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# the Montrose Mirror

## DMEA BOARD APPROVES DONATION TO MRH FOR ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND *Director Damon Lockhart earns National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Certificate of Achievement*

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On Jan. 28, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions).

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Director Ryan Sedgeley attended the meeting virtually; all other board members were present in person. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and agenda approval.

### Introductions:

Attendees included two



At the January 28, 2025, regular meeting, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) board received a request for funds from the Unclaimed Capital Credits in the amount of \$10,000 from Montrose Regional Health. (Standing L to R) Physical therapist Justin (no last name given) and grant writer Robyn Funk presented the project to put all-ability playground equipment at the Ambulatory Care Center at River Landing. Photo by Gail Marvel.

**Continued pg 31**

## THE ROAD (S) TO PARADOX



The Paradox Valley. This photo was retrieved from a large box of miscellaneous items purchased by Bob Cox at a yard sale in Grand Junction many years ago. The photographer is unknown.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-August, 1884. Captain J. A. P. Hamson of the Cantonment on Uncompahgre issued the following order:  
*1st Lieut. V. E. Stottler, 10th Infantry, with a detail of 4 enlisted men, 1 Sargeant and 1 Private from Co. "K", and 2 Privates from Co. "G", 10th Infantry, proceed today to Paradox, Colorado on the Rio Dolores River, and ascertain if there are now, or have been recently, any Indians, particularly the Uncompahgre Utes, off the Uintah Indian Reservation, Utah.*

Those five men left the Uncompahgre Valley south of Montrose and endured a challenging trip, up over the plateau and down into the Tabeguache, and on to the Paradox Valley. They would likely

**Continued pg 38**

[Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.:  
Your Brain on Nature!](#)

[Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald:  
Spiritual Awareness Center  
Celebrates 20 Years!](#)

[City Manager Builds Empire with Your  
Money –and Council Approval:  
Op-Ed by David White!](#)

[Views from the West Side:  
Photos by Harry Switzer!](#)

# 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  
Library Meeting Room



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:

[www.montroselibrary.org/steamfair/](http://www.montroselibrary.org/steamfair/)

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

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MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

## 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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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PLEASE SUPPORT 2025 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE FOR MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in support of the 2025 Annual Fund Drive for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse.

The Posse is a 501 (c) (3) and relies on donations to help buy much needed equipment, provide training and cover expenses.

The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse is made up of volunteers from all walks of

life within our county. They are a tremendous help to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and an invaluable asset to all Montrose County residents and to our hunters, hikers, tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.

During 2024 the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse responded to numerous calls for rescue, firefighting, traffic control and recovery of loved ones who lost their lives

in our county.

As Sheriff of Montrose County I am asking for your continued support by donating to the 2025 Montrose County Sheriff's Posse Annual Fund Drive.

Please mail your contributions to Montrose County Sheriff's Posse, Inc. at P O Box 717, Montrose, Colorado 81402.

Respectfully,

Montrose County Sheriff Gene R. Lillard

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB TO MEET FEB. 13 AT MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE

. *Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The first quarterly meeting of The Women's Giving Club for 2025 will be Thursday, Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m. at Magic Circle Theatre, 420 So. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Safeway.

Due to remodeling at the Bridges, this represents both a change in the day (second Thursday, instead of first Thursday) as well as a change of venue.

All women are invited to attend. Drinks and appetizers will be served. The donation is \$100 per person plus \$10 for hospitality expenses.

All paying members are entitled to make a nomination for the group to receive the funding, as well as a vote. Three non-profit organizations are chosen randomly to make five-minute presentations to those in attendance. The group then votes anonymously to decide who receives the check that quarter.

The process is fast and fun as well as a terrific way to make a big difference for a

service provider in our community. Come meet other women who care about this great place we live and share the power of combining our donations to support an organization in an impressive way. When

\$100 becomes \$12,000 or more, that's a wow!

For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phoebeneziger@gmail.com](mailto:phoebeneziger@gmail.com).



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 **February 24, 2025**

 **5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

 **Montrose Pavilion  
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# RED HAWKS WRESTLING



*Red Hawk Urijah Toner battled Jen Naranjo of the Delta Panthers in the 106 pound weight class. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Montrose High School wrestling team hosted the Delta Panthers at the fieldhouse on Friday evening in their final dual meet of the 24-25 wrestling season and lost to the visitors by the final score of 44-36. Neither squad had a full complement of wrestlers to fill out all of the weight classes. The Red Hawks had three open weights while the Panthers had four.

Here are the results of all of the matches that contributed to the final match score of the Panthers 44, the Red Hawks 36.

- 106: Delta Jen Naranjo over Red Hawks Urijah Toner 16-2 dec.
- 113: Delta Cha Pia unopposed
- 120: Delta Dawson Drozdik unopposed
- 126: Delta Matt Valdez over Aadin Gonzales 19-9 dec.
- 132: Delta Derick Curtis over Jack Hughes Red Hawks Pin (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 138: Montrose Ricky Olmos over L. Zukauskas Pin (1<sup>st</sup>)
- 150: Montrose Kyle Rodriguez over Ben Morfitt Pin (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 157: Montrose Trevan Anstine unopposed
- 165: Montrose Jayce England unopposed
- 175: Montrose Ryker Hanson over Al Asavei Pin (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 190: Delta Alex McKenna unopposed
- 215: Delta Ripp Loakhart over Vince Mascia Pin (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 285: Montrose Owen Cervantes unopposed

The wrestling team finished with one dual victory as opposed to seven losses. Red Hawks Head Coach Neil Samples has always held that the regular season was to coach up the team so that when the regionals and the state tournament is in full view his wrestlers will be ready to compete. The 4A regionals will be held on the weekend of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, while the state tournament will be contested at the Ball Arena in Downtown Denver beginning on Feb. 14 with the champions in each of the weight classes being crowned on Saturday evening.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COME MEET FRIENDS OF THE BLACK CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND CURECANTI RECREATION AREA

### Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The Friends of the Black Canyon National Park and Curecanti Recreation Area are excited to invite the community of Montrose and the surrounding areas to join us for a special evening to learn about our mission, meet our new board members, and share your vision for the future of these cherished natural spaces. And celebrate the Curecanti Recreation Area that will be turning 60 on February 11th!

Originally founded prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of the Black Canyon

began as a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the Black Canyon National Park and Curecanti Recreation Area through initiatives like volunteer efforts, fundraising, youth and community engagement, education, and conservation. However, like many organizations, the pandemic brought operations to a halt, and the group eventually became dormant.

In June 2024, inspired by overwhelming community support and input from a local think tank, the organization was reborn with a renewed commitment to preserv-

ing and enhancing these national treasures.

**Our Invitation to the Community: Join us for food and fun at Pomona Brewing Company, February 8th from 4-7pm!**

We want to hear your stories, ideas, and hopes for the future of the Black Canyon and Curecanti Recreation Area. These parks are not only vital to the preservation of natural beauty but also hold immense potential to benefit the local economy and communities of the Western Slope.

### Our Goals

The Friends of the Black Canyon National Park and Curecanti Recreation Area are focused on ambitious goals, from enhancing park services and promoting conservation efforts to fostering deeper community partnerships. With your help, we aim to:

- Advocate for sustainable use of park resources.
- Support education and outreach programs for youth and the community.
- Strengthen the relationship between the parks and local economies.

### How You Can Help

If you are interested in becoming a donor, volunteer, or advocate—or simply want to learn more about our mission and vision—please join us for this engaging community gathering.

We are a small but determined organization, and with your support, we are confident we can make a lasting impact for generations to come.

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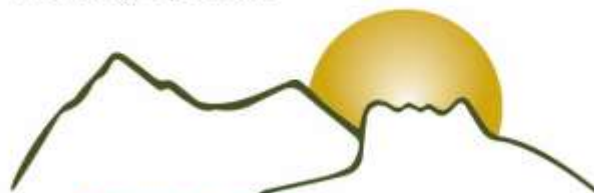
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY MEETS FEB.4 AT HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT

*Special to the Mirror*

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

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMOCRAT LEADER HAS MADE CALL FOR CIVIL WAR

*Editor:*

Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S House of Representatives, has made a call for a Civil War when he declared yesterday that the Democrats must take their battles to the streets.

That is exactly how stupid he is as the leader of the democrat caucus.

He is a very dangerous person and you can expect his rhetoric to get more dangerous in the coming weeks.

*Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose*



THE 25TH ANNUAL

# GERMAN DINNER

Montrose Masonic Lodge  
187 Rose Lane  
Montrose, CO

## SILVER STAR

## CHAPTER # 40

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

### 4:00 - 7:00

RESERVATIONS  
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# NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

**03.15.2025**  
**5:00 PM**

**MONTROSE  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



GUEST SPEAKER:  
**MORGAN SPRADLING**

Morgan is the owner and founder of Highland Cycles in Montrose, Colorado. He has participated in all kinds of sports, from football to alpine climbing but fell in love with off-road motorcycling in 2002 and is a massive part of his life. Morgan believes that dirt biking is an amazing way to spread the gospel to an incredible group of people!

TICKETS ARE FREE FOR THIS EVENT BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER:

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE FOR PRIMARY CARE CLINICS

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA—Delta Health is excited to announce they have recently upgraded their phone systems for the primary care clinics, including West Elk Hotchkiss, Adult Primary Care and Delta Health Family Medicine. This change reflects their ongoing commitment to providing better service and enhanced communication for patients.

Delta Health anticipates a smooth transition, but they understand that some patients may experience difficulty connecting during this adjustment period. If any issues are encountered, patients can call the main hospital line at 970-874-7681, and the Delta Health team will promptly connect the caller to the appropriate department.

“We are committed to continuously improving our systems to ensure we can serve our community with the best care possible,” said Layne Fehlhaber, Delta Health’s Patient Access Manager. “Every day, we are working hard to make your experience with us more seamless and efficient, so you can focus on what matters most - your health.” Delta Health appreciates patients’ understanding and patience as they work to improve the patient experience.



*Delta Health Courtesy photo.*

# The Mirror:

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



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

**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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# OPINION EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHERE ARE THE RECEIPTS?

*Editor:*

McDOGE understands our Montrose City Manager, at his/her discretion, holds the authority to spend up to \$50,000 *without* specific City Council approval! Apparently, this is *not in aggregate* to any one recipient? Amounts under \$20,000 do not require a competitive bid.

Where are the receipts?

Stay tuned to Montrose Citizens DOGE!!

*John Brown, Montrose*

## NAME CORRECTION

*In an interview with Kevin Williams in the Mirror Issue 622, the name of Williams' daughter was given as Anna. However her name is not Anna, but Hannah. We apologize for any confusion this has caused.*



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN RURAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN INCUBATOR BY MARCH 1

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### Special to the Mirror

CARBONDALE-The first annual Colorado Youth Climate Summit (CYSC) is happening Friday-Saturday May 2-3, 2025 at the Third Street Center, free for high school youth. Participants will be engaging in climate action planning, exploring regional climate solutions, and building relationships with peers from across the state.

The CYSC is an incubator for youth-led climate actions in their schools and home communities. Their climate action plans will serve as initial planning for capstone projects, Girl Scout Gold Award projects, Eagle Scout projects, other civic projects and ultimately the experiential project requirement to earn the new Seal of Climate Literacy graduation endorsement.

Workshops and activities will be led by experts from the Colorado Climate Center, Limelight Amazon X Prize, Colorado Energy Office, NASA, Sunrise Movement, NOAA-CIRES, CO Department of Public Health and Environment, Earth Force, Environmental Defense Fund, Good-trouble Network, Youth Climate Summit Network, The Wild Center, Colorado Environmental Film Festival and more.

Participants will engage in 2 days of learning, relationship building, and climate action planning along with 75 high school youth and their adult advisors.

"This is an awesome opportunity happening in rural Colorado for high school youth to come together, foster relationships with peers, and learn practical steps to create real meaningful collective actions to minimize greenhouse gas emissions at home, school, and within their communities," said Director Sarah Johnson of Wild Rose Education.

The youth will be exploring the most effective solutions that are currently available, scalable, financially viable, are quantifiable and able to have a net positive impact in Colorado contexts. These include statewide greenhouse gas reduction 2024 priority measures from the Colorado Energy Office.

Youth need to apply soon to participate in this free statewide program by March 1st; space is limited. Adult volunteers are also encouraged to sign up soon at [www.COYouthClimateSummit.org](http://www.COYouthClimateSummit.org).

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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ANONYMOUS CALL

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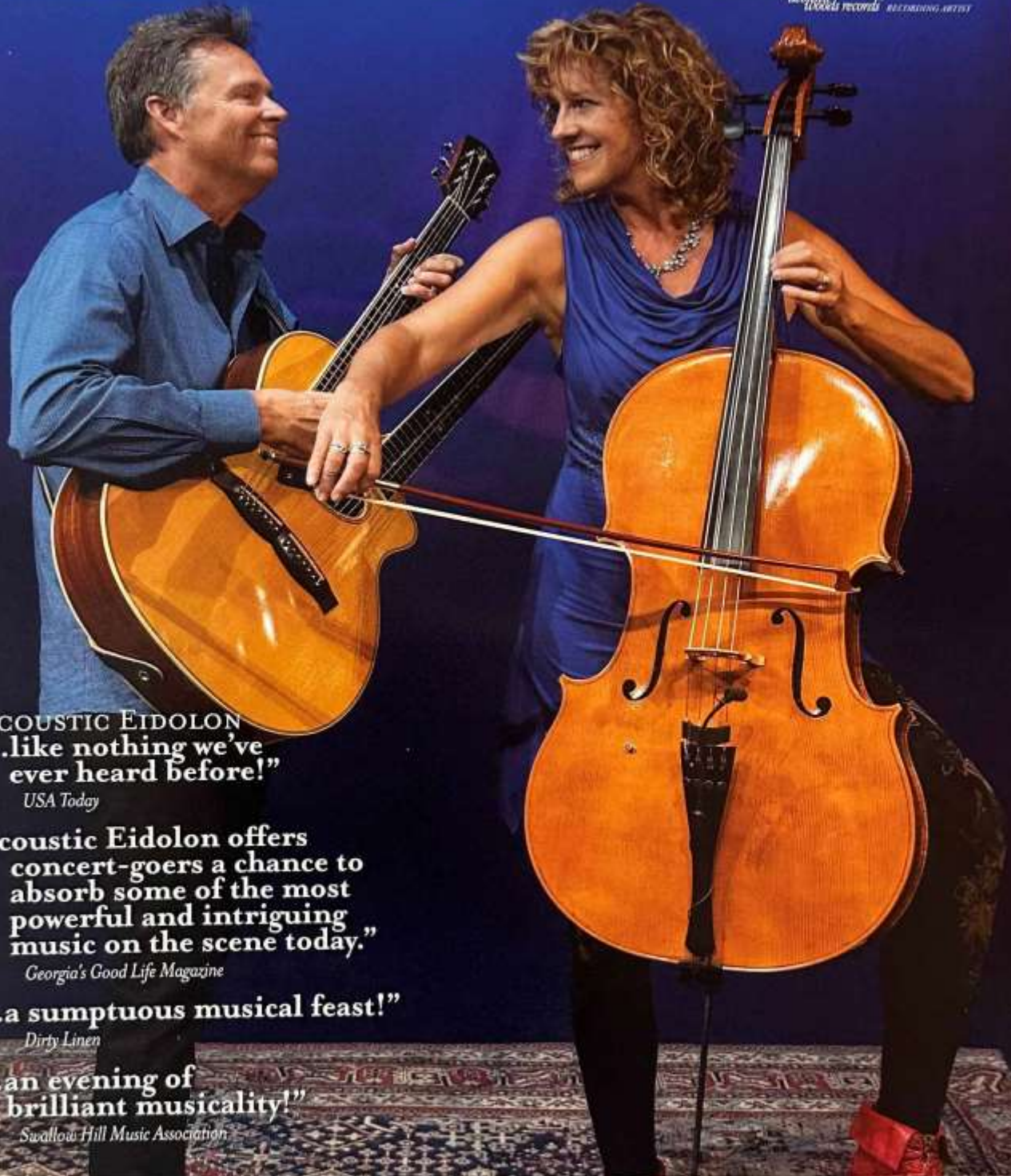




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Red Hawks Forward Brooke Williams sets to score vs the Wildcats. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

## RED HAWKS GIRLS ABSORB 26 POINT LOSS FRUITA MONUMENT WILDCATS 44, RED HAWKS 18

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a buzz saw on Tuesday evening when the Fruita-Monument Wildcats roared into the Fieldhouse and handed the Red Hawks a solid 26-point defeat, 44-18.

