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the Montrose Mirror

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© Issue No. 364 Feb. 17, 2020

RE-1J ANNOUNCES NEW BUS SERVICE CONTRACTOR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Three young vocalists sang the National Anthem for the Board of Education and a sizeable crowd on Tuesday, Feb. 11, when the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting followed a 5:30 p.m. work session in which the Board interviewed one of two candidates for the open District F Board seat (see related story).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Following their rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, the Olathe Middle School Choir students were recognized as qualifiers for the

[Continued pg 19](#)



Olathe Middle/High School Choir Director Ken Cotter (center) recognizes the students who have qualified for the All State Choir.

MRCOG CONVERSATION INCLUDES AIRPORT EXPANSION; NEW REC CENTER HOT TUB; CMU FITNESS CENTER; POSSIBLE MOVE FOR MONTROSE FIRE STATION NO. 1



In 2020 the Montrose Fire Protection District will analyze and consider whether to relocate Fire Station #1, which is currently located at Uncompahgre and South Fifth. Fire Chief Tad Rowan said, "Station #1 is busier than the other two stations. We are looking at relocating as the community grows." The long-term project would be planned over the next two to three years. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) was hosted by Colorado Mesa University (CMU) on Feb. 12. The roundtable discussion is an opportunity for community leaders to report on their current projects, discuss collective issues, and identify where they can collaborate with one another.

Organizations represented included the City of Montrose, Montrose County, Montrose Recreation District (MRD), RE-1J School District, River Valley Health Center, Montrose Economic Development (MEDC), Hilltop Family Resource Center, Center for Mental Health, Colorado Mesa University (CMU), the Montrose Regional Library, and the Montrose Fire Protection District.

[Continued pg 27](#)

in this
issue

[Reader Photo Spotlight
with Deb Reimann!](#)

[League of Women
Voters' Celebrates Centennial!](#)

[RE-1J Interviews second
District F Candidate!](#)

[Local photos,
Regional news briefs!](#)

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Thoughtful: *Thinks about complex issues and the ramifications of decisions.*

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DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL APRIL 7, 2020

LOW BIDDER CRIES FOUL OVER RE-1J PROJECT AWARD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Why wouldn't local schools want to save \$200K? That's what one local construction contractor is asking, after coming in as a low bidder on a major RE-1J School District project but not being awarded the bid—or even an opportunity to interview.

On Nov. 12, 2019, the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education approved the Olathe Middle/High School Stadium Improvement project in the amount of \$3,177,940. Though originally placed on the Consent Agenda, the item was moved to the regular meeting agenda so that District B Director Jacob Suppes could abstain from voting due to potential conflict of interest.

The winning bid of \$1,607,712.99, from Grand Junction-based FCI Constructors, was more than \$200K higher than Low-bidder Ridgway Valley Enterprises' bid of \$1,393,709.49.

Still, "The school district did not interview the local and lowest responsible bidder," John McCollum of Ridgway Valley Enterprises said. "They are spending an additional \$200,000 with an out-of-town contractor."

As a local business, Ridgway Valley Enterprises has always been supportive of the RE-1J schools, he said. "It's sad that they would spend that kind of money without at least interviewing us."

RE-1J Superintendent Stephen Schiell had no comment on the contract award.



A local contractor is concerned after coming in as a low bidder on a major project for the RE-1J School District (above) but not being awarded the bid—or even an opportunity to interview. Courtesy photo.

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

EVENTS

WHY DOES YOUR VOTE COUNT-a Piza & Politics event on Thursday, Feb 20. "WHY YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT for the Caucus, Primary, & General Election;" Guest Speaker is Montrose County Clerk and Recorder, Tressa Guynes, who will provide an informative and educational forum on how

each vote and the lack of each vote affects the election. An example is the recent 2A sales tax that was approved by only a few voters. Guynes will also provide information on the new Presidential Primary. A second speaker, Mr. Kay Heinschel, will speak on how to successfully conduct

and vote in the March 7 caucus. Doors open at 6 pm for pizza and beverage. Program starts at 6:30 pm. Location: Turn of the Century Saloon. 121 N. 4th Street.

All "registered voters" are invited to this special event sponsored by the Montrose County GOP.

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Contact Pam Stofferahn at ucsjpastor@gmail.com if interested or submit a resume or application to The United Church of the San Juans, P.O. Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432. You can find a full job description and application form on our website at www.ucsjridgway.org on the "About Us" page.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

11 CANDIDATES SEEK CITY COUNCIL SEATS; BALLOTS TO BE MAILED MARCH 16-23

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City voter? Better do your homework—in the 2020 General Municipal Election set for Tuesday, April 7, 11 candidates will compete for three open council seats. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters in the City of Montrose during the week of March 16-23. Overseas and military ballots will be mailed out Feb. 21. Names were drawn to determine the order of placement on the ballot. The 2020 candidates for City Council will appear on the ballot as follows:

District 3:

Roy Anderson
David S. White

District 4:

David Stockton
Merri D. Brennecke
William Bennett

Dave Frank

At-Large:

Charli Oswald
Barbara Bynum
Yvonne Y. Meek
Ed Ulibarri
Paul Arbogast

More information about the election, including candidate biographies, is available at CityOfMontrose.org/Election.

City voters will also decide on an ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise to Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., to maintain current service to City of Montrose residents. Black Hills is the sole provider of natural gas service to city customers. The franchise agreement is a renewal of their existing agreement that must be approved by voters.

Voters will be asked to vote for or against

the following ordinance:

Shall an ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise by the City of Montrose, Colorado to Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., its successors and assigns, to lay, construct, install, maintain, operate and extend in, along, over or across the present and future streets, alleys, avenues, bridges, public rights-of-way and public easements as are now within the present or future limits of said grantor, a natural gas distribution system and all facilities necessary for the purpose of supplying natural gas or processed gas and other operations connected therewith or incident thereto for all purposes to the inhabitants of said grantor and consumers in the vicinity thereof, and for the distribution of natural gas from or through said grantor to points beyond the limits thereof?

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE FOR PRESIDENTS DAY FEB. 17

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — In observance of Presidents Day, Montrose City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department will close Monday, Feb. 17. Police Department offices will be closed but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The trash and recycling collection schedule has been adjusted for trash routes normally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17. For residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, pickup will occur Tuesday, Feb. 18. For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The recycling collection normally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17 will occur on Friday, Feb. 21.

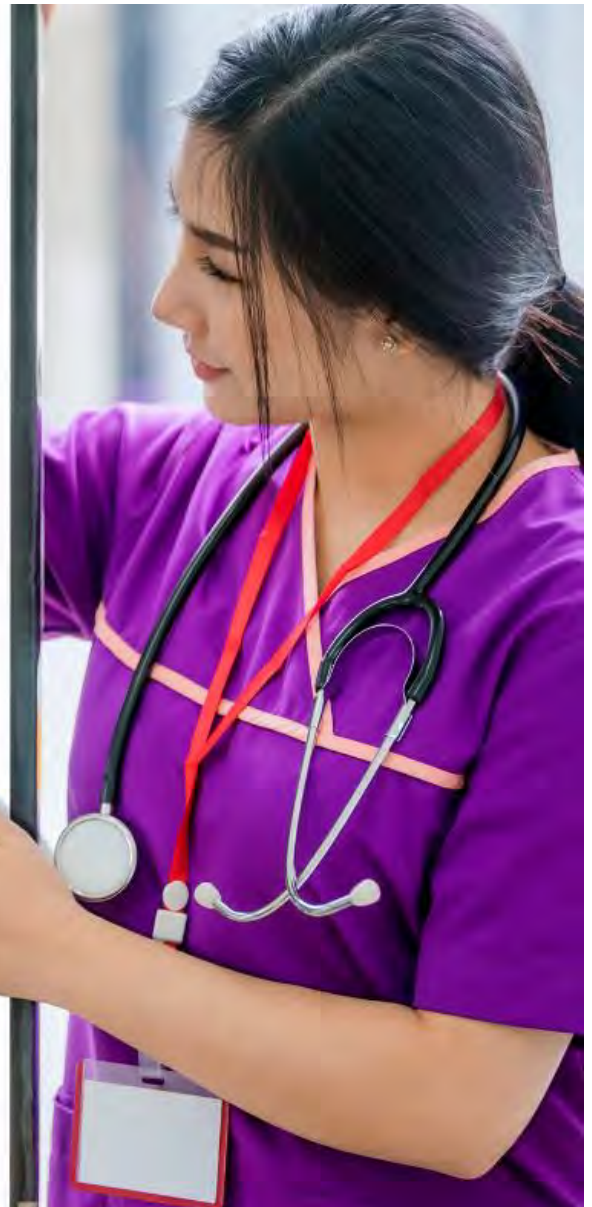
The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open that day.

For more information contact City Hall at 240.1400 or visit [CityOfMontrose.org/Trash](https://www.cityofmontrose.org/Trash).

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MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDS CRIME ANALYTIC SOFTWARE, ADDITIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AS ROLLOUT OF ILP MODEL CONTINUES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The daily crime reports from the Montrose Police Department document a level of personal and property crime that would have been unthinkable a few short years ago. And with Colorado HB 1263 taking effect March 1 (penalties for Schedule I and II controlled substances in amounts of four grams or less will decrease), officers will have to work harder than ever to get suspected drug traffickers off the streets. The ongoing crime wave shows no sign of a slowdown. The weekend before last was among the busiest the Montrose Police Department has ever seen, Montrose Police Chief Blaine Hall said. An officer was severely hurt trying to arrest a suspected stalker; there was an incident in which shots were fired indiscriminately on Montrose Drive; as well as several 911 reports. A patrol car was totaled in pursuit of a suspect. Still, Hall expressed confidence that his team has what it takes to fight back. Montrose Police are preparing for the March 1 implementation of HB-1263 with an emphasis on the investigative work needed to bring airtight cases against suspected drug

traffickers, Hall said. And while the Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) Model that Hall initiated last year is still in its infancy, the pieces are falling into place. The Department has acquired Lumen Software, a platform designed to enable the use of advanced crime analytics by law enforcement. "It links the Montrose Police Department to 60 other police and sheriff's offices in the State," Hall said. "We will have access to their reports... It's a good information sharing piece of software with crime analytics tools in it." Building a Street Crimes Unit is among Hall's priorities. Ten new officers have been hired since February of 2019; five of those are currently in the police academy and should be on the streets by August. Hiring processes are full through April, Hall said. He urged citizens to be patient as the programs promised for the new public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) funds are rolled out. "It does take time to hire people," Hall said, adding that MPD Officer Jeremy Payne is now working in the schools, bringing the number of school resource officers to three. Also on the



MPD officers on a call in October, 2019. Mirror file photo.

horizon is the new Police Facility, which will incorporate changes intended to make not only the police but the public more comfortable.

For example, sex offenders will no longer come in through the same door as children and their families, and stand in the lobby together, but will have separate entrances.

"We are honored that the community authorized us to have more funding," Hall said.

"We plan on using it effectively to build a great police facility.

"We are excited that we will finally have a facility that works for us," he said.

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CITY TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FEB. 18



Mirror File Photo.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Because of the Presidents' Day Holiday Monday, Montrose City Council will convene for a work session at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and for a regular meeting at 6 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Council will interview Planning Commission Applicant Steve Mason.

Discussion items will include the Project 7 Water Treatment Plant plan; a Colorado Grant Program application for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore; a change order for the Cerro Reservoir Outlet Works replacement; sole source purchase of a rapid deployment boom for the City's vector truck; sole source recommendation for centrifuge repair at the wastewater treatment plant; nutrient removal optimization

study for the wastewater treatment plant; the noxious weed management program; an equipment purchase recommendation for the Black Canyon Golf Course; and purchase of body-worn cameras for the Montrose Police Department.

