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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 53 Feb. 6 2013

## CITY OF MONTROSE EXPANDS MARKETS, PARTNERSHIPS WITH REGIONAL APPROACH

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—The City of Montrose encompasses 17.8 square miles, with an average of 1,075 people living within each of those square miles according to 2010 US Census data. The city's resources serve many who live beyond its boundaries, however, and Montrose City Manager Bill Bell believes it is time for Western Colorado to position itself as a region composed of interdependent communities that support one another.

"This area has so much to offer!" he said. "Living in Montrose, we can get out to so many awesome places.

"Our current city council and staff are definitely looking regionally with our services," Bell said. "We have established an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Montrose Recreation District. Our IT Dept. is already serving the City of Ouray, and we are talking to Ridgway and Telluride."

Bell said that he hoped to establish working relationships with the City of Delta and Montrose County as

*Continued on Page 4*



*In an effort to expand markets and partnerships, the City of Montrose is taking a regional approach to offering services.*

## LAVENDER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ART CONTEST



*Her enthusiasm for lavender in all its varieties has helped build an industry. Garden Designer Kathy Kimbrough displays harvested lavender at the CSU Extension gardens in Grand Junction. Courtesy photo.*

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL--Sunny Howland and her husband Bob Hoinghaus tucked the first 200 lavender plants into the ground at their Austin farm in spring of 2011. Today, Howland is the new board president of the Lavender Association of Western Colorado—and she is thrilled about the growth facing the organization and the industry itself.

"As I got to know other growers, I found it to be a good fit," Howland said of the Lavender Association, which was founded by garden designer Kathy Kimbrough of Grand Junction. "I didn't expect to be voted president quite so soon, but I am very excited. We have four board members stepping down, four remaining on the board, and four coming in. There is so much energy and excitement—we are looking to add some additional activities this year."

The non-profit has just announced the 2013 [Colorado Lavender Festival Art Contest](#), a competition with

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Cara Fandel!

J. Berndt Recalls  
Arcadia!

Waterwise Landscape  
with Rick Spalenka!

Montrose ACT  
Moves On!

Fracking opponents  
Threaten lawsuit!

# GREAT NEW HOMES—NOT!



*The trailer court at 131 South San Juan is one of two in Montrose that are owned by Great New Homes of Grand Junction. Most of the units at the entrance to the park are abandoned and unsecured.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Anyone who has ever walked past the trailer court at 131 South San Juan can see that the five empty, crumbling, unsecured units that sit at the entry way to the development are not fit for human habitation. Anyone, that is, except the owners of the property—a Grand Junction-based company called Great New Homes, who claim that the properties just need a little TLC.

The park, one of two owned by Great New Homes (based at 3032 Interstate I-70 Business Loop) on South San Juan Avenue, holds a total of 27 units—the other, at 221 South San Juan, has 28. Although the manager refused to give out any information on the park, he did state when asked about the empty, “gateway” units, “we are going to repair those and make them available.”

Montrose County Health & Human Services has no jurisdiction in the matter, and City of Montrose Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gawlinski noted that abandoned

properties must be secured to be in code compliance, but said that the only complaints received about the Great New Homes development have been about the water line breaks. Although neighbors have called in after observing water line breaks in two empty trailers over the past two months, the company has not been cited.

“I pick my battles,” Gawlinski said, “and there are some you can’t win.”

“Unfortunately, I am limited in what we can do from a water and sewer standpoint,” said Dan Mazza of the City of Montrose’s Water and Sewer Department. “As long as somebody keeps paying their bill, I am required to keep the water on.”

The situation is hard on city water and sewer staff, who have shut off the water under dangerous conditions on both occasions that complaints have come in, although technically they are not responsible for doing so.

Neighbors have also observed what appear to be drug buys as well as neighbor-

*Two of the empty units that the park’s manager states will be rented out in future, after some repairs are made. Neighbors have observed children playing around these.*

hood children playing near the abandoned trailers.

“It’s not just that particular trailer park,” noted Montrose Police Sgt. Paul Eller, who has monitored trailer courts in the area throughout his 26-year career, “although they do have some dilapidated trailers that need to be pulled out. The current manager, Earl, works with us in our crime-free communities program, and we are trying to get things improved.”

“Abandoned structures breed crime,” said City Councilor Carol McDermott when asked about the condition of the trailer court at 131 South San Juan.

“Where those trailers are used to be the edge of town, and back then the land has less value and cost less to develop. When a landlord fails in his due diligence and properties fall into disrepair, criminals move in and other people move away—I would like to see the landlords held accountable in the interest of the public health.”

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# CASA WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



*Carlton Mason, left, has joined CASA as volunteer coordinator. Courtesy photo.*

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-- CASA of the 7th Judicial District (Court Appointed Special Advocates) recently welcomed a new team member: Carlton Mason joined CASA in January as a new volunteer coordinator. He'll be working throughout the 7th Judi-

cial District, with a special emphasis to address the need for CASA Volunteers in Delta County.

Affiliated with the National and State CASA organizations, CASA of the 7th Judicial District is the regional affiliate working on the Western Slope to strengthen and stabilize families and provide voices for children experiencing the devastating effects of abuse and neglect. CASA of the 7th Judicial District is a respected agency with a 95.8% judicial satisfaction rating. CASA volunteers—designated friends of the court—provide additional “eyes and ears” to cases on which they serve. Volunteers participate as independent child advocates, formalizing their observations and recommendations in reports for the courts to assist in the complex and difficult decision-making processes directly affecting the child.

“CASA has given me an opportunity to work for at-risk children in Delta County. I

look forward to inviting citizens of this community to become CASA Volunteers—it's a unique way for individuals to make a tremendous difference in their community and in the life of a child.”

Becoming a CASA volunteer is a powerful way for concerned citizens in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to make a difference in their communities. CASA's mission is to *help break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, and to advocate for safe, permanent, nurturing home for children in the 7th Judicial District utilizing highly trained and dedicated volunteers.* To learn more about CASA's mission and child advocacy efforts or becoming a Delta County CASA Volunteer, contact Carlton at (970) 209-4606. For donations or other ways to support CASA, call 970-249-0337 or email [info@casa7jd.org](mailto:info@casa7jd.org).

For information about National CASA, visit their website at [www.casaforchildren.org](http://www.casaforchildren.org).



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## CITY OF MONTROSE EXPANDS MARKETS *Continued from page 1*



*Although the popular Main in Motion events are not a city program, Montrose has pledged its support, said City Manager Bill Bell. Main in Motion is currently undergoing its own re-organization after five board members resigned in January.*

well.

"I am supposed to look for potential sources of revenue," he said, "And we can provide troubleshooting services right from our offices. (New Montrose County Manager) Rick Eckert is going to be great—I would love to work with the county and perhaps expand our joint services."

Since taking on the role of city manager in July of 2011, Bell has worked to forge strong relationships with key local entities like the Downtown Development Authority and the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning. He has high praise for the current city council, composed of [Mayor Thomas Smits](#) (Dist. I); [Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files](#) (at large); and councilors [Carol McDermott](#) (Dist. II); [Kathy Ellis](#) (Dist. IV) and [Bob Nicholson](#) (Dist. III).

"This council has been supportive of me and of city staff, and they are willing to look outside the box and try new things," he said. "They are willing to take risks; it is the best group I have worked with in 11 years."

Among the "out of the box" actions taken by the City in recent weeks are a re-thinking of the local contract with Little League, as well as a decision not to continue funding the tourism promotion and retail enhancement functions of the Montrose Association of Commerce & Tourism (Montrose ACT), which was formed in early 2010 to bring together the functions of the former Montrose Area Merchants Association (MAMA), the Montrose Chamber of Commerce and the Montrose Visitor and Convention Bureau. The City's decision resulted in a funding cut of \$230,000 in retail enhancement funds and \$400,000 in tourism promotion funds for the Montrose ACT.

According to a statement released on the City's web site, the retail enhancement and tourism promotion functions will now be administered through the City Manager's office.

"Our plan is to involve more of the community," Bell said. "We have created a business services committee, under the direct supervision of (Assistant to the City Manager) Rob Joseph."

Also serving on the Business Services Committee will be Bell, as well as city staffers David Spear and Virgil Turner.

"We are excited to create a gateway business district," Bell said, adding that Montrose ACT events staffer Kristin Modrell was offered a job coordinating events for the City as part of the transition. "We have four established business districts in Montrose, and we are excited to reach out and work with more partners."

Contracting services with local professionals who offer them, such as the training services provided by Sue Hansen of Sue Hansen Speaks, will be part of the city's strategy, he said.

"We are not going to discriminate," Bell said. "We plan to contract with various organizations who are good at a particular function and assign them tasks. When it comes to local business, many of our constituents have been paying both the retail enhancement tax and chamber dues. We want to see sales and special events that will boost traffic, and we want to work with Region 10, which is creating a small

business resource center—we plan to help with that."

Bell said that he believes a Visitor Center located somewhere near Main and Townsend would better serve travelers.

In other business, Bell acknowledged that the City has taken steps to re-examine its relationship with Little League.

"Little League has failed us as an organization—there have been fights breaking out, and the police called--and we are looking at possibly terminating our contract," Bell said. "They are difficult to work with, and our attorneys have been trying to renegotiate their 50-year lease."

The City meets with local Little League Officials Feb. 5, he said. If the City does end up taking over the local youth baseball program, the City will transfer the \$21,000 that Little League owes to Region 10 for equipment to its own books.

"We'll hold more tournaments, and make cash registers ring in our community," Bell said.

In other news, while the restructuring of Main in Motion to become a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) subcommittee took place in January, the City had nothing to do with it, Bell noted. While he was in attendance at the recent meeting at which five Main in Motion board members stepped down, it was only to offer the City's support with financial services, he said.

"It came as a shock to all of us," he said. "We will support them if they ask for help—last year I asked City Council to waive the \$6,000 street closure fee for them--and we look forward to working with the new subcommittee."

Finally, Bell acknowledged that the City's oft-criticized snow removal efforts are "a work in progress."

"It's about cost," he said, "Fortunately, Montrose has mild winters—when I worked in Northern Wisconsin we spent \$3 million every year on snow removal. We definitely need to add more salt to our sand mix, because sand doesn't melt ice."

Bell noted that John Harris, who started as the City's Public Works Director in December, is working to turn the entire department around.



# MONTROSE ACT MOVES ON



*Amber Whaley, Ashley Pietak and Violet are part of the "small but mighty" team at Montrose ACT, which will re-align its strategic plan in light of changes affected in January.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--Scott Beyer can still remember getting his first swat from home room teacher Carol McDermott many years ago.

At the Jan. 21 meeting of the Montrose City Council, Beyer probably had occasion to remember that moment—McDermott was among the city councilors who notified Beyer that the City will no longer fund the tourism promotion and retail enhancement activities of the Montrose Association of Commerce & Tourism.

As a past board chair (Eric Feely replaced Beyer as chair last month) and longtime Montrose ACT board member, Beyer expressed frustration at the lack of dialog leading to the momentous decision, but noted that in the end the directional shift may just be a minor setback for Montrose ACT.

"In the end, I don't feel this will affect Montrose ACT," Beyer said. "We will focus and be the best Chamber we can be."

Montrose ACT was created in early 2010, to bring together the functions of the former Montrose Chamber of Commerce, Montrose Area Merchants' Association and Montrose Visitor and Convention Bureau. The loss of funding for tourism promotion means a \$400,000 cut, while the retail enhancement funds represent a loss of around \$230,000. A statement posted on the city web site explains the city's rationale for the change with a comment by Mayor Thomas Smits.

"We respect Montrose ACT's place in the community and fully support its role as a traditional Chamber of Commerce organization," said Mayor Thomas Smits. "We believe that this change will allow them to focus on their core mission while opening promising new opportunities to promote tourism and commerce in Montrose."

He added, "The City Council is keenly aware of the need to make sure that Retail Sales Enhancement and Tourism Promotion funds are used for their best purposes. We believe that this change will bring greater accountability and more effective use of these important public resources."

The contract with Montrose ACT has been extended through March 31, as the City and Montrose ACT officials work to ensure a smooth transition.

"I feel that we were excellent stewards of the funds," Beyer said. "Our administrative costs were just 23 percent—which is pretty lean. The city has a right to do what it wants; my frustration came from the lack of dialog."

Meanwhile, the loss of funding does mean a shift in focus—and the loss of the Montrose ACT's newest staffer, Kristin Modrell, who has been offered a city job instead.