The Wildcats outscored the Red Hawks 10-5 in the opening quarter and then held the Red Hawks scoreless in the second frame as the visitors led 17-5 at the halfway point. Things got no better in the second half as the Wildcats outscored the Red Hawks 27 to 13, which made the final score 44-18.

Junior London Schafer led the Red Hawks in scoring as she pumped home 6 points while junior teammate Mayce Oberg added 4 to the Red Hawks total. Junior Lilly Nelson led the rebound statistics with 8 rebounds which included 4 on the offensive glass. Oberg and Senior Brooke Williams had 4 and 5 caroms respectively. The Red Hawks had 4 assists in the contest and also grabbed 4 steals. The team turned the basketball 21 times.

## RED HAWKS GIRLS REBOUND MONTROSE RED HAWKS 44, GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 34

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls rebounded from the loss to the Fruita Monument Wildcats with a road victory on Friday over the Grand Junction Tigers by the score of 44-34 on the Tigers' home court.

Things started slowly for both teams as the offenses each managed 7 points in the initial quarter of play. The Red Hawks found their offensive rhythm in the second period as they outscored the Tigers 14-7 to lead 20-14 at the halfway point.

The Tigers found their scoring touch in the third stanza as they outscored the Red Hawks 14 to 8 to set up a climactic final quarter. The Red Hawks took control of the game by outscoring the Tigers 16 to 6 to notch their 16<sup>th</sup> victory against two losses. The Red Hawks also improved their league record to 4-1 with the victory.

A pair of juniors, Mayce Oberg and London Schafer led the Red Hawks in scoring. Oberg tallied 20 points and Schafer added 12 points while four other Red Hawks added points to the scoreboard. The Red Hawks had seven players in the rebounding statistics with junior Lilly Nelson leading the way with 5 caroms and junior Maliah Leiba and Oberg each contributing 4 rebounds to the team totals. The Red Hawks passed out 5 assists, had 6 steals and turned the basketball over only 13 times.

Next up for the Red Hawks will be a visit from the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School on Tuesday, Feb. 4. First tip is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Fieldhouse.

# RED HAWKS DROP STEMWINDER

## FRUITA MONUMENT WILDCATS 47, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 45 IN DOUBLE OVERTIME

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The homestanding Montrose Red Hawks gave an outstanding effort Tuesday evening at the Fieldhouse as the Fruita Monument Wildcats outlasted the home team in double overtime to hand the Red Hawks their first league blemish of the rapidly concluding high school basketball season. The Red Hawks have five league games remaining. The Red Hawks and the Wildcats each scored 4 points in the second stanza making the half time score 15-13 in favor of the Red Hawks.

The two teams traded jump shots in the third period with the Wildcats outscoring the Red Hawks 10-5 to take a 3-point lead, 23-20, with but a single period remaining. The Red Hawks offense clicked just enough to outscore the Wildcats 12-9 to make the score 32 to 32 at the end of regulation.

The overtime period was more of the same as both teams scratched and scrambled for points. At the end of the first overtime period both teams added 8 points to their total to make the score 40-40 heading to critical second overtime.

The four-minute second overtime was just as close as the first overtime as the teams traded baskets and suffocating defenses. The seconds ticked off the scoreboard clock and with about 20 seconds left to play the two teams fought for possession of the basketball. The Wildcats Jhett Wells scored the final basket as both teams possessed the basketball and gave up possession to the other team. The clock ran out on the Red Hawks as they battled to tie up the game, but to no avail as the Wildcats left town with a 47-45 double overtime victory.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by Senior Kaleb Ferguson with 15 points. He was aided on the offense by Senior Brody Cooling and Junior Lane Pressler with 8 points each. Junior C. J. Rocco and Sophomore Josh Hawks added 6 and 5 points respectively. In the rebounding column Pressler and Ferguson led the Red Hawks with 5 and 4 rebounds respectively. The Red Hawks passed out 10 assists, had 7 steals and only turned the basketball over 12 times.



*The Red Hawks eye the basketball and are ready to rebound. Photo by Cliff Dodge.*

# RED HAWKS BOYS DROP 2 POINTER

## GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 30, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 28

By Cliff Dodge

GRAND JUNCTION-The Red Hawks journeyed to Grand Junction on Friday evening and dropped their second two-point loss in a row to the Tigers by the score of 30-28. Neither team was able to find any kind of rhythm for their offenses. The defensive play contributed to the low scoring as both the Red Hawks and the Tigers took turns disrupting each other's offenses. The game was tight from beginning to end with neither team building a lead of any size.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by Senior Brekin Hutto who pumped in 15 points while Senior Kaleb Ferguson added 5 points to the Red Hawks' total. Junior C.J. Rocco added 6 points to the offensive effort. The Red Hawks had six players in the rebounding stats with Hutto and Ferguson grabbing 6 and 5 rebounds respectively. The Red Hawks had 7 assists, 7 steals and turned the basketball over 15 times.

Next up for the Red Hawks will be a visit from the Grand Junction Central Warriors on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the fieldhouse. First tip is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NOMINATION PETITIONS FOR DMEA BOARD SEATS OPEN MARCH 3 AND CLOSE APRIL 11

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-You have a voice in how your electric cooperative is run by voting for the individuals serving on DMEA’s Board of Directors. DMEA’s board members are elected at large, serve three-year staggered terms, and represent specific geographic districts within DMEA’s service area.

You will be asked to vote for three of your representatives each year before the Annual Meeting of Members. This year, South Region, District 3, and District 4 seats are up for election.

[View Service Area Map](#)[Board Candi-](#)

[dates](#)[Self Nomination](#)

This year, South Region, District 3, and District 4 positions are up for election. In addition to living within one of these three open districts, members must also be 21 years of age or older and meet the criteria outlined in Article 4 of [DMEA’s Bylaws found here](#).

If you’re interested in serving on DMEA’s Board of Directors, submit your information online at [dmea.com/self-nomination](https://dmea.com/self-nomination). Once your membership is confirmed, we’ll send you a nomination form and signature petition. Complete the form and collect at least 15 member sig-

natures.

Nomination petitions open March 3 and close on April 11, 2025 at 5:00pm MT. DMEA’s Board of Directors Election will open May 9, 2025. Online ballots will open and printed ballots will be mailed at this time. Members can choose to vote electronically, by mail, or at the Annual Meeting on June 12, 2025. The election will conclude with the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

The self-nomination period opens March 3, 2025.

**Mail:** Mailed ballots must be received by June 10, 2025.

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# DMEA BOARD APPROVES DONATION TO MRH FOR ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND

**From pg 1**

grassroots groups; four members of Electrify Montrose (Carole London Program Coordinator) and Citizens' Climate Lobby member Tony Hoag. Member Joseph McGill attended by Zoom.

**General Business** included Membership and Meter Report and Minutes from the December 2024 Regular Meeting.

**Informational Item:** Committee Chair Reports

**Finance, Audit & Rates** – Damon Lockhart, Chair

No report given.

**Engineering, Construction & Energy Services** – Enno Heuscher, Chair  
Heuscher said, "No meeting."

**Member Relations** – Kevin Williams, Chair

Williams said, "There are notes in your packet [about the meeting]. With Operation Round-Up [members round up their billing statement to the nearest dollar amount] there were a lot of questions about needs in the community and the opt-in process. There is an increase in accountability put on staff or the board to attend meetings. I will attend the March 10th meeting and talk to the trustees. There was a capital credit fund discussion. We had a lot of discussion on how to spend the money. The 2026 budget for capital credit funds for grassroots groups in the community and how board members interact with groups in the community. The annual meeting will be held in Delta County this year."

The annual meeting is scheduled for June 12 and will be held at the Hotchkiss K-8 Elementary School. The Member Relations committee also discussed community outreach, board members participation in SPARKS Sessions, and input in the upcoming member survey.

Referring to interaction with grassroots groups, Steve Metheny said, "It doesn't seem like that is necessary."

Williams laughed and said, "Maybe you can convince me of that."

**Executive** – Stacia Cannon, Chair

Cannon said, "The Executive Committee did not meet."

**Informational Item** - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston's report included annual in-



*During the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) January 28, 2025, meeting, Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston (left) congratulates Board Director Damon Lockhart on earning the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Certificate of Achievement for completion of the Director Gold Program. Director Lockhart, who represents DMEA District 6 (Delta area), is the only currently serving board member to receive the Gold Program award. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

spectations, training in CPR, three Major Event Days (transmission outages) in 2024, and Charge Point. Johnston said, "Operation projects include lighting participation, vegetation management, and new equipment. We had Warm & Cozy Days at both Montrose and Read."

Williams asked about board members being included and notified of when there are Warm and Cozy Days events. Indicating staff can notify board members, Johnston said, "This has been staff [initiative event]. It's our way of bringing donuts [to the community]."

Johnston continued with his report, "The second SPARKS Session in Delta was well attended; there were 75 people. Operation Round-Up is trending downward. In 2020 we had \$66,000 and in 2024 we had \$50,000 for the year. There are HR handbook revisions and we're positive on operations revenue."

The board discussion included surveys from other organizations and how they

compare and contrast to DMEA. Post-COVID conferences and events are returning to in-person and less online events and training are offered. DMEA will send one crew for Light Up the Navajo, which will be held May-19-23. One board member, to be determined, will be invited to participate.

**Informational Item** Director Reports.

**Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) Report** – Jock Fleming.  
Fleming said, "We did meet. Another very successful month. Some of the larger sales we've had in a month." Discussion included building a warehouse on the Western Slope. Fleming said, "There are still some expansion opportunities in other areas [Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nebraska]. There is still room to grow. Their goal is to have a one-day drive. They are not ruling out doing it [Western Slope], they haven't said no yet."

**Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report** – Damon Lockhart.

# DMEA BOARD APPROVES DONATION TO MRH FOR ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND

From previous pg

Lockhart said, “We met twice, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and January 6<sup>th</sup>. I sent you the minutes. We’re looking at policies, legislative type options. Wildfire insurability for co-ops. Lots of budget woes over things. [Waiting to see] what [Governor] Polis and the Energy Office want to put together. Different administrative [actions] and the impact they might have. They decided not to run a wildfire mitigation bill right now. Financially, things are okay. They are looking for relocation of the CREA building.”

## Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Williams submitted a written report pertaining to his attendance at the NRECA conference. He said, “There were 300 directors in attendance. I attended five classes. It was very heavy on lecture.”

CEO Johnston presented an NRECA Certificate of Achievement for Completion of the Director Gold Program to Director Lockhart. The certificate requires recipients to attend a pyramid of training and complete 18 classes. Johnston said, “Damon is the first one on this board to attain Gold Member status.”

## Other Items a. Resolution Regarding Adoption of Revised 401k Plan

Johnston said, “The 2025 budget increases 401K employer contribution from eight percent to 10 percent. This is for the old RS Deferred Benefit Plan, to fix the discrepancy. It’s really a formality. It’s an added benefit to the employee.” Approved unanimously.

## Future Meetings:

February 18 Special Meeting, CEO evaluation.

February 25<sup>th</sup>, Regular monthly meeting, 3 p.m.

## Member Comments:

Carole London, Electrify Montrose Program Coordinator, spoke for her group. She said, “We are encouraging all residents in Montrose to go all electric. We’d like electrical panels [brought] up to grade and to ask you to consider offering the wonderful rebates and incentives that you

had when you were with Tri State.”

Director Jacob Gray said, “Any specific programs from Tri State?”

London said, “Heat pumps, energy efficient appliances. [We want to] eliminate gas. There is a health benefit. We want energy audits. We want to get away from gas for health benefits. We are looking to launch our program in April.”

Citizens’ Climate Lobby member Tony Hoag wants Montrose to go solar. He said, “Garnet Mesa, what can DMEA claim as renewable? With our local generation we want to be 100 percent renewable. We’re at 47 percent. We need to combat [climate change], our climate is getting hotter.” Hoag distributed a handout and then engaged the board in a brief discussion and encouraged them to commit to lower emissions.

## Montrose Regional Health Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request

Montrose Regional Health representatives, therapist Justin (no last name given) and grant writer Robyn Funk gave a PowerPoint presentation for their proposed project to put all-ability playground equipment at the Ambulatory Care Center at River Landing. For this second presentation before the board, Justin and Robyn returned with more clarity and a finalized concept design. Justin said, “The total cost of the project is \$337,015. We have some grants and donations [\$134,000] and the hospital will cover whatever we don’t get.” The donation request for the project, which is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2025, is for \$10,000.

## Executive Session:

-Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters

-Montrose Regional Health Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request

-Strategy Updates

-CFO Capstone Presentation

-Confidential Board Governance Matters

**Executive Session Summary** –Amy Taylor, Chief of Staff.

In an email Taylor summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session:

“At 5:19 p.m., upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously entered Executive Session to receive a confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory update, to review an unclaimed capital credit fund donation request from Montrose Regional Health, to review strategy updates, to review CFO Farmer’s capstone course presentation, and to address confidential Board governance matters. CEO Johnston recused himself from the portion of Executive Session when the Montrose Regional Health donation request was discussed as he currently serves on the Montrose Regional Health Board of Directors. At 8:24 p.m., upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Williams, the Board unanimously exited Executive Session.

Upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Metheny, the Board unanimously approved the Montrose Regional Health unclaimed capital credit fund donation request in the amount of \$10,000 for an all-abilities playground project.”

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086  
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# MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE, INC

P.O. Box 717

Montrose, CO 81402

## 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.

Sincerely,

Montrose County Sheriff's Posse

*'Celebrating 60 years of serving our community'*

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH CAREGIVERS JOIN EXPERT TEAM FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health caregivers recently joined a medical team traveling to Central America, donating their time and knowledge to care for the people of Honduras. Various nurses from Montrose Regional Health attended the mission trip, assisting expert surgeons including Dr. Tim Judkins and Dr. Vineet Singh of Western Slope Orthopaedics and Dr. Sarah

Judkins of Colorado West General Surgery.

The group came together to perform various operations for the people of Honduras, including total knee

replacements, repairing previous trauma fractures, and laparoscopic cholecystectomies (also known as a minimally invasive gallbladder removal). This trip was made possible by a collaboration with One World Surgery, an organization dedicated to providing world-class medical care to underserved communities. The organization has been responsible for completing 12,560 surgeries since 2009.

"The experience was life changing not only for the patients but for our group as well," said Sherry Meaker, RN at Montrose Regional Health. "Our families were able to travel with us, donating their time to cooking and feeding the surgical staff, weeding the crops, and assisting wherever they could. It was very rewarding to see smiles on the patients' faces when their surgery was completed. The people of Honduras are resilient, and it was our honor to be part of their surgery and to work alongside the Honduran doctors and staff as well."

