



Friend us on Facebook

Visit us online at
montrosemirror.com

Please Support
our Advertisers:



www.montrosecounty.net



www.region10.net



www.montrosehospital.com



Alpine Bank

www.alpinebank.com



www.smpa.com



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
www.dmea.com



www.montroseact.com

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

Issue No. 98 Dec. 15 2014

WHAT COURAGE COSTS..KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE!

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL-No, the job is not easy. But here in Montrose, the local police department has the resources it needs to fight crime and keep citizens safe.

"We are very well funded here," Montrose Police Chief Tom Chinn said. "Occasionally we will get a grant for something, like our bullet proof vests or victim advocate programs, but most of our funding comes from the general fund--we make up about one third of the City's budget."

In 2014, the City of Montrose budgeted \$5,792,096 for police and for municipal animal control.

The Montrose Police Department currently has around 56 employees, including animal control and support staff, Chinn said. Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, he noted, covering the 17 square miles that make up the City of Montrose.

"We are out there with the doctors and nurses and everyone else who needs to be," he said.

The biggest challenge to keeping the peace in Montrose comes from drugs, whether legal, illegal, or prescription, Chinn said.

"Methamphetamine is the illicit drug we see most, but we also deal with prescription, Schedule II drugs like painkillers," he said.

Continued on page 19



In 2014, the City of Montrose budgeted \$5,792,096 for police and for municipal animal control. The Montrose Police Department currently has around 56 employees, including animal control and support staff

SIMPLE, HAPPY, CREATIVE...AMAZING GLAZE EXPANDS!



Just steps away from its former location, Cherie McPherson's Amazing Glaze is now open at 209 East Main Street.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--Yes, that beautiful back wall that Cherie McPherson and her husband built for the new Amazing Glaze location at 209 East Main Street (in the former Pickled Painter space) looks like expensive, reclaimed barn wood. Looks can deceive however --like much of the work for this gorgeous business "makeover," that wall is actually built from a plentiful local resource that many might overlook--old pallets.

"We got the pallets right here in Montrose," McPherson said, "and they didn't cost us a thing." Seeing beauty where others don't is a habit for Cherie, who designed the new space herself with the idea of "industrial rustic."

"My husband and I did everything here, including the flooring, painting, even knocking out walls," she said. "There's so much more to come! I have copper stools arriving soon, and I plan to put cage lights by the window so the storefront will really pop."

"Our party room has doubled in size," she said. "It's

Continued on Page 13

in this
issue

*Gail interviews
Jenni Sopsic!*

*Craig Childs Dark
Night in Paonia!*

*City sees \$4K shortfall
on Hospitality Summit!*

*CDOT Unveils Draft
Statewide Plan!*

*"From Colorado"
gift ideas...*

CDOT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT INCLUDES PASSENGER RAIL



Above, the Unaweep/Tabaguache scenic byway near Uravan. Photo by Sally Pearce/Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). At right, CDOT's draft statewide transportation plan includes a blueprint for a statewide transit and passenger rail network. Images courtesy CDOT.

Mirror Staff Report

COLORADO—When the railroad first roared through Western Colorado in the 1880's, the onset of safe transportation to and from the region contributed to the settlement and growth of the communities that exist today.

Now, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) aims to reinvigorate Colorado's statewide transportation network with a draft statewide transportation plan that offers goals, objectives and solutions for implementation—as well as a statewide blueprint for a transit and passenger rail.

According to CDOT, the statewide transportation plan is designed to improve safety, mobility, maintenance and economic vitality, and has been prepared with public and stakeholder input. It identifies Colorado's multi-modal transportation system as well as Transportation needs, revenue and funding gaps. The plan sets goals, and establishes timelines for meeting them.

"The Plan is a fully-integrated document, not only about improving the highway system but also about combining strategies to enhance transit, rail, aviation, freight, bicycling and pedestrian travel," said CDOT Executive Director Don Hunt. "It identifies the required strategic steps to achieve our goals and the priority corridors we need to focus on over the next decade.

"Public participation was crucial while we were developing these plans and is just as vital now during the comment period so they reflect the priorities and needs of our citizens," Hunt said. "As we implement the Plans, we'll continue to engage the public on our progress so that we can all work together to deliver the transportation system Colorado deserves."

More than 60,000 citizens participated in crafting the SWP, the STP, and all ten RTPs, according to CDOT.

"Our transportation system is a key element of a vibrant and globalized state economy, and transportation investments

will create and enhance access to jobs, enhance freight movement, support increased trade, and improve economic competitiveness," said Colorado Transportation Commission Chairman Ed Peterson. "With limited funding available, CDOT has developed a vision for the Statewide Transportation Plan that guides investment for Colorado's multimodal transportation system."

As part of Colorado's statewide plan, CDOT's Division of Transit and Rail has been charged with development of a [statewide plan for transit and passenger rail](#) as well. According to CDOT, "The plan shall identify local, interregional, and statewide transit and passenger rail needs and priorities."

CDOT hopes the statewide transportation plan will guide transportation improvements over the next ten to 25 years, according to a news release issued by the agency last week.

The draft Statewide Transportation Plan is now available for review and comment. Find Colorado's **first** Statewide Transit Plan (STP) and the 10 rural Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) at www.coloradotransportationmatters.com

THE MONTROSE MIRROR
MONTROSE

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

No reprints without permission.

Publisher: Caitlin Switzer

Circulation: 7,129+

Featured Freelance Writers:

Liesl Greathouse and Gail Marvel

Post Office Box 3244

Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-5791

www.montrosemirror.com

editor@montrosemirror.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REMEMBER LOST LOVED ONES WITH LOVE MMH LIGHT WREATH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-- THE LOVE LIGHT WREATH is once again on display for the Holiday season in the lobby at Montrose Memorial Hospital. It will be displayed through Jan. 4, 2015. Persons wishing to remember a friend or loved one may sponsor a light on the wreath with a \$5 donation. The names of those being remembered will be displayed beside the wreath.

Contributions will be accepted through Tuesday, Dec. 23, and will be used to benefit patients at the hospital. For more information, interested persons may stop by the Golden Leaf Gift Shop at the Hospital, or mail a check to Montrose Memorial Hospital Volunteer Services, 800 South Third Street, Montrose, CO 81401.

WEEHAWKEN DANCE PRESENTS THE POLAR EXPRESS AT THE MONTROSE PAVILION!

A Ballet Featuring Weehawken Dancers Ages 3-17

Performances are Dec. 19-- 6p.m., Dec. 20--2 p.m.

Call 970-318-7150 for tickets and information, or visit

www.weehawkenarts.org

Karen Maxner - Realtor



"Maximum Service in Real Estate"

- Residential
- Commercial
- Farm & Ranch



Located at
737 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose CO 81401
970.252.0090 Office
970.596-1286 Cell
800.314.8344 Fax



Info@RealEstate-Montrose.com
<http://www.realestate-montrose.com/>

**CLICK HERE TO SEARCH
CURRENT LISTINGS!**

"Buying Real Estate may be a major event in your life. Know what you are buying and understand what you are signing. We educate our clients!"

D'Medici

Footwear & Clothing

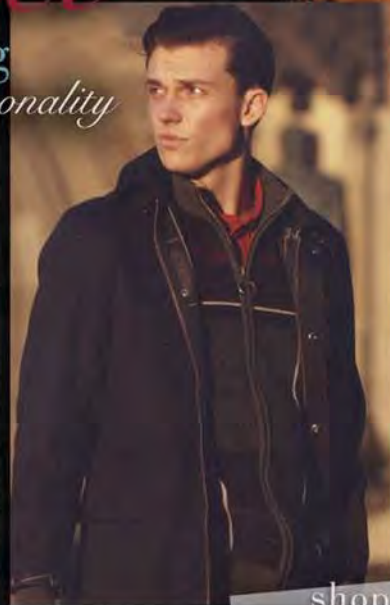
*to enhance a feature, define a personality
and establish a look!*

Men & Women's
Clothing & Accessories

Ladies' Shoes: Rieker,
Alegria, Klogs, Onex

Men's Shoes: Ecco, Cole Haan,
Allen Edmonds

Claudia Nichols Cashmere,
Simon Chang, Santiki,
Judy P., Bills Khakis,
Tori Richard,
Kuhl, Barbour, Brighton



shop
LOCALLY

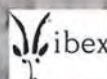
316 East Main Street 970-249-3668 in HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE



Performance Clothing and Gear
for the High Country

finally in Montrose!

300 East Main Street 970-249-1622
Corner of Main & Townsend



OPINION/EDITORIAL

WHAT HAVE THE MONTROSE COPS BEEN UP TO?

By John W. Nelson
Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--On Dec. 1st, The Montrose Police Department held its annual meeting and it was an educational experience.

It included a presentation by a mental health expert describing PTSD (post traumatic stress disease) and its frequent appearance in police officers, firemen and medical personnel.

Most of us have individual frustrations and personal crisis but nowhere near what these people go through on a daily basis. While much of an officer's, fireman's or medic's day is routine, there is that infrequent crisis that is literally life or death, either to the provider or to the victim.

The awards and commendations presented were eye-opening and enlightening, to say the least. They highlighted what it means to be an officer or staff member of a small but very professional law enforcement agency.

The litany of community activities in which the Department engages is both remarkable and uplifting. Citizen's Police Academy, Animal Control Signage, Shop with a Cop, Torch Run, Tip a Cop, Bowling with the Cops, Police Officers Ball, and similar community activities all provide insight to the close relationship this Department has with the residents of this community.

Behind the badge and inside the uniform is a neighbor, a friend, and someone who cares about the public he or she serves, not just an employee.

That impressive enumeration of activities and their participants was followed by awards and commendations for specific law enforcement events.

Frankly, it is astounding how many very serious critical situations these officers had been involved over the past year.

From suicides, threats of suicide, life saving, officer involved shootings, and victim advocacy and assistance to additional education, training and outstanding performance, the awards and commendations clearly demonstrated what an outstanding and professional law enforcement agency we have in the Montrose P.D. That same description can also be used to describe the Montrose Sheriff's Department, by the way.

This Department, like most local agencies and governments on the Western Slope, is underfunded, understaffed and has shown how to make do with less, a common phrase in reference to both government and private industry these days. You can be very proud of the Montrose Police Department.

To view the crime statistics of each of the law enforcement agencies in Colorado, visit the [Crime in Colorado.cbi](http://CrimeinColorado.cbi) website. Criminal activity flourishes, even in one of the most beautiful states in the nation.

To experience the life of a police officer, sign up for the next Citizens Police Academy by calling Commander Gene Lillard at 252-5257 before Dec. 31st.

Tis the Season
to be Thankful

**Partner with
Sharing Ministries Food Bank
today and help us make sure
not one child, senior,
or family is hungry
this holiday season.**

**To make a generous donation
mail your check today:
Sharing Ministries Food Bank
121 N. Rio Grande Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401**



**To donate on line visit us at:
www.sharingministries.com
*Thank You and Happy Holidays!***

CLICK AD TO DONATE ONLINE!

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CDOT: TEMPORARY BRIDGE ON SH 90 AT BEDROCK



Oldcastle Construction successfully launched and set into place a temporary bridge next to the 1952 bridge over the Dolores River on SH 90 in Bedrock.

Crews began placing steel bridge deck panels at the end of the day yesterday and will likely complete that work today, along with bridge rail connections.

A bridge inspection

the week.

