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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 96 Nov. 17 2014

DESTINATION RIDGWAY!

By Caitlin Switzer

RIDGWAY-Some folks can remember hearing Ridgway called a "pass-through town," a stop for lunch or gas on the way to Telluride or Ouray.

Now, Ridgway is itself a destination, one of Colorado's favorite in-state getaways.

This hip little enclave in the San Juans, founded in 1890 as the headquarters of Otto Mears' Rio Grande Southern Narrow Gauge Railway, is a feast for the senses these days. What's the recipe for Ridgway's recent success? Start with a few staples--an engaged and active community in a picturesque, well-organized mountain town set amidst snow-capped peaks, with excellent recreational opportunities and close proximity to Ridgway State Park and Reservoir and to the popular Orvis and Ouray hot springs.

Include excellent eateries in all price ranges, a rustic and well-placed Welcome Center/Railway Museum, a beautiful up-to-date library, good schools and an exciting historic backstory that includes railways, miners, Native Americans, cowboys, ranchers, artists—even movie stars.

Add a strong creative arts scene and creative district, partnerships with regional and statewide development organizations, an active and resourceful

Continued on page 11



A deer enjoys the view from Ridgway State Park Sunday, Nov. 16. Wildlife abounds in the area, along with historical, recreational, arts and cultural opportunities.

WHEN "COLORADO'S SEA BEACH" SERVED NAVAL VETS



Glenwood Hot Springs is a worldwide resort destination today. From 1943-46, however, the 125-year-old resort was closed to the public so that it could serve returning Naval veterans.

By Caitlin Switzer

GLENWOOD SPRINGS--As today's wounded warriors turn to Colorado for recreation and healing opportunities, many will undoubtedly head for Glenwood Springs to soak in the healing hot mineral waters amidst crowds of locals and vacationers.

After all, the public has been coming to Glenwood--a favorite annual retreat of the Ute Indians before they were removed from the area--to rejuvenate since Swedish settler and rheumatism sufferer Jonas Lindgren filled a hollowed -out log with hot mineral water in 1881. Word got out, and others began paying Lindgren 10 cents for the privilege of hauling their own water and using his tub to soak.

On July 4, 1888, Glenwood Hot Springs officially opened to the public, and has remained so to this day --except for three short years when wounded warriors had the place all to themselves.

The springs were officially closed to the public from 1943-1946, just four years after wealthy Wyoming oilman and Hot Spring owner Frank Kistler

Continued on Page 13

in this
issue

Liesl Visits
LoMo! Pg 22!

Play on the Rise
at BCGC!

"Abundancy, Redun-
dancy, Affordability!"

Gail Marvel talks to
Carol McDermott!

Harman joins
DMEA Outreach

HARMAN TAKES ON DMEA OUTREACH, RE-OPENING OF READ



DMEA's Virginia Harman, above at A+Y Gallery, calls the cooperative "a shining star." "They are known for innovation," said Harman, who will provide direction and serve as senior management contact for member outreach, customer service and energy services.

Electric Cooperative in Montana, a small coop where she was able to gain valuable additional experience in all aspects of the operation.

"We had 5,000 members and 8,000 meters, and only 30 on staff," Harman said. "I handled all communications, ran an energy efficiency department, put together community appreciation events and tried to be out in the community."

Here in Montrose, she will provide direction and serve as senior management contact for member outreach, customer service and energy services. One of her first projects will be to re-open and staff the Read office in rural Delta County by January of 2015.

"Our membership is spread out and diverse, and we need to serve them as best we can," she said. "We plan to have two staffers there at any time--we will still have kiosks and people can pay bills by phone, but there is more to customer service than paying bills. People have questions, and we need to have contact with our membership."

The Read office will be open and staffed on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., she said.

"To me, it is very awkward to sign up for new service in an empty facility," she said. "It's impersonal, and unacceptable. Why would we put a new member through that? Re-opening Read is something we have really needed to do, and we will re-adjust the schedule as needed."

Harman also looks forward to meeting DMEA members at upcoming events, and to promoting energy efficient Christmas displays throughout the holiday season.

"I want to encourage our members to call us, come see us, find us on [Facebook](#)," she said.

"We are member-owned and run, and we are here to meet your needs."

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-She's the new Manager of Member Relations and Energy Services for Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), so you will probably hear quite a bit from Virginia Harman as time goes by. There's something she wants you to know right away, however.

"DMEA is a shining star," Harman said. "They are known for innovation--for not being afraid to push the envelope, and for bringing innovative technology and value to their members.

"They are leaders--I have known about them throughout my whole career."

And hers has been a career in power al-

most from day one--Harman, 35, went to work for a daily newspaper shortly after graduating from Southern Arkansas University (SAU) with a degree in journalism and mass communications, but found herself drawn to the energy industry. So she took a job with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

"My dad worked in the coop world, and I am familiar with power," Harman said. "I had worked summers for Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission (AAEC) all through college. At Tennessee Valley Authority I worked in member services, and dealt with outreach."

After TVA Harman worked with Glacier

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ART PARTNERS MENTORING PRESENTS THE 2014 ANNUAL CHILI BOWL FUNDRAISER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Join Partners at Around the Corner Art Gallery, 447 East Main Street, on Nov. 30 for our annual Art Partners Chili Bowl Fundraiser. Purchase a bottomless bowl of chili from 11 AM to 2PM and the bowl is yours to keep! Chili bowls are \$15 per person, or \$25 for a couple. Chili is donated by local restaurants and chefs; attendees will vote for their favorite.

You can help today by painting a bowl at Amazing Glaze, 219 East Main Street in Montrose, and donating it to Partners. Paint a bowl by Nov. 24th and you will receive a 15% discount.

This is great fun for all ages and an easy way give back to the community.

Art Partners is a program of Partners, a non-profit organization that promotes positive change in youth through supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with adult volunteers.

Art Partners matches community professional artists with youth ages 12-17 who have artistic talent and an interest in learning and refining their skills.

For more information on the chili bowl fundraiser or on the Art Partners program visit our website, www.partners-west.org or call our office 249-1116 in Montrose, 874-4661 in Delta.

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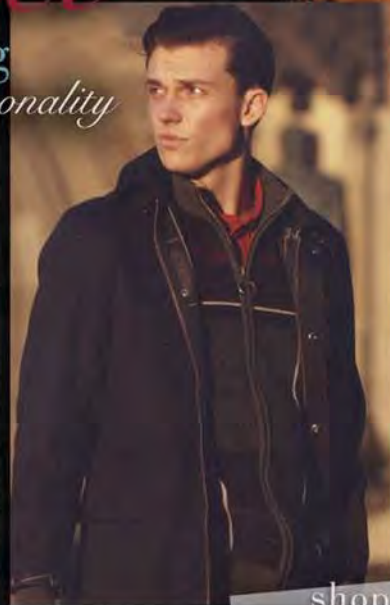
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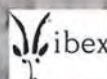
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALPINE BANK ANNOUNCES OFFICER PROMOTION

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-Alpine Trust & Asset Management would like to congratulate Julia Prejs on her recent promotion: **Julia Prejs to Trust Officer**

Julia Prejs has nearly 10 years of experience in the many facets of wealth management, with a focus on a holistic approach to managing financial issues that impact clients. Before joining Alpine Trust & Asset Management in 2013, she was a member of the Client Service Associate Advisory Council at Morgan Stanley in New York City. Julia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and holds the Certified Investment Management AnalystSM designation, administered by Investment Management Consultants AssociationSM and taught in conjunc-

tion with The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. In 2012, she was nominated and selected to be a featured speaker at the Barron's Winner's Circle Top Advisory Teams Summit in Washington, D.C. Julia is based in Telluride and is responsible for client portfolio management in the Durango and San Juan regions. When she's not wearing her financial advisor shoes, you can find Julia in her hiking boots, with camera in hand, shooting landscape photography or in her ski boots, cruising down a mountain.

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ple and serves more than 130,000 customers with retail, business, trust, asset management, mortgage, and electronic banking services. Visit alpinebank.com to learn more.

Trust and Asset Management Services are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not bank guaranteed.



*Alpine Bank Trust Officer
Julia Prejs.
Courtesy photo.*

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES BOOK CLUB

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Are you interested in Historical Books from the Western Slope? The Montrose County Historical Museum will sponsor a "Book Club" focusing on historical themes. For more information please contact Sally at info@montrosethistry.org or at the Montrose Historical Museum, 970-249-2085.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHAMBER, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HOLD COAT DRIVE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— While the need for cold weather outerwear has never been greater, it has also never been easier to meet this vital need in our community. The Montrose Chamber of Commerce and its young professionals group, Montrose Young Professionals (formerly Montrose 21/40), invite area residents to join them in an effort to ensure that no one goes without a warm coat this winter.

The 3rd Annual Montrose Young Professionals Coat Drive kicks off November 17 and runs through December 17. Montrose Young Professionals is collecting clean,

gently used warm coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and even blankets. The collected items will be distributed and delivered to people in need. The coat drive program provides an easy way for individuals and families to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors by simply passing along coats, jackets, and other items that are no longer needed.

Montrose Young Professionals invites you to bring your clean, gently used coats and other cold weather outerwear November 17 until December 17 to the following drop-off locations: Montrose Chamber of Commerce (1519 East Main Street), Al-

pine Floral (1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit G) and A +Y Design Gallery (513 East Main Street). The process is simple: you drop off your extra items and the Chamber of Commerce and Montrose Young Professionals takes care of the rest. All donated items will be given to a Montrose resident for distribution to local people in need, this donor requests to remain anonymous. Montrose Young Professionals is a program under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of Montrose Young Professionals is to connect, empower, and engage the young professionals of Montrose by providing educational, social, and philanthropic activities that include community and civic involvement to help actively shape the future of Montrose.

It's the 40th Annual Basement Boutique Craft Show and Sale at the Montrose Pavilion

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MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNERS WELCOMES DINERS, VOLUNTEERS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Thanksgiving in Montrose has been celebrated in the old-fashioned way for more than 20 years...complete turkey meal with home-made pie; local entertainment and great door prizes; a game room for the children and plenty of neighborly conversation. Montrose Community Dinners, Inc. invites the community to celebrate this day of thanks and the 20th anniversary by joining in the celebration at Friendship Hall on the Montrose Fairgrounds. This gathering begins with meals delivered to folks unable to leave their homes...call 901-7780 to receive a delivered meal in the Montrose area. In-house serving begins at 12 noon with meals served till 3 PM.

The free celebration relies on volunteer support, financial donations and pie donations. Can you share your talents during this amazing event? Please call 240-4350 between 1 and 6 PM to donate your time and gifts to make this a special day for visitors, friends, families and friends without families.

MIRROR IMAGES...OUT AND ABOUT!



Above, National Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Irene Means; Colorado State Regent Marcy Kimminau; and Member Sharon Grable. Kimminau attended as a special guest at the NSDAR Uncompahgre Valley Chapter monthly meeting in Montrose Nov. 8.



