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# the Montrose Mirror

## RED HAWKS BASKETBALL IS BACK

By Cliff Dodge

RED HAWK BOYS 50,  
BASALT LONGHORNS 41

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys basketball team hosted the Basalt Longhorns on Tuesday evening at the field house. The win improved the Red Hawks season mark to 9-1 with league play starting very soon.

The Red Hawks stormed out of the gate to lead 14-5 after the opening period. Things got very even from the opening whistle of the second quarter until the fourth quarter came to an end. The Longhorns and the Red Hawks played at a 36 to 36 tie during the final three periods of play, which gave the Red Hawks the 9-point advantage from the first stanza, thus a 50-41 point win.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by Junior C. J. Rocco and Senior Caleb Ferguson, each scoring 13 points. Senior Brekin Hutto chipped in with 11 points while sophomore Josh Hawks tallied 6 points. Red Hawks Junior Lane Pressler added 5 points and Senior Brody Cooling had 2 points to bring the



The Red Hawks and Basalt Longhorns battle. Who said basketball is not a contact sport. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

**Continued pg 48**

## CHIPETA WATER DISTRICT LOOKS AT PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Jan. 8, 2025, the Chipeta Water District held their monthly meeting at the Montrose County Events Center. The change of location was needed to accommodate customers, as well as members of the community, who had questions about the proposed Project 7 Resiliency Project.

Chipeta Water District President Kathy Calkins called the meeting to order. Except for Karen Ball, all board members were present. Prior to the Project 7 Resiliency presentation, the board conducted regular business — Approval of December Special Meeting Minutes, 2025-4 Posting Resolution for Meeting Location and Agenda, and 2025-5 Resolution for Designated Election Official.

Approximately 75 citizens filled seats and stood against the wall during the two-

**Continued pg 17**



Randy Meaker, Menoken Representative on the Project 7 Board, is an advocate for the Project 7 Resiliency Project: a proposal to build a 2nd water treatment facility. The current projected cost for the new facility is \$186,370,395. Photo by Gail Marvel.

# 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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Special to the Mirror

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY TO PURSUE NATIONAL HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNATION

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose has been awarded a grant from the History Colorado State Historical Fund to support its efforts to nominate the community's Tortilla Flats neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places.

The city will use the grant, totaling \$49,800, to create a nomination package explaining why the area should receive a historic designation by thoroughly examining the neighborhood, its history, and its significant cultural influence on the Montrose community.

During the fall of 2024, the Montrose City Council gave approval for city staff to pursue the grant following years of collaboration between city staff and residents of the Tortilla Flats neighborhood.

The Tortilla Flats neighborhood, also known as the La Raza Park neighborhood, is located between the Uncompahgre River on the west, Townsend Avenue and the railroad tracks to the east, West Main Street to the south, and

generally N 9th St to the north. It has been a majority Hispanic neighborhood since the early twentieth century, and is an important piece of Montrose for the contributions of its current and former residents to the economic and cultural development of Montrose.

Since 2017, the city has been actively engaged with the neighborhood's residents on a variety of topics and projects. More recent work included the rejuvenation of La Raza Park in 2021 and the completion of the Historical Context Survey in 2022. The survey precipitated a request from the residents to have the city pursue a grant to fund a nomination to the National Register.

After discussing the goal with History Colorado, the historic preservation arm of the state government, it was determined a grant would be the optimal choice for funding this project. Tortilla Flats qualifies for the grant program's no-match option for projects that benefit black, indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) communities.

"This neighborhood has been an integral part of the fabric of the Montrose community for generations," said City of Montrose Mayor J. David Reed. "Not only will this work create a great application for historic designation, but it's important that we preserve this treasure and its meaning, that the history of this neighborhood is also part of the history of Montrose."

If funded, the grant would pay costs associated with hiring a qualified consultant to lead the nomination application with support from city staff and La Raza/Tortilla Flats residents as needed. It is anticipated that the National Register nomination process may take a year or more to complete, depending on the nomination cycle.

Before the city can begin working on its nomination package, a grant award must be executed between the City of Montrose and the State of Colorado.

For information about the City of Montrose visit [CityofMontrose.org](http://CityofMontrose.org).



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN MIGUEL COUNTY LAND USE CODE NOW ONLINE

*Special to the Mirror*

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY --- San Miguel’s Land Use Code (LUC), an extensive document that details the regulations governing the development and use of land throughout the county, is now available on the County website. The months-long project to create a searchable and accessible document culminated late last year and includes the LUC’s codified portion through June 2024.

Beginning in 2025, the online LUC will be updated quarterly. Amendments to the LUC that have been adopted but not yet codified include Solar Energy, Parking, Family Definition, Addressing Standards (Appendix B), Cleanup and Corrections and Camping. The resolutions adopting each of those amendments can be accessed via separate links on the County’s Planning web page, and will soon be available on the online code page.

“Having the Land Use Code online and easy to search will help streamline the process for anyone wishing to build in the county, or undertake various other uses,” said County Planning Director, Kaye Simonson.

To view the County’s LUC and the additional code amendments, please visit [bit.ly/LandUseCodeOnline](https://bit.ly/LandUseCodeOnline)



### FACTS & FICTION

**Is it true that the City of Montrose simply hands cash over to private businesses throughout the community without any plan or strategy in place?**

No...the City of Montrose has been following a consistent and effective economic development strategy for over ten years that includes a combination of programs designed to foster the development of small business and entrepreneurship all across Montrose.

The City has programs to help with the adaptive reuse and restoration of historic buildings, exterior facade renovations, horizontal site/non-building infrastructure improvements, safety and security enhancements, and business retention and expansion strategy development. The City also works with other organizations like Colorado Outdoors LLC, MEDC, Region 10 and the State of Colorado to attract outside businesses and industries to our community.

In order to participate in these business development programs, applicants must go through a detailed and very rigorous vetting process that includes business plan analysis, credit checks, past experience and open communication. The City works diligently to minimize the risk associated with these programs and shares the same goals of success as the business owners themselves. The City does not simply hand out cash to program applicants, but instead assists by paying local contractors directly for work that is completed on each project.

Questions? Call Bill Bell, City Manager at 970-901-8580



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CHIPETA ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Calling all arrowhead enthusiasts! Please join us when Neil Hauser presents information on the Colorado Projectile Point Database. Jan. 15 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church at 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society Free.

# Welcome



Delta Health is excited to welcome **NICHOLAS COLLERAN** as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO).

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITY OF MONTROSE LAUNCHES NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE SOFTWARE

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— City of Montrose residents have a powerful new digital tool to help report quality-of-life issues and request government services through a smartphone application called SeeClickFix that residents can install on any iOS or Android device. Residents can also access the system from a desktop computer

via [www.CityofMontrose.org/SeeClickFix](http://www.CityofMontrose.org/SeeClickFix).

The City of Montrose has partnered with CivicPlus, a leading government technology company, that already hosts the city’s government websites, to produce the SeeClickFix app.

The app allows Montrose residents to identify community repair or service request needs and submit photos, location information, and request details directly to City of Montrose administrative staff. In addition, the platform provides city administrators with a centralized system to manage issues from creation to resolution — engaging residents throughout the process.

Residents already familiar with the former “A Better Montrose” app will find the system easy to use.

A number of factors contributed to the decision to replace A Better Montrose, the most critical being the need to find a new vendor who could meet both Colorado accessibility standards for persons with disabilities and the city’s own functionality standards.

“Since the City of Montrose already uses CivicPlus digital infrastructure with our websites, embedding their SeeClickFix app into our system was a natural fit,” said City of Montrose Community Development Specialist Chris Ottinger. “This is a great system for our City Hall, Public Works, and Code Compliance teams to use to help make repairs to city infrastructure or address violations while elevating our level of service to the community.”

The technology allows community members to report problems to their government leaders and view, comment on, and follow issues submitted by their neighbors.

The software also features detection software in the event that a resident begins to submit a request already in the system. It will promptly notify them and enable them to follow the existing request, thus reducing duplicate requests.

The software captures all these means of communication and displays them in a single

inbox that allows convenient access for each individual according to their preferred method.

Residents can even create their own “watch areas” to receive notifications about all the reports in their community, enabling them to follow the progress of all service requests—not just the ones they submit.

“We are pleased to partner with the City of Montrose on a technology solution that empowers their residents to initiate and support community improvements and enable staff members to easily and transparently respond to such requests,” said Jennifer Elliott, CivicPlus Director of Product Marketing.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE ONLY WAY TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS AND PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS IS THROUGH INFORMED, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Dear Editor,

Recent discussions about creating a National Conservation Area (NCA) for the Dolores River Canyon demand our community's careful attention. While some local officials and environmental activists now champion this as a "compromise" following our successful opposition to the national monument designation, I must raise serious concerns about this unnecessary and potentially harmful proposal.

The proponents claim an NCA would protect us from future monument designations and ensure local input. This is de-

monstrably false. The 1906 Antiquities Act grants the President of the United States powers that supersede any locally-led designation. No NCA can prevent a future administration from declaring a national monument either around or directly over it. Similarly, Congress could create a monument overlaying an NCA at any time.

We need only look at the Dominguez-Escalante NCA to see our future. What started as a promise of local control has evolved into a 473-page rulebook that grows thicker each year, bringing more gates, more road closures, and ever-

increasing restrictions. The Resource Advisory Council (RAC) that manages these areas becomes dominated by environmental activists, leaving local voices diminished.

There's a stark difference in approaches being presented to our community. Some individuals want you to follow their lead, stand behind them, and let them speak on your behalf. My goal is different. I don't seek followers or claim to speak for anyone. Instead, I want to ensure every community member has access to the facts, understands the true implications of an NCA designation, and feels empowered to speak for themselves.

Having just successfully prevented a national monument designation, we must ask: why rush into another restrictive federal designation we don't need? The only way to preserve our freedoms and protect our public lands is through informed, active citizenship. Our community doesn't need new federal oversight – we need educated, empowered citizens who can advocate for themselves.

I encourage every resident to research these issues independently, understand the long-term implications, and make their voices heard. The future of our public lands shouldn't be decided by a select few claiming to speak for many.

Sincerely,

Sean M Pond, Nucla

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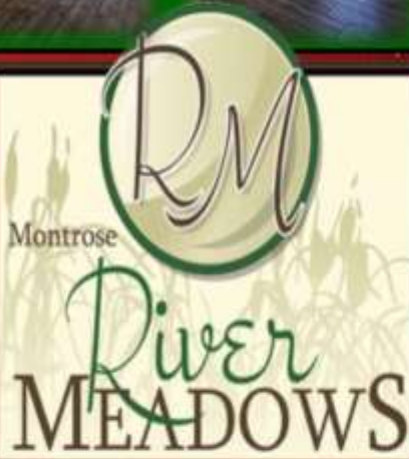
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## GUNNISON COUNTY CSU EXTENSION OFFICE PRESENTS THE 2025 CALVING CLINIC

### Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-The Gunnison County CSU Extension Office is excited to announce the 2025 Calving Clinic, a hands-on, informative event designed to equip ranchers and livestock caretakers with essential knowledge and practical skills for a successful calving season. Whether you're a seasoned rancher or preparing for your first calving season, this clinic will provide actionable insights and confidence to tackle challenges with greater success.

"Calving season is a critical time for livestock producers, and having the right knowledge can make all the difference," said Hannah Cranor-Kersting, Gunnison County CSU Extension Director. "This clinic is tailored to livestock producers of all experience levels, offering tools and strategies that can transform how you approach calving."

This full-day event will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2025, at the Gunnison County Public Library, running from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### What to Expect

The clinic offers a full day of interactive learning tailored to help livestock producers navigate the challenges of calving season with confidence. Through hands-on demonstrations, expert presentations and practical discussions, participants will explore key topics, including:

- Checking cows from the breakfast table
- Calving tips and tricks
- Neonatal calf health
- Managing ranching stress
- Dystocia management using models
- Addressing common complications during calving

Each session is designed to provide actionable insights and strategies that can make a real difference in your operation.

### Special Guests and Partners

Bringing together some of the best minds in livestock care, the clinic will feature a stellar lineup of local and CSU professionals. Attendees will hear from:

-Dr. Darby Sullivan and Dr. Bailey Rand-

lett (local partners)

-Dr. Frank Garry and Dr. Kathy Whitman (CSU experts)

-Kirsten Wulfsberg, LPC (stress management specialist)

This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive learning experience, addressing both the physical and mental demands of calving season.

### Cost and Sponsorship

Thanks to the generous support of community sponsors, this invaluable learning opportunity is offered at just \$25 per participant, which includes breakfast and lunch. Special thanks to the Gunnison

Stockgrowers' Association, Gunnison Valley Cattlewomen and the Gunnison Farm Bureau for their contributions in making this event accessible to all.

### Reserve Your Spot

Space is limited, so don't wait to secure your place at this must-attend event.

-Call: Gunnison Extension Office at 970-641-1260

-Register Online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1116796792269?aff=oddtcreator>

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## CHIPETA WATER DISTRICT LOOKS AT PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY PROJECT From pg 1

Hour plus meeting.

### Background:

Over the years Project 7 has worked towards building a second water treatment plant. The six member board has now approved design plans to build the facility at the Colona site, which will use water from the Ridgway Reservoir.

Project Advisor Garver was hired in 2019. CDM Smith and builder McCarthy Constructors, a Design/Build contractor joint venture, were hired in early 2023. McCarthy is not a local contractor; however, they went through a public bid process.

Members of the Garver team include Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham and Rick Huggins. Municipal Advisors D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane (full service investments services) was hired in the first quarter of 2024 and is represented by Greg Swartz.

Attendance at the Jan. 8 meeting included the before mentioned people, as well as Project 7 Water Authority Manager Adam Turner and some Project 7 board members.

The Project 7 Resiliency team was given 30 minutes for their presentation, followed by questions from the Chipeta Water District board, and then questions from citizens.

The overview included the evolution and variations of the project over the last 23 years.

Currently the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$186,370,395. Although there is an off-ramp for the project, specifics have not been discussed publicly at Project 7 Board meetings.

The Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) has yet to be determined; however, the project team hopes to move forward with firm recommendations at their February and March meetings.

Swartz, who attended the meeting virtually, said, "We focus on affordability. Our role is to make it as affordable as possible, the impact to the water users. We are working towards enhancing the funding sources, but we need a lot more information. We propose a meeting with Chipeta Water District users in the future."

There are potential funding sources; however, sources are not yet secured. Chipeta board member John Hunter questioned the list of possible funding sources. He said, "Is it true that we are only eligible for a couple of those?"

Swartz said, "There are 15 funding sources where you are eligible. We are pursuing grants. Most funding sources want to fund in advance of the project. That's one of the considerations moving forward."

Hunter said, "If we are pursuing bonds, what type of interest rate are we looking at? Do grants have to be approved before the project?"