The temporary bridge will be under signal control, single-lane traffic, with no weight restrictions. The bridge is 160-feet long with a 10-foot travel lane.

Design work for a permanent replacement bridge is underway, though no schedule is available at this time for design completion or bridge construction.

The existing 1952 steel through-truss bridge was damaged and repairs were completed in September; it is currently open to all vehicle traffic less than 36 tons gross weight.

With the upcoming traffic switch onto the temporary bridge, CDOT plans to close the old bridge to avoid the possibility of overweight vehicles crossing it, and the possibility of further damage occurring.

CDOT Region 5 (southwest Colorado) had received approval from the State Transportation Commission for construction funding for the detour and temporary bridge installation. Oldcastle Construction was contracted \$1.03 million for the work.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE COUNTY – On Thursday, December 11, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contractor

will be followed by guardrail installation, bridge rail and final striping. CDOT expects to switch traffic onto the temporary bridge the middle of

“The easiest way to make a difference.”

We created the Alpine Bank Loyalty Debit Card program as a vehicle for you to strengthen and support the communities where you live, work and play.

Get yours today!



Alpine Bank

alpinebank.com

Member FDIC



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CABA/VFW HOLD FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHARITY DRIVE AND AIRLIFT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- Members of the Western Slope aviation and veteran communities engaged in supporting an important mission; the joint Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA)/Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) fourth annual Holiday Drive and Airlift for Colorado veterans and their families.

Local VFW representatives in Montrose and Delta CO joined with CABA, Black Canyon Jet Center in Montrose, and Atlantic Aviation in Rifle CO in order to collect and distribute non-perishable food and toys to aid veterans and their families.

The Metro State University of Denver (MSUD) Aviation Flight Team partnered with CABA again to commit volunteer pilots and aircraft to accomplish the mission.

The fourth annual CABA Holiday Party and VFW Airlift event was scheduled for Dec. 5th at the Aero-Colorado Hangar on Centennial Airport, Centennial CO.

Following the party, all collected goods were sorted and staged for upload and delivery via airlift to airports in Alamosa, Burlington, Montrose and Trinidad CO where members of the VFW posts receive the goods and distribute them to veterans in need in their local communities. The *CABA Airlift for Colorado Veterans* began on Dec. 7th, 2014.

Collection efforts began in October. Collection points have been established on the ground here on the western slope, as well as, in the Denver area.

The goal is to have the goods “under the tree” well prior to Dec. 25th, 2014 said Kenn Kline, Founding Member of Black Canyon Jet Center and CABA Region Co-Chair. “This year we want to collect and distribute 8,000 pounds statewide.” Kline said.

“Many ask questions about why we do this. We do it because it needs to be done and it gives the aviation community an opportunity to actively participate in meet-

ing challenging needs that face many of our veterans and their families in a way that only aviators can.” Kline said.

“Some aviators are also veterans and this is a way for them to give back in comradeship, which is known as “paying forward.” I can remember a time and a place where I needed help. One of my buddies stepped up. I asked him, how I could repay...He said “do the same for someone else...” That’s paying forward. Kline said.

“Others participate because they have a chance to use their flying skills to honor the service of our nation’s veterans.” Kline said.

“There are some outstanding people involved with this project. Our west slope communities are very supportive, which is a powerful combination.” Kline said.

For information on CABA visit the Colorado Aviation Business Association website.

For information the CABA Foundation visit www.mycaba.org/foundation.

CITY FARM!

AN INDOOR FARMERS MARKET OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK!

GET YOUR FARMERS MARKET FIX ALL WEEK LONG!

EXCEPTIONAL FRESH AND HEALTHY LETTUCE!

BASIL, HERBS AND GREENS!

GROWN HYDROPONICALLY ON SITE SO FRESHNESS IS GUARANTEED!

SERIOUSLY FREE RANGE EGGS....LOCAL ART AND CRAFTS!

CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME!

**33 N. CASCADE AVE.
MONTROSE CO. 81401
970.497.4724**



MIRROR IMAGES...



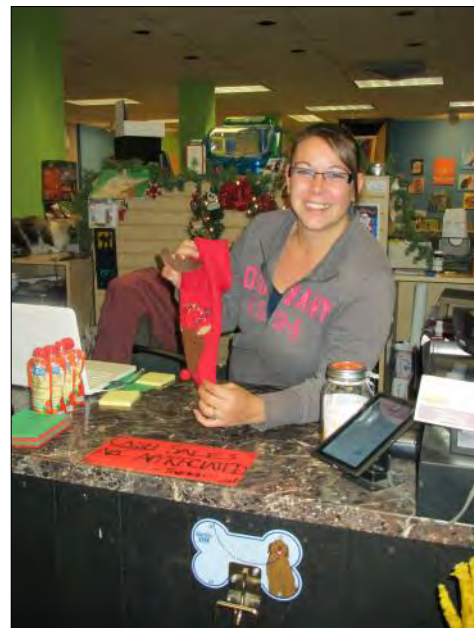
At left, the Bar D Wranglers played a sold-out show at Turn of the Century in Montrose Dec. 12; above, Christmas decorations on the Courthouse lawn.



Above, Shoppers stop to visit Monarch the Lipizzaner in front of the A+Y Gallery Dec. 13; right and below, head for the Montrose Indoor Winter Farmers Market. Behind Straw Hat Farm store every other Saturday! Carriage rides were available at the Market Plaza Dec. 13.



LOOKING TO GIVE A TOUCH OF COLORADO? GIFT IDEAS ABOUND!



Above left and below, Artisans Creative Corner Coop and above right, Chow Down Pet Supplies have plenty of local gift options.

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL--Ridgway's David Houtz has been quietly making beautiful jewelry from quality gems and metals in the San Juans since the late 1970's, and has enjoyed a devoted clientele all along. In the past two years, however, the owner of Rocky Mountain Jewelry (145 North Cora) has noticed an increasing interest in and demand for his designs--from out of the area.

"People come here from all over the world," he said. "I think they are just looking for good stuff! I seem to have been discovered."

"My Mountain Bracelet continues to be very popular," Houtz said. "It's a fine gift for a man or a woman, and comes in sterling silver and in gold and diamond." Though his Sneffels bracelets are his best known pieces, Houtz can depict any mountain range. Also popular are star sapphires, he said.

"A star sapphire in a bracelet, ring or necklace makes a great gift," Houtz said. "People just seem to love 'em. I have a blue star bracelet that is such a deep, beautiful blue, with a well-defined star...light moves across the face of the stone...real pretty."

Houtz is not alone in finding that customers from around the world crave gifts that remind them of Western Colorado. For those who can't be in Colorado for the

Holidays, something special from home can be the next best thing.

For a taste of Colorado to send to loved ones far away, [Ela Family Farms](#) and [Hartman Gardens](#) are delicious "shop local" gift box options.

Original art is always an excellent way to give something unique that will be cherished...both Around the Corner Gallery and A+Y in Montrose feature works by an array of local artists, and feature monthly exhibits. At Creative Corner Artisans Coop (344 East Main St.), 35 area artisans offer a diverse array of creative crafts and works of art. The boutique is a treasure trove for the hard-to-shop-for, with unique, locally created items that can't be found elsewhere. "We are open late for the holidays every day but Sunday," notes Creative Corner Artisan Coop's Patsy Denham.

"And we have so many things here! There are photos of the Black Canyon. We have linens, pot holders, even dish towels embroidered to say 'Montrose;' we have locally canned goods like jams, jellies and honeys; and beautiful examples of wood working. We even have metal work, and items made from horse shoes."

Nina Suzanne's Boutique (336 East Main St.) carries one of Montrose's hottest new, locally-made products--shoes by Sense of Motion (SOM) Footwear. Fabula Home & Gift Boutique (317 East Main) offers a selection of ornaments made by local art-



ists, as well as dish towels and hats.

Finally, for the beloved pet in your life, Chow Down Pet Supplies (202 Main Street) has a vast array of gifts, from sweaters to food and special treats. A cat toy made by hand by a local girl (Pennies for Pets) will not only please your own feline friend, but will help animals in need by contributing to the Montrose Animal Protection Association (MAPA).

OPINION/EDITORIAL-LETTERS

DMEA CAN AND SHOULD BRING HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO EVERY METERED LOCATION

Dear Editor:

Why are community organizations, local government and education leaders, healthcare providers and business leaders asking and perhaps even pressuring Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) to make high speed internet service available to all of their member-owners?

The answer is extremely simple. DMEA has the fiber optic connection, the assets and the means to make it available to all who want it to every location where DMEA has an electric meter in all of Delta and Montrose Counties. DMEA is the only entity that is in a position to bring us a utility service as critical to our economic survival as electric service was in the 1930s and 1940s. Providing critical utility infrastructure to its member-owners is the sole reason for DMEA existence.

It is an absolute shame that we are making a desperate 11th hour plea for them to move forward NOW as community leaders in both counties have been making the case for several years. The DMEA Board of Directors and staff need to stop looking for minor obstacles to making it happen and start tackling it with an attitude of it is doable, we can overcome some minor problems, and we will fulfill the needs of our member-owners NOW.

Tom Huerkamp, Orchard City

A CARD THAT COULD SAVE LIVES?

Dear Editor:

With regard to Ferguson Riots: Instead of protest placards by the thousands, why not print and distribute free instructive wallet-sized cards by the millions:

(FRONT:)

**THIS CARD CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE
IF STOPPED BY POLICE AND YOU
ARE NOT OPERATING A MOTOR VE-
HICLE**

1. Do not resist.
2. Keep hands in plain sight.
3. Avoid quick movements.
4. Identify actions in advance (Officer, I'm going to reach for my ID, in my [purse] [wallet,] etc.)
5. Obey lawful commands, even if uncomfortable or embarrassing (Leave this area immediately. Sit on the curb. Don't

move.)

6. NEVER make jokes about guns, etc.
7. DO NOT ARGUE. If you have a comment, make it in a calm, level manner.
8. MOST IMPORTANT: This event will pass. Let it do so without tragedy. Procedures are available to correct wrongs.

(BACK:)

**THIS CARD CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE
IF STOPPED BY POLICE AND YOU
ARE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE**

1. Pull over as soon as it is safe to do so.
2. Activate the vehicle's Emergency Flashers.
3. Turn off the ignition.
4. Stay in the car.
5. Keep the driver's window open a few inches for talking, but not enough to use a weapon.

6. Keep your hands in plain sight on the steering wheel.

7. Identify actions in advance (Officer, I'm going to reach for my ID, in my [purse] [wallet,] etc.)

8. Know the location of your driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance cards.

9. Obey lawful commands, even if uncomfortable or embarrassing (Get out of the car. Sit on the curb.)

10. NEVER make jokes about guns, etc.

11. DO NOT ARGUE. If you have a comment, make it in a calm, level manner.

12. MOST IMPORTANT: This event will pass. Let it do so without tragedy.

Procedures are available to correct wrongs.

Bud Marcos, Grand Junction

**LINK TO MONTROSE COUNTY GARDENING
CALENDAR...CLICK HERE!**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROTARY HONORS SHELBY KENNEY AS STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Shelby Kenney was honored as the Rotary Student of the Week. Shelby plans on being a trauma surgeon and joining Doctors Without Borders to deliver aid to the countries that need it most. She would like to attend Northwestern in Illinois, Dartmouth, or Point Loma Nazarene University. Pictured L to R: Diana Atha (Rotarian), Shelby, Trish (mother).



