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# the Montrose Mirror

## PLENTIFUL GRASSHOPPERS FEAST ON LOCAL CROPS



By Caitlin Switzer

COLORADO-As media outlets across Colorado report on the influx of grasshoppers around the state, more than one gardener here in Montrose has lost plants to the hungry hoppers.

"They are eating all of my raspberries," was a comment heard recently by this reporter. "They have just wreaked havoc—they have eaten every daylily! They appear to be hopping mad."

For those impacted, the Colorado State University Extension offers information on most insects, and grasshoppers are no exception. [Fact Sheet No. 5535, "Grasshoppers in Field Crops,"](#) notes that grasshoppers follow a roughly 22-year cycle, with the last great outbreak in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Even in low numbers, the voracious bugs present challenges to gardeners, as they often begin in weedy, outlying areas and move on to munch in greener pastures and feast on field crops.

The CSU Extension can even help you identify the type of grasshopper you are seeing, if needed. According to [CSU Extension Fact Sheet No. 5536](#), Grasshopper

Montrose grasshopper. Photo by B. Switzer.

Continued pg 6

## BOCC NAMES EMILY SANCHEZ INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) named Emily Sanchez as Interim County Manager during the regular BOCC meeting of Wednesday, July 17.

Sanchez previously served as Assistant County Manager and has filled other leadership roles during her years with Montrose County.

All commissioners were present for the meeting, which was called to order by BOCC Chair Roger Rash.

Rick Dunlap led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; the Invocation was delivered by Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel.

Garate said, "My God, it is a privilege to come before you and ask for wisdom...Our Commissioners...we pray that once again you would give them wisdom...and that you continue to bless Montrose and this county..."

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Scott Mijares spoke, "In yesterday's work group, this board suggested that you would lower the qualification standards for the recently vacated county manager position and decided to be the sole selection committee for the new county manager, with no outside input. I am opposed to this process and strongly suggest that you maintain the interim county manager until the new county commissioners are installed. This would provide for more continuity in our government and a smoother transition of authority...the new



Interim County Manager Emily Sanchez Courtesy photo.

Continued pg 26

[City of Montrose Considers Lodging Tax Increase, Hears Crime Statistics!](#)

[Montrose County Fair & Rode Gears up for Nine Days of Fun, Competition and Community Spirit!](#)

[Mayor Reed Responds to Public, Council Votes to Add Lodging Tax Ballot Question!](#)

# UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**Dear Readers:**  
 We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

**RULE 1.** The Dead Horse Rule has been in place from the start of the *Mirror*. This is somewhat self-explanatory, but there are times when something has been said so many times it can run afoul of the "Dead Horse Rule," in which case we will inform the writer.

**RULE 2.** While there are always exceptions, a letter can often say what needs to be said in one page or less. Our pages are 8.5 X 11, we use a 10 pt Calibri font; letters that are roughly 800 words fit well within this suggested guideline.

**RULE 3.** Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

*Thank you,*  
**Caitlin Switzer,**  
*Montrose Mirror Editor*

# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado to a readership of over 20,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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## Smokey Bear's Birthday

Tuesday, July 23—10 AM

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Celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday July 23rd on the Library East Lawn with a special storytime and activities. These events are designed to encourage children and families to engage in reading and learn about wildfire prevention, forest conservation and Smokey Bear's legacy.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Nonpartisan, National Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote local environmental awareness and a Climate Action Plan, on Monday, Aug. 5 at 5pm at the Montrose Public Safety Complex meeting room, 434 S 1st (Police). All Welcome .Info at 970-765-9095.

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**Friday, August 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

Montrose Summer Music Series

Free Concert at Rotary Amphitheatre, Cerise Park

We will have a tent set up; food trucks are available.

It is a short walk from the parking lot to the amphitheater; however, parking is limited. Alternatively, catch the free shuttle at Columbine Middle School, Montrose Pavilion, or Montrose Field House. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

“Once an Indian Always an Indian” T-shirts and hoodies can be ordered from Montrose Printing Center

**Saturday, August 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** Tour Montrose High School

**Saturday, August 3, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

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Payment of \$25/person for dinner can be made through Event Brite on Facebook or by mailing a check payable to: MHS Class of '79 to 15949 5790 Road, Montrose, CO 81403, or preregister and bring cash the night of the dinner

**We hope to see you there!**

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BEES NEED OUR HELP: FREE WILDFLOWER SEEDS AVAILABLE

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Generation Wild is well into its initiative of distributing 100,000 packets of Wilderflower seeds across Colorado. Family participants and distribution partners are reacting with much excitement and joy to have such a fun and free activity to do in the outdoors. If you are interested in covering this campaign, Wilderflower seed packets are currently available for pickup in every county across Colorado until the end of August (see a map of [pick up locations here](#)).

This initiative encourages kids and families to get outdoors and to reconnect with nature - and to help save Colorado's bees and make the state more beautiful!



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# PLENTIFUL GRASSHOPPERS FEAST ON LOCAL CROPS *From pg 1*

Grasshopper Control in Gardens and Small Acreages, "The primary species present in recent outbreaks reported in areas of the West Slope" is the clearwinged grasshopper. At [San Juan Gardens](#) in Montrose, staff have seen more grasshoppers than usual, and have also fielded a corresponding increase in the number of client questions about grasshoppers. In many cases, staff can recommend a Triple Action product to help reduce the damage to plants, San Juan Gardens staffer David told the *Mirror*. "A lot of our clients have said this is one of the worst years ever for grasshoppers," he said.



Photo by B. Switzer.

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The Board of Directors of Montrose Memorial Hospital, Inc., a Colorado community non-profit corporation, is accepting applications for positions as Directors of that Colorado community non-profit corporation.

Application packets are available for download at [www.montrosehealth.com](http://www.montrosehealth.com), by email request to [BODapplications@montrosehealth.com](mailto:BODapplications@montrosehealth.com), or pick up at the Montrose Regional Health Administration office, located at 800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Montrose, Colorado, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The deadline for return of completed applications is **Friday**, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the MRH Administration office.

Elections will be held by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in October.

  
Jack Johnston (Jul 17, 2024 22:34 GMT+1)

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Olathe High School, Olathe  
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### Wed., August 7 - Sat., August 10

Montrose Pavilion, Montrose  
6:30AM - 9:30AM

*Registration required: No walk-ins on Wednesday, August 7 and Thursday, August 8*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT UNIFY MONTROSE?

*Editor:*

What do you know about Unify Montrose?

Well, please forget whatever you have heard in the past. It is like the phoenix growing from the ashes. Some of us realized that the concept on which the first deliberations were based have a good deal of merit. So we have a brand new non-profit, which is being run entirely by local people to use local ideas to solve local problems. Since it is a nonprofit, we will

get our funding mostly from grants. And since the name Unify Montrose is well known in the circles where we are applying for grants, we will continue to use that name.

On July 29th we will be having another Catalyst Club meeting which will be an opportunity for people in our community who wish to help guide our community in a positive direction.

This is an invitation to for you come with ideas of medium size problems, the solu-


tions to which will make our community (the East end of the County), a better place to live.

Let your voice be heard and join us. We will be creating a roadmap of the projects we intend to address now and through 2025.


Our next meeting will be at the Bluecorn Candle Factory on Townsend on July 29 at 5:30 in the evening.

*Hoping to see you there,  
Rick Bleier, President, Unify Montrose*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRATS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING POSITIVE TO OFFER

*Editor:*

Yes, Biden is mentally unfit for office, but even if that were not so, his policies have been disastrous. What do Democrats do when they have absolutely nothing positive to offer? They dehumanize Trump and anyone supporting him. They incite violence against Trump, and try to destroy him with endless lawfare and lies to bankrupt and/or imprison him. Then, when their efforts to divide the nation, sow hatred and discord, and incite violence are successful, and a delusional idiot who believes the lies tries to assassinate Trump, Democrats suddenly want to talk about "unity".

Democrat Adam Frisch, running in Colorado's 3rd congressional district, knows he can't talk about Democrat policies because they are highly unpopular with the American people. When he first ran for the CD3 representative, he tried to demonize Boebert --- the same tactic used against Trump. In the current race, he can't use the same subterfuge against Hurd, so he is forced to make his new "message" all about abortion. At least he is honest about his position on abortion (and his father's and sister's involvement in the abortion industry). Frisch states "... I still don't see a situation -- ever -- where the government should be infringing on the freedom of a woman and her health care provider ...." In other words, anything goes, including full term abortions for any reason.

You will never get Frisch to tell you where he stands on anything Democrats have "accomplished" the last four years -- inflation, open borders, inner city crime waves, wars, Biden stabbing Israel in the back, men identifying as women dominating women's sports, etc., -- or Biden's promise of a massive tax hike if re-elected. Frisch can't admit he will just be another Democrat supporting Biden's destructive agen-

da, and thinks CD3 voters are OK with a rich Aspenite labeling their pro-life views "extreme".

The vast majority (66%) of Americans believe abortions should not be legal past three months.

To this day, the United States is one of only eight countries worldwide -- alongside of China -- with no federal limits on abortion at any point in pregnancy. Being the serial liars that they are, Biden and his handlers insist they do not support full-term abortion. During the 2022 midterms, Biden promised to legalize unlimited, on-demand abortion through all nine months in all 50 states in the form of a wide-sweeping bill codifying taxpayer-funded abortion.

In April, nearly every House Democrat voted against legislation that would strengthen requirements for providing immediate medical attention to babies born alive after a botched abortion. Also in April the Biden administration "re-interpreted" the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to mandate that employers must cover leave for employees seeking abortions. They are also now illegally using the Emergency Medical Treatment Act to force emergency room doctors to perform abortions.

Frisch and company might want to be careful about what they label as "extreme." Abortion proponents cannot fully hide the horrible reality of late-term abortions, even from themselves, and most CD3 voters see clearly what late-term abortions are -- pure evil. Most people also don't appreciate having people like Adam Frisch and Joe Biden shoving their extreme abortion goals down their throats because the Democrat party is beholden to Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry.

Equally important, why would anyone

vote for any politician, including Frisch, who supports the Democrat party agenda? The party that would rather demonize and lock up Trump than address the debilitating inflation they created. The party that purposely put poor old Joe Biden in place, and then called conservatives liars and "far right extremists" for telling the truth about Joe's incompetence and corruption.

The party that purposely invited an illegal alien invasion and then expected Americans to pay for their own family's inflated living expenses, plus the illegals' housing, food, medical care, etc.

The party that allowed Biden to take his son around the world taking million dollar bribes from our enemies. The party that incited violent protests around the country, and then called them "mostly peaceful", and allowed their supporters to destroy cities and murder people caught in the chaos. The party that then said Trump incited violence after he told his supporters to march "peacefully and patriotically" to the Capitol. The party that insults blacks and other minorities by thinking they are incapable of getting a photo ID, and then slanders Republicans by claiming they want to keep minorities from voting. The list goes on forever.

There are reasons that today's Democrat politicians want to talk about absolutely anything other than where they stand on issues important to the American people or the "accomplishments" of the Democrat party. In Frisch's case I have not read any comments from him regarding the credible accusations that "family man" Frisch thought an Aspen storage unit was a good place to sleep with his married mistress. Add that to a long list of things he doesn't want to discuss with CD3 voters.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDORSES MARC CATLIN

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— On July 11, 2024, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce announced their 2024 general election endorsements, which featured Marc Catlin’s name for Senate District 5.

The announcement comes after the Chamber’s Political Action Committee Board conducted a thorough interview and vetting process for all candidates in the race. This process evaluated candidates on their campaign strategies, as well as questions on topics ranging from affordability, energy regulation, and workforce development.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District is comprised of seven counties: Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, and Pitkin counties.

The Colorado Chamber of Commerce’s mission is to be the “unifying voice for business and champions a healthy economic climate to secure Colorado’s future.” The chamber’s mission is showcased in Marc Catlin’s dedication to his community via his many years as the Agriculture Chair for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, over eight years as a Board Director for the Montrose Economic Development Corporation, being an ag lender during the farming crisis of the 80’s, owning a successful real estate brokerage firm, all while being a farmer.

Marc Catlin says, “The endorsement from the Colorado Chamber of Commerce is an honor. It is a critical time in Western Colorado, we need to ensure that our business community, both big and small,

can continue to thrive in our beautiful home. We have worked very hard to represent everyone, this includes our business community. We are excited to continue to have the opportunity to serve and represent our business community and all of Colorado.”

Marc Catlin is currently Colorado’s 58th District State Representative, which represents the eight counties: Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin is Vice Chair of the Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, a member of the Capital Development Committee, and Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee. Marc Catlin is a resident of Montrose, Colorado.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CDOT HOSTS ANNUAL TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT TO TACKLE CRITICAL ROAD SAFETY

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO — Starting today, the Colorado Department of Transportation is bringing together national, regional and local advocates to address traffic safety in Colorado. The summit's theme is "Uniting transportation minds for safer communities." The summit's goals are to: Educate and inspire Colorado transportation professionals

Advance traffic safety culture in local communities

Engage with safety champions from across the state

The summit will explore how transportation professionals can work together to achieve safer roadway environments. Professionals from the following areas will share information and best practices: Law enforcement, Engineering, Community planning, Education, Advocacy, Emergency response, and Public Health. The summit creates a space to refine and develop solutions that address critical safety issues on Colorado's roadways.

