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# the Montrose Mirror

## CONSTITUENTS ASK CITY TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW *'I don't think you want to give up federal funds in order to violate federal law...'*



Members of the Montrose Youth City Council delivered a proclamation on Teen Driving Safety during the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, Jan. 21. Youth Council Mayor Sydney Bell, center front, read the Proclamation into the official record. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed called the regular meeting of the Montrose City Council to order on Tuesday, Jan. 21. All Councilors were present, as were Youth City Councilors Sydney Bell and Lauren Clark. A number of constituents were in attendance as well.

Reed said, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen...we are glad to see so many of you here this evening..."

As Boy Scout Troop 491 was among those in attendance, Mayor Reed asked the scouts to lead all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, which they did.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

**PROCLAMATION-TEEN DRIVING SAFETY MONTH**  
City Manager Bill Bell introduced Youth City Council Mayor Sydney Bell, who read into the record a Youth Council Proclamation on Teen Driving Safety Month.

**Continued pg 7**

## GETTING TO KNOW KEVIN WILLIAMS

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Although he has been a Montrose County resident for 40 years, 68-year-old Kevin Williams spent his formative years in upstate New York. He said, "I'm really a small town rural boy. My dad, a Democrat, held a local elected office for 18 years. My mom, a Republican, was a true conservationist. I got my love of nature from my mom, and a sense of civic duty, to do right by people, from my dad."

After graduation from high school, Williams worked in agriculture and on a dairy farm for four years. His higher education includes an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Forestry from Paul Smith's College, NY, and a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho.

Williams has been married to wife Brenda for 43 years and the couple has one daughter, Anna, who is an MHS graduate.

**Continued pg 14**



Community Organizer Kevin Williams was one of six locals to receive the 2025 Montrose Humanitarian Award. Around 100 people attended the MLK Day of Service luncheon held at the old Masonic Temple Jan. 20, 2025. 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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# Family STEAM Fair

February 8—12pm  
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Create and present a project about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math! This non-competitive program is for youth 4 to 12 years old. Registration is required by February 5, 2024.

Register at:

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If you have any questions, please contact [tmeiners@montroselibrary.org](mailto:tmeiners@montroselibrary.org).

## TO READ FULL PAGE VERSION OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE (BELOW) JUMP TO PG 16 IN THIS ISSUE

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTROSE COUNTY  
SAFE STREETS FOR ALL  
PLANNING PROCESS – PUBLIC MEETING NO. 4  
February 6, 2025

Montrose County is hosting a public meeting to discuss the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Process for public transportation infrastructure around Montrose Regional Airport. The SS4A Planning Process includes a thorough public and stakeholder involvement program intended to foster public discussion and participation in the planning effort. This is the fourth public meeting for the Montrose County SS4A planning process, which will include the following topics for discussion:

- Topics to be covered:
- Presentation of refined and preferred alternatives
  - Based on findings from analysis and feedback received during Public Meeting No. 2 & 3
  - Refined cost estimates
  - Project prioritization
  - Identification of next steps for the public process

Additionally, an open discussion will be held to gather public and stakeholder input on transportation related safety projects in around Montrose Regional Airport.

WHAT: Montrose County “Safe Streets For All Planning Process” Public Meeting No. 4

WHERE: Public Works Meeting Room, 63160 LaSalle Road Montrose, CO 81401

WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2025. 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## CBI HIRES FIRM TO ASSESS FORENSICS OPERATIONS

Special to the Mirror

ARVADA – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has hired a Wisconsin consulting firm to assess its forensic services and operations as part of its promise for transparency, accountability, and providing accurate scientific results. This action follows the decisions of a single employee who allegedly manipulated data, compromising the integrity of CBI’s processes.

“Forward Resolutions LLC’s comprehensive plan will give CBI the feedback it has been seeking to make sure we have policies and procedures in place to successfully deliver reliable scientific results to the

Colorado criminal justice community,” said Director Chris Schaefer. “CBI promised to hold itself accountable in a transparent manner to maintain public trust and this contract proves action will always follow our words.”

Forward Resolutions LLC has been awarded a contract to conduct a complete assessment of CBI policies, procedures, and operational performance within Forensics Services.

The contract follows an internal investigation that found former DNA scientist Yvonne “Missy” Woods apparently deleted and manipulated data.

Woods retired in November 2023 before the internal affairs investigation was completed. The team assembled by Forward Resolutions will conduct interviews, review policies, assess operations, and survey lab employees and stakeholders. The goal is to produce a report that assesses whether CBI is adhering to industry best practices and provides recommendations for improvements. Forward Resolutions was one of five organizations to bid for the contract, and its proposal stood out by offering a comprehensive assessment plan and the fastest turnaround, promising to deliver results within 85 working days.

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## About The Property

Come quickly to see this new home in Brown Ranch Subdivision. The 6" wide entry way welcomes you. The warm tones in the cabinetry as well as the quartz countertops throughout are a refreshing combination. Laminate and tile floors are another welcome bonus. The pantry & inviting work island extending from kitchen into the dining area are both so efficient. Notice the dual walk in closets in the main suite along with the 5 piece bath as well as the walk in closets in the guest rooms AND the wonderful tile detail in both. Outside you will find the 21 x 12 covered patio ready for entertaining and or relaxing. This home is on a cul'de'sac and just minutes from the busy-ness of Montrose.

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# CONSTITUENTS ASK CITY TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW

## From pg 1

Those in attendance applauded the proclamation.

Mayor Reed thanked youth councilors and said that the issue of teen driving safety is “a very, very timely topic.”

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

First to speak was retired Union Carpenter Tom Mathis, who has continued to call attention to perceived deficiencies in the local building inspection process. Mathis said that he met with the City Building Official on Sept. 17, 2024. He read into the minutes the questions and answers from that meeting. Mathis also shared documents in support of his concerns, which have been added to the official record.

Next to speak was Constituent John Brown, who said that he had obtained a copy of the City of Montrose Mass Immigration Response Procedure. “...There is a step in the procedure that says, if it is determined that the immigrants have no local contacts and no housing, personnel will contact Montrose County Human Resources to assist the immigrants,” Brown said. “My question is, is this offered to the homeless persons in Montrose? You have residents who are considered to be homeless and they still have no place to live...two weeks ago I brought to the City’s attention that the Castle Rock Community City Council has filed a proclamation that they will follow the immigration requirements by the Trump administration. They will allow their local and city law enforcement to interconnect with ICE and any other legal, federal agency in the processing of immigration and illegal immigrants.

“I would love to see something like that with this council, to bring forward something that would require and encourage our local officers to work with Federal agencies...a community in California, which we know to be a blue state...the City of Huntington Beach has declared itself to be a non-sanctuary city for illegal immigration for the prevention of crime...in this process they are suing Governor Newsom and the state...that prevents them from communicating or working with federal agencies.

“Here in our own Colorado, Douglas County has issued the same kind of proclamation that says they want their law enforcement agencies to work with federal law enforcement agencies for the purpose of immigration. I would love to see something like that happen within our community, and to go forward, that we support the federal government...”

Next to speak was Constituent Michael Badagliacco. “...In my possession is the memo that’s been distributed to the employees of the City regarding the City’s official stance on mass immigration...I am deeply concerned about the language within the document that asserts Colorado legislation as binding law,” he said. “Regardless of the content of this state law, it’s in conflict with federal law and constitutes a violation of the supremacy clause contained in the United States Constitution...”

Badagliacco read the supremacy clause into the record, and said, “...The City’s ‘Don’t ask, Don’t Tell’ approach appears to be a deliberate attempt to circumvent...Federal immigration law, and could result in many adverse actions and penalties from the federal government...”

Badagliacco read aloud portions of federal law on illegal border crossing. He said, “With the Federal government’s stance on sanctuary cities, with the new executive orders, it can also cause the City and County to not receive federal funds...I don’t think you want to give up federal funds in order to violate federal law...”

He asked that the documents in question be entered into the record as well as minutes of the meeting.

Constituent Cindy Olinghouse spoke. “...We are in a time of great change for our nation and for our world. We are in a new season in time where God is examining the hearts of those in leadership roles...it is he who raises up leaders and removes other leaders. There is nothing new under the sun, God has dealt with leaders time and time again. I pray that you will examine your actions, to see if you are in alignment with God, in alignment with his expectations of how his leaders are to serve those he has put

charge over...”

### CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

### 2025 ANNEXATION REPORT AND THREE-MILE PLAN

Council voted to adopt as presented the 2025 Annexation Report and Three-Mile Plan.

### EAST MAIN STREET WATER AND STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Also unanimously approved were \$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.

### STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker presented the Corrected Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report for November of 2024.

### YOUTH CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Councilor Lauren Clark said that the Youth Council is working to put on a Non-Profit Expo on March 24 from 4 to 7pm, to help others learn more about the non-profits that operate in Montrose.

### GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor J. David Reed spoke about experiencing Montrose’s first annual celebration of the national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “It was a very successful event—lots of people showed up in the cold...”

The city will continue to host MLK Day, with an even larger celebration next year, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said that the MLK Day celebration included a Humanitarian Awards Luncheon. “We love seeing that kind of community engagement in our community.”

Frank encouraged local residents who know of local humanitarians to nominate them for awards. Honorees for the first year included Joey Montoya Boese; Richard Fike; Amanda Gerhardt; Carol Parker; Garey Martinez; and Kevin Williams.



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## BREAK THE HABIT OF IGNORING SIGNS DESIGNED FOR SAFETY

Colorado State Patrol

COLORADO – Hitting the gas instead of the brake when the traffic lights change, slow rolling through a stop sign or completely disregarding traffic control devices is a dangerous and potentially deadly decision. Last year, Colorado State Troopers issued 794 citations to motorists disregarding or failing to obey traffic control devices such as stop signs, traffic lights and flashing red/yellow signal lights. This is a slight 1.5% increase over 2023 (782). “Ignoring traffic control devices is the decision to break a rule at everyone else’s expense. And the ultimate cost in this case is death,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Intersections are inherently dangerous places. Don’t expect a warning if we see you make a reckless choice.”

While morning rush hours from Monday through Wednesday showed high numbers of citations, the peak day for citations was Monday. Citations on Mondays were most prevalent between 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. and again from 3 – 6 p.m.

According to Colorado State Patrol crash data, in 2024, Troopers responded to 502 crashes involving a roadway user who disregarded a traffic control device. The number of crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol that involved the disregard of a traffic control device averaged 502 annually across Colorado.

As red light running appears to be accelerating across Colorado communities, it is helpful to see how Colorado compares to the rest of the nation. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s most recent red-light data (2021) found that 1,109 people died from red-light running. When the states were ranked, [Colorado](#)

[was the sixth highest state with 44 lives lost.](#)

“If you are tempted to ignore a traffic signal to save time, ask yourself if you can live with the consequence of harming your passenger or the pedestrian you

failed to see,” asked Col. Packard. “Traffic violence can stem from poor split-second decisions. As a driver, it is your responsibility to place safety over your convenience. That means following the rules designed to keep all road users safe.”

**FACTS & FICTION**

Is it true the City of Montrose is providing a new platform for locals to stay informed and engaged with all of the great things happening here in Montrose?

Yes... "Montrose Lifestyle" is a digital magazine for Montrosians, neighbors, visitors, businesses, and other stakeholders, a digital city square, and an action catalyst for personal and professional success, relocation, and visitation. The City has partnered with [Montroselifestyle.com](#) to provide current and timely community information, a community calendar, a community job board, a podcast, an online marketplace for "Made in Montrose" products, and so much more. It is a new campaign and it is a work in progress. As you move through our new platform, please reach out anytime to offer suggestions or to ask any clarifying questions. We are really trying to create a system of communication for locals to hear from locals, but in a safe, positive and comfortable environment. There will be no place at [Montroselifestyle.com](#) for negativity and chaotic misinformation. We are so excited about this new project and we hope you are too!

We have a few hundred followers so far, but we would love to cross the 1,000 mark before the end of January. If you want to be "in the know" on all city projects and want to learn the "why" behind the many things going on in Montrose, you will want to sign up for our Montrose Lifestyle website and newsletter. Please visit: [montroselifestyle.com](#) and click on subscribe to get started. Have a wonderful holiday season!

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



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## SAN MIGUEL COUNTY OFFERS FREE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT EVALUATIONS

*Special to the Mirror*

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY**--- Did you know that in Colorado managing noxious weeds is a law? Noxious weeds are weeds that are not native to the state and weeds that cause large-scale environmental and economic harm. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act states that weed management is required that counties have the right to implement it, and that counties have the right to enforce it if management is not happening on private land.

"Management" means any activity that prevents a plant from establishing, repro-

ducing, or dispersing itself. Although many noxious weeds do require herbicide management to eliminate them completely, the law does not state that you must use herbicides. There are other mechanical and other alternative methods to help control noxious weeds. If proper management does not occur and if you neglect to manage and reduce the noxious weeds present on your property, there can be repercussions under the law, including costs that could eventually take the form of a lien issued against your property.

Management should always aim to permanently eliminate the infestation for your property's land health, to protect the health of the environment, and to continue to protect the economic value of your home.

The San Miguel County department of Vegetation Control & Management offers free no-cost evaluations to inform you of the noxious weed species present (or absent) on your property. The department also provides cost-share funding to help defray the cost of herbicides and assist with management plans that don't always have to involve herbicides.

As stated in the Colorado Revised Statutes §35-5.5-104, "It is the duty of all persons to use integrated methods to manage noxious weeds if the same are likely to be materially damaging to the land of neighboring landowners." San Miguel County can help determine the best plan for your property.

To better serve property owners, the County is encouraging the public to take the Noxious Weed Survey, which is located on the County website at [bit.ly/SMCWeedSurvey](http://bit.ly/SMCWeedSurvey). Survey results will help the County determine the needs of property owners and the level of awareness of noxious weeds in the region.

Please contact Julie Kolb, Manager, County Vegetation Control & Management, at 970-327-0399 or email [ju-lik@sanmiguelcountyco.gov](mailto:ju-lik@sanmiguelcountyco.gov) to schedule your FREE evaluation and for more information on how to utilize the County's noxious weed management resources to benefit you and your property.

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# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: JIM ELDER



At left, Montrosians celebrate at the Trump Victory Party last week.