DELTA AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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

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





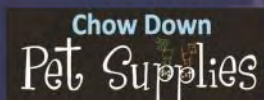
NOW AVAILABLE! K-9 OXX TOY

\$15 per stuffed animal dog
All proceeds go to the
Montrose County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit
Donations Also Accepted

Help Support Our
Local Hero Dog!



THANK YOU TO DEPUTY K-9 OXX'S SPONSORS



AMAZING GLAZE RELOCATES, EXPANDS from pg 1



Brushes await happy patrons at the new Amazing Glaze Pottery location.

much more versatile.”

Once warm weather arrives, Amazing Glaze patrons have another treat in store--a back patio furnished in comfortable and colorful “shabby chic” style, she said. “I will plant tomatoes, and raspberries,” she said. “Phase two will SO country!” Born and raised in Montrose, Cherie has a pretty good idea of what appeals to her local clientele, which continues to grow. She credits 12 years of working with Scott Beyer of Scott’s printing for her formidable business skills.

“I went to work for Scott when I was 19,” she said. “He taught me everything I know --my customer service skills, and my work ethic.”

McPherson’s former boss, Scott Beyer, called her “absolutely awesome.”

“Cherie is doing really well because she’s a sharp kid,” he said.

“She really absorbs things, and when somebody works that hard, you don’t mind sharing what you know.”

An experienced entrepreneur herself these days, McPherson believes passionately in the potential of Amazing Glaze, a longtime local pottery painting business that she has owned for more than five years.

“Mary Hill started the business ten years ago, over on Grand Avenue,” McPherson said. “She moved it to Main Street eight years ago. I was working for her around the time my husband and I were planning to sell our other business, McPherson Offroad.

“When Mary offered to sell me Amazing Glaze, we were not even sure we would be staying in Montrose,” McPherson said.

“My husband and I had been considering Southern California. But I knew if I did not buy it, the doors would close...and the thought of not having Amazing Glaze in my life was too much to bear.

“So I jumped in with both feet, and it was the best thing I ever did.”

The new location, just two doors down from the old, can better accommodate a clientele that continues to build.

“This is a very popular place for parties, but also for ladies who just want to come in to unwind and relax,” McPherson said.

“We are also seeing more and more guys--when they experience Amazing Glaze, they quickly overcome any stereotypes.”

As the pottery painting side of the business steadily grows, McPherson said that she hopes to do more craft workshops and classes taught by local artists.

“All it takes is to get a customer through my doors once,” she said.

“Customer service is where it all begins--and once they experience Amazing Glaze from start to finish, they are mine.”

New people stop by Amazing Glaze several times a week, she noted. McPherson expressed excitement for the changes taking place in the shop’s West Main “LoMo” neighborhood.

“We’ll never compete with East Main,” she said, “but we are holding West Main meetings, with Lance Michaels from the DDA. We have been brainstorming, and we have some amazing ideas.

“I have a vision from driving into Golden, Colorado where you see this beautiful sign as you drive into town, and they really present what Golden has to offer,” she said. “I see no reason that we can’t do something similar here on West Main. After all, once the Holidays are over and the Water Sports Park takes shape, very exciting things are coming.

“This will be the sought-out area to be.” Amazing Glaze will celebrate a grand opening soon, and a New Year’s Eve event of some type during business hours. And while the business is very family-friendly, McPherson will expand grown-up opportunities with a series of evening events featuring artist demos and limited adult beverages over the coming year.

Though refurbishing the space has been hard work, Cherie is having the time of her life.

“I deal with happy people every day,” she said. “Amazing Glaze is simple, happy and creative. I love it, and I am honored to have a passion and a career.”

Find Amazing Glaze at 209 East Main, online at amazingglazeart.com, or call them at 970-252-7225.

The shop opens at 10 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and closed on Mondays.

OPTIONS FOR BUILDING BEAUTIFUL & AFFORDABLE WEBSITES

Mon Dec 15, 5:30-7:30pm @

The Hive Paonia, 130 Grand Ave.

Should I build my own website or hire someone to do it?
WordPress, Squarespace, Wix?
Which platform should I use?

How hard is it to build a website, anyways? Web Designer Christy Eller will answer these questions and show you how to evaluate your website needs.



With Web Designer
Christy Eller



FREE for Hive Members

\$10 for Paonia Chamber Members

\$20 for Non-Members

**\$25 for Hive Connect Membership
(Unlimited Workshops for one month)**

SEATS ARE LIMITED! Register and reserve your
seat NOW online at

www.HivePaonia.com/Events

or in person at

The Hive (130 Grand Ave, M-F 9-5)

CELEBRATE DARK NIGHT AT THE PARADISE WITH CRAIG CHILDS



The author at work in Paonia in a photo from his Facebook page. Courtesy image.

"Craig Childs understands [archeological] epiphanies, and he beautifully captures them...along with the moral ambiguities that come from exposing a long-hidden world."

—George Johnson, New York Times Book Review

Mirror Staff Report

PAONIA—Like the centuries-old artifacts that he has encountered in his travels but wisely left exactly where he found them, Western Slope author Craig Childs belongs to the earth itself. From the Arizona desert to Hawaiian volcanoes to Patagonian Ice to Central Park and Tibet—even a GMO-laden Iowa corn field—Childs has delved into the planet's mysteries, and emerged once again to tell the tales. Re-

viewers have compared reading Childs to a form of awakening—recalling exactly where they were when they first explored one of his profound books or essays.

This month, a fortunate few will witness the acclaimed author on his home turf, in the Dark Night presentations that have become a North Fork Valley tradition over the past five years. Dark Night returns to Paonia's Paradise Theatre (215 Grand Avenue) on Dec. 19 and 20. This year's edition features new work and stories by Childs based on recent travels and research, including a desert trip that ended at the 2014 Burning Man festival—a fitting way to honor the Solstice and the return of light and longer days.

"I put on a show every year," Childs said. "I assemble my stories. They are adult stories—this is not a kid-friendly show. There are dark, scary things, things I have witnessed, situations I have got into that are very puzzling. I am the story teller, and around me are dancers, musicians and imagery."

The event has evolved into a local tradition for honoring the Solstice.

"Craig's performance lights up a usually long and dark night," commented longtime Paonia resident and writer Rand Kokernot.

The audiovisual show is theatrical and cathartic—and sure to sell out.

"Both nights usually sell out quickly," acknowledged Childs, whose storied career includes not only plenty of national awards and global recognition, but early work as a community journalist in Ridgeway and Ouray, where longtime locals still cherish copies of a special print edition that a youthful Childs wrote for Ridgeway's Centennial Celebration in 1990.

And though his childhood was spent in Arizona, and his work has taken him to the far reaches of the planet—far beyond the reach of comfort or even civilization—the author continues to make his home right here in West Central Colorado.

"I have been moving back and forth between Ouray and Paonia for the last 25 years," Childs said. "I seem to have settled into a tight geography. The writing is just

what I do; it feeds itself. I try to make a living, but really, it's more about the landscape."

Each of this region's little towns has a personality of its own, he said.

"I will have lived in every one of them before I die," Childs said.

The Childs family does intend to make a slight change soon, he noted, with a move to Telluride.

"Our kids will be in school up there, and my wife is a mountain and ski person," Childs said. "She has spent years in the pinion-juniper with me."

"Now, it's her turn."

Childs is a commentator for NPR's Morning Edition, and his work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal, Outside, The Sun, and Orion. He has won numerous awards including the 2011 Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Award, 2008 Rowell Award for the Art of Adventure, the 2007 Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award, and the 2003 Spirit of the West Award for his body of work.

The two-act DARK NIGHT show also features *Pascal's Ridiculous Wager*, written and performed by Angus Stocking, producer of *Confessions of a Heavy Thinker*, with supporting video, choreography, acting, and music from several accomplished performers from the North Fork Valley and beyond.

Doors open at 7 p.m., admission is \$20 pre-sale (Backcountry Bistro, Paonia; The Rose, Hotchkiss; The Paradise Theatre box office; and at [Brown Paper Tickets](#)), \$25 at the door. New for this year, Dark Night will have a pre-show VIP party at 6 pm, one hour before the doors open, both Friday and Saturday nights. VIPs will enjoy reserved front-stage table seating, drinks made and poured by mixer extraordinaire Angus Stocking, and a special booklet with journal entries and an unpublished story excerpt. VIP tickets (\$35) for each night are available only at local outlets: Backcountry Bistro in Paonia & The Rose in Hotchkiss. To purchase a VIP ticket(s), please email Andrea Lecos or call (970) 361-1336.

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) is now accepting applications for their 2015 academic scholarships. The co-op awards ten scholarships, totaling \$24,000, to graduating seniors from across the service territory. Applicants must attend school within SMPA's service territory, be a dependent of an SMPA member, be on schedule to graduate in 2015, and plan to attend a secondary education institution.

The Scholarships:

The San Miguel Power Association Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, is awarded to one graduating senior from each of the six area high schools within the service territory. The Tri-State Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, is awarded to two graduating seniors from the service territory. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, is

awarded to one graduating senior from the service territory.

The co-op also offers the sizable Wes Perrin Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing a degree and career in the energy industry. SMPA will award one deserving local graduate a \$2,500, four-year renewable scholarship in honor of James "Wes" Perrin. Perrin was a long time SMPA Board of Director representative and a passionate advocate for energy efficiency and renewable energy. SMPA's Board established the scholarship in memoriam after Perrin passed away from throat cancer in the spring of 2013. The scholarship is renewable over the course of four years and will total \$10,000. Applications are available online at www.smpa.com/Youth/scholarships.cfm. The deadline to apply is February 6, 2015. Late submissions will not be considered. Completed applications can be returned to: San Miguel Power

Attn. Becky Mashburn, PO Box 1150, Ridgway, CO 81432

Students may also submit applications electronically by emailing the documents to becky@smpa.com. For more information contact Becky at (970) 626-5549 ext. 212. 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.


CITY OFFERS STORM WATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING SESSION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The City of Montrose will be hosting an hour-long training session to discuss storm water management within the city. To accommodate various schedules, two training sessions are scheduled: Wednesday, December 17, at 10am and 5pm. Both trainings will take place in the Montrose City Hall Centennial Conference Room. Refreshments will be served.

Topics discussed will include the history of storm water regulation within the city, storm water permitting requirements for builders and general development, best practices to prevent storm water pollution, inspection preparation, and reporting of illicit discharges into the storm drain system. Time will also be available to answer any questions about the city's storm water program. Builders, contractors, developers, engineers, and any individuals interested in learning how storm water is managed within the city are encouraged to attend.

Questions regarding this training may be directed to City Engineer Scott Murphy at (970) 901-1792.



Celebrating 50 Years!
THE CENTER
FOR MENTAL HEALTH
www.centermh.org
1964-2014


Feeling Stressed?





We can help!

Call 970.252.3200
for more information

2130 E. Main St.
Montrose, CO 81401

In crisis?
call 970.252.6200




So Christmas is kind of your thing.



Are you “that” house during the holidays? The house that everyone braves the cold and snow to come see. The house with the blinking lights that are synced with the season’s top Christmas songs. That house with the electric meter that spins on double time. Wait, what? You’re still using the old school incandescent strands? I thought you were a Christmas light pro. Time to trade in those glass bulbs for LEDs. Why? Because they. . .

- **use 50% less energy**
- **last 10 times longer**
- **stay cool to the touch**
- **are more durable**
- **come in variety of colors, shapes, and lengths**



 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human cooperation®

(970) 626-5549 | (970) 864-7311
www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



EDITORIAL-CITY FUNDS FOR-PROFIT EVENT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS...