Swartz said, "Our goal is to minimize any debt that is subject to a credit rating. To repay that as soon as possible. There is a mix of grants."

Chipeta board member Chris Lindel said, "You are looking at a 40-year mortgage, is that correct? Give us the useful life of the project. What percentage of the project is not subject to our credit rating?"

Swartz said, "Currently, 77 percent."

Lindel said, "The first 10 years the debt will be interest only, correct? It doesn't make sense to me to pursue. It doesn't sound financially responsible; it sounds very irresponsible. What is our credit rating?"

Swartz noted that some state and federal funding would not be interest only. He said, "I have a rough idea about the credit rating. It's not as high as I would like it." Swartz explained credit ratings as having three categories of AAA (triple A), three categories of AA (double A), and three categories of A (single). Swartz said, "The estimated rating [for Project 7] right now, based on what we are seeing, is in the 'A' range. We are trying to get your credit rating up."

Chipeta board member Dan Quigley asked questions pertaining to third party estimates, the number of gallons of water needed for residents in the south, water quality of Ridgway water compared to Taylor Reservoir water, and pipe size. The current pipe size is undersized for the proposed project.

Chipeta board member Matt Miles said,

"I've been on the board a year and a half. The people of Montrose will be on the hook. Who is the attorney for Project 7? We are lay people. We depend on Project 7 Board to make decisions on legal opinions on water rights. Who is the legal counsel for Project 7? Is this [project] being handed down to us by the consultants?"

Turner said, "[Attorney] Brian Kidnay. He charged \$20,000."

Miles said, "Did he look at the documents? The \$27 M financial obligation we just signed up for? Any redline markers. We were charged \$20,000 for an opinion on a \$27 M loan. That's encouraging to know [that Kidnay reviewed documents]. What is the legal opinion on water rights? It's a scare tactic. Our water rights are not in jeopardy if we don't do the project. We're flying blind. I'm not for the project, or against the project, but we have no one to ask. We are the constituents who have to pay for it. The 60,000 people are going to have to pay for it. Without [shedding] light on it, we [Chipeta] have extreme skepticism."

Turner noted that Project 7 hired the legal firm of Ireland Stapleton.

Miles said, "That's one of the problems. That firm represents everyone — the project and the consultants. You aren't giving us the data we've asked for. At a meeting a [Project 7] board member stated, 'We need to get this done quickly or else the public will find out about it and raise hell.' That's a quote verbatim! We need to be assured through legal counsel that represents us. It feels to me like this is a project that we can't get out of." (It was later verified by the *Mirror* that the board member quoted by Miles was Project 7 Board Member Randy Meaker, Menoken Representative.

Calkins said, "You want us to vote on this in February, but we won't have the financials until March."

Swartz said, "We need grants. That's the financial plan. I need the six entities to contribute to that effort."

Chipeta board member and Chipeta's Representative on the Project 7 board John McCollum gave a brief synopsis. He

## CHIPETA WATER DISTRICT LOOKS AT PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY *From previous pg*

He said, "The design is 75 percent complete. There is an off ramp. The construction cost is \$159 M, but in 30 to 60 days those pricing points will expire. There are no grants in place, other than one grant for \$1 M. There is \$27 M in loans. Project 7 needs to get grants, needs to get their credit rating up. They have to figure out how to finance the project and move forward."

Miles questioned Turner on the prospects of rewriting Project 7's "Participation Agreement" with the entities. Miles said, "What I understand is that 50 years ago this was contentious. One vote, one man [one entity]. Can you expand on revisions for that agreement? What's under discussion, what modifications to the agreement?"

Turner said, "Greg [Swartz] is saying that is also something we need to talk about. Right now, it's an all for one, and one for all mentality."

Swartz said, "It may have to evolve, but our hope and our goal is to keep it the same."

Calkins said, "To my thing [my concern] ...you want us to sign a contract before we have financing in place."

Citizen questions and comments from the floor were kept to approximately three minutes. Montrose citizen Brian White questioned the idea that the Gunnison Tunnel might fail. He said, "We have three holding reservoirs up there. The end users are going to have to pay. We need to know, what about the BIG water users? We need to look at profit and loss."

Citizen Jeff Murry questioned the gallons of water that would be treated from each facility and the projected needs. He said, "I'm a teacher. We need a new high school, but did we need one that was so expensive, no. It's an all or nothing presentation. More options were looked at over 20 years and now we have the

most expensive project on the table."

Pointing to a screen shot of Red Mountain, citizen Dave Coker said, "Ridgway water coming out of Ridgway is not as clear as the water coming out of the tunnel."

Turner said, "We looked at the water in Ridgway. All the numbers came back very good. I'm pleased with the water's quality today. We have to soften the water [from Ridgway]. We need to make sure the water plays well with each other. The cost of running water softening will be higher. We will eliminate six pumping stations."

Citizen Paul Gibbs said, "You are going to put some boys out of business [big water users]."

Citizen Vicki Gardner asked about the size of the proposed plant and Turner used presentation photos to answer her questions.

Citizen (no name given) said, "This [project] is based on a catastrophic failure. You're not financing in pieces; middle of the road rate cost is its totally. We talk about \$185 M, but by the time it's paid off it's a half a billion."

Coker said, "You are talking about paying \$7 M a year in interest. Do any of you [entities] have \$7 M a year?"

Turner said, "We don't have a war chest saved up. We have a two-year operating war chest. Seven million a year in debt, we don't have \$7 M. If we start in July [2025], it would be three to four years before it is completed."

Swartz said, "No one is proposing interest only."

Meaker said, "I've got to appreciate the Chipeta Board for putting this meeting together. I've served on the Project 7 Board for two decades."

Meaker, who spoke uninterrupted for more than 10 minutes, justified the Resiliency Project and schooled the audience. He said, "We looked at 18 different op-

tions before we got to this point. This is like an insurance policy; this is a fire insurance type of program. Does anyone like the price? No. But we don't live in 2018."

Addressing the lack of a Project 7 war chest Meaker said, "Menoken wanted everyone to raise tap fees to \$10,000 for each new tap. We didn't vote on it. Montrose, Delta, and Olathe wouldn't agree to it."

Miles asked Meaker to wrap it up. Meaker said, "This is important! Matt, you shed light on it, but you put a negative aspect on the project. You might be skeptical, but I am not."

Meaker continued to speak.

Miles said, "We have let you speak at will. When Dan Quigley tried to speak at your meeting [Project 7 meeting], you wouldn't let him speak!"

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Project 7 Background:**

*Established on Sept. 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provides domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.*

*The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:*

[The City of Montrose](mailto:David.Bries@cityofmontrose.org) David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org

[The City of Delta](mailto:Kevin.Carlson@cityofdelta.net) Mayor Kevin Carlson 970 874-7566 kevin@cityofdelta.net

[The Town of Olathe](mailto:Jake.Foreman@geocities.com) Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323-5601 ja-

cob.foreman@geocities.com

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](mailto:Vicki.Ripp@tricitywater.org) Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 info@tricitywater.org

[The Chipeta Water District](mailto:John.McCollum@rvemontrose.com) John McCollum 970 209-5137 jmc-

collum@rvemontrose.com

[The Menoken Water District](mailto:Randy.Meaker@uncompahgrevalleywaterusers.org) Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

*The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).*



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CHAFFEE COUNTY SUSPECT SHOT FOLLOWING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENT

### Colorado Bureau of Investigation

CBI – SALIDA— A 54-year old Pueblo man shot after he fired at law enforcement during a stand-off Wednesday evening has been arrested on numerous charges, including the attempted murder of law enforcement officers. Richard Chad Borrego faces the following counts:

- \* 2 Counts of Attempted First-degree Murder of Peace Officer (Felonies)
- \* 2 Counts of Assault in First-degree (Felonies)
- \* 18 Counts of Menacing (Felonies)
- \* Prohibited use of a Weapon (Felony)
- \* Third Degree Assault (Misdemeanor)
- \* Menacing (Misdemeanor)

Chaffee County Sheriff Deputies were dispatched to a domestic violence call just after 4 PM Wednesday January 8, 2025 in the 22600 block of County Road 227 in an area known as Garfield, west of Salida. When deputies arrived the female caller had safely exited to a neighbor's home. Borrego, however, refused deputy

commands to leave the home and instead barricaded himself inside.

At the request of deputies on scene, the Chaffee County Combined Tactical Team responded. The tactical team is made up of officers from the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, the Salida Police Department and the Buena Vista Police Department.

In an effort to convince Borrego to surrender, the tactical team deployed tear gas inside the home. Moments later, Borrego allegedly fired at law enforcement from an upstairs window. Three Chaffee County Sheriff Deputies and a Salida Police officer returned fire, striking Borrego once in his right arm. Borrego indicated he had been shot but still refused to leave the residence. A short time later, law enforcement deployed more tear gas and this time (7:51 PM) the 54-year exited the home and was immediately taken to a local medical center for treatment. Borrego has since been transferred to a Colorado Springs hospital, where he's listed in stable condition. Borrego is

currently being held under guard at the hospital without bond.

No law enforcement officers were injured. All four law enforcement officers who returned fire have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the officer involved shooting investigation.

The Chaffee County Sheriff's Office will investigate the alleged act of domestic violence that originally brought deputies to the scene and Borrego's alleged shooting at law enforcement officers. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will investigate the response of law enforcement.

The Chaffee County Sheriff's Office would like to thank its law enforcement partners for their assistance in this case, which included: the Salida Police Department, Chaffee County EMS, the Chaffee County Fire Department, the Alamosa Police Department, the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, the Buena Vista Police Department and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

### FULLY FUND THE MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

#### Editor:

As a result of a four-year influx of criminal aliens brought to us by a corrupt Democrat party, crime rates across the country and here in Colorado are on the increase.

It would certainly not be unreasonable for one to expect that public safety would be of the highest priority in any county government. Unfortunately for Montrose County such is not the case with our current commissioners.

For over a year now it has been publicly documented that our sheriff's department has been hemorrhaging deputies due to an inability to compete either locally or regionally in attracting and retaining qualified officers. Repeated pleas for help have fallen on deaf ears. Like Nero fiddling while Rome burned, our commissioners have played Russian roulette with our public safety. Thankfully no deputy or citizens have been physically harmed by this lack of due diligence, but if that does occur full blame will fall squarely on the shoulders of those responsible for this lack of proper funding for deputies.

The approved 2025 budget for the Sheriff's Department provided for the pittance

of a raise for current employees but did absolutely nothing to enable our sheriff to compete against the City of Montrose for qualified deputies. Consequently, our public safety and even the future viability of our sheriff's department will remain at risk.

Resolving this continuing dilemma involves more than simply establishing competitive pay rates. The second issue involves the FPPA retirement program which is already in existence with the Montrose Police Department and the Olathe Police Department. The third issue involves resolving the ongoing problem of the PSST fund and the county's continued inappropriate use of that fund contrary to the intention of the ballot issue.

Just as the Biden/Harris administration has imperiled the public safety of our country for the last four years, so have our commissioners imperiled Public Safety in Montrose by their lack of due diligence in properly funding our sheriff department to enable them to compete for and retain qualified deputies.

It has become painfully clear over the last year that our commissioners and even the

county administration have no respect for our duly elected sheriff, his employees or the public safety of Montrose County.

Unfortunately, the New Year will bring us only two new commissioners and resolving this critical issue of public safety will depend on bold action by new commissioners Mijares and Dunlap in conjunction with Sheriff Lillard to make Montrose County safe once again. Both Sheriffs Dunlap and Lillard know that the PSST passed by the voters and enacted in 2008 was not to be used in lieu of or to offset the general fund funding responsibilities by the county BOCC to fully fund the Montrose County Sheriff Department.

The PSST fund has been manipulated and to date after \$60,000,000 going specifically to the Sheriff of Montrose County not one additional deputy above the 2008 personnel level is on board. There is a lot of explaining to do and both Dunlap and Lillard who know the truth will rectify what we the voters know to be the truth and was publicly promulgated when and for what we voted for in 2007. Happy New Year.

*Dee Laird, Montrose*

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## *“The end of the matter is better than the beginning”*

# BOCC HEARS FROM INCOMING COMMISSIONER SCOTT MIJARES AS RASH, CADDY TERMS COME TO AN END

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Wednesday, Jan. 6. All commissioners were present. BOCC Chair Roger Rash opened the meeting; Facilities Director Jennifer Murray led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the invocation.

“The end of the matter is better than the beginning,” Leuthauser said, referencing the end of the terms of two commissioners, BOCC Chair Roger Rash and BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy. “I wanted to thank you both for finishing well and for serving well...trying to make everyone happy is a fool’s errand...”

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Commissioner Elect Scott Mijares spoke during the time for public comment, “This will be the last time you have to listen to me,” he said. “...Congratulations on a great term and for serving the community, and we all want to thank you...”

“Thank you,” BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy said, “But we are going to be listening to you for the next four years.”

Mijares said that two weeks ago he had offered comment on the North Campus Project, and commented about items on the Consent Agenda. He asked about the third amendment to the Montrose County North Campus - Design, Architectural & Engineering Services Project, contract #2022-190, in an amount not to exceed \$49,875.00, to Wold Architects.

“...This item was placed on the Consent Agenda, where discussion is prohibited...Why are we in such a hurry? I think we rushed through this contract...”

Mijares asked the BOCC to remove the item from the Consent Agenda and open it up for public discussion, “In the spirit of transparency.”

He also said that minutes of previous meetings did not contain any detail.

BOCC Chair Roger Rash asked whether the board wanted to make any changes to Agenda Items, including Consent Agenda. “Do we want to pull that off ...”

“No, I don’t want to do that,” Commissioner Sue Hansen said.

“No,” Caddy said.

County Manager Frank Rodriguez said, “I would remind the board that this was a three-year project...the board has been dealing with this through our facilities director since 2021, I believe we’ve done our due diligence on behalf of the community, to ensure that whatever investment we make is necessary. No changes. I don’t recommend removal of any items.”

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items were approved unanimously, with Resolution 1-2025 assigned to Item 11; Resolution 2-2025 assigned to Item 12; Resolution 3-2025 assigned to Item 24; Resolution 4-2-25 assigned to Item 25; and Resolution 5-2025 assigned to Item 26.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Commissioners voted to approve [the 6th Amendment](#) to the On-Call Architectural and Engineering Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc. for Design Services for two Passenger Boarding Bridges for Montrose Regional Airport, as detailed in [Exhibit A](#), for a not to exceed amount of \$56,430.

Also approved was [the 7th Amendment](#) to the On-Call Architectural and Engineering Services Agreement entered into 12/19/2023 with Corgan Associates Inc. for Design Services to complete the reconstruction of Taxiways C and D at Runway 13/31 at Montrose Regional Airport, as detailed in [Exhibit A](#), for a not to exceed amount of \$797,557.

Rash commented on the number of amendments to the airport contracts.

Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold explained how airport contracts are handled.

Rash said, “Thank you. That goes with the other types of projects and contracts that we’ve dealt with, especially the one today, and with the parting shot from the incoming county commissioner, which was totally unwarranted.

“You know, we try to do the best that we can. We try to value engineer. We try to do things to save the county’s tax dollars,” he said. “That’s been this boards’ goal the entire time; we were elected by conservative people to be conservative.

“There’s nothing nefarious that goes on in this board or our staff,” Rash said. “And for someone to come up here and make insinuations like that, I find is just sad. It really is a sad thing. It doesn’t do really justice to this board, and it does not do justice to our staff, that works their tails off to make these things happen.

“And I hope you’ll be a better commissioner once you get seated, and you understand, and you show up to every meeting, because we do discuss these in depth, at work sessions, all the time, every week. No sir, no sir, we are moving on! You don’t get to grandstand on my watch!”

BOCC Vice Chair Keith Caddy thanked Lloyd Arnold for saving the taxpayers money, and moved to approve the 7<sup>th</sup> amendment. “Thank you for your hard work on that.”

Following the unanimous vote, Rash said, “Thank you Lloyd and your staff, you guys have done an outstanding job, just like everybody else on our staff. I’m just so proud of you guys, I really am, it’s been a true honor to serve you guys and our public, it warms my heart, it really does, and our airport is just amazing, my only complaint is that it’s not big enough...”

### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Commissioners opened a public hearing to consider the [Rock Bottom Special Use \[SU24-004\] Proposal](#) to Extract sandstone for construction materials at Parcel 399517300001 58006 90 RD; the applicant was proposing to continue a similar use that the County has been operating at this site for a number of years.

The Board voted unanimously to approve.

The BOCC closed the public hearing, returned to regular session and adjourned the meeting.

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## MONTROSE POLICE ARREST CWCS TEACHER FOR INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— On December 31, 2024, officers of the Montrose Police Department received a report of on-going, inappropriate communications between a teacher and student at Colorado West Christian School, located in Montrose, Colorado. The report was initiated by the student's father. On January 3, 2025, Lisa Thyre, (44 years of age), was arrested on an arrest warrant following an investigation into the alleged activities between Thyre and a teenage student at the school. Thyre was booked into the Montrose County Jail on the following felony charges and held on a \$10,000.00 bond.

- Unlawful Electronic Sexual Communications (Persuade to meet.)
- Unlawful Sexual Communications (Expose or touch)
- Conspiracy to commit tampering with physical evidence.
- Tampering with physical evidence.

Detectives are continuing their investigation to determine if there are additional witnesses, or information related to this case. Administrators with Colorado West Christian School are cooperating fully with law enforcement officials in the investigation.

The Montrose Police Department encourages anyone with information related to, or who may have witnessed this incident, to contact the Montrose Police Department at 970-252-5200 or WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110.

Additionally, the Montrose Police Department and the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office encourages anyone who has been a victim of inappropriate sexual behavior or contact, to report the incident to local law enforcement as soon as possible by calling WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110, or 911.

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## CITY DISCUSSES PROGRESS, PLANS AT FIRST 2025 WORK SESSION



**Montrose City Council heard from Planning Commission Applicant Delphine Jadot (in green) during the work session of Jan. 6. Meeting screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council met for the [first work session of 2025](#) on Jan. 6. All councilors were present, other than Councilor Doug Glaspell, who was absent.

Mayor J. David Reed opened the session with a brief reminder of the purpose and format of work sessions. "...It's an opportunity for the City Council and staff to come together and talk about various matters that are of importance and most likely to be coming before council at a future city council meeting generally a couple of weeks hence..."

The first item on the agenda, interview of an applicant for the Planning Commission, was postponed as the applicant Delphine Jadot was running late.

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented information on the second agenda item, the East Main Water and Storm Sewer Replacement Contract Award. Council will consider approving \$4,032,845.50 in expenditures for construction of the East Main Street Water and Storm Sewer Replacement Project, including the award of a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$3,975,745.50 and a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$57,100.

**Background-**The agenda states that the project will replace aged and undersized waterline and storm sewer infrastructure between Selig and San Juan Avenues ahead of a planned asphalt mill and overlay of the area. The project aims to limit

future street cuts of the new overlay, improve water system reliability, enhance fire protection, and improve stormwater drainage. A memo from Murphy to Council states, "Construction of the East Main Water and Storm Sewer Replacement Project was put out for bid on November 21st and bids were publicly received on December 19, 2024 from two contractors... we are recommending award of an engineering support and construction stakeout contract to the storm sewer designer, Del-Mont Consultants. This scope of work is budgeted at \$57,100 on an as-needed, time-and-materials basis..."

The project is one of a number of improvements planned for Main Street; additional information is included in the [work session packet](#).

Council heard from [Planning Commission Applicant Delphine Jadot](#), who had by then arrived. After meeting with Jadot, Councilor Judy Ann Files asked that Jadot's appointment be placed on a Consent Agenda; the other councilors agreed. Next, presenting the 2025 Fourth of July Fireworks Display [Service Agreement](#) was Pavilion and Community Events Manager Kathryn Schroer.

**Background-**A memo from Schroer to Council states, "... Based on prior years, the original budget for the 2025 July 4 fireworks display was \$35,000. However, the total projected cost has risen to \$78,000 due to several key factors: inflation, advancements in pyrotechnic technology, and the need for essential equipment upgrades to maintain safety and

enhance the display's effectiveness. These increased costs are necessary to ensure a high-quality, dynamic display that meets the community's expectations and aligns with current events' standards...Due to these changes, approval is being requested to increase the budget from the original \$35,000 to \$78,000. This additional funding will ensure that Montrose's fireworks display meets community expectations and contributes to the overall success of the July 4 event. The upgraded display is expected to create a memorable experience for attendees, reinforcing the City's commitment to providing high-quality community events."

Council considered a Colorado Department of Human Services Co-Responders Grant Recommendation presented by Deputy Police Chief Tim Cox. The Police Department seeks [authorization from City Council to apply for a Colorado Department of Human Services \(CDHS\) Co-Responder Program Grant](#). The grant request is for up to \$301,000 and will be used to sustain the Behavioral Health Co-Responder program with Axis Health. Together, law enforcement and a co-responder provide joint secondary response on calls for service where behavioral health appears to be a relevant factor.

"...It's been an excellent program," Cox said.

**Background-** A memo from Deputy Chief Cox to Council states, "Since the inception of the Co-Responder program, funding has been provided through the Center for Mental Health, which is now Axis Health. As of December 4th, 2024, the grant for this program now needs to be applied for and granted to a governmental agency. The current program which has been funded through the state Behavioral Health Administration will no longer receive funding as of July 1, 2025. Due to an existing Co-Responder program such as ours (partnerships with Axis Health, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Delta County Sheriff's Office, and the Delta Police Department) we are a funding priority for this grant. This program has been instrumental in providing behavioral resources for community members, improving community safety, reducing custodial arrests and

# CITY DISCUSSES PROGRESS, PLANS AT FIRST 2025 WORK SESSION

## From previous pg

be a pass through from the City of Montrose to Axis Health, and if we are approved for this Co-Responder grant, it would help fund Co-Responders/Case Managers in the City County of Montrose and the City and County of Delta. If awarded, the grant period begins on July 1, 2025 and runs through June 30, 2026.”

Finally, Planner William Reis presented the 2025 Annual Annexation Report and 3-Mile Plan.

Following the presentation, Council engaged in discussion. Mayor Reed asked about the impacts to law enforcement when a county enclave is surrounded by the city.

Deputy Chief Cox said that City and County law enforcement are used to situations that require a determination as to which agency has jurisdiction, “We work it out, not an issue.”

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank asked how the city responds to requests for annexation of properties that do not meet contiguity requirements. Reis said that typically the parcel to be annexed can be broken into parts.

Frank noted that the City does not typically engage in adverse “antagonistic” annexations. “...99.9 percent of the annexations we do are at the request of property owners.”

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about the environmental impacts of annexations to the city’s infrastructure.

Reis said that any proposed development must prove that the proposal is capable of being constructed and is not detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare.

“... in 2024 and moving forward our top priority is to annex enclaves that are kind of already surrounded by city limits and already well served by those utilities...”

City Manager Bill Bell said that the city prefers and encourages “infill” development and is focused on affordable housing and providing more density.

“...We don’t do hostile annexation, we don’t force people to annex...we try to do it in a smart and responsible way.”

He said that Ulibarri’s concerns are valid, “We don’t want urban sprawl...”

Mayor Reed said he prefers development under city codes, which are more strict.

Ulibarri said he is concerned about providing services to outlying areas of the city, “And the county gets the benefit with their property taxes...our water and sewer costs money to put out to these developments, what’s the payback on that...I’m just trying to make sure we can afford to continue the growth that we have right now.”

City Manager Bill Bell discussed upcoming

improvements at the wastewater treatment plant, which he said will enable the City to handle the new federal requirements for wastewater treatment.

“It’s to make sure that our treatment systems are up to date and modernized.”

### GENERAL CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank asked about the out-phasing of the A Better Montrose app with the See Click Fix app.

“We have implemented that in full,” Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt said. “Very user friendly...very easy to use.”

Still, “If there are any issues, please let community development staff know and we will address those quickly,” he said.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a brief update on construction projects throughout the city.

Council closed the work session, took time for lunch, and then reconvened for a special meeting at Noon, to discuss “the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a); for a conference with the City attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: property purchase; litigation update.”

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN AND COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE TRUMP 47 INAUGURATION AT NEW VENUE


*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Republican Women are inviting the community to celebrate the Inauguration of Donald J. Trump on Monday, January 20, 2025.

The Trump Victory Gala will be held at The Association in the Historic Potato Growers Building, located at 39 West Main Street in Montrose. The Inaugural Event is from 6pm - 10pm.

Those attending will watch some of the Washington D.C. Inaugural Balls on the big screen, dance along with President Trump and Melania, and champagne toast the 47th President.

The event includes drawings, live and silent auctions for over 60 locally donated items. There will be appetizers, music, and other fun activities to be enjoyed by revelers. No tickets are required, however, a suggested donation of \$10 at the door is greatly appreciated. Only cash or checks are accepted for the evening events. All proceeds support the MRW Chapter's educational programs and scholarships for our Montrose County high schools' graduating Seniors.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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*Special to the Mirror*

DILLON— House Speaker Julie McCluskie, Senators Dylan Roberts and Marc Catlin, and Representatives Elizabeth Velasco and Meghan Lukens today released the following statement on wolf reintroduction:

“The voter-imposed reintroduction of wolves in Colorado has had a challenging, and at times, disappointing beginning for our ranchers, on-the-ground CPW staff, and communities on the Western Slope. Coexistence will only be accomplished with adequate support for, input from, and most importantly, respect for the individuals and communities that have to deal with all the consequences of wolves on a daily basis. As more wolves are being released into more counties across our region, we will continue to amplify the voices of our ranching communities who have rightly demanded seven reasonable supports, agreements, and [clarity from CPW](#) before this next round of animals are on the ground.

“This past week, CPW committed to having all seven of those asks in place as soon as possible and we are monitoring that commitment very closely. We hope that this next round of releases and the impacts it will bring over the following calving and production season will go better than it did last year. Should problems arise or commitments fail to be honored, we are prepared to exercise our power as a co-equal branch of government to do everything we can to protect our constituents, amplify valid concerns, and ensure that coexistence is equitable.”



# CITY COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF 2025



Constituent Jana Powell spoke during the time for public comment. Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-For the first regular meeting of 2025, Montrose City Council met on Tuesday, Jan. 7. All councilors were present except Doug Glaspell. Also in attendance were Youth City Councilors Graysen Vidmar and Peter Phillips. Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order. All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

## CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

First to speak was Constituent Jana Powell, who spoke in opposition to the City's recent passage of an ordinance that increases the penalties for sleeping in public parks, an activity that was already illegal in the City of Montrose.

Powell said, "...I am a citizen of Montrose, I've been here for about five years...I am very in disagreement with your decision that you made last month about your ordinance to ban sheltering for the homeless...I disagree completely. There has been a one-third increase in the homeless population in the United States over the last two years, that's extraordinary. It calls for...I believe, for extraordinary solutions, and this is not the solution we need. Because it is putting people out on the streets without any cover, that cannot fend for themselves, that have no cover. And from what I understand they can't have a blanket, they can't have a sleeping bag, let alone a tent. And you did this right before the cold season. You didn't give 'em a chance to prepare or leave town, to

go to a warmer climate, and I think that is very cruel.

"I see a lot of these homeless people, I interact with them on a daily basis through my addiction treatments with the jail and Shepherd's Hand, and I've talked to them and I've met them."

She described a man who tried to keep walking all night to avoid being taken to jail. "It's a cycle. It's contributing to the problem. It's not the solution. I beg of you please, give these people back their shelter for the winter, be humane. And then we have to figure out a real solution where we have a permanent encampment with a rehabilitation program."

Next to speak was John Brown. "I am coming again to encourage the council to approve a declaration making Montrose a Non-Sanctuary city," Brown said. "I've heard all the public excuses for not making a non-sanctuary declaration; that it is already covered under some other law, but I have yet to see even a reference to that particular legislation. Then there was the Civil Rights Act of 1964--Article XII, I believe was the reference saying that a non-sanctuary status would be discrimination toward immigrants. Sanctuary cities seem to attract illegals, acts of violence, take services away from current recipients like our own homeless population, and military veterans who are equally in need. "Illegal is illegal," Brown said. "To aid and abet a person who has violated the law makes all the city officials including governors, mayors, city council members, police and sheriff's departments equally guilty under the law.

"To discriminate against someone based on color, sex, religious beliefs, countries of origins, sexual preferences is indeed applicable under the Civil Rights Act, but singling out someone who is guilty of a criminal act is not discrimination.

"Helping those in need is a very honorable act. All persons should be helped when needed whether it is medical or other needy situations, including illegals," he said. "We need the illegals handed over to the authorities to be reinstated with their homeland.

"Legal immigration is what our country was built upon. All the hundreds of thousands of immigrants that passed through

Ellis Island have become American citizens, they have added to the overall culture of this country, they have joined our military to defend our country from enemies domestic and foreign. They have become key groups within our nation.

"Most of us can trace our ancestry to a time when immigration was done within the law," Brown said. "A nation without borders is not a nation. Why do we go to other countries and build borders while at the same time we tear down our own borders? Not only do we need to declare Montrose a non-sanctuary city, but we should consider legislation that will support the policies of our president-elect.

"There will come a time when you, as our city fathers, will have to answer why you disobeyed federal law and you will be held accountable," he said. "We should follow the lead of Castle Rock, Colorado in putting forth a resolution 'expressing strong support for our president-elect Trump's immigration policies and our willingness to fully cooperate with federal immigration officials in implementing these policies.'"