Montrose Regional Health is proud to be involved in international projects and to collaborate with organizations such as One World Surgery, providing award-winning care beyond our borders.



**MRH caregivers pictured with members of the care team from One World Surgery. MRH caregivers from left to right: Elie Malloy, CRNA; Veronica VanArsdale, RN; and Sherry Meaker, RN. Courtesy photo.**



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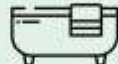
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# THE ROAD (S) TO PARADOX *From pg 1*

have welcomed a road to travel, but there were none.

Rudimentary roads began to be carved out by necessity, but over half a century passed before serious discussions of a formal road started to surface. In an opinion piece in the October 20, 1908 edition of the *Montrose Enterprise*, headlined *Montrose County Should have Access to Montrose*, They described how J. Q. Waggoner traveled over from his ranch in the Paradox Valley, over the Plateau, in order to obtain supplies in Montrose. An excerpt from that article reads: *...he bought only that much, which is about half of what he wanted. This brings to the fore again the road to the west end of the county. There is a large community there and it is constantly growing. Montrose is their natural trading point, but the difficulties of hauling keep many of them away. Some way should be devised to remedy this condition.*

As interest piqued in the availability of many resources in the Paradox, interest in gaining good access also began to come forward, and Montrose was not the only town that coveted the trade with those in the Paradox Valley. Rough wagon roads started to emerge to make access easier to Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction. As the automobile began to make its way into the areas, the discussion amped up.

A good example is the article in the November 23, 1911 edition of the *Daily Sentinel* in Grand Junction:

*Interest in Road to Paradox Grows Increased interest is being shown in the proposed meeting to discuss the auto highway from this city to Paradox and later on to Bluff City oil fields. The meeting will be held Friday evening at the La Court hotel to discuss the matter and every public-spirited citizen in the city will do 'well to attend. Representatives will be present from a Denver auto stage line and several Paradox citizens will be present to discuss the route, etc.*

Paradox was becoming known for its production of copper and other minerals, much of which was being shipped using mules and going into Placerville. Grand

Junction wanted to change that and have the ore shipped by large wagons over an improved road to Grand Junction. People in Paradox were promoting the road and sent a notice to the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce and Mesa County Commissioners. In part it said, "... there is a natural road into Grand Junction for a distance of seventy-five miles. The cost of such a road, which will include a ferry across the Dolores River at Gateway, will be between \$6,000 and \$7,000." Their missive was quoted in the *Rocky Mountain News* and several other newspapers.

By 1912, the Montrose businessmen had seen the probability that many of the goods and services exchanged in the west end of the county could be headed for other counties. The *Montrose Daily Press*, on January 23, 1912 printed an article that showed some ambitious goals. In part the article read:

*The question of the construction of a road to Paradox, going over the Horsefly divide and tapping all the rich agricultural territory on the Horsefly, Iron Springs mesa, Piñon, Tabeguache park, Naturita, Nucla and the Paradox. It is really the only feasible route and can be kept open all winter.*

One plan was to use state prisoner labor, a practice that was commonly used at the time. That plan also called for contributions from the farmers and some estimated those contributions to be as much as \$10,000. All involved expressed a need for a well-maintained wagon road from Montrose to the rich territory in the West End.

Grand Junction was not giving up. In July of 1912 a booster dinner was held and the president of the state highway commission was lobbied by B. W. Marsh and J. A. Becker. They did their best to convince President Allen that they had the best plan for a road to Paradox. The *Montrose Daily Press* was quick to point out that, as a result of the meeting a sum of exactly zero dollars was raised for the road. The next month B. W. Marsh went to Paradox. He noted the good quality of crops and the apparent abundance of water. The *Grand Junction Sentinel* reported that

Marsh talked to several residents of Paradox and that he was told that they needed good roads and they did not really care who built them, as long as they were built.

Efforts continued, and some roads were worked on, but Delta had yet to chime in on the issues. On January 9, 1914 an opinion piece appeared in the *Delta County Independent*. The article read:

*The New Road to Paradox Valley There is, or should be, much more good sense in building, or rather completing the road to Paradox Valley from Delta than in overreaching ourselves in an effort to build automobile roads. Both are no doubt beneficial — good roads everywhere are a valuable asset. But the practical benefits to be derived are first to be considered. [f, as is well proven, Delta is the nearest and most practical outlet for the radium mines, agricultural and stock sections of the Paradox country, then the value of a good wagon road does not even need argument and there should be as little delay as possible in building that road.*

Road building did progress during the next two years, but the progress was slow. There was a lot of in-fighting and, on July 31, 1916, *The Montrose Enterprise* published a 900- word diatribe entitled, POLITICS VS. ROAD BUILDING. The very opinionated piece called out the Montrose politicians and the *Montrose Daily Press* for effectively delaying many of the road building efforts due to political disagreement.

All three counties were still focused on getting a road to Paradox. Delta became very vocal and, on January 26, 1917, the *Delta County Independent* printed an opinion piece that compared the expense of maintaining a baseball team to that of finishing the road saying, "...Delta people, last year in all ways, spent \$15,000 on baseball. And again, it is estimated that \$15,000 would string the embryo Delta-Nucla road across the Tabeguache Divide."

The United State's entrance into World War likely slowed some of the road progress, but all three counties continued to

# THE ROAD (S) TO PARADOX FROM PREVIOUS PG

to make some progress. When large amounts of radium and carnotite began being uncovered near Paradox, things started picking up again. By the mid 1920s, the Colorado mining interests encouraged the road building. On July 18, 1920, the *Rocky Mountain News*, in its mining column reported:

**Field for Prospecting Large** The district which contains this carnotite field lies in Montrose and San Miguel counties, Colorado, and in Grand and San Juan counties, Utah. Entrance to the Colorado area is from Placerville, by easy wagon road to Paradox, a distance of about fifty miles. To the Utah area the entrance is via Thompson and Moab.

One year later, the vast amounts of radi-

um, uranium and vanadium helped the primary roads along. The Delta-Nucla Road and roads over the Uncompahgre Plateau proved to be almost impossible to maintain in the winter. The Mesa County road through Gateway and the road from

Placerville, which linked Montrose, became the preferred routes, and remain so to this day.

**Note:** You can now tune in to Bob's "Cox of the Walk" podcast on iHeart every Friday.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## ON TRUMP'S 1ST DAY BACK HE ANSWERED REPORTERS' QUESTIONS FOR 45 MINUTES

*Editor:*

I've written a lot of letters in the last four years in an attempt to speak some truth about what I consider a totally corrupt, divisive, and destructive Biden administration. I do this in a large part because our illustrious media, including and especially our local Montrose Press and GJ Sentinel, have evolved into lapdogs for the Democrat party rather than the unbiased watchdog "fourth estate" envisioned by our founding fathers. This is the press that eagerly act like sheep around Democrat politicians and like rabid dogs toward Republicans. Biden's handlers severely limited his access. He held the fewest number of press conferences of any modern president, and would only answer questions from pre-selected reporters. He often wouldn't even stick around for questions. He had to have a cheat sheet with him at all times to try to answer questions, and even then his handlers would have to rush out to clarify what the president "meant to say." That was perfectly acceptable to the press because they are no longer journalists.

Nobody cares about Biden or Harris anymore, and I will have a lot more fun writing letters now that we have a president who backs up his promises after an election. I don't expect the media to suddenly change and remember they are journalists, or to admit that they long ago lost all credibility with the public. On Trump's first day in the White House he answered reporters' questions for 45 minutes. On his second day he held an impromptu press conference, taking questions for a half hour. Those questions were not softball questions from carefully selected outlets. He followed that up with a lengthy in-depth interview. Trump is up to the task. He was more available to the press in his first week than Biden was in a year. He is willing to mix it up with a hostile press, where Biden and Kamala had difficulty answering the simplest of questions from a press doing everything possible to make them appear competent.

No president has come to the Oval Office better prepared to get things done to restore U.S. sovereignty, revitalize the economy, and secure the nation's interests at home and abroad. The actions he took the first week are evidence of his commitment to do the job he was elected to do. Much of the activity in the first hours was centered on Trump's priority to close the border and deport criminal migrants --- concentrating on the "worst first." In one twenty-four hour period, ICE

arrested over 300 serious criminals including murderers, rapists, gang members, suspected ISIS terrorists, and others convicted of sex crimes against children. Multiple deportation flights in military aircraft followed.

Drug cartels control most of the illegal border crossings and Mexico does nothing to control them --- the cartels control the politicians. One of the significant things Trump did to stop the invasion was to designate the criminal cartels and certain gangs as Foreign Terrorists Organizations. Like clockwork, the U.S. media immediately started carrying water for the murderous cartels by reporting that going after the cartels would somehow create "instability." So, going after cartels that make billions flooding our country with unvetted illegals and deadly fentanyl is a bad thing? These are the same experts who pretended that no-bail laws and letting career criminals out with soft-on-crime DA's will make our streets safer --- the same ones that thought the way to make the world safer was to appease Iran and send them billions of dollars.

Space limitations will only allow me to mention a few of Trump's other actions. Most interesting was his address to the World Economic Forum only four days after he was sworn in.

The WEF is made up of self-appointed (unelected) and extremely wealthy international oligarchs and politicians. Their policy holds that freedom of migration is essential for global development --- in other words, no national borders. They maintain that a global financial system is necessary to avoid a worldwide financial collapse. The WEF favors green energy, the Paris climate accord, and EV's; and they believe DEI works. Trump told the globalists that he froze foreign aid, is ending climate change policies/The Green New Deal, has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accord, ended the EV mandate, is rushing to produce more fossil fuels, and that DEI is "absolute nonsense." Trump advised them to "Come make your products in America and we will give you among the lowest tax rates of any nation on earth. But if you don't make your products in America, you'll have to pay a tariff."

The WEF knows its socialist policies don't work, that countries that implement their policies have their borders invaded with immigrants who don't assimilate, that their economies stagnate, and that their citizens have less freedom, prosperity, and security. (Prime example: Western Europe.) Perhaps

the WEF's goal is one-world government.

Also encouraging were Trump's actions to undo the injustices meted out by Biden's Department of (In)Justice the last four years. He made every pro-lifers' vote for him worth it by pardoning 23 people the Biden administration targeted for their peaceful opposition to abortion. Trump effectively nullified Biden's weaponization of the DOJ against mostly Christian activists who spent time peacefully praying outside abortion clinics. Also, Trump's DOJ just dismissed the Biden-era whistleblower case against the doctor who exposed the child "sex-change" program at Texas Children's Hospital after the hospital lied to the public about terminating the program. The small-town surgeon faced a decade in federal prison after being indicted for violating HIPAA rules on patient records --- in spite of the fact any records the surgeon revealed had names completely redacted and no personally identifiable patient health information was disclosed. Before the charges were dropped, the surgeon had spent his family's entire retirement, investments, savings, and disposable income fighting what was obviously a malicious prosecution to silence medical professionals disagreeing with woke agendas.

In a major step to counter years of federal government abuse, Trump pardoned more than 1500 Americans who were present during the January 6th protests. The one thing all the J6ers have in common, including the allegedly violent ones, is that they had no chance of securing justice in Joe Biden's DC. The DOJ and FBI devoted an unprecedented amount of resources tracking down anyone and everyone with any connection to the events, even grandmas who were let into the Capitol by police.

Compare that to the treatment received by Antifa and BLM rioters who actually assaulted police and burned down portions of cities --- who, if they were arrested at all, were never prosecuted, much less convicted. Or compare that to Biden on his way out the door signing a series of pardons at the ACLU's request for "non-violent drug offenders" --- which included a drug lord who murdered an eight-year-old boy and his mother to keep them from testifying against him.

Just a quick chuckle: Mere days after Biden shuffled out of the White House for the last time, Democrats have suddenly discovered that eggs are expensive, and guess who they blame? Hint: not Biden.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO PROTECT CITIZENS

Editor:

Colorado SB 25-003 is democrats latest attempt to circumvent the second amendment. It is a direct violation of the second amendment to the constitution, so why are they doing this? In my opinion it's because they know the democrats in government are not willing to protect the citizens from the millions of criminals that they themselves have released in to the U S. Open borders and soft on crime policies and the hardened criminals that have taken advantage of these policies has added to our crime rates. So rather than address the root cause of our growing crime rate the democrats would rather blame an inanimate object, rather than admit their

policies are to blame. And they do not care that denying law abiding citizens the ability and tools to defend themselves against these hardened criminals puts law abiding citizens at a serious disadvantage. In many of these mass shootings the perp had previous contact with law enforcement and mental health professionals but none of that was a big enough red flag to prevent the carnage. Many of the mass shootings take place in government run public schools. And obviously the government does not want to admit that they cannot protect our children who were entrusted with their care. So, they lie to the parents and say that if we just pass another unconstitutional unenforceable

gun law all these mass shootings will stop. No law will ever stop evil. Evil criminals who plan on committing mass murder do not care about any of our laws. Let alone another gun control law. Self-contained metallic cartridges that make modern firearms possible is 150-year-old technology.

With computer technology and 3D printing making your own firearms and ammunition is an uncomplicated process. With that in mind gun control is now obsolete. It is time to start thinking about crime control. Multiple counties here in Colorado have already designated themselves as second amendment sanctuary countries. And will not cooperate with any agency that tries to enforce unconstitutional gun laws.

Then we have the California wildfires. The elected officials in California would rather blame climate change as the reason for the wildfires rather than mismanagement of public assets and tax dollars. Millions of dollars were allocated for dry vegetation mitigation in these areas, but that money was diverted for other uses. And no efforts were made to increase water storage to fight these fires. Then you add DEI hires to key positions that oversaw these assets, and you have a recipe for a major disaster of epic proportions.

And now we have an airline disaster that quite possibly was the result of incompetence at the department of transportation and their DEI hiring policies.

Multiple near misses did not sound any alarms to DEI hire Pete Buttigieg.

Having military helicopters do training flights at the busiest airport in the U S did not sound any alarms. So once again multiple failures of government management set in motion this disaster and sixty-seven people died as a result. I wonder what they will blame this on, other than incompetence in government.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THANKS, TRUMP, FOR SHOWING MIDDLE- AND LOW-INCOME AMERICAN'S THE RIGHT PATH

*Editor:*

On day one, Trump repealed Biden's Executive Order which instructed his Administration to protect and strengthen Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act and make high-quality health care accessible and affordable to all. Trump also repealed Biden's Executive Order 14070 that set out actions to be taken pursuant to Executive Order 14009 such as expanding affordable, comprehensive, and quality health care.

These actions are a signal that Trump intends to undermine the objectives of the Medicaid Act and ACA. And, during the middle of January 2025, House and Senate Majority leadership, Congresspersons, and staff have already begun discussing ways to reduce federal spending needed to cover the cost of deporting undocumented immigrants and extending tax breaks for wealthy individuals. These include cutting assistance to low- and middle-class taxpayers, with over \$2 trillion of reductions included among the proposals (Musk's goal for the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE.) Per Politico reporting, House Republicans are considering \$2.3 trillion in Medicaid cuts from policy changes. Medicaid: What to Watch in 2025, Robin Rudowitz, Alice Burns, Elizabeth Hinton, and Jennifer Tolbert, January 23, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-what-to-watch-in-2025/>.

Medicaid is jointly financed by the federal government and states and administered by states within broad federal guidelines. It provides comprehensive coverage of health care and long-term services and provides support to nonelderly adults with incomes up to 138% FPL (\$20,120 annually in 2023.) In 2023, Medicaid served. Although states receive at least a 50% federal match, some with a lower per capita income receive more. Medicaid spending in 2021 totaled 728 billion of which 69% was federal spending. Medicaid is a large share of most states' spending and is the largest source of federal revenues to states. In 2021, 19% of Colorado's population was covered by Medicaid.

