that this massive amount we are borrowing we can pay back."

Hughes said, "I'm not following. We're paying for streets and gutter; wouldn't it be easier if we stopped at that part? Are we going to start paying for everyone's horizontal site improvements? I don't like to keep coming back for financing for this project and that project."

Bowman said, "Are we going beyond TIF and using taxpayer's money...[people] will say I want my piece [of the pie]."

Bell said, "We haven't talked to other developers about horizontal site improvements." Bell explained the apartment project is in a unique category.

Bowman said, "I'm uncomfortable with asking the taxpayers to pay more. We're spending money, spending money, [maybe] we wouldn't have to raise the sales tax as much as we did."

The group would like to see something in writing about the debt service, interest, etc.

Bell said, "I'll get the stuff needed for the next meeting." Bell, who is totally involved with the financing, said he sometimes fails to give the board all the information they may want. He encouraged the board to keep asking questions.

Chair Tad Rowan ask Bell about getting Anderson Analytics to re-do their analysis. Bell said an update would cost about \$5,000 and it would be discussed at the next meeting.

Montrose Dermatology Business Expansion Project

a. Business Expansion Plan & Project Overview – Dr. Renata Raziano, Montrose Dermatology, Inc.

In a PowerPoint presentation Dr. Raziano gave an overview of job creation and the economic impact of moving her existing practice into the MURA. She said, "Having the support of the MURA makes it possible for me [to build] now, rather than years later."

Colorado Outdoors Developer Doug Dragoo, who is not a member of the board, said, "This is what the URA board is set up to do, to fix that part of town. We are trying to grow our economy, fill beds in the Marriott. We're trying to grow jobs and grow Montrose."

Doug Dragoo continued to respond to previous board comments and even attempted to answer questions raised by Meek. As though defending the Colorado Outdoors investment and their right to the TIF, Dragoo said, "If other developers want to do a TIF, let them go do it. Let them bring it to the city."

MURA MEMBERS QUESTION SPENDING, MURKY FINANCIALS

From previous pg

Note: Oxbow Crossing and River Landing developer Matt Miles holds a TIF and PIF for his developments south of town. Miles did not receive public funds to build his development infrastructure, but paid more than \$18 M out-of-pocket for streets, sidewalks gutter and highway access. The PIF is the mechanism designed to help Miles recover his investment, which will take years. In the past the city held to the standard that development must pay its own way, which was the requirement for the Oxbow Crossing and River Landing developments.

Speaking to Dr. Raziano, Hughes said, "Are you paying market value for the land, or is it discounted by the developer?"

Raziano said, "I'd say yes I am. There is cheaper land in Montrose."

Note: The value of the Colorado Outdoors property is increased substantially when the MURA board funds not only for the public infrastructure buildout, but also the private horizontal site development. Value transfer has not been discussed in MURA meetings. However, Colorado Outdoors can manipulate/set the value of their property because they are not paying for infrastructure/site development.

Hughes calculated the original \$8.5 M and now the request for \$2.8 M for phase

one. Speaking to Scott Murphy (City of Montrose City Engineer), Hughes ask for the final tabulation. Murphy said, "For \$30 M you could have all the infrastructure buildout."

Black Mountain Capital Medical/Commercial Building Project.

a. Medical Office/Commercial Building Expansion Project – David Dragoo, Black Mountain Capital.

Note: The Dermatology Business Expansion Project is a combined project with Dragoo's Black Mountain Capital Medical/Commercial Building Project.

The cost for the combined projects is \$4 M (\$2 M for the dermatology building, \$1 ½ M for the Dragoo speculative commercial building, and \$500,000 for the lot site development).

David Dragoo said, "We're asking for \$500,000 for the [joint] parking lot."

Consideration of Development Agreements for Horizontal Site Improvements – decision on both projects postponed until the next meeting.

Consideration of MURA Tax Increment Financing Project – decision postponed until the next meeting.

River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract – Scott Murphy, City of Montrose City Engineer.

Erosion to the new river trail in the MURA has been caused by heavy spring runoff.

Murphy said, "We expected erosion in about 10 years. We did not expect it this year." The stabilization effort was to place a limited amount of rip-rap to protect the trail through the 2020 runoff season.

In 2019 a contractor-only procurement failed and the city decided to re-advertise the project and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on Dec. 19, 2019.

After receiving bids Murphy recommended the design build-team of Ecological Resource Consultants, Lakewood, CO (design) and Naranjo Civil Contractors, Garden City, CO (contractor) be awarded the contract.

Hughes said, "We delayed the project for a year and they [previous bidders] didn't even resubmit?"

Murphy acknowledged that the local contractor who questioned the original bid in 2019 did not resubmit.

The board voted unanimously to award the River Restoration Project Design-Build Contract to Ecological Resource Consultants, Lakewood, CO and Naranjo Civil Contractors, Garden City, CO.

Next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2020.



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CITY VOTES TO BUY RIVER LAND PARCEL, APPROVES INCENTIVES GRANT AGREEMENT FOR GEYSER TECHNOLOGIES IN 4 TO 1 VOTE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The agenda was lengthy and Council chambers nearly full, as the Montrose City Council convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4. All councilors were present for the meeting; Youth Council Representative was Clara Carrasco.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments heard on non-agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council approved minutes of the Jan. 21 special City Council meeting and Jan. 21 regular City Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum abstained from voting on the regular meeting as she had recused herself and was not present in Council Chambers for much of the Jan. 21 regular meeting.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Because there will be a Municipal Election on April 7, Council voted to move the Monday work session and Tuesday regular meeting originally scheduled for Monday, April 6 and Tuesday, April 7 to Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31.

ORDINANCE 2493-SECOND READING

As the item was previously discussed in at both a work session and adopted on First Reading at a regular meeting, Council voted to adopt 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.

2020 ANNEXATION REPORT AND THREE-MILE PLAN

Council voted to approve the 2020 Annual Annexation Report and Three-Mile Plan as presented, as discussed in both work session and presented at a regular meeting.

Citizen and City Council At -Large Candidate Yvonne Meek spoke during the time for comment. "When a property is annexed, do the property owners or tenants

now have voting rights?"

"Yes, they would now have voting rights," Bowman said.

ORDINANCE 2494-FIRST READING

Council voted to adopt 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.

"This ultimately protects the Uncompahgre River for all its uses that are designated by the State," City Utilities Manager David Bries said.

RESOLUTION 2020-01

Council adopted Resolution 2020-01, granting a franchise to Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. in the April 2020 Municipal Election. Local Black Hills representative Christopher DeMunbrun was present, and a company spokesperson named Carly was available by phone. Though Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. has been operating in Montrose for years, all franchise agreements must go to a vote, City Attorney Stephen Alcorn said. The agreement is non-exclusive, though Black Hills Colorado Gas is the only local provider.

RESOLUTION 2020-02

Representatives of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club were present for the unanimous vote in favor of Resolution 2020-02, 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. City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer has presented extensively on the grant in work session and reiterated specific details for Council.



Jonathan Ballesteros of Geyser Technologies, right, listens with MEDC Director Sandy Head, second from right, as the Montrose City Council considers an incentives grant request for his company at the regular Council meeting on Feb.5.

The Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club has served Montrose youth for 20 years and has outgrown its present facility, Cramer said. There is currently a two-year waiting list for spots. The Club has purchased property on East Niagara Road and has raised more than \$730,000 to build a new facility; the City of Montrose is requesting a Community Development Block Grant, administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), in an amount up to \$600,000 for the project.

Mayor Dave Bowman opened a public hearing. Speaking in favor of the Resolution, Citizen and City Council District 4 Candidate Dave Frank said, "I think that Black Canyon Boys & Girls' Club is a great asset to Montrose. I think the expansion of their facilities will have a very positive impact on our community as well as providing a much-needed service of day care for a lot of kids."

The funds will pass through the City's coffers but will be used by the Club, Councilor Roy Anderson said.

Youth Council Representative Clara Carrasco said, "I would pass this resolution,

CITY VOTES TO BUY RIVER LAND PARCEL, APPROVES INCENTIVES GRANT

From previous pg

because at the end of day if we have a new boys and girls club that's larger, it could be an incentive for more people to come be residents of our county...filing the grant is no City expense...which essentially could mean at the end of the day we would gain revenue from the long-term implications."

Bowman said that while the funding flows through the City to the Club, it is not used by the City. He closed the public hearing.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT-MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT

Rec District officials were present to comment and answer questions, and an update on changes was provided by Kramer. The updated Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) has been discussed at length in work session and was unanimously approved by Council.

MRD Executive Director Mary Steinbach noted that the IGA was approved by the Rec District Board on Jan. 23. "...We're excited to continue moving forward and enabling our strong partnership and figuring out new ways and creative ways and great things that we can do together for all of our residents," she said.

Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked Cramer for his work on the IGA.

"It's a great partnership to bring tremendous well-being and other things to our community, opportunities for our youth, and even retired folks like me," Councilor Roy Anderson said. "I think this is a great way to maximize our tax dollars...thanks to you too, Kendall, for all the work on this."

"I will reiterate, it is basically at the end of the day a cost savings to the taxpayers by having these two entities cooperate and work through this agreement," Bynum said. "Good work."

