By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-A group of high school students and their families gather for Family night at Montrose High School once each quarter, to enjoy an international potluck, or a meal from a local restaurant. Members learn about subjects like FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), etiquette, nutrition and even canning. They learn about the resources available to MHS students through Colorado Mesa University (CMU). Presentations are bilingual, and the emphasis is on bridging two cultures. Interpreters are also on hand to help as needed, as are guidance counselors and administrators.

These quarterly Hispanic Outreach Leadership Advocates (HOLA) meetings are a way for students and families to meet in a social environment, one that builds a sense of community for students of international backgrounds. The HOLA meetings are intended to provide additional

Continued on page 5

CCI: THANKS FOR THE GOODTIMES, ART!

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-Longtime County Commissioner Art Goodtimes has been honored with the Distinguished Colorado County Commissioner of the Year award, by Colorado Counties Inc. A self-described Poet, freelance writer, basket-weaver and potato farmer, Art Goodtimes has served five terms as a San Miguel County Commissioner (District 3), one of only a handful of Green Party commissioners elected to partisan office in the United States. Goodtimes, who chose not to run for a sixth term, will be replaced as San Miguel County District 3 Commissioner on Jan. 10, by Kris Holstrom.

CCI is a non-profit, membership association whose purpose is to offer assistance to county commissioners, mayors and councilmembers and to encourage counties to work together on common issues.

Photo of Art Goodtimes (at right) courtesy of San Miguel County Commissioner Amy Levek.
Jesus said, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt 18:20 NIV).

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—Approximately 175 people attended the Nov. 26th Saturday night worship service at Grace Community Church. The only personal contact came from the door-greeter who smiled, gave me a bulletin and said, “Good to see you tonight.”

The bulletin listed upcoming programs, a financial update and the school of the month selected for prayers (Ridgway High School); however, there was no order of service, or the name of the pastor. Research on the church website revealed Executive Pastor Calvin Schwarz delivered the third installment in the sermon series, “Wounds.”

The accompaniment for the five-member praise team included a keyboard, drums and three guitars. A sign language interpreter participated in the song service, as well as during the sermon. Video clips, which included announcements, testimony and confession played a prominent role throughout the service.

Schwarz prefaced the sermon, “We prefer when things go just exactly as they are intended to go. Peyton Manning going out on top just has to go that way for someone of Peyton’s caliber. This is how it is supposed to end for a good guy. The Cubs took 108 years to come through. This is how the baseball season was intended to go.”

Within the faith community, church inflicted wounds are not the way it is intended to go. Pastor Schwartz said, “No one would anticipate being wounded by the church. Aside from being wounded by a spouse, no other wound carries more pain than being wounded by the church. Wounds from the church dirty the face of Jesus.”

Church Custodian Associate James Tennapel gave a video testimony about the spiritual and emotional hurt he received in his previous churches, and the seasons of counseling and healing he has received, “I knew Grace was not going to be a perfect church either.”

Statistics from Barna Group (evangelical Christian polling firm) report that 44 percent of millennials (those born after 1980) feel the church is an elite club. Comparing Grace Community with those statistics Schwartz said, “I think we are welcoming to the average Joe all the time but there is always room for improvement.”

Schwartz suggested four steps for members to take if they have been wounded by the church: 1) Speak the truth, but don’t put your issues in an email. Rather bring your concerns to the leaders and the staff in person; 2) Pray for your leaders and those who have hurt you; 3) Forgive. You will never heal if you hold on to unforgiveness; 4) Be a solution. “We ask you help us here at Grace as we work together on solutions.”

Identifying the church’s responsibility, “Our part, the church’s part, is to do the best that we can to lead in love. A church that is welcoming and shows compassion can get through just about anything there is.”

Using a personal example Schwartz confessed to having wounded two families in the church, “I was focused on being right... not on being Jesus.”

Even though he asked for and received forgiveness, the scars on those he hurt are still visible today.

The pastor’s confession set the stage for a video montage of half a dozen staff members confessing sin and missteps as church leaders. “We are here to say we have failed and we have been wrong and we ask your forgiveness.”

The rapid fire confessions included: Being cold, slothful, failing to diligently study and hear the Word of God. Failure to honor or the Spirit of God, having little of the mind of Christ and courting the honor of men, not Christ.

The video concluded with the staff saying they were sorry, “From the bottom of our hearts we here at Grace ask your forgiveness. We have failed you in what you want the church to be.”

Contact Information:
Grace Community Church
16731 Woodgate Road
Montrose, CO
970-249-5306
Pastor Karl Leuthauser
Saturday 6 p.m., Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

‘TIS THE SEASON...SHARE WITH YOUR ANIMAL SHELTER!

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Thank you for participating in our 15th Annual Animal Shelter Christmas Trees! Your generosity will benefit our homeless animals at the Montrose Animal Shelter. Simply take a copy of the Shelters’ Wish list, shop and return to place your gift under the tree at Scott’s Printing & Design (315 S. 12 Street), or Copy Cats (330 S. 12 Street, Suite A) or Chow Down (202 E. Main Street). Have fun!
**Please have your gifts back by 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 22nd, 2016**

Montrose Animal Shelter Wish List
- KMR Brand Kitten Milk Replacer
- Esbilac Brand Puppy Milk Replacer
- Dog & Puppy Treats
- Cat & Kitten Treats
- Gift Certificates to local vets to be used for shelter pet care (Montrose Vet Clinic, Alta Vista Animal Hospital, San Juan Vet Clinic, Morningstar Vet Clinic)
- Poop Scoopers
- Soft Cat Toys (i.e., toy mice, soft balls, balls with bells inside)
- Gift Certificates to Chow Down Pet Supplies, Murdoch’s, Petco or Walmart
- Gift Certificates to local Animal Groomers
- Pill Pockets
- Small Scratch Pads
- Puppy Pee Pads
- Fromm Classic Adult Dog Food
- Fromm Gold Puppy Food
- KLN Nutri Source Cat Food
- KLN Nutri Kitten Food

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIMESTOPPERS ALERT

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers and the Montrose Sheriff’s Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate the suspect(s) in a series of burglaries, storage unit burglaries, and thefts. Between Nov. 16th, 2016 and Dec. 1st, 2016, unknown subjects took tools and other items in a series of burglaries. Burglaries occurred in storage units, construction sites, and residential areas.

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Advertisement
“THE BAD GUYS ARE OUT THERE, FRONT AND CENTER”
COMPUTER USERS WARNED TO BEWARE THE RETOOLED LOCKY VIRUS

By Caitlin Switzer
REGIONAL - Savvy computer users who receive an email link from an unexpected source have learned that it can be dangerous to respond to such “click bait.” Still, curiosity is human nature—and a dangerous new type of virus is exploiting this human weakness in ways that can catch even experienced web surfers off guard.

“Ransomware” is a category of viruses that attack a computer through a shared link, quickly locking all of your files, and refusing to release them unless you pay a ransom charge. Of these viruses, the Locky Virus is one of the newest—most troublesome.

In February of this year, the web site Arstechnica covered the Locky Virus’s emergence from the Internet swamp: “The carrier document arrives in an e-mail that claims to be delivering an invoice (with a subject line that includes an apparently random invoice number starting with the letter J). When the document is opened, if Office macros are turned on in Word, then the malware installation begins.”

This month, the Locky Virus has remerged with a worrisome new twist, reported a week ago in Hacker News. “If you receive an image file sent by someone, even your friend, on your Facebook Messenger, LinkedIn or any other social media platform, just DO NOT CLICK ON IT,” the article states. “Even JPG image file(s) could eventually infect your computer with the infamous Locky Ransomware.”

A video released by Checkpoint last week shows what happens to those who download the virus through Facebook Messenger. However, the criminals behind the Locky Virus continue to find new and ever more subtle ways to catch web users unaware, a local expert said.

“It is a problem, to say the least,” Preston Thornburg of Networks Unlimited said, “and if you are on a network, it is multiplied by the number of computers—the links are not necessarily local to your device, but can act as a worm in the background.

“This loads on your computer, and everyone on your network can be encrypted.”

In the past, links to viruses were obvious, Thornburg said. “Hackers are smarter these days; I got an email the other day with one of these, in response to an invoice I had sent to a client. The viruses are becoming more and more complex, and difficult for us to fight.”

Even emails from known contacts are not always safe. “They spoof people you are familiar with, so until we know more, do not take any risks. "Wait and learn, and back up your computer.”

Every computer user deals with data loss at some point, he said. “It can be really tough to rebuild things like Quickbooks data and financials—even your email contacts.”