Per a 2021 American Community Survey, among the non-elderly covered by Medicaid, 39% were children under 19 (81% of

those were living in households with income below 100% FPL) – 43% of nonelderly people had disabilities. It also provides Medicare beneficiaries with help in paying premiums, cost sharing and services not covered by Medicare. Most adult Medicaid enrollees work.

Although one in five people eligible for Medicaid are 65+ or have a disability, they account for more than half of Medicaid spending due to their high health care needs and use of long-term services and support. 10 Things to Know About Medicaid, Robin Rudowitz, Alice Burns, Elizabeth Hinton, and Maiss Mohamed, June 30, 2023, Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF,) <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid/> The above is further confirmed by looking at the Congressional Budget Office Base-line Projections, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-06/51301-2024-06-medicaid.pdf>.

### Facts About Medicaid

-Medicaid pays for about 70% of nursing home care in the US. Medicaid's Role in Nursing Home Care, by State, <https://www.kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-nursing-home-care/>

-The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) is a federal law that applies to hospitals that participate in Medicare (most hospitals in the US). No hospital can turn away a patient who presents to the emergency room with an emergency medical condition. So, hospitals must absorb the cost of providing care to the uninsured.

-Undocumented immigrants are **NOT** eligible for federally-funded Medicaid coverage. However, if they require emergency care, Emergency Medicaid kicks in and reimburses hospitals for the care given. Between 2017 and 2023, a Congressional Budget Office report showed a total of \$27 billion in federal and state spending on Emergency Medicaid was for noncitizen immigrants – 0.4% of Emergency Medicaid spending while US citizens received \$860 billion in 2023 or 99.6% of spending.

-Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/>, reported that undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7

billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2022 – \$59.4 billion of that to the federal government. They paid \$25.7 billion in Social Security taxes, \$6.4 billion in Medicare taxes, and \$1.8 billion in unemployment insurance. They are ineligible to receive any benefits from those payments.

-“**Medicaid plays a critical role in providing health coverage to children and families in small towns and rural areas** where people are more likely to be uninsured and face challenges in accessing needed health care.” Mesa County Medicaid/CHIP coverage rate is 44%, Delta County is 48%, and Montrose County is 45%. Medicaid Coverage in Metro and Small Town/Rural Counties 2020-2021, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2023/08/17/medicaids-coverage-role-in-small-towns-and-rural-areas/>

-Over 700 rural hospitals – one third of all rural hospitals in the US – are at risk of closing in the near future. Rural hospitals' direct costs account for 60% of its expenses (Emergency Department, inpatient services, laboratory, radiology, drugs and medical supplies, and the Rural Health Clinic) and 20% is its overhead costs (capital, maintenance, dietary, house-keeping, nursing management, and administration.) The Crisis in Rural Health Care, <https://ruralhospitals.chqpr.org/>.

-The Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform's (CHQPR) CEO Harold Miller noted that private health plans **pay well below the cost of the services delivered at rural hospitals** and is one of the biggest drivers of rural hospital losses.

“For many small rural hospitals, the leading cause of negative margins is insufficient payments from private insurance plans and Medicare Advantage plans.” The AMA issue brief also noted that strategies to improve rural health and hospital viability include states **expanding Medicaid eligibility and supporting Medicaid payments to medical providers to at least 100% of Medicare payment rates**. Issue Brief: Payment & Delivery in Rural Hospitals, American Medical Association, <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/issue-brief-rural-hospital.pdf>. Rural hospitals rely heavily on Medicare and Medicaid.

## SHOWING MIDDLE- AND LOW-INCOME AMERICAN'S THE RIGHT PATH From previous pg

**So that's great news Trump! Thanks for Making America Great Again for the Rich.** If longevity is in your family history, look out. You may be spending your last days in one of your children's rooms with little or no help as they are forced to work beyond 70 years old to pay for declining Social Security funds – that is if they can afford a house with an extra room. And they will struggle to pay for their own expenses and yours.

I am so glad that the "Right to Life" supporters don't want Medicaid taken away from all those children living in poverty. Oh wait, the actions of this Republican president and Congress will also strip coverage from children covered by Medicaid as well. But at least America's Right to Life philosophy protects children until they are born – right? After that, they are

on their own. That seems fair.

As medical emergencies happen in rural America, we are rushed to a local hospital to help us. Oh wait! Rural hospitals have closed as they cannot absorb the cost of providing services to the uninsured and no longer receive needed Medicare and Medicaid federal dollars to keep their doors open.

The reality is policies now pushed by the rich are targeted at increasing your costs while reducing theirs.

The top 10% of Americans already hold 67% of the nation's wealth per the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/z1/dataviz/dfa/distribute/table/> The rich are getting richer and we are getting poorer.

Can you imagine Trump living in a room

in his children's home. Nope. He doesn't care about us. Why should he? He will live in a gold palace for the rest of his life and hire beautiful nurses to change his diapers.

Hope you now better understand that significantly cutting Medicaid has a far greater impact on the aging population in America, the disabled, and the poor than it has on the limited number of undocumented immigrants seeking emergency care.

Welcome to a country that cares more about putting money in the pockets of the wealthiest people in the United States rather than saving the lives of the majority of Americans, including those living in rural America, who struggle to make ends meet.

*Sue Schmidt, Montrose*

## INFORMATION REGARDING SHELTER FOR THE UNHOUSED

### Editor:

At a City council work session on January 21, the question was raised about housing for the unhoused during the cold winter months, following the passing recently of the Ordinance which criminalizes sleeping in public places. The City Manager was quoted as saying that the City leases property for the Lighthouse six months out of the year for this population and that it has not been fully utilized. He also stated that the City provides other options, of which I am unaware. As a volunteer for Shepherd's Hand, specifically in providing services to the pets of the unhoused, I did some research on this by contacting one of the board members of the Lighthouse and also the chairman of the committee on Solutions for the Unhoused, which meets at Shepherd's Hand. I was told that during this recent brutal cold spell this population was being turned away from the Lighthouse as it was operating at capacity.

Some insight about accommodations is needed. There will always be a small segment of the unhoused population that refuse offer of shelter of any kind. The majority are clearly wanting some kind of home, be it a temporary shelter or permanent supportive housing. The various options are topic for another day. Regarding the Lighthouse, one of the groups that are denied admission are the people with dogs. The tie between dogs and owners is powerful; aside from the emotional benefits to both, they literally save each other's lives as they sleep in the sleeping bags together and provide warmth. They are not allowed in the Lighthouse. However there is room on the leased property for a supervised encampment for this population. The benefits are several: this would be a relatively safe environment for man and beast; the owners could get their meals and showers at the Lighthouse while the dogs are kept safe on the property. I would like to suggest that a task force be put together involving the City and interested parties to make this happen. If you are interested I suggest you contact a City Council member or City Manager at 970-901-8580.

Collaboration is an amazing thing.

*Respectfully,*

*Jan Chastain. Montrose*



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Thank you for trusting me with your real estate journey. This next chapter is all about growth, innovation, and delivering even greater results for you.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or if you're ready to take the next step toward your goals.

Warm regards,

*Leslie Gore*



**Leslie Gore**  
GRI, ABR, CRS, SRES, SFR  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO BE PLACED IN HOTCHKISS

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA COUNTY—After decades of effort and determination to launch this long-awaited infrastructure project, Delta County is thrilled to announce the setting of a new pedestrian bridge in Hotchkiss on Monday, February 3, 2025.

This milestone marks a significant step in realizing a dream that has been part of the community’s vision for nearly 40 years.

The North Fork Miners Trail project, of which this pedestrian bridge is a critical component, will provide a safer, more direct route between Downtown Hotchkiss/Fairgrounds, the North Fork High School, Nature Connection, and the Pool and Recreation District.

Crossing the river and constructing the necessary abutments required extensive work and significant funding, reflecting the community’s commitment to improv-

ing connectivity for all residents. The bridge will also feature custom ironwork designed and crafted by local ironsmith Ira Houseweart.

“This bridge is more than a structure; it’s the realization of a community dream that has spanned generations,” said Delta County Commissioner Wendell Koontz. “We are excited to see this key piece of the Miners Trail come to life, and we look forward to the benefits it will bring to Delta County for years to come.”

### A Community Milestone

While the public is welcome to visit the Maloney House at the Delta County Fairgrounds from 9 AM to 1 PM on February 3rd to observe this significant moment and enjoy light refreshments, the bridge will remain closed until the Miners Trail is officially ready for use. Delta County will share updates on the trail’s progress, including its opening date, in the coming



*The North Fork Miner Trail project stakeholders are standing on the site where the new pedestrian bridge will be placed. Courtesy photo Delta County.*

months. “This achievement speaks to the determination and support of our entire community,” added Commissioner Koontz. “Thanks to so many dedicated individuals and partner organizations, a decades-old vision is becoming a reality.”

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## WHERE ARE THE DEMOCRATS?

***'There can be no bipartisanship with people like this'***

*Editor:*

President Donald Trump is rapidly degrading the United States of America into a fascist hellscape. The nominal opposition leaders are nowhere to be found.

As a socialist, I've never been overly fond of the Democratic Party, but I'm shocked by how little fight its most prominent members have in them at this crucial historical juncture.

On January 20, Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer posted the following boilerplate nonsense on social media: "It is time to look to the future. The challenges that face America are many and great. The Senate must respond with resolve, bipartisanship, and fidelity to the working and middle class of this country."

Bipartisanship! Is Schumer out of his mind?

That very same day, Republican oligarch Elon Musk repeatedly gave a Nazi salute at a Trump inauguration rally. I'd be more open to the idea this was some kind of awkward faux pas if the richest man on Earth wasn't simultaneously supporting fascist parties throughout the world.

There can be no bipartisanship with people like this. There can be no bipartisanship with people looking to dismantle

what remains of the New Deal or Civil Rights legislation. There can be no bipartisanship with people seeking to force women out of public life and gay people back into the closet. Schumer should resign.

I assumed personal ambition would motivate some Democrats to distinguish themselves in their opposition to fascism, if only to make a name for themselves in advance of the 2028 presidential primary. With a few exceptions, however, that hasn't been the case. Appeasement seems to be the preferred strategy throughout the party.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is one such exception. It should come as little surprise then that Democrats voted for a 74-year-old cancer patient, Representative Gerry Connolly, to serve as the party's top member on the House Oversight Committee, instead of the 35-year-old rising star with a national profile.

The existing Democratic organization needs to be replaced root and branch.

I'd like it to move significantly leftward. I'd like it to champion the development of cellular agriculture, which I view as the most promising means of advancing animal welfare. But, at the very least, the

party needs to be one interested in confronting fascism.

The truth is there can be no progress on any of our political priorities under a right-wing authoritarian state.

Democratic officials who aren't willing to fight the Republican administration, like the country depends on their winning, because it does, should step aside for leaders who will.

We need wartime consiglieres.

God willing, there will be a free-and-fair presidential election in 2028. How prospective Democratic candidates behave now — in this moment of peril — will be front of mind for me as a primary voter. I'd rather eat my shoe than vote for a mealy-mouthed Democrat who was silent in the face of Trumpian terror or made peace with it.

I'm sick of feeling helpless. Part of this is unavoidable in the current circumstances. Republicans control the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. But a significant part comes from being left adrift by Democratic leaders, who won't use what little power voters have given them, for fear of violating long-forgotten norms.

*Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT.*

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## OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

# THE DOLORES RIVER IS ALREADY PROTECTED: MORE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

Guest Column By Sean M Pond

**MONTROSE COUNTY**—The recent push to designate the lower Dolores River as a national monument or a national conservation area (NCA) is not about protecting the land—it's about control. The truth is, this land is already protected through a combination of federal, state, and local regulations.

More layers of bureaucracy won't help the river or the people who depend on it. Instead, they will limit access, threaten local industries, and create unnecessary government overreach.

### **The Dolores River Is Not "Vulnerable"—It's Managed and Protected**

Contrary to the claims made by the Protect the Dolores Coalition, the Dolores River watershed is not "exposed" or at risk. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service already manage this land with strict environmental protections in place. The area includes designated wilderness study areas, special recreation management areas, and existing conservation easements. Adding another federal designation will not "protect" the land—it will create red tape, restrict responsible use, and potentially lead to future land grabs.

### **A National Monument or NCA Would Limit Access and Use**

The coalition claims their proposal won't close roads, stop mining, or harm grazing

rights. But history tells us otherwise.

Across the West, national monument designations have led to restrictions on motorized access, trail closures, and severe limitations on activities like hunting, fishing, and ranching.

For example:

When Bears Ears National Monument was designated in Utah, road closures followed, and traditional land uses became heavily regulated.

When Grand Staircase-Escalante was designated, local ranchers saw grazing allotments reduced, and mining jobs disappeared.

These so-called "protections" tend to push out the very people who have historically cared for and depended on the land.

### **Who Really Gets a Say? Not the Locals**

The coalition claims that locals will have a voice in shaping future management plans. But the reality is that once a national monument is created, management decisions are largely dictated by Washington, D.C., not local communities. Federal agencies, often swayed by special interests, will have the final say on land use, not the ranchers, miners, or recreational users who have been stewards of this land for generations.

Furthermore, local county commissioners and residents overwhelmingly opposed the national monument proposal when it was first floated. That's why the coalition

is now pivoting to an NCA—because they know a monument is a political non-starter. But make no mistake, an NCA is just another step toward locking up land under federal control.

### **"Compromise" Means Giving Up Rights—And We've Seen This Before**

The coalition urges compromise, but what they're really asking for is surrender. They expect land users to trust that a new federal designation will protect access, yet every precedent shows that once these designations are made, restrictions follow. They dismiss concerns as "misinformation" or "fear-mongering," but the fears are well-founded and based on past experiences across the West.

### **The Real Solution: Keep Public Lands Public**

Instead of adding unnecessary restrictions through a national monument or NCA, we should focus on enforcing the protections already in place. The Dolores River is not in danger. It is already well-managed, and additional federal oversight would only add bureaucracy and remove local control.

If we truly want to preserve access for future generations, we must stand against any attempt to designate more of our land as off-limits to the people who rely on it. We don't need more federal oversight—we need to protect our rights to access, use, and enjoy our public lands.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## SENATOR CATLIN SUPPORTS SIGNED TRADE MISSION AGREEMENT WITH COLORADO AND UNITED KINGDOM

*Special to the Mirror*

COLORADO – January 27, 2025 – The state of Colorado and the United Kingdom sign historic agreement to foster trade and investment. Colorado Governor Jared Polis and British Consul General Richard Hyde signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This partnership will work to expand trade and investment between the two regions in agriculture, tourism, energy, space technologies, and several other areas. Following the signing, the state and the U.K. will form a steering committee to implement the blossoming partnership.

Senator Catlin, then a member of the House, visited the United Kingdom in late 2023. The trade mission was successful in developing and deepening Colorado and the United Kingdom’s relationship. The 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District, the Western Slope, and the state of Colorado, as a whole, will benefit from this developing relationship with the United Kingdom.

Senator Marc Catlin says, “I am excited to see this relationship develop. The benefit of trade to the 5<sup>th</sup> District and other rural communities adds to our foundation of jobs and tourism on the Western Slope. I am honored to be a part of the agreement and look forward to innovation and economic development that comes from this partnership.”