Youth Council Representative Clara Carrasco said, "As one of the people who use the facilities that the Rec District provides, I am grateful to see that the Rec District and the City themselves are cooperating in order to achieve higher efficiencies within

our town. I'd like to thank everyone."

JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH GEYSER TECHNOLOGIES LLC.

Also approved by Council in a four to one vote (with Mayor Bowman voting to oppose) was an Incentive Grant Agreement between the City of Montrose and Geyser Technologies, LLC.

Introducing the discussion was City Manager Bill Bell. "City Council and MURA board members did a meet and greet with Geyser several months ago...we had a negotiations meeting in executive session as well as the last work session...now the agreement is before City Council for action tonight."

Bowman said that the best approach would be to go through the contract page by page. "We'll start from the beginning of the contract and work through it to the end and signify if you have a question on any particular page."

Jonathan Ballesteros of Geyser Technologies talked about the company. "Geyser Technologies is a company out to make the most of every drop of water in situations where water is very limited. We have several products that are currently getting launched in the consumer outdoor gear space...planning to launch to 146 REI Coop stores with a hot, portable shower that uses less than a gallon of water."

The company is originally from Austin, Texas, but has come to Montrose for greater opportunity, he said. There are plans for growth and expansion into more markets.

Mayor Bowman opened the floor to comments from the public.

Citizen Dave Stockton, who is currently running for the District IV City Council seat, spoke against the agreement.

"I read the package that's available to the public...I have a fundamental understanding of what Geyser is asking for," Stockton said. "...the City is doing a lot in terms of business development with the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority and we're investing a lot of money...in general I am

supportive of that...but with respect to Geyser...we're loaning Geyser \$150,000 and then we're giving them relief on that loan at \$5,000 per head count. That does not really provide a benefit to the city overall. It's going to benefit a handful of people.

"I would ask you to deny this grant going forward."

Yvonne Meek also spoke. "I think this is a great idea, a great project, a great business idea. But as a taxpayer and a business creator myself, I absolutely disagree with incentivizing companies...for us to pay their salaries to other people.

"There's so many people in Montrose Downtown and around that have invested their own money into creating businesses and job opportunities for other people," Meek said. "...I do not like these incentive packages at all, and I don't think it's fair to the rest of the community to keep incentivizing them with tax dollars."

"I think there are parts of this contract that at least for me raise great concerns about using taxpayer money," Mayor Bowman said. He led Council through a page-by-page review of the contract, noting that it would take effect when signed and would last through July 31, 2025.

"The total amount of money that Geyser Systems would be receiving would be \$199,500...there's three different parts of that...bottom line the amount of money is almost \$200,000," Bowman said.

Following further discussion between Council, Bell, and Ballesteros, Montrose Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Sandy Head spoke. She provided additional background on Geyser Technologies, noting that the State of Colorado has reviewed the company's business plan and granted a Rural Jump Start designation. With Russell Stover leaving next year, Montrose has a ready pool of employees, Head said. "...We totally support what Jonathan is doing. He has an incredibly exciting product. It's a blessing he has chosen Montrose." She encouraged Council to move forward with the Incentive Grant Agreement.

CITY VOTES TO BUY RIVER LAND PARCEL, APPROVES INCENTIVES GRANT *From previous pg*

Bowman continued to express concern. "All this really does is add people who are going to need government assistance of some kind."

Others voiced support. "This company has plans for future products that I think will bring a lot of future business to us," Councilor Roy Anderson said. "...I think this is a great opportunity...I think it's creating good jobs in the community that are desperately needed."

Said Bynum, "Forward-thinking municipalities are definitely in the business of economic development."

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT-McCLAREN, WILSON AND LAWRIE, INC.

Council approved a [Professional Services Agreement](#) with McClaren, Wilson & Lawrie, Inc. for technical advisory/design consulting services on the new Montrose Police Department Facility, as discussed previously in work session.

LAND PARCEL PURCHASE

Council approved the purchase of 2.815 acres of Montrose County Parcel 376729107002 along the Uncompahgre River at a purchase price of \$183,000. The land parcel is on the Western side of the Uncompahgre River, Murphy said, and will be used for side channels and to allow construction of the river restoration project. Funds for the purchase will come from an undesignated fund balance, Bell said.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, Council approved 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; 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 for completion of design studies and civil design associated with the Woodgate Road Realignment Project.

STAFF REPORTS/GENERAL COMMENTS

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Police Department has a new School Resource Officer, Jeremy Payne. There will be a Sexual Assault Prevention & Awareness Training class on Feb. 15 in the Centennial Room from 5 to 7 p.m. The same class will be taught in Spanish at the Latino Citizens Police Academy event Feb. 29.



Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Bud Taylor and Grant Writer Lori Sharp listen at the City Council meeting Feb. 4. The Club is building a new facility in Montrose and is applying for Community Development Block Grant funds through DOLA.

Carrasco reported that the Youth council would join in a Habitat Build April 25. Theme for the March 6 Rock the Rec event will be "Winner Takes All." There will also be a youth employment component, Carrasco said. ASTRA will be working on a literacy project in the Tortilla Flats area.

Starting in two weeks, City Work Sessions will be televised, Bowman said. "We're working to make ourselves more available and transparent, in living color."

Bowman congratulated Montrose High School NJROTC for placing first at the State competition. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXTRAORDINARY NURSES RECOGNIZED AT DELTA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



The overall DAISY Award Winner for this quarter was Mindy Smith, RN, in the surgical unit. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Ten nurses at Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) were honored with **The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses**® during a ceremony in the main lobby of the hospital on Friday, January 31.

The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day. DCMH's DAISY nominees were presented by Dawn Arnett, Medical Surgical Unit Manager/ Daisy Coordinator. The nominees were: Danielle Gallegos, Connie Hall, Mindy Smith, Jodi Slagter, Susan Anderson, Chris Boylard, Karen Lyons, Cassidy Austin, Melinda Denison and Theresa Wrich.

The overall DAISY Award Winner for this quarter was Mindy Smith, RN, in the surgical unit. Smith was nominated by a co-

worker and patients. The nomination letters highlighted her compassion, empathy and skill.

"Mindy started in the Surgery department 15 years ago as a ward secretary/CAN," said Mindy's supervisor, Felicia Heinz. "She trained to be an endotech in our endoscopy department and she worked in this capacity for several years before she earned her LPN certificate and then became a registered nurse. Mindy has been working as a PACU and Radiology nurse for three years and excels at both. She is kind, patient and understanding with her patients. Her clinical skills are exceptional. The surgery department is very proud that Mindy was selected to be honored with the Daisy award."

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late

1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System). The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

"When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night," said Bonnie Barnes, FAAN, President and Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation. "Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the superhuman, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses at DCMH are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award."

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. The quarterly DAISY award recipient is chosen through a select Daisy Committee and DCMH's T.E.A.M. M.A.S.H through a scoring rubric recognizing the nurses P.E.T.A.L.S., (Passion, Empathy, Trust, Admirable attributes, Love and Selflessness). Applications are blinded to these committees and scored.

Awards are presented four times throughout the year at celebrations attended by the Honoree's colleagues, patients, and visitors.

Each Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse."

The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people."

Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CSU PRESENTS 2020 AG OUTLOOK & STRATEGY FORUM

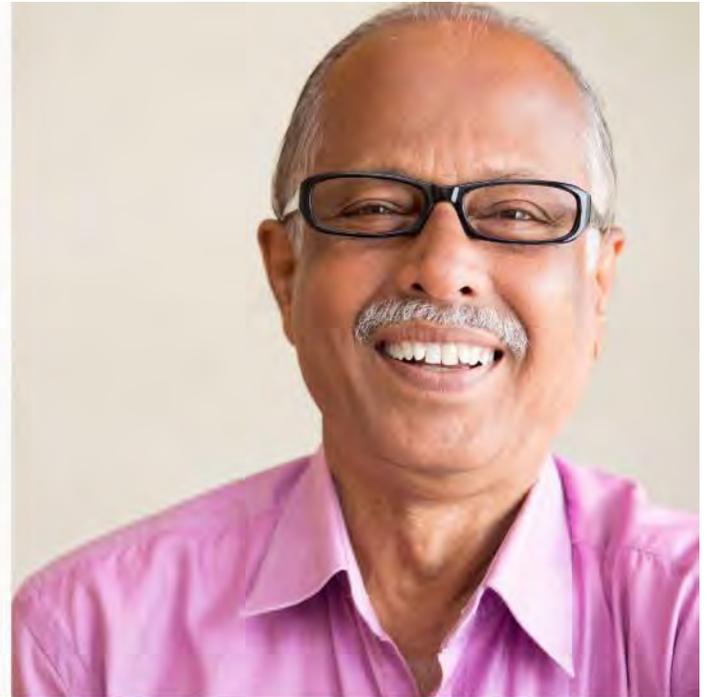
Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Colorado State University Extension Agriculture and Business Management (ABM) Team will present the 2020 Ag Outlook & Strategy Forum program, to cover topics including market

outlook, breakeven analysis, using commodity insurance as a part of a comprehensive marketing plan, using futures and options to manage risk, and cross hedging weaned calves. The program will be hosted by ABM Economists Dr. Brent Young

and Jenny Beiermann. Feb. 11 in Cortez, March 10 in Delta, and March 12 in Steamboat Springs.