An off-site backup of essential data is more important than ever, he said.

“People like to get packages; it’s just human behavior. We want to interact. But we are telling our customers to hold off. Wait and see—when we are more educated about this we will have a better idea of which images are good and which ones are bad.

“We are trying to stay out in front of this, but we can’t protect the user from the user.”

For now, the Locky Virus is limited to traditional computer shares. Still, it doesn’t pay to be complacent.

“The really scary thing will be when they develop this virus for phones, for tablets and androids,” Thornburg said. “The devices we rely on everyday—can you do without your phone?

“It’s pretty scary out there,” he said. “I hate to be that guy, warning everybody. “But the bad guys are front and center.”
support for students enrolled in the MHS English Language Learning (ELL) program, allowing them to absorb not only academic and language skills, but traditions of the United States as well.

“We can learn from each other,” MHS ELL Director Patty Voorhis said. “It’s good to know the expectations of another culture; if you live in this society, you need to live by those expectations. And exposure to other languages helps us understand other people’s way of thinking. We may think everybody is like us and behaves the same way, but that’s not so.”

Cultural differences can often be taken for granted or overlooked. “There are a lot of little things,” Voorhis said. For example, in America, a person is independent at age 18. In Hispanic societies, young people usually live with their families until they are married, and decisions are made by the entire family. Voorhis said that in Mexico, schools still require uniforms. “You can identify a school by its uniform.” The learning environment is rigorous, she said. Though many of the students enrolled in ELL come from Spanish speaking countries, there are students from Nepal and Hungary as well. Among the sponsors of the HOLA nights is Guru’s Restaurant, Voorhis said. “They are a really good sponsor, and they appreciate knowing someone who can answer questions and help with the schools.”

Many details that native English speakers take for granted, such as Grade Point Averages (GPA’s) and community service requirements, can be unfamiliar to ELL students and their parents. “It is different,” Voorhis said, “especially the evaluations. I like to explain, and help them understand, so that our parents have an idea of what their kids are doing in high school.” Among the goals for next year’s ELL program is a stronger focus on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). “I want to involve more parents and students with STEM. I want to inform them more of what is a great opportunity, so that they can participate more, and do hands on experiments and things,” Voorhis said.

“There are opportunities out there that they may not know of.”
CITY TO CONSIDER COLORADO OUTDOORS NO. 1 ANNEXATION

Mirror Staff Report
MONTROSE: Sweeping changes to the City footprint are planned for the City Council meeting of Dec. 6.

Once again, the Colorado Outdoors Annexation No. 1 will be presented at a public hearing; Council will consider Resolution 2016-25, Findings of Fact for the annexation of the Colorado Outdoors Addition No. 1, as well as Ordinance 2396 on first reading, for the annexation of the Colorado Outdoors Addition No. 1. Council will consider Ordinance 2397 on first reading as well, rezoning the Colorado Outdoors Addition No. 1 as an “R-3A”, Medium High Density District.

Other City Annexations to be considered include the 2096 Miami Road addition; 14600 Marine Road Additions No. 1 and No. 2; the 804 Chipeta Road Addition; and the Chipeta Lake Addition. Council will also consider Ordinance 2407 on first reading, amending the zoning district designation of 801 S. Hillcrest Drive from “R-3”, Medium Density District and “R-4”, High Density District, to “B-2” Highway Commercial District with conditions; and will consider a Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendment proposal to replace a portion of Residential-Mixed Density Medium with an Employment Center in the City’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

In other business, Council will consider approving a new Tavern liquor license at 1544 Oxbow Drive for The Pitchfork Tavern; and will consider Resolution 2016-24, a resolution fixing the tax levy for the Montrose Downtown Development Authority for the fiscal year.

Council will consider Ordinance 2408 on first reading as well, appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City during the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1; and Ordinance 2409 on first reading, repealing and reenacting the City’s Municipal Code. Following staff reports, Council will adjourn.

Three new or returning Montrose Planning commission members, Gary Seitz, Thomas Busker and Josh Freed, will be interviewed by Montrose City Council during the regular Work Session of Dec. 5.

Council will also consider a grant application on behalf of the Montrose Animal Shelter; the Northside Park Subdivision; and Changes to the City’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map. Council will also consider 2017 replacements for the City fleet, and City Manager Bill Bell’s International Day of the Migrant Proclamation.

Included in the meeting packet are written reports from the Montrose Airport Advisory Council and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Topics of discussion for upcoming Work Sessions include an All Points Transit Report to City Council on Dec. 19; Planning Commission Appointments and a Resolution to form Urban renewal Authority on Dec. 20; Designation of Official Posting Places and Liquor License Hearing for The Vine Market Bistro on Jan. 3; An Urban Renewal Authority Plan Ordinance on Jan. 16; and Youth Council Report to City Council on Jan. 17.
MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS

Photos by William B. Woody.

MONTROSE-Scenes from the 2016 annual Parade of Lights Christmas parade in Downtown Montrose. The parade lasted about one hour, 20 minutes, and by the time Santa arrived it was 29 degrees.
MIRROR IMAGES...ALPINE BANK CARRIAGE RIDES!

Photo by Mirror Staff

MONTROSE-Shoppers didn’t have to walk to enjoy shopping and fun Downtown in Montrose on Saturday, Dec. 3. Alpine Bank sponsored free horse-drawn carriage rides from Y-Bar Hitch Suffolk Punch Horses from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The carriages rode a loop from Friendship Hall at the Montrose County Fairgrounds to the intersection of Main Street and Selig and back to Centennial Plaza.
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Refreshments Provided
TIPS FROM FARMERS INSURANCE: STAY SAFE @ HOME AND ON THE ROAD THIS WINTER

By Caitlin Switzer

REGIONAL—Winter is peak season for home fires; this season, pay attention and take small safety precautions that can make a big difference. Pay attention to the safety of your ride as well; avoid some of the most deadly distractions, and live to drive in 2017.

Western Colorado Drivers should be aware not only of slick roads, but of the fact that it’s deer and elk season, Farmers Insurance Agent Howard Davidson said. “Forty-five percent of the body work done from mid-October to the end of December is caused by deer and elk—it’s the rutting season.”

As the temperatures drop, more of the elk and deer will return to lower elevations, he said. “Keep this at the top of your mind, how particularly bad this season can be,” Davidson said, and added that drivers are also distracted by man-made devices. “It is absolutely huge, especially for young drivers,” he said. “Distracted drivers might look down—and you have only half as much time to stop when the roads are wet.”

In 2015, 20 percent more fatalities occurred on Colorado roads than occurred in 2004, Davidson said. “Different states have different laws, but distracted driving is a major, major problem that will only get worse.” While Blue tooth devices can help free hands, they still engage the driver in something other than the road ahead. “Don’t be afraid to turn the phone off.” By being organized before you start the car, you can avoid multi-tasking—and a possible collision.

Another way to prepare for winter driving is to consider where the rubber meets the road—your tires. “If you are going to drive at all, don’t drive on second class tires,” Davidson cautioned. “I know the budget can be tight, but if you drive with bald tires you are asking for trouble.” All-weather or winter tires are your safest options. Well-designed winter tires distribute snow and water differently, he said.

“Don’t try to save a few dollars—your life may depend on it.”

It is also essential to pay attention to safety when you are at home in winter; December, January and February are peak season for certain types of home fires. In 2014, there were a reported 173,000 home fires resulting in 580 deaths, 5,330 injuries, and $1.2 billion in damage, Davidson said. The majority of fires were caused by cooking mishaps. Unattended cooking can result in disaster, Davidson said, especially when it involves deep fat frying.

“When you are frying, grilling, or boiling food, don’t leave it alone,” he said. “And don’t throw water on a grease fire. Have an approved foam fire extinguisher in your kitchen; it can be messy, but that’s better than losing your house.”

Another source of home fires can be home heating.

In 2014, home heating problems resulted in 56,400 fires, with 560 deaths, 1,600 injuries and $1.3 billion in damage, Davidson said.

“Whenever the leaves stop falling is the right time to clean gutters,” Davidson said. “If you don’t, they can become weighed down with snow and ice and fall off. Or a spark from a fire could land, for example if your neighbor’s house catches fire. And then your house could go up as well.”
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRISIS LOOMING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DEPENDENT ON SALES TAX

Dear Editor:
A crisis is looming for local governments that are dependent on sales taxes and it will come crashing down in the near future. Traditional brick and mortar retail is entering its final struggle against certain death.

Its impact will first be visited on small rural towns and counties. Internet based consumer buying is escalating at a far greater rate than most prognosticators expected.

