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# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

A Monday News Blast Serving West Central Colorado

Issue No. 99 Jan. 5 2015

## STATE H2O PLAN DRAFT? PAPER COPIES, PLEASE!



*Gunnison photographer Dave Bernier captured this image of the Upper Gunnison River drainage in winter.*

By Caitlin Switzer

COLORADO--Colorado's [draft water plan](#) is available for review, at least online, and if you have not read it now is the time. The draft plan, released Dec. 10, is the first official step taken in response to an executive order issued by Governor John Hickenlooper in May of 2013. The plan has been coordinated by Colorado's Water Conservation Board (CWCB), which calls it the result of "nine years of unprecedented work, dialog and consensus building."

In the beginning, however, the Western Slope was not part of the discussion--a glaring omission in the big picture, according to Colorado Senator Ellen Roberts (R-Dist. 6).

"We were left out at first," Roberts told constituents at a legislative kickoff at Bridges of Montrose Dec. 2 "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."

So does Western Slope water advocate and Diverisions Radio Talk Show Host (KUBC) Marc Catlin, a former manager of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA).

*Continued on page 5*

## 970VIP--LOYALTY MARKETING BRINGS RESULTS, SALES!

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--Despite the cacophony of marketing pitches just about everywhere these days, Shane Copeland of [970VIP](#) has kept relatively quiet about his company's progress in West Central Colorado. That's probably because the results speak for themselves.

A 1992 graduate of Olathe High School, Copeland holds the regional license for a loyalty marketing company called 970VIP. 970VIP is a kiosk-based system available at participating local businesses, so that loyal customers do not have to rifle through the cards in their wallets to get a discount at their favorite spots.

"This is actually a nationwide company, and I am the one licensed to cover Western Colorado," Copeland said. "We are the leaders at what we do; using technology and text messaging, something most people are familiar with. This is a digital loyalty system; combining the best of both worlds. Instead of carrying punch cards, you just enter your



*The team at Brown's Shoe Fit Company with their 970VIP digital loyalty kiosk. Courtesy photo Shane Copeland.*

*Continued on Page 13*

in this  
issue

*Gail interviews  
Nancy Fishing!*

*Marissa Isgreen  
writes from FOCO!*

*Warm up with a Rom  
Com...Talley's Folly!*

*Sandra Tyler City  
Beat column!*

*A Wild Mush-  
room Moment!*

## CDOT ENCOURAGES MUNICIPALITIES TO EDIT STATEWIDE BIKE TRAILS MAP



*Municipal trails, like the one above beside the Uncompahgre River, can now be shared statewide on CDOT's Bicycle and Scenic Byways Map.*

### Mirror Staff Report

COLORADO--Got great bike trails and scenic byways? The State of Colorado wants to know about them, so they can be shared with web surfers hungry for Colorado bicycling news and opportunities. According a news release dated Dec. 26, The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is upgrading its Statewide Bicycle and Scenic Byways map, with the

intent of giving local governments an opportunity to provide cycling information specific to their community.

In the beginning, bicyclists could go review and select *state* routes to ride throughout Colorado based on shoulder width and traffic volumes. The [State Bike and Byways Map](#) also included a search capability for lodging, bike shops, restaurants and other areas of interest. Now, however, local government entities can take matters into their own hands, and add similar cycling information from their own locations to the site. Municipalities can access the site and request to become "trail

editors," after which they are free to upload GIS files that display local trails, routes and bike lanes.

"This upgrade is adding another complete dimension to the map," said CDOT's Bicycle/Pedestrian and Byways Manager Betsy Jacobsen. "Users will be able to zoom in and find much more detailed information than was originally available. It will also allow local jurisdictions to update

their information as they make physical changes to existing facilities."

For Ridgway, a small San Juan mountain town that has been leading the pack when it comes to innovative economic development ideas in Colorado's West Central Region, the upgrade spells opportunity. Including information about local bike trails and routes not only on its own web site but through the State Bike and Byways Map makes perfect sense, Mayor John Clark said.

"We have been saying for years that things like the trails on BLM property near Ridgway Reservoir that we help fund are among the biggest things we can do to boost economic development," Clark said. "And it's not just about mountain biking, but all different types of bikes--things like the whole Rails to Trails concept--these ideas are really cool, and really essential to our big picture plan for covering all our bases."

The statewide map should especially benefit Colorado's Western Slope, where the state's most beautiful biking routes are located. "Providing localized riding information is another way for us to enhance two-wheel travel throughout the state," added Jacobsen.

## NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TEACHES OLATHE STUDENTS TO BE MONEY SMART

### Special to the Mirror

OLATHE--Over the past two weeks, NuVista Federal Credit Union's Autumn Lettau has been a guest instructor in several middle school classes at Olathe Middle School. Lettau has been guiding the students in understanding the importance of financial responsibility. The curriculum followed Colorado State Standards required of the schools and covered topic such as: Money Management, Credit and Debt, Savings and Investing, Insurance Basics, and Decision Making.

The courses are a service provided by the Financial Literacy Program at NuVista Federal Credit Union and are free of charge. The goal in this initiative is educating today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders. NuVista has found success in their presentations by providing fun, interactive content that makes learning fun.

Since its inception in 2008, NuVista's Financial Literacy Program has seen just over 3009 students. 1,750 of those students were seen in 2014. The program is offered to students of all ages, as well as adults.

For more information, contact Chelsea Rosty, [crosty@nuvista.org](mailto:crosty@nuvista.org) or 970-497-5360.

NuVista Federal Credit Union is located at 2711 Commercial Way in Montrose or at [nuvista.org](http://nuvista.org). Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Ouray, Montrose, San Miguel, or Gunnison County.



*NuVista Federal Credit Union's Autumn Lettau has been a guest instructor at Olathe Middle School, helping students learn financial responsibility. Courtesy photo.*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

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

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**Publisher: Caitlin Switzer**

**Circulation: 7, 200**

**Featured Freelance Writers: Liesl Greathouse, Gail Marvel, Sandra Tyler**

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Montrose, CO 81402

970-275-5791

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## Broadband Resolution, Lark and Sparrow Tavern License on Council Agenda Jan. 6

### Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE--The first item to come before Montrose City Council for approval in 2015 offers some hope for better internet connectivity--the City's Virgil Turner will present a municipal fiber optic network resolution (Resolution 2015-01), which if approved will establish a fiber optic network as a municipal priority.

In addition to Resolution 2015-01, City Council has a full slate of agenda items to kick off 2015, with a work session Jan. 5 and Council meeting Jan. 6. Click to [read today's work session agenda](#), which in-

cludes a list of subjects that council will be considering in coming months and a [complete packet of supporting information](#) including minutes from the most recent meeting of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Among other items to be considered at the Jan. 6 council meeting are a tavern license for Yvonne Meek's new Lark & Sparrow venue in the Montrose Masonic Building (511 Main Street) and a transfer of the liquor license of the former Asii Restaurant at 1015 South Townsend to Chang Thai Cuisine.

Council will also consider a renewal of the liquor license at 228 East Main St., from Sushitini to Western Culinary, LLC. Council will be asked to approve contracts with Waste Management for solid waste landfill and material recovery facility services.

Finally, council will be asked to approve Resolution 2015-02, which asks council to submit an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Application requesting \$178,797 for implementation of the City's proposed facilities improvement projects.



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## YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT, AND WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW!

By Sandra L. Tyler  
Government Reporter

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council reports to you, the citizens of Montrose. Currently there are five members: **District I**, David Romero, Mayor Pro-Tem, 4/2014-4/2018; **District II** Rex Swanson, 4/2014-4/2018; **District III** Bob Nicholson, Mayor, 4/2012-4/2016; **District IV**, Kathy Ellis, 4/2012-4/2016; **At Large**, Judy Ann Files, 4/2014-4/2016. The 2012-2014 Goals can be found on the website <http://www.cityofmontrose.org> under the tab, City Government. Each of those goals had objectives. I will be requesting a report of how the goals and objectives were met or brought into the 2015 goals and report the results. If you want to be on the City Council, you must live in one of 4 defined districts within city limits. The map can be found on the website. This leaves out many individuals with interest to be on the council who live just outside those districts but feel they are part of the town of Montrose as they use the zip code 81403 and the city name on their addresses. They use all the resources of the town: groceries, shops, restaurants, library, college, hospital, Rec center, theater, museums, recycling centers and the multiple businesses, plus they pay local sales and use taxes that support the

city. On the website you will find interesting information about the city budget prepared by the city manager with input from the Finance Director, Department Heads, Supervisors and City employees who submit their own budgets for the coming year and should include equipment needs for the future. If you have ever been a department manager, as I have, this is a familiar process. Then the discussions and negotiations begin. The full 2014 Budget report is worth reading even if it is 77 pages as there are numerous reports, explanations of expenditures/investments, grafts, pie charts, tables, demographics such housing and population information, and a glossary. The major revenue source for the General Fund is the sales and use taxes. The City does not collect property tax. The draft budget is provided to the City Council for review, and two public hearings are held in November to approve the budget and an appropriating ordinance. The city manager and finance director meet with the advisory committee members to share information and discuss their input and ideas. This Citizens Budget Advisory committee was formed in 2013 to provide input into the budget process. The public can also submit specific questions [online](http://www.cityofmontrose.org). Both are invited to attend budget

planning sessions. City Council receives the final proposed budget on October 15. You can refer to the [City Charter](http://www.cityofmontrose.org) (Article V, Finance, Appropriations and Taxation) which outlines the basic budget procedure. The 2014 budget totaled \$39,903,390.00 or almost 40 million with over \$17.25 million to the general fund and 19 other funds such as Capital Improvement, Building Renovations, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, Fleet Management, IT, and Employee Benefits, to list those receiving close to or over 1 million each. Check out the city website <http://www.cityofmontrose.org> and see what we have in this small town with 29 developed parks, 118 acres of open space, over 30 miles of concrete trails, and a river park on the way! Read and let's get involved.