The Montrose ACT is re-doing its budget, and re-focusing its energies around the Chamber of Commerce, Beyer said.

"For our membership, nothing will change," Beyer said.

"Our chamber will be stronger than ever, with better, business-related programming. I try to see the big picture; the loss of funding for specific programming is not that

big a deal. The city will still contract visitor services with us; we are a valued first contact point.

"We were excited to hire Kristin," Beyer said, "We hired her to redesign our events programming, to focus on signature events."

For Montrose ACT Executive Director Jenni Sopsic, the loss of both Modrell and a large slice of organizational funding were serious disappointments. A planned Montrose ACT events summit has been cancelled. However, like Beyer, Sopsic is looking ahead to building a stronger Chamber of Commerce organization.

"I was caught off guard," said Sopsic, who joined Montrose ACT at its inception after serving as Executive Director of the former Convention and Visitors Bureau since 2008. "Every year this contract is on the table, but in the past we have always worked together, through discussions with our executive board and with city staff. When we came to the meeting, we were prepared to continue the discussion between our board and city council."

Most of the Montrose ACT's overhead costs have to do with the Chamber of Commerce, she noted, so that every penny of the retail enhancement and tourism promotion funds were being used for those functions.

"I feel that we were running a strong operation," Sopsic said. "We had a big program, and a small but mighty team—very efficient."

Despite the changes, she, her staff and the Montrose ACT board are prepared to build an even stronger chamber of commerce in 2013.

"We are always looking ahead," Sopsic said. "We will re-align our strategic plan, and work with the City. And we will continue to move forward with what we have to work with."

"I do understand the situation," Beyer said.

"We still have a very good working relationship with the City, and we absolutely will be able to better serve our membership."



## LAVENDER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ART CONTEST *Continued from pg 1*



*Some of the many varieties of lavender are shown in this photo from the CSU Extension garden in Grand Junction. Courtesy photo.*

a \$500 prize, open to both fine and graphic artists, to design the original artwork that will be used to promote this year's festival, scheduled for July 12-14 in Downtown Palisade. The deadline for contest entries is Feb. 23, and winner will be announced March 1.

The Lavender Association of Western Colorado's annual festival, now in its third year, continues to be the only one of its kind in Colorado.

For Olathe lavender grower JoAnne Seymour, the passion for the small purple shrub is one that continues to grow.

"Conditions here are just so perfect," Seymour said. "People are always looking for small acreage specialty crops that you can enjoy and maintain without a lot of equipment and still make money. You can get 2,500 plants to an acre. It thrives under hot, dry conditions, and no predators eat it—even the deer won't eat lavender! And it brings in honeybees—when I go out to harvest, the bees are right there with me, although I have never been stung."

A retired school counselor, Seymour took a master gardener class with the Colorado State University Extension when she moved to the area seven years ago.

"My best friend was a friend of Kathy Kimbrough, who founded the Lavender Association and was our first chair," Seymour said. "I got kind of curious—I thought growing lavender might be some-

thing I could do. There are not a lot of startup costs, and you can experiment with the different types. We have not found one that does not grow well here. Some kinds are better for culinary uses, some are better for crafts, some are better for creams and potpourris."

Seymour had taken an aromatherapy class at the Delta-Montrose Area Vo-Tec, and found herself more curious than ever about the benefits of lavender. When her husband crushed his left foot in a serious accident, JoAnne called up her friend and fellow lavender grower Roxi Lane.

"She is a nurse at Delta Hospital, and very big on organic farming and distilling," Seymour said. "I asked her to come over and look at my husband's foot. It was not infected, but the healing process was going nowhere."

"His foot was swollen, and had black wounds from being crushed. About that same time, I was assigned a research paper in class, to write about an essential oil we had used."

Although Seymour had not yet used any oils, Lane recommended that they bathe the afflicted foot in a combination of three essential oils, one of which was lavender.

"I had started taking pictures of my husband's foot every day," Seymour said. "I decided we had nothing to lose—the foot looked like hell."

The foot was immersed in a gallon of

warm water with one drop of each oil.

"Within half an hour the swelling had gone down," Seymour said. "Even Roxi was shocked—none of us had expected such remarkable results."

Seymour continued the treatments three times a day, and by the time her husband returned for a checkup, his doctor could hardly believe the change.

"We had discontinued pain medication—everything but the antibiotics," Seymour said. "My husband is a big guy—six foot eight and rough and tumble—but to this day he still adds lavender to his bath. It's not about the fragrance, but for therapeutic reasons."

Seymour said she continues to be excited about the work Kathy Kimbrough is doing—now that Kimbrough has stepped down as chair of the Lavender Association, she and retired CSU Extension Agent Curtis Swift have obtained a grant to study the science and uses of lavender.

"This really sets us apart from the rest of the world," Seymour said. "Lavender is going to become an even bigger deal than it is now—because of those two people, it will become a scientific issue."

Horticultural tech Susan Rose at the Colorado State University Extension office in Grand Junction also credits Kathy Kimbrough's enthusiasm for helping to build the region's growing lavender industry.

"I think we have discovered, largely through the passion of the Lavender Association, that this crop does extremely well here," Rose said. "It is well adapted to this climate—it likes it hot and dry. You don't need a large area to grow a successful commercial crop—it is a small plant. There is more interest in lavender coming along all the time."

Rose said she herself has a few plants at home, but that the Extension grows a wide variety of different lavender varieties.

"With lavender, what growers have found is that the higher the altitude at which it is grown, the better the quality of the essential oils," Rose said. For gardeners who just can't wait to experience the fresh fragrance and vivid blooms, she suggests heavy mulching or use of a frost blanket to prevent the vagaries of the weather from ruining plants.

"If your lavender or shrubs are very dry you can water," she said, "But only if the air temperature is above freezing!"

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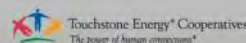
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# CITIZENS CONSIDER LAWSUIT TO PROTECT NORTH FORK VALLEY



*A photo of the North Fork Valley, from the Delta County Tourism Cabinet's Facebook page, shows the valley's pristine environment and agricultural uses. Courtesy photo.*

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—Since its formation in 2009, the non-profit advocacy group Citizens for a Healthy Community (CFHC) has grown exponentially, to a membership more than 300 strong. Members include some of the nation's most respected writers and proponents of the emerging farm-to-table movement. And yet, CHFC Director Jim Ramey is concerned that its collective "voice" is still not being heard.

"It all boils down to the North Fork Valley," Ramey said. "There is such a sustainable, agricultural food and wine economy here that it has become a tourism destination. Leasing public lands for oil and gas exploration is simply not compatible with that."

According to a news release dated Jan. 25, CHFC is calling on the BLM to remove all 20 parcels and 20,555 acres in Western Colorado's North Fork Valley from the BLM's February Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The lease sale, originally scheduled in 2011, was deferred by the Bureau of Land management (BLM) in May of 2012, after the governmental agency cited the need for further research. However, in Nov. of 2012 the BLM [announced](#) that the lease sale would take place on Feb. 14, 2013. CHFC members expressed consternation after a recent visit to Washington, DC, where they met with BLM Director Mike Pool and BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze in an effort to stop the sale. According to a CHFC news release dated Jan. 17, the group told Pool that allowing the sale and thus permitting

oil and gas exploration to proceed would destroy not only a fledgling industry, but a way of life.

"Our small winery is right next to a parcel, which is only 39 feet away from our water well," commented Ty Gillespie, owner of Azura Cellars and Gallery in Paonia. "Last year we had visitors from every state in the union. This is really about protecting the bucolic nature of our valley, which is so fundamental to our business."

And yet, local BLM officials continue to offer a "full-fledged support of the oil and gas industry," noted Ramey last week.

At a meeting January meeting of the Paonia Town Council, CHFC leadership asked Colorado BLM Director Helen Hankins what else could be done to stop the sale.

"She told us that we could either pursue legislation, or prepare to file a lawsuit," Ramey said, noting that "our community has shown up time and time again to make the statement that we don't want this to happen. For us, a lawsuit is a last resort—something that takes years—we would rather the BLM listen to common sense and the outcry from the community."

Absent the BLM's deferral of all parcels, however, the groups are calling on BLM to issue its final decision so that they may pursue legal action as a last resort to protect the community.

While the BLM has decreased the acreage involved in the sale from its original 30,000 to 20,555, CHFC has announced that it will pursue legal action if all North

Fork parcels are not removed from the auction block.

"Farmers, ranchers, sportsmen, small business owners, and other concerned residents in the North Fork do not want this lease sale to move forward. We're asking the BLM to stop this bad idea in its tracks," said Ramey in the news release. "If they don't remove the parcels, we'll be forced to file a lawsuit to protect the community while we work toward thoughtful management in a new resource management plan."

Attorneys from the Western Environmental Law Center will represent CHFC should the BLM refuse to pull the parcels from the sale. Among the issues involved is the fact that the sale itself is based on a Resource Management Plan drafted in 1989.

According to the Jan. 25 news release, important developments have occurred since the plan, which guides the BLM's management of the region, was drafted.

"The decision to lease these lands based on a decades-old and deficient RMP threatens so many of the valuable resources that make the North Fork Valley the thriving community it is today," said Western Environmental Law Center attorney Kyle Tisdell. "There's a very compelling legal argument to be made before a federal judge."

"What's the rush?" Ramey asked. "Why not do the right thing, and focus on updating the plan? We are not just environmentalists, but farmers, ranchers, and hunters. The BLM has a mandate to protect the land for future generations—you do not have to open up every acre of public land to oil and gas exploration. The BLM has argued that they don't even know what is there in these parcels, and they have tremendous discretion under the law. We have the support of our elected officials—Scott Tipton has been very open, and very concerned, which is great to see."

"But the lease sale is weeks away," he added. "We want to be proactive and be part of the process, but we feel that they have streamlined things. People are outraged. We hope they will do the right thing and pull the parcels—but if not, we will take every available action to protect our community." CFHC can be reached via email at [chc.director@gmail.com](mailto:chc.director@gmail.com), or at 970-765-7111.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SPELLING CHAMPS MOVE ON TO DISTRICT BEE

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE--** Johnson Elementary School held its annual School Spelling Bee last Wednesday, January 16, 2013. There were twenty-nine students from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade who participated in the event. The top spellers from each of the grades were selected to participate. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from Johnson will get the chance to compete at the District Spelling Bee that will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm at Calvary Chapel Church of Montrose-2201 S. Townsend Avenue. The District Spelling Bee participants will be the top three spellers from all of the elementary and middle schools in Montrose & Olathe School District. Pictured from left to right are the top three winners from Johnson Elementary: Dillon Crim 1<sup>st</sup> place, Ulysses Flores 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Jaime Vanchaik 2<sup>nd</sup> place. (Photo Courtesy of Johnson Elementary).



## HONORABLE MENTION

To Marilyn Cox, local author and historian, without whom much of our community "memory" would be lost...we keep hoping for another Walking Tour book !

To new Montrose County Manager Rick Eckert...welcome to Montrose...

To Robby Miller at Coffee Trader, for the truly fabulous breakfast pastries!

To Matt Miles and Prospect Steel, for the *Montrose Mouse* sculpture at River Landing. We shout with happiness every time we drive by...metal fur, and whiskers too!

To Stacy Ryan, for bringing high energy and passion to the development team at CASA of the Seventh Judicial District...

To Melanie Hall of Montrose Community Foundation and Adam Miller of ElderAdo Financial for organizing February's 28 Days of Generosity campaign...

To Montrose Police Dept. Sgt. Paul Eller, for 26 years of hard work and service to the community.

## GESSLER STOPS IN MONTROSE ON LISTENING TOUR, HEARS FEEDBACK ON 2012 ELECTION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—When Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler stopped at the fairgrounds in Montrose last Wednesday morning, turnout was sparse, limited mainly to elections professionals and political types. After all, Gessler was there to listen, not to present. Although he spoke briefly, the Secretary of State spent much of the time talking and responding to audience questions.

"I have been in the world of elections for twelve years," Gessler said. "Often, a lot of people who work elections have comments, thoughts and experiences to share, but those are not collected by the Secretary of State. We had an election in Colorado three months ago, and I would like to hear peoples' experiences, so we can collect, analyze and use them in 2013."

Gessler called the election of 2012 "a very good election."

"I am not talking about outcomes, but about how it worked," he explained. "In 2012, we ran a very good election—probably the best ever in Colorado when it comes to administration. We had fewer problems statewide than ever before, and more participation."

