GAIL MARVEL’S ANSWERING THE CALL SERIES

CITY TO CONSIDER PUBLIC SAFETY TAX

ART GOODTIMES UP BEAR CREEK

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT

Gail Marvel’s Answering the Call series!

County Commissioner Glen Davis resigns!

City to consider Public safety tax!

Art Goodtimes Up Bear Creek!

Reader photo Spotlight!

RE-1J ADDS SEAT BELTS TO ACTIVITY BUSSES; FIRST STUDENT FLEET STILL LACKS SEAT BELTS

“At the end of the day it is about the safety of our Kids,” RE-1J Finance Director

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With the exception of District G Director Stephen Bush, all board members were present at the June 26 meeting of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education.

Highlights of the meeting included the announcement by Finance Director Adam Rogers that the district’s fleet of small activity busses (not the regular school busses owned by school bus Contractor First Student) are in compliance with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) transportation rules for the first time in more than a decade.

“Because we live in a mountainous area, we have to have seat belts,” RE-1J Finance Director Adam Rogers said. “Making students wear them is another issue, but at the end of the day, it is about the safety of our kids.” The busses are also equipped with spinner chains, allowing the driver to chain up...

Continued pg 4

Vaping is on the rise among Montrose teens; in a statewide survey, young people have reported that vaping devices are nearly as easy to get as alcohol and marijuana. Courtesy image.

Continued pg 5

By Caitlin Switzer

“IT’S NOT HEALTHY AND IT’S NOT SAFE;” MHS PRINCIPAL WARNS OF SPIKE IN VAPING

Vaping is on the rise among Montrose teens; in a statewide survey, young people have reported that vaping devices are nearly as easy to get as alcohol and marijuana. Courtesy image.

Continued pg 5

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a variety of flavors backed by nationwide saturation marketing, e-cigarettes and “vaping” are increasingly popular among America’s young people.

On June 1, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released results of the 2017 Monitoring the Future Survey, showing some alarming trends among students in grades 8, 10 and 12, and noting that teens are “reporting that vaping devices are nearly as easy to get as alcohol and marijuana.” When Montrose High School Principal James Barnhill gave his end of the school year building report at a recent RE-1J Board of Education meeting, he noted that vaping is on the rise among teens here in Montrose.

Continued pg 5

By Caitlin Switzer

Director of Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Wendy Bolane honored new team member Angie Johnson at the school board meeting on June 26.
ANSWERING THE CALL: MCSO OFFICER STEVE GUSTIN

Montrose County Sheriff’s Office Steve Gustin. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—Montrose County Sheriff’s Officer (MCSO) Steve Gustin grew up in Cedaredge and moved to Montrose 16 years ago. He began his 11-year law enforcement career as a Jail Deputy and was one of the first employees to be sponsored by the MCSO to attend the Police Academy.

Gustin said, “I wanted to be a cop since I was in the 8th grade. The Colorado State Patrol had a career day and I did a ride-along.”

Gustin held a variety of jobs before attending the Delta-Montrose Vo-Tech Police academy, “It was hard in the respect that I had to return to studying after being out of school for so many years. The physical training wasn’t hard, but I had to train myself to study again.”

A patrol officer’s duties include serving civil papers, traffic control, responding to calls and field interviews. Gustin cited three stressors associated with his job, “Seeing people at their worst, taking someone away from their family [putting them in jail] and suicide. Seeing someone take their own life stays with you on a daily basis. After being on the scene of a suicide I have to contend with myself. However, not all suicide attempts end in death, “It’s rewarding when you stop a kid from taking his own life and you see him on the street two-years later and he thanks you for it.”

For Gustin the most enjoyable aspects of his job are the positive impact that he can make on the community and the comradery with the friends he has made. In identifying a personality trait that helps him relate to citizens Gustin said, “I have a positive side and can help reach kids who are in adverse situations. I have an upbeat personality.”

Asked to elaborate on what he means as an upbeat personality he said, “I break out in song… and I dance around the office.”

Follow up questions included, what type of songs do you sing, do the other officers sing with you and how well do you sing? Gustin said, “I’ll sing anything and I think I sing pretty well. Sometimes someone will sing with me, but usually they just start laughing.”

Gustin’s interest and activities outside of law enforcement revolve around sports. “I coach youth sports and I’m a baseball enthusiast. I play softball and baseball.”

When asked if he had any thoughts he’d like to convey to citizens Gustin said, “When an officer has a traffic stop, other drivers on the road should move over and slow down. It’s kind of scary out there when you are on a traffic stop and cars are whipping past you at 60 miles an hour… and when you see red lights flashing, if you don’t have a reason to go in that direction then go a different direction.”

The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.
STORM KING DISTILLING COMPANY OPEN @ 41 WEST MAIN

Above, father and son team Greg (left) and David Fishering in the distillery. At right, Sarah Fishering shakes one of the company’s artisan cocktails. Mirror staff photos.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Greg and David Fishering’s Storm King Distilling Company is now open at 41 West Main in Montrose and welcomes the community to sample the first batches of Gin, Vodka and Agave Blanco. According to a news release, whiskey production is in full swing with more than 250 gallons already aging and more on the way every day. DLICIOUS-FOODCO serves lunch and dinner, as well as brunch on Sunday. Distillery Hours are Thursday and Friday 4-9pm, Saturday 1-9pm and Sunday Noon-5pm. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook (@StormKingDistilling).
RE-1J ADDS SEAT BELTS TO ACTIVITY BUSES From pg 1

without having to stop the bus in inclement weather.

In a later interview, School Board President Tom West said, “It’s about keeping a good product on the road for our kids.”

Also new to the district offices are time clocks and software to improve clocking hours and legal compliance. “We have tried to improve our payroll and budget processes,” Rogers said.

The academic achievements of Centennial Middle School (CTMS) were highlighted as well, in an end-of-year building report presented by Principal Joe Simo. Centennial has implemented 100 percent of its math plan and achieved 98 percent participation in the state PARCC assessment.

“Student participation has been a target for the district and for Centennial,” Simo said.

Sixty percent of CTMS students showed growth in math between the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018; 58 percent showed growth in reading. Still, “Our goal is to have 100 percent of our students growing,” Simo said.

The meeting did not include a student spotlight, but two district staffers were recognized during the Celebrations portion of the meeting. Director of Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Wendy Bolane honored ESS Cultural Mediator Angie Johnson, a “new member of our core team.”

Said Bolane, “She dove into her new work with gusto...Angie lit up our office with her infectious smile and always positive attitude.”

Property Services Director Philip Bailey recognized Custodial Supervisor Dane Tunget.

“He meets the challenges of the job with professional solutions...Dane is a valuable supervisor and an absolute asset to this district,” Bailey said.

Board Advisory Committee updates included an update on the new Columbine School, “Things are moving really fast,” West said, noting there will be an open house Sept. 22.

“It’s on budget, on schedule,” District F Director Phoebe Benziger said.

In other business, the board heard an update on the Early Childhood Education Center (ECE) from Director Penny Harris; and an end of year report from Property Services Director Bailey, who noted that work completed through a $1.5 million BEST grant for asbestos remediation should be complete by summer of 2019.

Security measures are also in progress, Bailey said, to include a camera and electronic lock at Oak Grove Elementary, card readers on some doors, and a district-wide security fence initiative.

“Our buildings will be secure when we go back to school.”

In other business, the board approved revised board policies; as well as consent agenda items, including $25,961.57 to repair a main water line break at a district-owned property at 328 Main Street that generates $42K per year in rental income. Also approved were the 2018-2019 budget, associated resolutions, and a personnel report.

The School board will not meet again until August.
Barnhill said that 43.6 percent of local youth surveyed for the most recent Healthy Kids Colorado survey had tried some type of electronic vaping product, despite the fact that sales of e-cigarettes to minors are prohibited. Statewide, that number is 27 percent.

“I have no baseline to determine an increase here,” Barnhill said. “But we are well above the state average.”

Montrose High School will “hit it hard” next year when it comes to vaping, he added. “Vaping is just another form for putting nicotine in your body,” he said. “It’s not healthy, and it’s not safe.”

Most parents today are aware of the long-term health risks of cigarette smoking. If you are not educated about the practice of vaping, however, your kids could be endangered—by health impacts, a higher risk of drug addiction, and something called, “popcorn lung.”

According to NIDA, the survey is conducted annually by the University of Michigan and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health. Electronic cigarettes are defined as “battery-operated devices that people use to inhale an aerosol, which typically contains nicotine (though not always), flavorings, and other chemicals.”

According to Drugabuse.gov, nicotine affects the development of brain circuits that control attention and learning, and can put young people at greater risk for developing drug addictions later in life.

To help busy parents separate facts from myths, Tobacco Free Colorado provides free information on vaping.
YOUR FASHION, COMFORT AND QUALITY STORE STARTS IT’S INDEPENDENCE DAY SALE NOW

LADIE’S FASHIONS
25-50% OFF
Ladies footwear starting at reduced prices down to $25 (reg. up to $175)

MEN’S FASHIONS
25-50% OFF
Men’s footwear starting at reduced pricing down to $60 (Reg. up to $200)

D’Medici's
FOOTWEAR & CLOTHING
IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE
316 EAST MAIN ST.
MONTROSE, CO
(970) 249-3668(FOOT)
INDEPENDENCE DAY SALE

The Best Brands at the Best Prices
just in time for the summer holiday season.

Patagonia, Kuhl, Outdoor Research, Exofficio…

25-50% OFF.

Don’t Miss out!