*Sandra is a retired registered dietitian who lived in Flagstaff, AZ. and worked at Northern Arizona Medical Center for 25 years, serving first as the Director of Food Services and then the Director of Clinical Nutrition Services. Now living in Montrose, she has volunteered for several organizations, such as Coalition for a Drug Free Montrose County, VOA, Welcome Home Montrose, Warrior Resource, and Altrusa.*

## SHOE REPAIR... BEYOND SHOES



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## STATE H2O PLAN DRAFT? PAPER COPIES, PLEASE! From pg 1

Catlin believes that everyone who lives on the Western Slope should read and become familiar with the plan--however, he also points out that, in an area where many rural residents do not have access to high speed Internet, no paper copy of the draft plan has even been distributed locally.

"The water plan is the first shot that Colorado has ever taken at trying to draft something that benefits the whole state," he said. "The state tends to look at shortages, and tell us, 'you guys have so much.' So folks here need to read it and know what's in it so we don't end up behind the curve."

"There is a certain way that public entities should come before the public," he continued. "So I would like to see a paper copy; put it in the libraries, do whatever you've got to do. I am a paper person--I like to scribble notes in the margin while I read. So I have a call in to the CWCB asking what we can do to get some hard copies over here--not everybody can read 419 pages online."

"This plan is very transparent, but you can't get it and that worries me," Catlin said.

Rural Colorado includes everyone from "the guy on the river" to the "guy growing sweet corn," Catlin said, adding that for now, those who hold longtime water rights are being silent, while those who do not have them are speaking up.

"There is still work to be done," he said. "The need for future trans-mountain diversions has been left in the plan, and there is some talk of 'tweaking' Prior Appropriations. But Prior Appropriations was designed for times of shortage, which is now--we should be hanging onto Prior Appropriations for all we're worth. That talk of 'tweaking' scares me to death, just like the proposed Public Use Doctrine, which I am sure will be back."

"Everybody fears re-distribution of wealth," Catlin said, "but you don't even have to re-distribute wealth if you re-distribute our natural resources--because if you take our resources, our bank accounts are going to shrink anyway."

The plan's intro states that, "In addition to basin-wide participation, the draft Basin Implementation Plans build on data from the most comprehensive analysis of Colorado water ever undertaken through the Statewide Water Supply Initiative, updated in 2010."

The draft recommends actions, including "water conservation, alternative methods



Photo of the Upper Gunnison River drainage area near the Elk Mountains by Dave Bernier.

of using agricultural water that will not result in the permanent dry-up of farmland, and more efficient and effective permitting of water projects." And though many Western Slope residents fear the prospect of additional trans-mountain diversions, the plan promises to foster "collaborative solutions to responsibly address the looming gap between supply and demand."

Colorado's water values, as outlined by the plan, include: a productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities, viable and productive agriculture and robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industries; efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife.

Over the past year, basin roundtables statewide, including the Gunnison River Basin Roundtable, developed draft Basin Implementation Plans (BIP) that examined their future water needs and provided strategies for addressing those needs.

Among the water challenges the state faces are a growing gap between municipal water supply and demand that is expected to result in a statewide shortfall of 500,000 acre feet (the amount of water required to cover an acre, one foot deep) by the year 2050; a loss of irrigated ag lands caused by the purchase and permanent transfer of agricultural water rights;

critical environmental concerns due to habitat loss; variable climatic conditions; an inefficient regulatory process; and increasing funding needs.

The draft Colorado Water Plan directly addresses the relationship between Front Range and Western Slope in a paragraph that states, "*Water connects Colorado. While the vast majority of our precipitation falls west of the continental divide, the vast majority of our people reside to the east. Through a vast network of infrastructure, we move water from the west to the east in large quantities every year. Western slope ranchers finish their cattle on the eastern slope, have them slaughtered and distributed there. The eastern slope consumes western slope peaches and wine. The western slope offers world-class recreational opportunities, and Front Range families are the largest user of these recreational opportunities and own many of the second homes in western slope communities. The Front Range is the economic hub of Colorado, accounting for almost 75 percent of the state's gross domestic product. Water is one of our most critical, contentious, and shared resources, but because we are all connected, Colorado's success depends on the ability of all regions to work collaboratively to solve challenges.*"

Deadline for submission of the final plan to the Governor's office is Dec. 10, 2015.

## OURAY'S CHIARA DEGENHARDT...YOUNG LEADER BUILDS EXCITEMENT FOR THE FUTURE



*Chiara Degenhardt of Ouray is fourth from right in the photo at left, and at right in the photo above. In the photo at left she is wearing her Girl Scout vest with badges she has earned during her 11 years in the program. Chiara credits Girl Scouts with helping her to build leadership skills and explore her talents as a singer and performer. In 2014 she took the runner-up spot in the CHSSA statewide national anthem contest.*

By Caitlin Switzer

OURAY—She is still a high school senior, but Chiara Degenhardt of Ouray has already found her life's passion, and a career that she can wrap her heart around.

"I am planning to go into elementary education," said Degenhardt, whose accomplishments have earned her a spotlight that shines far beyond the San Juans. "I have found that my passion is working with kids--influencing their love for learning and their excitement for the future.

"I believe teaching really needs that right now."

Her own interest in educating others was sparked by Degenhardt's involvement with the Girl Scouts, which she joined at the age of six.

"I moved here from Missouri when I was six," she said. "And I really got into scouting when I came here--people kept recommending it to me. And they were right--Girl Scouts opened up a whole new world for me. I live in such a small town, but I found that when I got into Girl Scouts there was so much to do that I could not do it all!"

"I had to make decisions, decisions that change the way you look at yourself and the future."

Among the talents that scouting helped her to explore is her singing, something

that Degenhardt also hopes to do more of in future years.

"I sing the National Anthem at lots of local events," she said. "I have sung at home games and I sang at our district basketball conference last year--I hope to be able to sing at more events statewide." She was named one of three finalists, and captured the prestigious runner-up spot at the Colorado High school Sports Association (CHSSA) National Anthem competition last year. Her [amazing rendition](#) of the Star Spangled Banner can still be heard online at the CHSAA web site.

Degenhardt's talents as a performer will also be on display at Magic Circle Theatre later this year, when she is featured in the production of Phantom of the Opera, set to open in May.

She has appeared in Magic Circle productions in the past, and has also attended the national Girl Scouts Conference twice; the first time she attended was for the organization's 100-year anniversary celebration in 2011.

"That was a really awesome experience," she said. "It was different both times--and I learned so many things. There are so many different girls to meet, from different troops. And it is all about the Girl Scout way--I made so many new friends in the first few hours I was there."

This past year Chiara spoke at the Girl Scouts Conference in Salt Lake City Oct. 14-19, a teenager joining some of the nation's most prominent and respected professional women onstage.

"I was really scared," she said, "but when I got there it was so much fun to be a part of it! I would not trade the experience for anything."

Friend Joan Chismire said that, like many others in Ouray County, she is proud of Chiara.

"I have watched Chiara grow from a quiet, shy young girl assisted earlier by her mother in Girl Scouts into a more confident, self-motivated young woman with some impressive talents and a zest for new acting challenges and singing competitions," Chismire said.

Chiara has narrowed her college choices down to two at this point--a small college in her home state of Missouri, and Denver's Regis University.

Though the decision will ultimately impact the course of her future and her life, Degenhardt has learned to make good decisions, and she is confident that her eventual choice will be the right one for her.

She credits much of her confidence to her involvement in scouting.

"It is the best thing I have ever done in my life," she said.





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### THIRD ANNUAL WESTERN COLORADO FOOD AND FARM FORUM RETURNS JAN. 9-10

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Maintaining diversity is an issue critical to local agriculture that will be highlighted during the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum in Montrose Jan. 9-10. This year's theme, *Unlocking the Secrets of Raising Great Food*, highlights the importance of maintaining seed, soil, and livestock diversity and offers nearly 20 breakout sessions.

On average, across all crops grown in the US more than 90 percent of the varieties grown 100 years ago are no longer in commercial production or maintained in major seed storage facilities. In the same period nearly 28 percent of livestock breeds have become extinct or endangered. Estimates are that globally, topsoil is eroding faster than it can be replaced over 1/3 of the world's croplands. In the U.S., the loss of topsoil has been estimated to cost \$125B per year.

The Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum is a conference for anyone interested in learning more about sustainable ways to improve the production, consumption and marketing of local foods.

Among the conference's speakers addressing these issues are: Bill McDorman, Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain

Seed Alliance; Jay Fuhrer, National Resource Conservation District, North Dakota and; Tom Lasater, manager of Lasater Grasslands Beef.

On Jan. 9, McDorman hosts a pre-conference workshop, *Seed Save the Rocky Mountains: Fundamental of Regional Seed Production* at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. A screening of the movie, *Open Sesame*: the story of seeds follows the workshop at 2 Rascals Brewery. On Jan. 10, he will present the keynote address *Seeding the Future of Food*. Bill will discuss the sustainable agriculture movement and its lack of focus on one aspect - the seeds. A breakout session follows called, *What's Stopping You? Secrets of Seed Saving Decoded*.