After Brown spoke, two other constituents who were present said that they agreed with his comments.

"I second that," Cindy Olinghouse said. "I third that," Michael Badagliacco said.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Council voted to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

## RESOLUTION 2025-01

Council voted to approve [Resolution 2025-01](#), authorizing the filing of a Co-Responder Program grant through the Colorado Department of Health Services to secure funding to sustain the Behavioral Health Co-Responder program with Axis Health. John Brown commented on the proposed Resolution, to ask whether the Co-Responder could assist homeless people in Montrose who need guidance, to offer empathy and possibly solutions.

## PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY IRRIGATION RELOCATION AND PRELIMINARY SITE FILL CONTRACT

City Engineer Scott Murphy presented for consideration the [Public Works Facility Irrigation and Preliminary Site Fill Contract](#). "...Favorable soils...it's not very often that we get

Continued next pg

# CITY COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF 2025 *From previous pg*

favorable soils in Montrose," he said.

Council voted to approve \$4,558,427.31 in expenditures for construction of the Public Works Facility Irrigation Relocation and Preliminary Site Fill Project, including the award of a construction contract to Williams Construction in the amount of \$4,376,927.31, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$116,500, and up to \$65,000 in direct expenditures for a job trailer and survey equipment to support the project.

### **PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY DESIGN CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Also approved was the Public Works Facility Design Contract Extension, authorizing \$2,313,878. for the extension of the existing design contract with Blythe Group for the Public Works Facility and Rio Grande Ave.

The Rec District will pay for the design work and construction of a maintenance building for their operations, Public Works Director Jim Scheid said in response to a question from Councilor Judy Ann Files.

### **2025 VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION**

Council voted to approve vehicle and equipment purchases totalling \$2,173,795.72.

### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MOTOR CONTROL CENTER PROJECT CHANGE ORDER**

Council voted to approve the final action item of the evening, a change order for the purchase of one main breaker and ground fault testing from Browns Hill Engineering and Controls for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Center Project for the total cost of \$44,525.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Deputy Police Chief Tim Cox said that the Montrose Police Department appreciates the support they receive from Council, and that Thursday would be National Law Enforcement Day.

### **YOUTH CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Youth City Councilor Greyson Vidmar said, "...I'd like to thank Council for the opportunity for Peter and I to be here, we appreciate it a lot...the YCC is currently working on our spring project...I can assure you that what we're working on is

very exciting and we'll have more information for you soon."

Phillips said that Youth Council is working on a Proclamation regarding teen driving safety.

Vidmar thanked Council for the trip to Florida for the National League of Cities Conference.

One day was dedicated to a speech and

debate competition, and Montrose Youth City Councilor Jordan Simo came in third out of hundreds of youth from across the country, he said.

"...I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to do things like this," Vidmar said.

With no further business,

"We will stand adjourned," Mayor Reed said.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHY OUR VALLEY NEEDS ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

*Editor:*

Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose is advocating for the Montrose County School District (MCSD) to apply for grants to purchase electric school buses. Air pollution from internal combustion engines is one of the greatest contributors of greenhouse gases in the Uncompahgre Valley (Climatetrace.org). Vehicle air pollution is also a health concern, which led the State of Colorado to recently pass The Air Quality Improvement Investments Act, creating the Colorado Electric School Bus Grant Program.

The State of Colorado started the electric bus grant program because the legislators recognized that when our children are riding diesel buses, they are breathing

Nitrous Oxide (NOx) and Benzene -laden exhaust inside the buses. Electric buses do not emit these gases. In addition to being cleaner, electric buses are also more efficient and cost much less to run compared with traditional buses, with \$100,000 in fuel and maintenance cost savings per ESB lifetime.

Although there are those that say electric buses won't reliably work in Colorado's cold winters,, Grand County School District has already operated an electric school bus since 2020 despite being located in "one of the coldest places in the state. In the winter there, morning temperatures range between -30 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit. The director of transportation says the electric school bus per-

forms extremely well, and that it also is the best bus in their fleet with much lower operating costs than their diesel-burning buses.

Our organization recently reached out to MCSD to discuss applying for an EPA Clean Source Bus Program. They were receptive to the idea, but we feel that more community support would help them prioritize this opportunity and take action. Now we want to kick off a Community discussion in hopes of developing support for the next round of electric school bus grants to improve the air quality in our valley, along our streets, and in our children's buses and parking lots.

*Tony Hoag,  
Citizens Climate Lobby*



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**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).





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CO 92 ROGERS MESA SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BEGINS

DELTA COUNTY - The Colorado Department of Transportation, and Contractor United Companies, have kicked off the Colorado Highway 92 safety improvement project from Mile Points 15-17 on Rogers Mesa near Hotchkiss.

Work began this week (the week of January 6) and includes clearing trees and bushes within the right of way, weather permitting. Subsequent work is scheduled to last from early January through early February and will include drainage and utility infrastructure improvements.

Identified project benefits include improving safety and mobility along the CO 92 corridor. The project will take place in stages beginning with irrigation work, then waterlines, road widening with em-

bankments, then paving, installing fencing and finally seeding and landscaping. The upgraded shoulders and ditches on both sides of the highway will improve drainage. During construction, an interim access control plan will reduce the number of potential conflict points along the corridor.

An important project milestone will be to complete the irrigation improvements by mid-April. To complete the project, the roadway surface will be milled and asphalt applied along with permanent striping. The project completion is anticipated to be in November 2025.

The public is invited to attend a project information session to learn more about

the planned work and project schedule on Wednesday, January 22, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Delta County Fairgrounds Heritage Hall in Hotchkiss (403 South 4th Street, Hotchkiss, CO).

### *Traffic Impacts*

Working hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. -5 p.m. and subject to change in the spring.

Motorists should expect delays through the work zone. There will be one lane alternating traffic during the majority of the project, shoulder closures as needed, and periodic traffic stops in order to move equipment.

### *Traffic Impacts*

## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

### BIDEN SHOULD ADVANCE CELLULAR AGRICULTURE IN FINAL DAYS

*By Jon Hochschartner*

UNITED STATES-If President Joe Biden was as serious about protecting American democracy as his prior rhetoric would suggest, President-Elect Donald Trump would be in prison now for an assortment of crimes, which include orchestrating a mob attack on our nation's capitol. Sadly, that's not the case and the aging centrist seems to be treating this as a normal presidential transition.

At the bare minimum, Biden should be doing what he can in his remaining days in office to defend and advance the meager gains his administration has made. As an animal activist, I'd hope this would include defending and advancing the gains made in the field of cellular agriculture. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

In addition to preventing the needless suffering and premature death of countless creatures, the new protein has the potential to dramatically reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions and pandemic risk. Many people aren't aware that animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change and the spread of zoonotic viruses. We can create a better food system.

It was under the Biden administration that the Department of Agriculture awarded \$10 million to Tufts University, in order to establish the National Institute for Cellular Agriculture.

Besides leading research in the field, the Massachusetts-based institute was meant to educate the next generation of professionals in the cultivated-meat space.

Similarly, it was the Biden administration that ordered the creation of a report about how to use biotechnology and biomanufacturing for alternative proteins. During a background press call, a senior official explained, "We're also looking to improve food security and drive agricultural innovation, including through... foods made with cultured animal cells."

Finally, it was the USDA, again under the Biden administration, that first approved the sale of cultivated chicken in the country. While this has been a largely symbolic decision so far, as companies in the field are not yet ready to mass produce their product, it was nonetheless historic. Only Singapore had previously approved cultivated meat for market.

The first Trump administration established a framework for its regulation, but all available evidence suggests the second will be hostile to the protein. For instance, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., nominated to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, is a harsh critic of cultivated meat, as is Vice President Elect J.D. Vance. Donald Trump Jr. said it should be banned.

In a recent article for Heatmap News, Michael Grunwald reported a source close to Kennedy told him it was unlikely the protein would be

banned outright. Rather the potential cabinet secretary would leave industry players in permanent regularity limbo. For those unaware, the Food and Drug Administration, which helps oversee cultivated-meat products, is an HHS agency.

In his final days in power, Biden should do everything he can to put the cellular-agriculture field in a favorable position for the next four years or more. If there are products nearing regulatory approval, make sure they're fast-tracked. If there is money that can be directed toward cultivated-meat research, do so. We must assume the worst about the Trump White House.

Perhaps the incoming administration can and will reverse such last-minute moves by Biden, but the Democrat should at the very least try. He owes it to his supporters to do this on all fronts. There is arguably no one more responsible for Trump's return than Biden, who stubbornly refused to leave the presidential race when it should have been obvious he wasn't up for the job.

*Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut. He is the author of a number of books, including **The Animals' Freedom Fighter: A Biography of Ronnie Lee, Founder of the Animal Liberation Front. Visit his blog at [SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com](http://SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com).***

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# RED HAWKS GIRLS WIN 2 ON THE ROAD

*By Cliff Dodge*

## **RED HAWKS 54, ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE 33**

The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team continued their winning ways with a 54-33 beating of the Alamosa Mean Moose at their San Luis Valley home. The Red Hawks left nothing to chance as they jumped out to a 15-5 lead after one period of play. The Red Hawks then outscored the home-standing Moose 39-28 over the final three periods to make the final score 54-33.

Junior Maggie Legg led all scorers with 18 points while Junior Mayce Oberg followed closely with 16 points. Junior London Schaffer and fellow classmate Lilly Nelson added 8 and 6 points respectively. Lilly Nelson was a powerful force on the backboards as she grabbed 14 rebounds, 8 of which were on the offensive glass. The Red Hawks shot 50 percent from the field and 60 percent from the free throw stripe. The team passed out 10 assists, had 11 steals and only turned the basketball over 15 times. Schaffer and Legg each were credited with a pair of 3-point baskets.

## **RED HAWKS 44, CENTAURI FALCONS 39**

The Montrose Red Hawks then visited the Centauri Falcons for the second game of the road trip on Saturday. The contest was a much tighter affair that saw the Red Hawks prevail by 5 points, 44-39. The Red Hawks eased out to a 3-point lead in quarter number one, 12-9. The Red Hawks then maintained their lead as they outscored the Falcons 32 to 30 over the final three frames to win 44-39.

Junior Mayce Obert led all Red Hawk scorers with a huge 24-point effort. The Red Hawks saw six players find their way into the scorebook as they continued their team effort for victory. The Red Hawks shot 38 percent from field and 58 percent from the free throw line. Junior Lilly Nelson led the Red Hawks in rebounding with 8 caroms while senior Brooke Williams cashed in 7 rebounds. The victors passed out 8 assists and stole the basketball 6 times to complete the win.



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The image shows a hand holding a white iPhone. The screen displays the Montrose Mirror website interface. At the top, the logo "Montrose Mirror" is visible. Below the logo, there are four buttons: "view latest issue" (blue), "sign up email delivery" (green), "mirror archives" (red), and "mirror on facebook" (blue). The background of the website on the phone is a blurred image of a crowd.

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## RESPONSE TO OPINION PIECE ON MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

### Editor:

This is a direct response to an opinion piece henceforth referred to as the "letter," published in the *Mirror* on December 23rd regarding Montrose Classical Academy (MCA). The name, known as "author" is irrelevant, but a response is needed to ensure the community is well-informed. The letter projects political bias and employs Alinsky's tactics by framing MCA as a conservative effort, targeting its board and leadership to make the issue about ideology rather than education. It freezes the target by portraying MCA as uncooperative and dismissive of public schools, while polarizing the community with a false dichotomy between public school success and MCA's exclusivity. This projection falls short, as parents like me, from diverse political backgrounds, are stepping up to support MCA, demonstrating broad community demand and shattering the notion that this is merely a conservative agenda. The focus remains where it should be: on our children.

It is imperative that the voices of parents, who have the most at stake in their children's education, are not drowned out by those who lack the same personal investment in their future. Like many parents, I became involved after hearing misleading arguments against MCA. I attended the same informational webinar about MCA and immediately recognized the value this school could offer families. Many parents and supporters felt similarly, coming out in strong support at the community input meeting. I and others with no prior affiliation have come together in support of a shared goal: expanding school choice in Montrose. In contrast, most opposition attendees were prompted by the author or individuals affiliated with divisive online political groups, often repeating their talking points.

The letter claims MCA should be private, but this argument is riddled with contradictions. Pope John Paul II Academy already provides a private, Catholic classical curriculum, yet families still advocate for

MCA as a public option. MCA fulfills a critical need for affordable, secular classical education, accessible to families who cannot afford private schools or prefer a non-religious approach. Making MCA private would exclude disadvantaged families, undermining the very principle of public education. The letter also contradicts itself by claiming there is insufficient data on Liberty Common School while simultaneously concluding that it only serves "model students." This assumption is false. Email Liberty Common's principal, and you'll learn that around 20% of students in their Aristotle school receive IEP, ELD, READ Act, 504, or ALP services.

Montrose Classical Academy is not attacking public schools but offering families another proven option through a Core Knowledge classical curriculum, which has shown success in improving academic outcomes. With less than 200 students projected to enroll out of the 6,000+ in the district, MCA would be just a drop in the entire public school system. This isn't about replacing or competing with public schools but expanding opportunities for students to thrive in different environments. The author's attempt to pit MCA against public schools incites unnecessary division, when both can coexist and complement each other to benefit all Montrose students.

Support for MCA transcends politics. At the community meeting, a self-identified Democrat spoke in favor of the school, illustrating its broad appeal. Parents from across the political spectrum are volunteering, applying for board positions, and joining the steering committee to support MCA's success. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) also demonstrated substantial support with a 10-3 vote to approve MCA. However, despite this, the Montrose County School District (MCSD) board ultimately chose not to approve the application, citing that the "list of items to address became too long."

This decision raises concerns about transparency and responsiveness to communi-

ty input. The MCSD board appeared to prioritize a third-party review over the voices of parents and the DAC's recommendation. This prompts important questions: Why encourage parents to advocate for their children if the school board does not consider their input? What is the purpose of having a district accountability committee if its recommendations are overlooked?

