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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 54 Feb. 20 2013

## NO BARRIERS IN TELLURIDE!



*This courtesy photo from the No Barriers USA Facebook page is captioned, "Do Not Handle This Flag with Care. It is as strong as your will and determination."*

By Caitlin Switzer

TELLURIDE—According to information provided by the Veterans Administration, Colorado had approximately 395,613 military veterans as of Sept. 2012. For those returning from the service with disabilities, the challenges of returning to civilian life can seem overwhelming—and the barriers to success formidable.

This summer, a non-profit organization dedicated to erasing those obstacles will host the Annual No Barriers Summit in Telluride from Aug. 8-11. [NoBarrier-USA](http://NoBarrier-USA.org) is dedicated to "unleashing the potential of the human spirit," and providing "transformative experiences that empower people to embrace a 'no barriers' mindset and discover the potential that lies within themselves and the world."

Although the summit is still months away, the excitement is already palpable. Just ask Melanie Kline, founder of Welcome Home Montrose, an organization that provides resources for returning veterans in Montrose.

"They hold these summits every two years, all over the world, in places like Switzerland and Winter

*Continued on Page 2*

## PET PROJECTS: LOCAL NO-KILL SHELTERS AT A GLANCE

**With 2011 Revenues of \$684,245, Second Chance Among State's "most solvent"**

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—When it comes to making charitable donations, it is no secret that many people prefer to support organizations that promote animal welfare. Here in Western Colorado, animal lovers may choose from not one but three local, no-kill animal shelters—The Montrose Animal Shelter, Grand Junction's Roice-Hurst Humane Society, and Ridgway's Second Chance Humane Society. With all three accepting and even soliciting donations, which is the best fit for you and your budget?

The Montrose Animal Shelter (3383 North Townsend) has been a no-kill facility for the past four years. The current staff includes four full-time employees and four part-time employees, who are assisted by numerous generous volunteers. The shelter is supported financially by City taxes, and has a

*Continued on page 4*



*Second Chance Humane Society recently moved to the 52-acre Angel Ridge Ranch.*

**in this  
issue**

Great Photos by  
Cara Fandel!

J. Berndt asks  
"What If?"

Waterwise Landscape  
with Rick Spalenka!

Two great stories by  
Liesl Greathouse!

Colorado Boy in  
Montrose!!

## ***NO BARRIERS IN TELLURIDE! Continued from page 1***



*Don't let any barriers keep you from planting your own flag on the summit of your choice. Courtesy photo, No Barriers USA.*

Park,” Kline said. “It is very competitive—and it is coming to Telluride in 2013!”

This marks the first time Telluride has hosted the No Barriers Summit, acknowledged Courtney Stuecheli, executive director of the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program, which will host the majority of the recreational activities for this year’s summit.

“It is early, but we are already really, really excited,” Stuecheli said. “We are thrilled to be involved in bringing 400 to 600 people with disabilities to Telluride—we hope it will become an annual event.”

Although the process of choosing a com-

munity to host the No Barriers Summit is highly competitive, Stuecheli said that she believes Telluride may have been chosen in part because, while it is not the easiest resort to get to, the Telluride “mindset” is one of perseverance.

“The competition was really, really stiff,” she said. “But we have the idea here that to get here is worth the trouble—and we think the No Barriers folks embrace that mindset too.”

Locals are encouraged to plan ahead to attend, she added.

“We are trying to make sure that things are affordable, and welcoming,” she said. “Please come whether you have a disabil-

ity or not—just to be a part of the No Barriers Summit is a real eye opener for a lot of folks. We would love to have a lot of people here!”

Science and innovative thinking are combined in the four-day, outdoor recreational extravaganza, she noted. Among the speakers slated for the 2013 Summit are Journalist Bob Woodruff, who suffered a brain injury while reporting in Iraq and who subsequently established a foundation to help returning wounded veterans; motivational speaker, author and award-winning martial arts athlete Kyle Maynard, who just happened to have been born without arms or legs; and internationally known blind skier Erik Weihenmayer. TASP provides approximately 2,200 lessons to people with disabilities each year. No Barriers USA, an offshoot of a program that originally began in Italy, was formed in the U.S. in 2005. The No Barriers Summit, according to the website, combines hands-on clinics, product demonstrations, outdoor excursions, films, art, music, keynote addresses, leadership exercises and symposia. Expect an expanded Innovation Village in 2013, and new, exciting clinics.

“We bring together scientists, inventors, academics, practitioners and end users in a four-day outdoor extravaganza that will challenge your conception of what is possible. The Summit is about community, innovation, discovery and exploration. This family-friendly event is for people of all ages and abilities,” the No Barriers Web site states. Also integral to the 2013 No Barriers Summit is the [Telluride Tourism Board](#), which helped to recruit and bring this world class event here.



**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**  
MONTROSE

*The Montrose Mirror is a twice-monthly Wednesday publication focusing on local business news and information.*

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# COLORADO BOY TO OPEN DOWNTOWN!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—They are known throughout Colorado for great pizza and for a tradition of brewing excellent craft beer. But when Tom and Sandy Hennessey bring their Colorado Boy Pizzeria to Montrose later this year, the emphasis will not be on brewing, but on delicious, Neopolitan-style pizza made fast and fresh.

"We are definitely not opening a brewery," Tom Hennessey said. "We will sell one or two of our beers, but we also plan to sell beer from 2 Rascals Brewery and Horsefly Brewing Company. We will have pizza, a couple kinds of pasta, and sandwiches—you should be able to have your food in seven minutes, and our prices will start at around \$6."

Colorado Boy will go into the space recently vacated by Simmer Food & Wine, at 320 Main Street. Although the opening is scheduled for late May or early June depending on the timing of the liquor license, crews have already started to modify the Downtown location.

"We have already opened the space, and our builders are making some modifications," Hennessey said. "Everything will

be light, nice-looking and totally casual. You will be able to sit right there while your pizza cooks in our oven."

Expect the same great food and service that the Hennesseys are known for. "We love pizza! We have been doing this kind of business since the 1980's,"

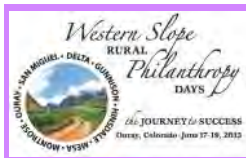
Hennessey said.

"We used to live in Salida, and we opened a place there in 1994 with the same type of food and great service. We have had the Colorado Boy Brewery in Ridgway for several years, and people keep coming up from Montrose, but the space is small—this new place will be more of a bistro, high quality and very affordable."



Hennessey said that he plans to bring some of his own popular brews, including the Irish Ale and IPA, but is also very excited to feature the work of other local brewers.

"I teach a class in brewing, and the guys from 2 Rascals were my students," he said. "They have the best building in town!"



## RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS COMES TO THE WESTERN SLOPE

*Special to the Mirror*

OURAY--This year Western Slope nonprofits will have a unique opportunity to connect with over 30 Colorado foundations at the 2013 Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference on June 17-19, 2013 in Ouray, CO. Save the Date! Nonprofits, government, business and community leaders from Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties are invited to attend! RPD began in 1991. At that time, just three percent of grant dollars from Colorado's private foundations were awarded outside of the Front Range. As a result of the RPD conferences held in Telluride in 2005, and Crested Butte in 2009, grants to Western Slope communities increased 120 percent. The number of grants

awarded increased from 87 grants to 138 grants, annually. RPD makes a difference for nonprofits and the economy at a time when local funding dollars designated for nonprofits have decreased. The Western Slope RPD is expecting 350 attendees to register for the June 2013 conference including representatives from private and government funders. The three-day event begins with discussions within the communities about the region's needs with funders, local governments, nonprofits, business owners and community members before the event as preparation. The conference includes workshops and presentations, and culminates in "Funder Roundtables," at which nonprofit representatives discuss their projects and programs with grantors and receive immedi-

ate indication from funders about whether they would welcome a funding proposal for the project or organization.

Schedule of events includes: Guest Speakers, Food and Entertainment; Opening Reception at Bachelor Syracuse Mine; Taste of Western Colorado with Local Food, Vintners and Brewery Tastings; Roundtable Discussions; Strategic Investment Workshops with Funders and Government Officials. Nonprofits, grantseekers, funders and grantmakers are all encouraged to attend and be involved in this collaborative process for "**The Journey To Success**". Online registration is scheduled to open April 1st. To see the complete schedule, register, review discounted lodging, and get updates, visit [www.westernrpd.org](http://www.westernrpd.org).

## PET PROJECTS—AREA'S NO-KILL SHELTERS *Continued from page 1*



*The pet exercise area at the Montrose Animal Shelter.*

small donations fund set aside for special pet needs such as surgeries.

"We use that account for things that are not in our normal budget," City of Montrose Animal Services Supervisor Mike Duncan said. "There are some surgeries we might otherwise not be able to afford."

The community is very supportive, he added.

"People donate almost faster than we can use the fund," he said.

The Montrose Animal Shelter has a 2013 budget of \$564,000. Last year, the Montrose Animal Shelter responded to 2,200 calls for animal control, and sheltered 1,537 animals, with those numbers expected to rise in 2013, according to Duncan. Although the shelter does receive some support from the non-profit [Montrose Animal Protection Agency](#), the two organizations are separate and operate entirely separate fundraising campaigns, Duncan noted. The 2012 City of Montrose Animal Services Annual Report is currently being completed, and will be available online later this month, Duncan said.

The Montrose Animal Shelter also has a working relationship with Second Chance

Humane Society, a privately held non-profit based in Ouray and San Miguel counties.

"We work together, although we have no relationship when it comes to funding," Duncan said. "We collaborate with Second Chance on spay and neuter programs, and the occasional Adopt-a-thon. They probably help us more than we help them."