Get quality clothing at outstanding prices only at Hypoxia.
Corner of Main and Townsend in downtown Montrose.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY SCHOOLS AWARDED USDA FARM-TO-SCHOOL PLANNING GRANT FOR 2018-2019 FUNDING CYCLE

Special to the Mirror
DELTA-On June 21st, 2018, Delta County School District 50-J was notified that they were a recipient of the USDA Farm to School Planning Grant for the 2018-19 funding cycle. USDA’s Farm to School Grants fund school districts, State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and non-profit organizations in their efforts to increase local foods served through child nutrition programs, teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools’ and farmers’ capacities to participate in farm to school.

Hundreds of applicants across the country competed for a limited amount of funding. The overwhelming interest in this round of USDA Farm to School Grants was exciting but also made the selection process extremely difficult. Our application stood out because it demonstrated strong experience and readiness to conduct farm to school initiatives; showed that DCSD is thinking critically about opportunities and challenges; outlined goals that are closely aligned with goals for the program; proposed a reasonable scope and budget; and gave the USDA confidence that our farm to school program will be implemented with or without continued Federal support.

Delta County School District 50-J will develop a network to sustain farm to school efforts that support local growers, students, and communities. Through partnerships with Valley Food Partnership, ENGAGE, and TCR, they plan to encourage learners to participate in the agricultural learning that is locally available to them. This multi-level approach will (1) give access to locally raised foods to students, (2) support local growers in their efforts to provide for and sustain their regional market, (3) boost a pipeline of industry-driven graduates, (4) develop information and resource support for farmers, ranchers, and aspiring agriculture students, (5) upgrade, renovate, and use farming and greenhouse space to create hands-on learning labs, and (6) partner with business associates and industry professionals to create hands-on learning and professional development opportunities.

WE ARE HIRING

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:
ExpressPros.com/MontroseCO
or call (970) 249-5202

Need a job? Apply online or stop by today!
14 S. Uncompahgre, Montrose, CO
Hiring **GENERAL LABORERS** to stack wood, clean and sweep lumber mill. Must be self-motivated and able to work independently and lift up to 50 lbs. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **MAINTENANCE/LANDSCAPE HELPER** to take care of shopping center landscape and building maintenance. MUST have valid driver license. Check website for further detail and/or apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LABORERS** in Ouray. Assignment will last all summer and must be able to commit to entire summer. Involves a variety of re-model as well as new construction. Skills required vary per job. An overall knowledge and skill level appreciated. Bring your own tools best option, larger tools on site. Hours are on site in Ouray 8:30am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Travel Bonus for outside Ouray employees. MUST have valid drivers license. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **RECYCLE SORTERS/PICKERS** to work as quality control line workers by hand sorting recyclable materials and trash from the recycling stream and are responsible for removing unacceptable materials. Hours: Monday - Thursday 7am - 3:30pm, some Fridays depending on work load. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **GENERAL LABOR** for a job installing the new electrical service to the marina on Blue Mesa Reservoir near Gunnison from July 11-July 27. If commuting from Montrose area, will pay one hour for travel time daily. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **TRUSS BUILDERS** who are physically fit, able to lift up to 50 lbs in construction environment. Experience helpful but not required. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **MOVING CREW** for moving business. Must be able to lift, bend and work as a team and independently. Flexible and positive attitude a must. Check website for further detail and/or apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **MACHINIST / FINISH GRINDER** competent in use of operating mills, lathes, Ewag (manual tool-grinding machine), measuring devices and other manual grinding machines. Full-time, permanent opportunity. Willing to pay relocation costs for the right candidate. Check website for further detail and/or apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **PRODUCTION/ASSEMBLY LINE WORKERS** for multiple shifts. Apply today, start right away! Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **2ND SHIFT SANITATION - EQUIPMENT/MACHINERY CLEANER.** Duties include: scrape & mop floors, disassemble machines, clean parts, reassemble machines, load conveyor dish-washer, clean conveyor systems and other duties as assigned. Check website for further detail and/or apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring experienced **DIESEL FORKLIFT OPERATOR** for Monday-Friday, occasional Saturday shifts from 5:45 am- 4:30 pm. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring **BOOKKEEPER** for a manufactured home community business in Montrose. Full-time, permanent opportunity. Needs to have experience with QuickBooks, Sage Timberline a plus. Some travel within Montrose required but mileage reimbursed. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.
REGIONAL CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER
COLORADO COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (CCOERA)
As a non-profit retirement association, CCOERA’s sole purpose is to provide retirement benefits to employees of Colorado local government employers (counties, municipalities & special districts). We support our member employers by providing one of the most competitive and unique retirement savings programs available to public employees. CCOERA currently has an opening in our headquarters in Littleton, Colorado for a Regional Client Services Manager.

POSITION SUMMARY:
This field position is dedicated to helping our plan participants prepare for retirement. It involves helping CCOERA member employers (plan partners) and their employees (plan participants) understand and utilize our state-of-the-art 401(a) Retirement Plan and 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. Qualified candidates will have the expertise, skills and experience needed to manage both employer- and employee-level relationships, communications, service needs, educational meetings and individual counseling in the areas of retirement, investing and saving. In state, employer service visits will require travel using a CCOERA vehicle about 7-10 days each month.
Deadline for submitting an application is July 10.
Job Type: Full-time

Hiring FURNITURE INSTALLER/WAREHOUSE POSITION
Delta based company looking for the right person to join our install team. Duties include receiving, warehousing, loading and unloading furniture, unpacking and packaging furniture and accessories, driving for furniture transport, furniture installation and modification, furniture reconfiguration, and repair of furniture and furniture accessories. This is a highly visible customer service position, good grooming and appropriate apparel are necessary. Requires clean driving record, and pre-employment drug test. Ability to safely lift up to 100lbs
Send resume and references to: sunny@prospace.biz

Hiring LUMBER STACKERS physically able to lift up to 50 pounds repetitively in a construction type environment. Hours: 6am - 4pm, Monday – Friday. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring CABINET INSTALLER in Delta, CO for residential and commercial installation, building and assembling. Must be able to read a tape measure and understand basic carpentry and lift up to 60lbs. Must have a valid driver’s license and own tools. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring FABRICATORS/WELDERS for full-time, long-term positions in Olathe. See website for details. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring an OUTSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE to sell telecommunications services/installation. This position will be a mix of phone calls and in person sales; candidate must be independent and motivated. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.

Hiring GENERAL LABOR WORKERS for full and part-time job opportunities in Montrose and Gunnison. Hours and length of assignment vary. Apply today at www.expresspros.com/montroseco or call 970-249-5202 for more information.
CITY TO DISCUSS PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX @ WORK SESSION

Mirror staff report
MONTROSE-At the Montrose City Council Work Session of July 2, Council will discuss a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant resolution for the Holly Parl/Riverbottom Drive project; a VALE grant resolution; and “the Status, Necessity, and Details of a Possible Public Safety Sales Tax.”

Included in the work session packet is a report from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Items to be discussed at upcoming Council work sessions or meetings include the Hogback Addition Annexation Hearing and Colorado Health Foundation Grant Resolution on July 17; Second Quarter Police Department Report on Aug. 6; Energy Management Report and Hitchmarc Addition Annexation Hearing on Aug. 7; a Second Quarter Budget Review on Aug. 21; and a New 3.2 Beer License Application for Alta on Sept. 18.

At the regular City Council meeting of July 3, Council will consider Ordinance 2451 on second reading, adding a new Section 4-15 to the Official Code of the City of Montrose for the purpose of codifying provisions regarding historical preservation.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY STATE PARK SWIM BEACH CLOSED DUE TO LOW WATER; BOAT RAMP OPEN

Special to the Mirror
RIDGWAY—Due to an unusually dry winter and a paltry spring run-off, the water level is very low at the reservoir at Ridgway State Park and park officials have announced that the swim beach is closed.

The sand area will be open for play and people will be able to wade at the water’s edge. But swimming will not be allowed because at low water the area is dangerous. “This is the first time the swim beach has closed before July 4th and we’re disappointed,” said Kirstin Copeland, park manager. “But there are still plenty of water activities at the park to enjoy.”

The boat ramp for motorized craft is open and will remain so throughout the summer. All boaters are reminded that their craft must be cleaned, drained and dry before entering Ridgway State Park. Aquatic nuisance species inspections are conducted every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Hand-launched craft, such as canoes and paddleboards, can be launched at the Dallas Creek area on the south side of the park. Park officials remind everyone who goes on the water -- no matter the type of boat -- must follow regulations for life-jackets, lights and signaling devices.

Ridgway State Park, located about 20 miles south of Montrose in southwestern Colorado, is one of the state’s most beautiful parks. Camping, yurts, playgrounds, hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, boating and river fishing are available.

Entry to the park is $7 per vehicle, rates for camping range from $20 to $30. A $70 annual pass provides entrance to all 41 Colorado state parks. For more information about the park and to make camping reservations, go to: http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway; or call 970-626-5822.
Saturday, August 4th
Festival Begins at 10 AM

Visit OlatheSweetcornFest.com
For More Information
HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE NEEDS A TOTAL REMODEL

“We can no longer use piecemeal maintenance”

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—When dedicated in 1923 the life expectancy for the Montrose County Courthouse was 100 years. County Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch said, “It’s coming to the end of its projected life. Something has to be done; we can no longer use piece-meal maintenance. It needs a new roof, which leads to gutters. The stone gutters are copper lined and no longer function well, which causes the stone to spall. Grout between the sandstone is loose and missing in some areas. There’s no place to stop. It needs a total remodel – top to bottom.” The proposed remodel is not part of the county’s comprehensive plan; however, it is becoming increasingly clear to county staff that it is a project born out of necessity.