The author portrays the board as virtuous and MCA as antagonistic, but this characterization is misleading. While the board claimed the process was clear, it attempted to introduce unnecessary complications. MCA submitted its application on time, but MCSD argued that "days" referred to business days rather than calendar days, which could have caused significant delays. MCA sought legal clarification, confirming that "days" refers to calendar days, as specified in Colorado statutes for charter school applications. Fifteen days after submission, MCSD returned the application to MCA, requesting additional information not required by state statute or the district's own LBD-R policy. Instead of appealing the decision to label the application "incomplete"—which MCA was fully entitled to do—MCA addressed the requests and resubmitted the application within the statutory timelines. This was not a matter of MCSD being gracious but rather MCA adhering to protocol. The author's emotionally charged language to frame MCSD's actions as virtuous is a manipulation tactic to bolster the board's credibility. When dealing with facts, loaded language is unnecessary. Since the CACSA review was central to the board's decision, let's examine the details. MCA's application was rated as Fully Developed in 3 areas, Mostly Developed in 10, and Partially Developed in 6, with no Not Developed main sections. The Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) provided a clear roadmap with seven milestones to guide MCA's success. While partially developed items are expected to evolve during the startup

## **RESPONSE TO OPINION PIECE ON MONTROSE CLASSICAL ACADEMY From previous pg**

Phase, the denial resolution is egregious because it overcomplicates the issues and misrepresents the application's quality. Over 40 items cited in the denial resolution can be immediately refuted by referencing the application itself or through basic knowledge of the topics. This approach undermines transparency and fairness by presenting challenges that are either already addressed or mischaracterized. Here is a link to the denial resolution with subject matter expert commentary and action items if applicable:



Given this information, it should come as no surprise that parents are stepping up to support MCA. We feel no hostility but are empowered to seek justice, transparency, and accountability. Proceed cautiously when told to trust without verifying. We will continue working with the MCSD board to address any deficiencies and make Montrose Classical Academy a reality. If you are interested in this school option, make your voice heard using the QR Code below.



*Forrest Faulconer, Montrose*





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# RED HAWKS BASKETBALL IS BACK From pg 1

the Red Hawks total to 50 points.

C.J. Rocco, in addition to scoring 13 points also was strong on the backboards as he captured 8 rebounds. Lane Pressler had 5 rebounds and Brekin Hutto captured 4 caroms. The Red Hawks also passed out 15 assists, had 10 steals and turned the basketball over only 14 times. The Red Hawks shot 54 percent from the floor and 58 percent from the free throw stripe.

The Red Hawks hit the road this weekend for games in Alamosa and at Centauri before returning home on Tuesday, Jan. 14 as Palisade comes calling.

## RED HAWKS GIRLS 52, BASALT LONG-HORNS 15

The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team wasted no time in completely overwhelming the visiting Longhorns from Basalt as the home team outscored the visitors 20 to 1 in the opening period. Things got little better for the visitors as the Red Hawks outscored the Longhorns 12-0 in the second frame. The final score of 52-15 saw the Longhorns show some offensive potential as they scored a dozen points in the second half of the contest to make the score 52-15.

The Red Hawks had eight names in the



*The Red Hawks control the glass as they run past the Longhorns, winning 52-15. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

scorebook when all was said and done. Junior Mayce Oberg led all scorers with 12 points while Junior Maggie Legg added 20 points to the total. Other scorers included Junior Lilly Nelson with 7 points, Junior London Schafer and Senior Brooke Willams each added 6 points. Lilly Nelson and Brooke Willams led the rebound parade with 7 and 6 caroms. The Red Hawks were fierce on the glass as the team

grabbed 13 offensive rebounds in addition to passing out 15 assists, 15 steals and the Red Hawks only turned the basketball over 10 times. The Red Hawks shot 42 percent from the field while they made 60 percent of their free throws.

The Red Hawk girls will also travel this weekend to Alamosa and to Centauri before returning next Tuesday to tangle with Palisade.

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# RED HAWK WRESTLERS FALL TO CENTRAL



Red Hawk wrestler plots an escape from his opponent. The Warriors prevailed 51-26. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wrestling team of Coach Neil Samples attempted to interrupt a three-match losing streak on Tuesday evening at the Fieldhouse as the Grand Junction Central Warriors provided the opposition. The Warriors prevailed by the score of 51 to 26. Here are the results of the competition.

- 106: Red Hawks Uriah Toner – over Justice Espinoza 1:48 – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 113: Warriors Micah Batista (walk over)
- 120: Red Hawks Chance Culver over C. Bradshaw pin 1:50 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 126: Warriors Cruz Moncada over Ricky Olmos 9-3 dec.
- 132: Red Hawks Aadin Gonzales over T. Smith 14-1 dec.
- 138: Warriors Eli Hernandez over Hunter Hess pin 2nd
- 144: Warriors Jordyn Willi (walk over)
- 150: Red Hawks Kyle Rodriguez over T. Prigmore 9-6 dec. 4<sup>th</sup>
- 157: Warriors Hassin Maynes (walk over)
- 165: Warriors Tony Vargas over Jayce England pin 40 sec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 175: Red Hawks Rush Galvan over J. Griffin pin 40 sec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 190: Warriors Jayden Willie over Nick Jennings pin 40 sec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 215: Warriors Andrew Rosling over Juan Herrera pin 55sec. 1<sup>st</sup>
- 285: Warriors Trau Valdez over Jack Carson pin 60 sec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Next action for the Red Hawk grapplers will travel to Gunnison for the Gunnison Tournament on Friday and then take part in the Tracy Boray Duals, also in Gunnison. The next home action will be on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> when the Olathe Pirates come to the Fieldhouse.



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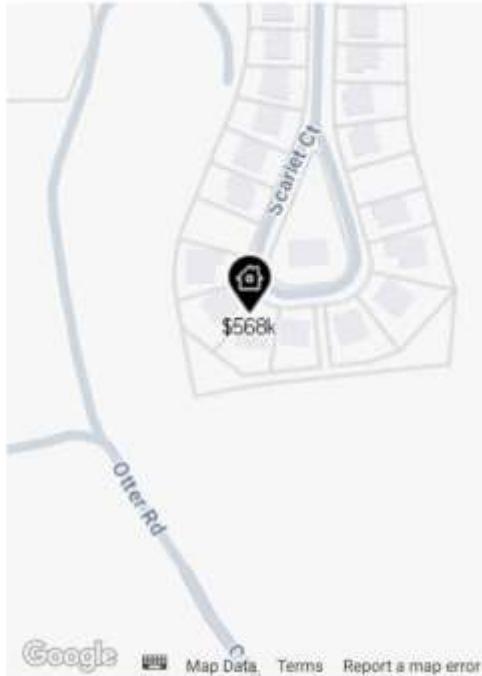
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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

# WATER DISTRICTS, MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROJECT 7 WATER AUTHORITY: IS A “CIVIL WAR” BREWING?

By David White

Last Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, I attended a special public meeting called by the Chipeta Water District Board of Directors which was held at the Montrose County Event Center. The meeting room was packed with concerned citizens seeking to learn more about Project 7 Water Authority's plans for a second water treatment facility to be constructed just south of Colona off of Highway 550 South and last for two hours and minutes. (See the map below which shows you the Chipeta Water District's service territory.)

This meeting was another in a series of meetings that have and are to take place to learn more about Project 7's "water resiliency project." As I've written about in the past, Project 7 is the "wholesaler" that produces our local area drinking water from the water we receive through the Gunnison River, and which is diverted through the Gunnison Tunnel into the Fairview Reservoir where it is piped to Project 7 for treatment and then us. Whether you are provided water by and billed for it by the City of Montrose, City of Delta, Town of Olathe, Tri County Water Conservancy District, Menoken Water District or the Chipeta Water District, your water comes from Project 7 which is a consortium of these entities and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association.

For the last 20 years or so, the Project 7 Board of Directors has studied and planned for a second water treatment plant that would provide some redundancy in the ability to provide treated drinking water to us in the event of a failure of the main treatment plant due to a mechanical failure, a terrorist attack, natural or other disasters, etc.

As Chipeta Water District board member and moderator for the meeting, Kathy Calkins, kicked things off, we once again heard from Project 7 spokesperson Miles Graham, who is employed by Garver Engineering and Project Engineer, Rick Hug-

gins, also a Garver employee. We learned that Project 7 has spent \$17,500,000 to date on this project. We once again heard that the estimate for the plant, at 75% of the estimated "Guaranteed Maximum Price", is \$159.5 million dollars and climbing toward the \$200 million dollar mark to include accrued expenses to date.

Greg Swartz, Senior Vice President with D.A. Davidson & Company (they are the "fiduciaries" charged with obtaining financing for Project 7) spoke and clarified that while Project 7 has less than a stellar financial history, he feels that he can cobble together a financing package that would rely heavily on obtaining grants as well as a combination of interest only loans and traditional loans (most from Federal and State sources and some public offerings) that would consist of typical principal and interest payments to make the project a reality. To do this, however, it is going to take all six (6) of the member water delivery companies mentioned above to be on board with the debt obligations that will be taken on by Project 7. And that's where the trouble with this entire plan is beginning to unravel and the "civil war" may begin.

Mr. Swartz spoke at the December 19, 2024, Project 7 Board Meeting and told the members that he needed access to their managers and finance folks as a "cost allocation study" was required to determine how to allocate the costs for the project based upon the percentage of water bought and used by each of the six (6) members from Project 7. So far, that request isn't making much headway.

He was also clear that the financial responsibility for this new treatment plant was on each of the six members and not Project 7 as an entity. This didn't sit well with the City of Montrose as it jeopardizes their ability to borrow money for not only their new Public Works Facility but also any other project they may wish to take on in the future. And now, it appears that Chipeta Water has backed away from ap-

proving their potential role in this project due to the fiscal obligations and risk that they would be taking on if they did support it.

Chipeta Water board member Matt Miles asked, throughout the meeting, who the Project 7 legal consultant is for this project. There was no direct answer to his question until later in the meeting when it was disclosed that a number of different "legal beagles" have looked at various aspects of the project or have represented Project 7. KKR Law from Denver. Ireland-Stapleton (attorney Sarah Abbott). Brian Kidnay. Spencer Payne – bond counsel. Aaron Clay and others throughout the years have worked with Project 7, yet there doesn't seem to be any consistency in their legal representation which is a cause for concern.

Members of the public in attendance included farmers, ranchers, business owners, retirees, etc. Developer David Coker spoke as did long time resident Brian White about the costs and effectiveness of a plant that would produce less than ¼ of the amount of treated water that the current plant produces as well as the need to further treat the water coming out of the Ridgway Reservoir vs. the Gunnison River. Resident Jeff Murray expressed frustration at the apparent "kicking the can down the road" that has taken place for years on having a redundant treatment plant that has now brought us to this point where water rates and project costs will have to increase dramatically to make all of these plans a reality.

Frustrated with the comments being received, 20+ year Menoken Water District board member Randy Meaker gave the audience a history lesson on why Project 7 has been pursuing a backup plan for treating water over these past couple of decades stating that there have been 18 different options considered for a redundant treatment plant all of them taking into consideration concerns about population growth as well as potential dangers

# WATER DISTRICTS, MUNICIPALITIES AND PROJECT 7 From previous pg

posed by fire and other threats. The need for the facility appears to override the cost from what can be attributed to Mr. Meaker's comments. His passion for this project ignited concern from the Chipeta Water District's board about his taking too much time to focus on his views on this facility and ultimately led to him being asked to finish his comments and then the meeting concluding.

The very real split within the Project 7 Board of Directors in how to deal with this proposed backup treatment plant and the ballooning price tag for it was evident at this meeting. Menoken Water seems to be uninterested in giving time at their meetings to Chipeta Water District folks.

The City of Montrose is pulling back, and others have concerns about it.

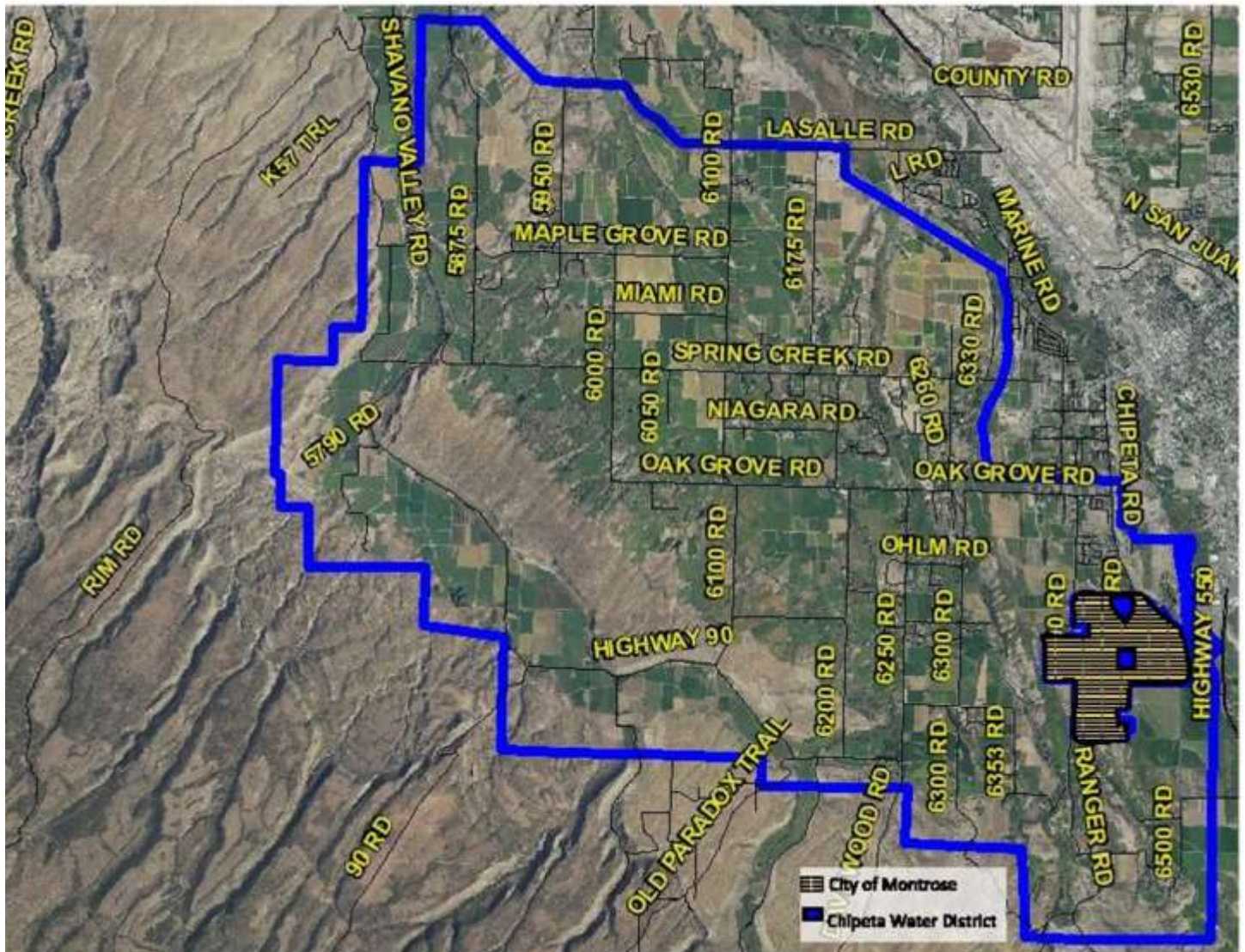
One thing is for sure...Project 7 needs a structural overhaul. Priorities have been out of order for some time and now the man hired to put a financing plan together has clearly (if they were listening) told the Project 7 Board of Directors that something needs to happen in order to grow and preserve the organization. If they don't, we're all going to be dealing with some negative outcomes.