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**CHAPTER # 40**

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# GETTING TO KNOW KEVIN WILLIAMS From pg 1

Williams moved to Montrose in 1984 and was employed as one of four staff members of the Western Colorado Congress, now known as Western Colorado Alliance (WCA). Williams said, "At that time we probably had a membership of about 500. Basically, our mission statement was to bring people together to give them a voice in discussions that impact their lives." WCA is known to work on a variety of issues; however, they avoid socially divisive issues such as abortion. He said, "Some of our bigger projects have been with Colorado Ute's proposed 345 KV line — we got them to scale it back, the Louisiana Pacific Plant [wafer board] to clean up pollution, and eminent domain issues." Currently WCA has approximately 2,000 members.

In 1995, after 10 years with WCA, Williams joined the Western Organization of Resource Councils, based in Montana. His new position allowed him to travel throughout seven western states. He could not remain as active in local community issues; however, he maintained membership in the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance, a Chapter of WCA. He said, "Prior to COVID, my efforts were focused on childcare and expanding public transportation in Montrose."

Williams describes himself as an organiz-

er and a professional consultant for non-profits. Over the years he has started 20 chapters for non-profits, including working with Native Americans. On multiple occasions, legislative issues have taken him to Congress, and he happened to be in Washington D.C. on 9-11. He said, "I had a hard time getting people home."

Williams is a political person in the sense that he wants people to have a voice. He said, "But I'm not active in any party. There are good things and bad things about both parties [Democrat and Republican]. I want to work with regular folks in the community to give them a voice. People are more complicated than just labels, but through common threads we can create common ground. There are places people can agree on. We need to look locally, not at the state and federal level. I think we can develop relationships with people even if we don't always agree on everything."

Officially Williams is now retired; however, he continues to be involved in community organizations. He said, "I'm in my fourth year as a DMEA (Delta Montrose Electric Association) board member. I take it very seriously. I care about membership engagement and transparency. I want to make the best decisions for our mem-

bers."

Describing his personality Williams said, "I'm an easy going person. I'm energized by being around people. I'm a pragmatic person. I believe in accountability. I think telling the truth is more important than being tactful." Williams admitted to being somewhat impatient. He said, "I'm a get it done sort of person. I can get frustrated by people who work at a slow pace and I have a tendency to then try to take it on myself."

Known to interject levity into meetings, either in prepared jokes or off-the-cuff remarks, he said, "Everything we do [in meetings] is really serious. I like to have something to lighten things up. I can laugh at myself!"

Williams does not put himself forward as a community leader. He said, "I love what I've done over my career. It was what I was meant to do as a person. I love working with a wide variety of people throughout the west to give them the confidence and skills to make a difference. I'm still in love with my wife, I'm still in love with the West, and I'm still in love with organizing!"

WCA can be reached at [info@WesternColoradoAlliance.org](mailto:info@WesternColoradoAlliance.org), or 970-256-7650.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHAT HAPPENED TO 'BACK THE BLUE?'

Editor:

The GOP has long touted itself as the "Law and Order" Party. The "Back the Blue" party. What happened to you? Why is there no outrage over Trump Pardoning the J6 individuals who viciously attacked the police officers?

*Bobbie Kuns, Montrose*

## MAYBE MONTROSE NEEDS A NEW MANAGER AND A NEW ATTORNEY

Editor,

Can someone please explain to me why it is legal for the Huntington Beach, California city council to declare Huntington Beach a Non-Sanctuary City, but it is apparently illegal for the City of Montrose to do the same? Maybe Montrose needs a new manager and a new attorney. Just curious.

*Ben Alexander, Montrose*



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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTROSE COUNTY  
SAFE STREETS FOR ALL  
PLANNING PROCESS – PUBLIC MEETING NO. 4  
February 6, 2025**

Montrose County is hosting a public meeting to discuss the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Process for public transportation infrastructure around Montrose Regional Airport. The SS4A Planning Process includes a thorough public and stakeholder involvement program intended to foster public discussion and participation in the planning effort. This is the fourth public meeting for the Montrose County SS4A planning process, which will include the following topics for discussion:

**Topics to be covered:**

**Presentation of refined and preferred alternatives**

**Based on findings from analysis and feedback received during Public Meeting No. 2 & 3**

**Refined cost estimates**

**Project prioritization**

**Identification of next steps for the public process**

**Additionally, an open discussion will be held to gather public and stakeholder input on transportation related safety projects in around Montrose Regional Airport.**

**WHAT: Montrose County “Safe Streets For All Planning Process” Public Meeting No. 4**

**WHERE: Public Works Meeting Room, 63160 LaSalle Road Montrose, CO 81401**

**WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2025. 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM**

**The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.**





# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – RESILIENCY AND RUMINATION



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D

*Greetings Mirrorites!*

OLATHE-I will freely admit that this is not my favorite time of the year. Last week's insanely cold temperatures had a profound effect on my sanity. I found myself ruminating on conversations with friends and family, and not in a good way. Judgments about their life paths seemed to fill my thoughts unbidden and unwanted. And although I can do that at any time of the year, last week this unattractive quality seemed to be out of control and running away with me despite getting plenty of indoor exercise on the treadmill. I couldn't make myself be outside enough to really have a restorative experience and instead just rushed out, did some basic farm chores for five minutes and rushed back inside. And the rumination factor increased every single day. I could almost feel my brain shriveling in a manner similar to early Grinch persona, before his heart grew several times larger. I was originally going to devote this article to an update on nature and resiliency, but found that I wanted some personal insights on runaway rumination. I found that there is a plethora of information and research out there and so decided to share this with you all.

Rumination is a prolonged, repetitive, and maladaptive attentional focus on the causes and consequences of distressing emotions. It is not impartial and factual, but is usually negative and self-relational or even self-critical. This pattern of thought has been shown to predict the onset of depressive episodes, as well as



*Me cheerfully leaping about as I do my farm chores. I wish! Courtesy photo.*

other mental disorders. Distress rumination can even increase the risk of suicidal ideation. Studies have shown that college students who experience distressing ruminations after a traumatic event are more likely to have suicidal thoughts than those who don't. Conversely, psychological resilience has been shown to have a negative correlation with suicidal impulses. That is, the more resilient one is, the less likely one is to ruminate and entertain thoughts on self-harm.

Psychological resilience is the ability to 'bounce back' from adversity. Job loss, divorce, death of a family member, serious illness, a climate disaster that destroys your home (very much in the news these days), are guaranteed to mess with anyone's head and heart. One's mental processes concerning such events can actually determine one's future. For example, researchers found that breast cancer survivors' mental processes, including rumination and resilience, had long term wellness implications. "Additionally, "intrusion" and "brooding" subtypes of rumination negatively predicted quality of life, with "instrumentality" positively pre-

dicting quality of life and posttraumatic growth, suggesting the importance of trait resilience and multidimensional rumination for positive psychological changes among breast cancer survivors."

There is an area of the brain that has recently been identified as a hotbed of rumination. This area is the subgenual prefrontal cortex (sgPFC). The sgPFC has been shown to display increased activity during sadness and the resulting behavioral withdrawal and negative self-reflective processes tied to rumination in both healthy and depressed individuals. Although it is normal and natural to review traumatic events, unhealthy rumination keeps happening without beginning, without end, and without helpful conclusions. There is even some evidence that constant negative rumination can shrink this area and once shrunken, it tends to elicit even more negative rumination. A truly vicious cycle. Maybe my January ruminations were actually shrinking my brain!

So what does this have to do with time in nature? We've known for a while that there is a connection between time spent in restorative environments and healthy deactivation of the sgPFC. Through the study of brain blood perfusion, researchers were able to measure the effects of different interventions on rumination. When the sgPFC is flushed with extra blood, it means that it is working overtime. "From this perspective, we aimed to observe whether a 90-min nature experience has the potential to decrease rumination. In addition to gathering self-report measures, we examined brain activity in the sgPFC, an area that has been shown to be particularly active during the type of maladaptive, self-reflective thought and behavioral withdrawal that occurs during rumination... This behavioral and neural evidence—when taken together—would provide convincing evidence for a change in rumination resultant from nature experience. activity in the subgenual prefrontal cortex..." They compared two groups of participants and only found beneficial results in the nature walk treatment, whereas the urban walkers ruminated on troubles just the same as before their stroll. Their perfusion rates remained the

**Continued next pg**

# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – RESILIENCY AND RUMINATION *From previous pg*

Same, whereas the nature group’s sgPFCs drained a bit. Sounds weird but that is a good thing.

We’ve also known for a while that rumination stunts resilience and that resilience stunts rumination. We know that time in nature increases resiliency and attenuates rumination. Dosages may need to be higher than what I was experiencing last week, but not tremendously greater. As I mentioned in a 2022 *Mirror* article, in 2019, a

group of German researchers explored whether a national group-walking in nature program would foster resilience in the general population. To their surprise, they found that even short walks were efficacious and concluded that dosage is mostly irrelevant. Any amount of quality leisure time in nature, not rushing through tasks in the cold or heat, but just strolling, appears to reduce rumination and boost resilience.

Until it warms up I am relying on YouTube gardening shows and wildlife documentaries to keep the Grinchies at bay. If you, gentle reader, find yourself hyper-critical of yourself and others (much more than usual), then a 10-minute expedition to admire the snow-capped mountains may help with that more than anyone would guess!

*Stay Warm,  
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# **MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE, INC**

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## **2025 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE**

The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> year of service to the citizens and visitors of Montrose County, and what a ride it has been. From horseback and flat fender jeeps to OHV's and 4-wheel drive vehicles, the Posse has utilized whatever resources were available to conduct search & rescue, wildland firefighting and other community services to assist the Sheriff, residents and visitors of Montrose County.

Throughout the years, the Posse has had the opportunity to work with multiple agencies from Montrose and neighboring counties, the State of Colorado and the Federal government on fires, lost persons, plane crashes, community events and other missions. This 'agency assist,' builds rapport and cooperation made evident when they reciprocate by assisting us in our missions.

The Posse consists of 42 dedicated individuals, between the West and East ends of the county. These highly trained volunteers are dedicated and ready 24/7 to serve the community with whatever emergency arises.

Our members' expertise has evolved over the years, embracing new technologies and techniques that assist us in areas such as search and rescue procedures, communications, and mapping/tracking capabilities. We also strive to keep current on first responder medical training, wildland firefighting techniques, emergency driving and other skills.

Last year, the BLM donated a 2003 International Type 4 fire truck to the Posse. The vehicle was used to fight the Bucktail Fire, but we quickly discovered that several components were outdated or ineffective. We received some funding to address the immediate problems but will need additional funds to complete the upgrade, conduct training on its use, and for ongoing maintenance.

Keeping up with those responsibilities, as well as maintaining our building and other vehicles, comes at a price. As a volunteer group, we are able to apply for some grants which provide a small portion of our operational budget. The remaining funds come from the community.

Your support of the Posse through this annual fund drive provides the much-needed resources for us to continue our mission. Any contribution will benefit the entire community. As a 501 (c)(3) charitable non-profit corporation, all donations are tax deductible. Please mail your gift today in the envelope provided.

The Posse appreciates and thanks all the members of our community for your continued support.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET FEB. 4 AT HAP OFFICES

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Tuesday Feb. 4 at 5PM, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs Project, 504 N 1st. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental, local actions to mitigate pollution. All Welcome info at 970-765-9095

## SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOST ANNUAL SPELLING BEE ON FEB. 5

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE- The Montrose County School District RE-1J will host the School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 5 at 6 PM in the Columbine Middle School Cafeteria at 610 York Street in Montrose.

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# PROJECT 7 CONSIDERS \$186M RESILIENCY PROJECT IN DISORGANIZED MEETING



*Established on September 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. Project 7 Board meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m. Photo by Gail Marvel*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-The Jan. 23 Project 7 Water Authority Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. All board members were present. Board members have alternates who attend all meetings and Chipeta Water District was represented by Alternate Kathy Calkins.

The December 19, 2024 minutes were approved, there were no changes to the agenda, and there was no public comment.

**Authority Manager’s Report – Manager Adam Turner.**

**Consumption Report, Cash Flow Report, Process Control – Dec. 2024**

Board packets contain specific data; however, that data is not always revealed in public meetings. Turner said, “There were slightly over three billion gallons sold. Slightly above last year. The cash flow, these are unaudited numbers, sales are up one and one half million. Revenue is up over the year before. Tracking expenses [format] will appear differently than before.”

Calkins said, “Why aren’t we getting the balance sheet? Didn’t we hire Kelly Scates [accountant] a while ago?”

Turner said, “Yes.”

Calkins said, “Why don’t we get a general ledger with all the checks written?”

Turner said, “We don’t have the check register. The board’s direction was not to see it.”

Calkins said, “I think we need to see that now more than ever with the construction project. We need some kind of disclosure on this, or we are left in the dark.”

Turner noted that would be something to ask the board. Chair Foreman stated that the issue was not on the agenda and no action could be taken in the moment.

City of Montrose Representative David Bries added, “Just on the project cost, not on the normal operating cost.”

**Manager’s Update (Handout) - Adam Turner**

Calkins said, “How did we get negative in November and December?”

Turner said, “This assumes we are going forward with the project.”

**Background:** On the December agenda, Greg Swartz (D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane-full service investments services) requested that he be allowed to meet with representatives from each entity and establish work groups to get financial information. Updating that request Turner said, “That is off. I will be meeting with each entity. It’s more informal than work groups.”

An attorney who attended the meeting virtually, later referred to as James (no last name), said “The exchange of information can be established by Adam going to the individuals [entities]. We did not want to make formal advisories to the project.” Formal meetings would require entities to give public notice, take minutes, etc.

Bries said, “I don’t have the authority to direct staff. This has to go through the manager’s office [City Manager Bill Bell].”

**Resiliency Update - Members of the Garver team include Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham and Rick Huggins.**

**Environmental Assessment and Permitting:**

Graham said, “We will be requesting executive sessions for contract negotiations. I have an NEPA [National Environment Policy Act] update. This is state and federal. The public will have 30 days to look at the assessment.”

**Guaranteed Maximum Price – Updates and Discussion**

Huggins used PowerPoint for part of his discussion. He said, “I’ll have more details in the executive session. Currently there are no proposed shared contingency fees. The [project] cost is now \$159M; the total budget cost is \$186M. We are working hard to get grants. It won’t bring the cost down but will help offset the cost. In February we’d like to come back to the board on the path forward. There is a 120-day hold-time for pricing. The beginning of March prices might go up.”

Graham said, “Community outreach continues to be on going.”

**Finance Plan and Projected Impact on Member Agencies**

Graham said, “We were looking at Title XIV with the Bureau of Reclamation [grant

## PROJECT 7 CONSIDERS \$186M RESILIENCY PROJECT From previous pg

funding] and we went to round two. The disappointing news is that our project was not selected at this time. No Colorado projects were funded in round two. We will debrief and report back to the board. We put a lot of time and energy into Title XIV.”