As Executive Director and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, Bill McDorman works to train and support a network of community-based Seed Stewards to document, grow, store and distribute regionally adapted seeds. Also presenting at the conference, Jay Fuhrer is a leading expert in cover cropping and multi-species grazing from the National Resource Conservation Service in North Dakota. Fuhrer is recognized nationally for his innovative use of cover crops relat-

ed to maintaining soil fertility. His session, *Soil Health and Covers* helps attendees discover how plant diversity builds soils, restores the water cycle and allows the nutrient cycle to function well. In his session, *Livestock on the Landscape* he explores multi-species cover cropping and shows how integrating livestock management with diverse cover crops yields sustainable long-term results by improving soil health.

Tom Lasater, Manager of Lasater Grasslands Beef, unveils the secrets of raising great beef without chemicals and by selecting for genetics, utilizing planned grazing and grass finishing. Lasater is a fourth generation rancher whose family developed the developed the Beefmaster breed in the 1930's.

"This year's conference demonstrates the commitment the industry has in developing, sharing and harvesting knowledge to increase the long-term sustainability farms and ranches," Carol Parker, President Valley Food Partnership. To find a complete topics and speakers list and to register, visit the conference website [www.foodfarmforum.org/](http://www.foodfarmforum.org/) or call 970.249.3935.

Online registration closes Jan. 5.

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Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

**NO July class**

Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

**NO December class**

### **Steps to Follow**

1. Preregister by calling 252-5043 or 252-5067.
2. Bring \$10 payment per person to the class, either check or cash.

### **Class Location and Time**

In Friendship Hall kitchen - Montrose County Fairgrounds  
2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Those completing the class will receive a wallet size class participation certificate.





## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### REGION 10 SBRC OFFERS “SMALL CHANGES” MICROLOANS!

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Do you need just a little financial assistance to take your company to the next level? Perhaps it's time to consider making some “Small Changes!”

If you need funding to buy equipment, pay for advertising, build a new website or enhance your existing web presence, or even purchase inventory, the Region 10 Small Changes Loan Program was designed with you in mind. The initial consultation is free, and microloans ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,500 are offered at a five-percent fixed rate for 12 to 18 months. There are no closing costs to borrowers, and loans may or may not be collateralized.

“Through our work with small businesses in the region, the SBRC found that simplified access to microloans was a definite need, and could help many local entrepreneurs reach the next level of business development,” Region 10 SBRC Director Vince Fandel said. “We believe this will be a very useful tool for small businesses across the West Central Region.”

The application process is streamlined, and counseling support and access to Quickbooks software are built into the program. To learn more about the Small Changes Loan Program or arrange a consultation, please call Vince Fandel or Linda Riba of the [Region 10 Small Business Resource Center](#) at 907.249.2436, or email [Vince@region10.net](mailto:Vince@region10.net) or [linda@region10.net](mailto:linda@region10.net). [Applications](#) are available at [www.region10.net](http://www.region10.net) as well.

### KENTUCKY ROAD CLOSURE STARTS JAN. 5

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Montrose County Road and Bridge Department will close Kentucky Road between 6530 Road and 6450 Road starting Jan. 5th, 2015, for culvert replacements. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes. For more information, please call the Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### HEAD START STUDENTS RECEIVE HAND CRAFTED GIFTS FROM OLDER ADULTS



Headstart kids with the kids made for them by older adults in the PACE Program. Courtesy photo.

something that blesses someone else!” The group shared stories from their own childhoods of times when others had given them gifts of special handmade items. Many felt that working together for a common goal was an impactful way to build and grow the relationships at the PACE community.

Recreation Assistant Jannell Place said the participants chose the Head Start program to donate the finished pieces to because it was a wonderful match of generations. The gifts were put in the center of a circle of children who were allowed to pick out a gift. It was explained that each item was made with love by a bunch of grandmas and grandpas that care very much about you.

The PACE program serves individuals who are age 55 or older, certified by their state to need nursing home care, are able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment, and live in a PACE service area. Delivering all needed medical and supportive services, the program is able to provide the entire spectrum of care and services to older adults with chronic care needs while maintaining their independence in their homes for as long as possible. Visit [www.seniorcommunitycare.org](http://www.seniorcommunitycare.org) for more information.

About Volunteers of America: *For more than a century, [Volunteers of America](http://VolunteersofAmerica.org) has been recognized as a respected name in health care for older adults, and a dedicated ministry of service which supports and empowers America's most vulnerable groups. We address the most challenging issues of our day and develop innovative solutions through highly effective human-service programs that reach almost 2.5 million people in 44 states. Visit [Volunteers of America](http://VolunteersofAmerica.org).*

#### Special to the Mirror

ECKERT – Older Adults enrolled in the Senior Community Care Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) delivered wooden coat racks, step stools and bookshelves to the Delta Head Start elementary age students the week before Christmas.

This project has been ongoing for the last several years with the help of the Therapeutic Recreation Department staff and volunteers. The participants began building the pre-cut wooden kits in early No-

vember. The process required sanding the individual pieces until smooth and either using nails, wood screws, or wood glue to secure the pieces together. Once assembled, the participants were allowed to choose how to paint and decorate their items. Each completed project was unique and represented the personality of the participant.

Despite some limitations in their physical abilities, the participants said the project made them feel important, useful and helpful. One participant said, “I can still do

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MONTROSE COUNTY WINTER  
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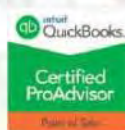
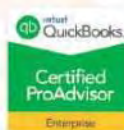




DELTA, COLORADO JANUARY 2015

# QuickBooks Programs

PRESENTED BY JUNIPER PHILLIPS



TUESDAY

## January 20, 2015

10AM–12PM

### Accounting Basics in QuickBooks

1–3:30PM

### QuickBooks Online

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## MIRROR IMAGES...OUT AND ABOUT!



*Above, the new All Points Transit Bus Station Downtown is making progress despite the wintry temperatures!*



*Left and above right, scenes from the Botanic Garden Garden of Lights event Dec. 19.*



*Volunteer Clay Campbell, above, braved the cold to help out in the tipi, left, at the Montrose Botanic Garden's Garden of Lights events in December.*



## 970VIP—LOYALTY MARKETING BRINGS RESULTS, SALES from pg 1

mobile phone number into a loyalty kiosk, most of which are mounted next to the cash register at participating local businesses."

Customers can check out the latest offers online, and receive rewards from places where they frequently shop. Since he launched the program locally in mid-2013, Copeland has seen his own business grow exponentially. "Everybody's into it," he said. "It's another way for locals to catch a great deal and shop locally. Between July of 2013 and June of 2014 we added 13,000 subscribers here in Montrose. Once people see our kiosks, they know what to do. We are adding 1,000 new subscribers every month. We give merchants weekly reports, and we can piggyback on other advertising with a call to action."

Though Copeland actually holds degrees as a personal trainer and fitness expert, he speaks the language of sales, and shares the excitement when other businesses succeed. In his last position as sales manager for a large local company, he learned the ins and outs of entrepreneurship. "My passion is for reaching small businesses and really helping them out," he said. "I have always been in sales and marketing."

Consumers can sign up not only through a local kiosk, but at the [970VIP website](#) as well, he noted.

Nationwide, 970VIP has 170 licensees, and there are others in Canada and Mexico. The company has close to three million

subscribers altogether, and a forum that allows licensees to share experiences and advice with one another.

"We all talk to each other," Copeland said. "It's really cranking up, really getting exciting--people are embracing this concept of ecommerce for small business. Our open rate is 99 percent--compared to even the best email marketing programs, which generally see open rates of around 20 percent."

Locally, the first business owner to sign up was Scott Voorhis of Heidi's Brooklyn Deli, Copeland said, and commented that some local businesses--usually coffeehouses--are among the top performers nationwide when it comes to "hits."

"It's great for customers--you can choose your offers, or go to any of the businesses and enter your phone number for text deals and offers," he said. "And for small businesses, we offer trackable results and a return on investment of 200 to 400 percent."

Though businesses that draw high levels of foot traffic tend to build their loyalty networks the fastest, other industries benefit as well, noted 970VIP client Stephanie Keller of [Alpine Floral](#) in Montrose.

"It has been more of a slow build for us," Keller said, "because there just are not a



*Thomas and Stephanie Keller of Alpine Floral offer incentives such as free delivery through 970VIP. Courtesy photo Shane Copeland.*

lot of walk-ins in our industry. But the members we have enrolled really like it--we offer things like free delivery and other great incentives.

"Text messaging really is the best way to capture an audience nowadays," Keller said. "This is a good thing to be in."

In the end, 970VIP appears to be about using new tools to accomplish something traditional--providing value and customer service.

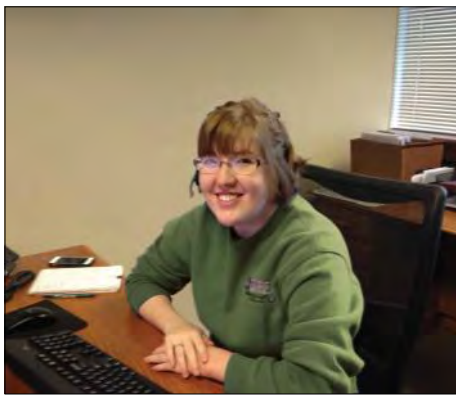
"Technology moves quickly," Copeland said.

"It pays to be strategic."

For a complete list of participating local businesses and offers, visit

[www.970vip.com](http://www.970vip.com).