Second Chance, founded in 1994, is one of the most solvent humane societies in the State of Colorado, noted Board Member Dudley Case. With a stated annual budget of \$578,850, Second Chance reported total revenues of \$684,245 for year 2011 (the last year available) on the Colorado Secretary of State's web site.

"Sixty-five percent of our revenue comes from the Second Chance Thrift Store," noted Case. "We have noticed lately when we apply for grants that the funders prefer to see 501(c) (3) non-profit organizations that are run like real businesses."

Although the Second Chance Shelter is now located on 52 acres at Angel Ridge Ranch just outside of Ridgway (177 County Road 10), the non-profit provides services such as spay and neuter clinics in

Montrose County.

"We also work with Petco, to place some of our cats for them to try and sell," Case said. "If they don't sell, the cats come back to us. We have relationships with some local veterinarians too, such as the Montrose Vet Clinic."

Second Chance Humane Society employs approximately 20 staff between the thrift store and shelter operations, including an executive director and business manager, and rescues almost 300 pets on an annual basis, according to the non-profit's fundraising materials. The shelter can accommodate 25 dogs and 50 cats. To view the most recent annual report posted, visit [http://adoptmountainpets.org/images/documents/annual\\_report\\_2011\\_web.pdf](http://adoptmountainpets.org/images/documents/annual_report_2011_web.pdf).

The Roice-Hurst Humane Society of Grand Junction (362 28 Road) has just entered its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and is also a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. According to board member and communications chair Elaine Johnson-Craig, the shelter—which recently moved to a new facility—has an average annual budget of around \$525,000.

"In 2011, we adopted out 678 cats and dogs, a 33 percent increase over 2010," she noted. "In 2012, our first full year in our new facility, we adopted out 1,048 cats and dogs—a 55 percent increase over 2011. Because we have been able re-home our animals more quickly, we have been able to transfer in more adoptable animals from area municipal shelters, including 182 dogs from Mesa County Animal Services and 23 dogs and two cats from Montrose Animal Services in 2012."

"We believe that collaborative ventures with other animal rescue agencies are vital to saving and re-homing as many Western Slope pets as possible."

Roice-Hurst currently employs nine full time and four part time staffers, and has more than 100 active volunteers (including its nine-member working board of directors) who assist with everything from dog walking and cat grooming to fundraising and off-site events.

"Our three biggest needs are monetary donations, dog and cat food, and kitty litter," Johnson-Craig said, adding that the current shelter wish list can be found online at [www.rhhumanesociety.com](http://www.rhhumanesociety.com).



## REGION 10

Investing In Our Community

### BUSINESS LOAN FUND

# MACK'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS CENTER

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--Growing up in Montrose, Amanda Nokes loved the family-centered community and small town lifestyle. As a parent herself, Nokes and her husband Chris have chosen to raise their own two children right here. However, they have hopes of making Montrose even more friendly for families with young children.

"We have a nine-year-old and a three-year-old," Amanda Nokes said. "We found there is hardly anything to do here! My husband and I both grew up here and we love it, but wouldn't it be great to have a place for families and people of all ages to come and play?"

An RN by profession, Nokes enlisted the help of her general contractor husband and the Region 10 Business Loan Fund.

"Region 10 made it all possible!" she said. "It can be so hard to get the funding for a startup business; (Region 10 Loan Fund Director) Vince Fandel was amazing. He made me re-write my business plan five times! Now, we are very confident about moving forward."

Business Consultant and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Counselor Lori Sharp, who has assisted the Nokes family with the startup, said that the Region 10 Business Loan Fund has definitely played a key role.

"Region 10 felt like a good partner for this project given the amount needed, the interest rate available, the turnaround time and the desire from the business owner to be able to pay down the loan as soon as they are able," Sharp said. "Mr. Fandel's experience was helpful in finalizing the business plan to ensure the greatest chance for success."

The business, Mack's Family Entertainment and Sports Center, will be located at 1865 East Main St., right next to the San Juan Cinema. The 9,000 square-foot space formerly housed an electrical business, and is currently in the demolition stages. Once



*Mack's Family Entertainment and Sports Center does not open until March, but some local kids and a miniature Chihuahua puppy were already eagerly waiting outside the new business, to be located next to San Juan Cinema at 1865 East Main St, on a recent sunny Saturday.*

complete, Mack's will feature a 102-foot inflatable obstacle course, soft play equipment for toddlers, and a kid-powered scooter track.

"We are also designing an Exploratorium, a small planetarium and virtual aquarium," Nokes said. "We want to mix education in with the fun, to keep kids intrigued at all levels."

Parents can take advantage of pool tables and WIFI, and will be encouraged to stay and play with the kids—although Nokes does hope to partner with the San Juan Cinema in offering special Parent Movie Date Nights. She also has a number of other package deals planned to make Mack's an appealing option for busy, budget-conscious moms and dads.

"We really want this to be a place for all ages," Nokes said. "We will have an open kitchen, with a limited menu of things like pizza, sandwiches, and salads—we are still

looking for the right person to run the kitchen, somebody who loves kids. The goal is to offer HEALTHY food that kids like, instead of junk and fast food—nothing fried. We will even have a smoothie bar, so your kids can get two helpings of vegetables in, and they won't even know it."

Mack's Family Entertainment and Sports Center plans a soft opening March 1, with a Grand Opening on the following Friday.

"We have been working on this for a year and a half," Nokes said.

"We hope that Montrose will support an all-inclusive place for families, at just one low price. We won't have anything coin operated, and no additional fees—just a place to play, with our Exploratorium and food as the only extras."

To learn more, contact Amanda Nokes at [fun@macksfamilyentertainmentandsportscenter.com](mailto:fun@macksfamilyentertainmentandsportscenter.com).

## OUT AND ABOUT... WINTERSCAPES



*Photographer Sarah Berndt captured these images, above, of a stark February tree, and right, of the underwater world of the fish tank in Amelia's Hacienda restaurant in Sampler Square.*



*Landscape Architect and writer Rick Spalenka shared this photo of a recent snowfall in Cedaredge.*



## HONORABLE MENTION

To Gayle and Larry Davidson for bringing so much light and hope to Western Colorado...Gayle, for leading the Partners Organization so successfully for so many years...and to Larry for supporting the arts and making us happy with his brilliant and imaginative creations. The City of Montrose should have a Davidson sculpture in the permanent collection!!

To Jim and Sheran Branscome for their very generous donation in support of CMU...

To Teri Bullington, new owner of Color Connection Salon (11 South Uncompahgre)!

To Montrose musician Yvonne Meek, for attending the 2013 Performing Arts Managers Conference in Las Vegas!

To you...thanks for reading!

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# BLM MUST REVEAL IDENTITY OF CORPORATIONS SEEKING TO LEASE PUBLIC LANDS FOR DRILLING

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER - A federal court [ruled](#) yesterday that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policy and practice of keeping secret from the public the identity of entities nominating public lands for oil and gas development is unlawful.

The precedent-setting ruling stems from a [lawsuit](#) filed in June 2012 by the non-profit organizations Citizens for a Healthy Community (CHC) and the Western Environmental Law Center (WELC). The groups filed the suit after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) refused to reveal names of the entities that had nominated 30,000 acres of public lands in Colorado's North Fork Valley for oil and gas drilling.

"Every community has the right to know what corporations are seeking to drill on public lands near their homes and where they recreate," said WELC attorney Kyle Tisdell. "The Court's decision is a clear rebuke of BLM's policy to protect industry at the expense of the public and its ability to fully engage the agency's decisionmaking process."

Federal oil and gas leases are issued pursuant to competitive bidding at a public sale, which is the final step in a process that

starts with the submission of an expression of interest (EOI). Until now, BLM policy has allowed the identity of EOI submitters to remain secret until after the lease sale – depriving the public from participating in BLM's oil and gas drilling decision-making on a fully informed basis.

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Richard P. Matsch rejected the government's contention that revealing the names of the nominators would give their competitors an unfair advantage and emphasized that the identity of the nominators is important information for citizens concerned about potential contamination of their water and air during the oil and gas extraction process.

"That contention runs directly contrary to the purpose of the public sale process. Competition in bidding advances the purpose of getting a fair price for a lease of publicly owned minerals," Judge Matsch wrote. "Moreover, the identity of the submitter may be relevant to the plaintiff and others who may raise concerns about the stewardship records of that potential owner, a factor relevant to the environmental impact of the proposed sale."

"This is a victory for everyone who be-

lieves the government should do its business in the open, and for everyone trying to protect their community from the severe impacts of oil and gas drilling," said Jim Ramey, director of CHC. "The public has a right to know who nominated these leases, and we look forward to receiving that information from the BLM."

The BLM announced in December 2011 that 30,000 acres of public lands in the North Fork Valley had been nominated for oil and gas leasing and development. The nominated parcels were included in the BLM's August 2012 oil and gas lease sale; however, due to [overwhelming public opposition](#) spearheaded by CHC and WELC, BLM has twice deferred the lease of these parcels, most recently on Feb. 6, 2013.

Western Colorado's North Fork Valley is home to the largest concentration of organic farms in the Rocky Mountain West, and also home to West Elks American Viticultural Area's 12 wineries. The regions still growing sustainable local economy had been threatened by the nominated BLM leases.

Read a copy of the ruling here: <http://www.citizensforahealthycommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/>

## Apply Now for Cindy Watson Foundation Scholarship

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**--Applications are now available for the annual Cindy Watson Foundation Scholarship. The intent of the scholarship is to recognize individuals who demonstrate accountability, contribute to

their own goals, and plan to continue their involvement in their community after college graduation. Seniors who will graduate in 2013 from Montrose, Olathe, Ouray, Ridgway, Norwood, Delta and Central High School and who plan to attend a four

year accredited college or university in Colorado are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the guidance offices of the eligible high schools. Deadline date is April 30<sup>th</sup> or earlier as determined by each individual high school.