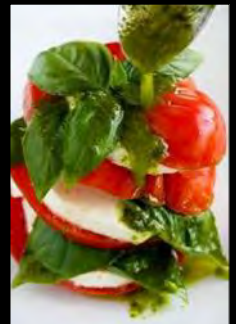
Top right and below right, The Holiday Bazaar at Montrose United Methodist Church drew an appreciative crowd of shoppers from the moment the doors opened Nov. 8



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PLAY, MEMBERSHIPS ON THE RISE AT GOLF COURSE



The turf is in great shape, and play and memberships are up at Black Canyon Golf Course, Montrose City Councilor Rex Swanson said.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--For years, it was a "diamond in the rough," a popular and accessible community golf course tucked away in the heart of town. When the City of Montrose acquired the Black Canyon Golf Course's front nine (and ownership of the course) from the Montrose Land Company earlier this year, the purchase created a polished municipal asset to be treasured for generations to come. Today the turf is in better shape than ever, and the golf course poised to serve longtime members as well as the next generation, City

Councilor Rex Swanson said.

"Play is up, memberships are up," Swanson said. "Where we have really made a difference, though, is in the number of youth on the course."

Bringing more families out to play together has been a priority from the start, Swanson said.

"We want to build more family-friendly opportunities," Swanson said. "We want this to be a family-friendly course."

The City has just purchased two adjacent land parcels totaling roughly 12 acres, with the goal of moving the entrance of the

course from Hillcrest Drive to Miami in the interest of safety, he said. Plans are also in the works for a [First Tee](#) program and 30 to 40 yard hole designed especially for young children. First Tee is a youth golf program that seeks to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

"Eventually, we will also have a drive-up place for dropping off clubs," Swanson said. "There are some major things happening--we have replaced all of the sand on the front nine with real golf course sand and improved drainage. We have replaced most of the sprinklers on the front nine, and we intend to replace those on the back nine next."

The City's acquisition of the Golf Course has been well-received by the public, he noted.

"I am very pleased," Swanson said. "It was a good decision. I have heard no negative comments from anybody. We have a well-rounded golf committee as well, not to talk about what we are doing right, but to ask, what can we do better?"

Keeping prices down is also key to the City's vision for the course, he added.

"We intend to make this a course that people want to come to, and that is affordable too," he said.

"That's our vision, and that's where we want to go."

For Gabrielle Lewis, 8, the idea of learning to play golf has strong appeal. Lewis lives near Black Canyon Golf Course, and said she would also like to see swing sets and games incorporated into the long-term plan. "I would go play golf there because it would be fun," Lewis said. "And I would ask my mom and my dad to come too."

PIE CONTEST CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Thanksgiving reminds us of good food including delicious pies...that favorite recipe from your grandma, the secret ingredient your mom added, the great recipe you discovered and want to try this year. The Montrose Community Dinners, Inc., along with The Coffee Trader, invites you to create this wonderful pie for the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner – BUT, before taking the pie to Friendship Hall for the Dinner, bring your pie to The Coffee Trader's Pie Contest.

Stop at The Coffee Trader on East Main to pick up a pie plate, your application to the contest and the rules. Pies will be numbered to create a fair contest. Return the pie plate, with your creation, on or by 6 PM, Nov. 25. Judging will begin about 6:15 p.m. The judges include two chefs, a city employee and two radio personalities. The First Place winner, in addition to receiving a number of prizes, will also be announced at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 27 and some lucky diners will complete their Thanksgiving Dinner with a piece of the winning

pie. There will be awards for Second and Third place winners, also. Volunteers for the Thanksgiving Dinner are encouraged to call 240-4350. If you or someone you know needs a meal delivered, call 901-7780 for more information. The Community Dinner, at the Montrose Fairgrounds, has been a part of Thanksgiving in Montrose since 1995. Prior to that year, the Association of Montrose Churches sponsored the Dinner beginning in 1980. Montrose has a long history of giving and caring for their neighbors and you are invited to be part of history on Thanksgiving this year.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

APPLY NOW FOR CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Montrose Police Department (PD) is accepting applications for participation in the 2015 Citizens' Police Academy. "The Citizens' Police Academy has been a huge success," said Commander Gene Lillard. "We started the Academy in January 1997, so 2015 will mark our 18th year." Scheduled to start on Jan. 12, 2015, the 10-week course will be held Monday nights from 6:30-9 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 107 South

Cascade Avenue.

Topics will include: The History of Montrose Police Department, Crime Free Housing, Traffic Contacts, Criminal Investigations, Community Oriented Policing, Traffic Laws, Defensive Driving, Support Staff/Records/Clerical, School Resources, Hiring Process, Internal Affairs, Drug Task Force, SWAT, Firearms at the San Juan Range, Officer Survival, Patrol Procedures, Animal Services, Evidence, Code Enforcement, Budget, Training, and Vic-

tims Advocate.

Lillard encouraged participation, saying that, "Past graduates highly recommend the experience, and encourage their fellow citizens to take part in the Academy and have fun learning about the PD."

Applications for interested citizens are available at the PD at 434 South First Street and must be returned by December 31, 2014. For more information about the Academy, please contact Lillard at (970) [252-5257](tel:252-5257).

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—"IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD" – Tuesday, Nov. 18th - Noon – 1 pm - Sponsored by Region 10 and Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid. Presenters, Investigator Steve Duni-
van and Chief Investigator Tammy Stroup from the District Attorney's Office. They

will give instructions on how protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft and fraud. The presentation will go over three different topics: how does identity theft occur, how to protect yourself and what to do if you become a victim.

An overview of recent trends in fraud and deception and the new Mandatory Report-

ing of Elder Abuse law will also be given. Sign-in begins at 11:45 and we will promptly start at noon. Location: Region 10, 300 N. Cascade in the Sneffels room.

Register online at <http://www.region10.net/event/lunch-learn-preventing-identity-theft/> or call 249-2436. Cost: FREE

Delta's 2014 Parade of Lights...

...will be Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m., along Delta's Main Street. Come celebrate "A Candy Cane Christmas" and kick off the holiday season! Kids, stop by Wells Fargo after the parade and visit with Santa! All entries are FREE thanks to sponsorships by:



Call 874-8616 for more info
& to register a float!





MONTROSE COUNTY NEWS AND INFORMATION

UNCOMPAHGRE ROAD CLOSURE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Montrose County Road and Bridge Department will close Uncompahgre Road .5 miles east of Highway 550 beginning Nov. 17, 2014, for bridge replacement. Traffic will be re-routed to a detour from Pahgre Road to Trout Road and Buckhorn Road. For more information, please call the Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.

OLATHE TOWN HALL MEETING RESCHEDULED TO DECEMBER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Town Hall meeting with the Montrose Board of County Commissioners scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 19th, has been moved to Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 5 p.m., at the Olathe Town Hall (420 Horton Ave, Olathe, CO 81425). Town Hall meetings begin with a brief county presentation highlighting a program or department and then offer a time for citizens to engage with the Board of County Commissioners. For more information, please visit www.montrosecounty.net for a schedule of all Board of County Commissioners meetings and events.

LANDOWNERS: SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL--The Tri River Area Extension, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service, is once again offering seedling trees for conservation purposes. There is NO acreage restriction to purchase the seedling trees in Mesa, Delta, Montrose, and Ouray Counties.

The trees and shrubs can be ordered now

through April 10, 2015, for pick up in early May.

This year we are again able to offer, a limited supply of extra large potted Pine and deciduous shrubs. They're sold in lots of four for \$52.50 per lot. Since there is a limited supply of these extra-large potted trees, please call for availability. They will sell fast at this price, so order

now. We will continue to have regular and small potted trees in lots of 30. The bare root stock is sold in lots of 25. The popular species will sell fast, so order early.

Please call Ginny Price at the Montrose CSU Extension office for seedling tree order forms, seedling buyers' guide and other information at 970-249-3935 or e-mail Ginny at gprice@montrosecounty.net.

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- **Durable** LEDs don't have glass or filaments, which makes them durable and resistant to breaking. Also, *one individual outage generally doesn't darken the whole strand.*
- **Safer** Because they use less energy, LEDs make it safer to connect multiple strands end-to-end *without overloading* the wall socket. Also, they're cool to the touch, *reducing the risk of fire.*



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DESTINATION RIDGWAY! *From page 1*

chamber of commerce, eclectic shops and galleries, a fresh new brand (Think Outside), regular full-moon art walks, a free summer concert series and historic ranch rodeo, upgraded Fairgrounds and grandstand facilities, diverse performance opportunities at the historic Sherbino Theater, and plenty of options for enjoying the beverage of your choice in a setting guaranteed to take your breath away even if you live here year-round.

Recreational opportunities here--and local outdoor professionals--tend to be among the world's best. And Ridgway's relaxed attitude toward retail marijuana has boosted tax revenues and traffic.

What's not to like? After 32 years here, Ridgway Mayor John Clark has not found much.

"When we first got here in 1982, there were 400 people," Clark recalled. "You could lay down in the middle of Main Street. Ridgway has always had a great energy, if people would only stop to discover it.

"Now, they are starting to stop."

Local entrepreneurs and new investment have played a big role in Ridgway's economic vitality, Clark said, noting that a political climate that focuses more on getting things done than on promoting differences has also facilitated Ridgway's growth.

"What you see is what you get here," Clark said. "People are open with ideas, and willing to accept differences and work together for common community goals. It's not about what political party you are, but about what we want for our community. And even when you have differences, you can usually sit down with someone over a cup of coffee or a beer and talk them out--Ridgway is kind of unique that way."

The town's planned Downtown and Hwy 62 improvements project will break ground in 2016, Clark said, giving the business community time to plan for the inconvenience of construction and highway widening and ultimately adding a more pedestrian-friendly feel.

"A lot of Ridgway's streets will still be dirt, but not our Downtown," he said.

Another local, Trail Town Still owner and veterinarian Dr. Joe Alaimo, feels that Ridgway's popularity has something to do with the attitude of those who live here.

"My personal opinion is that nobody is here who doesn't want to be here," Alaimo said. "In the big cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, people are often there

because they have to be. But nobody gets rich in Ridgway--whatever you do, you could always make more money doing it in Denver.

"People are here because they want to be here," he said. "They walk around smiling, and they come in and spend money."

Business has been strong despite the impact of last summer's Red Mountain highway closures, and Alaimo finds himself faced with the enjoyable dilemma of deciding whether to add a second tasting room to Trail Town Still or expand into the wholesale market.

"Who knows what the future will bring," said Alaimo, who has called Ridgway home for 16 years, "But as long as Ridgway is good to us, we'll be right here!"

One of Ridgway's best-known lodging establishments is Chipeta Solar Springs Resort, built in 1992.

Most year-round visitors to the gorgeous in-town resort and spa come from surrounding towns like Grand Junction and Durango, and from Front Range communities, noted Chipeta Solar Springs Assistant Manager Marissa Brunner.

"It's an easy quick getaway, and you're not in the car all day," Brunner said. "We are still fairly busy, but we are heading into the winter season, so we are running a lot of great rates. Come on up, and soak in one of our private, in-room hot tubs, or stay in a room without a tub and soak in our hot pool. And if you want to head up to soak at Orvis or Ouray, we have some great packages for those too!"

