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the Montrose Mirror

MAYOR LASHES OUT AT CONSTITUENT SEEKING GREATER ACCESSIBILITY DURING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING



Council voted to approve contracts for construction of the new Public Works Facility on Feb. 5. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, with four councilors and a handful of constituents in attendance. Councilor Judy Ann files was absent.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, as Mayor J. David Reed called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank had no changes to the meeting agenda.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Reed asked how many visitors intended to speak, counted them, and called them one by one. First to speak was Tom Mathis. A retired Union carpenter, Mathis has been speaking at municipal meetings to ask the local

Continued pg 26

THREE RED HAWKS ACCEPT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



(L-R) Andeas Distel, Jack Pankey and Chris Mock sign their scholarship papers. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football season ended in early December on the CSU's Campus Stadium as the Red Hawks fell to the Broomfield Eagles in the 5A state championship

game. The 35-28 loss was the only blemish on a 13-win season as the Red Hawks put together 13 wins in a row before the final contest.

Head coach Brett Mertens presided over a scholarship celebration

on Wednesday afternoon to celebrate and honor three football players for their outstanding careers as members of the highly successful Red Hawks football program over the past several years.

Continued pg 17

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

5725 ROAD CLOSURE FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose County is announcing a temporary road closure beginning on February 11, 2025 on 5725 Road at the FD lateral, which is 0.6 miles south of Ash Lane for a large culvert installation. The project has an expected completion date of February 19, 2025.

Motorists are asked to use the following routes:

-All addresses north of 2760 Road will need to use A Road and B Road.

-All addresses south of 2832 Road will need to use Blossom Road or Begonia Road.

For more information or questions about the project, please contact Richard Rivera, Montrose County Public Works Project Manager at 970-252-7001.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GIVE THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN HEALTH CARE A BREAK : IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOICE CONCERNS

Editor:

I read yesterday that the VA nurses in Atlanta have been advised *not* to take the federal offers to resign their positions. Why was such an offer made? Evidently, the VA is now on Musk's cutting block.

I find the disservice and absolute callous regard for our veterans unbelievable. As a retired registered nurse, does Musk have any idea that for DECADES there has been a critical shortage of nurses in this country?!? We don't grow on trees.

While I am on the topic of health care, what qualifications does Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. bring to the table? Up until about two minutes ago, he was a Democrat. Then he changed his affiliation to Independent to run for president in 2024. After he endorsed Mr. Trump, he's suddenly a Republican? Give me a break! Give the future of American health care a big break. The man has no medical credentials. He spews misinformation about vaccinations and science. Has it ever occurred

to anyone that the "uptick in autism" may have nothing to do with vaccines, but an increased reporting of the condition?

There will be countless illnesses, diseases and unnecessary deaths if he becomes the Secretary of Health and Human Services. It's not too late to call Representative Jeff Hurd or

Senators Michael Bennet & John Hickenlooper to voice your concerns.

Raye Highland, B.S.N. R.N. (retired), Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is accepting applications for a vacancy on its Historic Preservation Commission. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday,

February 26, 2025. The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply.


The Historic Preservation Commission

serves as the evaluative body for historic properties in the City of Montrose, providing recommendations to the City Council on historic property designations, assisting with public education regarding municipal history and historic preservation, and reviewing best practices for designation standards and preservation efforts throughout the community.

Historic Preservation commissioners are appointed by the City Council. At least 60% of the Commission's members are residents of the city, and at least 40% of them are professionals or individuals with extensive expertise in a preservation-related discipline, including but not limited to history, architecture, landscape architecture, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, planning, or archaeology.

To learn more about the Commission, please visit www.cityofmontrose.org/History.

Applications are available at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, at www.CityofMontrose.org/History, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 970.240.1430.



FACTS & FICTION

Is it good for tax exempt properties to be built inside the boundaries of the Colorado Outdoors/MURA project area?

NO...it is very important to only build "taxable" projects within Colorado Outdoors. The Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA) was created in 2017 by a collective agreement among all affected taxing entities such as the City of Montrose, Montrose County, and the School District, as well as several special districts such as the Fire District, Recreation District, West Montrose Sanitation, Bostwick Park Conservancy District, the Library District and others.

These taxing entities agreed to support the new business development project by allowing "new revenues" generated from taxes within the project area between 2017 and 2042, to be reinvested into the MURA for business expansion projects. The purpose is to create jobs, provide new amenities such as restaurants and hotels, and to better utilize the previously blighted river corridor in that area. In order to get the project started, new streets/curb/gutter/sidewalk, water, sewer, storm sewer, and other utilities had to be built up front. Traditionally, this money would come from a large Bond Issuance or major debt borrowing at an interest rate of about 7-8%. The City was able to "loan" the MURA this money at 4% interest to get started from enterprise fund reserves. Repayment of this, and any future debt the MURA might acquire will get repaid through taxes. Therefore, we should not place "tax exempt" properties that generate no tax revenue within the Colorado Outdoors area.

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNITY MOURNS SUDDEN PASSING OF COMMISSIONER RICK DUNLAP

Montrose County News Release

MONTROSE - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Commissioner Rick Dunlap, who died at Montrose Regional Hospital due to natural causes Saturday morning. His unexpected departure leaves a deep void in the hearts

of all who knew him.

Rick lived his life with unwavering commitment to the values he cherished most: faith, family, country, community, and his friends and neighbors. His kindness, strength, and dedication touched the lives of many, and his presence in our commu-



Montrose County Commissioner Rick Dunlap died of natural causes Saturday.

nity will be sorely missed.

Sue Hansen, on behalf of the county, expressed the profound sadness this loss has brought to everyone. "This is a devastating loss for Rick's family, Montrose County, and our entire community. Rick's impact was felt far and wide, and we will carry his memory with us."

As the family navigates this difficult time, we ask that you please respect their space and grant them the grace they need as they process this tragic loss.

Additional details will be provided as they become available.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

NORWOOD MAN CONVICTED OF THREATENING LAW ENFORCEMENT

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado

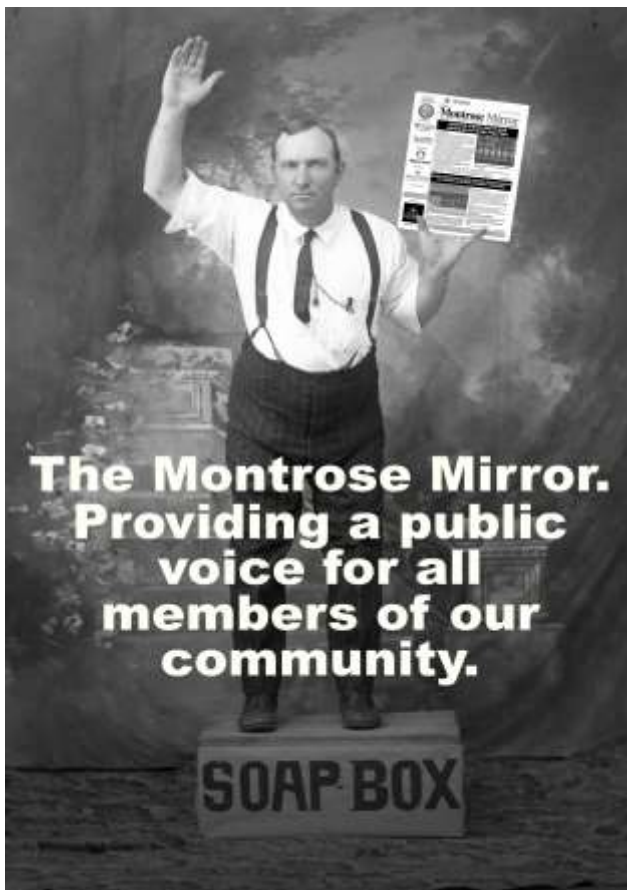
DURANGO – The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado announces that Bryan Cornwell, 41, formerly of Norwood, Colorado, was convicted by a federal jury on two counts of transmitting threats in interstate commerce. The jury found Cornwell not guilty of a third count of the same charge.

According to the facts established at trial, from late August through later October 2023, Cornwell knowingly sent over 80 emails containing graphic and threatening messages to a law enforcement official. The messages included threats to kill and seriously injure the official, such as repeated statements that “I AM GOING TO KILL YOU.” At the time that Cornwell sent the threatening messages, he was pending sentencing on a prior case where he admitted to threatening to blow up the San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office.

Cornwell will be sentenced on April 2, 2025, in Durango, Colorado.

United States District Court Judge Gordon P. Gallagher presided over the trial. The Federal Bureau of Investigation handled the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Graves handled the prosecution.

Case Number: 24-cr-00047-GPG-JMC



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DID YOU KNOW? WHY DID IT GROW?

- A public debt proposal of **\$53,409,698** was formally submitted to the Montrose City Council workshop on November 18, 2024.
- An updated public debt proposal of **\$58,771,485** was formally submitted to the Montrose City Council workshop on February 3, 2025.
- In just 13 weeks, the proposed public debt **increased by 10%**, or **\$5,361,787**.

Special Note: The November 18th workshop did not include the proposal in the Agenda Packet, and one or more City Council members did not have access to it prior to the workshop.

Does your vote matter?

Stay tuned to Montrose Citizens DOGE!!



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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

USPS AND U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE WARN PUBLIC ABOUT ROMANCE SCAMS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO — With Valentine’s Day approaching, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) want consumers to be aware they may be targeted for romance scams, a

deceptive form of fraud that preys on individuals seeking companionship. These scams often start online but frequently escalate to requests for money or valuables sent through the mail, leading to devastating financial and emotional losses for

victims.

“Protecting the sanctity and integrity of the mail is our top priority,” said USPIS Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. “This includes protecting customers from mail-related crimes, including fraudulent schemes like romance scams. Public awareness is critical in stopping these criminals before they cause harm.”

How romance scams work

Scammers create fake identities, often using stolen photos and fictitious personal details.

They cultivate online relationships over weeks or months, building trust through social media, dating apps, or email, and pledge their love early on.

Once trust is established, they fabricate urgent financial needs – such as medical emergencies, travel expenses, or business problems – to solicit money.

Victims are pressured into sending cash, checks, wire transfers, or gift cards, making recovery difficult once the fraud is detected.

How to protect yourself

Be cautious of online relationships that escalate quickly, especially if the individual avoids in-person meetings or video calls.

Look for inconsistencies in the person’s profile and the information they share. Keep your personal information private.

Never send money, checks, gift cards, or personal finance information to someone you haven’t met in person.

Be suspicious of requests for secrecy or urgent financial help.

If you think it’s a scam, cut off communication immediately and report it.

For more information on romance scams visit [Romance Scam – United States Postal Inspection Service](#)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AARP TAX-AIDE SITE OPEN THROUGH APRIL 11

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Montrose AARP Tax-aid 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-

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TOP US LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER LIED UNDER OATH

Editor:

I watched Pam Bondi’s confirmation hearing. She was UNDER OATH. She said there would be no retribution of prosecutors who investigated Donald Trump. I believed her. (Do these people go to acting school?) The first thing she did was go after Jack Smith, Alvin Bragg and Letitia James.

She is the top law enforcement officer of the USA and she lied UNDER OATH. I can hardly wait to hear Kash Patel’s “script”.

Jo Clugg, Montrose



THE 25TH ANNUAL

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CHAPTER # 40

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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!

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THREE RED HAWKS ACCEPT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS *From pg 1*

Coach Mertens stressed the difficult path these young men must travel in order to be able to play and succeed at the next level. He noted that moving away from family and friends will be a different environment plus the demands both in the classroom and on the playing field will be challenging for these athletes. Coach Mertens also stressed the importance of the families of these athletes being solidly behind them every step of the way.

ANDREAS DISTEL

Offensive and defensive lineman Andreas Distel has earned a scholarship to play football at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. Distal was one of the "road graders" up front that made the Red Hawks running game so successful. Andreas has also competed in track & field and wrestling. His dad, Wade Distel is a boiler inspector and his mom, Vennessa is an accountant. Andreas is the youngest of five brothers and sisters.

Andreas believes CMU will use him either on offense or on defense, or as he said, "either or both." Andreas has tentatively decided on a Business major. Andreas enjoys hunting, fishing and just hanging

out with friends.

JACK PANKEY

Jack Pankey is also headed for Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. Jack played on both sides of the football for the Montrose Red Hawks. On offense he played tight end and could be found at linebacker or in the secondary for the Red Hawks defense. Jack Pankey has been a mainstay for the Red Hawks throughout his high school career. Pankey was selected as 4A southern League Lineman of the Year, a Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) All State team, and was selected to play in the CHSAA All State Game.