## DMEA MEMBER SERVICES COMMITS TO LIVE ANSWERING OF INCOMING CALLS



*"A lot of the members have said how they appreciate talking to a real person," says Amy Gavell, DMEA Member Service Representative. Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--We've all experienced it... You call a company and a computer an-

swers. You know it won't be able to understand your problem or help you find a resolution. Your next question is: "How do I get to a human?"

Under the strategic direction of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board to offer more personal service to our members, the DMEA Member Services department is taking on the task of personally answering the phones. Even though DMEA often receives more than 700 member phone calls each day, the Member Services Department will answer as many as possible.

"We're member-owned, so we want to be there for our members, personally," says Member Services Supervisor, Greg Hobbs. Although the Service Reps. will rely less on the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, they will still use it to perform vital services like accepting card payments, outage call management, and al-

lowing 24/7 access. As far as the workload is concerned, "We're going to answer as many phone calls as we can," says Hobbs, "and evaluate our needs based on the percentage of calls getting answered live. Lately, we've managed to answer about 88 percent of the incoming calls without relying on our IVR."

When asked how the new procedure was going, Service Rep., Amy Gavell said, "We're definitely taking more calls, but it hasn't been overwhelming, and a lot of the members have said how they appreciate talking to a real person."

Although there are still uncertainties surrounding the new process, one thing remains certain, according to Member Relations Manager, Virginia Harman. "Our members come first and we want them to know that. Answering their calls personally is one of the best ways we can show them how important they are to us."

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER FRAN TIPTON-LONG STEPS DOWN

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Fran Tipton-Long will be stepping aside as the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder effective January 12, 2015.

"This was not an easy decision—it was an emotional decision, one that I did not take lightly," said Tipton-Long. "It has been the greatest honor of my life to have had this opportunity to serve the citizens of Montrose County, and to have worked with the County Clerk's team fulfilling

customers' needs with pride and the utmost efficiency."

Tipton-Long has worked for the county for 16 years. She started in motor vehicle and gained the public's endorsement as the Clerk and Recorder for the past eight

years. Tipton-Long noted that the time has come to make a change. In late January, she will begin working for the Governor's Office helping train front-line Department of Motor Vehicle workers across the state.

"Fran has been a tremendous asset to the county," said Board of County Commis-

sioners (BOCC) Chairman David White. "We have worked together for several years and her leadership will be missed."

Tipton-Long was recently re-elected in November, and was scheduled to be sworn-in on Jan. 13.

At this time, no replacement has been announced. Following an elected official's resignation (not including a Commissioner), the BOCC will appoint another individual at a regularly scheduled board meeting. This individual will serve until the next general election in 2016.

### HOPEWEST RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT FROM DANIELS FUND FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL--HopeWest has received a \$100,000 Daniels Fund grant to further the HopeWest mission: to profoundly change the way our community experiences serious illness and grief – one family at a time.

HopeWest will use the funds to support HopeWest Care, a program designed for people with a serious illness, regardless of life expectancy. This program centers on relieving pain and other physical symp-

toms, coordinating between health care providers, helping patients and families to make informed choices about their care and treatment, and providing resources to address practical and financial needs. Last year, 678 patients were served by HopeWest Care.

"This is such an important award because the HopeWest Care program truly depends on generous funding through philanthropy and grants," said Christy Whitney, Found-

er and CEO of HopeWest.

"This funding allows us to continue to touch the lives of patients and families throughout our community and make that lasting impression at a time when it is needed most."

For more information about Daniels Fund, please visit [www.danielsfund.org](http://www.danielsfund.org). For more information about HopeWest, call 970-241-2212 or visit [www.HopeWestCO.org](http://www.HopeWestCO.org).

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## WARM UP WITH A ROM COM...TALLEY'S FOLLY OPENS JAN. 9!



Above and right, starring in *Talley's Folly* at Magic Circle Theatre are Peter Ambrose as Matt Friedman and Jessica Nichole Fox as Sally Talley. Courtesy photos.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE--When he arrived in Montrose more than a decade ago, Jim Isler was a realtor. Today, he still works in real estate--but Isler has greatly expanded his resume since becoming involved with Magic Circle Theatre shortly after relocating here. He became an actor early on, and this month will direct his fourth Magic Circle Production, *Talley's Folly*, opening Jan. 9. "Magic Circle was my first experience with community theater," Isler said, adding that over the years he has played parts in four MCP productions, and assisted with or co-directed three other productions.

*Talley's Folly*, a one-act play that debuted in 1979, is an outstanding romantic comedy by Playwright Lanford Wilson, and offers a great reason to come out to Magic Circle Theater, Isler said.

"*Talley's Folly* was the 1980 Pulitzer Prize winner," he said. "It has humor, and a romantic ending-- a delightful play. I have seen it twice, and it has been one of my favorites ever since. I have had it in my mind to produce here since we joined the Magic Circle Players, but it has taken time to put the right team together to bring it off in a quality way.

"We have a superb cast," he added.

"There are only two characters in the play (, and by the grace of God and good luck we have two outstanding actors to do the job. As a director, you worry about how quickly your actors can get 'off book.' We had our first rehearsal for *Talley's Folly* after Labor Day, and they were both independent of the text by mid-October. From there, it has just been a matter of refinement, and blocking."

Magic Circle directors actually function



more as producers, he noted, responsible for everything from casting to designing and building sets.

"We coach the actors, and sometimes we set up the lights," Isler said. "Putting on a play at Magic Circle is a three-month proposition, with rehearsals at least two nights a week and a five or six-man day to build sets.

"It all falls to the director and his team."

Isler said he is not overwhelmed by opening night jitters--yet. With a strong cast and plenty of preparation, *Talley's Folly* seems destined for a great run and resounding success. Performances are Jan. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24. Sunday matinees are 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.



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## WEST CENTRAL WOMEN OF INFLUENCE...NANCY FISHERING



**Nancy Fishering.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

*Interview by Gail Marvel*  
MONTROSE-- Nancy Fishering passed through Loveland, Colorado and Montana before coming to Montrose in 1984. "I value a strong sense of community, but in Loveland I would go to the

grocery store and never meet the same people twice." She laughed, "In Montana wedding announcements were published in the newspaper and everyone was invited."

Nancy connected with Montrose by volunteering at the Chamber of Commerce where she became interested in the growing community. Although her background was criminal justice and county planning, she became invested in issues that affect the community — school district, county land use, and downtown development. Nancy served eight years on the RE-1J School Board and was the original program designer of the successful Uncompahgre Valley Leadership Program.

Academic success in her youth opened the doors of leadership for Nancy. "People looked to me to take a leadership role. Did I think of myself as a leader? No...I was

just capable."

Although Nancy was raised in the city, it was the rural environment that propelled her into management. "I found I could be a voice for rural areas." People in agriculture (AG) have knowledge about their field, but they work the land all the time, and that work is not conducive to going to meetings. "People turned to me for help and looked to me as a spokesperson."

Gifted in the skills of fact finding, research and facilitating, Nancy launched Nancy Fishering Consulting (management consulting) in 1988.

"I'm extremely data driven. The only way I feel comfortable about speaking is if I have the knowledge. I wasn't real confident in myself as a leader, but by default I became a policy wonk."

Nancy is the Timber Project Director for Colorado and for two years had been the motivating force behind bringing the Montrose sawmill out of receivership.

"I've served on many State boards. If you are good at what you do people will say, 'Let's get her on this.'"

Currently Nancy serves on the Workforce Development Board (connecting people to jobs) and the Public Lands Partnership Board. Over the years she has developed the opinion that good governance doesn't allow you to talk on something that is not on the agenda.

"I can't overstate the importance of accuracy and transparency if you are trying to problem solve."

Nancy's style of management is not to be the driving force, but rather the glue that makes sure the parts come together.

"I'm not comfortable if I can't find enough information to understand it [project]. I've been to meetings where people try to wing it. That's not for me, I do my homework."

Describing meetings where people spend the first 20 minutes venting Nancy said, "You must be able to answer the questions. Data will defuse situations," she laughed, "and it will save your rear-end every time."

Nancy's pet peeve is people presenting their opinions or ideas, as fact. "They may have an idea or theory, but it gets reported as fact; which skews the entire conversation. If you don't know your data, the loudest voice in the room can get you off target."

Although AG is a male-dominated field, Nancy has always felt respected by her counterparts; and she feels the same level of respect from the public and the media. "Knowledge is power." She laughed, "If nothing else it keeps you from being a victim. It's hard to make you a controversial figure, or ridicule you, if you have your facts."

Nancy's leadership advice: "My message is that anyone can be a leader — and we need leaders at so many levels. Don't underestimate yourself. Get informed, know your facts and do your research."