It is urgent that Colorado pass legislation requiring the collection of State sales tax on internet/phone purchases that are being delivered by the Postal Service, UPS, FedEx and soon by services such as the Uber taxi. This legislation must include a provision for the collection and remission of all local government sales tax based on the address of the delivery.

Without this the likely hood of large revenue shortfalls are going to be felt by Delta County and all towns with sales tax as a part of their revenues.

In the case of Delta County this will mean declines from the sharing of County tax with all municipalities and entities such as the Library District and landfills.

For us locally the City of Delta without property tax and relying heavily of sales tax this crisis could be monumental.

Anyone who does not realize this impending doom of local government revenues certainly has their head deep in the sand. Those who think this is some distant future threat you had better check what is happening in major cities around the world with such basics as online grocery shopping, pharmaceutical and drug store items, prepared meals, clothing and even liquor and your evening dinner.

Even the big box brick and mortar stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Sears and JC Penney are launching major online platforms to buffer against the future.

This is nothing compared to the efforts of Amazon and EBay that are selling for any and everybody.

None of these produce one cent of tax for Colorado or any of its Counties and Towns. I predict that within five years or less you will see big box stores such as the Wal-Mart here in Delta and neighboring towns disappear as too much of market share will be lost to online purchasing.

I doubt that much can be done to stop this trend, so our State and local governments must act with great urgency to protect their revenues by leveling the playing field when it comes to sales tax collection.

Tom Huerkamp, Orchard City

BOCC MEETINGS LEAST EXPENSIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN TOWN

Dear Editor:
The last Board of County Commissioners meeting was interesting to say the least. Some of it I may have agreed with, some I have questions about and some of it just made me laugh. I have always said meetings like this are the least expensive entertainment in town. And this drama fulfilled each of those expectations. However, it is sad to say that what should have been a serious meeting caused people to laugh. Now one of those laughable statements was about the Road and Bridge facility. After all the concerns about health and safety of the staff at the existing facility a comment was made pointing out another odd danger. The bank of Cedar Creek is starting to give way and was creating another hazard to the staff and the facility. Now with four or five million dollars of equipment sitting there, why has nothing been done to fix that fixable problem? And will it not be a lingering hazard for the Fair Grounds anyway? Shouldn’t help be on its way to do something now?

Then the part about how to run a meeting? When you make a statement up front that you will take comments from the public but staff and Commissioners cannot and will not discuss this with the public! This should stop all arguments that might come up between elected officials and citizens, right? That old line by Mark Twain, "You should never argue with a fool, because people watching may not be able to tell the difference."

When providing feed back on a motion and receiving and answering questions it should be done in a professional manner. When Commissioners are receiving question and providing their best answers it should be done in a professional manner.

I have checked "Rogers Rule of Order" on running meetings, no place could I find a statement that when you get exasperated should you have a loud outburst, show of anger, or a complete break down of emotional control.

When a thing like this happens it does create concern by the public on how competent the management of our county is and how do you fix this loss of confidence? One way might be to make a sincere public a apology stating it will not happen again and holding to it.

As a Monday morning quarterback it is easy for me to make these comments and I have not anger in making them. Let the good emotions roll and look to how to contain the others.

Doug Glaspell, Montrose
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

1.8 MILLION VOTES CAST FOR A MILLION DOLLARS
FOOD FOR THOUGHT RECEIVES $25,000 STATE FARM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIST® GRANT

Special to the Mirror
DELTA-1.8 Million votes were cast by 72,000 people in an effort to bring a $25k grant to their neighborhoods. State Farm is proud to announce the Top 40 vote-getting causes that will receive the grants to improve their communities.

State Farm Neighborhood Assist is a crowd-sourced philanthropic program that empowers communities to identify issues in their neighborhoods. The affiliated nonprofits of the top 40 causes will each receive a $25,000 grant to create and execute a plan to address the cause. The top 40 causes represented 25 states from around the country.

Food for Thought is a service learning program of students from Vision Charter Academy and Delta Opportunity School. The program sends bags of weekend food home with students in 8 Delta County schools K-12, it is a kids feeding kids program. A celebration is being planned after the New Year where the community will be invited as a way to thank them for their support and votes.

"State Farm is here to help life go right in neighborhoods all across the country. We look forward to seeing the changes in these 40 communities because of these Neighborhood Assist grants," said Kellie Clapper, State Farm Assistant Vice President – Human Resources.

Of the 2,000 cause submissions that were received through State Farm Neighborhood Assist, at least one cause was received from every state in the U.S. Then, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, a diverse group of 30 students who are passionate about social responsibility, reviewed the cause submissions and selected the 200 finalists to be voted on. In the five years of the program, 200 causes have received a total of $5 million to enact change in their communities.

DEPUTIES RESPONDING TO FIRE DISCOVER 100LBS OF MARIJUANA

Special to the Mirror
NORWOOD-San Miguel Sheriff’s Deputies responding to a report of an uncontrolled fire and smoke at a residence outside of Norwood last month unexpectedly found more than 100lbs of marijuana. Deputies say upon arrival to the Nov. 18th call, they found six individuals processing more than 100lbs of marijuana buds, with an estimated retail value of more than four-hundred thousand dollars, according to local licensed marijuana store owners contacted by Deputies. The Deputies obtained a search warrant for the area and seized the cannabis.

The man claiming ownership of the marijuana told Deputies the 100lbs was for his personal medical use to alleviate back pain. He was found to hold a permit from a physician to possess 32 ounces of cannabis, which was returned to him by the Sheriff’s Office in accordance with Colorado law.

Sheriff Bill Masters said, “There are legal ways to grow, process and distribute marijuana. It does not appear this man was in compliance with those laws.” The reported smoke, which could be seen from several miles away, was a result of the people at the residence burning left over cannabis plant stalks. No arrests were made, and the case has been referred to the District Attorney’s Office.

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MIRROR IMAGES...TOY RUN FOR HAVEN HOUSE!

OLATHE - The weather was cold but hearts were warm on Saturday, Dec. 3, for the first Tri-State Generation & Transmission Toy Run for Haven House, a shelter for families who are experiencing homelessness. “You don’t know how excited we are for this,” Haven House Director Rose Verheul said. “There are 24 kids here from age three months to 15 years. For the families here, this is their best Christmas.” From top left, Shelby loved the motorcycles; Newfy brings toys; families and volunteers gather for the festivities; Santa visits with a shy child.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AERIAL SEEDING TO OCCUR ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA — The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests announced that aerial seeding is planned to occur during the week of Dec. 12, depending upon appropriate weather conditions. Two areas are planned to be seeded using a fixed wing aircraft to help establish native seed species in areas that have received previous mechanical treatments. The two areas are Thunder Fuels Project and the Pine Hill Project. The aerial seeding is a joint effort between The Uncompahgre Plateau Partnership and the Norwood and Grand Valley Ranger Districts. The Thunder Fuels project is located near National Forest System Road #609 (Thunder Road), north of Norwood, CO. The Pine Hill Project is located near the junction of National Forest System Roads #404 and #405 (Uranium Road) on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Approximately 10,000 pounds of seed will be used for both projects with the goal to restore the ecosystem function of these areas and enhance wildlife habitat. Native seed sources were locally harvested to sustain local genetic traits in plant communities.

LEASE AWARDED FOR GMUG FOREST HEADQUARTERS IN DELTA

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—The Forest Service has awarded a new lease for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Headquarters Office in Delta. The awardee is the current owner of the Forest Service Office located at 2250 Highway 50 in Delta. A total of three offers were negotiated through the “best and final” process, with Evergreen W.S. Properties LLC being awarded the lease. The lease term is for 15 years.
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APPLY BY JANUARY 27, 2017.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NASA AND THE FOREST SERVICE IMPLEMENT JOINT PROJECT

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL—Snow is a critical source of water, a major weather phenomenon, part of many ecosystems, and an important element in floods and other natural hazards. A major portion of the national and global economies is impacted by snow, yet accurately measuring how much snow exists across the United States and the world is difficult. SnowEx is a major effort by agencies like NASA and the Forest Service to improve the ability to measure snow, ultimately by satellites in space. SnowEx is a step on the path to a future satellite mission dedicated to global snow applications.