What: 2024 Colorado Traffic Safety Summit  
<https://www.codot.gov/safety/coloradotrafficsafetysummit>

When: July 22-23, 2024

Where: The Antlers Wyndham Hotel in Colorado Springs



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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### ***MAGIC DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN BY BRENDA JOYCE CODA***

*By Lisa Rediger*

MONTROSE- 'Recorded history relies on memory, for few know whether or not what is happening - right now - will be considered significant. Later, a few arbitrarily-chosen people are asked to recall the event. Memory is unreliable, even fickle - every single one of us has experienced that fact.' Thus begins a narration, weaving facts and lore from Magic Circle Players' early history, in the voice of founder, Bette Dustin Spiro.

Bette Dustin, had moved to Montrose from Chicago, leaving behind a theatre community where she had acted, directed, enjoying connection, culture and art. When she found herself a single mother of three young children, she reached out to friends and acquaintances, inviting them to "come play", and in 1959, a ragtag group gathered in Bette's living room curious about her dream to start a community theatre in Montrose. Eager and full of hope, those stalwart volunteers would give everything to make the dream their own. This group laid the foundation of excellence, community and family that we continue today. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the legacy of Bette Dustin Spiro —who conceived and christened Magic Circle Players in 1959. She spent seven years directing and educating amateurs and audiences alike to forge a cohesive and exceptional all-volunteer theatrical community that is still thriving after 65 years.

Performances are Friday, July 26 & Saturday, July 27 @ 7:30pm and Sunday, July 28 @ 2pm. The show is in two acts, with a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased online at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com) or at the Box Office, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2pm - 5pm.

Patrons and Season Ticket holders enjoy this show as part of their season pass.



**Come visit us at our booth at the Fair!! Stop by and meet your UNAFFILIATED candidate Trisha Murray for County Commissioner Dist 3, and get a free water"**

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## BLM SOUTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET AUG. 8

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – The Bureau of Land Management’s Southwest Resource Advisory Council will hold a meeting on August 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401. The meeting is open to the public. Participants unable to attend in person can join via the Zoom platform. To request virtual access, please register in advance: <https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsduCgrzwsH7M9leGP3hl9fgi4v06UcpM>

“This will be our third Southwest Resource Advisory Council meeting of the year.” said District Manager Stephanie

McCormick. “We truly value the contributions of our 15 members, who represent varied backgrounds and interests throughout southwest Colorado.”

Planned agenda items include an overview of field office updates, and a presentation and discussion on the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment and evaluation process for considering Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. A public comment period is scheduled for 2 p.m. Individuals who wish to make a statement during the public comment period are encouraged to submit a written copy of their statement for the administrative record. The Resource

Advisory Council will also attend a field trip on August 7. The meeting agenda is available online at: <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/colorado/southwest-rac>

The Resource Advisory Council provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on various resource and land management issues. The Southwest Resource Advisory Council advises the BLM Colorado Southwest District, consisting of the Gunnison, Tres Rios, and Uncompahgre field offices. For more information or to RSVP for the field trip, please contact Maggie Magee at (970) 240-5323 or [dmagee@blm.gov](mailto:dmagee@blm.gov).

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- 3 Bedroom
- 1 3/4 Bathroom
- Open Kitchen
- 2,001 Sq. Ft.
- Corner Lot
- Built in 2022



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## TINA PETERS' TRIAL WILL BE AUG. 1-12 AT MESA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER

*Editor:*

Tina Peters is the proverbial, diminutive mouse standing in an open field, and defiantly, giving the middle finger to the eagle that is in the act of making her its next meal. She is the David versus Goliath. She is the citizen that takes on city hall because city hall is corrupt. She is the one that faces the beast when all others run for cover.

Tina Peters was the Mesa County Clerk and was mandated by Colorado law to insure that the 2020 Mesa County elections were fair. She had evidence of irregularities and didn't trust the Colorado secretary of state and she didn't trust the Dominion voting system. She, therefore, brought in forensic experts to examine Mesa County's voting machines. As a result she can prove, unequivocally, that premediated corruption and manipulation of the vote for Mesa County and by inference, the entirety of the State of Colorado, has occurred. I repeat, she can prove that the Mesa County vote was corrupted.

For doing this, Tina Peters is charged with seven felonies and three misdemeanors, all related to unauthorized access to Mesa

County voting machines by the above forensic experts. If convicted she stands to be imprisoned for decades.

She will finally get her day in court but it turns out the system is rigged. She will face a corrupt judge, a corrupt district attorney, a corrupt secretary of state, a corrupt governor, a corrupt FBI and a corrupt justice department. All will be trying to keep her from exposing their corruption with all their strength and with all their extensive resources. Her only hope is that the citizens of Mesa County, who will comprise the jury, will be able to make the distinction between who is good and what is evil.

To stack the deck even further, the corrupt judge and the corrupt district attorney will not allow the forensic reports to be entered as evidence nor will they allow the forensic experts to be called as witnesses. She is left with no way to defend herself, much as what has happened to President Donald J Trump.

Win or lose, she will be the only one that can sleep well at night. She will be the only one that can, unashamedly, return her gaze in the morning mirror even though

the mirror may hang on a grey wall and bars are on her window and door.

To see the results of the forensic analysis go to <https://tinapeters.us/reports/>. Look at the three forensic reports and especially the credentials of the authors. These people have worked in the most sensitive areas of the US and foreign governments which includes the FBI, US Naval Intelligence, the Secret Service, Department of Defense, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Scotland Yard et al. They are considered as expert witnesses in landmark cybersecurity cases on all levels.

Jury selection begins on July 29, 2024 and lasts for two days. The trial begins on August 1, 2024 and lasts until August 12. The trial will be held at the Mesa County Justice Center on West Main in Grand Junction, Colorado.

If you do not like the way our nation is heading, with the weaponization of our justice system, you are welcome to join us in what promises to be a national historical event.

I intend to give Tina my support, with my presence.

*Don Hemme, Redvale*



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**REDUCED PRICE**

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**28 Elm Court**  
**Montrose, CO 81401**

# Unique HOME

This 4 bedroom home is spacious and enhanced with a fabulous gas fireplace in the living room, a separate formal dining area and a kitchen that opens to a multi use family room that is currently set up as a game room with pool table and great built-ins. The kitchen has updated appliances and it includes a washer & dryer. The home design is smart and iconic. You'll love the elegance of the walnut floors and the many solid wood pocket doors that allow a room or an area to be private if you desire. The primary suite has a built in dresser in the closet and a jetted tub for your relaxation in the en suite bathroom. The home is heated by hot water baseboard and cooled with an evaporative cooler.

You will love the timeless design of a mid-century home. These homes are renowned for their clean lines, geometric shapes and minimalist aesthetic. Be drawn to the simplicity and elegance of the design, which has stood the test of time and continues to feel fresh and contemporary. Despite the minimalist appearance, this mid-century home offers ample opportunities for customization and personalization.

## Features:

- ✓ 3 Bathroom
- ✓ 2,836 sq ft
- ✓ 3 Car Garage
- ✓ 4 Bedroom

**REDUCED PRICE: \$535,000**



*Michelle Klippert*  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MISSING PERSON UPDATE: COLTON CORDOVA OF DELTA LOCATED

### Delta County News Release

DELTA COUNTY-On Thursday, July 11, 2024 at approximately 7:30 pm, the Delta Police Department was dispatched to the address of 680 1800 Road, a location known as the Round-up Club Arena. Officers were dispatched to a report of a deceased body that was discovered in a small structure on the property. A joint investigation by the Delta Police Department, Delta County Sheriff's Office and Delta County Coroner's Office, determined the deceased individual was an adult male who had been deceased for an extended period of time.

Sheriff's Office investigators worked with the Coroner's Office and Forensic Pathologists to identify the deceased

individual following an autopsy. The Forensic Pathologist through dental records and tattoos, positively identified the deceased male individual as Colton Cordova, of Delta. Mr. Cordova was entered into CCIC/NCIC and local databases as a missing person with the Delta County Sheriff's Office in September 2022. Mr. Cordova, who was 24 years of age at the time of his disappearance, was last seen at an address less than a mile from where his body was ultimately discovered. The investigation has revealed no indication of foul-play in Mr. Cordova's death. The cause and manner of death, as well as the circumstances surrounding the entire incident, remain under investigation.

Since Mr. Cordova's disappearance in

September 2022, Delta County Sheriff's Office investigators have followed dozens of leads which were generated through numerous interviews and search warrants of electronic devices and financial records. This missing person investigation spanned several jurisdictions and included assistance from several local, state and federal law enforcement partners. While this is not how we hoped this investigation would end, the Sheriff's Office hopes the discovery of Colton will at least provide some closure for his family and friends who have continued to search and hold out hope for a positive result. Our sincere condolences go out to Mr. Cordova's friends and family. There will be no further information released at this time.



*Where Wallflowers Grow* is the coming of age story of a shy, introverted, 12-year-old girl. A 1960's latch-key kid, Gail's mom agreed to let her leave her home-alone existence and live in her grandma's boarding house.

The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

For three years Gail lived in this unconventional family environment where she comes of age, while the old-timers age in place.

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

*Where Wallflowers Grow* is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MOTORCYCLISTS: ARE YOU READY TO FILTER?

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO—Recently, Colorado passed a lane filtering bill that will go into effect a week from today, August 7, 2024. This is a significant change for Colorado motorists and riders, so when this law goes into effect, we all need to practice it safely and with respect for one another. Motorcyclists have the extra responsibility to ensure they possess the individual skills to safely and legally perform this maneuver.

According to Colorado's new law, the rider of the motorcycle must not exceed 15

mph when filtering or passing another vehicle that is at a complete stop.

"Driving at low rates of speed, such as 15 miles per hour or less on a motorcycle, is more challenging and requires a higher level of skill," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

"Newer riders or folks that could brush up on this skill should seek hands-on training before implementing this new practice in real traffic situations."

[Colorado's Motorcycle Operator Safety Program \(MOST\)](#) is a reliable resource for

training riders at all experience levels.

There are three programs: Basic Riders Course, Experienced Riders Course and Three Wheel Course, which help riders gain additional experience in a safe and controlled setting.

This law also puts the rider in the position to assess each situation to determine if he/she can meet the legal requirements for safe filtering.

The rider should not pass if they can't follow the law or perform the maneuver safely.

## SS4A Grant - Safe Streets and Roads for All

**Public Workshop - August 7, 2024**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Public Works Meeting Room**

**63160 LaSalle Road**

**Montrose**

Montrose County intends to develop a new Safety Action Plan using a data-driven methodology to improve safety and enhance mobility for all roadway users.

Public input is crucial to develop an Implementation Plan.

The Montrose County Safety Action Plan will be a Vision Zero plan and will be led by the county and based on extensive and inclusive community outreach!

Please join us for our second public workshop to learn more and provide input.

A safer Montrose County will promote multi-modal mobility and improve its economic prospects.



# Lincoln Reagan Dinner & Auction



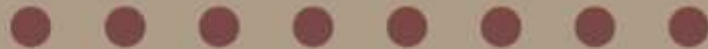
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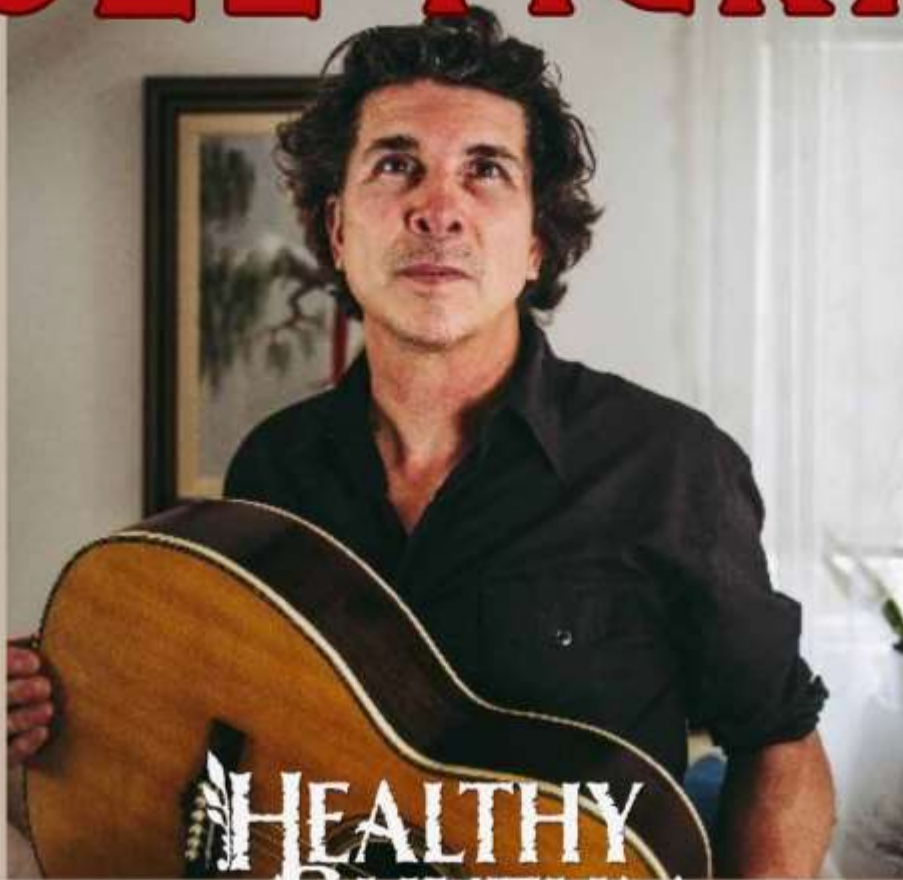
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- \$40 ~ Speaker Ticket ONLY
- \$85 ~  
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# Picturesque HOME

Located in the highly sought-after Spring Creek area of Montrose County, this residence offers a peaceful retreat with unparalleled views. The property features ample space for vehicles and recreational equipment, including a 4+ car garage with a newer 681 sq ft addition ideal for a workshop, garage, or RV storage, complemented by a convenient 24' x 12.5' carport for additional storage needs..