Jack's dad, Kevin Pankey, is self-employed and his mom, Sarah Pankey, is a teacher. Jack has a brother, Ryan, who is also a player for the Red Hawks.

Pankey believes he was recruited at CMU to continue playing his favored position, tight end, for the Mavericks. Pankey is interested in majoring in Business.

Pankey has also played baseball for the Red Hawks. While in high school Pankey enjoyed math classes and welding in shop. He enjoys fishing, hunting, swimming, and

anything that can be done out of doors.

CHRIS MOCK

Chris Mock was the starting quarterback for the Montrose Red Hawks this past season until injuries sidelined him for the last couple of regular season games and the playoffs. Mock led his team throughout the season undefeated until injured and unable to finish the season. When asked about his football history, Mock said, "I have played football my whole life and I played just about every position there is."

Chris's dad, Justin Mock, is a truckdriver and his mom, Jennifer, is a medical assistant. Chris also has a brother, Aiden Mock. Chris will be enrolled at Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska, which is located just to the west of Lincoln, Nebraska--the same school that produced Head Coach Brett Mertens. Mock is expected to continue playing quarterback at Concordia. He plans to major in Theology.

Chris has also participated in Track and Field. In high school Chris enjoyed A.P. U.S. History and A.P. World History. His hobbies include reading, fishing, and working out.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MINERS TRAIL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE SET IN PLACE

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY – A significant milestone in local infrastructure development was reached last Monday as the Miners Trail Pedestrian Bridge was successfully set in place over the North Fork of the Gunnison River. A crowd of community members and the project’s stakeholders gathered throughout the day to witness the impressive feat, as a skilled construction crew transported the bridge from the fairgrounds, where it had been assembled over the weekend, to its final location.

Though the distance was short, the process required precision and coordination.

With the aid of large, powerful cranes positioned in the river, the crew carefully lifted and aligned the 200-foot-long pedestrian bridge, ensuring every component was placed accurately before final installation. To support this expansive structure, large abutments were constructed over the last 8 months on both sides of the river, providing stability and durability for years to come.

The bridge, which was manufactured in Minnesota before being transported to Colorado, was designed by Buckhorn Engineering. It serves as a vital connection along the Miners Trail, offering a safe multimodal route between the Delta County Fairgrounds and the downtown area, the North Fork High School, and the Pool and Recreation District. To further enhance accessibility, the entire Miners Trail will be paved, opening up the route to all community members, including those with mobility challenges.

Local blacksmith Ira Houseweart is contributing to the project by crafting custom ironwork that will be integrated into the bridge’s railings, adding a unique artistic and local flair to the structure.

Wendell Koontz, Delta County Commissioner, expressed enthusiasm for the project’s completion: "This bridge is a testament to our community’s commitment to improving infrastructure for all users. It will provide a crucial link for students, residents, and visitors traveling between key areas in town, increasing both safety and convenience. We have waited a long time for this moment, and it’s hard to believe it’s finished!"

While the bridge installation marks a major achievement, it will remain closed to the public until the Miners Trail officially opens to ensure all finishing touches, including paving and safety measures, are complete.

This project has been made possible through the collaboration of several key stakeholders, including The Nature Connection, Delta County School District, North Fork High School, North Fork Recreation District, Con-Sy, Inc., Buckhorn Engineering, Metal Works LLC, Delta County Administrative and Fairgrounds staff.

The Miners Trail is officially expected to open for public use in early spring 2025. Please visit our website page dedicated to the Miners Trail, where you will receive updates and can view more pictures and even drone footage of the project.

Click [HERE](#) to visit our website page.

Click [HERE](#) to follow our progress on our Facebook page.



Project stakeholders, construction crew, and community members stand on the new North Fork Miners Trail Pedestrian Bridge for the first time on Monday. Courtesy photo.

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Jim Montoya,
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BOCC DENIES 45-DAY FREEZE ON NORTH CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION, HEARS PROJECT BACKGROUND FROM ARCHITECTS AND STAFF



BOCC meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—All commissioners were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

There were some difficulties with the meeting livestream; some agenda items were reordered as the meeting continued, entering Executive Session shortly after 11:30am.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners pulled several Consent Agenda items (Nos. 7, 9 and 11) for further discussion at the request of Commissioner Mijares.

After hearing from the Assessor and the county manager, Commissioners voted to approve Item 7, *the Board's signature on a letter of support for the real estate tax exemption application submitted by Marillac Health to the State of Colorado, Division of Property Taxation*; and Item 9, *the Chair's signature on a statement of work ("SOW") under the master service agreement ("MSA") dated January 3, 2023, with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP. This agreement stipulates conditions related to consulting services for the independent annual financial audit for the year ended December 31, 2024, as reviewed by Counsel.* Also approved was Item 11, *authorization for Cindy Dunlap to sign a Statement of Work agreement effective for the year ended*

December 31, 2024, under the Master Services Agreement with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, dated January 3, 2023, to provide non-attest services related to the application and requirements of GASB Statement No. 87 Leases and GASB Statement No. 96 SBITA's (Subscription Based Information Technology Agreement). This agreement stipulates conditions related to CLA's Turnkey hosting solution for leases and SBITA's, as reviewed by Counsel.

The remaining Consent Agenda items were approved, with Resolution No. 10-2025 assigned to item 11 and Resolution No. 11-2025 assigned to item 12.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session briefly to convene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, to approve renewal of the Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine license for James Newberry, doing business as Newberry's Store & Rock Shop, 82119 E 45 Highway 50, Cimarron, Colorado, license #04-01094. All appropriate documents, reviews, inspection, background check and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-3-302. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff's Office or the Planning Department.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The first item, "Consideration and possible appointments to the Board of Adjustment" was pulled from the agenda.

Commissioners voted to approve the Chair's signature on a letter requesting a contract amendment between the State of Colorado and Montrose County to include an increase of \$350,000 and an extension of the contract term through August 1, 2027 for contract CDBGED-23643.

Commissioners voted to approve Resolution No. 12-2025, authorizing the Sheriff to implement and lift appropriate fire restrictions and limited bans as he deems necessary to protect the County from wildfire danger.

The BOCC voted to deny implementation of a 45-day freeze on construction and public engagement activities with regard to the North Campus construction project, as requested by Commissioner Scott Mijares.

Still, the board heard from staff and architects who answered questions to address Mijares concerns.

Among those present was Bill Bell, who serves as City Manager of Montrose as well as executive director of the Montrose Urban renewal Authority (MURA). Bell discussed the ramifications of placing tax-exempt facilities within the boundaries of the Colorado Outdoors Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA). It is important to only include taxable projects within the MURA boundaries, Bell said.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said that commissioners come and go, but staff are the ones who do all the work.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOCC considered three minor subdivisions and one final plat.

Approved were the Sunrise Estates Minor Subdivision [MI24-025] proposal to divide three lots from 39.70 acres at Parcel 372325300012;

The Blue Dog Minor Subdivision [MI24-026] proposal to divide one lot from 37.11 acres at Parcel 39950510002, 16267 Shavano Valley Rd;

The Corapoole Minor Subdivision [MI24-027] proposal to divide 9.11 acres into three lots at Parcel 376716118026, 12166 6450 RD; and

The Mountain View South Phase 2 Final Plat [MA24-007] proposal to divide 9.52 acres into eight lots at Parcel 403901203001.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners left regular session to convene in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (f) to discuss personnel policy items.

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OPINION EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN FELONY CHARGES ARE FILED AGAINST OUR GOVERNOR AND BLUE CITY MAYORS

Editor:

One of the two greatest issues for voters in Trump's November 5 landslide victory was concern about the influx of illegal migrants and violent criminals from other countries being welcomed into our country.

For years our esteemed Governor Polis made it perfectly clear that all illegals were welcomed into our sanctuary state all to the detriment of our citizens and public safety. On Thursday last our new Attorney General Pam Bondi filed Federal charges against the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago for feloniously harboring illegal immigrants.

One day later Governor Polis was singing an entirely different song contrary to the facts stating that Colorado was not a sanctuary state. In doing so he tried to shift the blame to mayors and council members of Aurora and Denver.

I for one look forward to the day when felonious charges are filed against our governor and Blue City mayors for illegally harboring and supporting illegal migrant criminals.

When that occurs you can be assured that they will all crumble like a crushed box of Girl Scout cookies.

Dee Laird, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THE PRICE OF OUR PRIVATE DATA?

Editor:

The 49.8 % of the American People re-elected 45 as President. His VP Is JD Vance. No where on that ticket was Elon Musk. Yet, Musk is illegally entering the Treasury building with his 6 person IT crew, illegally accessing personal records of Social Security and Medicare Recipients and Federal Employees. Think about that. Americans spend millions each year to keep our personal information private, out of the hands of those that will scam us. Yet Musk is being allowed total access to our information.

Musk spent \$290 million on the 2024 election between 45 and other Republican candidates. Apparently, that is the price America puts on our private data.

Bobbi Kuns, Montrose

THE MONTROSE ROTARY CLUB IS VERY PROUD OF THE BLACK CANYON ROTARY CLUB

Editor:

Shame on you, David White. Your statements about the creation of the Black Canyon Rotary Club are wrong. You were not there and the story you spin about how Black Canyon Rotary Club came about is not true.

Rotary is an international service organization, with over a million members and thousands of clubs around the world. Our motto is "Service Above Self." Yes, there is a simple application process, but most clubs actively recruit members to join. Our members spend countless volunteer hours sponsoring events and projects that benefit community members and global initiatives. Rotarians across the world work to promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; and grow local economies. The Montrose Rotary Club has been serving Montrose since 1921. We are very proud of our history in this community.

Here is what really happened, and I do know because I was President of the Montrose Rotary Club at the time the

Black Canyon Rotary Club started. Rotary International encourages the formation of new Rotary Clubs. One avenue for creating new clubs is for an established club to sponsor a "Satellite Club" until it seems to have the momentum to continue on its own. The Montrose Rotary Club sponsored a satellite club that met in the morning for MANY YEARS before it applied for its charter. There was a dedicated group of young members who were interested in a different Rotary experience and worked hard to create the kind of club that would attract other young people. It gained and lost momentum over time until finally in 2019, the time seemed right to launch the new club. The Black Canyon Rotary Club has maintained a close relationship with the Montrose Rotary Club and this successful partnership earned awards in our Rotary District. It is still touted within the District as an effective way to create a new club. While many new Rotary clubs start with 10 members, this new club started with 23. I believe it now has around 60 members. The Montrose Rotary Club is very proud of the Black

Canyon Rotary Club. We collaborate well and complement each other. What a wonderful Rotary success story.

Bill Bell did not "cause a split" in the club, nor was this group created "largely at (his) behest." Bill has always been a dedicated Rotarian, sponsoring many Rotary Youth Exchange students and assisting other clubs in the District. While Bill has VOLUNTEERED innumerable hours to Rotary, he was not a member of this group of young members who actively lobbied for a new club. Many entities, such as local businesses and the City of Montrose, sponsor Rotary members, meetings and projects, understanding that they can leverage the knowledge AND VOLUNTEER TIME of their staff to do good things for the community. Isn't that worth a little coffee?

You dropped out of Rotary, David. Do not pretend that you know what happens inside our club. Do not make us pawns in your personal vendetta. Lies about Rotary damage your credibility and reputation.

Sincerely,

Emily Schneider

Member, Montrose Rotary Club

THERE ARE MUCH BETTER CANDIDATES AVAILABLE

Editor:

The news of Rick Dunlaps passing had barely been made public before Scott Riba started making phone calls to members of the Montrose GOP central committee. To get them to gift him the commissioner's position through the vacancy process that he couldn't win in a very dishonest campaign. Scott Riba is a very dishonest man and this behavior is proof of his lack of moral character. It would be a serious mistake to gift that man an important position that he could not win in an honest election. Riba's actions in this matter is proof of his lack of concern for the Dunlap family and their loss. He totally corrupted the central committee with his dishonesty. And the central committee is now a joke rather than an important part of our political process. There are much better candidates available who are people of good moral character that should be considered first.