SnowEx is a multi-year project with the primary goal of determining how much water is stored in Earth’s snow-covered regions. The project will investigate the distribution of snow-water equivalent (SWE) across mountainous terrain and vegetation. Year 1 (2016-17) will focus on Grand Mesa and the Senator Beck Basin in Western, CO. The effort will utilize a unique combination of airborne sensors, active and passive microwave, an imaging spectrometer, and infrared sensors to determine the sensitivity and accuracy of different remote sensing techniques. The SnowEx ground truth component—involving ground-based instruments, snow-field measurements, and modeling—is a critical part of the project to validate the data. NASA and the Forest Service welcome interest by the public in these activities. Watch for signs and markers that identify spots where measurements are being made, and please avoid disturbing the snow near those areas.

The SnowEx project completed its first steps on Grand Mesa at the end of September—a 2-week effort to set up equipment prior to the arrival of snow. Additionally, “snow-off” measurements were taken with both airborne and ground-based instruments. Visitors to Grand Mesa may come across several NASA observation locations. Please do not disrupt the equipment or disturb the area, as it will affect the accuracy and success of the project.

Beginning Feb. 6 of 2017, the primary “snow-on” portion of the project begins and will last for 3 weeks. This will consist of approximately 50 people on the ground each week taking a variety of different kinds of snow measurements and utilizing many different techniques. In the air, SnowEx will use aircraft, courtesy of the Naval Research Lab, with 4 microwave and visible/infrared sensors. A final “snow-off” measuring effort will occur sometime in the summer of 2017, involving aircraft and sensors. After completion, the SnowEx equipment will be removed from the sites. All data will be available to the science community and the public in late 2017. Please visit www.snow.nasa.gov.

The Mirror:
For coverage that never leaves our readers out in cold ...

www.montrosemirror.com
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUC SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC RATE HIKE REQUEST

Special to the Mirror
DENVER - The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) last week slashed by about 85 percent a request by Black Hills Energy to increase electric rates by $8.5 million annually.

Final rates won’t be determined until after a technical conference on Dec. 7 to input the Commission’s decisions on various rate adjustments into the company’s cost model. But it is expected that the increase will be less than $2 million.

Black Hills sought to recover costs related to a new gas-fired generation unit at the Pueblo Airport Generating Station. The new plant is replacing the power generation previously provided by the W.N. Clark coal-fired plant in Canon City, which was retired to comply with Colorado’s Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act (CACJA).

While the PUC said the company was allowed by state law to build the replacement generation, it expressed disappointment that less expensive options were not pursued.

The PUC made numerous decisions resulting in significant cuts to the company’s proposed revenue requirement, including the areas of overall capital structure and return on equity; the specific rate of return on the new gas-fired generation unit; pension expenses for company employees; executive incentive and equity compensation; property tax allowances; cost recovery of investments made using federal stimulus grants; and additional cost categories.
Health Wellness = Wealth

By Michele Gad

December – the last month of the year filled with holidays and cheer. As I mature (NOTE: I did not say “age”), the years seem to fly by faster and faster. Being somewhat scientific as well as a math lover, I long ago calculated that if I live to what current statistics predict, about age 90, I will have slept 30 of those years… in other words, 1/3 of my life! Of course, that is assuming I actually sleep eight hours per night which I must confess, is not always the case. There is no point in me resenting those 262,800 plus hours I will have spent in bed by age 90, because our bodies require that sleep in order to restore and rejuvenate, grow muscle, repair tissue, and synthesize hormones. Researchers have also shown that after people sleep, they tend to retain information and perform better on memory tasks.

Consider the recommended hours of sleep per the National Sleep Foundation in this chart. Reminder: You cannot catch up on sleep. The recommendations are for each and every night.

Most people don’t get enough sleep. We are a society that burns the candle at both ends, a nation where people stay up all night to study, work or have fun. There are also other reasons for lack of sleep but whatever the reason, going without adequate sleep carries with it both short and long-term consequences.

In the short term, a lack of adequate sleep can affect judgment, mood, ability to learn and retain information, and may increase the risk of serious accidents and injury. In the long term, chronic sleep deprivation may lead to a host of health problems including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and even early mortality. The most recent studies indicate that an insufficient amount of sleep may even lead to kidney failure over time. Additional research studies show that adults habitually sleeping more than nine hours is also associated with poor health.

It amazes me how frequently my friends, students and clients lament that they cannot or did not get enough sleep… for a night, weeks, months or even years. There are many reasons for inadequate amounts of sleep; stress, anxiety, depression, physical pain, caffeine, energy drinks, sugar, technology (i.e. TV, Facebook, gaming), noise, light and more.

Good news! There are ways to address poor and/or inadequate sleep. There are many medications (prescription or over the counter) available but sleep experts also recommend you develop good habits prior to going to bed to improve your chances of a fitful night’s sleep.

Stick to a sleep schedule… yes, your parents were actually right to designate a bedtime for you when you were a child; Turn off electronics at least two hours prior to bedtime (TV may be on until one hour prior to bedtime depending on the individual and the program); Do not work for at least two hours prior to bedtime (close the briefcase and put the paperwork aside); Practice relaxing bedtime rituals which might include reading, listening to music, meditation, prayer, etc.; Evaluate your bedroom (optimum temperature of 60-67 degrees, free from allergens, quiet and dark) and create a sleep sanctuary not just a room with a bed; Sleep on a comfortable mattress (NOTE: most mattresses have a 9-10 year life expectancy) and use appropriate pillows and bedding; Avoid napping during the day; Exercise daily.

If you are experiencing sleep issues, consider why… can you improve the situation by making changes to your sleep routine or do you need to consult with your healthcare professional(s)? Maybe better or more sleep will be on your list of New Year’s resolutions? Wishing all of you health, wealth, peace and joy in 2017 and always.

Questions, comments or suggestions? Feel free to contact me at michelegad.fame@aol.com. I may be sleeping so please leave a message.

Michele Gad is a Certified DelGiacco Neuro Art Therapist and runs a business, Focus, Attention, Memory Exercises (F.A.M.E.)
GET INTO HEALTHY RHYTHM COMMUNITY ART GALLERY!

By Liesl Greathouse
LOWER MONTROSE (LOMO)-Things are busy at the Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery, with owner Ken Vail working on several projects. One is a concert featuring singer Ari Hest on Dec. 28, plus Vail is working to promote West Main Street as the new board member at the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

The major event to wrap up 2016 is the ‘Ari Hest: An Intimate Holiday Concert’ live at the Gallery on Dec. 28. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts 7:45 p.m. Ari Hest is a New York City singer/songwriter and recording artist who recently completed a collaborative album with American singer/songwriter, Judy Collins. Their album, “Silver Skies Blue”, was released in June and is the first time Collins has ever written and recorded with another artist. Over his 15-year career, Ari Hest has released eight albums, three EPs, and "52" in 2008, an innovative project whereby he wrote, recorded and released a new song every Monday for a full year. Hest is also half of the folk pop duo The Open Sea with Rosi Golan, and half of the Brazilian music inspired pop duo Bluebirds of Paradise with Chrissi Poland. Throughout his career, he has toured worldwide, sharing the stage with the likes of Sheryl Crow, The Finn Brothers, Judy Collins, Suzanne Vega, Declan O’Rourke and The Fray.

In addition to the concert, Vail continues to build a collection of interesting art in the Gallery, including works from artists as far away as the Netherlands and Miami, to local artists including Brad Tate and Jordan Johnson.

As the new board member on the DDA board, Vail hopes to bring a better focus to West Main and the variety of culture and events that happen there. “People think that there is not much going on West Main, so I’m getting involved and working with the DDA to enhance and expand the work they’re doing in West Main,” he said.

While Vail has big dreams for what he would like to see the DDA do to support West Main, his priorities are to start small with things like expanding holiday decorations and grow from there. “I’m always thinking six miles down the road of what could be,” he explained. “I think that the railroad tracks act as a barrier for people. I want to help navigate people Downtown, to check things out. I’m not just focusing on the Gallery, I’m focusing on West Main commerce. I want to get people down here.”

The addition of more businesses on West Main has brought more traffic to the area, especially with Cimarron Coffee Roasters opening in the Sampler Square building.
GET INTO HEALTHY RHYTHM COMMUNITY ART GALLERY!

From page 1

which has directly helped the Gallery. “I had one lady and her husband come in for coffee and stop by the gallery,” Vail said. “A few weeks later, she came back with some friends to get coffee and see the gallery and ended up getting tickets for the Ari Hest concert. It’s not the people buying the $1,000 pieces that keep the doors open. It’s the people buying $25-30, which all adds up.”

“My goal is not necessarily to make money with the Gallery,” Vail explained. “Of course I have to keep the doors open, but I want to bring people together, who have different backgrounds, different experiences, and put that audience in front of a good musician and watch them. It’s like watching that scene in ‘Almost Famous’, where everyone is feeling down, then someone starts playing a song. That changes the mood and people are smiling and in a groove.”

Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery is located at 68 S Grand Ave in Montrose. It is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, 12:30-7 p.m., and by advance appointment only on Sunday.

For more information about the Gallery and the Ari Hest show, contact Ken Vail at 323-370-6284 or visit healthyrhythm.net.
Cherry Creek Radio and Alpine Bank are Sponsoring The Pic Place 2016

Toy Drive
for Montrose and Delta Counties

Please donate toys for boys and girls from newborn to 12 years of age (all toys should be unwrapped)

Drop-off points
Alpine Bank locations - during business hours:
2770 Alpine Drive in Montrose
1400 East Main Street in Montrose
1660 Highway 92 in Delta

Happy New Merry Thanksmas

The toy and food drive will begin with this event, November 11 - 12 (drop off at the event itself), and will continue through December 16.

All toys must be donated by December 16 for sorting and delivery. Distribution will occur at Alpine Bank, 2770 Alpine Drive, on December 17 from 10am - noon.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

THE REAL ELVES OF THE NORTH POLE TO PERFORM IN THE RADIO ROOM!

Special to Art & Sol
GRAND JUNCTION-One night only! On Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 2016 at 7 pm in the KAFM Radio Room, The Real Elves Of The North Pole will be presented by the Students of Independence Academy. KAFM Radio is a supporter of all the Arts and we are always willing to encourage the youth in our community to participate in all mediums of Art. That’s why we’re thrilled when Amanda Jackman, a teacher at Independence Academy contacted us about putting on a performance of a holiday play that her students had been working on here in the KAFM Radio Room.

“Our desire is to have the students get to have the full experience of putting on a show, from the rehearsals to creating the promotion by making a spot to run on the radio. We also wanted to have kids incorporate an involvement with charitable giving by making this an opportunity to collect donations for Homeward Bound instead of selling tickets.”

The Students are asking that you bring a donation of household items, food or clothing that would help a family out during the rough winter months. Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley provides a safe and healthy step for homeless adults and families on their pathway home. Homeward Bound is in need of the following items and would greatly appreciate donations! TOILET PAPER Paper Towels Razors OTC Pain Medication Hand Sanitizer Travel Size Hygiene Products Meat (Ground beef, lunch meat, chicken…) Sugar Coffee Canned Fruit Canned Veggies Spices. Check in at our website www.kafmradio.org for updates about this and future productions at the KAFM Radio Room. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 30 minutes before show time.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 2016 at 7 pm in the KAFM Radio Room, The Real Elves Of The North Pole will be presented by the Students of Independence Academy.

FIRST ANNUAL SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT SLATED FOR THE SHERBINO

Special to Art & Sol
RIDGWAY--The 1st Annual Scrabble Tournament in Ridgway occurs on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 1-4 pm at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton Street, to benefit the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway.

Contestants will play three one-hour games against randomly-selected opponents. The person with the highest game score will receive a handmade wooden Scrabble board from Dick Lillard and $100. Prizes also will be given for second highest game score and top word scores.

Registration is STILL OPEN and is $20. Contestants must pre-register by Tuesday, December 6th, by calling the Sherbino at 970/318-0892 to sign up.

Ridgway’s Sherbino is the community’s premier venue for arts, culture, creativity, and lifelong learning. Money collected through the Scrabble tournament will go toward general operating costs that keep the theater doors open.
CONFERENCE PROMOTES HEALTHY LAND, FOOD, PEOPLE

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE—Are you passionate about raising the most nutritious food possible, in the best soil possible, to feed the healthiest people possible? Head to the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, in Montrose, Jan. 20-21.

Registration is open for half-day pre-conference workshops Friday and the Forum all day Saturday. The Forum celebrates its 5th anniversary with nationally known speakers, such as Ray Archuleta, Greg Judy, and Andrew Smith of the Rodale Institute. Twenty-two workshops designed for advanced to beginning producers include sessions on maximizing vegetable production in saline soils, innovative livestock management, soil and livestock health, organic and hemp research, food safety, organic standards, water law, orchard management, marketing strategies, grants and more. Limited tours of South River Aquaponics are also on the agenda. Saturday, keynote speaker Ray Archuleta addresses Understanding the Social, Cultural, and Ecological Context of Soil Health. “Ray the soil guy” promotes local and global movement toward regenerative agriculture based on internalizing how wholes relate and how humans think.

“The human mind is one of the biggest obstacles to improving soil health and regenerative agriculture. To make small changes, change how you do things. To make major changes, change how you see things!” Greg Judy, author of No Risk Ranching and Comeback Farms, hosts a half-day pre-conference workshop on profitable ranching and mob grazing techniques. At the conference he leads a session on how production increases when more solar energy is harvested using multi-species grazing. Rodale Institute, the oldest organic research organization in the US, presents a half-day workshop, Maximizing Nutrient Density to Improve Production and Health Outcomes, led by Andrew Smith, PhD.

The interactive session at the Montrose County Fairgrounds covers the effect of nutrient decline on health, balancing soil minerals to increase nutrient density, crop selection, foliar feeding and interpreting soil tests. The National Young Farmers Coalition hosts a half-day Water Boot Camp. Topics include the history of Colorado water law, ins and outs of local irrigation administration, policy and funding that impact your irrigation decisions, and what you need to know about water when looking for land.

“The conference is designed to provide a rich menu of options and to encourage networking among participants during a chili dinner Friday, a farmer-to-farmer invention convention, roundtable sessions and a post conference bowling night,” says organizer Carol Parker. Valley Food Partnership producers provide local food throughout the day. The educational conference offers discounts to those registering by Dec. 19th. Attendees receive discounts when they attend both the pre-conference workshop and the Forum. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers. The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call 970-249-3935.
Your 2017 Resolution... Maintain Your Brain With

F A M E
Focus, Attention, Memory Exercises

Happy New Year

This program embraces a holistic approach to brain health through a series of customized exercises, designed to develop new neural pathways in the brain (referred to as neuroplasticity), which can improve focus, attention and memory.

F A M E can benefit healthy aging adults and be effective in treating:

- Stroke survivors
- Depression and anxiety
- Alzheimer’s and dementia
- ADD/ADHD (youth and adults)
- Traumatic brain injuries and PTSD

For your free F A M E consultation contact

Michele Gad
970-948-5708
michelegad.fame@aol.com
Puppet Shows!

Puppetree Theatre Presents

YE OLDE TOY SHOPPE
A MELODRAMA

DECEMBER 29TH
10:00 AND 11:00

Live actors and a cast of puppets present a 45-minute show for the whole family!

Seating is first come, first served and shows are bound to fill up. Come early to find parking and a spot to enjoy the show!

Marguerite H. Gill Children's Room
970-249-5656, Option 2
www.montroselibrary.org
Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/montrosekids) and Twitter @MontroseLibKids

Montrose Regional Library District
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NEW BOOK AIMED AT ENRICHING MAIN STREET

Special to Art & Sol
DENVER – When you travel on streets bustling with people and activity, you tend to see lively storefronts and sidewalk cafes with people walking their dogs, kids on bicycles and friends conversing. Even though you’re on the street, you sense it’s a special place. It might be a main street that’s also serves as a highway, or a neighborhood street. But you feel the energy of the community by the activity around you.

These types of great streets are the subject of the new publication Colorado Downtown Streets. Produced by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the book is a tool for communities, planners and engineers and is intended to help move the conversation around designing downtown streets as special places, while balancing transportation needs.

Main streets often reflect a community’s identity since that is where people live, shop and visit. But they also often provide a center for activity that can improve a city or town’s economic and physical health.

“The preservation of local main streets is critical to the economic growth and stability of a community’s central business district. DOLA is proud to collaborate with agency partners to help streamline the planning and execution of vital downtown streets” said Irv Halter, DOLA executive director.

Colorado Downtown Streets is a resource to help guide downtown street design. It provides the reader with common language, elements and colored illustrations of great streets, as well as examples and case studies that are specific to Colorado. In addition, the book provides tips and strategies to understanding transportation planning, design and funding.

“Typically, great streets provide options for all users,” said CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt. “We have many communities in Colorado that rely on a state highway to be its main street. This book helps communicate the fine balance in designing to move people as well as goods into and through a community.”

“Communities that provide safe, easy access to walking and biking are investing in the health of all Coloradans,” said Dr. Larry Wolk, CDPHE executive director and chief medical officer.