Calkins said, “There was \$48.8M, \$30M from Title XIV. The public was sold [told] that we would get \$48M in grants. How do we consider this? Rick keeps saying that we need to vote, but we don’t have any money! Just because it’s a goal doesn’t mean it’s reasonable. It’s a shell over here and a shell over there. Why weren’t we applying for more money [grants] yet?”

Speaking to Calkins, Delta representative Mayor Kevin Carlson said, “If you would quit interrupting him, he might tell you.”

Tri-County Water Conservancy representative Vicki Ripp said, “We can apply for more grants when the project is shovel ready. We can’t apply until we have a design.”

Carlson said, “This was a \$50M investment. It’s a big BS on the wall [poster], the \$50M, a \$50M loan that we would be allowed to have.”

Calkins said, “We need to talk over the funding sources. How much are we paying if we don’t know where the money is coming from? Why don’t we slow down and get our finances in order?”

Huggins said, “I’m doing what I was hired for.”

### **Member Agency Presentations and Communications Update – agenda item interrupted**

Greg Swartz (D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane, full service investments services) interjected himself into the meeting. He said, “I want to move it [Request for Qualifications Cost Allocation Study] up on the agenda. I need to have a better understanding of what standing the work groups have. The intent of the work groups was to gain information and input. Will the working groups exist and how can I rely on them?”

Attorney James said, “They would put more burden on the entities, but is that



**During the January 23, 2025 Project 7 meeting, Greg Swartz (D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane, full service investments services) inserted himself into the meeting and requested a change in the agenda. Photo by Gail Marvel.**

going to handcuff you?”

Swartz said, “I can get the information, the work groups was to get information back.”

Turner said, “I’m doing what James directed me to do [meet with entities].”

Swartz said, “I’m trying to be as direct as possible. Where do I get input from the staff who are more directly involved?”

Attorney James said, “How do you get the buy-in from the member agencies? You ask them. If you don’t get it, come back to the board.”

Carlson said, “I’m confused as to what... what does he mean by work groups? Why do we have to have a work group? What I’m looking for is, what is this going to cost Delta?”

Swartz said, “I asked for the work groups to legitimize and make it more transparent and accountable.”

Huggins said, “Over the years we [management team] have struggled to get consensus and agreement.”

Attorney James said, “I’m caught off guard.”

Swartz said, “I’m equally caught off guard.”

The attorney asked Swartz to look at an agenda if one was available. Swartz picked up an agenda but continued his narrative. He defended his commentary by the fact that his presentation had been built around meeting with work groups, and if the board does not allow work groups, he will have to re-do his presentation.

Bries reiterated, “We support the project. Our concern is the cost allocations. I don’t have the authority to ask the financial director to sit down [for discussion].”

Swartz said, “Let’s get back on topic. Cost allocation is important. The issue comes up repeatedly. What I want to do is get the dispute over with before we allocate additional debt. Is each entity willing to approve and move forward? It’s hard to incur more debt unless they do so.”

Huggins said, “A majority vote was with the cost allocation model. You can talk about other ways to allocate costs. You would need to amend the contract.”

Swartz said, “Rick is trying to pave the

## PROJECT 7 CONSIDERS \$186M RESILIENCY PROJECT From previous pg

way. You hired me for the expertise my company has. You have made an agreement with D.A. Davidson. We will not underwrite your bonds. We might have to have an RFQ [Request for Qualifications] to be very clear what our role is. What we were doing in June and July...there is a lot more to that than what we were told. We need to consider budget categories and increased compensation."

### Old Business:

**A) Discuss and consider verbal motion for Manager to move forward with proposed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Cost Allocation Study and Provide Future Recommendations to the Board** – Approved unanimously.

In an attempt to get the meeting on track Ripp said, "We should follow our agenda."

Swartz said, "At some meetings people come in [with the attitude] to crap all over Adam. Adam is doing a good job and better than other groups [I work with]."

### Member Agency Presentations and Communications Update

Returning to the agenda, a brief report was given.

### Old Business:

**A)** Agenda item "A" previously approved.

**B) Discuss and consider verbal motion authorizing Manager to execute Amended Municipal Advisory Agreement.**

Calkins said, "Can I ask a question? Everyone wants a resiliency water project. They see it would be nice to have, but constituents aren't on board with the cost. We need community buy-in."

Menoken Water District Representative Randy Meaker said, "To make sure we are on the same page. We have to pursue a project. That doesn't mean we are going

to vote on starting the project right now. We're not entering into any construction today, and probably not next month. That's why we have consultants."

Referring to Swartz, Turner said, "He signed up for one job, but he does more than that."

Calkins offered an analogy of the difference between buying a house and buying a car.

She said, "We are trying to wrangle ourselves into making it affordable. We cannot afford what we'd like to have. We need to get ourselves where we can afford a resiliency project. Is there a not-to-exceed clause [in the contract]?"

Attorney James said, "Yes. Now it's \$250,000."

Calkins then ask for the cost of the Cost Allocation Study (\$50,000 to \$75,000). She said, "We're looking at another \$250,000 to \$350,000 to see if we can afford it."

Approved unanimously.

**C) Discuss and consider adoption of Governance Resolutions and Policies:**

a. *Resolution No. 2025-01 – Designating Meeting and Notice Locations and Adopting Open and Virtual Meetings Policy* – Approved unanimously.

b. *Resolution 2025-02 – Designation the Official Custodian of Records and Adopting a Policy on Responding to Open Records Requests* – Brief discussion. Approved unanimously.

c. *Resolution No.2025-03 – Designating the Website Accessibility Officer and Adopting a Website Accessibility Policy for the Project 7 Water Authority* – Approved unanimously.

d. *Policy No.2025-01 – Procedures Governing Directors and Alternates* – Ap-

proved unanimously.

e. *Policy No.2025-02 – Code of Conduct* – Approved unanimously.

f. *Policy No.2025-03 – Communications Policy* – Brief discussion. Approved unanimously.

g. *Policy No.2025-04 – Conflicts of Interest Policy* – Approved unanimously.

**Executive Session:** for conference with Project 7 management and consultant team for the purpose of discussing negotiating strategy related to a potential contract with the design-builder McCarthy/CDM Smith JV pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e).

**Optional Executive Session:** for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding any topic (s) as specifically requested by the Board

### Adjourn

### Project 7 Background:

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

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

[The City of Delta](#) Mayor Kevin Carlson 970-874-7566 kevin@cityofdeltanet

[The Town of Olathe](#) Mayor Jake Foreman 970-323-5601 ja-

cob.foreman@geocities.com

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#)

Vicki Ripp 970-874-5127 info@tricitywater.org

[The Chipeta Water District](#) John McCollum 970-209-5137 jmc-

collum@rvemontrose.com

[The Menoken Water District](#) Randy Meaker 970-249-5118

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



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR STATE OF THE SECTOR EVENT JAN. 30

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO-Time is running out to join us for the 2025 State of the Sector event on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 1 PM to 3 PM MST. This year’s theme, A Resilient and Collaborative Future, will explore our sector’s achievements in 2024 and address the challenges facing Colorado nonprofits. We are excited to partner with Colorado Nonprofit Association and Philanthropy Colorado to bring you this enriching experience.

**Event Highlights:**

Engaging Panel Discussion: Hear from sector leaders who are innovating and adapting to rising demands.  
 Community Trailblazer Awards: Celebrate organizations making significant impacts in our communities.  
 Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers during in-person receptions and watch parties across the state.

**Panelists Include:**

April-Dawn Knudsen – CEO, Community Resource Center (Facilitator)  
 Jennifer Landers – Executive Director, Colorado Young Leaders  
 Jamie Dominguez – Co-Founder/Executive Director, Shooting Stars Alamosa  
 Noah Atencio – CEO, Philanthropy Colorado  
 Curtis L. Esquibel – Senior Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Boettcher Foundation

**Event Options:**

Virtual Program: Participate via Zoom from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.  
 In-Person Watch Parties and Receptions:  
 Denver: CRC Office  
 Durango: La Plata County Fairgrounds & Event Center  
 Grand Junction: Western Colorado Community Foundation Office  
 Loveland: NoCo Humane  
 Registration closes on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Secure your spot today!  
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# COMMISSIONERS INVITED TO 'MEAT-IN DAY' LUNCH AT EVENT CENTER ON MARCH 22

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 22. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the meeting to order; Commissioner Scott Mijares led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. All three commissioners were present including BOCC Vice Chair Rick Dunlap.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Retired Union Carpenter Tom Mathis addressed the BOCC. "... I am currently homeless for the second time since moving to the Western Slope five years ago. I am a retired Union Carpenter."

Mathis read out loud the duties and powers of the County's building official and said, "...I reached out to Mr. Steve White, who was the director of Planning & Development at the time, about inspection protocol, and he said, 'Tom, as previously stated Montrose County provides no inspection for footings or foundations. We do not check for dimensions--again, this is your responsibility. Keep in mind that when I indicate your responsibility, your engineer and your contractor are hired by you and not Montrose County.'

Mathis then entered into the public record a third-party engineering report. "And their recommendation was to remove and replace the foundation."

Mathis then entered into the record the questions and answers from a meeting in which he met with the City of Montrose Building Official regarding the code adopted by the City, as well as a "false" report from another engineer.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, "Thank you Mr. Mathis, appreciate that, and I know we are in receipt of all your emails."

Next to speak was Tom Stewart. "...I'm president of the Cattlemens' Association, and we're going to try to change up our 'Meat-in' Day...it'll be March 22<sup>nd</sup> this year...we're going to coordinate with our Montrose and Olathe FFA Chapters, they do an Ag Day, and they take the elementary kids and put them through stations,

they use the Event Center to put this on... they're going to leave their stations up, and we're going to do a free lunch for the public and we're going to try to get the public to be able to go through their education stations as well, to kind of see what a little bit of agriculture is like."

He asked commissioners to be on board and assist as needed. The Event will begin at 10am, he said.

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Following a brief explanation of Consent Agenda Item No. Two by Chair Hansen, Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items.

### GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Public Works Director Rick Nichols presented three items for consideration.

First to be considered for possible approval was the Chair's signature on an Intergovernmental Agreement between San Miguel County and Montrose County regarding Maintenance of Law Enforcement Vehicle Accessories. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

The BOCC opened a public hearing to consider the 2024 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Highway Users Tax Funds (HUTF) report and consideration and possible adoption of Resolution Number 9-2025 for annual changes, additions and deletions of roads to the County road maintenance system.

GIS Coordinator Lisa Goetsch spoke briefly about keeping track of county roads for the HUTF report. The county receives a portion of sales tax based on mileage.

Documents are available to the public on the county website, Commissioner Scott Mijares said.

Constituent Patty Hill asked about 6360 Lane, and about the responsibility for application of mag chloride.

The county has accepted ownership of 6360 Lane, Goetsch said.



Montrose County Commissioners. Meeting Screenshot.

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 09-2025.

Also approved unanimously was the purchase of one 2024 GapVax MC1510 Mounted on Western Star 47X-SF Chassis, 370 HP, Allison Automatic Transmission from Faris Machinery of Grand Junction, Colorado in the total amount of \$695,000.

The agenda notes that the vehicle will be for Road & Bridge and represents a budgeted expense.

The machine will be used to clear culverts, with "Before and After" videos shared with the public, Nichols said, noting that the machine is expected to pay for itself the first year of implementation.

The purchase was fully discussed and vetted prior to approval of the 2025 budget, Hansen said, "...It's great that our new commissioners are getting up to speed...it's great to have this piece of equipment so we can be more expedient in this effort..."

Prior to adjournment, Hansen noted that there would be a meeting at 6pm in Nucla to present the findings of a working group. She said she would be in attendance and that on the 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a public meeting regarding the Naturita Travel Management Plan.

"Anybody who wishes to make comment on those issues, we would happily welcome you to those meetings," she said.



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# CITY CONSIDERS UPCOMING PROJECTS AT REGULAR WORK SESSION, ADDRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT OVERNIGHT SHELTER FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

***“There are beds available at the Brown Center...” - City Manager Bill Bell***



**Montrose City Council gathered for a regular work session on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Meeting Screenshot.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council gathered for a regular work session on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The first item on the Work Session Agenda was the introduction of new City Employees. Joining the City team were:

- Operations Assistant Mandy Kizer;
- Utilities Division Worker Mercedes Hickert; and
- Professional Development Manager Mike Steffes.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The first item to be considered was the Public Works Facility Project CMGC Contract Award Recommendation, with Council discussing the award of a contract to FCI Constructors, Inc. for the Construction Management – General Contractor (CMGC) services in the amount of \$150,000 for the Public Works Facility Construction Project.

A memo from Public Works Manager Jim Scheid outlines the bid process, project background and details as well as financing. *“...The initial contract amount for this contract is \$150,000. This is for the Pre-Con services that FCI will provide up to the time that a GMP Amendment to this contract is considered. The GMP Amendment will be for the construction portion of the project and will come before City Council as a Contract Amendment to this contract. This is anticipated to occur in August of 2025.”*

Council also considered the Public Works

Facility Project Program Management Contract Award Recommendation; councilors listened to staff and discussed the award of a contract to Dynamic Program Management (DPM) in the a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$100,000. for Program Management Services for the Public Works Facility Construction Project.

- Background-**A memo from Public Works Director Jim Scheid to Council states that the DPM team would be providing the following services on the project:
- Master Owner’s Budget and Schedule Development and Management;
  - Construction Cost Estimating Quality Control and Development of Project Cash Flow;
  - AIA Contract Generation and Management;
  - Consultant Selection Process & Contract Negotiations;
  - Assist in Subcontractor Procurement, Award Recommendations, & Contract Negotiation;
  - FF&E Purchasing Agent Selection & Management;
  - Insurance Verification;
  - Facilitate Project Communication & Documentation of Approvals;
  - Work with Design Team & Contractor to Navigate Permitting Process;
  - Construction Process Quality Control.

The contract would be billed out hourly as work is performed with a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$100,000 for 2025.

The memos state that Funding for both contracts will be part of the Certificate of Participation (COP) borrowing planned for the overall public works facility’s implementation. Until the funding is secured (expected around July 2025), Pre-Con and Program Management services will be funded directly by the City using existing reserves. *“...After closing on the borrowing, the COP funds may be used to repay funding that initially came from City’s reserves.”*

Councilors reviewed a proposal submitted by Moltz Construction for a replacement gearbox on one of the secondary clarifiers at the Montrose Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$77,770. The installation is expected to take about two weeks.