## Montrose Visual Arts Guild Offers Scholarship

*Special to the Mirror*

**MONTROSE**--The Montrose Visual Arts Guild is offering a scholarship of \$600.00 to a student in the Montrose or Olathe area. The applicant must intend to pursue an

art-related degree leading to a career in the arts or art education. All eligible art students are encouraged to participate in this process. This award will be determined on a competitive basis and requires students

to submit an application, portfolio and artist's statement. Details and applications are available at the guidance offices of Montrose and Olathe High Schools. The application deadline is March 30.



# Re-Emergence of Mining in Ouray County Sparks Excitement Among Local Business Owners

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—As plans move forward to re-open Ouray's famed Camp Bird Mine and move the Revenue Virginius silver mine from exploration into production, many entrepreneurs in other local businesses are grateful for the restoration of one of the region's most essential industries.

According to Samantha Wright of Watch Newspapers, the Camp Bird mine's new operator, Caldera Mineral Resources LLC, is committed to responsible mining, and has pledged both financial and in-kind resources to ensure that operations are done in an environmentally sound fashion. Wright noted that the company is now six months into the process of revitalizing the historic mine that made Ouray Prospector Thomas Walsh, who struck gold at the Camp Bird in 1896, one of the wealthiest men of his time.

Wright has also reported recently on the efforts of Star Mine Operations to re-open the Revenue Virginius silver mine, noting on Feb. 9 that the Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety had approved with conditions the company's application for a mine permit. According to Wright, 76 miners are currently employed at the Revenue Virginius, which will shift into production phase once stabilization work and construction of an underground mill are complete.

Although David Houtz of Ridgway makes his living turning precious metals and gems into one-of-a-kind jewelry, the longtime owner of Rocky Mountain Jewelry (145 North Cora, Ridgway) finds himself more excited about the fact that some old friends will be returning to the region.

"I am excited about the mines reopening, because honest people will be doing an honest day's work for an honest wage," Houtz said. "Tourism is a seasonal economy at best; the return of mining is a good



*Above, the Revenue Virginius Mine as shown in a photo from the Star Mine Operations web page. With the mining industry coming back to the San Juans, other local businesses are finding cause to celebrate. Courtesy photo.*

thing all around for everyone, and it also will be fun. My friend is working at the Camp Bird, and there are guys there who worked with his dad. Old friends of mine who worked underground are looking at coming back—they're in their 40's and 50's, and in great shape.

"I am very excited," Houtz said. "This is the best thing that could ever happen!"

Erin Eddy Of Ouray Brewing Company (607 Main St., Ouray) believes that the impact of the mine has been immediate, and will be good for Ouray overall.

"I'm sure it's having an impact on our business although it's difficult to track," Eddy said. "I think the big impact is simply on jobs and folks having money to spend locally in the grocery stores, liquor stores and with retail merchants."

For another longtime local business, Ouray Silversmiths (630 Main St., Ouray; 312 East Main, Montrose), the possibility of eventually being able to work with lo-

cally mined silver and gold is a captivating prospect. The artisans at Ouray Silversmiths have worked with local high grade in the past, acquired from those forced to part with cherished supplies in a down economy, and have found it vastly superior in quality.

Company Founder Melanie Kline, internationally known for her designs, calls the re-emergence of the mining industry "super exciting."

"It means a lot to us to know that there is going to be a source for high grade ore mined here," Kline said.

Son and fellow jeweler Dan Kline shares her excitement.

"There are people who still have some of the old, local high grade," he said. "People love it when we have that kind of ore to put into jewelry—we do a lot of work in two tones, gold and silver. As high grade ore becomes more available from local mines it will be very exciting."

THANKS FOR READING...

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



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### RIDGWAY'S GRAHAMSPENCER SWEEPS ADDYS—AGAIN!

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-- GrahamSpencer, a full-service strategic communications, design and content development firm with offices in Ridgway, CO; Rockford, IL; Hoboken, NJ and, with a newly opened office in Nashville, TN, received nine awards for creative excellence in the annual American Advertising Federation ADDY competition. GrahamSpencer's critically-acclaimed work on *Rick's Picks: A Lifelong Affair with Guitars and Music*, a multi-media exhibit telling the story of enigmatic rocker, Rick Nielsen, took *Best of Show*.

Over the past 25 years, GrahamSpencer has been a frequent Best of Show recipient in the competition. GS also took a Judge's Choice Award for its work in the tourism sector for the Rockford Area Convention

and Visitors Bureau current visitors' guide. Jay Graham, Co-Founder and Co-Creative Director joked, "We took home awards in nine of the 10 categories we entered. I guess we have some work to do next year. Seriously though, each year we are so pleased that our peers recognize the work we do--and that our clients value it not just because we win awards, but because our work drives results."

Brian Scranton, GrahamSpencer Managing Director, expressed his gratitude in saying, "What matters most is growing our clients' businesses--though, I have to say, it sure does feel great to win!"

GrahamSpencer's winning work spans multiple media, taking home awards in Collateral, Digital, Advertising (traditional and non-traditional), Sales Promotion, and Television.

Please see the full list below:

**GS won Best of Show for:**

Overall: Rick's Picks: A Lifelong Affair with Guitars and Music, Non-Traditional Campaign

**Judges Choice Award:**

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau: Visitors' Guide

**GS won the following ADDYs:**

alchemy Brand Identity

Rick's Picks Exhibit Campaign

Rick's Pick Identity

Rick's Picks Exhibit Vignette Video

Rick's Picks Poster Series

Rick's Picks Website

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitors' Guide

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Travel Writers Campaign

Rockford Housing Authority Brochure

## SPONSORS NEEDED FOR 2013 MONTROSE FARM MARKET



*The Montrose Farmers Market, 2012.  
Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--The Montrose Farmers' Market is a Western Slope Producers' Market, focusing on supplying Montrose and the surrounding area with fresh, local-

ly grown fruits, vegetables, meats, flowers, value added products and art. The Montrose Farmers' Markets provides a unique opportunity for the consumer to meet the grower who raised the food they eat and chat with the artisan who created the fine photo, painting or jewelry. Buying locally grown and hand-made western slope products uses fewer resources, improves the local economy and allows you to bring the freshest food to your dinner table.

The Montrose Farmers Market was built 34 years ago from the ground up by local producers and community members and has helped cultivate small business, facilitated community networking, attracted tourists, and promoted healthier eating in our community.

Studies have shown that farmers' markets

improve customers' sense of belonging and attachment to their community and increase sales at surrounding businesses. Not to mention they receive healthy, tasty food with their weekly market purchase. The Montrose Farmers Market would like to invite you to be a 2013 Partner this season. Your support will help us continue to cultivate local business, foster the economic health of our region; support our agricultural traditions; and create a thriving environment for job growth, small businesses, tourism, collaboration and healthy living.

**Please, consider helping us make our 35<sup>th</sup> year our best yet!**

**Become a Market Sponsor Now!** Abbie Brewer- Montrose Farmers Market Manager [970-417-6313](tel:970-417-6313) Direct Line.

## SEEDLING TREES NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH STATE FOREST SERVICE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--The Colorado State Forest Service Montrose District is now accepting orders for seedling trees and shrubs to be delivered in late April. Landowners who own one or more acres and are interested in conservation goals, such as creating

windbreaks, improving wildlife habitat or reforesting properties impacted by insects, disease or wildfire, are eligible to purchase the CSFS seedlings. The seedlings range from \$1 to \$2.50 per tree and come in boxes of 30-50. Place orders early, as species availability is limited. Seedling trees have

many uses and benefits, including wind/snow control, enhanced wildlife habitat, livestock protection, increased property values, energy conservation, reduced utility bills and less soil erosion. For seedlings or information contact Jodi Rist at 970-249-9051.

## SHERIFF DUNLAP PRESENTS AT 9/12- TEA PARTY MEETING ON GUN CONTROL



*Dunlap's presentation was well attended. Photos by Clay Greathouse.*

*By Liesl Greathouse*

MONTROSE—On Thursday, Feb. 7, in a standing-room only crowd at Friendship Hall in Montrose, Sheriff Rick Dunlap spoke on gun control. He arrived to a round of applause from the audience and took the microphone to address citizen's concerns on gun control laws.

Dunlap started off by saying, "I want everyone to understand that I support the Constitution and the Bill of Rights."

Dunlap wants to have a cooling off period for a year before any new gun laws are enacted, due to the high emotions surrounding the recent shootings across the country.

"We have to use common sense" Dunlap explained. "We need to sit down, with a level head, and have everyone together, so we can start talking before implementing things. We need to take time...[and answer the question] where do we go from here?"

Many people made remarks in agreement with Dunlap's statement, "I want a definition of an assault weapon."

"When they start passing laws, one thing people do not keep in mind: how are you going to enforce it?" Dunlap said. "There are already gun laws in this country, we need to start enforcing them."

Dunlap explained the hard decisions that sheriffs will have to face soon on whether to. "Law enforcement officers are obligated to enforce the law," he said. "If this stuff passes, all sheriffs will have to face a tough decision: either enforce the law or leave the profession. They have taken an oath to support the U.S. Constitution and the Colorado Constitution, and enforce the law, but if their heart says one or the other, that is a tough decision."

Dunlap also described the changing attitude towards sheriffs across the country.



*Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap addressed gun control on Feb. 7 at Friendship Hall.*

"In Delaware and Rhode Island they are taking all powers away from sheriffs, to the point that sheriffs don't even have arrest powers," He said. "This kind of thing is happening across the United States. Just think that a sheriff would not even be looked upon to enforce the laws of state. Next thing they'll be taking their weapons from them."

Dunlap explained that U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers are also caught in a hard place because of gun control laws.