Gessler noted a big jump in the number of registered voters in 2012, up more than 400,000 since the election of 2008.

"Colorado was second or third in the nation when it comes to county turnout," he said. "My colleagues around the country were alarmed about the military and overseas vote—it worked fine in Colorado, but nationwide, turnout collapsed. We are doing a better job when it comes to voter integrity; we ran an ad campaign that encouraged people to register, and to update their voter registration."

Gessler claimed that one in eight of the nation's voter registrations contains inaccuracies.

"That causes problems," he said, noting that one in 10 Colorado voters updated their own information in 2012.

People who register incorrectly simply don't know better, he stated.

"We have got to do a better job on that," he said, "with more education and training up front. Our mechanical problems are

down, the quality of our voter rolls is up, and voter participation is up—we had a great 2012, which is a testament to the hard work of those in this room. We're not perfect by any stretch—we had some long lines in some places, and our voter rolls still have lots of errors. There are ten counties in Colorado where voter turnout exceeds registration; we need to figure out what is going on within our state's framework.

"In 2014, we can do better."

Following Gessler's presentation, he spent more than an hour taking questions and listening. Among those who shared their own experiences was Ouray County Election Judge John W. Nelson, who has spent 12 years as an election official, and who noted that indeed, "This election went extremely well...we have to give a lot of credit to our county clerks."

Nelson also told Gessler that a proposal to allow same-day voter registration "scares the devil out of him" because Internet access is limited in portions of Ouray County.

"In my district there are times we don't even have an open telephone line," Nelson said, adding that he also worries about plans to legislate uniformity with regard to Colorado's voting machines.

"Conceptually it may be a good idea, but I worry that it could be another unfunded mandate," Nelson said.

Stating that he strongly opposes same-day registration, Gessler said that he believes Colorado, although not the nation, could benefit from uniform voting technology.

"A uniform voting system would alleviate costs and allow for better equipment," Gessler said. "Every county is facing acquisition costs anyway, and this would simplify the system and reduce concerns."

Montrose County Clerk & Recorder Francine Tipton-Long noted that there are four voting equipment vendors in Colorado, and that Gessler would like to see that number reduced to one.

"I believe it would be good for Colorado," Long said. "If all of us are on the same page we can work across county lines."

Olathe Republican Richard Harding



*Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler took time to listen to Montrose citizens and officials about the elections process Jan. 30.*

praised Gessler and Long, and asked that the state consider making data available in a Microsoft Excel format. Montrose County Democratic Party Chair Jayne Bilberry asked who would choose and give approval to selection of the state's vendor, and Gessler noted that the evaluation and decision making process would be taking place over the next year.

Karen Conner of the League of Women Voters praised Long's work in moving Montrose County forward and off of the statewide elections watch list, but questioned how voters who received letters from Gessler's office asking them to verify their voting eligibility were targeted.

Gessler responded that the letters were sent to those who had been proven not to be citizens in the past, to ensure that they had taken steps to become so.

"We compared driver's license rolls to voter rolls," he said. "Some people had indicated that they were not citizens, and we had no way of knowing if that had changed."

The letters were sent after Gessler failed to gain access to Department of Homeland Security databases, he said. To learn more about proposed changes and Gessler's 2013 agenda visit the [Colorado Secretary of State's web site](#).



## TBD COLORADO CITES ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO REPORT

### *Mirror Staff Report*

MONTROSE—Last year, the State of Colorado gathered concerned citizens and community leaders from across the state—including here in Montrose—in a series of collaborative meetings designed to gather input about some of the most crucial issues affecting our collective future. In November 2012, To Be Determined (TBD) Colorado released its final report, which included feedback on education, health, the state budget, workforce and constitution and transportation. The core finding of the TBD Colorado initiative and report was that Colorado's current path is not sustainable without major fiscal and constitutional reforms.

Last week, TBD Colorado releases an update citing the significant actions taken toward this goal prior to the 2013 legislative session. With regard to **education**, Governor Hickenlooper has requested an increase of \$20 million for early childhood education, which is enough to provide preschool education for 6,500 low income children; a discussion is underway that would link funding for education to clear outcomes, thus holding teachers and stu-

dents accountable for achieving success; Governor Hickenlooper's State of the State address that changes to school finance must be accomplished in light the core TBD finding (above).

Colorado's physical **health** was also addressed, as the Dept. of Healthcare Policy and Finance is working to expand home and community-based services and increase the use of managed care within Medicaid, as suggested by TBD participants. Governor Hickenlooper has created an Office of Community Living to support Colorado residents who are elderly or disabled but who want to maintain community involvement. Hickenlooper has also expressed his support for Colorado's participation in the Medicaid expansion allowed by the Affordable Care Act, the cost of which is to be offset by cost containment. This expansion will provide health care coverage to more than 50,000 low income Coloradoans. Expect the Governor to announce a statewide fitness initiative based on TBD Colorado findings and community feedback.

The state's **budget** will be impacted not only by the TBD Colorado findings, but by

actions taken with regard to education and transportation. Private organizations will be part of the conversation, as the executive and legislative branches struggle to address long term issues concerning revenues and expenditures.

The state's employees may be eligible for financial incentives, if the Governor's 2013-2014 budgetary request to fund merit pay systems and reward performance in the state **workforce** is granted. And Referendum S's approval means that job candidates for state jobs no longer have to reside in Colorado, that the current system will switch from a competitive to a comparative one, that the number of finalists permitted for state jobs will increase, and that regulations concerning temporary employment will also increase.

Funding and refinancing plans are being developed collaboratively by **transportation** experts in both public and private sectors. And finally, the Governor's office continues to work with a number of private sector reform efforts and is considering the implementation of a periodic review of Colorado's constitution with recommendations to voters on needed changes.

## GREAT TURNOUT FOR FIRST FRIDAY STROLL FOR LOVERS



MONTROSE—According to Pat Brown of Around the Corner Gallery, a great crowd turned out for the First Friday Stroll for Lovers in Downtown Montrose on Feb. 1! Several stores and galleries donated wonderful items for the gift basket that was given away. At left, Brown (left) presents the lucky winner, Kim Evink (right) of Montrose with the gift basket.

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT LOMO ART CRAWL...**

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—The ReneWest Art Crawl hits the streets of the West Main shopping district again on Feb. 21, with drama, music, dining, shopping and ART for you to enjoy! This month the theme will be "Get Iced!" Come on out, and celebrate the arts in Montrose! 970-275-5506 for info!

**CALL 970-275-5791 TO ADVERTISE IN THE MONTROSE MIRROR!**

# ABOUT ARCADIA...



Photo by Sarah Berndt.

By J. Berndt

MONTROSE--Take a few steps back in time to the 1800's, when a man by the name of Curtis Haskill and his wife opened a general store and a toll gate, right off of West Main Street nestled in the trees down by the river. The Haskills' business thrived while Dave Wood's new freighting company transported goods along the new road, a shortcut to Telluride and other western slope mining towns. Business slowed for the Haskill store as the railroad, which arrived in 1891, became more regular in the Montrose area. This directly affected Mr. Wood's business as well, by providing a more efficient means of transporting goods. Times were changing for Montrose, as the railroad brought people in from all over the states hoping to get in on the beautiful scenery and the cash crop that was being mined in the surrounding mountains.

Soon the general store building would turn into a space for locals to congregate and take advantage of the large dance floor. This was also a popular place for the men who were stationed out south of town

at Fort Crawford. That is, if they had the night off from chasing the native Utes off of their rightful homeland. The soldiers could be found dancing the night away at Haskill Park with plenty of booze to drown any regrets.

"It was legal and above board and no one thought anything about it. Every town had its red light district," said Haskill's granddaughter-in-law, quoted in the book, *Montrose-Take a Closer Look-A Walking Tour* (Cox/Norman 2006).

Irish Annie, a local madam, managed a "resort" on the property. There were apparently a few days where a group was reported drinking and carousing about. The excited individuals had exceeded their right to party on Sunday night and by Monday morning Sheriff Callaway had arrested Mrs. Ann Blanchard, Emma Allen, James O'Neill, as well as the "colored cook." Sheriff Callaway said the group was being unusually loud and boisterous, O'Neill was very much intoxicated and had to remain in jail until he quit breathing fire and sobered up. The headline read, "Orgies again at the Haskill Park house."

In the late 1920s, Montrose had built up its first tourist trap with a new and improved Haskill's Park which soon changed its name to Arcadia Park. Two men, Andy Rasmussen and H.C. Gretty, Jr. took over the building soon after Haskill and his wife moved to California to get to a lower elevation, due to health conditions. Andy and H.C. had a dream and a big one at that; they wanted to construct a comfortable fun place for people traveling on the railroad. Montrose's first tourist draw was a success, providing nice campsites to stay for the night or the weekend and not far from the train depot. This was where parents and kids alike could come to be amused.

Arcadia Park soon built itself up to be Montrose's one and only theme park, with a carousel featuring hand-carved horses, the earliest in movie technology, and boats on a small lake that led to a man-made island. This was paradise for all the people riding the rails in search of a new place to call home. It was Oct. 22, 1930, almost two years after A.C. Haskill passed away in California, when Arcadia needed a makeover, and the owners decided the best

way to show off the new improvements was to have a grand Halloween party. The 18-hole miniature golf course was up and running with a boa constrictor, large elephant, and a lion with eyes that would glow; this was possible with an electric current, genius--in those days. They also added 850 more feet of dancing space, with freshly sanded floors thanks to White, Okey, and Jones.

At one time, the Arcadia Park advertised they were bringing in some big names such as Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash. As the years passed the building changed hands several times, becoming popular in its later days for being the Lazy JR. It was a place many locals would go to eat with a good view of the river (something this town has failed to accomplish since). After dinner everyone was free to dance the night away to some good live country or rock and roll.

It seems like everyone I ask about Arcadia or the Lazy JR stutters and begins the conversation with a devilish smile. There are many stories out there but I felt everyone was a little short or maybe just a little fuzzy. Some memories are better kept locked up, meant for only those who had the privilege of experiencing them.

On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1996 there was a fire. Gray smoke lingered over Montrose on that night as a vital piece of history burned to the ground. Haskill Park was no more, a 100-year old structure gone, but a century of memories cannot be erased so easily.

I was only 12 when this happened so I have no personal stories to tell of my own, but next time I find myself driving over the bridge on West Main I will think to the stories, and the pictures of a time not so long ago.

*A special thanks to Sally from the Montrose Historical Society for her support in helping me find what I was looking for. Source information was obtained from past issues of the Montrose Daily Press and one other local newspaper, as well as Montrose Take a Closer Look A Walking Tour Guide by Marilyn S. Cox and Cathleen M. Norman (Preservation Publishing, 2006). The history of Montrose is important and it is our job as a community to keep local history alive and it's crucial to show that you care.*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# RENFROW SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



### *Special to the Mirror*

**DELTA--** Nine Delta-Montrose Technical College students received a total of \$3,700 in scholarships recently from the L & A Renfrow Foundation. Pictured back row left to right are: Tony Bowling, DMTC Assistant Director, scholarship recipients Tiffany Ware (Practical Nursing), Adrian Sandoval (Practical Nursing), and Santiago Martinez (Barbering), Ann and Les Renfrow from the Renfrow Foundation, and John Jones, DMTC Director. Front row are scholarship recipients Pamela Bean (Practical Nursing), Marietta Johnson (Practical Nursing), and Mary Kastendieck (Practical Nursing). Not pictured are recipients Scott Nielsen (Barbering), Jessica Maestas (Practical Nursing), and Ravelle Celaya (Practical Nursing). The Renfrow family has helped local students with their education by providing scholarships since 1973, first through the Renfrow store scholarship and, since 1996, through the L & A Renfrow Foundation. "It's a way of giving back," said Les.

Delta-Montrose Technical College is a public career and technical college in Delta, Colorado. It offers 57 secondary and postsecondary certificates in 12 different programs. All certificates can be earned in two semesters or less, with many of them only one semester in length.

## BOSOM BUDDIES ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### *Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE--**Applications for the Bosom Buddies Scholarship are currently available to upcoming graduates of high schools in Montrose, Ouray or San Miguel Counties. Applicants must have been diagnosed or have a parent/guardian diagnosed

with breast cancer; have a minimum of a 2.0 high school GPA; and be accepted to an institution of higher education: either a 2-year or a 4-year program from a college, university, vocational, community college or accredited on-line program. Applications are available at the guidance office of

the eligible schools. Applications must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than Feb. 25 to Bosom Buddies c/o Scholarship Committee, PO Box 1263, Montrose, CO 81402 or [gkcd@montrose.net](mailto:gkcd@montrose.net) Questions about the scholarship may be directed to the guidance offices of eligible schools.