**Background-**A memo from Utilities Director David Bries states, *“Last year city staff identified brass shavings in the gearboxes of the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant and obtained approval from City Council to purchase a replacement gearbox assembly. After the long lead times for this specialized equipment, it has been delivered and is ready to be installed...Staff recommends using Moltz Construction to complete the installation due to their selection as the contractor in the Design-Build project for WWTP Improvements, and their availability to quickly complete the installation. Once the new gearbox assembly is installed, the one removed will be sent to the manufacturer to be rebuilt and installed on the second clarifier that is of the same age and has the same brass shavings in the oil.”*

The final work session discussion item was a contract award for the West Main Revitalization Construction. Council will consider approving \$3,709,411.25 in expenditures for construction of the West Main Revitalization Project, to include the award of a construction contract to Ridgeway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$3,379,411.25, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$145,000, and up to \$185,000 in direct expenditures for construction materials testing and streetlight replacements by DMEA.

City Engineer Scott Murphy spoke about the contract.

**Background-**A memo from Murphy to Council notes. *“With over \$10M of infrastructure projects planned for the Main Street Corridor, the City has declared this year’s construction season as ‘The Year of Main Street.’ Additional detail on projects planned for Main Street can be found on the City’s Moving Montrose Forward website under the “Current Capital Projects” tab. Thanks in part to a \$2M grant from CDOT through their Revitalizing Main Streets program, The West Main Revitalization Project aims to improve pedestrian mobility and aesthetics of West Main Street (SH-90) between Selig Avenue and the Uncompahgre River. This includes relocation of the curblines into existing underused parking areas, the addition of bike*

# CITY CONSIDERS UPCOMING PROJECTS AT REGULAR WORK SESSION *From previous pg*

lanes, widened sidewalks (incl. reclaiming existing rights of way), storm drainage improvements, and boulevard landscaping. All of these improvements are possible while still maintaining the existing four lane configuration of the roadway. An overview of the project footprint is availa-

ble online at <https://tinyurl.com/MontroseWestMainOverview>."

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

Councilor Ed Ulibarri asked about emergency shelter for homeless people during the cold months, as he has been getting calls from constituents who are unhappy with the City's decision to increase penalties for camping in public spaces.

City Manager Bill Bell said that the City contracts with the Lighthouse Ministries Shelter during the winter months, "I think it's important to know we contract with Lighthouse Ministries...They are not to full capacity, so there are beds available at the Brown Center Facility...We are providing emergency shelter during the winter as we have for at least six or seven years..." Councilor Judy Ann

Files shared information on speakers appearing at the upcoming Forum presentation at CMU, to include Police Chief Blaine Hall, and a new hire who will offer leadership training for employees.

Files said she attended a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee virtually from City Hall. "That was really easy to do...they're still having real problems with the intersection, because the railroad still will not approve that, the railroad just keeps putting everybody off...this year, Tribute to Aviation will be back for September 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> and as of today there already seven planes that are signed up, and one of them is a NASA plane..."

Mayor J. David Reed said he would be leaving to attend the annual CML Mayors Conference.

He commended the First Annual Montrose Celebration in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said there was a Humanitarian Awards Luncheon that was free to the public, "We awarded awards to some of our civic leaders in Montrose...hopefully next year they're going to expand those humanitarian awards a little bit..."

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a brief update on road work.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## LACK OF COMPETENT LEADERSHIP

*Editor:*

The Montrose County GOP suffers from a serious lack of competent leadership and the state GOP does as well. This is the result of an extreme right-wing faction of members being in leadership positions. Had this last election gone the way the GOP leadership was pushing it Colorado would only have one republican congressperson instead of four. And Trump would be facing a democrat lead house. Their incompetence is largely because of their inability to promote electable candidates. But luckily the voters of this state ignored the candidates chosen by the GOP. The results are Trump has a Republican lead house, by a thin margin. And the democrats no longer have a super majority in the state house.

The state GOP leadership spent \$60,000 campaigning against the three new congressmen during the primary. And that was unethical and a violation of the bylaws. But the Colorado and Montrose GOP have not followed their bylaws in quite some time. An organization that ignores

its own principles is an organization that should never be trusted to lead the almost one million registered republicans of Colorado.

Sometime between February 1st and the 15th the Montrose GOP will have its by-annual reorganization meeting to hopefully select new leadership. The leadership of the counties becomes voting members of the state party. And the state party has its reorganization meeting in March. Hopefully change will take place from top to bottom. Brita Horn has announced her intention to run for state party chair, she would be a great leader for the state party.

I strongly advise all registered republicans to get involved and attend these meetings and the county assembly. Run for PCP (precinct committee person) or other positions. If nothing changes the Republican Party here in Colorado is headed for irrelevance. The republican party here in Colorado is now the third largest voting bloc in Colorado behind unaffiliated and democrats. Having party leadership dictates

who you can support. And dictate that members of the central committee are not allowed to publicly question the candidates' background or past controversies to properly vet the candidates.

Lack of proper vetting is how weak candidates win primaries and lose general elections.

The Montrose republican Women have been in existence since 1936. They have been actively supporting strong republican candidates fifty years before the central committee was formed. They used to be an integral part of the central committee. Until Scott Riba and the present central committee leadership decided to kick them to the curb. And some of the people who were instrumental in that effort now see the republican women as their saving grace. Short sightedness is no excuse for bad behavior. Despite the in fighting of the republican party the Republican women will continue to support good strong electable candidates minus the drama.

*Ray Langston, Montrose*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE BUILDING OFFICIAL IS SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR INVESTMENT

*Editor:*

The counties of Montrose and Ouray and the City of Montrose are failing miserably at code enforcement for foundations on new construction in my opinion. Please note the foundation is the most critical component of a build. With expansive soils it is especially important the 2018 International Residential Code, which each have adopted, be followed.

The 2018 International Residential Code R 109.4 - Approval Required - reads as follows:

Work shall not be done beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining the approval of the building official. The building official, upon notification, SHALL make the requested inspections and SHALL either indicate the portion of the construction that is satisfactory as completed, or SHALL notify the permit holder or an agent of the permit holder wherein the same fails to comply with this code. Any portions that do not comply SHALL be corrected and such portion SHALL not be covered or concealed until authorized by the building official.

The Counties and the City of Montrose interpreted the code and adopted a policy that waves a requirement specifically provided for in this code.

R104.1 General - the building official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The building officials shall have the authority to render

interpretations of this code and to adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies and procedures shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waving requirement specifically provided for in this code.

They have passed off the responsibility of the building official to a professional engineer. This is clearly against the provisions of the code they adopted.

Example - A written foundation completion statement, as to its successful installation as per submitted plans, must be submitted by the professional engineer prior to the framing inspection and issuance of a certificate of occupancy in Montrose County. This is clearly against the Code. Engineers DO NOT have the same powers as the building official.

Inspections are to be done consecutively and either approved or rejected by the building official, not the engineer. By the time a framing inspection is requested, or a certificate of occupancy is issued, the foundation is covered up.

Also Montrose County has amended Sections R109.1.5 (IRC) Other Inspections, AE305.6 (IRC), Other Inspections: A Colorado licensed registered professional engineer (R.P.E.) will be required to make any and all inspections(s) and written certification(s) of compliance for any and all work

done in violation of these adopted codes, guidelines and requirements.

Yes, you read that correctly. The professional engineer is certifying work done in violation of the code. Why is a professional engineer giving certification of compliance for violations? This makes no sense at all.

The City of Montrose amended the Code in August 2020. There have been years of improper approval for foundations. I believe many of the foundations will fail, it's just a matter of time.

We have experienced two defective foundations consecutively on new construction. I am a retired union carpenter and know what I am looking at. Fortunately, the issues were caught prior to being covered up.

For people that have no clue what is being constructed, the building official is supposed to be protecting you and your investment. They ARE NOT!

I have addressed the Board of County Commissioners and many others with no corrective action.

The biggest investment you will ever make is being compromised by the inaction of the people sworn to safeguard the public!

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*Tom Mathis  
Retired Union Carpenter  
40 years experience*

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CULTIVATED MEAT IS GROWN FROM LIVESTOCK CELLS

To the editor,

In the aftermath of the California wildfires, we need to get more serious about addressing global warming, which increases the risk of such disasters. Among other things, our political leaders should support more public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

Animal agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. While

the technology is still being developed, scientists believe cultivated meat will require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions that raising and slaughtering livestock does. Anyone who cares about

preventing future disasters should support development of the revolutionary protein.

Jon Hochschartner  
Granby, CT

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRATS NEED TO REGAIN CONTROL FROM EXTREMISTS RUNNING THEIR PARTY

*Editor:*

I've read several excellent articles (John Daniel Davidson, Beth Brelief, and others) about the series of executive orders on immigration that Trump signed hours after being sworn in last Monday. Those orders stand out because they irrefutably confirm what is already obvious: Democrats wanted mass illegal immigration and the chaos that ensued. The border could have been secured at any point over the last four years by the Biden administration without any action or new legislation from Congress. Trump declared an emergency at the border, ordered U.S. troops to be deployed to the border, and the resumption of the border wall construction. He announced the reinstatement of his Remain In Mexico policy that Biden abandoned, and the end of Biden's "Catch and Release" policies. He ended the use of the CBP One app that the prior administration used to dole out mass paroles for illegal border crossers – some 30,000 per month under Biden. Trump ordered that criminal cartels in Mexico and certain gangs be designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, which will allow federal authorities to more easily remove gangs like MS-13 and Tren de Aragua, and more effectively go after the cartels that control nearly all the illegal traffic over the border (plus a good portion of Mexico.)

The Biden administration could have done all this – or it could have simply left in place Trump's first term border policies, which were highly effective. A secure border was always within their reach the past four years. Biden and the Democrats sold out their fellow Americans, threw open the border, and then pretended they had no choice in the matter --- that forces beyond their control had somehow triggered a mass immigration crisis as soon as Biden became president. It was just another big lie and coverup in which they were able to fool themselves but no one else. Illegal immigration was just one of numerous issues important to voters where Democrats made the wrong choices. They told voters that the inflation and economic

pain that Democrats created did not actually exist, while at the same time promising to fix those non-existent problems. Most Americans reject a party that allows massive corruption and waste, overspending, and overtaxing. They reject the party that deliberately and maliciously fanned the flames of racial and identity politics to further divide the people. They reject the malicious lies and lawfare directed at President Trump in a futile attempt to destroy him and everyone around him. They reject the party that once claimed to represent working class people, but has now clearly abandoned them. In short, Democrats made the wrong choices in economic policy, in social policy, in foreign policy, and in every other policy. Fortunately, the last four years of madness have opened the eyes of most Americans who now see clearly through the incessant lies and fraud.

Democrats would be significantly better served – as would the country – if they were able to wrest control from the extremists within their party and adopt a new and saner agenda centered on compromise on key issues such as immigration, the economy, crime, and government excess. It would seem that securing the border would be a commonsense policy both parties can work on together. Allowing extremists to dictate their policies on the economy seriously damaged this nation, but also damaged the Democrat party. With Republicans targeting federal spending, Democrats must finally admit that they cannot simply continue spending with impunity. Democrats can contribute positively to reining in the debt while coming up with solutions for, and protecting, core programs like Social Security and Medicare. Keeping taxes low, spurring growth, and lowering the cost of living would have been a common sense approach for your grandmother's Democrat party, but not the party of today. Surely there are Democrats out there that understand that their party's "resistance at any cost and by any means" is and has been an exercise in futility. "Bipartisanship" to a

Democrat means that when Democrats are in power, you do what we say, but when Republicans are in power, we will do everything to prevent you from governing. That has to change. Yes, Democrats lost this election in part because their candidates were incompetent, but more importantly, the reason they lost is they governed poorly and their policies totally suck. The Democrat party's continued existence depends on enough everyday Democrats regaining some common sense, accepting reality, and regaining control from the crazies currently running their party.

I just have one chuckle this week. Apparently, Sue Schmidt has now become my own personal fact checker. I guess I should feel honored. In her latest challenge (1/20) it is apparent that Sue doesn't agree with my opinion (1/13) that California has been in a downward spiral for a generation due to the epic failures of incompetent Democrat leadership, who control the governorship and have supermajorities in both state houses. Sue must believe California is still a paradise, where I view it more along the lines of a paradise destroyed.

Keep up the good work, Sue. We'll continue to let the readers form their own opinions. After enduring the last four years of the Biden administration purposely dividing this nation's citizens into groups and turning them against each other, and turning the Democrat party into the party of extremism, racism, incompetence, and anti-American policies, I find your comments about my "rhetoric creating distrust and anger between the people of this community rather than bring them closer ...." nothing less than hilarious. I too commend the bravery of the firefighters who have worked to suppress the LA fires. I just tend to agree with the current and retired LAFD's bravest who sent a blistering letter to the LA fire chief demanding she step aside immediately for failing to properly manage the response to the fires.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO LOST 41 BREWERIES IN 2024

***More breweries, taprooms and brewpubs closed than new ones opened in 2024***

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER — Colorado’s brewers faced yet another challenging year in 2024, with even more breweries, taprooms and brewpubs closing.

“We are arguably the most important beer producing state in America and should be proud to be the State of Craft Beer. But Colorado’s breweries are facing major challenges,” said Shawnee Adelson, executive director of the Colorado Brewers Guild.

“Between inflation, supply chain issues, employee shortages, a pandemic and a downward trend of drinking, these local businesses need the support of the public and lawmakers to survive.”

According to Colorado’s Liquor Enforcement Division, beer sales in the state are down -3.2%, worse than the Brewers As-

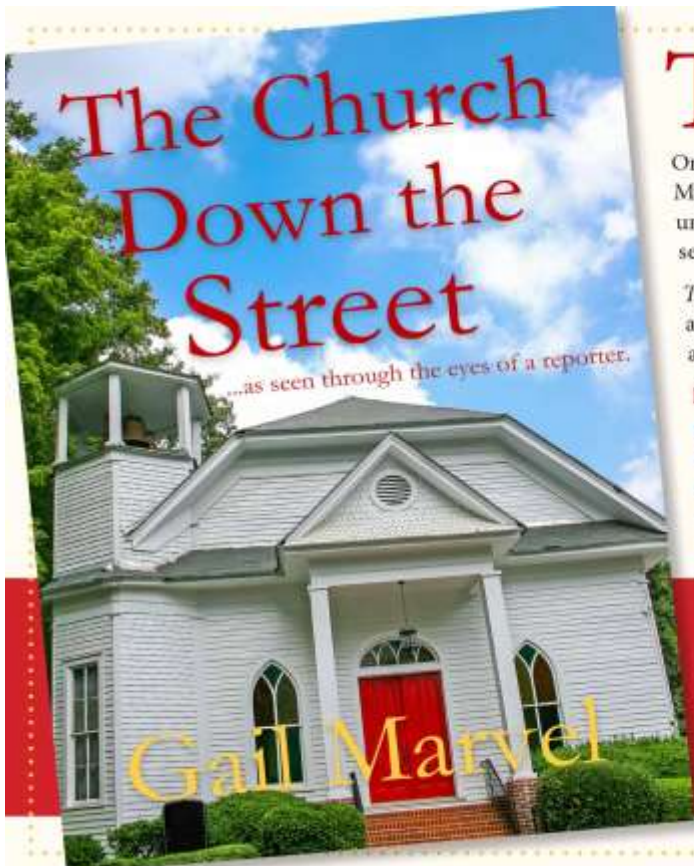
sociation’s national average showing craft beer down -2% in 2024. Also, according to the Brewers Association, more breweries, taprooms and brewpubs closed in 2024 than new ones opened. Since the pandemic, Colorado’s lost 140 – 41 of those in 2024 and 35 in 2023.