Ridgway resident Brian Scranton, a nationally-known marketing guru, former Ridgway Chamber Board President, and

powerhouse local volunteer, believes that bicycles have something to do with Ridgway's "status update."

"One of the most important economic development projects in decades, perhaps ever, is happening in Ridgway: the creation of multi-use trails on BLM and State Park land," Scranton said. "This project has already resulted in more than 10 miles of single track trails with another 15 to come over the next few years.

"People from around the region have come to enjoy the trails and as a result, were introduced to Ridgway in the process," he said.

"This happened through a remarkable collaboration between the County and Town governments, the Ridgway Area Trails (RAT/COPMOBA) group, the BLM and the State Park. Working together, these key stakeholders were able to find common ground, recognize the importance of recreation to Ridgway's economy, and build a plan that addressed the many challenges involved in the creation of a world-class recreational asset."

Meanwhile, Ridgway Town Manager Jen Coates credited some of Ridgway's appeal to old-fashioned, non-partisan community leadership in an article published last year by [Colorado Cities & Towns](#).

"Everyone is encouraged to actively participate in the direction of not only their own lives but the future of their shared community," Coates wrote. "Working together, the Town of Ridgway is embracing the possible. Label it community and economic development if you wish. Ridgway, Colorado, 924 people."

"We are thinking outside."



Tom Jay clears snow at the Ridgway State Park Visitor Center Sunday.

CITY, COUNTY REACH ACCORD ON DISPATCH USER FEE HIKE



Montrose Mayor Bob Nicholson, BOCC Chair David White, and Montrose City Manager Bill Bell at the joint work session Nov. 6

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—The City of Montrose has no plans to open its own separate Dispatch Center, Montrose Mayor Bob Nicholson told a group of citizens at a special City Council Work session at Friendship Hall Nov. 6. Instead, City and County officials have joined forces to reach a mutually beneficial agreement regarding the rising cost of public safety dispatch services. The two governmental entities had been struggling to come to agreement after County officials hit the City with a sudden—and unexplained—160 percent increase in dispatch user fees for 2015.

Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap, who had also addressed the matter in a public meeting Oct. 14, previously stated that fees were increased across the board for all 30 agencies that use the Montrose Regional Dispatch Center (MRDC), which moved to an expanded location in the Justice Center Annex in early 2014. “Our main concern is with public safety,” Dunlap said Nov. 6. “When a citizen picks up the phone to call 911, we have to provide that service...a lot of work has gone into what we are presenting tonight. We have a high-functioning dispatch center that most communities would envy, and there are always costs associated with this



Outgoing Montrose Commissioner Gary Ellis addresses listeners at the joint work session Nov. 6.

kind of improvement—particularly with the technology that must be incorporated.

“We know how critical a good performing dispatch center is to the safety of our community,” Dunlap said. “We provide our citizens with top-notch services they can rely on.”

A meeting handout entitled *Principles and Agreement to Work Toward a Resolution of Operational Funding for the Regional Dispatch Center* detailed the essential points of agreement. Prior to reviewing the document Nov. 6, officials spoke about the process of reaching consensus.

“We’ve had good, productive discussions over the past couple of days,” noted Nicholson, who commented later in the meeting that though City officials had asked themselves whether they should simply run their own dispatch center when faced with an increased share of the increased costs associated with the state-of-the-art center MRDC. “That’s not a good idea,” Nicholson concluded. “It wouldn’t work out for the public...we have to drop that as a discussion item.”

Montrose County Commissioner David White outlined the assistance package offered by the County to local public safety providers as part of the agreement, and spoke to recent concerns over a lack of financial transparency. “The public safety sales tax was implemented to assist regional dispatch,” White said. “...we recognize that the tax is of concern, and that transparency is necessary for the operation of government.” The \$5.7 million that the tax had been projected to bring in turned out to be \$4.41 million in 2014, White said, while costs remained steady.

“(A lack of) transparency has been our downfall,” Dunlap acknowledged. “We intend to ensure that we will report all in-

formation in a more transparent manner.” “We have established a separate service fund for Dispatch, and will show where revenue streams are coming from and what are the costs; we plan to work with Dispatch Director Susan Byrne to make sure we get this done,” White said.

According to the terms of the agreement, Montrose County will increase its Dispatch subsidy by \$250,000 for Montrose County users who are billed on a percentage basis, for one year. The City will pay the 2014 budget balance for Communications Center fees assessed by the County in full.

A task force will also be created to determine the future of the MRDC relative to associated revenue and costs, with the goal of anticipating and properly budgeting for operational costs in years to come. The task force is expected to establish the financial realities of the operational costs by July of 2015, for funding in the County’s 2016 budget.

The task force is “key to the whole thing,” White said.

RE-1J OFFERS FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose & Olathe School District Child Find is offering a free developmental screening for children birth to five to assure that children with special needs are identified, evaluated, and appropriately served. Screenings cover: gross and fine motor skills, readiness and social skills, speech and language skills, vision and hearing. Year round screenings are available. Written Parent or guardian permission is required. Call Amber Gallegos, Child Find Coordinator at 249-2405 to schedule an appointment.

WHEN "COLORADO'S SEA BEACH" SERVED NAVAL VETS from page 1

had launched an ambitious plan to rejuvenate the once popular resort, which had suffered greatly during the Depression years, into a Rocky Mountain "beach" complete with imported sand and cabanas. Kistler, who acquired the Glenwood Hot Springs, Hotel Colorado and neighboring vapor caves for \$165,000 in 1938, had billed his creation as "Colorado's Sea Beach in the Mountains."

However, by 1943 the United States Navy had other plans for the "Sea Beach."

At the height of World War II, the Navy commissioned the Glenwood Hot Springs Pool, Hotel Colorado and Vapor Caves for its own use, opening a U.S. Naval Convalescent Hospital there on July 5, 1943.

According to *Glenwood Hot Springs: 125 Years* (Glenwood Hot Springs, 2013), "almost immediately injured serviceman began arriving by the trainload for therapy and rehabilitation in the hot spring facility. The stone bathhouse was converted to a clinic and laboratory, and two Quonset huts were built for hydrotherapy treatments."

The location, apparently, was ideal. Naval writer Thomas L. Snyder's "Of Ships and Surgeons" [blog](#) notes that the Navy's medical department was in the habit of leasing resort hotels, and operating them for the "benefit of sailors and Marines recovering from the physical and psychic wounds of war." The blog includes a description of the location from a 1944 "know Your Hospital" newsletter prepared by Lt. William X. Heelan: "No military operations are conducted within a radius of well over 700 miles all line distance. It is

off the route of all the flying lanes and the locality is well protected on all sides by the high and rugged Rocky Mountains of the Eastern Slope. Persons subjected to the shock of combat may here find relaxation and recuperation in the absence of nerve-racking elements."

The hotel and hot springs also appeared to be ideal for the purpose of healing.

"It is a six-story edifice constructed of native matched red sandstone and pressed brick, with a slate roof, and contains 250 guest rooms," Heelan wrote. "[It] has several unique features which are extremely valuable for its function as a rehabilitation center. It has three natural hot water springs which have served as a spa to health seekers for over fifty years... The world's largest warm mineral water swimming pool is in conjunction with the hospital. ... The water is supplied by Yampah, the largest of the hot mineral water springs, flowing 3,600 gallons per minute at a temperature of 127 degrees Fahrenheit."

At least one of the wounded warriors ended up calling Glenwood Springs home. Writer, blogger and "professional tourist" Carri Wilbanks of [CatchCarri.com](#) recalls the story of the late Tony Zelenka, who was stationed there in 1945. So appealing were the town and springs that Tony and Dory moved back to Glenwood with their family in 1967. Of the eight children that the couple raised in Glenwood, six still live there, Wilbanks notes.

"My husband was shot in the chest and the arm. He was even awarded two purple hearts. He came here every day to soak up



Hotel Colorado and Glenwood Hot Springs in 1893. Courtesy image.

until the day he retired," Zelenka's wife Dory told Wilcox. "He was so here so much I figured I may as well get a job here." Wilcox notes that Dory did just that, working for the sport shop at the Hot Springs pool for 22 years.

According to *Glenwood Hot Springs: 125 years*, the water not only served as a place to soak, but as a source of healing "cocktails" packed with natural boron, calcium, chloride, sodium, sulphate, lithium, potassium, magnesium, manganese, iron, silica, zinc, fluoride, phosphate and nitrogen.

The book also notes that The Navy turned all three properties back over to Frank Kistler in 1946, and that a small hospital and clinic continued to operate out of the stone bathhouse until the early 1950s.

Many thanks to Glenwood Hot Springs: 125 Years authors Vicky Nash and Karin Gamba of Resort Trends, Inc. for assistance in researching this article.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROTARY DONATES TO REC DISTRICT FOUNDATION



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Montrose Rotary Club was proud to grant the Montrose Recreation Foundation \$1,000 for the Rec Center Capital Campaign to help fund the enhanced plan. Pictured L to R: John Elloe (Rotary President), Lori Sharp (Montrose Recreation Foundation), Ken Sherbenou (Recreation District Executive Director).

Jenni Sopsic.

Happy Thanksgiving
from the Montrose
Mirror!



On Nov. 22, the San Juan Weavers Guild presents its annual show and sale Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S. Townsend, Montrose, Colorado. Exhibits, sales, free hands-on instruction. There is no admission charge and the public is welcome. For information: Bobbie Irwin, (970) 249-2981; irwin@rmi.net.

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WEST CENTRAL WOMEN OF INFLUENCE...CAROL MCDERMOTT

Interview by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE--Carol McDermott's leadership credentials include 28 years as a local school teacher, eight years on the RE-1J School Board, and four years on Montrose City Council (2010-2014). Three times she was elected by her peers to be President of the Uncompahgre Valley Education Association. In 2013, the Montrose County League of Women Voters recognized Carol's community involvement and honored her with the award, "Making Democracy Work." She is a freelance writer and volunteers at the senior meal site.

It was as a 12-year-old Girl Scout that Carol first recognized her leadership skills. "People were asking my advice and the other girls wanted my opinion. When the leaders of the troop realized I had the voice of the troop, they sought me out." This experience propelled Carol to get involved in politics during her teens.

In analyzing her leadership style, Carol first viewed herself as a coach — recognizing players and their needs. Later in life however, she began to see herself as problem solver with the ability to teach others to solve problems. "I have a knack for knowing how to get stuff done." Carol is seen as a leader because she recognizes the talents in others and how those talents contribute to the task. Carol laughed, "I don't need to know how to drive the train; I just

need to know who the conductor is."

Carol is a formidable individual and one administrator accused her of coming into her position carrying a lot of baggage. She agreed and said, "Yes... and I've packed my bags very carefully." While it is not in her personality to hold a grudge, Carol freely admits, "I have a very long memory!"

While Carol has been treated fairly well in the local media, she was marginalized in some ways. For instance, newspaper photos of Carol were often unflattering snapshots, while photos used for other council members were official, professional photos. In some circles Carol is seen as a bulldozer; however, she sees herself as a shovel. "I toss a lot of dirt and I'm not shy about telling people my opinion."