# What is a Landscape Architect?

By—Rick Spalenka, ASLA, PLA, RN, Licensed Landscape Architect

I've been a Landscape Architect for over 35 years and my mother still thinks I'm a Landscaper. We must be the Rodney Dangerfields of the design profession. I'm also a Registered Nurse and we all know what that profession is but did you know it is more difficult to become a Licensed Landscape Architect than a Registered Nurse? Neither profession requires a Bachelors degree but it is a lot easier to be a registered nurse without one than a licensed landscape architect. The nationwide exam for licensing an RN is



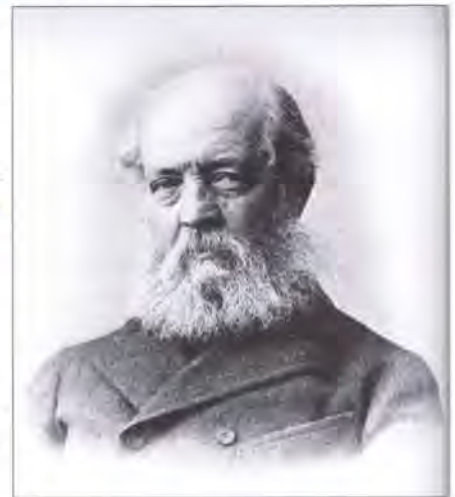
*Central Park, New York City. Co-designed by the "father" of Landscape Architect—Fredrick Law Olmsted*

a one part exam of about 4 hours with a first time pass rate of about 70% whereas the nationwide exam for licensing an LA is two and a half day, 5 part exam, with a first time pass rate of about 50%-60%. That was what it was when I took the exams.

## Professional Landscape Architect, PLA

The discipline of landscape architecture goes back centuries but the practice as an independent profession is relatively recent.

**Fredrick Law Olmsted** has been, many times, referred to as the first landscape architect. Wikipedia has a great article about him. I reference Wikipedia frequently in this article and encourage you to visit their web site. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredrick\\_Law\\_Olmsted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredrick_Law_Olmsted)



*Fredrick Law Olmsted (1822-1903)*

Many of my favorite landscape architects include but not limited to; Jens Jensen, Thomas Church, Lawrence Halprin, M. Paul Friedberg and GOD. **Jens Jensen** (1860-1951) didn't go into professional practice until he retired from the Chicago Parks Department at age 60. He gives me hope. His signature is his incorporation of a council ring as a parkland design element. Many of his council rings exist today on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and in many Chicago parks. Because of his connections with the blue blood of his time, including the Ford family of Detroit, he was able to establish a very profitable client list and projects. He is also well known for establishing "**The Clearing**" which continues to this day as an education center in Door County, Wisconsin. More information is at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jens\\_Jensen\\_\(landscape\\_architect\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jens_Jensen_(landscape_architect))



*Jens Jensen council ring on the UW-Madison campus*

**Thomas Church** (1902-1978) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Dolliver\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Dolliver_Church) is known for the "California style" of landscape architecture, incorporating as many hardscape features as softscape (plant material) elements. Its common to sense the "Church touch" in many of today's residential landscape designs. His book "**Gardens are for People**" is one of my favorite books in my library. It is probably Thomas Church who has inspired me in my designs more than any other landscape architect. My tag line for my business "**Don't just look at your landscape, Live in it**" has a connection to the Church philosophy. I can understand reading about Church's visits to Europe how it influenced his designs. I, too, take many of my cues from my European adventures.



Thomas Church can be described as more “modern but classical contemporary” in style compared to many current landscape architects who attempt to mix art and nature together more flamboyantly.



*Thomas Church Design*

In his book ***Gardens Are For People***, Church outlines four principles for his design process. They are:

- Unity, which is the consideration of the schemes as a whole, both house and garden;
- Function, which is the relation of the practical service areas to the needs of the household and the relation of the decorative areas to the desires and pleasures of those who use it
- Simplicity, upon which may rest both the economic and aesthetic success of the layout
- Scale, which gives us a pleasant relation of parts to one another. (taken from Wikipedia)

Lawrence Halprin (1916-2009) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence\\_Halprin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Halprin) best know for his work with **Ghirardelli Square** in San Francisco. Lawrence Halprin's work is found in many urban plaza designs, fountains and pedestrian street malls. It is both he and Friedberg that are best known for their pedestrian malls in many of today's cities.



*Ira Keller Fountain, Portland, OR—from Wikipedia*



*State Street Mall, Madison, WI*

M. Paul Friedberg (born 1931) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M.\\_Paul\\_Friedberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._Paul_Friedberg) is another successful landscape architect having a major impact on the Urban landscape. A quote from him, “Design is a personal journey. The fact that I have the power to alter the appearance and content of a site merely by placing ideas on a piece of paper or a screen, is an ongoing adventure-and exploration into the unknown about how space and form can direct human response. It is about the discovery of myself, my aesthetic preference and social values at a given point in time. I create three-dimensionally what the writer accomplishes with words. It is not without anxiety, as the ideas haven't a reality until cast in a space and experienced.”—M. Paul Friedberg, *Silent Auction*”. M. Paul Friedberg was senior designer for the State Street Mall in Madison, WI.

Connecting the University of Wisconsin to the Capital building. I was a student at UW during its construction of this mall and have many memories associated with this space. Incidentally, for you history buffs, I witnessed many anti-war riots (I observed and did not participate) on this street as well as on campus during the 70's.

Now is a good time to talk local. It was one of our local landscape architectural firms that was responsible for upgrading the Grand Junction Main Street Mall. The mall was designed by Ciavonne, Roberts and Associates <http://www.ciavonne.com/> This firm is an excellent example of a firm that took the lead to design and implement a major urban project. I have been told to my face that “landscape architects do not lead street projects, they only do planting plans.” That municipal employee is a good example of the misunderstanding of what landscape architects do. We do not just “name the circles.” Also, in the State of Colorado, it is required to have a landscape architect stamp on any and all commercial projects. Many municipalities have incorporated this legislation into their building code. Grand Junction and Delta are applauded for this incorporation. Other municipalities are still required by State Law to comply with State Legislation. Here is how Colorado has made landscape architecture a licensed practice:

WASHINGTON, June 12, 2007--- Starting in 2008, Colorado will join 48 other states codifying the high professional standards and expertise within the growing field of landscape architecture. On May 30, Governor Bill Ritter (D) signed the *Landscape Architects Professional Licensing Act*, requiring every practicing landscape architect to pass a rigorous exam in addition to completing a combination of education and/or professional experience.



"Landscape architecture requires technical expertise and an artistic touch, typically requiring years of university study and professional experience," says Nancy C. Somerville, executive vice president and CEO of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). "This act brings Colorado into line with 48 other states in recognizing how landscape architects protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public."

The *Landscape Architects Professional Licensing Act* covers the profession within the state of Colorado, encompassing everything from stormwater management to site design, green roofs to urban planning. The new law will require those who practice landscape architecture within the state to be licensed by January 1, 2008, after which Vermont will stand as the only state to not regulate the industry.

## Landscape Architecture as defined by the American Society of Landscape Architects

*Landscape architecture is a multi-disciplinary field, incorporating aspects of: botany, horticulture, the fine arts, architecture, industrial design, geology and the earth sciences, environmental psychology, geography, and ecology. The activities of a landscape architect can range from the creation of public parks and parkways to site planning for campuses and corporate office parks, from the design of residential estates to the design of civil infrastructure and the management of large wilderness areas or reclamation of degraded landscapes such as mines or landfills. Landscape architects work on all types of structures and external space - large or small, urban, suburban and rural, and with "hard" (built) and "soft" (planted) materials, while integrating ecological sustainability. The most valuable contribution can be made at the first stage of a project to generate ideas with technical understanding and creative flair for the design, organization, and use of spaces. The landscape architect can conceive the overall concept and prepare the master plan, from which detailed design drawings and technical specifications are prepared. They can also review proposals to authorize and supervise contracts for the construction work. Other skills include preparing design impact assessments, conducting environmental assessments and audits, and serving as an expert witness at inquiries on land use issues. They can also support and prepare applications for capital and revenue funding grants. —Taken from American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) website.*

This brings us to the last and best landscape architect, **GOD**. We don't have to travel or look far to admire the wonderful works of this great landscape architect. No Mom, I'm not a landscaper, I'm a landscape architect and GOD is my mentor.

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Rick Spalenka is a Colorado State Registered Landscape Architect who has been designing landscapes for over 30 years. He is also certified in Therapeutic Garden design.

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## BLM and Forest Service Announce 2013 Grazing Fee

### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--The Federal grazing fee for 2013 will be \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and \$1.35 per head month (HM) for lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The 2013 fee is the same as last year's.

An AUM or HM – treated as equivalent measures for fee purposes – is the occupancy and use of public lands by one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The newly calculated grazing fee, determined by a congressional formula and effective on March 1, applies to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by the BLM and more than 8,000 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The formula used for calculating the grazing fee, which was established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, has continued under a presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per AUM, and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level.

The annually determined grazing fee is computed by using a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per AUM/HM for livestock grazing on public lands in Western states. The figure is then calculated according to three factors – current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. In effect, the fee rises, falls, or stays the same based on market conditions, with livestock operators paying more when conditions are better and less when conditions have declined.

The 2013 grazing fee of \$1.35 per AUM/HM grazing fee applies to 16 Western states on public lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service. The states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Permit holders and lessees may contact their local BLM or U.S. Forest Service office for additional information.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – over 245 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages approximately 193 million acres of Federal lands in 44 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

## DMEA wishes a Happy Retirement to one of its Brightest Lights, Administrative Services Manager, Virginia Allen



### Virginia Allen's 29 years of dedication, wisdom and hard work will be deeply missed by her "work family," at DMEA.

Virginia began serving Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) in 1983 as a Confidential Secretary in our Delta Office. In 1986, she became an Executive Assistant. In 1992, she was promoted to be DMEA's Administrator of Human Resources and in 1997, due to reorganization, the title of her position was changed to Product Development Analyst. In 2001, she became DMEA's Organization Development Manager, and she ends her career as Administrative Services Manager.

Virginia's work ethic and her knowledge will be sorely missed. She has provided 29 years of dedicated service to DMEA's members and the employees of DMEA. Her knowledge and many contributions over the years have been vital and valuable assets to DMEA. She is very much appreciated and a valued member of the DMEA family. Her legacy will be a tough act to follow. DMEA wishes Virginia the very best as she embarks on a life of leisure, and enjoyment of her family and friends.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FIRE MITIGATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH CSU

**FORT COLLINS** – With the ongoing drought, low snowpack, recent brush fires and Red Flag Warnings in effect along the Front Range today, the Colorado State Forest Service reminds landowners to prepare their homes now for possible wildfire. “Although there is no guarantee firefighters will be able to save your home during a wildfire, the odds increase if you follow the best-available mitigation guidelines,” said Lisa Mason, outreach forester for the CSFS and Colorado’s “Are You Fire-Wise?” program manager.

“It’s a good idea to get started now, before wildfire danger increases this spring.”

The CSFS recently updated its two principal guides for protecting property from wildfire. “FireWise Construction: Site Design & Building Materials” and “Protecting Your Home from Wildfire: Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones” were developed by experts in the fields of wildfire behavior and FireWise construction practices.

Although much of the information in the guides was unmodified from previous years, several important changes were made based on lessons learned from recent wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. Among these changes is an added emphasis on:

the ongoing need for year-round maintenance of surface fuels around the home, such as mowing grass and raking up thick beds of pine needles; the importance of keeping gutters, decks and roofs free of pine needles and other combustibles year-round; understanding how wildfires may start from burning ember showers, and not just direct heat and flame; describing fuels mitigation in specific forest types.

The revised property protection guidelines, as well as information on developing

Community Wildfire Protection Plans, are available at CSFS district offices or on the CSFS website at [www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu).

The Colorado State Forest Service continues to be the lead state agency for providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners, following legislation in 2012 that transferred responsibility for wildfire command and control from the CSFS to the newly formed Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

### DEL DYK NAMED BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR



Larry Wilkinson (left) President of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus presents Del Dyk, Membership VP, with Barbershopper of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding contribution to the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Harmony. For information on the Chorus please visit [www.blackcanyonchorus.org](http://www.blackcanyonchorus.org).