For information and to register online, visit <http://2020agoutlook.eventbrite.com>.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ENEMIES WITHIN: DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BIASED MEDIA POSE THREATS

Editor:

In today's dangerous world, we have a tendency to identify most threats to our national security as external (ie: North Korea, Iran, Russia, China, Isis, etc). Over the past three plus years, it has become increasingly apparent that the greatest threats to our country surviving, are twofold and domestic in nature. In my opinion those are the Democratic Party and the media.

For three years the Democrats have shown their disdain for America and their contempt for our Constitution with continuous attempts to thwart the will of the electorate, with the Russia collusion, Mueller, Kavanaugh, and Impeachment scams, among others. If any had lingering doubts, all you had to do was to watch the SOTU address to see them demonstrate the results of their anti-Americanism. The only remedy to this very real threat is a wholesale expulsion in November of all candidates espousing any liberal /progressive / socialist / communist ideology in any level of government.

Our once great media, formerly known for real journalism with unbending impartiality, has lost all credibility. With few exceptions , most of our media outlets have degenerated into nothing but biased blatant shills for the Democratic Party. Sadly, even here in Montrose that bias has slowly become a part of the regular diet we are being fed by the Daily Press. Hopefully at some point credible journalism will be restored in our media.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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Vote for YVONNE MEEK

AT-LARGE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SEAT

I have been involved in the heart of Montrose downtown for many years. I participated in the City of Montrose Leadership program in 2009, worked for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, and have served on the Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA). I have also volunteered and served in local churches, music/arts, and civic organizations. My business experience include Meek Ranch Inc and The Lark & Sparrow Venue LLC. I desire to see all of Montrose thrive through the economic challenges of today.

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- ★ PRO SMALL BUSINESS
- ★ PRO SMALL GOVERNMENT
- ★ BUSINESS OWNER
- ★ HONEST
- ★ HARD-WORKING



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

D3 ANNOUNCES D3 SUMMIT 2020 IN RIDGWAY JUNE 6

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-As a resource hub and action platform for Colorado’s third congressional district, D3 is thrilled to announce the D3 Summit 2020, taking place on June 6 in the beautiful mountain town of Ridgway, CO. The Summit will offer instructive workshops and renowned guest speakers, and will host candidate forums that include current and potential candidates for Colorado’s 2020 elections.

Leaders from diverse advocacy groups throughout the region will attend this forum to engage in live dialog and to collaborate on causes relevant throughout the Colorado’s Western Slope and beyond. The first D3 Summit in 2017 drew more than 200 progressive leaders and constituents from around the state to participate in this one-of-a-kind event, and with the 2020 elections right around the corner, this year will be no different. Summit attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Colorado candidates and to take part in a suite of trainings led by ac-

complished organizers on topics from bridging the political divide to how to mobilize and engage voters in the upcoming November election.

The Summit will conclude with an evening talk and discussion with Roger Cohen, thirty-year veteran journalist and columnist of *The New York Times* and Dr. William Steding, presidential historian and author, as they share their thoughts on the upcoming presidential election and the state of democracy at home and abroad.

Advance registration for the D3 Summit is required. Summit registration will open in March. Please check back for registration details: <https://d3colorado.org/d3-summit>

To prepare for the new decade, D3 is changing its name from *D3 Indivisible* to simply *D3* which stands for “Dedicated to Defending Democracy,” a representation of our refined mission. Since its inception in 2017, the founders of D3 have come to recognize that America’s prodigious obstacle is now greater than just becoming uni-

fied - being “Indivisible.” Fundamentally, the challenge has grown into defending democracy itself. While none of us asked for this behemoth task, it is nevertheless our duty as citizens to embrace the sense of duty our predecessor American generations did and **Dedicate** ourselves to Defending Democracy; our new “D3.” This shift in brand is not partisan, nor particularly political. It is patriotic.

We are still Western Colorado’s resource hub and action platform uniting Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District for a stronger America and are committed to our [stances on the issues](#), as we believe this is the best path to defending democracy locally and beyond. D3 is committed to serving as an umbrella for regional entities to gather and disseminate factual information, raise public awareness, organize coordinated political actions that further responsible and intelligent public policy, and to function as a public, inclusive platform to unite our diverse communities.

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CITIZENS WEIGH IN ON LOSS OF IMMUNIZATION, FAMILY PLANNING From pg 1

they can't go to River Valley, they can't go to Pic Place. They may not even be legal here."

Many young adults do not have a physician, she said, "I think that because we are a small town, some people are very hesitant to go their primary care physicians and their doctors offices, and that going to public health gives them a degree of anonymity."

Being able to control family size is very important, she said. "I can tell you that there are a lot of people who are struggling from day to day."

Schmerler questioned what would happen in the event of a pandemic and noted that without the County's immunization services it will become more difficult to get vaccinations needed to go overseas. "It's extremely difficult to get an overseas vaccination at your doctor's office," she said.

Citizen Tom Mathis spoke. "I came before you last month on Jan. 7," Mathis said, "expressing my concerns about the enforcement and inspection policy regarding footing and foundations." He registered concerns over his own building permit. "...Under your current policy you only require a foundation completion statement when a framing inspection is required," Mathis said. "That is backward and not consistent with what the IRC prescribes. Successive inspections should come and be approved before anything commences beyond that. You have a duty as commissioners to see that the laws of the county and government are followed... there's supposed to be a pre-pour inspection. That saves people money...my foundation should have never been poured."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said that commissioners would ask the building department to look into the matter.

Citizen Sharon Pilcher also spoke. "I want to talk about the immunization and family planning," she said. "I am a physical therapist assistant...I feel that easy access to immunizations is very important for everyone in our community, to protect the children and adults from getting sick and spreading disease to others. Immunization is one of the great success stories of modern medicine. Why would we want to eliminate this service?" Pilcher said.

She said that as a young mother, public

health facilities gave her children access to shots and herself access to family planning services "These services can make a big difference in someone's life," Pilcher said.

Citizen Janine Gwaltney spoke. "I think that family planning services are so incredibly important to the economy and to the community," she said. "I think that if a young family has access to family planning so that they can time their family when it works best for them financially, then it will make the difference between having a family that is in dire poverty needing public assistance, or a middle class family that is paying taxes."

Citizen Holly Speaks addressed the BOCC as well. "I am a local social worker, local therapist, I am a member of the Colorado National Association of Social workers and a parent and consumer living here in this county," she said. "I am speaking today in opposition to the closing of the family planning clinic...this will impact our neighbors greatly. Services like this will be needed even more with the current presidential administration's proposed reductions in the Medicaid Block Grant." Speaks said that the purpose of the Title X grant was to prioritize family planning for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals. "Where will the most underserved and the neediest of our neighbors turn to? Our current local medical providers are already struggling to accommodate the existing patients that they serve."

Private providers are reluctant to apply for and use Medicaid and Title X funding because of the low reimbursement rates, she said.

Citizen Amiessa Jutten spoke. "I'm a social worker and a local therapist here in town. I am also the Western Slope Representative for the National Association of Social Workers.

She discussed her own background, her early years as an underinsured, single mom going to college. "I am here today to put a face to the people, the real people affected by the plans to end the County's family planning and immunization programs...we used the immunization program for my children's shots, as I could not afford physician-visit co-pays."

Citizens who could not attend the BOCC meeting had shared comments with her, and Jutten read those to the BOCC. "...We

are not dollars or number signs, we are human beings," she said. "This is about communities, families, people—your friends and neighbors. We have value, dignity, and worth."

Citizen Marti Svensen spoke as well. As an RN for 37 years, she made many referrals for immunizations, she said. Overseas immunizations are usually available only through the County, she said.

"I fear that if we take away the immunizations and family planning, we are going backwards," Svensen said. "We're just a hillbilly county, in my opinion."

Citizen Ann Marie Fleming also spoke. A retired high school teacher married to a local attorney, she recalled her own young family's experiences using the County's immunization program when they had three young children, no insurance and two professional careers.

"It's my understanding that these funds are given to the states from the federal government," Fleming said. "If this is so, these are our tax dollars which have been allocated by Congress for our state for the specific purpose of subsidizing health care service for those who qualify.

"Why then would you refuse to accept tax dollars which have been allocated to our county by congress?" she said. "By refusing to re-apply for these funds when there is a clear need for them, you are violating the needs of the people and the will of the people to provide them."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris removed General Business item D-2, presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to Montrose County Public Health Department as a Radon Aware Community issued by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) through the Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease Grant Program.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

County attorney Marti Whitmore presented a proclamation declaring **Feb. 14, 2020 to be League of Women Voters Day in honor of their 100th anniversary**. When the proclamation was approved unanimously, there was applause.

CITIZENS WEIGH IN ON LOSS OF IMMUNIZATION, FAMILY PLANNING From previous pg

Assistant County Manager Jon Waschbusch presented a letter for Commissioners to sign, in support of the Colorado Family Planning Program grant application being submitted by River Valley Family Health Center to CDPHE. The County is contracted through June 30, Waschbusch said, and the grant is open to other entities. "...The services go with the grant...this grant process is open and competitive, and we do know that River Valley is preparing an application."