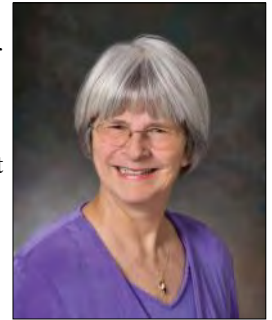
Occasionally Carol butts heads with her male counterparts. "It's not that they don't respect me, but they don't see me as an equal. Women have to prove themselves more than men." Such situations don't discourage Carol, but rather they fire her up. "I'm a street fighter. When I do battle, my cause is just and I don't surrender." She laughed, "I don't always win, but I don't surrender!"

Although she doesn't intend to pursue any other areas of public service, Carol seldom turns down a request for help. She has been instrumental in reinstituting "Hot

Wheels for Homebound Seniors" for the Montrose senior meal site and four times a week you will find her at the Pavilion washing dishes for the program. Understandably Carol would rather wash dishes than spend hours upon hours sitting in meetings.

The resident storyteller for Main in Motion since its inception in 2001, Carol can be found at each event costumed in a multi-colored top hat, white tuxedo shirt, and black pants — with accenting red suspenders, shoes and bowtie. Carol reads short stories aloud for children ages three to teens. "I even have a 30 second story for adults." She laughed, "Adults have a shorter attention span than children."

Carol's advice to potential women leaders: "Build a consensus, listen and ask questions. Realize that some folks are your friends; others are your enemies. Bide your time and someone will require you to lead — and others will choose to follow you. Leaders are made by the people who surround them and you have to be interested in those you are going to lead."



Carol McDermott
Courtesy Photo.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ECE HOSTS COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR NOV. 18

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Early Childhood Centers (ECC) invites you to attend a Community Resource Fair Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Centennial Middle School cafeteria. The fair is being hosted by the ECC Parent Activities Committee with several agencies and organizations participating to provide access to community resources in one location. Vendors include, but are not limited to: dental and medical providers, car seat safety, Colorado Childcare Assistance Program, Empowering Dads, Hilltop's Child & Family Services, Smoking Cessation Information, Mental Health Services, Special Education services, and more. For more information contact Kimberly Flatten at 249-5858.

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WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS CHURCH 180



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—My visit to Church 180 took place on Sept. 7. The two women greeters were quick to ascertain the reason for my visit. They joked, “Oh, aren’t we glad we greeted you! Come in, come in. We have the best food and coffee in town!” Lead pastor Bryan Lark was away on vacation and the ladies pleaded with me to come back in two weeks when he was scheduled to return.

There was no bulletin, but the ladies told me about the service, who was preaching and introduced me to worship Pastor Aaron Greenwood. I explained to Aaron that I would be reporting on my worship experience with his congregation and he said, “Now I’m nervous!”

Announcements were made and a report given about a new program of growth groups that will focus on getting the congregation connected. The outreach will bring together small groups of 10-12 people who are in, or going through, similar stations in life.

The auditorium is relatively small, but it is equipped with two video screens and two pedestal acoustic speakers. The worship pastor picked up his guitar and said, “We’re down a little today [attendance], but I want us to sing and blow the roof off!” Let me attest to the fact that the roof

is still in place, even though there were a few holes poked in it with the praise songs. For this service there were under 100 people in attendance.

Substitute minister David Wheat brought the message and jokingly prefaced his remarks with, “Let’s see. I’m supposed to do three things. Talk about the mission project, pray and preach!”

The mission project has two elements. One is a booth at the Farmer’s Market where church members will offer coffee and baked goods as a way to get acquainted with the public. The other outreach is delivering baskets of baked goods to local business. “We want to love on the small business community, to show the love of Christ.”

Prayer requests are solicited from those in attendance and immediately following the request, “Is there someone who would like to pray for this need?” Petitioning God in the form of public requests and the corporate prayer unites this congregation in support of one another’s needs.

The sermon was an installment in the continuing series on all the names of God used in Scripture. Pastor Wheat used history in the book of Judges as the backdrop for his sermon. “Judges is a sad book. It’s a story of Israel turning away from God, and God’s punishment. A cycle of sin,

oppression, repentance and deliverance.” The pastor reminded the audience that God is a jealous God, and He will not allow believers to worship other gods.

The key verse for the sermon, “So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace...” (Judges 6:24a NIV). Adding humor to his message the pastor laughed, “You all know Gideon. He’s the one who leaves all those Bibles in the hotels!”

Applying the name, “The LORD is Peace,” the Pastor Wheat gave steps to finding peace. However, I have to wonder if the pastor was also testing us to see if we were paying attention — the slide on the PowerPoint said “Four Steps,” but there were actually five steps listed. Taken from Philippians 4:4-9, the suggested avenue to peace is: Rejoice in the Lord; let your gentle spirit shine; stop worrying; dwell with Jesus; and make peace with God.

This congregation has been in their current location for a year, but already they have outgrown the facility and the children’s activities take place on an adjacent property.

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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2014 MICHAEL J. SKOLNIK AWARD FOR PATIENT SAFETY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at Montrose Memorial Hospital is the recipient of the 2014 Michael J. Skolnik Award for Patient Safety. This award, established by the Citizens for Patient Safety, recognizes individuals or teams who have demonstrated leadership and excellence in advancing the quality and safety of health care for patients across Colorado.

The award was named after Michael J. Skolnik, who died 10 years ago due, in large part, to lack of informed communication in a large health care system. His mother, Patricia, promised him that she would leave the medical profession better than he found it. Her work through Citizens for Patient Safety is that promise in action.

Kitty Guillory, the Pharmacy Director at Montrose Memorial Hospital, in cooperation with the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committee members, significantly reduced the occurrence of medication prescribing errors. "Hospitals have traditionally tracked medication errors only from a dispensing and administration perspective. The design of a comprehensive medication error prevention program should encompass all aspects of the medication

venue, including prescribing errors," said Guillory. By systematically tracking and trending errors, providing targeted education for medical staff, furnishing quarterly reports of errors to individual providers and fostering strong collaboration between clinicians and pharmacists, the MMH P&T Committee was able to decrease prescribing errors from 313 to 15 occurrences per quarter in a five-year period.

Dr. Michael Brezinsky, Internist and Chair of the P&T Committee said, "We are proud of the progress we have made to make MMH a safer environment for our patients. We are honored to receive this recognition."

Montrose Memorial Hospital is a 75 bed, regional medical center serving Southwestern Colorado. MMH employs over 600 employees with over 80 physicians on medical staff representing 23 medical specialties. Nationally recog-

nized, the hospital has received the award for Exemplary Service – Overall Best Performer for 2013.

Montrose Memorial Hospital offers an extensive range of healthcare services including Complete Cancer Care at the San Juan Cancer Center, Cardiology Services, Joint Replacement Center, Complete Therapy Program, Family Birthing Center, Same Day Surgery, Complete Medical Imaging/Radiology Facilities, Emergency and Intensive Care Services.

- See more at:

www.MontroseHospital.com



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...to the [San Juan Horseshoe](#), for inspiration!

To the citizens of Ridgway, for showing what sound leadership, a non-partisan approach, and a focus on what's good for the whole community can do to build a stronger economy.

A TASTE OF LOMO...SAMPLING WARES AT SAMPLER SQUARE

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE--As we bundle up for the Winter months, local businesses come alive for the holiday season. The businesses at home in the Sampler Building, on South Grand Ave, are no exception.

For unique gift ideas, people can check out Earth & Sky Herbal Accessories, owned by Skye Reid, a new addition to the Sampler Building. Having opened this year, the store is a herbal alternatives and gifts store, carrying glass, herbal vaporizers, tobacco replacement options, artisan soaps and topicals as well as local art and jewelry.

The store will be holding a sale starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving as well as offering Gift Certificates for that hard to buy for loved one. Reid has also been working on other ideas for her store. "We are adding festive merchandise as well as some unique gift items," she explained. "We have not set any events into stone yet, but we have a few ideas that could include some other local businesses from around town."

Earth & Sky Herbal Accessories has not participated in any Downtown events thus far. "It has been a bit confusing for us trying to figure out what events we can participate in that are available," Reid said.

As having support is critical for a new downtown business, I asked Reid if she felt supported by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). "Not really, but I feel that efforts are finally being made," she said. "We are part of the 'other part of downtown.' With all the extra efforts the city puts into making shopping the 1st two-three blocks of East Main Street, the other parts get fairly shadowed. But the DDA held a meeting with a few 'LoMo' (Lower Montrose, a play on LoDo from the Denver area I am told) businesses in early October to help us come up with a few ideas as to how to get more traffic headed our direction. We'll see where it goes."

As to a hope for the holiday season, Reid said, "We hope that local residents will try Montrose Businesses first this season before turning to box stores and the web for their purchases this year. Even a gift certificate from a local business in an amount that fits your budget will better our community."



Montrose's Historic Sampler Square is home to an eclectic array of shops and galleries. Don't overlook this artistic and diverse neighborhood when you shop for the holidays!

Photo by Clay Greathouse.

Earth & Sky Herbal Accessories is located at 16 S Grand Ave. For more information, call 970-275-5813 or visit earth-vape.net

For people looking to have holiday parties and events, The Grotto provides the perfect unique venue for any occasion.

The Grotto was originally inspired to welcome visitors with its historical and unique characteristics, aiming to make one feel 'at home' no matter what type of gathering. "It is our mission to satisfy the needs of those who wish to experience The Grotto and embrace what it has to offer" says their website.

Owned by Amy Chism and Wendy Jackson, the Grotto fills the needs of the community by providing a small event center. "It provides an intimate, unique setting for almost any venue, including birthday parties, reunions, girls' night out, holidays gatherings, non-profit events and just about any other type of event that one could create," Chism explained. "We provide our guests with tables, chairs, linens and a setting unlike any other in Mont-

rose."

While The Grotto does not hold any events of their own for the Holidays, they welcome bookings from guests holding their own events. "Our venue is unlike any other in town," Chism said. "It is a private, unique space in the historic part of town. The unit is a must see for anyone planning an event."

Due to the unique nature of the business, they have not participated in any Downtown Events, nor have they dealt with the DDA directly on any events. "[But] we feel we are being supported by our fellow downtown businesses," said Chism.

So if you are looking to host a holiday party for your co-workers, friends or family, or to host a special event any time of year, The Grotto is a gathering place suited for all who wish to experience an intimate setting and they are here to help you create the perfect environment.

The Grotto is located at 72 S Grand Ave. For more information, call 970-596-8533 or 970-275-2761 or visit meetatthegrotto.com.

**READ PART TWO OF LIESL'S LOMO FEATURE
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MONTROSE MIRROR DEC. 1!**

DR. PAUL WIESNER THROWS POTTERY FOR ART ON TROUT ROAD!



By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE—During the day Dr. Paul Wiesner is an Ophthalmologist in Montrose. But during his off hours, you can find the doctor throwing clay and creating unique pottery pieces for his friends and family.