The Montrose County Courthouse, one of several historical facilities built by architect William Bowman, is well known and acclaimed in Colorado. Waschbusch said, “It was a grand design and built with local materials. The sandstone blocks weigh between 4,000 and 6,500 pounds each and were quarried five miles west of Montrose. The stone was brought to town and dressed [rock-faced] on site.” The courthouse has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1994. Significant work was done on the building in the 1950’s and 1990’s. All windows were replaced in the 1990’s, with the exception of the half-moon lattice window at the front of the building, which is original. In a 1994 effort to stabilize the facility 300 cubic yards of cement, in 66 separate locations, was pumped under the building. The four-story structure, which has 34,000 square feet of office space, was built in 1980 and it could be sold and used for whatever you need it to be. Consolidating means less buildings, less property and less expense.” (See companion story on the county administration and unused jail property).

Waschbusch noted support from elected county officials, “The Clerk and Recorder, the Assessor and the Treasurer are all big proponents. There is as much unified support on this project as any I’ve ever seen.” At this time there are no detractors; however, the proposed project has surfaced only recently.

Waschbusch said, “We’re not ready for an RFP [Request for Proposal]. The first step is a grant application to DOLA (Department of Local Affairs). DOLA has been such a good partner over the years. We need a full-tilt design. We’ll apply for a $200,000 grant, which will cover part, but not all of the cost of design work.” The deadline for the application is Aug. 1st with awards made in November or December. Waschbusch estimates a remodel would take 12 to 18 months.

“If we’re awarded the grant design work could begin in January 2019. Conceivably construction could start in 2020 and be completed in 2021.”
OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS’ TRAP A CROOK TRAP SHOOT FUNDRAISER SHATTERS THE TARGET!

Editor:
On June 24th, the Delta Trap Club and Western Slope Communications, LLC (The Range radio station) hosted a very successful fundraiser for Crime Stoppers. The weather was cooperative and the shooters and folks at the Trap Club were absolutely delightful. Ashley Vail and Louis Stark of Western Slope Communications were the prime movers and brains behind this enjoyable and productive event. With over 30 participants, everyone had a good time for a worthy cause.

As a charitable Colorado non-profit, Crime Stoppers is wholly dependant on tax-deductible donations, which may be sent to Crime Stoppers at 434 S. 1st, Montrose, CO 81401.

After three years, Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. has awarded over $8,000 in rewards and been responsible for well over 35 arrests, in addition to several times that number of cases being cleared.

One arrest for theft from storage units cleared at least eight separate cases. The program receives and forwards Tips from around the county, region and nation. We are blessed to have outstanding professional and dedicated law enforcement officers with a number of agencies but especially the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office and the Montrose Police Dept. There are simply not enough officers and support staff. Over the past several years, there has been a steady increase in property crime and thefts.

Visit the website, “Crime in Montrose, CO.” for a very disturbing confirmation of this fact.

This increase in crime is visible in surrounding states as well and that is why Crime Stoppers programs everywhere are playing an increasing role in dealing with crime in all of their communities.

To provide information on a crime or criminal anonymously, call Crime Stoppers at 970-249-8500, use the mobile app P3Tips or P3Tips.com.

John W. Nelson, President, M.R.C.S., Inc.
OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER GLEN DAVIS RESIGNS

To Mr. Spencer Hamner, Montrose County Republican Party Chairman:
I want to thank the good people of Montrose County for giving me the opportunity to serve as their County Commissioner for the past three and a half years. I am happy to report that many good things have been accomplished. For one thing, multiple lawsuits that tried the patience of the people and drained millions from the county over the course of many years have been settled. All but one were settled by the former board of commissioners, of which I was proud to be a member.

With the help and cooperation of Scott Armentrout of the U.S. Forest Service, the former board also created the Rim Rocker Trail, an off-roading trail that starts at the beginning of Hwy 90 in Montrose and takes riders through the beautiful wilds of the Uncompahgre Plateau and the LaSalle mountain range to Moab, Utah. In the coming years more campgrounds and side trails will add more choices and variety for the riders, whose numbers will increase as more and more off-roaders hear of the trail, benefiting not only Montrose County’s West End, but also the city of Montrose on this end and Moab on the other end.

The former board also contracted to build the Montrose County Event Center, the largest indoor event center between Denver and Salt Lake City, and to replace the 1940’s-era Road and Bridge facility, all without taking what seems to be the usual route these days of going to the taxpayers and asking for more of their hard-earned money. Already several events have been held in the new event center, each drawing hundreds of people and adding thousands to the county coffers. And speaking of the county coffers, through good management decisions, tough budgeting, and force reduction accomplished primarily by not filling vacancies created by employees who quit or retired, the former board left the county in the best financial condition it has ever been in.

So much accomplished in such a short period of time, just two years. A nod of appreciation to both David White and Ron Henderson, former Montrose County Commissioners.

Now the time has come for me to resign my position. I am only one of three commissioners. I have tried to stop the fiscal recklessness of the current board and the secret meetings where decisions are hidden from the public, but I have not succeeded.

Consequently, I can’t in good conscience condone these actions by remaining on the board, and frankly, I don’t want to share the responsibility for the results.

Again, I want to thank the good people of Montrose County for allowing me to serve, and a special thank-you goes to the fine employees who work behind the scenes to keep our county running so smoothly. I have been proud to work beside them.

Glen Davis
Montrose County Commissioner, District II

APPLAUDS FORMER COMMISSIONER DAVIS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dear Commissioner Davis,
It is with a heavy heart that I will only have this last opportunity to address you as “Commissioner Davis.”

I fondly remember our conversations almost four years ago concerning the District 2 County Commissioner’s race and our decision that you were the best man for the job. Little did we know at the time, members of the current board would resort to illegal activity to accomplish their hidden agenda, forcing you into this decision.

As a citizen of Montrose County, I would like to offer my humblest apology for the attacks you have suffered, not only at the hands of your fellow commissioners, but allowing uncivilized members of the public to berate you publicly. It is extremely hard for me to comprehend that these fellow commissioners and their attack dogs consider themselves to be “Christians!”

I applaud you for what you have accomplished in your time in office. I respect you for maintaining the decency of decorum while being surrounded by those who do not know the meaning of the words. I am a firm believer in the “Truth shall be revealed by the light of day” and your vindication will come with heavy consequences to those who have forced your decision to resign.

Richard Harding, Olathe

THERE IS GREAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF MONTROSE COUNTY

Editor:
With Sue Hanson’s anticipated appointment and election to the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners, this will be, without a doubt, the finest leadership team Montrose County has had since my arrival in 1995.

While a non-resident of Montrose County (unless they extend the southern county boundary further south by several miles), I have always been involved in Montrose non-profit, charitable and civic activities.

Some of the past actions and history of the Montrose B.O.C.C. have been outstanding examples of why many folks despise and distrust government. The three current (when Sue’s appointment occurs) County Commissioners are the best that could have been selected as leaders. I have worked with Sue, Keith and Roger on different projects over time. I respect their knowledge, dedication and commitment to the community but admire their integrity most of all.

I wish each of them and Montrose County every success in the future. Every once in a while, there is actually a glimmer of hope for the future!!

John W. Nelson, Log Hill
COUNTY WEIGHS OPTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION, JAIL BUILDINGS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Administrative building, which was built in 1980, is attached to the circa 1968 county jail. If the county moves forward with a total remodel of the courthouse, the administrative offices would move into the courthouse. Government Affairs Director Jon Waschbusch said, “The administration building could be sold and used for whatever you need it to be.”

While the current administration building could be put on the market, the 22,686 square foot jail facility is not marketable. Waschbusch said, “The flat roof is troublesome. The building works for storage, but not much else. Three of the four floors are not used. It’s not practical to remodel because it’s concrete, steel bars and no windows. It’s built for one purpose...it’s a jail.”

Although parking is not an issue around the downtown county campus, if the jail were to be demolished the space would likely be used for parking. Waschbusch said, “Consolidating means less buildings, less property and less expense.”
BE THERE!

MONTROSE COLORADO

4TH FEST

Fun on the Uncompahgre

ON THE 14TH

LIVE MUSIC

2018

WATER SPORTS PARK • SATURDAY, JULY 14TH

Facebook: MONTROSEWP Instagram: VISITMONTROSE Twitter: @VISITMONTROSE

Cherry Creek Media

COLORADOFUNCBEST.COM
AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!

MONDAY, JULY 2ND
7:00 PM
MONTROSE PAVILION AND EVENT CENTER

FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE STARTING JUNE 11TH
FROM THE WELCOME HOME ALLIANCE FOR VETERANS & THE MONTROSE VISITOR CENTER
GMUG ISSUES CLOSURE ORDER FOR TOMICHI PASS ROAD

Special to the Mirror
GUNNISON-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests have enacted a Forest Order closing the top of Tomichi Pass Road (NFSR 888) to just above its junction with Hancock Pass Road (NFSR 266). The closure was enacted after a significant rock slide made the route impassable. Tomichi Pass Road is still open from Whitepine Road to near the top of Tomichi Pass. The road, located on the Gunnison Ranger District near Middle Quartz Creek, is a popular Jeep and UTV riding destination.

The closure will remain in place indefinitely until engineers can develop a plan to either stabilize the hillside or reroute the road entirely. Tomichi Pass Road’s rugged and remote location makes all efforts to reopen the route highly complex and is not favorable to the use of heavy equipment. Further complicating the situation is the presence of several large boulders, some of which are ten feet in diameter, above the slide path which contribute to ongoing instability and make working conditions extremely dangerous.

“Our primary concern is safety, safety of the public and the safety of our employees.” said Scott Armentrout, GMUG Forest Supervisor “Due to its dangerous conditions it is important for citizens to avoid the area until we can develop a safe and effective plan to reopen it to the public.”
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY ACQUIRES SOCIETY TURN CLIMBING WALL FROM THE ACCESS FUND

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE—When outdoor enthusiasts first began flocking to the Society Turn Climbing Wall in the 1970’s, it was, in part, because the area was located just three miles west of Telluride and easily accessed by locals.

Now, San Miguel County has acquired the Society Turn Climbing Wall and 6.09 acres of recreational land, to benefit the local community and maintain this long-time recreational asset.