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN MONTROSE!



*Above, SheShe Boutique owner Kimberly McGehee visits with new county manager Rick Eckert and wife Jan during First Friday Stroll Feb. 1. Above right, Dahlia Floral co-owner Laura Burris stamps First Friday Stroll passport of Claudia Bishop (far right), explaining 28 days of giving while Becky Jones looks on at Dahlia's new location. Right, Artist Ann Dettmer with her "Finding the Forum" book at Around the Corner Art Gallery Feb. 1.*

*Images courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*

### **CELEBRATE THE MHS CLASS OF 2013... SUPPORT THE SAFE GRADUATION PARTY!**

**Support the Montrose High School SAFE Graduation Party throughout the months of February, March and April by getting your oil changed at Big O Tires (1900 South Townsend Ave.) in Montrose!**

**Big O Tires will donate 10 percent of oil change proceeds to the graduation party during these months!**

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SMPA's Community Solar Project Earns National Accolades



*Above: Brad Zaporski, SMPA Manager of Member Services/Marketing and Daniel Dus, Chief Operating Officer of Martifer Solar accept the Solar Power Generation USA 2013 Best Solar Collaboration Award.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY--Solar Power Generation USA has awarded San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) the 2013 Best Solar Collaboration Award for the co-op's community-owned solar array.

This award is viewed as one of the most prestigious honors in the solar industry. SMPA partnered with the Clean Energy Collective (CEC) of Carbondale, Colo., to develop the one-megawatt solar facility in

Paradox Valley. Martifer Solar and Sun-sense Solar also joined the team, providing the 4,440 solar panels and manpower for installation.

Solar Power Generation USA called the project "a tight collaboration" that "navigated a whole host of challenges to be completed within budget and in record time with amazing attention to detail." They also identified the project's community-owned business model as unique asset.

The award was voted on by a panel of judges made up of independent industry leaders from around the globe.

"This award is well-deserved recognition for the hard work of SMPA's employees and board members. We set a goal to invest in renewable technology in the most economical way possible. It took time, effort and determination – despite some setbacks – before we were able to put a successful project on the ground. Of course the project wouldn't have been possible without the support of our members and the partnerships we built with CEC, Martifer Solar and Sunsense Solar," said SMPA General Manager Kevin Ritter.

SMPA members can buy into the SMPA Community Solar Array by purchasing solar panels. SMPA will directly credit the member's monthly electric bill for the power their panel produces in the community array. Each solar panel is 235 watts, costs between \$700 and \$800 and will generate around \$45 worth of electricity per year.

Community-owned solar projects can offer

some advantages over traditional private installations. Prior to this project, members who were interested in solar generation had to install panels on their individual homes or businesses. This limited the participation of renters and members with poor solar locations. In contrast, the SMPA Community Solar Array is located on an ideal site with excellent sun exposure. CEC will also own, operate and maintain the array, meaning that members who purchase a panel in the array will incur no additional operation or maintenance costs.

The CEC is currently selling panels and working with members to determine what will fit their budgets and energy use. They also offer flexible, low-cost, long-term financing for qualified members through Sooper Credit Union and the Clean Energy Loan program.

Members interested in learning more or purchasing panels should contact CEC directly at [www.smpasolar.com](http://www.smpasolar.com), 1-888-208-5858 or [sales@smpasolar.com](mailto:sales@smpasolar.com).

*San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a member-owned, locally-controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway, Colo. It is the mission of San Miguel Power Association to demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service.*

*SMPA serves approximately 9,600 members and 14,000 meters and supports local communities with \$200,000 annually in property taxes and \$400,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates.*

### INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM: 'ARE YOU NEW TO MEDICARE?' SCHEDULED FEB. 9 IN MONTROSE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — A free "Medicare 101 And More" program is scheduled on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Montrose Library, 320 S. Second St.,

Montrose. "Are You New To Medicare?" will be hosted by Mabel and Judy, who will help those attending understand more about Medicare and the available benefits, and is presented by the Retired Senior Vol-

unteer Program-Colorado West, Inc. (RSVP), AeroCare, the Colorado Health Foundation, and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Contact RSVP Colorado West at [970-249-9639](tel:970-249-9639).

# READ LOCAL

WHEN YOU CARE TO READ THE VERY BEST ...

**MontroseMirror.com**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ADDRESS HOME, COMMUNITY WILDFIRE MITIGATION NOW

*Special to the Mirror*

FORT COLLINS—With the ongoing drought, low snowpack, recent brush fires and Red Flag Warnings in effect along the Front Range today, the Colorado State Forest Service reminds landowners to prepare their homes now for possible wildfire. “Although there is no guarantee firefighters will be able to save your home during a wildfire, the odds increase if you follow the best-available mitigation guidelines,” said Lisa Mason, outreach forester for the CSFS and Colorado’s “Are You Fire-Wise?” program manager. “It’s a good idea to get started now, before wildfire danger increases this spring.”

The CSFS recently updated its two principal guides for protecting property from

wildfire. “FireWise Construction: Site Design & Building Materials” and “Protecting Your Home from Wildfire: Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones” were developed by experts in the fields of wildfire behavior and FireWise construction practices. Although much of the information in the guides was unmodified from previous years, several important changes were made based on lessons learned from recent wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. Among these changes is an added emphasis on: the ongoing need for year-round maintenance of surface fuels around the home, such as mowing grass and raking up thick beds of pine needles; the importance of keeping gutters, decks and roofs free of pine needles and other com-

bustibles year-round; understanding how wildfires may start from burning ember showers, and not just direct heat and flame; describing fuels mitigation in specific forest types. The revised property protection guidelines, as well as information on developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, are available at CSFS district offices or on the CSFS website at [www.csfs.colostate.edu](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu). The Colorado State Forest Service continues to be the lead state agency for providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners, following legislation in 2012 that transferred responsibility for wildfire command and control from the CSFS to the newly formed Division of Fire Prevention and Control.



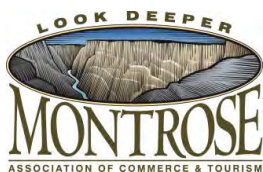
**I DON'T LEAVE THE TV ON FOR THE COFFEE TABLE. WHY HEAT AN EMPTY HOUSE?**

It only makes sense. My house shouldn't have to work so hard when I'm taking it easy on vacation. So now I adjust my thermostat, turn off my water heater and unplug as much as I can before I pull away, and those simple acts save me some serious money. Money I can spend on things like vacations. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)



## MONTROSE ACT RIBBON CUTTING **GOLD'S GYM MONTROSE**



*Gold's Gym of Montrose held a grand opening celebration on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 2013, and commemorated the occasion with a ribbon cutting celebrating their new Montrose location at 1840 E Main St. Center with scissors is general manager, Matt Makowski, surrounded by staff, supporters, Montrose ACT and the Redcoats. Congratulations Gold's Gym! Photo by Cara Fandel of Howling Wolf Photography.*

THE MONTROSE MIRROR WELCOMES ADVERTISING SPONSORS FOR  
2013...TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF OUR  
MISSION TO SERVE WESTERN SLOPE READERS  
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CALL 970-275-5791!



# REGION

Leveraging Resources for  
Stronger Communities

# 10 NEEDS

# YOU!

## THE SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

is looking for business professionals who are willing to share their expertise with new and emerging small business owners.



### THE SBRC WOULD LIKE TO OFFER TRAINING IN:

- Microsoft Office® Suite: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.
- Basic Accounting, QuickBooks® Accounting Software, and Taxes
- Basic and Advanced Email & Internet Skills
- Advertising/Marketing/Promotions Basics
- Business Communications, Proposals, Time Management, etc.
- and All Other Small Business Skills

**WE NEED BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS** to start offering one-on-one quick or longer-term training sessions, small groups, and larger classes.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED** in teaching others about small business, please contact Vince Fandel at the Region 10 office.  
**249-2436 ext. 17 • vince@region10.net**



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## AFTER HOURS WITH MONTROSE ACT



*Montrose ACT Redcoat helped to greet guests at Region 10.*

*Images courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*



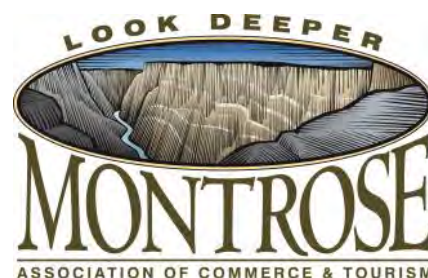
*New Montrose ACT members received their plaques at the Region 10 Business After hours event. Shown are (left to right) Michael Wolanin of Armour Proseal, Krista Bush of Chow Down Pet Supplies, and Robert Benjamin of Networks Unlimited.*



*Above, Redcoat John Lindh hands out plaques while Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes looks on at the After Hours Jan. 22.*



*Above, Debbie Tenaglia of D'Medici Footwear shows off her new "baby" to Jenni Sopsic of Montrose ACT at the Business After Hours event at Region 10 on Jan. 22.*





# ARTS AND CULTURE

## GET ALL FIRED UP WITH WEEHAWKEN IN RIDGWAY!



*Weehawken Creative Arts courtesy photo.*

### *Special to the Mirror*

OURAY--It's a new year, and if one of your resolutions is to try something new, Weehawken Creative Arts is your place. The fact of the matter is that taking an art class has many benefits beyond learning art.

Learning in-general strengthens us: you can meet new people in a class; you can do something new with your old friends in a class; you challenge yourself internally through a class; you can open up your creativity through a class; you can learn to solve problems differently in a class. Further, taking a class is a great way to meet and work with a particular artist.

Take this opportunity for example: New instructor to the area, Ann Cheeks will be offering a fun workshop called "Adult Mask Making" for six weeks in Ouray from Feb. 6th until March 13th. This

workshop will run at Ann's art studio in Ouray from 3 pm - 5 pm weekly, and will explore the fun process of mask-making. Students will use plaster, glaze, beads and more to develop a mask based upon their own face that will express their voice and imagination in a unique way.

From tribal masks to animal masks to theatrical masks, the possibilities are endless in this fun winter workshop.

Ultimately, there is a possibility of creating several different finished pieces that will be ready to wear or to hang for display.

The price for this 6-session workshop is \$140 for Weehawken Members and \$153 for Non-members and includes all supplies.

For more information or to register, visit [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org) or call 970-318-0150.

## RIDGWAY CHAMBER RAISING FUNDS FOR VISITORS CENTER UPGRADES

### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY—Ridgway Area Chamber Commerce is hosting a prize package giveaway to help raise funds for improvements to the Ridgway Visitors Center. The project will be completed by volunteers from the Ridgway Chamber, the Visitors Center, and the Railroad Museum and Transition Our Way. RACC member and architect, Ned Bosworth, is designing the project.

The objective is to improve the visibility of the Visitors Center and Railroad Museum while also making it more accessible to the public. RACC will be building a picnic shelter, replacing the signage on the north side of the building to read "Ridgway Visitors Center" and lighting it with soft down lighting along the wall. Landscaping will include extending the grass from Heritage Park at the corner to the west end of the Visitors Center along the sidewalk and adding foundation shrubs along the building. RACC also plans to repair and reorient the split rail fence and move the Ridg-

way Visitors Center sign further east.

Plans also include the removal of a tree or two and the addition of a pedestrian headgate entrance from the sidewalk to the east end of the Visitors Center.

Improvements also include repainting the Visitors Center in colors which will attract passing visitors. RACC is also investigating moving the CDOT signage on Hwy 550 which is just south of the 4-H building and causes our visitors to turn into the 4-H building while looking for the Visitors Center.

RACC has compiled a giveaway package to help raise funds to complete the improvements. You may enter to win by making a nominal donation. The fundraiser package includes a balloon ride for two with San Juan Balloon Adventures, a one night stay at the Chipeta Sun Lodge in a deluxe suite and dinner for two at the Cimarron Cafe in Ridgway. The total package values \$850. You may enter to win the package and make your donation at the



*Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and Railroad Museum. Mirror file photo.*

Business After Hours event hosted on February 21 at San Miguel Power or by visiting the Ridgway Office Supply during their open hours M-F 9am - 5pm. The drawing will be held on March 1, 2013. More information may be found on the Chambers facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RidgwayColorado>.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MOUNTAINFILM SYMPOSIUM 2013 TO FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE--Record hot temperatures were recorded around the world in 2012, evidence of a planet that is heating up even more rapidly than expected by scientists. Against the backdrop of this disturbing news, [Mountainfilm in Telluride](#) will offer real hope by focusing its 2013 [Moving Mountains Symposium](#) on the key issue of climate solutions.