"We look at them as the devil," He said, "But they are not the ones who make the laws. They are just employed by an agency and must enforce the laws."

Dunlap believes that the bigger police departments in the country hold a lot of power and should state their opinions on gun control.

"Some are pro-gun control, some are not, but I just want them to state their position," He said, "I know I have."

The floor was then open to questions and comments. Many were words of encouragement to Sheriff Dunlap. One comment came from David Justice.

"It is a scary scenario," He said. "[Should the sheriffs quit] we dread the people who would fill your positions...We don't want you to leave!"

Dunlap assured everyone, "I will never knock on your door and ask for your weapons and I will never instruct one of my officers to do so."

Dunlap emphasized the importance that the young people of today will have in the future. "We need you [young people]," He said. "We are getting old and starting to drift away. Young people growing up now will someday be the nation's leaders."

Dunlap suggested reading the book by Sheriff Richard Mack called, *The County Sheriff: America's Last Hope*. Dunlap advises that people send letters to their congressmen explaining what they think about gun control, and to encourage friends and family members in other states to get involved with sharing their opinions as well. He also encouraged people to exercise their right to vote. "It's not just about the First or Second Amendments," He said, "It's about the Constitution of the United States. If we sit back and allow the Constitution to be trampled on, where will it stop? It won't stop. Citizens hold the power, especially at the state level."

Dunlap added, "I realize that people in the community have different views than the majority of people in this room. I respect their views and their right to them."

In wrapping up his speech, Dunlap said, "I will stand behind you or stand in front of you if needed, but I will do everything I can to support your rights."

The meeting was hosted by the Tri-County 9/12 Project.

For more information, please call 970-209-7170 or go to [tricity912teaparty.com](http://tricity912teaparty.com)



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MHS HOSTS FIRST EVER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FEB. 20

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Montrose High School is hosting the first ever Western Colorado Leadership Summit for student council members across Western Colorado on Wednesday, February 20 at the New Life Business and Community Center. Attending will be 168 students and 14 advisors representing 14 schools from across Western Colorado including Cedaredge, Central H.S. in Grand Junction, De Beque, Delta, Dolores, Fruita Monument, Grand Valley in Parachute, Gunnison, Hotchkiss, Meeker, Montrose, Olathe, Palisade, and

Rangely. At the summit each school will present a PowerPoint presentation containing their student body's favorite activity, their best school-wide fundraiser, a successful activity that is unique to their school, their community involvement, and their biggest challenge as a Student Council. The day will also consist of lunch and a motivational speech by keynote speaker, Sue Hansen, of [SueSpeaks](#) in Montrose. Montrose High School Student Body President Emily Wolverton applied for and received a \$2,500 grant to develop and host the conference. ANNpower and Vital

Voices, the organizations from which the grant was received, provide opportunities to young girls looking to make a difference in their communities. The grant will provide funds for the keynote speaker, lunch for the attendees, paper and electronic copies of the presentations for each school, and the facility at which the summit is to be held. The goal of the Western Colorado Leadership Summit is to allow high schools to share their best ideas and to learn what is working well at other schools to increase student involvement and community service.

### SIX REASONS TO VISIT THE BLACK CANYON THIS SUMMER!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The Black Canyon of the Gunnison offers one of the steepest, darkest and most rugged canyon experiences in North America. National monument seekers, adrenaline junkies and geological geeks looking for a canyon less-traveled will find the perfect hangout among some of the oldest rock formations on Earth.

#### 1. Canyon drama

The Gunnison River drops an average of 34 feet per mile through the entire canyon, creating the fifth- steepest mountain descents in North America. In comparison the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon drops an average of only 7.5 feet per mile. Black Canyon is also home to The Painted Wall, the tallest vertical wall in the state of Colorado. At a height of 2,250 feet The Painted Wall is 1,000 feet taller than the Empire State Building!

#### 2. The “quiet” canyon

Black Canyon pulls in 100,000 visitors per year, compared to the one million that flood through the Grand Canyon each year. This means travelers will be much more likely to find space available in the campgrounds, on the trails and on the water. Moreover, Black Canyon lets travelers truly “get away from it all” with a more authentic canyon experience and less like-

lihood of being part of a “herd” of tourists.

#### 3. More fun in the canyon

In summer the canyon offers world-class fishing, hiking, horseback riding, bird-watching, camping and many other adventures. Rock climbing, rafting and kayaking are also popular among the more experienced enthusiasts. For a more mellow outing, the Morrow Point boat tour is a guided, 42-passenger pontoon boat ride that glides along Morrow Point Reservoir through the upper canyon, offering a unique view of Black Canyon from below.

#### 4. Ranger programs & events

The helpful and knowledgeable park rangers host a number of [ranger-guided programs](#) throughout the summer, including a Junior Ranger program for kids, campfire talks, guided hikes and more. Special events include the popular Astronomy Festival, held in August. The free festival is a partnership with the Black Canyon Astronomical Society and features solar gazing, star gazing and educational talks.

#### 5. Smaller is better...and less expensive

Trekkers exploring Black Canyon will find a more manageable area to roam. At 2,700 feet deep and 53 miles long, it's the perfect size for adventuring. Additionally, entrance and camping fees prove cheaper than at larger parks (visit the National

Parks website for fee free days). The canyon's remote and dramatic beauty make it a unique and satisfying destination for everyone.

#### 6. Enjoy the wonderful Colorado weather

Black Canyon's narrow depth results in the sun's rays reaching the bottom for only a few minutes each day. Besides explaining the origin of the canyon's name, this means cooler temps in the canyon. Temperatures below 90 in the summer and an average 274 days of sunshine per year add up to a more comfortable time outdoors for visitors. Black Canyon also enjoys Class I air quality classification as regulated by the Clean Air Act, creating greater visibility of the quiet canyon's sweeping beauty. From Montrose visitors can stop in at the South Rim Visitor Center for additional information from friendly park rangers; a free permit that is required for all back-country and wilderness use; and exhibits, introductory film, publications and information on the guided tours. land, making it a Mecca for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, road biking, four-wheeling and mountain biking in the summer and fall and snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter.



# Let Your Creativity Flow at the Pickled Painter!



*A Pickled Painter painting party is always fun! Photo by Clay Greathouse.*

*By Liesl Greathouse*

MONTROSE--For anyone looking for some indoor fun on a budget, the Pickled Painter (209 Main St.) aims to please. Eileen DeJulio and Michele Jeffrey are the fun and outgoing owners of the Pickled Painter. Michele worked as a corporate art consultant for 25 years, while Eileen was a personal trainer. As friends, Eileen found out about the concept online and approached Michele about doing the idea in Montrose. "Michele immediately said 'I'm in,'" Eileen explained. "We jumped in, not thinking about it too much. We just went for it."

"It has been a learning experience," Michele said. "We are still learning."

The two contacted franchises that had the same model, but were ignored. "So we just said 'screw it' and decided to do it on our own," Michele said. "Now we are glad we got ignored. It allows us the freedom to do our own thing."

The Pickled Painter is a fun and relaxed atmosphere where both the artistic and not so artistic can get a canvas and paint whatever they want on it, letting their creativity flow. During Featured Nights Painting sessions, or Painting Parties, an instructor guides people step by step recreating the featured painting. For the more ambitious, the Open sessions are without an instructor, so people are free to create whatever they want. The Pickled Painter hosts a wide range of events: birthday parties for both young and old, bridal showers, busi-

ness team building, and many others.

"It's a unique form of entertainment," Eileen said. "It's for the whole family. It's not more expensive than taking a family to a movie or bowling, but you have something to take home after the entertainment is over. It's fun and it's very therapeutic."

The Pickled Painter attracts customers from two years old to 90 years old. "We have been told to find a demographic for our business, but we really can't," Michele said.

"Our business truly appeals to everyone," Eileen explained.

"Once someone comes in, they get hooked," Michele added. "People just do their own thing."

Prices are \$35 for Featured Nights Painting (with instructor), \$20 for Open Session Painting (without instructor) and \$10 for kids 12 and under (all 14 canvas panel). All prices include canvas, paint and all the materials needed to complete a painting. For anyone wanting to host a group event, the prices are \$30 per person for five to 10 people and \$25 per person for 11 to 24 people. For Eileen and Michele, their favorite part of the business is the Painting Parties. "We just sit behind the bar and watch everybody," Eileen said. "We see people who are afraid to start, so we reassure them that there is no critiquing here. This is their masterpiece, so we try to make it relaxing for them. It is fun to watch them because, at the end, the people

who were the most scared to start create some of the most beautiful pieces."

"We try to make people comfortable," Michele said. "It's fun because within half an hour to an hour, everyone knows each other's names."

"People will start with one image and in the end each image will look different for each person," Eileen added. "We encourage them to add in their own creative 'whatever.'"

There are several special discounts at the Pickled Painter, including Ladies Night and New Image Night. For more details about special discounts and upcoming special events, check out the calendar on their website. Visitors to their website will also find a coupon for \$5 off a painting session. The Pickled Painter is a proud participant in the Interactive Art Crawl on the third Thursdays of each month. "We are here for anything," Eileen said. "We are bringing in special guests and having specials, including drink specials."

"Two of the three artists that started the Art Crawl, Sarah Brewer and Naomi Dyer, are artists that display in our store," Michele explained. "So we are trying to support them as much as possible and we are excited about all of it."

The main goal for the Pickled Painter is to continue to grow the business. One key way they are doing that is through holding Painting Parties at other locations. "We'll take the party to you," Michele explained. "We have held a party at a distillery in Ridgway and we may have future parties at a variety of wineries in the area. There is always a great turn out to those parties."

"We have never-ending ideas to keep the business fresh and make it better," Eileen said. "We don't want to go away because it's so much fun."