Ray Langston, Montrose

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What a delightful welcoming home in a carefree community! this "nearly new" home, in pristine condition, features light and bright interior with stainless appliances and easy care laminate flooring. this home includes washer and dryer and tankless osmosis water system. The open kitchen utilizes an island with a stainless "farm sink" and seating area. this home has a "split" floor plan with the main suite featuring a 5 piece bath including a soaking tub. The many large windows and light colors definitely lend itself to a relaxing atmosphere. This home is adapted to include an electrical auto outlet. This community welcomes you with a fishing pond, a play ground with a zipline!! and a doggy park! The Seller currently uses the 2 guest rooms for a production area and they will not be stages as bedrooms.

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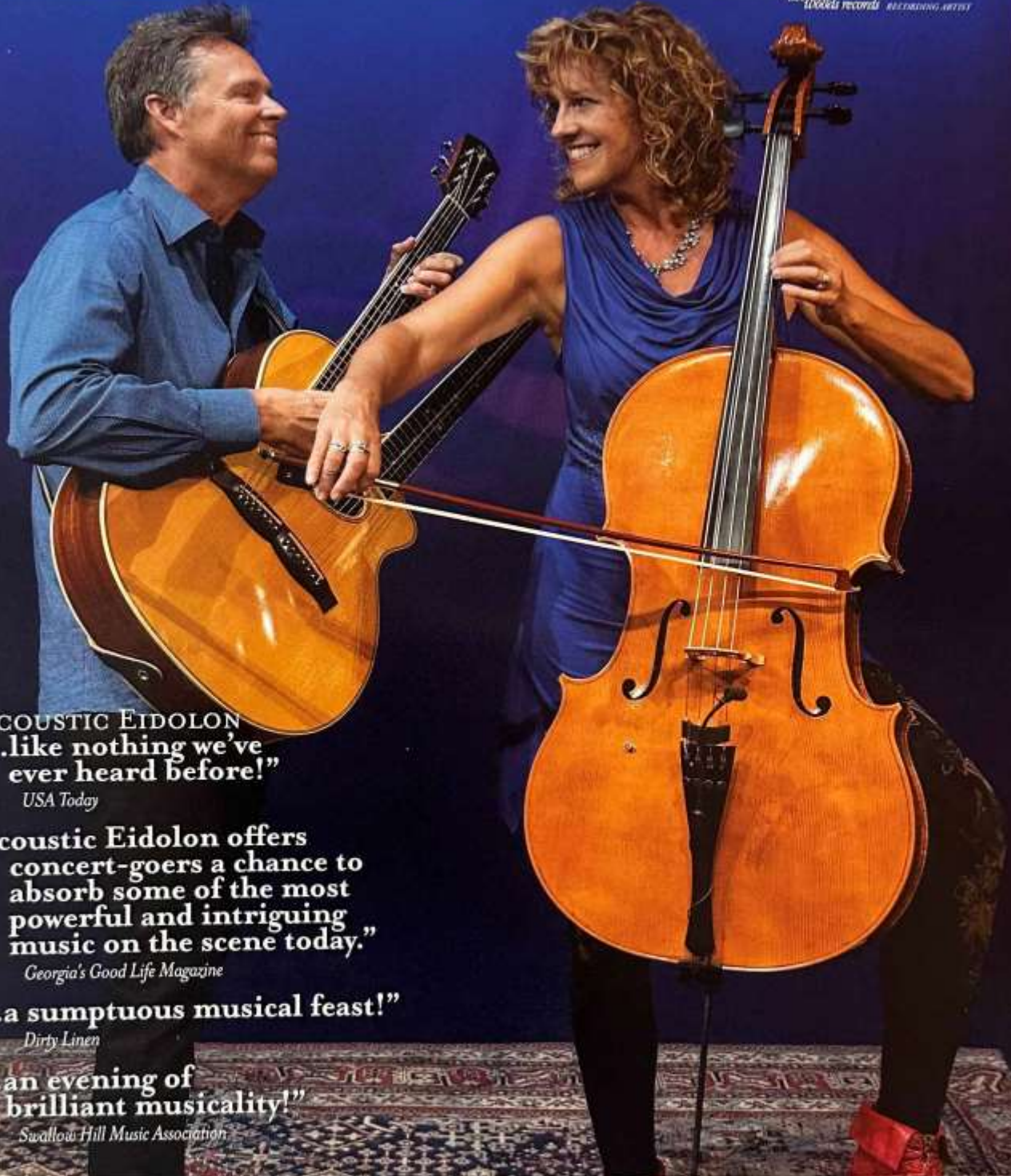
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MAYOR LASHES OUT AT CONSTITUENT From pg 1

officials to follow building code regulations pertaining to the inspection of foundations.

Mathis read portions of the residential building code into the record.

Mayor Reed interrupted Mathis to say that comments must pertain to the City of Montrose.

"The public comment is for matters pertaining to the city. And you have been here pretty much every meeting talking about matters that are of concern to you, but as I understand it relate to the County and perhaps the County of Ouray..."

Mathis said, "No the City as well. I met with (City Building Official) Archie Byers and did a Q&A with him, and they've all adopted the 2018 International residential Code, so this applies to the city as well."

Reed said, "Please tell me how it applies to the city specifically."

Mathis said, "Because you've adopted this code, and you're supposed to follow it. It hasn't been amended where it's pulled this approval required out of the code."

Reed agreed to let Mathis speak; Mathis continued to read, and said, "...I have the requirements for residential construction in the City of Montrose, and they require that the plumbing, electrical insulation and wallboard all be approved before covering. However, they don't require the foundation to remain open. They actually allow the foundation to be backfilled and framed upon without approval from the building official. This has compromised over \$355M worth of permitted work from 2020 to 2024 in the City of Montrose alone..."

Mathis provided [16 pages of material](#) to be entered into the public record.

Next, Constituent Michael Badagliacco spoke. "I'm speaking today on behalf of members of the community who are concerned about how community leadership, specifically City Council and City Manager, lack meaningful dialogue with the public...it's become clear that there is little effort to involve the community in any way. Public Interactive Sessions listed on the city web site, intended for public input, have been set aside. In a recent in-

stance, a resident who followed the guidelines was not given the opportunity to speak with any council members as no one was available to address their concerns even though they followed all the rules. It's my understanding that it's been more than a year since there has been any actual live interaction sessions, most likely due to the fact that many of the working residents are not available at 9am on a Monday once a month, forcing them to forfeit a portion of their income only to be told that council members are unavailable to meet with them.

"Despite repeated requests for evening townhall style sessions, the council has refused to accommodate those who need more accessible opportunities to participate."

Badaliacco continued, "As taxpayers we expect our leaders to be available and responsive to the people they serve, us."

He also noted "a troubling lack of dissenting votes"

"...Seriously guys? Seriously? Some might say this is unity, but others of us view this as a lack of genuine debate or even potential undue influence in decision making."

He said, "True leadership involves open discussion, differing viewpoints, and the willingness to challenge ideas. The people of Montrose deserve leaders that listen, engage, respect, and value their input...we the people want to see open dialogue, real accessibility and leadership that reflects the needs and the will of the people, not simply rubber stamping the will of the City Manager...you are the ones that are accountable to the voters and you have a responsibility to them..."

Mayor J. David Reed said that he would respond to the concerns raised by Badagliacco, despite regular meeting protocol which does not involve responding to constituents.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that other councilors should have the same prerogative, but Mayor Reed stated that it is up to the Mayor.

"I am exercising my prerogative, Mr. Ulibarri."

Reed then stated that Council's contact information is available on the web site.

To Badaliacco, he said, "...You have never once made attempt to contact me!"

Badagliacco said, "I have never attempted to do so, but others have."

"Let me finish!" Reed said. "I respond to every email and call that I get!"

"You're lying," Badagliacco said, "And I'm not going to take it. I'm going to hold you accountable."

"That's a threat!" Reed said.

"No, that's a promise," Badaliacco said.

From the audience Tom Mathis interjected, "No emails of mine have been responded to."

Next to speak was Kim Spangrude, who said she is a retired family nurse practitioner, and described her background, beginning as a young mother stricken with poverty to becoming a medical professional. "...You are always best to treat people who are not like you, who you don't relate to, who you think are where they are because of bad choices they made...you would always do well to treat them like you would want to be treated, because someday they may be your nurse practitioner, or doctor, or lawyer, or your judge. You don't know or see the full potential of a person when they have no resources or safety net.

"City representatives have a moral responsibility to project the values of the city council," Spangrude said. "In my experience, working many years with houseless individuals and with agencies providing services to homeless individuals, when a person or persons representing a community decides that the reason a person isn't housed is because of bad choices or because of bad character or that they should be jailed, they are reflecting that attitude of the entire city council back to the entire community..."

Carol Antolovich spoke. She said that she attempted to attend the meeting at which council heard from community members on whether Montrose should be a sanctuary city, but could not, due to the large crowd. "There were people lined up out that door and down to the sidewalk," she said, "So I did not get in to be able to speak. But that night you voted four to one to declare Montrose not a sanctuary city, but then only days later you voted a

MAYOR LASHES OUT AT CONSTITUENT *From previous pg*

a reversal of that.

"As scripture says, let your yes be yes and your no be no. If you recall your grammar lessons from school, you know two negatives make a positive. So saying you will not declare Montrose not to be a sanctuary city, you are actually saying that Montrose is a sanctuary city. (And) if you have thought that there were no criminal illegal immigrants in Montrose, a January 30 news item destroys that narrative..."

Antolovich then cited a television headline from FOX 31 in Denver about the ICE arrest in Montrose of a woman with a record of violent felonies, who was previously arrested and released by local police last year.

"...It's time to eliminate the confusing nonsense of double negatives and to go with a symbolic and clear resolution declaring Montrose not to be a sanctuary city, in compliance with federal law," she said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, regular City Council meeting as presented.

FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE & WINE LICENSE TRANSFER

Council voted to approve the transfer of a Fermented Malt Beverage & Wine license at 17250 Highway 550 from Hangin Tree Travel Plaza LLC to Horse Thief Holding LLC, doing business as Wild West, for consumption off of the licensed premises.

Council then proceeded to approve a number of contracts:

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY CONTRACT

Council voted to approve a contract with Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Company, Inc., in the amount of \$60,000 for the 2025 Fourth of July fireworks display.

PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CMGC CONTRACT AWARD

As discussed in work session, Council voted to award a contract to FCI Constructors, Inc. for construction management – general contractor (CMGC) services in the amount of \$150,000 for the Public Works

Facility Construction Project.

PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AWARD

Also previously discussed was the award of a contract to Dynamic Program Management (DPM) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000. for program management services for the Public Works Facility Construction Project; Council voted to approve the contract.

2025 ASPHALT CRUSHING CONTRACT RENEWAL

Council voted to extend the contract for a professional service agreement with Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC. for stockpile crushing at the City's material storage yard in the amount not-to-exceed \$80,000.

WEST MAIN REVITALIZATION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Councilors approved \$3,709,411.25 in expenditures for construction of the West Main Revitalization Project. This includes the award of a construction contract to Ridgway Valley Enterprises in the amount of \$3,379,411.25, a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$145,000, and up to \$185,000 in direct expenditures for construction materials testing and streetlight replacements by DMEA.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN BUILD CONTRACT

Council approved the award of a contract to Burns & McDonnell/Moltz Construction for the design phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,350,000.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT GEARBOX INSTALLATION CONTRACT

Finally, Council voted to approve a contract with Moltz Construction in an amount not to exceed \$77,770. for the installation of a replacement gearbox on one of the secondary clarifiers at the Montrose Wastewater Treatment Plant.

STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about immigration and customs enforcement, and

how the Montrose Police Department will and will not interact with those operations. Colorado law prohibits local law enforcement from arresting and detaining someone on the basis of their civil immigration status or a detainer, Hall said. However, local law enforcement is authorized to assist if notified by ICE.

It is also important for local law enforcement to have positive, proactive relationships with undocumented citizens in order to infiltrate international criminal organizations, Hall said.

Mayor Reed thanked Hall, as did Councilor Ed Ulibarri.

Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said that Citizen Interactive sessions are held upon request, and that a recent such request was accidentally overlooked by staff. She encouraged citizens with questions to contact her.

Mayor Reed said that it was a simple mistake.

Reed said, "...Contrary to what you may have heard in comments tonight, we have not disbanded the citizen interactive sessions...they are still in place and still available to our citizens..."

Councilor Doug Glaspell said that Council cannot respond to citizen comment during meetings because the interaction has not been announced ahead of time.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a construction update.

Councilor Glaspell said that he had attended a program on flyfishing which was supported by the City. Councilor Ed Ulibarri said the flyfishing documentary is available online.