HOSPITALITY SUMMIT SHOWS \$4,387 SHORTFALL, OBT PROPOSES ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—Two separate meeting packets provided to community organizations this month reveal a planned restructuring of the almost two-year-old Montrose Office of Business & Tourism (OBT). The item is slated for consideration at the City Council work session Dec. 15 and is detailed in the packet for council, and was discussed also in a packet distributed to members of the Office of Business & Tourism's Advisory Committee (TRAC) for a Dec. 2 meeting.

At the heart of the proposal is a paper entitled "*Strategic Issues in Destination Management: From DMO to CMO*," prepared by Assistant City Manager and Office of Business & Tourism Director Rob Joseph.

The paper proposes a restructuring of the two-year-old OBT as a "Community Marketing Organization" rather than a "Destination Marketing Organization," a change that calls for, among other things, repurposing of the newly-created Downtown Visitor Center as an "attraction and destination" concierge; tours of "area as-

sets;" a City-developed educational curriculum; a customer service training course to include classrooms and online training; "re-branding" of the local government channel as Visit Montrose TV; and a "Locals Us It, Locals Love It," (sic) campaign. The change would also entail "partnerships" with local businesses and organizations it favors.

After all, the TRAC Packet also details how the City of Montrose waived fees for the privately-owned Montrose Daily Press to use the Pavilion from 5 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 18, and then partnered with the "news" organization on a Holiday Gift Preview event for which the Daily Press prepared and sold an expensive for-profit gift guide with lucrative paid advertising opportunities tied to vendor space.

"The CMO can help community clients construct distinct messages that contain the brand promise," the paper states, but does not mention community events except in passing. and ends with the question, "What space can we own in the marketplace that can be of value to the pro-

spective guest?"

Without answering this question with such unbearable sarcasm as, "We used to own a market space called 'Sweet Corn' that filled local hotel beds every summer and drew attention Coast to Coast," the Mirror simply suggests that the City make changes to the OBT leadership instead.

After all, the numbers shown for the Office of Business & Tourism's much-touted 2014 Hospitality Summit event, reveal expenses of \$33,108 but income of only \$28,721--a shortfall of \$4,387 despite expenditures of \$3,000 for public relations and \$8,455 on advertising.

Perhaps the City's OBT Director, whose resume lists absolutely no prior professional government or administrative experience despite his \$94,000 annual salary, is out of his league. The record of wasteful spending over the past two years has been well-documented in the Mirror; instead of yet another restructuring, let's see some bang for the tsunami of bucks spent to date. Experience, proven governmental leadership ability and qualifications do matter. After all, it's our money.



Work hard for your money?

**DON'T WASTE YOUR AD DOLLARS. SEE WHO STACKS UP...
ASK ABOUT CIRCULATION, THEN TURN TO THE ONLINE NEWSPAPER
THAT REACHES MORE READERS.
GOING WEEKLY ON MONDAYS IN 2015.**

970-275-5791

WWW.MONTROSEMIRROR.COM

WEST CENTRAL WOMEN OF INFLUENCE...JENNI SOPSIC



**Montrose Chamber
Director Jenni Sopsic.**
Courtesy photo.

*Interview by
Gail Marvel*
MONTROSE--
Jenni Sopsic
has held various
titles in the
community, but
her different
job descriptions
always revolved
around hospitality,
tourism, business,
marketing, visitors
and conventions.
She has been associated
with the Mont-

rose Chamber of Commerce for seven years and is now the Executive Director. "We [the Chamber] are a membership organization that advocates for businesses." Prior to coming to Montrose Jenni spent nine years in the hospitality industry with Hyatt Hotels and she even served as their wedding planner. Locally Jenni has served on the board for Habitat for Humanity and is a Rotarian.

It was in elementary school that Jenni first heard her name and leadership used in the same sentence. The students were in charge of organizing an end-of-school event and one teacher said, "Wow, Jenni has leadership skills." Jenni laughed, "I thought I was just bossing people around!"

Her parents and brother always knew she talked a lot, but it was confirmed in fourth grade when Jenni received the, "Jabber Gabber Award." She reasons that it is better to over-communicate than to under-communicate.

Jenni has always enjoyed pulling people together and is challenged by creating and implementing ideas and planning events. Her style of leadership includes educating others. "I know I won't be at the Chamber forever and if I trained someone who would one day replace me it would be a compliment to my effectiveness as a leader." Not only does she want to share her knowledge with others, but she wants to hear and learn from other people. "A good trait in a leader is listening and learning."

A hands-on leader, Jenni is one who rolls up her sleeves, gets her hands in the dirt and is part of the process. "You have to be in the trenches." However, Jenni admits that delegating has been a tough lesson for her to learn. "You can't do it all yourself; you need to step back. I'm now comfortable with letting staff take the reins, or committee members take ownership."

Overall Jenni feels her treatment in the media has been fair and equal — although no one likes to have negative things written about them. "When you're in a position where you interact with the public, you will be in the media. It's going to happen; you just hope that it's not going to be skewed. Unconsciously, you sign yourself up for it [being in the media] when you

take the job."

While working for Hyatt Jenni recognized that climbing the corporate ladder was more difficult for women because a higher number of men held positions as directors and CEOs. However, the tourism industry is market-driven and administered more by females. Rather than competing against one another, women focus on advocating for their communities; whether local, regional or statewide. "We're all working for the same cause. But I am a fighter, and I have no trouble standing up to either men or women, if it is something I believe in."

Jenni observes that some people and organizations use the words transparency and accountability to justify their actions; however the nuance of the words can leave the impression that partnering organizations are somehow lacking transparency and accountability. "It is very hurtful when the public is left with the impression that your organization is operating behind closed doors and that no one holds you accountable." The reality is that most boards in the community have staggered terms and term limits. Every year the turn-over changes the make-up of the board.

Jenni's advice to would be leaders:

"Don't lose your passion for what you believe in. Learn how to say "no" and to do five things well, rather than 10 things half-baked. Don't be afraid to fall on your face." She laughed, "Although I'd really rather not!"

Valerie Meyers' Weekly Monday



REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

from the Road

Valerie Meyers, Realtor, GRI
Coldwell Banker Bailey & Co.

2023 S. Townsend Ave. • Montrose, CO 81401
970-209-1378 Cell • 970-257-6748 Direct

*Click here to catch Valerie's weekly Monday
Real Estate Market Report video...from the road!*

THE COST OF COURAGE...KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE from pg 1



Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Montrose Police Officer Eric Girasia was on duty at the station Friday, Dec. 12.

"And alcohol is always a problem, one of our biggest issues."

With no taxi service operating in town, partiers are well advised to plan ahead and designate a driver, he said.

And though it is no secret that rural police departments tend to lose trained officers to larger forces, there are definite rewards for those who choose to stay. Chinn himself is a lifelong resident of Western Colorado, having graduated from high school in Cedaredge, where his family had orchards and worked in the fruit industry.

"Now THAT is a tough business," Chinn said. "You don't just have the weather, you have bug issues--in the 1960's my family grew a good percentage of Delta County's fruit--but I wouldn't trade for that! I love my job--there are good days and there are bad, but it is a very good job. We live in a very safe place, and we have the trust and respect of the people."

"Montrose is clean, and some of the best people in world are living right here."

In Delta, belt tightening has resulted in a more efficient police force, City Manager Justin Clifton said.

"I feel good about our budget," Delta City Manager Justin Clifton said. "We are running with one fewer officer than we were two years ago. We've reduced our overtime costs by about \$100,000 over the last few years. This has certainly presented some hardship on the department. But I'm proud of how our staff has responded. Leadership within the department, including the Chief of Police, has taken shifts on patrol when we've been short-handed. They've all done more with less

to help us be more efficient with tax payer dollars."

Local police officers, in many cases, can expect higher salaries in 2015, Clifton said.

"A wage survey the City completed this year revealed that many of our uniformed officers were paid below the market rate," he said. "Going into next year we will be adjusting all of those salaries. We would not have been able to make those adjustments without the hard work within the police department and throughout the City to be more efficient and cut unnecessary costs. I'm proud that we are able to use the savings from that hard work to take care of our employees and pay them what they deserve. We created the solutions to our problems without simply spending new money."

"I trust our department to keep this community safe and I admire the job they do every day."

In 2014, expenditures budgeted for Delta's Police Department were \$1,736,352.

According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's [Crime in Colorado](#) web site, which reports agency statistics from

across Colorado, in 2013 the Montrose Police Department dealt with 759 offenses including 163 assaults, 79 burglaries, four robberies, 495 instances of larceny and theft, 14 motor vehicle thefts, three cases of arson, and one rape. Also in 2013, the Montrose County Sheriff's office dealt with 335 offenses in 2013, including 153 assaults, 64 burglaries, 99 instances of larceny and theft, 14 motor vehicle thefts and five cases of rape.

The web site also notes that the Delta Police Department dealt with 520 offenses in 2013, but notably saw 16 cases of rape. The Delta County Sheriff's Office dealt with 139 offenses in 2013, half of which were cases of larceny or theft. No statistics were reported to CBI from Ouray County law enforcement agencies.

In Grand Junction, the police dealt with 3,341 offenses, including two cases of murder/manslaughter, in 2013, while the Mesa County Sheriff's Office handled 1,619 offenses.

"Yes, we do lose a lot of good people to larger places," Chinn said. "But that's just part of the business. We're doing very well here."

ALONE IN WONDERLAND

**CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THIS
LOVELY SEASONAL TRIBUTE**

*By Colorado's own Deb Barr
and Tommy Dean of Austin Texas*

.99 CENTS

DEB AND TOMMY

SMOKIE & THE BANDIT GARAGE



Smokie & the Bandit Garage and Two:20 Productions are owned by 20-somethings Shane and Joanna Daly. Courtesy photos.



Shane Daly.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-As Montrose continues to grow, new businesses keep popping up with young entrepreneurs at the helm. One such new business works to provide quality mechanic services for an affordable cost: Smokie & the Bandit Garage, owned by 20-somethings Shane and Joanna Daly. "Our goal is to keep vehicles on the road at an honest and affordable cost, rather than having our potential customers go into debt to buy a new car," Joanna said.

Shane has a long history of working with vehicles. He started working for E's Auto when he was 14 years old, then went to a trade school to learn about auto and diesel repairs from the leaders in the industry. He received an Associate's degree and graduated from a Cummins Diesel Engine Specialist Program with many Cummins engine certifications. From there, he worked a year for Cummins in Denver before finally coming back to his hometown of Montrose and starting his business in 2011. Beginning as a home-based business, Shane eventually decided

to open up an official shop this summer and make it his full time job.

"Most people desire to own their own business and to be their own boss, but not everyone pulls the trigger on that dream," Shane said. "One day, I came to the realization that the only thing keeping me from being self-employed and living my dream was me!"

Shane has many Cummins diesel Certifications, which is rare in Montrose, but Smokie & the Bandit Garage is not an exclusive shop. "Shane has yet to find a car that can get the better of him," Joanna explained. "We take pride in the diversity of our work."

"We have worked for many businesses and have seen some business policies that work and some that don't work," Shane added. "We have the fresh perspective of not having 'bad habits,' and we truly enjoy helping people. I will come tow your car to our shop, or if necessary, I will gladly come to you and fix it in your driveway or on the side of the road."