Colorado State Senator Marc Catlin represents the seven counties of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, and Pitkin. Senator Catlin is a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources; Transportation & Energy; and Business, Labor, & Technology Committees. Senator Catlin also serves as Board Member on the Colorado Tourism Board.



*British Consul General Richard Hyde and Senator Marc Catlin. Courtesy photo.*



# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IS A PERMIT TO CARRY CONSTITUTIONAL OR A VIOLATION OF THE 2A?

Editor:

The history of the Second Amendment is a wild ride! It's been through a lot of changes and interpretations over the years. The way we understand it today is a relatively new idea, based on how it was written in the late 18th century.

### 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

*"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*

The individual right interpretation of the Second Amendment first arose in:

- In 1822, the case *Bliss v. Commonwealth* came up, which was all about the right to bear arms. It was about whether the right to bear arms is just for the state or if it's also for individuals to protect themselves. The court ruled that the right to bear arms is an individual right, even for something like a concealed sword cane. This case is often described as being about a law that banned carrying concealed weapons and that went against the Second Amendment.

The language of the Second Amendment has been a subject of debate in recent years among those who argue that the text explicitly refers to the "militia" only. What constituted the "militia"?

The "militia", at the time of the writing of the Constitution and the subsequent "Bill of Rights", which consisted of the first Ten Amendments, was known to be *"every able bodied male"*.

Even if these individuals are correct, which I doubt they are, it's evident that the personal Right to keep and bear Arms is an individual Right, as the 2nd Amendment clearly states, **"...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."**

Concerning the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms", James Madison, 4th President of the United States and father of the Constitution wrote:

*"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed - unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with*

*arms."* (James Madison, *The Federalist Papers* #46 at 243- 244)

*"the ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone,"* (James Madison, author of the *Bill of Rights*, in *Federalist Paper* #46.) And another founder Tenche Coxe said:

*"As civil rulers, not having their duty to the people before them, may attempt to tyrannize, and as the military forces which must be occasionally raised to defend our country, might pervert their power to the injury of their fellow citizens, the people are confirmed by the article in their right to keep and bear their private arms."* (Tench Coxe in *Remarks on the First Part of the Amendments to the Federal Constitution* under the Pseudonym *A Pennsylvanian* in the *Philadelphia Federal Gazette*, June 18, 1789 at 2 col. 1) **(emphasis added)**

*"Congress have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state government, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people"* (Tench Coxe, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Feb. 20, 1788)

The country remained largely indifferent to gun control until 1963, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy brought the nation's attention to the dangers posed by unregulated and widespread gun ownership.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson played a pivotal role in passing the "Gun Control Act," which repealed the Federal Firearms Act and updated the provisions for importing guns and establishing ownership requirements.

Twelve years later, the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan in 1980 led to the eventual passage of the "Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act," which introduced a mandatory waiting period between a person's application to buy a gun and the time they could take possession of it.

However, in 1986, the "Firearms Owners Protection Act" was enacted. This law permitted two individuals to meet in person

for interstate gun sales and also allowed gun sales at gun shows. However, it also made automatic firearm sales illegal and imposed mandatory prison terms and sentences for individuals with multiple robbery or burglary convictions who illegally shipped guns across state or international lines.

In 1994, the "Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act" was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

In 2001, the Fifth Circuit became the first federal appeals court to recognize an individual's right to own guns as protected by the Second Amendment in the landmark case *United States v. Emerson*. While there were no significant laws or court cases specifically targeting gun control in the early years of the 2000s, legislation was enacted to protect gun sellers and retailers from prosecution in the event of lawsuits. Additionally, the assault weapons ban, which had expired in 2004, was not renewed.

In 2007, the D.C. Circuit made history by becoming the first federal appeals court to strike down a gun control law on Second Amendment grounds in the case *Parker v. District of Columbia*.

According to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), inherent rights are those guaranteed by the Constitution and cannot be eliminated by any ordinance, legislature, courts, both state and federal, Governor, Congress or even the President. Here are some notable SCOTUS rulings that address rights in general:

- **Maranda v. Ariz. 384 U.S.**: *"Where rights as secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which will abrogate them."*

- **Sherer V. Cullen, 481 F 946** *"There can be no sanction or penalty imposed upon one because of this exercise of constitutional rights"*

- **Shuttlesworth V. City of Birmingham Alabama, 373 US 262** *"If the State converts a right (liberty) into a privilege, the citizen can ignore the license and fee and engage in the right (liberty) with impunity."*

- **City of Chicago V. Collins, 51 N.E. 907,**

## IS A PERMIT TO CARRY CONSTITUTIONAL OR A VIOLATION OF THE 2A? From previous pg

910 "...those things which are considered as inalienable rights which all citizens possess cannot be licensed since those acts are not held to be a privilege."

• **Miller V US 230 Fed 486, 489** "The claim and exercise of a Constitutional (guaranteed) right cannot be converted into a crime."

• **Murdock V. Pennsylvania, 319 US 105** "No State shall convert a liberty into a privilege, license it, and charge a fee therefore."

No rules or regulations can override the supreme law of the land, the Constitution.

The 2nd Amendment secures our RIGHT to keep and BEAR arms. Accordingly, two relatively recent SCOTUS rulings, it has been affirmed definitively, that the "right to keep and bear arms" is a personal right.

• **District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570** "The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home."

• **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, 597 U.S. 1** "The Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home."

A Rasmussen Reports poll conducted in January 2013 revealed that a significant portion of Americans, 65 percent, believe the primary purpose of the Second Amendment is to safeguard individuals from tyranny.

Asking for permission (permit or license) transforms that right into a privilege. This, in turn, makes licensing and permits UNCONSTITUTIONAL, where Fundamental Rights are concerned as per the various SCOTUS rulings mentioned above.

So, why do we have to obtain a permit, or, "ask for permission" to carry?

I genuinely believe that everyone should be trained on how to use a weapon properly. It's just common sense, right? But here's the thing: the training should be up to the individual, not the state. Remember when schools had 'Hunter Safety' courses? There were live weapons in the school, and people had rifles in their pickup trucks with ammo in the glove box. And guess what? Nobody ever got hurt. Why? Because they knew that if they caused any trouble, there were others who would step in and handle it.

I guess you could say it was "peace through strength."

Michael J Badagliacco "MJB"

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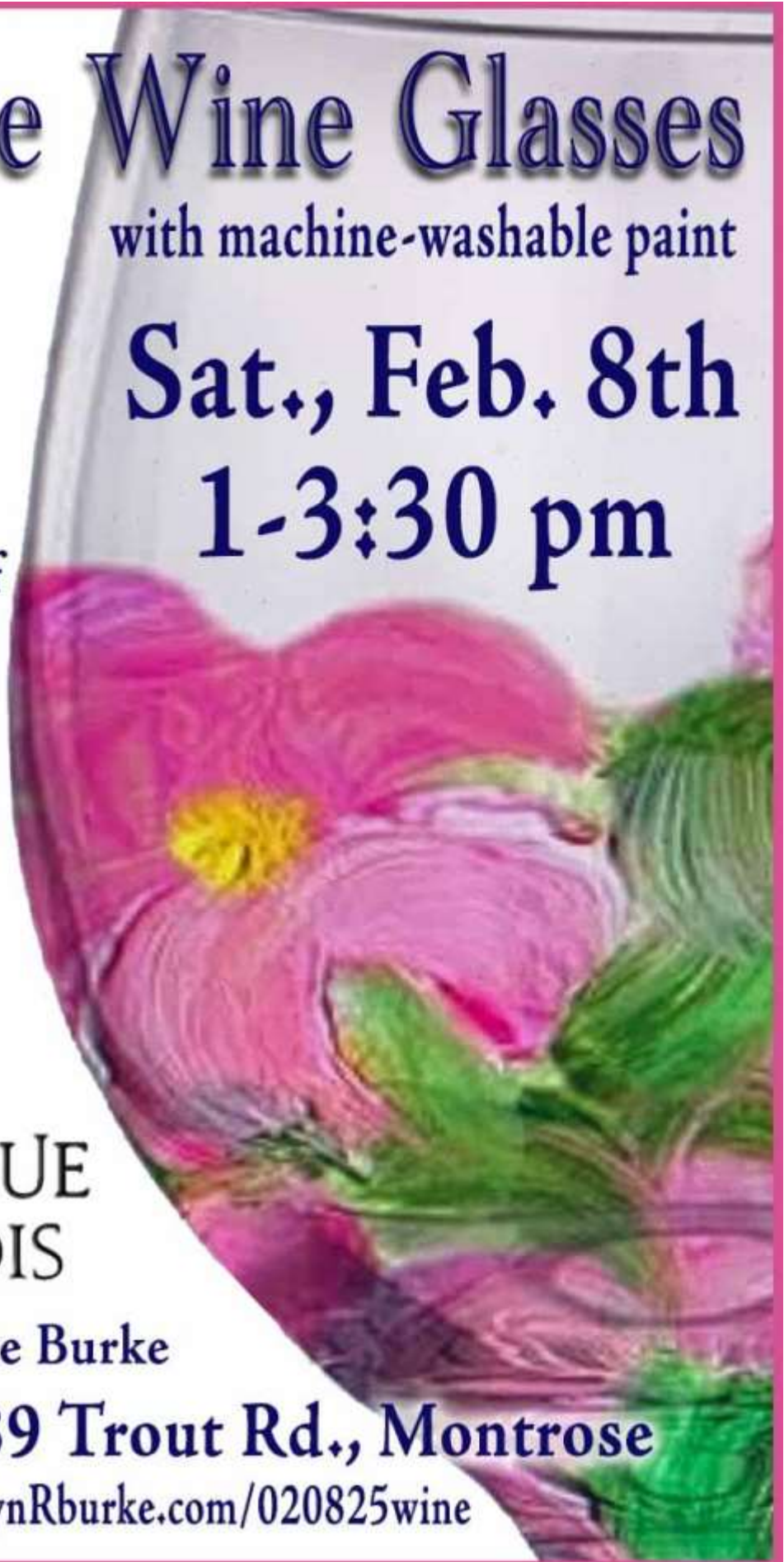


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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## MONTROSE CITY MANAGER BILL BELL — KING, TYRANT OR A REGULAR JOE? “Gaslighting Bill” as some call him, has built a kingdom, but are his days numbered?

By David White

Things have apparently gotten a little too hot for Montrose City Manager Bill Bell over the last two weeks due to Letters to the Editor/Op Ed articles I’ve written to the Montrose Mirror editorial staff, and which have been published in it.

If you’ve kept up with these writings in which disclosures of major conflicts of interest between Mr. Bell (primarily) and his staff and Montrose RE-1J School Board President Sarah Fishing ([MM621.pdf](#)) and former City of Montrose Assistant Manager Rob Joseph ([MM622FINAL.pdf](#)) have been revealed, you may have seen where Mr. Bell took to the City’s collaborative website with Mr. Joseph ([MontroseLifestyle.com - Facts & Fiction - Volume 6 - Life in Montrose](#)) to attempt to “gaslight” the public into believing that all of these activities between these parties are simply innocent, money saving agreements and arrangements between the City and a couple of independent contractors and warning yours truly to “[stop the bullying and harassment of the good people of this community.](#)”

Really Bill? Totally glossing over the facts as presented and your conflicts of interest and twisting reality into your distorted view of it is gaslighting at its finest. Good job, but no cigar!

For the record and for clarification of the art of gaslighting, the website “Political Dictionary” defines gaslighting as follows: “**Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation that seeks to sow seeds of doubt in a targeted individual or group. It makes them question their own memory, perception and sanity. The tactic relies on persistent denial, contradiction and lying in an attempt to delegitimize the victim’s belief.**” ([Gaslighting - Political Dictionary](#))

Mr. Bell comes by this honestly, sort of. His resume is quite telling. Specifically, his undergraduate studies at the University of Wyoming College of Arts & Sciences earned him a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice & **psychology** in 1998. His education and interests while in college helped him develop skills in molecular biology as

related to **human behavior** and his early working life included time as a **forensic psychiatric technician for the State of Wyoming psychiatric facility**. All of this according to his LinkedIn and City of Montrose profiles ([\(5\) William Bell | LinkedIn](#)) ([William Bell, City Manager | Montrose, CO - Official Website](#)). From these beginnings, Mr. Bell then furthered his education by attending the Pepperdine University School of Law for three semesters, where he studied contract law and conflict resolution, including a summer program in London, England. He then returned to the University of Wyoming to earn a master’s degree in public administration while teaching classes in Criminal Justice and **Psychology**. In a nutshell and looking at things from the outside to the inside, Mr. Bell, at his core, is a Rasputin of sorts able to deftly manipulate even the brightest with his psychological games and trickery in order to get what he wants. It can, in many respects, be considered an illness in need of significant therapy to overcome.

As a career bureaucrat, Mr. Bell has come to fashion himself as an economic development guru utilizing taxpayer money to bankroll public-private partnerships; establishing grant programs for area businesses wherein those chosen receive funding from City of Montrose taxpayers get to compete against established or owner financed businesses, and much more. All of this has laid the groundwork for his seemingly endless array of backroom deals, conflicts of interest, nepotistic behavior on the part of City employees as well as an unbelievable series of deals which have benefited his own family (more to come on this next week). Coming to Montrose City Government under a contract dated June 7, 2011, Mr. Bell has steadily built for himself quite a lucrative gig as well as an impressive track record of obtaining power and control over not only City government, its employees and the City Council but also its ordinances and checkbook.

From his beginning annual salary \$108,000

in 2011, Bell is now being paid a 2025 salary reflecting an increase of over 100% from his 2011 salary with cumulative increases putting him in the \$220,000 a year range plus “performance” bonuses in excess of \$75,000 since 2011. Incremental changes to his contract in 2012 and 2020 saw such things as being granted the use of a “City fleet vehicle **OF HIS CHOOSING** to use as both a **WORK AND PERSONAL** vehicle in lieu of any vehicle allowance and/or mileage reimbursements.” In October of 2023, he upgraded his “fleet” vehicle to a new GMC Yukon Denali XL that went out the door for \$84,721.20. Increases in his paid vacation days and sick leave came with the employment package along with a lucrative retirement plan. Of course, unused portions of both vacation and sick days will see a large payout when the day comes for him to leave the City, just like the \$131,000 the County paid out to former County Manager Jon Waschbusch for his unused vacation and sick days when he left the County last year.

Perks abound as they say. All of his dues and memberships in professional organizations to include travel to conferences is covered by the City and even his family members on occasion. Family vacations cojoined with conference trips have occurred. The conflicts of interest spoken of above have been enabled by various City Councils to include sanctioning amendments to the Montrose Code of Ordinances, Sections 1-16-1 through 1-16-5 in September of 2013 whereby purchasing authority for goods and services procured by the City are vested in the City Manager. These changes in 2013 were no doubt brought forth by Mr. Bell as he slowly moved more and more control of City governmental decision making away from the City Council and into his orbit of authority.

([https://library.municode.com/co/montrose/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_TITIAD\\_CH1-16COPU\\_S1-16-1AU](https://library.municode.com/co/montrose/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TITIAD_CH1-16COPU_S1-16-1AU))

The 2013 changes to the code gave Mr.

## **MONTROSE CITY MANAGER BILL BELL – KING, TYRANT OR A REGULAR JOE?**

**From previous pg**

Bell purchasing authority, without City Council approval, of up to \$50,000 as well as the authority to enter into contracts of \$20,000 or less without City Council approval. Multiple contracts with an entity for different components of a project or services being provided to the City may cause payments to a vendor to exceed the dollar threshold amounts set forth in this section of the City ordinance yet still fall under the authority of the City Manager to bypass the City Council.