Morgenthaler said that the City is proud to partner with local flyfishing business Ed's Fly Shop, and that the documentary has been well received.

Mayor Reed said he attended a public meeting at MADA regarding the North 9th Street roundabout.

"...I thought it was overall very successful..."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY THE LACK OF CITY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE?

Editor:

As a concerned citizen of Montrose, I am writing today to voice a growing frustration felt by many in our community. The core of this frustration lies in the evident lack of meaningful community engagement and dialogue with town leadership—specifically from the City Council and City Manager. This issue is one that I have raised previously, and it continues to be a point of concern for many of us who call Montrose home.

1. Limited Community Engagement and Dialogue

It has become increasingly clear that our City Council is not making the necessary efforts to engage the community in a way that truly values public input. Public sessions designed for community feedback, which are posted on the city website, have been severely limited and often ignored. These sessions, intended to facilitate citizens' expression of concerns through dialogue with Council members, have regrettably transformed into mere formalities on the site. They serve as a facade of two-way communication but have failed to facilitate meaningful interactions.

A recent instance exemplifies this issue. A resident who diligently adhered to all the necessary guidelines for participating in a public interaction session discovered that no one was available to address their concerns. Notably, no council members were present at the scheduled event, and the questions submitted in advance were simply disregarded. Despite diligently following the "rules" for participation, which included submitting any questions in advance, the resident was denied any form of interaction. Furthermore, the citizens' valuable time was squandered. This is merely one of numerous instances where the community has been marginalized. In fact, it has been more than a year since we have had a live, interactive session where residents could engage directly with city council members.

2. Barriers to Participation

The lack of access is compounded by

scheduling that makes it nearly impossible for many residents to participate. Meetings are typically held at 9:00 AM on a Monday—an inconvenient time for many working individuals who cannot afford to lose income just to attend a city council meeting. This forces residents to choose between earning a living and voicing their concerns, and all too often, they have no meaningful way to make their voices heard.

Furthermore, I engaged in a conversation with another individual (and we have the receipts) who has been emailing the city on a near-daily basis for two years regarding a concern he has with his property that has yet to be signed off. This situation has left him essentially homeless, as he has been stuck in limbo, unable to complete the construction of his house due to city inspectors giving him the run-around. During the Council Meeting on February 4, 2025, the Mayor publicly stated that it was not the city's responsibility, despite the resident being within the city limits. According to the resident, he has approached the county, which informed him that it is the city's responsibility to approve the permit according to the current code since he is within the city limits. Instead of directing the resident to an appropriate resource, the Mayor chose to publicly disparage, deflect, and argue with this individual.

I have spoken to several individuals who, despite requests for evening sessions or town-hall events, have been told that the City Council does not want to change its process. This demonstrates that they do not find it necessary to accommodate those who need more accessible opportunities to engage. Taxpayers—those who fund the operations of the city—deserve to have their voices heard at times that are convenient for them, not just for a select few who have the ear of the Council and City Manager. As citizens, we expect our leaders to be responsive, accountable, and present for the people they serve.

3. Lack of Accountability and Dissent

Another troubling issue is the absence of any dissenting votes during City Council meetings.

For as long as I have attended these meetings, there has not been a single vote cast in opposition to any motions. While some may interpret this as a sign of unity, others, myself included, see it as indicative of a lack of genuine debate and a concerning absence of checks and balances in decision-making.

To never see any disagreement is, frankly, unhealthy. It signals either apathy or, worse, the possibility of undue influence or groupthink.

True leadership involves open discussion, differing viewpoints, and the willingness to challenge ideas. A Council that never disagrees is one that might not be fully representing the diverse voices and needs of the community.

4. A Call for Change

The people of Montrose deserve leadership that listens, respects, and values their input. The continued disregard for seeking out community voices—especially those that might differ from the views of the City Manager or Council members—is negligence. We will not remain silent on this matter.

We demand real change. We want open dialogue, genuine engagement, and accessibility to decision-makers in Montrose to reflect the needs and desires of the people—not just the will of the City Manager. Leadership will be held accountable to the voters who elect them, and the Council must remember that they are answerable to us—the citizens of Montrose.

It's time for our leadership to step up, truly listen to the community, and demonstrate that they are committed to the values of transparency, responsiveness, and accountability.

We, the people, will continue to raise our voices, demand accountability, and push for change until our leadership starts working for all of us, not just a select few.

Michael J. Badagliacco ("MJB")

Citizen – Montrose, CO



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CITY SCHEDULES BUDGET MEETING, REVIEWS PROJECTS AT FEB. 3 WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Mayor J. David Reed welcomed all to the regular City Council work session of Monday, Feb. 3, and reminded those watching of the purpose of a work session. The public is welcome, but public comment is not taken at work sessions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works Director James Scheid presented a discussion on Public Works Facility Funding Authorization for the new Public Works Facility.

The existing facility is dysfunctional in many ways, Scheid said. The new facility also enables the extension of Rio Grande Avenue across town.

Background-Information on the project is available in the work session packet, including a [financial plan Summary](#). The Agenda states that the COP Borrowing amount is proposed at \$55,000,000. The remaining project budget will be funded from the City's operational funds and budgets over the years of 2025, 2026, and 2027.

Council considered the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Application Authorization and [2025 VOCA Resolution](#), with Police Chief Blaine Hall and Victim Services Coordinator Chantelle Bainbridge present for the discussion.

Councilors considered a City Council Meeting Schedule Change for the DCI Conference.

Background-A memo from DART and Community Programs Director Michelle Wingfield outlines the City Council Meeting Schedule Change, due to the [annual DCI conference](#):

"The Regular City Council meeting scheduled on April 1, 2025 is proposed to be rescheduled to Monday, March 31, 2025. This change would allow City Council members and City Staff to attend the Downtown Colorado Inc. (DCI) Conference located in Greeley, Colorado that is scheduled from April 1 through April 4. If Council approves, the Regular City Council meeting will be held at its usual time and location on Monday, March 31. The City Council work session that week would not change and will still be held on Monday, March 31st at 10 am. Should the City Council want to proceed, this change will be put on the February 18th, 2025 Regular

City Council meeting agenda for a vote."

The next discussion item was the [2025 Crack Seal Material Purchase Recommendation](#). Council will be asked to approve the purchase of crack seal material from DISSCO (Denver Industrial Sales) for the City's Streets crew in the amount of \$105,000.

Background-A memo from Streets Division Superintendent Nikolas Pridy states, *"The City of Montrose Streets Division is preparing for the upcoming crack seal season that will be self-performed. This includes 40.4 lane miles of streets that will be crack sealed in maintenance Zone F of our Street Maintenance Plan (attached for reference). The material to be utilized and purchased is specific to our area and local climate. The City has utilized this specialized Low Tack, Type 1, material from Denver Industrial Sales & Service Company for the last several years with great results. For performance, compatibility, and warranty with existing equipment, we are requesting the authorization of Sole Source waiver for purchasing this material. The pricing provided is comparable to that of other crack seal material and to what has been purchased in years past by the City of Montrose Streets and Engineering Divisions... In the 2025 Budget, \$105,000 was budgeted for crack seal material under GL 100.5115.223.000 (Asphalt)."*

Pridy then introduced the [2025 Asphalt Crushing Contract Extension Recommendation](#). Council will be asked to consider extending the contract for a professional service agreement with Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC. for stockpile crushing at the City's material storage yard in the amount not-to-exceed \$80,000.

Background-A memo from Pridy to Council states, *"The City of Montrose Public Works utilizes a material storage yard (AKA The Pit) on top of Sunset Mesa to store gravel, cobble, fill materials, concrete, and asphalt debris. Maintenance crews produce enough of these materials each year to require them to be crushed into structural filling material. These crushed materials can be reused in a few ways such as structural fill for the construction or resurfacing of millings trails or to be processed through an asphalt recy-*

cler for patching the city streets in the winter. In 2024, the City issued an RFP for this service and received three bids. Rocky Mountain Aggregate (RMA) was awarded the contract at a flat rate of \$9.86 per crushed ton of aggregate. RMA has agreed to honor the same rate for 2025. City Staff recommend renewing the contract with Rocky Mountain Aggregate from Montrose, CO."

Fleet Superintendent Shane Brandt presented the [2025 Vehicle and Equipment Disposal List](#) Authorization.

Council also considered some proposed [Updates to Municipal Code Chapter 3](#), which deals with water and sewer. Utilities Director David Bries and Finance Director Shani Wittenberg were present for the discussion. As a result of the changes, a memo from Bries to Council notes, *"Builders will no longer pay for estimated construction water at the time the building permit is issued, but will receive monthly water bills for the construction water as it is used."*

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg discussed the scheduling of the City's annual Budget Meeting, which was tentatively set for 9am on Sept. 18.

GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said the Colorado Municipal League Legislative Workshop is coming up on February 20, and encouraged council and staff who wish to attend to let City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo know, *"It's a great opportunity for local leaders and CML board members to get together and learn about what some of the upcoming legislation is and what it affects and how it could affect Home Rule municipalities,"* Frank said.

Mayor J. David Reed said that he attended the recent community input meeting at the Mexican American development Association (MADA) for the redesign of the roundabout there. *"A lot of good input was received...from my perspective it was a successful meeting..."*

SPECIAL MEETING-EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilors took a recess before covering a special meeting with Executive Session, *"for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: anticipated litigation."*

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AS NORTH CAMPUS PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



Frank A. Rodriguez.
Courtesy photo.

*By Frank A. Rodriguez,
Montrose County
Manager*

I would like to extend my thanks to our Community Members for their participation in last Wednesday's Board of County Commissioners meeting. We had a full agenda, and

while all topics were important, the North Campus project garnered significant interest. This is a crucial project as we are collectively investing \$24M into this much-needed facility. Below, I'd like to provide a recap of the meeting, including how the North Campus project came to be, the current condition of the South Campus building, and the potential of the medical building within the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA).

In 2018, Montrose County staff submitted a draft Facilities Consolidation Plan to the BOCC and County Manager, recommending the renovation of our Administration building, Historic Courthouse, and relocation of our South Campus facilities to a new building on the Justice Center Complex. Over the next few years, staff worked on construction plans for the Administration and Historic Courthouse. During 2020, all plans were placed on hold as the County worked through the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the County moved beyond the pandemic in 2021, staff sought guidance from the BOCC on resuming construction projects and prioritizing capital improvements such as the Administration Building, Historic Courthouse, and South Campus. Several publicly noticed meetings were held to assess priorities, review operating costs, and evaluate site layout options. In August 2021, staff presented an evaluation of building alternatives.

In March 2022, Montrose County secured \$7.725 million in congressionally directed

funding through the USDA for the Historic Courthouse. This awarded funding made the Administration and Historic Courthouse projects a priority but also opened up the possibility of constructing a new building. The County prioritized renovating the Administration Building to relocate departments in preparation for the Historic Courthouse project, and began working with the USDA to secure the necessary funding. In June, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was released for the North Campus Building-Siting Study & Design, with Wold Architects and Engineers selected as the lowest bidder. Design meetings with Wold and user groups began in November 2022.

By early 2023, it was evident that the \$7.725 million in congressionally directed funding through the USDA would not be suitable for the Historic Courthouse project. Several factors contributed to this, including the fact that most contractors and project management were required to be sourced from out of state, with the project manager based in Hawaii. In an effort to support local and Western Slope contractors, and after thorough cost evaluations, the County declined the USDA funding for the courthouse and issued an RFP for a design-build project. There was concern that without the \$7.725 million, the County would not be able to both renovate the Historic Courthouse and build a new building. In July, a contract was awarded to Stryker & Company. Over the following months, the County secured a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$14.8 million for the Historic Courthouse renovation, which was originally estimated at \$22M. With the contract coming in significantly lower than expected, the County was able to continue pursuing the North Campus project. The North Campus planning moved forward, with layouts agreed upon by user groups in July and design meetings concluded by October. Though North Campus was initially included in the 2024 capital budget, it was removed before final adoption. Contract amendments were made with Wold Architects in No-

ember to address structural design requirements. By December, Wold was finalizing drawings for site plan review. In 2024, Wold Architects submitted the North Campus site plan to the City of Montrose, completing initial revisions by April.

In August 2024, the BOCC approved a contract extension with Wold Architects, and an RFP for construction was released. Stryker & Company submitted the lowest bid and a contract was awarded for \$24 million in December. Had the previous Board not signed the contract in December, the County would have been forced to rebid the project, likely resulting in higher costs.