“It was an incredibly difficult decision to close our Denver taproom,” said Christa Kilpatrick, former co-owner of the closed E. Colfax Fiction Beer Company taproom. “The craft beer business is a difficult and demanding one, and it was time to move on to less stressful ventures.”

Colorado’s nearly 450 breweries help create 63,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages each year and contribute \$12.7 billion in economic activity for the state. Unfortunately, some state lawmakers are considering tax increases and other proposals that

might negatively impact these home-grown businesses. “To continue to serve our community and support local jobs, Colorado’s breweries need the support of our elected officials through certainty and stability in the tax code,” said Carlin Walsh, chair of the Colorado Brewers Guild and head brewer at Elevation Beer Company. “With the highest cost increases in generations and people drinking less, tax increases would only make it harder for our local businesses to invest in hiring and expansion.”

***The Colorado Beverage Coalition is made up of local brewers, winemakers, cidermakers, distillers and their supply and hospitality partners creating 132,000 good-paying jobs and generating \$19 billion of economic activity for Colorado annually.***



**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*





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## RED HAWK WRESTLERS SPLIT A PAIR

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wrestling team hosted the Durango Demons and the Fruita-Monument Wildcats wrestling teams on Wednesday afternoon and evening at the fieldhouse. The Red Hawks gave it a good effort but were defeated by the visiting opponents.

The Durango Demons took on the Red Hawks but were hamstrung by the fact that six of their wrestlers were either under the weather or had other excuses for not making the trip to Montrose. The Red Hawks prevailed by the score of 42 to 25.

The tale of the tap follows:

- 106: Montrose Urijah Toner – unopposed
- 120: Montrose Chance Culver over C. Silva – Pin 1<sup>st</sup> period
- 126: R. Dugan Durango over John Hughes – Pin 1<sup>st</sup> period
- 132: A. Gonzales Montrose over R. Martyn – Pin 1<sup>st</sup> period
- 138: A. McKinnie Durango over H. Hess – Dec. 13-7
- 144: Kyle Rodriguez unopposed.
- 150: W. Bartell Durango over Marshall Metcalf – Pin 1<sup>st</sup> period
- 157: C. Pontne Durango over Trevan Anstine – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 165: J. Belt Durango over Jayce England – dec. 14-3
- 175: Ryker Hanson Montrose unopposed
- 190: both teams open
- 215: Vince Mascia Montrose unopposed
- 285: Tony Gonzalez Montrose unopposed

Final Score: Montrose Red Hawks 42, Durango Demons 25

The final match of the evening featured the Fruita-Monument Wildcats and the Montrose Red Hawks. The Wildcats had their full complement of wrestlers and displayed a quiet confidence during the warmup period as did the Red Hawks. The Wildcats prevailed by the score of 50-22. Here is the tale of the tap:

- 113: K Unrein Fruita over Urijah Toner – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 120: Chase Culver Montrose over G. Galeztema – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 126: B. Stewart Fruita over John Hughes – tech fall 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 132: A Gonzalea Montrose over L. Coven – dec. 10-5
- 138: G. Chelewski Fruita over Hunter Hess – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 144: J.Mizushima Fruita over Kyle Rodriguez – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 150: B. Romero Fruita over Marshal Metcalf – tech fall 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 157: Trevan Anstine Montrose over A. Martinez- Pin 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 165: Jayce England Montrose over A. Boland – Pin 1<sup>st</sup> period
- 175: D. Gallegos Fruita over Ryker Hanson -Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- 190: Tucker Manuel Fruita unopposed
- 215: S. Franzen Fruita over Vince Mascia- dec.
- 285: Jax Ipson Fruita over Tony Gonzalea – Pin 2<sup>nd</sup> period

Final Score: Fruita Monument 50, Montrose Red Hawks 22



*Montrose Red Hawk Chance Culver prepares to pin Durango wrestler Cash Silva in the 120 pound weight class. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

# RED HAWK GIRLS WIN 2 AT HOME

## MONTROSE RED HAWKS 49, MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ 25

By Cliff Dodge

**MONTROSE**-The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team improved their season record 14-1 and their league record to 3-0 with a home court victory over the Panthers of Montezuma-Cortez High School last Tuesday evening at the fieldhouse.

The Red Hawks jumped out to a quick 9-3 lead after the initial period and increased their margin to 15-10 at the halfway point. The Red Hawks then exploded in the second half of the contest as they outscored the Panthers 34 to 15 to make the final score Red Hawks 49, Panthers 25.

Eight Red Hawks entered the scoring column with junior Mayce Oberg leading the way with 19 points. Juniors Maggie Legg and Lilly Nelson each added 8 points to the Red Hawks total. Nelson led the way on the offensive and defensive glass as she snared 10 rebounds including half a dozen on the offensive board. Mayce Oberg added 7 rebounds to her 19 points.

The Red Hawks played a solid team game passing out 9 assists and coming up with 14 steals to disrupt the Panthers offense. The Red Hawks turned the basketball over only 14 times. The Red Hawks shot 38 percent from the field and 59 percent from the charity stripe.

### MONTROSE RED HAWKS 43, DURANGO DEMONS 38

The Montrose Red Hawks played host to the Durango Demons at the fieldhouse on Friday evening and continued their winning ways as they defeated the Durango



Junior Maggie Legg turns loose her jump shot.

Demons 43-38 before an enthusiastic home crowd.

The Red Hawks jumped out to an 11-4 lead after the first quarter, and then ended up leading 16 to 12 at the half way break. The Demons then caught offensive fire on the third stanza as they outscored the Red Hawks 25 to 13 to set up a climactic fourth quarter.

The Red Hawks caught fire in the final 8 minutes as their defense came to the fore and allowed the Demons only a single point in the fourth quarter while the home team scored 14 points to salt away the 5-point victory. The leading scorer for the Red Hawks was junior Mayce Oberg

who tallied 23 points which included 7 points in the crucial fourth quarter. Junior Maggie Legg chipped in with 12 points and ran the Red Hawks offense with precision down the stretch to cement the victory.

The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 15 wins against a single loss and improved their league record to 3 wins against 0 losses.

The Red Hawks host the Fruita-Monument Wildcats on Tuesday evening, January 28<sup>th</sup>, before heading to Grand Junction on the 31st to take on the Tigers of Grand Junction High School. Stay tuned.

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# RED HAWK BOYS WIN 2 BARN-BURNERS

## RED HAWKS 57, MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ PANTHERS 55

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a buzz saw as the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers gave the home team all they could handle on Tuesday evening at the Fieldhouse. The game see-sawed back and forth as both teams led then trailed only to have the Red Hawks lead again in crunch time to secure the 2-point victory. The game was a balanced affair from the opening tip to the final whistle. The Red Hawks led 14-11 after the opening period and they continued to lead 26-23 at the halfway point. The Red Hawks added 2 additional points to their lead at the three-quarter pole but Montezuma-Cortez kicked their game into high gear in the final stanza. Panthers Leonard, Hall and Wheat combined to hit 5 three-point baskets from downtown as the Red Hawks struggled to break the Panthers press. The final 30 seconds of the game was organized mayhem as both teams fought for control of the basketball. The Red Hawks held a 2-point lead as both the Panthers and the Red Hawks fought to control the basketball. The teams forced held balls three times in the final seconds and the Panthers ended up with the basketball with just seconds to play, but the Red Hawks defense came to the fore and prevented the Panthers from even taking a final shot to tie or win the game.

The Red Hawks were led on the scoreboard by senior Kaleb Ferguson with 15 points. Sophomore Josh Hawks and junior Lane Pressler each added a dozen points to the Red Hawks total. Pressler led the way on the backboards with 7 rebounds while Ferguson and Brody Cooling each added 6 rebounds to the Red Hawks total. The Red Hawks passed out 12 assists and also had 7 steals, while turning the basketball over 14 times. The Red Hawks shot 64 percent from the field and 82 percent



Brody Cooling fires from close range. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

from the foul line.

### MONTROSE RED HAWKS 46, DURANGO DEMONS 38

The Montrose Red Hawks Friday night opponent, the Durango Demons, came to the fieldhouse with fire in their eyes and ready to do battle with the home town Red Hawks.

The bruising battle began with the opening tip and continued to the final whistle as the Red Hawks prevailed 64-38. The game was a close affair for the entire game. The Demons led by a single point after one period. Back came the Red Hawks to lead by 2 points at the halfway point.

Things got interesting in the third quarter as the Demons outscored the Red Hawks 12-7. This 3-point lead set up a stout Red

Hawk defense in the fourth quarter as the Red Hawks poured in 14 points while holding the Demons to one 3-point basket. The Demons clamped on a full court press (both zone and man to man) and the Red Hawks took advantage of open spaces in the defense to secure three layups to ice the victory.

Senior Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 24 points while senior Brady Cooling ran the offense with precision and scored 10 points in the process. The Red Hawks improved their season record to 14-2 and their league mark to 3-0. Next up for the Red Hawks a visit from the Fruita-Monument Wildcats on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and then a road trip to Grand Junction to take on the Grand Junction Tigers on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.





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# MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COLUMN

## UNITED IN OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVING THE PEOPLE

*By Board of County Commissioners  
(BOCC) Chair Sue Hansen*

MONTROSE-If you've been paying attention to what's going on in Montrose County, you've probably noticed an increased focus on family and teamwork. Our new County Manager, Frank Rodriguez, has brought a fresh wave of energy and passion to our local government, creating a new level of respect and camaraderie that is benefiting not just us, but our entire community.

With roughly 382 employees, we're a large family and we're all united in our commitment to serving the people who call Montrose County home.

To be honest, respect has always been a cornerstone of our work culture, at least in the six years I've been here. Our directors are exceptional professionals with years of experience in their fields, and our staff is deeply committed to providing top-notch services. As a Commissioner, I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and pride they bring to their work. Under Frank's leadership, we're seeing a renewed focus on performance, leadership, and excellence. The result? You'll start to see even more impactful service to the public.

I've lived in Montrose for a long time. I met my husband in the second booth at the original Red Barn. Like many people, I moved away for work, but I've called Montrose home permanently since 2000. Over the years, I've been involved in various nonprofit boards, committees, and fundraising campaigns, which brought me joy and fulfillment. But nothing compares to being your County Commissioner. I love this job, I love working with my colleagues, and I take this role very seriously.

As County Commissioners, we have a unique opportunity to work together as a unified team, setting a strong example of

collaboration and leadership for the entire community. With new leadership in place, we are more committed than ever to serving the people of Montrose County and driving positive change. Our shared vision and mutual respect create a foundation for success, and together, we are focused on building a bright future for our county. By working as one, we are confident that we can tackle challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve lasting progress for our residents.

As someone with a background in leadership and team development, I understand the profound impact that strong leadership can have on both organizations and communities. Commissioner Dunlap, Commissioner Mijares, Frank Rodriguez, Emily Sanchez, and I are excited to work together to guide Montrose County into the future. We have some important projects lined up for 2025, including a new north campus facility, continued airport expansion, the opening of the renovated courthouse, the Kinikin Road project, and so much more!

As for my own role over the next two years during the remainder of my term, I'll continue to focus on creating a transition plan to ensure that the projects I've been working on for the last six years remain on track. Some of the key initiatives I'm currently involved in include:

- Serving as interim president for the Region 14 Opioid Council, covering Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray, Hinsdale, and San Miguel counties. We've secured funding for 16 years to address substance abuse issues in the region, thanks to the opioid settlement funds.
- Actively participating in the West End Vision Project, a community-led effort to identify economic development opportunities for the coal-impacted West End.

This year-long process has been incredibly rewarding and will help the community thrive.

- Leading the West End Solutions Group, a collaborative effort that's been meeting monthly to discuss and address challenges unique to the West End. This group has led to some exciting conversations and solutions.
- Serving as the Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) Western District President, where I help address issues important to county commissioners in our region. CCI is a vital advocate for counties across the state.
- Working with the Uncompahgre Water Users drought task force to develop a strategic plan to address changing water levels in our region.
- Facilitating the West Slope Water Summit as it goes into its seventh year. The Water Summit is a free conference intended to educate residents about water, streamflow, water storage and the need to prioritize our water on the Western Slope of Colorado.
- Coordinating the JOLT energy group and conference, which educates and advocates for energy diversity.

In our roles as County Commissioners, we have the power to take on initiatives that will improve our community.

As long as I'm in this role, I will continue to work hard and I hope to continue to make a positive impact. It's truly an honor to serve you, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the years to come.

As always, I am available if you have any questions or want to chat. I can be reached at [shansen@montrosecounty.net](mailto:shansen@montrosecounty.net) or 970-252-4532.-

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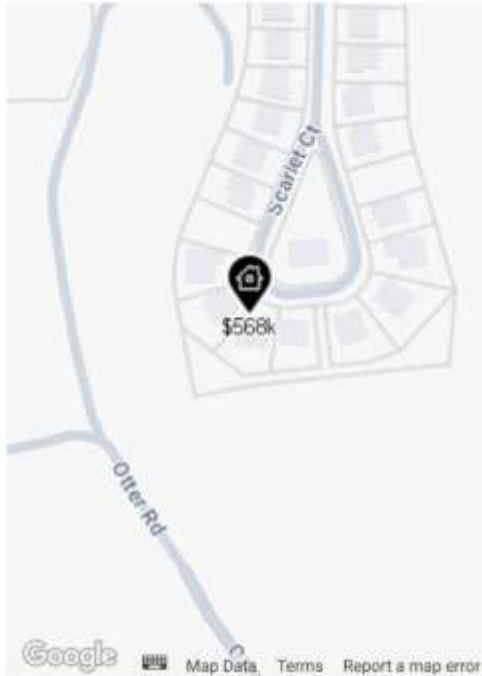
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## DO WE NEED DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT & CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION BY THE FEDS IN WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY?

