

Dental program expands to meet adult needs

BY CAROLINA KING
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The successful Skippy+ dental program, which provides basic cleanings twice a year to students in local schools via its mobile clinic, is expanding to meet the needs of adult Medicaid recipients in Ouray County.

There are currently no dentists in the county that accept Medicaid patients, who make up 15 percent of the county population, so the program will fill a gap in services, according to Erich Lange, Tri-County Health Network community programs manager.

Lange told the Plaindealer a clinic will be set-up in the Public Health Office in Ouray and patients will be seen starting in April.

The clinic will provide cleanings, x-rays, exams and primary restoration such as fillings, and will be referring patients to Medicaid providers in Montrose for more intensive treatment such as root canals.

Skippy+ has provided in-school dental clinics since 2008. More than 7,000 children have used the program since the start. The mobile clinics have

everything a normal dentist office would have, but everything is portable, including the x-ray machines. They set up in an extra room of a school building and see children whose parents have filled out a simple form.

Cherith Flowerday, program officer with Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, told the Plaindealer the foundation decided to fund the Skippy+ program after watching their work over the years.

"They've really demonstrated a history of being able to adapt and take on progressive, innovative ways to meet the oral health needs of their populations," Flowerday said.

An example Flowerday gave of the program's creativity is the fact that the program goes into the schools, and now even daycares and preschools. She also said the program has started a tele-

dentistry program for rural areas.

The expanded program is made possible thanks to a three-year, \$256,000 grant to Tri-County Health



Network from Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation to provide care to not only children, but adults in Ouray, San Miguel, Montrose and Delta counties. DDCOF has provided a total of \$3.4 million to 29 nonprofits across the state in 2019 to improve oral health.

The foundation receives its funding from Delta Dental Insurance, which is a non-profit 501(c)4. Therefore, they are required by law to donate a percentage of their net gain each year.

To set an appointment at the clinic in Ouray or receive more information call 970-708-7096 and ask for the dental office.

OBITUARY

Jan McElroy

December 24, 1938 ~ March 12, 2019



Jan McElroy passed away Tuesday March 12, 2019 at the age of 80. She was born in Bessemer Alabama on December 24, 1938. She moved to Concord California and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School in 1957. She had resided in Montrose Colorado for the past 22 years.

She enjoyed reading, live concerts, Magic Circle Theater plays, football games and attending her grandchildren and great grandchildren's events.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Her surviving relatives are her brothers Jim (Mary) Davis of Alabama and Pat Davis of Georgia, Her daughters Debbie Norwood of Arizona and Coleen McElroy of Ridgway. Her Grandchildren Casey (Dave) McCoy, Jenny (Rueben) Dixon of Montrose, Ryan (Ashley) Bartashius of Ridgway, Trey Norwood of LA, and Sabrina Norwood of England. And Her Great grandchildren, Adalie Dixon, Zane McCoy, Riley and Payten Bartashius. She passed peacefully surrounded by her family.

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