Our South Campus building was built in 1962 and added onto several times in the last six decades. An architectural assessment was completed by Springboard Studio LLC in October of 2024. This assessment both recommended a structural engineering analysis and gave probable cost estimate analysis to renovate the existing building based off of projects of similar size and scope in the area. The analysis also recognized additional costs that would need to be considered including relocating current services and over 100 employees, professional fees for architectural design and engineering, and contingencies. Montrose County worked with Knott Laboratory LLC, a structural engineering firm, to complete a facility condition assessment. Through this assessment, Knott Laboratory LLC recommend several repairs to ensure the County could safely occupy the building for the next few years. The County is currently working to complete these recommended repairs. The safety of our employees and our community's access to county services are our highest priorities.

Finally, the County invested a tremendous amount of time and were initially excited about the potential of the building located at the intersection of the northwest corner of Mayfly and Tributary Street. Staff worked with the owners regarding this building including submitting

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AS NORTH CAMPUS PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

From previous pg

a Request for Information (RFI) for construction documents, conducted several site tours, and worked with Springboard Studios LLC for a cost analysis. The owners did submit a proposal to the County, but based on the proposed price of the building, data received through the RFI and cost analysis, it was determined that this building posed an even higher cost than the North Campus Project, as well as additional risk. Beyond the cost and risk, City Manager and MURA Executive Director

Bill Bell spoke at last week's BOCC meeting about the tax implication of the County buying the medical facility as a non-taxable entity and how this would have negative implications on the community of Montrose.

Montrose County staff and BOCC has dedicated significant time and effort to the North Campus project for the last several years to determine the best path forward. Extensive research and careful planning have been invested to ensure its success.

The South Campus building is nearing the end of its useful life, and we have fully vetted the medical building.

We do appreciate all those who took the time to attend last week's Board of County Commissioner meeting, whether in person or virtually.

If you have any questions, I welcome you to reach out to me. As always, I am committed to ensuring the community has full access to factual information regarding the County's projects.

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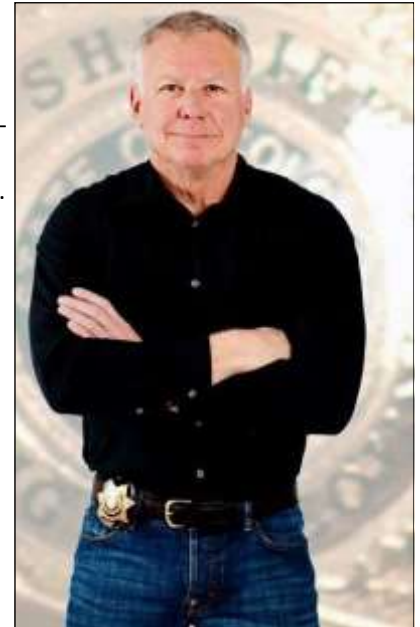
San Miguel County Sheriff's Office

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY-San Miguel County Sheriff William (Bill) S. Masters announced today (Thursday, February 6, 2025) his retirement effective June 2, 2025. "It's been an honor to serve the citizens of San Miguel County as Sheriff for the last 45 years, he said. "I've been privileged to have a 50-year career as a peace officer that I've enjoyed so much."

Masters is the longest serving Sheriff in Colorado history, having worn the badge for 45 years.

He became a peace officer 50 years ago first serving as deputy and chief marshal for the Town of Telluride before winning his first bid for Sheriff in 1980 when he was only 27 years-old. Masters was re-elected to his 12th consecutive term in 2022.

"It's time for new leadership with fresh energy for the changing peace keeping landscape," he said. "To my old friends and all of you who have expressed your well wishes, I thank you. I will still be working at the Sheriff's Office until June to make certain there is a smooth transition to the new Sheriff whom the Commissioners will pick to serve until the next election. Thank you all for the years of support."



San Miguel County Sheriff William (Bill) S. Masters. Photo by Brenda Colwell.

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- Amanda Gerhardt - Habitat For Humanity
- Abby Glaysher - Montrose Recreation District
- Kaleigh Hinkson - Elevation Academy of Dance
- Cathy Hoffman - Cobble Creek Angel Tree
- Joyce Loss - Altrusa/Neighborhood Watch
- Mindy Miller - Mindy Miller, MD
- Rosemary Murphy - Montrose County
- Penelope Powell - Valley Food Partnership
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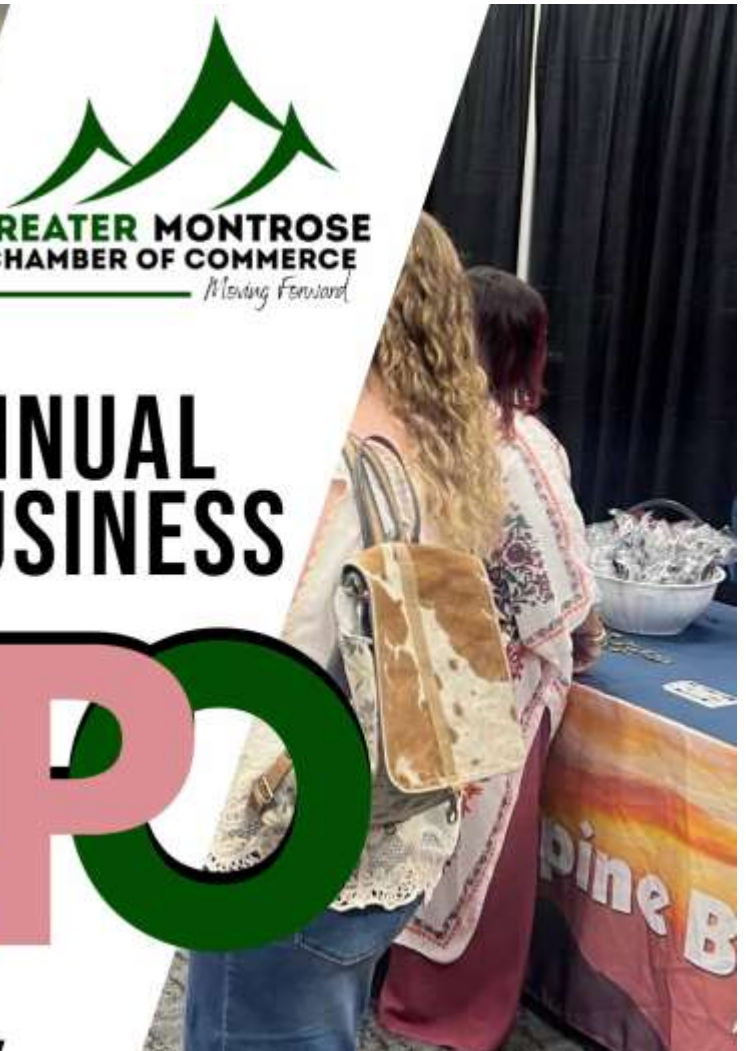
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL RESPONDS TO VENOM AND PERSONAL ATTACKS

Editor:

We, as the Montrose City Council have given much thought and consideration to this matter before deciding to write this letter. There comes a time when enough is enough. Now is that time.

By virtue of submitting this letter we do not intend to establish a practice of responding in this manner to future false accusations or to the questionable ethics of promoting those accusations. However, we, as a Council, feel that this is one of those few times in our service to our community that we must meet this conduct publicly, and head-on. Public personal attacks on city staff, council, or any other citizen are not appropriate, productive or in the best interests of our community as a whole. In fact, we know that it is dangerous, divisive and harmful. In this case, we feel the need to address this issue publicly, and in the same venue as it has been perpetrated, because the vitriol and accusations are out of control and are indeed dangerous, divisive and harmful to individuals and our community.

We speak of the venom with which Mr. David White, on a weekly basis, attacks our city manager, Bill Bell, his family, and other contributing citizens in our community in this very willing publication. We also speak to this publication that sees fit to pander mean spirited and intentionally hurtful rantings under the guise of "Opinion/Editorial: Commentary".

The attacks by Mr. White are personal and vicious. Allegations of conflicts of in-

terest, gaslighting, backroom deals, nepotistic behavior and other unethical behavior are disturbing at best and legally suspect, if not actionable, at worst. We have reviewed the unfounded allegations of the wrongdoing made by Mr. White and we find them to be wholly without merit.

It is quite clear that Mr. White has a personal vendetta against Mr. Bell and consequently his writings are less than credible. Publicly airing and circulating personal vendettas and lies is not harmless recreation and sport. No, this is a personal attack on a dedicated civil servant, and to make matters worse, his family. As a civilized and close-knit community should we condone this conduct and the media that promotes it? Is this how we want to appear to those outside our community and to each other? Do we believe this kind of conduct is the appropriate way to settle our disagreements? We don't think so.

Mr. White's motives in his writings are intended to cause harm, not solve issues, problems, or concerns. Just because Mr. White may have a different philosophy of government does not give him license to attack. Each of us, as Mayor and City Council, do not condone this conduct, in fact we abhor it and we call upon Mr. White to cease and desist immediately. Mr. White has publicly, in writing, threatened future attacks on other individuals within the city or their families. We strongly suggest that he reconsider that threat. We also suggest that Mr. White contact Mr. Bell directly and open commu-

nications. We know Mr. Bell is up to it.

As a City Council we also call upon those that would disseminate this questionable journalism to re-examine your editorial policies so that you can contribute to bringing this community together through honesty and sincerity, not facilitating its division through outrageous disinformation.

We have full confidence in our City Manager. He does an excellent job implementing our direction and leading our high performing organization of 200 employees with an operating budget of over 100 million dollars. His education and experience are an asset to our community and this organization, and his commitment to working in Montrose for the last 13.5 years and the accomplishments he has succeeded in making are to be commended, admired and appreciated.

To be clear, the actions that Mr. Bell has taken on behalf of the City of Montrose are done at City Council's direction or with our knowledge. To state otherwise is to make a personal attack on him and on this Council.

We will not stand by idly and allow this to occur unchallenged. This conduct must come to an end, and we as the Council, will do everything legally within our power to see that it does.

*J. David Reed, Mayor
Dave Frank, Mayor Pro Tem
Judy Ann Files, City Council
Doug Glaspell, City Council
Ed Ulibarri, City Council*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IS AMERICA GREAT AGAIN?

Dear Editor:

Is America great again yet? Despite promising to lower prices on everything from eggs to gasoline, now Trump says his tariffs will bring pain to American households.

Despite promising to unite the country, he is following the same old Republican playbook perfected by Richard Nixon and Patrick Buchanan in the early 1970s of attacking his political opponents as lazy, dangerous and un-American. The Nixonian strategy of "positive polarization" still prevails in Republican circles, a policy designed to stoke anger with their base and paint opponents as "woke" liberals with whom there can be no compromise. It was Ronald Reagan who perfected the strategy of calling out the "liberal" media for undermining his efforts to delegitimize government ("Government isn't the solution to our problems. Government IS the problem.") while simultaneously dismantling the post-World War II order that made possible long delayed progress toward equality before the law, equal access to resources and the right of all citizens to participate in determining how the government operates. Since Reagan was elected, Republican policies have led to \$50 trillion in wealth moving from the bottom 90% to the top 1% in the space of 40 plus years. The GOP, especially under Trump, has succeeded in painting popular government programs as socialist or Marxist, designed to take tax dollars from hard working Americans to distribute to undeserving minorities and others he considers disloyal to him (in his words, "the enemy within"). His habit of uttering pathological lies on a near hourly basis has resulted in his supporters marinating in cartoonishly extreme falsehoods, ranging from his made-up story about having the military turn on the water in California to a Fox News personality repeating the laughable lie that Biden sent \$50 million worth of condoms to Gaza which were then turned into balloons used to float explosives into Israel.

The decision by GOP voters and politicians in Congress to elevate loyalty to

party over loyalty to the U.S. has allowed an incipient fascist to reinhabit the Oval Office and to install an unelected oligarch at the head of a fictitious entity supposedly designed to make the government efficient. The resulting chaos has upended the ability of the government to function

at all in key areas. A key principle of our Constitution, the separation of powers, is being rendered null due to the breathtaking illegality of Trump's efforts.

So, the question remains: is America great again?

George Bacon, Montrose



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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: A SILENT WAR IN OUR OWN BACKYARD



Meg Grett-Pratt. Courtesy photo.

By Meg Grett-Pratt

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen dating violence (TDV) is happening a lot more often than most of us would like to admit. We think of abuse as something distant—something that happens in big cities or in the news, not in our own

schools, neighborhoods, or even our own homes. But the reality is that dating violence is affecting teenagers and young adults everywhere, including right here in our community. And if we don't start talking about it, more young people will suffer in silence, unsure of where to turn or how to escape. How Common Is It?