As an example, the payments to Sarah Fishing for her Montrose University leadership program of \$10,000 on the one hand and payments to her from the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund for her “social media” services to the Montrose Police Department constitute separate services and therefore are siloed into different funds for payment, hence doing an end run around the City Council and setting up the illusion that Ms. Fishing has no conflicts of interest in spite of she and her family’s businesses receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars in City aid for their business endeavors (Storm King Distillery, Potato Growers “The Association”, etc.) The potential for as well as the actual abuse of the City taxpayer’s checkbook is quite apparent when just an overview of some City expenditures is performed. I will be bringing forward several such examples in the next article or two that all fall under the purview and responsibility of City Manager Bell who, as will be shown, has taken advantage of or simply mismanaged, to the benefit of certain City employees as well as himself, the finances of the City of Montrose.

To kick things off, did you know that you, the taxpayer, are funding the Rotary Club of Montrose Black Canyon, Inc. to the tunes of thousands of dollars a year? Let’s start with a short review. Rotary Club is an international service organization comprised of 1.2 million community members in 45,000 clubs worldwide who, to be a member, must be invited to join the club and pass an application process. It is a **private club**.

Several years ago, Mr. Bell was invited to join the Montrose Rotary Club, which was

chartered on April 1, 1921, and historically had been one of the major philanthropic organizations in the Montrose community with events such as the annual Winter Carnival at Cerro Summit, Rotary Youth Exchange Program and many others. This club is almost 104 years old and continues to meet every Tuesday at noon for their meetings. Membership includes a financial commitment in the form of dues and billing for meals that are provided by the meeting venue.

Unfortunately for this club, Mr. Bell had a different vision of what a Montrose Rotary Club should be and preferred a morning or breakfast format over a lunchtime club with a focus on “leadership training.” Gathering other Rotarians (mostly younger members), he caused a split in the historic 1921 club 7 or so years ago resulting in the creation of the Rotary Club of Montrose Black Canyon with their principal business address located in the Montrose City Hall building according to Colorado Secretary of State filings for the club since they incorporated as a Colorado corporation in 2019. ([Colorado SOS Document Service](#))

Since that time, other City employees (mostly from the Police Department) have become members of this “new” club which meets in a City-owned facility. Dues (\$300 annually for Mr. Bell and the rest) are paid for from various City operating budgets. Coffee and apparently some food items are paid for out of the City Manager’s administrative budget after being charged to Mr. Bell’s US Bank credit card. San Juan Brews Coffeehouse in downtown Montrose is the primary vendor for many City functions that involve food and drink and virtually all of the Rotary Club of Montrose Black Canyon’s weekly meeting costs.

As an example, included on a City of Montrose disbursement check (No.12302404 dated December 30, 2024), to US Bank, was \$587.64 for one month’s charges at San Juan Brews Coffeehouse for Mr. Bell’s Rotary Club. Again, this is a **PRIVATE CLUB** created largely at the behest of Mr. Bell yet financed by the taxpayers on the front end and perhaps to a

greater degree only yet to be discovered. On another City disbursement (check No. 136355 dated August 3, 2023, for the “Rotary Amphitheater Shed” – which is in Cerise Park) \$100,000 was paid to the Montrose Black Canyon Rotary Club. Thousands of more dollars were written to this club for such things as FUNC Fest (Fun on the Uncompahgre Festival) “Beer Sales” as well as for Rotary Golf Tournament sponsorships and more.

As a caveat, if these tens of thousands of dollars of payments are reimbursed by the Rotary Club to the City of Montrose, I have not been able to find them and even if I could, why is the City’s checkbook being used for any of this??? Something is very wrong!

This is just the beginning of what will be a long list of questionable expenditures as well as clear misappropriations of public monies and more conflicts of interest. As a closing sidenote, it may be coincidental or not, but I find it interesting that Kevin & Chelsea McHugh, former part owners of San Juan Brews Coffeehouse spoken of in this article, received \$109,695 in taxpayer funded incentives for a commercial kitchen that was installed in their Pomona Brewing Company business in 2023 in a building owned by Scott Stryker (Stryker Construction Co.). The spiderweb of City government giveaways or other “deals” with FOBS (Friends of Bill’s) is pretty spectacular for a community our size if you ask me. More irritating is the fact that our elected officials on Montrose City Council seemingly have a lack of understanding, knowledge, history, etc. of how such actions condoned by them will inevitably lead to significant trouble. They all live in a vacuum within their own little worlds. It is really pathetic! More to come next week.

*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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**MEET MONTROSE**

Beautiful Western Colorado community-elevation of 5,794 feet-is nestled within easy reach of a vast selection of experiences. Plummeting depths of Black Canyon National Park to the east; towering, majestic San Juan Mountains to the south; Expansive Uncompahgre Plateau to the west, lake-bejeweled Grand Mesa to the north; Montrose Rec Center (the newest, largest recreation center on the Western Slope) and expansive water sports park right in the middle of town. Montrose is surrounded by an endless variety of prospects for exploration and adventure. A little something for everyone-shopping, fishing, biking, photography, camping, swimming, motorsports-you get the idea!

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## ATTEND THE ONE-DAY CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ON MARCH 23

*Editor:*

THE FORUM meets nearly every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. in C.M.U.'s Cascade Hall at South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cascade.

Formed decades ago, it is led by several dedicated volunteers who schedule a variety of knowledgeable presenters on diverse subjects of interest to all area residents. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Montrose P.D. was the subject matter and the venue was filled to capacity for an exciting, revealing and enlightening presentation by the folks who proudly wear a badge in Montrose.

They have come a long way from when their station was in the old library on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> street, where the new law enforcement facility now stands. Cramped, inefficient and definitely not rain-proof, they did their best under very difficult circumstances. (I once helped pitch 6 tents inside to protect electronics from the porous leaking roof after a heavy rainstorm.)

Thanks to the support of an intelligent electorate and a very well-run City government over the past several years, Montrose has a law enforcement complex as cost-effective, efficient and technologically advanced as any in the nation.

Led by a truly brilliant and charismatic Police Chief, Blaine Hall, and his highly trained staff, Montrose is now blessed with a Police Department far more advanced than most cities its size or even larger. Chief Hall detailed all aspects of the Department, its personnel, specific focuses and identifiable challenges law enforcement faces here and across the nation in today's legal environment. Apparently for the first time in the Department's recent history, it is virtually fully staffed. A recent influx of trained and experienced officers from departments from other cities as well as graduates from our own Western Colorado Law Enforcement

Academy have created an exceptional cadre of dedicated public servants and guardians for Montrose and our region.

To learn more about the Montrose Police Department and its broad responsibilities and activities, you are urged to attend the one-day Citizens Police Academy on March 23, 2025. For more information, please call 970-252-5215 or visit the Montrose P.D. (LINK). Anyone who is interested in what is happening in Montrose and the surrounding area should plan on attending the weekly Forum's presentations. Attending either or both events will be time very well spent.

*By John W. Nelson*

**John W. Nelson has been an area resident and civic volunteer for nearly 30 years, following a successful legal and business career in Phoenix and has served as a judge, deputy sheriff, fireman, First Responder and much more.**



Our  
aim  
is  
true

the montrose mirror

## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MONTROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, AND BLACK CANYON ROTARY HOST THE 8TH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR IN MARCH

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE – On Thursday, March 13 the Montrose School District, NuVista Federal Credit Union, and Black Canyon Rotary will host the 2025 Financial Reality Fair at the Montrose High School gymnasium. This will be the 8th year that this fun and educational event will be held for high school seniors from the Montrose County School District. The event is expected to bring more than 350 students together from Montrose High School, Olathe High School, Black Canyon High School, PEAK Academy, and VISTA Charter School.

The Financial Reality Fair is a half-day event which has consistently and effectively taught our community's high school seniors how to handle money in a real-world experiment. Through a safe and interactive App called "Bite of Reality" each student is assigned a hypothetical life, including a spouse and child, job, income, credit score, and student loan. Each student must then go shopping for their

family and choose between pricing options for groceries, furniture, childcare, transportation, housing, utilities, household needs, clothing, personal care, entertainment, and more. Once students exceed their budget, they need to visit the credit union table to learn about budgeting. This interactive activity will teach teens how to make financial decisions and give them a better understanding of the challenges of living on a budget. Students will have to deal with a pushy "car salesperson" and a commission-based "realtor," and weigh their wants versus their needs. There's even a "Fickle Finger of Fate" that will give the students unexpected "expenses" or "windfalls"—just like in real life.

Students win raffle prizes at the event and after the event, they can complete online financial education courses for a chance to win more cash prizes. Finally, they can apply for a Bite of Reality scholarship, last year, 6-\$1000 scholarships

were awarded. Many Montrose businesses and organizations show their support of the financial fair through sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Additionally, the event attracts more than 50 enthusiastic volunteers. The event will be held from 9am to Noon at the Montrose High School gym and is free to graduating seniors attending a Montrose County School District school.

NuVista Credit Union is able to provide The Bite of Reality App through an exclusive partnership with the GoWest Foundation. The GoWest Foundation works with credit unions and community partners throughout Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming to provide solutions to pressing issues impacting the financial health of the people and communities they serve. More information about the Bite of Reality program can be found at <https://gowestfoundation.org/financial-reality-fairs/>.

### COLORADO MISSING PERSONS DAY IS FEB. 4

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER-Colorado Missing Persons Day is being honored with a series of events at the state Capitol building (200 E. Colfax Avenue) beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025.

In addition to a Resolution being read at the Capitol, a prayer vigil will honor more than 600 individuals currently missing for a year or more in the State of Colorado.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will also post the list of those missing in Colorado as of February 4 to its website on the day of the event, as well as display a slide show featuring some missing person cases in the state.

\*Order of events at the State Capitol Building on Feb. 4, 2025

8a.m. – Family members are invited to meet in Senate Committee Room 352

9a.m. – Family members will join the Senate in their chambers to observe the cere-

mony to designate February 4, 2025 as Colorado Missing Persons Day.

10a.m. - (or at the conclusion of the Senate Session): A Prayer Vigil and the reading of the names will take place on the West Steps of the Colorado State Capitol Building.

The ceremony will conclude with a Bubble Release.

\*Order and timing of events are dependent on weather. All updates about Colorado Missing Persons Day will be on the CBI website and on the Bureau's Facebook and X pages

"While Colorado law enforcement agencies have recorded a number of solved cold cases in the past decade, we must never lose sight of the families without answers about their missing loved ones," said CBI Director Chris Schaefer. "While we are making great strides in incorporating emerging technologies as part of

some cold case investigations, we must continue to focus our resources and support families who are navigating the challenges associated with having a missing loved one."

Family members and friends are asked to share a short tribute about their loved one on the Colorado Missing Person Day Memoriam page created in their honor. (<https://www.forevermissed.com/coloradomissingpersonsday/about>)

Colorado Missing Persons Day is sponsored by Colorado State Senators Jessie Danielson and Marc Catlin along with House Majority Leader Monica Duran and House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese. Note: CBI Victim Advocates are available for any family member of those missing needing additional support during this difficult time.

To contact a CBI Victim Advocate, please call (303) 239-4649.

# CENTURY 21

## BUYER-FOCUSED REPRESENTATION WITH INTEGRITY AND EXPERTISE



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### Choosing a real estate agent with the Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) designation offers several advantages:

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In short, working with an ABR-certified agent provides specialized expertise, better representation, and a smoother home-buying experience.

**Call for an appointment today!**

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **RICHARD "RICH" LAWRENCE DEPRO** ***January 31, 1966 — January 8, 2025***



RICHARD L. DEPRO, 58, of Marquette, MI went home to be with our Lord, unexpectedly, on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

He was born on January 31, 1966 in Flint, MI, to Verna (Meadows) Depro and the

late Larry Depro. Rich graduated from Marquette High School in 1984. He also graduated with a bachelor degree and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Colorado Technical University in 2009 & 2011.

Rich was employed as a Data Analyst/Report Writer at Montrose Regional Health (MRH) in Montrose, Colorado. Anyone that knew Rich loved him from the start. He was a good man, loved Jesus, had a great sense of humor, quick witted, and always made everyone laugh. He made his wife laugh every day. He was very kind, loving, wise, extremely intelligent, always had a smile, and had a positive attitude.

He will be greatly loved and missed by his wife, the love of his life.

Rich was introduced to the love of his life in Marquette, MI and married ReAnna J. Depro in December of 2013 at the River Church in Iron River, MI.

He enjoyed spending time with friends

and family, reading, football, boardgames, playing games on the computer with his friends and son, adored his wife, loved Jesus, and was a man after God's own heart.

Left to cherish Rich's memory are his wife, ReAnna Depro (the love of his life). His son, Keegan Depro; sister, Michelle (Depro) Marier; mother, Verna (Meadows) Depro; brother-in-law's: Ryan Ruzzicone, Joel Ruzzicone, Randy Surfass, & Jay Marier; sister-in-law, Dawn (Harding) Ruzzicone; father-in-law, Joseph Ruzzicone; mother-in-law, Lana Beauchamp; Nephews: Taylor Ruzzicone (Sophia), Rhys Ruzzicone, Cameron Surfass; Tyler Marier, & Chris Marier; Nieces: Lexi Behmer & Isabelle McCrumb; his dog and little buddy: Jax. As well as many wonderful friends and extended family.

He is preceded in death by his father Larry Depro and his sister Suzanne (Depro) Surfass.

### **MICAH J. WILOTH**

### ***May 25, 1961- December 27, 2024***

Micah James Wiloth, a cherished husband and friend, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2024, in Montrose, Colorado, at the age of 63.

Born May 25, 1961, in Casper, Wyoming, Micah lived a life marked by dedication to his wife and friends. Micah attended Colorado University earning a Bachelor's degree. Micah was employed by Lockheed Martin for 26 years. His work ethic was admired by colleagues and friends alike. In 2020 he and his beloved wife Carol moved to Cobble Creek in Montrose, Colorado. After his retirement he enjoyed golfing, skiing, and hiking. Micah was a man of integrity and warmth, known for his kindness and generosity. He enjoyed spending time with his wife and friends. His presence brought joy and comfort to those around him and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents Jake and Salome (Hoyer) Wiloth and his sister Patricia. He is survived by his loving wife Carol, sister Deb (Dennis) Garzonio, brother Chis (Lisa) Wiloth, step-daughter Jennifer (Chris) Joslyn, step-son Jeff Evans and several nieces and nephews

His memory will forever remain in the hearts of his family and friends.





# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## RICHARD ALLAN JANTZ

***February 9, 1945 — December 22, 2024***

What can I say? I just lost my best friend, my confidant, my rock, and the love of my life. Rich was not just a part of my life; he was the joy that filled every moment. His warmth and happiness were infectious, helping me through the deaths of my little sister, my mom, and then my dad. It felt like someone had shot a big hole in my heart. I didn't know how I was going to get through all this loss. But Rich was always there with me, bringing joy and warmth to every moment. He held me when I cried, took me out for ice cream or sundaes when I was sad, and found new comedy shows for us to watch. My favorite thing was that he wrapped his arms around me and cuddled me all night.

Rich enjoyed building things. He worked on projects like cutting gourds for a friend so she could turn them into magnificent Indian artwork, making sliding shelves for our kitchen pantry and cabinets so I could reach everything, and creating a barn-style door for our bedroom. He even made an entertainment center for my father that perfectly mirrored the curves and lines of his existing furniture. Together, we completely remodeled our house in the Centennial area; there wasn't a room we didn't redesign. Rich loved the wood in our home and was always happy to touch it up in places that had been neglected. He completely gutted the basement bathroom with his friend Bruce, installed a working jet tub, added tile floors and walls surrounding it, and replaced all the fixtures. We put a lot of blood (as Rich always said, if there isn't blood, then it wasn't a project), sweat, and tears into that home.