Society Turn features 22 boulder problems and two top rope routes.

Prior to relinquishing the land to San Miguel County, the Access Fund had owned the Society Turn Climbing area since 1995. According to San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask, the Telluride Mountain Club will continue its long-time role as steward and manager of the property.

“The Access Fund wanted to relinquish ownership due to a lack of staffing to manage and monitor the area, and felt San Miguel County would serve as a better local land manager,” Kask said.

With roughly 4,000 users per year, the County is grateful to acquire this popular site.

"We’re pleased to take on the ownership of the Climbing Wall and keep this recreational opportunity open to all with the ongoing stewardship of the Telluride Mountain Club," San Miguel County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) Chair Kris Holstrom said.

Permitted activities include rock climbing, bouldering, rappelling and the use of fixed anchors, as well as hiking.

Reach San Miguel County offices online or call 970-369-5469.

Society Turn Climbing Wall. Photo courtesy of the Access Fund.
Newly added 11th Commandment: Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may be suicidal. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member is suicidal. When an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone’s behavior (like depression, violence, heavy drinking) causes concern, storing guns outside the home for a while may save a life. Family, friends, as well as some shooting clubs, police departments, or gun shops may be able to store guns for you temporarily.*

*To become fully informed about making a temporary gun transfer, review Colorado gun laws, including C.R.S. §18-12-112, or consult an attorney.

Over the past several years, unintentional firearm deaths in Colorado have averaged less than 10 per year, thanks largely to increased awareness of gun safety. Unfortunately, Colorado still has a tragically high number of suicide deaths by firearms - approximately 480 per year.

For every 1 unintentional firearm death,
there were 14 firearm homicides
and 59 firearm suicides.

The first step to reduce these numbers is to follow the 11 commandments of gun safety. The latest addition addresses suicide prevention. Firearms are the leading method of suicide in Colorado, contributing to about half of all suicides.

If a family member is going through a difficult period (like depression, a relationship break-up, or drug problem), make sure they can’t get to your guns. To learn ways to get help for them, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK [8255].

Find out how you can help, contact:
The Suicide Prevention Taskforce at
970-252-3228  or go to our website at
montrosesuicideprevention.org
JUST LISTED!

Bedrooms: 5
3,891 sq. ft. on 0.4 acres
Year Built: 1997

Your search ends here! This luxurious home captivates you as soon as you walk in the front door. The home is an expansive 3,980 sq. feet and has everything you have ever desired. If entertaining is what you enjoy, look no further. The open concept floor plan, with an alluring custom kitchen allows everyone to enjoy each others company. Upgraded features to this home include full home surround sound system, cathedral ceilings, media room, game room, and fitness room! When its time to unwind spend the evening cuddled next to the multi-sided fireplace or gazing out the picturesque wall of windows at the captivating views.

Jeff Keefuss
Broker/Owner
970-209-3825
Jeff@MontroseColorado.com
MontroseColorado.com

Kree Christie
Associate Broker ABR,SRS
970-275-3153
kree@montrosecolorado.com
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TWO NEW, COST-EFFECTIVE BUILDINGS TO REPLACE AGING CONCESSION/RODEO OFFICE @SAN MIGUEL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

NORWOOD—For many locals, the annual San Miguel Basin Fair & Rodeo is a timeless tradition that brings the community together at the Fairgrounds in Norwood every summer. Not so timeless is the aging concession/rodeo office building, which had outlived its useful life. Now, the County has replaced the concession/rodeo office with two new structures in time for this year’s Fair on July 14.

San Miguel County Parks & Open Space had budgeted funds in the past for a new Fairgrounds concession stand and rodeo office, San Miguel County Parks & Open Space Director Janet Kask said. “The existing structure was dilapidated and in desperate need of replacement.” Feedback from Fairgrounds users and community groups was sought and incorporated into the project, Kask noted. Kask would like to thank Well Built, LLC, for constructing both structures quickly and also Home Depot in Montrose for donating a credit towards interior materials. Interior finishes will be completed in-house by Parks & Open Space staff, and a donated refrigerator was obtained from the County’s Public Health Department. The overall project is expected to come in well under budget.

The two new structures are already in place and expected to be completed by the start of the 2018 San Miguel Basin Fair on July 14th.

Said San Miguel County Board of Commissioners Chair Kris Holstrom, "We’re looking forward to using the new facilities at the Fairgrounds this summer!"

Reach San Miguel County offices online or call 970-369-5469.
Celebrate Safely!

- In 2016, 11,100 fireworks-related injuries were treated in the Emergency Department.
- 7 people died as a result of their injuries.
- 31% of the fireworks-related injuries were to children younger than 15 years of age.
- 69% of the injuries were burns.
- Hands and fingers were most often injured.
- Sparklers burn at temperatures near 2000 degrees.

SAFETY TIPS:
- Do not allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Never try to relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and soak in a bucket of water.
- Put your pet in a safe, interior room to avoid exposure to the noise.
- Alcohol and fireworks don’t mix! Save the alcohol until after the show.
- Obey the local laws and enjoy your Independence Day!

(National Council on Fireworks Safety, Inc.)

Most Injured Body Parts

- 33% Hands and fingers
- 28% Heads, faces and ears
- 18% Legs
- 9% Eyes
- 12% Trunks & Other
- More than 69% of the injuries were burns.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Brought to you by the Western Slope Trauma Collaborative
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JURY VERDICT RETURNED IN JURY TRIAL OF EARL MCWILLIAMS

District attorney, 7th Judicial District
MONTROSE-On July 6, 2016, a 2006 Ford F350 pickup truck traveling westbound on CO Highway 550 and operated by Earl McWilliams crossed the dashed yellow center highway divider line and collided with a 2005 Chevrolet Cavalier traveling eastbound resulting in the death of Stephanie Boyd, the driver, and causing serious bodily injury to Maygin Boyd-Vargas, who was a passenger in the Cavalier.

The Jury Trial commenced on June 19, 2018 in the Montrose District Court. This was almost two years to the day from the date of this deadly collision. The jury returned its verdicts at approximately 4:30 p.m. on June 26, 2018. The verdicts returned by the jury are as follows:

Guilty of Counts 2 and 4:
Count 2 – Vehicular Homicide – Reckless Driving, C.R.S. 18-3-106(1)(a)
Count 4 – Vehicular Assault – Reckless Driving, C.R.S. 18-3-205(1)(a)

Not Guilty of Count 5 - Possession of Weapon – while under the influence of alcohol/drugs

Mistrial declared by The Honorable Keri Yoder as to Counts 1 and 3:
Count 1 – Vehicular Homicide – Driving Under the Influence
Count 3 – Vehicular Assault – Driving Under the Influence

The jury consisted of citizens from the county of Montrose and was presented with evidence in this case for approximately five days. The People wish to acknowledge these jurors for their service and participation in the judicial process. This required them to make sacrifices in their daily lives to sit as jurors and be present and listen to the evidence presented by the People and by the defense in this case.

This was a very traumatic case for the victims and their family on many levels. We appreciate and acknowledge the continuing trauma caused to the victims during the pendency of this case. The continuing trauma was in part as a result the case not moving forward quickly through the judicial system. The patience shown by the victims during the pendency of this two-year-old case was difficult and challenging. The challenges and traumas of this case have also been experienced by law enforcement, the witnesses, and the prosecution.

This case did move forward to a jury trial on June 19, 2018, based on a denial by Judge Yoder of a request to continue the trial made by defense on June 13, 2018. The People argued that rights of the victims are to be considered during the pendency of a case, as well as those of a defendant. The Victim Right’s Act provides victims of crimes the “right to be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, through the criminal justice process.” (C.R.S. 24-4.1-302.5(1)(a)).

The People would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Colorado State Patrol, Montrose Fire Department, Montrose County Coroners Office, Forensic Scientists from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and the lay witness in this case. Their efforts and time are a vital part of the criminal justice system and we appreciate their assistance to this case.

Any criminal charge against a defendant is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.
JUST LISTED

704 S 12TH Street | Montrose, CO 81401

Cute, clean and priced right! Are you looking for a comfortable home at an affordable price? This may be the one! This home has been recently updated with a remodeled kitchen which includes new stainless steel appliances, also remodeled bathroom, flooring, blinds and more and is move-in ready and waiting for someone to make it their home. Recent work also includes professionally cleaned duct work, installation of a vapor barrier in the crawl space and new hot water heater. Situated on a large lot with a fully fenced back yard and room along the side to park a camper or boat. Walking distance to schools, grocery, restaurants and more. Come see it today before it's gone!

Bedrooms: 3
1,050 sq. ft. on 0.18 acres | Year Built: 1971

$179,900
MLS# 746125

Offered by

Linda Steil
Broker Associate / Luxury Collection Specialist
linda@cohomechoice.com
970-417-8082
www.cohomechoice.com

©2018 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, LLC. All Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchises of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, LLC. Most Franchises are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Berkshire Hathaway HomesServices of America, Inc. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OFFICIAL FIREWORKS SALE AND USE BAN IN OLATHE

Special to the Mirror
OLATHE-The Olathe Town Board of Trustees voted unanimously to ban the sale and use of firework in the Town limits for 2018. On June 25, due to the dangerous fire conditions in the area, the Board passed Ordinance 2018-04 which prohibits the sale and use of fireworks, excluding commercial fireworks shows, and goes into effect immediately. The Ordinance also gives law enforcement the authority to cite violators into Municipal Court. This action was taken in cooperation with the Olathe Rural Fire District and will stay in effect until the Board resends or amends the Ordinance.