Smokie and the Bandit Garage aims to

help the community as well as turn a profit. The Garage give 10 percent of its profits to charities, churches, and people in need. In addition, starting in the New Year, they will offer how-to classes for the community, with basic car classes free for anyone interested. The

classes will cover checking your engine oil, changing a tire, topping off fluids and key things to look for when your vehicle just is not quite right. If these classes are popular, they hope to add more specific classes such as father/son nights. Since Shane has been working on cars for so long, he has helped a lot of people. One specific person sticks out in his mind. He said, "A couple of years ago, a lady came into the shop I was working at. She had spent several hundreds of dollars 'chasing' the problem, mechanics replacing parts and sending her on her way hoping it was the right fix (including my coworkers at this particular shop). I asked her if I could take it on a test drive to see if I could figure it out. Before I even got out of the parking space, I noticed that the latch for the back door was loose. After tightening it with a pocket screwdriver, the dash light went out, the rattle went away, and I didn't even have to charge her a dime." "I love problem solving," Shane added. "Stories such as that one are really what drive me." As for the future, Shane hopes to grow into a larger shop with more bays and more employees. Shane said, "I also hope to add a full-time field service/tow truck that will come fix what is broken, and if it can't be fixed where it broke down, we can bring it to where it CAN be fixed." Smokie & the Bandit Garage is located at 28 N Selig Ave in Montrose. For more information, call 970-316-2292 or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/



TWO:20 PRODUCTIONS



Joanna Daly.
Courtesy photo.

By Liesl Greathouse

MONTROSE-Husband and wife team Shane and Joanna Daly work to create the ultimate photography experience for each of their clients at Two:20 Productions. "We are visual storytellers," Joanna explained. "We capture a moment in time and help tell the story through photography and videography."

While Shane owns Smokie and the Bandit Garage, Joanna also works as an optometrist at Montrose Vision full time, however photography is one of her passions. She works as the main photographer of the team, having been a photographer since 2008 when she lived in New York City for optometry school. She originally started when she justified buying a 'fancy camera' by charging \$20 to take pictures for people. She would even go down to City Hall and take photos of eloping couples. "As my experience and expertise grew, I found out that I actually loved being trusted with precious family memories by taking their photos," she said.

Two:20 Productions started as Ultimate Photography because Joanna loved playing ultimate frisbee when she lived in New York City. When video was added to their business repertoire, they decided to change the name to Two:20 Productions to encompass both elements of storytelling. Joanna found out that there is so much more to memories than just the photographs of what people looked like. So she started getting into videography as well. "So much more of the whole story can be told with both photo and video," she added. Shane joined Two:20 Productions in 2013 and became an integral part of the business since they got married in early 2014. Shane loves weddings and family sessions, and he is great with kids.

Two:20 Productions can be considered a



'jack of all trades' studio, but its passion lies in the storytelling aspect of portraits. "We love when a woman celebrates losing 30 pounds, a couple cel-

brates 20 years of marriage or getting engaged, and a senior celebrates graduating high school and documents it with a session with us," Joanna said. "We not only want to help you remember what you looked like, but what you want to remember about this time in your life. When a client contacts Two:20 Productions, they are not just hiring someone to take their picture.

They are trusting us to preserve their family memories. We love each and every one of our clients. From the pre-consultation, to the viewing and ordering session, we guide our clients to an end product that they are proud to display in their home."

Two:20 Productions offers portrait sessions for families, children, engaged couples, married couples, high school seniors, and women. Wedding videography and photography services are available, along with corporate headshots, and real estate photography and videography. It also offers commercial advertising and event photography.

Creating a custom experience for each client is what sets Two:20 Productions apart. "These days, high quality cameras are everywhere," Joanna explained.

"Almost anyone can pick up a camera and take a pretty decent photo without knowing anything about photography. We are thankful for our professional equipment for sure, but the camera can only take the picture, it's the person behind the camera who makes the picture. We take pride in our care for each client. Every client has a pre-consultation where we talk about their expectations for the session. The session can be in our studio or at the location of their choice. We have several favorite locations, but we love when clients choose a place that is special to them. A week or two after their session, we have a fun Viewing and Ordering Appointment where they see their photos for the first time and

choose the best way to display their photos - whether it's in a keepsake album, a canvas gallery wrap, or a framed print, we have several choices to fit anyone's decor and budget."

Two:20 Productions works to help the local community in a variety of ways. It donates 10 percent of its profits to charity, non-profits and those in need. Shane and Joanna also photograph a few events per year for non-profits, such as the Life Choices Family Resource Center and Haven House. They also offer one or two mini session marathons per year for local fundraisers, such as Young Life. In February of 2015, Two:20 Productions will be hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. This class is traditionally offered through churches, but they wanted to give a chance for anyone in the community to benefit from a personal finance class. Next summer, the studio plans on hosting art galleries for local artists and high school students to showcase their work.

While Joanna has taken a lot of photographs in her life, one session stands out. "I photographed a high school senior several miles out of town at a ranch," Joanna explained. "She wanted her senior session to be totally unique to her, and it sure was! She rode her horse, posed with her dog, climbed up in a hay loft, held her favorite rifle, and rode her dirtbike. The drive up to the ranch was beautiful, and it was one of my favorite sessions to date."

The husband and wife team hope to continue to grow their business and client base doing what they love. "We love telling stories," Shane said.

"We love meeting new clients and exceeding their expectations. We also love documenting our current clients year after year."

"So many photographers just hand over the photos on a CD, but we believe we are doing our clients a disservice by leaving them to their own devices to figure out what to do with their photos," Joanna added. "We are professionals, and we believe it is our duty to help clients understand all their options and to help make the best decision for their families. We create a custom experience for each and every one of our clients.

"Each client will have the opportunity to leave our studio with tangible photographs - not just digital files."

The Two:20 Productions studio is located at 8 N Selig Ave in Montrose.

For more information, call 860-857-2987 or visit two20productions.com.

Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Fifteen minutes before worship was scheduled to begin the only vehicle in the parking lot at All Saints Anglican Church was a motorcycle. I entered the building and Steve Parish, the sound man, stepped into host-mode. He explained that the two services, the 8 am traditional and 10 am contemporary, are very different in personality and attendance. This day (July 13, 2014) there were only eight of us who worshipped together at the traditional service.

Before service began Reverend Robert Munday, who came to All Saints in September 2013, introduced himself and explained that most of the congregation go to the contemporary service, which averages 80 in attendance. The main difference between the two services is the music presentation and accompaniment. The sermon text, which is planned three years in advance, is identical for both services.

Although the traditional service was small in number, the lack of people offered an interesting environment of quiet peace. I had to laugh though. It was so quiet that I could actually hear the soft crinkle of my Bible when I flipped from one page to another.

other.

The prelude selections included the modern song, "I Exalt Thee" and the opening song, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," reached back to 1747.

Responsive readings are an important element of the worship service and having them in the bulletin made it easy to participate in the service.

Some unreferenced Scripture readings were blended with theological writing, making quotes from the Bible more difficult to recognize.

The Gospel lesson, "The Parable of the Sower," came from Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Many of today's sermons are based on one or two verses of Scripture, but this message was presented in the fullness of the parable.

While this church uses a Gospel lesson text that is preselected, the Reverend has flexibility and creativity in the way the material presented. The lesson began by reading the entire text before dissecting the elements of the parable and interspersing it with illustrations and examples.

Reverend Munday noted that this parable might be better titled, "The Parable of the Soil." Highlighting the four soil types —

hard, shallow, weed infested and good, he challenged the worshippers to identify the soil of their life. "The good news is we get to choose what type of soil we want to be. We need to dig deep and let the desire of God to do something in our lives."

The elements for the Eucharist were a single broken wafer and a single cup. Worshippers were invited to go forward, kneel and accept the emblems that represent the body and blood of Christ.

The worship service for this church is very structured, even down to a time of greeting and exchanging a sign of peace to one another.

During the brief announcements the congregants were reminded of the church's involvement in Kyros, the prison ministry supported by many area churches.

Worship came to a close by singing, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" and it brought to mind that whether we number eight or 80, we are all, "soldiers of the cross."

Contact Information:
All Saints Anglican Church
2057 S. Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-2451

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 publica-



Montrose Memorial Hospital is
Dedicated to Providing the Very
Best in Medical Services & Staff

Montrose Colorado is perhaps one of the most beautiful destinations on earth. Those of us who live here count it a privilege and a blessing to call such a place home.

The beauty of life in the Rockies is complimented by the quality services and care delivered by Montrose Memorial Hospital to our friends and family. Whether you live here or are simply visiting, we want your stay in Montrose to be a healthy one.



Cardiology Services

Joint Replacement Center
and much more!

Complete Cancer Care

www.MontroseHospital.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY SENATOR ELLEN ROBERTS

At last with snow on the ground, it feels like December. That, combined with the increased frequency of phone calls and meetings mean that, before long, the Colorado legislative session 2015 starts. For that, I'll be packing up to move to Denver, coming home on the weekends, if the weather allows.

I've received my committee assignments and they include chairing the Senate Judiciary committee and serving as vice-chairwoman of the Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy committee. After the regular session ends in May, I'll be chairing the interim Water Resources Review Committee, which coincides with continued work on the state water plan as proposed by the governor and the executive branch. All of these assignments are good for my district and will present lots of interesting challenges and work ahead.

I'm carrying fewer bills this session than in previous years as, in addition to the committee assignments mentioned above, I'll be balancing my new role and responsibilities as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Having served in the Senate for 4 years already, the rules and procedures aren't new to me, but being in the position of personally enforcing them is, and I look

forward to that as well.

Several of the bills I'm carrying as the prime sponsor stem from the interim committee work I did this past summer and fall in the natural resources policy areas of water and wildfire. The wildfire committee bills include such topics as reauthorizing the wildfire mitigation grant programs, offering the option of a nonprofit organizational structure for volunteer fire departments and allowing owners of agricultural land destroyed by wildfire temporary property tax relief similar to that provided to landowners impacted by flooding.

My first bill for the session relates to an earlier bill I carried requiring the state to identify the current emergency communications gaps in Colorado. My 2015 bill allows a few more months for the assessment to be completed and this short delay is at the request of those completing the work such as fire chiefs and emergency managers. From the assessment report, we'll need to develop an action plan for how to close those gaps that are especially evident in mountainous areas such as in my district in southwestern Colorado, but include urban pockets as well.

The emergency communications system must function well statewide so that our

first responders have the best information available to them whether they are responding to a flood, wildfire or school shooting. The price tag of addressing the problems brought out by the needs assessment will likely be significant as technology and infrastructure will be necessary. Yet, public safety is a core function of government and I will advocate strongly for doing what it takes as quickly as possible to get a truly comprehensive and complete emergency communications system.

In addition to preparing for the 2015 session, I've been attending meetings and delivering legislative presentations with constituents around the district. While in Denver for another meeting of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council, I proudly watched the awesome Durango High School theater performance of "Les Misérables" as the students celebrated their first place win of a multi-state competition.

We live far from downtown Denver, but the many and varied accomplishments from across my district are recognized and appreciated statewide – happy holidays and let it snow!

Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator

Interim Contact Information:

P.O. Box 3373 Durango, CO 81302

Home phone: (970) 259-1589

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA AWARDED GRANT FUNDING FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Special to the Mirror

ECKERT- Volunteers of America - Senior Community Meals has been awarded \$3,500.00 as part of the Meals On Wheels Association of America's (MOWAA) Opportunity-Based Grants Program. This special grant offer dramatically underscored the great need for additional funding among the MOWAA member programs across the country by generating more than 400 submissions requesting nearly \$3.4 million.