**Offered at: \$905,000**

**MLS# 815019**

**59755 Spring Creek Rd.  
Montrose, CO 81403**

Renovated in phases between 2010 and 2014, the home seamlessly blends modern upgrades with timeless elegance. Step inside to discover a beautifully remodeled interior, adorned with exquisite wood floors, upgraded cabinetry, and state-of-the-art appliances in the kitchen and dining area, where an inviting island awaits for culinary endeavors. A cozy sitting area adjacent to the dining room invites moments of contemplation while soaking in the mountain vistas.

- Features:**
- ✓ 2,301 sq ft
  - ✓ 3 Bedroom
  - ✓ 3 Bathroom
  - ✓ 4 Car Garage
  - ✓ 3.236 Acres



*Michelle Klippert*  
Broker/Owner  
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# BOCC NAMES EMILY SANCHEZ INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER From pg 1

board will be working with a newly-appointed county manager that they will not have had the opportunity to interview or select. This could result in a replacement in the near term that would cost the taxpayers due to a generous severance package offered by an outgoing board of commissioners.

"I respectfully request that you slow this process down and place your focus on transitioning to a new board of county commissioners, elected by the people, who will lead our county over the next four years," Mijares said, "Appointing a new county manager on your way out the door is a disservice to the new board of county commissioners, and lowering the qualification standards for a position of this magnitude and importance as a matter of expediency is not what our county needs as it grows."

Next to speak was Jay Jutten. Jutten asked that commissioners drive the Frontage Road along Hwy 550 by the storage sheds across from the United Gravel Pit. "But make sure you take your 4-wheel drive. If we could have it maintained a little bit because we need to keep farm equipment off 550 as much as possible...if I could get you guys to look at that and hopefully do something with it...the Dave Wood Road needs some work on it too. The Buckhorn Road is crazy right now..."

## COUNTY MANAGER

Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items, with Resolution No. 38-2024 assigned to Item 2, Resolution No. 39-2024 assigned to Item 17, Resolution 40-2024 assigned to Item 18, and Resolution No. 41-2024 assigned to Item 20.

## GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Chair's signature on Change Order No. 1 in reference to the Construction of the Temporary Traffic Signal at US 50 and Airport Access Project. This includes Non-Federal items for all costs described in Change Order No 1. Total cost is

-\$22,023.06; changing the total cost of work described from \$567,729.30 to \$545,706.24.

Also approved was the Chair's signature for geotechnical services with Kumar & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$57,894, for FAA Grant AIP 3-08-0043-064-2024 for the geotechnical investigations services and quality acceptance services associated with the design of the access road at Montrose Regional Airport. This was a public request for proposal with three responses.

Commissioners voted to approve Resolution 42-2024, to appoint Richard Nichols as the Montrose County Road and Bridge Supervisor and Emily Sanchez as the Montrose County Budget Officer; and voted unanimously to appoint Emily Sanchez as Interim County Manager.

As presented by County Attorney Marti Whitmore, the BOCC voted unanimously to begin eviction proceedings of the tenants at 6216 5700 Rd., Olathe, CO 81425. Ordinance Number 2024-01, concerning permitting firearms to be carried on County properties, was approved unanimously.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners approved two minor subdivisions on the Planning & Development Consent Agenda.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioners left regular session to open a hearing on the Verizon Wireless Special Use [SU24-001] proposal to install a Wireless Telecom Tower at Parcel 376736202007, 67456 Sunnyside RD; the item had been continued from June 18. Commissioners voted to reopen public comment. Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond gave an update, addressing reasons the item had been continued. The meeting packet includes comments on the proposal. Richmond said the majority of the comments speak to property values in the area, and a petition in opposition to the tower is included in the packet as well.

Applicant Herb Quintana was present to answer questions about the proposal.

Mike Bussing of Cypress Homes commented, "Isn't it funny how they consult the aesthetics of where the tower's going with that homeowner (the landowner), but they don't consider the homeowners around the area...this definitely affects the welfare of the people, property values, aesthetics..."

Bussing said he had a contract to build a house that was cancelled because of the proposed tower, "It definitely affects the property values, it definitely affects me...this is going to fall right back onto our property...at least move the tower 150 feet..."

G. Goats spoke. He said that those who live near the tower will not be able to manage their property values, "They will go down." He asked commissioners to deny the proposal.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash closed public comment and asked about requiring a 150-foot setback.

Commissioner Sue Hansen asked County Attorney Marti Whitmore to review the jurisdiction of local entities over cell phone towers. "The commissioners must make their decisions within the bounds of both Federal law as well as the existing land use code," Whitmore said.

Lobbyist groups at the federal level have usurped local authority, BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said.

"These folks have basically taken away local authority...to me, I find that very bothersome..."

Commissioners voted to approve the Verizon Wireless Special Use [SU24-001] proposal to install a Wireless Telecom Tower at Parcel 376736202007, 67456 Sunnyside RD with a minimum setback of 150 feet. The BOCC voted to approve the Culver View Minor Amended Plat [AM24-002] proposal to fix access problems at Parcel 376509104001 11266 5880 RD.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOCC entered executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), (e) and (f) for legal advice and discussion of positions in negotiations related to personnel policies and benefits not specific to any employee.

Upon returning to regular session, BOCC Chair Roger Rash moved to adjourn.



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  - ⇒ Lovely Open Concept Home
  - ⇒ Split Floor Plan
  - ⇒ Corner Garden Tub in Primary Bathroom
  - ⇒ Stainless Steel Appliances
  - ⇒ Beautiful Gray Cabinets Throughout Home
  - ⇒ Large Laundry Room
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# CITY OF MONTROSE CONSIDERS LODGING TAX INCREASE, HEARS CRIME STATS

*"...they are all jealous of Montrose because we are such a high functioning city administration and council,"*

*- Montrose Mayor Pro Tem David Frank, recalling a recent CML Executive Board Retreat*



*Above, Montrose City Council met for a work session on July 15. Meeting screenshot.*

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all to the City Council Work Session of July 15, 2024 at 10am. All councilors were present.

The first agenda item was the Introduction of New City Employees.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES**

Joining City staff are Police Officers Jason Robillard and Tristin Houghtaling; Parks & Special Projects Worker Ryan Powers; Streets Division Worker Dustin Wilk; and GIS Analyst Justin Bollinger.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The first Discussion Item of the day was the Cedar Creek Cemetery Bridge Replacement Contract Award, which would replace the bridge from the main portion of the cemetery to the Potter's Yard section.

**Background-** A memo from City Engineer Scott Murphy to Council states that Council will consider the award of a construction contract to K&D Construction in the amount of \$241,302.90 for replacement of the Cedar Creek Cemetery Bridge.

While discussing the bridge replacement, Murphy said that a lot of people don't know that the cemetery has a bridge, "There's the main portion of the cemetery which is where most of the grave sites are, but we also own the north side of the cemetery north of Cedar Creek. ...it's called Potter's Yard..."

The primary purpose of the bridge is to accommodate pedestrians, so it serves dual uses, Public Works Director Jim Scheid said, "...A trail could be added in the future to parallel the creek..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said, "I know it's important to get over to the pauper grave area...Potter's Field...I know there are people who go over there occasionally

just to tour that."

As it has in years past, Council considered the reallocation of the City's Private Activity Bonds.

**Background-** A memo from Community Development Specialist Chris Ottinger states, "For the past six years, the City of Montrose has assigned our allocation of Private Activity Bonds (PAB) to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), and CHFA in turn puts the PAB to use in our community... The IRS allocates a per capita bonding authority annually for housing to each state, also known as PAB Volume Capacity or "Cap." Colorado in turn allocates this authority to statewide authorities and local governments. In 2022, the allocation for the City of Montrose was \$1,125,667. In 2023, the allocation was \$1,245,218, an 11% increase. In 2024, the allocation is \$1,325,266, a 6% increase. The City of Montrose has not desired to issue bonds directly, as there is risk and administrative burden in doing so. Allocating the PAB directly to CHFA allows our community to benefit from the PAB allocation without the City directly issuing bonds..."

Planner II William Reis presented for consideration the Nations Addition Revised Annexation Agreement.

**Background-** A memo from Reis to Council states, "City Council is considering a revised annexation agreement for the Nations Addition, originally annexed in 2007. The annexation agreement has been revised in 2014 and 2018. The revised agreement will replace the existing annexation agreement from 2018. The purpose of this revision is to match the City's modern development standards and practices, ensure ROW dedication sufficient for bridge improvements and future roundabout con-

struction at 6700 Road and Miami Road, ensure public utility easements are dedicated along all rights of way, (and) amend requirements and city liabilities for recreational trails along Cedar Creek.

Council considered the award of a contract with Bruin Waste Management for Landfill services. A Request for Proposals generated two responses, with Bruin Waste coming in as low bidder with a tipping fee of \$64.50 per ton.

**Background-** A memo from Public Works Director Jim Scheid to Council states, "Bruin Waste offers a lower tipping fee and also a benefit to the city in the haul distance to where the city trucks would unload the municipal waste. Bruin Waste operates a transfer station on North Townsend Ave in Montrose. The travel distance to this station is significantly closer to the trash routes which will help to reduce the wear and tear on the trash trucks and also reduce the time required to complete a route...The Trash and Recycle Division budgeted \$820,000 in disposal fees in 2024. Disposal fees include tipping fees for solid waste and for recyclable materials. The bid price of \$64.50/ton for trash is within the estimated tipping fee rates that were anticipated when developing the 2024 and 2025 budgets..."

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Councilors took time to discuss the scheduling of the annual City Council Budget Retreat.

Police Chief Blaine Hall presented the Second Quarter and Mid-Year Crime Statistics.

## **GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council considered a potential ballot question for a Lodging Tax increase. Finance Director Shani Wittenberg was present and shared lodging tax revenues from

# CITY OF MONTROSE CONSIDERS LODGING TAX INCREASE *From previous pg*

previous years. The current tax rate is .9 percent... "Last year we collected...just over \$200,000 for hotel excise tax..."

Councilor Judy Ann Files said that the Lodging Tax increase would help mitigate tourism impacts, "...I know the people I've talked to in the past two weeks are really thinking that it's time for the tourists to pay more."

City Manager Bill Bell said that staff would come up with a narrative in support of the ballot question.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a brief update on paving schedules and the roundabout art installations, which have been designed by former city parks staffer John Malloy.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said he attended the Colorado Municipal League Executive Board Retreat the previous weekend. Frank said, "...they are all jealous of Montrose because we are such a high functioning city administration and council...it made me very proud to be from Montrose...it was a really great trip."

Councilor Files said that Breeze Airlines is now flying into Montrose after pulling out of Grand Junction.

The quilt that was chosen for the Mayor's award is available for display, Files said.

Scheid gave an update on construction of the façade at the new City Hall, "...We are able to re-use the façade on the west wall on the Cascade Avenue side..."

Following general discussion Mayor J. David Reed adjourned the work session.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IN THE END, “WE THE PEOPLE” HOLD ALL THE ACES

Editor:

In my letter last week, I noted that the BOCC would soon be considering the selection of a new County Manager. Since the last two County Manager appointments were made behind closed doors with no transparency, I suggested that the BOCC would be wise and prudent in conducting the appointment of the next county manager in the Sunshine with public input, after all you the taxpayer is paying the position's salary.

One would think our commissioners would want a candidate with an impeccable education background as well as experience in managing large numbers of employees as well as millions of tax dollars. In my article I had suggested an immediate appointment of an Interim Manager and a broad national search for highly qualified applicants that includes public participation and comments with the top candidates. Further I suggested that any final selection will be delayed until our new commissioners are sworn in in January.

