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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 91, Sept. 2, 2014

REGION 10 COG WINS 245K EDA GRANT, SELECTS NEO FIBER TO CREATE BLUEPRINT FOR BROADBAND



In recent weeks, the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning has announced receipt of \$245,000 in EDA funding and the selection of a provider to create a regional blueprint for implementation of broadband.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-When the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning announced receipt of \$245,000 in funding from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Aug. 25, the news represented an economic shot in the arm for two counties in Colorado's West Central Region. However, the federal grant-- awarded to help to improve and enhance the economic resiliency and sustainability of Delta and Gunnison counties following the recent closure of Oxbow Elk Creek coal mine--is just one of the ways in which the 42-year-old nonprofit organization is making a difference for the residents and municipalities it serves. Since 1972, Region 10 has functioned as a governmental council for communities in Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel, Hinsdale and Ouray counties.

In recent weeks Region 10 has also selected a provider to create an implementation blueprint for Broadband in the West Central region. After an extensive search, the blueprint project was awarded to NEO Fiber, a national company based in Carbondale

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CITY COUNCIL SEEKS TO SEVER TIES TO MEDC

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- When the Montrose City Council meets Tuesday night at 6 p.m., a mere 15 minutes is allotted to Agenda Item No. 9, a resolution that effectively severs a municipal relationship extending back nearly 60 years. Following public comment and agenda items pertaining to the amendment of sign face change frequency and an amendment to the zoning district designation of 333 S. Park from R-3 "MDD", Medium Density District to "OR", Office Residential, council will consider redefining the City's relationship with Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) with Resolution 2014-13, (see sidebar).

MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head, who has been involved in discussions with the City since mid-June over return of land parcels held on behalf of the EDC by the City, said that the economic development corporation's board received the proposed resolution Aug. 21 by mail. Of primary



Construction equipment awaits at the site of the Federal Express expansion in the Montrose Airport Industrial Park. The land parcel has been the focus of an ongoing discussion between the City of Montrose and Montrose Economic Development Corporation.

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MONTROSE-DELTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HOSTS A FULL SLATE OF FORUMS, INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2014 ELECTION SEASON

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-When the Montrose County League of Women Voters gathered to parade on the lawn in front of the Montrose Courthouse in vintage outfits and carrying signs on Aug. 26, the rally was officially intended to celebrate Women's Equality Day and the 94th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote and to run for elected office in America.

However, many of those who attended the rally did so for personal reasons as well. Young Montrose mom Ellen Angeles not only showed up in vintage hat and dress ready to march, but helped promote the event beforehand with an email blast reminding friends of her pride in being part of a family that includes three generations of female voters. Ridgway's Donna Green, 83, also took part in the Montrose march, where she shared memories of her years of work as one of the very first KidsVoting volunteers in Arizona.

Honoring women's right to suffrage is not just part of our past, but essential to our future, and the League of Women Voters is non-partisan, national political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government while influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Here in Montrose and Delta counties, the league has a number of upcoming events and forums designed to encourage an active, informed electorate.

On Sept. 11, the Montrose League welcomes the community to attend "Our Children, Our Future," at Noon at the Montrose Library Community Room, a presentation by the *Yes for Our Schools Committee* on the upcoming ballot initiative to expand the financial resources available to Montrose County School District Re-1. The proposed mill levy override would increase taxes in the district by \$2.913 million annually for the stated purposes of hiring additional highly-qualified teachers, purchasing instructional and curriculum materials and technology designed to be used in the classroom, enhancing professional development and training for educa-

tors, and completing needed maintenance and improvements to classroom and school facilities.

Though Congressman Scott Tipton has cancelled his attendance at a previously confirmed LWV Candidate Forum for U.S. Congressional District Three to be held in Delta County Sept. 23, there will be a candidate forum for the open State House 61 and Senate District 5 seats at Memorial Hall in Hotchkiss at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 7 and a ballot issues forum at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Oct. 14.

In Montrose, the League presents a ballot issues forum Oct. 2 at noon in the Montrose Library Community Room. Former Montrose League President Karen Connor will give a talk on the upcoming ballot issues at the Heidi's Brooklyn Deli Forum at 8 a.m. on Oct. 8, and Montrose County voters will have the chance to hear from all four candidates for the Montrose Board of County Commissioners--Republican Glen Davis, Democrat Tammy Theis, and write-in candidates Scott Butler of Montrose and Rob Smith of Olathe have all been invited to take part in a candidate forum set for Oct. 9 in the Montrose City Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.

"I am thrilled at the participation we are seeing locally this year, and thankful to our tireless league volunteers for getting so much accomplished with such a small team," Montrose League of Women Voters President Caitlin Switzer said.

"We always welcome new members with an interest in working for democracy."

"As a non-partisan organization, the League of Women Voters has a big commitment to voter education," Montrose-Delta LWV Vice President and Voter Service Chair Jean Aaro said. "Our Forums allow members of the community to ask questions directly to candidates about issues that interest and concern them. Each candidate then gets two minutes to respond. So, it's not a debate, but truly a



The League of Women Voters rally in Montrose in honor of Women's Equality Day and the 94th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment Aug. 26.

unique opportunity to hear, without edits, the candidates' thoughts on the issues important to us in Delta and Montrose counties."

Voters can learn more about candidates and issues by accessing the League's www.VOTE411.org online voters' guide, which will be up after Sept. 1.

The web site is a place where voters can enter their address, and pull up and print a side-by-side comparison of candidates in the contested races that they will be voting on in the 2014 election, Montrose Vote 411 Chair Karen Connor said.

League volunteers will register voters at various events statewide throughout election season, including on National Voter Registration Day Sept. 23 and at the Informational Insurance Fair in Montrose at the Centennial Room from 9 a.m. to Noon on Oct. 25.

To learn more about membership or upcoming events visit the web site at <http://montrose.co.lwvnet.org/>, call 970-275-5791 or find them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/montroselwv).

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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Editor: Caitlin Switzer

Publisher: Jon Nelson

Art and Advertising Director:
Brad Switzer

Post Office Box 3244

Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-5791

www.montrosemirror.com
editor@montrosemirror.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ADULT EDUCATION--IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME FOR PARENTS, TOO!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Want to be a role model for your children? The Montrose Adult Education Center offers classes and tutoring to help adults without a high-school diploma improve their reading, writing, and math skills and/or prepare for the new computer-based GED Test. Classes are offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Classes are held at the Montrose Adult Education Center at 526 North 6th Street.

Registration begins Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 -11 a.m. for Intermediates and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for Beginners. Evening classes for all levels are offered from 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All ESL classes are held at the Montrose Adult Education Center at 526 North 6th Street. To enroll for the fall session, ESL students must register at 8:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014.

There is a \$35 (cash or money order) registration fee per semester for all classes. Financial assistance is available. Please call the Adult Education office at 970-249-2028 for more information.

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CAREER CHANGE LANDS LOCAL IN THE “DOG HOUSE”



Gerald Bennett is the new owner of G's Dog House, a local hot dog cart.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-He has lived here since 1976, making a living in construction and as a truck driver. So when Gerald Bennett found himself unable to work in his previous jobs due to rheumatoid arthritis, he looked for options that would allow him to

make a living in the community he calls home. Today, Bennett finds himself in the dog house--G's Dog House that is. G's Dog House is a real, honest to goodness hot dog stand, set up on the sidewalk near the Montrose Post Office Downtown. The stand has been up for the past three

weeks.

"Business is definitely picking up," Bennett said. "More and more people are hearing about us--we have brats, hot dogs, jumbo dogs, and even Frito pie. And I am getting ready to start offering a "Dog of the Day" deal--things like a BLT dog, just something different every day of the week."

Bennett and his wife Kimn chose to open a hot dog stand after researching business opportunities available to him, and chose the location after talking to local resident Ann Marie Fleming, whose family once owned and operated a local hot dog cart.