We need the product they produce to live and potentially to protect ourselves from the possibility of dealing with wildfires such as those they are fighting in Southern California. We need our fire hydrants

to work.

We need drinking water. We need for Project 7 to succeed but with a solid business plan. No more putting the cart before the horse folks.

*Mr. White is an active citizen & community leader as well as a business owner, entrepreneur, former Colorado Springs City Councilor and Montrose City Councilor as well as Montrose Mayor. He was a two-term Montrose 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 & a great grandchild.*





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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CITIZEN VOICES VALUED AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS? NOT IN MONTROSE!

*Editor:*

The Montrose City Council is showing it doesn't value your voice. They'd rather you not bother them at all. I attended my second Montrose City Council Meeting on January 7, 2025, ready to ask questions about the agenda items. Mayor Reed wanted to make it clear that they don't allow any dialogue or interaction with council members or anyone on the panel. They only "allow" a "public comment" about either agenda or non-agenda items as a ceremonial gesture, but they won't engage in meaningful discussions or even consider your comments. They limit your "public comment" to a mere statement that doesn't even get their attention, showing complete disregard for your input. Their lack of engagement is evident in their complete disregard or interest in anything you, the citizen, have to say or questions you might have except for the timer that limits each public comment to three minutes. They interrupt you to tell you you have thirty-seconds left and then abruptly cut you off at the three-minute limit. Oh, how generous of them... But the most disturbing thing is they don't show any interest whatsoever in what you, the citizen, have to say. It seems as if, if they were not required to, they would rather not even have the public

City Council Meeting at all...

One citizen wanted to ask about a resolution (resolution 2025-01) that was up for vote that would give the City Police Department a grant from the Colorado Department of Health Services to sustain the Behavioral Health Co-Responder program with Axis Health, if funds could be used to help the homeless population or local veterans? Why did this citizen ask the question? Because earlier in the night, another citizen voiced their concern about the City Council Resolution to basically ban any homeless people from sleeping in any public place right before the cold season began. So the citizen wanted to ask if some of the funds the City Police Department would be receiving could be used to help the homeless in these colder months. But Mayor Reed, in his typical dictatorial fashion, cut him off, saying there would be no questions, only comments. Is this how we should conduct our City Council meetings? Is this Representative Government that we have here in Montrose or is it a dictatorship? Should the Citizens be allowed to ask legitimate questions about agenda items? Shouldn't "We the People" have a voice in the public square, a voice that begets dialog with our elected officials or are we relegated to being mere peasants and

pawns amongst the ruling class?

There appears to be no genuine discussion or even any proposals presented to the people. Instead, fully completed presentations by city department heads detailing your tax dollars they intend to allocate on projects that you have no input on or say in. Notably, they show no interest in the concerns or aspirations of the citizens of Montrose. They simply use the forum to approve the spending of our tax dollars without considering the opposition from our Citizens.

We demand a City Council that genuinely values the input of "We the People." We need to engage in dialogue with the council, rather than being treated as a nuisance or a pest groveling before our "local rulers."

To the City Council, the Mayor and other elected "leaders", you were voted into office specifically to represent the citizens of Montrose. You are accountable to us. Therefore, you best start listening to the citizens of the city, or you will face the consequences. We are finished with your complete and utter disregard for the very people who put you in office.

"We are mad as hell, and we are not going to take it anymore"  
*Michael J Badagliacco "MJB",  
 Citizen, Montrose, Colorado!*



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**MONTROSE REGIONAL  
 CRIME STOPPERS**

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WEEKLY CARTOON

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by Tim Jones



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CALIFORNIA TODAY IS A MICROCOSM OF WHAT DEMOCRATS HOPE TO SEE IN AMERICA

*Editor:*

Democrats never worry about being held responsible for their actions. They simply deflect and blame racism, climate change, or President Trump for all their failures. They can do this because modern "journalism" is all about deciding what facts the public shouldn't know because those facts might reflect badly on Democrats. That propaganda machine is pretty effective, as evidenced by one or two of the frequent letter writers to our local newspapers who have obviously drunk the Kool-Aid. Take Social Security for example, where these writers are totally convinced that the sorry state of Social Security and Medicare is Trump's fault: "He is threatening to incinerate Social Security and Medicare." Never mind the fact that these programs are totally mismanaged Ponzi schemes that both political parties have avoided addressing for decades. Never mind that the SS trust funds will hit zero in the not-too-distant future — meaning that the government will not be able to pay out full retirement benefits. Democrats have no interest in solving this critically important problem, and gutless Republicans don't dare mention reform because they know Democrats will demonize anyone brave enough to suggest solutions. Meanwhile, the SS trust fund spending in 2024 was \$1.3 trillion and the revenue was \$1.1 trillion. So, in Biden's last year as president, taxes are short \$200 billion in funding Social Security. But look! Trump wants to throw your grandma off the cliff!

It's not an unsolvable problem, but Democrats have other priorities.

The Biden regime has prioritized the expansion of big government at the expense of strangling the economy. They ignored American middle-class families and pursued policies that raised taxes, flooded the economy with onerous and disastrous regulations, and dramatically increased the cost of living for all. The number of government employees on taxpayer-funded payrolls has dramatically increased under Biden. Democrats brag about depressing the unemployment rate, but they have done so without increasing the number of people engaged in productive private sector activity. An economy needs many private sector jobs to sustain a single publicly financed job through tax revenue. Meanwhile, for example, the Department of Energy's budget has gone from \$61.1 billion in FY2021 to \$153.4 billion now; the Department of the Interior's budget ballooned from FY 2021's \$48.8 billion to \$92.1 billion; the EPA's budgetary resources increased by more than 400%. The list goes on.

Billions to finance a proxy war with Russia while propping up a corrupt Ukrainian regime. A billion dollars to fund leftist ideology in government run schools, indoctrinating children counter to parents' wishes. Nowhere to be seen is any attempt to address the Social Security and Medicare funding shortfalls.

Of course our "journalists" and local Dem letter writers tout lowering the unemployment rate under Biden, but make every effort to hide the fact that Biden ends his term with fewer Americans employed than five years ago as foreign-born job numbers continue to soar. While native-born employment experienced a sluggish recovery post-pandemic, foreign-born employment has not only rebounded but has resumed its long-term growth trend. Democrats also don't talk about the Bureau of Labor Statistics data that inconveniently shows that red states are where Americans are going to work while the economies of blue states are faltering.

What we are seeing in California today is a microcosm of what Democrats hope to see in America. Democrats control the governorship and have super-majorities in both state houses. While the nation has suffered though four years of the worst administration in American history, California has been in a downward spiral for a generation. California residents are familiar with Governor Newsome's failures related to an influx of illegal migrants, out-of-control crime, and the rising cost of living. Equally important, the governor has also failed to maintain the state's infrastructure, in spite of the fact that California, as well as Los Angeles, has one of the highest tax burdens in the country. As wildfires totally devastate major portions of LA, Governor Newsome this week opened a special session of the state legislature to fund an additional \$25 million to pay for litigation against the federal government to combat Trump's immigration policies. Never mind the fact that he already cut California's wildfire prevention budget by 80%. Rather than prioritize first responders and fire victims, Newsome wants California taxpayers to fund lawsuits against federal taxpayers — who are the same people.

The LA fires are completely unmasking the ineptitude of the state's progressive politicians and their policies. Those policies included destroying dams; restricting water to farmers and fire fighters alike to protect local minnows; cutting the fire department's budget; and environmental rules that don't allow thinning of forests, building fire breaks, reservoir building, or preventative burning to reduce the pile-up

of combustible brush. Newsome bragged about "the largest dam removal in U.S. history" because you gotta save the fish. The damage is self-inflicted as the state and city of LA spends less on necessities and more on the left's insane agendas. The LA mayor is draining needed resources to pay for her social justice priorities, like tens of thousands of dollars on such things as "Social Justice Art," gay men's choirs, and NAACP awards. The LAFD recently created a DEI bureau headed by an assistant chief making a base salary of \$399,000. (That person wants you to know that when people's houses are burning down, they want a firefighter to show up that looks like them.)

Everything in the city of Los Angeles, from parks to schools, is in a state of ill repair. LA has one of the highest poverty rates in the country, and is one of the worst cities for homelessness nation-wide.

The education system now stands among the worst in the country. In contrast, the LA Department of Water and Power CEO was hired in May 2024 at a base salary of \$750,000 --- \$315,000 more than her predecessor. There are eight individuals in that department making an average of \$756,000 per year. Given that the key reservoir above Pacific Palisades had been taken offline for repair almost a year before the fires, the individuals making those salaries obviously weren't hired for their competence.

The LA mayor chose to be in Ghana when the fires started despite warnings about the fire dangers, but fortunately LA has a deputy mayor capable of picking up the reigns in case of an emergency. Oh. Wait. That deputy mayor was put on leave by the mayor because he is under investigation by the FBI for allegedly calling in a bomb threat against City Hall. And those 300 firefighters and 75 engines Oregon sent to help protect California communities? California ordered them to swing by Sacramento to submit to a DOT inspection THEN they will be able to drive 400 miles to the devastation. No hurry. Perhaps the Oregon firefighters can have lunch with some of the legislators authorizing millions to insure that the invasion of illegals continues.

These are the same legislators who wouldn't let insurers raise rates, so State Farm dropped 1600 policies in Pacific Palisades because they couldn't cover their financial exposure.

California and LA voters continue to choose this failed leadership and the insanity it entails. Fortunately, the rest of the country has retained at least some of its reasoning ability.  
*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: THE TIN WOMAN

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Instead of relishing life after her heart transplant, Joy enters a downward spiral, unsure whether she truly deserves a second chance. Meanwhile, Alice and Hank mourn the loss of their son, Jack, whose heart was used to save Joy. At a friend's urging, Joy tracks down Jack's family to find closure. But are Alice, Hank, and their daughter Sammy ready to accept Jack's death? Based on a true story, *The Tin Woman* by Sean Grennan, uses humor and pathos to explore loss, family, and what it means to be given new life. Directed by Merrilee F. Robertson, Assistant Director Stasia Allyn. Tickets at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com). Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

### Performance dates:

- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman- Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 24, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Saturday, Jan 25, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WILL OUR WATER BE AFFORDABLE IN THE FUTURE—PART 2

*Editor:*

On January 8th the Chipeta Water District held an informative public forum about Project 7's proposed new water treatment plant to be built north of the Ridgeway Reservoir Dam.

Discussion was sometimes heated about the lack of transparency of information that was perceived by a number of the Chipeta Board members. All Project 7 board members would have to sign on to the project for it to go forward according to the government consultant. It's my understanding that the \$10,000,000 already committed for just the design segment of the project may end up costing an additional \$17,000,000, while the total cost of the project could hit half a billion dollars once it is paid for. The price per month to all water users has not yet been projected or presented to them. The decision to proceed could be made as soon as

the end of January or at the latest by the end of March 2025.

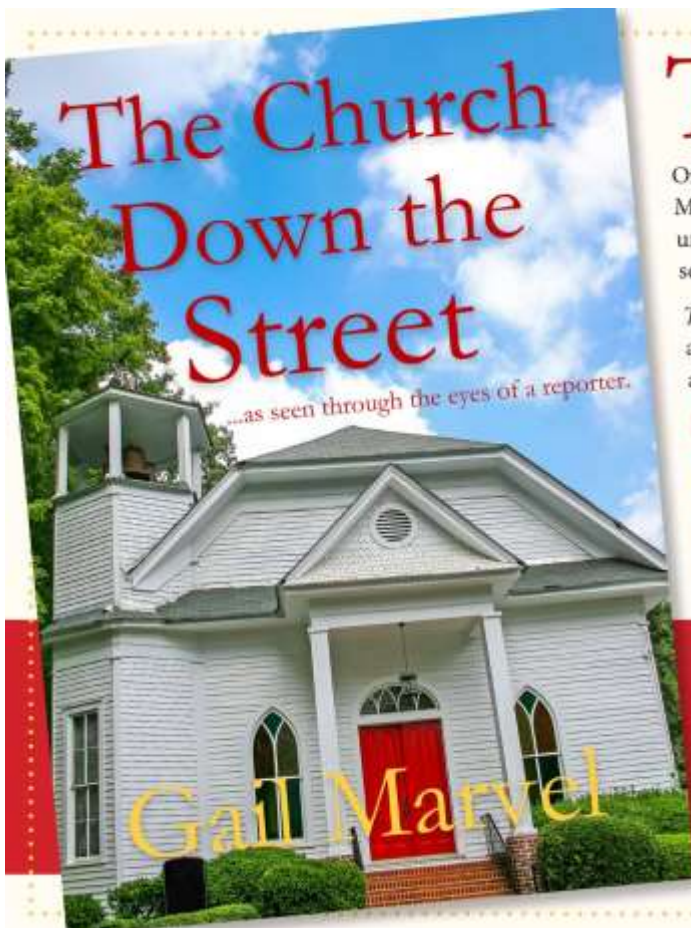
At the meeting I spoke with a small scale (40 acres) rancher who was concerned about what it would cost to provide water for his 16 cows during the winter months when irrigation water was not available, which could be as much as \$200 per month more than it is now. He related that to how much more he estimated it would cost large cattle and sheep operations in the area. Just as the data was extrapolated to let homeowners know how much their property taxes would increase if a new high school were to be funded, water use affects every person in this area and it would be helpful to let them know how much their water bills would increase each month for the 40-50 years it could take to pay this project off.

It was suggested that the other 5 water district boards also schedule public hear-

ings like the Chipeta District did as soon as possible to give people a chance to ask questions and get more information. Contact the board chairmen listed below to find out if such a meeting has been scheduled in your district.

*Brian White, Montrose*

- Project 7 Board of Directors  
Montrose: David Bries 970-240-1484 [dbries@cityofmontrose.org](mailto:dbries@cityofmontrose.org)
- Delta: Mayor Kevin Carlson 970-874-7566 [kevin@cityofdelta.net](mailto:kevin@cityofdelta.net)
- Olathe: Mayor Jake Foreman 970-323-5601 [jacob.foreman@geocities.com](mailto:jacob.foreman@geocities.com)
- Tri-County Water District: Vicki Ripp 970-874-5127 [info@tricitywater.org](mailto:info@tricitywater.org)
- Menoken Water District: Randy Meaker 970-249-5118
- Chipeta Water District: John McCollum 970-209-5137 [jmc-mccollum@rvemontrose.com](mailto:jmc-mccollum@rvemontrose.com)



**T**he *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

*The Church Down the Street* contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

**Readers will:**

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

**GAIL MARVEL**  
*Montrose Author & Reporter*



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### INNOVATING UROLOGICAL CARE: DELTA HEALTH LAUNCHES LASER TECHNOLOGY FOR PROSTATE AND KIDNEY STONE TREATMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Health continues to invest in patient care with the addition of the innovative Lumenis Pulse 120H Holmium System with MOSES 2.0 Technology that provides minimally invasive urological procedures.