Once again, it is disturbing to note that our commissioners have chosen to be neither wise, prudent, or transparent. On Tuesday July 16 in a work session, our commissioners noted their intention to LOWER the standards of qualification for the important position of County Manager, all of which will be detrimental to Montrose taxpayers. Consequently, I posed the following request and questions via a CORA request that very day.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

1- Provide A copy of the hiring criteria for the position of County Manager for Montrose County that was in effect as of May 1,2024

2 Provide a copy off the proposed revision to the criteria for the Montrose County Manager as proposed at the July 16,2024 workshop.

3-If the criteria for the County Manager position is lowered, will it benefit any current county employee applying for the position of county Manager? If so, who?

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please note the following changes in the educational and experience required for

the previous county manager and now for the current hiring process criteria as promulgated in the county Job description.

Prior: Below is the language for the County Manager job description that references Education and Experience in place as of May 1, 2024:

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Education: A master’s degree in public administration, Management or related field required.

Experience: A minimum of seven (7) years of progressively responsible and complex experience in local government management. Experience with a Colorado County considered helpful.

Current changes: Here are the proposed revisions to the job description for County Manager presented on July 16, 2024:

Education: Requires a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Public Administration, or a related field. A master’s degree in business administration or public administration is preferred.

Experience: A minimum of five (5) years’ experience in a management capacity with an organization of similar size and complexity as Montrose County. Experience with a Colorado County considered helpful. Business experience before joining public service is preferred.

Continuing on, on Wednesday July 17 the BOCC met in regular session. One item on the agenda was to approve a seven-day internal search for a new County Manager, thereby eliminating any public involvement or comment period concerning this critical decision. To his credit

“Commissioner Elect”, Scott Mijares spoke at the “Call to the Public”, suggesting the BOCC appoint an interim County Manager, initiate an out of county search, involve the public in evaluating candidates, and delay any final decision on a County Manager until new commissioners are sworn in in January. What happened? The BOCC did appoint Emily Sanchez as “Interim County Manager ” and at the same time approved moving forward with a short seven-day internal search. In the recent primary they hand selected candidates to succeed them to maintain a questionable status quo and its obvious they intend to do the same

with the County Manager job.

As noted above in the response from the county to my CORA request, the BOCC has lowered the job description educational and experience bar considerably for the position of County Manager. The BOCC refused to answer the two questions I posed in item 3 of my CORA request. A follow up question was posed to see if the revised lower bar in education and experience would qualify Emily Sanchez specifically for the position. That question was also met with silence, it has become crystal clear then that in my opinion the “FIX” is in selecting the next County Manager. Once again, our commissioners have avoided full transparency and excluded the public from a major decision opening the door for even more serious concerns and scrutiny as follows:

Montrose county is a statutory county. Has there been any state or federal laws in this hiring process been or about to be broken and/are the best qualified applicants of every race, creed, national origin or sexual orientation given an opportunity to apply for the position of County Manager or were they frozen out of the hiring process by conducting only an internal employee search for the position of county manager. Additionally, were there any conversations between the staff and/or the county commissioners themselves at any time concerning the hiring criteria changes and specifically filling the position of county manager with a specific person that were not held in a public /open meeting forum.

It is extremely disappointing to see our commissioners being so devious. We will be getting two new commissioners in January.

The commissioners just may wonder why they are not respected and have lost the confidence of many of their constituents from the west end to Olathe.

The list of complaints is long to the point virtually no one wants anything to do with them. They seem to forget that stacking the deck is not a good idea. We the public and voters are not term limited and therefore, in the end, “WE THE PEOPLE” hold all the aces.

Dee Laird, Montrose





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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### REBUTTAL TO MS. MORGENSTERN'S LETTER OPPOSING A CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

Ms. Morgenstern wrote that “she is opposed to establishing any more charter schools in this district.” There is only one charter school, Peak Academy, which does not use a classical education curriculum. Not all charter schools are the same! The description for Peak states that their curriculum is rigorous, but does not identify which one is used. Their acronym does not reflect anything about the content of the curriculum either: P (Be Punctual and Prepared), E (be Engaged), A (Be Accountable), and K (Be Kind). <https://www.mcsd.org/OurSchool>

Montrose County School District does not offer any classical curriculum. If it did, another option for parents whose children don't “fit” in a typical public classroom would be available.

Second, Morgenstern wrote that “she found that the fragmenting of funds to a smaller group of students impacted funds within the entire district.” Having a classical curriculum option will bring students into the district who currently are home-schooled or attend private schools. The last figure I heard was the district receives \$10,600 per student each year. If the clas-

sical charter school brings in 200 new students (not necessarily public school students) the first year it would bring \$2,120,000 to the county, and the district would receive 5% or \$106,000. That is not small change.

What does Morgenstern's “smaller group of students” mean? Small or large, having a classical charter school would bring more funds to our district, which is a good thing.

We need to consider that one size does not fit all. Students learn differently, and the classical approach is another option that Montrose County School District could offer to our families that is currently not available. Less privileged, or low income families, who currently have to send their children to the school in their neighborhood which might not be meeting their kids' needs is a wonderful option for them.

Another point that stands out in Morgenstern's letter is her focus on money. If money is more important than the quality of education our students receive, there is something terribly wrong with our system. If a classical curriculum is only available at a private school, then families who are

low-income have no chance of accessing it for their kids.

Morgenstern's last sentence is stunning in that she says, “The District RE-1J public is not obligated to pay for an elitist, exclusive, private classical education for a few children who live within our relatively poor school district.” Elitist? Private? Exclusive?

The whole point of having a public charter school that uses a classical curriculum is to make it available to **ALL** families, no matter what income bracket they represent! If it were to be only available to “elitists” then those who really need it would be locked out. Charter schools do not get to pick and choose who attend their school. It is open to everyone, and if more families apply to the school than spaces available, there is a lottery held which knows no economic status, ethnicity or gender.

There is a lot more I could include about the reasons our school district should allow a classical charter school to be part of our county, but I will save it for another time.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Vandersluis*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## A GREAT AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN

*Editor:*

I have lived in Montrose for 15 years and have worked with children as a Speech Language Pathologist in hospitals. My husband and I have never lived in an area where public school academic scores are so below standard and students are graduating without the ability to read, write, critically think and calculate basic math computations. MCSD receives \$10,500 per student to educate in the above areas with below standard academic scores.

Private schools in town are charging \$4,000 per student with above standard academic scores. What is the solution for these children so that they can receive a better education? MCSD needs immediate

attention and or help in raising the standards of excellence in academic instruction. Montrose Classical Academy is a tuition free charter public school that focuses on the basics of education and can be the solution to MCSD's academic crisis. MCA can work with MCSD to help students excel in reading, writing, math, critical thinking and the development of virtues: gratitude, wisdom, justice, courage and self-control.

Why would any school board member vote against elevating standards of academic success and raising the bar of student excellence? Parents, family members and the community should embrace this high level of education that wants to come

into our community.

It's time for public education in Montrose County to give each child a better academic experience so they can thrive after graduation!

Taxpayers in this community are tired of putting so much money into an institution with low returns on student success rates. The Superintendent and the School Board Members should work collaboratively with the MCA founding board to develop goals, relationships and partner together to start putting children first.

This is such a great and exciting opportunity for our children.

*Thank You.*

*Audrey Serazio, Montrose*

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## MAYOR RESPONDS TO PUBLIC, COUNCIL VOTES TO ADD BALLOT QUESTION ON LODGING TAX INCREASE



Mayor J. David Reed. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed was unmoved by public requests that the City of Montrose declare itself to be “non-sanctuary” at the regular meeting of Tuesday, July 16. Reed reiterated that the city is already “non-sanctuary” by default. In other business, Council voted to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition of a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.

All councilors were present as the meeting began, with Mayor Reed welcoming all and saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had one change to the meeting agenda, with the addition of Item 12, “for a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.”

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed read the rules for public comment and welcomed speakers.

First to address Council was John Brown. “...The board had put out a notification that they were looking for information from the citizens, planning to be totally open for the community, and to have community inputs to drive the...direction of the City Council. Since March 19th of this year, almost every city council meeting has been inundated with persons who wish to have the...City Council declare Montrose to be non-sanctuary...we are being inundated with illegals. It’s not an immigration problem--immigrants have always been welcome in this country. It’s people that are jumping the border, that

are starting off as an illegal before they come in to take away somebody else’s job...before they start taking away money that’s been earmarked for other agencies or other purposes. Denver is a prime example, where they’ve had to cut back their police and their schools, for the people that are coming in...we need to avoid that problem for Montrose, we need to keep Montrose Montrose...please...”

Next to speak was Dr. Jeffrey Krebs, “...Over the years in private practice and as a Naval Officer I learned a lot of lessons...it’s obvious to me that in our town today...the biggest issue is not having our town a declared non-sanctuary city....please, for the benefit of the future of this town...make a resolution and change this ruling for the future of our town...thank you.”

A speaker who did not give his name but appeared to be Ron Smith said, “...my plea has to do with, we’ve got a lot of rooftops in Montrose too, and we don’t want something to happen here...once again I’m asking you to declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city. This seems like it’s continuing to fall on deaf ears...this is a very critical objective for the people that live here, it’s not just me. I understand it takes the mayor to take this leap, and we’re looking for either a ballot referendum or whatever it takes legally and ethically to pursue this...it is a big deal...and I would hate to be sitting here a week or a month from today and know that we could have done something about this but we failed to act...”

Cindy Olinghouse also asked that Montrose be declared a non-sanctuary city. “...My husband and I came over here from the other side of the mountains to have something different than what goes on over there. It is a beautiful place over here, we are so glad to be over here, and we do not want to see it change in the wrong way.”

Mayor J. David Reed took time to respond to public comments. “I’m going to take a moment, kind of out of the ordinary, to make a statement so that once again it’s clear what we are and what we are not as a city. The following statements I am going to make are based on fact—not innu-

endo, not rumor, and not fabrication, and they are based as well on law,” Reed said. “Number one, the City of Montrose is not a sanctuary city. Is not a sanctuary city. By default, legally we are a non-sanctuary city. By default, legally we are a non-sanctuary city. With that in mind, as a community we have no intent or desire to become a sanctuary city. That is not even within our thought processes, so for anybody who believes that to be the case, please disregard that.

“I am also informed by the Montrose Police Department and other resources that there is no credible evidence of any increase in the number of undocumented migrants into the Montrose community. Now that is based on fact,” Reed said, “and reliable resources and intelligence. You may also wish to contact the Montrose Department of Health and Human Service to further verify my comments regarding the number of undocumented migrants,” Reed said. “With that in mind to the extent that you think we turn our back and don’t listen, we do. We pay attention and we inform ourselves, and we inform ourselves for the best interest of all our citizens. We turn our back on no one, but we represent everyone.”

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve the [minutes of the July 2, 2024](#), regular City Council meeting.

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA RENDEZVOUS DEVELOPMENT UTILITY FEE WAIVER REQUEST

As previously discussed in work session, Council voted to approve [tap fee waivers totaling \\$121,737.80](#) for the Volunteers of America Rendezvous development project at 2366 Robins Way in Montrose. A [memo](#) from Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt to Council states “the project will offer 52 affordable units through renovating the 30-unit Pavilion Gardens plus constructing a 22-unit building at the heart of VOA’s senior campus in southeastern Montrose. All units will serve seniors aged 55 and older... The total project budget is approximately \$22.5 million.”

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that the project aligns with City priorities, “I’m pretty excited to see this coming

Continued next pg

**MAYOR RESPONDS TO PUBLIC, COUNCIL VOTES TO ADD BALLOT QUESTION** *From previous pg*

forward.”

**RESOLUTION 2024-09**

Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2024-09, authorizing the City of Montrose Police Department to file an application for a Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant through the 7th Judicial District Victims Assistance Board for the total of \$55,150.00 to cover a portion of both the current Victim Advocate’s Salary and a new Victim Advocate’s salary; authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as required; authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police and Finance Director to sign the grant application and reporting documents.

Prior to the vote on Resolution 2024-09, Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that in a recent incident involving a loved one, having a victim’s advocate come to break the news was very comforting, “...I’d like to thank them personally for the job that they do, and I’d like to recommend that we all approve it.”

**RESOLUTION 2024-10**

Also unanimously approved was Resolution 2024-10, authorizing the filing of a Colorado State Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Grant application for the purposes of procuring partial funding for a City Forester position in the Parks Division of the City.

**MUNICIPAL COURT SOFTWARE PURCHASE**

As previously discussed, Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Tyler Technology Software for the Montrose Municipal Court for the total first-year cost of \$79,419.

**IT NETWORK FIREWALL HARDWARE AND LICENSING PURCHASE**

Council voted unanimously to approve an IT purchase to upgrade network firewall hardware and licensing for both the City Hall and PD networks for the total amount of \$70,127.82.