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said that the decision to eliminate the County's family planning and immunization services was not made lightly. He asked Waschbusch how many patients used the County's family planning services in 2019. The total number of patients was 391 in the calendar year 2019, Waschbusch said. Of those, there were 25 female patients and three male patients between the ages of 15 and 17, with three female patients under the age of 15.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked if other providers would be held to the same standards for service as the County has been. "Yes," County Public Health Director Jim Austin said. "The requirements are the same regardless of who the provider is... the Title X Requirements don't change."

River Valley CEO Jeremy Carroll stepped forward to answer questions. River Valley will have a sliding fee scale for services, Carroll said.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash asked Carroll to describe River Valley Health Center. River Valley has a new, 12,000-sf facility, with 17 exam rooms, two behavioral health rooms, three dental operatories, and an on-site pharmacy; there will be a dedicated team of five providers for family planning, Carroll said.

Rash asked County Health Director Jim Austin to describe the County's facilities. "Our facility has some years on it," Austin said. "...River Valley has a wonderful facility, not only structurally but as far as integrated care...ours is not the level of River Valley."

The County will still maintain a public health department, and will continue to address communicable diseases, Austin said. Flu clinics and emergency management drills will continue.

"Our facility is woefully inadequate," Rash said. "It's old, it's antiquated, it's not sterile, it has a lot of problems. We did not take this lightly...what we have to think about is what is best for the citizens.

"...We really believe that this is a better facility," Rash said. "And there are more options for these folks, not only the young people but folks that don't have insurance."

Commissioners have been studying the issue for more than a year and a half, Commissioner Sue Hansen said. "We're not making willy-nilly, knee jerk decisions," she said. "We understand that the people in this county are important; that's our job, to serve the public."

Following further discussion and additional public comments, the Letter of Support was approved unanimously.

Also approved unanimously were: **ratification of the Board's signatures on a comment letter to the Bureau of Reclamation** with regard to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Paradox Valley Unit of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program; and **waiver of the County's right of first refusal to purchase the hangar at 1720 Airport Road**, owned by Earl Poytress, Jr., to permit the sale of the hangar to Eric Nordlander, and to approve the ground lease with Mr. Nordlander contingent on the sale closing.

Fairgrounds Manager Emily Sanchez presented information on the County's **Rocky Mountain Oyster Fest, to be held April 25 at the Event Center**. The vision for the festival is to showcase Montrose County's agricultural heritage in a fun and edgy way, Sanchez said. Three "Red Dirt" bands from Texas were approved for the festival, including headliner Reckless Kelly (\$15K fee); Chris Colston (\$3,500 fee); and Jacob Bryant (\$5K fee). Red Dirt music originated in Oklahoma and Texas and was chosen for the festival because the event center also has plenty of red dirt. Sanchez said of Grammy winners Reckless Kelly, "I think they will be a really good fit for our first year." Music will take place from 5:15 to 9:30 p.m., with games at 3 p.m.

Hansen said that the Rocky Mountain Oyster Festival could become a signature event, and has already generated buzz. "I think this could be a really great fit for

Montrose County."

Said Rash, "I really like the timing...I think this is a wonderful event. Thank you for putting this together; thank your staff for thinking outside the box and coming up with something unique."

Commissioners unanimously approved fees for the festival artists. "Thanks for thinking outside the box as Roger said, and making a unique event for the Western Slope," Caddy said.

Resolution 08-2020 was approved unanimously, establishing the **Montrose County Human Services Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Mail Card Issuance Policy and Procedure**, as required by the Colorado Department of Human Services Program, 10 CCR 2506-12, requiring counties to establish an EBT Mail Card Issuance Policy and Procedure.

Commissioners approved **the purchase of one 2020 Ford 4 x 4 F350 truck with utility bed to Korf Continental of Denver** in the amount of \$41,204; **purchase of one 2020 4 x 4 Ford Explorer with a strobe light and two (2) 2020 4 x 4 Ford Explorer's to Larry H Miller of Denver**, in the total amount of \$87,017; **purchase of two 2020 4 x 4 Ford F250 Crew Cab Trucks to Phil Long Ford of Denver** in the total amount of \$62,854; **purchase of eight 2020 Chevy Tahoe Patrol Units and one (1) 2020 Chevy Express Cargo Van to John Elway Chevrolet of Denver** in the total amount of \$472,172.26. One of the Chevy Tahoe units will be set up as a K-9 Unit. All of the vehicles will be set up with standard law enforcement features.

Commissioners **approved action on the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant**; as reviewed by Counsel. This grant is with the Division of Criminal Justice and is a budgeted revenue that pays a partial salary of the Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Commissioners approved two minor subdivisions: a proposal by the G&T minor Subdivision to divide a 20-acre parcel into two lots and a proposal by the Lovato Minor Subdivision to divide a 5.3 acre lot into two lots.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners met in executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice pertaining to **pertaining to 18CW3051**,

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CITY TALKS MURA IMPROVEMENTS; TORTILLA FLATS RESIDENTS WEIGH IN WITH CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY, LACK OF SIDEWALKS, AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE HISTORIC MORADA SITE



Four new City employees were introduced at the City of Montrose work session Feb. 3, including (R-L) Assistant Finance Director Erin Capron; Vista Volunteer Matt Kojm and Street Division Workers Travis Triesch and Tony Cruz.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Four new employees were introduced at the City of Montrose work session Feb. 3, including Assistant Finance Director Erin Capron; Street Division Workers Travis Triesch and Tony Cruz; and Vista Volunteer Matt Kojm. Capron, who has worked for a transit agency in Denver, said she is glad to be back in a smaller town.

Triesch comes from a small town in Texas and has lived in Montrose “on and off” for the past 18 years. “I love everything about this place,” he said.

Cruz said he is a family man, and in recent years has worked on pipelines. He said he is glad to be back in Montrose.

Kojm is from Washington, DC and will be working with the City of Montrose until January of 2021. “I am excited to hit the ground running,” he said.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Karen Sherman Perez of the Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) introduced a discus-

sion of the recent **HAP Photovoice project**, in which residents of the Tortilla Flats neighborhood shared images and concerns from their community in an exhibit presented at the Montrose Library.

Sherman Perez also introduced several of the Photovoice participants to share their findings. HAP has been collaborating with the City since 2018 to engage the neighborhood, she said.

The Photovoice project was a five-month labor of love and was “pretty successful.” Sherman Perez stressed the importance of consistent communication between the City and neighborhood residents. “There is a lot of mistrust.”

Photovoice Photographer Austine Perdue said she has lived in the Tortilla Flats neighborhood for a year, and the project helped her to learn about local history. She expressed gratitude for the recent neighborhood cleanup effort, a path between the gazebo and restroom at La Raza Park, and the new trail along the Uncom-

pahgre River. The park lacks lighting after dark, and sidewalks are lacking in the neighborhood. “Adding walkability...would be wonderful,” she said. “Lighting is a big issue for our neighborhood.” There are holes in the park fence so when kids play ball, the balls sometimes go into the street.

Photovoice Photographer Sally-Marie Martinez grew up in the neighborhood and lives there now. “I am excited to be back,” she said, adding that school kids now have a school bus stop.

“When I was growing up we walked to Northside Elementary,” she said. “Now kids have to walk to the Fourth Street crossing to have a crossing guard, which is very unsafe.”

The busy parking lot at the Cabin Restaurant also contributes to unsafe conditions for children walking to school. The stoplight at North 9th Street only allows people to get halfway across the street.

“The new trail is very nice for our neighborhood and our town,” Martinez said. Still, “If this is where people are coming to access the new trail, it’s not really safe.”

Photovoice Photographer David Carroll manages the Anciano Towers apartments. He has been in the neighborhood for four years.

He expressed concern over the railroad track that is no longer used. “Maintenance by the Railroad would be greatly appreciated,” Carroll said.

Weeds grow up to eyebrow level, and the Fourth Street crossing at Townsend is in very poor condition.

“Any beautification would be appreciated, especially with the Colorado Outdoors Project going in.”

He asked about the development taking place at the 9th Street Crossing and said that there is talk about chemical storage tanks.

“We would welcome more information,” Carroll said.

Neighborhood resident Chris Trujillo spoke about the efforts to preserve and add interpretive signage at the site of the

TORTILLA FLATS RESIDENTS WEIGH IN WITH CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY *From Previous pg*



Accompanied by Tortilla Flats neighborhood residents and photographers, Karen Sherman Perez (center front) of Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) led a discussion of the recent HAP Photovoice Project at the Montrose City Council Work Session on Feb. 3.

historic morada chapel at North 9th Street. The chapel was started by freed slaves as early as the 16th century, Trujillo said. Though he and others have asked the City to take action nothing has been done, and the history of the morada and of the community remains untold.

The American people are not just one color, Trujillo said. “We are all different colors. People tell us to go back where we came from, but we have always been here. This is our country.” He recalled the many U.S. wars that his ancestors fought in.

“We are all Americans and we shouldn’t try to exclude people for being a different color or for speaking a different language,” Trujillo said. “And our cultural sites should be protected; you should not just bulldoze over it.”

“We’re not all the same, but at the same time we’re all Americans.”

Photovoice Photographer Monique Olson said, “I want our neighborhood to be a safe place.” She asked the City to help make needed improvements.