Items scheduled for future City meetings and work sessions include:

March 2-Montrose Dermatology business expansion project;

March 3-Planning Commission appointment, Special meeting/executive session-evaluations of City Manager and City Attorney;

March 17-Youth Council report to City Council;

March 30-Municipal Court Annual Report;

March 31- Special Meeting/executive Session-evaluation of Municipal Court Judge;

April 21-Oath of Office for newly-elected City Councilors; Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

REGULAR MEETING

The City will recognize the Volunteer of the Year.

Council will consider approving the transfer of a Hotel and Restaurant liquor license with Optional Premises at 699 Cobble Drive from Cobble Creek Clubhouse Partners, LLC, to The Club at Cobble Creek, Inc.

Council will consider approving Ordinance 2494 on second reading, repealing

and replacing Title 3 Chapter 6 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose regarding pretreatment program regulations for industrial users.

Also to be considered is approval of Resolution 2020-03, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file an application for a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant through the Colorado Department of Public 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, \$54,000.00 (\$27,000 per year) for 49.09 percent of the full-time base salary of the Victim Advocate position for 2021/2022. The grant requires \$17,273.00 total cash match (\$8,637 per year).

Resolution 2020-04 will be considered, authorizing the filing of an application for the ReStORE Colorado Grant Program with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant contract; and authorizing city staff to act on behalf of the grant agreement.

Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CRIME STOPPERS ALERT-HELP LOCATE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF SUSPECTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) who committed criminal mischief in the 18000 block of Highway 550, County of Montrose, Colorado.

Between the dates of January 23, 2020 and January 25, 2020, an unknown person or persons broke into a historical building

and caused damage to several windows and spray painted the interior of the building, causing a significant amount of damage.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 970-249-8500, use the free mobile app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3tips.com. Crime Stoppers wants your information, not your

identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers. Crime prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility.

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

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2020 Economic Outlook



PANELISTS

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DMEA & ELEVATE Fiber CEO
Electricity & Fiber Trends



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



Sandy Head
MEDC Executive Director
Economic Development Trends



James Kiser
Montrose Memorial Hospital CEO
Healthcare Update & Trends

SOM FOOTWEAR OPEN HOUSE AND FACTORY TOUR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-SOM Footwear is closed on Saturdays; we do not usually open on the weekends, but this year we want to do something special for you! We are going to be open on the last Saturday of February and March. We would like to give locals a chance to come in and try on a pair of SOM's. We will be open on both days from 9am until 5pm. We will also be giving tours of the shoe factory, so come for a tour and see how we hand-make our shoes and what goes into each step. This is a little hidden gem in our lovely city - in fact, this is the ONLY sneaker factory in Colorado. Just give us a call to schedule a tour. The outlet store has some amazing discounted inventory that is only available for purchase in the store. If you have been thinking about SOM's but can never make it during business hours, now is your chance!

So mark your calendars for Saturday Feb. 29 and Saturday March 28 from 9am until 5pm!!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER TREE WATERING NECESSARY DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Despite lots of snow falling in many regions of Colorado recently, much of the southwest area of the state is currently experiencing some level of drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center. Trees in urban and community settings throughout this area are dormant now, but still require occasional watering during dry winters to remain in top health. Vince Urbina, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service, says both established and recently planted trees in Colorado – especially at lower elevations – often require additional watering in the winter months during extended dry periods (i.e., more than two weeks without lasting

snow cover).

“Adding winter water to your trees now is the best way to ensure optimum health and vigor for the growing season,” Urbina said. “Overly dry trees become susceptible to root and branch die-back, and subsequent insect and disease problems.”

The CSFS offers the following winter watering tips:

Water when it is warm. The best time for winter watering is on days when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees.

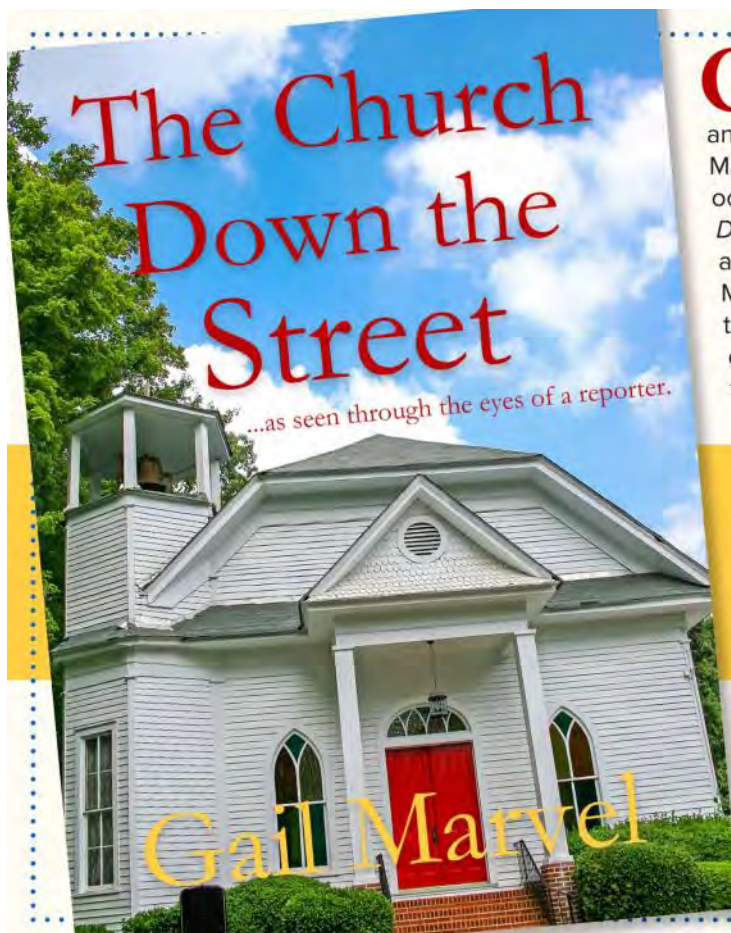
Water a wide area. Tree root systems may spread much wider than the height of the tree, with most absorbing roots in the top foot of soil. Apply water to soak the entire area underneath the full span of a tree’s

branches.

Water slowly. To ensure deep penetration, use a drip or soaker hose on a low setting (or soft spray wand) to apply water slowly to the full area at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter. Retain mulch. To retain soil moisture and save water, apply 4 inches of organic mulch onto bare soil within 2 to 3 feet from the base of the trunk, but not directly against the trunk.

Repeat as necessary. Until spring precipitation arrives, be sure to continue watering every few weeks in the absence of snow and colder temperatures.

For more information about urban tree care, visit the CSFS website at csfs.colostate.edu.



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 and 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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RE-1J BOARD INTERVIEWS 2ND CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT F SEAT



RE-1J District F applicant Keith Obsheatz, left, met with the RE-1J Board of Education at the Feb. 11 work session. The Board will make an appointment to the vacant seat at the Feb. 25 meeting.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Feb. 11, the Montrose County RE-1J Board of Education convened for a work session at 5:30 p.m. All directors were present.

WORK SESSION

The Board of Education interviewed Keith Obsheatz, one of two applicants for appointment to the vacant District F board seat.

Board Vice President Sarah Fishing asked Obsheatz how he would handle a call from a parent who was upset with a teacher.

"There will always be two sides to a story," said Obsheatz, a former history teacher. "Should it be presented to me or the board? They won't get preferential treatment...everyone wants to feel like they are the most important person and they are heard, but there are protocols."

Fishing also asked what type of relationship Obsheatz would want to have with fellow Board of Education members.

Obsheatz said he already knows some of them from his work as a teacher and coach. "For me, it's working collaboratively to do what's best for the community." He spoke of the importance of disseminating accurate information and maintaining an "open conversation."

"We are a community of individuals with unique individual viewpoints."

District B Director Jacob Suppes asked Obsheatz about the type of relationship he envisions having with other local officials, including those from the City and the County.

Obsheatz said he hopes to work together with others in the

community, "...I am interested in how they feel they feel we can support them, and how we can make our schools safer and more accessible...it's easier to bash people than to find solutions to a problem," he said. "I'd rather be on the solution side."

District G Director Stephen Bush asked Obsheatz how he would make the board more effective.

Obsheatz spoke of the need to define effectiveness, and the need to disseminate information and hear parental concerns. "I have worked in the schools, I have talked to the schools, now I have kids going to school," he said. "Now I can see the parent's side...you have to put yourself in the other person's shoes."

Obsheatz said he loves lesson plans and is a detail-oriented person who wants to know as much as possible about all sides of an issue. "For me, my effectiveness comes from looking at all sides of an argument, trying to understand where people are coming from...and coming to a solution at the end of the day."

District D Director Shawn Carroll asked whether Obsheatz had previously attended school board meetings, and how he

views the employer/employee relationship within the school district.

"I have never been to a school board meeting," Obsheatz said. "...the employer/employee relationship can get messy...you have to set aside your ego and say what's best for your community and best for the schools."

District A Director Jeff Bachman asked Obsheatz what he would like his contribution to be as a member of the board of education.

"I would want to make our schools better," Obsheatz said. "I would want our staff, our kids, and the people in the community to feel supported."

There are different viewpoints on school safety, he said. "It will take teamwork to get there."

Bachman also asked Obsheatz how he views the role of the Superintendent of Schools in working with the board of education.

"We work together to support each other," Obsheatz said. "I don't know if there's a hierarchy, who trumps who...I don't think it should be about trumping anyone...the relationship has to be one that's open and got communication in it."

"If an important decision needs to be made, both sides need to understand why the important decision needs to be made."

Board President Gayle Johnson asked Obsheatz why he would want to serve on the Board of Education.

Obsheatz said that he and his wife have considered the possibility, and also that he was encouraged by his neighbor, the former District F director.

He asked about the process of hiring a new superintendent and commented further on dissemination of information.

Johnson thanked Obsheatz for interviewing for the District F seat. "It's been very nice to talk to you, and very interesting," she said. The Board of Education will appoint a candidate to the District F seat at the meeting on Feb. 25.



Volunteer
OF THE YEAR!

RE-1J ANNOUNCES NEW BUS SERVICE CONTRACTOR *From pg 1*



Representing the District's new transportation contractor, Transportation Services of America Senior Vice President Kirk Wilkie (left) and staffer Shane were present at the RE-1J Board of Education meeting on Feb. 11.

Colorado Middle School All State Choir. Seventh graders Marlee Fenske and Rebecca Taylor, and Eighth graders Rachel Taylor and Ruby Ripley will represent not only their school, but the entire Western Slope, OMS Choir Director Ken Cotter said. The four were among 450 students chosen after a rigorous selection process involving 1,400 auditions. "I am particularly proud of these ladies," Cotter said.

ALTRUSA RECOGNITION

Allison Nadel of the Montrose Altrusa Club presented Apple Awards to three local educators. Honored with Apple Awards were Joy Robinson of Olathe Middle School, Chris Thompson of Centennial Middle School, and Jason Killen of Columbine Middle School.

DONATIONS

RE-1J Administrative Assistant Deann Balash announced that Brett and Brooke Edecker have donated more than \$300 worth of winter hats, scarves and gloves which were distributed to students throughout the district.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Northside Elementary School Principal Dan Rosentreter recognized Librarian Lori Deines; "She gives so much of herself to the kids and to staff."

Montrose High School Principal Jim Barn-

hill recognized MHS Day Custodian Teddi Coleman; "She knows every student by Name."

Barnhill had planned to recognize MHS Teacher Leigh Wagner as well, but Wagner was unable to be present and will be honored at another time.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District A Director Jeff Bachman of the Facilities Committee reported on the progress of the Olathe

Stadium Improvements Project. The stands will go up in two weeks; "It's coming along," he said.

The committee is planning to move forward with the concession stand/bath house, Bachman said, and will talk to the Board of Education about approving a budget. Bachman listed donations received for the project.