Colorado Downtown Streets is available as a download by visiting the DOLA Main Streets Program website at https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/main-street-resources. In addition to the book, there are four animated videos that provide an interesting and entertaining way of presenting main streets information.
INSTRUCTOR: ANN CHEEKS

"THE ARTFUL GIFT" SERIES FOR ADULTS IN MONTROSE

Dec 2: The Artful Notecard
Dec 9: The Artful Mosaic
Dec 16: Tiny Treasures Mini Painting

ARTS WORKSHOPS
DECEMBER 2, 9, AND/OR 16
FRIDAYS 10 AM - 2 PM AT PRECEDENCE ART ACADEMY

INFORMATION: WWW.WEEHAWKENARTS.ORG OR 970-318-0150

Students may register for a single class, or for the entire 3-class series at a discounted rate. Register for three-class series: $105 (includes all supplies). Or, register for a single class: $40/class (includes all supplies). Minimum 6 students pre-enrolled to make the class a "go". Max = 12.

December 2nd: The Artful Notecard - using monoprinting/monotype techniques, students will make their own one-of-a-kind seasonal notecard sets.

December 9th: The Artful Mosaic - The Treasure Keeper - using real glass and mosaic techniques, artist Ann Cheeks will guide you through a "completed mosaic project on a wooden cigar box (note: finished project will not be ready for pick-up until December 16th).

December 16th: Tiny Treasures Original Miniature Paintings - work with acrylic paint and your favorite photos of a landscape or object to create at least one miniature painting masterpiece.

REGISTER TO ENSURE THE CLASS HAPPENS: WWW.WEEHAWKENARTS.ORG
GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT THE MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE—Come enjoy illuminated garden paths and displays, horse drawn wagon rides, music activated light shows and the new Community Tunnel of Lights! Friday & Saturday, Dec. 9th & 10th
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 16th, 17th, 18th
Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 26th & 27th, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Check the website for details.
www.montrosegardens.org

SEE MATCHSTICK PRODUCTIONS “RUIN AND ROSE” AT THE SHERBINO

Special to Art & Sol
RIDGWAY—On Friday, Dec. 9th, the Sherbino presents the latest ski film by Matchstick Productions titled, “Ruin and Rose.” Doors for the film are at 7 pm with the movie starting at 7:30pm. $10 at the door.

Acclaimed writer/director Ben Sturgulewski joins the award-winning team at Matchstick Productions and their two decades of filmmaking expertise to deliver “Ruin and Rose,” an epic creative vision brought to life by the talents of the world’s top skiers. Winter landscapes across the planet contrast seamlessly with a thoroughly-crafted story of environmental apocalypse, shot entirely within the otherworldly expanses of Africa’s Skeleton Coast. Unlike anything seen before, the dreamlike setting of this film sparks the imagination of not only action sports enthusiasts, but anyone with a beating heart.

Presented by Under Armour in spectacular 4K resolution, “Ruin and Rose” features veterans and newcomers alike, including Mark Abma, Sammy Carlson, Markus Eder, Zack Giffin, Sander Hadley, Russ Henshaw, Eric Hjorleifson, Lukas Joas, Sean Jordan, Bene Mayr, Evan McEachran, Michelle Parker, Ole Pavel, Tanner Rainville, Austin Ross, Fabio Studer, Cody Townsend, Noah Wallace, and others. “Ruin and Rose” was filmed on location in Alaska, Austria, British Columbia, Bulgaria, California, France, Switzerland, and the deserts of Namibia.

COLORADO GIVES DAY AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HOPEWEST

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE—HopeWest is participating in the seventh annual Colorado Gives Day, a statewide initiative to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving for a 24 hour period.

People throughout Colorado are encouraged to donate online on Tuesday, December 6 to their favorite nonprofit through the GivingFirst website. Donations can be prescheduled at any time on the ColoradoGives.org website, but all donations will be processed during the 24 hour period on Colorado Gives Day.

Every donation on Colorado Gives Day will qualify for the Community First Foundation and FirstBank $1 Million Incentive Fund that increases the value of every donation made. At the completion of Colorado Gives Day, the Foundation will determine each nonprofit’s share of the incentive fund.

“Because of the community’s generosity - more families are supported in their time of need, more patients receive quality end of life care and more volunteers are recruited to help with our efforts,” said Christy Whitney Borchard, President and CEO of HopeWest. “The generosity and compassion shown by donors and participants on Colorado Gives Day make it possible for us to continue to meet the needs of patients and their loved ones. Whatever the nature of a contribution, we deeply appreciate it because it makes a difference right here in our community.”

Generous donations made the following HopeWest services possible last year:
1,773 patients and their loved ones received compassionate care though the hospice program
619 patients and families were welcomed and comforted at the HopeWest Hospice Care Center
777 people received palliative care to help manage pain and symptoms
684 children and teens received grief support through the HopeWest Kids program
535 people found hope through the weekly grief education and support groups, individual counseling and social support groups
1,349 volunteers dedicated 85,601 hours of their time to the community through HopeWest.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

RIDGWAY’S UNITED CHURCH OF THE SAN JUANS TO PRESENT APPALACHIAN WINTER

Special to Art & Sol
RIDGWAY-On Sunday, Dec. 18, Joseph M. Martin’s Appalachian Winter: A Cantata for Christmas will be presented at 7 p.m. at United Church of the San Juans (295 North Lena Street in Ridgway). Directed by Allyson Connally, the Cantata will be performed by the UCSJ Choir, joined by members of the Montrose United Methodist Church. Accompaniment by Dee James and orchestra. Love offerings are welcomed; Admission is free.

FISCHER PRIZE OFFERS $3000 TO POETS

Special to the Mirror
COLORADO--The Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds poetry program honors both Mark and Elaine Fischer this year with its 20th annual poetry contest -- newly expanded from the Western U.S. to all 50 states.

Formerly the Mark Fischer Prize, the 2017 Fischer Prize invokes the memory of one of Telluride’s best-loved couples: the late poet, lawyer, skier and raconteur Mark Fischer and his late wife Elaine Can- tor Fischer -- painter, champion of the arts, mayor and county commissioner. The contest offers $3000 in prizes and travel allowances for the best poems by six finalists, as well as one grand prize winner. Awards will be presented at the Telluride Literary Arts Festival in Telluride, Colorado, May 19-23.

New or previously published poems are acceptable as entries, so long as the author retains the copyrights.

Last year international poet of Wage Peace fame Judyth Hill chose the winning entries. This year’s judge is Colorado Book Award winner and former Denver Poet Laureate Chris Ransick <chrisransick.com>. Deadline for submissions is April 22, 2017.

For more info, visit: talkinggourds.weebly.com

CITIZENS’ CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS TONIGHT

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE--The next meeting of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby will be on Monday Dec. 5, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room off of Centennial Plaza. Citizens’ Climate Lobby networks to influence legislators to pay attention to the Earth’s environment. All are welcome.

Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror...Call 970-275-0646 for ad rates and information!
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

SHERBINO TO HOST IGNITE EVENT ON DEC. 8

Special to the Mirror
RIDGWAY-Ton Dec. 8, the Sherbino Theater is hosting another “Ignite Sherbino,” and opening up the Sherbino stage for a night of innovation, passion, and just down right cool presentations! At “Ignite Sherbino,” individuals will have the chance to present on topics/subjects that they are passionate about in a fun and welcoming environment. “Ignite Sherbino” hopes to inspire innovation, creativity, and new ideas within the community, and it’s all taking place in Ridgway’s Living Room.
Doors and cash bar for the event are at 6:30pm with presentations starting around 7 pm. Conversation and mingling is strongly encouraged after the presentations are over. Admission for the event is by donation only.

New to Ignite? Here is a brief break-down of how Ignite events work:
At Ignite events, presenters share their personal and professional passions, using 20 slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds for a total of just five minutes.
“Enlighten us but make it quick! Twenty slides, five minutes, one passion.”
For more examples of Ignite talks around the country, and/or for more information on Ignite events, please visit: http://igniteshow.com/
Interested in being a presenter at an Ignite Sherbino event? ...email us at music@sherbinotheater.com for more details!

ART CLUB: TINY TREASURES WORKSHOP TAUGHT IN MONTROSE DEC. 16

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE-On Dec. 16 @ Precedence Music Academy, Ann Cheeks will teach: Tiny Treasures Original Miniature Paintings - Work with acrylic paint and your favorite photos of a landscapes or objects to create at least one miniature painting masterpiece (the finished product not only comes with the painted canvas, but also, an adorable miniature wooden easel you can give with your gift!) In this fun workshop, students will learn to paint small landscape or still-life paintings using photographs. Small paintings need to jump off the wall! The goal will be to create simple designs with a lot of contrast and vibrant colors. Your paintings will have a strong foundation and bold composition. Students should bring a few photographs that inspire them. All supplies are included in the price of the class.
Students are welcome to bring a snack and/or refreshing beverage if they please.
Register for the entire FAAC series at this link
https://apm.activecommunities.com/weehawkenarts/Activity_Search/2118
Angel Boxes

Let Your Light Shine On Others
This Christmas Season!