Mayor Dave Bowman asked staff about the situation with the chemical tanks at North 9th.

A mag chloride distributor from Rifle will be using the site, City Engineer Scott Murphy confirmed. City Planner Garry Baker said that the landowner has the historic right to store materials on site.

“Please keep us informed,” Bowman said, and asked staff to let Council know what options are available for removal of the railroad tracks.

The City has dealt with the issue of interpretive signage for the morada, City Manager Bill Bell said.

Signage is “all set and ready to go,” and the site has not been disturbed, Murphy said.

Trujillo said that the historic site should become a public park. “It was a sacred place,” he said. “It is historical property. It shouldn’t be thrown away or covered over.”

Bell said that the neighborhood’s needs have not been ignored. “We have a lot of neighborhoods; we can’t focus on just

one...I don’t want anyone watching this to think that we are ignoring this neighborhood because it’s absolutely not true.”

Mayor Bowman asked that the City develop a concrete plan for the Tortilla Flats area, to be implemented in coming months or in 2021.

“If we can improve the community, we can improve the entire community,” Bowman said. He expressed concern over children playing over buried chemical tanks, and thanked HAP for the presentation.

“The photo project showed City Council what more we can do.”

A planned **discussion of an extension of the Mayfly Outdoors Job Creation Agreement** did not take place, as more information was needed.

Council and staff discussed **public improvements to be made in the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) Southern Multi-housing project.**

The improvements were approved by the MURA board at a recent meeting, Bell said. “We’ll talk about the financial structure in the next couple of weeks.”

The City will build sewer, put in water lines, and improve streets for the housing development, he said.

Council will need to talk about how much work should be done on rental housing, and “how much General Fund dollars to put in...the money is sitting there for that type of project.”

Bell said he thought there was \$912K in the Street Improvements Enterprise Fund, but because of the City’s work at Riverwood Subdivision there is just \$600K. “Ultimately it’s one big financing structure.”

Bell said that housing has been on his mind since a citizen survey was conducted in 2016.

Bowman said, “Could any of this money be used to do capital projects in Tortilla Flats?”

Even if the City spent all the money in the fund balance doing improvements in Tortilla Flats, “That’s not going to add rental housing or do anything about our housing shortage,” Bell said.

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, “We need

TORTILLA FLATS RESIDENTS WEIGH IN WITH CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY

From Previous pg

to remember, this is an apartment complex we desperately need.”

The project does not involve low-income housing, Bowman noted. “It’s market value, nothing to do with affordable housing...it’s hard to even call it work force housing.”

Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said that the first apartment project supports a second project involving subsidized low-income housing. She asked, “When other subdivisions have come in and built houses, what role did the City play in providing streets and infrastructure?”

In the past, infrastructure and streets were the responsibility of the developer, City Engineer Scott Murphy said. He added that market conditions are changing. “Construction costs were lower...the bubble burst...it’s hard to get developers to come here.”

For single family residential developments, “pre-bubble...the developer would build streets and infrastructure,” Murphy said.

“They sold lots for really high prices,” Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Bynum said.

Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall presented information on a proposed **Resolution in support of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant application**. According to the proposed resolution, the Police Department received approximately 28,345 calls for service in 2019; many of these calls for service involve violent crimes, including assaults, domestic violence, sexual assaults and child abuse. The resolution authorizes the Police Department to file a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant through the Colorado Department of Pub-

lic Safety, Division of Criminal Justice for a two year grant totaling \$69,090, for annual facility dog training at \$700 total (\$350 per year) to cover lodging and mileage, two-year lease of a Victim Services vehicle at \$14,390 (\$7,020 per year) and the \$350 return fee, \$54,000 (\$27,000 per year) for 49.09 percent of the full-time base salary of the Victim Advocate position for 2021/2022.

Hall said that the City contributes \$17,273 in matching funds, and that the Victim Advocate’s salary is entirely funded through grants. “She has been excellent for the position,” Hall said. “She is fantastic.”

The Police Department will get a facilities dog for the victim advocate next week. The dog is trained to do specific things to calm people down, Hall said. The resolution will come before Council Feb. 18.

City Engineer Scott Murphy provided an **update on 2020 capital project carryover expenditures**. The Connect Trail Project was initially scheduled for completion on Oct. 7, 2019 but remains unfinished; \$680K budgeted for 2019 will be spent in 2020.

“The contractor failed to meet the completion date and it’s still not done,” Murphy said. The Contractor has been assessed more than \$30K in liquidated damages to date. The project has received funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo). Bynum asked if the delays would impact grant funding. “No,” Murphy said, the project has a three-year timeline for completion. Approximately four weeks of work remain; a winter shut down has

been granted but work will resume this spring once weather allows.

Also, as noted in Murphy’s memo to Council, construction work at Cerro Reservoir, where the dam was in need of major repairs, has been subject to delays; “The Cerro Reservoir Outlet Works replacement project schedule was delayed primarily due to a late start on the project and the discovery of groundwater seepage. The project started later than anticipated due to an abnormally large snowpack at the project site as well as an extended review process with the State Division of Water Resources.”

\$690k budgeted for 2019 will be spent in 2020. The new completion date is May 15; the reservoir will take two months to fill, Murphy said. “Nothing on dams is easy... it’s a challenging project.”

Mayor Bowman said that **work sessions should be televised**. “I can’t see a good reason why we wouldn’t want to televise work sessions.”

“I will just have to make sure I am here by 10 a.m.,” Communications Assistant William Woody said. “We are in the process of upgrading our mics...now that there’s no lunch and you guys aren’t eating, (crunching) won’t be an issue.” The next work session will be televised, Woody said.

Following general comments by Council, Hall said that the Police Department will host a **Sexual Assault Awareness class Feb. 15**, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Centennial Room, 433 South 1st Street.

The next City Council Work Session will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 18 due to the President’s Day Holiday.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WAKE UP AMERICA! DEMOCRATS SEEK FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF U.S.A.

Editor;

The failed despicable, vindictive impeachment scam is now behind. Nancy Pelosi's favorite leakers and heroes in the NSC, the Vindman twins, have been demoted for leaking information to the informant and not following the chain of command. She claims they were fired (another lie!), but they are still in the military, demoted, and out of the White House and re-assigned and are now referred to as just "Mr. Vindman". Those who know their history have said they have always been left wing democrats and born in Russia! It all fits, so now where is the Russian collusion? Nope, don't see any! Their collusion was ignored by all news media. Democrats embarked on an effort doomed to failure from the start because there was no impeachable offense, but are shocked and outraged that it failed. Although, they promise they are not finished. But wait, didn't Nancy Pelosi declare numerous times, "nobody is above the law"? Then under her virtuous morals she should be prosecuted for violating federal law, 18 U.S.C. 2071 and the Presidential Records

Act of 1978 for willfully and unlawfully mutilating the State of the Union transcript when she tore it up. Accordingly, punishment under this law is a fine and/or imprisonment of up to three years and shall forfeit her office and be disqualified from holding any office under the United States. Wouldn't that be great if she would prove her without-fault morality by surrendering to the Attorney General for prosecution? Nah! Don't hold your breath because she apparently IS "above the law"!

And now House Democrats have introduced America's worst nightmare, H.R.5383, called the New Way Forward Act. And of course without media attention. It would completely remake our immigration laws. It would eliminate deportation for all crimes including serious felonies, allow convicted drug addicts in, decriminalize illegal entry, and abolish enforcement of any crime. From years 2002 to 2018, 480,000 people were deported for illegal entry. This NWFA act will re-open those cases for further review and force America to buy them plane tickets

back here! Then, Democrats will make taxpayers pay for their free health care, welfare, free education, and you know the rest of the story. Welfare should be as hard to get as veteran's benefits! And of course these new immigrants will vote for Democrats because that's the whole idea behind drivers licenses for all illegals. They haven't given up on their "fundamental transformation" of America and "change we need".

Wake up America!! Sadly, that's the face of the democrat party. Voters in November must relieve democrats of their misery and force them to find a real job if they can qualify.

As if all of this wasn't bad enough, recent news reported by Time revealed a poll in New Hampshire taken on Jan. 28 to Jan. 31 revealed that 62% of the democrats there would rather see a meteor strike the earth and extinguish all human life than see Donald Trump win re-election! These must be sick people! In fact, President Trump has stated as such on several occasions.

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

DineOutMontrose.com



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW LONG BEFORE CITY OF MONTROSE FINDS ITSELF BROKE?

Editor:

In Montrose we have a city council (and a city manager) bent on signing all the contracts possible because the city council is afraid of the results of the upcoming election. Well the city manager is too. That is why he is pushing these financially illiterate council persons to sign them all now and hurry up about it.

Ever ask yourself, "Why are they in such a hurry?" "What would two more months of deliberation cost?" "Is there something more in play here?"

The only somewhat sensible councilman in office seems to be the mayor who appears to be trying to fight the profligate waste at his eleventh hour. He sees trouble on his horizon and is trying to hedge his bets. Trouble is, he apparently has trained the other four that they should 'go along to get along' with Bell's wishes. And they are doing it!