The numbers are alarming. **One in three teens** in the U.S. experiences physical, emotional, digital, or sexual abuse in a dating relationship. That means if you walk into any high school or college classroom, at least a few students are likely dealing with some form of dating abuse. But here's the problem: most teens (and adults) don't even realize they're in an abusive relationship. Why? Because abuse doesn't always start with a black eye or a police report. It often begins with small, seemingly harmless behaviors—excessive texting, jealousy disguised as love, or subtle comments that chip away at self-esteem. Over time, those behaviors escalate, trapping teens in relationships that are not just unhealthy, but dangerous.

Recognizing the Signs

Teen dating violence isn't always obvious, but there are red flags we should all be aware of:

Extreme Jealousy & Possessiveness –

Does their partner constantly check their phone, demand to know where they are, or get angry when they spend time with others? This isn't love—it's control.

Constant Criticism & Insults – If someone is making their partner feel worthless, ugly, or like they can't do anything right, that's emotional abuse.

Isolation from Friends & Family – Abusers often try to cut their victims off from support systems so they become completely dependent on the relationship.

Pressuring or Forcing Unwanted Behav-

iors – Whether it's controlling what they wear, forcing them into sexual situations, or demanding passwords to social media, these are all violations of trust and autonomy.

Explosive Anger & Mood Swings – One moment, everything seems fine; the next, they're yelling, threatening, or breaking things. This kind of instability is a huge red flag.

And here's a big one: **If someone is afraid of their partner, even if they can't explain why, that's a sign of abuse.**

What Can We Do About It?

We cannot afford to ignore teen dating violence as "drama" or "just part of young love." The truth is, early abusive relationships set the stage for lifelong patterns of unhealthy and even dangerous relationships. Here's what we need to do—right here, in our own community:

Talk About It – Conversations about healthy relationships, boundaries, and respect should start early—long before a teen enters their first relationship. Schools, parents, and community leaders need to make this a regular topic.

Teach Teens What Love Should Look Like – Many teens have never seen a healthy relationship modeled for them. They need to know that love should feel safe, supportive, and respectful.

Provide Safe Spaces – Victims of teen dating violence often don't report it because they're afraid no one will believe them. We need to create a culture where young people feel safe coming forward, whether that's through school counselors, teachers, or trusted adults in the community.

Empower Friends to Speak Up – Teens are more likely to confide in a friend than an adult. Teaching teens how to recognize abuse and safely support a friend could be life-saving.

Take Every Report Seriously – If a teen confides in you about relationship abuse, **believe them.** Too many victims stay silent because they fear judgment or being dismissed. Our response can determine whether they get help—or stay trapped.

This Is Our Problem to Solve – Teen dating violence isn't a problem "somewhere else." It's happening in our schools, on our sports teams, and in our neighborhoods. Ignoring it won't make it go away. But by taking action—through education, awareness, and support—we

can change the outcome for countless young people. It's time to break the silence. If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, help is available. There are local victim help-lines and also the **National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline-Love is Respect** is also a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline specifically aimed at teens and young adults. It provides crisis intervention, peer-to-peer support, and resources for those in unhealthy or abusive relationships and offers 24/7 support at **1-866-331-9474** or text **"LOVEIS"** to **22522** or **LovelsRespect.org**

About Meg
As a survivor and relationship speaker/educator, Meg is on a mission to ensure that no teen faces dating violence alone. She founded Dating Tips by Meg, to educate both teens and adults about the warning signs of abuse, digital safety, and the importance of healthy relationships. Meg delivers talks at high schools, colleges, and community organizations, using real-life experiences and insights to make these issues real and relatable. She also reaches young people on social media platforms where teens are active, giving them access to information they need to recognize abuse and where to get help.

#TeenDatingViolence #BreakTheCycle #LovelsRespect #StopAbuse
Social Media & Digital Awareness Campaigns – Meg reaches young people daily through engaging content and videos, on platforms where teens are most active, making sure they have access to the information they need to stay safe. @ **Dating Tips By Meg**
Podcast: "Did Me Dirty" – Through her upcoming podcast, Meg will share her and others' true stories of dating abuse, stalking, and survival, providing listeners with both warning signs and hope for recovery.

Educational Resources & Workshops – Meg creates toolkits, digital guides, and interactive workshops to help parents, educators, and students navigate the complexities of modern relationships.

Advocacy – By working with schools, organizations, and advocacy groups, Meg pushes for more education to be presented so teens recognize abuse and can protect themselves from dating violence and let them know there is support available.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS ACTIONS AND POLICIES PROVE THEY ARE THE PARTY OF THE ULTRA RICH

Editor:

It's a pleasure to write about Trump's accomplishments rather than Democrats' failures. In a few short weeks, Trump and his team have shown the American people what competence looks like and what it means to put the American people first. Not coincidentally, the Democrat party's approval ratings in Colorado and nationwide continue to tank, while Trump's approval ratings continually improve to all-time highs. Even the New York Times' polling shows the Democrat party is out of touch with American voters. The American people have had it with having DEI, late-term abortion, LGBTQ insanity, climate hysteria, and corruption crammed down their throats.

Internationally, Trump's envoy Ric Grenell flew to Venezuela and cut a deal with Maduro to bring back six American hostages held there, and force Maduro to take back Venezuela's large crop of illegal aliens. Columbia's president Petro turned on a dime and not only will he accept Columbia's illegals, but he sent his own plane to pick up the first batch. Next, Trump's Secretary of State Marco Rubio convinced Panama to end China's influence over the canal, allow free passage for U.S. Navy ships, and block cartels and illegals from that country's south. It gets better. Mexico announced it would station 10,000 National Guard troops on its northern border to intercept cartels, fentanyl and illegals, in exchange for Trump suspending tariffs. Right after Trump pressured Mexico, they arrested a major cartel leader. Canada followed suit and agreed to dispatch 10,000 troops to its border to intercept fentanyl and illegals in exchange for suspension of tariffs. After ignoring Biden's 20% increase in inflation, Democrats suddenly became concerned about the possibility of inflation due to Trump's threatened tariffs -- tariffs that never materialized. Trump's masterly use of leverage and deal-making gave positive results for both the U.S. and the countries involved.

Trump's domestic achievements are too numerous to mention, so let's talk about USAID. President Kennedy founded USAID to advance American interests during the Cold War to counter Soviet influence. Shocking revelations since Trump's inauguration show it to be little more than a giant scam on U.S.

taxpayers and a multi-billion-dollar slush fund for extreme leftist ideologies --- without regard to (and often counter to) the national interest. It has been used to fund anti-religious initiatives, antisemitic and anti-Israel attacks, terrorists, already wealthy people and organizations, our enemies, and branches of foreign governments. Here is a small random sampling: \$20 million for an Iraqi version of Sesame Street. \$420 million to Gaza and the West bank -- most of which went straight to terrorists organizations including Hamas, \$200 million directly and indirectly to the Wuhan lab that introduced COVID to the world, \$32,000 for "trans" comic books in Peru, \$500,000 to expand atheism in Nepal, an unsupervised \$300 million to Afghanistan that funded the Taliban, \$70,000 for a "DEI musical" in Ireland, \$20,600 for a drag show in Ecuador, \$330 million for irrigation and farming equipment in Afghanistan that mainly benefited Taliban narco-jihadists. USAID even funded the Bangladeshi government overthrow.

Even more alarming, a significant portion of USAID funds go to Non-Government Organizations stacked with establishment politicians from both parties (the Washington uniparty.) The applicable term is "sinecure" which means providing income or other advantage but requiring little or no work. Also, large amounts of the money George Soros' infamous Open Society Foundation used to fund "Soros prosecutors" came from USAID thru the Tides Foundation. Most damaging is the revelation that we now have a state-sponsored media after all thanks to USAID --- they just didn't tell us. The mainstream media is a bought-and-paid-for arm of the Deep State. For example, Politico received \$8 million dollars a year. (Now you know why I consider anyone quoting Politico to make a point to have zero credibility.) The illustrious New York Times and even the BBC also received multi-million-dollar payments. Small wonder that the media and the left are screaming over attempts to expose the funding and the abject corruption of both USAID and the media. Let's not forget that while all this was going on, the bureaucratic state was also targeting free speech and dissent everywhere else. A state-controlled press is the sort of thing the Soviets, the Chinese, the

Cubans, and a lot of two-bit dictators did to trash civil liberties.

I've always had difficulty understanding why many small town newspapers are lapdogs for the Democrat party even when the majority of their potential subscribers and advertisers are conservatives. They are all privately owned with no obligation to reveal their revenue sources, but it would be interesting to see a list of their revenue streams other than subscriptions and advertising. If the deep state can control most of the mainstream media, why not local papers? Money talks.

Bottom line, every thinking American regardless of political affiliation should be cheering on the complete dismantling of USAID, and Trump's efforts to regain control of the bloated U.S. government from corrupt and unelected bureaucrats.

Democrats need to stop pretending that their actions are "compassionate" or that they have done anything for the middle class or the poor. Forcing women and girls to compete with men and share their locker rooms is a Dem policy. Blocking poor and minority children from having the choice to attend better schools is a Dem policy. Refusing to give healthcare to newborn babies in botched abortions is a Dem policy. Seeking to destroy companies that produce reasonably priced energy is a Dem policy. Keeping people dependent on the government and confiscating their earnings through high taxes is a Dem policy. Opening the borders, enriching drug cartels, and flooding the U.S. with terrorists and gang members is a Dem policy. Appeasing Iran and sending them billions of dollars so they can spread terrorism around the world is a Dem policy. Ignoring the sorry financial state of Social Security and Medicare and demonizing anyone who dares think about fixing it is a Dem policy. Lying about tax cuts costing the government millions when the rate cuts under Reagan, George Bush, and Trump all generated large revenue increases is a Dem policy. And lying that those tax cuts helped the rich more than the poor and middle class is a Dem policy. Democrats actions and policies undeniably prove they are the party of the ultra rich and global elites. Stop pretending.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH CELEBRATES REMARKABLE NURSES: HONORING DAISY AWARD NOMINEES



David Broadhead, RN, 1st QTR Overall DAISY Nominee. Courtesy photo.

By Emily Gomez,

Delta Health Marketing Specialist

DELTA— Six nurses at Delta Health were honored with nominations for The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®, to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every single day, at a ceremony at the Hospital on Wednesday, January 29.

This quarter's DAISY nominees were the following nurses: David Broadhead, RN, Mindy Smith, RN, Kristi Gieck, RN, Mercedes Zurich, RN, Timothy Davies, RN, and Amber Ham, RN. The overall DAISY Award winner for this quarter was David Broadhead, a Registered Nurse in Delta Health's Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"David exemplifies the highest standards of care, compassion, and skill," said Felicia Grant, RN, and Director of Delta Health's ICU/CCU. "He goes above and beyond every day. His unwavering commitment to both his patients and his colleagues makes him a true cornerstone of the ICU. We are incredibly fortunate to have him as a part of our team."

David was nominated by a co-worker and was recognized for his caring and empathetic way of nursing. The letter says how, "No matter what is going on with the patient, David takes the time to understand and make the patient feel safe. I can't even count how many times I have taken over care of a patient from him who has sung his praises to me about how they felt safe and cared for."

The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize nurses who go above and beyond in the care of their patients. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues, and the



David Broadhead, RN in the Intensive Care Unit, receives his DAISY Award. Courtesy photo.

quarterly DAISY award recipient is chosen through a select Daisy Committee and a scoring rubric recognizing the nurses' P.E.T.A.L.S., (Passion, Empathy, Trust, Admirable attributes, Love, and Selflessness). Applications are blinded to the committee and scored. Awards are then presented four times throughout the year to celebrate the nominees.

"Over the years, over 300 nominations have been received for Delta Health Nursing Staff and recognized at Delta Health for the Daisy Award," said Dawn Arnett, BSN, RN, Director of In-Patient Services Med/Surg at Delta Health and DAISY Award Coordinator. "This was our 25th time awarding a nurse with the "Healers Touch" sculpture. As we move into 2025 this will be our seventh year as members of the Daisy Foundation created by the Patrick Barnes family in 1999."

The certificate that each honoree receives commends her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse." The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Honorees receive a DAISY Award pin and daisy stems. The Daisy Award winner also receives a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Heal-

er's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe. The Healers Touch sculpture represents the bond between nurses and their patients.