CLOSURE ORDER ISSUED FOR TOMICHI PASS ROAD

Special to the Mirror
GUNNISON–The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests have enacted a Forest Order closing the top of Tomichi Pass Road (NFSR 888) to just above its junction with Hancock Pass Road (NSFR 266). The closure was enacted after a significant rock slide made the route impassable. Tomichi Pass Road is still open from Whitepine Road to near the top of Tomichi Pass. The road, located on the Gunnison Ranger District near Middle Quartz Creek, is a popular Jeep and UTV riding destination. The closure will remain in place indefinitely until engineers can develop a plan to either stabilize the hillside or reroute the road entirely. Tomichi Pass Road’s rugged and remote location makes all efforts to reopen the route highly complex and is not favorable to the use of heavy equipment. Further complicating the situation is the presence of several large boulders, some of which are ten feet in diameter, above the slide path which contribute to ongoing instability and make working conditions extremely dangerous.

“Our primary concern is safety, safety of the public and the safety of our employees.” said Scott Armentrout, GMUG Forest Supervisor.

Introducing a New Service!

ADVANTAGE Health Resource Center

Call us to schedule an appointment for free assistance with the following:

- Resource Education with a Care Navigator
- Housing Assistance
- Long Term Care Options
- Short Term Care Options
- Benefits Checkup
- Form/Application Assistance

Connecting You To Information and Options

Two Office Locations:

Montrose: Park Avenue Professional Building
121 N. Park Ave, Montrose

Delta: Senior Community Meals office
350 Stafford Lane., Delta

Call us to arrange an in-home meeting or at a location convenient for you!

1.844.VOA.4YOU | (844.862.4968)
advantage@voa.org | voa4you.org
facebook.com/voawesternslope

Volunteers of America®
FOCUS ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS.

We understand you’d rather be outside spending time with friends and family. With Alpine Bank’s mobile app*, you can bank at your convenience, which means more time for everything else.

Alpine Bank
TRAILBLAZING FOR 45 YEARS

39 LOCATIONS FROM DENVER TO DURANGO

*Alpine Bank does not charge you a fee for using Alpine Mobile®, however, your wireless carrier’s standard web access and text message rates may still apply.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NO CRIMINAL CHARGES TO BE FILED IN DEATH OF STEPHEN EDWIN FELIX

District attorney, 7th Judicial District
OLATHE-On Feb. 9, 2018, Officers with the Olathe Police Department responded to 1002 S. Wortman Avenue in Olathe, Colorado, in response to a call for medical assistance because a man was unresponsive and not breathing. This individual, later determined to be Stephen Felix, was transported to Montrose Memorial Hospital and then flown to St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Junction where he later died.

An investigation was begun by the Olathe Police Department into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Felix. Olathe Police Chief George Jackson promptly requested the assistance of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a State agency that frequently provides substantial help to law enforcement agencies in the Seventh Judicial District and throughout Colorado.

CBI and the Olathe Police Department conducted an extensive and thorough investigation of this matter. On Feb. 12, 2018, at the direction of Montrose County Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield, an autopsy was performed by Dr. Michael Benziger. A CBI agent was present for this post mortem examination. The cause of death was determined to be an injury to the head with resulting internal bleeding. The manner of death was listed as homicide. The report further noted that “the exact nature of the initial event” that caused the injury “is not at this time clear.”

On June 12, 2018, CBI agents presented a briefing to District Attorney Dan Hotsenpiller and Investigators with the DA’s Office regarding the findings of their investigation. The case file from Olathe Police Department and CBI was then submitted to the DA’s Office and has been reviewed by the District Attorney.

No criminal charges will be filed as a result of the death of Mr. Stephen Felix at this time. Due to the circumstances surrounding the events of Feb. 9, 2018, at 1002 S. Wortman Avenue, Olathe, Colorado, and the degree of intoxication of the only potential witnesses to the events, it is not possible to determine with any clarity or reliability how Mr. Felix sustained his fatal injury. The physical and forensic evidence does not rule out or preclude an accidental cause for the injuries sustained. Therefore, the District Attorney does not have sufficient evidence to support the filing of criminal charges against any person in connection with the death of Stephen Edward Felix in February 2018.

In consultation with the investigating agents, the District Attorney is convinced that all investigative avenues have been pursued and all leads exhausted. If new evidence is developed, this investigation can be re-opened.

It is always the goal of Law Enforcement and the District Attorney’s Office to learn the truth and reconstruct the events that led to injury or harm to others. Extensive efforts are employed to reach this goal, especially in cases involving a suspicious death. Despite such efforts, it is not always possible to develop clear, reliable evidence sufficient to support the filing of criminal charges. Such is the situation presented in this case.

The District Attorney greatly appreciates the work of CBI, the Olathe Police Department, the medical first responders, the Coroner’s Office and Dr. Benziger.

The District Attorney further expresses condolences to those affected by the loss of Mr. Stephen Felix.

Introducing Independent Living at The Homestead at Montrose

If you are over 55 and independent but would like to live in a community offering socialization and peace of mind, schedule a tour of our private one and two bedroom apartments. We’re conveniently located across from the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center.

Rent includes:
- All utilities: cable television, internet and phone
- One nutritious meal per day
- Laundry privileges
- Socialization and invitation to all activities

Pricing starts at $1210 per month, new residents only.

Call or email Denise Swanson, Residence Director to schedule a tour. 970.252.9359 | dswanson@voa.org | 1819 Pavillon Drive, Montrose
MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT!

Clockwise from top left, Gail Marvel snapped these photos of the old Columbine Middle School Building last week as it was being demolished; below, Erin Berge of Volunteers of America and Dan Lynch of Cherry Creek radio, naturally cool despite the summer heat at the first annual Memory Matters 1 mile shuffle, 5K run/walk, 10K run on June 30; more scenes from the successful first time Memory Matters fundraiser at Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose.
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY ATTORNEY WHITMORE RESIGNS EFFECTIVE JULY 31

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-Montrose County Attorney Martha Whitmore has tendered her resignation and will be departing Montrose County on July 31. "This is a loss for the county," said Chairman of the Board Keith Caddy. "Ms. Whitmore has brought a level of excellence that is second to none. She is a talented attorney and will be missed. We wish her the best in private practice." "This has been a difficult decision," said Whitmore. "I have enjoyed my tenure at the county and will miss the staff, board members, and citizens that I have had the pleasure of working with." Whitmore will be returning to private practice, but may be retained on a part-time basis to assist with transitions and other business as needed. At this time, the county is beginning the search for a new County Attorney.
ALTRUSA’S ‘THE VOICE OF THE SAN JUANS’ RETURNS FOR 3RD YEAR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Altrusa of Montrose is again offering its popular vocal events this July and September modeled after the popular television competition, “The Voice.” “The Voice of the San Juans” will feature blind auditions on Sunday, July 29 at Magic Circle Theatre starting at 3 p.m. Judges, who will listen with their backs turned to the performers, will select twelve vocalists to move on to the final competition, to be held Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Montrose Pavilion. At that concert, the audience will vote using their smart phones to select four finalists and, after an intermission and additional performances, choose a single grand prize winner who will receive $2,000. Singers can register to audition by visiting http://thevoicesanjuans.wordpress.com. This local contest will raise funds to benefit our community and others with connections to the Western Slope.

“This will be great fun for both the audience and the singers,” said Rose Price, co-chair of the Altrusa fundraising committee organizing the event. “Vocalists will gain exposure and fans will enjoy a wide range of performances. All for a good cause.”

Proceeds from the events benefit the local Altrusa International Foundation of Montrose. Altrusa is a non-profit, world-wide volunteer organization of people with diverse backgrounds and experience dedicated to improving communities by personal service. Altrusa of Montrose was organized in 1975 and is one of the most active clubs in the entire international organization.

During the past fiscal year, Altrusa of Montrose provided financial assistance to over a dozen local non-profits, $6,000 in scholarships to local students, and needed supplies and services to numerous other groups.

“We make a difference in our community,” explained Price. “Our members contribute our talents in service to others. As a group, we can achieve what individuals can’t do alone.” Altrusa members volunteer for Bosom Buddies at their annual walk/run, organize and donate books for Seasons Readings, offer awards for teaching excellence at local schools, contribute to Adult Basic Education, provide books to every First Grade student in the school district (in a joint project with the Montrose Library), help sponsor the Montrose Community Dinner (Thanksgiving), donate Love Hug Bears (stuffed toys) to MMH to give to young patients, grant scholarships to local students, and provide assistance to many organizations such as HopeWest, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, The PIC Place, Montrose Botanic Gardens, and many more. Tickets for both events are available at Fabula, 317 E. Main, during regular business hours, or from Brown Paper Tickets online at http://voice2018.bpt.me for the Auditions or http://voice2018finals.bpt.me for the Finals. Brown Paper Tickets charges a small processing fee for each ticket sold.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & RECREATION

HISTORICAL LEGENDS AND TRUE TALES WALK SET FOR JULY 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The "Historical Legends and True Tales" walks are the Unknown stories of Montrose. You will discover what hidden stories happened behind the closed doors of our historical downtown buildings. We will uncover the locations of jails, sites of the saloons, speakeasies, and the hidden secrets of our town. On July 3, at 7 pm starting at the Montrose County Historical Museum (21 N. Rio Grande). There is limited space so please RSVP, and it is a $8/person. For more information please call 970-249-2085.

ELK, DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES FOR NORTHERN SAN LUIS VALLEY

Special to Art & Sol

SAGUACHE– People who are interested in hunting and big-game in the northern San Luis Valley should plan to attend a management planning meeting 6:30 p.m., July 12 at the Saguache County Road and Bridge office, 305 3rd Street in Saguache. Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists and staff are making updates to elk and deer management plans for the area. The revisions are for deer in game management units 68 and 681; and the elk plan will consider game management units 68, 681 and 682.

At the meeting CPW will talk about the history of the herds in that area, recent harvest statistics and current status, including estimated populations and sex ratios. Biologists want to hear from hunters, ranchers, landowners and the general public about what they think of the herds in the area in terms of population, hunting opportunity, agricultural field damage and viewing opportunities.