All Opportunity-Based Grant funding was raised through the 2013 Subaru "Share the Love" event. In total, the Association received a pool of \$1.35 million to be granted back to MOWAA Members during 2014. More than \$600,000 of this funding had already been granted. This grant program places the remaining \$750,000 into the hands of members that will put it to use

to support America's seniors.

As a condition of the Subaru grant, MOWAA is required to distribute funds in allocations that correspond to state-by-state vehicle sales and leases during the 2013 "Share the Love" event. Therefore, the level of available funding varied by state and was the first criteria required to consider. The level of impact these grants can create in communities is also evaluated.

Senior CommUnity Meals will receive half of the grant award in late November and the remaining half on or before Dec. 12, 2014.

Joe Walker, Meals Program Director said, "This generous opportunity grant from Meals on Wheels comes at a great time. With our recent return to delivering hot meals in most of the communities we serve, we will use the funds to both pro-

mote the program and increase volunteer driver recruitment. Our home delivered meals program depends on volunteer drivers. The more seniors we serve, the more volunteers we need."

The Meals On Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest national organization composed of and representing local, community-based Senior Nutrition Programs in all 50 U.S. states, as well as the U.S. Territories. Their headquarters are located in Alexandria, Virginia.

Senior CommUnity Meals prepares hot lunches at seven community meal sites across Montrose, Delta and San Miguel Counties and delivered approximately 53,589 meals to qualified homebound seniors last year. For more information on Senior CommUnity Meals program, visit www.seniorcommunitymeals.org <<http://www.seniorcommunitymeals.org>.

CORAM, ROBERTS SPEAK TO CONSTITUENTS AT CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF



Constituents gather at Bridges Dec. 2 to hear from Rep. Don Coram and Senator Ellen Roberts.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Two of the Western Slope's state legislators convened at Bridges of Montrose Dec. 2 for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce's Annual Legislative Kickoff. Colorado's Dist. 59 Rep Don Coram joined Dist. 6 Sen. Ellen Roberts to talk about the issues facing the region and the state in coming months. Colorado's statewide water plan and health of the region's forests are among the hot button issues for the coming session.

What has been missing at the state level, Roberts told constituents, is concern for rural Colorado.

"An idea might be great for an urban area," Roberts agreed, "but won't work out our way...yet our objections don't always register as having merit...what we need to introduce again is common sense." Being in the majority party at the Senate will be a welcome change, she noted.

"I believe being in the majority will help us foster discussions," she said. "After all, I live in Denver for four months of the year--I am well acquainted with their issues. But it is hard to get them to come over here and listen to our issues."

The statewide water plan was Governor Hickenlooper's idea, she added, and in the beginning the Western Slope was not part of the discussion.

"We were left out at first," she said. "There was no place for the Western Slope in the Water plan until we passed a bill last year. But water is money--it is the most essential resource for

anything. So it doesn't matter if it is the Western Slope or anyplace else--if you're talking water, the whole state should be involved, because the talks will result in policy."

The goal of the water plan "is not supposed to be to replace Prior Appropriations," Roberts said.

"The Western Slope has 15 percent of the state's population," she said, "but eighty percent of the state's water. So we want to be sure that when they develop the water plan, they think of us."

"Please be involved," Coram urged constituents. "Be very wary of the power of Denver and trans-mountain diversions.

"There has been talk of trying to 'tweak' prior appropriations, and it scares me," he said. "When they talk about wanting farmers to fallow 20 percent of their land, I wonder how many businesses could survive that?"

"I can understand why Denver is pushing

that," Coram said. "Most trans-mountain diversions are junior rights. So if there's a call, they are hit before we are."

Tough water issues will not evaporate, Roberts said, making increased storage paramount.

"We had nine hearings across the state," she said, "and we saw great turnout. We consistently heard that we need more storage.

"It's a drought a delivery issue," she said. "We have to deliver water even in times of drought."

Roberts, who serves on Colorado's Wild-fire Committee, knows that water is also key to forest health.

"The quantity and quality of water affects the health of our forests," she said, adding, "and by forest health, I mean that we should manage our forests instead of letting beetles manage our forests."

Noting that a "dead forest is not a carbon reserve," Colorado Timber Project Director and Public Lands Partnership Board Member Nancy Fishing commented on the organized environmental activism being leveled at local forests.

"You never read about it," Fishing said, "But they define forest health in a way that takes forest out of the issue...they are trying to shut down our timber program. They are organized, and winning in subtle ways that could shut down our economy."

Fishing, whose family is involved in agriculture, also expressed concern over Federal manipulation of the guest worker program and potential impacts to local agriculture.

"We bring at least 200 workers in for the harvest," she said, "and we do it legally. "We need to know, come March, that we can bring our workers in."





**One Number.
Many Solutions.**

1-844-VOA-4YOU



**Volunteers
of America®**



[www.facebook.com/
VOAWesternSlope](http://www.facebook.com/VOAWesternSlope)

Confidential Assistance with...

**HEALTHCARE
HOUSING
EMPLOYMENT
VOLUNTEERING**

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MHS PRESENTS DIVISION AWARDS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Eleven students from Montrose High School were awarded the Division Award for December. 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. Division Award Recipients: Front row L-R Paige McCracken, Krystal Finch, Makalyn Rider, Cameron McClemons and Bryanna Alvarado. Back row L-R Aaron Sinton, Mauricio Zuniga, Mallory Schmitz, Cameron Avirett, Jack Gore and Skylar Tubbs.

HONORABLE MENTION

To Altrusa's Sandra Tyler for PR done right, and for making our job easier...

To Melanie Kline and Emily Smith of Welcome Home Montrose and the Warrior Resource Center, for bringing unprecedented attention to the Montrose community, and for giving so much of your time to benefit local veterans...

To Ryan at Straw Hat Farm Store, for excellent customer service and a positive attitude...

To our readers, writers, sponsors and advertisers...thanks for a great 2014!


REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SANTA BRINGS HIS WORKSHOP TO CREAMERY ARTS CENTER

Special to the Mirror


HOTCHKISS-Saturday, Dec. 20th is going to be extra special at the Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss! Santa's helpers will be on hand to help kids and adults make 3 different "make and take" Christmas tree ornaments. The whole family will enjoy this event! After you're finished making your ornaments head on over to the cookie decorating table and enjoy cookies and some hot chocolate. Santa's workshop will be open from Noon til 4pm while supplies last. \$10 per person includes all materials to make three different ornaments. There will be three separate stations set up for making the ornaments so several people can be working at once. And don't forget the complimentary cookies and hot chocolate. It's sure to be a fun day! Call 970-872-4848 to reserve your ornaments, as supplies are limited. The Creamery is located at 165 W. Bridge Street in Hotchkiss. To see pictures of the ornament projects go to www.creameryartscenter.org.






**“The easiest way to
make a difference.”**


Each time you use your Arts Loyalty Card,
Alpine Bank donates ten cents per transaction
to help local, art-related programs.




Stop by any Alpine Bank and ask us about our
Loyalty Debit Card program, or visit us online at
www.alpinebank.com.



Alpine Bank





1400 E. Main Street | 970.249.0400 • 2770 Alpine Drive | 970.240.0900



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.

www.facebook.com/VOAWesternSlope



ARTS & CULTURE

WEEHAWKEN PRESENTS POLAR EXPRESS AT MONTROSE PAVILION



Lora Slawitschka snapped this photo of a dancer in mid leap at the 2013 performance of Polar Express. Courtesy image.

REGIONAL-Since its publication in 1985, Chris Van Allsburg's "The Polar Express" has touched the hearts of millions of readers. It tells the story of Christmas Eve when a boy is awakened by a steam train that pulls up in front of his house and takes him and other children to the North Pole.

This adventure follows a doubting boy, who takes an extraordinary train ride that sends him onto a journey of self-discovery and shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. In 2004

and find the magic that will inspire you to "believe" yourself again! Weehawken's "Polar Express" features a cast of over 100, ranging from ages 3-17.

The students have been rehearsing since September and are primed and ready to perform for an enthusiastic audience. Whether or not you know a student in the Weehawken Dance program, Weehawken assures you of an enjoyable audience experience. Pyeatte's shows are structured like a real ballet, so the experience is appropri-

ate for any audience. Van Allsburg's book became a movie, and on December 19 and 20, young dancers from Cedaredge to Ouray will bring the story to the stage as a ballet with Weehawken Dance.

Join Artistic Director, Miss Natasha Pyeatte and enjoy the debut of a new holiday tradition for the area. Take a journey with this adorable cast to the North Pole

ate for any audience.

"We are thrilled to be able to delight audiences of all ages with our version of this new holiday classic," Executive Director, Ashley King said. "Weehawken's 'Polar Express' isn't just a ballet performance, it's a special event for all ages and a treasured holiday tradition. We'll even have Santa in the lobby for pictures at this fun, family event."

This show will be held at the **Montrose Pavilion on Friday, December 19th**. The show will start at **6 pm (doors @ 5:30)**. On **Saturday, December 20th, the show will start at 2 pm (doors @ 1:30)**. General Admission Tickets for Weehawken's "Polar Express" are available in Ouray at Mouse's Chocolates, in Ridgway at Cimarron Coffee and Books, at the Weehawken Office, at Tiffany, Etc (in Montrose) and online at www.weehawkenarts.org starting mid-November.

Reserved Section seats are also available for rows 1-6, ONLY through Weehawken Creative Arts by phone at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150).

General Admission Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$8 for children under 12 and \$10 for Seniors (65+) at the Saturday Matinee.

For more information please contact Weehawken Creative Arts at questions@weehawkenarts.org; call Weehawken at [970.318.0150](tel:970.318.0150) or visit them



Dr. Wallach & Dr Gliddens's Free Video Health Series! Learn what most MD's don't want you to know!!!

More info 596-2158 or 596-5819

Montrose-6:30pm at the Coronado Professional Building Corner of East Main and Mesa Ave.

Diabetes, Blood Sugar Issues, Friday Dec 5th.

Strengthen the Immune System, Thursday Dec 11th

Acid Reflux, GERD, Friday Dec 19th

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIBBON CUTTING-1 HOUR EYEDOCs



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Chamber of Commerce Redcoats helped celebrate the opening of 1 Hour EyeDocs, LLC with a ribbon cutting. They are located at 1871 E. Main Street (next to the San Juan Theater).

MONTROSE ALTRUSA RECOGNIZED BY BOSOM BUDDIES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Altrusa International of Montrose, Co., Inc. was recently recognized by Bosom Buddies of Southwestern Colorado

(www.bosombuddiesswc.org) for their involvement with the annual Bosom Buddies walk/run for 20 years to raise awareness and prevention of breast cancer. The local club was presented with a glass etched pink ribbon plaque that states: "Always One Step Closer to Hope and Help."

Shown in the photo are Altrusa members from left to right: Janyne Yehling, Chair of Spring Luncheon Committee, Margaret Goodhue, 2014-2015 President-Elect and Altrusa chair for the Bosom Buddies Walk/Run, Marianne Cross-holding the plaque and 2014-2015 President, and Allison Nadel, 2013-2014 President.