The DAISY Foundation is present in over 3,200 organizations across the world. Over 1 million nurses have been nominated, and over 100,000 nurses have received the award. Delta Health is proud to be one of these organizations. To nominate a nurse for a DAISY Award, go online to deltahealthco.org/bee-daisy-awards/ and submit a digital nomination form. Nomination forms can also be found throughout the hospital.

About Delta Health – Delta Health (DH) is a nonprofit, county-wide healthcare system with a 49-bed hospital and at locations throughout the southwestern region of Colorado. DH's mission is to inspire hope in a healing environment by providing remarkable care. Established in 1913, Delta County Memorial Hospital, now doing business as Delta Health, has been serving the region for over 100 years. DH continues to provide compassionate, quality healthcare that the community can trust. For more information go to deltahealthco.org, like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter @DeltaHealthCo](#).



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RED HAWK BOYS WIN TWO GAMES

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 59, G.J. CENTRAL WARRIORS 25



Senior Brody Cooling skys for a rebound vs the Warriors. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys basketball team rode roughshod over the visiting Grand Junction Central Warriors last Tuesday evening at the field house by the score of 59 to 25

The Red Hawks offense was in high gear right out of the starting gate as they outscored the Warriors 16-8 after the first quarter of play. Things got no better for the visitors in the second stanza as the Red Hawks outscored the Warriors 14-4 to take a commanding lead of 30-12 going into the half-time break.

Red Hawks Head Coach Ryan Voehringer substituted liberally throughout the second half of play as he used his entire 10-

man bench. The result was more of the same as the Red Hawks outscored the Warriors 29-13 in the second half to make the final score the Red Hawks 59, the Warriors 25.

Nine Red Hawks dented the score sheet with Senior Kaleb Ferguson tallying 15 points to lead all Red Hawk scorers. Sophomore Josh Hawks had 8 points while senior Brody Cooling chipped in with 7 points. Other Red Hawk scorers included Senior Brekin Hutto and Junior Jon Rytlewski (6 points), Junior C.J. Rocco and Junior Lane Pressler (5 points), Junior Otto Sandeno and Sophomore Mason Swallow 4 and 3 points. Brody Cooling led all rebounders with 6 caroms.

The Red Hawks shot 88 percent from the charity stripe and 58 percent from the field. The Red Hawks took 10 shots from behind the 3-point arc and made 5. The team had 16 assists, 10 steals and turned the basketball over only 11 times.

RED HAWKS 45, PALISADE BULLDOGS 43 (OT)

The Montrose Red Hawks hit the road in their second game of the week as they traveled to Palisade and had to go overtime to subdue the pesky Bulldogs 45-43.

The two teams saw opposite results between the first and second halves.

The Bulldogs could barely see the Red Hawks in their rearview mirror as they led 11-2 after the first quarter of action.

Things got no better in the second quarter as the Dogs again outscored the Red Hawks 10-3 to lead 21-5 at the half-way mark.

Things changed dramatically in the second half as the Red Hawks offense caught fire and the defense smothered the Bulldogs offensive output. The visitors outscored the Dogs 17 to 7 in the third stanza and increased the margin (17-7) to end up tied 38-38 at the end of regulation time.

The overtime belongs to the Red Hawks as they outscored the Bulldogs 7-5 to seize a 2-point victory, 45-43.

The Red Hawks improved their season record to 16-4 overall and 5-2 in league action.

The Red Hawks are currently ranked in 10th place in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rankings. The Red Hawks have three regular season games remaining before the regionals and the state tournament take center stage.

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RED HAWK GIRLS SPLIT HOME/AWAY GAMES

RED HAWKS 47, G.J. CENTRAL WARRIORS 35

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team played host to the visiting Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School on Tuesday evening at the fieldhouse as they took a 47-35 victory.

The Warriors and the Red Hawks played the first quarter very close to the vest and saw the Warriors lead after the initial period by the score of 13-11. The Red Hawks shook off the rest and put their offense into overdrive and outscored the Warriors 15-4 in the second period to lead at the halfway point 26-17.

The second half of action was much closer as both teams saw the offense move up and down the court while the defense limited the point production to manageable numbers. The Red Hawks scored 18 points while the Warriors carded 21 points to make the final score Red Hawks 47, Warriors 35.

Six Red Hawks hit the scoring column but the heavy lifting was done by Junior Mayce Oberg with 20 points and Junior Maggie Legg with 15 points. Legg also topped the rebounders with 6 while Oberg and Senior Brooke Williams each captured 5 rebounds. The Red Hawks shot 39 percent from the field and 61 percent from the free throw line. As a team the Red Hawks passed out 6 assists, had 9 steals and turned the basketball over 11 times.

PALISADE BULLDOGS 39, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 37

The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a Palisade Bulldog team that clamped an air-



Junior Maggie Legg fires a jump shot to score against the Warriors. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

tight defense and disrupted the Red Hawks' offensive flow as they defeated the visiting Red Hawks by the score of 39 to 37. The two teams were even-steven after one period of play tied at 6-6. The Bulldogs offense heated up in the second frame as they outscored the Red Hawks 14-11 to lead at the halfway point 20-17. Palisade owned the third quarter 12-8 and the Red Hawks owned the fourth quarter; 12-7. Unfortunately, the Red Hawks were unable to overcome the lead built up by the Bulldogs who eventually won the game by 2 points, 39-37.

Only three Red Hawks broke into the scoring column. The dynamic duo of juniors Maggie Legg (19 points) and Mayce Oberg (13 points) basically were the offense for the Red Hawks. Junior Lilly

Nelson also contributed 5 points to the Red Hawks' effort. Nelson also led the Red Hawks on the backboards with 6 rebounds. Oberg has 4 and Legg and Senior Brooke Williams each added 3 to the Red Hawks total. The Red Hawks shot 41 percent from the field and 76 percent from the free throw stripe. The visitors passed out 3 assists, had 6 steals and turned the basketball over 19 times.

The Red Hawks are currently ranked in 8th place in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) 5A rankings with a 17-3 overall record.

The Hawks are 5-2 in league play. The team has three regular season games remaining before the regionals and the state tournament.

Stay tuned.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: SPORTS

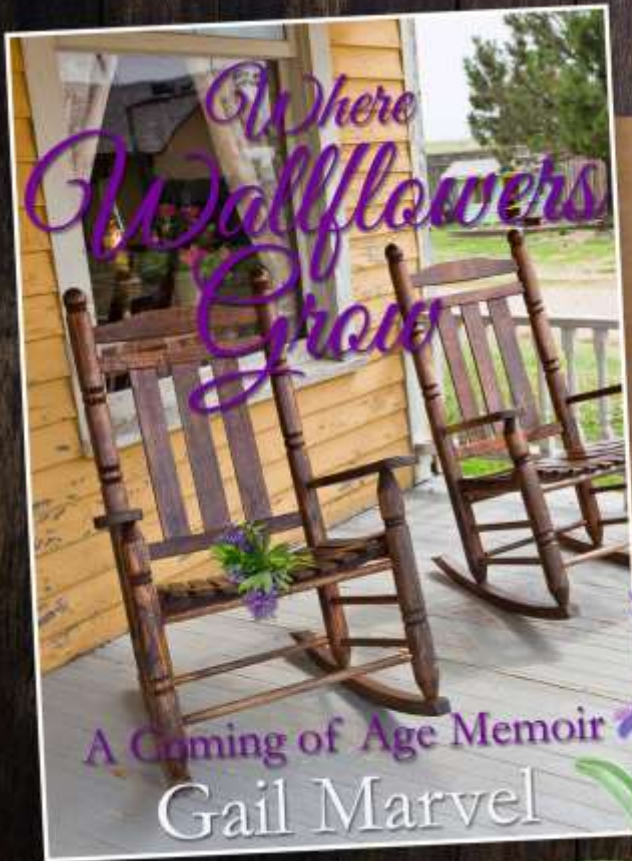
OHS JUNIOR ISAIAH GORDON REACHES 1000 POINT MILESTONE



Courtesy photo of Isaiah Gordon and family is by Robert Walraven.

Special to the Mirror

OLATHE- Olathe High School Basketball Player Isaiah Gordon reached the 1000 points milestone on Jan. 31 with the Olathe Pirates Basketball team. "Isaiah is a Junior at Olathe High School and is a very talented player and currently averaging 28 points/game which ranks him 2nd in the State among all classifications, a major accomplishment coming from a 3a high school," family friend Robert Walraven said. [Here is a link to the video of Isaiah's milestone.](#)



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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2025 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS *Silke Printz to receive Lifetime Achievement Award*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The honorees for the 2025 Women of Distinction Awards have been officially announced, and we have a truly inspiring lineup this year! In celebration of Women’s History Month, Our Town Matters is thrilled to announce the names of 21 remarkable women who will be honored at the annual Women of Distinction Awards Gala on Friday, March 7!

2025 Women of Distinction Honorees:

- Kay Alexander - Montrose Classical Academy
- Pat Chaloupek - Montrose Center for the Arts
- Crystal Combs - The Temple Events
- Jill Downs - Elite Dog Walking
- Jessica Frigetto - Citizens State Bank
- Kathy Gaber - Montrose County School District
- Amanda Gerhardt - Habitat for Humanity
- Abby Glaysher - Montrose Recreation District
- Kaleigh Hinkson - Elevation Academy of Dance
- Cathy Hoffman - Cobble Creek Angel Tree
- Joyce Loss - Altrusa/Neighborhood Watch
- Mindy Miller - Mindy Miller, MD
- Rosemary Murphy - Montrose County
- Penelope Powell - Valley Food Partner-

ship

- Linda Prock - Antler Ridge Weddings & Events
- Lisa Rediger - Magic Circle Players
- Stacy Ryan - Valley Symphony Association
- Alyssa Troncoso - Reign A Beauty Collective
- Carol Viner - Viner Law
- Shannon Wilkes - Alpine Bank

In addition, the company is especially excited to highlight that Silke Printz will be receiving the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Stating, her dedication and remarkable contributions to our community are nothing short of extraordinary, and this recognition is so well-deserved.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the incredible contributions these women have made to our community and beyond. Their achievements inspire us all, and I can’t wait to celebrate their brilliance and dedication,” said Maddox. “I invite the community to join us in honoring these extraordinary individuals who embody strength, resilience, and excellence.”

The organization encourages the public to get ready for an unforgettable evening at the Annual Women of Distinction Awards event. This incredible event cele-

brates the vital contributions of women in our community across business, government, education, and non-profit sectors. We are thrilled to announce that Our Town Matters Founder and CEO, Tonya Maddox, will return as our dynamic event emcee, alongside KREX TV Anchor, Noah Anderson, who will also co-host the much-loved red-carpet interviews with Maddox.

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 7th at 5:30 PM at the Montrose Pavilion. Prepare to be inspired by a special tribute video and the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to the remarkable Silke Printz. Enjoy a delicious dinner catered by Tammee Tuttle from The True Grit Café & Catering, followed by an exciting awards ceremony, dancing, photo opportunities, and so much more.

And don’t forget—this year’s honorees and all honorees since 2017 will be in the running for the prestigious Woman of the Year award, which will be unveiled during this spectacular event.

Join us in honoring these extraordinary women and celebrating their impact on our community!

Tickets can be purchased online at Events.OurTownMatters.net or by calling 970.765.0913.

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JACQUELINE MARY OSORIO *August 23, 1936- January 15, 2025*

REV. JACQUELINE MARY OSORIO, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on January 15, 2025, at the Elk Ridge Care Center at the age of 88. She was born on August 23, 1936, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, to John Burns Lalley, deceased, and Gertrude Helen Ryan, who also passed away on January 15, in 1974. She had one brother, John B. Lalley, who passed away in 1965.

Jackie was always proud of her Cherokee heritage and honored the spiritual practices of all tribal people. She loved to attend pow wows and other Native American tribal gatherings in other states.

The family also lived in Philadelphia, PA, and New Jersey. She attended school in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and graduated from Stratford Career Institute in 2011 with a certificate in Art Studies. She was very artistic and enjoyed painting and crafting.

She married the love of her life, Gilberto Osorio, on September 26, 1959, who was also proud of his Taino heritage. They had no children but loved caring for animals. They made their home in Homestead, Florida, working together taking care of

and training horses. They later worked alongside founder Dr. W. Haas in the Miami Serpentarium, the premier pioneer venom production laboratory in the world, caring for lizards, snakes and other reptiles, extracting venom from poisonous snakes. Jackie survived several snake bites.