While Wiesner chose to pursue a medical profession, art has been sprinkled throughout his life. He took a pottery class in high school, has pursued photography throughout his life, learned to play the guitar, and created stained glass with his wife before they had children. But pottery came back to the forefront in January of this year (2014). “[Local potter] Bill Wilson and I are on the Master Swim Team, and I have always loved his work,” Wiesner explained. “This year I started taking Fridays off, so I mentioned that I wanted to try to make sets of pottery dishes for my kids. I started working in Bill’s studio and he mentored me, teaching me techniques and how to do glazes. I was able to take an entire set of dishes to my daughter in October, but have another set for my son on hold.”

Even though pottery is not something Wiesner wants to do for a living, it is still something that he greatly enjoys from the gift-giving aspect. “I do not like to go out shopping and buying things for people,” he said. “I like to give others something that I have made, something that has a part of me in it, something that had me thinking of them while making it. When you share something that you have created with people, that makes it meaningful.”

Wiesner says that his pottery has been influenced by the people who have taught



By day Dr. Paul Wiesner is an Ophthalmologist in Montrose. This year, the doctor will show off his creative side as well, with gorgeous pottery on display at Art on Trout Road Nov. 22-23.



him, especially Wilson, but his work still carries its own unique flare. “I make my pieces in different shapes, including designing my own shapes for my plates,” he said. “Glaze patterns are always unique to the potter, so I like to experiment with different glazes, and I use ones that Bill has never done before.”

The glazing side of pottery is what Wiesner enjoys the most. “My favorite part would have to be experimenting with glazes and seeing what types of patterns and colors I get from mixing. Bill makes all his glazes from scratch, so everything that we make is all made here. We get to be mad scientists.”

Having a background in the medical field does give Wiesner a different perspective on working in pottery. “In the medical field, you have quicker learning curves,” he explained. “When you do something new, you go at it hard, working hard to accomplish a goal, as most medical positions are goal-oriented. That has really helped because pottery can be frustrating, especially in the beginning.”

Wiesner will be showing some of his pottery for the first time at the Art on Trout Road show, which he has attended for years. “It features four different artists, with each year creating a different mixture of people,” he explained. “They are all local artists, with everything original to Montrose.”

He is excited for the show, although he considers himself the amateur of the show. “I look forward to seeing the reaction of people to what I’ve made and to see what they possibly buy,” he said. “Plus, a lot of people have lived in Montrose so long that they consider the show a pre-Thanksgiving

thanksgiving of the great things we have in Montrose and the talents we have here.”

Wiesner believes that art in whatever form is unbelievably important to the local community, especially in schools. “All of my kids were in marching band and we have a great pottery program at the high school,” Wiesner said. “While I am a physician and have a science background, I’m also into pottery and my family was into music. Both sides enhance each other. I think it is good to have a foot in both worlds. Using the creative part of my brain helps with medicine as it helps me connect with people and gives me a different perspective. I want to do art for art’s sake as an outlet for the creative side of my life.”

Wiesner believes that to see how artists benefit the local economy, just look at Main Street. “Artists add so much to the local economy,” he said. “They live here and buy here. Buying from a local artist is like buying from the farmer’s market; you are recycling your dollars in the community.”

Wiesner is greatly appreciative of the Montrose art community. “It is great that we have people like Wilson here, who are willing to put up with people like me who want to learn art,” he said. “We have a strong art community that gives people the opportunity and access to artists with experience, the equipment and who are willing to take others under their wing. It is a great enhancement to the health of the community.”

Art on Trout Road is at Bill Wilson’s pottery studio (68408 Trout Road) Nov. 22-23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 970-249-4293 for more information.

*Art on Trout Road 2014 takes place at Bill Wilson’s pottery studio
(68408 Trout Road) Nov. 22-23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ERIN HOOVER NAMED ROTARY STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Montrose Rotary Club recognized Erin Hoover as the Student of the Week. Erin wishes to become a doctor or biologist and attend the University of Washington. Pictured with Erin L to R: Joey Boese (Rotarian), Erin, Andrea (mother), Carl (father).

UMC TO HOST MUSIC AT NOON

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Fill the heart of your week and day with some celebratory seasonal music. Bring a brown bag lunch, a friend, or just your Christmas spirit. A variety of musical styles and performers will be featured.

Noon Dec. 3rd – Robin Freed, Harpist

Noon Dec. 10th – MHS Bel Canto Singers

Noon Dec. 17th – Debbie Turner, Soprano

MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY HOSTS HOLIDAY EVENT NOV. 28

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The public is invited to the Montrose Regional Library on Friday, Nov. 28, for a special holiday event from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Storytelling with “Father Christmas” starts at 4 in the meeting room. At 4:30 p.m., people can help decorate the library’s unique “Book Tree” with pet toys that will be donated to the Montrose Animal Shelter. Anyone who wants can bring an unwrapped pet toy to hang on the tree. Free hot cocoa and cider will be served. For information, call the library at 970-249-9656.

OLATHE FFA EXCELS AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE - The Olathe FFA Livestock Team received a Silver Rating at the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Competition last week in Louisville, Kentucky. Each member of the team received individual Silver Ratings.

Members of the team included Talisha Marchbanks, Kurik Mattics, Aaron Lenihan, and Cassie Franks. These team members held their own against the best FFA livestock evaluators in the country!

The National FFA Livestock Career Development Event is a competitive event that tests the student's ability to select and evaluate livestock. Event components include eight evaluation classes of beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats; oral placement reasons on four classes; and a written exam on livestock production.

A team activity, utilizing reproductive and marketing information, demonstrates the teams' livestock selection ability. Each team in the event competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their state at the Na-

tional FFA Convention & Expo. There were 47 states that competed, bringing a total of 188 FFA members who evaluated livestock at the national contest.

According to FFA Coach/ Advisor Erin Martinez, “Olathe FFA's outlook on judging competitions is very similar to varsity sports, demanding excellent attendance and effort at practices held in the mornings before school, evenings and weekends.” This team has been working towards the goal of competing at the national level since they were freshman.

All of the team members are either planning on pursuing agricultural degrees or staying involved in the livestock industry, which they are passionate about. The team has gained many skills along the way such as; public speaking skills, confident decision making, the ability to defend their decisions,



(Pictured L to R: Olathe FFA Advisor/Coach Erin Martinez, Aaron Lenihan, Cassie Franks, Talisha Marchbanks, Kurik Mattics, and Coach Fayanna Flick.)

collaborating with their team mates, and gaining a greater understanding of the local, national, and global livestock markets.



Caring for people with dementia through Validation communication

Volunteers
of America®

What is **VALIDATION**?

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

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

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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DANIEL GRANBERG COMMENDED AS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR



MHS student Daniel Granberg has been named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE –Montrose High School Principal Jim Barnhill announced last

November 5, 2014 during the MHS Division Awards Ceremony. About 34,000 Com-

mented Students throughout the nation are

being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Although they will not continue in the 2015 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

MHS PRESENTS NOVEMBER DIVISION AWARDS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Fourteen students from Montrose High School were awarded the Division Award for November.

The Division Award recognizes students for their outstanding citizenship, efforts and academic achievement.

Nominations are made by teachers from each department and a special recognition ceremony is held each month.

November Division Award Recipients
Front row L-R LaBrena Garcia, John Gilpin, Daxton Bushee and Cassidy Johnston

Back row L-R Jacob Taylor, Marisa Jahnke, Darren Culmer, Adam Chiaro and Lindsey Smith

Not Pictured: Tristen Hendricks, Jack Gore, Dominique Ridgel, Victor Nieto and Katelyn Barker.



**THANKS FOR READING
THE MONTROSE MIRROR!**

REGION 10 & CITY OF MONTROSE

"WE WANT ABUNDANCY, REDUNDANCY AND AFFORDABILITY"

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--in Hong Kong, one can obtain high-speed internet service for just \$25 a month. Here in Montrose, slower, less reliable service costs far more. And the situation will not correct itself--with little competition, private providers can be complacent when it comes to charging high rates for outdated or absent technology. Those key facts and others were shared by City of Montrose Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner, who joined Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes for an informative talk on the state of local Broadband for a League of Women Voters presentation at the Montrose Library Nov. 12.

"This is one of the most important issues we are talking about as a community," Turner said. "It is of critical importance--we live in a data-driven world...yet Montrose ranks 61st out of 70 Colorado communities for download speeds, and Colorado ranks 32nd in the nation for broadband speed.

"We're not quite where we want to be." Turner discussed the state of the local industry, and passed around samples of old copper phone line such as is typically in place in Montrose, as well as samples of fiber.

"This is the technology we have," he said of the copper. "It's so slow. With fiber, we will be using pulses of light. Why can't we make the transition?"

Turner discussed city efforts to move community broadband forward, such as the city's "Dig Once" resolution to place fiber in the ground any time a trench is open for any reason; efforts to partner with local last-mile providers; a close working relationship with Region 10; and Montrose's recent inclusion in the national Next Century Cities initiative.

"This is a tough, tough issue," Turner

said. "It's going to be hard for us, and we need to strike the right balance between private enterprise and the public sector. There is just not enough return on investment for it to happen organically, and council is committed to this.

"We are now looking at ways to get fiber optic to our citizens," Turner said.

Because Region 10, as a council of governments, is tasked with developing an economic development strategy for a six-county area, taking the lead on implementation of a regional broadband blueprint has been essential, said Region 10 Director Michelle Haynes.

"There is a direct correlation with broadband and the health of the economic development environment in our six counties," she said. "And the need extends beyond business--I have three teenagers, and they do a lot of their homework online. Laptops are an issue in our house around 7 p.m., but broadband is even more of one, because we live out on Spring Creek."

Health care is also impacted by the level of broadband available, she said.

"A clinic in one of our communities recently lost access to its records when the Internet went down," Haynes said. "So we are asking, what can we do to ensure adequate broadband in our area, and what will it take to get us there, so that our students, our doctors and our businesses have access to the level of infrastructure they need to compete in today's environment."

Region 10 has contracted with NEOFiber of Glenwood Springs to create a blueprint for implementation of broadband throughout the region, and is seeking grants for infrastructure construction.

"In six months, we'll have a plan," Haynes said. "It will be expensive--we have geographic challenges here like canyons and mountains. But we have tried to understand where our assets are; we are



Virgil Turner of the City of Montrose.

trying not to replicate, but to use what we have in a cost-effective way.

"We want abundance, redundancy and affordability," she said. "We want to know what it would take to complete the circuits, close the gaps, and make service more efficient."

Current realities include the fact that "a wire hanging on a fence somewhere near Gunnison" presently serves as a vital connection, and that there is little incentive for last mile providers to make big changes any time soon.

"We are encouraging speed tests, so we can challenge assumptions regarding coverage here," Haynes said. "And I feel that in rural regions, cooperatives will be important to this effort, so we are working with DMEA to work through their issues.

Both Turner and Haynes added that additional community meetings will be held as broadband work progresses. Region 10 currently offers a link to the statewide speed test from their web site, <http://www.region10.net/how-fast-is-your-internet/>.

SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN RUNNERS SPONSOR 2014 TURKEY TROT!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The San Juan Mountain Runners are once again sponsoring this year's TURKEY TROT on Thanksgiving morning. This is a surefire way to get the holidays started. Both the two-mile and four-mile races start promptly at 9 a.m. at Oak Grove School, but get there early to register for the event and door prizes. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The cost is still a reasonable \$5/person, \$15/family. Dogs on leashes and strollers are welcome. It is the most fun you will have all holiday season!! For more info, contact Jan at jbridgway@msn.com.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PHONE SCAMMERS TARGETING SMPA MEMBERS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY—San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) members are once again the target of phone scam operations. Recently, businesses in Ouray County have been receiving intimidating calls in which the caller claims to be an SMPA representative, demands immediate payment, and threatens disconnection. The calls are often coming during the times of day that being cut off from the grid would be the most detrimental, such as right before the lunch or dinner rush.

“The scammers are identifying vulnerable targets and hoping to take advantage of members who may not be fully aware of the status of their account and will do anything to prevent disconnection. One of the best ways to prevent being extorted is to be knowledgeable about your account and your payment schedule,” said SMPA General Manager Kevin Ritter.

In some instances the callers are insisting that victims wire money, something which SMPA does not ask of their members. SMPA’s courtesy calls alerting members of past due balances are often automated and require the members to initiate the payment process. Members issue payments

directly to SMPA and are not required to wire money or purchase pre-paid credit or debit cards.

The co-op also reminds members to never give out personal information such as credit card numbers, banking information, or Social Security numbers.

Similar scams are being reported across Colorado and the nation and are not isolated to electric utilities. Often callers will also pose as law enforcement, banking officials, and other types of utilities. The Ouray County Sheriff’s department recommends some due diligence in order to prevent being scammed.

“Don’t take these calls at face value. It is completely okay and recommended to hang up and call the agency back directly, whether that be SMPA or another business, to confirm the information. Do your own follow-up, and in the event that you discover you received a scam call, report it to us immediately,” said Ouray County Undersheriff, Joel Burk.

Details such as the phone number and name of the caller are all important in helping authorities track down the callers. SMPA also recommends reporting the scam directly to their offices by call-

ing (970) 626-5549 and (970) 864-7311.

“Please report any suspicious calls, emails, or communications you have with people claiming to be from the power company. When we know there are active scams in the region we work to alert the membership in hopes of thwarting their success,” stressed Ritter.

Access more information from the Federal Trade Commission about phone scams and how to recognize them and protect yourself at <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>. San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a member-owned, locally-controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway, Colo. It is the mission of San Miguel Power Association to demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service. SMPA serves approximately 9,600 members and 14,000 meters and supports local communities with \$300,000 annually in property taxes and \$400,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ERIN WARNER NAMED ROTARY STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Montrose Rotary Club recognized Erin Warner as a Student of the Week. Erin would like to be a chiropractor and open a practice. She plans to apply at Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College, Dartmouth College, New York University, Bowdoin College, Regis University, and the University of New Hampshire. Pictured L to R: Judy Wind (host Rotarian), Erin, Gayla (Mother), and Robert (Father).

*Thanks for reading the
Montrose Mirror!*

*Call 970-275-5791 for
ad rates and information!*

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY--San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is now accepting applications for their 2015 Summer Youth Leadership programs. All current high school sophomores and juniors living in a home that receives electricity from SMPA are encouraged to apply. The co-op will sponsor two local students to attend either the National Rural Electric Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. The National Rural Electric Youth Tour will take place June 12 – 19, 2015 in Washington D.C. The week of activities begins in Denver where students from around the state will visit the state capitol and be introduced to the electric cooperative industry with a presentation from Tri-State Generation and Transmission. The students will then head to Washington D.C. with more than 1,000 of their peers for a week of learning and exploring. They will visit the Arlington National Cemetery, stroll through the Smithsonian museums, tour historic monuments, meet elected officials, and learn about the role of electric cooperatives in today's world. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is capped off with a dinner and dancing cruise on the Potomac River.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership camp will take place July 12 – 17, 2015. This weeklong adventure brings together more than 100 students from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma at the

Glen Eden resort in the mountains north of Steamboat Springs, CO. The primary objective of the camp is to teach students about the cooperative model and how it works. The students will be asked to form their own cooperative, electing board members and voting on issues. They will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop leadership skills, including communication and teamwork. There is also plenty of time set aside for campers to explore and enjoy the mountains of Northern Colorado and Steamboat Springs. Students will also learn leadership skills through hands-on activities, and their teambuilding is put to test on a raft trip down the Colorado River.

San Miguel Power covers all costs to participate in either program, including travel, lodging, and food. Each program is all-expense-paid, with the only costs to the students being spending money for souvenirs or extra snacks.

Applicants must be current high school sophomores or juniors, between the ages of 16 and 18 as of January 1, 2015, and be dependents of a San Miguel Power member. Interested students must complete an application form and a 500-word essay on the following topic: Explain the role of the board of directors at a rural electric cooperative and why the board is important. Applications are available online at www.smpa.com. Students can also pick up application forms from their high school guidance counselors.

Applications must be received by SMPA on or before Friday, December 12, 2014.

Mail your application to:

San Miguel Power Association
Attn: Becky Mashburn
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Applications can also be dropped off in person at one of SMPA's local offices:

Nucla – 170 West 10th Avenue
Ridgway – 720 North Railroad Street

For more information visit www.smpa.com and look for youth tour and leadership camp information under Community Programs, or contact Becky at (970) 626-5549 ext. 212, becky@smpa.com.

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a member-owned, locally-controlled rural electric cooperative with offices in Nucla and Ridgway, Colo. It is the mission of San Miguel Power Association to demonstrate corporate responsibility and community service while providing our members safe, reliable, cost effective and environmentally responsible electrical service. SMPA serves approximately 9,600 members and 14,000 meters and supports local communities with \$300,000 annually in property taxes and \$400,000 in energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Western Colorado Congress welcomes John Fielder and his statewide photography tour, *A Celebration of 50 Years of Colorado Wilderness*, to the Montrose Pavilion on Thursday, Nov. 20. The tour stop features a VIP reception with Fielder, followed by a multi-media presentation with book sales and signings. The presentation spans decades of Fielder's work, includes over 300 of his stunning wilderness photographs and is accompanied by music and stories to guide the audience through the show. These events are a complement to John Fielder's corresponding photography exhibit on display at the Mesa County Central Library in downtown Grand Junction Nov.

10- 29. 5 P.M. - VIP Reception & Book Signing by Fielder at The Montrose Pavilion. Tickets are \$35 and include appetizers, drinks and reserved seating at the public presentation. Reservation required via wccongress.org or at [970-256-7650](tel:970-256-7650).

At right, Weminuche Wilderness, by Renowned Colorado Nature Photographer John Fielder. Courtesy image Western Colorado Congress.



ARTS & CULTURE

FAIR TRADE MARKET AT ST. PAUL'S NOV. 22

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Fair trade gift and home items created by master artisans will be on sale at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Sunnyside and 6700 Roads in Montrose, on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each purchase will help provide income to impoverished artisans and farmers around the world.

"We host this SERRV Sale each year because we're aware of the true artisan and farmer stories behind each item being sold," states Kim Floyd, co-chair.

"Our sale gives everyone an opportunity to buy beautiful holiday gifts, while raising awareness of the need to help to train and equip marginalized women and men—and to protect children from exploitation. Prof-

its generated by SERRV also help support schools, and advance health and environmental protection programs in communities that desperately need support."

Currently, SERRV works with fair trade partners in 34 countries.

Working with a nonprofit organization with a 60-year history of partnering with impoverished people and supporting sustainable development complements the mission of Sunnyside Outreach:

"compassion in action."

To learn more about this fair trade market event, held each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, visit facebook.com/sunnysideoutreach or contact Kim Floyd at kim@communityspiritucc.org. And be sure to bring your reusable shopping bag!

About Sunnyside Outreach In 2013, three faith communities — Community Spirit Church (UCC), St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Three Valley Friends (Quakers) — came together to form a new outreach group focused on working for the common good in the Montrose community and surrounding area.

SHERBINO FILM SERIES FEATURES THE OTHER ONE

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY--In collaboration with the Crested Butte Film Festival, the Sherbino Theater presents a monthly film series featuring a powerful line up of diverse and inspiring films including audience favorites and new independent cinematic masterpieces.

Sit back in the unique Black Box Theater and enjoy our projector and the largest screen in Ouray County! On Sunday, Nov. 23 the film will be *The Other One: The Long Strange Trip of Bob Weir*.

Doors open at 7 and show starts at 7:30 pm.

Admission to each film is \$7.



TREE PREPARATION AND WATERING TIPS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO— Trees in urban and community settings throughout Colorado are now going dormant, and they require care before and during the winter to remain in top health.

Homeowners should be taking measures now and through the winter to help their trees come through the oncoming harsh conditions in good shape for next spring, said Keith Wood, community forestry program manager for the Colorado State Forest Service. The CSFS offers the following tips to prepare Colorado's urban trees for winter:

Wrap the trunk. In Colorado, thin-barked trees like honeylocust, maple and linden are susceptible to sunscald and frost cracks because of drastic winter temperature fluctuations. To prevent bark damage, guard the trunks of younger trees up to the first branches using commercial tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until April.

Mulch the base. Apply 2 to 4 inches of wood chips, bark or other organic mulch near the base of the tree, but not against it, to reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption and insulate against temperature extremes.

Check your community recycling program, as some programs provide wood chips free of charge.

Recycle leaves. Instead of disposing of autumn leaves, consider layering them around the base of each tree as mulch, or blend them into the yard with a mulching mower to retain nutrients.

Prune while trees are dormant. Late winter is the best time for pruning most tree species, but it can be done whenever trees are dormant over the winter months. Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches and improve form. Always prune just outside the branch collar — the point where a branch joins a larger one — and don't remove any branches

without good reason.

Give them a good drink. Before storing the garden hose for winter, water trees in the area from just outside the trunk to the extent of the longest branches.

Water slowly, with a sprinkler or soaker hose, at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter.

Focus on younger trees. With less-extensive root systems, they require the most care.

Wood says urban trees often also require additional, regular watering over the winter. During extended dry periods (e.g., more than two weeks without snow cover), provide supplemental water per the guidelines above.

The best time for winter watering is on warmer days, when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees.

For more information about urban tree care, visit the Colorado State Forest Service website at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGION 10 COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES-UPCOMING CLASSES

Legal Education Program: Tuesday, Dec. 9th Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney: “The Basics” - Time: 4:30-5:30 pm; sponsored and presented by Region 10 & Brown and Brown, P.C. Learn about Will and Trust Estate plans and how to decide which one is right for you. This don't-miss workshop includes basic information about specialized trusts including pet trusts, how to protect your special needs child using trusts, asset protection trusts, how to protect your heirs using trusts and more. We'll also delve into advance directives and powers of attorney and how to incorporate them into your estate plan. This FREE series is open to all community members, whether you are an aging adult, care giver, progression or just curios, this series will help you learn what resources are available in the area. Location: Region 10, 300 N. Cascade in the Sneffels room. **Registration required:** Register online at www.region10.net or call 249-2436.