Board Vice President Sarah Fishering said that she and District D Director Shawn Carroll both serve on the Transportation Advisory Committee and would report on their recommendation for a transportation contractor later in the meeting.

District G Director Stephen Bush reported on the Safety Advisory Committee; District Safety Director James Pavlich reviewed the West Central Colorado Threat Management System, Bush said, which outlines steps to follow to keep people safe. The system is a collaborative effort between law enforcement, schools and the Center for Mental Health.

The Committee has looked at security at Centennial Middle School and will be reviewing security camera demos.

Bush reported on the Curriculum Advisory Committee as well. The Committee has been looking at ways to build positive culture in the classroom, tethered middle

school laboratories that expose students to a variety of careers, an update from MHS's Project Lead the Way, computer upgrades, and Colorado's new graduation requirements. The committee is also looking at a new assessment system; 14 teachers are trying Galileo K12, which will replace IReady assessments and will be implemented next year. Teachers will be getting Kagan training.

COMMUNITY INPUT

No comments were received from the public.

ENROLLMENT REPORT/QUARTERLY FINANCIALS

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the updated Enrollment Report. Current student count is 6,172. The number is 57 less than last month's count but greater than last year's count by 82 students, Imus said.

Imus presented the Second Quarter Financial report and Investment report.

MONTROSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

ECC Director Penny Harris presented an informational update and data dashboards. With more and more children identified as needing Individual Education Plans (IEP's), "Boy, are we full of little people," Harris said.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Stephen Schiell commented further on the proposed Olathe Concession Stand. "It's also a men's and women's restroom," Schiell said. "It will have storage and a ticket booth—it will be a 3,000 square-foot facility, not just a little concession stand."

Board President Gayle Johnson said, "It really is going to be a super nice facility."

OLD BUSINESS

The Board of Education approved revised Board Policy BEDH, with a minor language change to the policy of Public Participation at Board meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda (including Personnel Report), which was unanimously approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Said Fishering, "As I alluded to earlier, the

RE-1J ANNOUNCES NEW BUS SERVICE CONTRACTOR

From previous pg

Committee on Transportation met.” She discussed the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the District’s Transportation Contractor. Three proposals were received; the top two were reviewed and the successful proposal selected, she said. The Advisory Committee’s recommendation was to award a five-year contract to Student Transportation Services of America. The contract award was unanimously approved. Said Student Transportation Services of America Senior Vice President Kirk Wilkie, “We are thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the community.”

Also presented by Fishing, the following Revised Board policies were reviewed on First Reading.

ADE-R, Innovation in Education - Minor language change

BC-R, School Board Member Finance Disclosure - Changed the dollar amount of gifts for required reporting

BEC, Executive Session/Open Meetings - Updated to reflect changes to executive session purposes

BEDA, Notification of Board Meetings - Minor language changes

EF-E1, School Meal Payments - Language updates

GCHA/GCHB, Mentor Teachers/ Administrators - Language updates per CASB recommendations
GCKA, Instructional Staff Assignments and Transfers - Language updates per CASB recommendations
GCOE, Evaluation of Evaluators - New policy; replaces GCOC
GCOC, Evaluation of Administrative Staff - Deleted; replaced by GCOC
GDFA, Fingerprint Requirements - Deleted; covered in GDE/GDF-R

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The Board of Education will meet again on Feb. 25.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT WARNS BACKCOUNTRY USERS: WATCH WHERE YOU PARK



This caution sign indicates an avalanche area and advises that there is no stopping or standing at the location. Backcountry users are urged to watch for these signs and never park vehicles or trailers on the side of the road at these sites. CDOT Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — The Colorado Department of Transportation urges outdoor enthusiasts heading to the backcountry to: **WATCH WHERE YOU PARK!** CDOT recognizes and appreciates that the public uses and enjoys Colorado’s backcountry, but when searching for areas to park vehicles or trailers, the public is reminded to do so safely and lawfully. Anyone leaving a vehicle unattended on the side of the road,

runs the risk of breaking the law, being fined, and having their vehicle towed away by law enforcement.

Backcountry users should be aware of avalanche conditions as well as known slide path areas along the highway, which are clearly signed. These snow slide areas are often at locations where avalanche control operations may be planned.

“Never leave vehicles near or adjacent to snow slide areas!” said CDOT Maintenance Supervisor, Tyler Carlson. “Just this week, we were forced to cancel an avalanche control mission on US 50 Monarch Pass, because a vehicle was parked in the snow slide path area. This absolutely hinders our winter maintenance operations, plus it is extremely dangerous because your car or truck could be covered with snow by a natural slide.”

Carlson went on to explain that it was apparent the occupants of the vehicle were backcountry skiing. It was decided not to tow the vehicle, because the crew could not continue with the avalanche control mission without knowing the whereabouts of the skier(s). Carlson also added that the section of US 50 is safe for the traveling public. The mission has been

rescheduled for early next week. Travelers who frequently drive Monarch Pass should visit COtrip.org for information about possible highway closures.

Backcountry users should park only in clearly marked and designated parking areas, typically found at the summit of mountain passes and at some trail heads. While some areas along the highway may provide ample room to park several feet away and off the asphalt, CDOT warns vehicle owners that they run the risk of being trapped with snow pushed by the plow. Vehicles left on the side of the road also make the plowing job difficult for road maintenance crews. A digital flyer for the media, other agencies, and area visitor centers is available to print and share: **WATCH WHERE YOU PARK.**

OBEY THE LAW: Backcountry users are also advised that when leaving vehicles on the shoulder of the road, they are at risk of being fined and their vehicle being towed away. Owners who leave vehicles unattended on the side of the road are at risk of obstructing avalanche control missions and the operation of heavy equipment. Obstructing highway operations is in violation of state law.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR COUNTRY HAS LOST ITS MORAL COMPASS

Dear Editor:

Our country has lost its moral compass. We have a leader who does not lead. We have politicians who place party over country. We have citizens, including children, who feel emboldened to act out their hatred and vileness towards others, physically and in the written word. We have become a country who blames others rather than standing up and doing something positive.

Two letters, in last week's issue of the **Montrose Mirror**, stated that the greatest threat to our country is the Democratic Party. And one of them also placed blame on the news media stating they act as a "shill" for the Democrats. I wish it were that simple.

I do blame the Democrats for many things. First, they need to get their "act together" and form a united front. They need to stick with the big issues such as health care, voter suppression, climate change and they need to quit fighting each other. Of course the number one goal should be to insure that 2020 is the end of Donald Trump's presidency; the presidency where executive privilege overrides the other two branches of our government. What happened at the impeachment trial of Donald J. Trump? Only one Republican senator had the courage to be non-partisan, take the oath of his office seriously as well as the oath administered by Chief Justice John Roberts, and render a guilty vote. It seems a long time ago when I raised my right hand and repeated the Oath of Allegiance to our country. It hurts our democracy that the Republican senators thought so little of their oath to our country, placing their partisanship first.

What is even more shocking? Only three Republican senators voted in favor of allowing witnesses to testify during the trial. THREE! All that was being asked was to allow the senators, and the citizens of the United States, to hear **first hand** accounts from witnesses. Remember the criticism

from Republicans during the House impeachment process? They complained that none of the witnesses had **first hand** accounts. As one comedian joked, "Bill Cosby wonders if he can be re-tried but this time without witnesses." Maybe our Colorado Republican senator, Cory Gardner, should introduce legislation that would make it illegal to call for witnesses in any federal court case. Former Marine general, and once Trump's chief of staff, John Kelly said it best when he stated that the Trump impeachment trial, without witnesses, was "only half a trial." Following the trial, several Republican senators stated publically that Trump was wrong and most likely learned his mistake and won't do it again. That he "learned his lesson". Maine senator Susan Collins said that he will be "much more cautious" in the future.

So what happened when it was announced that Trump's long-time friend Roger Stone was to be sentenced, down from a possible 50 years of imprisonment, to a recommended 7-9 year prison sentence as addressed in the federal sentencing guidelines?

Immediately the president tweeted, "This is a horrible and very unfair situation.... cannot allow this miscarriage of justice." Less than sixteen hours following the tweet, the Department of Justice stated that the proposed sentencing was "considered excessive and unwarranted under the circumstances." Following this announcement, four of the federal prosecutors resigned. Did this slow down the president? Not at all. He followed up with tweets that attacked the prosecutors and the federal judge in the case. A fifth prosecutor then followed suit also resigning. Trump continued, even after Attorney General William Barr asked him to stop his tweets, and he accused the jury foreperson of "bias".

So the "Rule of Law" was tossed out at Trump's impeachment trial spearheaded

by Mitch McConnell not allowing the testimony and questioning of witnesses. And now, attempts are being made by the president to influence a federal judge's sentencing of Roger Stone. Trump does have the right to grant a pardon, which he probably will do. He does NOT have the right to interfere with sentencing. William Barr, by allowing the sentencing guidelines to be scrapped in this case, opens it up to defense attorneys in the future requesting the "Roger Stone sentencing guidelines" be used for their clients.

Speaking about interference... again ex-Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher is in the news. Several Navy SEALs came forward and testified against him at his trial. Yes, military prosecutors botched the case and basically he was convicted on a much lesser charge. Understand the emotional strain on those SEALs who came forward to testify against another SEAL. To break the unwritten code of not backing your brother was not an easy choice to make. Just like Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, these SEALs realized that they witnessed wrong doing so egregious that they felt they had to come forward. That is how they are trained; to do the right thing. So Gallagher came out last month with a video including photos of the SEALs who testified against him, naming them, listing their statuses; some of them still active. And then calls them "cowards". He is acting just like his boss; the commander in chief. No ethics nor morality and his actions are endangering their lives.

Who grabbed ahold of Gallagher and made him a "poster child"? Donald Trump intervened so that he would not lose his Trident pin, the Navy SEAL insignia, and restored his rank of chief petty officer. The result was a reversal of the Navy's disciplinary action which resulted in the resignation of Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer.

At a recent speech by John Kelly, the subject of Gallagher came up and he said,

Continued next pg

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR COUNTRY HAS LOST ITS MORAL COMPASS

From previous pg

"The idea that the commander in chief intervened there, in my opinion, was exactly the wrong thing to do. Had I been there, I think I could have prevented it." When a woman in the crowd said that Trump had "elevated" Gallagher, Kelly looked out at the crowd. "Yep," he said.

And Trump, who touts his support of our military, just announced he is transferring \$3.8 billion, that was allocated to the military, but will instead use these monies to fund his border wall. A wall citizens in Texas do not want on their private land. A wall that is destroying sacred Native American gravesites and natural resources of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Park in Arizona. A wall that in places blew over by the wind. And no one has yet analyzed the future maintenance costs of this wall. Could have sworn that Mexico was supposed to pay for his wall if I remember correctly?

Going back to our moral compass? There are almost six hundred recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. And the latest inductee? Russ Limbaugh, who was awarded this medal by the First Lady. A

comment was made, "the irony of all ironies [*is*] when the biggest bully gets the Medal of Freedom from the leader of the #BeBest campaign".

No. The biggest threat to our country is NOT the Democratic Party. It is blind faith in one man who has no moral direction. How as a Christian, does one support a man who has broken basically all Ten Commandments (adultery, stealing, bearing false witness against your neighbor)? How do people live with themselves when they are willing to sacrifice clean air and water, or see our public lands sacrificed, just as long as Big Business prospers (almost 100 environmental regulations have now been struck down by Trump). Look in a mirror at yourself. Do you want to be the person who supports a man who does everything to benefit himself? Who is hateful. Vindictive. Cannot accept criticism? Who attacks anyone who speaks out against him. Who lies and lies and lies. Thinks he knows more than our generals and admirals. Ridicules the FBI, the CIA, and other intelligence branches of our government. Do you really want to laugh

with him, when he belittles others?