Additional opportunities for public input will be announced later this summer. An on-line survey will also be available starting July 14. Find it at: cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/HerdManagementPlans.aspx

Print Media Has its Uses...
Now read the one that gets read, online.

Thanks for reading the Montrose Mirror!
970-275-0646 for ad rates & Information!

Current, weekly pre-share circulation is 10,600.
Jeff Keeffuss
Broker/Owner
970-209-3825
Jeff@MontroseColorado.com
MontroseColorado.com

13385 Boatwick Park Road
Montrose, CO
$2,640,000 | MLS# 743694
Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 3
4,514 sq. ft. on 19.54 acres

3240 Inverness Court
Montrose, CO
$735,000 | MLS# 743402
Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 2
3,051 sq. ft. on 5 acres

19420 Pulgoso Road
Montrose, CO
$985,000 | MLS# 740354
Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 3
2,504 sq. ft. on 5 acres

1814 Otter Pond Circle
Montrose, CO
$499,990 | MLS# 740648
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2
2,061 sq. ft. on 5 acres

2218 Fellows
Montrose, CO
$399,000 | MLS# 743529
Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 1
3,794 sq. ft. on 5 acres

1802 Galaxy Drive
Montrose, CO
$249,990 | MLS# 740972
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2
2,901 sq. ft. on 5 acres

6460 W Ranger Road
Montrose, CO
$419,990 | MLS# 741775
Bedrooms: 3 | Bathrooms: 2
2,505 sq. ft. on 7.77 acres

330 E Hahn
Montrose, CO
$279,990 | MLS# 744984
Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 1
2,071 sq. ft. on 4 acres

13375 Boatwick Park Road
Montrose, CO
$449,990 | MLS# 741589
Bedrooms: 4 | Bathrooms: 3
2,988 sq. ft. on 5 acres

©2018 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc. HomeServices not affiliated or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: OUTDOOR RECREATION

4TH ANNUAL SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT SET FOR RIDGWAY STATE PARK, JULY 7-28

Happy anglers in 2015 show off the smallmouth bass they caught at Ridgway Reservoir. The 4th Annual Ridgway Smallmouth Bass Tournament will be held July 7-28. Anglers can compete for $5,000 in cash prizes. Courtesy photo CPW.

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Anglers can vie for $5,000 in cash prizes and actively participate in an important wildlife-management activity at this year’s Fourth Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament at Ridgway State Park, July 7-28. The tournament is sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

No tournament entry fee is required and the more smallmouth bass anglers catch and keep the better their chances of winning prizes. Anyone 16 years and older must have a Colorado fishing license to participate.

The purpose of the annual tournament is to protect native fish and water users downstream of the reservoir. Smallmouth bass, introduced illegally at Ridgway Reservoir more than a decade ago, are predator fish than can survive in Western Slope Rivers, including the Uncompahgre River which flows from the reservoir. There is a significant risk of smallmouth bass escaping from the reservoir into the river where they could reproduce and consume native fish species found nowhere else in the world. Smallmouth bass have escaped other impoundments in western Colorado and are adversely affecting populations of native fish in several rivers.

“By participating in the tournament and removing smallmouth bass, anglers will be actively helping with wildlife management in Colorado,” said Eric Gardunio, aquatic biologist for CPW in Montrose.

“Anglers are far more efficient at removing these fish than any type of mechanical method that we could use.”

Last year 126 anglers participated in the tournament and removed about 2,400 smallmouth bass. The fish ranged in size from three-inches long to 17-inches long. But no matter what size fish anyone catches, there’s a chance of winning cash prizes that range from $250 to $1,500. There are two prize categories. In the "raffle category" anglers will be given a raffle ticket for every fish they turn in.

Tickets will be drawn at the end of the tournament and the first prize is $1,500. There are also three additional second tier prizes of $250. The drawing will be held at 6:30 p.m., July 28, at the Ridgway boat ramp.

In the “angling category”, prizes will be awarded for: Most smallmouth caught, $1,500; second most caught, $500; third most, $250; largest smallmouth caught, $250; smallest, $250.

For the kids, any angler 12-years-old or younger who turns in a smallmouth bass will be given a package of fishing lures. Those prizes are limited to one per angler.

In all categories the fish must be turned into CPW officials at the registration table. The tournament starts at 7 a.m. on July 7 and ends at 6 p.m. on July 28.

If you’ve never fished for smallmouth bass, or if you want to improve your chances of catching them, CPW has posted a web page that explains the best ways to catch them.

The web page also provides an in-depth explanation of smallmouth bass issues at Ridgway Reservoir: http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway/Pages/Smallmouth-Bass.aspx.

Ridgway State Park, located about 20 miles south of Montrose in southwestern Colorado, is one of the state’s most beautiful parks.

Camping, yurts, playgrounds, hiking trails, picnic areas, boating and river fishing are available. Entry to the park is $7 per vehicle, rates for camping range from $20 to $30.

A $70 annual pass provides entrance to all 41 Colorado state parks.

Boaters are reminded that their craft must be cleaned, drained and dry before entering Ridgway State Park.

For more information about the park and to make camping reservations, go to: http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway/Pages/default.aspx.
Thinking back on Chilean meals

Above left, Cannabis energy drink sign on booth in public square in Santiago (photo by Art Goodtimes). Above right, Seafood feast in Puerto Montt (photo by Denis Benjamin).

MUSHROOM GOURMET ... People are still asking me, a month later, “What did you do in Chile?” And, of course, I’ve talked a bit about the politics, our hosts, our deceased myco-guru who inspired the trip and some of the things we saw. But when it comes to foreign countries, it’s the food that often separates the good from the unmentionable. And the food in Chile, thanks to the careful work of Giuliana Furci of Fundacion Fungi and her friends, was extraordinary ... After an early initiation into Pisco Sours, the national drink, we ate like royalty – the last meal eventually topped by the second, topped by the third, and so on for three weeks! ... At our first lunch at the newest Liguria’s in Santiago, with its giant two-story Tree of Life mural, I ordered a uniquely Chilean dish, Arrollado Huasco con Puré Picante. Imagine a giant pork roll that’s been wrapped in bacon and marinated in spices for an entire day and then cooked for hours in a meat broth. Not a vegetarian’s delight, but delicious if you are into meat. And most Chileans are ... In Puerto Montt it was a fish feast of incredible proportions – platters of mussels and clams and oysters and several kinds of local fish ... Outside Parque Nacional Vicente P´erez Rosales in the Lakes region, with its spectacular waterfalls you could climb on via walkways out to the edge of the churning waters and falling spray, we picked murta berries – our go-to snacks in the wild. Delicious, tart, sweet and abundant ... In Mapuche country we had a mushroom lunch of all kinds of amazing Ramaria spp – a mushroom only sporadically enjoyed here in the states ... And at a Mapuche dinner at a traditional homestead, we tasted for the first time Merkén (or merquén, from the Mapuche mezkeñ) – a tasty, smokey condiment made with cacho de cabra (Capsicum annuum var. lungum) – goat horn chile. Those that didn’t bring some home have ordered it here in the States. It may not be addictive, but I put it on everything these days ... Another wonderful food native to Chile was the nut of the endangered Araucaria araucana (commonly called the Monkey Puzzle tree or Chilean pine). The piñones are similar to pine nuts but larger – three to five centimeters long – and are delicious roasted ... Some of the mushrooms we found on our forays were edible, like the odd Cyttoria fungi which formed golf-ball sized growths on Nothofagus trees, sporting several edible species ... Honestly, I don’t remember a bad meal the entire trip. Even in small communities, Furci seemed to be dialed in to the most wonderful stops. A pizza restaurant cantilevered over Lake Villarica in Pucón. A hard cider brewery in Puncunca. Pulpo and abalone at a Santiago mercado in the Belles Artes neighborhood where my daughter and son-in-law lived for six months doing tech startup research ... Actually, Iris wasn’t so impressed with the food when she stayed in Santiago. But thanks to the expertise of our guides, this was a gourmet mushroom trip, with amazing forays and food.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES ... I loved the sign for a hemp energy drink called Cannabis in a downtown public square in Santiago. Uruguay, Canada, maybe Chile next.

SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ... Pearl Casias won the vacant seat on the Southern Ute Tribal Council. She was the first tribal Chair of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, served on four previous councils over the course of 10 years and worked for 12 years as the tribe’s Chief Judge.

SMOKE SIGNALS ... The April issue of the Weenuche Smoke Signals, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal newspaper, showcased former Chair Manuel Heart, who was recognized at the opening of the renovated Ute Indian Museum in Montrose with his own exhibit. “Always remember the history of where we come from, and look at the future of where we’re going,” Heart told the opening day crowd. He spoke about “how the tribe is land based in three states: Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.” In addition to 46 of Heart’s collection of bolo ties, he donated a Pendleton blanket to the museum.

Continued next pg
TANAYA WINDER ... This week’s Talking Gourd poem appeared in the June 8th issue of the Southern Ute Drum, newspaper of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe headquartered in Ignacio. It is reprinted here with the permission of SUD editor Jeremy Shockley and of Tanaya Winder herself ... An enrolled member of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Winder was raised on the Southern Ute reservation in Colorado. She received her BA from Stanford University and an MFA from the University of New Mexico. She is the author of Words Like Love (West End Press, 2015). Together with Joy Harjo, she co-edited Soul Talk, Song Language: Conversations with Joy Harjo (Wesleyan University Press, 2011). She has received awards and fellowships from the First Peoples Fund and A Room of Her Own Foundation. Co-founder of the artist collective Dream Warriors Management, Winder currently serves as the director of the University of Colorado–Boulder’s Upward Bound Program ... Winder has several YouTube videos available, including a TedX talk in Albuquerque.