ARTS & CULTURE

CMU, WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL PRESENT DR. ERNESTO SAGAS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Is nature merely property or an entity deserving of rights? In 2008 Ecuador became the first country in the world to choose the latter definition, giving Pachamama, Mother Earth, legal rights and standing in court.

Dr. Ernesto Sagas will discuss Ecuador's attempts to protect nature while also courting international oil companies at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, at the Carolyn D. Love Recital Hall at Colorado Mesa University. His presentation is free and open to the public.

He will examine Ecuador's 2008 Constitution and the inclusion of Pachamama and sumak kawsay, ("good living"), indigenous views of nature that are being used to redefine the relationship between humans and their environment by relying on traditional Andean beliefs. He will also discuss the

impact of Pachamama and sumak kawsay as environmental justice concepts that seek to challenge the materialistic world view inherent in colonial capitalism.

Sagas is Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at Colorado State University. He has a Ph.D. in political science from University of Florida and specializes on Latina/o politics, transnational migration, environmental justice, and Latin American politics.

Sagas is the author of *Race and Politics in the Dominican Republic*, and co-editor of *The Dominican People: A Documentary History*, and *Dominican Migration: Transnational Perspectives*.

He just finished a book on political transnationalism and overseas voting among Latin American immigrants in the United States, and has started new research projects on Latinos in Colorado and the im-

pact of climate change on Andean communities in Peru's Cordillera Blanca.

Sagas has also been a political analyst for CNN en Español, Univisión and other news media since 2004, commenting on issues ranging from U.S. domestic politics and elections, to foreign affairs.

His presentation is cosponsored by The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Colorado Mesa University and the World Affairs Council of Western Colorado.

WACWC is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization aspiring to provide a more globally-informed citizenry prepared to succeed in this changing global economy. WACWC is accomplishing this through providing forums, speakers and educational outreach on topics concerning foreign events, U.S. foreign policies, and different cultures and religions.

Make the Season Bright

LED holiday lights use 90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs!

They're also...

- **Warm** These days, LEDs come in warm, inviting *colors* in variety of light beam patterns and dimming speeds, giving you lots of creative options for decorating.
- **Long-Lasting** LEDs last longer than traditional lights with an operational life span of about 20,000 hours—enough to last for *40 holiday seasons!*
- **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.*



DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.asc.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

MIRROR IMAGES...OUT ON THE TOWN!



Above, Julia and Kenny Meek pitch in with restoration work at the Montrose Masonic Building Lark and Sparrow venue, scheduled to open in spring.



Above, Treasurer Rod Britten and Vice President Jean Aaro (above) and Vote 411 Chair Karen Connor and Secretary Nancy Ball (below) of the Montrose-Delta League of Women Voters Holiday Open House at Bridges of Montrose Dec. 11.



Holiday decorations, left, and scenes from the 2014 Montrose Parade of Lights, below and below right.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DMTC NURSING STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured are P.E.O. members back row left to right: Beverly Jean Smith, Donna Widner, and Sue Hicks. Front row left to right: Susan Triebwasser, Geni Medvesk, and Jean Dimmick. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The BK chapter of P.E.O., a philanthropic educational organization, presented the Alice Penick Memorial Scholarship to Delta-Montrose Technical College Practical Nursing student Geni Medvesk. Medvesk is currently completing her first semester of the Practical Nursing program at DMTC and plans to continue her education to earn an RN-BSN. Her goal is to become a Director of Nursing in a long-term care facility working with geriatric patients.

The Alice Penick Memorial Scholarship is given to a nursing student to honor Alice Penick's years of work as a nurse. Penick, who passed away in February 2013, was instrumental in starting the hospice program in Grand Junction in the late 1970s, and was also involved in starting the hospice program in Delta. She was a member of the BK chapter of P.E.O.

P.E.O. is an international philanthropic educational organization promoting educational opportunities for women. It was founded at Iowa Wesleyan College in Iowa, in January 1869. The Colorado State Chapter was the fourth state chapter of P.E.O. and was organized on January 23, 1903.

MHS FBLA COLLECTS RECORD AMOUNT OF FOOD FOR SHARING MINISTRIES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter at Montrose High School collected 803 pounds of food for Sharing Ministries Food Bank. According to FBLA Adviser, Jayna Simpson, "this is a record amount for their annual food drive." The students would like to thank the Otter Pond and Cobble Creek communities for their generosity.



ARTS AND CULTURE

MONTHLY FILM SERIES PRESENTS "A MOST WANTED MAN"

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! Doors open at 7:00 and show starts at 7:30 pm. Admission to each film is \$7. Popcorn, candy, and a full bar will be available each film night.

Sunday, December 28th: A Most Wanted Man

Philip Seymour Hoffman's final film to the screen, Sunday, Dec. 28th, at The Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, CO. The film is based on a book by master spy novelist John le Carré and stars Hoffman, Rachel McAdams, Robin Wright and Willem Dafoe.

The film is set in Hamburg and concerns a half-Chechen, half-Russian, brutally-tortured immigrant who turns up in the city's Islamic community laying claim to his father's ill-gotten fortune. Both German

and US security agencies take a close interest in the man: as the clock ticks down and the stakes rise, the race is on to establish this most wanted man's true identity - oppressed victim or destruction-bent extremist? A Most Wanted Man is a contemporary, cerebral tale of intrigue, love, rivalry, and politics that prickles with tension - right through to its last heart-stopping scene. It is also a tale of the ruthlessness of the American Intelligence community, something that not even Hoffman's character can overcome. Finally, it is a showcase of a great American actor

RING IN THE NEW YEAR THREE TIMES AT RIDGWAY'S SHERBINO!

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Come ring in the New Year three times- at The Sherbino!!

The Sherbino is going big this year and wrapping three New Year's celebrations into one night. Come ring in the east coast, Colorado, and west coast New Years in style!

To celebrate three New Years in one night, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets include: two champagne

toasts, live music from top notch jazz band, The Kevin McCarthy Trio, and a dance party with music from DJ Antone out of Telluride.

Dressing to the nines is highly encouraged but not required. Doors and cash bar open at 7:30 pm and the jazz music will kick off the event at 8 pm.

The jazz will take a quick break for the first New Year's toast at 10 pm, and then start right back up again until 11 pm, when

DJ Antone takes over the music to keep people dancing through the night up until the west coast New Years.

The only thing to stop the party will be a champagne toast at midnight for Colorado's New Years!!

***For those who would like to join the party later in the evening, tickets at the door will drop to \$10 at 10:45pm. This will include one champagne toast and live music from DJ Antone.

PARTNERS SHARES SPIRIT OF SEASON WITH CRAFT WORKSHOP



Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Junior and senior partners gathered in Delta on Saturday, Dec. 13 for a fun craft making workshop. Participants worked together to make bulletin boards, braided bracelets and other crafts. Courtesy images by Brad Switzer.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN SKYWAYS, SAMARITAN AVIATION PARTNER TO HELP PNG



Al Head of Western Skyways is pictured with Samaritan Aviation Board Chair Joey Burns and Project Coordinator Erik Barker at Western Skyways on Dec. 2. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- For the second time in five years, a local business and a non-profit organization have partnered to help save the lives of people living in a remote jungle half way around the world. Western Skyways has given a generous donation to help provide an aircraft engine for Samaritan Aviation's second floatplane, which is being built for emergency and medical supply flights in Papua New Guinea.

Samaritan Aviation began conducting life flights in Papua New Guinea with a Cessna 206G Floatplane in April of 2010.

The engine on Samaritan Aviation's first floatplane plane was also provided by Western Skyways and is still in operation. It has provided hundreds of hours of trouble-free flights that are conducted in one of the most remote jungles in the world. Since flight operations began in 2010, more than 330 lives have been saved; 60 percent of these lives are women suffering with life or death pregnancy complications.

More than 100,000 pounds of medical supplies have been flown to the 37 aid posts located along the Sepik River in East

Sepik Province. Because of the needs in this remote part of the country, having a second plane and additional pilots is a high priority for the organization. Samaritan Aviation owns the only floatplane in the country.

The Papua New Guinea government is grateful for the services of Samaritan Aviation and relies heavily on this organization to transport their sick and dying citizens to the only hospital in this particular region. The PNG government recently awarded a grant to Samaritan Aviation to assist with the purchase of this second floatplane. Samaritan Aviation is currently raising more funds to retrofit this plane for service in Papua New Guinea.

Joey Burns, the Chairman of the Board of Samaritan Aviation and owner of Lone Eagle Land Brokerage, says none of these lives could have been rescued without the power plant and craftsmanship that Western Skyways has provided Samaritan Aviation. Founded in 1993, Western Skyways is recognized as one the premier remanufacturers of high quality aircraft companies in the country. Burns met with Al Head, the owner and President of Western Skyways, as well as Erik Barker the project coordinator of this project on Tuesday Dec. 2nd at Western Skyway's facility located at the Montrose Airport to officially receive the newly-rebuilt engine. Barker was the project coordinator and worked closely with Bruce Johnson, a floatplane pilot and Advisory Board Member on Samaritan's Aviation Committee. Johnson is currently helping oversee the rebuild project of the second floatplane, which will begin flight operations by the end of 2015.



Style to boot.
Coverage to last.

The Mirror

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DONATES TO ANCIANO TOWER



Photo of items taken to Anciano Towers by member Elaine Moore, right, and friend and former member Becky Wolford, left. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-In our third year of support for the low-income residents of Anciano Tower, Altrusa International of Montrose, CO. Inc. changed the focus from the prior years.

At the suggestion of the Member Services Director at the Tower, we agreed to provide three items only for each of the residents: laundry detergent, dish soap and toilet paper.

Members donated \$371 to add to the \$250 line item in the 2014-2015 Service Budget. Elaine Moore agreed to chair the effort to purchase the items and coordinate delivery.

After learning that plastic jugs of liquid laundry detergent do not ship well (only 2 of 8 cases arrived; six were damaged in transit), the balance of all the requested

items were purchased at the local WalMart. The manager of the Household Products department, Roger Johnson, was extremely helpful in coordinating the special orders.

Sandra L. Tyler asked 5 local dentists: Dr. Bloss, Dr. Clader at Colorado Smiles, Dr. Drakulich, Dr. Stucky, and Drs. Spencer-Gross and Dodsworth at True Grin, to each donate 10 toothbrushes, 10 toothpastes, and 10 dental floss (or mouth wash) to the project for the 49 residents. They were glad to be asked and most helpful to the project.

Of the \$250 line item, only \$109 was used because of the generosity of our members' donations.

Altrusa International of Montrose, Co. Inc. was glad to support these valued members of our community.

ANNUAL ALTRUSA HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF TREES AND GIFTS RAISES MORE THAN 10K

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The annual Holiday Festival of Trees and Gifts at Well Fargo Bank downtown on Nov. 21, 2014 was another success as a result of the hard work by the members of Altrusa International of Montrose, CO., Inc., the sponsors, and the community members who came, saw, and bought with open hearts.

The Nov. 21 Annual Holiday Festival of Trees and Gifts Fund-Raising saw over 111 items for silent auction--trees, wreaths, swags, centerpieces, gift baskets, and other items. Food was provided plus wine and beer.

Those present bid on the items until closing and then paid and went home happy with their items as shown in the photo.

Altrusa realized an amount over \$10,000 from the event after expenses that will be used for many of the goals of the organization and their club projects to help others and organizations within the community and within the National Altrusa Club.

At right, two happy attendees at the Holiday Festival of Trees and Gifts.

Courtesy photo.