"This is the right theme for our symposium because climate change is at a critical historical juncture," said Mountainfilm Festival Director David Holbrooke. "At this point, we may still be able to stop the worst impacts, but only if we work together and move quickly. The momentum is there, and the time is now. This symposium will set the stage briefly — explaining climate change — but then the real focus will be on what we all can do to turn down the heat."

A variety of factors, from Superstorm Sandy to [scorching temperatures](#) across the U.S. to [collapsing ice across the Arctic](#), have brought a renewed public attention to climate change. With President Obama's re-election, some political focus is now going toward this all-important issue. Many scientists believe that a reversal in the steady rise in global CO2 emissions can occur, but time is quickly running out before climate change spirals out of control. Mountainfilm's Moving Mountains Symposium will feature a variety of speakers, including scientists, activists and philosophers who will examine a variety of climate solutions. "This program is exciting to build because there are so many different solutions — from earth-shaking ones to smaller, grassroots options — all of which are important if we're going to face down what is likely the biggest challenge to humanity in the history of the planet," said Holbrooke. Award-winning journalist John Hockenberry, who looked closely at climate change deniers for PBS's "Frontline," will host the symposium. The speakers will be a wide-ranging group that includes: Nobel Prize-winning scientist [Terry Root](#), from Stanford University, who worked on the IPCC panel on climate



*MountainFilm takes place over Memorial Day Weekend 2013. Courtesy photo.*

change; Harvard scientist [Daniel Nocera](#), a speaker at Mountainfilm's symposium on energy in 2007, who has developed a revolutionary way to create energy by simulating photosynthesis; [Jeff Goodell](#)—another guest from 2007—who has written a book called *How to Cool the Planet* about geo-engineering; [Auden Schendler](#), of Aspen Ski Company, who will discuss the effects of climate change on the [ski industry](#) if and what measures he is recommending for people who make their living from snow; and philosopher [Kathleen Dean Moore](#) who argues that we are at a "hinge point in history," and who has edited a book called *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*. Returning to Mountainfilm after serving time in federal prison will be activist [Tim DeChristopher](#) who will talk about how the American public needs to get more involved in this issue by using civil disobedience to put pressure on the federal government. DeChristopher, featured in the award-winning film, *Bidder 70*, will be making one of his first public appearances since serving time for disrupting a federal auction of oil and gas drilling rights on public land. In addition to speakers,

Mountainfilm's symposium will offer a mix of short films and other media. Holbrooke explained, "I want our audience to feel that they have never been to an event like this year's symposium. It will be educational and entertaining but, most of all, I want it to motivate people to be part of the solution because there's simply no time to lose." *About Mountainfilm: Established in 1979, Mountainfilm in Telluride is dedicated to educating, inspiring and motivating audiences about environments, cultures, issues and adventures. Working at the nexus of filmmaking and action, its flagship program is the legendary Mountainfilm Festival—a one-of-a-kind combination of films, conversations and inspiration. Mountainfilm also reaches audiences year round through its worldwide tour, on Outside Television, with its online Minds of Mountainfilm interviews and in classrooms through its educational outreach initiative, Making Movies that Matter. Mountainfilm has the power to change lives. To learn more, visit the website. To join the conversation, please visit the blog, follow us on Twitter, and become a fan on Facebook.*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### UNAWEEP TABEGUACHE SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY HOSTS MEETINGS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--We want to hear from you... We ask you as a resident, business or government representative to join together to help preserve, promote and celebrate the heritage, culture, and natural resources of the UT Byway. In 1990 the Colorado Department of Transportation Commission designated Hwy 141 and 145 the UnawEEP-Tabeguache Scenic & Historic Byway. The 133 mile corridor begins in White-water and continues through the towns of Gateway, Van Corum, Naturita, Redvale, Norwood and ending in Placerville. Western Colorado Interpretive Association in cooperation with the UnawEEP-Tabeguache Byway Association received a grant from CDOT to review and update the byway's 1995 Interim Management Plan. While the interim plan was a valuable initial plan, it did not provide long term goal and strategies. A new byway Corridor Management Plan is being developed to clarify goals and objectives, provide methods for sustaining the byway and enhance the visitor's experience along the byway. We encourage community members, partners and stakeholders to participate in the planning process. A series of meetings will

be held to bring folks together to begin to form a common understanding of the byway and to identify available resources and individual and agency commitment to the byway. Your involvement is essential to identifying common purposes and projects, maximizing efficiency and the use of agency and community resources, and leveraging funds and projects through partnerships.

We want to know...What has your involvement been with the UTBY in the past; How is the UT Byway unique from other Co. Scenic Byways; What should the three highest priorities be for the byway; What is the biggest challenge facing the byway.

What we hope are the results of this Corridor Management Planning effort: Rebuilding the Byway committee; Identifying the unique needs and wants of the byway communities as it relates to the scenic byway and to connect the dots, maximizing local efforts and resources, complementing and supplementing existing projects & programs; Identifying economic development opportunities for the communities along the byway and implementation plans; Strengthen community ties by de-

veloping long term partnerships and collaboration.

#### **Planned Open House/Stakeholder Meetings:**

##### **Norwood/Placerville**

Monday, February 11, 2013

5:30 – 7:30

Norwood Community Center

1670 Naturita St

Norwood, Co 81423

##### **Nucla/Naturita**

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

5:30 – 7:30

Naturita Public Library

107 W 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

Naturita, Co 81422

##### **Gateway/Whitewater**

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

5:30 – 7:30

Gateway Community Center

Hwy 141 across from the School

#### **For more information please contact:**

Western Colorado Interpretive Association  
Chris Miller

2250 Hwy 50, Delta, Co. 81416

Phone 970-874-6695

Or email - [wcia@wcinterp.com](mailto:wcia@wcinterp.com)

### COLORADO DEPT. OF REVENUE OFFERS PTC REBATE FOR ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO--The Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit, commonly known as the "PTC Rebate" is a rebate for low-income seniors and disabled individuals. Many Coloradans may be eligible for this PTC rebate, which is available every year. It has been available to Colorado residents since 1979. The actual rebate total is based on the applicant's income and expenses. Any Colorado resident who meets the requirements for the rebate should submit the 2012 rebate application, Form 104 PTC, beginning Jan. 1. The application is available on the Department of Revenue's Taxation Web site at [www.TaxColorado.com](http://www.TaxColorado.com) Click the "PTC" button at the top of the page. What are the

eligibility requirements? You must have resided in Colorado the entire year; be lawfully present in the United States; Complete the DR 4679 PTC lawful presence affidavit; be a Single person with total income of less than \$12,481, or a Married couple with total combined income of less than \$16,476. You (either husband or wife) are 65 or older by Dec. 31, or are a surviving spouse at least 58 years old by Dec. 31, or you were disabled for the entire year, regardless of age; and you are not claimed as a dependent on any other person's federal income tax return. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you may apply for the rebate with the 104 PTC form and the lawful presence affidavit, which are contained in the 104 PTC book-

let. Visit [www.TaxColorado.com](http://www.TaxColorado.com) Click on the PTC button at the top of the page. When will the Rebate be issued? The Colorado PTC rebate is paid on a set schedule based on when the application is processed. For faster delivery, we recommend that the return be filed in January or early February. The status of your PTC rebate will not be available until April 15, 2013 (at the earliest) or 12 weeks after the application is filed. Depending on when your application is approved, installment payments are issued in April, July, October and January. If you have Internet access, go to [www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline](http://www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline) under "For Individuals" and click on "Where's My Refund" to check the status of your most current installment payment.

# 28 DAYS OF Generosity

What could happen if we join together as a community in 28 days of generosity?

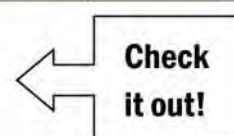
Do one day or do them all—just join the fun! A few suggestions for each day are on the back or create your own. Be sure and visit the links below for more ideas, to see our community in action, and post your generosity story.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 February Day to Share and Prepare for a Generous Month	2 Give Something Away Day
3 Phone a Friend	4 Manners Monday or Chivalry Day	5 Give 5 to Your Favorite Cause	6 Warm Wednesday	7 Neighbor Day	8 Furry Friend Friday	9 Senior Citizen Saturday
10 Take a 10 Minute Break	11 Muscle Monday	12 Talent Tuesday	13 Baker's Dozen Day	14 Healthy Living Day	15 Family Friday	16 Small Person Saturday (Youth)
17 Reach Out Beyond Our Community	18 Recognize a Leader	19 Sweetness Day	20 Give 20 Minutes	21 Handwritten Note or Card Day	22 Food Friday	23 Snow Day Saturday
24 Team Up with Others Day	25 Secret Santa Day	26 Book Day	27 Simple Kindness	28 Eat Out for Charity		

Website and Blog:  
[www.montrosecf.com](http://www.montrosecf.com)



Facebook:  
Montrose Community Foundation





- 1** Invite a friend, co-worker, family member, or someone you don't know very well to join you in 28 days of generous living. Brainstorm ideas on how you can generously live and give in the coming month. Start a kindness journal for the month.
- 2** Clean out your closets, bookcases, toy boxes, attics, garages—find something you forgot you have and give it away.
- 3** Pick up the phone and reconnect with someone or visit with someone you want to know better. Sorry, texting doesn't count.
- 4** Chivalry is not dead—today it is alive and well! Open a door, shake a hand, pull out a chair, hang up someone's coat, let someone in front of you in line (you get the idea).
- 5** Give 5 bucks or even \$500. Just pick your favorite cause and share of your financial resources. A listing of charitable organizations is found at [www.montrosecf.com](http://www.montrosecf.com).
- 6** It's cold outside—share a warm and generous good deed today. Start someone's car, pay someone's utility bill, donate hats and gloves to an elementary school or a blanket to a shelter. Lots more ideas for Warm Wednesday on Facebook.
- 7** It's National Wave All Your Fingers At Your Neighbor Day, celebrate the holiday by doing something kind for a neighbor.
- 8** Take your pet for a walk. Have a child "Read to Rover". Don't have a furry friend? Donate pet food or volunteer at the animal shelter.
- 9** Today is for our special senior citizens. Visit a nursing home, offer to do errands, stop by and see a shut in, or offer respite care.
- 10** Be generous to you today. Take a 10 minute break to rest and reflect on the many people who have been generous to you.
- 11** It's Muscle Monday, put yourself to work carrying someone's groceries, carrying a friend's backpack to school or even doing a home repair for someone who could use your help. Breaking a sweat is bonus.
- 12** You know you've got talent (singing, telling jokes, baking, listening, playing an instrument). Share it with someone today.
- 13** Baker's Dozen Day means "one more". Buy an extra canned good at the store today and donate to the food pantry. Invite another child to spend time with your family. Whatever you are doing, do "one more"—it really is more fun!
- 14** Give blood, sign up to be an organ donor, leave greeting cards at the hospital for patients, deliver soup to someone who is sick. Need more info on how to and where to do this, visit [montrosecf.com](http://montrosecf.com). Great soup recipe there too.
- 15** Be generous with your time and attention in your family. Eat together. Play together. Talk together. Laugh together.
- 16** Cheer for our local youth at a sporting event. Start a conversation with a young person you don't know. Keep a conversation going with a child you do know.
- 17** Let your generosity reach beyond our community . . . Think of the possibilities and share your story on-line at [montrosecf.com](http://montrosecf.com).
- 18** It's President's Day, let a leader (in the community, at church, at school, an elected official) who has inspired you know that they are appreciated.
- 19** Anything sweet works today—candy, flowers, hugs, compliments
- 20** Give 20 minutes or 1200 seconds of your time. Not sure where to start? Check out the on-line listings.
- 21** Experience the lost art of writing a hand-written note or making a card for someone. Guaranteed to brighten their day.
- 22** Buy someone's lunch, volunteer at one of the meal sites in town, deliver meals to seniors, clear a friend's lunch tray at school.
- 23** Get outside. Shovel a sidewalk. Build someone a snowman. Play at Cerro Summit at the Rotary Winter Carnival.
- 24** Team up with your neighbors, friends, schools, churches, service clubs, sports teams, others, and be generous together.
- 25** It's the 25th. Do something good anonymously as a Secret Santa. Maybe tonight under the full moon?
- 26** Read to someone. Listen to a child read. Donate a book. Volunteer at a school. Volunteer at the local library.
- 27** It's National No-Brainer Day. No big plans today—just keep your eyes open and be spontaneous in your generosity.
- 28** Celebrate a generous month by eating out today. Participating local restaurants are giving a portion of proceeds to charity. See the list on-line and invite someone to join you.