Another thing Rich loved was taking weekend drives up to Estes Park. We stayed in little cabins along the river, took long walks enjoying the scenery, and visited the town shops. We found some of our favorite paintings, ornaments, and lamps up there. On one trip, we were walking along the road when a small herd of moose made their presence known, prompting us to make ourselves scarce.

Around that time, we started talking about moving to a place like Montrose, as Denver was getting too big. We had already escaped the craziness on weekends by driving up to our trailer in Hartsel, a beautiful place where we could unwind and enjoy life. We spent as much time as possible there, taking in the scenery, watching the buffalo go by, and, most importantly, just being together and loving each other. Rich's passion for fishing also played a role in our retirement location. He and his friends took advantage of all the fantastic fishing spots in Colorado, including yearly horseback trips to stunning locations with excellent fishing opportunities. They fished in rivers and lakes using belly boats, one-person pontoon boats, and his friend Bob's fishing boat.

We also loved visiting Grand Lake to see Rich's sister, Nancy, and her husband, Wes. Nancy and I would occasionally join the guys on Wes's boat, and we had a great time. While the boys went fishing, Nancy and I enjoyed shopping and lunch in town. A good time was had by all.

We enjoyed traveling to various destinations, including the western slope, Vail, Hawaii, and Alaska (twice). In September 2024, we took a cruise back to Alaska, and I had a feeling it would be our last trip. Rich was getting tired. Our trip included five days on Mount Denali and Mt. McKinley, where we witnessed beauty that reveals itself only a few times a year. We saw the peak of Mt. Denali, a sight rarely visible at that time of year due to low cloud cover and fog. It was amazing. We enjoyed freshly caught salmon and cod for dinner each night, and the views were spectacular. There was also a theater where we watched a presentation of a group attempting to climb Mt. Denali. We witnessed their journey, celebrating their successes while empathizing with their setbacks—without having to endure the sub-zero temperatures.

Another presentation we enjoyed was an hour-long movie about an Alaskan gentleman who filmed the glorious aurora bore-

alis, which was very visible in Alaska that year. A gentleman beside us shared colorful pictures his daughter took in Castle



Pines. They said it was a good year for nature to showcase its breathtaking beauty.

As we boarded the cruise ship, the weather was cold, rainy, and windy, leaving us soaked until we reached the ship. By this time, Rich was tiring quickly. We encountered a few days when our plans didn't go as expected, including not making the salmon fishing trip. However, we enjoyed the Deadliest Catch excursion, which gave us a great inside look at the show. Despite the challenges, we decided to focus on what we knew we could do and ultimately had a glorious time. It was a journey that tested our resilience and our love for each other, and we emerged stronger and more connected than ever.

As we reflected on our almost 22 years together, we smiled, reminiscing about our many adventures. Rich and I were not just partners but companions in every sense. He enjoyed fishing with his friends, building beautiful furniture, and, most importantly, our deep love for one another. Our love was a flame that burned brightly, and I am profoundly grateful for every moment we shared. I wish we had more time together; I miss him so much. But our love was profound, and it will always remain in my heart. A Celebration of Rich's Life will be held at Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, 802 East Main Street, Montrose CO on Friday, February 7th, 2025, at 10am. All are welcome. All my love, always, Janice

ISSUE 506 Feb. 3, 2025

# ART & SOL

## YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – KINDNESS



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.

*Greetings Mirrorites!*

OLATHE-Spring is in the air, or at least just around the corner. Spring is that time when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of...prosocial behavior! OK, maybe that and some slightly sexier musings. But with the advent of spring comes increased opportunities for time in nature. And the more time we spend in nature, the kinder we become. This benefits ourselves as well as others. As a wise individual once said...*"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate."* Albert Schweitzer.

Why would nature do this? Sure, we know it can make us feel good about ourselves and elevate our mood, but why would that make us more kindly disposed to our fellow man? Seems counterintui-

tive. And it is if you think of the relationship as being unilateral. But it's more complicated than that.

Time in magnificent and restorative environments instills what is known as moral elevation. Beautiful and sublime natural surroundings impart self-transcendent positive emotions such as awe, admiration, gratitude, and compassion. In cognitive psychology these are known as *other-praising emotions* (Algoe & Haidt, 2009) as they arise from positive appraisals of entities outside the self. In previous articles, I have discussed the notion of the 'small self' and what this perception can do for our mental health and overall wellness. This is elicited inside us through an experience of awe, but there can be even more going on that is important in terms of prosocial behavior that results in increased acts and feelings of kindness.

Psychologist Jonathan Haidt defines moral elevation as, "a warm, uplifting feeling that people experience when they see unexpected acts of human goodness, kindness, courage, or compassion. It makes a person want to help others and to become a better person himself or herself." This occurs when the observer is only that, an observer, and not an immediate recipient. This can seem a bit confusing in many ways, but there is a method to this meaning.

For instance, a 2013 study found that participants exposed to a moral elevation treatment reported higher levels of two facets of spirituality: Universality (a belief

in the unitive nature of life) and Connectedness (a belief that one is part of a larger human system that is indispensable in creating life's continuing harmony). To the degree it incorporates the idea that all life is connected, Universality is related to connectedness to nature. So therefore, the missing link seems to be feelings of connectedness instilled in the observer even though they haven't done anything, at least not yet. For more on this complicated subject, readers can check out this very recent overview of the research that may yield some additional clarification.

So the model might be something like this...beautiful and awe-inspiring nature instills *other-praising* emotions such as connectedness and the small self. These emotions result in attitude change that eventually results in behavior change such as actual personal acts of random kindness. These acts result in greater feelings of moral elevation, which results in greater connectivity, which results in greater kindness and so forth. By spending time in nature, we open one path to a positive, virtuous cycle.

Does this really benefit us all that much? One psychologist claims that lack of connectivity, otherwise known as social isolation, is as detrimental to wellness as smoking, lack of exercise, or crappy diet. "In adults, those who are socially isolated (lonely, without quality support group) have a risk of death 26 percent higher than those who have a quality social network. This is huge and rivals other factors

Continued next pg

# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – KINDNESS *From previous pg*

that I would talk to patients about, such as exercise, obesity, and smoking.” [Fryburg](#), M.D. in Psychology Today.

When getting my daily fix of farming and gardening Youtube vlogs, I really appreciated No-Till farmer Jesse Frost’s commentary on the loneliness of farming and the importance of social connection. He strongly advised scheduling time with friends in the farming community to share gripes and insights, failures and triumphs. I often don’t have the time for that, but I do have the time to schedule time in nature where I loaf and appreciate the sights and sounds around me. Whether it’s the antics of the goats, the singing and fussing of the resident birds, or a special favorite, the sight of spindrift on the peaks of the San Juans, I find my mind settling into a kinder, quieter mode and my breathing slowing and deepening. Afterwards, I often find that I have more patience and the personal resources to deal kindly with a situation I might have handled with less aplomb without that

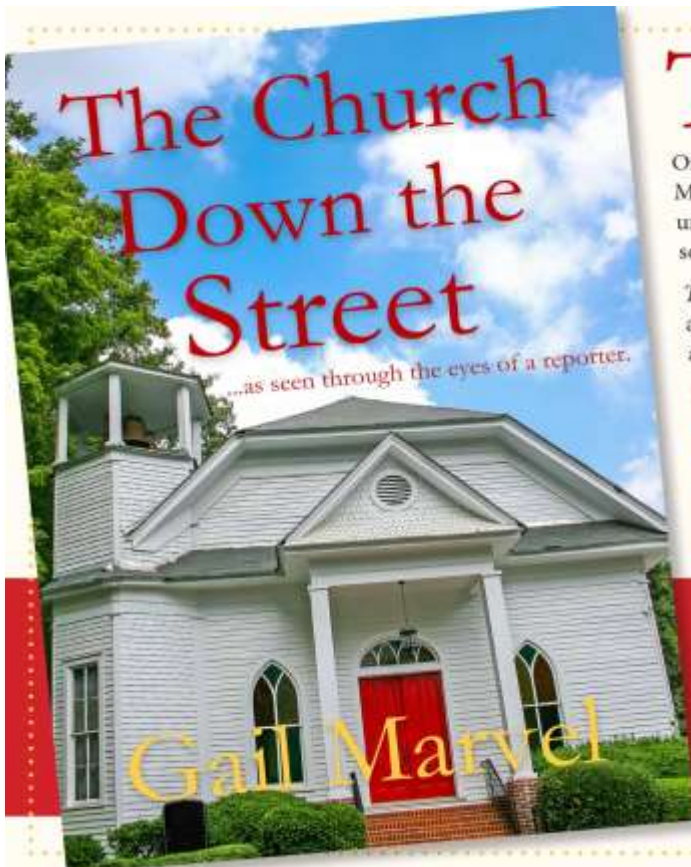


Photo courtesy of K. Eliason

nature connectivity moment.

And so gentle reader, in order to remain kind and gentle, be on the lookout for people doing acts of generosity and altru-

ism and if you can’t find any on a regular basis, then nature is often there to lend a hand. *Be kind and be well, The Mindful Naturalist*



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

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

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

**Readers will:**

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**  
Montrose Author & Reporter



# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## TRUE GRIT CAFE WELCOMES SHONDA PARSONS AS GENERAL MANAGER

### *Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY— Shonda Parsons has officially returned to The True Grit Cafe as General Manager, and this is a game-changer for the iconic restaurant. With her extensive experience and unwavering commitment to excellence, Parsons is poised to elevate the dining experience to new heights. Her deep understanding of the brand and its loyal clientele ensures that the essence of The True Grit Cafe will remain intact while also embracing innovative practices. Patrons can expect a seamless blend of tradition and modernity under her leadership. It's clear that Shonda Parsons is the right person to steer this beloved establishment into its next chapter.

The True Grit Café is a charming gem that has been delighting visitors since it opened on New Year's Eve in 1985. Its establishment pays homage to the legendary film "True Grit," featuring John Wayne, which was shot in the beautiful landscapes of Ridgway and Ouray in 1968. One of the most fascinating aspects of the café is its interior; the south wall was once the external wall of "Chambers Grocery," making it a piece of cinematic history.

What truly sets the True Grit Café apart is its warm and inviting atmosphere, enriched by walls adorned with photos celebrating John Wayne's film legacy. The café draws in fans of the movie from across the globe, creating a unique blend of nostalgia and community spirit.

The menu specializes in "Quality Comfort Food," and it's easy to see why locals and visitors alike rave about it. With over 9,500 burgers and more than 5,000 hand-breaded Chicken Fried Steaks served each year, there's no shortage of delicious op-



**True Grit Café Owner Tammee Tuttle and General Manager Shonda Parsons. Courtesy photo.**

tions to choose from. Each dish is crafted with care, ensuring every bite feels like a warm hug.

Tammee Tuttle, the owner of True Grit Cafe and sister of Parsons, asserts, "Shonda brings a wealth of experience and an innovative spirit to True Grit Cafe. I look forward to seeing her and the team build on our legacy and carve new paths for growth as they leverage and continue our investments in our community and the employee and guest experience." This statement underscores the confidence in Parson's leadership and the commitment to enhancing both community engagement and customer satisfaction at the cafe. Finally, Ms. Parsons commented, "The True Grit Cafe is one of the most iconic brands in Colorado, and I appreciate all that Tammee has done to set the

company, our team, and me up for success. For decades, The True Grit Cafe has leveraged its rich culture to deliver on its brand and keep promises to guests and employees. The company's mission aligns perfectly with my passion for building and empowering diverse, high-performing teams. The confidence Tammee has shown by entrusting the brand's day-to-day operations to me is humbling, and I'm excited to work with the dedicated employees to drive the restaurant's growth for years to come."

If you find yourself in the area, make sure to stop by the True Grit Café for not just a meal, but an experience that celebrates both great food and cinematic history. It's a place where you can truly appreciate the legacy of "True Grit" while indulging in some fantastic comfort food!

# MIRROR IMAGES: FROM THE WEST SIDE



*The old Bullock Steam Electric Plant, Sunset and power lines. Photos by Harry Switzer.*



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MONTROSE REGIONAL  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-Twenty years ago, on a cold January morning, a group of people gathered at the Lions Park Community Building and decided to form a spiritual community, one that would honor all faiths and respect the unique beliefs of each person. They wanted to make a difference in their community and in the world.

Today, the Spiritual Awareness Center is still meeting at Lions Park and many of the founding members still attend the Sunday gatherings. During the pandemic, the Spiritual Awareness Center offered services on Zoom and has continued to reach out to the members who live in other states with a Second Sunday monthly Zoom afternoon service.

“Over the years, the membership has grown and changed, and visitors, who often become new members, continue to stop by intrigued by the comprehensive information on the SAC website, which also has free downloads on spirituality subjects and practices as well as the text of Sunday messages,” said Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, who also is celebrating her twenty years of service to the Spiritual Awareness Center. “Our Facebook page also offers information on the monthly theme and community events.”

True to the founders’ dream of making a difference in their community, SAC offers the annual Great Community Giveaway to help people in need and to recycle good items to others. Other community outreach programs include sponsoring the Week of Unity and Peace with other non-profit organizations such as the Ute Indian Museum, the Montrose Regional Library, the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas and the Center for Spiritual Living

in Delta and local businesses. SAC has hosted workshops and seminars, special spiritual films, the Dances of Universal Peace, Spirit Jam, and many others.

To make a difference in the world, the 100 Peace Pole Project was created to dedicate 100 peace poles to join with the over 250,000 peace poles in 160 countries around the world. Originally designed to dedicate peace poles only in Montrose, the project soon expanded to Ridgway, Ouray, and Delta, and other states as people wanted to support the idea of peace. Peace poles stand in the Montrose Botanic Gardens, Fort Uncompahgre in Delta, the Dennis Weaver Park in Ridgway, and at private homes in surrounding communities.

To better serve the educational needs in the community, SAC established the Spiritual Development Institute which provides spirituality-based classes and resources. SDI offers weekly Spiritual Discovery Classes on Zoom and a comprehensive ministerial program to train interfaith ministers to be ordained by SAC.

SAC also hosts a midweek interfaith spiritual discussion group, Chai Chats, at 10:30 am on Wednesdays, at the Pun Hill Himalayan Kitchen in Montrose. Everyone



Members of the Spiritual Awareness Center pose for a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photo before the celebration on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Courtesy photo.

is invited to this discussion group at any time. This group has been meeting regularly for the past 17 years.

Sunday services are at 11 am at Lions Park Community Building with a Meet and Greet beginning at 10 am, followed by a silent meditation from 10:30-10:45 am before the service. A monthly potluck is served on the last Sunday of each month following the service.

“We look forward to continuing to be a part of the religious community in Montrose and to serve the people not only in practical ways, but also to help nurture their own spiritual practices,” added Dr. Macdonald. “I am excited about another new program to be implemented in the near future, the Spiritual Awareness Global Communities, which will provide assistance to groups in other areas to establish their own spiritual community.”