Help us fill food boxes for
those who are less fortunate

The Homestead at Montrose
will collect non-perishable food
items until Dec. 7, 2016

Staff will deliver the Angel Boxes
to needy families the week of
Dec. 12th

Anyone is welcome to donate

Volunteers of America®
The Homestead at Montrose

1819 Pavilion Drive, Montrose  |  970-252-9359
Before moving on to an overview of some obscure holiday music, another question must be answered because it has been asked several times...and if a certain question is asked three or more times then it must be addressed in a weekly column. This question comes in two parts; where to find live classical music in Montrose, Colorado and what are good sources for classical music on television and online.

The local source for live classical music is the Valley Symphony. For the last 40 years the Valley Symphony Association has performed concerts throughout the year, offering traditional favorites, soloists, movie music, and favorites for the holiday season. Information on the orchestra and their performance schedule can be found at www.valleysymphony.net.

The Ouray County Performing Arts Guild headquartered in Ouray, Colorado brings world-class chamber music to our area. The San Juan Chamber Music Fest is offered late each summer, and the chamber music group Trio Solisti are frequent visitors to Ouray, Ridgway, and Telluride. More information can be obtained at www.ocpag.org.

Montrose is fortunate to have access to the classical music station from Colorado Public Radio, located at 103.3 FM. This is an outstanding source for classical music and offers recordings from very early opera of the 1600’s to music from today’s active composers of opera, chamber music, and classical music.

The radio hosts are incredibly knowledgeable, and offer background on each piece as well as information on classical music performances around the state. Two days ago, live broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera began on 103.3 FM and will continue each Saturday until early May. These broadcasts offer the finest performances of the world’s great operas along with commentary, analysis, and the very popular opera quiz segment. The schedule, along with HD live performances show at the Michael D. Palm Theatre in Telluride, Colorado can be found at http://www.metopera.org/Season/Radio/Saturday-Matinee-Broadcasts/ and http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/

This author grew up watching performances of Live from Lincoln Center on PBS channel 6. This is still one of the best places to find live classical music, chamber music, and opera. Many past performances can be accessed through the PBS app Thirteen Explore.

Broadcasts schedules for Live from Lincoln Center on Rocky Mountain PBS can be found at http://www.pbs.org/live-from-lincoln-center/home/.
MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS!

Montrose Parade of Lights Photos by Mirror Staff

Prevent Breakage—Get Your Trees Ready for Winter!

GREG’S TREE SERVICE

- Pruning
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- Removals
- Stump Grinding

CALL US AT 970.240.1872

FULL SERVICE TREE COMPANY • PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED • FULLY LICENSED & INSURED
MIRROR IMAGES...MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS!

Montrose Parade of Lights Photos by Mirror Staff
San Miguel Power Association Inc., in conjunction with its national cooperative partner, CoBank, is again seeking proposals for funding opportunities that stimulate and enhance our local economies.

Learn more at: www.smpa.com→Community Programs
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

GRAND JUNCTION GERMAN CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Special to Art & Sol
GRAND JUNCTION - This annual event is open to the public and will take place on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring an ample dish to share and your own service. The Club will supply water, ice tea and coffee. Come to First Baptist Church at 7th & Grand, enter the building on the south side off of Grand AVE, come downstairs and into the first room. Parking is available across the street in the old RS School Parking Lot, on the street or Northeast behind the church down the alley in our lot. For further information, contact me at 970-209-9241 [call or text] or jkwitt811@gmail.com We often sing German Christmas Carols.

HEAR THE BOOKCLIFF BARBERSHOP HARMONY CHORUS

Special to Art & Sol
GRAND JUNCTION - The Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus will be strolling down Main Street and singing during the upcoming Christmas Walk on Friday, Dec. 9th, starting at 5 PM. We will be singing for the folks who attend Bethlehem Revisited at Northeast Christian Church 2751 Patterson Road on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11 from 6 to 9 PM. THEN on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 6:30 PM again at Northeast Christian Church on Patterson, will be our annual Christmas Concert. Men from the community will join us. For more info, contact our BBHC number: 970-257-7664.

COLORADO SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM BRANCHES OUT!

Special to Art & Sol
REGIONAL-CSU Tri River Area Extension, in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service, is still taking orders for seedling trees used for conservation purposes. New to our area, we are now pre-ordering perennial wildflowers and ornamental grasses. The program offers over 30 varieties of trees and shrubs, and 15 separate types of ornamental grasses and wildflowers. All of these can be ordered now through April 10, 2017. Delivery will be set for early May. Seedlings can be ordered in several different sizes and quantities including Bareroot, Large and Small Tubes, Extra Large Potted, and Trays. This is a statewide program, and inventories are already running out for some specific varieties. For species questions contact CSFS (970) 249-9051 or CSU Extension Horticulture Agent Susan Carter at 970-244-1850, Susan.Carter@colostate.edu Please contact the Montrose CSU Extension office for Montrose and Ouray County seedling tree order forms at 970-249-3935.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & NATURE

2016 MONTROSE PARADE OF LIGHTS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE—The City of Montrose and the Office of Business and Tourism thanks everyone who participated and attended the 2016 Parade of Lights! This year’s theme, “Winter, Land of Wonder,” was a nod to the 2016 National Park Service Centennial Celebration.

The 2016 grand marshals included the National Park Service, along with partnering public lands organizations that serve the community through land stewardship, preservation, restoration, and conservation: the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Entries for the “Best of the 2016 Parade of Lights” were judged on use of theme, use of lights, originality, and overall appeal.

• First Place/$250 Montrose Bucks: Western Slope 4-Wheelers
• Second Place/$150 Montrose Bucks: San Juan Credit Union
• Third Place/$100 Montrose Bucks: Alexander Orthodontics

Mark your calendars for more holiday fun throughout town!

The Valley Symphony Association Choir and Orchestra presents their “Christmas by Candlelight” concert at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center on Dec. 4 at 3 pm.

The Garden of Lights will illuminate the Botanic Garden, just south of the Montrose Pavilion Events Center, on Dec. 9-10, Dec. 16 – 18, and Dec. 26-27 from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Dec. 16 – 17 at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center, Weehawken Dance Presents: "The Polar Express."

The Montrose Community Band will present their free Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 11, from 3-5 pm, at the Montrose Pavilion Events Center.

The Winter Farmers’ Market is open Dec. 17 at 514 S First St from 10 am – 1 pm.

Santa’s Cabin runs through December 20: Fridays at Timberline Bank (4-6 pm) and downtown in the Uncompahgre Events Plaza on Saturdays (11 am – 2 pm) and Sundays (1:30-4:30 pm). For more information about events, contact the Downtown Visitor Center at 970-497-8558 or go to CityofMontrose.org/events.

Auditions for My Fun Funny Valentine!

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE—Auditions will be Friday, Dec. 30, 2017, @ 5:30pm – 9:30 pm @ Magic Circle Theater. Auditions are open to the entire community. Come prepared to present a performance quality audition of your song, dance, musical piece or skit. We welcome solo acts and groups. Please keep in mind our theme, My Fun Funny Valentine, as you choose your piece. The show will be cast on the quality of the audition, relevance to the theme and as it fits with the creation of the total show. Magic Circle will not provide coaching, instruction, rehearsals for your performance. Required full cast rehearsals will be held Saturdays in January.
NEW! FRIDAY AFTERNOON ART CLUB in Montrose for Youth

AGES 2ND - 5TH GRADE WITH MISS ANN CHEEKS
at Precedence Music & Art Academy

Register for three-class series: $70 (includes all supplies).
Or, register for a single class: $28/class (includes all supplies)

Running weekly for 3 weeks on Fridays from 4 pm - 6 pm each week.
Minimum 6 students pre-enrolled to make the class “Go”. Maximum, 12 students.

DECEMBER 2nd

December 2nd: The Artful Notecard - using monoprinting/monotype techniques, students will make their own one-of-a-kind seasonal notecard sets. Students will leave with at least 10-20 original handmade notecards!