Region 10 – Caregiver Support & Networking Group - This unique Caregiver Support and Networking Groups is designed for Montrose and the surrounding areas. The meetings are structured to be an all-inclusive support/networking groups for those who care for someone with Dementia or any disability/illness in any living environment. Also, on the first Wednesday of each month, the care recipients are welcome to attend a group meeting designed to support them. The groups will meet simultaneously in separately rooms. Groups will meet the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of every month from 1:30 - 2:30 at Region 10 300 N. Cascade. Call Amy Rowan 249-2436 ext. 203 for more information.

Delta Listen and Learn:

“Let the Sun Shine- Identifying Seasonal Depression and Getting Help” – Thursday, Dec. 11th - 12:30 -1:30 pm. Sponsored by Region 10 and Delta County Senior Resources. Presenters, Janey Sorenson with The Center for Mental Health.

We will discuss: What feelings are normal with aging and depression signs to look for are? What questions to ask your doctor and treatments? This program is designed to help support our elders and those with disabilities, you will learn more about how you can help others.. Sign-in begins at 12:15 and we will promptly start at 12:30. Location: Cedaredge—Community Center 140 NW 2nd. Register online at www.region10.net, or call 970-249-2436 or toll free 1-855-800-6050, or call Delta County Senior Resource's 712-2295.

PUMAS AND PEOPLE AT THE SHERBINO NOV. 20

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-On Nov. 20, join Dr. Ken Logan, a mammal researcher for Colorado Parks and Wildlife at Ridgway's Sherbino Theater (Doors and Cash Bar 7 p.m., Lecture 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10 entry), as he discusses and explains how people and cougars can co-exist in Colorado. Ken Logan is a Mammals Researcher for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. He earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Sciences at the University of Idaho in 2001. He has co-authored several related professional papers, book chapters, and a book titled: Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore in 2001, which was awarded The Outstanding Publication in Wildlife Ecology and Management by The Wildlife Society in 2002.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS



Wed Nov 19, 6-8pm

@ the Hive Paonia

130 Grand Ave.

Join Heidi Hudek to learn...

- The value of using social media for your business
- How to create a strategy for using it quickly and effectively
- Which platforms and page types are best for you
- Content and posting ideas
- Tips for marketing
- How to track your success with analytics

Workshop leader Heidi Hudek is a Social Media Consultant based in Paonia who helps Delta County organizations break into social media to improve their business.

FREE for Hive Members
\$10 - Paonia Chamber Members
\$15 - Non-Members

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!
Register at the Hive or online at
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Questions?
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REGION
10

Economic Assistance
& Planning
SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

ARTS & CULTURE

MT. SNEFFELS EDUCATION FOUNDATION CASINO NIGHT BETS ON CHILDREN'S FUTURES

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY--The education-oriented Mount Sneffels Education Foundation has announced that it will host this year's Annual Casino Night and Auction on Saturday, February 21st at the Ouray 4H Center.

Vegas-style gaming, complete with professional dealers, will highlight an evening packed with live musical entertainment. Casino Night attendees will have a chance to bid on exciting travel and culinary experiences and win big-ticket door prizes. The entire goal of the event is to raise funds to support educational and cultural activities that benefit students in Ouray County for which federal, state, and local funding are not fully available.

Mount Sneffels Education Foundation board member and co-organizer of the

event, John Lockhart explains, "This year's casino night will be unlike anything we've ever done. We're poised to raise a significant amount of money, all of which goes to our children's futures. In 2013-2014 alone, we were able to fund 39 programs—what are we doing is working, and that feels good. We get kids out into the World, because let's face it, Ouray county is pretty isolated."

The Foundation has a single-minded focus but allows funding to do much more. It provides resources to encourage the development of innovative educational programs and helps facilitate understanding and cooperation between Ridgway and Ouray Schools and between the schools and the people of the community.

The Foundation also aims to enhance

exposure to resources and training of guidance counselors, teachers, and staff to improve their qualifications. It also aims to arouse various students' interests through sponsorship of qualified guest speakers in business, industry, military, science, government, agriculture, legal, arts, music and education professions. For more information, please visit www.mtnsneffels.org or call 970.325.4414.

About Mt. Sneffels Education Foundation The Mt. Sneffels Education Foundation was established in 1992 to help enrich and broaden the educational and cultural experiences of the youth in Ouray County. The Sneffels Foundation does this through contributing money to projects initiated by school and community leaders for which there is no regular funding available.

MONTROSE FEATURED IN WEBCAST ON BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The City of Montrose will be featured in a dynamic field hearing on "Envisioning the Gigabit Future," delivering substantive testimony on the importance of local leadership and self-determination to advance high speed Internet investment. The hearing is hosted by the Southeast Tennessee Development District and Next Century Cities, a bipartisan, city-to-city initiative dedicated to ensuring the availability of next-generation broadband Internet for all communities. The event will take place in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Tuesday, November 18, and will be simultaneously webcast. Register

to join the webcast at <http://conta.cc/1yRvAjG>.

City of Montrose Director of Innovation and Citizen Engagement Virgil Turner will be featured alongside mayors and elected officials, business leaders, and local stakeholders discussing the importance of high speed Internet to their own efforts and communities. The field hearing will take place in downtown Chattanooga, one of America's first "gigabit" communities, where high speed Internet investment has yielded real benefits for business, community members, local libraries, and schools. WHAT: Envisioning a Gigabit Future: A Field Hearing

WHO: Mayors and Elected Officials, Business Leaders, and Community Members from Tennessee and across the Country.

WHERE: The Church on Main
1601 Rossville Avenue

Chattanooga, TN 37408 Register for the live webcast at: <http://conta.cc/1yRvAjG>

WHEN: 7 am-10:30pm MST Tuesday, Nov. 18. For information about the City of Montrose, visit www.cityofmontrose.org. Follow the City of Montrose on Facebook and Twitter @MontroseGov. The City of Montrose is located at 433 South First Street in downtown Montrose and can be reached at (970) 240-1420.

DOWNTOWN MONTROSE SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY EVENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Holiday tree lighting will be, Nov. 28th at 5pm in front of the historic Montrose County Courthouse, 320 South 1st Street. Enjoy a reading of *Twas the Night before Christmas*, sing carols, sip on complimentary hot cocoa or cider. Santa and Mrs. Claus will open their cabin for the season in the Uncompahgre Event Plaza.

The annual Parade of Lights will be on historic Main Street in downtown Montrose on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5 pm. This year's theme: *Christmas Stories: Portray a holiday story you're your favorite movie, book, or song!* Go to VisitMontrose.com/parade or call [970.497.8558](tel:970.497.8558) for details.

Make holiday shopping extra fun by taking a break to visit Santa—and get your free photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at

their cabin in Downtown Montrose in the Uncompahgre Events Plaza, 514 South First Street. While you wait, enjoy the ambiance of the "Winter Wonderland," roast marshmallows by the fire pit, and keep toasty warm by the outdoor heaters. Saturdays from 11am-2pm and Sundays 1:30-4:30 pm. Or visit on Fridays from 5-7 pm at Timberline Bank, 1561 Oxbow Dr. through Dec. 21.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAC AND CHEESE COOK-OFF WILL BENEFIT ABRAHAM CONNECTION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-While parade watchers for Delta's annual Christmas Parade of Lights will celebrate "A Candy Cane Christmas," this year's parade theme, inside The Coffee Therapist at 326 Main St., there will be another theme: macaroni and cheese! The inaugural Mac & Cheese Cook-off, sponsored by Senior CommUnity Care – PACE, to benefit the Abraham Connection Homeless Shelter, takes place during the parade on Friday, Dec. 5. "We're looking for killer mac and cheese recipes," said Kami Collins, a board member with the Abraham Connection and one of the event planners. "We're looking for cheesy, gooey, warm, melty examples of the ultimate

comfort food."

Anyone can enter the cook-off, so bust out the potluck staple, the go-to crowd pleaser, and showcase your version of the best carbs a bowl can hold. "We want to see who makes the best mac and cheese in Delta County!" Collins said. Winners will be chosen in the Individual, Group and Business categories, plus an overall People's Choice winner will be awarded. The cost to enter the cook-off is \$15 per entry. Call 970-773-8290 for a registration form, or for more information. Not interested in entering the cook-off? If you're more of a mac and cheese gourmand, then the taste-testing portion of the evening is for you! Stop by The Coffee

Therapist, which has graciously offered to host the event, at 5 p.m. for taste-testing. There is a \$5 suggested donation per person to taste. Tasting is open during the parade until 6:30 p.m. Winners will be announced at 6:45 p.m.

The staff of The Coffee Therapist will have their coffee bar open, so grab a delicious drink, have some mac and cheese and watch the parade from the comfort of a toasty warm space.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the building fund of the Abraham Connection. The organization is \$7,000 away from being able to break ground on a new shelter space on 5th and Silver in Delta.



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DELTACOUNTYLIVING@GMAIL.COM

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS SOUGHT FOR SEASONAL SONG

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Interested in singing Christmas Carols with friends? Please plan to meet at Montrose United Methodist Church on Tues., 11/18 AND 11/25 from 7-8:30 PM for an informal rehearsal and organizational meeting.....enter Baldrige Hall on S.1st St. Bring any music that you have and some water. Questions? Please contact Susan Walton at 249-1382.

HOPEWEST HONORED BY STATE LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-HopeWest, a local non-profit hospice and palliative care organization, recently received several distinguished awards recognizing HopeWest's efforts in human resources, leadership and communication.

For the fourth year in a row, HopeWest has been recognized as a *Best Company to Work for in Colorado*, named second in the large company category in 2014. The *Best Company to Work for in Colorado* program is sponsored by the Colorado State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (COSHRM) in conjunction with the local COSHRM state chapters. The competition is designed to tap into the qualities of employers that make a measurable difference in the local business community. All participating organizations and their employees completed a scientifically measured survey developed by ModernThink, a specialized research and consulting firm. Employees were surveyed regarding various human resource concerns such as company leadership, management, benefits and strategy.

Terri Walter, Senior Vice President at HopeWest, was the recipient of the President's Award from Colorado Center for Hospice & Palliative Care (COCHPC). Annually, COCHPC may present one President's Award for any person, program or organization working inside or outside of hospice and palliative care who advances quality and access to palliative care and hospice services for all Coloradans. This award is given solely at the Center Board President's discretion. Emphasized at the award ceremony was Terri's years of service on the Board of Directors, participation with various committees and her work with the rewriting of the state hospice regulations over a three year period. Also mentioned were Terri's efforts in planning COCHPC conferences and promoting advanced care planning statewide.

HopeWest was the proud recipient of three highly coveted statewide awards from the Colorado Healthcare Communicators organization. The first award was the SilverLeaf Award for HopeWest's 2013 Annual Report, designed and created by HopeWest Community Relations and

Outreach Team: Liz Dearstyne, Alyssa Hampson, Dani Martin, Jenny Marquez, Robin Owen. The second award was the SilverLeaf Award for Spoons Under the Moon, a fundraising event, in the small event category and made possible by Trisha Whittington, HopeWest Events Coordinator and HopeWest's Next Generation of Young Philanthropists Board. The third award was the BronzeLeaf Award for HopeWest's Internal Communications Program led by HopeWest Community Relations and Outreach Team.

