

### County Government

# 'More families out working'

## DHS programs see financial, service decrease

By Kara Morgan  
The Fort Morgan Times

Morgan County commissioners took on their monthly role Tuesday morning as the Board of Social/Human Services.

The board heard from Director Jacque Frenier and Deputy Director Rogelio

Segura of the Department of Human Services.

After completing their regular approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, the warrants and provider and vendor benefit authorizations were up for approval.

Segura said the department had about \$425,000 dollars in warrants and payroll in December 2018. For the benefit authoriza-

tions for both vendors and providers, Segura said the total was about \$546,000 dollars to vendors for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), foster care and LEAP, among several other programs.

In response to Commissioner Jim Zwetzig's question, Segura gave a brief overview of the trend at DHS in recent years. Zwetzig highlighted the numbers he saw from DHS' overview, that the year totals went from \$7.3 million in 2016 to

\$6.6 million in 2018.

"Part of that is, the economy has improved a little bit. We have more families out working," Segura explained.

Segura emphasized that this is not the whole picture for social service programs in the county.

"However, if you look, these stats are just talking about financial assistance and benefits that the county is responsible to

See COMMISSIONERS, pg. 12

## Morgan County Republicans



Photos by Kara Morgan / The Fort Morgan Times

The Morgan County Republicans heard from their new party chair, Vivianne Lorenzini, on Monday evening at the annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

# 'Take back the state'

## Republicans hear from local, state and national officials at 2019 Lincoln Day Dinner

By Kara Morgan  
The Fort Morgan Times

Morgan County Republicans came together Monday evening for their annual Lincoln Day Dinner, honoring Republican President Abraham Lincoln.

Now led by Chair Vivianne Lorenzini, the county Republicans heard from a range of speakers, from the local, state and national levels.

On Tuesday, Lorenzini said they were grateful to hear from representatives and for the about 100 people who attended the

event. Though she did not have the fundraising totals on Tuesday, she thanked those who supported the party through the raffle tickets, dinner tickets, donations and auction.

The audience heard from U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, Dusty Johnson a representative for U.S. Rep. Ken Buck, state Rep. Rod Pelton and state Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, among others.

The event was well-attended by local and county officials, including all three county commissioners: Mark Arndt, Jon Becker and Jim Zwetzig. Former Morgan County



U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner addresses the Morgan County Republicans at their Lincoln Day Dinner on Monday evening.

Assessor Bob Wooldridge attended and was recognized. Current Assessor Tim Amen, Coroner Don Heer and Treasurer Bob Sagel attended, as well.

Fort Morgan Mayor Ron Shaver, City Manager Jeff Wells and former City Councilman Dan Marler attended. Marler also

See LINCOLN, pg. 6

### Crime

# K-9 uncovers meth, heroin and fentanyl

## Call for service, traffic stop lead to drug busts

Special to The Times

Brush police arrested a Sterling man Friday, Feb. 15, on charges of felony drug possession and aggravated motor vehicle theft.

At 11:03 a.m., officers were dispatched to Love's Truck Stop for a male party who witnesses believed was suffering from a seizure, a press release reads. When officers arrived, they located the subject, Edgar Morales, 34, sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle that had been stolen out of Douglas County.

Morales appeared to be suffering from an apparent drug overdose and was subsequently transported via ambulance to East Morgan County Hospital, the police report reads.

After impounding the stolen vehicle, Brush Police Department's newest officer, K-9 Runer, was deployed and alerted on the vehicle, indicating the presence of illegal narcotics within the vehicle. A subsequent search located distribution quantities of illegal narcotics including heroin, methamphetamine and a substance believed to be fentanyl, police said.

After being treated and released from EMCH, Morales was booked into the Morgan County Detention Center on aggravated motor vehicle theft, unlawful possession of a schedule I controlled substance with intent to distribute, unlawful

possession of a schedule II controlled substance (two counts), unlawful use of a controlled substance, driving under the influence of drugs, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Morales was held without bond, pending his first court appearance.

During an unrelated incident on Saturday, Feb. 16, a Brush man was also arrested on several drug-related charges.

Angel Contreras, 46, was contacted by Brush police around 5:36 p.m. on a traffic stop in the 600 block of Turner Street. After contacting Contreras, officers found that he had two active warrants for his arrest and did not have a valid driver's license.

When Contreras was taken into custody, officers observed what appeared to be illegal narcotics in his vehicle. Again, K-9 Runer was deployed, and alerted to the presence of illegal narcotics within the vehicle. After obtaining a search warrant for the vehicle, officers located distribution quantities of methamphetamine during the subsequent search.

In addition to the two Morgan County warrants, Contreras was charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance with intent to distribute, unlawful possession of a schedule II controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence, driving a vehicle when license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, fictitious plates, and no proof of insurance.

Contreras was booked into the Morgan County Detention Center and was held without bond on his new charges, pending his first court appearance.

### Higher Education

# Dr. Jarrold Schaefer Scholarship created

## Family endowment will support future BSN students at Morgan Community College

Special to The Times

A new scholarship has been created for students at Morgan Community College who enroll in the future Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree Program, according to a news release from the MCC Foundation.

This scholarship will be funded through the Dr. Jarrold Schaefer and Family Endowment. The goal of the scholarship is to help support

students who have an interest in remaining in northeastern Colorado to work after graduation.

The late Dr. Jarrold "Jarry" Schaefer and his wife, Sue Schaefer, have been strong supporters of Morgan Community College since 2003. Jarry served on the MCC Foundation Board from 2008-2013, ending his tenure as president, and was a member of the Colorado Community College System Foundation Board from May

2015 until his passing in 2017. Jarry served as the chair for the MCC Center for Arts and Community Enrichment Steering Committee, where he played an integral role in the creation of the MCC documentary, "Glenn Miller: The Birthplace of His Music."



Jarrold Schaefer

See SCHOLARSHIP, pg. 12

### Index

Things to Do .....	2
Weather.....	3
Obituaries.....	3
Opinion .....	4
Lincoln Day Photos.....	5
Sports.....	7
TV Guide.....	8
Comics.....	9
Classifieds.....	10

■ **Weather:** Skies will be mostly sunny and not as cold on Wednesday with a high of 37°. Five-day forecast on page 3.