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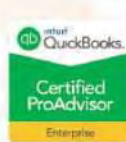




MONTROSE, COLORADO JANUARY 2015

# QuickBooks Programs

PRESENTED BY JUNIPER PHILLIPS



WEDNESDAY

## January 21, 2015

10AM–12PM

### Accounting Basics in QuickBooks

1–3:30PM

### QuickBooks Online

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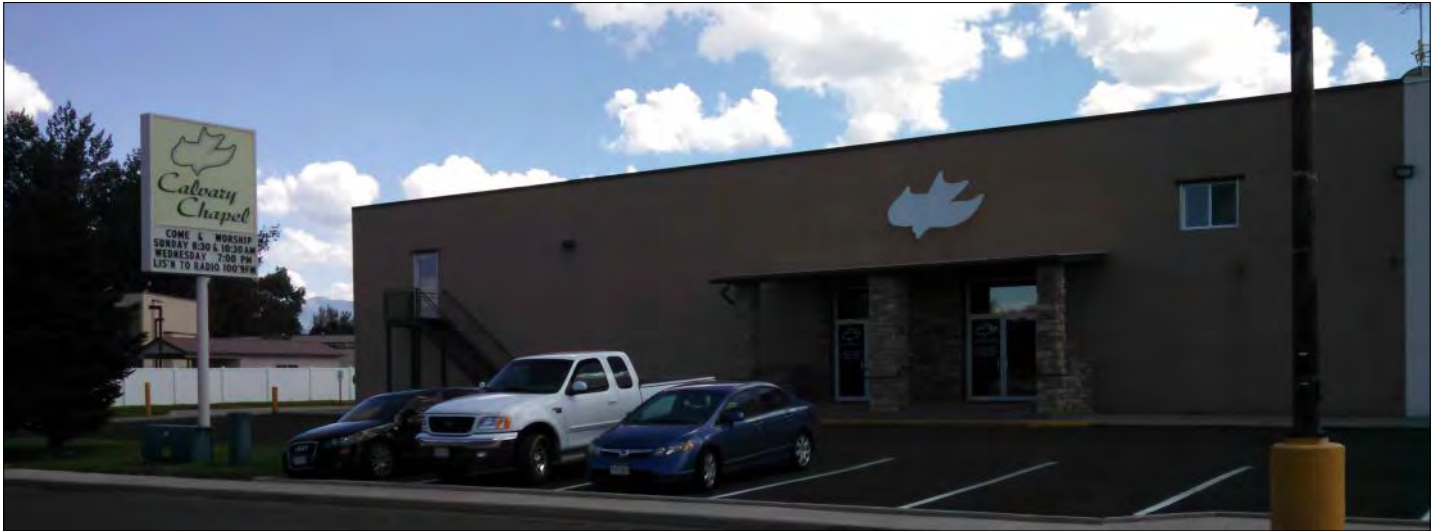
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# Experiencing the (local) Church

WRITER GAIL MARVEL VISITS CALVARY CHAPEL



By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE--My visit to Calvary Chapel on Aug. 3, 2014 happened on the same Sunday that many members were out of town attending the church's annual baptism at Ridgway Reservoir. There were 45 individuals signed up for baptism, weather permitting.

At first glance the large facility, whose sound and lighting enhanced the worship experience, has a formal appearance. However, the mood and the membership are informal and comfortable. Interestingly it was the men milling around who first engaged me in welcome and casual conversation prior to worship. This day the audience of under 100 was led in worship by a young woman playing a guitar. The words to the praise songs appeared on video screens and although the music was not expressly charismatic, there were a few individuals who felt led to stand, or raise their hands in worship.

The bulletin gave no clue as to the order of service, other than identifying Pastor Ben Garate as presiding over the service. However, it was filled with information on upcoming church activities, the church's Statement of Faith, and the names of the

associate pastors. The time schedule for the worship service is an hour and a half — 30 minutes of music, followed by an hour of Bible study.

This congregation celebrates an open communion service once a month and the emblems, pieces of unleavened bread and grape juice, are placed on tables at the front of the auditorium. Those who wish to participate go forward for the emblems, then return to their seats to wait until everyone is seated before taking the emblems in unison. The meditation presenter did not identify himself, but his communion meditation was well organized, clearly stated and focused on the sacrifice of Christ.

Before Pastor Garate began the sermon, he called on ushers to hand out Bibles to anyone who needed a text so they could follow along during the message. The teaching method of this denomination is to alternate between the Old and New Testaments, reading the Bible book by book; chapter by chapter; and verse by verse. Mark 3:20-21 was the basis for this sermon titled, "Cheers and Jeers."

The biblical text was heavily intertwined with commentary and opinion on social issues, today's culture, and church out-

reach. The gist of the message from the text was that disciples should take advantage of every opportunity to do good works, even when it's inconvenient. Pastor Garate said, "God has set you up for good works." The audience was also reminded that when doing the Lord's work, you can expect to encounter people who give both cheers and jeers.

Ministers, when collectively addressing congregants, often refer to them as friends, family, or brothers/sisters. Pastor Garate's most used term of endearment is "church." For instance, "Church, we shouldn't be embarrassed to pray over our meal when we are in a restaurant like McDonalds. Some of us are such phonies and whiners ... there are people in Montrose who can't even afford to eat at a restaurant and they eat at Christ's Kitchen." At the end of the service men were positioned at the front of the auditorium and an invitation was given for people to come forward to make decisions of faith and share their prayer needs.

*Contact Information:*

*Calvary Chapel  
2201 S. Townsend Ave. Suite D  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-240-9099*

*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-*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### SMPA RETURNS \$1 MILLION TO MEMBERS THROUGH CHRISTMAS CREDIT PROGRAM

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-San Miguel Power Association, Inc., (SMPA) will be refunding one million dollars of surplus revenue to its members. The refund, called the Christmas Credit, will appear as a line item on bills received in early January 2015.

"2014 was a financially solid year for San Miguel Power, and our year end projections showed our cash flow was going to be much higher than anticipated. As a member-owned cooperative that extra cash doesn't belong to us. It belongs to our members. So we're putting it right back where it belongs through a Christmas Credit," said SMPA Manager of Finance Calvin Rutherford.

The surplus million will be divvied among active San Miguel Power members from January 2014 through November

2014. The size of the credit that an individual member will receive is dependent upon how much money that member put into the cooperative, or what that member was billed annually. This is referred to a member's patronage.

"Our Christmas Credit refunds are very similar to our capital credit returns. Just like capital credits, the amount of money a member will receive back depends on the how much they financially invested in the co-op. The difference, however, is that a refund is paid back immediately in order to rebalance our cash flow. Capital credits are paid out over time, typically on a 20-year rotation," explains Rutherford.

SMPA members can expect to see their Christmas Credit on the next bill they receive from the cooperative. The size of the credit will vary for each member. It is de-

pendent upon a member's specific patronage to the cooperative in 2014 from January through November.

#### About SMPA

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.

### COLORADO WEST INVESTMENTS WELCOMES BETTY TOMLINSON



**Betty Tomlinson.**  
*Courtesy photo.*

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – Colorado West Investments, Inc., a local wealth management firm, is pleased to announce the addition of Betty Tomlinson to our advisory team. She

will assist clients by tailoring customized plans to help them work towards their financial goals.

Betty is joining Colorado West Investments after 20 years with Bank of the West. Her career has included Banking and Investment Management.

Betty enjoys partnering with individuals,

families and businesses to help them identify financial concerns and goals.

She tailors customized plans to help them pursue their goals by reviewing specific wealth management issues that can affect anyone at different stages in their financial journey. Betty holds both the Series 7 and Series 66 Investment registrations held through LPL Financial and is also licensed in the areas of Life, Health, and Long Term Care Insurance.

Betty has family roots on the Western Slope of Colorado dating back to the 1950's and is very active with both her family and the community. She and Matt, her spouse, have a three-year-old son named Easton and they enjoy camping, hunting, fishing, and many other outdoor activities together as a family.

When Easton was born they set a family goal to visit as many National Parks with him as they could before he turned

18.....so far they have taken him to 6, only 52 to go!

She is on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans and is currently serving as President of the Board. She has also been involved with Altrusa and HopeWest.

#### About Colorado West Investments

Colorado West Investments provides wealth management services; investment planning, financial consulting, comprehensive retirement planning services, business financial services, estate planning, company retirement plans, insurance services, and college savings plans. We provide consultative services so our clients can enjoy and focus on the things that are important to them.

For more information, visit [www.cowestinvest.com](http://www.cowestinvest.com) or contact us at (970)249-9882. We are located at 1731 E Niagara Rd, Montrose, CO 81401.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### FIND PERSONAL MEDICAID APPLICATION ASSISTANCE IN MONTROSE AND ECKERT

#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE - Senior Community Care, Western Colorado's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Provider, has recently become a Certified Application Assistance Site (CAAS) to help individuals of all ages and disabilities with Medicaid applications. The sites are designed to help families and individuals apply for public assistance while also being certified to verify citizenship documents.

Individuals needing to apply for Medicaid are welcome to contact one of the PACE day centers and ask for an Enrollment Specialist.

The specialist will make an appointment to meet in person with the Medicaid appli-

cant at the day centers in Montrose or Eckert. The contact information for setting an appointment is as follows: Montrose PACE, call 970-252-0522 and for Eckert and Paonia PACE, call 970-835-8500.

Tai Blair, Marketing Manager said, "We have a long-standing tradition of helping individuals in our communities navigate the Medicaid system. We will assist them in identifying and obtaining benefits that are needed to help ensure the quality of their lives. This is an exciting opportunity for us and our goal is to provide a needed resource to the communities we already serve."

Senior Community Care applied for the CASS status and became an official site in June of this year. The PACE centers are

now prepared to assist with Medicaid applications and welcome calls from individuals in Montrose and Delta Counties.

The PACE program serves individuals who are age 55 or older, certified by their state to need nursing home care, are able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment, and live in a PACE service area. Delivering all needed medical and supportive services, the program is able to provide the entire spectrum of care and services to older adults with chronic care needs while maintaining their independence in their homes for as long as possible. Visit

[www.seniorcommunitycare.org](http://www.seniorcommunitycare.org) for more information

## HONORABLE MENTION

To the Montrose Message Board, an amazing and endlessly fascinating source of local information, and to the team that administers the site...

To the people who work long hours in dark, cold places to keep public roads open, community spaces clean and welcoming and power lines and communications towers up and running for the communities of Western Colorado...

To the truckers who brave icy mountain roads to bring goods and services to Western Colorado even in January...