"These awards are a true reflection of our dedicated team," said Christy Whitney, President and CEO of HopeWest. "It is exciting to be recognized by several statewide organizations for having great organizational leadership and communication. We at HopeWest are all very proud to be honored with these awards." HopeWest is dedicated to profoundly changing the way our community experiences serious illness and grief. To get more information about HopeWest, to make a donation or volunteer, please visit www.HopeWestCO.org or call 866-310-8900.

STAYING WARM IN SUPERCOLD WEATHER...

Natural fibers appear to be the solution for these Montrose alpacas...spotted Sunday Nov. 16 in a pasture south of town.

THANKS FOR READING THE
MONTROSE MIRROR! HAVE A
WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND LEARNING

With Election Day behind us at last, next year's Colorado legislature begins to take shape. For the first time since being elected in 2006, I'll be serving in the majority party as Republicans won a slim majority in the Colorado Senate. The House remains in Democratic control, as does the governor's office, which means that the 70th General Assembly, beginning in early January, will have a split legislature. Typically, this means less controversial laws passed and more effort put into finding common ground between the two parties.

In writing these columns, I try very hard to stay away from partisan positioning as the point of the columns is to explain what it's like to be in the state legislature and to represent my politically and geographically diverse district. Yet, I have to say that I'm excited to be in the majority and to help put forth an agenda that the Senate Republicans feel will move all of Colorado forward. I'm also honored to have been elected as the Senate President Pro Tempore, under the leadership of Senate President-elect Bill Cadman, from Colorado Springs, whom I've served with for a number of years.

Upcoming attractions for new and return-

ing legislators include committee assignments which will determine where we'll spend much of our days during the session. There's a lot of preparation to be done in advance of the start of the session as we incorporate new legislators into the process. Of the 18 senators in my caucus, seven are new to the senate, although several have been serving in the House and one previously served as a senator.

As mentioned in past columns, I'm sponsoring several bills from the wildfire matters and water resources review committees. Each legislator is allowed up to five bills to carry and interim committee bills aren't part of that limit. I've been working on a few bills based on ideas from my district and I'll need to determine soon whether these ideas are ready to advance into introduced legislation.

In addition to my leadership and legislative duties, I'm excited to continue working with the Colorado Youth Advisory Council, (COYAC). The council's made up of 40 youths from around the state and is charged with the mission of providing the youth voice to legislators. These students help shape policies and priorities with their input at the Capitol. Logan Gra-

ham, a Durango senior, is the youth co-chair of the council and it's great to have a student from my district to have been elected to that leadership position.

COYAC's been going strong since its creation through a bill I carried in 2007, drafted in large part by two dozen high school students from Southwest Colorado. The students who shaped the vision of COYAC into the successful reality it's become can be very proud of the role they played in bringing the very relevant youth perspective into Colorado's governance.

As in past years, COYAC is diving into tough policy areas. This year, they've chosen school safety, combating human trafficking, bullying, youth homelessness and suicide, standardized testing and the importance of water as a natural resource. They'll be learning more about each of these issues and, ultimately, will present their thoughts and recommendations to legislators next spring. You can learn more about COYAC by visiting the website at www.coyac.org.

***Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator
Interim Contact Information:
P.O. Box 3373 Durango, CO 81302
Home phone: (970) 259-1589***

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Citizens interested in becoming involved in local government have the opportunity to apply for vacant positions on the City of Montrose Planning Commission.

"Specific knowledge of planning and zoning isn't absolutely necessary to serve on the Planning Commission," said Planning Services Manager Kerwin Jensen, "and planning commissioners often decide to become more involved and run for City Council."

According to the Municipal Code, the role of the Planning Commission is to review planning, zoning, subdivision, land use, and development requests and make recommendations to City Council; promote public interest and education in planning land use and development matters; and participate in the process for adoption of a comprehensive or master plan and amendments.

Planning commissioners receive compensation of \$40 per month, and the planning commission chair receives \$60 per

month. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

To be eligible to serve on the Planning Commission, citizens must reside within the City limits and be eligible to register to vote. Commissioners are appointed for four-year terms. The application deadline for the Planning Commission vacancies is Monday, November 24, at 6:00 p.m. Applications are available at City Hall, on the City website or by calling [\(970\) 240-1422](tel:9702401422).

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.

Nov. 18—Region 10 and Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid present **Identity Theft and Fraud**, Noon to 1 p.m. An overview of recent trends in fraud and deception and the new Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse law will also be given. Sign-in begins at 11:45 and we will promptly start at noon. Location: Region 10, 300 N. Cascade in the Sneffels room. Register online at <http://www.region10.net/event/lunch-learn-preventing-identity-theft/> or call 249-2436. Cost: FREE

Nov. 18—Montrose Early Childhood Centers (ECC) invites you to attend a Community Resource Fair from 6 – 8 p.m. at Centennial Middle School cafeteria. Vendors include, but are not limited to: dental and medical providers, car seat safety, Colorado Childcare Assistance Program, Empowering Dads, Hilltop's Child & Family Services, Smoking Cessation Information, Mental Health Services, Special Education services, and more. For more information contact Kimberly Flatten at 249-5858.

Nov. 18—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board Meeting, 5 p.m. DMEA Headquarters, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose.

Nov. 19—Screening of film, Fed Up at 2Rascals Brewery (147 North First) 7 p.m.

Nov. 20—Stand Down event for Homeless Vets, Warrior Resource Center, 11 South Park Avenue. 0800-1630 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Nov. 20—Western Colorado Congress VIP Reception for John Fielder, Montrose Pavilion 5 p.m.

Nov. 21—Validation Communication - Family Intro : - Learn how to better communicate, reduce stress and enhance dignity for those with Alzheimer's. Presented by Volunteers of America. 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, 300 S. Cascade Ave. Sneffles Meeting Room. RSVP 970-275-1220 or eburge@voa.org.

Nov. 22—San Juan Weavers Guild presents its annual show and sale Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, 1391 S. Townsend, Montrose, Colorado. Exhibits, sales, free hands-on instruction. There is no admission charge and the public is welcome. For information: Bobbie Irwin, (970) 249-2981; irwin@rmi.net.

Nov. 22—Montrose Farmers Market [Indoor Holiday Market 10-1 produce, baked goods, gifts, crafts and more!](#)

Nov. 22-23—Art on Trout Road! Visit from 10am to 5pm in a relaxing home studio with Artists: Bill Wilson-Ceramics, Gina Grundemann-Oil Paintings, Ron Hoeksema-Oils/Serigraphs & Paul Wiesner-Pottery. One mile E. on Trout Rd., 4 miles S. from Montrose. 970-249-4293.

Nov. 23—Sherbino Film Series, Sherbino Theater in Ridgway. *The Other One: The Long Strange Trip of Bob Weir*. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission to each film is \$7. Popcorn, candy, and a full bar will be available each film night.

Nov. 27—San Juan Mountain Runners Turkey Trot. Both the two-mile and four-mile races start promptly at 9 a.m. at Oak Grove School, but get there early to register for the event and door prizes. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The cost is still a reasonable \$5/person, \$15/family. Dogs on leashes and strollers are welcome. It is the most fun you will have all holiday season!! For more info, contact Jan at jbridgway@msn.com.

Nov. 27—Thanksgiving. Community Thanksgiving Dinner Friendship Hall.

Nov. 28—Downtown Montrose tree lighting, 5 p.m. 320 S. First St.

Nov. 28-29—Basement Boutique Craft Show, Montrose Pavilion, Saturday, 8 to 5 p.m.

Dec. 3—Music at United Methodist Church, Noon. Harpist Robin Freed.

Dec 4: Taize-style services of music, prayer and meditation on Scripture are offered on the first Thursday of the month, except June, July and August. 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. Montrose United Methodist Church. 19 South Park Ave.

Dec. 5—Delta Parade of Lights, “A Candy Cane Christmas,” 6 p.m.

Dec. 5-7—Ridgway Holly Dayz.

Dec. 6—“Family Fun Day” from 3-5 pm at Montrose United Methodist Church. Families meet downstairs in Park Ave. Hall for “Chrismon Creations” (Christian ornaments) at 3 p.m. At 4 p.m. we will have our chili cook-off and brownie bake-off. All ages, all families are welcome!

Dec. 6—Downtown Montrose Parade of Lights, 5 p.m. This year's theme: *Christmas Stories: Portray a holiday story you're your favorite movie, book, or song*. Go to VisitMontrose.com/parade or call [970.497.8558](tel:970.497.8558) for details.

Dec. 7—Weehawken Arts Gingerbread house Decorating Workshop, 1 to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is HIGHLY encouraged, as only a number of houses are available. Register at www.weehawkenarts.org or call Weehawken at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150).

Dec. 10—Music at United Methodist Church, Noon. MHS Bel Canto Singers.

Dec. 10—Montrose County Town Hall Meeting, Olathe.

Dec. 12-13—Songwriting workshop with Ashleigh Caudill, presented by Pearl Road Music. Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to Noon. \$75. Call 970-249-1382 for reservations.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DCED MEMBERS ASKING DMEA TO TAKE ACTION ON BROADBAND

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY-Delta County Economic Development is encouraging DMEA Members to attend the public comment section of DMEA's board meeting to address broadband needs.

**CITY OF MONTROSE FEATURED
IN WEBCAST ON BROADBAND
AVAILABILITY NOV. 18**

The purpose of this meeting is to show community support for DMEA to take action to help bring broadband to all areas of our county.

The DMEA Board will hear from its members in Delta and Montrose Counties on this vital resource and the need from its members who are asking that DMEA take action necessary to bring broadband to our counties.

Where: DMEA Headquarters, 11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO 81401

When: 5 – 5:30 pm, Tuesday, November 18, 2014 (participant check in begins at 4:30 pm)

Who: Leaders from government, agriculture, education, health-care, and businesses throughout the counties (over 40 attendees have RSVP'd to attend)

Contact: Brad Harding, Delta County Economic Development, Inc. Board President, First Colorado Bank, President

970-874-4992 bharding@firstcoloradobank.com.

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WHAT: Envisioning a Gigabit Future: A Field Hearing

WHO: Mayors and Elected Officials, Business Leaders, and Community Members from Tennessee and across the Country

WHERE: The Church on Main
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Chattanooga, TN 37408

Register for the live webcast at: <http://conta.cc/1yRvAjG>

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— Margot and Bob Wurst



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— Bob

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North Fork call 872-2233



connectforhealthco.com


Contact the Montrose Mirror:
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Montrose, CO 81402
970-275-5791

Email Us: Editor@montrosemirror.com
www.montrosemirror.com

Top, Peggy Sauter welcomes customers to Payares Grill & Cantina, now open in the old Firehouse space with a great breakfast menu and delicious Green Chile.




Above, Cheryl McDaniel browses at the Montrose United Methodist Church Holiday Bazaar Nov. 8; below left, National Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Irene Means (left) and Member Jane Murphy (right) present Welcome Home Montrose Founder Melanie Kline with the Ellen Walworth Medal for Patriotism Nov. 8. The award is presented to an American "who has displayed outstanding patriotism in the promotion of the American ideals of God, Home and Country." This is a national level award decided by the Office of the Reporter General in Washington D.C. (home of national headquarters of the NSDAR).






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