With the amphitheater project, the Fairfield motel, the housing project and Geysers it will only take one more of these potential fiscal debacles to run the tab over TEN MILLION DOLLARS. And for what? We still have no paybacks on the fishing rod company. What is the Return on Equity if you pay a million dollars and get nothing back? It is zero! IT must be nice to be able to 'give away' a million dollars, eh? IF the city budget is \$59 million and we don't spend \$10 million of that, the budget would only be \$49 million and we would not need 2A revenue and any other sales tax on food either. What the devil is the argument about anyway? Just do not waste the money on all this junk.

Did anyone, or the council as a whole, ever sit down with our twenty motel owners already in Montrose and ask them what they thought of a new motel in town? What they perceived it would do to their business? Would any of them like to build this so called 'up-scale motel'? Maybe Montrose could help him or them to build one. Or maybe one of them would add a couple of upscale suites for the 'special guests'? I would wager that

the council did not, because I don't think that 'thinking outside the box' is in their job descriptions. Wasn't bringing a Marriott Motel part of the fishing rod company deal? If it is their contract, I want 'specific performance', a lawsuit and/ or a public hearing on the waste of the money we gave them.

Have you ever seen what a town looks like when the motels are no longer needed? Well, visit Green River and take a look.

Has anyone of our town fathers or mothers uttered even a passing thought that the best place for the City Police Headquarters might just be NEXT TO the jail and the courthouse? That location would eliminate a lot of expense for the department having to transport prisoners to and from court to jail and vis-versa, as well as officers going to court.

Did anyone, or the council as a whole, ever interview the Russell Stover executives at the Montrose plant two years ago to see if there was some way they would take the ten year extension? Or maybe 5 years or 2 years? No, Russell Stover was assumed to be a fixture, a big investment. No sweat! They will stay. At this point, infamous last words. A million or two might have saved those 371 jobs for a year or two while council worked on replacements. My guess is that the annual payroll at Russell Stover is around \$13 million. At a 5 times rollover rate for that money in town that would be a \$65,000,000 chunk of commerce. To keep that for even a year or two would have been more of a win than what we got. But no, our city fathers and mothers all just pattered along figuring that they had them by their big investment and that they would stay. Wrong!

A visit by city emissaries to the corporate offices might have helped. But, you say, it would not. How do you know, you never even tried? It would have cost little to find out for sure. Besides shipping costs, maybe they are leaving is because they felt neglected, taken for granted. Some

attention to one of our star employers might have saved the jobs.

Geysers offers a dream of 90 employees. I often dream while sleeping in my car! Fairfield possibly 20. The modular apartments offer little return for Montrose; they will be built off-site and the rents will leave town. The Fairfield will employ 20, mostly char force and night desk workers (low wage) and all the profits will go out of town. Something is better than nothing? You can't say that. Name me two of these so called investments that the city has subsidized that has returned profit to Montrose and its taxpayers. If there is something coming back, just who is getting it?

Transparency might tell us the answer? But in the city of Montrose we can't have that. Why? What is being hidden? That is the golden question. Just propagandize the populace, they are too stupid to figure it out.

Did any of our city mothers and fathers visit with the railroad in an effort to keep that loading dock in town? I will bet not. What is the next industry to go? Recla Metals? Because shipping costs go up. Or maybe the sawmill will close because the shipping costs go up?

Compared to that railroad, trucks are expensive. How many jobs would be lost then? That loading dock could have been made more attractive for a relatively small investment.

Next the tracks will go (because some jack ass gripes about the rough grade crossings) and our railroad connection, the cheapest way to ship heavy bulky items, will be gone forever.

What is the score so far? Add it up. Losses and gains combined and you have the results of poor management. Abominable management by incompetents. How much of our town's treasure do we have to waste into poor un-thought-out rip-offs, historically receiving little or nothing in return, before Montrose finds itself broke?

Bill Bennett, Montrose

ISSUE 249 Feb. 10, 2020

ART & SOL

COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS TERRY BARBER: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES



Countertenor Terry Barber. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
DELTA-Singers come and singers go, but

Terry Barber showed up on the scene years ago and is just hitting his stride as one of the most popular and talented vocalists performing today. Citizens of Delta and Montrose Counties can look forward to Barber hitting the stage at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue, on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 PM. Mr. Barber will be performing as part of the ongoing 2019-2020 season of the Delta-Montrose Community Concert Association. He will be entertaining the audience members with his two musical accompanists in a new program called "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES."

As the name implies, this concert will take you to musical styles and genres from many different countries. It will feature arrangements by Emmy and Grammy award winning composers of the world's favorite melodies in 10 languages. Audiences will hear Art Songs and light Opera, mixed with popular works such as DANNY BOY, BESAME MUCHO, LA VIE EN ROSE, and contemporary tunes like BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER from Simon and

Garfunkel, Broadway hits from the Andrew Lloyd Webber songbook, classic folk songs like SHENANDOAH and a host of other well known and loved works.

With an extraordinarily broad vocal range and natural fluency in these many musical styles, countertenor Terry Barber has been featured on some of the world's most storied stages.

A voting member of the Grammy Awards, his voice has appeared on every major record label with the likes of Chanticleer, Madonna, Jewel, Chaka Khan, Cyndi Lauper, Steve Smith and many more. Whether performing classical or popular favorites, he "breathes new life into everything he sings.....with great vitality and verve." LA TIMES.

Single admission tickets may be purchased at the door for \$20/Adult and \$5/Student. The Performing Arts Center opens at 6 p.m. For more information visit the website, www.deltamontroseconcerts.com or call Bob Brown, 970-835-4480, or Elaine Baker, 970-249-3735

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LAVENDER ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO HOSTS LOCAL LAVENDER GATHERING AND NOSE TRAINING EVENTS IN MARCH

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL—Area lavender lovers will have the opportunity to learn more about their favorite fragrant herb in the coming month. The Lavender Association of Colorado will be hosting a “Local Lavender Gathering” on February 22 and a nose training on March 7 and 8.

The Local Lavender Gathering will be held at 207 N. Townsend in Montrose from 10 am –noon. Participants are encouraged to bring a cup of coffee or tea and a folding chair so that they can sit and discuss various aspects of growing and using lavender. They can also learn more about the Lavender Association of Colorado

This will be a chance for current growers to share what’s going on in their fields as well as a chance for folks considering growing lavender to ask questions. There will be no formal instructional presentations as this free event is intended to be an informal sharing of information.

Noted natural perfumer Mesha Munyan will be the presenter at the nose training. Munyan owns Meshaz Natural Perfumes and leads the Lavender Sommelier essential oil competition. She is a renowned distiller and has won numerous awards in international essential oil contests. Munyan will be teaching how to pick out the positive characteristics that distillers are trying to achieve in their essential oils and will also point out how to recog-



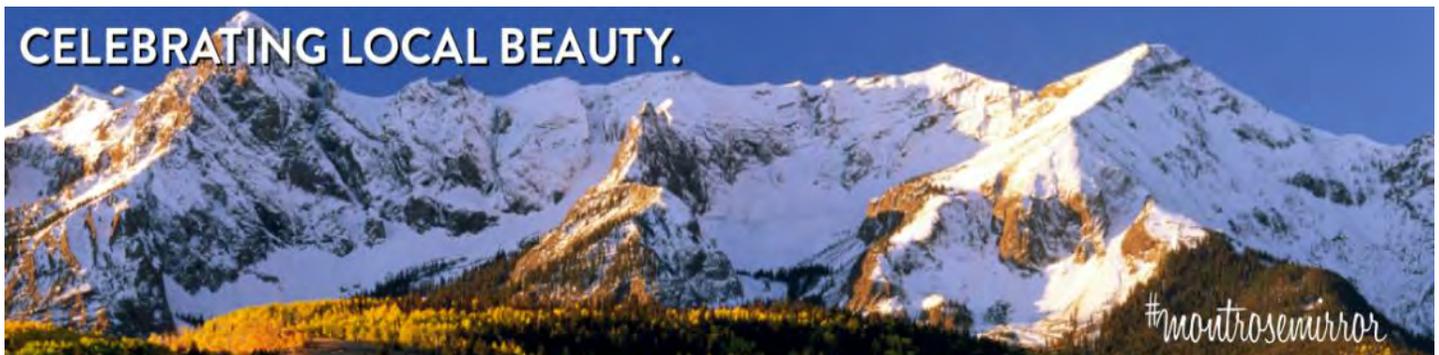
Courtesy Photo of lavender by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

nize flaws in essential oils. She will also be presenting ideas on how to improve one’s distillations to increase the positive characteristics of oils and to decrease or eliminate negative characteristics.

The nose training will be held at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel at 743 Horizon Drive in Grand Junction. Cost for the two days is \$200 for LAC General Members and \$275 for all others. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Lavender Association of Colorado website coloradolavender.org

In order for Munyan to give as much

individual and hands-on instruction as she can, enrollment will be capped. Her presentation will be much more in-depth than the seminar she gave at the United States Lavender Growers Association national convention. Only a few tickets are currently left for purchase. Lunch and snacks on March 7 and 8 are included in the price of the training. Once the enrollment cap has been reached, no other applicants will be accepted. The hotel is offering a special room rate for those attending the conference.





MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS



Montrose Elks Lodge

MONTROSE-Welcome to Elk Tracks, a periodic update of what is taking place at our local Montrose Elks Lodge, located at 801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401.