**BALLOT QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER 2024 COORDINATED ELECTION**

As previously considered at work session, Council voted to give notice to the Montrose County Clerk regarding the addition

of a question on the November 5, 2024, Coordinated Election ballot related to an increase to the hotel room tax rate.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg delivered the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid presented an update with artistic renderings of the façade for the new City Hall on Main Street.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### PROTEIN WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY LIMIT THE RISK OF ZOOONOTIC PANDEMICS

*To the editor,*

I was disappointed to learn the United States Department of Agriculture is spending \$110 million to expand slaughterhouse capacity across the country. Instead, this money should be put toward cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Such funding would help prepare the new protein for mass production.

Cultivated meat has the potential to greatly reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions, as livestock farming is one of the leading causes of climate change. Similarly, since animals are removed from the process, the new protein would significantly limit the risk of zoonotic pandemics. Of course, it would dramatically lessen the suffering we inflict on our fellow creatures as well.

*Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT*

### VOTE FOR SAVE ACT TO PREVENT NON-CITIZENS VOTING IN US ELECTIONS

*Editor:*

With 11++ million illegal immigrants having been welcomed into our country by Biden and the Democrats, it should be painfully obvious that the ultimate goal of the Democrats is to dilute the vote of American citizens. All across the country in Democrat controlled cities and states it has been documented that efforts are underway to insure voting privileges for non citizens.

Here in our Blue sanctuary State of Colorado, illegal invaders can apply for a drivers license, simply check the US Citizen box, and show this and proof of residency and citizenship to register to vote, absent any real verification of citizenship. Considering the blatant attempts by the Democrat party to dilute the strength of American citizens votes by allowing non citizens to vote. Every American should voice their opposition to their elected representatives.


Recently Representative Chip Roy introduced the SAVE ACT in the US House of representatives to correct such an egregious problem in federal elections. That bill passed the House with 98 Democrats on record in favor of illegals voting. All Colorado Republicans voted in favor of the act and every Democrat voted against it, believing illegals can vote. Colorado voters should certainly remember that come November.

Now the bill goes to the Senate, where our Senators, Bennett and Hickenlooper will vote on it. If you agree illegals should not be voting in our federal elections, please contact our Senators office and voice your opinion immediately. Bennett office can be reached at 202-224-5862 and Hickenloopers office can be reached at 202-244-5941.

Don't delay, this bill may be considered quickly.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### COLORADO'S TOP DEMOCRAT, GOV POLIS, AND HIGHLY RESPECTED REPUBLICAN SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOLS. SO SHOULD YOU!

*Editor:*

During the 2022 election cycle I was surprised to learn, in a document comparing candidates, that both gubernatorial candidates, Democrat Jared Polis and Republican Heidi Ganahl, agreed on one issue: school choice. When I investigated Polis' Wikipedia bio, I discovered that he actually "founded one charter school (the New America School) and co-founded another (the Academy of Urban Learning)." An internet search of 'Polis school choice' leads to a June 2024 photo with Governor Polis in front of a Roosevelt Charter Academy sign captioned "Polis is an advocate of

the publicly funded, autonomously run charter school model." The Denver Gazette published "Polis is first, last and always a champion of charter schools." Highly respected Colorado Republican Bob Schaffer, former 9-year Colorado State Senator and 6-year U.S. Congressman (who kept his term limit promise), is currently headmaster of charter Liberty Common High School in Ft Collins. Schaffer's Wikipedia bio states "Under Schaffer's leadership, two classes have broken the state's all-time record composite ACT and SAT scores."

Charter schools offer choice. One size does

not fit all when it comes to the education of our children.

Competition almost always improves products, and educational competition would be no exception. Our public schools would and should be incentivized to improve. The monopoly our K-8 public schools have leaves many students below grade level in reading and/or math.

Locally a group of parents and residents is working to bring a charter school to Montrose. Montrose needs Montrose Classical Academy. Please support the effort to make this charter school a reality.

*Carol Antolovich, Montrose*

## LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON CITY NON-SANCTUARY STATUS

*Editor:*

It was brought to my attention that Mr. Reed, Mayor, stated at the last City Council Meeting on 7/16/24 that illegal immigrants are not coming into Montrose via conversations with the police department and school district.

Also, I learned that the Council decided not to put this issue to a vote on the November ballot.

Wow! I must say this is an epic fail of the Council to not listen to the Community and not fulfill your oath of protecting our citizens with illegals coming into our city. A vote needs to happen by the people in November. If the liberals sue for non-sanctuary, let them. You will know that you did your duty to protect us and the Council will be respected again which it is not the case right now. Praying that God will move your hearts to do the right thing for our people.

FACT: 60 illegal immigrants are attending MCS.D. The school hides them under the name; non-English speaking children. \$34,000 has been financially allocated for communication systems for these said illegal immigrants. Mr. Reed, perhaps you used the wrong names to address these children. I think not.

FACT: I witnessed 7 young Hispanic adults standing confused on the corner of Woodgate/Ogden. They were dressed nicely with new backpacks and phones. I made the mistake of not asking them where they were from and why they looked so confused. Where did these people get the money for all of this?

FACT: I was coming out of the hospital two days ago and was met with a non-English speaking Mother that just gave birth to a baby. The Mother had an interpreter and was very reluctant to talk to me. This mother had a cart filled with all kinds of gifts. Where is this Mother getting the money for these gifts?

FACT: In the last several months, I witnessed three women filling their carts to the top with merchandise at Marshall's. I said hello and they would not speak to me. Her cart was overflowing and I just had a few items. Where are they getting the money to do this? There are countless stories like mine of illegals coming into Montrose. Mr. Reed, lying to the citizens of this community will not earn you respect or moral character which is what we need to run the City. This immoral behavior needs to stop Immediately! The police department are not vetting illegals coming into Montrose and will only stop them if they commit a crime. Why no vetting?

I am asking you to put it to a vote in November and LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!

Thank you and I will continue to pray for the City Council.

*Audrey Serazio, Montrose*

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BLM PROPOSES PLAN TO CONSERVE WILDLIFE AND MANAGE OIL AND GAS IN COLORADO

### *Special to the Mirror*

LAKESWOOD— The Bureau of Land Management has announced proposed changes to existing BLM resource management plans to promote conservation of wildlife corridors and priority big game habitat on public lands in Colorado, including through management of oil and gas activities and other efforts to incorporate the best available science.

The BLM coordinated with the [State of Colorado](#), Tribes, local governments and local citizens to create and evaluate alternative management approaches for oil and gas development to minimize negative impacts on high priority habitat for big game species including elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep. The review included approximately 6.17 million surface acres managed by the BLM and approximately 16 million acres of split-estate where the BLM only manages sub-surface federal minerals.

“The BLM is at the forefront of big game habitat conservation efforts for public lands in Colorado, taking this transformational step to align management with the State of Colorado, which has some of the

strongest protections for wildlife in the U.S.,” said **BLM Colorado State Director Doug Vilsack**. “We will partner with stakeholders to achieve thriving big game populations while maintaining multiple uses of the public’s lands.”

Migratory patterns require minimal disturbance to migration corridors to allow big game species to access sparsely available wintering habitats. With consideration of multiple uses of public land and consistent with valid existing rights, the plan would also require oil and gas operators to develop and implement mitigation plans to minimize and offset direct, indirect, and cumulative adverse impacts.

Under the preferred alternative, where lands are open to oil and gas leasing under existing Resource Management Plans, the BLM would prescribe measures consistent with the [Colorado Energy & Carbon Management Regulation](#) to conserve seasonal habitats and connectivity within big game high priority habitat in support of Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s [big game population objectives](#). Authorizations for new oil and gas facility locations within high priority big game habitat will be avoided

when density exceeds one active oil and gas location per square mile or contributes to an increased density beyond one active oil and gas location per square mile.

While the proposed plan is limited to oil and gas management decisions related to big game, BLM also analyzed disturbance from other land uses in considering cumulative impacts. This analysis and data will be useful in the future as BLM continues to work with the state and other partners to enhance big game conservation while balancing the need for new outdoor recreation and energy development opportunities. The BLM initiated the process in [July 2022](#) with public scoping and released a draft EIS in [November 2023](#) for a 90-day public comment period and review. A Notice of Availability for the Final EIS will publish in tomorrow’s *Federal Register* to begin a 60-day Governor’s consistency review and a 30-day protest period. Please visit the BLM [Filing a Plan Protest](#) page for more information. Protests must be received by August 19, 2024. The plan, associated documents, and further instructions for filing a protest are available at the [BLM National NEPA Register](#).

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## COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

### **NEW FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES COLORADO BUSINESSES TO REGISTER OWNERSHIP INFORMATION** ***Penalties for not complying could reach as much as \$500 per day***

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER — A new federal law, the Corporate Transparency Act, requires almost all corporations, partnerships and LLCs in the United States, including small businesses, to report what is called “[Beneficial Ownership Information](#)” to the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”).

The Business Support Division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is raising awareness about the new law, which went into effect January 1, 2024, so that Colorado’s small businesses do not face unexpected penalties. Reporting is free and takes only a few minutes. However, according to FinCEN, federal penalties for failing to report complete or updated information, or providing false or fraudulent information, may result in civil penalties of

up to \$500 per day among other civil and criminal penalties.

Affected businesses that formed in 2024 have 90 days to file, while existing businesses must report their information by the end of 2024.

#### **Upcoming Trainings and Additional Resources:**

July 24, 2024 U.S. Small Business Administration online event: [Understanding Beneficial Ownership Information \(BOI\) and How to Report](#)

[Beneficial Ownership Information](#) (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network website)

[Overview of Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting with Under Secretary Brian Nelson](#) (Video)

#### **About Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade**

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) works to empower all to thrive in Colorado’s economy.

Under the leadership of the Governor and in collaboration with economic development partners across the state, we foster a thriving business environment through funding and financial programs, training, consulting and informational resources across industries and regions. We promote economic growth and long-term job creation by recruiting, retaining, and expanding Colorado businesses and providing programs that support entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes at every stage of growth. Our goal is to protect what makes our state a great place to live, work, start a business, raise a family, visit and retire—and make it accessible to everyone. Learn more about [OEDIT](#).



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## OBSERVATIONS, an opinion piece. The GOOD, the BAD and the UGLY

*Editor:*

1. Jason Latrell a former Navy SEAL and Sniper from the early 2000's, stated that the failed assassin of Donald Trump had to have assistance to pull off what he did. Not necessarily a conspiracy theory, maybe something as simple as someone making sure the ladder was there.
2. We folks who do not want our town to be a sanctuary city feel that to need a sanctuary you must have done something wrong or at least unpopular. We, honest, law abiding citizens of Montrose feel that this status takes our tax money from 'our' uses and supports illegal activity even if it is just the cost of issuing a traffic ticket. Or paying to prosecute a rape or murder.
3. I heard that our previous sheriff felt it necessary to go outside of Montrose to buy his sheriff department vehicles when we have plenty of car dealers in Montrose who need the business. Is this true?
4. I also heard that he failed to use the county shops to maintain those vehicles. Just asking.
5. We have a school board considering a new school when an additional wing of classrooms would do the job much more economically. But a bigger question is 'Why do we need a bigger school when the number of students using the school is declining?' To house an already overblown staff with more staffers?
6. Marge Morgenstern, wants to keep public education in the 'dark ages' as when she was a teacher. Just a dandy way to keep the 'dumb even dumber.' Maybe take away student computers as well would be a good start to return to King Arthur's court.
7. Butler, Pa. A serious lapse of security! Really? By the way, why did the Secret Service sniper have to wait for a shot to be fired before he fired? That in itself is a capital idea of our 'Super' Secret Service---it both guarantees the shooter gets both his shot at his victim and that he tells no tales. Hmmm.
8. Our Montrose Hospital did it again! It built an ultra-modern, well designed and superbly staffed 'ambulatory care clinic.' I have used it and it is wonderful if you need efficient, fast, caring and professional health care. Congratulations Montrose Regional Health!
9. The new Niagara 'round about' is as attractive as it is well done. My compliments to the designer and builders. Fine Job!
10. I heard that a new county manager must be hired. All interviews and hiring to be done behind closed doors until the choice is announced. Sounds like the BOCC is fixing to hire a friend or a relative. Is that so? Or is Mr. Stark getting the job?

*Bill Bennett, Montrose*

*Save a tree —  
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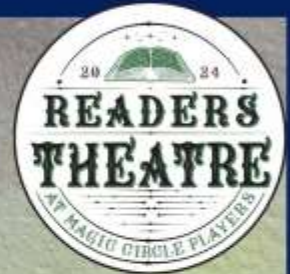
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DR. ADDISON WOOD AND MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE FIRST PRONE LATERAL SPINE SURGERY ON THE WESTERN SLOPE OF COLORADO

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Dr. Addison Wood and Montrose Regional Health have successfully completed the first fully navigated Prone Lateral Lumbar Interbody Fusion Surgery on the Western Slope of Colorado. Dr. Wood is a Spine Surgeon practicing at the Montrose Regional Health Spine & Pain Center.