By Doris Van Ness,  
West End Correspondent

NUCLA-On Thursday, Jan. 22, there was a public meeting at the Community Center in Nucla, Colorado (West End of Montrose County) to discuss the proposed Dolores Canyons Monuments National Monument and Dolores Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) designation that is being pushed by various environmental groups and the Federal Government. There were about 75 to 100 people in attendance.

Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the working group who has been reviewing and commenting on the proposed NCA. Hansen said that they had to quickly formulate a plan to oppose or in some way reach a compromise on this proposed NCA last October. The panel had about 10 meetings on the proposed NCA before they developed a counter proposal for it as a starting place for negotiations to attempt to modify the boundaries and scope of this almost 400,000-acre proposal to basically create a Federally protected National Monument. The Montrose County working group had to wait until after the presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, 2025, to make sure President Biden did not designate the area as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act before leaving office. We need a round of applause for the efforts of this group in stopping the National Monument designation of this land in our County.

Comments from a diverse group of people in the room were numerous. As an example, the consensus was: "Yes, we stopped the monument, but it was not just the working committee that did it, it was every person that helped get the message out." "If it had not been for Sean Pond (he formed the group "Halt the Dolores" - [Halt the Dolores River Monument](#)) we would have had the monument shoved down upon us. Sean is the one that made the public aware that they were trying to sneak this in on us."

Other comments heard at this meeting were: "Yes, Amy Tooker (a local communi-

ty leader) did a lot of hard work on this as well and I will give credit where credit is due. But it was all of the West End communities that came together and said **HELL NO**, you're not going to create a National Monument that will ultimately lead to an overuse of the land and eventually total closure of it to the public. It was the people of Nucla, Naturita, Gateway, Bedrock, Paradox and Norwood. It was the Montrose County Commissioners, State and Federal Representatives and others that rallied behind us to stop this taking of public lands from the citizens.

Since 2024 was an election year, we had every person that was running for a County, State or Federal office coming to the West End and, at various public meetings, stating their opposition to the NCA designation for these public lands. We had our sitting U.S. Senators (Bennet and Hickenlooper) come to a public meeting in the Town of Naturita with the stated intention of "coming to hear what the people wanted," but it became clear, once they arrived, that they had already made up their minds on how they would vote on the proposed NCA before they ever came to see the land to be designated as a National Monument.

As we discovered, these two (2) Colorado U.S. Senators were ready to get the necessary legislation prepared, passed and on President Biden's desk for signing, BUT, the opposition to the creation of this massive National Conservation Area was so great and so many people wrote letters or sent emails or made phone calls to other U.S. Senators and Congressman in other states outside of Colorado voicing their opposition to this Dolores Canyons Monument/NCA designation on these lands, that it was stopped in its tracks. It was a united effort from a host of different people doing different work but with one goal in mind, and that was to stop the monument.

As the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting went on, there were several people who asked questions as to why we would need or want an NCA? Some of the answers revolved around the argument that "if we



Montrose BOCC Chair Sue Hansen spoke during the Public Meeting. Photo by Doris Van Ness.

don't, then they will come back to us with another monument plan."

Timing of fighting off a future NCA designation for these public lands included this comment: "We have two years at the most to come up with an NCA plan to stop future environmental groups from coming at us again." Republican control of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate could change with the off-year election to be held in November of 2026. One person from the working group stated that, "it is all in the wording we put into the NCA" and that it would go to Congress, and it could take years before an NCA is approved by them.

Comments made at the meeting by the citizens present expressed opposition to the idea of coming up with a working document that would establish an NCA, due to the fact that they, the Feds, can still come back with road closures, stop mining, grazing, and stop us as a County and citizens from logging the area within the NCA. If we give up State land to the Federal government, we lose more local control. Congress could and will change the wording so it does not really matter what we put into our NCA as it will be changed

Continued next pg

## **DO WE NEED DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT & CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATION BY THE FEDS IN WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY? From previous pg**

by them if we're not vigilant in watching what they are doing with these designations. It takes a long time for Congress to approve an NCA, up to thirteen years is what we've been told which means that much can change and the political pendulum can swing back to an unfavorable position for those of us concerned about this and perhaps future designations to lock up our public lands from the public. As the meeting progressed, the logical question surrounding the NCA surfaced once again. Basically, it comes down to: "what are they trying to protect it (the Dolores Canyon) from, we the people who live here?" Or is it that they're trying to protect us from the grazing ranchers do along the river or the gold mining some folks do in the river."

Sean Pond, founder of the Halt the Dolores opposition group, made a statement that resonated with all present in the room: "I want to address a critical truth that cannot be ignored: designating this land as a National Conservation Area does not protect it from future monument designations. It does not shield us from the overreach of a future president using the Antiquities Act of 1906, nor does it prevent Congress from imposing its will. The power of the Federal Government supersedes local designations, and any claim otherwise is misleading at best and dangerous at worst.

"Let's be clear: the same environmental

activists and federal bureaucrats who push for National Conservation Areas today will not hesitate to advocate for a National Monument tomorrow. They aim to restrict access, lock us out, and justify it all under the guise of preventing climate change. But we must see this for what it is—a steady erosion of our freedoms, our land, and our way of life.

"I ask you this: "Have we become a nation of cowards? Have we become so fearful that we are willing to surrender and negotiate away our liberties to appease those who will never stop demanding more? I refuse to believe that this is who we are. "The Federal Government has no rightful jurisdiction over federally managed lands in Colorado. These lands belong to us, the people, not to unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. If we give them even a single inch, they will take a mile. They always do.

"Our best course of action is not to concede or compromise. It is to stand our ground. To look at them square in the eye and say: Not my land. Not on my watch. Not today. We owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to future generations to protect these lands and ensure they remain open for multi-use—not locked away under the false pretense of 'protection.'

"This is our moment to say no. No to Federal overreach. No to surrendering our rights. No to selling out our heritage for a lie. Together, we have the power to pre-

serve this land, not by giving it away, but by standing firm. Let us be bold, courageous, and united in saying: This land is ours, and it always will be.

"We all need to remember that when we held the meetings to stop the monument, the people who testified for the monument was bussed in from Durango, Telluride, Boulder and other locations. They were not from here and do not live here."

The statement was made that we need to stand united with whatever the final decision is, if we do an NCA, or do nothing. Together we stand, divided we fall.

Toward the end of this meeting, another attendee stated that we need to talk to the new people in charge of the Department of the Interior, namely the incoming Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum, whom President Trump appointed to lead the DOI, and Chris Wright who was appointed as Energy Secretary, to see if we can get some insight and help from them. Both of these people will be very helpful in this area and what we are trying to do.

This was the first of more meetings to come to discuss and formulate a plan to prevent the Federal Government from taking our public lands and locking them up (eventually) for use by the public.

We will have more public meetings as we work toward coming up with a final decision on the use of public lands in Western Montrose and Mesa Counties in the years to come.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## MONTROSE – IT’S WHO YOU KNOW AND NOT NECESSARILY WHAT YOU KNOW! *Small Town Politics Exemplified?*

By David White

The City of Montrose issued a press release on June 18, 2018, announcing that its then Assistant City Manager, Rob Joseph, had left the City to “take time away from the City” and that he “Chooses to Focus on Family” (even though focusing on “family” is never mentioned in the press release). Many in the community were surprised by this announcement in 2018 with the usual rumors being spread about there being other reasons for his leaving the City. No further details were ever provided.

The press release read in part: “*Rob Joseph, who joined the City of Montrose as an intern through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs’ Best and Brightest Program in January 2012, has decided to take time away from the City effective June 28, 2018. Rob brought a wealth of private sector business savvy, sales, and marketing experience, as well as several advanced degrees to the City organization, and was promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager in 2013.*”

Quoting City Manager Bill Bell, the press release further stated that: “*Rob has served the Montrose community well over the past 6 years and we appreciate the energy and passion he brought to our team. Rob was instrumental in the creation of the City’s Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) and has formed a team of highly skilled professionals who have brought the Montrose brand and nationwide reputation to new heights*”, said City Manager Bill Bell.

The full press release can be found here: [Assistant City Manager Rob Joseph Chooses To Focus on Family](#)

In reviewing hundreds of expenditures over the last 5 years by the City of Montrose, I started noticing that City Manager Bell was meeting with Mr. Joseph on a weekly basis beginning months ago at Bell’s favorite coffee shop haunt, San Juan

Brews in downtown Montrose. These meetings typically saw the Bell (using his City credit card) picking up the tab for beverages purchased there. Compounding my interest in why these two were once again meeting years after Mr. Joseph’s departure from the City, I discovered that Mr. Joseph, for calendar year 2024, received payments from the City of Montrose totaling over \$50,000! It seems that Mr. Joseph’s “time away from the City” had come to an end, but in what way? I couldn’t find any record of him having been hired as an employee nor a reference to any contractual relationship with the City but did find that he was being paid out of the City’s “tourism fund” which is attached to the Office of Business and Tourism (OBT) that Mr. Joseph created back in 2012-2013 while employed by the City. Interestingly, the OBT office is overseen directly by the City Manager ([City Of Montrose - Office Of Business And Tourism - Company Profile & Staff Directory | ContactOut](#)) ([COM Organization Chart -January 2024](#))

It turns out that Mr. Joseph was being paid for some unidentified “professional services” that, after some research, turned out to be for the creation of a “digital newsletter” by the name of Montrose Lifestyle News” and a website ([montroselifestyle.com](#)). Payments were made to him personally and not his business which is known as “Athenian Oath” and linked to the Montrose Lifestyle platform ([Athenian Oath | Excellence in Public Administration](#)).

According to a September 5, 2024 “press release” written by Mr. Joseph as the “creator of Montrose Lifestyle” and not Will Woody, the City’s Public Information Officer (see [New Newsletter To Launch With Aim To Promote Everything Montrose - Life in Montrose](#)), “The City of Montrose **has launched** a new local newsletter designed to promote everything

Montrose and the rich lifestyles of the Uncompahgre Valley.” “Our way of life is an ideal mix of business culture and Colorado living, forming a rich blend we call the Montrose Lifestyle,” **said Montrose Lifestyle creator Rob Joseph.**”

Mr. Joseph states on the Montrose Lifestyle website that: “**...The City of Montrose and I have partnered to bring you the Montrose Lifestyle!**” On this website, Bill Bell, City Manager welcomes readers to the site and states that: “**I want to introduce you to Montrose Lifestyle News, our new newsletter. ML News is administered by our partner, montroselifestyle.com, and designed to help you stay on top of what’s happening in our community.**”

It also appears that both Mr. Joseph’s business website and that of the “partner” website ([montroselifestyle.com](#)) have domain names that are under Mr. Joseph’s control as both have identical nameservers as well as domain name registrations with the same entity (Ionos Group SE located in Montabaur, Germany). If that’s the case, the City is or will be paying him for use of his website along with content creation and other services. Cutting to the chase...the City, through its City Manager has a “partnership” with the former Assistant City Manager who created the Office of Business and Tourism and from whose budget he is now being paid. Really? Here we go again! Harkening back to last week’s article in the Montrose Mirror on Sarah Fishing ([MM621.pdf](#)) and her family and their ties to the City’s (i.e., you, the taxpayer’s) checkbook, things are looking a bit “shadowy” to me. The link that follows will take you to the OBT web page wherein you’ll discover the genesis of the OBT and the funding sources used to pay Mr. Joseph and others ([Tourism and Guest Services | Montrose, CO - Official Website](#))

As we’ve seen with Ms. Fishing’s income

# MONTROSE – IT'S WHO YOU KNOW FROM *previous pg*

being derived from services rendered to the City on the one hand and taxpayer monies received by her and her family for their businesses on the other, we find that Mr. Joseph's relationship and "deal" with the City Manager includes not only a monthly fee of \$4,000 but also a commission of 40% of the advertising revenue that is generated for the media products produced by Mr. Joseph. This is spelled out in an agreement somewhere within the office of the City Manager, but which hasn't been shared with the public and perhaps not even with the City Council. This relationship/friendship between these two men is further seen and confirmed as Mr. Bell is quoted on Mr. Joseph's Athenian Oath webpage as follows: **"I am very proud to have Rob Joseph on our city's management team. Rob has accomplished great things for both the city organization and for the Montrose community over the past several years."** **"Bill Bell, ICMA-CM, City Manager, City of Montrose, CO"** Other complimentary quotes are listed on Mr. Joseph's web page from current City Councilor and Former Mayor, Judy Ann Files as well as another former Councilor and Mayor, Bob Nicholson. (See: [Athenian Oath | Excellence in Public Administration](#)) – scroll to the bottom of that page to the section titled "How Others See Me."

While Mr. Bell and Mr. Joseph would like to have the public believe that the "Montrose Lifestyle" electronic newsletter and website are at their core a community service offering the public information and insight into the goings on in Montrose and that this service is being provided at a substantial "savings" to the public by not outsourcing dollars through their previous methods of delivering content to the public, what is in fact taking place is an attempt at "amping up" of the City's propaganda machine.

In the vision statement found on the Montrose Lifestyle website, Mr. Joseph states that **"Our goal at montroselifestyle.com is to be a digital magazine for Montrosians, neighbors, visitors, businesses, and other stakeholders, a digital**

**city square, and an action catalyst for personal and professional success, relocation, and visitation. We align with the City's Vision. During the comprehensive plan process, principles emerged to guide City efforts in achieving the community's vision and values."** ([City-of-Montrose-Envision-2040-Comprehensive-Plan.pdf](#)) So, what are some of these visionary goals and principles? Again, from the website, it is stated that: *Stewardship of natural resources; Prosperity; Opportunity; Health; Safety; Fiscal responsibility; Family-centered; Future-oriented; Diversity and Inclusivity.* None are clearly defined here; however, the content of the referenced 2040 plan clearly shows that all of the above are goals that fall mostly to the local government and not the citizens for action. We've already seen a great rebellion against some of these goals by the American people. Are rank and file Montrosians still on the same page as their government? If not, a new direction needs to be established.