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## Love Poems At Arroyo's Pre-Valentine's Day



**TELLURIDE**—Soon it will be Valentine's, stirring up those hot blooded passions in a cold-blooded time of year. Come join the Talking Gourds Poetry Club for an evening of warm words, interactive sharing and romantic performances. Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer will be channeling Pablo Neruda and Art Goodtimes Sappho. Locals are encouraged to bring a love poem (or two) from a favorite author (or two). Dress is informal. The wine list divine. Be prepared to assist in assembling a disorder of poets out of the chaos of the vine -- at 6 p.m., Telluride Time. Talking Gourds Poetry Club is a collaboration among local poets, the Wilkinson Library, Between the Covers Bookstore, and Arroyo's. Members meet monthly, first Tuesdays, in the evening, at Arroyo's Fine Art Gallery & Wine Bar at 220 E. Colorado Ave., 970-239-2006.

HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S DAY  
FROM THE  
MONTROSE  
MIRROR!  
THANKS FOR  
READING...

## SEND YOUR LOVE A SINGING VALENTINE!

### BLACK CANYON CHORUS SWEETENS THE HOLIDAY

*Special to the Mirror*  
**MONTROSE**—Would your Valentine like to be sung to, like Valentine Bonnie Eakin, shown here at center? The Black Canyon Chorus quartets will sing a limited number of performances between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Feb. 14. For a performance with rose, the cost is \$40. Group cost is \$50. Call Dennis Olmstead at 970-596-3196 to schedule! Shown with Eakin at right are Dan Baer, Kevin Cohenour, Larry Wilkingon and Jason Ward. Courtesy photo.



**CALL 970-275-5791 FOR MONTROSE MIRROR AD RATES AND INFORMATION!**





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

After a quick trip home for the weekend, I'm preparing for a busy week ahead with four of my bills to be heard in committee. My two water bills passed out of the agriculture committee last week and will be heard on the senate floor for any debate and, hopefully, passage on through to the House chamber.

Every bill goes through hearings and debates in the assigned committees and again on the floor of both chambers of the legislature before ending up on the governor's desk, if all goes well, or in the killed bills' pile, if a bill fails to garner enough support for passage.

Not all bills are controversial or complicated, so a number of them pass relatively easily. Then, there are bills that stir passionate debate and possibly flaring tempers with dramatic votes. The senate floor calendar for this week includes the topics of collective bargaining for firefighters and civil unions as well as a number of bills in committees dealing with other controversial issues.

I've been receiving lots of emails and while I'm not able to respond to all of them, given limited time and staff, I am reading them. What I've received so far on proposed firearms legislation and the

importance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to my constituents continues to impress me with the thought and effort put into them. The vast majority, while acknowledging the recent tragedies, don't support additional gun control.

Many are anxious to know where I stand on this issue. In a nutshell, I am a strong supporter of the constitutional right to bear arms. I continue to educate myself on the various sides of the issues, including attending evening debates and forums. I represent eight counties in the rural, remote region of the state and this also significantly colors my views.

Some Republican sponsored firearms bills have already been heard in committee, although not in the committee I sit on. None of these bills have successfully passed, given the Democratic majorities in both chambers, but, it's rumored that we'll see the Democratic bill package this week.

Returning to my own bills to be heard this week, I've got one that deals with updates to Colorado's probate code, another on improving access to legislative archives and two bills before the education committee. The education bills have particular relevance to rural areas and expanding the use of technology.

One of the education bills makes it clear that school boards can allow electronic participation by board members as decided by the local board's policies. Executive sessions are excluded from this and the bill language discourages overuse of this means of attendance, but the specifics are to be determined at the local level.

The other education bill aims to improve access to supplemental online coursework and to provide greater support for "blended learning", which is a combination of online work in a more traditional classroom setting with direct teacher interaction with the student. Adequate access to broadband is holding the rural areas of Colorado back in this emerging and important area of education, but a recent study also demonstrates that inadequate professional development and funding for blended learning is also a barrier we should address. This bill seeks to do that by helping students and their teachers make the most of opportunities in blended learning.

*Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator  
State Capitol, 200 E. Colfax Ave.,  
Denver CO 80203  
Office phone: (303)866-4884*

## ALBERT J. ALDASORO SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Applications are now being accepted for the Albert J. Aldasoro Scholarship. This memorial scholarship was established by the Woolgrowers Association and the MHS and OHS FFA organizations to provide financial assistance to a graduating senior wishing to further his/her education in an agricultural field of study.

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be a graduating senior who is

enrolled in Montrose or Olathe High School agriculture education classes and planning to attend an accredited vocational school or college to further his/her education in agricultural studies in the fall following his/her graduation from high school. Qualified students may obtain application forms at the Agricultural Departments or the Guidance Offices of Montrose or Olathe High School. **The deadline for application forms is March 15, 2013.**

To be considered for scholarship monies all applicants must submit completed applications.

Completed applications must be received by the deadline and returned to one of the following: Mr. Brett Saunders, MHS Ag. Dept.; Mrs. Erin Martinez, OHS Ag. Dept.

The selection process for the scholarship will be completed in April. Questions may be directed to Mr. Saunders or Mrs. Martinez.

## THIRD ANNUAL COMPASSION BASH SET FOR APRIL 26 AT COBBLE CREEK

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Cobble Creek's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Compassion Bash" Fundraiser to benefit The Helping Hand Fund, a component

fund of the Montrose Community Foundation. 6 pm at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. Fashion Show for guys and gals, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, dancing,

raffles and grand prizes! Tickets are \$20 and are available at She-She Boutique and the Cobble Creek Pro-Shop. Contact 964-4947 or [info@cobblecreek.com](mailto:info@cobblecreek.com) for info.

# Chow Down Pet Supplies!



*Above, a kitten in comfort at Chow Down Pet Supplies. At left, Krista Bush waits on customers at the popular Downtown pet food boutique. Photos by Clay Greathouse.*

*By Liesl Greathouse*

MONTROSE--For the healthiest and highest quality pet goods, from food to toys, Chow Down Pet Supplies is the place to go.

Krista Bush and her husband, Tim, run Chow Down Pet Supplies in Montrose. Family owned and operated, Chow Down Pet Supplies has four branch stores and was originally started in Evergreen. Tim's brother opened a small location in Fairplay, and for three years now Tim's brother has been running the Grand Junction branch.

"We decided to open a store in Montrose because the Grand Junction store was getting customers from Telluride, Ridgway and Montrose," Krista explained.

Chow Down is described as the healthy dog and cat place. "The pet foods we offer contain no corn or animal byproducts," Krista said. "We offer healthy food with no fillers."

Customers can also find grooming tools, treats, collars, beds, toys, and a lot more. For people looking to wash their dogs, there is a \$10, 30-minute self-service dog wash. There is also a professional dog groomer in the store.

The store has three employees, plus a collection of animals, including Mike the cat and Murphy the Great Dane. The staff is very knowledgeable and helpful, taking time to personalize their service for each customer. They will help in any way and offer honest opinions about products and

what will work best for each pet.

"We guarantee that you will not get the kind of customer service we have anywhere else," Krista said. "I will read labels for people, do special orders and carry customer's purchases out to their car. We try to meet everyone's personal needs and make their pets happy."

Customers will find lots of familiar product lines, as well as plenty of smaller brands.

"We try to support small companies because of the high quality control they do," Krista explained.

Because Chow Down focuses on personalizing each pet's diet, there are no specific brands that they recommend for all pets.

"Some brands work good for some pets, while they may not work good for others," Krista said.

Chow Down aims to offer a lot of U.S. made products, especially with food and dogs chews. One example is Bixbi Treats, a Colorado based company that makes vegetarian dog chews. Another company is Boulder Dog Food Company, which offers bison chins and other types of chews for dogs.

While Chow Down strives to have the lowest prices in town, and will price match if they are not, customers can also get special discounts. There is a special discount of 10% off the price of a case of an item, such as food. Many brands at Chow Down offer Frequent Buyer programs, for example, buy 10 products get one free. Fire-

fighters, police officers, active duty military and veterans receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

Throughout February, Chow Down will be hosting several events. On Feb. 13 puppy-training classes will begin, which will be held in the store. Class size is limited, but there is no deadline to register. On Feb. 16 they will host Adoption Day. The Second Chance Humane Society will bring animals that are available for adoption to the store and Chow Down will be fundraising for the Society all that day. Through Feb. 14 they are offering a \$30 Bath & Brush grooming special.

Krista's experience with opening a Chow Down branch in Montrose has been positive.

"People have been really welcoming," She said. Currently, there are no major goals for Chow Down. Their main focuses right now are to expand their product line, especially in adding more U.S. made products, and to give back to the community as much as possible.

What makes Krista the happiest while working at Chow Down?

"When we have animals come in that have medical problems, such as skin allergies or intestinal issues, and we work with the customer to find something to make their pets healthier," She said. "My favorite part is just helping animals."

For more information, call 970-249- 5052, go online to [chowdownpetsupplies.com](http://chowdownpetsupplies.com), or visit Chow Down Pet Supplies at 202 Main St. in Montrose. They are open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### BUYING LOCAL JUST GOT EASIER...FARMERS MARKET GOES ONLINE



*The Montrose Indoor Farmers Market. The Market is now online as well! Courtesy photo.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Thanks to the Montrose Memorial Hospital the San Juan Cancer Center and Valley Food partnership, the On-line Farmers Market is open and ready for business. The on-line system features a variety of local food products including apples, lavender, local grown meats, fresh baked goods, unique gifts and more. Check out the on-line Market by going to [www.montrosefarmersmarket.com](http://www.montrosefarmersmarket.com). The local artisans and producers add new prod-

ucts every week so book market this website as one of your favorites! Become a customer of the market and receive weekly emails about what's fresh. Shop conveniently from your home and pick up your items at the next market. Don't worry; the system will remind you of the dates and times for your pickup. For more information about becoming a customer, Friend of the Market or selling on-line contact the Montrose Farmers Market at [info@montrosefarmersmarket.com](mailto:info@montrosefarmersmarket.com).

#### **Information about the Montrose Farmers Market:**

The Montrose Farmers' Market is a Colorado non-profit organization guided by a board of eleven members. Nine of those members are producers and three are community members. The Montrose Farmers Market has two seasons—the Indoor Market is now operating through May of 2013 and the **Outdoor season- Market** which starts around the end of May and continues every Saturday thru the end of October. The Montrose Farmers Market supports and promotes local producers, artisans and businesses who operate on the Western Slope of Colorado. For our farmers the busiest season is the "growing season" May-November each year. By May you will find a selection of fresh local Asparagus, Dry Beans, Fresh Flowers, Herbs, Rhubarb, Swiss Chard and lettuces. Around June, July and August you will likely see Apricots, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Cherries, Onions, Peaches, Peas, Potatoes, Squash, Sweet Corn, Strawberries, Turnips and Tomatoes. The peak season weather willing is usually September-November and you will find a variety of Apples, Bell Peppers, Beets, Herbs, Garlic, Potatoes, Watermelon and Winter Squash. You can purchase locally made goodies including freshly baked pies, cookies, breads, honey, jams, goats milk soap, garlic granules, green house produce, fresh farm eggs, locally produced meats, goat cheese and hand crafted jewelry all year-round.



**Go MHS!**

### Looking for a Varsity Sporting Event?

**NOWMontrose.com** lists varsity sporting events for Montrose High School, as well as, Delta County high schools. Check out this valuable resource on **NOWMontrose.com**, your source for activities, events, business listings, and all things Montrose.

**NOWMontrose.com**

Live, Enjoy & Explore!