“Being able to fully navigate a Prone Lateral Lumbar Fusion allows the patient to have shorter operative times, less anesthesia, and greatly reduce exposure to radiation than traditional techniques,” said Dr. Addison Wood. “I am quite excited to bring this technology and technique to the communities of the Western Slope for high quality spine care.”

“Today marks a significant milestone in spinal surgery,” said Jeff Mengershausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. “Our region’s first successful prone lateral spine surgery represents not only a triumph of medical innovation but also a testament to our commitment to pioneering advancements in patient care for the Western

Slope. This achievement underscores our unwavering dedication to pushing the boundaries on healthcare excellence and ensuring superior outcomes for our patients.”

Lateral Interbody Fusion is a minimally invasive operation which treats disc issues in the lower back.

Spinal fusion is the process of surgically combining bones to release pinched nerves, limit painful motion, and correct scoliosis – a condition which causes the spine to curve abnormally.

The surgery involves a small incision and a spacer graft that is inserted to restore the normal amount of space between the affected discs and aid fusion. Often, this graft is reinforced using a plate and screws.

Dr. Wood was able to complete this operation with the assistance of the Excelsius3D and ExcelsiusGPS Robotic Systems which use advanced imaging, navigation and robotic guidance to improve accuracy and optimize patient care in spine surgery. Montrose Regional Health is the only



*Dr. Addison Wood. Courtesy photo.*

healthcare system on the Western Slope to use this technology, demonstrating the hospital’s continued dedication to providing the most advanced care available. For more information, contact the Spine & Pain Center at (970) 252-2584 or visit [www.MontroseSpineAndPain.com](http://www.MontroseSpineAndPain.com).

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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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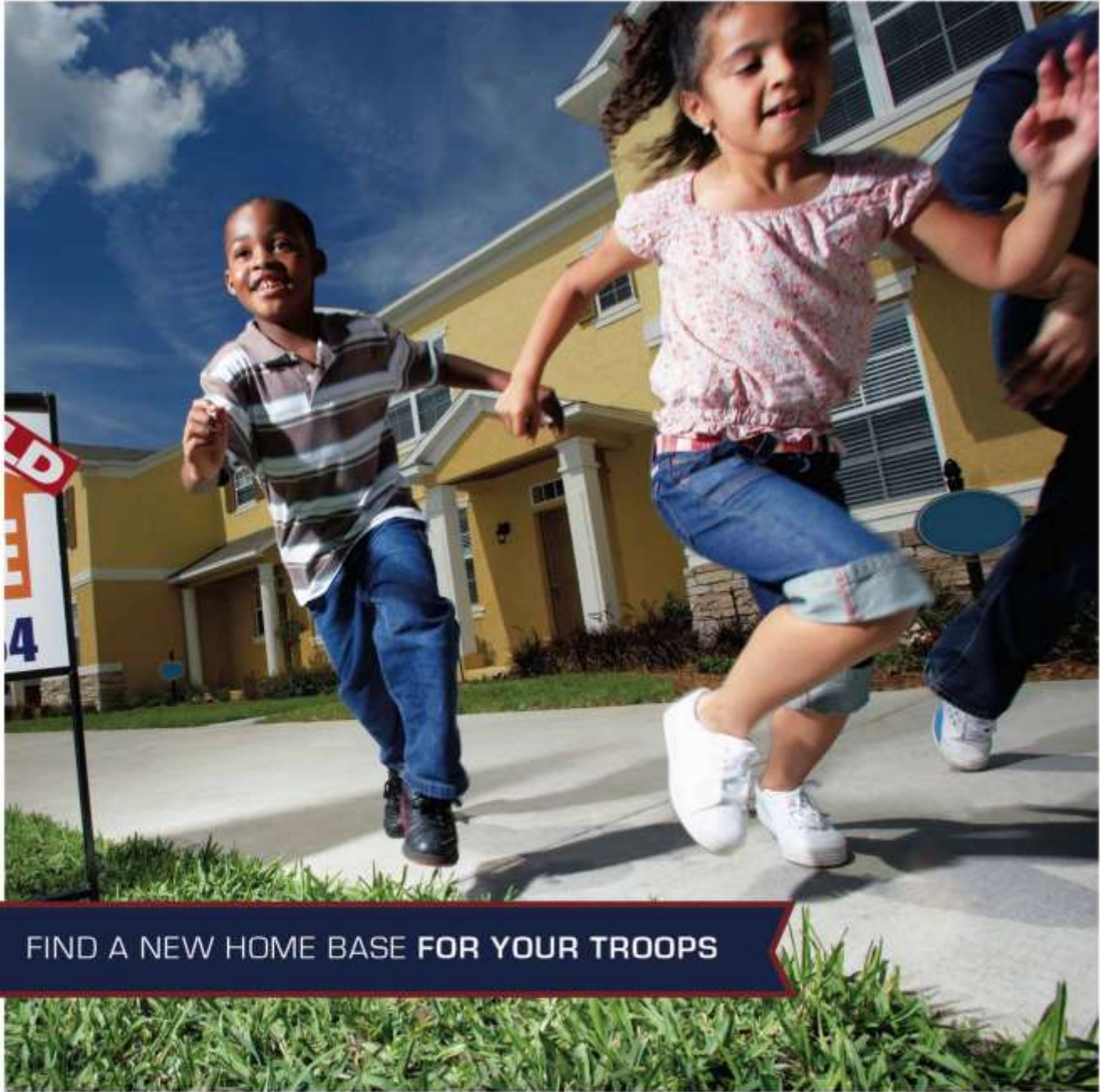
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GRAVEL CRUSHING OPERATIONS CONTINUE ON TRICKEL PARK

*Special to the Mirror*

GRAND JUNCTION— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests’ Grand Valley Ranger District announce the continuation of gravel crushing operations in the Cottonwood Gravel Pit adjacent to National Forest System Road (NFSR) #257—Cottonwood road on the Grand Mesa.


The gravel will be used to repair, maintain and surface existing Forest Service roads within the area ensuring they are safe for public use during regular seasons. Additional aggregate will be stockpiled for future repair, maintenance and re-surfacing purposes.

Crushing operations have already begun and are scheduled to continue through the remainder of the season, dependent upon weather. We ask for your patience and consideration during operations and request all unauthorized personnel avoid the site until operations have concluded.

Please contact the Grand Valley Ranger District at 970-242-8211, or Chris Phelps, the Engineering Project manager, at 970-874-6716 or [christopher.phelps@usda.gov](mailto:christopher.phelps@usda.gov), for further information about this project.

For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([X](#) [Twitter](#)) and [Facebook](#)).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## JACQUELINE DAVIS APPOINTED AS NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR FOR DELTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Delta County Health Department. Courtesy photo.



Jacqueline Davis, MHA, FACHE. Courtesy photo.

### Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY-The Delta County Board of Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Davis, MHA, FACHE, as the new Health Director for the Delta County Health Department. With an impressive career in healthcare and leadership, Davis brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication to her new role.

Davis, a seasoned healthcare leader, has consistently demonstrated her commitment to improving community health outcomes through innovative leadership and strategic planning. She holds a Master of Health Administration (MHA) and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), underscoring her expertise and dedication to the field.

Prior to joining the Delta County Health Department, Davis served in various leadership positions, where she was instrumental in driving organizational change,

enhancing patient care, and fostering community partnerships. Her exceptional ability to lead diverse teams and manage complex healthcare operations has earned her a reputation as a transformative leader. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Davis played a crucial role in sharing information and communicating with the public, ensuring transparency and education, and fostering trust within the community.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jacqueline Davis to our team," said Commissioner Mike Lane, Chair of the Board of Health. "Her experience and proven leadership in healthcare administration make her a valuable asset to the community we serve. We are confident that under her direction, the Delta County Health Department will continue to thrive and expand its impact on public health."

Davis has a strong track record of developing and implementing health programs that address critical community health

needs. Her strategic vision and collaborative approach will be pivotal in advancing the health department's mission to promote and protect the health and well-being of Delta County residents.

"I am honored to join the Delta County Health Department and look forward to working with the dedicated team to build upon the department's successes," said Davis. "Together, we will strive to improve health outcomes, enhance service delivery, and address the unique health challenges facing our community."

The Delta County Health Department is committed to providing high-quality health services and programs to its residents.

With Jacqueline Davis at the helm, the department is poised to continue its mission of promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the environment for all Delta County residents.

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER WELCOMES NEW CEO



*April-Dawn Knudsen. Courtesy photo.*

#### **Special to the Mirror**

**COLORADO-The Community Resource Center (CRC) Board of Directors and Staff are excited to welcome April-Dawn Knudsen as the new CRC Chief Executive Officer and President** to guide CRC into its 5th decade of building capacity, supporting, and strengthening nonprofits across Colorado. Ms. Knudsen holds the unique combination of skills and experience needed to shepherd the organization into the next stage of CRC's rich statewide contributions.

After accepting the position, Ms. Knudsen said "I'm proud to lead CRC as we deepen our impact and legacy; continuing to empower organizations across Colorado to

build their capacity, elevate their mission, and create lasting impacts in their communities. I believe in the incredible power of community and the pivotal role nonprofits play in driving positive change. My mission is to empower leaders and uplift underrepresented voices to build a more just and equitable future for all. I move the work forward by fostering strong relationships, prioritizing equity, and collaboratively building solutions to complex challenges."

Ms. Knudsen (she/her) has been a passionate advocate and dedicated leader in rural Colorado since 2008, proudly calling Park County her home. With more than a decade of experience as a Nonprofit Executive, she has expertly guided organizations through various phases of growth and transformation, including board development, strategic visioning, and change management. She excels in equipping nonprofits with the tools, resources, and strategies necessary to thrive. Her approach is rooted in a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing rural communities, ensuring that each organization she supports is well-prepared to achieve sustainable success.

Ms. Knudsen holds a Master of Science in Community Development, and is a fervent advocate for community service and civic engagement. She serves on the Colorado Habitat Government Relations Committee, where she champions policies that support affordable housing and sustainable community development. As a member of El Pomar's Central Peaks Regional Council, she contributes to regional philanthropic

initiatives that strengthen and uplift communities across central Colorado. Additionally, her role as Vice-Chair for the South Park Ambulance District underscores her dedication to supporting vital health services in her local community. The CRC Board of Directors is confident that Ms. Knudsen has the tools and skills to lead CRC into another decade of service to nonprofits in Colorado. Leslie Baldwin, Board Co-Chair, observed, "April-Dawn Knudsen's leadership experience, knowledge about the nonprofit sector's vital importance to Colorado communities, and her deep commitment to the vitality of rural communities make her the ideal person to lead CRC's amazing and talented team. It's going to be a great partnership. And we are eager to introduce her to our statewide network of partners, funders, and stakeholders who are integral to CRC's mission and impact."

Ms. Knudsen looks forward to meeting many of CRC's long-standing partners at our upcoming Rural Philanthropy Days® Conference in Alamosa and Monte Vista Sept. 11-13 and will be attending various events and convenings throughout the state in the coming months to further connect with our statewide partners. Please join us in giving April-Dawn Knudsen a warm welcome into her new role.

#### **About Community Resource Center**

CRC is a statewide capacity building organization founded in 1981 and has been supporting Colorado nonprofits to do their good work better for over 40 years. To learn more about CRC, visit [cramerica.org](http://cramerica.org).





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## THE CITY COUNCIL'S ECHO CHAMBER

*It's no Wonder they don't hear the Public's Voices*

By David White

Brewing for at least the last several months has been an effort by City Councilor Doug Glaspell (primarily), to push for an increase in the City's lodging tax which currently stands at .9% and is paid for by tourists, business travelers and all others who stay in hotels within the City of Montrose ostensibly to pay for the impact that these individuals have on the City's infrastructure.

This past Monday, July 16th, the Montrose City Council held its twice a month (sometime three times a month) Council Work Session which saw the question of raising the lodging tax listed as a "discussion" item as the last item on their agenda. The discussion revolved around how much the lodging tax should be increased and when it should be brought to the citizens of Montrose for a vote as required by State law for any tax increase. As with most Council meetings, this meeting was live streamed on the internet through the City's website.

Watching the machinations involved in trying to determine what a "fair" lodging tax should be, the City Manager and others opined that because of the impact that tourists have on our water and sewer systems, on our roads, on law enforcement and other impacts to services provided by the City, that a tax rate that ranged from the mid-single digits into the teens was discussed with the City Council as being necessary to offset the costs these tourists and others have on the City. After some back and forth discussion, the Council settled on a proposed new lodging tax rate of 6% which is 666% higher than it is today.

During the discussion on when to ask City voters to approve this huge tax increase, Councilor Dave Frank suggested that the Council consider holding off on placing a ballot question on the November ballot as the City's "partner" (the Montrose RE-1J School District) is planning to ask the voters to approve up to \$221,000,000 in

bonded debt for renovating or replacing Montrose High School. City Councilor Judy Ann Files objected to postponing this proposed tax increase as did most other Councilors. City Attorney Christopher Dowsey stated that the City had to give notice to the County Clerk of the City's intent to place a tax increase question on the November ballot no less than 100 days before the election. Council gave the go ahead to Dowsey to move forward on this matter.