The City Manager's justification for actions he takes is spelled out in his "Facts & Fiction" statements found on the Montrose Lifestyle web page. One such "Fact" that he defines is the millions of dollars that he and the City Council have authorized to be given to private businesses for commercial kitchens, infrastructure repairs, payroll guarantees, large urban renewal schemes and much more and the justification for them vs. the "Fiction" that they are a government handout without a vetting process. Overlooked is this pseudo fascist way of "investing" in the private sector with government money, which artificially pumps up the local economy for a short time or, as is more often the case, enhances the ability of the chosen few to compete against local businesses that go without the help of government thereby leaving them at a competitive disadvantage over those that take a handout.

To prove the point, this link to Ms. Fisher's family's business' "ask of the City" for thousands of dollars back on August 14, 2017 to include guaranteeing full time employee salaries can be found here as an

example of the above statement: [Microsoft Word - MONTROSE-#81267-v1-City Council Work Session Agenda 08-14-2017](#)

It remains to be seen if this Montrose Lifestyle venture will be a success. Their current subscribers number less than 660 individuals and their link to the City's YouTube channel show fewer than 100 people have visited them there. That's not a high return on a \$50,000++ investment, is it?

Given yet another example of what appears to be a conflict of interest on the part of the City Manager as well as a potential violation of purchasing practices by the City in the form of this new website, one has to ask why this kind of clear conflict of interest is still happening. Bringing this kind of information to the public's attention is necessary. The elected officials don't like it, and some have labeled missives such as this one "criminal."

The number of times that profanity laden conversations have taken place by government employees or elected officials over the disclosure of public information to the public by the likes of folks like me, are too numerous to count. And that's too bad. It shouldn't be this way. Let's elect folks this next time (2026) that will reign in our City Manager and all of the "deals" that both he and the City Council get us into. We're coming up on 14 years of this kind of she-nigans from Mr. Bell. Enough said. Stay tuned for more information coming your way on some real whoppers when it comes to how your money is being spent. You'll be surprised!

**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 & one great grandchild.**

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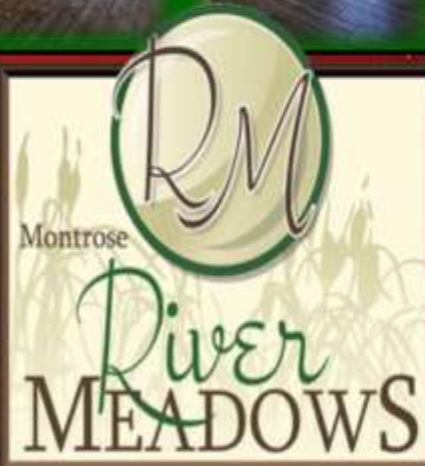
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# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## M BEN HARRIS

**July 8, 1922 — January 16, 2025**



M BEN HARRIS passed away peacefully on January 16, 2025, at the age of 102 surrounded by his loving family. Ben was

born in Montrose, CO on July 8th, 1922 to Ella May Haney and R.D. Harris and H.G. Burtis. Ben attended Johnson School first through sixth grades and Central School seventh and eighth grades. He graduated from Montrose High School with the class of 1940. He attended Mesa College from 1940 to 1941 and Colorado University at Boulder from 1941 to 1942. Ben served in the United States Army from September 1942 through April 1946. He was a T-3 in the U.S. and European Theater. Upon returning from the service, he returned to CU Boulder to graduate with a BS/BA. His work included being a *Daily Press* carrier and working in his grandmother's men's store. He worked as office manager at Hartman Brothers from June 1948 to February 1957. He ended his career when he retired from First National Bank of Montrose on February 1, 1993. On July 6, 1952, he married his wife of 53½ years Norma G.

(Jerry) Harris. She preceded him in death on January 23, 2006.

He is survived by his son William G. (Bill) Harris and his wife Linda of Montrose, CO. Their two children William B. Harris (Skye) of Olathe, CO, their children Brooklynn, Taylor, Allie and Bently and Jacob P. Harris of Clifton, CO. He is also survived by his daughter Dana R. Johnson and husband Rick of Montrose, CO and their 2 children Matthew Harris Johnson of Montrose, CO and Mitch P. Johnson (Rachael) of Montrose, CO and their children Blake and Navy. His brother Haney G. Burtis also survives. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Jerry and his great granddaughter Ryan Grace Johnson. Ben was a lifetime member of the AF&AM #63, BPOE #1053 and the Red Coats Montrose Chamber of Commerce. He loved taking his children and grandchildren fishing and hunting.

*Now more than ever...*

*Thank you for reading*

**THE MONTROSE MIRROR**

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### LORAN CRAIG SCHROCK

***November 13, 1990 — January 14, 2025***

Loran Craig Schrock was born 3 weeks late in the morning of November 13, 1990. He spent some time in the NICU before going home with the rest of the family.

They moved from Texas to Michigan when he was very young, and he spent his childhood there. He made a few close friends and had a lot of adventures with them. The family moved to Idaho in the middle of his graduating year, and he struggled to make friends and fit in. He eventually found a couple friends and would go hunting and camping with them. The outdoors, and especially the forest, was his happy place, and he would spend hours alone into the woods, just absorbing nature, and calming his thoughts.

He spent some time in Georgia, and he often told me those were the best years of his youth. He felt so accepted there and was a friend to everyone he met.

He got into some shenanigans there and had a lot of fun. He worked in Texas for a couple of months in a cabinet shop.

He enjoyed working with wood, but he hated the repetition, he wanted to just create things. In March of 2012,

he moved back to Idaho, and at the end of June, he met me. We fell in love immediately and were inseparable from that

moment on. In every way, he was my other half.

Our son was born in 2018, and he was very much a proud daddy. He quit his job piloting in December of 2019 so he could have more time at home with us. My disability was beginning to get progressively worse at that point, and he didn't feel comfortable being so far away in case I needed him. Our daughter was born in 2021, and he said more than once that at least we got SOMETHING good out of 2020. In 2022, we moved to Olathe, CO, where I grew up. We settled in, and he got great joy out of setting up his shop and fixing up the house. He often worked thru the night getting projects done to better our life. He never quit trying to improve things. He was starting to work on miniatures in 2024, and he loved spending Lego Sundays with the kiddos; they would build things together for hours. He was a very involved daddy, and the kids adored him. He was my caregiver, and he was endlessly patient and loving. He always caught me when I fell, literally, and figuratively. He was the kindest, sweetest, most genuine person I've ever known, and the hole left in our hearts will never be filled. He brought light and joy to everyone who



knew him. Those left behind grieving are his wife, Kay, his son Bryce, his daughter Thea, his mothers-in-law, Bev, Brenda and Cindy, his sisters-in-law, Mishayla, Nicolee, Bella, Daesha, Emera and Emily, his brothers-in-law Kylan, Keenan, and Ayden, uncle Jared and aunt Carol Unruh, and cousins Landon and Tris Unruh, and Levi Unruh and others. Preceding him in death are three unborn children and his brother-in-law Johnny.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## SALLY "CELINE" SANDRA KRON

**November 11, 1940 — January 11, 2025**



SALLY (CELINE) SANDRA KRON, passed away on January 15, 2025, at the age of 84. She was born in Minnesota on November 11, 1940, but lived most of her life in Colorado. She most recently resided in Montrose, Colorado.

She was a resilient, tenacious, and fearless woman who devoted most of her life to caring for others. She spent her earlier years raising her four children and later earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Fort Lewis College in the late 80's.

She lived most of her life in Colorado, enjoying the beautiful mountains, gardening, sewing, feeding birds, and enjoying the Colorado sunshine. Her strong faith in Jesus carried her through many difficult

times.

Sally was predeceased by two of her children, Michael Robert Hostrawer and Sharyn Joy Swanson. She cared for Sharyn throughout her battle with cancer until her passing in January 2017.

She is survived by her children Sandra Jean Brooks, David Browneyes, grandchildren Wayne Jennings, Laura Brooks and Serena Brooks and two great grandchildren who she loved dearly.

A special thank you to Dana Clark for the care and love she showed towards Sally, making her feel part of her family in her final years of life.

Although Sally is gone, she will live in our hearts forever.

## KIERSTEN JOY WALCHLE

**May 22, 1978 — January 14, 2025**

*"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." (Proverbs 31:26)*

KIERSTEN JOY WALCHLE (46) born May 22, 1978 of Montrose, CO passed away on January 14, 2025 after a three year journey with cancer. Kiersten was born to Harry (Bud) and Pamela Drennan, and was the daughter-in-law of Ralph and Karen Walchle.

Kiersten attended Colorado West Christian School during her elementary years and Olathe and Montrose High Schools, after which she fulfilled her childhood dream of being involved in international missions. That dream led her to Nepal and Norway with Youth With A Mission. Kiersten's travels continued throughout her life, taking her to London, Scotland, Ireland, Mexico and New Zealand. Her travels fostered new friendships around the world. These friendships evolved into a large Facebook following as she chronicled her journey with cancer.

Kiersten enjoyed her years as a barber and stylist; so much so that she returned to Delta Technical College of the Rockies as an instructor. Her hobbies were sketching, interior design, touring interesting architectural buildings and having coffee with her dear church community and close friends. Some of Kiersten's favorite memories were growing up in church. She loved being in church and the church family culture. Above all else, Kiersten was devoted to her two children, Christopher and Trinity, who survive her. Wherever she and her children moved, she had a unique ability to turn that place into a home no matter the circumstances.



ISSUE 505 Jan. 27, 2025

# ART & SOL

## A NEW DAY — A NEW YEAR

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-Starting a new year is like starting a new day only on a grander scale. These days I ease into my new day, sipping coffee and watching the sunrise slowly light up all the shadows in the backyard. I envy my young grandchildren who jump out of bed every morning with enthusiasm and leap into their day filled with hope and endless possibilities.

I still see endless possibilities but in a quieter way and jumping is beyond my capabilities at this age. I want to enjoy my waking up and my growing awareness of the good in life in a calm and serene manner.

A new year is always an opportunity to reflect on past years and we should all take some time for reflection on what worked for us and what didn't work for us. (I take the whole month of January for reflection.) We can reflect on those endless possibilities and decide what we would like to change. All that happened to us last year helped to wake us up to see the possibilities in this new year. What new perspective can we see from the place of beginning of a new day or a new year? What new possibilities are opening up for us?

This new year is already filled with changes and the promise of more changes. Many people are afraid of change, but the Truth is that life is always changing. It was the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, who said, "The only constant in life is change." He believed that change was

central to the universe. So even if we don't make any New Year's resolutions (most only last three weeks into any new year), we can't help changing anyway. Life - is - change.

We all had some challenges and some successes last year but most of all we received some new direction for our lives. Sometimes the shift in direction is subtle and sometimes it is bold and direct. Reflection helps us see the subtleties. We are not the same person we were last year or even yesterday. Our bodies are constantly changing to create a new body every seven years. Our experiences enrich our thoughts. New acts of kindness increase our ability to love.

Change teaches us to be aware and awake to see what is really happening around us. As we wake up to the new day, we wonder at how sunlight changes the world.

As we wake up to a new year, we wonder how peace will change the world. As we grow more into who we really are, we become aware of the importance of kindness and compassion and peace in the world. We want to change, to be more loving, to find more ways to serve and take more time to pray and meditate.

Waking up to a new day is a mini-adventure to prepare us for the grander waking up to the new year. We only have 334 more opportunities for adventures left in this new year. What shall we focus on? Will it be striving for a better job? A new relationship? More education? Or



Courtesy image.

will we stay focused on the important spiritual foundations that bring us all those other adventures?

A new day offers hope, joy, laughter, delight, smiles, serenity, time to meditate and pray, new ways to express love and kindness, and most importantly a stronger connection to our spiritual Source. A new year offers us the same opportunities but on a larger scale. How can we multiply all of these every day into a whole year of greater and grander Good?

Take some time to reflect this month and set your intention for this new year of 2025 for meeting change with a transformational attitude that turns the "not so good" into the "wonderfully good."

Be open to changing opportunities. Let this new year begin and end with experiencing endless possibilities of Good.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 1ST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL 2024-2025

### *Centennial Middle School*

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0**

Harlie Archuleta, Luella Boisen, Lily Davis, Monarch Faragher, June Freese, Juliette Girior, Ava Godbe, Zachary Knight, Naomi Lokey, Blake McKenna, Amelia Miller, Samantha Milton, Ines Ortega, Sophia Parkinson, Jessica Pimentel, Elaina Williams

#### **All other 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99-3.50**

Benjamin Omvig, Angelina Baughman, Sabrá Busby, Aritzel Erives-Cervantes, Carson Hatch, Kathryn Leu, Ricky Pacheco, Angelo Rufolo, Liam Dillon, Corbin Miller, Danika Gallegos, Jude Recacho, Shayne Amurao, Cara Good, Clayton Olson, Marellie Salazar, Julia Vogt, Canyon Warthen, Bentley Carr, Joseph Graff, Hunter Huber, Lorenzo Munshaw, Dakota Romero, Khloe Gonzales, Landree Johnson, Sophie Mott, Morgan Carls, Elayna Valenzuela, Aspyn Alberts, Finnegan McHugh, Giselle Valdez-Chavez, Garrett Kay, Madison Curtin, Allison Jaime-Mayorga, Danielle Bates, Oliver Sanchez, Orion Tyler, Audriana Comer, Genevieve Evans, Sofia Garcia, Caiden Ostaszewski, Bentley Schiller, Geraldine Segura, Taylor Geist, Giselle Leon, Avery Thompson, Francisco Maldonado

#### **7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0**

Charlie Alvarez, Layla Anderson, Jaxson Benner, Noa Brown, Cordelia Bryan, Ellen Curtis, Madison Dean, Kennedy Harris, Abel Heckman, Evan Jakeman, Kara Jakino, Luke Judkins, Natalie Kelln, Emma Kuehn, Hattie Maher, Karaleigh Nielsen, Paiten Ostaszewski, Desmond Otto, Jemma Shull, Braden Tobler, Easton Tomlinson

#### **All other 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 – 3.50**

Zurich Casselberry, Dominic Diaz, Nadira Dorzweiler, Jameson Downs, Brayson Garrison, Emily Gomez, Dannaly Gonzalez, Chloe Heckmaster, Lily Jackson, Bridger Jaramillo, Christopher Jimenez, Brett Lee, David Lopez, Muguel Angel Matos, Kaylie Metcalfe, Lizary Rosario-Nieves, Belinda Saldana, Koen Scheidegger, Aliece Schieldt, Trinity Sweetin, Tanner Thiel, Krew Tobler, Bryce Velasquez, Jack Walker, Rebekah Whitcomb