The Lumenis MOSES 2.0 is a top-of-the-line, high-powered laser used to treat kidney and bladder stones, and benign prostate hyperplasia, which is a benign growth of the prostate in men that happens as they age. This can cause bladder obstruction and issues with urination like a slow stream, urgency to void, frequency, leakage, urinary retention, and more. The laser can dissect the obstructive prostate tissue to remove it so that patients can void and empty their bladder more easily.

“This technology enhances our surgical options at Delta Health for kidney stone removal as well as provides the capability to do Holmium laser enucleation of the prostate procedures,” said Michael Atwell, M.D., physician from Delta Health Urology. “The procedures provide patients with the most durable and longest lasting surgery for patients with enlarged prostates and will help to avoid lower urinary tract symptoms.”

The laser also decreases treatment time for kidney stones, improves overall efficiency, and decreases recovery time. Compared to other methods, the procedure has lower retreatment rates.

“This equipment is another example of the great innovation and care that is being added to not just the Urology Clinic, but to Delta Health overall. We will continue to provide remarkable and high-quality care for our patients,” said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, Chief Executive Officer for

Delta Health.

Delta Health is one of the few hospitals with this technology on the Western Slope, and the *only* hospital on the Western Slope offering the Holmium Laser enucleation of the prostate procedure for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

“To give patients this technology will give them the effective, durable procedure for BPH and Lower urinary tract symptoms without having to travel to the Front Range,” said Dr. Atwell. “It is important that we provide the highest quality of care and procedures with the best efficacy and durability data to our patients.”

For 61-year-old Delta Health Urology patient Dean Rowski, the procedure was used to treat his BPH. After his annual physical, testing came back to show that he had elevated PSA levels, so he was referred to Dr. Atwell.

“During initial testing, they found that I had significant urinary retention,” said Rowski. “Although I felt like I was draining my bladder fully, I was not. I was retaining several hundred ml of urine and over time that was expanding my bladder and was being strained due to my enlarged prostate.”

It turns out that Rowski was damaging his bladder for years. Dr. Atwell began extensive testing procedures, and discovered the BPH diagnosis; Dr. Atwell informed Rowski that he was a prime candidate for the minimally invasive Holmium laser surgery for the enlarged prostate.

“Dr. Atwell left no stone unturned and his resolve to provide me with the best possible outcome was unlike any I have ever experienced,” said Rowski. “Living 60 miles away in Loma, Colorado, and having never been to Delta Health, I wasn't sure



*Courtesy image.*

what to expect. But within minutes of meeting the friendly receptionist, and the rest of the staff, any fears or doubts I had about the quality of care I would receive were instantly quelled.”

Post-surgery, Rowski felt no pain and was on the road to recovery. Now, months after the surgery, he says he wishes he would have done the procedure sooner. “My life has completely changed,” said Rowski. “The ability to fully empty your bladder without straining is a feeling that not many middle-aged men get to experience. And while most men might believe things are flowing normally (as I did), the reality is you will never know what you’re missing until you speak with a specialist like Dr. Atwell. Without Dr. Atwell’s expertise and optimism, this would never have been possible. Thank you to the amazing Delta Health staff for providing excellent care. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for changing my life.”

Delta Health Urology is currently accepting patients.

For more information on the Holmium laser procedures, call 970.399.2890 or go online to <https://deltahealthco.org/grand-mesa-urology/>.



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE MLK DAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Monday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Events

**Opening Ceremony: 9 am - 9:30 am Centennial Plaza**

Join us for the exciting opening ceremonies of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Montrose! This is a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community and honor the legacy of Dr. King through service and unity.

We're thrilled to announce that our speakers will include Montrose County Manager Frank Rodriguez, Mayor of Montrose David Reed, and many more inspiring voices! Don't miss out on this meaningful event—let's celebrate and make a difference together!

**-Walk/March: 9:45 am - 10:30 am Starts at Centennial Plaza**

Join us for the inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. march/walk! This is a fantastic opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. King and celebrate the spirit of unity, equality, and justice. Let's come together as a community to pay tribute to his incredible vision and commitment to civil rights. Bring your friends, family, and enthusiasm as we walk in solidarity, inspiring change and spreading love. Don't miss out on this meaningful event—let's make his-

tory together!

**-Community Service Projects Start: 10:45 am - Noon Locations around Town**

Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by making a difference in your community! This special day is not only a time to honor Dr. King's legacy but also an opportunity to engage in meaningful service. Whether you're signing up as an individual, gathering your family, or representing a business or organization, there are countless service projects happening throughout the city that need your helping hands!

Join us in spreading kindness and compassion—let's come together to uplift our neighborhoods and honor the spirit of service that Dr. King championed. From volunteering at local non-profits to participating in community clean-ups, every effort counts! Together, we can create positive change and inspire others to do the same! Let's make this Martin Luther King Jr. Day a day of action and unity!

**-Lunch & Humanitarian Awards: Noon-1:30 pm Location TBD – Friendship Hall or Montrose Pavilion?**

Join us for an inspiring celebration at the inaugural Humanitarian Awards Luncheon as we honor the remarkable individuals in our community who embody the spirit of compassion and service! Just as Martin

Luther King Jr. was known globally for his dedication to humanity, our local heroes are making a profound impact right here in Montrose! This is a fantastic opportunity to come together, share stories, and recognize those who dedicate their lives to uplifting others. Let's unite in gratitude and inspiration as we spotlight the incredible work of our fellow humanitarians. Don't miss out on this uplifting event!

**-MLK Reflections: 2 pm – 3 pm @ United Methodist Church**

Full description to come, but time will include invitations to share a MLK quote, action items, songs, and more.

**Community Building Activities: 1:30 pm - 4 pm**

-Film screenings – John Lewis: Good Trouble and/or Selma (Location TBD – HAP Community Room, Montrose County Event Center)

-Children's Read & Dream Story Time (location TBD – Library)


-Poetry & Spoken Word performances (location TBD – Healthy Rhythm, HAP Community Room or Friendship Hall Community Room)

-Students' poster & art display (location TBD – HAP Community Room or Friendship Hall Community Room)

-Service Projects Continued



News, if unreported, has no impact.  
 It might as well have not happened at all.  
 Thank you for reading *The Montrose Mirror*.



# 2025 Cabin Fever Craft Show

Over 70 vendors for your shopping pleasure  
Hourly door prizes  
Free admission

Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30am-6pm  
Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am-4pm  
Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am-4pm

*Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fair Grounds*

*For Vendor information  
call Debbie 970.531.2438 or  
email: [montrosefootwear@aol.com](mailto:montrosefootwear@aol.com)*



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## DOROTHY "DOTTIE" CALAIS *October 1, 1944 — January 5, 2025*

A memorial service will be held at Pellerin Funeral Home in Cecilia, Louisiana for Dottie Calais who passed away Sunday, January 5, 2025 at her home on the Uncompahgre Plateau overlooking Montrose, Colorado where she and Chris lived for the last 23 years.

Visitation will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025 from 8 am – 1:30 pm. The service will begin at 1:30 pm with interment immediately following in St. Joseph Cemetery. Pastor Bud Plake of Crossroads Church will officiate.

While cancer was a part of Dottie's earthly journey the last 25 years it did not deter her joie de vivre for life. She traveled throughout much of the U. S. to see family in Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Virginia, and West Virginia. She and Chris often traveled throughout the Rockies and the southwestern states. One of her favorite adventures was to travel and explore Route 66 in their RV, travel van or their motorcycle. They traveled together with curiosity and spontaneity sometimes deciding to change direction at any moment.

She grew up in Oakdale, Louisiana before moving to Cecilia, Louisiana after her marriage to Malcolm "Mac" Calais. She was a longtime shampoo girl at Jeannie's Beauty Shop located across the street from her home in Grand Anse. Dottie was an excellent and creative cook whether she was cooking traditional Cajun Creole meals or making a delicious, colorful delight with what she had on hand. She would often post on social media her healthy and col-

orful creations.

She was an accomplished seamstress making suits for her first husband Mac, and numerous items for their children. She made prom dresses, homecoming suits and her masterpiece was her daughter, Paula's wedding dress. She loved to garden whether it was flowers or vegetables. Her children remember her competing with her father-in-law, Wade Calais, to see who could raise the best watermelon. Dottie had an entrepreneurial spirit opening her first business in the early 80's from her living room before moving her clothing store known as La Boutique Calais to a storefront across the street from the Piggly Wiggly in Cecilia. In Colorado, she and her husband Chris owned and operated a transmission business until retiring. One of her favorite ventures and pastimes was a skincare and makeup line she actively promoted through social media.

She is preceded in death by her father Ira Henry, mother Hattie Fontenot Henry, brothers Larry and Gary Henry, the father of her children Malcolm Calais, and grandson Camden Calais.

She is survived by her husband Chellis "Chris" Smith and their Yorkshire terrier Lua, Chris's children Eric (Virginia) Smith and two daughters Samantha and Katherine, Jessica, Ken and Dan Smith, Dottie's daughter Paula Calais Ohlmeyer (Ron), sons Mike Calais (Sue) and Colby Calais, granddaughters Ashley, Sophie, and Zoe Calais, grandson Kayden Calais, sisters Mary Potvin, Gloria (Chuck) Delahoussaye,



Diane Foyil and Rose Henry and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are Mike Calais, Chris Smith, Mark Delahoussaye, Rob Rabalais, Eric and Ken Smith. Honorary Pallbearer is Dan Smith. The family expresses heartfelt gratitude for the many devoted doctors, nurses and staff involved in Dottie's cancer care over the last 25 years in Colorado, Indiana and Missouri. Including Dr Samir Witta, Dr Kevin Schewe, Dr Yvette Burdick, Dr Linda Peterson, Dr Dorinda Rouche, and Dr Nusayba Bagagni. And most recently, the nurses, CNA's and staff of HopeWest Hospice of Montrose, Colorado. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to your favorite local pet shelter, charity of choice, or HopeWest Hospice of Montrose.

### CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



#montrosemirror

# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## HENRY DALE GRATER

**October 14, 1970 — January 1, 2025**

HENRY DALE GRATER, a beloved member of the Olathe, Colorado community, passed away on January 1, 2025, at the age of 54.

Born on October 14, 1970, Henry was admired for his tireless dedication to his family and the community he called home. A man of remarkable work ethic and generosity, he balanced multiple jobs while devoting countless hours to volunteer efforts that left an indelible mark on Olathe. He served as a long-standing member of the Olathe Sweet Corn Festival board and actively participated in the Montrose County Fair, embodying a spirit of service that inspired everyone around him.

Henry played a vital role as a board member of River Valley Health Center, contributing to the opening of the Olathe clinic. His commitment to supporting others extended further through his involvement with the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, where he championed mental health awareness and advocacy.

A lover of the outdoors, Henry cherished time spent with his family above all else.

His daughters, Emily Grater and Miley Grater, along with his grandchildren Ezra and Heather—who lovingly called him "Big Papa"—were his greatest sources of joy and pride. Known for his kind heart and willingness to help anyone in need, Henry's legacy will live on in the lives he touched so deeply.

Henry is survived by his mother, Linda Grater; siblings Tina Boutwell, Nicole Grater, and Justin Grater; daughters Emily and Miley Grater; grandchildren Ezra and Heather; and nieces and nephews Zach Boutwell (and wife Samantha Warner), Nick, Kylie, Gavin, and Gianna. He was predeceased by his father, Larry Grater.

A true cornerstone of Olathe's community life, Henry's presence at local events—often accompanied by his signature loaded-down truck—will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

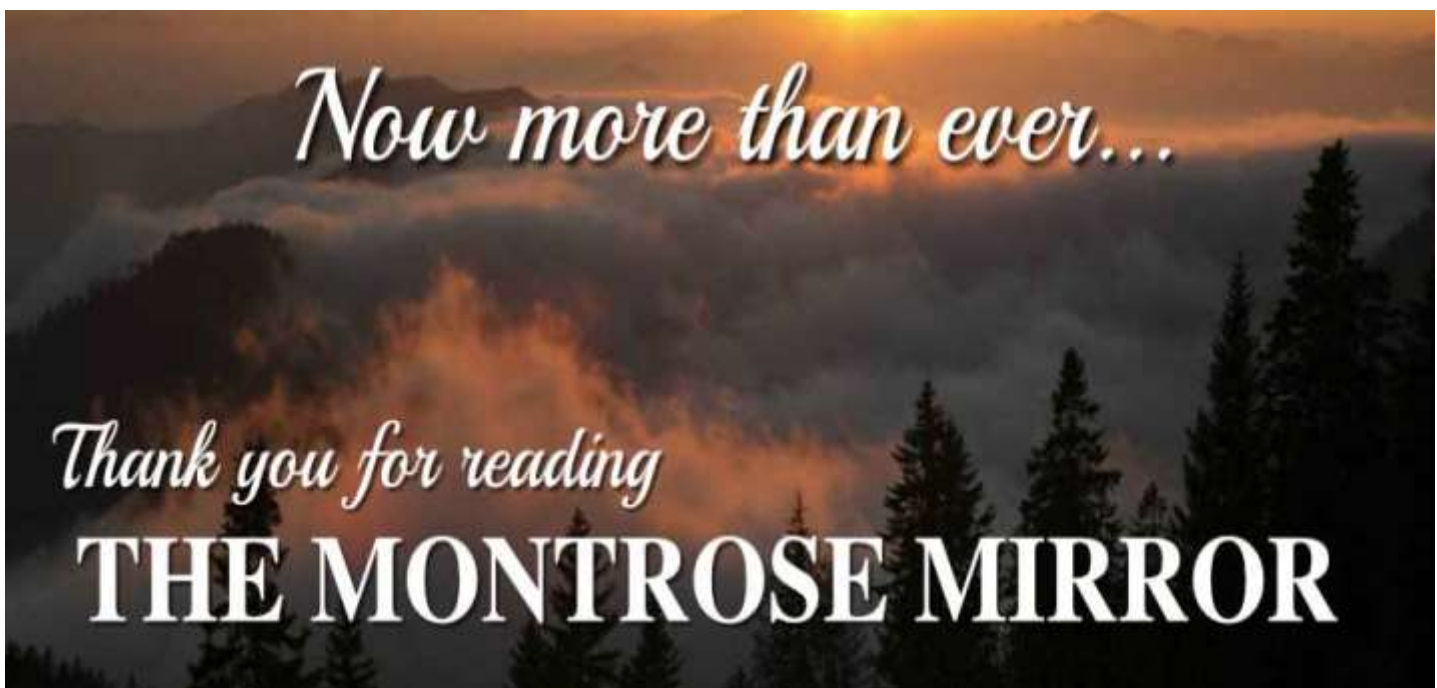
Henry's viewing is set for Friday, January 10, from 3 PM to 5 PM at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose.