With less than the required public notice of 24 hours, the City Council agenda for their regular meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> was amended and the tax question was placed on the agenda as Item 12 ([City Council Meeting • Montrose Public Meetings Portal • CivicClerk](#)). The Council voted unanimously to notify the County Clerk's Office that the City would have a ballot question on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot.

With all of the above as background, some odd things have happened that the public needs to be aware of. First, the Council Work Session video recording wherein the Council settled on a tax rate of 6% has been edited with all discussion of the lodging tax increase removed. (See the following on the City's website: [City Council Work Session • Montrose Public Meetings Portal • CivicClerk](#) and on YouTube: [July 15, 2024 City Council Work Session \(youtube.com\)](#)).

Next, there has been, by all evidence presented, NO DISCUSSION regarding how the lodging industry feels about subjecting their patrons to such a large increase in what it will cost to stay in an area hotel. The City Manager's claim that the tourists impact the City's water and sewer operations and therefore they must be taxed for the privilege of flushing a toilet in their hotel room is preposterous. If he and the rest of the City Council believe that the hotel operators don't consider those impacts along with electricity usage, toilettries, bed linens, towels, housekeeping & management labor as well as all other

aspects of running a hotel when setting their nightly rates, they are simply ignorant of how a business operates.

Furthermore, our City Councilmembers (J. David Reed, Dave Frank, Judy Ann Files, Doug Glaspell and Ed Ulibarri), City Manager (Bill Bell) and City Business Development Director (Anthony Russo) have all touted the necessity to give millions and millions of taxpayer and retail business sales tax license holder's dollars away to promote tourism and to specifically fund area hotel developers such as Clay Bales & Jason Raible (Telluride developers of The Rathbone Hotel in downtown Montrose), the Fairfield Inn by Marriott and the soon-to-be built Hilton Hotel property across from the Fairfield Inn, both developed by Lamson Companies ([New Fairfield hotel now open at Colorado Outdoors - Montrose Business Times](#)) As an FYI, monies for these two properties come from the City controlled and financed Colorado Outdoors project under the direction of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority using millions of your tax dollars as giveaways.

Add to this equation millions of dollars given to local area restaurants for commercial kitchens, asbestos removal, parking lots, landscaping, outdoor lighting and much more and you have to wonder what the heck these politicians are doing to us. They sit in their echo chamber and claim that they are the economic development drivers in our community. They know best. They promote the creation of entry level jobs (food service, hotel clerks, housekeeping or janitorial positions) as well as temporary construction jobs (those go away after a project is finished). Working 2-3 of these jobs might let you pay the rent, but certainly not a whole lot more.

Already, cracks are showing in their giveaway job creation planned economy with businesses closing in the Colorado Outdoors project and others pulling out. And yet, the spending continues.

*Continued next pg*

## **THE CITY COUNCIL'S ECHO CHAMBER From previous pg**

In order to sustain the giveaways of tax dollars (under the guise of tourists impacting City infrastructure), an increase in the lodging tax (and who knows, maybe the .8% restaurant tax will be next on the list to be increased) is being touted in the Council's echo chamber as the way to solve a problem they've created. In spite of the arguments that they may make, the lodging tax revenue along with most all other tax revenue coming into the City of Montrose is up markedly over their forecasted budget revenues for 2024. The lodging tax alone is up by 10.1%. For all of the City's tax revenues, year to date through May, look at the numbers on the chart you can find here: [City Council Meeting • Montrose Public Meetings Portal • CivicClerk](#)

As with so many decisions that are made by this City Council and those before it, they choose to have us believe that the public has a say in the decisions that are made by them. Just come to their

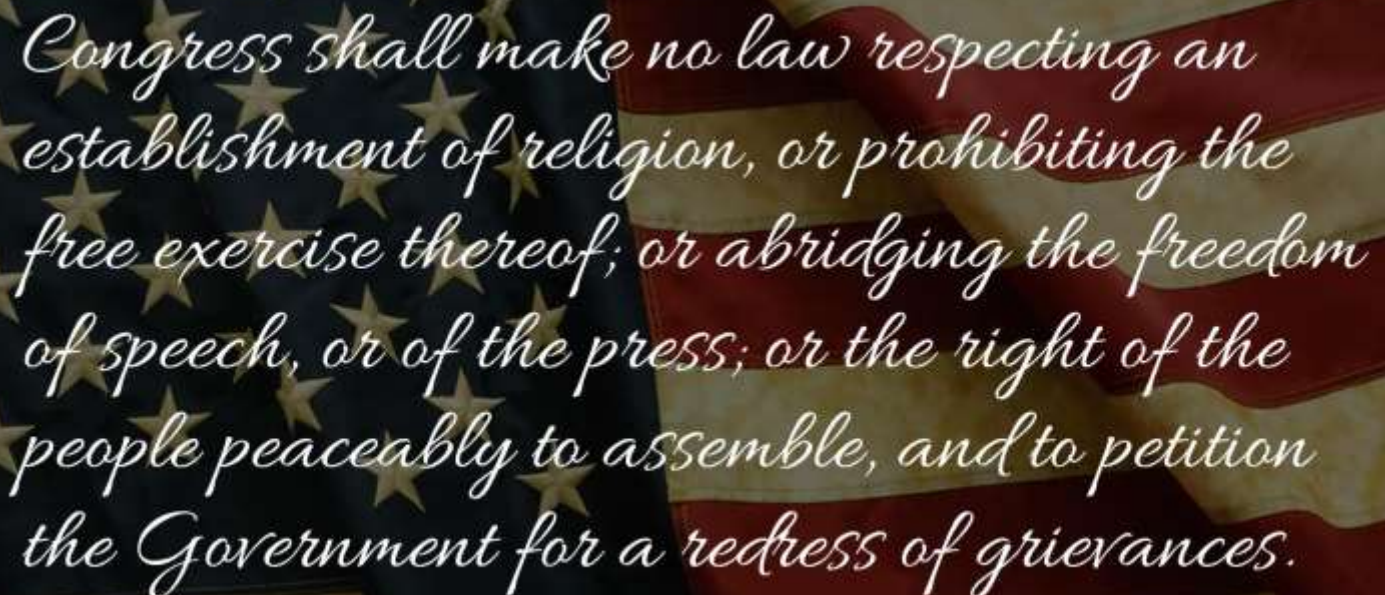
meetings. Say your piece and then leave. They've made their decisions long before you walk into the room. The City Manager and his staff have already greased the skids so that the outcome is always the same when it's all said and done. The City Manager and his staff get what they want along with their buddies.

Hence the apt description of these elected officials operating the City in their own echo chamber. ***For the record, an "echo chamber is an environment in which a person encounters only beliefs or opinions that coincide with their own, so that their existing views are reinforced, and alternative ideas are not considered."*** (Sources – multiple dictionaries including Oxford and Merriam Webster)

By all appearances, you're going to be asked to give the City more money come November. Money that inflation is already providing them with a windfall in income, yet they say it's never enough. In this case, don't worry they say. It's not your

money they're taking. It's the tourist, the businessperson, your family member that's here to visit or others, but not you. A tax is a tax no matter how you cut it. We need taxes for government to do the work that cannot be done in the private sector. I get that, but this City can't seem to live within its means. The socialistic style planned economy that they promote, and support is a beast that can never have enough tax dollars to live on. It's time to slow the beast down. Don't support this measure when the time comes. You'll do us all a favor if you just say no this November!

***Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Montrose City Councilmember and Mayor as well as a two term County Commissioner and has served on many boards and commissions during his career. He & his wife are the parents of six children and have 10 grandchildren & one great grandchild.***



*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

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SURROUNDING COUNTIES



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CO 133 ROCKFALL MITIGATION PROJECT TO BEGIN JULY 22

### *Special to the Mirror*

#### DELTA, GUNNISON AND

PITKIN COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin rockfall mitigation work on Mon., July 22. Work will take place along Colorado Highway 133 between Paonia and Carbondale, near the Paonia State Park and Reservoir. The project is expected to last until late October. Access Limited of Oceano, California, is the contractor for this project.

There are four sites along a seven mile stretch of CO 133 between Mile Points 24 and 31 where rockfall mitigation will occur. Work will include:

- Rock bolting - inserting steel bars into holes drilled into the rock face to stabilize the rock
- Installing mesh - anchoring wire mesh to the rock face to prevent rockfalls
- Rock scaling - the removal of loose rock from slopes, cliff walls or ridgelines
- Ditch cleaning - removal of rock, sediment and debris from roadside ditches

“The project will decrease the potential of rockfall hazard for motorists,” said Jason Smith CDOT Regional Transportation Director. “CDOT monitors areas prone to rock slides across the state. Our geohazards team recently inspected and evaluated this section of CO 133 and identified it as needing slope stabilization. The mitiga-

tion work will improve travel safety and protect the highway from damage by lowering the amount of debris that could fall and reach the roadway.”

Of the four sites, crews will begin work on site 1 and site 4 the week of July 22. Site 1 is at MP 24 at the south end of Paonia Reservoir and will include clearing vegetation above the site, drilling anchors and installing mesh. Improvements at this site should be complete by late August. Site 4 is located on the north end of the project at MP 31. Work here will include rock scaling and should be complete by the end of July. Once work is completed at sites 1 and 4, crews will focus on sites 2 and 3, both located between MP 25 and 26 where mesh will be installed along the cliff face.

- Normal working hours will be Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Motorists will encounter full stops and alternating lane closures with delays of up to 15 minutes
- The speed limit will be reduced throughout the work zone

The public is urged to be prepared for full stops, especially trucks with trailers or boats and commercial big rigs coming downhill from Carbondale. Motorists should also carefully observe lowered speed limits throughout the job sites for the safety of the workers and the traveling



**Map image of Colorado Highway 133 showing the project area between mile points 24 and 31. Courtesy image.**

public. The project team will be mindful of local events and avoid weekend work when possible in order to facilitate community and visitor traffic in the area and to Paonia State Park.

#### **Project Contact Information**

For additional information about this project, contact the project team  
 Webpage: [codot.gov/projects/co133rockfallmitigationgunnison](http://codot.gov/projects/co133rockfallmitigationgunnison)  
 Information hotline: 970.510.6625  
 Email: [copublicinfo@gmail.com](mailto:copublicinfo@gmail.com)

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **DARRELL CECIL FAILING SR.** ***May 25, 1943-July 17, 2024***



Darrell was born on May 25, 1943, in Las Animas Co. he moved with his family to Montrose. He passed away July 17, 2024, with his wife by his side at Willow Tree Care Center.

Darrell married Norma Jean in 1964, they had 3 children. He worked for Burkey Lumber for 30 years then for Butler Lumber. In 1996 he retired. He enjoyed wood working spending time in his wood shop making knick knock cabinets for his wife, rocking horses & toy boxes for his grandkids. He also enjoyed playing solitaire on the computer.

Darrell is survived by his wife Norma Jean Blair, Sisters Irene Owns, Lucille Follman and Sharon Bingham. Sons Floyd (Crystal) Caraway, Darrell JR (Marie) Failing, Hayley (Derek) Nero and Danielle (Steve Weller) 9 Grandchildren, 9 Great Grand Children.

Darrell was reunited with his parents Clifford and Golda Failing, brothers, Elmer & Roy, sisters, Lorena & Ella, granddaughter Jessica, and Great Grandson Emmett Services will be at 10AM on Friday July 26, 2024, at Grandview Cemetery.

# The Mirror:

For coverage that never leaves  
our readers out in cold ...



[www.montrosemirror.com](http://www.montrosemirror.com)

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **J.C. "SONNY" EATHERTON** ***July 15, 1942 — July 6, 2024***



J.C. (SONNY) EATHERTON passed away on

July 6, 2024 at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. His passing is the result of open-heart surgery, resulting in a stroke, fall, and brain-bleed.

Sonny was born to Jack and Lydia Eather-ton on July 15, 1942 in Corpus Christi, Texas. He grew up in East Texas. He graduated from Wilmer Hutchins High School, Dallas Texas, attended Tyler Junior College, fol-lowed by service in the U.S. Air Force for nine years. Following the Air Force, Sonny worked in various trades, retiring in 2006. He was an active member of the Celebra-tion Church, Montrose, and the V.F.W. in Meeker. Sonny loved hunting, fishing, woodworking, and winemaking.

Sonny is survived by his spouse, Sally. They were the love of each other's lives for 60 years. Also left to cherish his memory are his two sons Clint (Lynn),

Chris (Tracey), five grandchildren: Zachary (Ashlee), Tyler, Cody, Logan, Caden; two great-grandchildren: Brecken and Mesa Jane; and his sisters (Patsy Murphy and Rita Allgood), several cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends. He was pre-ceded in death by his parents, two broth-ers and one sister. Sonny will be remem-bered and missed by all who had the privi-lege of knowing him because of his caring and loving ways, and great sense of hu-mor. A memorial service/celebration of life will be held at Celebration Church, 2900 Sunnyside Rd., Montrose, Colorado (SE corner of Sunnyside and 6700 Rd.) on Au-gust 3, 2024 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be contributed to the Wounded Warrior Project, Donor Care Center, P.O. Box 758541, Topeka KS 66675-8541.