CB SANTA SKI DAY BREAKS WORLD RECORD!

Special to the Mirror

CRESTED BUTTE - Crested Butte Mountain and Iron Orchid Events set a world record at the second annual Santa Ski Day event Dec. 13, with an estimated 765 skiers and snowboarders in Santa Suits. The inaugural event kicked off on Dec. 14, 2013 and was just 77 Santas short of the existing world record of 500. Iron Orchid Vice President of New Business Shaun Matusewicz (shown at left) described it as "pure fun wrapped in a red felt suit." Santas met at Uley's Cabin and Ice House bar located on the mountain at 2:30 pm, gathering to take their group run down the mountain at 3:30 pm. Santa Ski participants were required to wear a Santa hat, top, pants and beard to qualify for a Santa Ski lift ticket. Many upped the creativity with their costumes, including Elvis Santa. The third annual event is scheduled for Dec. 12, 2015.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ALTRUSA PRESENTS APPLE AWARD



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The members of Altrusa International of Montrose, Co., Inc. presented the December Apple Award from the Literacy Committee to Kim Carrillo, teacher at Centennial Middle School. Photo shows Ms. Kim Carrillo on the left, Altrusa member Dr. Sheryl Solow in the center, and Centennial Middle School Principal Joe Simo on the right.

When Principal Joe Simo was asked to select a teacher at the school he immediately thought of Kim as they have been connected for more than 12 years when he taught her youngest daughter in Delta.

Ms. Carrillo is the Tech instructor at Centennial and presents highly engaging projects to her students. As Joe said, "If I can dream it, she can build it!"

Both Joe and Kim thanked Altrusa for their Apple Award program that recognizes a teacher each school month for their work with students, our future. Ms Carrillo was awarded a certificate of appreciation and \$25 in Montrose Bucks.

ASTRA CLUB DECORATES WREATHS, SUPPORTS TANDEM FAMILIES



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--ASTRA International of Montrose, CO., Inc., the teen version of Altrusa International of Montrose, CO., Inc. has successfully cut tree bows and turned them into 30 beautifully decorated wreaths.

The money donations from these wreaths will be turned into gifts that encourage family involvement during the holiday season for 30 Tandem families.

Shown in the attached photo taken by Altrusa member Tracie Reif are ASTRA members Macy Webb-Alexander, Annika Sheya, McKenna Sjoden, Caitlin O'Meara, Callie Storter, Hope Morris, Torunn Hotsenpiller, Altrusa Member Joyce Loss, Mrs. Storter, mother, and MHS teacher Kathleen Pirani, kneeling in the front.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

USDA: GREATER PROTECTION FOR FRUIT, VEGETABLE, SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS

Special to the Mirror

WASHINGTON, DC— Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that greater protection is now available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for crops that traditionally have been ineligible for federal crop insurance. The new options, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provide greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops such as vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, and energy crops.

"These new protections will help ensure that farm families growing crops for food, fiber or livestock consumption will be better able to withstand losses due to natural disasters," said Vilsack. "For years, commodity crop farmers have had the ability to purchase insurance to keep their crops protected, and it only makes sense that fruit and vegetable, and other specialty crop growers, should be able to purchase similar levels of protection. Ensuring these farmers can adequately protect themselves from factors beyond their control is also critical for consumers who enjoy these products

and for communities whose economies depend on them."

Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.

The expanded protection will be especially helpful to beginning and traditionally underserved producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium reductions for expanded coverage. More crops are now eligible for the program, including expanded aquaculture production practices, and sweet and biomass sorghum. For the first time, a range of crops used to produce bio-energy will be eligible as well.

"If America is to remain food secure and continue exporting food to the world, we need to do everything we can to help new farmers get started and succeed in agriculture," Vilsack said. "This program will help new and socially disadvantaged farmers affordably manage risk, making farming a much more attractive business propo-

sition." To help producers learn more about the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and how it can help them, USDA, in partnership with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois, created an online resource. The Web tool, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap, allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage. It also gives them an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation.

If the application deadline for an eligible crop has already passed, producers will have until Jan. 14, 2015, to choose expanded coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. To learn more, visit the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local FSA office at offices.usda.gov. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers the program, also wants to hear from producers and other interested stakeholders who may have suggestions or recommendations on the program. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 13, 2015 and can be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

THE RIPPEDEN RAVEN
COFFEE & ESPRESSO

Breakfast and other sandwiches!

LOCAL MILK ✓
 LOCAL EGGS ✓
 LOCALLY ROASTED ORGANIC COFFEE ✓

970-275-3265
 8 S. GRAND AVE
 MONTROSE, CO
 MONTROSECOFFEESHOP.COM

Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

ONGOING-

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE-performances of Talley's Folly will be Jan. 19-20, 16-17, 23-24. Sunday matinees Jan. 11 and 18. Ticket sales open Jan. 6 at the Magic Circle Box Office at 420 South 12th St. Call 970-249-7838 for information. Box office hours 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

MONTROSE INDOOR FARMERS MARKET— Every other Saturday through April 25. 10 am -1pm, Centennial Hall and Behind Straw Hat Farms Store, S. 1st and Uncompahgre.

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.

TAIZE-STYLE SERVICES OF MUSIC, PRAYER AND MEDITATION on Scripture are offered on the first Thursday of the month, except June, July and August, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. Montrose United Methodist Church. Next service will be Jan. 1st 2015.

Dec. 15-Region 10 SBRC presents Options for Building Affordable and Beautiful Web Sites—Longtime Paonia web designer and Paonia.com founder Christy Eller of Wired Right Web Design shares her expertise with you, at the HIVE from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Region

Dec. 16-Beethoven Birthday Concert with Pianist Frank French, 7 p.m. Atrium of Grand Valley 3260 North 12th Street, Grand Junction. Seating for this free performance is limited and reservations are requested. Please send your requests to frank@frankfrench.info or call 644-7207 and state how many people in your party will be attending.

Dec. 17-Music at United Methodist Church, Noon. Debbie Turner, Soprano.

Dec. 17-City of Montrose Stormwater Training Sessions, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Both trainings will take place in the Montrose City Hall Centennial Conference Room. Refreshments will be served. Questions regarding this training may be directed to City Engineer Scott Murphy at (970) 901-1792.

Dec. 19-21—(5 pm - 8 pm) GARDEN OF LIGHTS at the Montrose Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Dr. off Niagara. Six nights to meander through illuminated garden paths, hayrides, snacks & hot cocoa/coffee, Tipi with storytellers & Santa, music. See www.MontroseGardens.org for details or Sara at 249-1115. Great family outing.

Dec. 19 and 20-Fifth Annual Dark Night presentations with Author Craig Childs at Paonia's Paradise Theater. Doors open at 7 p.m., admission is \$20 pre-sale (Backcountry Bistro, Paonia; The Rose, Hotchkiss; The Paradise Theatre box office; and at [Brown Paper Tickets](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)), \$25 at the door.

Dec. 19-20-Christmas Indoor Bazaar at Columbine Mall in Delta (326 Main St.) Contact Jerry Clemens at 970-216-2278.

Dec. 19-Weehawken Dance presents Polar Express at the Montrose Pavilion, 6 p.m. Call 318-0150 or visit www.weehawkenarts.org for tickets and information.

Dec. 19-Last Minute Gift Dash, hosted by Confluence Gallery Artists Cooperative in Delta. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 20. Columbine Mall, 326 Main St.

Dec. 20-Weehawken Dance presents Polar Express at the Montrose Pavilion, 2 p.m. Call 318-0150 or visit www.weehawkenarts.org for tickets and information.

Dec. 20-Montrose Indoor Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Centennial Hall and behind Straw Hat Farm Store.

Dec. 20-Visit Santa's Workshop at Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss. Noon to 4 p.m., while supplies last. 10 per person. Call 970-872-4848 to reserve your ornaments, as supplies are limited. The Creamery is located at 165 W. Bridge Street in Hotchkiss. To see pictures of the ornament projects go to www.creameryartscenter.org.

Dec. 24-Center for Spiritual Living in Delta presents a Taize service, 7 p.m. at 658 Howard St.

Dec. 25-Merry Christmas!

Dec. 25-Delta United Methodist Church (477 Meeker St.) Christmas Meal, 11:30 to 1 p.m. Free food, fellowship and music.

Dec. 28-Ridgway's Sherbino Theater (604 Clinton St.) presents "A Most Wanted Man," Doors open at 7:00 and show starts at 7:30 pm. Admission to each film is \$7.

Jan. 1-Happy New Year!

Jan. 1-Ring in the New Year three times at Ridgway's Sherbino Theater (604 Clinton St.)

Jan. 7-World Affairs Council, CMU present lecture by Dr. Ernesto Sagás. He will discuss Ecuador's attempts to protect nature while also courting international oil companies at 7 p.m. at the Carolyn D. Love Recital Hall at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. His presentation is free and open to the public.

Jan. 8-Region 10 Community Living Services presents "Say What," with Karen Mercer of Southwest Hearing. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Hotchkiss Senior Center (276 West Main in Hotchkiss).

Jan. 10-Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Montrose Pavilion. For a complete topics and speakers list and to register, visit the conference website www.foodfarmforum.org or call 970.249.3739.

Jan. 17-Montrose Chamber of Commerce Casino Nights Gala, 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. For ticket information or to RSVP, call 249-5000 or email information@montrosechamber.com.

Feb. 12-Region 10 Community Living Services presents "Say What," with Karen Mercer of Southwest Hearing. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Westminster Hall in Delta (145 East Fourth St..

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROTARY HONORS DENNIS DEVOR FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE, TOUGHNESS



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Jack Dooley presented Rotarian Dennis Devor with an honorary black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Dennis is receiving the black belt because of his “life-long dedication to community service and being exceptionally tough,” according to Dooley.

Make the Season Bright!

Share the wonder of the season at the first ever Garden of Lights, brought to you by the Montrose Botanical Society.

Energy-efficient lighting and solar-powered displays illuminate the night and the spirit!

Please check our website for details & admission prices

www.MontroseGardens.org



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Evenings, 5pm - 8pm

December 12th - 14th & 19th - 21st, 2014

Contact the Montrose Mirror:
Post Office Box 3244
Montrose, CO 81402
970-275-5791

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

At right, Gary Cook of the Bar D Chuckwagon Wranglers performed with the band at Turn of the Century Dec. 12. Below, The Montrose Winter Farmers Market drew a crowd Dec. 13 despite cooler temperatures.



Above, Monarch and owner Cheri Isgreen welcomed letters to Santa and local kids to the A+Y Design Gallery Downtown Dec. 13.





WEEHAWKEN DANCE PRESENTS THE POLAR EXPRESS

A BALLET FEATURING WEEHAWKEN DANCERS AGES 3-17

DECEMBER 19TH AT 6 PM DECEMBER 20TH AT 2PM AT THE MONTROSE PAVILION

TICKETS:
General Admission:
\$15 Adult / \$8 Child (12-)
\$10 Senior (\$65+matinee only)

General admission tickets Available at:
Ouray: Mouse's Chocolates
Ridgway: Cimarron Coffee & the WCA Office
Montrose: Tiffany Etc & The Montrose Pavilion

RESERVED SECTION SEATS AVAILABLE:
Reserved Section Seats Available in Rows 1-6. Prices range from \$21 - \$24.
Reserved Tickets are Available ONLY by phone at 970.318.0150



weehawken creative arts

weehawkenarts.org

970.318.0150