Bingo February 11, 2020 ELKS LODGE BINGO IS OPEN!!!

Welcome back Montrose Bingo players to the best game on the Western Slope.

Progressive Game 2 is valued at \$328 and can be won by reaching Bingo in 37 numbers or less.

Progressive Game 4 is valued at \$536 and can also be won by reaching Bingo in 37 numbers or less.

Progressive Game 6 has a decent Jackpot worth \$4,986. This Jackpot can be won by reaching Bingo in 53 numbers or fewer.

Bingo opens at 5 PM. Card sales begins at 6 PM and an "Early Bird" set of 5 quick games begins at 6:30. The main Bingo session of 8 games, including 3 Progressives starts at 7 PM. Cost for Early Bird is \$4 per pack and cost for the main Bingo session is \$10 per Bingo pack that includes all 3 Progressive Bingo games.

Sloppy Joes will be offered for Dinner \$6 at 6 PM and the Lounge will have \$3 pints of beer.

Make Montrose Elks Bingo your *destination* to get away and laugh with old friends or make new ones.

(Elks Bingo is Open to the public)

Sweethearts Dance February 15, 2020



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GIVING GUYS OF MONTROSE DONATE \$3,800 TO BLIND ENDEAVORS



The Giving Guys Club of Montrose, above, presented a check for \$3,800 to Steve Baskis, Founder of the Blind Endeavors Foundation, a non-profit that supports adventure through awareness and exploration. Courtesy photo.

Lithic Press

announces the release of *Dancing on Edge*



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THE McREDEYE POEMS

ART GOODTIMES

Review copies available upon request
Contact shroompa@gmail.com

Up Bear Creek by Art Goodtimes

Swan song



Looking in on the Redneck Heaven sculpture garden in Palisade (photo by Art Goodtimes)

LAST COLUMN FOR A WHILE ... It came on rather suddenly, as these things do, but my otolaryngologist (now there's a mouthful) has confirmed I have a case of throat cancer and will need to begin treatment soon. So, I'm clearing the deck. All my jobs and projects have to be put on hold while I focus on my healing ... It's bittersweet to stop writing for the *Mirror*. Caitlin Switzer is an amazing editor – fiercely committed, smart and uncompromising. I have loved working with her for the last couple years. The *Mirror* really speaks to the Montrose community – the commercial center for so many of us who live in this region. While we are widely diverse in our views and beliefs, we all share a love of this special place and the people who make it thrive. The *Mirror* lets us hear from all sides. That to me is Ameri-

ca at its best. A free press, a free people ... They say that this type of cancer responds well – in the range of 90% – to chemo and radiation. So that's likely the path I'm bound for. I'm a huge believer in alternative medical strategies, but I'm also convinced – like Dr. Andrew Weil, who is a personal friend – that integrative medicine is the wisest course. So I'm putting my trust in the wise professionals at the Uncompahgre Medical Center, Montrose Memorial and St. Mary's. I think we on the Western Slope are lucky to have such fine people and institutions working for us ... As a poet, I've long espoused the mantra "Adventure not predicament." For me, this cancer is a call to put all my energy into better understanding myself, and into healing myself -- not just from illness, but from the terminal busyness of modern

life. Cancer forces me to rest. To stop doing everything I've been doing. To take care of myself. And to let my family, friends and community do what they can to help. And so, while not really welcome news, there is a blessing hidden in this adversity ... So long for a while. I hope to be back in the *Mirror's* pages, if this adventure leads me back to health.

PALISADE ... Visiting friends who live on the fringe of the orchards, I found Redneck Heaven on Rd. 35.5. Great wild sculptures. Reminded me of the outdoor creations of Starr Kempf of Colorado Springs.

MALCOLM X ... My father-in-law, a well-respected Chinese-American immunologist who immigrated from Singapore, sent me this quote from Malcolm X in the second week of what passed for an impeachment trial in the Republican-controlled Senate: "You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it" ... In my senior year of college, I skipped studying for mid-term tests one semester to read Malcolm's autobiography. To my surprise, I scored about what I would have if I'd crammed for my four or five tests, but I learned deeply and irrevocably to admire the changes great men go through on their path to truth and justice.

TWO POEMS ... I've long been wanting to share the lovely Modena poem with readers, but I also wanted in this last column to share a poem that just appeared on the website, *New Verse News*. If there's anything I've learned in the political world in my 20 years in elected office, it's that sometimes people with whom you wildly disagree on issues can be the most inspiring heroes of integrity. That is why I want to offer a second Talking Gourd poem this week.

Continued next pg

THE TALKING GOURD

Endemic

Thursday evening the guys pull them from the bay
Dabob oysters grown fat in clean northwest waters
we pick up 3 dozen sliders Friday morning at 10

they ride in the big red cooler with plenty of ice
in the back of an old gray Volvo
1200 miles and 3 days to landlocked Colorado

Sunday evening around Julie and James' table
Art is there of course Marty too
Art brought the oyster knife to pry 'em open
and a leather glove no blood lost this time
the first one startles your tongue
after that they slurp down pretty easy
oysters and lemons margaritas from the blender
Julie's savory chili simmering on the stove

talking and laughing teasing and tall tales
a wedding this past summer in our yard
maybe a canyon hike in the spring
all today's plans and stories tumble out and spark to life
built on the embers of all the yesterdays

*-CarolAnne Modena
Port Townsend (WA)*

The Smedley D. Butler Brigade

John Bolton
Mitt Romney

McRedeye has to say
that it's unexpected truth-tellers
of a completely different
stripe

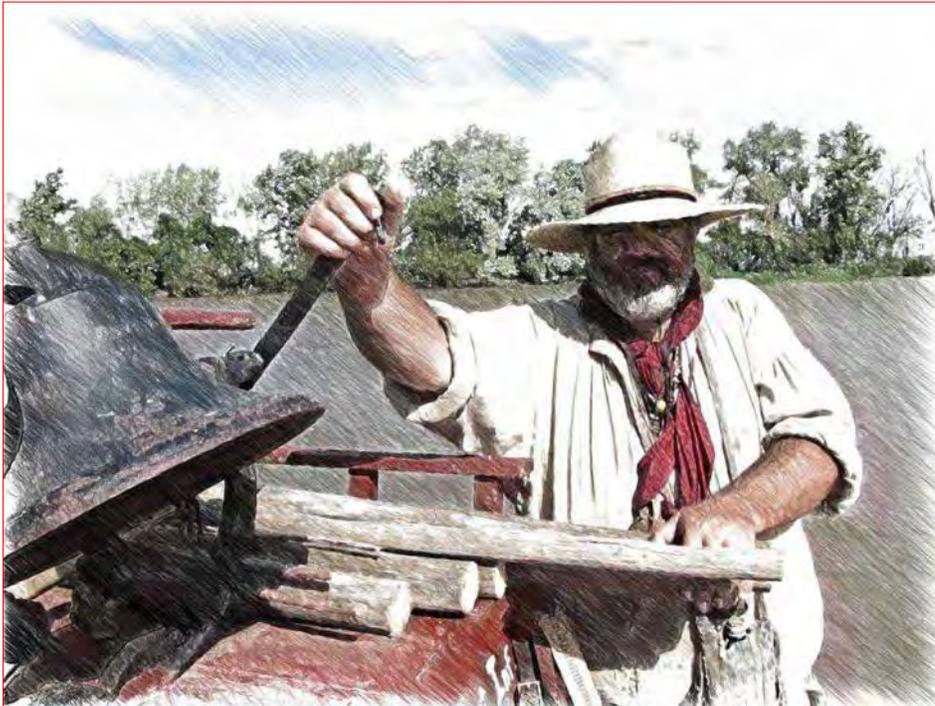
that make my day

Like Smedley Darlington Butler
in FDR's day

America's not perfect
by a long white shot
but it has its heroes

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION & FORT UNCOMPAGRE PRESENT ASHLEY'S RETURN...JOURNEY OF THE KEELBOAT 'MUSKRAT'



Local living historian John Harvey of Cedaredge. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
CEDAREGE-Local living historian John Harvey of Cedaredge, Co will be presenting his thoughts, notes, photos, and items from his experience serving at First Mate & Bosun last autumn aboard an

1825 style wooden keelboat traditionally built and skippered by a former long-time resident of Delta County and Founder of Fort Uncompahgre 1989 William Bailey. The Journey of the "Muskrat" was and is more than just a 779 river miles of travel

on the Missouri River, and John will offer historical comparisons and contrasts to the original "Muskrat" and its journey in 1825 with William Ashley aboard with his trade furs on his return from establishing and conducting the first Rocky Mountain Rendezvous, along with personal tales of trials, terrors, traditions, and triumphs from his own voyage late last year.

In 1825 William Henry Ashley and a group of mountain men made a roughly 800-mile trip on packhorses and then boats northeast across what is now Wyoming and on into Montana and North Dakota. "They were really pushing the limits," said Conan Asmussen, 35, of Kamiah, Idaho. "They didn't know the route and had to worry about Indians attacking."

Ashley was returning from the first fur trapper rendezvous along the Henry's Fork of the Green River near present-day McKinnon, Wyoming.

His crew of 50 men loaded down 125 horses with almost 9,000 beaver pelts for trade in St. Louis.