"Ann Marie gave me the idea of being here on this corner," he said. "It was a good idea--I stood here and counted foot traffic one day, and between 400 and 500 people came through."

The cart is now open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays, though Bennett is considering extending hours to 4 p.m.

"We also do birthday parties, grand openings and fund raising events," he said.

"Even in the rain--we have a canopy!"

"Come on by!"

Reach G's Dog House at 209-8064 or via email at gsdoghouse@yahoo.com.

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RE-1J WELCOMES NEW LEADERS, SEEKS MILL LEVY OVERRIDE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--After a long summer of working with parents, staff and teachers to establish new leadership teams in five other local schools, the unexpected departure of Johnson Elementary Principal Lisa Pierce in late July came as a tough blow to the community and to RE-1J Superintendent Mark MacHale.

"Being a principal is an incredibly stressful job," MacHale said, "It was tough to lose Lisa. But we have good plans in place at all of our schools, and each of our six new leaders brings their own personality and skills to the game."

Stepping in as Principal at Johnson is Cheryl Gomez, who previously served as Superintendent of the Ridgway schools. No pool of applicants was available on such short notice, MacHale said, and Gomez has shown a willingness to learn and welcomes the help and support of Johnson students, parents and staff.

"She has not had much time to adjust, but I think she is doing a good job," he said. "We hope that kids, parents and staff will be patient; we are fortunate to have someone on board, and she is in all the way."

In addition to Johnson Elementary, new leaders are in place at Pomona, Cottonwood and Northside elementaries as well as at Centennial Middle School and in the Early Childhood Education program.

MacHale said he and his management team have carefully analyzed staff reasons for leaving (though some administrators, like Joe Simo who returned to Centennial after several years at Pomona, merely

changed schools), and acknowledged that starting the year with so many new leaders can mean "two steps forward, and one step back." It can be difficult for a small, rural school district to attract teachers when other regions can offer higher salaries, he said.

"\$32,000 is our starting base pay for teachers," he said. "It's not very high." He noted that the "unfreezing" of the service credit for continuing education in 2012 was the first increase to the base in at least four or five years.

Even if a planned [mill levy override](#) with a property tax increase designed to infuse \$2,913,000 into local schools for five years is approved by voters in November, it won't boost teacher salaries, MacHale said.

"Our teachers want to be successful, and we want them to succeed," he said. "If the override succeeds, we will look at our purchases, particularly in the area of technology, and analyze immediate needs. We would be able to use the money as early as next spring; it would be part of this year's budget."

Staff input will be essential moving forward, he said.

"We will bring everyone to the table and begin making plans," he said. "I know that one of the things our teachers want most is more planning time. \$2.9 million sounds like a lot of money, and it will make a positive impact, but there will still be needs left—we are still in a triage mentality."

Enrollment in local schools is currently stagnant, with a slight increase in the 2013



Johnson Elementary is one of six local schools with new leaders in place.

-2014 [October count](#) (6,200), which had been dropping steadily since 2009-2010, when it reached a high of 6,522. The school district's annual budget hovers between \$40 and \$42 million, MacHale said.

Despite the challenges, Re-1J has already moved forward with several longtime goals this year. For the first time ever all-day kindergarten is available in every district elementary school at no charge, and early childhood education programs are being expanded.

"Our goal is to get preschools into every school," MacHale said, noting that Johnson Elementary already has morning and afternoon preschool classes, and that Olathe Elementary will have them shortly as well. Though in the past ECE programs in Montrose Re-1J schools have been available only to families at risk, the changes will make the valuable program available to middle class families in the district as well.

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For more information about the topic go to www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org and click on *Calendar of Events*.

COMMUNITY NOTICES AND CLASSIFIEDS



Police Officer 1

The City of Montrose is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer 1 to perform a variety of entry-level technical law enforcement duties related to enforcing the laws, maintaining the peace, and serving and protecting citizens. Requirements include being at least 21 years of age, having had no felony convictions, have a High School or GED diploma, a valid Colorado driver's license, be able to legally possess a firearm and have the ability to meet the physical fitness standard required by the department. Starting wage for sworn P.O.S.T. certified officers is \$50,000 per year. Officer recruit pay while attending the academy is \$18.81 per hour.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. EOE

More information, including the required application, is available on the City website at www.cityofmontrose.org/jobs. Submit application to the City of Montrose HR Department, 433 South 1st Street or mail to PO Box 790, Montrose, CO 81402.
Contact: Tina Woodrum 970-240-1415

OPINION/EDITORIAL LETTERS

DOES MAYOR HAVE A PERSONAL AGENDA?

Responding to the editorial letter written by former Mayor Jose Abeyta in the Mirror Tuesday, August 20th "90" edition.

Dear Editor:

It is alleged Mayor Bob Nicholson overstepped his authority drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Olathe and Montrose City Councils. Besides setting policy – City Council has the responsibility of appointing board members.

The appointment of a single representative to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable must be agreed upon by both Councils. The Montrose City attorney reviewed and approved the MOU, with consent of Council prior to presenting it in an effort to find an acceptable compromise moving Coun-

cils off dead-center to make an appointment. Both Councils approved the MOU.

Mr. Abeyta states the entire legal department personnel "changed" since Mayor Nicholson was elected. These facts are true – but not due to Mr. Nicholson's election. One attorney resigned for personal reasons with a mutual separation agreement, one attorney is now a Montrose County Judge and the paralegal married and relocated due to her husband's employment.

Mr. Abeyta encourages "the rest of Council to re-examine Mr. Nicholson's conduct and take appropriate action." Speaking for myself – also a former Montrose Mayor. I was elected to represent my constituents to the best of my ability. For the good of the

Constituents, Staff and the rest of Council – I made the decision to support each and every elected Mayor, regardless of personal feelings.

The Mayor doesn't have more authority than other Council members – but they have more responsibility and therefore receive more criticism than the rest of us – as former Mayor Abeyta knows. I choose to support Mayor Nicholson and encourage those who are maligning him with malicious innuendo to re-examine their own personal, hidden agendas.

We currently have a City Council that works well together – let's keep it that way.

*Kathy Ellis
Montrose City Council*



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CITY COUNCIL SEEKS TO SEVER TIES TO MEDC from page 1

importance will be return of MEDC's land parcels and funds, she noted.

"Our board has looked at the resolution," she said. "We have had no input, and we do not have to sign off on this; so we are just waiting to see what they will do. The City actually sends people to us all the time for help; we would like to be able to trust and work with them, so the verbiage used here is a little confusing.

"We do know that if they pass this, it does not keep us from seeking legal action."

SIDEBAR-BACKGROUND: On June 17, representatives of Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which has served as the economic development agency charged with recruiting and retaining primary employers in the Montrose area since 1957, appeared before City Council seeking a transfer of land to be sold for the expansion of the local Federal Express facility. FedEx had received six potential sites through a site selection process, and chose the MEDC land parcel option in August of 2013 for its \$2.2 million facility, MEDC's Sandy Head told council, because it was shovel-ready. The suggested action listed on council's agenda was "Consider making a motion to approve the transfer of city-owned property in Airport Industrial Park to Montrose Economic Development Corporation." A similar transaction had been conducted most recently in 2005, when one of MEDC's lots was sold to the Pepsi distributorship in 2005 for an expansion similar to that planned by FedEx.

However, what was anticipated as a routine matter expanded to a discussion over which entity actually owned the land parcels in question, prompting Montrose resident Curt Robinson to offer a history of MEDC's purchase of land parcels and the subsequent transfer of those parcels to city

ownership for tax purposes. MEDC asked the City to return not just the parcels involved in the FedEx transaction, but all of those held by the City. Montrose Mayor Bob Nicholson stated that additional discussions would be needed to resolve the matter. Council considered the matter again at its meeting July 15, and funds from sale of the FedEx land parcel were ultimately placed in escrow.

The situation was then further complicated by the hurt feelings of City Manager Bill Bell, who fired off a public email after the June 17 meeting in which he wrote, "...Unfortunately, I will never carry out unethical practices or violate my own City Code even if my predecessors were willing to do so. Unfortunately, due to the spiteful, misleading and hurtful nature and intent of Sandy's comments tonight, I will be unable to work with MEDC as long as Sandy is part of this organization, and for that I do apologize."

THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION:
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTROSE, COLORADO, DEFINING ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MONTROSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
WHEREAS, The City Council is committed to a strong and robust regional economy. The Council has done, and will do, all in its power to encourage commercial and corporate growth in the greater Montrose area. Council recognizes that economic development corporations are unique and are legally able to take actions that a municipal government cannot.

If Montrose Economic Development Corporation operates under best practice standards of such an organization, those standards have become incompatible with

current practices of municipal governments. As such, the City severs operation and economic ties with MEDC. The City will continue to cooperate and work with MEDC on well-defined projects, with the strong desire to bring new economic growth to our community; and WHEREAS, The City Council of Montrose further authorizes the release of recent monies placed in escrow following the sale of City property for the expansion of FED EX. Council expects the MEDC board to use at least 60 % of the monies solely for economic development programs and/or business assistance, and not use such for administrative expenses. The City arrived at this percentage based on calculating public funds invested in the Airport Industrial Park at \$393,345.73 or 62% equity 1; and WHEREAS, Council also directs the City Attorney to draft the necessary documents and ordinance to transfer the remaining City owned property located at the Airport Industrial Park and Aerospace Park to MEDC. Council also expects the MEDC Executive Board to use this land for true local job growth; and WHEREAS, The City Council remains dedicated to economic development but in a manner that is balanced between economic growth and accountability to the citizens of Montrose, and that starts with the greatest degree of transparency possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTROSE, COLORADO THAT: The City Council of the City of Montrose hereby severs its operational and financial ties to Montrose Economic Development Corporation and declares its firm commitment to economic growth in a manner of transparency and accountability to the citizens of Montrose.

MUSIC FOR YOUR LUNGS WITH HEALING HARMONICAS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--A new program with the harmonica is helping people with chronic problems breathe easier. Mountain View Therapy at Montrose Memorial Hospital is hosting a *Healing Harmonicas* class for people with cardiac and respiratory problems. Since the harmonica is the only musical instrument that requires you to both inhale and exhale as you play, playing the harmonica can help people improve their breathing. The repeated pattern of pushing air from the lungs into the instrument, and then sucking air back into the lungs helps people learn to control and boost their breathing. Come join us for fun and friendship while learning to play the harmonica. The class fee is \$15 which includes the harmonica and instructional materials. The eight-week class begins September 24 and meets on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00p.m. at the Mountain View Therapy Center for Wellness, 815 S. 4th Street. For more information, please call our volunteer instructors, Don at 249-5363 or Ann at 252-1258

Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS THE JOURNEY



The Journey is presently relocating from 511 east Main Street to 34/36 South Selig.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Aug. 10 I paid a visit to The Journey. As I entered the auditorium and made my way to a seat, three people greeted me with “good morning.” It wasn’t long before Sue engaged me in conversation and we talked about the church and my reason for visiting. I asked about a bulletin and Sue said, “We used to have them, I’m not sure why we quit; I guess because everything is on the screen [PowerPoint]”.

Pastor Mike Mills then introduced himself and we talked for some time when, a little before 10 a.m., I ask what time service started. He laughed, “Oh, it starts at 9:30 ...we just think fellowship is a part of worship!”

The five-member worship team took the platform and performed with guitars and drums. The acoustic decibel level could be measured by multiple speakers, two of which were six feet tall and two feet wide. This laidback church almost invites you to come in and kick off your shoes — which

two barefooted worship leaders demonstrated. The praise songs and rhythm kept most of the audience standing and clapping to the beat of the worship music. Of the 40 people present, more than a third were children and teens. One little girl twirled in the aisle and a young man seated in a chair appeared to be playing an air-guitar.

Announcements included an upcoming putt-putt golf outing and a baptismal event scheduled at Sweitzer Lake. Audience prayer requests were taken and after his Amen at the end of his prayer Pastor Mills quickly regrouped, “Oh no. I forgot something.” He then prayed for the school year and chuckled, “I think I got it all now.”

This church serves communion each Sunday. After the meditation was given the presenter went to one of two tables, located on opposite sides of the auditorium, and helped himself to the emblems (individual bread and juice). Others gradually followed suit, but they then gathered around the perimeter of the room in

groups of two to four people to pray and take the emblems together. Similar to a format found at family church camp, this congregation encourages family unity, as well as spiritual unity. After communion the children and youth were dismissed for their own class.

In preparation for the sermon, Pastor Mills called the audience into battle, “Let me see your Sword!” *Translation: hold up your Bibles.* The sermon, taken from Luke 3:1-9, started with the history and ancestry of religious and political leaders who were in authority during the ministry of John the Baptist. The sermon, interwoven with personal stories and examples, was presented with melodramatic flair similar to that of a sports announcer. The pastor, whose background includes youth camps and youth ministry, preaches in a style that engages teens. He gave John the Baptist kudos for giving one of the best opening lines for a sermon, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath (Luke 3:7b NIV)?”

John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the ministry of Jesus, preached a baptism of repentance.

Pastor Mills said, “Repentance is not remorse, nor is it regret. Repentance is a change in direction.” In order to make the point, the pastor gave an example of his own change of direction. “A few years ago I smuggled stuff [food] into the movie theater in order to save a few dollars. I sacrificed my witness to others, especially to the owner of the theater. I had to ask myself, what is more important, five bucks or my integrity?”

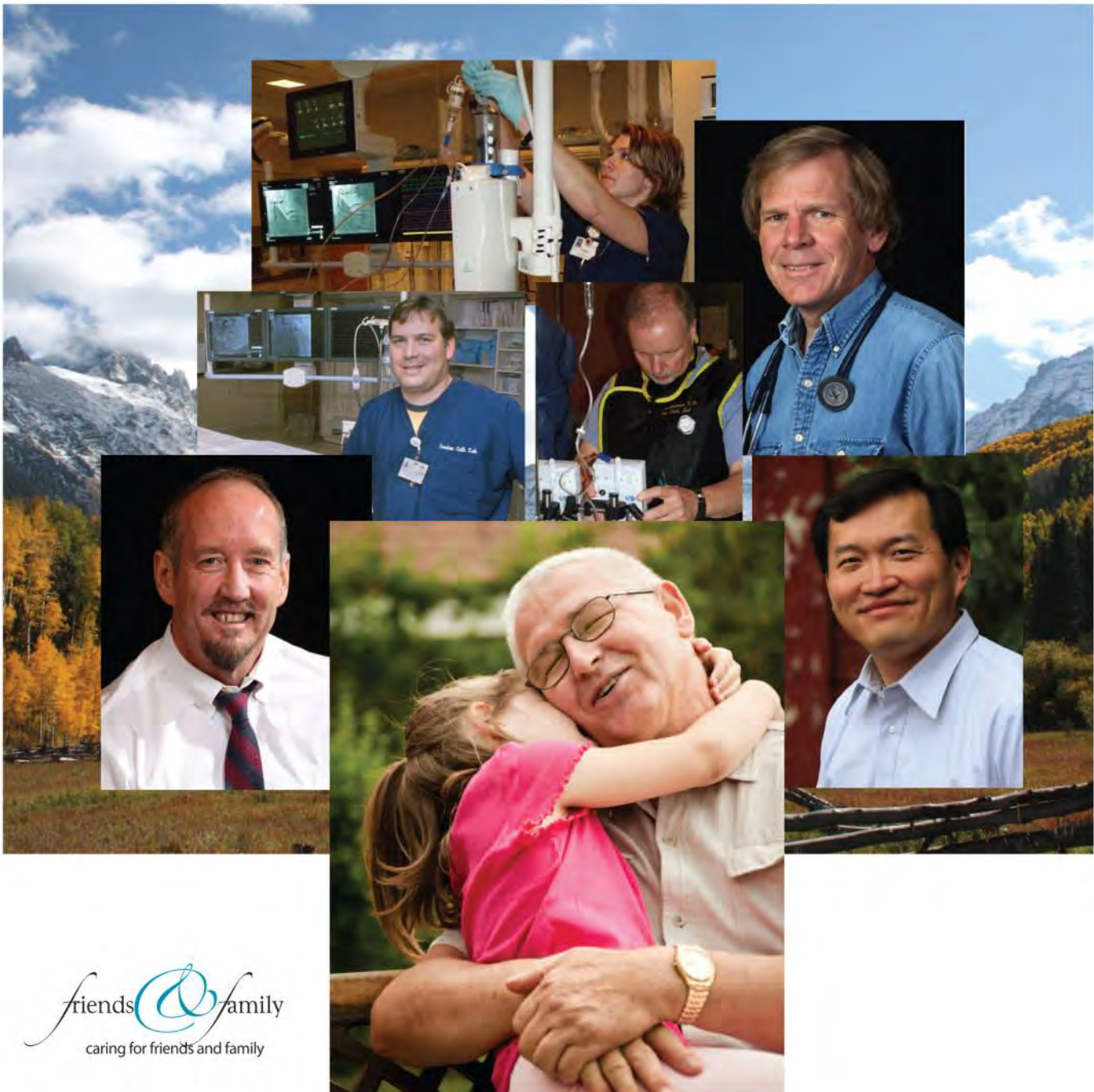
This church, which will soon be relocating and worships from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Contact Information:

The Journey
511 East Main (current)
34/36 South Selig (future)
Montrose, CO 81401
970-417-4350

Speaking to the disciples of John the Baptist, Jesus said, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see ...” (Matt 11:4 NIV).

To our readers: Though Montrose writer Gail Marvel does belong to a local church, she is interested in the other houses of worship here in town as well. With this column, Gail will share her experiences as she visits local churches and congregations to learn more about them. Gail wrote a church newsletter for years, and has published her work in a number of Christian publications including The Lookout, Christian Standard, Discipleship Journal and The Christian Communicator.



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REGION 10 COG WINS 245K EDA GRANT, SELECTS NEO FIBER FOR BROADBAND from page 1

Glenwood Springs. Neo Fiber has real-world experience in planning, community engagement, design/engineering, business modeling, financing, owning and operating fiber optic, wireless and FTTH networks.

"We see broadband as key to removing economic barriers for our region," Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes said. "Developing solutions to the broadband issue is essential as we move forward to serve our communities and our regional businesses. We are very pleased to have NEO Fiber on our team--they have worked across the country and have experience in finding different solutions.

"We feel they are the right company to help us in developing a broadband implementation plan and solutions."

Neo Fiber will begin work immediately with local stakeholders and regional providers.

"NEO Fiber is thrilled to be working with Region 10 on this effort," company CEO Diane Kruse said. "Having access to advanced broadband services is critical for the economic development and growth of this region and has an enormous impact on healthcare, education, utility management, business and government services.

"We are big supporters of community and regional collaboration to improve broadband services and look forward to working with the key stakeholders of this region to put forward a plan."

Region 10 worked with a committee that helped drive the highly technical process of choosing a provider forward, Region 10 Regional Development Coordinator Jay Stooksberry said.

"The committee helped us to identify the

strongest, most comprehensive proposal and the most experienced team," he said, noting that the regional blueprint is being funded through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and should result in greater opportunities for smaller, regional service providers as well. The blueprint will be tailored to the needs of the different counties and municipalities within Region 10.

"There is no one-size-fits-all approach," Stooksberry said. "NEO Fiber is cognizant of this, and the process will be transparent and flexible as we look at the best options for each of our counties."

To date, the project has been overseen by a stakeholder committee made up of representatives from Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Montrose counties, including Delta City Manager Justin Clifton.

"Bringing on a top-notch, Colorado-based consultant gets us one step closer to having the infrastructure we need for the 21st century economy," Clifton said. "The fact that we're doing this as region--working together for a common goal--is even more evidence that things are headed in the right direction."

The first step for NEO Fiber will be visiting communities throughout the region, to discuss options, meet with local stakeholders and anchor institutions, and maintain open communication, Stooksberry said. A community meeting on the broadband blueprint has been scheduled at the Montrose City Council Chambers from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 8.

The \$245,000 in EDA grant funds, meanwhile, will go toward creating a more sustainable, local economy.

"Region 10 LEAP is pleased to work with EDA on this important project to better understand our economy and work to improve the economic outlook of our rural communities," Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes said in a news release issued by the Federal Government Aug. 25. "We are appreciative of this opportunity provided by EDA, grateful to Senator Udall's office for identifying the need to EDA, and thankful to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) as well as to Delta and Gunnison counties, who provided matching funds to make the grant possible."

The EDA news release notes that the mine closure is a regional economic emergency that is creating dire consequences for the affected counties, and that the adjustment strategy will provide an in-depth, data-driven analysis that will prioritize action aimed at creating a more robust and diverse economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

Said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams, "The EDA grants announced today for Colorado will help develop strategies to make the Town of Estes Park (which received \$300,000 in grant funds to develop a regional economic diversification, job retention and recovery strategy) and the Central Western region more resilient to save businesses and jobs in the event of future economic challenges."

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RESTORED HIPPIE BUS...A TOUCH OF MAGIC IN SOMO!



*A panoramic view of the Boardwalk.
Photo by Clay Greathouse.*

Today, the bus has a Steampunk-themed front end (complete with 3D printed gears), the Beatles' portraits waving from the windows, song lyrics, flowers, rainbows and other symbols painted across the bus that bring back memories of the hippie era.

Some of the comments from visitors to the bus have included, "Does it run?" "Are you taking it on tour?" "It's sooooo colorful." and "It caught my eye from the highway so I just had to stop," which is the ultimate goal of the hippie bus.

As for any future plans to improve the bus even more, Vanderwist does have a couple things in the works. "My son Charles is currently perfecting a motion-activated sensor which will play Beatles' songs as you walk up to the bus," he said. "He also plans to install timed LED lights with varying patterns inside the bus that will be activated at night. We also want to do different things for different seasons."

Vanderwist's heart for The Boardwalk shopping complex comes through as he talks. "The Boardwalk complex is a collection of very talented shop owners, each with a unique style and presentation," he said. "My goal is to make The Boardwalk a 'must' place to visit when people are in the Montrose area. Visitors tell me that every time they stop by, whether it was last week, last month, or last year there is always something new, something unique or unusual. They love being able to browse through the shops, take a break with a cool drink, and talk to the shop owners. There's always a new 'story'."

For more information, to see the bus, and visit the other Boardwalk businesses, visit them at 17656 Highway 550 S. in Montrose.



Locals and visitors can check out the newly-customized, bright blue hippie bus, complete with Beatles' music playing as visitors approach. Photo by Clay Greathouse.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE--Montrose has a new, unique attraction for people that bridges generations. Over at The Boardwalk shopping complex south of Montrose, locals and visitors can check out the newly-customized, bright blue hippie bus, complete with Beatles' music playing as visitors approach.

Originally a school bus from China Lake, California, the bus is a White, made somewhere between 1947 and 1952. It is 25 feet long and sat approximately 50 passengers.

It was picked up from the old abandoned power plant on Rio Grande in Montrose by Dennis Vanderwist, owner of The Boardwalk shopping complex, who was inspired to get the bus as a new addition to The Boardwalk. "It reminded me of that era," Vanderwist said. "It sat out in front of The

Boardwalk for a couple years, with some people even offering to buy it."

Vanderwist eventually thought about sending the bus to the junk yard, when a friend sent him pictures of Ken Kesey's newly restored hippie bus from the 1960s, which gave Vanderwist a new idea. "I wanted to make something that would attract people, an eye catcher," he explained.

The project to make the old school bus into a colorful hippie bus soon turned into a Vanderwist family affair, with Vanderwist's fiancée's son Grant, daughter Wendy, and ex-wife Judy all helping with the project, from sanding to painting to the actual design of the bus itself. "The most transforming aspect of the painting process was when Dennis Schultz (owner of the Turn of the Century Saloon) came by with his airbrush and gave our artwork depth and accent...all for free," Vanderwist said.



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All concerts from 6:30-8:30 pm

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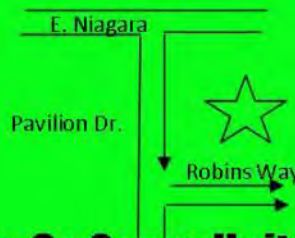
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Turn east off of Pavilion Drive .

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BEACONFEST RETURNS TO MONTROSE PAVILION SEPT. 18



A scene from Montrose Beaconfest 2013. The popular Beacon Newspaper senior citizens fair is free, fun and packed with information, resources and opportunities. Courtesy Image.

This year's Montrose-Delta BeaconFest features an exciting lineup of live entertainment, free food, informative seminars and booths sponsored by over 60 senior-related businesses.

"We're happy to bring back BeaconFest to seniors in the Montrose-Delta area," BEACON Publisher Kevin VanGundy said. "Over 1,000 people came through last year, making last year's Montrose-Delta BeaconFest a huge success. This year's show will be bigger and better."

Our cast of entertainers begins with the charming **Beth Williams**, an accomplished singer-songwriter who will serenade you with timeless favorites and some of her original works. **Ula Kirkman** will be back to bring down the house with her sassy squeezebox on center stage and **bone tree** will move you to your feet with their exciting selection of "deep canyon" music. Thousands of dollars in door prizes will be given away.

Seminars will cover topics ranging from symptoms and treatments of hearing loss to improving senior services in western Colorado.

BeaconFest is free to attend. For more information, call 970-243-8829.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The BEACON Senior Newspaper is having a party and you're invited. The fourth annual Montrose-Delta

BeaconFest Senior Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursday, September 18 at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive.

Second Annual Western Colorado Hospitality Summit Set for October

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – After last year's inaugural success, The Western Business Alliance (WBA) and the Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) are partnering up again for the 2nd annual [Western Colorado Hospitality Summit](http://www.WesternColoradoHospitality.com) to be held on Oct. 23 and 24, at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center. The summit will provide business and service professionals the tools they need to be successful, including seminars, interactive workshops and a hospitality certification course.

The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit will cover topics such as customer service, consumer loyalty, branding and social media presented by nationally recognized and locally respected professionals.

"We believe that business education truly does equal business success, and understanding what it takes to keep a customer engaged, loyal and happy is an important element to this business educa-

tion," said Terri Leben, co-Director of The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit. "The responses from our sponsors and community supporters such as chambers and tourism departments have been astounding. We are really excited to do this again."

Attendees of the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit will include business owners, managers and staffers in industries such as restaurant, hotel, transportation, travel and tourism, medical and other professionals from all over the Western Slope of Colorado.

"We've worked hard since last year's inaugural hospitality summit to elevate even higher the experience and educational opportunities," said Sue Hansen co-director of the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit and presenter of the final rousing speech during last year's summit.

"We are working on an amazing line-up for this year's summit. No one will be disappointed."

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Hospitality Summit for its second year and are privileged to host employees and business professionals from communities around the Western Slope," said Rob Joseph, director of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism.

"With the positive feedback and buzz from last year's inaugural event, we hope to double attendance this year."

For more information and to access the Early Bird rate for the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit on October 23 and 24 please visit

www.WesternColoradoHospitality.com. Early Bird registration fee is \$109.00 until September 23, 2014. Sponsorship and supporter opportunities are still available; contact Terri Leben at Terri@WBAColorado.com or (970) 901-6761. For student tickets and group discounts (3 or more), please contact Terri Leben at Terri@WBAColorado.com or (970) 901-6761.

GET COVERED MONTROSE!

Insurance Informational Fair

When: Oct. 25 from 9am - Noon

Where: Old Montrose City Council Chambers (off the South West side of Centennial Plaza, 422 S. 1st Street)

What: Educational Insurance Fair: a one-stop-shop for anyone with health insurance questions

Representatives from the following insurance outlets will be present:

Connect for Health Colorado

Watson Insurance

Medicaid and Health and Human Services

Medicare - RSVP office

For more information:

Call 970-252-0660 or 970-249-2298

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ARTS AND CULTURE ROUNDUP

CANYON CREEK B&B TO HOST LAFF INN COMEDY NIGHT SEPT. 6



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-On Sept. 6 at 8 p.m., Canyon Creek Bed & Breakfast (820 East Main Street) welcomes John Novosad, a.k.a. "Hippieman," (left) a stand-up comedian based out of the Comedy Works in Denver, as well as Denver based touring comedian Tim Messenger (right). Show starts at 8 p.m., tickets are \$15 and you can buy them online at www.canyoncreek.eventbrite.com.

Western Slope High School Cycling Racing Team Organizes

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-A high school mountain bike racing team in west-central Colorado will soon spread its wings. Sara Ballantyne has stepped up to organize and coach a small group of high school students who share her passion for mountain biking. Sara is a registered nurse, but has a storied history in mountain bike racing, including 3 World Champion Titles 1987-1989 and World Cup Champion in 1990.

The team is based out of Ridgway, but high school students from four different

towns in three different counties have joined the team. Due to the lack of racing experience the team will start out at the JV level with a few team members racing in the sophomore category. The team is Coed with eight boys and three girls. Training for the Fall race season has started.

The Colorado High School Cycling League race season starts on Sept. 7th, but the Ridgway team will concentrate their efforts on 2 races that are closest to western Colorado. The Leadville Cloud City Challenge is on Sept. 21st and the Eagle

Haymaker Classic (state championship) is on October 19th. Hollis Brake and Tom Lyons are assistant coaches. Both are employees of Cascade Bicycles in Montrose, and have experience with junior bike racing teams. The team is looking for financial support to pay for team expenses. Fundraisers are planned for this fall with a goal of \$500, but individuals who want send in a donation can send it to the Ridgway High School MTB Racing Team c/o Sara Ballantyne, 755 Sabeta Drive Ridgway, CO 81432.

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www.Region10.net

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR WESTERN COLORADO HISPANIC ADVANCEMENT AWARD

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION—The Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the Second Annual Western Colorado Hispanic Advancement Award. The award will be presented Sept. 16th at the kickoff event for Hispanic Heritage Month and will be held at the Mesa County Library. The award will be given to a person who has advanced the Hispanic culture through volunteering,

promoting employment opportunities, increasing cultural awareness, cultivating educational opportunities, and/or promoting economic development for the Hispanic community on the Western Slope. Nominations are open to all persons over the age of 18 currently residing in the Colorado Western Slope region. To nominate an individual, please send a nomination letter to the Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce: P. O. Box 733, Fruita, CO

81521 OR info@wclatinochamber.org. Nomination letter should include a detailed description of how the nominee has positively impacted the Western Colorado Hispanic Community as well as contact information for the nominee. Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 8, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Archuleta for additional details: mirayarch@bresnan.net or 970-216-7332.

GET READY, GET SET FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL SHARING MINISTRIES STREET DANCE!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—On Saturday, Sept. 20, the Sharing Ministries Food Bank will host the Second Annual Street Dance fundraiser at 121 North Rio Grande in Montrose. The dance kicks off at 2 p.m., admission is \$10, and kids five and under are free. This year's lineup includes Niceness, Kipori Baby Wolf Woods and Mike Gwinn & the North Fork Flyers. Show up, share the love and dance with friends and family, and help us feed hungry folks! For more information call 970-240-8385 or visit the web site at www.sharingministries.com!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS WALKING TOURS SEPT. 6 AND 9

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Come join us for the last of this series of the Historical Walking tours on Saturday Sept. 6th at 9 am, and Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7 pm. For RSVP please call 249-2085.

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Senior Community Care PACE Eckert	(970) 835-8500
Senior CommUnity Care Meals	(970) 835-8028



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ENROLL NOW FOR LEADERSHIP MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Leadership Montrose is the ideal program for preparing the leaders of tomorrow. During the nine-month program, participants get an in-depth view of the inner workings of our community, community issues, develop leadership skills necessary to assume leadership roles, and are exposed to community involvement opportunities.

Leadership Montrose is unlike other programs because it provides participants with the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with key community leaders.

Participants study the qualities that make an effective leader, analyze individual leadership roles, and develop personal leadership styles and skills. They are then encouraged to apply their talents by joining professional associations, civic clubs, public boards and commissions. Class begins Friday, Sept. 19 and will be held the third Friday of each month. Additional program details can be found at <http://www.montrosecchamber.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=5> or call the Chamber of Commerce at 249-5000.

DMTC SEEKS COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta-Montrose Technical College (DMTC) has applied for initial accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE). DMTC has been a candidate for accreditation by COE since September 2013. DMTC will be hosting an accreditation team October 6-10, 2014. Anyone wishing to comment may write to the Executive Director, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, Georgia 30350, or the council's web site (222.council.org).

Persons making comments must provide their names and mailing addresses.

The Council on Occupational Education (COE), originally founded in 1971 as a regional accrediting agency of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is the successor to the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions (COEI). In 1995, the Council became a national accrediting agency. In 2006, the Council celebrated its 35th year of assuring quality and integrity in career and technical education. The Council's accreditation process is conducted on behalf of

more than 360,000 students across the nation who pursue careers in a variety of technical fields.

Delta-Montrose Technical College was formerly accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Delta-Montrose Technical College is a public career and technical college in Delta, Colorado. It offers 37 secondary and postsecondary certificates in 11 different programs. All certificates can be earned in two semesters or less, with many of them only one semester in length.

HONORABLE MENTION

To unstoppable, unbeatable MHS Sophomore and athlete Ian Meek, for taking our breath away and making us all proud with all of those first place wins...

To musicians throughout the region, for giving so much back and supporting so many non-profits and businesses with your talents...

To 2 Rascals Brewery, for the Amber Ale...

To Colorado Boy Pizzeria and Brewpub, for affordability, excellence and great service every time...

To Delta Chamber Director and professional writer Kami Collins, for making it look easy with leadership skills and great articles in the DCI and Sentinel too!

ARTS AND CULTURE

DELTA CHAMBER CELEBRATES NEW MEMBERS...DELTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Special to the Mirror
DELTA-The Delta Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed the congregation of the Delta United Methodist Church as new Chamber members with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 26.

Pictured with some of the congregation are Chamber Ambassadors (from left) Christina Busch with Richards Consulting and Accounting; Kylynn Wilson with Crossroads Assisted & Independent Living; GW King with King Retirement Solutions/King College Planning; Josh Applegate with Farmers Insurance - Applegate Agency; Darnell Place-Wise with Western Slope Jack FM; and Lynn Shirk with Heirlooms for Hospice.

Cutting the ribbon is Pastor Carol Rehn and United Methodist Men member Dwain Bush.



COMMUNITY BAND TO PLAY FREE CONCERT SEPT. 28... JOIN US FOR A "TOUR OF AMERICA!"

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Sept. 28th at 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion for a free concert that will take you on a tour of America. The band will play songs from several regions of the United States including Hawaii, the Southern states, the northern Midwest, the plains, the Mississippi Delta region and more. For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Community Band Courtesy Photo, left, by Dusty Ryan.



ARTISTS SOUGHT FOR EXHIBITION TO HONOR COLORADO CAPITOL DOME

Special to the Mirror

DENVER - Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) is seeking Colorado-based artists to participate in an exhibition celebrating the restoration and unveiling of the Colorado State Capitol building dome. Selected works will be on display at the Colorado State Capitol complex, including the Lieutenant Governor's Office, the basement rotunda and the Joint Budget Committee room, from Oct. 2014-March 2015.

CCI is looking for two-dimensional creative interpretations of the capitol building and the dome. Submissions of artwork are

being accepted online at www.callforentry.org, listed under "Colorado State Capitol Exhibition". Colorado Creative Industries exhibition program at the Colorado State Capitol brings permanent and rotating art exhibitions to the capitol to celebrate Colorado's creative economy and share it with Coloradans and visitors. For more information please contact Ruth Bruno, Public Art Project Coordinator, at ruth.bruno@state.co.us.

About the Colorado Capitol Dome
Restoration on the cast iron structure of the Capitol's dome started in 2010 and will be

re-dedicated Oct. 2, 2014. The restoration funds were appropriated through the General Assembly as well as through Coloradans who participated in the "Share in the Care Colorado" campaign, managed by Colorado Preservation, Inc. The completed project restored deteriorated portions of the cast iron dome structure, replaced the copper panels that make-up the gold gilded dome, and restored windows and the observation deck.

For more information on the dome restoration project, visit www.colorado.gov/capitol.



Caring for people with dementia through Validation communication

Volunteers
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What is **VALIDATION**?

Validation is a way of caring for and communicating with older adults who are often diagnosed as having Alzheimer's-type dementia.

Validation is the foundation of the comprehensive dementia services provided by Volunteers of America. As an Authorized Validation Organization, we offer focused tools and resources that empower caregivers at home as well as those in senior communities. Our passion is to positively impact the quality of life for those with dementia.

Visit **www.voavalidation.org** for more information on Validation and **www.voahealthservices.org** for a list of providers in Western Colorado.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LISTEN AND LEARN FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Special to the Mirror

CEDAREDDGE — Volunteer Opportunities will be the topic for the second "Here Comes The Sun" Listen & Learn presentation, scheduled on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 12-1 p.m., at the Cedaredge Community Center, 140 N.W. 2nd St., Cedaredge. This no charge program will be presented by Bobbie Miller with DCMH and Region 10 Community Solutions, and Paul Ash, Delta Coordinator for Colorado West Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Although the program is free, advance registration is appreciated. Those interested can register by calling 249-2436, ext. 201; toll-free at [1-855-500-6050](tel:1-855-500-6050); online at www.region10.net; or call the Delta County Senior Resource Council office at [970-712-2295](tel:970-712-2295). No food or drink will be served, but those planning to come are encouraged and welcome to bring a "brown bag" lunch to enjoy during the programs. Future programs are scheduled every second Thursday, monthly, from 12-1 p.m., at rotating locations in Delta, Cedaredge, and Hotchkiss, through June 2015.

SAVOR THE SAN JUANS SEPT. 14!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Remington's at the Bridges Presents:Savor the San Juans: Local Foods, Local Chefs, Local Homes on Sept. 14th, 2014, from 11am-4pm, Savor the Flavor of the San Juans during this 2nd annual home and chef showcase. From a rugged yurt to the restored Old School House Lodge, tour your way through these seven wonderful properties whose luxurious kitchens will host area chefs. These culinary masters have crafted tastings featuring the seasonal bounty of Western Slope farms. Go at your own pace, beginning from 11am- 1pm (ending your home tour by 3pm). Toast the Tour from 1-4pm at Turn of the Century Saloon with local libations and desserts. Tickets costing \$35 are available starting Aug. 14th online and at the following Montrose locations: The Bridges Golf Shop, Timberline Bank, Montrose Farmers Market, Tiffany, Etc. Straw Hat Market Store, and the Montrose Visitors Center. A Benefit for Montrose Community Foundation and Valley Food Partnership.



DELTA COUNTY LIVING

**YOUR ONLINE GUIDE FOR ACTIVITIES, ADVENTURE AND LIVING
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Deltacountyliving.com
Deltacountyliving@gmail.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIBBON CUTTING



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Montrose Chamber of Commerce Redcoats helped celebrate the opening of A Perfect Stone at 1915 N. Townsend Ave. Courtesy image.



Call or visit today to see how we can help your business!

301 Main Street, Delta. www.DeltaColorado.org.
970-874-8616. chamber@deltacolorado.org.

Find us on Facebook at "Delta Area Chamber of Commerce."



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR PRESENTS INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR DEMENTIA CARE



Best Selling Author Laura Wayman. Courtesy image.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Best Selling Author Laura Wayman, internationally renowned dementia expert endorsed by Johns Hopkins Publishers, will be visiting Delta and Montrose to offer help to those dealing with the life changing impact of dementia. What makes Laura's program different? She uses, and teaches, unique techniques that can arm families and caregivers with practical solutions to care for someone with dementia.

Free community events are held at the following locations:

September 24th-

10 am - Noon, Westminster Hall, 145 E 4th St Delta, Rsvp 970-249-2436 ;

2-4 pm, Crossroads Assisted Living, 1380 Aspen Way Delta.

This session designed for the professional caregiver. Rsvp 970-874-1421

September 25th-

10 am-Noon, Montrose Public Library 320 S 2nd, Rsvp 970-249-2436

1:30 -3:30 pm, Montrose Public Library 320 S 2nd

This session designed for the professional caregiver

5:30 pm-7:30 pm, Region 10 300 N Cascade Ave Montrose, Rsvp 970-249-2436

“I saw Cindy Watson’s sign and walked in to talk to her. Cindy is very knowledgeable about insurance. She ended up saving me \$2500 a year with equivalent health coverage. So glad I stopped in!”

— Larry Hannon



1802 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose • 970-249-2298

“I haven’t had insurance for years and my daughter told me about the local non-profit Connect for Health Colorado office so I went in and the ladies there were very helpful. I would recommend that people look into their new options under the Affordable Care Act. I am grateful to have the opportunity to finally take care of myself.”

— Carol C.

Montrose call 252-0660 • Telluride call 708-7096
North Fork call 872-2233 • connectforhealthco.com



connectforhealthco.com

RIDGWAY SEEKS COLORADO INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-The Ridgway Creative District and Weehawken Creative Arts will be showcasing the work and creativity of Colorado independent filmmakers during the Ridgway MoonWalk Art Outings series.

We are calling to filmmakers to enter short films for a free public showing on **Nov. 7 from 6 – 9 PM** at the historic Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, CO. Films should be no more than 20 minutes in length and appropriate for family viewing.

Films will be juried for selection in the 3-hour event. Selected filmmakers should be prepared to give a 5-minute presentation about the inspiration for the film and anecdotes in the making of the film. Films must be submitted by **Oct. 7 at 5 PM**. An entry form, available at <http://www.ridgwaycreativedistrict.com>, needs to accompany your film. Please submit entries to Diedra Silbert, dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us or mail it to Town of Ridgway Creative District, PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432. Entries are accepted in these formats: YouTube, Vimeo, or other digital video format, or DVD.

The well-attended Ridgway MoonWalk monthly series began in July 2013 as a means to support creative individuals and highlight their work.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

20TH ANNUAL PARTNERS CHALLENGE RIDE IS SEPT. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join Partners Mentoring for a beautiful bike ride, on a spectacular end-of-summer day. On September 13th, Partners will be hosting the 20th Annual Partners Challenge Bike Ride, offering two different breathtaking rides in Western Colorado. Ride 1 begins at the top of Cerro Summit and winds along a magnificent route through national forests and river basin country over Owl Creek Pass, ending in Ridgway Town Park. This bike ride is rated moderate to difficult and is fully supported with sag wagons, well-

supplied rest stops, and a bike mechanic.

Ride 2 is a family fun ride from Ridgway Town Park to Ridgway Reservoir and back.

All riders will be given lunch at our post-ride picnic in Ridgway Town Park, which will include a live performance from musician Bruce Hayes.

Registration for riders is \$100 -- \$50 donation, plus a minimum \$50 in pledges.

Families that ride together can share their pledges -- \$50 for each adult rider, plus a combined minimum of \$50 in pledges.

Top pledge earner will receive a free Trek

Mountain Bike from Cascade Bicycles.

Registration is due by Sept. 8th

Partners of Delta, Montrose and Ouray celebrates 27 years of service to youth this year.

All donations and pledges are tax deductible and proceeds support the Partners mentoring program for children 6 – 17 years old in our communities. Get the full details on the ride, register, or make a pledge by visiting our website at

www.partners-west.org or call the Partners office in Montrose at 249-1116 for more information.

SPA DAY EVENT WILL RAISE FUNDS FOR DELTA HOMELESS SHELTER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-It's been a busy summer, and what woman out there doesn't need a day with her girlfriends to relax and have a great time being pampered – no kids, no husbands, no laundry to be done, no bills to be paid? So let the organizers of the second annual "Girl Talk: A Day of Beauty & Bliss," take care of *you* for a few hours!

The event will take place Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1-4 p.m. at the Delta-Montrose Technical College. Spa professionals from salons across Delta County, including Beyond the Salon, The Sunflower Room, CMG Massage, The Serenity Room, Sunshine Tanning & Massage, A Soothing Touch Massage Therapy and Elevate Day Spa in Ouray will be on hand offering mini spa services to ticket holders.

For your ticket price, you get six mini spa services, including your choice of a massage, facial wax, hair trim or hair style, mani or pedi, facial, makeup application, and others.

Ticket holders will also enjoy delicious appetizers all day long, a gift bag, and the chance to take home some great door prizes.

Chances for two grand prize giveaways, including a romantic getaway and a house cleaning package, will be sold as well. You will also receive a keepsake wine glass for wine tasting; wines provided by Mountain View Winery in Olathe. David Starr will be on hand serenading the crowd, and vendors will be set up with products that women will love. Including

gifts, bags, jewelry and others, vendors from Arbonne, Mary Kay, Avon and other companies for health and beauty will be on hand.

"Girl Talk is a great way to come sample some services or products that you just want to try out before investing time and money in," said Cheryl Oeltjenbruns, one of the event organizers. "It's also just a really fun day to spend with some friends relaxing and having a good time. And the best part of Girl Talk is that you will be helping Delta County homeless."

Tickets are \$30 and will only be sold in advance. There are a limited number of tickets being offered, so get yours soon! Tickets are available at Beyond the Salon and the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce in Delta, or at Lasting Impressions in Paonia.

You can also call the Abraham Connection at 773-8290 for tickets and info. Please call that number if you are interested in being one of our salon professionals



Kristin Logan, a salon professional from Beyond the Salon in Delta, volunteered at the 2014 Girl Talk event. Stylists from this salon and several others will be back in action, offering ticket holders pedis, manis, massages, facials and hair styling. Courtesy photo.

or a vendor, as well.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Abraham Connection's building fund.

This November, the shelter will open for its fifth season of overnight emergency shelter for homeless men, women and families. In the past four seasons, volunteers have provided nearly 2,500 bednights and served over 4,000 meals to the hungry. The board of directors for the shelter has been fundraising to build a space large enough to accommodate the growing number of people utilizing the shelter on a nightly basis.

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!

THIRD SUNDAY DULCIMER CLUB WITH HARPS & HAMMERS, 2 to 4 p.m. Please call Robin for information and directions to our new location as our club has grown! 970-275-8996. Guitars and Autoharps welcome too—the more the merrier!

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM-The last Saturday of each month will be "Montrose Day" at the Montrose County Historical Museum, 21 N. Rio Grande Street. If you live in the Montrose area, then you will receive a free pass to the Museum. So bring down the family to learn about our unique town and area history. For more information please call 249-2085.

MONTROSE STAMP (PHILATELIC) CLUB meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 420 Alta Lakes Dr. from 7-8pm. For Beginners to Pros! Please contact Brenda Moureaux at 970-765-6948 for more information.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE-Save on insurance, keep up on newer traffic laws, and learn defensive driving techniques. For details and schedule for Montrose and Delta, contact John 970-856-6924 or 970-424-1778.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Non-Denominational - Community Welcome-This is a 14-Week Course, starting Thursday August 21st and going through November 20 - 3 to 4:30 pm. Hosted by Montrose United Methodist Church, 19 South Park Ave., Montrose, CO. For more information, please call the church office at 249-3716 or at the website www.montroseumc.org.

Sept. 4-at 7 pm in the Montrose Regional Library Meeting Room, local mycophile Amy McBride will present on how to find, harvest, and prepare wild mushrooms of western Colorado.

Sept. 5-First Friday Stroll Downtown!

Sept. 6- 4:30-7:30pm at the Ridgway Public Library Friends of the Ridgway Library will host a fundraiser, You Can't Judge a Book By Its Cover... or Can You? A live auction of Local Artists' Original Work - Under Cover. The "books" will be on display beginning Sunday, Aug. 24, and the artists' work will be revealed the night of the auction. Cost of this casual catered event is \$20; \$10 for participating artists; children 10 and under accompanied by an adult are free. Visit Upcoming Events on the library's Facebook page for more information:

www.facebook.com/RidgwayPublicLibrary.

Sept. 7-Montrose United Methodist Church invites the community to a Free Picnic in the Street, at 12:30. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Side Dishes, Drinks and Desserts. The street between Park Ave, 1st and 2nd St will be closed and tables and canopies will be set up for the picnic. The Community is invited to come to any one of three services, 8:15 (traditional and contemporary) - 9:45 (contemporary) or 11:15 (traditional). Child care is available for church services and Sunday school starts at 9:45. The Picnic in the Street will begin at 12:30 and everyone is welcome. For more information on Picnic in the Street, please call our church office @ 249-3716. Please visit our website for more information on church activities www.montroseumc.org.

Sept. 9-4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wills, Trusts & Powers of Attorney—The Basics, with Brown & Brown PC.

We'll cover the basics surrounding will and trust estate plans and using Powers of Attorney to document your wishes. Region 10 Area Agency on Aging, 300 North Cascade. Call our office to sign up or register on our website at www.brownandbrownpc.com.

Sept 12-Around the Corner Gallery felting class for beginning & experienced felters, taught by Linda Balas,, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. , Fee: \$40 for class, + \$5 for supplies; Learn three-dimensional felting using the wet felting technique.

Sept. 13-Are you a Disc Golf player? Would you like add some fun to a new sport and support a great museum? Then please join us in The Second Annual **Glow in the Dark Disc Golf Tournament**. It will be held at Cerise Park, with registration at 7 pm. A shot gun start will be 8 pm. Pre- registration is \$10.00/each, and day of the tournament will be \$12.00/each. This new event is a fundraiser for the Montrose County Historical Museum. For more information please call 249-2085. So grab your glow sticks and discs for a fun night of playing.

Sept. 14-Savor the San Juans, Remington's at the Bridges, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Savor the Flavor of the San Juans during this 2nd annual home and chef showcase. From a rugged yurt to the restored Old School House Lodge, tour your way through these seven wonderful properties whose luxurious kitchens will host area chefs. These culinary masters have crafted tastings featuring the seasonal bounty of Western Slope farms. Go at your own pace, beginning from 11am- 1pm (ending your home tour by 3pm). Toast the Tour from 1-4pm at Turn of the Century Saloon with local libations and desserts. Tickets costing \$35 are available starting Aug. 14th online and at the following Montrose locations: The Bridges Golf Shop, Timberline Bank, Montrose Farmers Market, Tiffany, Etc. Straw Hat Market Store, and the Montrose Visitors Center.

Sept 17-(Senior Community Care PACE Montrose, 2377 Robins Way , Montrose 10-11am) and 24th (Senior Community Care PACE Eckert, 11485 Hwy 65, 1-2pm) Lynette Gilbert: OT/PT In The Home/Training.

Sept. 17-6:30 pm "PUTTING YOUR GARDEN TO BED" presented by the MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY with the assistance of local Master Gardeners. Bring your lawn chair to the Botanic Gardens south of the Pavilion, 1800 Niagara. Free. www.montrosegardens.org.

Sept. 18-Beaconfest Senior Fair, Montrose, Montrose Pavilion 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept. 20-A True Blue Affair, 5 p.m. to Midnight at the Montrose Pavilion. For information, tickets and table sales, please call (970) 252-5257.

Sept. 20-Sharing Ministries Street Dance, 121 North Rio Grande, 2 p.m. with Kipori Baby Wolf Woods, Mike Gwinn and North Fork Flyers, Niceness. \$10 admission, kids under five are free.

Sept. 24-Montrose County Town Hall Meeting, Nucla, 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 26-27-Fifth Annual Tribute to Western Movies Days, Museum of the Mountain West.

Sept. 27-Montrose Oktoberfest! 1to 6 p.m. Downtown Montrose.

Sept. 28-Join the Montrose Community Band at 3 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion for a free concert that will take you on a tour of America. The band will play songs from several regions of the United States including Hawaii, the Southern states, the northern Midwest, the plains, the Mississippi Delta region and more. For more information visit www.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Oct. 8-Heidi's Brooklyn Deli (1521 Oxbow Drive) Forum presents Karen Connor of the Montrose County League of Women Voters on upcoming ballot issues. 8 a.m. Coffee is \$1.

Oct. 8-Community meeting on regional broadband blueprint, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Montrose City Council Chambers, Montrose Elks Civic Building.

Oct. 9-Montrose County LOWV 2014 BOCC Candidate Forum, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 14-4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Long-Term Care Planning, Brown and Brown PC.

With 70% of people over the age of 65 ultimately needing some form of long-term care, you'll want to learn about payment sources, including private pay, Medicaid, Medicare and long-term care insurance. Region 10 Area Agency on Aging, 300 North Cascade. Call our office to sign up or register on our website at www.brownandbrownpc.com.

Oct. 25-Informational Insurance Fair, City of Montrose Centennial Room, 9 a.m. to Noon. Call 970-252-0660 for information.

Nov. 7-Ridgway Moonwalk-Creative District and Weehawken creative Arts presents independent filmmaker screenings at the historic Sherbino Theater on Clinton Street from 6 to 9 p.m.

Nov. 8-Montrose High School Band & Guard, Band on the Run 5k, 9 am to 11 am, Baldrige Park (Riverbottom) http://www.starunnerenterprises.com/mb_home.html.



THE BLACK CANYON HOMEBREWERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Saturday, Sep. 27th

1-6PM

Downtown Montrose

9th Annual

Oktoberfest 2014

MONTROSE, COLORADO

LIVE MUSIC BY

EUFÓRQUESTRA

KIPORI BABY WOLF WOODS

THE HUCK EXPERIENCE

WITH GREGG DEARTH

\$20 In Advance

Taste dozens of beers from Colorado Craft Breweries!

\$25 At the door

This event benefits All Points Transit

Contact the Montrose Mirror:

Post Office Box 3244

Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-5791

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Late summer scenes...from top right-an antique tractor on display at the Ouray County Fair Aug. 30; Kerry Mattics roasting chiles at the Mattics Farm Stand at San Juan and Main Sept. 1; amazing Montrose chain saw artist Ken Braun at the Boardwalk Aug. 22.



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