DECEMBER 9th

December 9th: The Artful Mosaic Frame - using real glass mosaic techniques, students will create a mosaic design on a wooden frame that will perfectly embrace a favorite photo -- just in time for the holidays!

DECEMBER 16th

December 16th: Tiny Treasures Original Miniature Paintings - Work with acrylic paint and your favorite photos of a landscapes or objects to create at least one miniature painting masterpiece

REGISTER TO ENSURE THE CLASS HAPPENS: WWW.WEEHAWKENARTS.ORG
Hold the Date! Upcoming Business and Cultural Events

DECEMBER ONGOING-
MONTROSE SENIOR CENTER LUNCH & LEARN: $3 lunch & Learn, admission to program, is free. Lunch SS. Programs are Dec. 8 and Dec. 12 @ Noon.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT THE MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS—Come enjoy illuminated garden paths and displays, horse drawn wagon rides, music activated light shows and the new Community Tunnel of Lights! Friday & Saturday, Dec. 9th & 10th; Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 16th, 17th, 18th; Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 26th & 27th, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Check the website for details www.montrosegardens.org.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL, non-profit organization, was founded and introduced to the world at a ceremony held at the White House on March 1, 1977. FFI provides opportunities to explore new cultures by bringing people together at the personal level. Friendship Force of western Colorado’s regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meeting location - Red Cross Training Center, 5th and Gunnison in Grand Junction, 6:15 pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE @ THE GALLERY • MUSIC BY YOUTH, Second Saturdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery in Sampeler Square.

THE ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets every second Tuesday at St. Mary Catholic Church in the St Paul Room, 1855 St Mary’s Drive, Montrose. The Public is welcome to attend. For more information, email alpinephotoclub@aol.com.

FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, Montrose County Courthouse (Leslie German self-help center) at 1200 North Grand, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid and the 7th Judicial District Bar Association. Call 970-249-7202 for information.

FREE JAM SESSION AND SING ALONG, Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM—“Montrose County Historical Society Presents” is held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St. The public is invited to free programs based on topics of regional history. For more information please call 249-2085.

SNOWSHADOW GYM—Zumba classes with Maria Gonzalez week nights 5:30 to 7:30, Swing dance with Kevin Mears Mondays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 525 S. First St. Snowshadowgymastics@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY—
Nov. 14—Dec. 9—Ouray County Cares Angel trees are located at Ouray and Ridgway schools, the Ridgway Library and both Ridgway and Ouray locations of Citizens State and Alpine Banks. Choose an angel ornament to buy a gift to brighten a Ouray County resident’s holiday and return your gift accompanied by a gift receipt before Dec. 9.


Dec 5—Montrose Friends of the Library Book Sale. 9 AM—6 PM. Montrose Library, info 249-9656.

Dec. 5—the next meeting of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby will be on Monday Dec. 5, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Centennial room off of Centennial Plaza. Citizens’ Climate Lobby networks to influence legislators to pay attention to the Earth’s environment. All are welcome.


Dec—7-Volunteers of America Homestead Art Show, 5:30 to 7 p.m. @ Amazing Glaze, 209 East Main Street in Montrose.

Dec—8-Montrose Pavilion Senior Center $3 Lunch & Learn program. Advances in Hearing Technology and Auditory Rehab. 1 p.m. Program free to attend, Noon Lunch $5.

Dec—9—The Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus will be strolling down Main Street in Grand Junction and singing during the upcoming Christmas Walk on Friday, Dec. 9th, starting at 5 PM. We will be singing for the folks who attend Bethlehem Revisited at Northeast Christian Church Church 275 Patterson Road on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11 from 6 to 9 PM. THEN on Sunday, Dec. 18th from 5 to 9pm again at Northeast Christian Church on Patterson, will be our annual Christmas Concert. Men from the community will join us. For more info contact our CBC number: 970-257-7664.

Dec—9—On Friday, Dec. 9th, the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway presents the latest ski film by Matchstick Productions titled, “Ruin and Rose.” Doors for the film are at 7 pm with the movie starting at 7:30pm. $10 at the door.

Dec—10—The 1st Annual Scraab Tournament in Ridgway occurs on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 1 to 4 pm at the Sherbino, 604 Clinton Street, to benefit the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway. Registration is STILL OPEN and is $20. Contestants must pre-register by Tuesday, Dec. 6th, by calling the Sherbino at 970-318-0892 to sign up.

Dec—10—The Radio Room Players present War Of The Worlds on Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2016 at 7 pm and on Sunday Dec. 11th at 2 pm. Tickets are $7 for Adults and $5 for Seniors and Students and may be purchased by calling (970) 241-8801, Ext. 0 or online at www.kafmradio.org. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 30 minutes before show time.

Dec—11—Grand Junction German Club Potluck! This annual event is open to the public and will take place on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Bring an ample dish to share and your own service. The Club will supply water, ice tea and coffee. Come to First Baptist Church at 7th & Grand, enter the building on the south side off of Grand Ave, come downstairs and into the first room. Parking is available across the street in the old RV School Parking Lot, on the street or Northeast behind the church down the alley in our lot. For further information, contact me at 970-209-9241 (call or text) or jkwitt811@gmail.com. We often sing German Christmas Carols.

Dec—11—Join the Montrose Community Band on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium for a free Christmas concert. The concert features Christmas favorites and is sure to get you into the holiday spirit. For more information visitwww.montroseband.com or call 970-596-1188.

Dec—14—One night only! On Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 2016 at 7 pm In the KAFM Radio Room, The Reel Elves Of The North Pole will be presented by the Students of Independence Academy. The Students are asking that you bring a donation of household Items, food or clothing that would help a family out during the rough winter months. Check in at our website www.kafmradio.org for updates about this and future productions at the KAFM Radio Room. The Radio Room is located at 1310 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Doors open at 30 minutes before show time.

Dec—12—S3 Lunch & Learn, Montrose Pavilion Senior Center Lunch & Learn program. Outsmart the scammers: Protect yourself from fraud. 1 p.m. Program free to attend, Lunch @ Noon is $5.

Dec—15—Volunteer to organize and set up food items for Ouray County Cares holiday boxes. Please arrive at Ouray County 4-H Event Center at 2 p.m.

Dec—16—Volunteer to fill Ouray County Cares gift and food boxes. Ouray County 4-H Event Center at 9 a.m. Please telephone Jennifer Jossi 970-626-3693 or Anise Herodor 303-810-8593 to volunteer. Lunch will be served. If you can bring cookies or brownies, please call Yonnie Kuijvenhoven 970-209-3822.

Dec—28—Ari Hest Holiday Concert @ Healthy Rhythm Gallery, 68 Grand Avenue. 7 to 11 p.m.

Dec—29—Montrose Regional Library presents, Ye Olde Toy Shoppe. 45 minute puppet show for all ages @ 10 and 11 a.m.

Jan. 20—21—Please join us for the 5th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum: Healthy Land, Food, People at the Montrose County Fairgrounds on Jan. 20 and the Montrose Pavilion on Jan. 21, 2017. The Food and Farm Forum has a wide array of breakout sessions which convey vital, regionally specific agricultural information in areas including maximizing crop and livestock production, innovative agricultural marketing and management strategies, and specialty crops.

Jan. 20—22—Telluride Fire Festival, Telluride.

June 14—16—San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days, Montrose, Colorado.
Give Back Days
At Mi Mexico Mexican Restaurant
Come enjoy a delicious meal and we’ll donate 20% * of your total check to a local non-profit.

Every Wednesday...Every Month...All Day (11 am - 10 pm)

Over 200 entrees to choose from!
1st Wed: The Homestead at Montrose
2nd Wed: All Points Transit
3rd Wed: Montrose Rec Foundation
4th Wed: Valley Manor Care Center
5th Wed: Community Options Inc.

(Note: 5th Wed dates are: March 30, June 29, Aug 31, Nov 30, 2016)

After dining, attach the coupon to the bill and deposit it in the box labeled “Give Back Days.” 20% of your total bill will be donated to the designated charity.

SUPPORTING IS NOW DELICIOUSLY REWARDING.

*Coupon must be present

Mi Mexico Restaurant
1706 E Main St (Hwy 50)
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 252-1000
(970) 252-1111 Fax
At right, a classic car rolls down Main Street during the Montrose Parade of Lights Dec. 3. Photo by Mirror Staff.

Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror... wishing you and yours a joyful Holiday season!

Do you need health insurance?

Get Signed-up this Friday!
No appointment necessary

Friday, December 9th
9am – 4pm
121 North Park Avenue, Montrose

- Avoid the penalty
- Affordable options
- Free assistance

970-252-0660