The long trip north was made to connect with a boat on the Missouri River, allowing the pelts and remaining 20 men to be floated downstream. All told the crew covered about 2000 miles.

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**COMMUNITY
NEWS BRIEFS**

**COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY CHIPETA CHAPTER
PRESENTS JAKE ADAMS:
'STONE OR BONE' TALK**

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Colorado Archaeological Society Chipeta Chapter presents Jake Adams, archaeologist at the US Forest Service in Delta, speaking about his research on two different styles of spear points used in Alaska 14,000 years ago. He will discuss why the native American hunters might have chosen between spear points made of stone or bone with stone insets, including experimental and theoretical data. The talk will be Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 pm at the United Methodist Church of Montrose (19 S. Park Street). The public is welcome, free admission.

**MEET & GREET EVENT TO
HELP ELECT LAUREN
BOEBERT TO CONGRESS**

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Learn more about Lauren Boebert, candidate for the United States Congress. Lauren is a passionate supporter of President Trump, the Constitution and freedom. You may remember Lauren as the person who drove three hours to Beto O'Rourke's campaign rally in Aurora, holstered her Glock on her hip, looked him in the eye and said, "Hell no, you aren't taking our guns!" We are hosting this event as an opportunity for everyone to meet Lauren in person and help support her campaign. Please RSVP and also reach out to let us know who else you would like to invite!

EVENT DATE: Wednesday, February 12th @ 6pm
LOCATION: The Lark and Sparrow Historic Site, 511 E Main St, Upstairs

PLEASE RSVP: 970.497.3230 Yvonne or Sherronna - info@laurenforcolorado.com

If you can't make the event, please donate online at LaurenForColorado.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ACHIEVEMENTS

EGBERT NAMED TO FALL 2019 DEAN'S LIST @ WHEATON COLLEGE

Special to Art & Sol

WHEATON, IL-- Wheaton College student Caleb Egbert of Montrose, Colorado, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester. To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the country. For more information, visit wheaton.edu.

DAVIS NAMED TO CORNELL COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Special to Art & Sol

MOUNT VERNON, IOWA-- Cornell College named 254 students to its Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester, including Hunter Davis (High Honors: semester grade point average between 3.8000 - 3.9999) of Montrose, CO (81402). Twice each year--at the end of January and the end of May--the Dean of the College recognizes those students who have earned superior grades during the previous semester and enrolls them on the Dean's List based upon their semester grade point average. Congratulations to all of our Dean's List students! With a student body from 45 states and 13 foreign countries, and renowned visiting speakers, faculty, and entertainers, Cornell offers the world from its hilltop campus. For more information, visit cornellcollege.edu.

GAVRIEL LIGHTSEY INDUCTED INTO THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Special to Art & Sol

BATON ROUGE, LA-- Gavriel Lightsey of Bozeman, Montana, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Lightsey was initiated at Montana State University. Lightsey is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

3 FUN WAYS TO GET YOUR FAMILY OUTSIDE THIS WINTER

by Abram Herman, on behalf of Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN)

REGIONAL-Getting outside and staying active is important for your childrens' health and development, but it can be a lot more difficult to get them (and yourself!) motivated to spend time outdoors when the weather gets cold. Winter doesn't have to only be a time for hot soup and lazy days spent cuddled on the couch, though. With a bit of creativity and some fun activities that you can enjoy together as a family, it could become your favorite time of year!

Before you plan anything, make sure everyone will be comfortable by dressing for the weather. Nobody's going to be having fun if they're cold and wet! Dress yourself and your kids in multiple warm, synthetic layers (you can always pull off a layer if it ends up being too much) with a waterproof layer on the outside, as well as warm boots, mittens/gloves, and a hat.

Now that everyone is ready, here are three fun things for your family to try this winter.

The Classic: Play in the Snow!

There's a reason playing in the snow as kids is a beloved memory for so many people—it's just good old-fashioned fun! Join your kids in making a snowman, snow fort, or even a snow cave. Lie down alongside them and make big and little snow angel in the fresh powder.

Host a friendly snow sculpture competition with your kids, or even the whole neighborhood! Who can make the biggest snowball? Who can sculpt the best rendition of the Loch Ness Monster? If you want to add something really exciting to your snow-based artworks, try making some earth-friendly paints to color your creations. Fill spray bottles with water and a little food dye, and watch those sculptures come to life! Or just paint on the snowy ground itself—it's like a winter version of sidewalk art, but with watercolors instead of chalk. However you decide to play together in the snow, you're guaranteed to create some beautiful memories

for the whole family to look back on with love. Don't forget the camera!

Find (Or Make!) Some Animal Tracks

This can be a really fun and educational way to get the little ones outside in the snow. Maybe you're lucky enough to live in a place with a lot of wildlife—if that's the case, make a game of seeing who can find the most different kinds of animal tracks in the snow around your house, or while you're out on a hike.

Even if you can't find many animal tracks, you can still make it a great activity with a little bit of imagination. Ask your kid what kinds of animals they think might be walking around in the snow at this time of year. Rabbits? Foxes? Squirrels? Deer? Now, how do those animals walk, and what kind of tracks would they make? Encourage your kids to hop like a rabbit, sneak like a fox, scamper like a squirrel, or strut like a deer. They'll have fun making their own versions of animal tracks in the snow, and it will get them moving around and using up some of that endless energy.

You could even turn it into a guessing game—one person makes tracks in the snow, and the others have to guess what kind of animal they're mimicking. Whether you're finding animal tracks to identify, or making your own, it's sure to be a fun and educational experience!

Take Up a New Sport

You might go on hikes together during the summer, but maybe you've never gone snowshoeing in the winter before. Perhaps you've never skied, or you've never skied together as a family. Maybe you're frequent visitors to the downhill slopes, but you've never tried touring around on skinny cross-country skis. Whatever the case, learning or doing something new can be a great bonding experience, and a lot of fun for everyone involved! It doesn't have to be an expensive undertaking, either. The Colorado Mesa University Outdoor Program (<http://op.coloradomesa.edu>) rents snowshoes for \$8 per pair, and cross country skis + boots + poles for \$16 a set.

Odin Recreation

(www.odinrecreation.com), conveniently located right on the Grand Mesa, rents kids' cross-country skis for \$12/day, adults' for \$18/day, and snowshoes for \$10 for kids and \$18 for adults.

On the south side of the mesa, snowshoes can be rented through the Cedaredge Library for \$15 per week with a valid Delta County Library Card. Call first for availability at 970-399-7674.

Grand Mesa Outdoors in Cedaredge (970-856-9956) also rents cross country skis for \$35/day for adults and \$30 for kids, and Snowshoes for \$25/day. In Montrose, the Great Outdoors Company (970-249-4226) offers cross country skis at \$18/day for adults and \$16 for kids, and also has snowshoes for \$15/day. Perhaps the best deal of all: if you or your children want to try downhill skiing and have never done it before, Powderhorn Ski Resort

(www.powderhorn.com) provides free lessons, rentals and lift tickets for new skiers. Yes, you heard that right—**FREE!** If you or your kids are first-time skiers they'll give you a free lesson, free gear rental, and a free Easy Rider lift ticket for the bunny hill. Just make sure to schedule your lesson on their website before you go. If you do a morning session, you can even extend your gear rental and lift ticket through the rest of the day for only \$19 to get more practice in! Whatever you decide to do together this winter, your whole family will have more fun once you find some outdoor activities to enjoy when it gets cold. It can be a great time to try new things together, and you'll set your kids up for a lifetime of activity, learning, and enjoyment of our wonderful natural playground here on the Western Slope. So what are you waiting for—get outside! *Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN)* is a non-profit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. Visit the *Friends of Youth and Nature* website at www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$60K TO LOCAL NONPROFITS



Representatives of the Montrose Community Foundation and the 25 local nonprofit organizations that received a grant during their 2019 Impact Grant cycle gathered for a group photo at the annual grants reception on Feb. 5. Photo by Paul Hurschmann.

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 can be found at www.montrosecf.org.



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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@bosombuddiesswc.org.

MONTROSE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am in the Cascade Hall located at 336 S. 3rd St. at the corner or 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.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. 11-Terry Barber performs at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue, on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 PM. Single admission tickets may be purchased at the door for \$20/Adult and \$5/Student. The Performing Arts Center opens at 6 p.m. For more information visit the website, www.deltamontroseconcerts.com or call Bob Brown, 970-835-4480, or Elaine Baker, 970-249-3735.

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 or 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.

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

Feb.19-The Colorado Archaeological Society Chipeta Chapter presents Jake Adams, archaeologist at the US Forest Service in Delta, speaking about his research on two different styles of spear points used in Alaska 14,000 years ago. The talk will be Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 pm at the United Methodist Church of Montrose (19 S. Park Street). The public is welcome, free admission.

Feb. 20-2pm - 4pm Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Montrose Regional Library. Calling all girls!

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

Feb.20-Dan Deuter's Critique Session at Montrose Center for the Arts, 11 S. Park Ave. is Feb. 20, from 6-9pm. Bring in one of your paintings, and Dan will help you solve any problems. He will also demonstrate painting techniques on his own painting. Or just come for inspiration.

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann took this photo of the West Elk Mountains last week; it reminds of her of a favorite John Muir quote, "How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains."

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