Be a liberal or be a conservative, or someone who lives at times in both of these worlds. But be your own person. Question the direction in which our country is being pushed. Other countries looked up to us. We were the example of freedom and democracy. We were the country of kindness, compassion, and when needed - forgiveness. We would come to the aid of our allies and repress hatred and bigotry. As Theodore Roosevelt wrote in a letter in 1900, "speak softly and carry a big stick".

Stop blaming others. If you don't like something then vote, volunteer, talk to others whose voices differ from your own. Spend time with people of different cultures or religion. The outdoor clothing company Patagonia, just announced that it will donate \$10 million, the amount they made from Trump's tax cut for the rich, and use it to fight Climate Change. We need more positive examples like this. We need to go in the right direction. That's the purpose of a compass.

Jon Sering, Montrose



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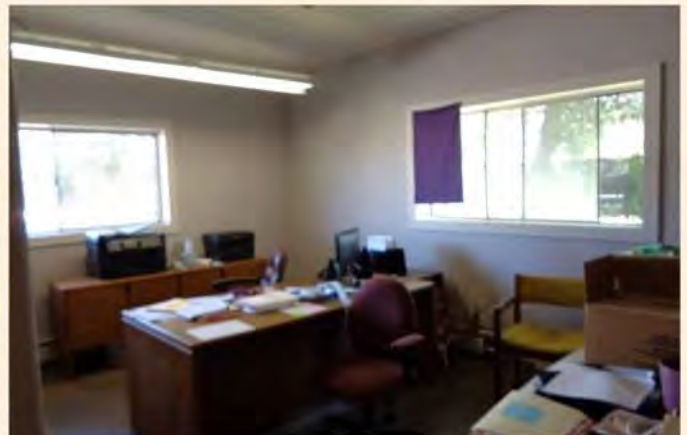
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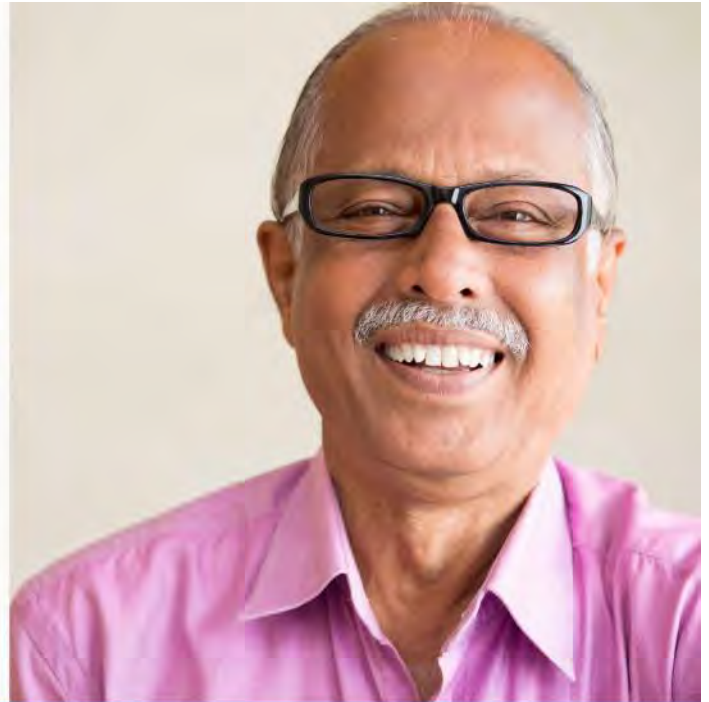


REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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. 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.



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MRCOG CONVERSATION INCLUDES AIRPORT EXPANSION; NEW REC CENTER HOT TUB; CMU FITNESS CENTER; POSSIBLE MOVE FOR MONTROSE FIRE STATION NO. 1

From pg 1

Montrose County – Jon Waschbush, Deputy County Manager; Ken Norris, Montrose County Manager.

Waschbush reported on the county's recent decision to no longer apply for the Title X Family Planning Grant. He said, "The grant can be held by a private provider, it's not necessary for the county to hold the grant. There are others who provide the same service. In 2019 we served a total of 391 people; the average health provider serves 1,500 patients a year."

River Valley Health Center CEO Jeremy Carroll noted they had 27,000 encounters [patients] in 2019. They are equipped to provide services and have applied for the Title X Family Planning Grant.

Waschbush continued, "From a facility standpoint the county does not have an adequate space. We don't even have public sinks. The second part of this is discontinuing providing immunizations. All of these things exist elsewhere. It doesn't make sense for the county to be in the health business, or in charge of a medical clinic. We'll continue with emergency preparedness to address situations like a pandemic."

Norris said, "One of our biggest needs is to expand the airport. We have 40,000 sq. ft. and the FAA says we need 96,000 sq. ft. We think we can do a 30,000 sq. ft. expansion if we break Phase I into two phases. Jacob's Engineering's design is about 30 percent complete and should be 50 percent complete in April. Tentatively we could break ground in September 2021. We need to work with other stakeholders (CDOT, City of Montrose) and see if we need a frontage road or another stoplight."

Waschbush said, "We should have the cost of the courthouse restoration by the end of the month. We'll let the commissioners chew on that figure. If it goes forward it would proceed in 2021. The Event Center will hold a Rocky Mountain Oyster Festival on April 25th. Three bands are under contract. They [Event Center Staff] are having a lot of fun with puns over there. This should be an annual signature event for the center."



The quarterly meeting of the Montrose Regional Council of Governments (MRCOG) took place on Feb. 12th. The meeting was hosted by Colorado Mesa University (CMU) and held at the university's newly refurbished Cascade Hall, located at South Third and South Cascade Avenue. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Norris said, "The joint training events with the city and the county are tremendously successful. It goes to show how much the relationship has improved and how well we are getting along."

City of Montrose –Barbara Bynum, Mayor Pro Tem; Doug Glaspell, Councilman; Ann Morgenthaler, Assistant City Manager.

Bynum reported on the work and methodology being done on the Comprehensive Plan. She noted the upcoming city election which will be held on April 7.

Glaspell said, "We are moving ahead with the MURA [Montrose Urban Renewal Authority] and more people are interested in building out there in the next couple of years."

Bynum said, "We are doing a ton of infrastructure work. The recreation trail is open, but not quite finished. Cerro dam is still a work in progress. We'll be putting new water tanks on Sunset Mesa; the old tanks need to be replaced."

Glaspell said, "At North 9th and Townsend some 300-gallon storage tanks are going in. This is railroad property and the railroad leased the property. This is not city property."

Morgenthaler said, "We continue to work on a grand opening party for the recreation trail. Work will start on it again in April. We would love to have a big com-

munity celebration. We are helping with a Community Block Grant for the Boys and Girls Club. We will be a pass through for the grant money. We are going to apply for an AARP grant. We are helping the owners of the Potato Growers Building, David and Greg Fishing, with a historic grant that will help them rehabilitate the building. We are offering corporate membership for the golf course for any organization with five or more members. Something to make it more affordable for people to golf."

Bynum explained the city has hired a consultant for the new police station. The current police department offices will be repurposed for the courts and the old Wells Fargo drive-through will be demolished to make room for the new police station.

RE-1J School District – Philip Baily, Director of Property Services.

Baily said, "Superintendent Schiell is retiring and we'll need help with a new superintendent search. We're busy with the stadium improvement project in Olathe. Things are moving. We are writing Best Grants. We're really busy in facilities." It was noted that an all-day Safety Symposium would be held on April 16.

Montrose Recreation District (MRD) – Mari Steinbach,

Continued next pg

MRCOG CONVERSATION INCLUDES AIRPORT EXPANSION; NEW REC CENTER HOT TUB; CMU FITNESS CENTER; POSSIBLE MOVE FOR MONTROSE FIRE STATION NO. 1

From previous pg

Executive Director; Jeremy Master, Recreation Manager.

Steinbach has been in her position less than four months. She said, "On June 12th the Holly Park renovation will be completed. The \$1.6 M renovation is being done by Stryker & Co. In our 2020 budget we have \$2 M for capital improvements, the bulk of which goes to Holly Park. We're are putting in a 16-person hot tub; an adult only hot tub [at the rec center]."

Bynum, a driving force to build the center when she was on the rec center board, commented on the hot tub infrastructure that was put in place during construction of the center. She said, "Aren't you glad we planned for that?"

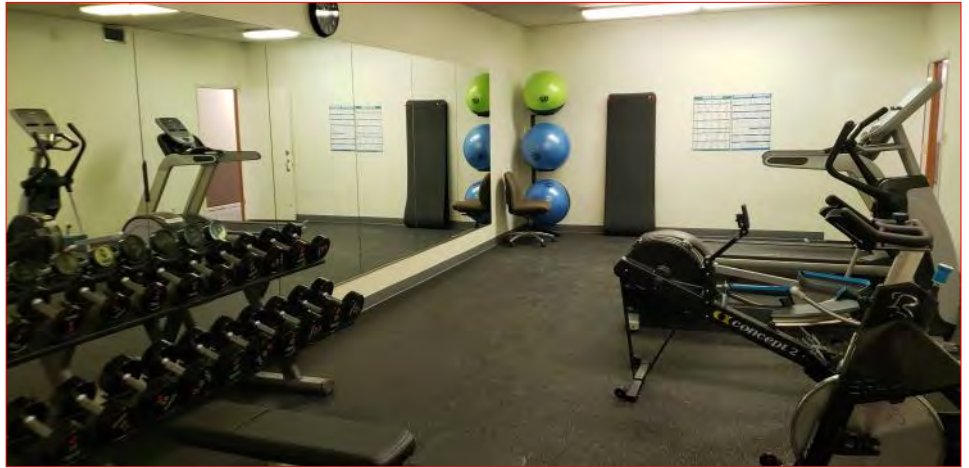
Steinbach agreed and continued, "We have a brand-new ADA bus. We have a board of directors' election on May 5th; Jason Ullman is term-limited. We have an annual work session on the comprehensive plan."

Master said, "We will hold an Indoor Triathlon on February 28th. It is a fundraising event for the Montrose Recreation Foundation. It's \$30 per person, or \$60 for a team. There will be a 10-minute swim, 20-minute [stationery] bike, and 15-minute [treadmill] run; with 10-minute transitions between events. The start time is 6 p.m."

Montrose Fire Protection District – Tad Rowan, Fire Chief.

Rowan said, "In May we have elections for the Fire District Board. We are administering three different grants (emergency medical grant, health and safety grants). We are going to hire three new fire/EMS personnel June 1st. The last time we added staff was 2007. We are also going to hire an administrative assistant April 1st."

The fire district is considering relocating Station #1, which is currently at the intersection of Uncompahgre and South Fifth. Rowan said, "Station #1 is busier than the other two stations. We are looking at relocating as the community grows. We'll look and see what our real needs are. Subjectively, a location off the by-pass would be closer to the airport and expand the ser-



The new Colorado Mesa University (CMU) fitness center, which is located in Cascade Hall, is now open for student use. A student-staffer said, "It's only been open about a month, so I'm not sure a lot of students know it's available." Photo by Gail Marvel.

vice area of Station #2 and #3. We would spread the load volume among the three stations. Our whole game is response time and we have a four to six-minute response time for downtown. It's a long-term project. In 2020 we'll do an analysis and plan over the next couple or three years."

Hilltop Family Resource Center – Josie Anders-Mize, Director.

Looking in the direction of Fire Chief Tad Rowan, Anders-Mize said, "We did a fire drill this morning. It took 55 seconds to get everyone out and secure all the doors!"

Ander-Mize gave a general overview of the center, which is to help victims of domestic violence and kids 11-24 years of age. She discussed a new program Circle of Parents, which is designed for parents who have dealt with substance abuse.