#### **6<sup>th</sup> grad students with a GPA of 4.0**

Oscar Andress, Elleska Baker, Scarlet Dela Cruz, Melody Diaz, Jesus Flores-Mendez, Caleb Freese, Maci Gray, Kinsey Kulbeth, Carter Magnani, Emily Manders, Avery Meaker, Iker Mendoza, Xiomara Nieto-Castillo, Anna Okhrimets,

Mariia Okhrimets, Elizabeth Omvig, Troy Pickett, Gavin Rainey, Greta Scheidegger, Liam Sena, Frank Silva, Thomas Stewart, Ashton Tanner, Joseph Tushinsky, Erik Valles-Murillo, Catalina Wogan

#### **All other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 to 3.50**

Aspen Ballew, Rory Buckingham, Charlotte Clowers, Keira Cole, Ysadora Diaz, Phoebe Frye, Drake Gallegos, Gael Garcia, Carter Hadlock, Amelia Harrell, Hadley Harris, Autumn Hohnke, Liam Jennings, Elias Johnson, Charles Johnson-Freeman, Dahja Johnston, Aaron Knight, Catherine Kurth, Brayson Lemus, Yanel Lopez Aguilar, Izabella Lujan-Rider, Bowden Lusby, Neanaveh Maldonado, Remington Mangrum, Marshall Martin, Holden Mashburn, Valeria Medina-Contreras, Dariel Melendres, Golda Nyaribo, Ivan Olson, Jesus Ortega Leon, Carter Prepar, Jones Pratt, Shylah Pullen, Zylar Reich, Emily Reiss, Jayda Rendon, Addica Rodarte, Estrella Romo, Julian Salgado, Dreydn Schiller, Jaymen Schrupp, Arlo Sheets, Brody Sitton, Benjamin Soucy, Julio Talamantes, Carleigh Thiel, Gerardo Velazquez, Gaius Wage-man, Eli Waschbusch, Brantley Whitcomb, Ezekiel Wood

#### **Centennial Middle School 1st Semester Honor Roll 2024-2025**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0**

Harlie Archuleta, Luella Boisen, Lily Davis, Monarch Faragher, June Freese, Juliette Girior, Ava Godbe, Zachary Knight, Naomi Lokey, Blake McKenna, Amelia Miller, Samantha Milton, Ines Ortega, Sophia Parkinson, Jessica Pimentel, Elaina Williams

#### **All other 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99-3.50**

Benjamin Omvig, Angelina Baughman, Sabrá Busby, Aritzel Erives-Cervantes, Carson Hatch, Kathryn Leu, Ricky Pacheco, Angelo Rufolo, Liam Dillon, Corbin Miller, Danika Gallegos, Jude Recacho, Shayne Amurao, Cara Good, Clayton Olson, Marellie Salazar, Julia Vogt, Canyon Warthen, Bentley Carr, Joseph Graff, Hunter Huber, Lorenzo Munshaw, Dakota Romero, Khloe Gonzales, Landree Johnson, Sophie Mott, Morgan Carls, Elayna Valenzuela, Aspyn Alberts, Finnegan McHugh, Giselle Valdez-Chavez, Garrett Kay, Madison Curtin, Allison Jaime-Mayorga, Danielle Bates, Oliver Sanchez, Orion Tyler, Audriana Comer, Genevieve Evans, Sofia Garcia, Caiden Ostaszewski, Bentley Schiller, Geraldine Segura, Taylor Geist, Giselle Leon, Avery Thompson, Francisco

Maldonado

#### **7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 4.0**

Charlie Alvarez, Layla Anderson, Jaxson Benner, Noa Brown, Cordelia Bryan, Ellen Curtis, Madison Dean, Kennedy Harris, Abel Heckman, Evan Jakeman, Kara Jakino, Luke Judkins, Natalie Kelln, Emma Kuehn, Hattie Maher, Karaleigh Nielsen, Paiten Ostaszewski, Desmond Otto, Jemma Shull, Braden Tobler, Easton Tomlinson

#### **All other 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 – 3.50**

Zurich Casselberry, Dominic Diaz, Nadira Dorzweiler, Jameson Downs, Brayson Garrison, Emily Gomez, Dannaly Gonzalez, Chloe Heckmaster, Lily Jackson, Bridger Jaramillo, Christopher Jimenez, Brett Lee, David Lopez, Muguel Angel Matos, Kaylie Metcalfe, Lizary Rosario-Nieves, Belinda Saldana, Koen Scheidegger, Aliece Schieldt, Trinity Sweetin, Tanner Thiel, Krew Tobler, Bryce Velasquez, Jack Walker, Rebekah Whitcomb

#### **6<sup>th</sup> grad students with a GPA of 4.0**

Oscar Andress, Elleska Baker, Scarlet Dela Cruz, Melody Diaz, Jesus Flores-Mendez, Caleb Freese, Maci Gray, Kinsey Kulbeth, Carter Magnani, Emily Manders, Avery Meaker, Iker Mendoza, Xiomara Nieto-Castillo, Anna Okhrimets, Mariia Okhrimets, Elizabeth Omvig, Troy Pickett, Gavin Rainey, Greta Scheidegger, Liam Sena, Frank Silva, Thomas Stewart, Ashton Tanner, Joseph Tushinsky, Erik Valles-Murillo, Catalina Wogan

#### **All other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a GPA of 3.99 to 3.50**

Aspen Ballew, Rory Buckingham, Charlotte Clowers, Keira Cole, Ysadora Diaz, Phoebe Frye, Drake Gallegos, Gael Garcia, Carter Hadlock, Amelia Harrell, Hadley Harris, Autumn Hohnke, Liam Jennings, Elias Johnson, Charles Johnson-Freeman, Dahja Johnston, Aaron Knight, Catherine Kurth, Brayson Lemus, Yanel Lopez Aguilar, Izabella Lujan-Rider, Bowden Lusby, Neanaveh Maldonado, Remington Mangrum, Marshall Martin, Holden Mashburn, Valeria Medina-Contreras, Dariel Melendres, Golda Nyaribo, Ivan Olson, Jesus Ortega Leon, Carter Prepar, Jones Pratt, Shylah Pullen, Zylar Reich, Emily Reiss, Jayda Rendon, Addica Rodarte, Estrella Romo, Julian Salgado, Dreydn Schiller, Jaymen Schrupp, Arlo Sheets, Brody Sitton, Benjamin Soucy, Julio Talamantes, Carleigh Thiel, Gerardo Velazquez, Gaius Wage-man, Eli Waschbusch, Brantley Whitcomb, Ezekiel Wood

# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



## DineOutMontrose.com

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**Delta: Pour Ernie's**  
 970-546-0074



# 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.*

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:  
 Name of church  
 Denomination affiliation  
 Address Office hours  
 Contact information (phone number, email address, website)  
 Name of current Senior Pastor  
 Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.  
 Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).  
 Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS “RE-IMAGINED” Grand Re-Opening February 12, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-On February 12, the Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) will host its grand re-opening celebration to introduce the new and re-imagined center to the public. The event will take place at the new location, 205 E. Main Street in Montrose, from 4:30-7 p.m. “Let HEART take root: An Interpretive Show of Western Trees” will be a fun and informative evening where visitors can view and purchase the work of more than 50 MCA and community artists, who have generously donated their work for the first MCA fundraiser of the year. Local businesses San Juan Gardens, Thrive Probiotic Plant Food, San Juan Brews, KVNF 89.1, and Telluride Properties/Forbes Global Properties have stepped up as sponsors for the event.

Artist Heidi Comstock permitted her inspirational piece “At the Root of it All” to be reproduced for the grand re-opening commemorative poster that will be printed by sponsor MegaPixel. Limited editions of the poster and all the art from the event and the gallery will be available for purchase at the re-opening.

“We chose the re-imagine theme because it aligns well to what will be happening within MCA. We are re-imagining what is possible for the gallery, arts on the Western Slope, and our connection within the community and surrounding regions,” says MCA Member Julia Reid, artist and grand re-opening event organizer.

### Months of Planning and Hundreds of Hours

The grand re-opening has been a long time coming. Last summer, the MCA learned it would have to leave its first location on Park Ave due to budget con-

straints. What followed were six months of intense re-imagining of a new location and of how the MCA would operate and serve the Western Slope.

“With effective planning from our Transitions Team and generous efforts from members, artists, friends, and the community and hundreds of hours of donated time, the relocation of Montrose Center for Arts to its new space at 205 E. Main Street was exceptional,” says Interim Board President Pat Chaloupek. “We look forward to continuing our mission to thrive at the intersection of visual art creators, appreciators and learners by celebrating the joy of art and encouraging creativity and diversity. We hope to surprise and delight the community with re-imagined events and activities.”

The MCA is very pleased with its new location. With wide windows opening on Main Street, it offers a bright ambience. It is nearer to the heart of Montrose shopping district and has ample parking. It has an adjacent patio space the organization anticipates using for outdoor activities during the warmer months.

In the neighborhood is Amazing Glaze Pottery Studio; two blocks away are The Montrose County Historical Museum and the Old Potato Growers Building housing Storm King Distillery and The Association; Downtown shops and restaurants are close by. The gallery hopes that by being nearer to the heart of Montrose, it will



Artwork by Christine Jarus. Courtesy image.

attract more people from the community as well as visitors to the area to walk in and enjoy the amazing work of Western Slope artists.

**Re-Imagine**  
Grand Re-Opening 2025 Kickoff Fundraiser  
MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS  
Montrose Center for Arts  
205 E Main Street  
Montrose, CO 81401

“Let HEART take root”

**An Interpretive Show of Western Trees**  
February 12, 4:30 - 7 p.m.  
A time of Re-Generation, Re-Storing, Re-Coproating

Re-Imagine  
Join MCA for the grand re-opening of our new and re-imagined Arts Center. Community and MCA artists have come together to create a one-of-a-kind show with a red hot sale offering up priceless art created with heart! Come join in the festivities!

Sponsors  
San Juan Gardens \* San Juan Brews \* Thrive \* MegaPixel \* Telluride Properties \* KVNF 89.1



*Winter Sale on NOW  
Up to 70% Off!*

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316 EAST MAIN STREET IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE • 970.249.3668

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## WESTERN SLOPE POET LAUREATE WENDY VIDELOCK OF PALISADE FEATURED IN FEBRUARY'S BARDIC TRAILS

*Special to Art & Sol*

TELLURIDE- Palisade’s Wendy Vidlock has been incredibly active as the Western Slope Poet Laureate the last couple years – writing a regional column on poetry, hosting poetry events, sponsoring readings, radio shows, and gatherings of all kinds.

The Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds is delighted to welcome her as our featured guest for our first Tuesday Bardic Trails zoom reading on Feb. 4 at 7 pm.

“Wendy is one of Colorado’s foremost poets, with a raft of regional and national publications under her belt,” said Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director. “Plus, she’s an excellent performer and teacher. We are excited to have her appearing on Bardic Trails.”

To learn more about this Western icon, visit her website: [wendyvidlock.com](http://wendyvidlock.com).

For those that like prompts, this month’s will be the “Tarot.” Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader, their own work or someone else’s.

The Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program hosts the free Bardic Trails virtual zoom series on the first Tuesday of each month. The Wilkinson Public Library continues as our collaboration partner and fiscal agent, with town support from Commission for Community Assistance, Arts & Special Events.

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren’t already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects.

Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the Telluride Institute website.

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both now closed until April), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction’s Center of the Arts (given every two years), the

San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.



*Western Slope Poet Laureate Wendy Vidlock. Courtesy photo.*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MY FUNNY VALENTINE AROUND THE WORLD: PERFORMANCE DATES

*Magic Circle Players-Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-My Funny Valentine Around the World is an original show following a family on their travel adventures; celebrating culture, life, love and music. Imaginative storytelling, show – stopping musical numbers, unforgettable classics, a live band, a multi-generational cast, and our famous Magic Circle Players’ Annual Benefit LIVE AUCTION will make this a night that you won’t forget! This ticket includes a reserved seat, complimentary treats, and cash bar at the theatre. Tickets at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com). Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

My Funny Valentine Around the World Thursday, February 6, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

My Funny Valentine Around the World Friday, February 7, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

My Funny Valentine Around the World Saturday, February 8, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

My Funny Valentine Around the World Sunday, February 9, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

AROUND My FUNNY Valentine The WORLD

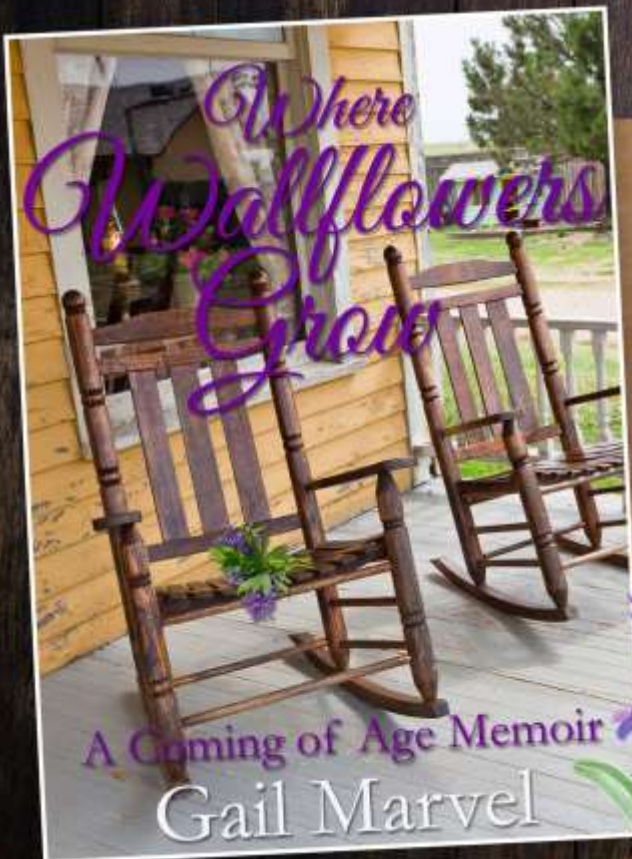
CREATED BY LISA REDIGER & SHANNON REDIGER

FEBRUARY 2025

<b>VIP DINNER &amp; SHOW</b> 5pm Dinner @ The Stone House 7:30pm Show at Magic Circle THURS · FEB 6 @ 5PM	<b>SHOW ONLY</b> FEB 6 · 7 · 8 @ 7:30PM SUN · FEB 9 @ 2PM
--	---

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**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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## SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

**COLUMBINE QUILTERS** meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

**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

**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. 4-Tuesday Feb. 4** at 5PM, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs Project, 504 N 1st. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental, local actions to mitigate pollution. All Welcome info at 970-765-9095

**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.

# MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT




Anasazi ruins at Hovenweep. Photo by B. Switzer.

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