"It's just been amazing," Michele explained. "Our customers come in here and come up with great ideas. It's been easy. We just have to implement those ideas."

A sign on their wall sums up Eileen and Michele's business philosophy: "Good things happen to those who go for it." For more information call 970-812-9504, go online to [pickledpainter.com](http://pickledpainter.com) or visit the Pickled Painter at 209 Main Street in Montrose, open Tuesday-Saturday. Retail and Open session painting hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Featured Nights Painting sessions start at 6:30 p.m.



## Traditional Colorado Oriental Gardens

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

OK, so you don't expect to find "traditional" oriental gardens in Colorado. Well, when I Googled "traditional Japanese Gardens" I didn't expect to find one in Northern Ireland either. But there it was in all its "traditional" splendor. And I was equally surprised to



*Anderson Japanese Garden in Rockford, Illinois*

learn that a magazine that rates "Japanese Gardens" rated the *Anderson Garden* in Rockford, Illinois as the best in the U.S. The employees at the *Portland Japanese Garden* in Portland, OR don't agree and neither do I. There is a reason the *Anderson Garden* is so highly ranked though. The current curator to the Portland garden designed the *Anderson Garden*.

My personal U.S. favorite is the Japanese Garden in the Chicago Botanical Garden (CBG). I love its magnificence due to its large scale. Most Japanese Gardens are so because of the skill to create that cherished Oriental feel in small spaces but the CBG Japanese Garden just takes my breath away.



*Portland, OR Japanese Garden*



But when one talks about Japanese gardens in the U.S. you have to mention the famous garden in Portland, OR. If you are a connoisseur of Japanese gardens than a visit to this garden is a must do. It has a long history of cooperative development with the Japanese Government who proclaimed it as one of the best Japanese gardens outside Japan. The first difference you notice

between Japanese and Chinese gardens is in Japanese gardens **green** is the dominant color. The Chinese use more vibrant colors in symbolic form whereas the Japanese feel too much color distracts from the desire for tranquility. You will also notice more small lanterns placed in Japanese gardens, each style with its own name and meaning. The original concept of the use of these lanterns goes back to earlier Japanese garden designers borrowing design ideas from the Chinese garden designers then went off on their own when they found old



*Photos of the CBG Japanese Garden*





lanterns in abandon Buddhist temples and started using them in their garden designs. The focus became more on the lantern itself and less on the lantern's purpose. I feel the use of lanterns in my own garden adds to the mood I'm attempting to create.

Also, lanterns contribute to enjoying your garden in the Winter in ways other garden embellishments can't. So, do I have a traditional Oriental garden?



*Portland, OR Japanese Garden*

No. But, again the Japanese deviated from traditional Chinese styles to create their own touch. I do the same. I borrow from other Oriental styles to make my



*My own Colorado Oriental Garden in Summer and Winter*



garden work without introducing elements that are totally alien. If I was to add Kokopelli, lizard designs or other cliff dwelling petroglyphs to give it a native touch then the design would become too whimsical and distracting. I keep in tune to what is suggestive Oriental. Even the large boulder sticking up from the edge of my fish pond has an Oriental meaning. I call it my "Scholar" rock from classic Suzhou design to represent a mountain. What makes a Chinese garden different from a Japanese garden? Chinese gar-

den design is older, going back over 3,000 years. Older garden design is more royal in scale being that only the Royalty at that time could create gardens and with them cost was no factor. It is more symbolic using only a few key ingredients with more artistically embellished arches, bridges, pavilions, walkways and tea houses. The other key items are the use of symbolic plant material; lotus for purity, bamboo for strength and flexibility, Peach tree for longevity, Plum tree for rebirth after winter. The incorporation of yin/yang symbolism in design elements is more common in Chinese gardens. The use of "leaky



*Plum Gate in the Portland, Oregon Chinese Garden*

windows" and Moon gates are more frequent. And most common in Chinese gardens is the use of a "scholar" rock hopefully coming from the Lake Tai not far from Suzhou near Shanghai. Again, Portland, OR lays claim to probably the best Chinese garden in the US. When you pass through the entrance "Plum



*Leaky window because it "leaks" the view in*





Taihu Scholar Rock

Japanese. And guess what? If you create a square pond with a round island

[ITS KOREAN](#). That's right. The Korean's have a style all their own. The square pond represents the Universe and the round island represents Earth. Most Oriental design literature will discuss how the Japanese developed their style from the Chinese as it "passed" through Korea but not too often is ethnic Korean design discussed. Some Korean garden design was influenced by Chinese dominance but the Koreans had a style of their own that is more like the English natural style. Where the Chinese and Japanese "enclosed" their gardens and re-create distant images, the Koreans like to integrate their gardens into the surrounding scenic landscape. They perfected the art of "borrowing" scenery from the distant mountain vistas. You can do the same when you have a view of our magnificent mountains in the background. You can make that view yours and you don't have to pay taxes on it. The Koreans used symbolism in their design but it was more similar to the way our Native Americans used nature symbolism; the rocks, the water, the sky, the mountains, representing different gods. What better way for us Coloradans to have a traditional Oriental garden than to learn from the Koreans how to use our Native American culture? I convinced my wife that a trip to Korea next Summer would be a terrific vacation to experience the art of Korean garden design. How unfortunate that I passed on that opportunity when Uncle Sam offered me a "cost free" tour there 30 years ago. Now I'm sorry that I didn't take him up on it. **Can you have a genuine Oriental**



Denver Botanical Garden in August

Gate" you will see their Scholar Rock. If this rock was not from the Taihu area it was replicated to look as though it was. Much of the paving has a distinctive Yin/Yang quality. The architecture in Chinese gardens is very angular and domineering.



This style of garden design has its place but maybe not in your back yard. Everyone could use a little Yin/Yang in their life, maybe a Scholar rock or two, (who can't use some more knowledge?) and, of course, it needs a water feature. If you make a small platform overhanging your pond, its Chinese, if you treat your pond edge in the most natural way, its



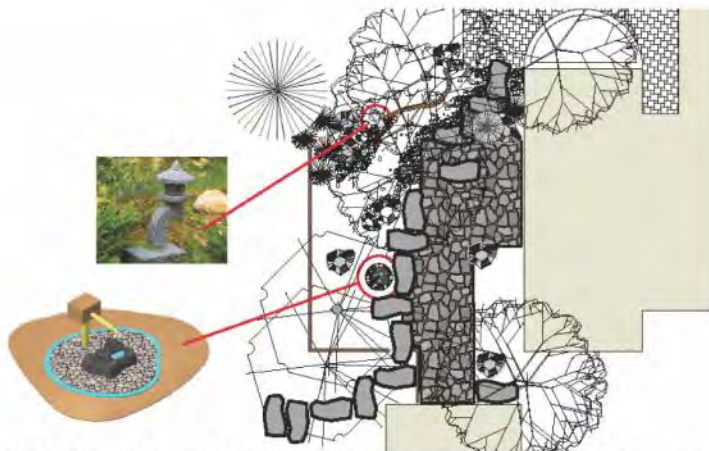
Yin/Yang paving

**garden in Colorado?** Ebi Kondo thinks you can. Kondo-San is the curator to the Japanese garden at the Denver Botanical Garden. He is originally from Northern Japan and studied at the *Portland Japanese Garden*. Before he took over the garden in Denver it was in a horrible condition. Now you can visit a truly Oriental experience without having to travel far. A traditional Oriental Colorado Garden is possible in your backyard too. Just don't add a lizard.





I am going to install a more "traditional" Japanese garden in my side yard. I worked out the design (see below) and have purchased and placed the materials. Like everything else I do in my older years, I treat it like eating an elephant, one bite at a time. That is the beauty of having a plan. Purchase small plants and put them in the ground. As long as they are cared for and out of the way they will be ready for you when the plan is further pursued. There is a JAPANESE saying that goes something like this, "THE PROCESS IS BETTER THAN THE PRODUCT" or "THE JOURNEY IS BETTER THAN THE DESTINATION." Whatever works for you.



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# J. BERNDT ASKS THE AGE-OLD QUESTION...WHAT IF?

By J. Berndt

MONTROSE--If there is one thing we all have in common as human beings it is that we will always ask the eternal question, *What if?* I find that most days while working, walking around or just plain being lazy, I think about all the *what if's*. Not because I am unhappy with the life I have constructed so far, but *what if?* What if I was the only one in the world who could grow the sacred money tree? What would that be like? What if money didn't matter, and we bartered with Paul Simon cassette tapes? I believe for each and every one of us this is a natural and unavoidable question, and that even if you have everything you desire the question will still present itself. The *what if* can be as small as something that you did or didn't do in your youth that would have changed your life today.

The question, *what if?* Is as big as your imagination, larger than the question of life the universe and everything, because *what if* can be *anything*.

It is a question that you will never get challenged for asking, because each individual is inevitably right in every tiny atom of their own truth and desire. In a *what if* world everything can be fixed.

I have a few examples of how this question can be used. What if all the power in the world went out? This is a big one that will only lead to more questions such as, all over the world or just in the US? How long? This has an effect on everyone--which never makes a decision easy unless everyone comes together. This is more of a group *what if* and together, worlds can be built, even if they are just filled with nachos, trampoline sidewalks, and the new Ninja Super Spy Agency that is now accepting applications... this was someone else's perfect world.

There is an author that I stumbled across who came up with the *What If* game to teach kids and adults alike a method of simple and effective ways to come up with great book and movie ideas. This method



*The sky is the limit...or perhaps there are no limits at all when we ask ourselves, "what if?"*  
Photo by Sarah Berndt.

opens the mind to explore creative story plots. What if Montrose passed a law under which every bike must only be ridden on bike paths? First off, the bike paths would be crowded and rush hour would leave some scabbed knees and broken chains. The story will take an interesting turn when cars are allowed to race on the bike path, with bumper stickers saying SHARE THE PATH. Just an example. This is not only for entertainment--it can also be a good way to come up with that great business idea.