### **WILLARD O. ANDERSON** ***May 1, 1936 - July 8, 2024***

Willard passed away quietly in the early morning at Colorow Care Center, and he went to be with his family and Jesus. He was born in Billings, Montana to Harley and Marvel Anderson. He grew up and graduated from high school in Cody, Wyoming. In 1958, he married the love of his life LaVern (Potts) in Farmington, New Mexico. They traveled around to various parts of the US while Willard worked as a Finish Carpenter. He was in the Carpenters Union doing residential and commercial construction. Willard also served his country twice, serving in the Army. In 1970, they settled in Farmington, New Mexico where they started their family. In 1980, they moved to Cedaredge, Colorado and lived there for 25years before moving to Montrose, where he lived his final years. Willard (Uncle Willard as he was known to many) never met a stranger and made many friends everywhere he went. He was always willing to help where he could and was always a positive and giving man. He never complained and was always happy. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and hunting. His family meant everything to him. He loved spending time with his kids and especially his grandkids.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harley L. Anderson and Marvel Anderson; wife Laverne An-der-son; brother Raymond Anderson; sister Audry Edgar (Harry).

Willard is survived by his daughter, Leslie Musselmann (Eric); son, Michael Anderson (Mihoko); granddaughter, Samantha Brown; and grandson, Brock Logan.



ISSUE 478 July 22, 2024

# ART & SOL

## MONTROSE COUNTY FAIR & RODEO GEARS UP FOR NINE DAYS OF FUN, COMPETITION, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE—Get ready for thrilling rodeo action, dazzling displays of agricultural excellence, and down-home fun for the whole family! The much-anticipated Montrose County Fair & Rodeo returns for its 9-day run, kicking off on Friday, July 19th, and running through Sunday, July 27th, 2024.

This year's fair promises to be bigger and better than ever, with exciting events planned for all ages. From showcasing the dedication of local farmers and ranchers to providing a platform for 4-H and FFA youth to display their talents, the Montrose County Fair & Rodeo is a cornerstone event celebrating the rich agricultural heritage of the region.

"Fairs hold a special place in my heart," says Montrose County Commissioner Keith Caddy. "As a child, I remember spending countless hours at the fair preparing my project for show and sale. I am proud to be the Commissioner representative on the fair board and grateful to the fair board for their hard work. This is going to be a great event."

"We're excited to welcome everyone to this year's fair," says Chad Dunlap, President of the Montrose County Fair Board. "We have a fantastic lineup planned, with something for everyone to enjoy. We're especially grateful for the support of our dedicated sponsors, including Turner Automotive, Waste Management, Montrose



*Above, photos from past Fairs include a contestant on a bucking horse; at right, a prize winning cabbage. Courtesy photos.*



Implement, Murdoch's, Vectra Bank, Right Around Roofing, Light Works Fiber, and many others, who make this event possible."

The 2024 Montrose County Fair & Rodeo boasts a jam-packed schedule filled with family-fun activities, including:

- Thrilling Rodeo Action:** Witness heart-pounding rodeo competitions featuring everything from bull riding and barrel racing to steer wrestling and bronc riding.
- Community Night:** Enjoy a night of special events and entertainment designed to foster a spirit of community.
- Livestock Shows:** Watch future agricultural leaders showcase their animals in various competitions.
- 4-H and FFA Exhibits:** Get inspired by the creativity and dedication of local youth as

they present their projects and displays.  
-**Delicious Fair Food:** Indulge in classic fair favorites like the VFW and Cattlewomen's Pavilion and discover new culinary delights from a wide variety of vendors. The Montrose County Fair & Rodeo promises nine days of unforgettable fun, competition, and a deep connection to the community's agricultural roots. For a complete schedule of events and more information, please visit the [Montrose County Fair & Rodeo website](#).





# Save the Date

Please join us for the 2024 Jr. Livestock Sale  
Saturday, July 27 at 1:00PM

Buyers Lunch will be served at 11:00AM  
at the Montrose County Event Center  
1036 N. 7th St.  
Montrose, Colorado



# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Contact Information:** (970) 249-2451  
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

**Worship Service Times:** Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-  
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-  
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-  
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical  
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-  
 try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our  
 music is a combination of traditional  
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join  
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-  
 day service. We would love to welcome  
 you here. Following the service, join us for  
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-  
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck  
 meal together.

**Vision:** We see Jesus Christ restoring  
 hope: in us and in our world.

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist  
 112Main St.  
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

**Denomination:** Southern Baptist Church  
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)  
**Address:** 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

**Website:** [https://  
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

**Worship Service Times:** 9am and 10:45am

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

**Church Description/Mission:** Celebration  
 Church makes disciples that make disci-  
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, discipleship, community, service,  
 prayer, love, and unity.

**Demographics:** Multi-generational

**Celebration Kids:** (age birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 programs offered both services.

**Student** (middle & high school) at 9am.

**Adult** -Discipleship classes 8am and  
 10:45am.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose  
**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-  
 od  
**Address:** 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401  
**Contact:** 970-633-0226

**Website:** [www.montroselutheran.org](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto:montroselutheran@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Tim Onnen

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at  
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at  
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-  
 ing environment being comforted and en-  
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of  
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors  
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young  
 children and teenagers.

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Denomination:** Church of the Nazarene  
**Address:** 705 South 12th Street  
**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9 am-  
 Noon and by Appointment  
**Contact Information:** Office Phone 970 249  
 -9213, [mncfirst@gmail.com](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

**Services** Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult  
 Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-  
 appropriate children's ministry during  
 adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church  
 of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around  
 the world.*

**Demographics:** Our church consists of old-  
 er and younger people. We have younger  
 families with children and young teens and  
 older adults as well. We also support the  
 work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its  
 addiction recovery ministry.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian  
**Address:** 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose  
 CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -  
 12PM

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-  
 form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-<br/>
  form@fpcmontrose.com),

[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,  
*We strive to encourage, challenge and*

*support one another through spiritual  
 growth, worship, and service in our com-  
 munity, country, and world. We also en-  
 courage children and youth to grow their  
 relationship with Christ through our chil-  
 dren and student ministries.*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Denomination affiliation:** United Church of Christ  
**Address:** 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**Contact information:**

Phone number: (970) 249-9047  
 Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://montroseucc.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service times:** Sunday, 10 a.m.  
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.  
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)  
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

## MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denomination Affiliation:** United Methodist  
**Address:** 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401  
**Office Hours:** M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Contact Information:** 970-249-3716, [office@montroseumc.org](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.org)  
**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young  
**Worship service times:**  
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual  
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship  
 11 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

*Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.*  
*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.*

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist  
**Address:** 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401  
**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm  
**Contact information:**  
 Phone: 970.249.4887  
 website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Times:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.  
*Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.*  
*We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no*

*matter what stage of life they are in.*  
**Children's services:** *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*  
*We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.*

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Interfaith  
**Address:** Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose  
 Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home Office** – 970-252-0908  
**Contact information:**  
 Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,  
 970-252-0908,  
[arlyn@spiritaware.org](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),  
[www.spiritaware.org](http://www.spiritaware.org)

**Name of current pastor:** Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available. **Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

welcome. *The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.* People of all ages are welcome. There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)  
**Address:** 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868  
**Contact:** [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://www.ststephensmontrose.com)  
**Rev. Dec.** Garrett Agajanian  
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.  
**Sunday:** Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service.  
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

**Denomination affiliation:**

Southern Baptist

**Address:** 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

**Office hours:** Varies

**Contact information:**

email:[summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website:

[www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://www.summitchurchmontrose.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Interim Pastor.

**Worship service times:** Sunday Worship is

at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks.

Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

*Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church has people of all ag-*

*es! We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.*

*During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.*

*We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study.*

*We meet the first Sunday of each month for a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prayer session at 6:30 p.m.*

## VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

**Denomination Affiliation:** Independent Baptist

**Address:** 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

**Contact Information:** Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at [info@vbcmontrose.org](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://vbcmontrose.org)

**Current Pastor:** Roland Kassales

**Worship Service Times:** Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

*Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.*

*Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.*

**Church Directory**

*Mirror Editorial Staff*

**MONTROSE-**As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

**information to the Montrose Mirror:**

**Name of church**

**Denomination affiliation**

**Address Office hours**

**Contact information (phone number, email address, website)**

**Name of current Senior Pastor**

**Worship service times**

**Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.**

**Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).**

**Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?**

**Local Immunization Providers**

Visit [www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers.

**Questions? Call (970) 252-5011**



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[manager@montrosrivermeadows.com](mailto:manager@montrosrivermeadows.com) [www.therivrmeadows.com](http://www.therivrmeadows.com)

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE OPENS NEW FIELD OFFICE IN RIFLE

*Special to the Mirror*

RIFLE— The Colorado State Forest Service recently opened a new field office in Rifle, Colo., to better serve Colorado residents in the northwest part of the state. The new Rifle Field Office allows the CSFS to address forest health concerns and reduce wildfire risk in priority areas, such as the Roaring Fork Valley, the Colorado River Valley and the White River Watershed.

"The forests and watersheds around Rifle are priority landscapes for the CSFS to protect watersheds and communities from wild-fire," said Matt Schiltz, supervisory forester of the Rifle Field Office. "We have seen an uptick in bark beetle activity in this area in recent years driven by warming temperatures, which has also degraded forest health and raised wildfire risk. The Grizzly Creek Fire of 2020 is a stark reminder of how a fire can impact our water, infrastructure and recreation, and the CSFS wants to be sure we have staff strategically placed across Colorado to protect these critical resources."

Rifle, Colo., is an ideal location for a new field office to assist landowners in these areas as it is centrally located in underserved priority landscapes. The CSU Extension Office for Garfield County has graciously provided the CSFS with office space as a base of operations for the new office in Rifle. This is an excellent fit as CSU Extension and the CSFS are long-time partners and share a similar emphasis on conservation practices at local levels.

For forestry and wildfire mitigation assistance in Pitkin, Garfield or Rio Blanco counties, contact the Rifle Field Office at 970-625-3969 or [CSFS\\_Rifle@mail.colostate.edu](mailto:CSFS_Rifle@mail.colostate.edu). The office is located at 1001 Railroad Ave., Rifle, Colo. For forestry and wildfire mitigation assistance in Mesa or Delta counties, contact the Grand Junction Field Office at 970-248-7325 or [CSFS\\_GrandJunction@mail.colostate.edu](mailto:CSFS_GrandJunction@mail.colostate.edu).



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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**TRUE GRIT WALKING TOURS-June and August in Ridgway-**Every Friday 3 pm guided free True Grit walking tour departs the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. **July in Ridgway-**Every Friday 3 pm and Monday 10 am. Guided free True Grit walking tours depart the gazebo in Hartwell Park. Arrive 15 minutes early. The one-hour tour covers downtown locations where True Grit was filmed. Call 469.682.9710 to arrange a custom tour for \$10 per person at a time of your choosing.

**HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-**Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705** Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401  
www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

**MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-**New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or [info@mc4arts.com](mailto:info@mc4arts.com)

**MONTROSE ALTRUSA-**1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

**FREE THINKERS** meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

**BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP,** Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

**MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 [www.montrosehistory.org](http://www.montrosehistory.org)

**MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS** second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: Al Head 970-209-0981 or [aheadaviation@outlook.com](mailto:aheadaviation@outlook.com)

**NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-**Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

**BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY** at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

**THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER** at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

## MONTHLY

**Aug. 1-**The next quarterly meeting of The Women's Giving Club will be on Thursday, Aug.1, at the Bridges Golf and Country Club, 5:30pm.

**Aug. 5-**Nonpartisan, National Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to promote local environmental awareness and a Climate Action Plan, on Monday, Aug. 5 at 5pm at the Montrose Public Safety Complex meeting room, 434 S 1st(Police). All Welcome .Info at 970-765-9095.

**Aug. 8-18-**Mark your calendars for the return of Palisade Peach Days, a more than century-old tradition of celebrating the finest peaches in the Palisade area, Aug. 8-18! The Just Peachy 5k, Peach Days Parade, and Palisade High School Band Car Show will take place on Saturday, Aug. 10. The Palisade Peach Festival will be held the traditional 3rd weekend on Aug. 16 & 17. For a full schedule of events, please visit [palisadepeachfest.com](http://palisadepeachfest.com).

**Aug. 24-**Karaoke at Magic Circle Theatre-Saturday, Aug. 24 -- 7 PM 420 S 12th St, Montrose, CO. 970-249-8738

**Sept. 21-** Lake City hosts the Uncorked Wine and Music Festival.

**Sept. 22-**Karaoke at Magic Circle Theatre Sunday, Sept. 22 -- 7:30 PM 420 S 12th St, Montrose, CO. 970-249-8738



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