The memorial service will take place at 10 AM on Saturday, January 11, in the Olathe Middle School Gym. Following the service,



a potluck lunch will be provided in the cafeteria. Please bring your covered dishes there before the service begins.

Donations for funeral costs and continued care for Miley, Ezra, and Heather can be made at Bank of Colorado, Venmo (@Linda-Grater), or GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/2fb5658a>).



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## RICHARD ALLAN MILLER

***May 15, 1938 — December 31, 2024***



RICHARD ALLAN MILLER, born on May 15, 1938, in Baraboo, Wisconsin, passed away

peacefully on December 31, 2024, at his home in Montrose, Colorado. He was the beloved son of Alex and Violet Miller and grew up alongside his two sisters, Judy and Carol.

Allan proudly served his country in the United States Navy for three years. Following his service, he pursued a career as a computer technician and became a successful business owner in the field. His ingenuity, persistence and brilliance were evident in both his professional endeavors and personal life. Allan shared a loving marriage of 54 years with Judy Ann Miller, with whom he built a beautiful family. Together, they adopted and raised three sons: James, Jason, and Steven. Allan was also a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren: Tyler, Mackenzie, Brantly, Macie, Emberly, Benson, and Luke. He cherished his role as a husband, father, and grandfa-

ther and found immense joy in the time spent with his family.

Allan's interests and hobbies included volunteering at the Montrose County Republican Committee, remote control airplanes, model trains, photography, camping and fishing. He also was a number one "fix-it" man! If anyone had a problem with their car, computer, toy, bike, wristwatch, irrigation pump, etc., they would call and bring it to Al -- and he would repair or fix it! He loved the challenge and never failed to come through for the individual!

Known for his kindness and patience, Allan touched the lives of those around him with his warm spirit and thoughtful nature. His legacy of love and dedication will continue to inspire all who knew him.

May Allan's memory bring comfort to his loved ones as they celebrate a life well-lived.

**The Mirror:**  
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 our readers out in cold ...

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

ISSUE 503 Jan. 13, 2025

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – OPTIMISM VS. HOPE VS. RESILIENCE



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D

Greetings Mirrorites!

Now that the solstice is past and days are technically getting longer, I feel an increased sense of hope with each passing week. Getting my vitamin D dosage almost every day around 10:30 AM for 30 minutes has certainly helped with this. But more than mood improvement alone seems to be involved in these morning sessions. Have the morning rays given me a cognitive boost that is creating resilience in the face of the coming year's challenges? Does sunshine on my shoulders make me optimistic? What really is hope anyway and is it the same thing as optimism? I had to dive into the literature to answer this question.

Hope and optimism are not the same things, and only one is nourished by cog-



nitive resilience and dispositional flexibility.

Hope is generally defined in academia as a realistic assessment of desires *and the means of accomplishing them*. Hope appears to have three components; 1) an objective, 2) routes, and 3) agency. First, the objective is related to a reasonably important goal. For instance, I want fewer blisters on my feet when hiking so I am going to try a new pair of silk socks underneath the wool socks and hope that it helps. My goal – blister prevention. My action, getting new socks. Further, I will take the route of getting on the computer

and ordering said socks from Amazon. Agency is the motivational component that drives the problem, using a known route, and must be present throughout the process. The motivation...blisters suck, and can make an otherwise pleasant nature walk miserable. The late Professor C. R. Synder, one of the central figures in hope research, noted that "agency thinking" is the idea that hopeful people also have greater [motivation](#) to use these pathways to initiate and then continue on with the actions that are needed to advance towards those goals. I already know that moleskin is limited in its ability to

Continued next pg

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – OPTIMISM VS. HOPE VS. RESILIENCE From previous pg

help the blister situation, so I am mighty motivated to get those highly recommended under socks, and just hope that they work.

I did not know before doing the research that hope is considered to be action dependent. Maybe hope does float, but only if you put a hand underneath it to keep it from sinking.

Conversely, optimism can be experienced with neither agency, discreet goals, nor actions. It is more of a dispositional state, perhaps even an overarching belief system. Optimism is simply a way of thinking about life, which often includes the following beliefs:

- Things will work out for the best
- Even during troubles, life is still good and worthwhile

- Someone or something will surely intervene to make everything work out

Although hope and optimism are somewhat slightly interconnected, one isn't nearly as beneficial as the other. Someone who is optimistic but without hope could think everything is going to turn out great but have no plans to make it happen, or a pessimist could have a great plan but no belief in their own ability to see it through. When times are darkest, resilience can light the way.

Psychological resilience, which is massively improved through time spent in pleasant and restorative nature, can contribute to hope by giving optimism a kick in the pants to get the agency going. As stated in a previous *Mirror* article from 2022, "psychological resilience is generally understood to be the ability to 'bounce

back' from adversity." Adversity is just naturally an unfortunate part of life. Job loss, divorce, death of a family member, climate disaster that destroys your home, are guaranteed to mess with anyone's head and heart. Stressful life events are often a factor in the subsequent development of a mental illness such as major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety, and chronic negative affect. Lack of resilience can lead to hopelessness, and even PTSD.

Natural environments appear to be just as effective in generating the kind of resilience which promotes hope as any human community-level protective factors. For example, wilderness camps have been shown to promote that sort of resilience, as they provide the opportunity to engage in activities in a novel yet restorative setting and to develop greater self-esteem, competency, self-confidence, and self-efficacy. All of these things contribute to agency. This is the gasoline that the vehicle of hope needs to hit the highway of surmounting life's misfortunes. Optimism does not require such gas and is happy sitting on the front porch with a mint julep confident of better days ahead.

Restorative nature is stimulating in just the right amount. It commands soft fascination without over arousal. Right now, my front porch with its southern exposure overlooking a simulated savannah environment in the foreground (my lawn) and the San Juans in the distance, is perfectly restorative. The birds that come to visit provide a bit of extra interest and stimulation. It therefore makes sense to me that

what is happening is increased mental resiliency that then fosters hope as a by-product. I do indeed generally tackle some projects that had been languishing for a while right after I conclude my morning sunbathing, even in winter. Good thing too, because on winter afternoons, I tend to bed rot.

Every one of any age can benefit from time in nature that generates hope, but older people may need it even more than younger ones. For people over 50, dosage matters, as a [Brazilian research team found in 2018](#). They found that "older individuals with longer cognitive stimulation tend to have lower depressive symptoms and a higher expectation index, and therefore have a greater capacity to face adversities, initiate new challenges, and find solutions to problems." Their work might sound at first like they were examining cognitive stimulation on capacity for optimism, but in fact the routes and agency of properly, restoratively stimulated participants as suggested by the language "find solutions to problems" places their study within the bounds of hope, as the authors intended.

And with that, it's time for my morning rays to give me both resilience in the face of adversity and keep me hopeful that I will be able to take actions to promote my own and other's welfare in the year to come. Catch some rays yourself to find a light in any darkness, either physical, mental, or emotional.

*Be well and be hopeful,  
The Mindful Naturalist*

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**CRIME STOPPERS**

*see something, say something*

# 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/> Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-  
 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'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

**Name of Church:** Christ's Church of the  
 Valley

**Denomination Affiliation:** Non-  
 denominational Christian Church/Church  
 of Christ

**Address:** 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-  
 rose, CO 81401

**Office hours:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-  
 noon and by appointment.

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: [CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

Website: [ccvmontrose.org](http://ccvmontrose.org)

**Name of current Senior Pastor:** Ken Law-  
 rence

**Worship service times:** 10:30 a.m.

**Mission:** Christ's Church of the Valley is a  
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-  
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of  
 God.

**Description:** CCV is a multi-generational  
 church family. While we are currently pre-  
 dominately seniors, we are becoming  
 more multi-generational.

**Sunday School & Childcare:** CCV has  
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth  
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship  
 service.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

**United Church of Christ (UCC)**

**Address:** 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)

**Office hours:** Call or text for appointment

**Phone:** 970-765-7070

**Email:** [spirit@communityspiritucc.org](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)

**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd

**Worship service:** Sundays at 11am

**Mission:** Our commitment to a more inclu-  
 sive and accepting world is steadfast, and  
 we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and au-  
 thentically.

**Demographics:** We are a small congrega-  
 tion of mostly adults and seniors, however,  
 we are always ready to welcome families  
 and children.

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation

**Address Office hours** N/A

**Contact:** 720-951-9941,

[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),

[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by  
 elders

**Worship service times.** Noon on Satur-  
 days. Children's Church will be offered as  
 needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

that studies the Torah as well as the rest of  
 Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew  
 roots of the language and believe that the  
 Lord's feasts are for today. We are pre-  
 dominantly made up of older folks, but  
 have some young blood, too.

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## 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 older 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, [info@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:info@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 community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.*

## 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 MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Orthodox  
**Meets:** 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.  
**Worship Services:** The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

## 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://montroseumc.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.*

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

**Denomination affiliation:** Independent Spiritual and Interfaith Community  
**Address:** Services 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., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; 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. 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:** [ststephensmontrose.com](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).

## 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 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Sept. 8 we will have a family Bible study, "Who's in Charge?" following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m. All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kinder-

garten, in a kid-friendly room called Base Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet following services for a potluck brunch.  
 Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.  
 Summit Church welcomes people of all ages!

## 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.*

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## REGISTRATION STARTS NOW FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE NEW HORIZONS BAND OF MONTROSE

### Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-The Winter/Spring session of the New Horizons Band of Montrose will be January 22, 2025 - April 9, 2025. The Montrose Recreation District 50+ Activities will again offer this 12 week band instrument class. This concert band is for adults once active in a school music program, as well as an entry point for adults with no prior music experience. No previous musical experience is required. Classes are taught by retired band director/music educator Kim Lundgren. Organized in February 2022, the New Horizons Band of Montrose has 21 band members playing a variety of instruments, and looks forward to adding even more new band

members.

There will be an optional Informational Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 9:30 am at the Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. Information shared will include how to obtain a quality and affordable band instrument, rehearsal information, supplies needed, and more.

Classes for the next session be on Wednesday mornings from January 22, 2025 - April 9, 2025 at the Field House in Montrose, 25 Colorado Avenue, 81401. The fee for 12 classes is \$40 for registration and payment is made through the Montrose Recreation District. Information about registration is in the Fall Recreation District booklet and at the MRD website.

Or you may call the Montrose Main Recreation Center at 970-249-7705. Participants will also pay \$10 to the instructor for music and other supplies.

Participants will need to provide their own band instrument and supplies, and can learn to play trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, saxophone, or baritone/euphonium. This concert band program is organized in partnership with the New Horizons International Music Association, founded in 1991 to encourage music making for those 50+. According to NHIMA founder Roy Ernst, "Playing music in groups supports good mental and physical health, besides being an unending source of joy."

## RAY HARVEY OF OURAY TO SHARE HIS POEMS & STORIES AT THE LONE CONE LIBRARY IN NORWOOD JAN. 15 AT 6 PM

### Special to Art & Sol

NORWOOD ... Last year Ray Harvey wasn't able to join Joan Shapiro at the Lone Cone Library for Stories & Poems when she did her song-writing appearance. So, we asked him to return. And he will, Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6 pm.

As he explains in his bio: "I was born and raised in Ouray and graduated from Ouray High School. I've worked as a short-order cook, construction laborer, crab fisherman, janitor, bartender, copyeditor, pedi-cab driver, and more, but no matter where I've gone or what I've done to earn a living, literature has always been the driving force in my life."

The theme this month for storytellers and poets this month, if you would like a prompt, is "Mountain Lions."

The Stories & Poems free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. Our featured guests will give a 15-20 min. presentation each, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there's a passing of the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share stories or poems.

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, Stories & Poems Norwood is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer & Cantor poetry contests.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at [art@tellurideinstitute.org](mailto:art@tellurideinstitute.org). To visit the website: [www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)

**Stories & Poems Norwood**  
Cuentos y Poemas Norwood

FEATURED POET  
POETA DESTACADO

RAYMOND HARVEY

FREE  
ALL AGES  
GRATIS  
TODAS LAS EDADES

- Wed., January 15, 2025, at 6 p.m.  
• Miércoles 15 de enero de 2025, a las 18 horas
- Lone Cone Library  
• La biblioteca Lone Cone  
Norwood, CO 81423
- Bring a story or poem to share  
• Traiga una historia o un poema para compartir

TOWN OF TELLURIDE  
TALKING GOURDS



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Up to 70% Off!*

All Men's Johnson & Murphy Shoes and Clothing 25% OFF

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# Vision Board at MOSAIC

## SATURDAY, Feb. 1st, 2-4 pm

With Kate Burke

### How do you envision your 2025?



We provide the board & art materials. You provide the vision.

Bring your own pictures, clippings, hopes, dreams.  
We'll have things to cut and paste onto your board.

Includes snack and adult or NA beverage.

Sign up in store or online [kathrynrburke.com/product/020125m/](https://kathrynrburke.com/product/020125m/)  
21 N. Cascade, downtown Montrose



HEALTHY RHYTHM ART GALLERY

PRESENTS



**THE POWER OF THE MIC**  
*A Spoken Word Open Mic*

**4TH TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**

**SIGNUPS AT 6:30, MIC AT 7:00**

SHARE UP TO 5 MINUTES OF POETRY,  
SLAM POETRY, COMEDY, STORYTELLING, ETC.

*ALL AGES WELCOME; SOME MATERIAL  
MAY BE FOR MATURE AUDIENCES*

**33 N. UNCOMPAHGRE AVE. MONTROSE**

**MORE INFO 970.417.3772**

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*TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING AND EXPANDING THE ARTS IN  
MONTROSE, ANY AND ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED*

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David Kienholz.....970-209-1430	Aaron Tobler.....970-275-0780
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Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

1563 Ogden Rd Montrose, CO 81401



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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

**FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS** meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

**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](http://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** Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: 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.

### MONTHLY

Jan. 15-Calling all arrowhead enthusiasts! Please join us when Neil Hauser presents information on the Colorado Projectile Point Database. Jan. 15 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church at 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society Free.

Jan. 20-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-[www.mlkdaymontrose.com](http://www.mlkdaymontrose.com).

Jan. 20-Montrose Republican Women to host Trump Victory Gala Inauguration Celebration, 6-10pm, Montrose Elks Lodge. \$10 donation per person, cash bar.

Feb. 4-April 11--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.

Feb. 5-School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 5 at 6 PM in the Columbine Middle School Cafeteria

Feb. 13-Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce Business Expo 4-7pm at the Montrose Pavilion.

## ONE STEP CLOSER: NATIONAL HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNATION



*Special to the Mirror*

*MONTROSE-The City of Montrose has been awarded a grant from the History Colorado State Historical Fund to support its efforts to nominate the community's Tortilla Flats neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. Courtesy photo City of Montrose.*



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