THE TALKING GOURD

Being Ute

(As presented at the Tri-Ute Games)

Wake up, greet the sun, and pray
Burn cedar, sweet grass, sage –
sacred herbs to honor the lives we’ve been given,
for we have been gifted these ways since the beginning of time.

Remember, when you step into the arena of your life
think about those who stand beside you, next to, and with you
Your ancestors are always in your corner, along with your people

When we enter this world we are born hungry,
our spirits long for us to live out our traditions
that have been passed down for generations.
Prayer, ceremony, dance, language - our Ute ways of being.
Never forget you were put on this earth for a reason –

Honor your ancestors.
Be a good person, be who you are, be a good relative

We are strong, beautiful and unique.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

SHERBINO THEATER WELCOMES LEFT ON TENTH JULY 3

Left on Tenth. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
RIDGWAY-On July 3, Sherbino Theater welcomes Left on Tenth, self-described as "a dish composed of leafy vegetables such as lettuce varieties, spinach, or arugula. Raw veggies are mixed with greens. Served with sauce."

Left on Tenth is a ten-piece, upbeat funk band that has been playing music around the Bozeman, MT area for about two years. Composed of members Conor Adams, Jared Clos, Ian Solum, Kris Hasbrouck, Ian Bailey, Max Laws, Casey Kerrigan, Daniel Harvala, David Kaltenbach, and Reef Larwood; 10 brothers who hail from different parts of the country including Washington, Montana, Minnesota, California, and Colorado.

This show will begin around 8 pm, with doors and bar open at 7:30 pm. Entry is $5 at the door. For more info, go to sherbino.org or call (970) 318-0150.
Birds of a Feather

POP UP Emporium

509 E. Main Street
(The Lark & Sparrow Building)

July 14th - Aug 11th : 9am - 1pm

LuLaRoe
Fashions by Lizz M :

colorSTREET
Fabulous Nails by Sue & Julie :

Silpada Jewelry
Jewelry by April :

Senegence
Cosmetics by Ashleigh Allen :

ChrisCross Designs
Designer Totes by Chris Whittaker :

Vanilla Bear Soap Co.
Handcrafted Soaps by Nita Janssen :

Linda Nadel Art
Watercolor Artist :

Plunder Designs
Jewelry by Monica Huff Ping :

Retro Crafts ReDo
Vintage Crafting, etc :
Classic Craft & Pattern Books,
Needles, Notions & Yarn
Rubber Stamps, etc

Birds of a Feather
Starfish Project & Premier Jewelry

Your Business
Handcrafted Quality

Presented by: The Lark & Sparrow LLC and Meek Ranch Inc
Local Western Writer to Give Talk on Ouray’s Cowboy Band

Special to Art & Sol
OURAY-In 1902, Ouray was home to a nationally-known brass band that appeared dressed in full cowboy regalia, from hats to wooly chaps. Local writer and historian Jim Pettengill will trace the fascinating history of this unusual group, from its origins in Dodge City, Kansas in the late 1870s to the present day, in a talk entitled “Trombones and Tumbleweeds: Ouray’s Original Cowboy Band.”

This Evening of History, offered by the Ouray County Historical Society, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Ouray’s Wright Opera House on Tuesday, July 3. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

In the late 1800s, the pride of most major towns was its brass band, Pettengill said. This band was unique and so is its story. “It includes a Dodge City lawman who was half owner of the famous Long Branch Saloon, a Presidential inauguration, stops in many Colorado towns including Ouray, a Rough Rider unit in the Spanish American War, a miniature stagecoach, and a New York opera singer,” Pettengill said.

His interest in the subject was triggered by a 116-year-old photograph that hangs in the Ouray Elks Lodge and in the Ouray County Historical Museum. Pettengill first visited the San Juan Mountains in 1961. He fell in love with the Southwest and moved to Arizona to attend graduate school at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where he received a Master of Science degree in geology. After pursuing a career in geology with the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management, he retired to Ouray County in 1999.

He has been a freelance writer and photographer for more than thirty years, with more than 180 feature articles and 700 photographs sold to national magazines. He is a regular contributor to Wild West Magazine, a member of Western Writers of America, Wild West History Association, and the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcaster’s Association. He also is vice-president of the Ridgway Railroad Museum. Pettengill describes the Cowboy Band story as a “wild ride.” During his talk, he will challenge the audience to solve the Mystery of the Missing Stagecoach. Admission to Evenings of History is free for OCHS members and $5 for nonmembers.

Blue Lakes, Mt Sneffels Wilderness Selected as a 2018 Leave No Trace Hot Spot

Special to Art & Sol
MONTROSE-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests are partnering with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and their Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers to host educational activities and events for the Blue Lakes, Mt Sneffels Wilderness; a 2018 Leave No Trace Hot Spot.

Hot Spot locations are popular and beautiful outdoor recreation areas across the country that have experienced heavy recreational use and visitor-created impacts, including excessive trash, damage to vegetation, trail erosion and disturbance to wildlife. As the popularity of Blue Lakes, Mt Sneffels Wilderness continues to grow, it has experienced an exponential increase in these impacts.

The need for Leave No Trace outdoor education to help visitors understand how to preserve and protect the natural landscape we treasure is greater than ever before.

“Blue Lakes, Mt Sneffels Wilderness has been a longtime favorite for locals and visitors. The impacts have grown over time. It is important for us to work with Leave No Trace and evaluate the cumulative effect of recreational use to help educate visitors on Leave No Trace practices,” said Angie Abel, Ouray Ranger District Recreation Staff Officer.

On Tuesday July 3 GMUG personnel and Leave No Trace Trainers will be hosting an Authority of Resource Technique/Effective Communication of Leave No Trace event. This three-hour interactive presentation and discussion will focus on introducing the key elements of Leave No Trace and is designed for all those who educate the public. It will be held at the Ridgway 4-H Event Center in the upstairs meeting room and will begin promptly at 9 am.

Saturday July 7 LNT Trainers and GMUG personnel will be hosting all day workshops and presentations at the Blue Lake, Mt Sneffels Wilderness trailhead.

Programming will aim to educate the public on a variety of issues including fear of packing out, campfires in the backcountry and general LNT principles.

Events will begin at 8 am and end around 4 pm.

“We are thrilled to work with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to help educate raise awareness for the future enjoyment and preservation of one of the GMUG’s most beautiful areas” said Scott Armentrout, GMUG Forest Supervisor.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

COME CELEBRATE CEDAREDGE JULY 14

CEDAREDGE-Cedaredge is rolling out the welcome mat on Saturday, July 14 for the Celebrate Cedaredge Community Fair and Community Yard Sale & Flea Market. Both events run from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.

If you are a yard sale junkie, make sure to stop at the Community Yard Sale and Flea Market, which will take place at the Town’s Public Works parking lot, located at 160 SE High Country Ave. (across from Cedaredge Food Town). You can shop several yard sales/flea market booths at once! Vendor spots are still available for the yard sale; spots are just $10 for a 10 x 10 space. Contact the Town Hall at 856-3123 for more info.

At Town Park, vendors will be set up offering everything from barbecue and wine samples to handcrafted art and antique jewelry. Many local civic organizations will also be on hand offering kids crafts and games, tasty treats and information about services offered in the Surface Creek area. Vendor spots are still available for this as well, and civic organizations based in the Surface Creek are no charge (but you are required to register).

Matt and Phil Sheader, owners of The Old Slaughterhouse Music Hall, are providing live musical entertainment throughout the day at Town Park. The Sheaders have their own band, the Slaughterhouse Butchers, but they will welcome other musical guests to the stage throughout the day, playing everything from country and oldies to punk and rock – there is sure to be something to please everyone! Matt and Phil also teach music lessons, and they’ll welcome some of their students to the stage to showcase their newfound skills.

Also sharing the stage will be students from In Step Dance Academy showing off their ballroom dancing skills. In Step will also have a booth at the event, so after you see the dancers and are wowed by their skills, you can visit instructor Deb Aspen to learn about classes.

VFW Post #9221 will post the colors at 10 a.m. on the bandstand stage, and will retire the colors at 2:30 p.m. The Town’s Historic Preservation Board will present five new historic properties with plaques on the bandstand at noon. Members of the board will also be on hand to talk about how to get your business or residence placed on the local register of historic buildings. Several businesses in town are planning special sales or sidewalk sales on Saturday as well.

“There is a lot going on in Cedaredge, and we hope visitors and locals alike can join us in celebrating community and country on July 14th,” said Kami Collins with the Town of Cedaredge. “This weekend will be a great opportunity to try a new restaurant, explore the shops and art galleries, score some deals at the flea market or pick up a treasure at one of the vendors at Town Park.”

The events are co-sponsored and co-organized by the Town of Cedaredge and the Cedaredge Area Chamber of Commerce.
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: WILDLIFE AND OUTDOORS

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE SAVES BEAR CUB INJURED IN 416 FIRE NEAR DURANGO

Tracey Sirochman (left), and Michael Sirochman with Colorado Parks and Wildlife work on a bear cub whose feet were burned in the 416 Fire near Durango. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol
DURANGO—An orphaned bear cub will get a chance to return to the wild following action by firefighters and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff in the midst of the 416 fire burning north of Durango.

A female cub which suffered severe burns to its feet in the fire is now being treated at CPW’s Frisco Creek wildlife facility near Del Norte in the San Luis Valley.

“When the bear was brought in I wasn’t sure if it was going to make it,” said Michael Sirochman, manager of the Frisco Creek facility. “But she’s responding very well to treatment and by winter we believe we’ll be able to return her to the wild.”

During the week of June 18 firefighters on the 416 fire noticed the young bear wandering alone through a burned area while they worked on the south end of the blaze. When after a couple of days they didn’t see a mother bear nearby the firefighters called CPW. Wildlife officers responded that day, June 22, found the cub in a tree and immobilized it with a tranquilizer dart. Except for the burns on its feet the bear appeared healthy.

