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the Montrose Mirror

Reporting from West Central Colorado since 2010

Issue No. 365 Feb. 24, 2020

GUNNISON CLAMP NAMED CITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Montrose Mayor Dave Bowman recognized Volunteer of the year Gunnison Clamp at the meeting of Feb. 18.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With more than 350 hours of service, Volunteer Gunnison Clamp was recognized as City of Montrose Volunteer of the Year at the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council on Tuesday, Feb. 18. All councilors were present for the meeting; Youth Council Representative was Zack Oldroyd.

Mayor Dave Bowman welcomed all to the meeting. "Gentlemen, remove your hats for the Pledge of Allegiance," he said.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR GUNNISON CLAMP

"It's our pleasure and honor this evening to honor a young man who has put in 354 hours at our Office of Business & Tourism and Visitor Center," Bowman said. "He's also on the Youth Council... he's the kind of young people we want to see grow up in

[Continued pg 19](#)

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DESIGNATE POTATO GROWERS BUILDING A HISTORIC LANDMARK

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Feb. 19 regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room was recessed after 24 minutes, to resumed at 1 p.m. at the Montrose County Event Center, where the crowd expected for a public hearing on a special use application could be accommodated. All commissioners were present for the meeting. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church.

Before beginning the invocation, Leuthauser thanked commissioners for their wisdom. "You have changed this county with your work."

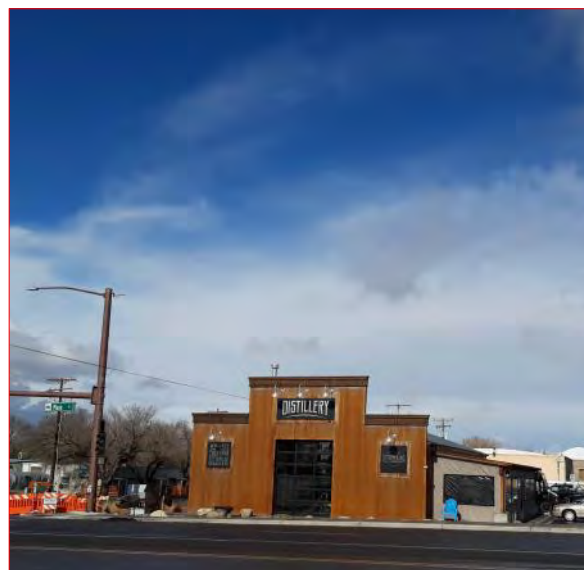
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were heard from the public on non-agenda items.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Ken Norris made one change to the meeting agenda, moving

[Continued pg 11](#)



The Potato Growers Building has always been a local landmark and now it's official; County Commissioners voted Feb. 19 to designate the structure as a Montrose County Historic Landmark.

in this
issue

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

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

[A Fresh Point of View](#)
with Jack Switzer!

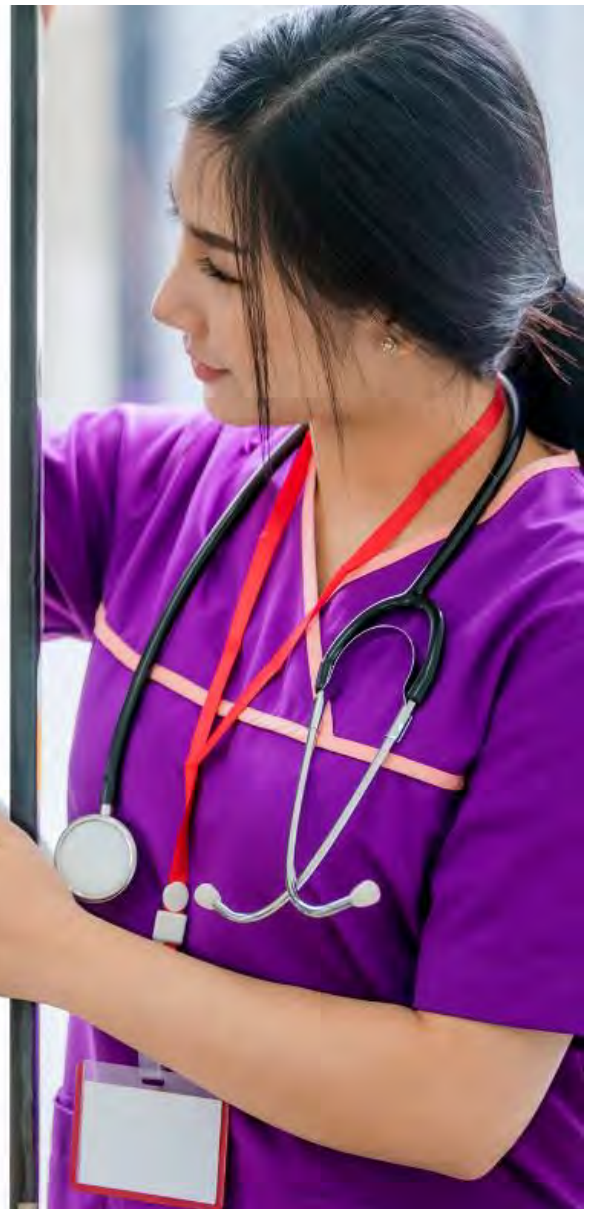
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A FRESH POINT OF VIEW: SPRING MAY BE ON THE WAY, BUT FLU SEASON IS NOT OVER YET!



Me, standing tall before being laid low by a terrible cold. With one of the more vicious flu seasons we've seen in a while, looking out for your health is very important right now.

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-I shivered in the cold as I walked home, my nose leaking and my cheeks seemingly on fire. My toes had gone numb a long time ago, and they were starting to hurt more and more every step I took. It was my own fault I had ended up in this predicament, Deciding to walk home from school instead of calling for a ride. With the dirt crunching and cracking beneath my chilled feet, I wanted nothing more than to drop down and rest. In my head it sounded like a perfectly sane idea, one that wouldn't inconvenience me later. However, when I finally stumbled upon my own doorstep and hobbled inside, I felt my lungs seemingly tighten immediately as the warmth rushed over me. I was probably just tired. Nothing to worry about, or to focus on for that matter. I just wanted to head up to my room and sleep, which is exactly what I did.

Safe to say, I immensely regretted my

decision to walk home that day, as it landed me a week of being sick.

With no relief from my symptoms, I repeatedly cursed myself as I laid in bed, swimming in a sea of my own suffering. And that's why looking out for yourself and others is so important right now, with one of the more vicious flu seasons we've seen in a while everyone has to be on their tippy toes when dealing with this monstrous disease.

Make sure you get flu shots (yes, I had one) don't walk in the cold, don't drive in the cold, ETC. Every single high school in Montrose/Delta counties is currently full of sick and sickly-looking teens.

And it's not just teens either, I've seen plenty of adults driving or walking the streets who look just about done with being alive.

Wear a coat. Be sensible. And for the love of God do not eat a bag of chips you find in public.



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

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

Fiscal Conservative: *Dislikes deficit spending, advocate for a balanced budget.*

DAVID STOCKTON FOR CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2020

MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pizza & Politics is please to host the **MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL INTERACTIVE CANDIDATE FORUM** on Thursday, March 5. This is an excellent opportunity to hear the candidates for District III, IV, and At-Large address important issues facing our Montrose community.

Topics or issues will include:

- Housing and Affordable Housing
- Economic Development and Local Wages
- The role and scope of Financial incentives offered by the City
- Defining Local Government Structure and Transparency

Location: Turn of the Century Saloon on 121 N. 4th Street in Montrose, Colorado

Doors open at 6 pm for pizza and beverage. Program starts at 6:30 pm and concludes at 8 pm.

Q&A will follow presentations by the Candidates

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

LET'S TALK! Montrose City council candidate Yvonne Meek wants to know what you, the taxpayer, think are the important issues Montrose city council needs to address.

Let's Talk ... about the future of Montrose!

Thursdays at The Lark Venue, 511 East Main Street from 7:30 to 10 am

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY MANAGER INVITES COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS PRIOR TO THE APRIL ELECTION; THAT'S NOT THE ROLE OF CITY STAFF

Mirror staff editorial

MONTROSE-Last week, Montrose City Council candidates received an email from City Manager William Bell welcoming them to the April 2020 race for council seats and extending an invitation for them to meet for coffee or lunch with the city department heads for any questions they have related to city projects.

Bell went on to say, "Also, our Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler and I would love the chance to meet with each of you to hear your ideas on how to make Montrose an even better place and to address any concerns you might have regarding any City operations and activities."

On the surface Bell's invitation seems

cordial and somewhat benign. And, had this request come from Mayor Dave Bowman and Councilman Doug Glaspell, the only two councilmen not up for re-election, it would not have raised red flags.

However, from a political perspective, it is questionable that the city manager and the assistant city manager ask to interview each candidate individually. In effect Bell and Morgenthaler would be interviewing their potential bosses. This would be similar to the county manager interviewing county commissioner candidates, or bank employees interviewing bank president candidates. With each election the city clerk holds a candidate orientation, which

includes city staff, and it is at this time that candidates can discuss and ask questions on the operation and activities of the city. For the city manager to interview candidates individually prior to the election is problematic because once they are elected, they collectively have the authority to hire and fire the city manager and the city attorney. Any discussion on the operation and activities of the city held individually can disenfranchise other elected individuals because they were not privy to previous conversations. And as salaried city staff, the manager would better serve residents if he focused on his own duties and then learned to work with whomever voters choose.

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Vote for YVONNE MEEK

AT-LARGE MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL SEAT

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

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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COLORADO'S AIRPORTS GAINS ALTITUDE

Special to the Mirror

WATKINS – A new study by the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics shows the economic impact of the state's 70 public-use airports has increased 30 percent from 2013 to 2018. Collectively, the airports are responsible for supporting \$48.6 billion in business revenues, 345,661 jobs, \$16.2 billion in payroll, and \$27 billion in value-added.

"The increased economic impact of airports in Colorado underscores the importance and value of aviation statewide," said CDOT Aeronautics Director David Ulane. "Under the direction of the Colora-

do Aeronautical Board, the Division of Aeronautics is proud to support Colorado's airports and our aviation system as part of our state's robust multimodal transportation network."

The full Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study will be released in April 2020. A Technical Memo detailing the study's methodology can be found [here](#). The economic impact data for each airport sampled in the study can be found [here](#). For additional information, please visit the project website at ColoradoAviationSystem.com.

-----Under the Direction of the Colorado Aeronautical Board, the Colorado Depart-

ment of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics supports Colorado's multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective statewide air and space system through collaboration, investment and advocacy.

In partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration, 74 public use airports and a diverse group of aviation system users, the Division also works to promote aviation safety and education through the efficient administration of the Colorado Aviation Fund.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NAMED TOP 100 RURAL & COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



Montrose Memorial Hospital has once again been named one of the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in the United States by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital (MMH) has announced it has once again been named one of the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in the United States by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. It is the only hospital in Colorado with this

recognition for five consecutive years.

"This recognition indicates to our community they have a hospital they can be proud of," said James Kiser, CEO of Montrose Memorial Hospital. "I couldn't be more proud of the engaged staff, providers, and local team that makes our care representative of *Friends & Family caring for Friends & Family*."

The award is a distinct recognition separate from the hospital's recent announcement that it was named a Five Star Hospital by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Based entirely on publicly available data, the INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Utilizing 50 independent indicators, the INDEX assesses performance across eight pillars of performance that span market-, value- and finance-based categories. Hospitals recog-

nized as a Top 100 facility had one of the 100 highest overall scores among all Rural & Community Hospitals nationally.

"The Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital award program reminds us that rural providers haven't lost touch with their mission and are committed to delivering better quality, better outcomes and better patient satisfaction. It's a pleasure to be able to not only recognize this year's recipients, but our larger group of top 100 alumni as we celebrate 10 years of The Hospital Strength INDEX," said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

-Only five hospitals in Colorado made the 2020 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital list.

Top 100 Hospital Resources:

The list of this year's Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals as well as the INDEX methodology can be found at www.ivantageindex.com/top-performing-hospitals. To learn more about The Chartis Center for Rural Health or to speak with someone regarding the INDEX and the Top 100, please email Billy Balfour at wbalfour@chartis.com.

About Montrose Memorial Hospital (www.MontroseHospital.com)

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)3 nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties. The health system offers an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, Robotic Assisted surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center, Acute Rehabilitation Unit and the family birthing center. The health system partners with regional providers on joint ventures to meet local healthcare needs, including CareFlight air ambulance service, San Juan Cancer Center, and Black Canyon Surgical Center. Montrose Memorial Hospital is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 700 employees and 100 physicians who represent 23 medical specialties.

HEALTHfair | Early Blood Draws & Health Fair

Saturday, February 29

Montrose Pavilion

6:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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- Hearing Screening
- Nutrition Information
- Consults for Early Blood Draw Results
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- Skin Cancer Spot Checks
6:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

BLOOD DRAWS UNTIL 11:00 A.M.

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CBC (Complete Blood Count)	\$25
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Alpine Bank Montrose brings one-stop banking to expanded South Townsend location



Alpine Bank Montrose is excited to announce the expansion of its south branch on Townsend Avenue which will provide one-stop banking for customers there by the end of 2020. "The timing of the project could not be better, the bank as a whole, and locally in Montrose, is coming off of several record-breaking years," stated Tyler Dahl, president of Alpine Bank Montrose.

Currently, some bank functions are split between Alpine's south branch and its east branch on Main Street in Montrose, requiring some customers to make two stops to do all of their banking. The east branch will close once consolidation of the bank's services is complete at the expanded south branch.



"We look forward to having all of Alpine's Montrose employees working together in a larger and more efficient and comfortable setting for them and our valued customers," said Dahl. "We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service, and these changes will ensure we can take even better care of our customers in the future."

All Alpine staff currently working at the east branch will work from the expanded south branch; there will be no reduction in the friendly staff who customers know and appreciate after the construction dust settles.

Dahl understands that the east branch is a more convenient location for some customers, and he and his team are committed to making the transition as easy and convenient as possible. The closure will be gradual, with an anticipated closing date of June, 2021.

"Alpine Bank's commitment to providing excellence to our customers and our commitment to support our community are and will remain our highest priorities," Dahl said.



Alpine Bank



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MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DESIGNATE POTATO GROWERS BUILDING A HISTORIC LANDMARK From Page 1

Item C-8, possible adoption of Resolution No. 09-2020 to designate the Potato Growers Building located at 39 West Main Street as a Montrose County Historical Landmark, from the Consent Agenda to General Business Item D-3.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners approved Item D-1, awarding the 2020 Asphalt Overlay Project East End contract to low-bidder Elam Construction of Grand Junction in the total amount of \$3,065,551.93. The bid amount is \$515,097 less than the 2020 budgeted amount. The roads were identified to be paved last summer, County Public Works Director Keith Laube said. "We actually got really good prices... we're paving about 30 miles this year; it's great that asphalt prices are where they're at right now."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash recused himself from the vote because his daughter works for Elam Construction.

Also approved was Item D-2, award of the 2020 West End Asphalt Overlay Project contract to low bidder Elam Construction of Grand Junction in the total amount of \$2,660,802.81. The bid amount is \$761,036 less than the 2020 budgeted amount.

"This is basically paving what was the old coal route now that they're not hauling coal," Laube said. "We're paving that, and we're paving 25 Mesa." Rash recused himself from the vote once again.

Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt Resolution No. 09-2020, designating the Potato Growers Building at 39 West Main Street as a Montrose County Historical Landmark. Montrose County Historic Landmark Advisory Chair Zilla Mae Brown spoke about the structure.

"This building has been more or less a public landmark because everybody seems to recognize it," Brown said. "It's at 39 West Main, has sat there for...111 years. That's a long time."

The Potato Growers Building was built to

replace a warehouse that previously burned, she said. The building is important because of its significance to Montrose County's history of agriculture.

"At one time potatoes were the major agricultural crop in this area," Brown said. "There were two big economic potato growing places in Colorado-- Greeley and Montrose...it was so important that the railroad had a spur that went right by the building and the potatoes were loaded from a dock on the East side of the building.

"That dock still exists."

The structure is also architecturally significant, she said, as an agricultural building from the 1900's; it was built by local firm White & Okey and designed by local architect John Hudson Artobus.

"That building's been around a long time," Rash said. "I remember as a kid, my mom actually worked in there."

Commissioner Sue Hansen said she is delighted about the designation. "I am really glad something is finally being done...thank you for keeping us on the right road on recognizing important historical structures in our community."

"The past is very important," BOCC Chair Keith Caddy said.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Item E-1 involved a special use application by Applicants Craig and Jennifer Ochs to develop an RV Park at 60340, 60314, and 60230 Herman Road. The two-acre site would accommodate five RV spaces, each with its own storage area. Existing mobile homes on the parcel were replaced with RV's, which is a code violation, County Planning & Development Director Steve White said. "The County sent a violations



Montrose County Historic Landmark Advisory Chair Zilla Mae Brown spoke to the BOCC about the history of the Potato Growers' Building at 39 West Main Street, which was designated a Montrose County Historic Landmark at the BOCC meeting of Feb. 19.

notice...the owner of the property asked if there's options to be able to address this... they decided to move forward and apply for an RV park...the Planning Commission reviewed this and felt that this is not a good location for an RV park...the Planning Commission recommended denial."

"The septic, I think is an issue for me," Rash said. "Looking at adding five more RV's on a septic system and I saw no comments on expansion or anything like that... no reports on how it would impact that area there.

"I think that's a concern."

Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the special use application.

In other business, Commissioners approved a request by the Waterfront Way Subdivision to extend approval of a preliminary plan for a major subdivision on Marine Road; and a proposal by the T&G Minor Amended Plat to remove an access easement that is no longer needed at 23471 Uncompahgre Road.

Commissioners recessed, to reconvene at 1 p.m. at the Montrose County Event Center to consider a special use application by the Blow Fly Shooting Group to develop a shotgun shooting range at Parcel 3723-331-00-021, west of South River Road.

CITY HEARS PROJECT 7 UPDATE, CONSIDERS CERRO PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose City Council convened for a work session on Tuesday, Feb. 18. All Councilors were present for the work session. The first item on the agenda was an interview with Planning Commission applicant Steve Mason. Originally from Chicago, Mason first came through Montrose in 1967 and has lived in Colorado for 51 years. He spent much of his life in the building trades as a professional tile setter. "I'm retired, and I am in my 70's now, I am glad to help."

"Now it's my turn to serve."

Mayor Bowman thanked Mason and said that a decision will be made in two weeks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Project 7 Water Authority Executive Director Adam Turner gave an update on the **Project 7 Water Treatment Plant plan and the ongoing conversation about a new water plant at the Ridgway Dam**. A risk assessment study was commissioned in 2007 to assess impacts of a possible Gunnison Tunnel closure; while such an event would be catastrophic, the study highlighted the need for a backup treatment facility as well. Originally planned for the Ridgway Dam site, the location now selected is Spud Hill, where eight acres were purchased in 2017. "There's not enough of a footprint left at the dam," Turner said.

He showed maps and informational slides, and discussed conveyance alternatives, return piping, and associated costs. Growth in Montrose has taken place South of town, so water currently must be pumped to those areas. "It doesn't make sense when the water source is already at the high point," Turner said.

The new water treatment plant would allow water to flow naturally downhill.

"Water is one of those things nobody appreciates until it's turned off," Turner said, noting that the new treatment plant will reinforce the current system.

"Everything we've wanted to do would make for better resiliency." Catastrophic occurrences such as a forest fire can impact water treatment. Having a backup water treatment plant allowed Durango to continue to treat water despite a major



City Planning Commission Applicant Steve Mason (left) talks to City Council and staff at the work session Feb. 18.

forest fire there, he said.

Turner discussed a financial plan for the project.

"At what point does the City become involved?" Mayor Dave Bowman asked. Turner said that Project 7 hopes to have a project put together by year's end, for possible construction in 2023-2024. "We will bring a package to City Council...we'll probably be talking to you guys in the spring of next year."

Bowman said that the City of Montrose is represented on the Project 7 Water Authority board. "We're very much involved in all of this."

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer and City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on a ReStore Colorado Grant Program Application to help offset costs of Uncompahgre River restoration. This is a first-year pilot grant program, Cramer said. Six to 12 projects will be awarded; there is \$2.5M in funding available. "We'll go for \$400,000," Cramer said.

The grant does not require a match, and the significant investment already made in

the Uncompahgre River Improvements Project will strengthen the grant application. Objectives of the ReStore grant are Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and Environment. The project begins in November.

"Great work. I look forward to receiving a check," Bowman said.

Murphy presented information on the **award of contract change orders totaling \$186K for completion of the Cerro Reservoir Outlet Works Replacement project**, including \$146K to Mountain Valley Contracting for construction and \$40K to RJH Consultants for engineering support and construction oversight. The dam was built in 1912 and fills from the Bostwick Park water system. The ongoing construction is expected to be complete by April 15, Murphy said. "The goal is to have it full and signed off on by the end of summer...it's critical infrastructure for us."

City Utilities Manager David Bries discussed **the sole source purchase from Faris Machinery of a rapid deployment boom** for the City's vector truck, in the

Continued next pg

CITY HEARS PROJECT 7 UPDATE, CONSIDERS CERRO PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS ***From previous pg***



City Council heard an update from Project 7 Water Authority Executive Director Adam Turner on Feb. 18.

amount of \$62,056.63; a **sole source recommendation for centrifuge repair at the wastewater treatment plant by Centrisys Centrifuge Systems** in an amount not to exceed \$57,085; and a **nutrient removal optimization study for the wastewater treatment plant**. Three bids were received for the study; staff recommends an agreement with Carollo Engineers, Inc. of Broomfield in an amount not to exceed \$85K.

City Public Works Manager Jim Scheid and Streets Division Superintendent John Cain discussed the City's [noxious weed management program](#), which does not change current operations but which is intended to add clarity to the responsibilities of both the city and of property owners. Property owners are responsible for maintaining right-of-way from curb to

property line; the City maintains right-of-way on major roadways, unless improvements have been made by property owners.

The Program creates a Noxious Weed Advisory Board. Goats may be used in difficult areas this season, Scheid said.

Council considered a **purchase recommendation of a greens mower, grounds mower, and self-propelled sprayer for the Black Canyon Golf Course** from LL Johnson, the only qualified bidder, in the amount of \$116,296. Replacements are budgeted from the Fleet Fund.

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about the need to purchase 40 new Axon in-car and 45 new body-worn cameras for the Montrose Police Department in the amount of \$135,862 (\$679K over five years). The police department is close to running out

of video storage space; in addition to improved capabilities, the new system would offer unlimited cloud storage. The current system does not include body worn cameras and would cost more to upgrade.

This year's budget allows \$77,400 toward the purchase; because of new patrol vehicle purchases, the Department requests an additional \$58,462 to make the purchase this year. Funds will come from the Public Safety and General Funds, City Manager Bill Bell said.

"We have a very good department...by adding body worn cameras we are going to be making our policing better," Hall said. Councilor Roy Anderson asked about the possibility of "sharing" equipment with the Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Chief Hall urged caution. "... we don't control the Sheriff's Office." The matter will come before City Council in two weeks.

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilor Judy Ann Files mentioned traveling to Denver with Bill Bell for Colorado Municipal League Meetings. "...the big takeaway is that we found out that (District 6 Senator) Don Coram sits on the Senate Local Government Committee... (HD 58 Representative) Marc Catlin is on the House Local Government Committee... when we have issues, we need to be addressing them directly."

Mayor Bowman asked about the timing of repairs to the recently damaged Fence at Black Canyon Golf Course. "I drive by it several times a day and it looks bad." The offender who damaged the fence later ditched his vehicle down the road; he has been caught and charged, Chief Hall said. "It was most likely a DUI." The Police Department continues to be busy; new School Resource officer Jeremy Payne will start in the position in August. Hiring processes are full through April; recruitment efforts are successful.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. ARMY INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION OATH OF ENLISTMENT CEREMONY *Local youth to take oath of enlistment from U.S. Army astronaut in space*

Special to the Mirror

SALT LAKE CITY— Thirty-six local youth will raise their hands in an oath of enlistment ceremony with U.S. Army Col. and NASA astronaut Andrew Morgan at University of Utah Army ROTC, 255 Fort Douglas Blvd., Feb. 26, at 9:30 am. The Salt Lake City Army Recruiting Battalion, in partnership with NASA and Space Center Houston, will host the first ever, nationwide live oath of enlistment ceremony from space. More than 850 Future Soldiers will participate at more than 130 locations across the country. At the completion of the ceremony, Morgan will conduct a question-and-answer session with the new enlistees at Space Center Houston and participating venues from across the country. Only 29 percent of youth meet the minimum qualifications to serve as a Soldier. Those who meet the requirements and are selected to serve receive top-notch technical training and education in more than 150 career fields, with almost a third of those in STEM-related fields.

Where did all YOUR CITY TAXES go?? Here are some ANSWERS!



1. Private developers have received **\$10,000,000+** in City incentives...YOUR tax money... for speculative projects (Colorado Outdoors, Fairfield Inn, & others).
2. The City Council gave the City Manager a **\$65,000+** MSRP Chevrolet Suburban LTZ for personal and City use. (Stay tuned...more to follow.)

If recent Montrose City fiscal spending is a problem for you, David White is the solution. Elect a businessman who knows how to make well-researched, impartial decisions that will help Montrose grow responsibly within a sensible budget.



VOTE DAVID WHITE

Montrose City Council – District 3



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to Elect David S. White

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The Montrose Mirror

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPECTED REVISIONS TO COLORADO NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Third quarter 2019 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) results indicate Colorado total nonfarm payroll jobs estimates will be revised up for this period with the release of benchmarked estimates in March 2020. August and September 2019 estimates are expected to be revised up by about 5,700 and 3,300 nonfarm payroll jobs, respectively. July 2019 estimates are expected to be revised down by about 5,600 nonfarm payroll jobs.

Applying these results through December 2019 brings estimated total nonfarm payroll jobs in December to 2,806,800. This change brings over the year payroll job growth estimates through December 2019

to 57,200 or 2.1 percent.

The final March 2020 benchmarked series are expected to vary from these estimates due to new seasonal adjustment factors and new estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs not covered by the unemployment insurance program.


Industry sectors expected to undergo an upward revision to payroll jobs estimates in the 3rd quarter¹ include construction (~6,700), trade, transportation, and utilities (~4,200), financial activities (~3,500), government (~3,400), and information (~1,900).

The industry sectors expected to undergo a downward revision to payroll jobs estimates are professional and business services (~10,300) and leisure and hospitality

(~3,600). Payroll jobs estimates for mining and logging, manufacturing, education and health services, and other services may also be revised down.

Payroll jobs estimates for the Denver (~8,600), Pueblo (~1,400), and Greeley (~1,000) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised up in the 3rd quarter*. Estimates for the Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area may also be revised upward.

Total nonfarm payroll job estimates for the Colorado Springs (~2,200), Boulder (~1,500), and Grand Junction (~1,000) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are expected to be revised down in the 3rd quarter. ¹ Values shown are September estimates.



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Celebrating
63 Years!





Keynote Speaker:


Elizabeth Garner

STATE DEMOGRAPHER

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Department of Local Affairs
Office of the Executive Director

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Lunch & Program 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
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\$30 for Investors - \$35 for Non-Investors
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March 13, 2020 (Friday) at the Montrose Pavilion
located at 1800 E. Pavilion Place, Montrose, CO 81401

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16342 Olive Court | Montrose, CO

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Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2
1,614 sq. ft. | Rancho Casias



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Western Colorado Properties

GUNNISON CLAMP NAMED CITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

From pg 1

in Montrose and be a vital part of our community, and they can start right now!"

He congratulated Clamp and gave him a gift certificate from the Great Outdoors Company.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no comments from the public on non-agenda items. Minutes of the Feb. 4, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

Council unanimously approved the transfer of the 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. Cobble Creek has been member-owned since Jan. 1, Cobble Creek General Manager Randy Griffin said.

There are five "premises" in total at Cobble Creek. The restaurant is not currently open to the public. The recent entity change prompted the liquor license transfer, otherwise there is no change to the establishment. "The only difference is the name on the checks," Griffin said.

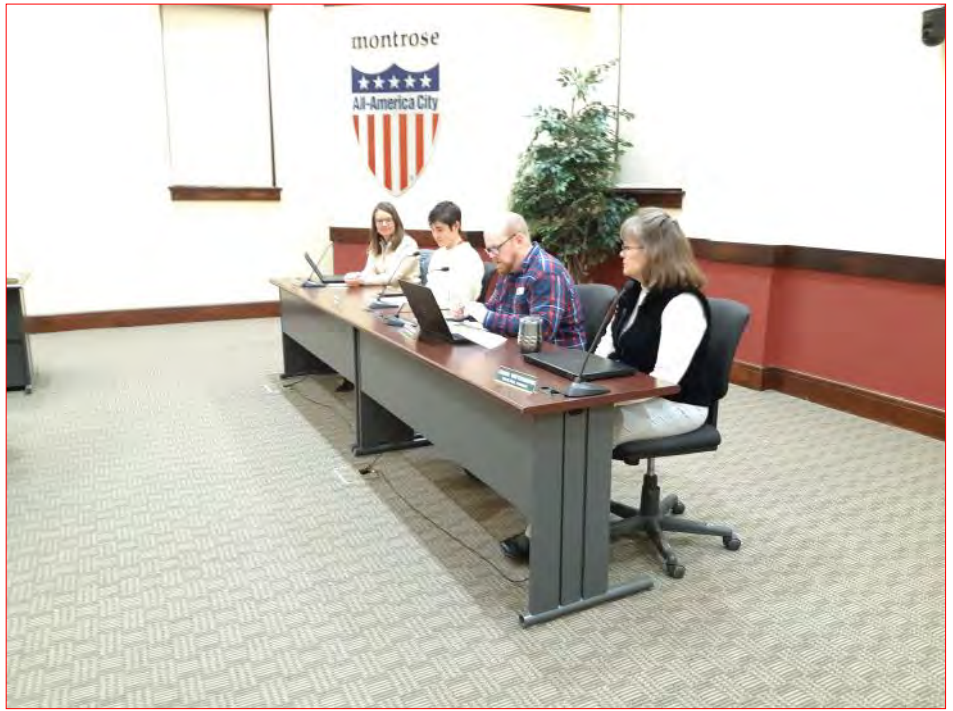
ORDINANCE 2494-SECOND READING

Also approved was 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. The item has been discussed previously in work session and on First Reading.

RESOLUTION 2020-03

As discussed previously in work session, Resolution 2020-03 was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2020-03 authorizes the 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



City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer presented the Annual Grants Report at the regular meeting on Feb. 18.

mileage, two-year lease of a Victim Services vehicle at \$14,390 (\$7,020 per year) and the \$350 return fee, \$54,000 (\$27,000 per year) for 49.09 percent of the full-time base salary of the Victim Advocate position for 2021/2022. The grant requires a \$17,273 total cash match (\$8,637 per year).

The facilities dog will be a two-year-old black lab, Montrose Police Commander Matt Smith said.

RESOLUTION 2020-04

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-04, 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.

City Grant Coordinator Kendall Cramer said that if awarded, the grant would help offset the cost of the Uncompahgre River Restoration project.

STAFF REPORTS

Cramer presented the **Annual Grants Report**. According to the report, the City of Montrose was awarded \$1,245,233 in grant funding in 2019, supporting approximately \$2,390,923 in City and community projects.

The grant report is an effort to be transparent with the community on how the revenues are used and leveraged, Cramer said. He read the City's Grant Management Policy and showed a list of grants made in 2019. Cramer said that the City is approached on a fairly regular basis to partner on grant applications.

Also, though Cramer has written numerous successful grants himself, "I'm not the only one who works on grants," he said. "There are a lot of staff who work on grants...they are very important to the City capturing and securing those grants...it's a team effort...really, I work with every department."

Following the report, Mayor Bowman asked if the funds generated through grants show as revenue ***Continued next pg***

GUNNISON CLAMP NAMED CITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR From previous pg

revenue in the City's General Fund. He said, "I want the public to understand that there is money, over a million dollars every year it seems, at least since Kendall's been here, that goes into our General Fund, it shows up as revenue, but it is not local tax dollars."

Citizens need to understand that not everything listed under revenue in the City budget is tax dollars, he added. "That needs to be understood and clearly communicated to our public," Bowman said. "...we know that there's a misperception out there."

He thanked Cramer for his efforts. "Excellent report, and thank you for what you do," Bowman said. "You really add to the quality of our community without spending our community's tax dollars, and you just couldn't ask for anything more."

"It really stretches our tax dollars," Councilor Roy Anderson said.

"...We are very fiscally responsible," Bowman said.

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the **Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report and Fourth Quarter Budget Re-**

view. "Everything looks to be very favorable."

Youth Council Representative Zack Oldroyd said that Youth Council has been working hard and will host another Rock the Rec event on March 6. "Teens can come to a safe place and enjoy themselves," he said. Youth Council will take part in a Habitat for Humanity Build Day April 25.

Bowman praised Youth Council for their work, and for their use of social media. "We are very proud of you."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that she had walked on the new concrete trail through Woodgate Trails, from the Rec Center to Lions Park to North Ninth, and back again on the Connect Trail. "That's ten miles...It was great to find that new section of trail," she said. "I didn't know that was going to be part of the plan."

Anderson mentioned the Montrose Recreation District's Indoor Triathlon Feb. 28. "All proceeds go to the Foundation" he said, "...Have some fun and support our Rec Foundation."

Bynum reminded everyone that parent -

teacher conferences were being held that week.

"I came to our Council meeting from parent teacher conferences at the high school...I know those are really long days for all of my friends who are teachers...I just want to thank them for their time and for being great for our students...a shout out to teachers, enjoy your long weekend coming up."

Said Mayor Bowman, "For the parents, make sure you get to parent-teacher conference, they are very important, your children's education I know is important to you...in the different schools across our district, teachers are there until 8 o'clock in the evening so that parents have the time to come and hear about their child's education."

"We've got a first-rate school system in this community, so please parents, do know that it's parent-teacher conference and the teachers look forward to you being there to talk about your child."

"So make sure you're there. Thanks."

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



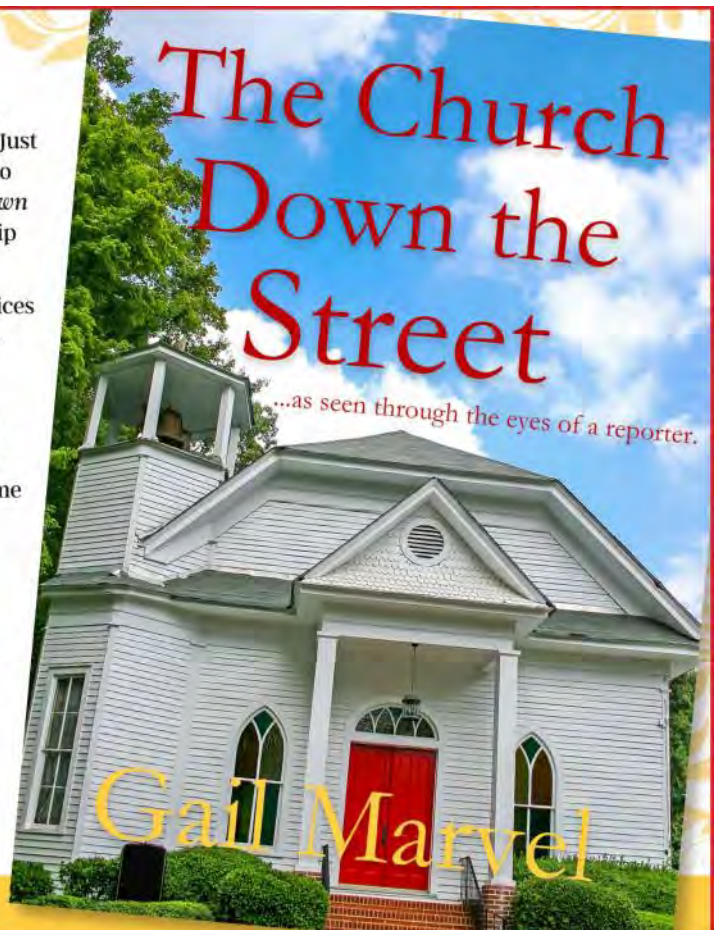
GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author
& Reporter

It is human nature to compare ourselves with others, and the church is no different. Just as Paul's Epistles allowed the early church to peer into the lives of each other, *The Church Down the Street* allows readers to peer into the worship services of other churches.

The presence of a reporter in the worship services produced mixed reactions. While many church leaders were grateful for the publicity and exposure for their congregation, others were uneasy. One pastor said, "The minute I saw you

I knew this wasn't my best sermon!" Another pastor said, "We didn't like everything you wrote...but we've made some changes." One elder defended his congregation's lack of friendliness, "Maybe no one spoke to you because of the perfume you were wearing."

Excerpts and anecdotes from approximately 120 church visits are organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program and Source Material, Music, Meditations and Invitations, and Sermons) and include mainstream denominations, as well as Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Christian Science, New Age, and Quaker Silent Worship. *The Church Down the Street* is unbiased and reports on the worship experience, not on the denomination.



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MLS# 764115

12951 Minerich Road | Paonia, CO 81428

What a spectacular home! This property is beyond compare with 2 acres of useable land plus 2,100 square feet of space, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. There is sufficient space outside to create your own hobby farm or build another garage. With the plenty of irrigation water and useable acreage, you could always start up that crop you've been wanting to plant. To the East of the home is a section of land, belonging to this property, that was once already designated for horses and is set up and ready for more. To the south of the property you'll find established raised garden beds ready to be utilized. Just a little further down the road is Lone Cabin Reservoir with hiking, biking, fishing and hunting.

Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms:
2,104 sq. ft. | Year Built: 1978

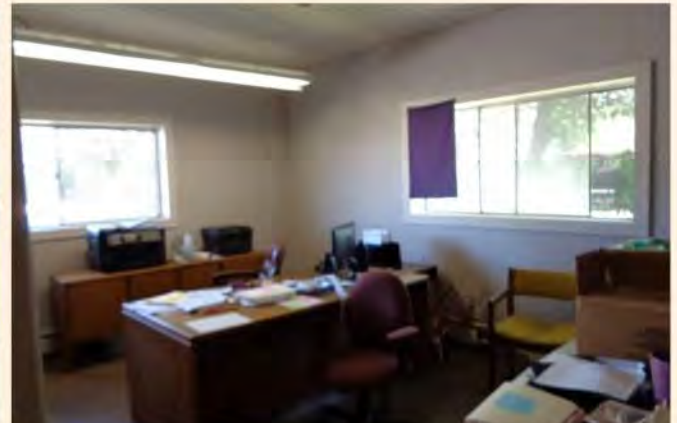
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MLS# 762788

931 N Park Avenue | Montrose, CO 81401

Commercial Building Zoned Light Industrial. 7,560 square feet. Many business possibilities. Building is divided into 3 sections and includes 5 offices, manufacturing or fabrication space, warehouse space and restrooms. Two sections have hot water baseboard heating and the newer section to the north has in-floor radiant heat. 6 Evaporative coolers. One roll-up door. Three-phase power. Also includes a detached garage with 576 square feet. Great access off Park Avenue, very close to San Juan Bypass and Hwy 50 North. Nice grassy yard to the south side of the property, watered with HOA irrigation water. Irrigation pump is included. Real estate only - Business Opportunity is not included. Building will be vacant at the end of September. Business Elevate Fiber Optic internet is available at this location.

0.85 acres | Year Built: 1962 & Addition on north side built in 1992

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO AERONAUTICAL BOARD APPROVES \$6 MILLION IN AIRPORT FUNDING *Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grants enhance Colorado's Public-Use Airport System*

Special to the Mirror

WATKINS – The Colorado Aeronautical Board has approved the Fiscal Year 2020 state and locally-funded discretionary aviation grants for Colorado airports. A distribution of \$6 million in state aviation fuel tax revenues will be made to 21 Colorado public-use airports under the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics. Grants range in size from \$40,000 to \$600,000. These grants represent state participation in a wide variety of projects, totaling \$7.25 million. This year's awards were categorized into five different project types: pavement maintenance, fuel farms, automated weather observing systems (AWOS), utility infrastructure, and airfield pavement remarking.

A comprehensive listing of each individual airport grant award can be found at: [https://www.codot.gov/programs/aeronautics/PDF_Files/Grant-](https://www.codot.gov/programs/aeronautics/PDF_Files/Grant-Reports/2020cdag_statelocalawards.pdf)

[Reports/2020cdag_statelocalawards.pdf](https://www.codot.gov/programs/aeronautics/PDF_Files/Grant-Reports/2020cdag_statelocalawards.pdf) "The Colorado Division of Aeronautics is committed to supporting Colorado's multi-modal transportation system by assisting Colorado's airports through the funding of critical projects. This program allows us to continue to advance a safe, efficient and effective statewide air and space system," said Aeronautics Division Director David Ulane.

"The Colorado Aeronautical Board is pleased to approve these critical airport grants that continue to raise the bar of our state's aviation and airport infrastructure," said CAB Chairman Robert

Olislagers. "The collaboration between the CAB and the Division staff is first-class, allowing us to strategically direct airport funding where it's needed most."

Legislation was created 1991 to develop and maintain the Colorado Aviation System through taxes collected on aviation fuel sold within the state. No general funds are used to meet the needs of the Colorado Aviation System and it is funded solely through taxes collected by those actually using the aviation system.

The Colorado Airport System consists of 74 public-use airports that support nearly 346,000 jobs, provide \$16.2 billion in annual payroll, \$27 billion in value-added, and \$48.6 billion in total annual business revenue for the State of Colorado.

More information can be found at Colorado-Aeronautics.org.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

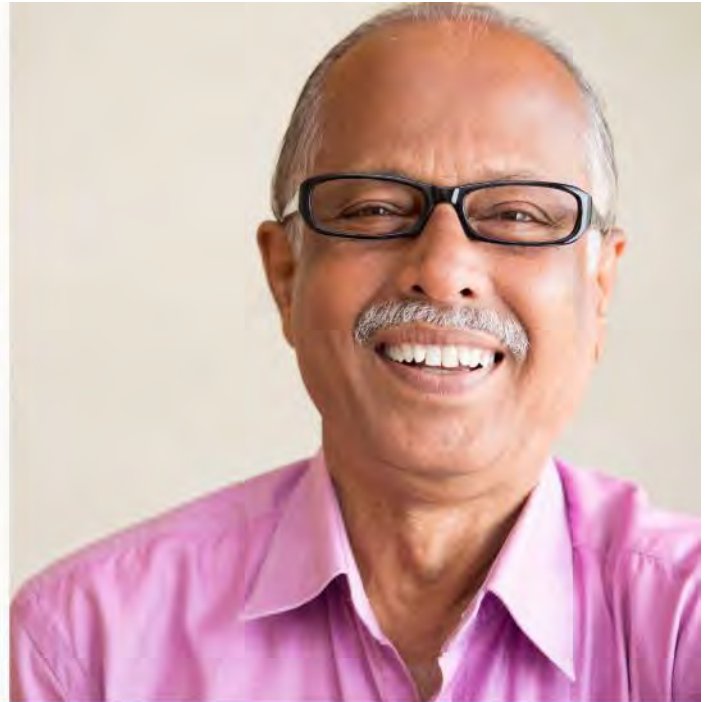
COBBLE CREEK BOOK CLUB HOSTS FREE MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Cobble Creek Book Club will host a free movie night on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 pm. Freedom Writers-"Hilary Swank stars in this true story of inner-city kids and the teacher who gives them the

one thing they need most: a voice of their!" 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 [Wood-](#)

[row 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!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL ARTIST JOINS 3-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP WITH HEALTHY RHYTHM ART GALLERY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Colorado-based Healthy Rhythm Creative Group is pleased to announce that Gallery Artist Jeanette Messano has accepted a 36-month Invested Apprenticeship at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery in Montrose. Ms. Messano will become the Gallery's first Resident Artist since its inception in 2010, and she will be an integral part to the enhancement and expansion of the three main business arms of Healthy Rhythm Creative Group: Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery; Healthy Rhythm Music Services; and Healthy

Rhythm Consulting Agency.


Messano will be involved in the design, enhancement, expansion, implementation, and evaluation of different projects/programs including, but not limited to, marketing, website and non-website activities, business branding, and event planning. Jeanette will conduct her apprenticeship at Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery, as well as off-site, and will be instrumental in helping promote Healthy Rhythm Creative Group throughout the Western Slope and beyond. During her three-year apprenticeship, Ms. Messano will be provided with

an ongoing detailed account of the day-to-day operations of all aspects of Healthy Rhythm Creative Group.

"I'm really excited to have Jeanette onboard at Healthy Rhythm Creative Group", said founder and owner Ken Vail. "Her artistic talents, in-depth knowledge in multiple areas, ability to multitask effectively, and openness to learn, make her a great fit as both an artist and apprentice. We are both looking forward to this partnership and to bringing about changes that significantly further the goals of Healthy Rhythm."


GOP TO HOST INTERACTIVE 'PIZZA & POLITICS' FORUM FOR CITY CANDIDATES MARCH 5

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



Adult Diabetes Support Group

Tuesday, March 3 5:30-6:30 PM
Diabetes Burnout
 Catherine Anderson, LCSW, CPS, CAADC
 Behavioral Health Consultant
MMH First Floor Conference Room
 Questions? Call Teresa 970-240-7280



800 South Third Street, Montrose, CO 81401
970.249.2211
MontroseHospital.com

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Pizza & Politics is please to host the "**MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL INTERACTIVE CANDIDATE FORUM**" on Thursday, March 5th. This is an excellent opportunity to hear the candidates for District III, IV, and At-Large address important issues facing our Montrose community.

Topics or issues will include:

- Housing and Affordable Housing
- Economic Development and Local Wages
- The role and scope of Financial incentives offered by the City
- Defining Local Government Structure and Transparency

Location: Turn of the Century Saloon on 121 N. 4th Street in Montrose, Colorado

Doors open at 6 pm for pizza and beverage. Program starts at 6:30 pm and concludes at 8 pm.

Q&A will follow presentations by the Candidates

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

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FLU SHOTS & VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE *Delta County Health Department*

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta County Health Department (DCHD) encourages all unvaccinated residents to protect themselves from infection, and to prevent the spread of seasonal flu by getting their flu shot. *"There is a misconception that you can only get your flu shot at the beginning of the flu season, but that's not the case,"* said Karen O'Brien, Director for the Delta County Health Department.

What is the flu?

The flu (influenza) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. The flu can spread to others up to six feet away and is spread when people cough, sneeze or talk. Touching infected surfaces and then touching your own mouth & nose can also lead to illness transmission. Influenza season typically lasts until late spring; Mid-May.

The current number of hospitalizations for the state of Colorado in the 2019-2020

flu season is over 2,000 with 3 pediatric deaths; per the *Colorado Department of Health, [Colorado Flu Report](#)*.

Who is at risk?

People at higher risk for flu-related complications include children, age's newborn to 5, and adults over the age of 65. Pregnant women are especially vulnerable to the flu and have accounted for 25% of people hospitalized due to influenza.

How do I protect myself?

Receiving your flu vaccination helps prevent illness & significantly reduces severe complications. It's never too late to benefit from a flu shot. In order to stay healthy, DCHD recommends that all residents;

- Obtain a flu vaccine; over the age of 6 months
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or showing flu-like symptoms
- Stay home when you are sick (*at least 24 hours after symptoms have ended*)

- Cover your mouth & nose when sneezing or coughing
- Clean your hands w/soap & water, or alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces using disinfectant
- Practice good health habits

"The Delta County Health Department is open & ready to serve you." Flu shots are available to all Delta County & multi-county residents. All forms of insurance are accepted, including access for uninsured patients.

The Delta County Health Department is located at 255 W. 6th Street in Delta. Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – Noon & 1 PM – 5 PM. 970-874-2165. Connect online at <https://www.deltacounty.com/486/Health-Services> and don't forget to follow them on Facebook!



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Montrose County Housing Authority

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West End Historical Society*

Weed Commission

***Applicants must reside on the
West End of Montrose County to be eligible**



AFTER PUBLIC HEARING ON SHOOTING RANGE, BOCC MOVES DELIBERATION & DECISION TO MARCH 4



Montrose County Commissioners held a public hearing on a special use application at the Event Center Feb. 19.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-After recessing earlier in the day, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) reconvened the Feb. 19 regular meeting at 1 p.m. at the Montrose County Events Center. One Planning & Development item remained on the agenda, a public hearing on a proposed special use to develop a shotgun shooting range on 42.7-acres in Olathe west of South River Road. The zoning is General Agricultural. The parcel is owned by Randy and Penny Leonard of Leonard River Ranches. The facility would be named for the group that shoots there, the Blow Fly Shooting Group.

The County's staff report notes that the proposed event facility would include a parking area, small storage sheds, target/trap buildings, and a portable toilet. The shooting area would be located on the southern portion of the special use site, with shooting also focused to the south.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy opened the public hearing. County Planning & Development Director Steve White provided an overview of the application process to date, noting that numerous comments had been received both for and against the application. The County Planning Commission had reviewed the application and recommended denial, White said, based

on uncertainty, noise levels, and the direction of shooting. Residences are located 900 feet to the north and 1,200 feet to the south. The Applicants' Attorney James Plumhoff said that he himself is a 4H shotgun shooting instructor, and that the proposed shooting range has been used on an invitational basis by the "very, very vibrant" Montrose County 4H Shooting Sports Club. Invitational shooting has been going on for three years and the Leonards have been using the area to shoot

for 14 years, he said. The first complaint was received in June of 2019.

Plumhoff said he has rarely seen more than 10-12 shooters at a time, two or three days a week, for "a couple of hours." He also said that the County has not defined the term "indoor/outdoor shooting range."

"We have severely pared back our request," Plumhoff said, stating that the hours of shooting would be Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Mondays, from 5 p.m. to sunset. Six special shooting events would be held annually.

"Safety is our number one priority," he said. "This is for shotguns only...as you know, shooting is allowed by right...I think the shooting is going to continue."

He invoked the Code of the West and reminded commissioners that there is a historical pattern of use. "We're concerned about property rights and our way of life."

Representing a group of landowners opposed to the Special Use Application was Attorney Andrew Boyko. "This application fails on its face," Boyko said. In addition to noise pollution, there are concerns over the impacts to wildlife and lead exposure. "This is an incompatible use...while we can rely on one landowner running a safe and

quiet operation, we don't know about future landowners."

For those opposed to the special use permit, "The concern here is that the majority of fire is directed at their houses...to see guns pointed at them is a concern for them," Boyko said.

He said the sound of shotgun fire is not pleasant, but a "periodic, impulsive, or shrill" noise. "I do not see anything exempting agricultural zoning from the noise statute," Boyko said. "Nothing shows that this facility will have a positive impact...it will diminish property values, be a detriment to existing business, and cause a reduction of potential buyers." The homes were in existence before the proposed shooting range, he said. "It will contribute to an economic loss to the community."

Personal property rights have a limit when they impact the rights of neighbors, Boyko said.

BOCC Chair Keith Caddy allowed three minutes each for members of the public to speak; many spoke in favor of the proposed range; others spoke against the special use application.

David Reed said, "It's not a commercial operation, it's by invitation...people move out to the country thinking it's going to be quiet, but it's not...all in all it's pretty nice out there even with the shooting going on."

Said Ray Dix, "This area is in my mind the perfect spot for a shotgun shooting range...it's a special place for us old guys and our friends."

Eric McCullough said he grew up taking part in shooting sports, and two of his three children have been involved in shooting as well. It can be difficult to get kids to Delta to practice, he said. "These guys have been very generous about letting us come in."

Linda Hill said, "I live in the county...I do have people who shoot on my property. My concern is that I would have to get a special use permit...I would not be able to use my land as I would like to."

Mickala Cline, who owns the Stony Hill

Continued next pg

AFTER PUBLIC HEARING ON SHOOTING RANGE, BOCC MOVES DELIBERATION & DECISION From previous pg

Pet Resort a quarter of a mile from the proposed range, also spoke. "A lot of my clients board with us because it's quiet," she said.

"Nobody wants to board their dog where there's a shooting range."

She has observed animals who sit in their cages and shake all day because of the sound, she said.

"I am from here, and I know it's a way of life and all that, but I have poured a lot into my business," Cline said. "It's not just financial, it's also my dreams." Stony Hill Pet Resort has been established for more than ten years.

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash asked about barking dogs. "Isn't that the same type of noise?"

Dogs do bark, Cline said, but not obsessively and consistently. Also, the shooting exacerbates barking.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked if she had lost business because of the noise; Cline said that she lost three or four cus-

tomers last summer.

A number of other citizens voiced both support and opposition to the special use application.

"What part of a shooting range is agricultural?" asked Gale Longwell. "...I have nothing against 4H kids, but don't base your decision on that, base it on the facts of the case. Are the Leonard's infringing on others property rights?"

"This is just one more attack on our rights," Laura Smith said. "...we target shoot on our place, and I feel the same concerns as everyone else."

"If this is not allowed...where will the 4H kids be allowed to shoot?" Fred Ballard asked.

"If they want a shooting range, why not let the Leonards shoot at their own house?" asked Eldon Gunn "...there's more than shotguns at that range...why should we give up our ground for them...move it to the river and get it away from us."

Justin Leonard, son of the applicants, said that when the Blow Fly Shooting Group began, they did not realize a special use permit would be needed, and "none of our neighbors came to us and said a word." When Rash asked Leonard if the owners would agree to build a berm below the shooting range, Leonard said that they would.

A nearby neighbor of the range named Gary said, "When they are shooting from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., it's just over the top...I built a \$16,000 deck two years ago and I can't use it...I've got five grandkids who all shoot, but not on my property."

Several others spoke; following the public hearing, commissioners said that they wanted advice from the County's legal team and more time to consider the many issues mentioned in the Public Hearing. The BOCC voted unanimously to move the deliberation and decision portion of the hearing to the regular meeting of March 4, in the BOCC meeting room at 9:30 a.m.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDLE NAMES DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF JUST TRANSITION

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—Wade Buchanan, Governor Jared Polis' Director of Policy and Research, has been named Director of the Office of Just Transition, which will be housed under the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). The office, created by HB19-1314, will focus on how to assist workers and communities impacted by Colorado's move away from coal-based electrical generation. Buchanan will be leaving his current position at the end of the month.

"Due to price reductions and technological advances, the shift toward renewable energy is well underway," said Governor Polis. "As we work toward achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2040, we need to make sure that Coloradans in coal-dependent communities have the tools they need to thrive in today and tomorrow's economy. Wade is just the right person to lead the office's efforts as our

economy makes this transition."

"Wade has years of experience advocating for practical and sensible energy and natural resource policy," said Joe Barela, Executive Director of CDLE. "His ability to build coalitions, as well as his wealth of knowledge and significant leadership experience, will serve the state well as we all work together to ensure we create an economy that elevates all Coloradans." Prior to serving in Governor Polis' office, Buchanan was a senior advisor on aging in the Hick-enlooper administration, president of the Bell Policy Center, a public policy organization, and acting executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and director of the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation in the administration of former-Governor Roy Romer. The Office of Just Transition created a Just Transition Advisory Committee, charged with developing a draft just transition plan

and presenting it to the governor and general assembly by December 31, 2020. The bill's language requires that the draft include information and recommendations concerning proposed: Benefits for former coal workers to help them support themselves and their families, including access to education and training leading to high-quality jobs;

Strategies to assist communities that are dealing with the closure of coal mines, coal-fired power plants and other major employers due to the transition to cleaner energy sources;

Grants and other sustainable sources of funding to assist eligible entities in coal transition communities that seek to create a more diversified, equitable, and vibrant economic future for these communities.

More information on the Just Transition initiative can be found at justtransition.cdle.co.

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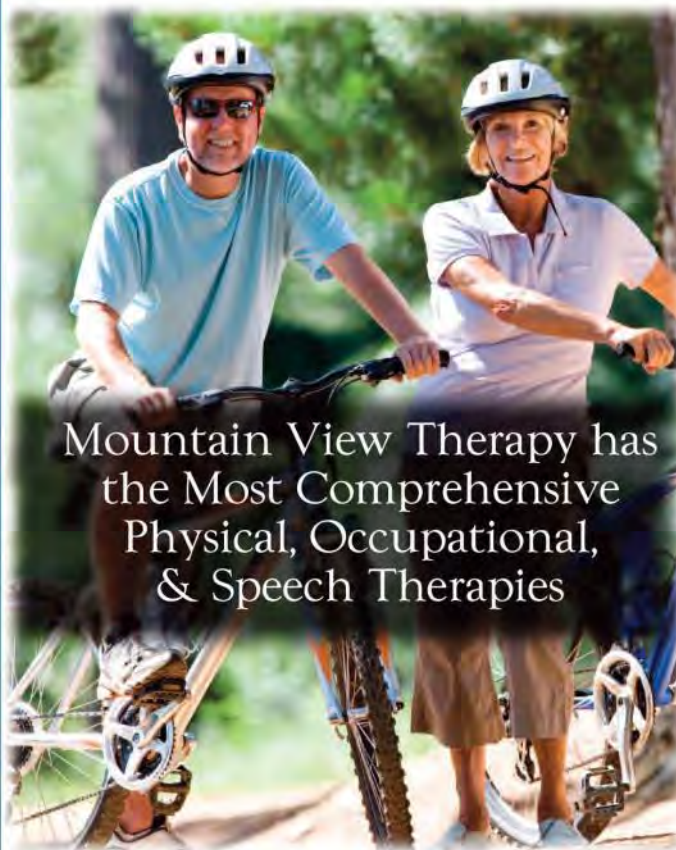
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WITHOUT OPEN DISCUSSION AND DEBATE THERE CAN BE NO HONEST GOVERNMENT

Editor:

Montrose, a jewel in the rough, This morning I read the paper only to see that our Mayor believes that his job to bring more 'young people into government' and then to and I quote "I think it's important to hear what the community has to say. Having community input is really critical to solving these difficult problems." Well he may say that but has he not been listening?

Without meaningful and open discussion and debate there can be no honest government. There can be no fostering of great ideas----there can only be disagreement and dissention. Since so many of our questions have been 'stonewalled' over the last year, how can the public evaluate their city government? And in the case of Montrose we get stonewalled, stonewalled and stonewalled every time our city council talks Transparency.

It is unfortunate that the public-school system from which Mr. Mayor retired doesn't teach even teach the essence of the Republic. When the students look at our city council they see people who just sit, pontificate, vote for each other's propositions and let the city manager do anything that he may well please. Because they run an irresponsible government, they refuse to be open to the public about what they are doing or have done. Why? About where the money comes from, about why the project is needed. About why we 'need' more taxes. At the recent 'meet and greet' for the candidates the Mayor gave a talk about getting along with each other and another councilor said that they endeavor not to offend.

While both of these comments are admirable ideals for the elected body, neither foster any meaningful discussion and neither told me what the council does. In effect such beliefs are a form of self-censorship of the board by its own members. While courtesy is of great importance in debate (we seldom see it now-a-days) it in no way requires the debating parties to 'go along to get along'. The elected body or the leadership of it, in creating such 'rules' stifles honest disagreement and the ability of the members

to politely make one's points. 'Go along to get along' means that you do for me and I will do for you. Quid quo pro if you will. This engenders vote peddling just to get the good and the bad accomplished, NOT TO GET THE BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY. In legitimate debate we must never shout down the opposition. We must never belittle another for their comment or their mis-misunderstanding. If belittling their idea is appropriate, do so! But do not belittle the messenger. We seem to have lost the ability to discuss and compromise opposing points of view with civility and compassion; endeavoring to convert not to condemn. We have forgotten that at the end of a day all concerned should be able to retire to a neutral zone and have a friendly libation.

So much for understanding the principles of governing, debate and the concept of the 'loyal opposition'. In President Truman's White House there was frequently a poker game with the president and several senators from both sides of the aisle. They certainly did not agree with each other on many issues in the daytime but they enjoyed each other's company (and bourbon) and their opinions. I meet weekly with a dozen men only one of whom is a liberal. I would not say that we all "love" George's politics but we listen, generally respectfully, to his comments and criticisms. Everyone in the discussion is better off for having listened to his positions. This is what good friends and POLITICS should be about, finding common ground.

Then there is the occasion where the majority always votes its way. Where they govern the way they to because they can--not because it is right. Not because they win over the opposition or compromise but because the opposition is not listened to. These kinds of government are akin to the TWEED ring in New York City and the Mayor DAILY city of Chicago. Boss TWEED and Boss DAILY did it their way because they could. Observe the corruption in those cities today. Montrose is beginning to look like a 'because we can' city. Our city council and our city manager DO NOT LISTEN TO THE PUBLIC (at least not for the

last year), they are NOT TRANSPARENT, they are NOT ACCOUNTABLE and our city, which could be a virtual jewel on the Western Slope is fast becoming NOT AFFORDABLE for the average family or working man. This characteristic is one engendered by the sitting city council.

Issue 2A popped up its ugly head last spring with its 'kangaroo committee' formed to guarantee its place on the ballot. It only became law by a few votes but we have watched our city government close its ears to listening, close its records to citizens and plow blindly ahead with its desires for their town and the way that THEY want it. Refusing transparency. Refusing temperate action. Refusing accountability. Forming such abominations as MURA to appear as if an 'independent body' considers these things where the truth of the matter is that the councilors and the city manager sit on MURA and rubber stamp the council's positions. They have circled the wagons and refused the citizens of Montrose their rightful place at the forum of public opinion, discussion and government. After the election, they immediately tried to 'swipe' \$670,000 from the 2A public safety money for God knows what.

In the coming month the citizens will have the opportunity to hear eleven candidates speak on the topics of the past year. ELEVEN. Two are running to preserve the status quo. NINE indicate by their running that they are unhappy about the present council, its composition and its programs. Unfortunately, several of the NINE are the go along get along types or simply looking to be elected to "status". Pay attention to the candidates and be careful for whom you vote. There are three of us who will serve you well. Vote for us.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

P.S. I cannot confirm BUT I heard that the city has let a contract to design the police headquarters to: AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR A MERE \$2,000,000. ISN'T THAT LOVELY? Another million taken from Montrose and spent elsewhere by none other than the city council and Billy Bell.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS RESTORED OUR MORAL COMPASS

Editor;

Gosh, in reading the first paragraph of Sering's letter on Feb. 17, it sounded like he was giving an accurate description of Democrat ideology when he said we have politicians who place "party over country, citizens who act out hatred toward others, and a country who blames others rather than doing something positive". Then it quickly turned sour with Trump hatred described by the untrue accusations, misleading statements, and immature imagination. He said Trump's presidency is where "executive privilege" overrides the other two branches of government. Oh? Remember when Obama couldn't have his way with the Republicans on his left-wing legislation? He disgracefully bragged, "I gotta pen and I gotta phone" before he signed his executive orders overriding Congress.

He said he once took the Oath of Allegiance to our country. Well, I also took the Oath of Allegiance to our country, but I didn't have my fingers crossed on my left hand when I proudly committed myself. He accuses the Republican Senators of thinking so little of their oath by placing their partisanship first. No, the responsibility the Republicans showed was not called "partisanship". That whole impeachment charade was the perfect example of partisanship by Democrats! He accuses Republicans of not allowing witnesses. That is the most asinine statement! It was the House Democrats who locked themselves in a basement room to organize their impeachment strategy and groom THEIR witnesses. They wouldn't let Republican lawmakers in or their witnesses. Not even Trump's lawyer could enter!

Then the Democrats bragged they had all the evidence they needed and sent the inquiry over to the Senate. Once there, they realized all they had was hearsay testimony from their 17 witnesses and zero witnesses for Republicans. What they needed were "facts", not just someone's opinion of an overheard phone call. A witness without a first-hand account is not a witness and statements made cannot be considered "fact" as Democrats wanted everyone to believe. It was the total responsibility of the House Democrats to provide the proof for their case, which they didn't have because President Trump had done nothing wrong. So then in the Senate it was a big Democrat "duh" without any proof. So then they demanded the Senate Republicans prove their case for them by bringing in more witnesses! It certainly exposed their incompetency.

Then he complained about President Trump commenting on Roger Stones' proposed sentencing. Trump's comment alluded to the unfairness in this prosecution and the extreme sentencing proposal by prosecutors. Anyone should know the president has no authority on court matters and the prosecutors have no authority on sentencing either. Only the judge has the authority to sentence, but there is reason to be concerned because that judge is an Obama appointee with openly anti-Trump bias. Stone told a lie and was dragged from his house at gunpoint in the middle of the night by a SWAT team in front of CNN cameras. Whereas Jussie Smollett faked an anti-Trump hate crime and was made a victim and martyr by the liberal media and his charges were dropped!

Sering claimed Lt. Col. Vindman witnessed wrong-doing. That's not true. Lets be honest. Vindman was full of guesses and opinions, but he didn't witness anything because there was nothing to witness. Democrats praised Vindman, but he was a Soviet Union-born immigrant who Obama didn't fire when he was cleaning out all of the military brass who didn't agree with his ideology. Many fired military officers have spoken out as former Army Major General Patrick Brady said, "There is no doubt Obama is intent on emasculating the military and will fire anyone who disagrees with him". Retired Navy Captain Joseph John said, "I believe there are more than 137 officers who have been forced out or given bad evaluation reports so they will never make Flag (officer). So that made Vindman one of Obama's fair-haired boys at that time willing to cooperate, which points directly to Russian collusion by Democrats! It has been said before, the biggest threat to America is the Democratic party!

President Trump has brought America back from the verge of collapse from eight years of the previous Democrat regime. He is a truly unique leader in American history. His frequent rallies in different parts of the country draw massive overflow crowds indoors and tens of thousands brave the cold weather outside watching on tv's. And polls taken at the rallies show about 28% of those people are Democrats!

No, America has not lost its "moral compass" as Sering claimed. President Trump has restored it!

Jerry Bartholome, Montrose



ISSUE 251 Feb. 24, 2020

ART & SOL

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS PRESENT *THE SUNSHINE BOYS* A Neil Simon Comedy Classic



M.A. Smith (bottom left), Chris Walsh (center) and Bill Bottomly appear in Neil Simon's hilarious *The Sunshine Boys* at Magic Circle Theatre March 6 - 21. Tickets at www.magiccircleplayers.com. (Photo by Montrose Photography)

By Patti Powel

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-It's a Broadway classic full of quick zingers, dry one-liners, physical slapstick and two crotchety old men who will make you laugh, cringe and cry as Magic Circle Players present Neil Simon's hilarious comedy tribute to vaudeville *The Sunshine Boys*.

The comedy team of Willie Clark and Al Lewis were stars in their day and made a long, successful career performing their

corny sketches but, behind the scenes, the two had a cantankerous love-hate relationship. When Al decided to retire before Willie was ready to leave the stage, the feud really began.

They haven't spoken in 12 years when a major network plans a TV special on the "History of Comedy" and asks them to recreate one of their iconic routines. Urged on by Willie's nephew/agent, the two grudgingly decide to work together again, but when they meet to discuss the program, the feud explodes and the fun begins.

Magic Circle veterans M.A. Smith (Willie) and Bill Bottomly (Al) play these two bickering old-timers to perfection delivering uproarious rapid jabs and gleefully trading insults. Rehashing old hurts revives past resentments about Willie's impulsive nature and Al's irritating on-stage habits, but also showcases why they were top-billed performers. Exasperated by the duo's banter, Willie's nephew and agent Ben (Chris Walsh) mediates between the two until they agree to perform one of their most

popular skits for the TV special.

Their burlesque-style act features an attractive nurse played by Sarah Reola oblivious to the over-the-top antics and old-fashioned shtick going on around her. The result is guaranteed to induce yuks, groans and huge laughs. The supporting cast of Ruth Jantzen, Gary Hokit, Jim Frank and Jim Isler all serve in roles meant to emphasize the wacky behavior of the squabbling headliners.

Director Kathy Murdoch has assembled an experienced stage crew including Assistant Director Tiffany McNeil and Production Assistant Rachel Krute. "We are so excited to bring this very funny Neil Simon play to Magic Circle" said Kathy. "We are all having so much fun and know the audience will, too."

Evening performances of *The Sunshine Boys* are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays March 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21. Sunday matinees are at 2:00 p.m. on March 8 and 15. Tickets are available online at www.magiccircleplayers.com, by telephone at (970) 249-7838, or in person at the Magic Circle Theatre box office, 420 South 12th Street, Montrose. Box office hours are 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and two hours before each performance.



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KATIE YERGENSEN, MONTROSE COUNTY

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Q & A to follow; Census materials available



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OF THE YEAR!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

HIGH SCHOOL AGE YOUTH WELCOME AT MARCH 6 ROCK THE REC EVENT

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE — All high school aged youth in the area are invited to come out and have fun at Rock the Rec, an event that promotes fun youth activities in a safe environment. Rock the Rec is sponsored by the City of Montrose Youth Council on Friday, March 6 from 9:15 to 11:30 p.m. at the Montrose Recreation Center, 16350 Woodgate Road.

The theme for the party will be "Winner Takes it All," featuring sports such as soccer, basketball, inflatable volleyball, dodge ball, and climbing in addition to pool, ping-pong, and a guided painting session led by Amazing Glaze. Expect plenty of fun prizes, free food, and music sponsored by Cherry Creek Media to top off the night.

The City of Montrose Youth Council was established by the Montrose City Council to encourage greater youth participation


in city government, and is charged with actively advising the City Council on issues concerning youth and assisting city staff in considering youth perspectives in its planning efforts.

The Youth Council meets every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Centennial Meeting Room, located at 433 S First St. More information can be found at www.CityOfMontrose.org/YouthCouncil.

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL HOSTS 4TH MYSTERY TEA FEB. 29

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE- Hillcrest Congregational Church UCC at 611 S Hillcrest is hosting its 4th Mystery Tea Feb. 29th at 2:30. A donation of \$10 is requested. Seating is limited so call 249-9047 and leave a message to reserve a seat. Leave your name, number of attendees and phone number. Your reservation will be acknowledged.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RADIO ROOM PRESENTS THE FOLLOW LIVE IN CONCERT



See The Follow live Tuesday, March 17 at the Radio Room. Doors at 7 PM Show at 7:30 PM. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-See The Follow live Tuesday, March 17 at the Radio Room. Doors at 7 PM Show at 7:30 PM.

The Follow is a trio of best friends from America's heartland. Life in a small town led to hours in the woods, by the river, and on skateboards.

Described as Panoramic Rock, the band has toured from L.A. to NYC, as well as Europe, and the media have supported the band across North America with college and commercial radio airplay.

The new album, *Wilderness* (2020), sits in the space between something familiar like that weathered, leather jacket that's always the first choice when the chill of autumn hits the air and something intriguing like the curious smell of something new you're anxious to taste.

The album is rooted in its acoustic guitar foundation, yet takes some twists and turns with electronic effects, synth beds & organs, lush vocal harmonies, and lyrical content steeped in life spent wearing that leather jacket.

Come see The Follow!

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, or online at www.kafmradio.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

5TH ANNUAL A TASTE OF COLORADO

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Can't wait for the Montrose Wine & Food Festival in May? Then check out the 5th Annual A Taste of Colorado on Wednesday April 8, from 6-8 p.m. at the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose. Featuring local bites, beers, wines, and spirits, it's a great prequel to get you prepped for the main Festival in May. Tickets are \$30 online at <https://www.blackcanyontickets.com/event/5th-annual-a-taste-of-colorado/> or \$35 at the door the evening of the event. All proceeds from the event benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club of Montrose and Olathe. For more information on the Montrose Wine & Food Festival, check out www.montrosewinefestival.com. For more information on the Club, please visit www.bcbgc.org.

4TH MYSTERY TEA FEB. 29

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Hillcrest Congregational Church UCC at 611 S Hillcrest is hosting its 4th Mystery Tea Feb. 29 at 2:30 p.m.. A donation of \$10 is requested. Seating is limited so call 249-9047 and leave a message to reserve a seat. Leave your name, number of attendees, and phone number. Your reservation will be acknowledged.



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RJ'S STEAKHOUSE IN CEDAREDGE MORE THAN WORTH THE DRIVE

By Carole Ann McKelvey

CEDAREDGE-R.J.'s Steakhouse in Cedaredge is more than worth the drive. Classic steak and meat dishes, plus so much more.

Michael and I found ourselves in this little town this weekend and couldn't wait to stop. Very traditional menu here. He felt like trying the pepperoni pizza. I opted for the prime rib (a break from normal for me) and since we were too early for a baked potato, had mashed instead (served with a nice brown gravy). Michael pronounced his pizza perfect, with a nice thick crust, lots of pepperoni and sauce. (8", 12", 16"); his 8" was \$8. The prime rib was soooo tender and cooked perfectly (rare please). Eight oz. prime rib, seasoned with savory herbs and spices, roasted slowly to seal in the juices and bring out its natural tenderness. Hand-carved to order and served with au jus, horseradish, creamy or raw, and choice of potato. Asparagus on the side, yes. Served while it lasts every Friday and Saturday night. (8 oz. \$19, 12 oz. \$27, 16 oz. \$35.)

BTW, any steak item can be served Oscar-style with crab meat, asparagus and Bernaise sauce for \$5 more. I told you this was old style.

The large piece of prime rib had a bit of fat on it, but so perfectly done and large that it just made things better. (My little dog, Angel, will be super happy to share the fat scraps.)

This place is very nice; the atmosphere lacks a bit, but I imagine it heats up later in the night, we were there for an early dinner at about 4 p.m, yikes super early.

Wait staff were really on their toes.

Little bit of a drive facing us and Mike was a gentleman (as he always is!); he had hot tea and I tried one of their "Envy" martinis (green tequila with pineapple) delicious.

Bring your appetite if you travel to R & J's. Varied menu:

"Starters": From \$8.49 – 4.99:

Grand Mesa fireballs, jumbo shrimp cocktail, loaded potato skins, artichoke spinach dip, zucchini sticks, Red Dog buffalo wings, calamari sticks, The wedge, onion strings, or pepper jack cheese sticks, oysters on the half shell, oysters Rockefeller, seafood platter, RJ's curds, RJ's fries and house wings.

"Soup of the Day": cup/bowl, \$4 – 6.

Seafood chowder, \$6 – 8.

"Side Salads": house, \$2.5, Caesar, \$3, wedge, \$5.

Also large salads: \$13.99 – 9.99. Southwest chicken salad, taco salad, gyro salad, Caesar salad, smoked salmon salad; all with your choice of house made dressings -- honey mustard, chunky bleu cheese, ranch, sesame, citrus vinaigrette, chipotle ranch, guacamole ranch, and zesty lemon. Yum!

"Our Favorites": \$19.99 – 8.49:

Chicken fried steak, center cut top sirloin, fish and chips, chicken tender platter, Yakisoba (veggies, chicken, or tiger shrimp), fried shrimp, fried fish platter, Fettuccini Alfredo, wild caught pacific salmon, tiger shrimp scampi.

"Southwest Fare": \$10.99 – 8.49.

House quesadilla, burrito, nacho platter,

fish taco

platters. You have a choice of Jack, cheddar, and pepper Jack cheeses, green chilis, and special guacamole dressing. Topped with tomato and green onion. Served with salsa and sour cream.

"Steaks": \$26.99 – 16.99:

All steaks served with choice of potato and fresh sauteed vegetables. R&J's staff hand cuts "Choice Angus" beef daily. Classic rib eye, New York strip, Filet Mignon. You can add surf to turf: a choice of panko breaded fried shrimp with home-made cocktail sauce, or Scampi baked shrimp in garlic seasoned butter, an additional \$4.99.

"Burgers and Sammies": \$10.99 – 8.49:

All served with seasoned fries.

Grill Burger, Cali Burger, Rodeo Burger, Our Burger, El Paso, open face green chili burger

Old fashioned patty melt, mushroom and Swiss burger, hot and smokey, open faced chicken fried steak sandwich, house chicken sandwich, Cajun chicken sandwich, black bean burger, Gyro, fish fry sandwich, chicken tender sandwich, RJ's dip.

Such a large selection and I'll bet they're all pretty great.

After all that food didn't even ask to see dessert menu.

R.J.'s Steakhouse is at [2323 S Grand Mesa Dr. Cedaredge, CO 81413](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2323+S+Grand+Mesa+Dr,+Cedaredge,+CO+81413/@39.71413,-108.41413,15z); call [\(970\) 856-3841](tel:9708563841).



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32nd Annual Spring Luncheon

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020
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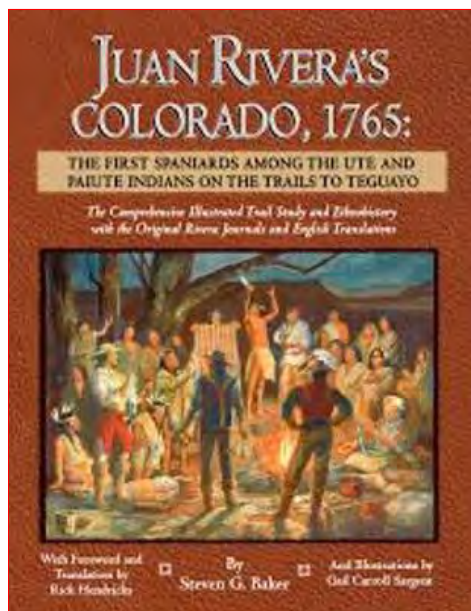


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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL HISTORIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGIST STEVEN BAKER TO PRESENT PROGRAM & BOOK SIGNING IN DELTA



On March 16, Local historian and archaeologist Steven Baker will discuss the early Spanish, Mexican, and Ute presence on the western slope.

Special to Art & Sol

DELTA-On Monday, March 16, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage, the Hispanic Affairs Project, Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center, and the Interpretive Association are proud to sponsor a presentation by local historian and archaeologist Steven Baker - Spaniards, Mexicans, and Utes in the Uncompahgre Valley of Western Colorado to 1900.

This FREE event is open to the public... 6 pm Book Signing – Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765 the first Spaniards among the Ute and Paiute Indians on the trail to Teguayo. The book will be available for a one-time special price of \$50...book normally retails for \$69.95.

6:30 Program at Bill Heddles Rec. Center in Delta.

The history of the Uncompahgre Valley is typically recounted from the perspective of the late 19th century white settlement which commenced in earnest with

the removal of the Ute Indians and the few Mexicans who lived among them. There is, however, a seldom spoken of history of the valley when it was claimed by Spain, Mexico, and then the United States. Steven Baker will discuss the early Spanish, Mexican, and Ute presence on the western slope.

The program will include discussion drawn from Baker's many years of research into the early history of the region and his recent highly regarded book: Juan Rivera's Colorado 1765: The First Spaniards Among the Ute and Paiute Indians on the Trails to Teguayo (2015.) The book was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award for 2017 and provides the first descriptions of Colorado's western slope and the first meaningful one of the Centennial State.

A limited number of copies will be for sale at the event and book signing will start at 6:30 pm!

17TH ANNUAL MONTROSE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The 17th Annual Montrose Wine & Food Festival, presented by Alpine Bank, will be Saturday May 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose. Featuring live music, over 40 beverage and food vendors, a silent auction and more, it is an event not to be missed. Tickets and sponsorships are available now and can be purchased online at www.blackcanyontickets.com by searching for 2020 Montrose Wine & Food Festival. All proceeds from the event benefit the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club of Montrose and Olathe. For more information on the Festival, check out www.montrosewinefestival.com. For more information on the Club, please visit www.bcbgc.org.



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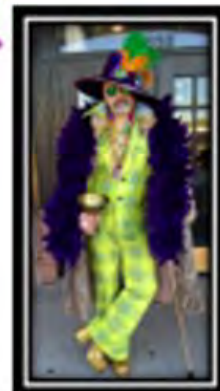
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ORIGINAL THINKERS FESTIVAL RETURNS OCT. 1-4 *Tickets On Sale Now*

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- – Now heading into its third year, Original Thinkers is a fresh and thoughtful ideas festival that takes place Oct. 1-4 in Telluride. While the programming of Original Thinkers has depth and resonance, the format for the four-day gathering is actually quite simple and relaxed with ten programs, each built around an individual idea that is explored through a compelling mix of speakers, films, performance, and art.

Original Thinkers delves into the human condition by focusing on the intersection between ideas and our individual stories. As Original Thinkers founder and ringleader David Holbrooke says, “There are deep and universal truths in our own lives that we know will resonate with anyone and when we find those stories and showcase them, it provides an indelible experience for our audience.”

The goal of the programming is to push people out of their comfort zones, leaving

them engaged, energized, inspired and motivated. “We are really excited as we head into our third year of Original Thinkers as our team has learned so much about what this gathering can be. We know we can elevate it even further, which we believe is critical given how much the world needs original thinking” says Holbrooke.

Part of what makes Original Thinkers so special is the intimacy and access that permeates the weekend. The ten shows take place at a single venue called The Big Idea, which will be at the classic Sheridan Opera House in downtown Telluride. As Holbrooke says, “We love that the audience is sharing the same programming all weekend, which deepens the conversation between each of us and allows us all to connect more deeply, which is so important.”

In addition to the stellar programming at The Big Idea, there will be thoughtful conversations, dazzling art exhibits, and ex-

citing outdoor activities that take advantage of Telluride’s uniquely spectacular landscape, especially at the peak fall season. The Festival also offers nourishment for the body and soul with tea ceremonies, yoga, meditation, and teachings of self-care by local gurus.

The programming team is hard at work lining up another unforgettable roster of guests, which will be announced during the spring and summer.

Festival passes are \$350 for 4-day weekend ‘Big Idea Pass’ and \$2,000 for a 4-day ‘Eureka Pass.’

The Big Idea Pass gets guest access to all public weekend events and programming. The Eureka Pass provides access to all weekend events and programming, and additional perks to include preferred seating, curated meals with guest speakers, private receptions & parties, and OT schwag.

For additional information or to purchase festival passes, please originalthink-



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CURRENT/ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE FREE THINKERS meet the first Sunday of each month. Call 417-4183 for more information & location.

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

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

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

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

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

MONTROSE COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING

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

MONTHLY-

Feb. 27-Ignite Montrose is an evening of 10 (five min) presentations on various topics from community members. Join us and be inspired! Feb. 27 at 7 pm at Intrinzik, 512 East Main, Montrose.

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.

Feb. 29-Mystery Tea. Hillcrest Congregational Church UCC at 611 S Hillcrest is hosting its 4th Mystery Tea Feb. 29 at 2:30. A donation of \$10 is requested. Seating is limited so call 249-9047 and leave a message to reserve a seat. Leave your name, number of attendees, and phone number. Your reservation will be acknowledged.

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.

March 3-Tuesday March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Montrose library meeting rm.-Showing of documentary "Thirst for Power," presented by citizensclimate-lobby.org -Nonpartisan, all welcome 240-9146

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 10-The Alpine Photography Club Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 7pm at Colorado Mesa University 245 S. Cascade Ave., Montrose, Room 206. Presentation: Rodeo/Action. Photography By: Ryan McGehee. Sharing Theme: Puddles (up to three images) The public is welcome!

March 11- Montrose Neighborhood Watch meeting; topic is "Fire Department First Responders and Medical First Responders." 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.

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

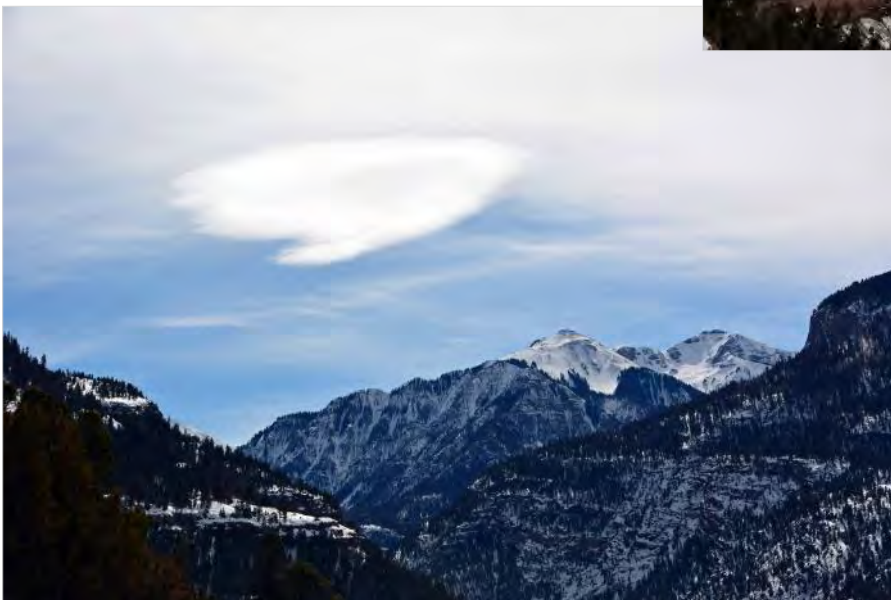
Contact the Montrose Mirror:
970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com

www.montrosemirror.com

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: BY DEB REIMANN

At right, Mount Abrams...believed to have been named after early Ouray pioneer Abram Cutler. Photos by Deb Reimann.



At left, an unusual cloud formation over Mount Hayden.

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