She said, "Over the holidays we receive donations which help with things that grants don't cover (gift cards, a tank of gas, etc.), but those funds have been used up. We are seeing an increase of single adult walk-ins who are about to be evicted, or have their utilities shut off. People are coming in because they have heard stories in the community that we have a housing program or can get them a hotel room. We don't offer a housing program. I

don't want people to have false hope, but we can't house people."

Center for Mental Health – Laura Byard, Regional Director.

The center offers same-day access from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Services include counseling and peer support for adults ages 18 and up. Clients with mental health and substance abuse issues can enroll for services.

Byard said, "We'll have a public relations launch in a couple of weeks. It's a nice overhaul that we've done to access services. We are launching an internal team for Veteran-specific services. We really want an advisory group to help us. Something our community excels in is help for our Veterans."

Montrose Economic Development (MEDC) – Sandy Head, Executive Director.

Head said, "Our annual meeting will be March 13th. MEDC is the point-place for the Russell Stover plant closure. Their plan is to keep it open until March of 2021. They told their employees [about the closure] first. There was nothing the community could have done to keep them here." Head explained the recipe for making candy in high altitude has changed and it is no longer necessary for the company to be located at high altitude.

MRCOG CONVERSATION INCLUDES AIRPORT EXPANSION; NEW REC CENTER HOT TUB; CMU FITNESS CENTER; POSSIBLE MOVE FOR MONTROSE FIRE STATION NO. 1

From previous pg

Head said, "They are paying attention to the details and putting a lot of effort into the community having a soft landing. They have been here 47 years and we've had a good return on our investment. The Work Force Center is offering training in second language." Russell Stover owns the physical facilities, with more than 330,000 sq. ft. in the buildings; however, the City of Montrose owns the property.

Gary Ratcliff, CMU Campus Director said, "President Foster was sad to hear this for Montrose, it hit the employees and it hit the community. CMU is offering employees two free semesters of college. A lot of the employees are generational; parents, sons and daughters, going back 20 years, or five to 10 years. We also have certificate programs or graduate programs."

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) – Gary Ratcliff, Campus Director.

Ratcliff said, "We're meeting in Cascade Hall. We have classrooms, and this is where the Forum meets. We have a lecture series that meets here. There is a fitness room space, like a hotel style fitness center. We had a relationship with the Rec Center but it was cost-prohibitive, so we built our own fitness room. For this facility we need a custodian, or house manager. We also need a full-time biology instructor. We will have an annual fundraiser for scholarships on April 14th and

we'll be advertising for that."

River Valley Health Center - Jeremy Carroll, CEO.

Carroll said, "We've applied for the Title X Grant and we'll work with the county on a transition plan. We serve community needs. We served over 11,000 people for family planning last year. We have full OB-GYN services and are working with Montrose Memorial Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital to expand those services."

It was noted that many of the local health providers are collaborating and part of an opioid consortium that deals with substance abuse and behavioral issues. Carroll said, "The problem is, how can we communicate among providers with the privacy issues we have to deal with? We want to deepen our programs so we can help more patients. We want to keep patients out of the emergency room, which is the most expensive care you can have."

Montrose Regional Library (MRL) - Paul Paladino, Executive Director; Emily Schneider, board member.

Although Schneider was wearing her library hat, she gave a shout out for the Montrose Rotary Club, which will be turning 100 years-old next year.


Schneider said, "It is time to update the strategic plan, thanks to the vote of the community. We have two board vacan-

cies, but, rather than an election, it is the county commissioners who approve board members. We'll have board training for new members and a refresher for the rest of the board."

Paladino said, "We have a couple of new positions open, but we can't seem to find the right candidates...we have some good leads. We are going to focus on two different people, one a teen librarian focus and the other a history-focused position. Our passport applicants doubled in January. We've always had a focus on early literacy and people may not know that we have a low-sensory story time. We have dim lights for kids who can't handle other [over-stimulation] story times. We have the 'Read to Rover Program' where children read to therapy dogs."

Paladino said, "This is the year of facilities. We're catching up on a lot of facility work that we put off during the recession. A new roof, new lift, new patio project and Naturita exterior project. We're getting more automatic and handicapped-accessible doors. The library is 22-years old this June. Parking and bathrooms are a concern. We too would like recommendations on a custodial firm. We have a teen advisory board that started in January.

The next MRCOG is planned for the middle of April and will be hosted by the Montrose School District.



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TROOPER TIPS: CSP YOUTH ACADEMY



By Trooper Gary Cutler

COLORADO—Once again, it's time to look towards the youth of Colorado where we give them an experience of a lifetime. The mission

of a Colorado State Patrol Trooper is not just enforcing the laws on the state's highways, and interstates. We are also very involved in educating the public in various areas.

One way we do this is working with Colorado's youth. Once a year for one week in July, the Colorado State Patrol allows teens who are at least 16 years old from across the state a chance to see how State Troopers are trained at our academy in Golden.

The goal of the CSP Youth Academy is to assist in the development of future leaders for Colorado through team exercises

and individual achievement. It is a week-long adventure for the 45 teens who are accepted.

Some of the academy requirements include that they must be a junior or senior in the fall of 2020, write an essay, have two letters of recommendation, and complete an interview with troopers.

During the week of activities, they are constantly supervised by State Troopers and mentored in various areas that will help them in life or whatever career they decide to follow. The youth stay at our academy, eat at our facilities, and gain friendships with other youth from across the state.

While in the youth academy, teens will have an enjoyable, fun-filled week and get to experience a long list of activities. Some of the activities include defensive driving on our state patrol track, firearms safety, self-defense tactics, traffic stops, building searches, team building, and ethics in law enforcement, just to name a few.

At the end of the week there is also a special field trip for the participants.

Past years have been visits to the Bronco's football facilities, and Rockies games.

The Youth Academy is not just for teens interested in law enforcement. The week-long class will help them in their future endeavors. It will also be an experience they will remember the rest of their lives. If they want to continue with a career as a trooper, well, we won't complain. We have had several of our Youth Academy participants become State Troopers, and we couldn't be prouder.

The academy is free of charge. It is paid for by private donors.

For more information contact Captain Lawrence Hilton at 303-273-1882, your local Colorado State Patrol Office, or visit our website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/csp/youth-academy>

This year's youth academy is July 19-25. Applications are due by March 22, 2020. As always, safe travels!



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZEN 'INCENTIVIZED' TO VOTE FOR CHANGE ON MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL APRIL 7

Editor:

Reading about the latest "incentive grant" from the taxpayers of Montrose to the next "Big Thing" - Geyser Technologies - a company of 8 people making (including the "CEO") - who is self-described as living in the back of his van (down by the river?) His company - formed in July of 2019 - allegedly has sold a new product to REI. A camp shower that uses only one gallon. For this display of business acumen and genius inventiveness, the Montrose City Council - guardians of our tax money - have awarded him \$200,000 over the next 4 years.

This company pays the princely sum of \$12.75 per hour.

This is an annualized wage of \$26,265. You do not have to be a math whiz to see that this does not allow for renting a home, paying a car payment and eating meals in Montrose. The CEO says - in response to the observation that his wages are not adequate - he will soon improve his company benefits and wages. He will no doubt use the taxpayers' \$200,000 to do that.

If this does not "incentivize" you to remove every single sitting member of this council on April 7, then I can't help you.

Meanwhile, let's continue to ask questions of the people surrounding this circus.

Sandy Head, et al - can you explain how resident businesses who might have needed help of this sort have been left out?

Tim Conner, Montrose

APRIL ELECTION IS THE IDEAL TIME TO REIN IN CITY SPENDING

Editor:

During the City's orchestrated campaign to foster an 18% Public Safety sales tax increase on all who shop in Montrose, the vaunted PSST Committee was apparently duped into unquestionably accepting the premise being spun by the City that only a massive tax increase could rescue the financially strapped MPD. The PSST report showed no evidence that the Committee made any attempt to determine a cause for any professed underfunding, or even if a reprioritizing of existing spending would address MPD needs from existing revenue sources.

The extensive research I undertook included an analysis of City financial documents back to 2010. In my opinion, the City was financially able to adequately fund MPD needs, that grew significantly in the past few years, utilizing current resources. I also detected a distinct shift in ideological spending priorities between 2012-16. As is now becoming more apparent, City financial resources have been increasingly shifted from real priorities to various "private economic development" projects such as

Proximity Space, Mayfly/ Colorado Outdoors, Fairfield Inn, a "not so low income" housing project, and an amphitheater, among some smaller projects. According to the best information I have, almost \$10 million in tax dollars have been put at risk by substituting these projects for critical City priority needs.

Due to ever increasing taxes (Rec Center, 2A, Fire District, Library District, School District, double taxation on utility bills), Montrose now ranks in the top 8% of the most expensive localities in Colorado.

The clear shift in spending priorities and out of control taxes didn't just happen overnight, but has morphed into the present dilemma slowly over the last 7-8 years. So, how could that happen since during that period several different Councils have served?

The one constant during that period has been the City Manager, who, more and more taxpayers are beginning to suspect, has unduly influenced various Councils to the point that the City Manager is now performing the function that belongs to Council alone.

If you are concerned with a troubling swing in spending priorities and continual tax increases, the April municipal election is THE ideal time to REIN IN our City government.

We have 11 candidates qualified to run for three Council seats. Two however, are incumbents (Bynum and Anderson), and their re-election is sure to perpetuate the status quo. In the IV District there are four candidates, two of which (Frank and Stockton) served on the PSST Committee that recommended an 18% tax increase absent due diligence research. Their election likely maintains the status quo as well.

In my opinion, in order to affect the needed change in City direction, all three seats need to be filled with conservative candidates who will in no way be manipulated and will see that our tax dollars are more wisely spent with a higher degree of transparency.

In order to accomplish that, I feel the best choices are: Yvonne Meek At Large, David White in the III, and Bill Bennett in the IV.

Dee Laird, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY 4-H WINS WESTERN IMPLEMENT'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONTEST



Jim and Gene Coleman present a check to Delta County 4H.

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-Western Implement celebrated its 60 years in business by paying it forward. The locally owned and op-

erated tractor dealer and farm, ranch, and home supply store hosted a contest over several weeks to benefit local western Colorado 4-H organizations. A total of eight 4-H clubs competed for the top prize of \$6,000.

"We've supported several western Colorado 4-H animal sales over the last several decades; it's only fitting that as we celebrate six decades in business that we would further support the kids and the families that our business was founded on," states Jim Coleman, third generation owner and operator of Western Implement. More than 9,000 votes were cast during the contest. Toward the end of the contest, it was a battle between Delta County 4-H and Mesa County 4-H, but

Delta County 4-H finished strong with more than 4,000 votes, coming out on top as the winner of the \$6,000. With it being such a competitive contest, Western Implement also awarded Mesa County 4-H with \$1,000. "Our entire community came together to support our local 4-H families! We are so grateful to everyone who voted and to Western Implement for hosting this contest. We'll be utilizing the money to provide scholarships to our local 4-H kids who give back to their communities, work hard on their projects and who represent the values of 4-H," states Jackie Shea, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development for Delta County. To learn more about Western Implement, visit www.westernimplement.com.

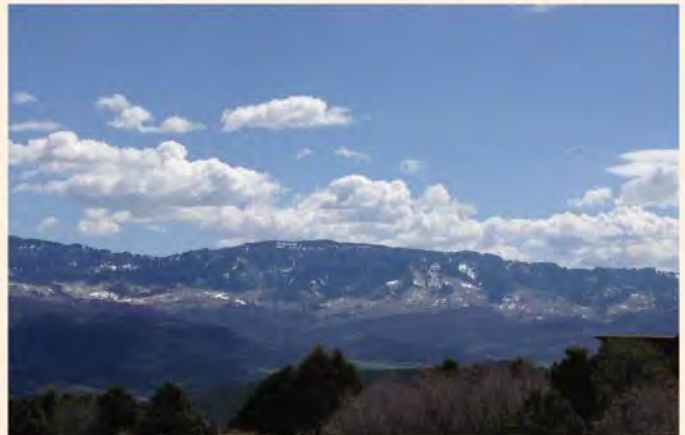
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE RELEASES ECONOMIC INDICATORS REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2019

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE-The Colorado Secretary of State, in partnership with the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business Research Division, has released the quarterly indicators report for the fourth quarter of 2019. The report shows that Colorado's economy continues to outperform the nation in many economic indicators and employment growth will continue into 2020, but at a more modest pace.