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# CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



**Premier Sponsor:**  
**Montrose Farmers Market**  
 970-249-0705

**Horsefly Brewing**  
 970-249-6889

**Jimmer's BBQ,  
 Burgers & Beer**  
 970-252-1227

**Fiesta Guadalajara**  
 970-249-2460

**El Jimador**  
 970-249-8990

**Busy Corner White Kitchen**  
 970-323-6215

**Delta: CB's Tavern**  
 970-399-3570

**Alpen Confections**  
 970-648-0609

**Crash Burger**  
 970-249-0825

**Coffee Trader**  
 970-249-6295  
 970-787-9021

**Tacos & Beer**  
 970-964-4448

**Tacos & Beer on Main**  
 970-964-4999

**Pahgre's**  
 970-249-6442



**Lighthouse Eatery**  
 970-964-7570

**Ray's Corner Cafe**  
 970-417-4340

**Trattoria de Sofia**  
 970-249-0433

**Rib City**  
 970-249-7427



**Stone House**  
 970-240-8899

**Sidelines Sports Bar**  
 970-765-0129

**Amelias Hacienda Restaurante**  
 970-249-1881

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

# Valentines & Vino at Endless Pastabilities

1544 Oxbow Dr, Montrose

Wed.,  
Feb. 12th  
5:30-7:30 pm

Share  
the  
love!

*Make it a Date Night  
or a Galentine's Night Out.  
Come for class, stay for dinner.*

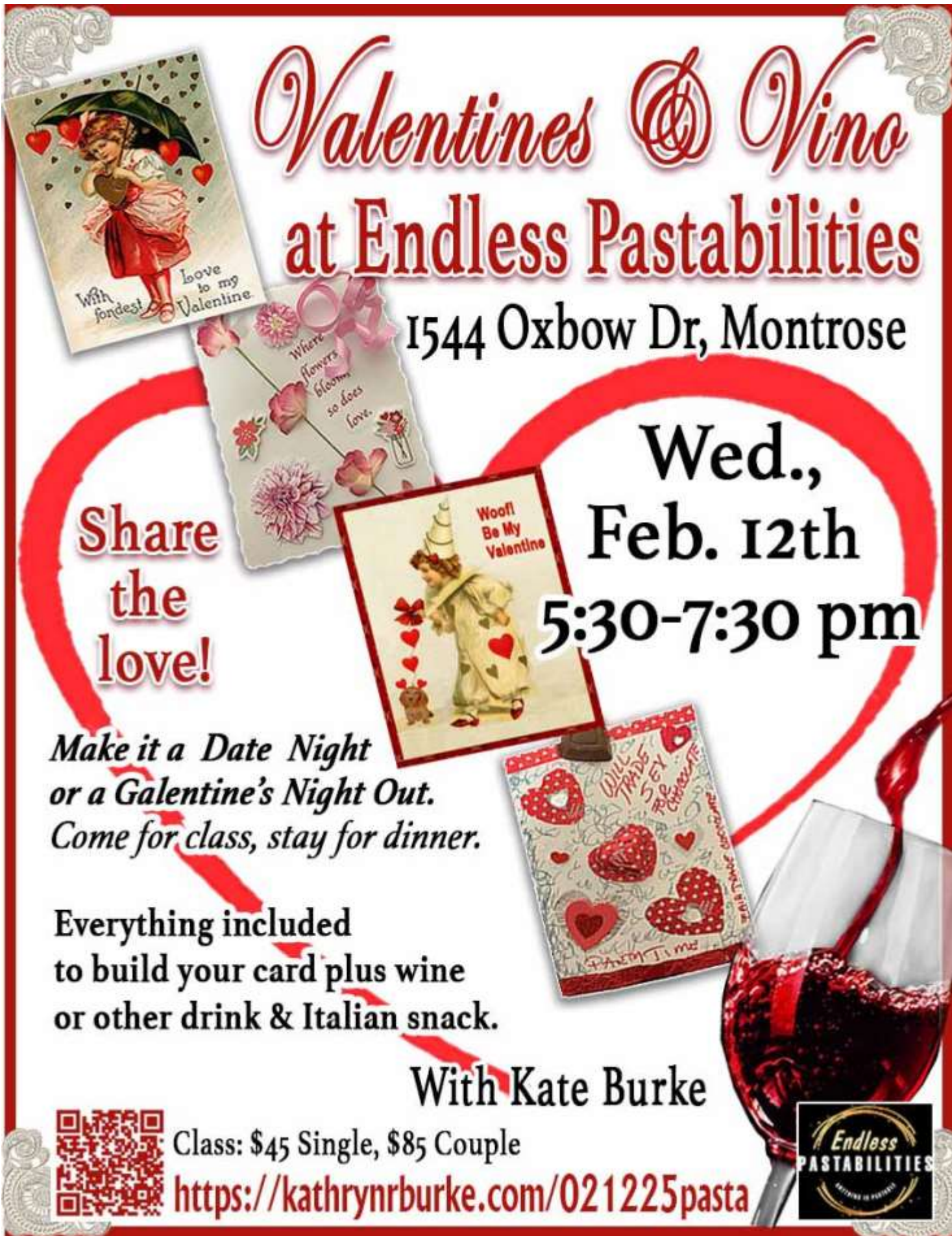
Everything included  
to build your card plus wine  
or other drink & Italian snack.

With Kate Burke



Class: \$45 Single, \$85 Couple

<https://kathrynrburke.com/021225pasta>





Thurs., Feb. 13, 5:30-7:30 pm at MOSAIC  
21 N. Cascade Ave., Montrose with Kate Burke

# Decorate Glass Vases



Vases & art all art materials included. With instructions for "curing" your vase.

We'll bring silk florals if you want to make a Valentine gift.

Register. <https://kathrynrburke.com/product/021325m>



# 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://roseumc.org)

**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young

**Worship service times:**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship  
11 a.m. Sanctuary  
*Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of*

*Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.*

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.*

## ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

**Affiliation:** Southern Baptist

**Address:** 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401

**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

**Contact information:**

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: [www.RosemontBaptist.org](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)

**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson

**Worship Service Times:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

*Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.*

*We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no*

*matter what stage of life they are in.*

**Children's services:** *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*

*We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.*

# 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?



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**Amenities**

- Fishing Lake
- Basketball/pickleball courts
- Dog Parks
- Enclosed playground w/zipline
- Community Center

**Most Homes Include**

- Refrigerator, range, microwave, dishwasher, washer/dryer connection, 2-Car Parking Pad, 8' x 16' deck under 20' awning, lawn maintenance, sprinkler system.



62650 LaSalle Road, Montrose CO 81401  
 970-615-9412 Open Mon-Sat 8am-5pm  
 julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com  
 www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

**MEET MONTROSE**

Beautiful Western Colorado community-elevation of 5,794 feet-is nestled within easy reach of a vast selection of

experiences. Plummeting depths of Black Canyon

National Park to the east; towering, majestic San Juan Mountains to the south;

Expansive Uncompahgre Plateau to the west, lake-bejeweled Grand Mesa to the north; Montrose Rec Center (the newest, largest recreation center on the Western Slope) and expansive water sports park right in the middle of town. Montrose is surrounded by an endless variety of

prospects for exploration and adventure. A little something for everyone-shopping, fishing, biking, photography, camping, swimming, motorsports-you get the idea!

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SET SAIL AROUND THE WORLD WITH MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS!

*By Jonathan Heath*

Where would love and family bonds take you across a lifetime? My Funny Valentine Around the World, presented by Magic Circle Players February 6-9, follows the globe-spanning journey of Jack and Marguerite and their three children, celebrating family and culture throughout the world. From a romantic café in Paris, to a wedding in Sweden, to salsa dancing in Mexico, audiences will be treated to classic songs that tell love stories and show-stopping dancing that brings people together.

An original show written and directed by Lisa Rediger, with choreography by Shannon Rediger and musical direction by Rebecca Northey, Tom Northey and Rich Burt, My Funny Valentine Around the World features 52 outstanding volunteer actors, singers, dancers, and musicians of all ages—including a live band!

Lisa Rediger described the inspiration for this year’s show: “Although my family settled in Montrose in 1884, I grew up in Hawaii, Australia and Papua New Guinea. I truly was a citizen of the globe, my life has

been enriched and my world view broadened from spending so many years abroad. Through all the travels, cultural adjustments and experiences my family is the thread that runs strong and bright. This production celebrates travel and family; all the scenes are based on real life experiences - mine or another cast member.”

A VIP ticket will include dinner and wine at The Stone House on Thursday, February 6 at 5 p.m. followed by the show at Magic Circle Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Show only tickets are available for performances February 6, 7, and 8 and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, February 9. Each show includes reserved seating, complimentary treats, and a cash bar.

There will also be a live auction, with all proceeds going to Magic Circle Players. My Funny Valentine Around the World is more than just a great evening for you and your family, it’s a great way to support live theatre in Montrose.

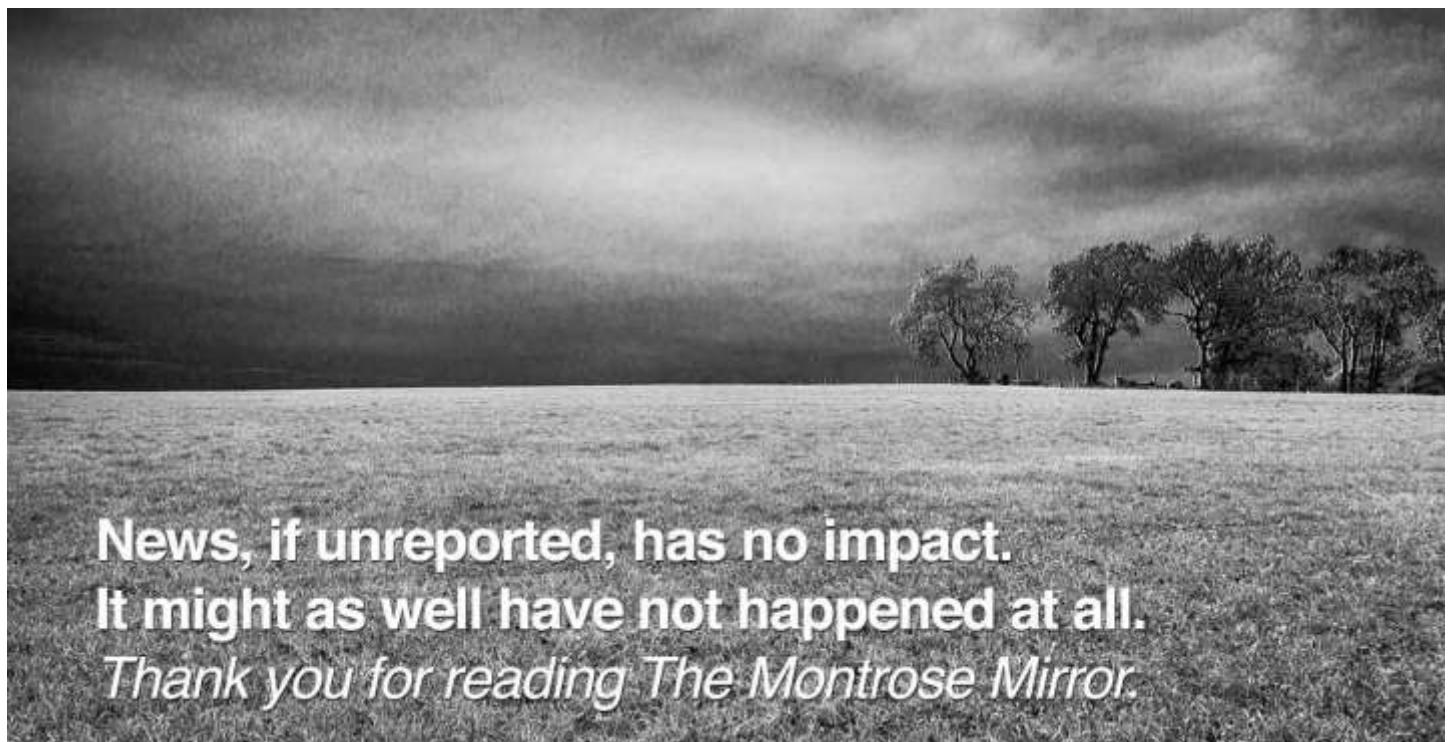
Tickets are available online at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com) or at Magic Circle Theatre,



***Magic Circle Players’ cast rehearsing scenes from upcoming My Funny Valentine Around the World.***

420 S 12th St. Montrose, Tuesdays-Thursdays 2-5 p.m.

Grab your tickets now to set sail around the world with Magic Circle Players!



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

# COMMUNITY 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

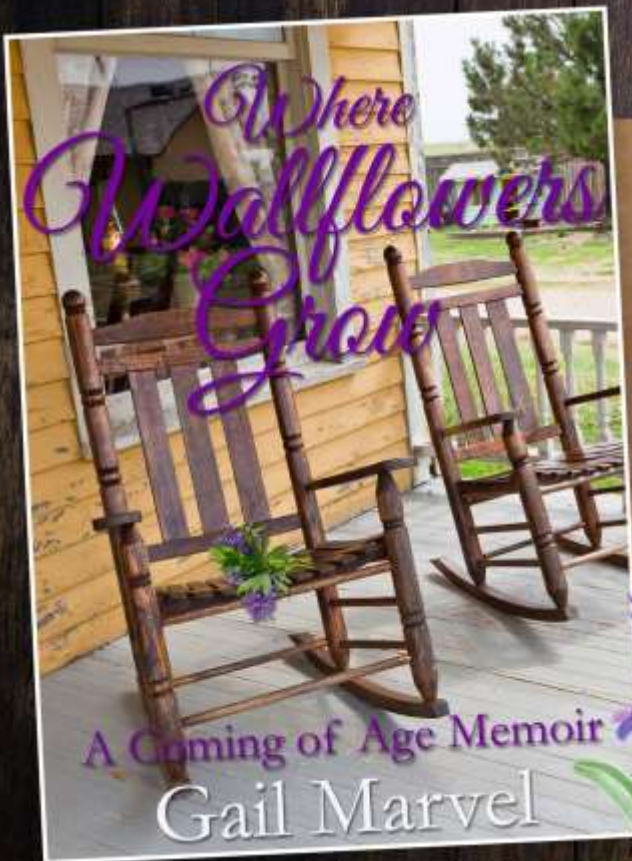
CREATED BY LISA REDIGER & SHANNON REDIGER

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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COME Play WITH US


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

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

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

**GAIL MARVEL**

*Montrose Author & Reporter*

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





# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## KENNETH GIFFORD NAMED TO MSOE DEAN'S LIST WITH HIGH HONORS FOR 2024 FALL SEMESTER

MILWAUKEE, WI-- Kenneth Gifford, from Montrose, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Dean's List with High Honors for the 2024 Fall Semester. Gifford is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

MSOE encourages excellence in academic achievement and, as a result, publishes the Dean's List and Honors List each fall and spring semester. Students taking undergraduate courses who have earned at least 12 credits in residence at MSOE, are in good academic standing, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher are on the Dean's List. Students on that list who have maintained a 3.70 or higher receive "high honors." Students with a term GPA of 3.20 or higher, who are not on the Dean's List, are on the Honors List.

Milwaukee School of Engineering ([www.msoe.edu](http://www.msoe.edu)) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. The independent, non-profit university has about 2,800 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing. Faculty are student-focused experts who bring real-world experience into the classroom. This approach to learning makes students ready now as well as prepared for the future. Longstanding partnerships with business and industry leaders enable students to learn alongside professional mentors, and challenge them to go beyond what's possible. MSOE graduates are leaders of character, responsible professionals, passionate learners and value creators.



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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
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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.

Feb. 13-The first quarterly meeting of The Women's Giving Club for 2025 will be Thursday, Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m. at Magic Circle Theater, 420 So. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Safeway. All women are invited to attend. Drinks and appetizers will be served. The donation is \$100 per person plus \$10 for hospitality expenses. For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phoebebenziger@gmail.com](mailto:phoebebenziger@gmail.com).

# READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: By B. Switzer



*At left. Air Show coming again in September; above, On the Trail. Photos by B. Switzer.*



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