To teachers, the "advance team" for a brighter future...

To the local artists, writers and musicians who share their talents with us all...

To the doctors, dentists, nurses and other health care professionals who have chosen to live and work in a rural region where the need is so great...

And to local farmers and ranchers for growing and raising our food, and being stewards of the land for future generations.

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MASONIC SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION DONATES TO MOUNTAIN VIEW THERAPY



*Special to the Mirror*  
MONTROSE--Representatives from the Masonic Scottish Rite Foundation presented a \$3,000 grant to the pediatric speech-language department at MMH Mountain View Therapy. Pictured (left to right) Lloyd Stahl; Jeneine Stevenson co-director RiteCare Program; Paul McCabe; Patti Anderson co-director RiteCare Program; Bill Kledas. These funds will be used for therapy materials.

### SANDI ROBERTS RETIRES FROM VALLEY MANOR CARE CENTER AFTER 20 YEARS



*Special to the Mirror*  
MONTROSE--Residents, staff and community guests celebrated the retirement of Sandi Roberts on Dec 29 at Valley Manor Care Center. Roberts has served in several roles for the last 20 years with her tenure concluding as the director of social services and admissions. She was presented with a diamond shaped award for outstanding service by Stasia Allyn, Executive Director, along with other gifts at the open house.

MONTROSE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

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State-of-the-Art Therapy Services – now closer to home.



The "Appalachian Winter"  
Lessons & Carols Worship Service  
that was held at the Montrose  
United Methodist Church on Dec.  
5 & 7 was recorded professional-  
ly- CD's are available in the  
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## Caring for people with dementia through Validation communication

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

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





## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-On Dec. 17 Region 10 Community Living Services recognized Touch of Care for their extraordinary work in support of the Community Choice Transitions program. Touch of Care has become a statewide champion of the CCT program in Colorado. They have assisted clients in Montrose, Delta and Gunnison Counties in the difficult journey to regain their independence after institutionalization. These transitions require many hours and in most cases months of groundwork to prepare the client for a successful transition. Risk mitigation, affordable housing, establishment of in-home services, home modifications and on-going intensive case management are all important components of community reintegration. Touch of Care receives the Region 10 Community Living Services "Above & Beyond" Award, presented to Touch of Care's April Martinez by Eva Veitch of Region 10, for their compassionate dedication to this program and the individuals who benefit from their work.

### REGION 10 BROUGHT RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES HERE IN 2014

*Special to the Mirror*

WEST CENTRAL REGION-The Region 10 League for Economic Assistance & Planning thanks our member communities for working with us to bring more and better resources to the people of our six-county region over the past 12 months. A quick review reveals exciting growth and change at Region 10, which has served as a regional council of governments for municipalities within Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel, Ouray and Hinsdale counties since 1972.

Some highlights from 2014 include the hiring in April of Region 10's **Regional Development Coordinator Jay Stooksberry**, whose skills, strong ties to Delta's business community, background and credentials have helped Region 10 target and pursue new opportunities to better serve our member municipalities.

**Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes** has taken a leading role throughout the year in both economic development and regional broadband efforts, through grant-funded opportunities to bring more resources, funding and a [blueprint for broadband implementation](#) to our hard-hit Western Slope communities. Michelle recently presented state officials with a clear demographic picture of how the Western Slope's economic recovery stacks up against that of Front Range communi-

ties.

**Region 10's Community Living Services**, under the leadership of **Director Eva Veitch**, created and implemented a program of Lunch-N-Learn educational and support opportunities at the start of 2014, and on May 13, hosted the first-ever Caregiver Summit & Retreat at Grace Community Church.

A successful public-private partnership, the Caregiver Summit & Retreat brought support, resources and relief to caregivers and their loved ones with a full day of information, advice, new tools, socialization and self-care. The innovative event was supported with both on-site and in-home respite care for those whose caregivers could not otherwise attend. Community Living Services also welcomed a **new Long Term Care Ombudsman, Sandy Walker**, in June.

Also in 2014, the **Region 10 Small Business Resource Center** headed by **Director Vince Fandel** and **Assistant Director Linda Riba**, who joined Region 10 in August, continued to draw crowds to its popular hands-on business classes in Montrose, Delta and at the HIVE in Paonia. **The SBRC has broken new ground once again this month**, with the addition of the **Small Changes Microloan Program**, a simplified microloan program designed to meet small business expansion



**Region 10 Executive Director Michelle Haynes** recently presented state officials with a demographic picture of the Western Slope's economic recovery compared to that of Front Range communities. Courtesy photo.

and marketing needs. A non-profit organization, the Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning was formed in 1972 and serves six-counties (Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray, Hinsdale and San Miguel), operates an Enterprise center (300 North Cascade) administers the Enterprise Zone tax credit and marketing grant programs, oversees the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Community Living Services, coordinates regional transportation planning, and offers a loan program for small business. To learn more about Region 10, call 970-249-2436 or visit the web site at [www.region10.net](http://www.region10.net).



## ARTS AND CULTURE

### WEEHAWKEN & SHERBINO THEATER CELEBRATE A YEAR OF COLLABORATION

#### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-What in the world do a historic theater and an arts education organization have in common, and how can they help each other to succeed in a small community with limited resources?

That is the question that Weehawken Creative Arts and the Ridgway Chautauqua Society (Sherbino) asked themselves a year ago, when they forged a unique partnership to streamline their operations and share resources.

Weehawken and the Sherbino have both been critical to the success of Ridgway's Creative District and have made significant contributions to the cultural offerings and economic vitality of Ouray County.

Weehawken Creative Arts provides high quality arts education and personal growth programs and events for adults and children year-round in Ouray County and the surrounding communities, while Ridgway Chautauqua Society is devoted to revitalizing the Sherbino Theater as a community gathering place and center for the cultural and performing arts.

In early 2014, the boards governing the two nonprofit organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding and entered into a formal arrangement for the sharing of staff and costs.

The shared staff includes Executive Director Ashley King, Business Operations Director Stephanie Wallin and Programs Coordinator Jasmine Oeinck. Together, this talented trio oversees and executes the day-to-day operations of both organizations. The Telluride Foundation has provided grant money to sustain the fledgling partnership over the past year, as well as periodic technical support from a consultant.

"This is not a merger; rather, we have recognized the power of collaborating, and as we work together we will only become stronger," said King. "Moving forward as

an alliance, we look forward to figuring out how we can collaborate to develop programs that serve our community, while also strengthening each organization's programmatic identity, leaning on each other on the path to success."

As Weehawken and the Sherbino continue to refine the nuts and bolts of their partnership, they find themselves on the cutting edge of an emerging trend among nonprofits and their funders to emphasize collaborative efforts.

"In small communities such as ours, there is a strong need to conserve resources, look for ways to share and find ways to be more creative in providing services," King said. Building on this theme, Weehawken and the Sherbino have also combined forces with two other key arts organizations in Ouray County (namely, the Wright Opera House and the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild) to launch the Alpenglow Arts Alliance, whose joint mission is to de-clutter the promotion of local performing arts events while increasing awareness of and participation in each organization's events. Alpenglow hopes to become a catalyst to establish a "workable model" for fuller cooperation among arts organizations across the region, influencing and advancing broader working alliances wherever appropriate.

#### ABOUT WEEHAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS

For over 10 years, Weehawken Creative Arts has been transforming the lives of adults and children through arts education, a full dance program, movement arts (like fencing and karate) and beloved community events.

Weehawken rents classroom spaces in Ouray and Ridgway. It also has a clay center in Ridgway, offering classes and a 24-hour artist studio space with equipment for clay artists.

Weehawken hosts a multitude of annual

events in the communities it serves, including the Ridgway Rendezvous Arts and Crafts Festival; the SouperBowl; the Sneffels Fiber Festival; the Ouray Fork Fest; Ridgway MoonWalks; major dance productions at venues including the Montrose Pavilion and the Wright Opera House; holiday gingerbread house decorating workshops for families with young children, and more.

Weehawken's Board of Directors includes Faith Parry, Lissette Riviere, Samantha Wright, Sandy Kern, Carolyn Lesacroart, James Bingham, Marti O'Leary and Elysa Skalsky.

#### ABOUT RIDGWAY CHAUTAUQUA SOCIETY AND THE SHERBINO THEATER

The Ridgway Chautauqua Society was formed to save, revitalize and operate the historic Sherbino Theater as a nonprofit community venture dedicated to the principals of bringing culture, performing arts and life-long learning to our rural community and region.

The organization now rents and occupies the Sherbino Theater and is in the process of purchasing the building. By acquiring professional equipment and other theater essentials, RCS has also made the space more functional and user-friendly.

RCS programs include film presentations; live music productions at least twice per month; the Open Bard monthly poetry series; twice-monthly theater improv gatherings; the Sherb Talks lecture series and a summer music series.

RCS also offers space in the Sherbino Theater for specialty workshops, community gatherings and events, Weehawken programs and more.

Ridgway Chautauqua Society Board of Directors includes Patrick O'Leary, William Chipley, Sue Husch, John Clark, Ashley King, Bob Mann, Patrick Willits, JT Thomas and Rich Cieciuch.

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



## ARTS AND CULTURE

### TALKING GOURDS POETS PERFORM AT MONTROSE LIBRARY JAN. 7

#### *Special to the Mirror*

TELLURIDE--The Telluride Institute presents Talking Gourds hosts Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer of Lower Placerville and Art Goodtimes of Wright's Mesa as featured performers in Telluride, and kicks off a new collaboration with the Montrose Regional Library, where Art Goodtimes and Ellen Metrick of Norwood will perform the following night, Wednesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> also at 6 p.m. Ellen, Art and Rosemerry have worked together in the past as the performance group, EAR.

"We're excited to have Telluride and Montrose working together on this new literary program," said Meg Nagel, a Montrose librarian. Visiting poets will play Telluride on first Tuesdays and then Montrose the next day, a Wednesday.

At Arroyo's, following Club announcements and performances, we'll have a short break and then pass the gourd around the room to give Club members and attendees a chance to read poems from the

monthly theme -- pieces of their own or the work of a favorite other. This month's theme is the "New."

Next month Matt Hayes will be our guest poet in Telluride. And the theme will be "Bridges." Montrose will skip a month in February. Talking Gourds is a program of the Telluride Institute in partnership with the Wilkinson Library, the Montrose Library, Between the Covers Bookstore, Telluride Arts, Arroyo Telluride and the newly formed Telluride Literary Arts. Members meet monthly, on first Tuesday evenings, at Arroyo Fine Art Gallery & Wine Bar at 220 E. Colorado Ave. (next door to Telluride Hardware and the Masonic Hall), beginning at 6 p.m. in Tellu-



*Poets Elle Metrick and Art Goodtimes. Courtesy photo.*

ride, Colorado. TLA also sponsors the annual Telluride Literary Arts Festival the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. Call 970-729-0220 for more info. Or visit the Talking Gourds website, [talkinggourds.weebly.com](http://talkinggourds.weebly.com).

### WORKSHOPS ADDRESS BEST PRACTICES FOR WESTERN COLORADO NONPROFITS

#### *Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-Nonprofit board and staff members from the Western Slope are invited to the second of a 10-part series on Best Practices for Nonprofits. The same workshop will be offered in Montrose, Grand Junction and Gunnison on January 12, 13 and 15 respectively.

The guest presenter of "Great Governing Boards" is Cathryn Saylor Peterson, vice-president of Maxfield Peterson Financial Services in Montrose. Participants will learn how to report and interpret financial

information and will learn about the laws within which boards of directors must work.

The times and places of the workshops follow:

Jan. 12, 1:00-4:00, Montrose Public Library

Jan. 13, noon-3 p.m. (bring your lunch), Whitman Building, Museum of Western Colorado, 248 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St, Grand Junction

January 15, noon-3:00 (bring your lunch), Fred Field Center, 275 S. Spruce St, Gunnison

The fee is \$30 for preregistration and \$35 at the door. Teams are encouraged.

Best Practices draws from the manual "Principles & Practices" from the Colorado Nonprofit Association. The series continues the impact of Rural Philanthropy Days, and is guided by a regional team of nonprofit board and staff members in concert with the Community Resource Center of Denver.

For more information and to register, contact Maryo Ewell, [maryo@gard-sibley.org](mailto:maryo@gard-sibley.org), 970-641-3570

### MONTROSE LIONS RING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY



#### *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--Montrose Lion Clayton Beaudry and Montrose Lion Stan Hays are pictured ringing the bell at Walmart for the Salvation Army Dec 13! Courtesy photo.

Thanks for reading the  
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## ARTS AND CULTURE

### A WILD MUSHROOM MOMENT...

By Slade Hubley

MONTROSE—"Faster Grandpa, faster!" I can still hear myself and my brothers urging our grandfather to speed up as the '53 Chevy approached the rise in the gravel road over a culvert. We were on our way back to Olin, the small Eastern Iowa town where my father's family were from, after a mushroom hunt in the woods east of town. It was spring in Iowa, and that meant it was time to forage through the timber in search of the elusive morel which hides under May apples and dead elm trees in the woods of the Midwest.

But frankly, we--me, my brothers and my

cousin Marc--were more interested in the moment of weightlessness from driving at high speed over the culvert than with the morels in the brown paper bag in the trunk of my grandfather's car. The morels would end up in a skillet, having been halved, soaked in salty water and then breaded in egg and saltine cracker crumbs. I would usually get a bite or two, but the majority of the morels would be consumed by my dad. My mother would not touch them and to this day will have nothing to do with them. That's funny, because her father (my other grandfather) loved hunting and eating morels.

Right now, in Montrose, it's 16 degrees and snow has been falling steadily all day. Yesterday, my sons and I went sledding

in the morning and spent the afternoon at the aquatic center in a warm pool. So, tell me why I am thinking about spring time in Eastern Iowa and walking through the timber with a former high school classmate... it's because of my addiction to being a "fun guy" and fanatic.-Slade



## CREAMERY ARTS CENTER HOSTS A TRIO OF ARTISTS

Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS--The Creamery Arts Center has an exhibition planned for January that will feature three of their member-artists in the Peach Gallery: Beverly Thomas, John Mitchell and David Strong will present their talents in paint, photography and pottery at an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm. Their show will be on display through Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Bev Thomas has been a Creamery artist-member for over five years. She brings her flair for color to her acrylic and oil paintings with gusto. Inspired by her surroundings, Bev employs a simplistic, expressionist style to her work, giving the local landscape subject matter a subliminal quality. "I've always been interested in painting and drawing. I attended Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio, then went on to Ohio State, Washington University in St. Louis and graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Even though I'm from the Midwest, I'd much rather paint mountains than cornfields" says Thomas. Bev is instrumental in making the Creamery's second Friday opening receptions run smoothly. She's nearly always there to lend a hand in the kitchen or to help with whatever needs doing at the monthly gala events.

John Mitchell of Ridgway, Colorado is a painter/photographer exhibiting works in many local venues and galleries. He has also been a Creamery artist-member for many years. John has been working as a hobby/semiprofessional artist in oil, acrylic and watercolor since about 1970, studying

under several teachers in the Houston, Texas area, where he was a member of the Houston Civic Arts Association. After retirement he moved to Ridgway, Colorado and began working as a professional artist in watercolor, oil and photography. He also studied photography with Kathleen Norris Cook and Steve Traudt, and watercolor and drawing with Meredith Nemirov, Danni Tupper and Barbara Torke. His drawings, watercolors, photographs and oil paintings have been accepted for the Artists Alpine Holiday juried shows in various years. John's works have been displayed as part of Delta Fine Arts' Art in Public Places, Lolita's Bazaar, Resource Gallery, Ridgway, CO, the Creative Corner, and Westfield Art Gallery, Westfield, MA. John also lends a hand at the Creamery's opening receptions as our steward at the wine and brews table.

Joining Bev Thomas and John Mitchell for this show is master potter David Strong. David is the manager of the Creamery Art Center's Clay Studio, conducting classes in all types of clay forming and glazing techniques. He is a master of his media. "My work is produced on a potter's wheel and is fired to stoneware temperatures. For over 30 years I have been making limited edition functional ware and vessel-based, one of a kind pieces, I am interested in exploring the possibilities of form and function, design and expressiveness in my work."

David worked at Anderson Ranch, Snowmass Colorado in the early 1970's as a clay student, workshop organizer and as-

sistant, eventually becoming an artist in residence in clay at the Ranch. Since 1980 he has been working at his Brymstone Pottery Studio business in Cedaredge, Colorado. His work has sold throughout the region and nationally and has been included in

shows at the Foothills Art Center, Anderson Ranch Gallery and the Art Center in Grand Junction among others. Strong has taught classes and workshops at a number of community art centers, in local schools, and in his home studio. He is one of the founding members of the Creamery Arts Center, in 2006.

A "Meet the Artists" reception from 6 to 8pm on Friday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> promises to be an evening of warmth, fine art, finger food, local wines and great company. The Creamery is located at 165 W. Bridge Street in Hotchkiss, CO 970-872-4848. Their winter hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. [www.creameryartscenter.org](http://www.creameryartscenter.org) or find them on Facebook.



**Works by Master Potter David Strong will be on display at the Creamery this month, along with art by Beverly Thomas and John Mitchell. Courtesy photo.**

# FRONT RANGE FUN...FORT COLLINS!

## A COLD NIGHT, A WARM BLANKET, AND THE CLIP CLOP OF A HORSE'S HOOVES



**If you go:** Website: [www.coloradocarriage.com](http://www.coloradocarriage.com), For reservations call: (970) 765-4782; Carriage ride for one with hot chocolate and a cookie for \$1; Carriage ride for two with a complimentary bottle of wine \$59 *Fan Favorite Horse: The 2,300 lbs gentle giant, Donald. Nicknamed "Downtown Donald."* Photo by Marissa Isgreen.

By Marissa Isgreen

FORT COLLINS-Cars rumble past. Buses stop to pick up passengers. The light at the intersection of Mountain and College Avenue turns red. Amidst the bustle that is Old Town Fort Collins during the holidays, a clip clop can be heard in the distance.

As the sound crescendos, two brown and white paint horses fade into view. Behind them is a quaint white carriage carrying a family of four.

The horses come to a stop and a little girl disembarks from her very first carriage ride.

"Would you like to pet Thelma and Louise?" asks driver Troy Hall.

Mesmerized, the girl steps up to Louise's shoulder and reaches out her hand.

"Make sure you stand in front of her, so she can see you," Hall instructs. "She's wearing blinders."

The girl obliges. Tiny hand meets warm velvety nose. . . .

Thelma and Louise are just two of 36 horses owned by Jim and Tammy Rice, founders of Colorado Carriage and Wagon.

The family-owned-and-operated business opened its doors 15 years ago with one

carriage, one wagon and four horses. Today, it operates with 32 carriages and 36 horses.

"My wife and I were visiting Indiana when we saw the carriages there and thought, 'Old Town needs this,'" Jim Rice explained.

Fort Collins welcomed the idea, and the town has been supportive ever since, Jim said.

The business has expanded into Estes Park, Centerra, Thornton, Wyoming and even Nebraska-

giving rides to about 30,000 people a year through carriage rides, company parties, parades and weddings.

Vania Kinney booked them for her wedding eight years ago to give hayrides to their guests.

"Colorado Carriage and Wagon made everything so easy which is greatly appreciated when you're a frazzled bride-to-be planning your own wedding," Kinney said. "They were kind, affordable and so sweet to all of our guests. It was really the highlight of our wedding day."

Colorado Carriage and Wagon has also formed partnerships with other businesses in Old Town to provide new experiences for their customers. Old Town Wine and Spirits, Mary's Mountain Cookies, the Silver Grill and the Melting Pot are among some of the local business that have partnered with Colorado Carriage and Wagon to provide package deals.

"There have been some really cute date night surprises, like the girl knows they are going on a carriage ride, but instead of dropping them off [where they started] we drop them off at the Melting Pot for dessert," said Haley Priebe, another employee of the family business.

This particular date night deal costs \$37.

"We pride ourselves on the local partnerships because we really believe in the idea buy local, shop local," Rice said.

On a cold night, customers indulge in hot chocolate and cookies from the Silver Grill. During the summer, they sip milkshakes.

"We started doing packages and the relationships we've developed with the other businesses have been phenomenal," Rice said. "What we bring to Old Town is pretty special."

That something special is what keeps customers coming back—even eight years later.

"Now that we have started a family, Colorado Carriage and Wagon has become a Christmas Eve tradition for us," Kinney said.

"It's magical riding through Old Town with our son, Dexter, under the twinkly lights, searching the night sky for Santa's sleigh."

Rice has also teamed up with Fort Collins Tours for historical tours and ghost tours. By adding the carriages, participants get to explore sites that are beyond the walking venues. Historical tours travel to Grandview Cemetery, Ranch Way Feeds, the old Carnegie Library and many other stops in between. Ghost tours search for supernatural activity in Library Park, the Armadillo Mexican Restaurant and Walrus Ice Cream.

"It's really fun," Rice said of working with Fort Collins Tours. "They're such great people."

Whether they're partnering with Fort Collins Tours, escorting a couple for their 50th anniversary, or taking a child on their very first carriage ride, the staff unanimously agrees that their favorite part about the business is making people happy.

"I like making the kids smile," Hall said. "Well actually, making everyone smile, not just the kids."

Throughout the holidays, Valentine's Day and the summer, Rice and his employees strive to keep those smiles all year long.

"We're the luckiest people in the world. People are smiling when they come to us and they're smiling when we leave," Rice said.



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ALTRUSA DONATIONS FOR ANCIANO TOWERS RESIDENTS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE--This (right) is what 49 bags of items for each of the 49 residents of Anciano Towers looks like! Each bags hold \$25 worth of items from Altrusa International of Montrose, Inc.; from the five dentists (Drs. Bloss, Clader, Dodsworth, Drakulich, Spencer-Grose, and Stucky) who donated 10 each of toothbrushes; toothpastes, and dental floss or mouth wash, plus fruit from an anonymous donor, treats, and a pair of sunglasses in a case. Courtesy photo.



**CLICK FOR THE MONTROSE  
COUNTY WINTER  
GARDENING CALENDAR!**



### REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$10,000 TO MONTROSE NONPROFITS

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Western Colorado Community Foundation announced the distribution of \$10,000 in grants to local organizations benefiting Montrose residents, specifically children and families in need.

Grants of \$5,000 to Haven House and \$5,000 to Kid's Aid Montrose will fund food, shelter and support programs. Together with scholarships, these grants bring the total 2014 year-to-date investment of the regional Community Foundation to nearly \$30,000 in Montrose Coun-

ty.

Larry Fredrickson, President of Haven House noted the difference the funding will make for their organization.

"This grant comes at a critical time for the children and families living at Haven House, who would otherwise be homeless without our program. The grant will be used to implement the Child Development program, providing activities and services designed to give the children a chance for a better life."

In addition to general funding for these organizations, the family of Dave and

Mary Wood has made a 3-year \$100,000 commitment to HopeWest's Montrose capital campaign through the family's donor-advised fund.

The Woods were regular supporters of HopeWest's hospice, palliative care and grief support services during their lifetimes, and their donation will support the Clinical Team Room at the new Robinson Center for Hope.

More information on the Western Colorado Community Foundation can be found at [www.wc-cf.org](http://www.wc-cf.org), or by calling 970-243-3767.

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## *Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events*

### ONGOING-

**MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE**-performances of Talley's Folly will be Jan. 9-10, 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.

**Jan. 6**-Ticket sales for Talley's Folly open 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.

**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. 8-11**-Ouray Ice Festival, Ouray Ice Park.

**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. 9**-First Friday Stroll Downtown Montrose.

**Jan. 9**-Opening reception Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss (165 West Bridge St.), artists Beverly Thomoas, John Mitchell and David Strong, 6 to 8 p.m.

**Jan. 10**-CAIC Avalanche Safety Training, 9 a.m. at Alexander Lake Lodge, 1221 Baron Lake Drive Grand Mesa. Students free, CSA members \$10, non-CSA members \$20. All are welcome. Call 250-7891 for information.

**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](http://www.foodfarmforum.org) or call 970.249.3739.

**Jan. 12**-Would you like to touch the life of a child subjected to abuse and/or neglect? Perhaps you could be a Court Appointed Special Advocate. To learn more about the volunteer opportunities available through CASA of the 7th Judicial District, drop in for a CASA Q&A on Jan. 12 from 5-6 pm at our new offices on the corner of N.3rd and Cascade Ave. in Montrose.

**Jan. 12**-Great Governing Boards workshop, 1 to 4 p.m. Montrose Library with Cathryn Saylor Peterson. The fee is \$30 for preregistration and \$35 at the door. Teams are encouraged.

**Jan. 13**-Great Governing Boards workshop with Cathryn Saylor Peterson Noon-3 p.m. (bring your lunch), Whitman Building, Museum of Western Colorado, 248 S. 4th St, Grand Junction. The fee is \$30 for preregistration and \$35 at the door. Teams are encouraged.

**Jan. 15**-Great Governing Boards workshop with Cathryn Saylor Peterson Noon-3 p.m. Fred Field Center at 275 South Spruce St. in Gunnison. The fee is \$30 for preregistration and \$35 at the door. Teams are encouraged.

**Jan. 15**-Montrose Memorial Hospital presents Mountain View Therapy at Hawk Park ribbon cutting ceremony, 4 p.m. 1404 Hawk Parkway, Suite 101. Open house to follow from 4:15 to 7 p.m.

**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@montrochamber.com](mailto:information@montrochamber.com).

**Jan. 20**-Accounting Basics in Quickbooks. 10 a.m. to Noon. Quickbooks Online, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Presented by Region 10 and Delta Chamber at Delta Chamber of Commerce, 301 Main St. Delta. RSVP 874-8616 or [www.region10.net](http://www.region10.net). \$15 for Chamber members, \$25 for non-members.

**Jan. 21**-Accounting Basics in Quickbooks. 10 a.m. to Noon. Quickbooks Online, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Presented by Region 10 and the Montrose Chamber of Commerce at Region 10 Small Business Resource Center, 300 North Cascade Ave. Suite 1. RSVP to 249-2436 or [www.region10.net](http://www.region10.net). \$15 for Chamber members, \$25 for non-members.

**Jan. 28**-How to Beat the IRS-Legally! 10 Most Expensive Tax Mistakes That Cost Business Owners Thousands. Taught by Michael W. Johnson, CPA. Region 10 Small Business Resource Center, 300 North Cascade, Suite 1, Noon to 1:30 p.m. \$15 for Chamber members, \$25 for non-members. RSVP 249-2436.

**Jan. 31**-Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws at Ridgway's 4H Events Center, 7 to 10 a.m. Schedule phone appointments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan.19-20 by calling 1-888-592-6255 or schedule online Jan. 18-28 at [www.montroshospital.org](http://www.montroshospital.org).

**Jan. 31**-Western Slope Woolgrowers Banquet, Montrose Elks Lodge, 6 p.m. Music by the Anders Brothers. Call 970-249-0686 for 970-249-1417 or tickets and information.

**Feb. 2**-Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws at American Legion Hall in Olathe, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Feb. 4,5,6 and 7**-Montrose Memorial Hospital Early Blood Draws, 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., Montrose Pavilion.

**Feb. 7**-Delta County Memorial Hospital Foundation Island and Fantasy Cruise Casino & Gala, 6 to 11 p.m. Dinner catered by Camp Robber, music by David Starr Band. Tickets \$85, \$95 after Jan. 15. Purchase tickets at [www.dcmhfoundation.org](http://www.dcmhfoundation.org).





# HOW TO BEAT THE IRS, LEGALLY!

## 10 MOST EXPENSIVE TAX MISTAKES THAT COST BUSINESS OWNERS THOUSANDS

TAUGHT BY **MICHAEL W. JOHNSON, CPA**

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Michael W Johnson is managing member of Michael W Johnson & Associates, LLC, based in Montrose, Colorado. Michael is a CPA with 23 years' experience helping businesses as a CPA and Consultant. He also is an experienced Valuator, handling many litigation assignments in real estate and business matters. Michael helps businesses reduce their taxes, improve their profits, and better manage their cash flows.

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*Clockwise from top right, scenes from the Garden of Lights event at Montrose Botanic Gardens; and below left, Delta's new alternative truck route is open for travelers!*

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