Asking yourselves *what if* can solve problems and get you the customers you need.

What if your parents left you at the Grand Canyon at the age of eight, and you were left to fend for yourself? What if, after all the trials and tribulations, you managed to find your very own Silvertown? This was the beginning and conclusion of a great piece of film history.

By beginning with a *what if*, anything you put enough effort into, whatever it is you are looking for, you could someday find it.

Then there are the more personal *what if's*. These can be inspiring, bringing a sense of enlightenment that can't be breached by anyone.

Some may call this day dreaming, but I think it is the thought of accomplishing or receiving something you don't have; after all, no one day dreams on vacation. I take that back, there have been several vacations where I asked, what if I moved here? Knowing all along it couldn't work at this moment in time, but that it could be something to work towards.

These are instinctual thoughts we have always had, to better our lives. Unlike other mammals we will always try to reach for more, because our imaginations are vast and limitless.

## SAN JUAN COLORADOANS FOR NEBRASKA ANNOUNCE 2013 SCHOLARSHIPS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--San Juan Coloradans for Nebraska Scholarships are given to Montrose County Students annually. The organization believes in our youth, the future

leaders of tomorrow, and encourages area students to apply to the college or trade school of their choice. Applications are available at your guidance counselor's office or online at [www.sjcn4ne.com](http://www.sjcn4ne.com). Schol-

arship applications must be received by April 1st. Mail to: Montrose Community Foundation; P O Box 3020; Montrose, Co. 81402. Please contact Rex or Denise Swanson at 970-240-0782 for information.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Montrose County School District Spelling Bee Names Winners

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--The 4th Annual Montrose County School District Spelling Bee was held at Calvary Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013. Superintendent Mark MacHale and School Board Members served as the reader and judges for the event. Centennial Middle School, Columbine Middle School, Cottonwood Elementary School, Johnson Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Oak Grove Elementary School, Olathe Middle School and Pomona Elementary School each sent their top three spelling finalists to represent their schools. The Top Three Winners At The Event Were: 1st Place ~ Teal Leavitt, 8th grader from Centennial MS; 2nd Place ~ Lee Congour, 7th grader from Columbine MS; 3rd Place ~ Catherine Borner, 5th grader from Oak Grove ES. Teal Leavitt will represent our district at the Scripps State Spelling Bee on March 16, 2013. Thanks



(Pictured L to R: Catherine Borner, Teal Leavitt, Lee Congour)

to all who help organize, judge, and hold 2013 Spelling Bees throughout the district

and to Calvary Chapel for once again being such a gracious host.

### San Miguel Power Opens 2013 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Rebate Programs

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY--San Miguel Power Association Inc. (SMPA) has launched its 2013 energy efficiency and renewable energy rebate programs.

This year's line-up includes the co-op's popular Energy Star appliance rebates plus incentives for newer technologies such as LED lighting and electric vehicles.

SMPA is offering rebates for the following products: Energy Star appliances (refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers); LED bulbs, tube light and decorative lights; Electric thermal storage; Air-source and ground-source heat pumps; Water heaters; Energy audits; Insulate and air sealing; Duct sealing; Electric vehicles; Motors and irrigation pumps; Solar photovoltaic and solar hot water; Small wind

generators.

Details about SMPA's rebate programs can be found online at [www.smpa.com/EE/rebates.cfm](http://www.smpa.com/EE/rebates.cfm) and [www.smpa.com/service/renewablerebates.cfm](http://www.smpa.com/service/renewablerebates.cfm).

In order to qualify for an SMPA rebate you must be a member of the cooperative, and the items you purchase must be installed and/or in service within the co-op's territory. The co-op also offers many specialty programs which are open to commercial members, governments and municipalities, and schools.

For more information about the specialty programs or the energy efficiency rebates contact SMPA's Key Accounts Executive, Key Haynes at (970) 626-5549 x207.

For more information about SMPA's renewable energy rebates contact SMPA's

Energy Services Technician, Wiley Freeman at (970) 626-5549 x231. Rebates questions can also be submitted to [rebates@smpa.com](mailto:rebates@smpa.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.

## 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 at 5:30 p.m. 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!

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### San Miguel Power Donates to Ridgway Elementary Energy Demonstration Project

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY--The Ridgway Elementary Positive Energy Committee revealed their energy research project to fellow school-mates at an all-school assembly. The committee is going to track the energy use of three classrooms in an effort to identify effective ways the school could save energy. In one classroom the students are replacing the fluorescent-tube lighting with LED bulbs. In another the standard fluorescent lighting will remain, but the classroom will be powered by a small on-site solar system. The third classroom will represent a standard elementary classroom and will not receive any changes. All three classrooms will have meters installed, which will measure the amount of electricity being used, the cost of the power and the greenhouse gasses generated by the power.

San Miguel Power awarded the committee \$1,950 for the purchase of the LED bulbs and their Key Accounts Executive, Ken Haynes, has been working closely with the students to obtain bids for the bulbs and installation. SMPA will also continue to work the committee to help them evaluate their data and educate the community about their results.

"Ridgway's Positive Energy Committee should serve as an inspiration to the rest of the community. They are a group of fourth and fifth grade students who are interested in how new technology can help their school save money. They're also doing all the necessary research to find out what will get them the most for their money. It's this type of forward-thinking that helps our communities change and grow for the better. We're proud to support the students and proud of their teachers for encouraging their efforts," explained SMPA General



*Above: SMPA's Manager of Member Services/Marketing Brad Zaporski (back right) presents the Ridgway Elementary Positive Energy Committee with \$1,950 for the purchase of LED lights which will be installed in classrooms for the energy demonstration project. Courtesy photo.*

Manager, Kevin Ritter.

Other support for the project comes from Alternative Power Enterprises and Potential Power Systems LLC for technical assistance and discounted services including electrical work and system and lighting design, and from enlighten Ltd, LLC for supplying LED bulbs at a discount. For more information about the Positive Energy Committee's project or to contribute visit their website [www.positiveenergy.org](http://www.positiveenergy.org).

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.

# READ LOCAL

WHEN YOU CARE TO READ THE VERY BEST ...

**MontroseMirror.com**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THIS WEEK AT THE WARRIOR CENTER...WELCOME HOME MONTROSE!



#### THIS WEEK'S NEWS AND EVENTS

**MONTROSE**—Plan to show support for a **deserving Vietnam Veteran who will receive his Bronze Star** from Rep Scott. Tipton this coming Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Looney Bean Coffee Roasting Company, 3480 Wolverine Dr. in the River Landing Shopping Center. Specialist Ronald Arnold will be awarded his Bronze Star at 3 p.m. We are very excited for the chance to honor one of our nation's heroes, and hope to have a strong community presence to help us celebrate...please join us! **A Memorial for Vietnam Navy Veteran Charles Lindauer of Placerville** will take place at the Warrior Resource Center Feb. 20, at 10 a.m., with full military honors. The community is invited to celebrate Lindauer's life and service to our country.

This memorial service is being donated, out of respect for Lindauer and his family, by Clark's Valley Lawn Funeral Home of Montrose.

Also on Feb. 20, Military spouses are invited to a special **spouses' luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Warrior Resource Center, at Main St. and Park Avenue. Spouses from all branches of the military are welcome; all we ask is that you RSVP to 970-765-2210 so we know how much food to prepare. This lunch will be sponsored by Sara McCombs of Pampered Chef and by BrightLeaf Power.

Do you love to share your knowledge of and love for the outdoors with others?

Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center will host a **week of recreation in June** for 30 medically retired combat veterans—but we can't do it without you! Please call Susan at 970-765-2210 to enlist in this amazing week of sharing the outdoors and recreational opportunities with our veterans. Finally, Welcome Home Montrose wishes to express our genuine excitement over the 2013 No Barriers Summit, to be held this year in Telluride Aug. 8-11.

We believe that Montrose will be the perfect place for those attending the Summit to become accustomed to Colorado's high energy and high altitude, as they prepare for this inspirational

gathering. Remember, in the words of No Barriers USA, "[What's within you is stronger than what's in your way!](#)"

The *Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans*, locally known as *Welcome Home Montrose*, is a grassroots community initiative inspired by the determination and courage of Corporal Todd Love, his father Gary Love, and USMC Sergeant (Retired) ared Bolhuis. Our goal is to make Montrose Colorado a "no barriers" city and invite America's wounded troops to live in this community where they can have the opportunity to thrive. Programs established to date include the Warrior Resource Center at Park Avenue and Main Street, the Dream Job Program, and Business Window Sticker Program. Please contact us to learn how you can contribute! Our corporate office is located in Timberline Bank (1561 Oxbow Dr.), and can be reached at 970-765-2210.

*Welcome Home Montrose is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and can accept donations of all kinds at the Resource Center and on the website, [www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org](http://www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org).*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TURNS 93!

#### Special to the Mirror

**REGIONAL**--On Valentine's Day, The League of Women Voters celebrated its 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Since our founding in 1920, the League has worked tirelessly to protect and uphold the constitutional right to vote, a right that composes the very foundation of our democracy.

However, while we celebrate our successes, we are concerned by stark challenges to our democracy. In the upcoming Supreme Court case *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 will be reviewed. The VRA is landmark legislation that ensures every American citizen, regardless of race, has an equal right to vote. Should the Court rule against the VRA, which prevents states from passing discriminatory voting rules, the right to

vote for millions of Americans would be at risk.

"The thought that the Supreme Court might soon overturn the Voting Rights Act and limit voting rights should send a chill down the spine of every American," said Montrose County League president Karen Connor. "The League believes we should be expanding voting rights, not curtailing them, and working to make elections free, fair and accessible to all eligible citizens."

The League has been committed to protecting voter rights since 1920, and we're not stopping now. The upcoming Supreme Court review of the Voting Rights Act shows that even 93 years after our founding, the League's work is needed more than ever.

The League of Women Voters of Montrose County, serving Montrose and Delta

counties, is one of nearly 800 Leagues in all 50 states working to educate and inform voters and protect voters' rights.

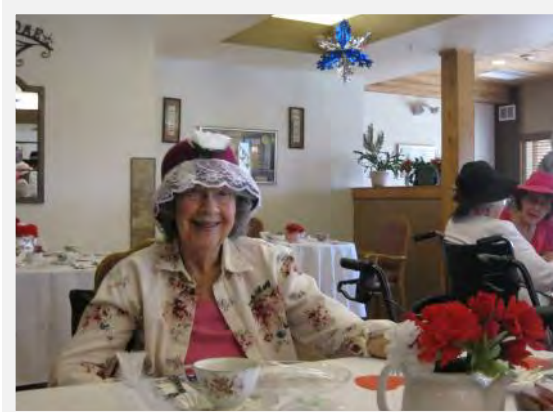
The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. This is what sets the League apart from so many organizations.

All points of view are respected and we encourage community members to join us in order to take part in our work locally. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. For more information about the League, visit [www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org/](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org/).

Our meetings are posted in the *Montrose Daily Press*, the *Delta County Independent* and *The Watch Newspaper*.

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## HOMESTEAD CELEBRATES TEA, FRIENDSHIP



*Volunteers of America Homestead at Montrose hosted a Valentine's Tea Party on Thursday, Feb. 8. Residents enjoyed tea, sandwiches, chocolate covered strawberries, games and songs from the 1900's. Shown above, friend Rex Swanson with residents Mabel and Lorene. At top left, resident Marea won the game—and a great prize; bottom left, Homestead resident Trudy enjoying the party.*

## Himalayan Mountain Films To Be Shown

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE—Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas is presenting a family-friendly double feature with free admission, on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Aquatic Center meeting room, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. A very short Annual Meeting will begin at 2 pm followed by the screenings. The two films are award winning documentaries both set in Nepal. Information about the Friends' projects will be on display.

The first film, titled Journey of a Red Fringe, follows 17-year old Hari Rai who works as a porter to sustain himself and pay for his education. He is hired to carry a

bright red Coca Cola refrigerator to a repair shop in the nearest town, a journey of four days. As he walks past villages and temples, in the shadows of the highest mountains on earth, he meets friends and relatives along the way and reflects on his life and his hopes. Amusing and sobering at the same time, this story tells of the harsh living conditions on the other side of the globe, of child labor and poverty, but it also shows the incredible strength and resilience of these high mountain people, their quick, open smiles and generous hospitality, amidst the stunning beauty of their land. An even more remote corner of Nepal, the former kingdom of Mustang, is the

setting for the second film, called Mustang – Journey of Transformation. A transformation of the people - Tibetan Buddhists by their roots and traditions – takes place as western restoration experts help them bring their beautiful, but now decrepit old temples back to their original glory. As the western helpers turn into friends, traditional temple dances are practiced again; pride and hope return, friendships grow, old customs are remembered and celebrated. The whole village feels rejuvenated. Both films were shown at Mountainfilm in Telluride in 2009; the organizers thank Mountainfilm for their generous help with this afternoon of film.



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## TAKE A JOURNEY DOWN THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL!



*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) Lecture Series: "The Old Spanish Trail" is presented in partnership with The Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) and the Museum of Western Colorado.

Jon Horn of Alpine Archaeology will present new information on the Old Spanish Trail at two lectures in February. In

2010 and 2011, Alpine conducted research on and searched for evidence of the Old Spanish Trail in Colorado and Utah as part of the Bureau of Land Management's National Historic Trails Project. As a result of this project, they documented 69 miles of the route in Colorado and 204 miles in Utah. This lecture will focus on the evidence Alpine found in western Colorado and eastern Utah. It will provide information about the focus of their fieldwork efforts, what they identified on the ground, how later travel has altered the original trail or left portions intact, and discoveries they have made since the project was concluded.

The lectures will be held at the Museum of the West in Grand Junction on February 20 and at Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta on February 26. Both lectures are free and open to the public from 7-8:30 pm, with doors opening at 6:30. Rosa Brey of CCA says, "The Old Spanish Trail runs

through two NCAs in western Colorado. We are excited to work with our community partners to bring this updated information on our great local resource to the public as part of our annual lecture series."

Jon Horn is a historian and archaeologist with over 30 years of experience working in all of the western states except Nevada. He is one of the founders of Alpine Archaeological Consultants in Montrose. He says, "I have had a long-term interest in the history and archaeology of Colorado and Utah and have been fortunate to be able to have worked on a large number of overland trails in addition to the Old Spanish Trail."

Bill Harris of CAS says, "The unique historic resources we have in western Colorado are wonderful, and the professional archaeological expertise Jon Horn and Alpine Archaeological Consultants provides is a wonderful opportunity to share with the public."

## FREE CLASS IN ENGLISH FOR SPANISH-SPEAKERS

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--Social worker Joan Shapiro is offering English classes to Spanish-speaking adults in the Ouray and Montrose County areas. The classes are offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Ouray Christian Fellowship at Fourth Ave-

nue and Fourth Street in Ouray. More classes are planned in Ridgway later this spring. Classes are taught in Spanish and English.

Classes are free, with text books and other learning materials provided. New students are welcome. Classes are kept small

to allow individual attention, so call soon. If childcare is needed, please let Joan know.

Classes meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please call Joan if you are interested in learning English or if you know of potential students. 970-325-9804.

*The theme is Go Green for the First Friday Stroll in Downtown Montrose March 1! This month, merchants will be showcasing all things green, including, art, furniture, jewelry, drinks, food, and environmentally friendly products...see you Downtown!*

# 28 DAYS OF Generosity

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

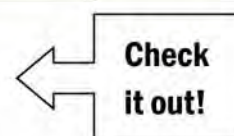
Do one day or do them all—just join the fun! A few suggestions for each day are on the back or create your own. Be sure and visit the links below for more ideas, to see our community in action, and post your generosity story.

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.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### LATINO CHAMBER NAMES OFFICERS, BOARD FOR 2013

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--The Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce had its first organizational meeting Feb. 9, and elected officers and board of directors for 2013. Rich Lopez was elected president and vice-president is Abel Chavez, certified preneed counselor with Callahan-Edfast Mortuary. Treasurer is Louise Goodman, assistant vice-president with Timberline Bank; Laurie Gomez, head of public services with Mesa County Libraries, will serve as secretary.

"The meeting was very well attended," Rich Lopez, president of the WCLCC said. "There is obviously great interest and ex-

citement about our chamber and we have a lot of ideas about how we want to grow and introduce ourselves to all of our communities."

The WCLCC is open to anyone interested in learning about the importance of the area's latino community and opportunities for all business owners to support and expand opportunities into this growing market.

Board members are: Michael Archuleta - Valle del Sol Construction; Francisco Cervantes - La Bamba Restaurant; Vicki Felmler - TCS Marketing Group Inc.; Connie Martinez - Latin Anglo Alliance; Jerry Martinez - American Family Insur-

ance; Luis Martinez - Martinez Counseling; Martin Moran - Timber Wolf Welding, Inc.; Imelda Mulholland - Attorney at Law, Hoskin, Farina, Kampf; Jose Lucero - Prestige Realty; Lynn Perez-Hewitt - HCE; Nicole Bernal Ruiz - Hispanic Affairs Project, Carlos Ruiz Construction.

The next meeting of the WCLCC will be noon, March 9 at La Bamba Restaurant, 546 Main Street, Grand Junction. The meeting is open to anyone and there is no obligation to join the chamber. For more information, contact Rich Lopez, 970-324-0216 or [in-fo@wclatinochamber.org](mailto:info@wclatinochamber.org).

### FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS COMPETE IN GRAND JUNCTION



**District Leadership Conference – Students Who Placed in the Top Five: Front Row: Keenan Betz, Savanna Edgar, Jacob Hebbel, Casey Jensen, Trent Woodland Second Row: Ayrika Huff, Bridget Bachmann, Ellen Boddeker, Kara Reeder, Tiffany Worthington, Megan Kindall, Lynette Livingston Back Row: Luis Carranza, Jeff Ronzio, Conner Hotsenpiller, Zach Bieber. Courtesy photo.**

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL—The Future Business Leaders of America Chapters from Montrose and Olathe High Schools traveled to Grand Junction on Monday, Feb. 4 for the District Leadership Conference. Montrose had 24 chapter members and Olathe had 22 chapter members competing in the District Leadership Conference. Each school had 11 students that qualified to compete at the State Leadership Conference to be held in Vail in April. Results from each school are below.

MHS FBLA District Results 2013

District Champion – 1st Place: Bridget

Woodland – Digital Video Production (State Qualifier) 3rd Place: Keenan Betz – Business Math (State Qualifier); Megan Kindall & Tiffany Worthington – Banking & Financial Systems; Trent Woodland & Casey Jensen – Digital Design & Promotion 4th Place: Lynette Livingston, Megan Kindall, Jordan Chavez – Digital Design & Promotion; Ellen Boddeker & Ayrika Huff – Emerging Business Issues; Savanna Edgar – Computer Applications 5th Place: Keenan Betz – Public Speaking I; Luis Carranza – Business Calculations; Katie Walker – Personal Finance.

OHS FBLA district results 2013

District Champion – 1st Place: Kendall Franks – Business Procedures (State Qualifier); Haley Turley- Health Care Administration (State Qualifier); Emily Mundy- Intro to Business Communications (State Qualifier); Brook Cryer- Website Design (State Qualifier); Fallon Flick- Impromptu Speaking (State Qualifier); Kaitlin Nicolas - Public Speaking II (State Qualifier) 2nd Place: Sara Lovato – Accounting 2 (State Qualifier); Katlyn Gibson- Personal Finance (State Qualifier); Tasha Gibson- Job Interview (State Qualifier); Tiana Mergleman- Public Speaking II (State Qualifier) 3rd Place: Kayley Archuleta- Computer Applications; Jacob Solseth- Technology Concepts (State Qualifier); Jacob Solseth, Bethany Hines, Kendall Franks- Business Ethics; Amanda Bollinger-Client Services; Josh Pietak- Job Interview; Haley Turley- Name Tag Design 4th Place: Kate Roth- Accounting 1; Theresa Tafoya – Business Math; Erica Godfrey- Business Procedures; Audrey Stansberry & Emily Mundy - Digital Video; Estrella Loya- Intro to Technology Concepts; Kate Roth- Word processing II; Audrey Stansberry-Public Speaking I 5th Place: Amanda Kinterknecht & Emily Schneider – Desktop publications; Jordan Solseth – FBLA Principles and Procedures.





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

Much of last week was spent working on bills of mine in committee or on the Senate floor. By the end of the week, though, constituent contact regarding the gun control bills in the House was all consuming. In seven years as a state legislator, I've never received so much feedback in opposition to a set of bills and I've seen some pretty controversial battles.

I've heard from a few supporters of these bills, but the magnitude of those in opposition is much, much greater. I've mentioned in an earlier column that I'm impressed by the thoughtfulness of those in opposition. This is helpful to me as I read through the emails to get a better sense of the perspectives in my district.

I'm hearing from former military and law enforcement officers, moms and grandparents, those who live in towns and those on ranches, each with their personal story as to why gun ownership is important to them and why the addition of these particular gun proposals won't improve public safety, but will chip away at one of their most cherished constitutional rights, the second amendment.

At a Cortez town hall meeting last weekend, we discussed the proposed bills. There, I stated my opposition to all four measures, which I have read and consid-

ered, each on its own merits. These bills are inadequate in terms of truly improving public safety. They will not prevent tragedies like the Aurora movie theater shooting or impact criminals.

I ask, why we are rushing to the "do something" approach rather than choosing to do something meaningful?

My suggestion is this: The Colorado legislature should take a step back from the divisive and superheated debate and send the topic of improving public safety to the bipartisan Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice and make a top priority for that group to study what new legislation would improve public safety.

The commission continues to work on high priority and complex issues in the areas of public safety and criminal justice. Its members represent law enforcement, district attorneys, public defenders, victim rights advocates, judges, mental health providers and the public safety, prison and human services and educational state agencies. The commission works in a nonpartisan manner and focuses on evidence based data and policy approaches.

In this forum, away from Capitol politics, the commission could look at the range of issues we should be considering such as

improving access to mental health services, school safety improvements and policies and gun safety issues could be considered thoroughly rather than in a compressed and highly politicized environment.

Colorado's legislature has an ideal mechanism, already in place and supported by an impressive record of working on very difficult issues facing Colorado. The members of the commission are well respected and well known in their fields and provide a healthy and diverse perspective on tough topics. The commission meetings are open to the public and are well attended by the public. Any proposals from this group would still need to be debated and voted on in the next legislative session.

It's a grave mistake to ram legislation through in any setting, by either party. Democracy works when people respect the process. Unintended consequences, especially when a fundamental constitutional right is at stake, will follow unless we take a more measured approach.

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

### 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.



**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!***

## OUT AND ABOUT IN MONTROSE!



*Above left, a group of equestrian friends gather at the Vic Payne sculpture at Park Avenue and Main on Feb. 16 for a ride around Montrose.*

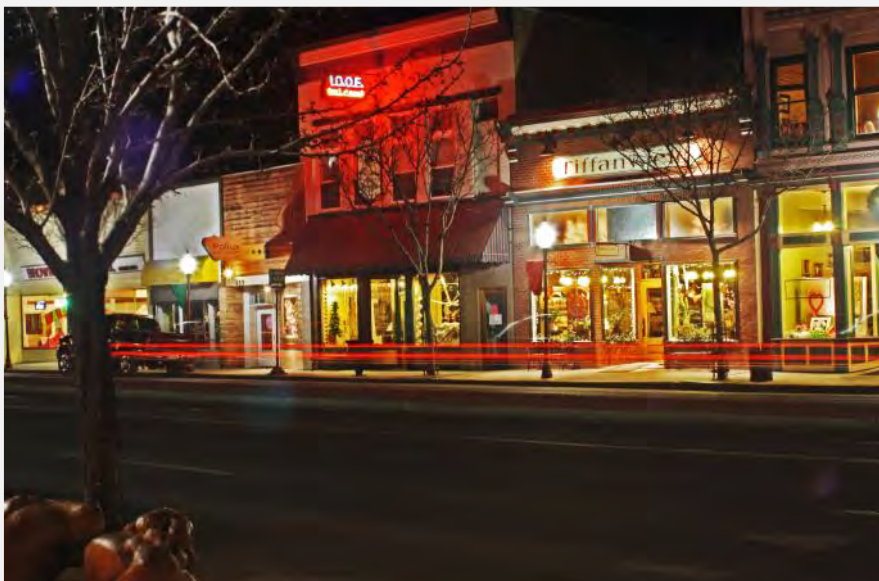
*Above right, Missy Dunnagan and daughter Olivia, two, join Isabella Inda (two) and mom Kerri Noonan-Inda in making special Valentine's crafts at Pickled Painter's Mommy and Me event on Feb. 11. Image courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*

*At left, Dance Around dance studio owner Kate Florian leads dancers through a warm-up prior to the Dance-A-Thon Feb. 11. Image courtesy Cara Fandel for Howling Wolf Photography.*

*Below, Photographer Sarah Berndt's image of Montrose captures the energy and excitement of Downtown after dark.*



*Above, The Montrose ACT Redcoats have around 28 members this year...three cheers for this organization that gives so much back to the local business community! Courtesy photo.*





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# DDA HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING FEB. 28

### *Special to the Mirror*

**DOWNTOWN--**The Montrose Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors invites the community to attend an Annual Meeting Open House on Thursday, Feb. 28 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

We will review progress made over the past year, talk to downtown partners, and look ahead to the future of downtown.

The informal meeting will be in the Centennial Meeting Room at 107 S. Cascade

Avenue. DDA Board members will be on hand to present information and answer your questions. There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback on priorities for the coming year. Light refreshments will be served.

In 2012, 19 new businesses opened in the Montrose Downtown district. More than \$1.5 million was invested in property improvement projects, with \$3 million worth of commercial property transactions. The

Montrose DDA is very excited about this positive momentum and welcomes everyone to come downtown to explore the improved feel downtown.

The DDA is working hard, and will continue working hard, to support the growth and success of all downtown business and property owners.

For more information, please visit [www.montrosedowntown.com](http://www.montrosedowntown.com) or call 970-901-9667.

*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/M* 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. 20**—Forum at Heidi's Brooklyn Deli (1521 Oxbow Dr.), 8 to 9 a.m. Coffee is \$1.

**Feb. 20**—Montrose United Methodist Church (South First and Park) presents "Trip to Easter Island" with John and Mavis Greer, 7 p.m.

**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**—Singer/Songwriter Deb Barr will sing jazz and love songs at Remington's at the Bridges, from 6 to 8 p.m. Treat yourself to an evening of beautiful music with one of the best!

**Feb. 23**—Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas present double feature films at Aquatic Center (25 Colorado Ave.) 2 p.m.

**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.

**Feb. 28**—Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Annual Meeting, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Centennial Room at 107 South Cascade. For more information call 970-901-9667.

**March 1**—First Friday Stroll Downtown! 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**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 9**—Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce to meet at La Bamba Restaurant in Grand Junction (546 Main St.) at noon.

**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 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Main Street from East to West starting at 2Rascals Brewing Co., 11 a.m. Call 970-249-2886 for information or to participate!

**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.

**March 17** --Telluride Choral Society's SpringSing 2013 concert presented by Ouray County Performing Arts Guild, 2 p.m. at the Wright Opera House. Theme is "A River Runs Through It: Songs of the American Waters," featuring traditional, folk and contemporary choral music, all about our most precious resource, water. The program features all-American composers, including Eric Whitacre, Eric Barnum, Seth Houston, Dalen Stevens, Billy Joel, Garth Brooks, the Doobie Brothers and more. Tickets are available Buckskin Booksellers, Cimarron Books and Coffee, Coffee Trader in Montrose and online at [WWW.OCPAG.ORG](http://WWW.OCPAG.ORG) or at the door: \$15/adults and \$8/students. For more information, please call (970) 626-2970.

**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 25**—Second Annual Dine Out for Kids. Participating businesses to donate a percentage of proceeds to CASA of the Seventh Judicial District and Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club.

**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).

**May 10-11**—Tenth Annual Montrose Wine & Food Festival.

**June 17-19**—Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days "The Journey to Success" comes to Ouray! Contact 970-708-1059 for info.

**June 22**--Fifteenth Annual Montrose Golf Tournament for Hospice, Bridges of Montrose.

**July 12-14**—Lavender Association of Western Colorado presents the Third Annual Colorado Lavender Festival in Downtown Palisade.



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*Images courtesy Cara Fandel  
for Howling Wolf Photography.*



Kate Florian's Dance Around Studio hosted a Dance-A-Thon at the studio on Feb. 11. Among the dancers was little Aryanna Baugh, four, in black.



Left to right, two-year-olds Olivia Dunnagan and Isabella Inda took some time to make creative Valentine's with their mommies at the Mommy and Me event at Pickled Painter in Montrose last week.



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