**WHEN YOU WANT IT...AND YOU WANT IT NOW!**

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



### Cody Carlson donates \$500 to San Juan Healthcare Foundation

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**--The Caring Friends Fund provides items and services to help patients and their families at Montrose Memorial Hospital and the San Juan Cancer Center (SJCC). The donated money helps provide services that are beyond the patient's medical needs including; massages, manicures, PlayStation video console for hospitalized children, gas cards, grocery cards, medication assistance, travel and lodging expenses and meals for nutritional support during therapy. For more information on the Caring Friends Fund, or if you would like to make a donation, call 970-240-7397. Pictured Left to Right: Francie Smiles, SJCC Resource Coordinator, Tom Barrett, San Juan Healthcare Foundation Secretary/Treasurer, Marva Victor, San Juan Cancer Center Oncology Director and Cody Carlson, High Country Beverage.

### Second Annual Montrose Scrabble Tournament Slated for 2 Rascals March 10

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**-- The Second Annual Montrose Scrabble Tournament occurs from 1 pm to 4 pm on Sunday, March 10 at 2 Rascals Brewing Company at 147 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street to benefit the Montrose Academic Booster Club (A+BC). Contestants will play three one-hour games against randomly-selected

opponents. The person with the highest game score will receive a handmade wooden Scrabble board from Dick Lillard and \$100. Prizes also will be given for second highest game score and top word scores.

Registration is \$20 and includes free 2 Rascals root beer and snacks.

Contestants must pre-register by Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> by calling Amy McBride at [970-433-8779](tel:970-433-8779).

A+BC formed 30 years ago and is a non-profit organization committed to financing innovative educational projects and recognizing academic excellence at all grade levels in the RE-1J School District.

### MONTROSE EMBLEM CLUB #91 OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**--Montrose Emblem Club #91, an affiliate of the Montrose Elks Lodge, has announced that scholarship applications are now available. Two schol-

arships will be awarded to graduating seniors from Montrose and/or Olathe High Schools. Applicants must be students who are hard-working, active in their school, striving for further education and who

demonstrate financial need. They should also demonstrate strength of character and emotional maturity and stability. Applications are available at the MHS and OHS guidance offices. Apply by April 18, 2013.

### HARTMAN BROTHERS ANNOUNCE CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**--Hartman Brothers of Montrose announces that applications are now available for the Hartman Brothers Centennial Scholarships. Students who will graduate in 2013 or who have graduated within the last 2 years from Montrose, Olathe, VISTA, or Passage High Schools are eligible to apply as well as graduates of a pri-

ivate school or accredited home school program in Montrose or Olathe. Both a *Medical/Nursing Scholarship* and a *Technical/Vocational Scholarship* are available. Applications are available at the guidance offices at MHS and OHS and at Delta Montrose Technical College. **Application deadline is April 10, 2013.** For more information contact the guidance office at

the eligible high schools. Hartman Brothers celebrated its centennial year in 2004 and has offered this scholarship each year since.

The Hartman family believes that the strength of our community and the nation depends on the strength of our educational programs and those willing, able, and dedicated to pursue those programs.



# OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE ARTS IN MONTROSE!



Artist Lynn Vogel, right, talks to Lynda Alfred during the closing reception for *Wired Two*, Vogel's collaborative show with potter Bill Wilson at Around the Corner Art Gallery Jan. 18. *Image courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*



Montrose Singer/Songwriter Susan Walton brought her musical gifts to SheShe Boutique & Gallery on Feb. 1, during First Friday Stroll. *Courtesy photo/Susan Walton.*



Above, Barbara Elgard and ten-year-old granddaughter Emily Griffith at Canyon Gallery during First Friday Stroll Feb. 1.

Left, Artist Rich Sprankles pastel medium "Tree of Life" sold early at Around the Corner Gallery's Anatomy Artist exhibit during the First Friday Stroll Feb. 1.

*Images courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*



Left, artists Bill Wilson and Lynn Vogel show off some of their collaborative works of art at the closing party for their popular "Wired Two" show at Around the Corner Gallery in Montrose Jan. 18. *Image courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN RUNNERS WINTER RIM ROMP

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--The San Juan Mountain Runners will be hosting the Winter Rim Romp, the first event of the 2013 Black Canyon Race Series on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The race benefits Montrose Community Foundation and Mended Little Hearts of Western Colorado, assisting families affected by congenital heart defects emotionally and financially. Congenital Heart Defects affect 1:100 children. Details: visit [www.blackcanyonraces.com](http://www.blackcanyonraces.com); 16K/10mile classic cross country ski race;

8K/5mile snowshoe race; 8K/5mile non-competitive cross country ski. These three events require registration (\$20 until Feb 1<sup>st</sup> @ [www.blackcanyonraces.com](http://www.blackcanyonraces.com) or \$25 race day). Race start at 10am. Loki gloves for all registered racers. Prizes for winners and raffle prizes for all registered participants. The Rim Romp also presents a free, fun, ranger led snowshoe hike for all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty and wildlife of the National Park in winter. The hike leaves at 10:30 from the Visitor's Center. No registration is required, it's free, and there are no entrance fees for the

National Park in the winter time! An after party will be hosted by Horsefly Brewery following the race, and all registered racers will enjoy free food and beer, awards, and fun. All participants are welcome to join in the fun after the race. This is an amazing opportunity to ski and snowshoe a challenging course along the rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison on a groomed track with amazing views and lots of wildlife along the route.

The race is self-supported, but cookies and hot drinks will be available at the start/finish.

*The Montrose Woman's Club will sponsor their annual Flea Market in Friendship Hall at the Fairgrounds April 6, from 8 AM to 4 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be available. No admission charge.*

# **NOW/Montrose.com**

## **Live, Explore & Enjoy!**

**NOWMontrose.com is the web portal for all things in and around Montrose, Colorado!**

Our mission is to provide current information for a diverse community and resources via the Internet that will allow Locals and Visitors to easily "Live, Explore, and Enjoy!" all that is Montrose, Colorado and its surrounding areas in an innovative and powerful way.

[NOWMontrose.com](http://NOWMontrose.com) provides comprehensive listings for businesses, shopping, and restaurants.

**Contact us: [info@nowmontrose.com](mailto:info@nowmontrose.com) or at 888. 882. 2427**

## *Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events*

### ONGOING-

**First Friday Strolls Montrose Downtown**—Monthly from 5:30 p.m.-8p.m. Artist Demonstrations, Free Wine Tastings, and in store promotional events!

**ReneWest Interactive Art Crawls**—West Main District, third Thursdays of every month.

**Montrose Indoor Farm Market**—1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month, Centennial Plaza.

**Feb. 6**—Forum at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli (1521 Oxbow Dr.), 8 to 9 a.m. Coffee is \$1. Jim Neiman of Montrose Forest Products will present.

**Feb. 6**—Civil Society hosts Timber Night—Health of Our Forests, 5 to 7 p.m. at Bridges of Montrose.

**Feb. 9**- "Medicare 101 and More" from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Montrose Library, 320 S. Second St., Montrose.

This program, titled "Are You New To Medicare?" will be hosted by Mabel and Judy, who will help those attending understand more about Medicare and the available benefits. Presented by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program-Colorado West, Inc. (RSVP), AeroCare, the Colorado Health Foundation, and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). For more information, contact RSVP Colorado West at [970-249-9639](tel:970-249-9639).

**Feb. 9**—San Juan Mt. Runners Winter Rim Romp, to benefit Montrose Community Foundation and Mended Little Hearts of Western Colorado. For details visit [www.blackcanyonraces.com](http://www.blackcanyonraces.com); 16K/10mile classic cross country ski race; 8K/5mile snowshoe race; 8K/5mile non-competitive cross country ski. These three events require registration (\$25 on race day). Race start is at 10am. Loki gloves for all registered racers. Prizes for winners and raffle prizes for all registered participants. The Rim Romp also presents a free, fun, ranger led snowshoe hike for all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty and wildlife of the National Park in winter. The hike leaves at 10:30 from the Visitor's Center. No registration is required.

**Feb. 10**—Montrose Arts Council presents Violinist Jeri Jorgensen, 3 p.m. at a private home salon. Members can reserve tickets (\$40) by mailing your name, address, number of tickets and a check made out to: Montrose Arts Council P.O. Box 2123, Montrose, CO 81402-2123.

**Feb. 14**—Brown Bag Lunch, USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant application training, at DMEA building (11925 6300 Road), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn about implementation of commercially available energy efficiencies or renewable energy products on a commercial building or making Energy Efficiency improvements to a manufacturing process or equipment such as coolers, refrigerators, etc. Training is free, but space is limited - RSVP required. Call 970.874.5735 x 136 to register.

**Feb. 14**—Valentine's Day!

**Feb. 15**—The Center Affaire—A Friend Raiser for Center for Mental Health, 6 to 9 p.m., Holiday Inn Express (1391 South Townsend Ave.).

**Feb. 16**—Eventive Productions Wedding gown exchange, Montrose Pavilion 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 970-209-8221 for information.

**Feb. 21**—ReNeWest Interactive Art Crawl, "Get Iced! Art crawl with fun activities, arts events, Lower Montrose, 5:30 to 10 p.m.

**Feb. 21**-Pickled Painter hosts local artist Bob DeJulio, "One Line Drawing on Bristol Board," from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be works for sale as well. Call 970-812-9504 for more information.

**Feb. 23**—Krista Montalvo and Kendra Morrow host the Second Annual Blue Jean Exchange, Canyon Creek B&B (820 Main St.) 7 p.m. Get those extra jeans that no longer fit out of the closet, come to the party, and trade up!

**Feb. 23**--Annual "Pioneer Social", featuring "The Gray Families of the Uncompahgre Valley", at the United Methodist Church, 19 South Park, Montrose. On Feb. 23, 2013, a special Tour of the Historical United Methodist Church will begin at 1 pm. The Social and Special program will then begin at 2 pm. Donations will be taken at the door, and everyone is invited. Period attire is encouraged. For more information please call Sally at 970-249-2085.

**March 8**—Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and Western Colorado Center for the Arts in Grand Junction present children's class-Batiks and Insects. [Info@wcbotanic.org](mailto:Info@wcbotanic.org).

**March 10**—Second Annual Montrose Scrabble Tournament, 1 pm to 4 pm at 2 Rascals Brewing Company at 147 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street—proceeds benefit the Montrose Academic Booster Club (A+BC). Registration is \$20 and includes free 2 Rascals root beer and snacks. Contestants must pre-register by Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> by calling Amy McBride at [970-433-8779](tel:970-433-8779).

**March 16**—Montrose Gala, Hospice & Palliative Care. Montrose Pavilion, 6:30 p.m.--Champagne Reception & Silent Auction, 7:30 p.m, Dinner & Live Auction, 9 p.m., Dance to the music of Miss Emily with Project Groove. The community is a big part of our success, with more than 400 people attending each year. If you're interested in attending the Montrose Gala or want to support Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado through the Gala, please contact Nancy Hoganson, Director of Community Relations at 970-240-7776.

**April 6**--Montrose Woman's Club is sponsoring their annual Flea Market in Friendship Hall at the Fairgrounds from 8 AM to 4 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be available. No admission charge. Proceeds go to local charitable organizations.

**April 26** - Cobble Creek's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Compassion Bash" Fundraiser to benefit The Helping Hand Fund, a component fund of the Montrose Community Foundation. 6 pm at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. Fashion Show for guys and gals, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, dancing, raffles and grand prizes! Tickets are \$20 and are available at She-She Boutique and the Cobble Creek Pro-Shop. Contact 964-4947 or [info@cobblecreek.com](mailto:info@cobblecreek.com) for more information.

**May 3**—Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and Western Colorado Center for the Arts of Grand Junction present children's class -Birds and Their Habitat. [Info@wcbotanic.org](mailto:Info@wcbotanic.org).



## OUT AND ABOUT AT THE GOLD'S GYM OPENING!



*Kids work out in the child care room during the grand opening celebration at Gold's Gym Montrose on Jan 19.*



*Above, a trainer provides guidance for a client workout.*

*Images courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*



*General Manager Matt Makowski gives a tour of the new facility.*



*Below left, a new member poses with trainers and staff at Gold's Gym. Below, the juice bar was a popular stop on opening day.*





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*Below left, Sonja Horn of Fabula (306 East Main) gives a chocolate treat to six-year-old Ivan Edstom during the First Friday Stroll Downtown Feb. 2.*



*Above, ice carver Scott Rella crafts a frozen work of art at the Montrose Community Foundation Baldrige Gala at the Pavilion Feb. 2.*

*Images courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*

# Once Upon a Wedding Bridal Expo

Free  
Admission



Montrose Pavilion Feb. 16, 2013 10am-3pm

Prize Give-Aways Gown Exchange

for more information: 970-209-8221 or 970-209-4582

*photo by Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography*