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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 92 Sept. 17, 2014

## NEW FACES, NEW CHOICES, MORE PLACES TO SHOP!



*The store is brand new, but the face is familiar—longtime Montrose business owner Steve Omernik is happy to be back in the outdoor business in LoMo with his new Great Colorado Outdoors Co.*

*Continued on page 20*

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE--As the days cool down and evenings grow longer, a number of exciting new developments have emerged around Montrose, promising more and better local options for great retail "finds."

Perhaps the biggest news out of Downtown Montrose this week is the hiring of Montrose local Lance Michaels as new Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Michaels, a former US Bank executive who starts his new position Sept. 15, replaces former DDA Director Wade Nichols, who resigned earlier this year after just months on the job. Michaels was one of four candidates interviewed from an original pool of 15.

DDA Board member Chris Adams of Park Avenue True Value expressed enthusiasm about the hiring of a new director for the organization.

"We are super excited," Adams said. "We have been without a leader for four months, so we are anxious to get a plan together and start working on some projects."

"We are moving forward, and we have lots of ideas," she said.

Michaels himself calls it "a new chapter."

"I've been around here awhile," he said, "and I've gotten to know a lot of people, and there are a whole

## STREET DANCE TO HELP FILL THE FOOD BANK

*By Caitlin Switzer*

MONTROSE--Longtime Montrose residents can probably still recall seeing retired Baptist Minister Frank Koenig drive a beat up Sharing Ministries pickup truck around town himself, collecting food from generous local donors to be shared with the community. At 96, Koenig is no longer able to personally volunteer at the non-profit organization he helped to start 18 years ago. However, his dream has continued to grow, and the Sharing Ministries Food Bank has become an essential regional institution.

"When Sharing Ministries started, we were feeding 96 people a month," Executive Director Oneda Doyal said. "Today, we serve 6,500 people every month; we help support local food banks in five counties (Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Ouray)."

On Sept. 20, the communities can show up to help support the Sharing Ministries Food Bank by enjoying the Second Annual Sharing Ministries Street Dance on the grounds of the food bank at 121 North



*Sharing Ministries Executive Director Oneda Doyal stands near some of the food bank refrigeration trucks. The food bank will host its annual street dance Sept. 20.*

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Wolf" Woods!*

*Experience the  
Church Column!*

*Savor the San Juans  
Breakfast at Bridges!*

*Lois Phillips  
speaks out!*

*Ian Meek leads  
the MHS pack!*

## COTTONWOOD RESIDENT SPEAKS OUT, THANKS GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AGING TRAILER PARKS

*"It wouldn't take much for these old parks to go up in flames," -Lois Phillips*



**Retired Great Homes Company Manager Lois Phillips believes that the safety of children and elderly residents should be a priority in the aging mobile home communities.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When Montrose resident Lois Phillips read a recent article in the *Mirror* about improvements to Cottonwood Trailer Park, where she has lived for many years, she knew there was more to the story.

"A very, very special thanks goes to Pastor Arnie Chavez of Extending Grace, a branch of Grace Community Church," Phillips said. "Extending Grace paid for the playground equipment that the maintenance crews put in, and Zane and Chauncy from Black Canyon Aggregate donated the

gravel. There are a lot of kids here, and it has just been wonderful for them.

"That playground gets a lot of use."

A former manager for the Great Homes Company, which owns Cottonwood, San Juan, Green Acres and Mountain View Trailer parks in Montrose and another in Delta, Phillips credits Chavez with making a real difference for those who live in the Cottonwood Park. In addition to regular bible studies in both English and Spanish, Chavez implemented an after-school homework program, she noted, and has awarded bikes to those kids with regular attendance at year's end.

"Before Arnie started Bible study, I didn't know much about the Bible or care to know," Phillips said. "Now, I know.

"Grace Church does a lot for our community."

Extending Grace also donated the new playground in the San Juan-Green Acres parks, she said.

"The maintenance crews for Great Homes-Steve Romero, Allen Johnson, Robert Garduno--planted the grass and laid the sprinklers," she said.

Phillips, who came to the park as a renter 14 years ago, purchased her own trailer in 2001. Today she occupies one of 181 privately-owned units in the park system. She recalls a time years ago when drug dealers seemed to outnumber law-abiding tenants.

"When I worked for the company I made the maintenance guys check every empty trailer, all the time," she said. "I drove the parks several times a week and took notes, and I sent letters. I once found a drunk guy asleep in one unoccupied unit--he got mad that I woke him up!"

The majority of tenants today are very good neighbors, and many are non-English speakers, she noted.

"I feel safe here; I've been here for so long," she said. "I keep my door locked, and we all watch out for each other. We have two great volunteers here who do so much-Lorraine Vigil and Tina Gauthier--and we never have had any trouble with

the City--the police are always so cooperative, and so good about responding when you call. Paul Eller was very good to us."

Sadly, the age of many of the park units has made them obsolete and less than ideal, she noted.

"If this park sold, very few of these trailers could actually be moved," she said, "because anything older than 1976 has to be destroyed on site."

And in the end, the welfare and well-being of children remains the ultimate concern, Phillips said.

"Kids don't always have a voice," she said. "As manager here, my biggest fear was that we would go into an empty trailer, and find a child. I always made the crews double check to make sure doors and windows were well covered.

Still, "People have broken into old trailers here, and started fires to stay warm," Phillips said. "It wouldn't take much for these old parks to go up in flames.

"I have worked my whole life for to have my own home," she continued. "And there are people living here who would not be able to get out in time."



**Empty trailers like the one above, located just steps from an Re-1J school bus stop for elementary school children, continue to pose dangers for neighborhood children, retired trailer park manager Lois Phillips said.**

**"Kids don't always have a voice," she said.**

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

*The Montrose Mirror is your source for community news and information.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### PRESENTATION BY MASTER GARDENERS--PUT YOUR GARDEN TO BED!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Please stop by the Montrose Botanic Gardens from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, under the Tent at the Gardens (immediately South of the Pavilion). Initially there will be a short update on current garden happenings and on upcoming garden events. And then, it's that time of year -- to PUT YOUR GARDEN TO BED! So you'll want to stay on to join us for an invaluable session to be given by three Master Gardeners. Topics will range from collecting and saving seeds, grasses and winterizing your bonsai plants, and then how to store your vegetables for the winter. So bring your lawn chair to the Botanic Gardens south of the Pavilion, 1800 Niagara. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. [www.montrosegardens.org](http://www.montrosegardens.org).

*Oct. 9--League of Women Voters of Montrose County BOCC Candidate Forum, Montrose City Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m. Call 970-275-5791 for information.*

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## A GOOD DEAL FOR MONTROSE...SHOP WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE!



*Find high quality at affordable prices at Warehouse Clearance Downtown. Courtesy images.*

*By Liesl Greathouse*

MONTROSE—On Sept. 2, Montrose gained a new place to shop for quality clothing and shoes at affordable prices: Warehouse Clearance, where the motto is 'Name Brands at 50-75% off Every Day.'

Owner Debbie Blanchard is already well known downtown, having owned D'Medici Footwear for the past two years. That learning experience and love for downtown Montrose led her to open a new store to offer even more shopping variety at inexpensive prices. "At a lot of consignment stores, people will find lower end prices, but also lower end products," she said. "We thought about how people can get higher end products at better prices. We believe that people do not always have to buy clothing or shoes used."

At Warehouse Clearance, customers will find high quality men and women's clothing and shoe brands, including Sperry Top Siders, Stuart Weitzman, Klogs, Alegria, Minnetonka, and Rieker. One example of the great prices are the shoes, which are available for \$20-\$50, when they would normally be priced at \$60-\$300. None of the products are defects or have anything wrong with them; they are still high quality, but suppliers have to get rid of them.

The idea for Warehouse Clearance came from Blanchard's other store D'Medici. "Opening that store was a learning experience," she said. "We would end up with lots of odds and ends, which were difficult to get rid of. In our second year of business we did a warehouse sale 5 hours away from Montrose for 2 months. It was successful, but the drive was brutal.

"Now that we can do that in Montrose, we will be adding other products to the store, so that it is not just odds and ends from suppliers."



Besides offering an affordable shopping experience to customers, Warehouse Clearance also helps downtown Montrose by occupying a storefront, something that Blanchard is passionate about. "I really believe that there should be no empty storefronts on main street," she said. "When the Tattered Rabbit closed, even before the leasing became available, I was there asking about it. I do not want to see any more offices or banks, places that don't do sales tax, on main street. We need more retail businesses, like stores and restaurants."

Blanchard's favorite part has been organizing the store to its optimal level. "Many warehouse stores look dirty, unorganized and crammed," she said. "I like for people to find stuff easily, with aisles wide

enough that you can even take a stroller through. Our staff is not just there to ring you up, but they are there to help you and make sure you are fit properly."

Since it has only been open for a short time, Blanchard's future goals for Warehouse Clearance are focused on the core elements of a good store. "I will work on finding more merchandise that is a good fit for the area and on keeping the store full so that when people come in they will find something new every week," she explained. "We aim to offer customers great prices, great quality, great service, all without compromise."

Warehouse Clearance is located at 305 E. Main Street and is open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 970-249-8323.





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# MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS AND INFORMATION

## NORRIS OFFICIALLY SEATED AS MONTROSE COUNTY MANAGER

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners voted Interim County Manager Ken Norris into the role of County Manager during this morning's board meeting. The contract with the county officially begins September 15, 2014, and is set to three-year expire mid-September 2017.

Receiving high-praise from the Board of County Commissioners in his time as Interim County Manager, Norris is ready and willing to officially take the reigns as County Manager. "I am humbled and honored to accept this position," said Norris. "In my four months as Interim County Manager, I have enjoyed the challenge and look forward to continuing to work with not only our talented staff, but outstanding elected officials as well."

"In all the county manager searches I have participated in, I have never come across a candidate with his impressive set of credentials," said Commissioner Ron Henderson. Chairman David White also echoed Henderson's sentiments and said,

"Ken has performed above and beyond the job duties listed for county manager and we are excited to officially bring him on board as manager."

Norris previously served as Facilities Director for Montrose County since mid-2010 and is responsible for the fair-grounds, CSU Extension, all new construction, maintenance and custodial, as well as weed control. Prior to his time at the county, Norris worked for the City of Montrose, Russell Stover Candies and most notably Colorado-Ute Electric Association, Inc. During his 15 years at Colorado Ute, Norris advanced from Project Engineer to Manager of Planning to Vice President of Engineering and ultimately Executive Vice President overseeing approximately 1,000 employees.

Norris graduated from Colorado Mesa University with an Associates in Math and Science, Colorado State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering and University of Colorado with a MBA.

Norris is currently a registered Profes-

sional Engineer in the State of Colorado. He has been active on several local boards to include 12 years of service on the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board. Norris and his wife Carlene have lived in

Montrose for 39 years and have three children. Norris' three-year contract will follow similar terms as that of previous managers.

For more information, please visit [agenda item D8](#).



**Montrose County Manager Ken Norris. Photo by Barton Glasser.**

## WESTERN COLORADO HOSPITALITY SUMMIT ANNOUNCES AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The organizers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual [Western Colorado Hospitality Summit](#) are excited to announce the 2014 agenda and speaker line-up, which includes topics such as First Impressions Over the Phone, Dealing with a Difficult Customer, Managing Your Business Facebook Page, From Good To Great, and Customer Service in the Healthcare Environment, among others. The Western Business Alliance (WBA) and the City of Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) are co-presenters of the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit.

As a result of a generous sponsorship by the Bank of Colorado, The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit is also proud to open to the public, the Thursday night networking event and keynote speech with nationally known irreverent and hilarious presenter, Jeff Havens, whose works include "Uncrapify Your Life" and "Release Your Inner Tyrant." The agenda also includes a world-recognized Certified Guest Service Professional (CGSP®) course that will give successful candidates official

recognition and certification, including a lapel pin, for employees in the guest service industry. The CGSP course will be held Thursday afternoon; it has limited space and is an additional fee, and interested participants are encouraged to register early. The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit is October 23 and 24, held at the Montrose Pavilion. Those who register online by September 23<sup>rd</sup> receive a \$20 discount.

"The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit motto is 'Customer Service Equals Business Success', and the speakers and agenda we have this year reflects just that," said Terri Leben, co-Director of The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit.

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 have been vetting speaker candidates since last year's Hospitality Summit, and we feel like we found a great range of

intriguing presenters, with rich backgrounds, who will serve the needs for attendees across all industries that rely on customers," said Sue Hansen, co-director of the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit.

The Western Colorado Hospitality Summit also launched a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WesternColoradoHospitality](http://www.facebook.com/WesternColoradoHospitality)), where organizers, speakers, attendees, and those with an interest in topics related to hospitality and customer service will engage, interact, and have the opportunity to win Hospitality Summit tickets as well. To participate in the Western Colorado Hospitality Summit Facebook page, search Western Colorado Hospitality on Facebook and LIKE the page.

For more information visit [www.WesternColoradoHospitality.com](http://www.WesternColoradoHospitality.com). Early Bird registration fee is \$109.00 until September 23, 2014; then it will be \$129.00. For student tickets and group discounts (3 or more), please contact Terri Leben at [Terri@WBAColorado.com](mailto:Terri@WBAColorado.com) or (970) 901-6761.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### NICOLAY TELLS HORROR TALES AT TALKING GOURDS OCT. 7TH

*Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds guest performer for Tuesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> will be Farmington horror writer and spelunker/poet Scott Nicolay at Arroyo's at 6 p.m. Be prepared to be scared. To wriggle through Frankensteinian rips in the fabric of our shared Time Wave continuum.

Scott will be our introduction into this year's Telluride Horror Show Oct. 10-12, the state's oldest horror film festival. He's a scholar of the Rapinui, a habitué of the underground, an adept at kava kava, the father of a Diné daughter and one of the more interesting writers in the American Southwest. Come entertain your fear (which will be our club theme this month).

Joe Hutchinson has been named Colorado's new Poet Laureate, stepping into the shoe's of last term's honoree, David Mason. We hope to be able to bring Joe to

Telluride next year.

As always, following Club announcements and performances, we'll have a short break and then pass the gourd around the room to give Club members and attendees a chance to read poems from the monthly theme -- pieces of their own or the work of a favorite other.

Talking Gourds Poetry Club is a joint venture of the Telluride Institute, Wilkinson Library, Between the Covers Bookstore, Arroyo Telluride and the newly formed Telluride Literary Arts TLA). Members meet monthly, on first Tuesday evenings, at Arroyo Fine Art Gallery & Wine Bar at 220 E. Colorado Ave. (next door to Telluride Hardware and the Masonic Hall), beginning at 6 p.m. in Telluride, Colorado. TLA also sponsors the annual Telluride Literary Arts Festival the weekend before Memorial Day weekend.

Call [970-729-0220](tel:970-729-0220) for more info.



Scott Nicolay. Courtesy Image.



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## "BABY WOLF" WOODS PROMOTES HAPPINESS, MUSIC AND FUN



*Kipori Woods jams with friends at Horsefly Brewing Company this summer. Mirror file photo.*

### *Mirror staff report*

MONTROSE--Yes, back in his home town of New Orleans he had an established career, an appreciative following and a bright future. Here in Montrose, however, he has two young daughters.

"Their mom came here to get a job," ex-

plains Kipori "Baby Wolf" Woods, the gifted New Orleans transplant who has been thrilling appreciative musical audiences since his arrival in town. "So I came to make sure my kids know me. Colorado is nice! The scenery changes a lot!"

In addition to playing high profile gigs like Durango Blues Train, Woods also plays community events and fundraisers--and this month, locals can catch him at the Second Annual Sharing Ministries Street Dance at 121 North Rio

Grande Sept. 20 and at the Ninth Annual Montrose Oktoberfest to benefit All Points Transit on Sept. 27 in Centennial Plaza.

"I have the time," Woods said, "and I love making people happy. I will do whatever it takes to promote happiness, music and fun."

Though here in Montrose few call him by his nickname, Baby Wolf, in his home town of New Orleans it's a different story. The name is a way of paying tribute to a beloved musical mentor, a musical "dad," Woods noted, though he acknowledges that his own actual father has come to think of himself as "The Big Wolf" over the years.

"Where I'm from, when they see me walking down the street, 'Baby Wolf' is what they say," he said.

Finding local musicians to jam with here in Montrose has not been difficult for Woods.

"I love playing at Horsefly when I am in town," he said. "I've had a couple of great jam sessions with some up and coming guys, and I try to share with them what I have to share."

Playing for fundraiser like Oktoberfest and the Sharing Ministries Dance is just part of being a member of the community, he added.

"I think everyone should come out for a good cause," he said. "At some point we all need a hug. We all need love. And we all need each other's help to be happy in life."

## ONE STEP CLOSER TO HELP AND HOPE WALK/RUN SET FOR OCT. 11

### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Montrose Memorial Hospital is proud to present the 22nd Annual "One Step Closer to Help and Hope" 5K Walk and 5 & 10K Run on Saturday, Oct. 11th. The walk/run begins at 9 am with registration beginning at 8 am at the Montrose Pavilion. The cost for the event is \$25 before the event and \$30 on the day of the event, which includes a long sleeve T-shirt. (If you do not pre-register, your T-shirt will be mailed to you after the event.) Registration forms are available at Montrose Memorial Hospital, City Markets, Safeway, KUBC/ KKXK, San Juan Cancer Center, and online at [www.MontroseHospital.com](http://www.MontroseHospital.com) and [www.bosombuddiesswc.org](http://www.bosombuddiesswc.org).

ALL money raised during these events stays in Western Colorado to help individuals who have been touched by breast cancer. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a donation to this year's annual fund raiser, please mail it to Bosom Buddies, P.O. Box 1263, Montrose, CO 81402.

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## JUDY WINNICK PORTRAYS MIEP GIES – A BEACON OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HORRORS



*Judy Winnick as Miep Gies.  
Image by David Sutphin Photography.*

*By Dr. Sheryl S. Solow  
Montrose Arts Council*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Arts Council begins our fall 2014 program with a glimpse of history as Judy Winnick, educator, scholar, and actress, portrays one of several extraordinary women from WWII history. On Oct. 1, Judy will become **Miep Gies: A Beacon of Hope.**

Miep Gies (1909-2010) is described as one of the unsung heroes of the Holocaust. This petite, humble woman made a choice

to hide Anne Frank and her family in the Netherlands during WWII. She provided them with food and other basic necessities and linked them to the outside world. Her emotional support gave them a beacon of hope! Without the protection Miep and her husband offered, Anne might not have survived to write her diary. After the Nazis arrested the Frank family, Miep discovered Anne's diary and protected it through the rest of the war. Had it not been for Miep, Anne's diary would have been lost to the world. Miep died in the Netherlands in 2010 at the age of 100.

The community is invited to learn and understand more about the lives of those who experienced the Holocaust. Join us to experience this heartwarming portrayal of Miep Gies by Judy Winnick, Oct. 1 at the Methodist Church, 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 (adults) and \$10 (young adults) at the door. The Montrose Arts Council endeavors each year to bring at least one program into our schools. Miep will be visiting Centennial Middle School on the morning of Oct. 1 to share her story with all middle school eighth graders in the Montrose County School District.

This program provides an opportunity to remember that in the midst of the horrors of the Holocaust, there was goodness!

Judy is on the Colorado Humanities/Chautauqua Speakers Bureau and has performed throughout the US and internationally. During her teaching career, she received a Colorado Distinguished Teacher

Award. Judy has portrayed Irena Sendler: Angel of the Warsaw Ghetto, in the past, both in Montrose and Ouray. She has developed a new character, Alice-Herz Sommer, The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life and we hope to enjoy a future performance. Judy says, "These women inspire me with their courage, humility, compassion and the message that one person can make a difference."

The Montrose Arts Council, founded in 1972 as a non-profit organization run by a volunteer board, has been providing arts and cultural programs for the education and enjoyment of Montrose and surrounding communities consistently for over 40 years! We have several additional programs scheduled for the end of 2014 into the beginning of 2015.

On Nov. 7, 2014, we will be hosting the Jeff Solon Jazz Trio. This group hails from Durango and will engage the audience in an evening of lively music. On March 6, 2015, Central City Opera will be returning to Montrose with a community and school performance. Finally, in May 8, 2015, we are delighted to embark on a unique program with contemporary guitarist and harpist John Metras, from California. This family concert will delight all who attend!

We are looking forward to sharing the varied talents of our guest performers in the coming months. We hope you can join us at the Methodist Church to enjoy Judy Winnick as Miep Gies on Oct. 1 at 7 pm.



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▲ Representatives of several of our communities' vital businesses and organizations graciously receive their capital credit checks. (L to R) Russell Stover Store Manager, Amanda Morris, Oxbow Mine Representative, Rob Thurman, Delta County School District Assistant Superintendent, Kurt Clay, and Superintendent, Caryn Gibson, Montrose City Councilor, Kathy Ellis, Montrose County School District Superintendent, Mark McHale are presented checks from DMEA Board President, Olen Lund.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### TELLURIDE'S SURCHARGE TO DECREASE FOR SMPA MEMBERS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE-San Miguel Power Association Inc., (SMPA) members in the Telluride region will see a 50 percent decrease in the surcharge that was put in place four years ago through a collaborative effort to build the new Nucla-Telluride 115kV power line. SMPA, in cooperation with the town of Mountain Village, the town of Telluride, San Miguel County, and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, originally enacted the charge to help pay for the undergrounding of a 10-mile portion of the transmission line on Specie and Wilson mesas.

"Recalculating the surcharge is the final step in the agreement we made with our partners. Members in the surcharge area will see a drop from 7.474 percent to 3.5 percent, because we were able to take all the surcharge dollars collected during the project's construction and significantly

pay down the capital cost. This reduced the total amount that needed to be financed," said SMPA General Manager Kevin Ritter, "In addition, the loan interest rate dropped from 8.159 percent to 3.217 percent, which is significant on a loan this size."

Construction on the Nucla-Telluride transmission line upgrade took approximately three years and concluded early this year. During that time, the co-op was collecting the 7.474% surcharge and holding it in an escrow account. In all, \$3,475,583.06 was collected. It was estimated that the member surcharge would finance approximately a \$10 million loan to pay for the 10-mile underground portion of the line Specie and Wilson Mesa. After finalizing all of the project's costs and paying down the capital, only a \$7.5 million loan was needed.

"The surcharge is based on 30-year fi-

nancing; however there is the possibility of paying that note off earlier than expected," said Ritter.

The co-op will keep \$200,000 in the escrow account at all times in order to guarantee coverage of the debt payments. Any money collected in excess of the monthly payment and the \$200,000 safety net will be used annually to make additional payments on the principal of the loan.

The surcharge area includes Telluride, Mountain Village, Ophir, Sawpit and Eastern portions of San Miguel County from the top of Lizard Head Pass through Trout Lake/San Bernardo area, the Telluride region and down valley through Placerville to Specie Creek Bridge, Illium Valley and Specie, Wilson and Sunshine mesas. It is assessed to 5,767 accounts. The average residential member will now pay approximately \$5.25 in surcharge costs monthly.

### MONTROSE ARTIST RACHEL CARSON SHOWING WORK IN TELLURIDE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE-Artwork by Rachel Carson is on display at The Steaming Bean, 221 W. Colorado Avenue, Telluride, through the month of September. Rachel Carson is a local artist from Montrose, Colorado, whose focus is in abstract acrylics and narrative oil paintings. Her oil paintings break the monotony of life by re-imagining familiar scenes and figures. Through humorous situations, from a dog walker leading unlikely clients to a mime trying to survive in the wild, she works to create moments that capture the imagination of viewers of all ages. For more information on the artist, visit [www.rcarsonart.com](http://www.rcarsonart.com).

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MAC AWARDS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--One of the purposes of the Montrose Arts Council is to educationally support and encourage activities in the arts. To that end, it awards scholarships to local middle and high-school students for summer arts camps.

This year, the Council awarded three such scholarships in the amount of \$250 each. Two of the recipients were from Montrose and one, from Olathe. Emily Hartman, a 12-year-old clarinetist, elected to go to Colorado Mesa University Middle School Camp in Grand Junction. Eliza-

beth Allen, also 12 and a violinist, chose Rocky Ridge Music Center Junior Student Seminar in Estes Park. Makenna Terrell, a 16-year-old dance student, selected the Colorado Ballet Summer Intensive camp in Denver.

These students will report back to the Council about their experiences at camp, which are always enriching artistically and personally rewarding.

Applications for next year's scholarships are available on the Montrose Arts Council website and should be submitted by April 1, 2015.



### CLAY JENKINSON TO PORTRAY JOHN WESLEY POWELL



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Spend an afternoon with **John Wesley Powell**, Oct. 4 at the Montrose Pavilion. Doors open at 1 p.m., program begins at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow from 4 - 5 p.m.

The award winning humanity scholar and author, Clay Jenkinson, who portrays Thomas Jefferson on public radio stations, will return to Montrose as John Wesley Powell. Mr. Jenkinson delves into each of the characters he portrays so the audience feels like they are experiencing that individual. Clay was in Montrose two years ago as Thomas Jefferson and is excited to return to western Colorado. This performance is not to be missed. Tickets are available at The Coffee Trader in Montrose-\$25 for adults, \$20 for students or by calling 970-596-5158.

*Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror!*

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# WELCOME HOME MONTROSE UPDATE

## WESTERN SLOPE WARRIOR GOLF BENEFIT RAISES FUNDS FOR ACTIONTRACKCHAIR



*For a wheelchair-bound veteran, the chance to leave the pavement and break away for a wilderness escape can seem like an impossible dream...unless that veteran happens to be in an ActionTrack Chair. Courtesy image.*

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-For a wheelchair-bound veteran, the chance to leave the pavement and break away for a wilderness escape can seem like an impossible dream... unless that veteran happens to be in an ActionTrack Chair. This amazing piece of adaptive sports equipment, an all-terrain wheelchair that makes independent, off-road adventures possible even for the disabled, means freedom.

Currently, there are just two ActionTrackChairs in Montrose, available through the local VFW. Their extensive use has proven how freeing this equipment can be. Raising funds to purchase a third ActionTrackChair, for the Warrior Resource Center, was the goal of the Western Slope Warrior Golf Tournament, held at Devil's Thumb Golf Course in Delta Aug. 16. This successful event was arranged by veterans Swede Carlson and George "Yogi" Lawrence, and hosted by Devil's Thumb Golf Course, which helped to organize the tournament. "It was awesome for a first-time event," Devil's Thumb Pro Rob Sanders said. "They had 56 players, and (Cherry Creek radio personality) Jim Kerschner came over to emcee--he was just unbelievable. We definitely hope to do

it again next year."

The Western Slope Warrior Golf Benefit was able to raise more than \$8,000--two-thirds of the funds that are needed to purchase an ActionTrackChair, fully-loaded and delivered to Montrose. There is a special fund set up at the Warrior Resource Center for anyone who wishes to help us reach the \$13,000 necessary to purchase this equipment.

Once the ActionTrackChair arrives, Welcome Home Montrose will make this and other adaptive sports equipment available to any veteran free of charge through the Warrior Resource Center, furthering our grassroots, community-funded initiative to make Montrose a NO BARRIERS community and improve the quality of life for the warriors who have served our country.

This was the sixth event held this summer to raise funds on behalf of Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center, and all were planned and executed by generous individuals in support of our local veterans. We are grateful to be part of such an amazing community, to be able to experience the direct impact your efforts and support make in the lives of veterans each and every day, and to witness the example you set for the rest of the

country through action.

Donations for the WSWG Benefit live auction came from the following businesses and individuals:

Swede & Annie Carlson  
Rifle Creek Golf Course  
Lincoln Park  
Sportsman's Warehouse  
Cobble Creek Golf Course  
Patrick Malone  
D&B Liquors (Delta)  
CB's Tavern (Delta)  
KWIKI Tire Service (Delta)  
Craig Lund  
Fabula (Montrose)  
Pour House Wines & Spirits (Montrose)  
Monitor Magazine  
West Main Liquors (Montrose)  
George Lawrence  
John Bish  
Jim Kerschner  
Vic Hansford  
Simpson's Gallery (Montrose)  
Frank Anderson  
Lu Anne Tyrrell  
Wil Harmsen  
John Bieber  
Around the Corner Art Gallery (Montrose)  
D'Medici (Montrose)  
Ouray Silversmiths  
Nina Suzanne's (Montrose)  
Tiffany Etc (Montrose)  
Pat Blackwelder  
Sweet Bird Studio (Ridgway)  
Adobe Creek Golf Course  
Cedaredge Golf Club  
Devil's Thumb Golf Course  
Cody Carlson  
Allure Beauty Salon & Barber (Montrose)  
Bridges Golf Course  
Charlie Holbrook  
True Grit (Ridgway)  
Crafts by Kate  
Cynthia Wilkins

**THE "WE'VE GOT YOUR SIX" PLEDGE DRIVE continues! The Warrior Resource Center is funded completely with private donations, and does not belong to any branch of the government. Your support is essential as we move forward in our mission to support America's wounded warriors. It is so easy to make a difference, and it can be done simply with a credit card or through automatic payments set up through your financial institution!**

**Please visit our web site, [www.welcomehomemontrose.org](http://www.welcomehomemontrose.org), and donate via PayPal.**

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### STEP UP FOR SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Court Appointed Special Advocates - a.k.a. CASA) will host their 3rd annual "Dodgeball Tournament" on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Montrose Fairgrounds Friendship Hall with the games beginning at 9am. CASA holds its annual dodgeball tournament to encourage people in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District communities to come together for friendly competition and to benefit CASA. The 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is comprised of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties.

Dodgeball is a simple but fun game that we probably all remember from our childhood. Two teams, each consisting of six players (men and/or women), throw *special* dodgeballs at the opposing team. If the ball hits you (tags you) then you are out. The last person *not tagged* wins the game for their team. All games are judged by trained referees. Winning teams continue to compete against each other until one team is crowned the tournament champion at the end of the day. The tournament champion team's name will be engraved on a trophy that they get to keep (for brag-

ging rights) until the next year's tournament when it is passed to the new champion. Visit the National Dodgeball League's website at [www.thendl.com](http://www.thendl.com) for more information on this growing adult sport. Since this is a family-friendly event, teams are encouraged to dress in a theme and name their team accordingly. Team players will all be given tournament t-shirts with their registration. Only 40 teams will be able to compete. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes, best team costumes, most spirit, etc. A friendly rivalry with your friends or business competitors can easily be done by organizing a few teams with the winner getting the bragging rights. All proceeds benefit CASA.

CASA is seeking teams to play and sponsors for this event. Sponsorship packages are available at levels to meet a *variety of budgets beginning at \$100*. The fee for a 6-person team is only \$150 with the proceeds all going to CASA of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. To participate or be a sponsor call CASA at (970)249-0337.

CASA serves abused and neglected kids from throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District who have been removed from their homes and find themselves in the courts and child

welfare system through no fault of their own. Carlton Mason, CASA Executive Director, reminds us that "it is vital that our communities come together and take care of our own, most vulnerable population – our children. We must also support and celebrate the success of our own CASA program."

CASA is affiliated with the National CASA Association and CASA in Colorado. CASA's mission is to "help break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, and to advocate for safe, permanent, nurturing home for children, utilizing highly trained and dedicated volunteers."

CASA volunteers undergo extensive training prior to working with any children.

CASA volunteers are given direction from the presiding judge to act as a child's advocate. They provide formalized observations and written recommendations to the court to assist in the complex decision-making process directly affecting the child. Sadly, the need for CASA volunteers is growing each year.

For more information about CASA, becoming a CASA volunteer, or to support the CASA program call (970)249-0337.

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## SHARING MINISTRIES STREET DANCE TO FILL SHELVES *from page 1*



*From top left, volunteers work during a recent distribution day; part-time staffers Coni Rogers and Sherrie Greene; volunteer Dorothy lends a hand; below, empty shelves show how important Sharing Ministries Food Bank is to a five-county region.*

Rio Grande in Lower Montrose (LoMo). "In this part of Colorado we work together to solve problems," Sharing Ministries Board President Josh Freed said. "The Street Dance is our annual gathering; we want everyone to come out. Come enjoy live music, BBQ, and entertainment while supporting our mission to help local families fill empty shelves and put a nourishing meal on the table.

"Be a part of an annual event that brings a positive evening, food and awareness to our community in times of need."

Besides, the unique, spacious LoMo location and local musicians make this the perfect bring-the-whole-family fundraiser.

"We want everyone to come out and enjoy the fun!" Doyal said. "It's for a great cause--feeding your fellow citizens."

Last year's Street Dance Fundraiser with the Stupid Band drew an appreciative crowd, and this year's lineup will include Mike Gwinn & The North Fork Flyers, Niceness, and Kipori "Baby Wolf" Woods.

The money raised at the dance, which starts at 2 p.m., will help the food bank purchase additional food, she said.

Sharing Ministries is a busy place throughout the week, with donations taken until 1 p.m. each day, and distributions scheduled between 9 a.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Fridays.

A typical day requires the help of around 35 volunteers--the entire paid staff consists of just three--Doyal, who works full-time, and two part-time employees, Coni Rogers and Sherrie Greene.

Among the groups who regularly come to volunteer are Community Options clients (two days a week), as well as adult and high school special needs volunteers. Ad-

ditional volunteers are always welcome--on Thursdays alone, Sharing Ministries runs three separate distribution programs to targeted groups.

"On Thursdays it takes lots of us," Doyal said. "We rely entirely on volunteers."

Regular food donations come in from both City Market stores, Safeway, Target and Walmart.

Upon arrival, food items are marked with a bar code for pickup within six days and rotated systematically into the coolers or freezers.

Though food comes from a number of sources, the harvest season can mean healthier options.

Local growers like Kerry Mattics, John Harold, Keith and Greg Catlin and others donate thousands of pounds of fresh produce to Sharing Ministries in season.

"We have received 35,000 pounds of produce this summer," Doyal said. "We have been very blessed!"

Sharing Ministries is a supplemental feeding program, and boxes are based on the size of the family and its needs.

In addition to food, Sharing Ministries takes and shares donations of personal hygiene items--expensive but absolutely essential things like shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and even diapers.

"We always get frantic calls from single moms at the beginning of the school year," Doyal said, "especially from those with teenagers."

The family pet need not go hungry either--thanks to donations from large retailers, Sharing Ministries is also able to provide pet food and supplies.

Hard times can be especially tough on families, and those caught in a multi-generational poverty cycle.

It is not uncommon for people who have



donated to Sharing Ministries in the past to make use of its services when they find themselves in need.

After all, that's the whole point. And if a major portion of founder Frank Koenig's dream has been realized--to keep locals from going hungry--his vision of building a new facility remains to be completed.

"We have launched a capital campaign, and we have a lot of good people in place," Doyal said, noting that the planned expansion would increase warehouse space from roughly 3,000 square feet to around 9,000, and would help replace the present patchwork quilt of refrigeration units.

Last year's donation of a new refrigeration truck by Alpine Bank has been a major step forward as well, she said.

To learn more or to donate, visit Sharing Ministries online at [www.sharingministries.com](http://www.sharingministries.com) or call 970-240-8385. Or, just come to the Street Dance Sept. 20!



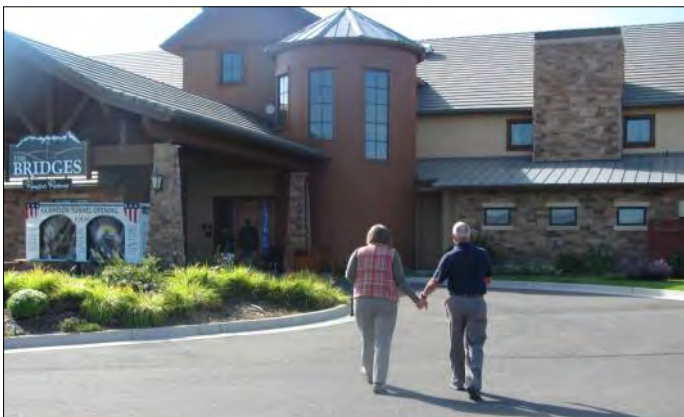
## MIRROR IMAGES...SAVOR THE SAN JUANS!



*Above, Bridges staffers Bobby Walker and Krysten Helgeland serve.*



*Above, crowds arrived early; below, Tim and Kathy Heavers shared breakfast on the back steps in the sun.*



*Above, a happy couple arrives; below, Nicki Sinner, Lissette Riviere and Amiessa Jutten enjoy the great food and fun atmosphere.*



*The Savor the San Juans 2014 home tour and fundraiser for Valley Food Partnership and Montrose Community Foundation kicked off with breakfast at Remington's the Bridges on Sept. 14. "A fantastic, very fun and unusual event," noted Jennifer Halbach of Montrose.*

*"Welcome to the Bridges patio on a bright sunny day!" noted Remington's Manager Rick Crippen. The menu included a tasty egg strata and berry scones sampler in addition to the regular Bridges brunch, as well as a tribute to the Gunnison Tunnel.*







## Upcoming Events for Connect for Health Colorado

**Informational Presentation and Q&A**

**Tuesday, October 14**

Montrose Library

12pm – 1pm

Light refreshments served

**Informational Presentation and Q&A**

**Tuesday, October 14**

Montrose Recreation District

7:15pm – 8:15pm



**GET COVERED MONTROSE:  
Informational Insurance Fair**

**Saturday, October 25**

Old City Council Chambers, Montrose

422 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St

9am – 12pm

**Certified Health Coverage Guides can be reached at:**

Volunteers of America, Montrose • (970) 252-0660

Volunteers of America, North Fork • (970) 872-2233



# Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—My visit to Grace Community Church took place on Aug. 17. At first I felt like a contestant on “The Price is Right” trying to guess which door would lead to the auditorium. What appeared to be the front of the facility contained four different doors labeled: Office (locked), No Entrance, Handicapped Entrance, and Prayer Room. I started to get back into my car for a parking lot tour to look for the entrance when a fellow worshipper showed up and pointed me in the right direction.

The bulletin format for this congregation is interesting. Rather than bullet points and clip art, the upcoming announcements were in a block-banner format, similar to newspaper advertisements. No order of service was listed, nor any introductory information identifying speakers, leaders or the preacher.

The worship team, consisting of eight members dressed in casual-comfort, accompanied themselves on guitars, drums, and keyboard. The words to praise song selections were displayed on two large screens on either side of the platform. Grace Community Church is a vast facility and the seating available allows worshippers to choose whether they want to sit in the center of the room in close proximity

to one another, or situate themselves as individuals and couples on the sides. This day there were about 175 people in attendance.

Rather than passing an offering plate, the receptacles used at this church are red velvet bags attached to wooden handles that ushers, walking in the aisles, extended into the audience. The collection, done simultaneously with general announcements and the introduction of three new staff people, appeared more administrative in nature.

The atmosphere for this worship service had the professional feel of a convention, or theater. The division of light, dim lighting in the auditorium and bright lighting on the platform, keeps the audience focused on presentations. The preacher, whom I assumed was Pastor Karl Leuthanser, entered the platform from behind the curtain.

This installment of Pastor Leuthanser’s current teaching series, “Hurdles,” answered the question, “How could a loving God send people to hell?” The basic text for the message came from Matthew 22:1-14; however additional Scripture references were listed in the bulletin for those who wanted further study.

According to the pastor, society’s view of hell is somewhat skewed. While 60-70 percent believe there is a hell; 99.5 percent

believe they won’t be going there. The idea of hell has changed over the years and today it is no longer rooted in the Bible.

Explaining man’s will, Pastor Leuthanser said, “If a person won’t chose God, God will not override his [the individual’s] will.” The pastor theorized that we make our own hell here on earth. “I see Jesus invade the hell that people have created for themselves.”

The pastor had a simple answer for the question, “How could a loving God send people to hell?” He said, “God doesn’t send people to hell — God rescues people to heaven.”

There was a moment in the service when the audience was instructed to shake hands with someone they didn’t know. I have to laugh at our obedience. I and the couple sitting in front of me did exactly as we were told; we shook hands and said “Hello,” — the extent of any personal welcoming. The church bulletin does offer an avenue for getting plugged-in: “Get Connected! Grace Community Church **Connections Booklet** Available in Foyer at Info Booth.”

Contact information:  
Grace Community Church  
16731 Woodgate Road  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-249-5306

*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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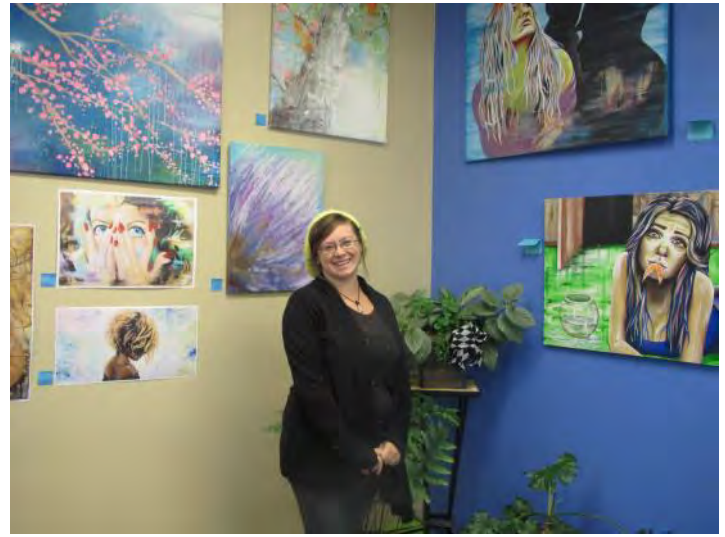
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## NEW FACES, NEW CHOICES, MORE PLACES TO SHOP! from pg 1



*Above left, John Trainor on the job at the new location of Canyon Gallery at 10 South Selig. Above right, mother and entrepreneur Sky Reid in her beautiful new herbal accessories boutique at 16 South Grand Avenue in Sample Square, Earth & Sky Herbal Accessories. Below left, Yvonne Meek, shown with daughter Julia, has been hard at work planning her upscale music and events venue, to open later this year in the historic Masonic Building on Main Street.*

Blanchard's retail network continues with the move of the popular Warehouse Clearance store to the other side of Main Street. The Blanchards have also announced plans to open a third store for active wear at the corner of Main and Townsend. Norris-Snell Real Estate has now opened in the spot vacated by Warehouse Clearance in the 300 block of East Main. Meanwhile, Wil and Amy Harmsen have closed their Canyon Gallery at Main and Townsend and have re-opened the framing and printing portion of the business at 10 South Selig.

Steve Omernik's new shop, The Great Outdoors Co (10 South Selig), is a welcome addition to the West Main District. Expect great brands and plenty of variety, with more merchandise arriving regularly. Quality outdoor wear and accessories are the focus here.

"It's great to be back in the outdoor business, serving the Montrose community," said Omernik, whose family closed its longtime business Jeans Westerner in 2012. "I missed it way too much."

The DDA newsletter notes that Zack and Jennifer Prock have started restoring the

former Reeves Department Store building which they purchased earlier this year. Musician and singer Yvonne Meek continues her efforts to transform the upstairs of her newly acquired Masonic Building into an upscale venue for jazz and other musical events. Meek has been consulting in recent weeks on the construction of the perfect cocktail bar suited to the building's elegant ballroom space. The Journey Church, which has been meeting in the Masonic Space, is in the process of moving to its own new location in the former State Beauty Supply building near City market Downtown.

Overall, the mood is one of excitement, notes Interim DDA Board Chair and Executive Director Judy Ann Files.

"I feel very positive about how things are going," Files said. "Our new DDA director is already on the ground, on the run doing so many things for us. He knows what's going on in our community, and what he can do. Sales taxes for the whole City are up--June and July were very good months."

"I am excited," she said, "because Montrose means a lot to me, and it has for a long, long time."

people I will get to know! I want to help Downtown prosper, turn a page, and start enjoying the economic recovery."

Michaels, who will be located in the DDA Office adjacent to the Centennial Room (contact him at 970-901-9667), has found the atmosphere Downtown to be one of encouragement.

"Everyone has been friendly, and there are so many good things we can do," he said. "I have great optimism."

The expansion of Debbie and Ray

**The Mirror:**  
Coverage with vision for the future.







## WHAT ARE YOU **AIMING** AT?

Our rights-of-way can be attractive hunting grounds, but remember they contain power lines, substations, equipment, and most importantly, our workers. Accidentally shooting and damaging our electric lines and equipment can be dangerous to you and our workers.

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## ARTS & CULTURE

### CO/BKLYN HALF DROP SPOTLIGHTS CREATIVE DISTRICTS, ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM



*Mel Strawn, artist from Salida speaks with Gabrielle D'Angelo, artist from Brooklyn, at the opening of CO/BKLYN HALF DROP. Courtesy photo.*

By Caitlin Switzer

TELLURIDE—As any artist knows, “place” can be an important element in a work. So when Ridgway artist Meredith Nemirov decided to curate a show of artists from her native Brooklyn and from her home of the past quarter-century, Colorado, she thought it would be easy to tell which pieces came from which location simply by looking at them.

“I thought I would be able to tell the difference, but there was really none,” Nemirov said. “There is no sense of place! I

think it is because the pieces are all abstracts--the format of the show asked the artists to limit themselves to abstract expressionism. So we have solar etchings, painting on paper, drawings, pastels, collage, ink, gouache, black and white, color, softer color--it's very diverse.”

The show is CO/BKLYN HALF DROP, a display more than a year in the making. It will hang at Telluride's Gallery 81435 (230 South Fir Street) through Sept. 29.

Colorado's Creative District program, which includes both Telluride and Ridgway, made it easy to find artists for the show, Nemirov said.

“I was able to tap into that set-up format,” she said. “We have 14 artists, and we had more than 100 people come to our grand opening during the First Thursday Art Walk.”

Nemirov made personal visits to five of the seven Brooklyn artists' studios, and to several Colorado studios as well. Artists from each of the state's initial seven Creative Districts are included in CO/BKLYN HALF DROP. As a longtime Ridgway artist, Nemirov is pleased with the vibrant energy radiating from the town's emerging arts scene.

“We are seeing new, younger artists and greater recognition,” she said. “We have the [Resource Gallery](#), and the Moonwalks are very popular. There was a library fundraiser last Saturday that raised more than \$8,000, and local artists contributed to the cause.”

“Even my old friend and neighbor (Ridgway Mayor) John Clark has some beautiful new glass work, though I don't know how he finds the time these days,” she said. “I have two galleries in Telluride that show my work, and CO/BKLYN HALF DROP was the second show that I have curated. The first show I curated was a group show in Grand Junction, of artists who depicted trees. It took more than two years--it was big.”

“I probably won't do this again until I get another idea,” she said. “Curating doesn't pay and it is a lot of work, but this has been fun.”

And because the works are abstract in form, artists from the East Coast and Colorado have come together in a vivid and cohesive whole.

“That's the thing about abstract art,” Nemirov said. “There is something so almost universal about it.”

To learn more, email her at [meredith.nemirov@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.nemirov@gmail.com).

**FLASHBACK! TEN YEARS AGO...editor's note: The article below was written for the Daily Press in 2004, shortly after Sandy was hired as Executive Director. To those who know her only in that role, there's more to the story!**

### COMMUNITY PRIDE IS GOOD BUSINESS FOR MEDC'S SANDY HEAD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—To get the most out of life, give something back. That's the message shared by Montrose entrepreneur and community leader Sandy Head. Head is currently serving as president of the Montrose Economic Development Council (MEDC), but her involvement in the local business community goes back to 1976, when she took over a small business called Bob's Rental.

“At first, the business was on a piece of leased property, and had \$30,000 in inventory,” Head recalled. “I expanded it to Gunnison in 1998. By the time I sold the business in 2000, it included several million dollars worth of inventory and two properties.”

Over the years, Head has also been involved with a number of community service efforts. She helped with the original fund drive that brought Hospice to the Un-

compahgre Valley a decade ago, and has played a leadership role in the Montrose Rotary Club as well, chairing the Rotary Foundation district fund for eight years.

“Rotary is a wonderful way to help people,” Head said. “It is a way to reach out around the world without leaving home.”

“We don't just give out money, we help improve lives.”

Head also helped lead the initial “It's About Pride Committee,” which was charged with canvassing local citizens to determine support for the passage of a bond to build and improve local schools. The need was urgent -- nine out of 11 attempted bond issues had failed since the Montrose County Re-1J School District was formed in 1962. The work of the Pride Committee helped turn the tide -- in Nov. 2002, Voters approved \$23 million for school facility improvements.

Additionally, Head is a past president of

both the Montrose Chamber of Commerce and the Redcoats. She also served on Foresight 20/20, a group that prepared a long-range plan for Montrose, with projected goals for a five-year period.

“I love Montrose,” she said. “There are just projects you take on to do for the community. ‘If you're not out there doing something with people or for people, it's a pretty shallow world. The more active you are the more you can enjoy your community -- and the more your community can enjoy you.’”



*Sandy Head (2004). Courtesy image.*



**FREE! Summer/  
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*The Senior CommUnity  
Care PACE Program*

*Presents:*

# Music on the Green

**Featuring:**

**Coral Skye** Friday July 25

**Desert Varnish** Friday Aug 29

**Ralph Dinosaur** Friday Sept 26

All concerts from 6:30-8:30 pm

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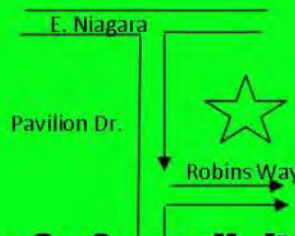
*Behind The Homestead.*

Turn east off of Pavilion Drive .

**Bring your blankets and chairs.**

**Food & Drinks Available**

**Concession sales to benefit the Sr. CommUnity  
Care "Legacy Program."**



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### EUFORQUESTRA AND TWENTY BREWERIES ON TAP FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MONTROSE OKTOBERFEST

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE -- Time to dust off those Lederhosen and put on your dancing shoes! The Montrose Office of Business and Tourism (OBT), Black Canyon Homebrewers Association and All Points Transit are partnering up to create a lively event with the 2014 Montrose Oktoberfest!

On Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm to 6pm, Centennial Plaza in Downtown Montrose will be transformed for Oktoberfest, with a stage for live music from Euforquestra, Kipori Woods and more to be constructed on Uncompahgre at Main St. Twenty Colorado craft breweries will descend on the plaza to serve up samples of old favorites and new seasonal creations. Food vendors will prepare Bavarian fare, with bratwursts, pretzels and schnitzel all on the menu. For the fourth year, the event benefits All Points Transit, a non-profit organization that provides essential rides for seniors and people with disabilities in communities throughout Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties.

The biggest change in this year's event is the focus on the live music and the new stage at Uncompahgre and Main. "We saw

an opportunity to grow this event by bringing in some music that folks in the Montrose area often don't get to experience," said All Points Transit Executive Director, Sharon Fipps. All Points has teamed up with the OBT and Blue Sky Music to seek out the right act and found Euforquestra (pronounced yoo-FOHR-keh-Struh, think euphoria + orchestra), a band from Fort Collins that combines the sounds of funk, soul and reggae. The group's latest album, *Fire*, reached #1 on the Colorado Sound Radio Charts for January through June of 2014. "We are thrilled to have Euforquestra playing in Montrose!" said Dave Bowman of Blue Sky Music. "These guys will get the crowd moving!"

Tickets, which include the beer tasting and a commemorative cup, are \$25 at the door, or can be purchased online in advance for \$20. Discounted lodging packages for two start at just \$95, and include 2 tickets and free shuttle service to and from participating hotels, courtesy of the OBT. "We're excited to co-present this year's Oktoberfest with All Points. Blue Sky Music has a history of bringing fine acts to Montrose, and we're looking forward to a

well-organized, fun, and dynamic event," said Assistant City Manager and OBT Director Rob Joseph. Other events on that weekend include a pub crawl on Friday Night, the Black Canyon Sprint Triathlon on Saturday morning and a jazz brunch at Horsefly Brewing on Sunday. Visit [www.MontroseBeerFest.com](http://www.MontroseBeerFest.com) to purchase Oktoberfest tickets or to get more information on weekend events and lodging packages.

#### **OKTOBERFEST AT-A-GLANCE**

**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Time:** 1pm – 6pm

**Location:** Centennial Plaza / Uncompahgre, between Main St. and S. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Downtown Montrose

**Music:** Performances from Euforquestra, Kipori Woods and the Huck Experience. Oompah Band provides entertainment between sets

**Beer:** 20 regional craft breweries. Tasting and cup included in ticket price.

**Tickets:** \$20 in advance online, \$25 at the door, \$18 with lodging package. Visit [www.MontroseBeerFest.com](http://www.MontroseBeerFest.com) to purchase or call 970-249-6204 for more info.

**Proceeds Benefit:** All Points Transit

### FRESH PECANS, DELICIOUS GOODIES, CRAFTS ON MENU AT DOWN HOME COUNTRY BAZAAR

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Down Home Country Bazaar sponsored by the United Methodist Women will be Saturday, Nov. 8 from 8 am to 3 pm at 19 South Park, Montrose. The Coffee Shop will be serving all day and the delicious hot lunch will be served from 11 to 1 for \$5. There will be tables of wonderful crafts plus the great bargains in Granny's Attic. The Bake Shoppe which has the fresh homemade goodies will also feature a Children's Table with 25 cent treats. Fresh Pecans will be available. For bazaar information contact Suzanne Carter 240-3616.

### MONTROSE-DELTA COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EVENTS



Sept. 25-Voter registration at Delta Montrose Vo-Tec 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sept. 30-Voter Registration Event at CMU Montrose-1 to 4 p.m.

Oct. 2-Ballot Issues Forum, Montrose Library Community Room, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Oct. 3-Meet and Greet-Colorado State Board of Education Dist. 3 Candidates Henry Roman and Marcia Neal at Two rascals Brewpub, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 7-Candidate Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss, 6:30 -State House 61 & Senate 5.

Oct. 8-LWV Ballot Issues Presentation at Heidi's Deli Forum 8 a.m.

Oct. 9-Montrose County BOCC Candidate Forum-Montrose City Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 14-Delta County Ballot Issues Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss - 6:30 pm

Oct. 25-Insurance Informational Fair, voter registration from 9 a.m. to Noon, Centennial Room.





**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY®**

**invites and encourages the public to attend its**

## **NOVEMBER BALLOT ISSUES FORUM**

**Thursday, October 2, at Noon**

**Montrose Library Community Room**



**a non-partisan presentation of the pro's and con's of  
issues on which you will soon vote.**

**LWV ballot issues brochures will be available.**

**Bonus:** Fran Tipton-Long, Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, will provide an update on the recent changes to Colorado's election laws

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information about the topic go to [www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org](http://www.montrose.co.lwvnet.org) and click on *Calendar of Events*.

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**MONTROSE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## MIRROR IMAGES...OUT AND ABOUT!



*Montrose Attorney J. David Reed poses with the exquisite combination of yellow potentilla and red verberna at his beautifully landscaped professional building (1047 S. First Street).*



*Above, a gorgeous '57 Thunderbird shines forth at the Taco John's Parking lot Sept. 14. Below, exultation and snacks were the order of the day for youth soccer following a close game at McNeil Field Sept 14.*



*Above and below, CMU President Tim Foster addressed the crowd, and the CMU marching band, at the dedication of Colorado Mesa University's new Branscome Center*





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Valley Manor Care Center	(970) 249-9634
The Homestead at Montrose	(970) 252-9359
Home Health of Western Colorado	(970) 240-0139
Senior Community Care PACE Montrose	(970) 252-0522
Senior Community Care PACE Eckert	(970) 835-8500
Senior CommUnity Care Meals	(970) 835-8028

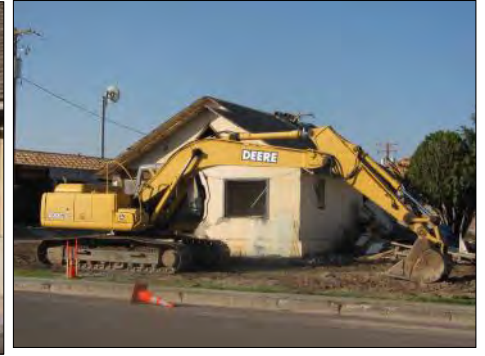


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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY AND COUNTY PARTNER TO REMOVE BLIGHTED STRUCTURES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



*Above, the blighted structures at North Third Street and Cascade have been removed, thanks to a cooperative effort between City and County public works departments.*

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - The City of Montrose and Montrose County Public Works (PW) Departments will partner to demolish several blighted structures on the west side of Cascade Avenue between North 3rd Street and North 4th Street.

These buildings along one half block of Cascade Avenue have fallen into major disrepair and are no longer occupied or served by public utilities. The habitability of each is questionable, and the remaining structures have begun to attract a criminal element, negatively impacting surrounding residents and businesses.

"The city manager's office and a local land owner have been working together for

over two years to come up with a plan to beautify and revitalize this portion of our community," said City Manager Bill Bell. "This project demonstrates a vision shared by the City of Montrose and Montrose County to work together and share resources to improve our community."

"The City's Public Works Director John Harris brought this project to my attention this summer," said Montrose County Public Works Director Ken Winckler. "Not only is this an important project in regard to public safety, but the collaboration of our two public works departments will set the tone for future projects we can accomplish together to improve our community."

Both departments will commit personnel,

heavy equipment, and trucks necessary to demolish the five structures. The city obtained the required demolition and asbestos abatement permits from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the county will waive landfill disposal fees. Winckler also noted that there will be no county sales tax dollars utilized for this project. Working together, the two departments will help eliminate a threat to public health, safety, and welfare posed by these unsafe structures for minimal cost and within approved department budgets. Work is anticipated to begin Sept. 8th, starting with demolition followed by the removal of materials. The project will be completed within two weeks.

## HONORABLE MENTION

To Fifth grade teacher Allison Fairchild of Johnson Elementary School, a great RE-1J educator...

To our unofficial model Lissette Riviere, for selflessly posing for SO MANY Mirror photos over the years!

And to the rustic, informative and well-placed Ridgway Visitor Center, which has seen and welcomed 4,587 travelers so far this summer—Ridgway Chamber of Commerce administrator Gale Ingram tells us the numbers are down somewhat, from 7,300 visitors in 2013. By way of comparison, the new, state-of-the-art Montrose Visitor Center has seen 1,703 out-of-area visitors so far in 2014.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### HEALING HARMONICAS EXPANDS, ADDS INTERMEDIATE CLASS

MONTROSE--The concept is so simple it seems like common sense--but so respected that classes on the subject are taught at prestigious universities across the nation. In fact, the respiratory benefits of playing harmonica are so well-documented by now that [Mayo Clinic](#) touts it as a way to help patients heal from lung transplants.

Here in Montrose, Mountain View Therapy at Montrose Memorial Hospital has been hosting a *Healing Harmonicas* class for people with cardiac and respiratory problems for the past three years. The eight-week class, which begins Sept. 24, meets on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. at Mountain View Therapy (815 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street).

Class organizer Ann Furgurson, a teacher by profession, said that *Healing Harmonicas* is built around the realization that, alone among instruments, the harmonica requires players to both inhale and exhale. "My father has played harmonica all his life," she said. "He lives in Virginia, where he started a program like this; it is really good for your lungs. I had wanted to bring it here for years, but wasn't sure how, because I couldn't play harmonica."

It was with the help of an associate of her father's, retired college music professor Don Deupree, that Furgurson was able to launch a similar class for cardiac and respiratory patients in Montrose, under the

auspices of Mountain View Therapy.

Though both work as unpaid volunteers with the *Healing Harmonicas* program, it has proven nevertheless to be a rewarding experience for Furgurson and Deupree. Around 55 students have taken the class so far, starting out on special four-hole harmonicas.

"Later, they move up to playing a ten-hole instrument," Furgurson said. Furgurson now heads a harmonica band, composed of around 15 intermediate *Healing Harmonicas* students, that travels around to area care centers.

"We give concerts!" she said. "We have really seen a lot of progress, and people are becoming better musicians. They often tell us they can feel the difference in their lung capacity after learning to play--that they can walk a little further, or not use quite as much oxygen."

Deupree, a lifelong musician and educator, teaches the beginning harmonica class. The use of harmonicas to heal respiratory and pulmonary issues is a movement nationwide, he said.

"Quite a few people say it really helps," he said. "I teach one hour a week, and Ann will teach the intermediate class that goes around and plays."

Do his beginner students go on to become good musicians?

"I can't say that they do," Deupree said,



*Though most Healing Harmonicas students will not achieve harmonica greatness like the legendary Larry Adler, above, most will realize respiratory benefits, advocates say.*

"but they really enjoy it. A lot of laughing goes on." The class fee is \$15 which includes the harmonica and instructional materials. For more information, call Don at 249-5363 or Ann at 252-1258.

### DELTA CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING-MOSAIC



**DELTA**—Ambassadors from the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Mosaic as a new member with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 9. Pictured (from left) are Ambassadors Jessica Jenkins with Senior Community Care PACE and Christina Busch with Richards Consulting and Accounting; Mosaic staff Brandi Maher, Direct Support Associate; Theresa Burns Fair, Executive Director; client Arlene Fedler; Denise Okeson, Direct Support Specialist; and Tamara Capp, Community Relations Manager; and Ambassadors Klynn Wilson with Crossroads Assisted & Independent Living, Lynn Shirk with Heirlooms for Hospice and GW King with King Retirement Solutions/King College Planning. Mosaic partners with people with intellectual disabilities to create a meaningful life in a caring community, giving a voice to their needs. Learn more at [mosaicinwesterncolorado.org](http://mosaicinwesterncolorado.org) or by calling 245-0519.





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Visit **[www.voavalidation.org](http://www.voavalidation.org)** for more information on Validation and **[www.voahealthservices.org](http://www.voahealthservices.org)** for a list of providers in Western Colorado.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WEEHAWKEN OFFERS AFTERSCHOOL ART FOR KIDS IN MONTROSE AND RIDGWAY

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Weehawken Creative Arts will be providing area youth in Ridgway and Montrose with innovative, high-quality arts programming that stimulates learning, inspires creativity and encourages self-expression with their new After-school Arts programs. These classes will be led by a seasoned, professional youth arts instructor, Ann Cheeks.

Weehawken and Around the Corner Gallery both know that kids love art and the creative spirit it allows them to explore. The opportunity to imagine, create and learn is an undeniable benefit to their growth and development. This new after school art program allows the ability to foster and flourish in a wonderfully creative and supportive environment. In this program, students will draw, paint, collage and experiment for a fun class driven by student interest.

Montrose classes will run Wednesdays

and Thursdays, starting Sept. 17 and 18, and are offered in partnership with Around the Corner Art Gallery for four weeks. Pre-registration through Weehawken Creative Arts is required ([970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150)).

The Montrose schedule includes: Art for Preschool on Wednesdays (2pm – 3 pm); Art for Ages 5-7 on Wednesdays (4 pm – 5:30 pm); Art for Homeschoolers (mixed ages) on Thursdays (2pm – 3:30 pm); and Art for Ages 8-11 on Thursdays (4pm – 5:30 pm). Classes are offered at Around the Corner and are just \$60 (includes all supplies) for the four-week series.

Ridgway classes are set to run at Weehawken Ridgway on Tuesdays, starting Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and run for a six-week session. The Ridgway schedule includes: Art for Homeschool Students (1-2:45 pm); Art for Preschoolers (3-3:45 pm); Art for Ages 8-11 (4-5 pm); Art for Ages 5-7 (5-6 pm); and Art for Ages 12+ (6:15-8:00 pm). Prices vary according to

age and duration of class, but all prices include all supplies. Pre-registration through Weehawken is needed for these classes, as minimum enrollments must be met in order to run the class.

Instructor, Ann Cheeks has over 11 years of experience in teaching art. A recent transplant to the area, Cheeks has worked as an art teacher both privately and in a middle school in Virginia to children and adults. Additionally, she and a partner founded and have run an art/nature camp since 2003 in Virginia, which continues to explore a wide variety of mediums, from drawing to sculpture. Since moving to the area, she has actively taught for both Weehawken and the Ah Haa School in Telluride. For more information please contact Weehawken Creative Arts

at [questions@weehawkenarts.org](mailto:questions@weehawkenarts.org); call Weehawken at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150) or visit them at [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org) or [facebook.com/weehawkenarts](https://www.facebook.com/weehawkenarts).



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### CITY OF MONTROSE IT TEAM HONORED AT CIMA CONFERENCE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose Information Systems (IS) Department's Information Technology (IT) Team received the "Team of the Year" award on Aug. 27th at the Annual Colorado Information Management Association (CIMA) Conference held this year in Vail, CO.

Over the past year, the City of Montrose IS Department and the Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) have partnered to create a state-of-the-art visitor center to bring guests an interactive experience when exploring Montrose.

"The center welcomes visitors with streaming music and news, while movies of the Black Canyon and the Ute Indian Museum play in the video room," explained IS Director Jeff Scheetz. "Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the free Wi-Fi for their devices or use the kiosk machines to catch up on their life away from home."

Guests and residents alike can browse restaurants, activities, and lodging from interactive 42-inch touch screen monitors. The interactive experience allows visitors to select information and print it directly to provide timely and up-to-date information.

This ability allows visitors to explore the many things to do in our community and to create a personalized itinerary by just touching any one of the monitors.

The state-of-the-art visitor center is just one example of the work that the IT department provides to the city. "The IT department strives to do outstanding work for each department within the city to best serve our citizens," Scheetz explained.

Additional projects within the IT department include the Black Canyon Golf Course and providing technology support to the Recreation District. CIMA provides educational opportunities in the field of IT to employees of governmental units within the State of Colorado.

The City of Montrose IT Team was selected as the CIMA Team of the Year and recognized at the conference by Governor



*Courtesy Photo: The City of Montrose Information Systems Information Technology Group and winners of the 2014 Colorado Information Management Association's "IT Team of the Year." Back row: Director Jeff Scheetz; front row L-R: Technicians LaVernie McBride, Wayne Nation, and Kevin Hawkins*

John Hickenlooper. Team members are Director Jeff Scheetz and Technicians Kevin Hawkins, Wayne Nation, and LaVernie McBride.



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



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### WORKSHOPS HELP GRANDPARENTS CONNECT CHILDREN TO NATURE

#### *Special to the Mirror*

GOLDEN— With September being National Grandparents Month, Colorado Project Learning Tree is this month offering workshops around the state designed to help grandparents better connect their 3- to 6-year-old grandchildren with nature.

The three-hour workshops, which provide activities and materials grandparents can use to form the basis for outdoor explorations with their grandkids, are scheduled in Delta, Denver, Fort Collins, Golden, Littleton, Parker, Pueblo and Woodland Park.

“As kids, most grandparents spent countless hours playing outside and learning about the natural world. But many children today don’t get to benefit from those same opportunities,” said Shawna Crocker, Project Learning Tree coordinator for the Colorado State Forest Service. “These workshops help grandparents introduce them to nature in their own yards and local parks with our simple activities and ideas.”

Workshop participants sample activities, music, books and thematic snacks, and create a toolkit of homemade equipment to help their grandkids connect to nature.

Participants also go home with an easy-to-use activity guide and music CD.

Crocker said that benefits of early childhood environmental education include developing awareness and appreciation of the natural world, and to encourage creativity, originality and flexibility to later resolve environmental problems.

“This is the best time for these children to develop life-long connections to nature. It’s not necessary for them to know the names of every flower, insect or tree. Just to share an experience outdoors and talk about it,” she said.

Project Learning Tree is a 40-year-old, award-winning environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. In Colorado, it is the cornerstone of youth and educator outreach at the CSFS, and has trained more than 23,000 teachers in environmental education.

Registration information and workshop details can be found at [www.coloradopl.org](http://www.coloradopl.org). For more information, contact Shawna Crocker at 303-278-8822 or [scrocker@colostate.edu](mailto:scrocker@colostate.edu).

“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



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“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](http://connectforhealthco.com)



[connectforhealthco.com](http://connectforhealthco.com)

### SUPERHERO SPRINT 5K RUN/WALK

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-A Superhero Sprint, 5K Run/Walk will be held Saturday, September 20, 2014 at Riverbottom Park. Registration starts at 8:30 am with the Run/Walk starting at 9:00 a.m.. The proceeds of the Run/Walk will benefit Montrose & Olathe Special Olympics. Registration forms can be picked up at the Montrose & Olathe Schools District Office at 930 Colorado Avenue. Registration forms must be received by September 12<sup>th</sup> to receive a T-Shirt. For information, please call Amy Shelley at 970-210-6752.

THANKS FOR READING!  
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**SEPT 20, 2014 9:00 - 12:30 PM \* COURAGE \* \$40**

WELCOME AND MEDITATION WITH THREE GRACES  
"HOW TO FEEL BEAUTIFUL" WITH TIFFANY SULZEN  
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WITH THREE GRACES

**OCT 25, 2014 6:00 - 8:00 PM \* DREAMS \* \$25**

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"DREAMS - A BLESSING IN DISGUISE" WITH CARLA BLOWEY  
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# MIRROR IMAGES-YES FOR OUR SCHOOLS FORUM



Melanie Hall and Scott Stryker of the "Yes for Our Schools" committee presented to a Montrose County League of Women Voters forum Sept. 11 about a proposed mill levy override designed to generate \$2.913 Million annually over a five-year period.

"This is not a Republican vs. Democrat issue," Stryker told the crowd. "It is a fair and balanced approach, with accountability built in."

Below left, after Rick Bleier, playing "devil's advocate", suggested investing in "the community" instead of schools, League Secretary Nancy Ball commented that, "Nobody will move here if our schools are mediocre. We need a good school system for a strong economy-build it and they will come."

Below, listeners paid close attention to the numbers; below, Rick Bleier and Re-1J Superintendent Mark MacHale discuss the issue.



Above, Re-1J Superintendent Mark MacHale noted that school financing is complicated, with rural schools coming up short. He urged voters to give Re-1J schools more local control. "The cure is in Denver, but the disease is in Montrose," MacHale said. "I'm tired of being old what to do by the State."

Audience member Rick Bleier acted as "Devil's Advocate," and challenged the need for the proposed property tax increase.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways program is celebrating 25 years of service to tourists and the state's economy by designating routes that provide exceptional scenic, historical, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

Color Sunday is Sept. 28 – a great weekend to celebrate Colorado's Scenic Byways 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on your public lands.

Fall colors will peak on Color Sunday – Sept. 28 and it is a perfect excuse to ride or drive the Scenic Byways. Colorado has more scenic byways than any other state and most of these fantastic routes pass through your national forests! During this peak color extravaganza, communities along these corridors offer special events, programs, and just a warm welcome chalk full of information for the travelling leaf-peeper!

In 1989, the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission designated 17 of Colorado's most spectacular roadways as Scenic and Historic. In all there are 25 Scenic & Historic Byways in Colorado today. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests have six of the byways.

The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway, Silver Thread Byway, Unaweep/Tabeguache Byway and the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway each offer exceptional scenic, historic, recreational, ecological, and/or cultural values. The largest stand of Aspens in North America are located along the West Elk Loop near Kebler Pass, in the Gunnison National Forest. These roads are marked by distinctive highway signs featuring a blue columbine. The Grand Mesa National Scenic and Historic Byway and the San Juan Skyway

have been designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as an All American Road or National Scenic Byways – the highest level of designation. There are only 11 National Scenic Byways in the country and Colorado has two of them!

To celebrate and recognize the 25th Anniversary, chamber associations and tourism offices across southwest Colorado have suggested activities for their area. While many of the activities can be enjoyed at any time, some of the ideas specifically promote upcoming events scheduled in various communities. The San Juan Byway has a list of "25 Things To Do."

To view and download a flyer with the complete list, visit the Montezuma Land Conservancy website: <http://www.montezumaland.org/san-juan-skyway-25th-anniversary-events/>. Other chamber associations and tourism offices websites have similar information for their communities. A hot air balloon festival will take place in Mancos on Sept. 26 – 29, the public will be admitted for free into Mesa Verde National Park on Sept. 27, and the origination of mountain names is explained through a special exhibit at the Ouray County Museum now through November. Enjoy browsing through town shops, soaking in historic hot springs, staying in a Victorian lodge, or sleeping under the stars in a Forest campground.

"These panoramic views are awe inspir-



*Color Sunday will be Sept. 28, 2014. Courtesy photo.*

ing for everyone. There is really no better time to celebrate these spectacular corridors than during September and early October, when golden aspens light up back-grounds of snow dusted peak" says Chris Miller, Executive Director, Interpretive Association of Western Colorado.

"There are several other scenic corridors on the GMUG National Forest that are great drives for fall colors including Owl Creek Pass, Ophir Pass, Ohio Pass, Imogene-Black Bear Pass, Lands' End, Yankee Boy Basin, and Taylor Canyon. Many of these passes are still open and free of snow," says Anne Janik, U.S. Forest Service. "We recommended you check local road reports for the latest weather before you go" she added.

Read more about the byways and other scenic travel routes on the GMUG website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/scenictravel>.

300 EAST MAIN STREET
MONTROSE, COLORADO



# MHS SOPHOMORE IAN MEEK OFF TO A FLYING START

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-At the beginning of September, Montrose High School had the honor of having a sophomore student be the highest ranking cross country runner in the state.

Ian Meek was ranked number one for the 5,000 meter race for all of Colorado. "At first, I thought 'oh, obviously the 5A haven't raced yet,' and that would affect my ranking, which turned out to be the case," he said. "However, after my race, I felt confident over the week because I realized 'I'm first', and it felt kind of nice."

Ian has only been a cross country runner since seventh grade, but he is already showing that he is an athlete to be watched. "I first got into running when my buddy was asked why he was not doing sports and he said, 'I'm saving my body for track,'" he explained. "I was a weird little kid, who was not into sports, so I said the same thing, and so I did both track and cross country running, actually thinking that they were the same thing."

Ian's mother, Yvonne Meek, is thrilled about Ian's accomplishment. "My husband and I are really excited about it," Yvonne explained. "Ian stumbled onto this sport a couple years ago, and as parents it makes us proud to see him find something that he is good at and that he works hard for. As a sophomore he has great potential and every week he is learning something that will

help him run better and faster."

Ian's favorite part of running is the people. "At practice, I get to hang out with a great group of people, with a great attitude, so it is cool to hang out with them," he said. "But at meets, I am there to win, and it makes me happy when I do."

Ian's advice to any new runner is to keep things in perspective. "It is a learning curve and you are always gaining experience," he said.

Yvonne hopes that people who watch the sport will keep an eye on Ian. "We have no idea how far he will go," she said. "He is a natural born runner, and he does cool things for himself and his team. He was encouraged by seniors when he was a freshman and now he is being that encourager for younger runners as well. He's happy to have them running alongside him and seeing his team do great. It is a team effort and it is exciting to watch. We are eager to see what is ahead."

So, for his future goals? Ian is keeping them simple and focused solely on running. "At the start of the season, I had the



*In September, MHS Sophomore Ian Meek was ranked number one in the state for the 5,000 meter race. Courtesy photo Yvonne Meek.*

goal to do a 0:15:30, because that is a good race," he explained. "I got really, surprisingly, close--only 17 second slow. Now I would absolutely love to run a sub-4:20 mile, and if I got a sub-4:10 mile I would be the happiest person the planet for about an hour, then I would start thinking, 'I could have done better, so I'll do better at the next race.'"

While the rankings are always changing, Ian still got to enjoy his week in the spotlight and use it to further his momentum for his sport.



*Valerie Meyers' Weekly Monday*



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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS**

## WATER CONSERVATION MORE THAN A WEST SLOPE ISSUE

I'm up for re-election this year, but with no opponent, my life is simpler without an active campaign to mount. However, I've been busier than ever with one or the other interim committees that I sit on now meeting nearly every week in Denver and elsewhere around the state.

With a bipartisan team of sponsors in the House and Senate, I carried legislation last session bringing the legislature, specifically, the water resources review committee, into the development of the state water plan. We've held public hearings on the development of the water plan in Gunnison, Glenwood Springs, Durango, Alamosa and Pueblo.

This week, we'll travel to Steamboat Springs, Walden and Fort Collins for more public hearings. We wrap up our listening tour at the end of September with a public hearing in Denver and then, as a committee, we'll summarize what we've heard from those attending the meetings as well as from those who provide written comments through the legislative committee's website.

If you were unable to attend one of the meetings and want to provide written comments to the committee, you can do that online at [www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRRC](http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/WRRRC). You can also get more information from

and provide comments to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the state agency charged with formulating the water plan's initial draft, with help from the river basin roundtables around the state.

One personal observation I'll make, at this point, is that water conservation has been prominently raised by people attending the hearings as a serious concern at every Western Slope meeting.

The topic loses steam and priority, though, the further east we travel. This, unfortunately, reinforces the challenge that exists in developing a statewide plan, based on shared concerns and objectives.

So far at every public hearing, the need for more water storage is raised as the most common concern. Increasing the size of existing reservoirs is seen as the least expensive and impactful way to achieve more storage, yet there's doubt expressed that that will be sufficient if Colorado indeed doubles in population size in the coming decades.

In addition to these hearings, the water committee's holding its regular schedule of meetings in anticipation of the 2015 session. At these meetings, we receive information from water experts and the public to determine if the committee wants to sponsor certain water legislation as

committee bills.

The impact of a committee bill is that, typically, it receives greater support from both sides of the political aisle due to being vetted in front of the committee, out of session; therefore, a bill has a better chance of being adopted by the full General Assembly in the next year.

The wildfire interim committee's also meeting regularly for the same purpose of hearing from experts and determining if we'll support proposed legislation as a committee.

Back home, I took the opportunity to join the U.S. Forest Service as it began a prescribed burn in my district to observe how such a burn is set and managed.

I also was given a demonstration on one of Colorado's wildfire air fleet used for early detection of wildfire and this plane can assist in the management and containment of prescribed burns. Colorado's now at the forefront in employing technology to assist us in finding wildfire before it moves to a catastrophic level.

**Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator**

Interim Contact Information:

P.O. Box 3373 Durango, CO 81302

Home phone: (970) 259-1589

[www.ellenroberts.com](http://www.ellenroberts.com)

## CITY OF MONTROSE, OBT UPDATE

*Mirror staff report*

**MONTROSE**—For those who have followed the relocation of the Montrose Visitor Center to the Elks Civic Building under the leadership of Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph, here are the most recent statistics on usage. The new state-of-the-art, 3,280 sf Visitor Center is located in the Elks Civic Building at First and Cascade, and was remodeled last year at a cost of more than \$100,000, though the building had been extensively remodeled and was honored with a Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence in 2008. According to City sources, here is the count of out-of-town visitors who have stopped by the new

Downtown Visitor Center since it opened: 2013 = 272

2014 = 1,703 (to date)

Also under Joseph's leadership, though the City of Montrose paid \$30,000 in July of 2013 for software to compile a data analytics report, the report was not delivered in May as promised. According to a city source, the report will be published at the time it is formally presented to City Council sometime in the "next few months."

In other news, the City's Community Development Department has been renamed the **Planning Services** department. Current Director of Community Development Kerwin Jensen will receive the new job title of

planning **services** manager, which effective Sept. 15th. Jensen's team is comprised of Senior Planner Garry Baker, Assistant Planner Jennifer Spinelli, and Planning Technician Sharon Dunning. "This change will more accurately reflect the work Kerwin and his department are performing on a daily basis," explained City Manager Bill Bell. "I feel this change will refocus the department on the core mission of providing high quality and efficient service to the general public, while always keeping the customer's perspective at the forefront of the decision making process." The department is located in City Hall at 433 South First Street.

## *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](http://www.montroseumc.org).

**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](http://www.montrosegardens.org).

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

**Sept. 19**—Cobble Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Watercolor Show. Reception Friday 4 —7 pm. Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> 10-3. Upstairs at the Clubhouse. 699 Cobble Drive. 249-5645 for more information.

**Sept. 19**- It's going to be a fun night in Ridgway filled with great music! Be ready to tear up the dance floor and have a great time with local area musicians The Royal We! With influences from Los Lobos, Van Morrison, Susan Tedeschi, Grace Potter, Jackie Greene, Audra Mae, The Sherbino Theater will be rockin'! Doors open at 7pm; Show: 7:30- 12 am \*Standing room only/ Dance Concert. Cost: \$7. Featuring the talents of: Jill Mihelich, Vocals; Kenny Mihelich, Bass and Vocals; Chris Goplerud, Drums, Percussion and Vocals; Mark Pettit, Lead Guitarist and Vocals; Lee Duvall, Guitar and Vocals. For more information please contact Jasmine Oeinck, programming director of The Sherbino Theater- [jasmine@sherbinotheater.com](mailto:jasmine@sherbinotheater.com) or call: 970-318-0892; visit: [www.sherbinotheater.com](http://www.sherbinotheater.com) or [facebook.com/sherbinotheater](https://www.facebook.com/sherbinotheater). Follow us: twitter: @thesherbino/ Instagram: thesherbino.

**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. 20**—Green Chile roast at the Montrose Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Sept. 20**—The Montrose County Historical Museum will be hosting the last Cemetery Tour of the season starting at 4 pm. Please meet at the Grandview Cemetery on Sunset Mesa to learn about some of the Pioneers and their stories, plus the history of Cemeteries. Please call 249-2085 for RSVP and the cost is \$10.00 per person, space is limited.

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

**Sept. 24**—Region 10 Facebook Marketing Class, Region 10 Enterprise center 300 North Cascade, Noon to 1 p.m. 970-249-2436 to RSVP.

**Sept. 25**—League of Women Voters of Montrose County Voter Registration event at Delta-Montrose Vo-Tec, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**Sept. 26**-6:30pm - 8:30pm. Music on the Green with Ralph Dinosaur. Free concert. 2377 Robins Way (behind The Homestead and across from the Montrose Pavilion). Food concession stand sales (hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos) benefit the Senior Community Care PACE Living Legacy program. Contact [tblair@voa.org](mailto:tblair@voa.org)/970-901-7768-  
<mailto:tblair@voa.org>/970-901-7768.

**Sept. 27**—Harvest Burrito Fundraiser breakfast at the Montrose Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**Sept. 28**—Color Sunday!

**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](http://www.montroseband.com) or call 970-596-1188.

**Sept. 30**—League of Women Voters of Montrose County Voter Registration event at CMU Montrose 1 to 4 p.m.

**Oct. 2**—Montrose County League of Women Voters Ballot Issues Forum, Noon at the Montrose Library Community Room.

**Oct. 7**—League of Women Voters Delta County Candidate Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss, 6:30 -State House 61 & Senate 5

**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. 10-12**—Telluride Horror Show Film Festival, Telluride.

**Oct. 11-12**—Pagosa Makers Tour, Pagosa Springs. 120 Makers, two expo locations, 14 studios and workshops to tour.

**Oct. 11**—Montrose Memorial Hospital presents the 22nd Annual “One Step Closer to Help and Hope” 5K Walk and 5 & 10K Run. Registration forms are available at Montrose Memorial Hospital, City Markets, Safeway, KUBC/ KKKK, San Juan Cancer Center, and online at [www.MontroseHospital.com](http://www.MontroseHospital.com) and [www.bosombuddiesswc.org](http://www.bosombuddiesswc.org)

**Oct. 12**—4:30 p.m. “Uniting for Colorado”—International activist, Winona LaDuke, at the CMU Ballroom in Grand Junction. Come early to meet Ms. LaDuke at a 3 pm Reception, Cash Bar & Silent Auction as part of the Western Colorado Congress 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The presentation will focus on national environmental & conservation challenges & their relationship to our local issues. Tickets: \$15 & students \$5 can be purchased at the door or at [www.wccongress.org](http://www.wccongress.org); Call 970-256-7650 for information. Everyone Welcome!

**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.browncbrownpc.com](http://www.browncbrownpc.com).

**Oct. 14**—LWV Delta County Ballot Issues Forum - Memorial Hall, Hotchkiss - 6:30 pm.





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*Top right, riders in the Partners Challenge pose atop Owl Creek Pass; Below right, a vintage International truck on display at Taco John's the evening of Sept. 12. Below left Jannifer Conley and daughter Zion get set to roast chiles at their business, Red Shed Produce, in Delta County (Hwy 92 and 1800 roads). Mirror staff photos.*





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