Matt Thorpe, area wildlife manager in Durango, then made the decision to send the bear to Frisco Creek to determine if it could be treated.

“We weren’t optimistic at first,” Thorpe said. “It probably hadn’t eaten in a couple of days, but it had survived on its own so we wanted to give it a chance.”

How the cub became separated from its mother will never be known. Sirochman speculated that – as is common with most wildlife species – the mother placed the cub in a safe place but was unable to get back to the spot because of the fire.

On June 23, Sirochman was treating the bear based on the advice of CPW’s staff wildlife veterinarian. He started by applying a medicinal salve dressing to the bear’s feet, which aids in healing the burned tissue, and then wrapping them in multiple layers of gauze and medical bandages.

After every treatment the bear is injected with antibiotics to prevent infection and given a small dose of pain medication. The dressing is changed every two days.

Sirochman explained that this is a painful condition and that the cub has been spending most of her time lying down with the weight off her feet. While Frisco Creek currently has other bear cubs at the facility, the fire bear is being isolated at this time.

One concern about treating bears for injuries is that they could become habituated to humans which, in turn, can make them unfit to return to the wild. Consequently, Sirochman and his staff have set up Frisco Creek so that bears have almost no contact with humans. In the case of the injured cub, it must be anesthetized for every treatment. So it has what amounts to negative interactions with a person and when it wakes up from the anesthesia the human is gone.

“We have good luck returning young bears to the wild. We’re very strict about minimizing human contact,” Sirochman said.

The bear is being fed a liquid milk replacement that imitates the milk of a sow. It’s also receiving solid food.

Sirochman estimated that bandaging the feet will continue for up to a month. After the feet are healed it will be placed in an enclosure with the four other cubs currently at the facility. The bears will grow and fatten up throughout the summer and fall.

While no decisions have been made about how the bears will be released, it’s likely that after they begin to hibernate in late fall Colorado wildlife officers will build a den close to the area where the bears were found. Responding to the natural hibernation cycle, the bears will emerge in the spring of 2019, probably by April.

Sirochman added a note of caution, explaining that an infection or some other problem could arise that would imperil the cub. However, at this time he is very optimistic that the cub will make a complete recovery and will be returned to the wild. CPW biologists said while some wildlife is likely injured in forest fires, research has shown that most terrestrial animals are able to flee the imminent danger.

When possible, CPW responds to reports of injured animals during forest fires. Following forest fires, fish and other aquatic life that live in mountain stream are most susceptible due to the possibility of ash flows from burned hillsides.
READER SPOTLIGHT: PHOTOS BY DEB REIMANN

Photos of wildflowers and pets taken @Bullion King Gold Mine near Silverton last summer, and top right, a spruce grouse @ Hank’s Valley in Dec. 2017.
Thursday - Sunday
June 28 - July 1

Sherbino Theatre Company’s LIVE THEATER Production of
THE LITTLE PRINCE  (Appropriate for all ages)
June 28th - June 30th @ 7:00 pm (showtime) (Doors Open 30 minutes prior)
July 1st @ 4 pm (showtime) (Doors Open 30 minutes prior)
Tickets, available in advance online at www.sherbino.org;

Tuesday
July 3

LIVE MUSIC: LEFT ON TENTH
Doors @ 7:30. Music around @ 8. $5 Entry at the Door.

Saturday
July 7

OPEN MIC NIGHT
5-9 pm. 2 monitors & 2 mics provided. Entry By Donation

Tuesday
July 10

LATIN FEVER STREET SALSA NIGHT
Doors and Salsa Lesson @ 6:30. DANCING begins @ 7. $8 entry.

Wednesday
July 11

SHERB TALK: DEMOCRACY & SOCIAL MEDIA
WITH DR. RYAN MURPHY
Doors @ 7 pm. Talk @ 7:30 pm. $10 Donation Suggested at Door.

Friday
July 13

Alpine Bank’s FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Free-Tured Film: A WRINKLE IN TIME
Doors 6:30 pm. Movie @ 7:00pm. FREE! Concessions & Bar Available!

Saturday & Sunday
July 14-15

CHILDREN’S THEATER PERFORMANCES
WILLY WONKA
Saturday @ 2 pm and 6 pm. Sunday @ 2 pm. By Donation.

Wednesday
July 18

SHERB SERDS Trivia Night
Doors and cash bar at 6:30pm. Trivia at 7:00pm. Entry by donation.

Wednesday
July 25

SHERB TRAVEL TALKS GLOBETROTTERS
Doors at 6:30pm. Talks at 7:00pm. Entry by Donation

Saturday
July 28

LIVER DOWN THE RIVER
Doors @ 7:30 pm. Music @ 8 pmm. $10 at the Door.
Hold the Date! Upcoming Business & Cultural Events

CURRENT/ONGOING-

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS meeting every 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m. at Friendship Hall in Montrose. All veterans with at least a 10 percent service connected disability are welcome. For more information call (970)964-4375.

June 14—DMEA Annual meeting at the Montrose Pavilion, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

MONTROSE TOASTMASTERS

Meetings every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Proximity; 210 E Main St, Montrose, CO 81401.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL, non-profit organization, 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 p.m

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

MONTHLY-

July 3—Local writer and historian Jim Pettengill presents “Trombones and Tumbleweeds: Ouray’s Original Cowboy Band.” This Evening of History, offered by the Ouray County Historical Society, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Ouray’s Wright Opera House on Tuesday, July 3. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission to Evenings of History is free for OCHS members and $5 for nonmembers.

July 4—Independence Day!

July 10—6:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library meeting room, Citizens’ Climate Lobby monthly meeting :Recent DC conference resulted in much influence on Congress legislators. Come support network working to influence attention on environment. Non-partisan, National. All Welcome.

July 10—Alpine Photography Club Meet-up, Tuesday, July 10, 2018, Time: 7 p.m., Meet At: Montrose Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose. Bring your camera & tripod!

July 11—Sherb Talk: Democracy & Social Media with Dr. Ryan Murphy. Doors at 7, Talk at 7:30, entry by donation.

July 11—Atlas Mill Remediation Project Community Meeting, Wednesday, July 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Ouray Community Center, 320 Sixth Ave., Ouray. Come to learn and give us your feedback about a project proposed by Ouray Silver Mines to improve stream water quality around the Atlas Mill up Ouray County Road 361 (Camp Bird Road). For info: http://www.uncompaghrewatershed.org/events/

July 14—Butterfly Friendzy fundraiser for suicide prevention, Montrose Elks Lodge (801 S. Hillcrest) 6 p.m. to midnight. Prime rib dinner, silent auction, dance to music by Cimarron. For tickets ($35) call Heather @ 901-1595.

July 14—Fourth Annual FUNC Fest @ Riverbottom Park! Fun on the river, music, and more. For more information about the FUNC Fest please contact the OBT at 970.497.8558 or email at: events@visitmontrose.com.

July 14—Celebrage Cedaredge returns July 14th at Cedaredge Town Park. Enjoy the shade, live music and vendors from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Don’t forget to stop by the Community Yard Sale & Flea Market at the Public Works building, also taking place from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Vendor applications for both events are still available by calling 856-3123.

July 18—“It’s in the Details,” a lecture presented by Black Canyon Quilt Show Judges, will explain the objective standards of workmanship and design used to evaluate quilts in competition. Whether you quilt for fun or competition, information presented will help attendees to produce their very best work. The judges will also announce the winner of the 2018 Black Canyon Quilt Show Best of Show ribbon and explain why the quilt was selected. Holiday Inn Apex Room, 1391 South Townsend. 6 p.m. Cost: $5 at the door.

July 20—Modernize Your Paintings and Fall In Love with Acrylics with Claudia Hartley. Registration for this class is $395 and does not include materials.


July 20—The History of Climbing in the San Juans with Pete Davis. Presented by Pete Davis, doors will open at 7, talk at 7:30. Entry by donation (suggested $10).

July 28—Liver Down the River. Saturday, July 28th. Doors @ 7:30pm, Music @ 8 pm. $10 entry at the door.

July 29—Montrose Altrusa Voice of the San Juan’s competition (Blind auditions are July 29, Magic Circle Theatre) final performances at the Pavilion Sept. 15.

Aug. 4—Olathe Sweet Corn Festival! The festival is proud to announce that Grammy Nominated Artist Eric Paslay will headline the 27th Annual event! The Olathe Sweet Corn Festival is proudly presented by City Market and Alpine Bank and is a component fund of the Montrose Community Foundation. For more information and online ticket please visit www.olathestreecornfest.com.

Aug. 6—Montrose Giving Club meets at the Bridges Golf & Country Club of Montrose, 5:30 p.m. Open to ALL women who can afford the $100 donation and a $10 hospitality fee.

Aug. 7—National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, will take place at Target on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. Don’t miss the opportunity to personally meet and greet local law enforcement members and first responders.

August 11 & 12—34th Annual Ridgway Rendezvous Arts & Crafts Festival. The 34th Annual two-day festival comes to Ridgway’s beautiful Hartwell Park every summer on the second weekend of August, showcasing fine arts and original crafts from up to 150 talented vendors from across the country. Art demos, free craft activities, great food and libations and family-friendly live entertainment round out the offerings, making this one of the Western Slope’s most highly anticipated art shows of the season. Runs Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4.


Aug. 26—3rd Annual Log Hill Hustle 5K 10K Fun Run On the Mesa Sunday, August 26, 7 am registration, 8 am start. Register at www.FortunaTierra.com.
A LOOK IN THE VAULT

Photos by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Montrose County was formed in 1883 and the vault in the Clerk and Recorder’s office holds 135 years of county history. The racks of books are affectionately known as the Harry Potter books; however, Lisa Carlson is all business as she does a title search.