"While growth has slowed the last two quarters, Colorado's economy is still strong," said Secretary Jena Griswold. "With business leaders' confidence improving, indications point to Colorado's economy staying strong in 2020."

The Business Research Division at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business

compiles the report using data from the Secretary of State's central business registry. The report looks at a variety of factors, such as energy costs, the labor market, and inflation.

The report shows the relationship between new business filings, new business formation, and employment growth. New business filings are typically linked to job growth, but total new business filings declined 0.4% year-over-year, which may point to employment growth occurring at a slower rate in 2020. Colorado saw an increase in jobs of 2.1% from November 2018 to 2019, and the state's unemployment rate dipped to 2.5%, a historic low that is the fifth lowest in the United States.

After slipping in the final quarter of 2019,

confidence of business leaders is up heading into the first quarter of 2020, according to the Leeds Business Confidence Index. Expectations for the state's economy, industry sales, hiring, and capital expenditures have all increased entering the new year. Colorado personal income increased 5.3% in Q3 of 2019, well ahead of the national personal income growth rate of 4.4% over the same time period. Colorado annual average wages, currently at \$60,340, also continue to outpace the nation by around \$2,100. Colorado's overall economy grew 3.3% year-over-year in Q3 2019. The Mining industry recorded the largest year-over-year gains.

The full report is available [here](#) and previous reports can be found [here](#).

COLORADO OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SOUTHWEST COLORADO STAKEHOLDER MEETING *COGCC Hosts Public Meeting in Durango Feb. 21*

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - The public is invited to a Stakeholder Outreach Meeting hosted by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), held in Durango on Friday, Feb. 21. COGCC Director Robbins will provide an overview of COGCC's rulemaking required by SB 19-181 and take public comment.

Southwest Colorado Stakeholder Meeting Information:

Date: Friday, Feb. 21, 2020

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: County Administration Building, Board Room, 1101 E. 2nd Ave., Durango

SB 19-181 ensures that oil and gas development and operations in Colorado are regulated in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources. The COGCC is in the midst of reviewing its rules and procedures to evaluate what changes are re-

quired to reflect the new law's requirements.

On Nov. 21, 2019, the Commission adopted Flowline rules.

COGCC's next Hearing will be held Feb. 26-27 and will focus on upcoming SB 19-181 rulemakings.

To learn more about participating in any meetings, the rulemaking schedule or comment using the online portals, visit the COGCC website: <https://cogcc.state.co.us>.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE WHISTLEBLOWER SEEKS YOUR INFORMATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Are you involved in a local government and have 1st hand knowledge of any of these?

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- Unethical behavior or official misconduct

- Violation of the Oath of Office or Charter
- Attempts to silence employees from speaking out
- Favoritism or discrimination demonstrated by persons of authority
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236 S. 3rd St #260,
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Please include-

- What specifically occurred, when and where did it happen. Specific details!
- Who is the person of authority
- How do you know this
- 1st hand knowledge only, no hearsay

FERAL SWINE ERADICATED FROM COLORADO THANKS TO WORK OF STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



A feral swine. CPW courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

PUEBLO, Colo. – All known feral swine have been eliminated from Colorado thanks to a near 15-year state and federal partnership comprised of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS), the USDA Forest Service (FS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA).

The partnership formed in the early 2000s as a task force to manage invasive feral swine, which root up crops and pastures causing billions in damage nationwide each year.

Feral swine also spread disease to livestock, wildlife and humans. Ground-nesting birds and other wildlife are easy prey for feral swine. And the swine put native wildlife at risk by competing for resources and destroying habitats and ecosystems.

Feral swine are incredibly hardy animals and can survive, even thrive, in almost any habitat. That combined with high reproductive rates makes their ability to establish new populations extremely effective.

"The eradication of feral swine will help protect and benefit Colorado's agricultural crops and livestock as well as wildlife, wildlife habitat and private and public lands," said Travis Black, Deputy Regional Manager of CPW's Southeast Region.

"This achievement points to the value of collaborative efforts in staffing, funding and resources to accomplish a common goal," said Wayne East, CDA Agriculture Wildlife Liaison.

"Partnerships are important to completing complex tasks and we have done something great for agriculture and the wildlife of Colorado by eradicating feral swine," said Martin Lowney, USDA APHIS WS, State Director.

The Colorado feral swine task force will continue to monitor to ensure the state remains free of this invasive species and the damage they can inflict.

You can help keep Colorado free of feral swine.

-Spread the word that in Colorado it's illegal to possess, transport or release feral swine, wild swine species or hybrids.

-Report sightings of feral swine or transportation activities to USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-4-USA-WS (1-866-487-3297) or Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-297-1192. For more information about the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/operational-activities/feral-swine>

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THIS PROSPEROUS TIME WE NOW ENJOY WON'T LAST FOREVER

Editor:

The fact that the Sales and Use Tax provides 81% of the General Fund Revenue is a statement without meaning as the general public does not know what the General Fund is, how much it is, what it is used for and if it is totally obligated each year. So citing that as has been done in the last nine months is to present an unarguable point. Its use is disingenuous. The people who are arguing against the sales tax on food really do not care. All they care about is that the two sales taxes that Montrose city has on food is immoral because it is leaning on the fifty percent of our population who can afford it the least.

It is unethical, if not illegal, to use public funds to propagandize the citizenry about political issues as was just done in the CITY BEAT. Federally it is against the law.

David White has a good, no great point, about Montroseans being taxed on taxes. Anything added to the price of goods by the government is a tax no matter what the semantics people, like lawyers, will tell you. And they will tell you anything to make their case sound good. It is simply a way around the efforts of the people to reduce government (local) spending by limiting taxation. Often fees are hidden

(not easily seen) and are therefore ignored by the general public. Some of us do pay attention much to the chagrin of public officials. So there is a fee (a tax) above the sub-total and then there is a sales tax on the sub-total added in to the total that you paid. Such behavior on the part of our elitist government people is wrong and there is likely a law against it but those folks tend to do what they can get away with. Ah, the beauty of TABOR. When we buy a car we pay the 'sales tax' on the price THAT WE PAY FOR THE CAR, not the list price.

We pay a fee on paint we buy to paint our house. It is a fee to dispose of the paint (hazardous waste).

But after the house is painted MOST is on the house, the paint pails are empty, the paint inside them is dry, so why the recycle fee? It is a revenue enhancer that the government does because "they can" and who is going to take them to court.

We pay sales tax on the price of an item. Fair enough. Except when the price is reduced by a coupon or a sale we still pay the tax on the retail price listed. Why? We don't do that on the car we bought. No, NO, NO we should not! THAT SALE WAS MADE AT THE PRICE WE PAID. Just how

dishonest can we let our government people get? Does the store that sold the item to us at a discount pay income tax on the list price or the sale/coupon price? The answer is THE MONEY RECEIVED FROM US.

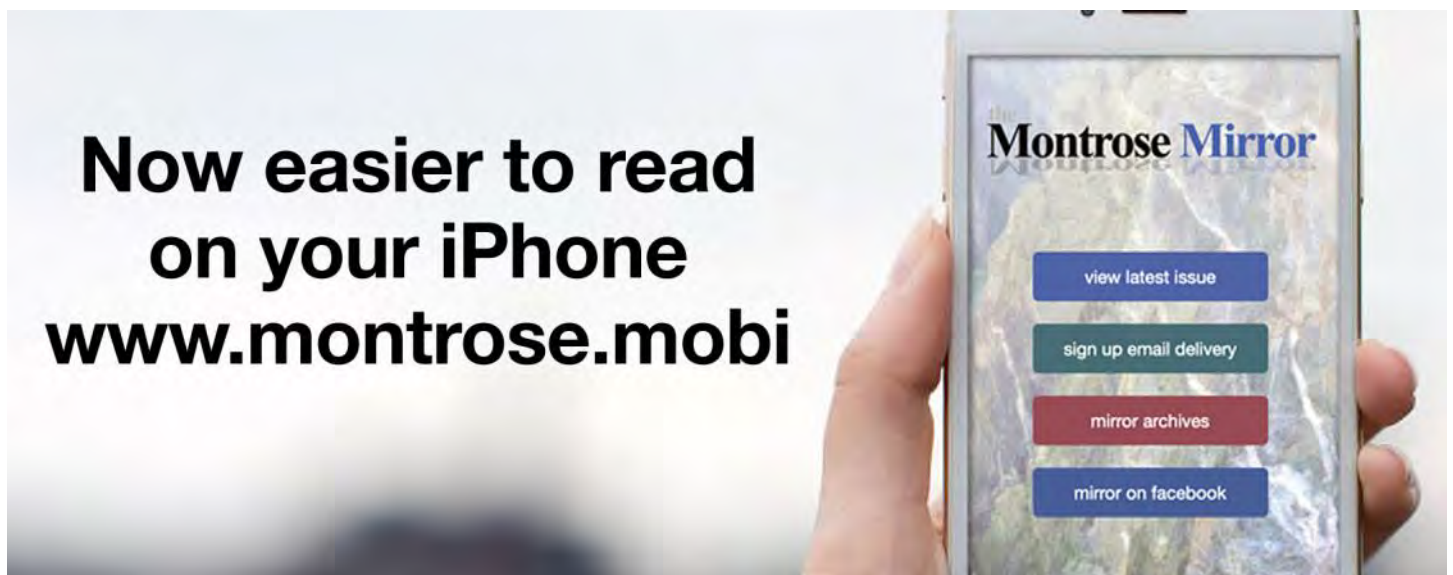
This is precisely why we need change on our city council. We need accomplished businessmen and women on the council. People who know that figures lie and liars figure. People who recognize when such travesties are being proposed or written into our local laws. People who have repeatedly made payroll. People who know the intricacies of our language that they might question questionable words like 'fees' and 'taxes' and when not to use those words.

People who will question the attorney when he writes such things as that abominable 2A description allowing the revenue to be spent on anything and everything.

This prosperous time we now enjoy will not last forever. We already are in a downturn in Montrose and don't recognize it. With insufficient sales tax to pay its bills the city will be bankrupt. And Cities can go bankrupt. Where will the water, sewage, roads and police come from then?

Bill Ramsey, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GLORY HOLES, HOT STOCK PICKS & THE CITY OF MONTROSE

Editor:

In the days of gold in the Rockies there was a name for a gold strike that was only productive for a few feet or a day or two. The prospector found some gold, often float, dug a big hole and the float petered out. These holes were termed "Glory Holes" and are found all over the Rockies from Nederland to Silverton where the landscape is forever pockmarked with these large 'gopher holes'. Some of these "Glory Holes" actually attracted some investors before turning into worthless dirt.

With the help of some of our native promoters this is the kind of float that is being found often by marginal businessmen from out of town, in Montrose. They come here because there is surface 'gold' or float in the guise of municipal money to be had from the suckers of Montrose. They have little, if any, intention of paying Montrose back for what they can suck out of the suckers. They just want our money, they make some big promises, go elsewhere to spend it and leave the city holding the bag.

And by the time the city fathers and mothers find out that 'something' is remiss (because the promises were worthless), the suckers are out of office (often finding the sudden need to leave town and move out of state for 'family' reasons), the bureaucrats who 'liked' the deal have likewise fled the jurisdiction and the residents have to replace the money filched from the populace under one con-job after another by the sudden travelers.

While on the MMH Board of Directors we had several doctors lured here with hospital funded stipends to pay their student loans. After they arrived here they, or their wives, did not like Montrose and they left before they had completed their payback term with the hospital. Their

trouble was that the contract that they had signed allowed the hospital to go-get them for all the money that they took under false pretenses. During my tenure as a director the hospital collected it all back thanks to one extremely good law firm that insisted on solid contracts and pursued the miscreants.

A trouble with the city of Montrose is that they do not demand specific performance. Either that or the contract our city signs with these creatures is not a good one. That is one which provides locked-tight recourse should they not perform as they have promised. This is either by accident or by design, perhaps a little of both, by those in charge at city hall, but the people of Montrose are paying one hell of a price to get NOTHING in return except more bad debts and false promises.

One solution to this problem is to have a city council with at least three council members with the intelligence, experience and guts to demand fool proof contracts with all contractors and who have the strength of conviction to demand specific performance that is that the city gets EVERYTHING WE PAID FOR.

Another is to have city employees who will not be complicit in such behavior, who will not permit such contracts to pass for good when they are, in fact, faulty. They must be able and willing to speak up when something is wrong without fear of the consequences.

And the third way to preclude this is to have at least three members of the city council who care about their town first and all the rest of the crap last. Three people who with their business background and acumen know what to look for and how to stop the bad stuff. Three people who refuse to be bullied by any-

one. Three people who put their city absolutely first in every endeavor over which they have authority.

Three people who will select the projects that should be undertaken out of necessity and eliminate the unnecessary projects, which in the past, have been wastefully funded.

The City of Montrose is well known as the 'Glory Hole' of the Western Slope. It is time to halt that reputation. If you believe in going forward with the current *modus operandi* all that we citizens have to look forward to are more useless, ill managed projects, more and higher taxes and a more expensive city hall. We will have less transparency, less accountability and less affordability.

In other words, we need three upstanding, experienced and honest businessmen/women who have backbones and gumption and who will not fold to the pressures of those who are on the board for their own benefit.

People who will engage the public with what is going on, answer questions and explain their rationale.

People who will allow the city government to publish the city 'check register' (as the county does) so the entire electorate can see where their tax money is going (squandered?).

People who will allow employees to answer questions pertaining to payroll and benefit issues (all public record) and people who, if they find something remiss in what they see, will investigate and demand answers----not just stonewall the public requests as the city has done for the past nine months.

And, by the way, three people who will insist on the prosecution of wrongdoers if, and when, they find it!

William Bennett, Montrose

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ISSUE 250 Feb. 17, 2020

ART & SOL

EXPERIENCE THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL WITH VIDEO IN DELTA MARCH 30



A marker on the Old Spanish Trail. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-On Monday, March 30 from 6:30 – 8 pm (Doors open at 6 pm) at Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, The Interpretive Association in cooperation with Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center are pleased to present...The Old Spanish Trail 2017....55-min video of the first re-ride of the Old Spanish Trail since 1848. The Old Spanish Trail is a 55- min documentary film about the historic trail, tracking the journey of Richard Waller, Otis

Calef, and Jim Clark on horseback 1,200 miles from Los Angeles to Santa Fe. They rode the trail in two legs, fall of 2014 and summer of 2015. The Old Spanish Trail witnessed a brief but furious heyday between 1830 and 1848 as a trade route linking Santa Fe, New Mexico and Los Angeles, California.

"The Old Spanish Trail tells a very important story about the history of the American West. But it also reflects poignantly on the importance of the culture of

the trail on modern community while also featuring the 'character' of contemporary American citizens."
(Amazon review from Robert Heffner, 5 stars: A must see for every adventure seeker).

The riders run into problems staying true to trail because of highways and private land during their ride tracing the past. The film is a reminder to all of us to protect and preserve the natural landscape and its trails. The film won an award in the category of Environmental and Mountain Culture Film at Mountain Film Festival 2019. Richard Waller is a historian and retired school teacher. He has spent his life exploring our public lands, the history of the west and his love of horses and mules. His book, *Old Spanish Trail Guide* will be available for sale along with the DVD at a fraction of the retail price \$20 for both the book and the DVD. The book is an account of the first re-ride of the Old Spanish Trail since 1848. Waller wrote the book to promote interest in and knowledge of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish Trail Association, a group of dedicated men and women who work to preserve and promote the trail. The book was also written to promote the Backcountry Horsemen of America and their mission to preserve and protect our public lands. All profits from the book will go back to the backcountry Horsemen of America to help support their work.



ENCOURAGES the community to attend

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WHAT'S NEW, HOW THE DATA IS USED
AND HOW IT IMPACTS US**



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 6PM and
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, NOON
MONTROSE LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

GUEST PANELISTS:

BRIAN MEINHART, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

KATIE YERGENSEN, MONTROSE COUNTY

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

KAREN SHERMAN PEREZ, CIRC/HAP

PAUL PALADINO, MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Q & A to follow; Census materials available

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY AGENCY PARTNERS INVITED TO WESTERN SLOPE SAFETY SUMMIT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In April, Montrose County School District RE-1J will host the second annual Western Slope Safety Summit, with professional resources and information to keep children and families safe. Content will include presentations by the FBI, substance abuse prevention experts, Safe2Tell, and Finessa Ferrell discussing school and community climate and culture (see link and attachment for details). Registration fee is \$50 and includes a catered lunch. The Summit will take place from 7:45 a.m. -3:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, at the Montrose Pavilion (1800 E Pavilion Pl, Montrose, CO 81401). Click [this Colorado School Safety Resource Center registration link](#) for information and to reserve your spots.

TENTH ANNUAL WESTERN COLORADO SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Special to Art & Soul

DELTA – The 10th Annual Soil Health Conference will be held on Feb. 20, 2020, 8am-5pm and Feb. 21, 2020, 8am-12:30pm at the Delta Center for Performing Arts, located at 822 Grand Avenue in Delta. Conference tickets are \$45 before Feb. 13, \$60 after Feb. 13, and can be purchased at www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org.

This conference is the area's premier educational and networking event designed to educate producers, orchardists, ranchers, government officials, and the broad community about ways to increase organic matter and increase the health of our soils by using cover crop, no-till/minimum-till, green manure, grazing, composting, entomology and other sustainable practices for food and fiber production.

Internationally recognized Soil Microbiologist and keynote speaker, Dr. Kris Nichols will highlight the 2020 conference. Dr. Nichols is a leader in the movement to regenerate soils for healthy soil, crops, food, people and a planet. She is currently the founder and principal scientist of KRIS Systems Education & Consultation and a sub-contractor with Soil Health Consulting, Inc. A soil microbiologist with over 25 years of research experience studying ar-

buscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, Kris builds upon a soil health foundation to identify biological methods for agricultural production and tools and practices to reduce pest issues, soil erosion, fossil fuel use, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The conference will also feature Bill and Kelli Parker from Parker Pastures in Gunnison, CO. The Parkers promote ecological regeneration through the production of high-quality grass-fed meats.

In addition to raising beef and lamb, the Parkers provide Coaching and Consulting services, including a Planned Grazing Coaching series and Onsite Grazing Consulting. The Parkers will present a keynote presentation on the connection between livestock, soil health, and holistic range management and a breakout session on Putting Ideals and Ideas into Practice on Your Ranch.

New to the Western Colorado Soil Health Conference this year will be a listening session hosted by The Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils. The listening session will be during an evening reception on February 20 at 5:30 pm. The session is open to farmers and ranchers for discussing the practices you use, practices you don't use, barriers to soil health, and your recommendation for programs.

The Collaborative is seeking feedback from producers across the state in order to learn what producers need in order to implement soil health practices and to get feedback on possible new soil health programs and initiatives.

Soil health is critical to the future of agricultural production. With a contingent of concerned farmers as well as community groups and government officials, the soil health conference has been able to take soil health education and implement techniques and specifically adjust them for the local area.

As pressure on agricultural production increases, soil health practices can ensure that agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability.

Shavano Conservation District (SCD) is the fiscal and administrative agent for the Soil Health Conference.

Understanding that soil is a treasure, SCD in conjunction with Natural Resource Conservation Service and individuals active in the agricultural community have come together to present the 10th Annual Western Colorado Soil Health Conference.

For more information please visit www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org or call SCD at 970-964-3582.

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Contact shroompa@gmail.com

MIRROR IMAGES: HONORING A CENTURY OF ACTIVISM

The Montrose County League of Women Voters celebrated their centennial at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose on Saturday, Feb. 15. Pictured below are Diane Balk, Janet Chapman, Barbara Schmerler, and Penny Huescher.

Pictured at left is current League President Jan Edwards.

Photos by Brad Switzer.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LISA PETERSON OF MONTROSE NAMED TO FALL DEANS' LIST AT NEBRASKA

Special to Art & Sol

LINCOLN, NE-- Lisa Peterson of Montrose has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2019-20 academic year.

Peterson, a freshman finance major, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Business.

More than 5,700 students at Nebraska have been named to the Deans' List for the fall semester.

Qualification for the Deans' List varies among the eight undergraduate colleges and the Explore Center. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each entity and the name of its respective dean or director. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale and a minimum of 12 graded semester hours. Students can be on the Deans' List for more than one college.

COBBLE CREEK FREE MOVIE NIGHT - FREEDOM WRITERS

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Hilary Swank stars in this true story of inner-city kids raised on drive-by shootings and hard-core attitude - and the teacher who gives them the one thing they need most: a voice of their own! Based on the book [The Freedom Writers Diary](#) by teacher [Erin Gruwell](#) and students who compiled the book out of real diary entries about their lives that they wrote in their English class at [Woodrow Wilson Classical High School](#) in Long Beach, California.

Donations will be accepted to benefit Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center of Montrose - our local organization working to give kids a better life!

The Cobble Creek Tavern serves dinner and drinks downstairs until 6 pm. We will have free popcorn and cash bar upstairs starting at 6 p.m. Cobble Creek Club House, 699 Cobble Drive, Montrose, CO

ELKS MARDI GRAS BINGO

it's
**Fat
Tuesday**
Let the fun begin!

February 25, 2020

at 6:30 PM

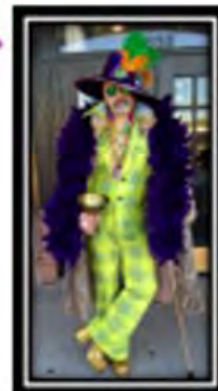
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\$500 Jackpot "Must Go"

**FAT TUESDAY
JUST GOT**

FATTER'





MONTROSE ELKS LODGE: ELK TRACKS



ELKS LODGE BINGO IS BACK!!!

MONTROSE ELKS LODGE-It was a great time playing Bingo at the Elks again. The laughter and hum of people talking was amazing. People were winning and having fun. On Feb 11th, "Early Bird" paid \$25 each for 5 games. Seven Bingo games paid \$100 each and Game 8 paid \$150 bucks to one Winner. No one won Progressive Game 6, so the Jackpot increased to \$5,188.

This week's Jackpots 2-18-20:

Progressive Game 2 is valued at \$455 and can be won by reaching Bingo in 37 numbers or less.

Progressive Game 4 is valued at \$677 and can also be won by reaching Bingo in 37 numbers or less.

Progressive Game 6 has a good Jackpot worth \$5,188. This Jackpot can be won by reaching Bingo in 53 numbers or fewer.

Bingo opens at 5:00 PM. Card sales begins at 6:00 PM and an "Early Bird" set of 5 quick games begins at 6:30 p.m. 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. Turkey and Cheese will be made in the kitchen 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.

(Montrose Elks Bingo is open to the public, funds raised support local charities)

Fat Tuesday is coming up quick. It's time to party it up and play some Elks Bingo to win some cash!!

Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash



Wednesday. It is also known as Mardi Gras Day or Shrove Day. It is a day when people eat all they want of everything and anything they want as the following day is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a long fasting period for Christians.

We will have Elks Bingo on Fat Tuesday with all the trimmings: food, cake, an open bar, & a \$500 Jackpot that must be awarded. Don't miss this one, it's gonna be lot of fun!!

*Save a tree –
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MHS CAFETERIA WELCOMES 2020 SODEXO FUTURE CHEFS CHALLENGE COMPETITION ON MARCH 25

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The 2020 Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge comes to the Montrose High School cafeteria (600 Selig Ave.) on Wednesday, March 25 from 3 to 5:30 pm. Elementary school students in Montrose County School District RE-1J will use their culinary skills to reimagine their favorite lunch meal by creating original recipes.

More than 50 elementary school students submitted healthy recipes inspired by their favorite lunch meals and the five finalists were selected to participate in the district-wide finals event. Finalists will prepare and present their creations before being assessed on criteria including originality, taste, kid friendliness and use of healthy ingredients.

The national initiative, now in its tenth year, was created to get students thinking about making healthy food choices while also encouraging them to be active and creative in the kitchen. Montrose County

Schools joins 253 other school districts across the country holding Future Chefs events throughout February and March. The winning student from each participating district will be considered for 40 regional finalist awards, and the selected regional finalists will vie to become one of five national finalists competing for the public's vote on SodexoUSA.com.

"According to the [American Heart Association](#), about one in every three American kids and teens is overweight or obese," said Stephen Dunmore, CEO North America, Schools, Sodexo. "This staggering statistic demonstrates why it is more important than ever to engage youth to become advocates for their own health."

[Sodexo](#), the school nutrition partner to over 500 school districts throughout the U.S., is renowned for its work advancing childhood nutrition, health and well-being. In November 2016, Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) named Sodexo

"Partner of the Year" based in part on early success on elements of its commitments for increasing healthier food options in the K-12 schools it serves; providing healthier meal options for children at zoo, museum and aquarium locations served by Sodexo; and for its commitment to serve 17 million additional free breakfasts to K-12 students by 2018, which Sodexo met two years early. In addition, the award recognizes Sodexo's efforts beyond its PHA commitment including how it has created a culture of health across its extensive network of clients, customers, vendors and employees.

The Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge is just one of the many ways that the company shares its health and well-being expertise with the clients, customers and the communities it serves.

To join the Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge conversation on social media, use #SDXFutureChefs.

GENETICS TESTS CONFIRM PRESENCE OF WOLVES IN COLORADO



CPW courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MOFFAT COUNTY – Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) biologists have received

notification back from a genetics lab confirming that four scat samples collected near a scavenged elk carcass in Moffat County in early January came from wolves. This is the first official documentation of a pack of wolves in the state since the 1940s.

Of the four samples, DNA results indicate three are female and one is male. The testing was also able to determine that all the wolves were related, likely as full siblings. "The DNA doesn't tell us the age," said CPW Species Conservation Program Manager Eric Odell. "We don't know where or when they were born. We can't say. But that there are closely related wolves is a pretty significant finding."

Odell also noted that "although previous reports had mentioned sightings of up to six wolves, this doesn't do anything to

alter that estimate. Just because we only collected four scat samples doesn't mean there were only four animals."

CPW is still waiting to receive results back from scat samples collected at a potential wolf sighting in Moffat County on January 19. CPW would like to remind the public that wolves are a federally endangered species and fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, killing a wolf can result in federal charges, including a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison, per offense. The public is urged to contact CPW immediately if they see or hear wolves or find evidence of any wolf activity. [The Wolf Sighting Form](#) can be found on the CPW website. For more information about wolves, [visit the CPW website](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTHS OF THE MONTH

Special to Art & Sol

REGIONAL-Check out the latest Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Youths of the Month! Kyrstyn was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. Kyrstyn is in middle school and is always extremely helpful at Club, often volunteering her time to help with the younger kids' Triple Play Program. She helps set up the equipment, coach the kids, and plays on their teams just like our staff do. Even though Kyrstyn is one of our newer members, her contagious joy and energy has made our Club a better place to be! Noah was chosen as the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Noah is nine years old and a 4th grader at Olathe Elementary. Noah is very mature for his age, being a very well-spoken and behaved kid. He is always willing to lend a helping hand. Noah loves to play with Legos at Club and work with the younger kids on Lego building which is always appreciated. Way to go Kyrstyn and Noah! We are proud to call you Club kids. For more information on the BCBGC, visit www.bcbgc.org.



Noah was chosen as the Olathe Unit's Youth of the Month. Courtesy photo.



Kyrstyn was chosen as the Montrose Unit's Youth of the Month. Courtesy photo.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ANDREA VON KAMPEN TO PLAY HEALTHY RHYTHM GALLERY MARCH 12

Special to Art & Sol

NEBRASKA-Andrea von Kampen and her trio will be playing at Healthy Rhythm Listening Room on Thursday, March 12 at 7 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM and Jason McCue will be opening the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance here: <https://bit.ly/36qH7MX>

von Kampen is an independent folk singer-songwriter based in Lincoln, Nebraska, whose effortless vocal delivery has been described by Ear To The Ground Music as having "the conviction of a gospel track and the sincerity of a Dylan folk ballad."

Old Country, Andrea von Kampen's debut full-length album, was released on February 8th, 2019. The album was recorded and mastered in Nebraska and features exclusively Nebraska-based musicians. Inspiration for Andrea's songs often come from literature, art, and nature; in particular the literature and nature of Nebraska and the Midwest. The title track, *Old Country*, is based on the book "My Ántonia" by Nebraska author Willa Cather.

Following her debut album, Andrea re-

leased a 3-song EP, *Twilight & Evening Bell*, in October of 2019. PopMatters wrote, "Throughout *Twilight & Evening Bell*, von Kampen continues to build upon the established strengths of her previous releases. Of the prairie, her songwriting regales in traditional folk melodies that often draw naturalistic pictures."

Andrea has shared the stage with artists such as Mandolin Orange, Trampled By Turtles, Tall Heights, Ira Wolf, The Brother Brothers, Dead Horses, and many more.

Andrea von Kampen first appeared in the public eye with her submission of *Let Me Down Easy* into the 2016 Tiny Desk Contest.

Within 24 hours of submission, NPR Music, All Songs Considered tweeted her video as the featured artist of the day, saying "we were completely blown away." Ultimately, Andrea finished the competition as a top ten finalist, which led to the increased popularity of her EP, *Another Day*, specifically her song *Trainsong*.

Since then, her EPs have amassed millions of streams on Spotify and continue



Andrea von Kampen. Courtesy photo.

to grow.

For more music, visit

www.AndreavonKampen.com

DAN DEUTER'S CRITIQUE SESSIONS PRESENTED BY MCA



Dan Deuter. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Having problems with your painting? Composition, palette, color values and/or creating depth got you down? Dan will be available at MCA to work with you to find the answer. He will be available at the Center the 3rd Thursday of each month to work with you on your painting. This month's session will be Thursday, Feb. 20 from 6 – 8:30 PM at the Center.

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

Montrose Center for the Arts is located at 11 S. Park Avenue. Call MCA at 970-787-9428 with Questions.

MCA will charge \$10 for the session to help defray expenses.



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF MONTROSE PRESENTS

32nd Annual Spring Luncheon

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020
MONTROSE PAVILION

Color My World



TICKETS: \$40 PER PERSON | TICKET SALES: MOLLY SHAVER AT 970-765-7666
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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 of Cascade and 3rd St. ALL ARE WELCOME.

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING-second Tuesday of the month, @ 7 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Montrose Library, 320 S 2nd St. Includes: Presentations, photo sharing & critiques. All are welcome to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 hosts Bingo every Saturday and Sunday at 7pm, at the Bingo Connection, 2075 East Main Montrose. Its open to the Public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. For more info call Tom at 260-8298.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Montrose Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 pm with official meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. The other Mondays will be "working" meetings. They are held at Montage Creek Senior Living, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, Second Floor, Media Room.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM-"Montrose County Historical Society Presents" is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

MONTROSE COUNTY GOP MEETING 6:30 p.m. second Wednesday of each month. Montrose County School District Office- 930 Colorado Ave. Information 970-209-8173.

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

Noon - third Fridays. Hampton Inn, 1980 North Townsend Ave. Information: Dianna 970-249-0724

MONTHLY-

Feb.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. A donation of \$10 is welcome.

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

Feb. 29-SOM Footwear (1006 North Cascade Avenue) will be open on the last Saturday of February and March from 9am until 5pm. Just give us a call to schedule a tour. The outlet store has some amazing discounted inventory that is only available for purchase in the store. If you have been thinking about SOM's but can never make it during business hours, now is your chance! So mark your calendars for Saturday Feb. 29 and Saturday March 28 from 9am until 5pm.

March 2-Cobble Creek Free Movie Night "Freedom Writers." The Cobble Creek Tavern serves dinner and drinks downstairs until 6 pm. We will have free popcorn and cash bar upstairs starting at 6 p.m. Cobble Creek Club House, 699 Cobble Drive, Montrose, CO.

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

March 12-Andrea von Kampen and her trio will be playing at Healthy Rhythm Listening Room on Thursday, March 12 at 7 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM and Jason McCue will be opening the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance here: <https://bit.ly/36qH7MX>

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

March 16-Montrose Toastmasters OPEN HOUSE. March 16, 2020, Monday, 6-7 PM. Meet and greet @ 5:45PM, 2nd Floor, Montage Creek Senior Living, 1968 Sunrise Drive, Montrose, CO 81401.

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

Mar 26-6:30-8:30pm: Great Decisions Discussion Group, "Artificial Intelligence and Data." Montrose Library Meeting Room. 970-249-9656

March 28-SOM Footwear (1006 North Cascade Avenue) will be open on the last Saturday of February and March from 9am until 5pm. Just give us a call to schedule a tour. The outlet store has some amazing discounted inventory that is only available for purchase in the store. If you have been thinking about SOM's but can never make it during business hours, now is your chance!

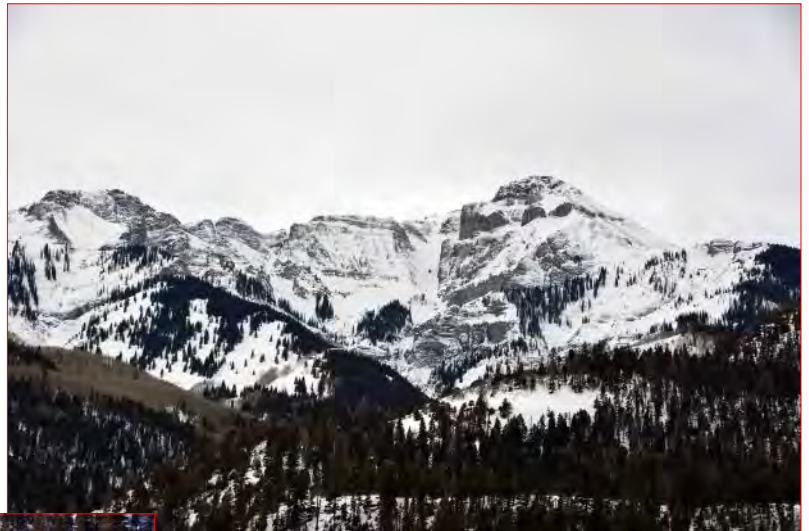
Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

Photographer Deb Reimann took this photo last week of Corbett Peak near Ouray, right.



Though she has photographed the historic dairy barn, at left, in summer, "I wanted a zoomed-in capture wearing its winter coat and showing its beautiful bones," Deb said. "It fascinates me and I hope to find out more of the history."

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