Moving to Montrose, Colorado in 2009, she lived there until her passing but always yearned to return to Florida one day. Her wishes will be granted, and her remains will be returned to her beloved Florida by her good friend, Clay Campbell, longtime friend of the family.

Interested in religion, spirituality and healing practices, Jackie joined the Lively Stones World Healing Fellowship in Lloyd, FL, and was ordained as a minister in June of 2002. She was active in the Spiritual Awareness Center in Montrose, especially enjoying the Open-Heart Drum Circle, playing summer evenings at Main in Motion and at the Peace Pole in Ute Indian Park. Jackie is best known for her inspired coffee readings which she freely did for friends and acquaintances. Local restaurants provided her with coffee and nap-



kins at her reserved tables.

A Celebration of Life Service is planned for Saturday, February 15 at 1:00 pm in the community room at Meadowlark Court Apartments, 2378 Robins Way, Montrose, CO, where she lived for the past 15 years. Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose is assisting with arrangements.

GARY GALE CHATMAN *May 12, 1936- January 31, 2025*

GARY GALE CHATMAN, 88 years young of Montrose, Colorado, went to his Heavenly Home on January 31, 2025. Born May 12, 1936, in Frankclay, Missouri to the late Nolis Chatman and Ruby Ruth House. He is survived by daughters Becky Wolford (Ken) of Montrose; Tami Hernandez (Dan) of Layton, Utah; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; brother David; sisters Sharon, Nola, Ange-La and Jessie and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Judy, and four siblings. Gary was a U.S. Army Veteran and member of B.P.O.E 1053. At Gary's request no services are planned. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Gary's memory may be made to Children's Hospital of Colorado, Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans or Hope West Hospice. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

FRANCIE SMILES

March 31, 1946 — January 30, 2025

FRANCES DELANA ALDRICH was born to Virginia and Glenn Aldrich on March 31, 1946. She was the fourth of five children. Francie grew up in Montrose and graduated from Montrose High School in 1964. She married and settled on the Front Range, becoming a mother to Price and Emily. After meeting and marrying Mark Smiles, the love of her life, the couple returned to Montrose to start their own disaster restoration business. When Francie was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997, she came up with a simple formula to get through it: humor and hope. She overcame cancer with the help and support of Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group and went on to serve on their board of directors for many years. She was instrumental in growing the annual October "One Step Closer to Help and Hope" walk/run, a popular event in Montrose, for 32 years. It has raised tens of thousands in donations for essential ser-

vices and financial assistance to countless women and men facing breast cancer. In 2005, she used her sense of humor and dedication to her community to head the campaign that raised over one million dollars to build the San Juan Cancer Center, which opened in April 2006. After losing her beloved Mark, Francie moved to the Front Range in 2019 to be closer to her children. Her enduring legacy of countless contributions to the Montrose community will forever inspire those who knew her during her decades here. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Mark and younger brother William Aldrich. Francie is survived by her children Price Johnston, Emily Melin, Rebecca Bodemuller and Chris Smiles; her grandchildren Rhya, Harper, Stella, Kate, Cole, Jack and Coby; her sisters Betty-Ann McCluskey and Jane Johnston and brothers Charles and Glenn; many nieces and nephews; and all her cherished friends.



Francie's remarkable life will be celebrated on Sunday, March 30, 2025, starting at 2 PM at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road in Montrose. In lieu of flowers, donations to Bosom Buddies (PO Box 1263, Montrose 81402) or the San Juan Cancer Center (Attn: Leann Tobin, 800 S. 3rd St., Montrose 81401) would be appreciated.

THOMAS LUTZ BIETH



THOMAS LUTZ BIETH was born January 18, 1951, to Gordon and Martha (Morden) Bieth of Mason City, Iowa. Tom got his first job at nine years old. He took the money he made and bought tools and a toolbox, forming a lifelong pattern. In the fall of 1969, he came sight unseen to Colorado. He attended Western State College in Gunnison and graduated in 1973. He married Kathryn Peterson, 1974. They lived briefly in Tom's hometown of Mason City, Iowa, but returned to Southwest Colorado in 1977 and started a family. They raised two boys in Montrose and made a home there. Tom was self-employed most of his life as a heavy mechanic, machinist, and welder.

Besides being a father, Tom was a mentor and friend to others in the industry and the area. Tom's early life gave him an appreciation for the outdoors, but the mountains of Southwest Colorado was where he belonged. During his time in Gunnison, he hunted, hiked, and fished there. Later, he worked in the areas above Ouray, Silverton, Durango, and Telluride to provide for his family. Tom Bieth worked and got great satisfaction from completing difficult jobs, a trait that his sons and the people around him admired.

Thomas is preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Martha, and his grandfather, Frank Bieth, whom he admired. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Kathy, their two sons, Lee (Bethany) and Casey, and many welders and machinists who will miss his advice.

Tom was a member of Living Word Lutheran Church and a supporter of local charities like the Dolphin House.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Old welders don't die; they pass the torch. Job well done.

Arrangements are in the care of Crippin Funeral Home and Crematory.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BENJAMIN "BEN" GEORGE RENCORET



On January 30th, 2025, Benjamin George Rencoret peacefully passed away at his home, surrounded by the warmth and love of his family. Ben had a heart as big as his smile, and his genuine kindness made him a friend to everyone he met. He will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ben was born in Punta Arenas, Chile, but moved to Houston, Texas, when he was

just two years old. His natural curiosity and talent for computers led him to a fulfilling 38-year career with IBM. His journey eventually took him to Colorado, where he traded his love for the ocean and surfing for the beauty of the mountains, fishing, and trail running. It was here in Colorado that he raised his daughters, pushed himself to the limit in 100-mile races, and built a life full of love and adventure.

Ben's spirit shone brightly during his 25 years in Montrose, Colorado, where he not only found peace in nature but also forged a deep connection with his faith. He dedicated his life to serving God, always with an open heart and a generous spirit. Through his faith he met Gina, the love of his life, who he cherished fiercely. Though heartbroken by her passing in 2018, Ben's devotion to her never wavered.

In his retirement, Ben embraced the joy of being surrounded by his grandchildren. He loved fishing trips, sunny naps on the porch, and the simple pleasures of time spent with family. His laughter, presence, and easy energy were a gift to those around him, and he leaves behind a legacy

of warmth, love, and kindness.

Ben is predeceased by his parents, Benjamin Rencoret and Sybil Fay Lindsey; his sister, Sybil Leverett; and his beloved wife, Gina Cunningham Rencoret. He is survived by his three daughters, Lindsay Rencoret (Ralph Lozano), Lauren Rencoret (Bryan Voegtli), and Anna Combs (Jeremiah Combs); his sisters, Michelle Rencoret, Nathalie Rencoret, and Matilde Rencoret; and his cherished grandchildren, Benjamin Rencoret, Mason Crisman, Mae Voegtli, Delilah Combs, Leo Rencoret, Miles Voegtli, and Baby Boy Voegtli due in May 2025.

Ben's heart was a home for anyone who needed it, and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved him. He was a true blessing to this world.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, February 15th at 10:00 a.m. at Montrose Christian Church, located at 2351 Sunnyside Rd., Montrose, CO 81401. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Ben's honor to Compassion International, a cause close to his heart. Contributions will help support children in need around the world.

Juli and I would like to extend our sympathies and heartfelt condolences to Karen Dunlap and the Dunlap family. May you find comfort in the cherished moments you shared together over your many years and may their memory bring you peace during this difficult time.

*Rest in Eternal Peace Rick Dunlap
Commissioner Scott Mijares*

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RONALD (RON) CARLYLE

April 24, 1960 — January 19, 2025



RON (RONALD) CARLYLE passed away unexpectedly on Sunday January 19th, 2025, at St Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. at the age of 64.

He was born April 24th, 1960, in Portland Oregon to Franklin Carlyle and Barbara (Davies) Carlyle, at 19 he lost his father. His mother then went on to marry Bill

(Alfred) Foster.

He spent his life in Washington until his 20's, he had one son Franklin Carlyle at that time. After long battles and some not so good choices, he made the choice to come to Colorado to change his life into a beautiful one through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation program where he did just that. He met the love of his life and best friend Connie Hamblin at the Montrose Salvation Army shortly after, they married one year later and spent every day together for the next 40 year's. They spent many of those years in Montrose and moved to Delta, Colorado where they spent the rest of his life together, hand in hand. They had three children together: Vanessa Carlyle, Nadine Carlyle and Brandon Carlyle. He was a father figure to many more: Ray and Brian Moore, Megan Morales, Justin Wetterrich, Thomas Rock, Shelby Head, all of Colorado and Patrick Hatfield of California

He had 5 grandchildren (Damien Zuniga, Alakie Carlyle, Kimber and Kamber Rock (Elias Carlyle). 5 bonus grandchildren (Ivan and Fryja head) and Serenity DuBois. all of

delta Colorado. and Sara and Isaiah Coslett of Cedaredge co. He has Many Nieces and nephews around the United States. A brother Raymond Carlyle and his wife Katie of Washington, brother in-law Dale Loney of Minnesota, and sister in-law Vonnie Dalton of Delta, Colorado

He spent his life as a true family man, he worked over 32 years with Montrose Forest products where he was a forklift driver to provide for his family. He was a quiet man that spoke volumes to the ones he loved. He was a proud American, he enjoyed motorcycles, food, family and friends. He will truly be missed by the life's he touched while he was with us.

He is proceeded in death by his mother and stepfather, Barbara and Bill Foster. His Biological Father Franklin Marshall Carlyle, son Franklin Carlyle, baby sister Judy Loney.

He leaves behind his wife Connie Carlyle, children, grandchildren and many friends and family.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Ronald (Ron) Carlyle, please visit our [flower store](#).

ELAINE J. JOHNSON WYERS

June 24, 1942 — February 3, 2025

ELAINE J JOHNSON WYERS, age 82 of Montrose, Colorado passed away on February 3, 2025, in the presence of loving family. Elaine was born June 24, 1942 in Lynwood, California, daughter to the proud parents Leland Edward Johnson and Lucy Dudley Johnson. Elaine graduated from Manuel Dominguez High School in 1960, and worked for various companies with the majority for City Services and Phelps Dodge as a Customer Service Agent and Office Manager, retiring in 1990. Elaine married James (Jim) Norman Wyers on July 18, 1970 in Las Vegas, Nevada and the two were married for 54 years. It was lust at first sight. Elaine and Jim spent their first 26 years of marriage in Huntington Beach, four years in Ahwatukee, Arizona, and the next 24 years in Montrose Colorado, Ouray County. Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Roland and Milton, and her loving son Steven Wyers.

Elaine was a longtime member of the Fortuna Tierra club, an organization dedicated to raising funds for higher education scholarships. Elaine also treasured the traveling and dining with her girl-group, The Penguins, and sharing stories only the ladies could share.

Elaine loved her family and friends, the outdoors, adventures with Jim, car racing, NFL Football, all animals, her exquisite mountain home with spectacular views, July 4th annual BBQs, and laughing moments with family and friends.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JEAN ANN KLEEVES

May 13, 1931- February 3, 2025



JK Ranch, for 21 years in Estes Park, Colorado. They moved to the Vee Bar Ranch out of Laramie, Wyoming for a short period before moving to Montrose, Colorado in 1987. In Montrose they were involved in helping their grown kids on an orchard and cattle ranch. They also owned and operated the Montrose County Shopper for several years. Jean Ann's favorite past time was buying and fixing up houses and properties and reselling them. She had a gift for decorating and turned the ordinary into exquisite.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Joel Kleeves. She is survived by her two children: Dale (Maggie) Kleeves, Montrose, CO, Dawn (Dave) Bowman, Olathe, CO along with her grandchildren, Grant (Andrea Sokolowski) Kleeves, Ridgway, CO, Chad (Brittani) Kleeves, Montrose, CO, Alicia (Jared) Harper, Madison, MS, Andrew (Sarah) Bowman, Olathe, CO.

Great grandchildren: Kaydence, Wilder, and Ridge Kleeves, and Madilynn and Titus Harper, and Kyanne and Rio Bowman.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Celebration Church – Far More Abundantly Campaign (Building Fund), 2900 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, CO 81401 or the Native American Missions (on memo line - for Apache MP3 Bibles), 3456 F Road, Clifton, CO 81520.

A Celebration of Life service for Jean Ann will be on Sunday, February 16th at 3pm at Celebration Church in Montrose, Colorado.

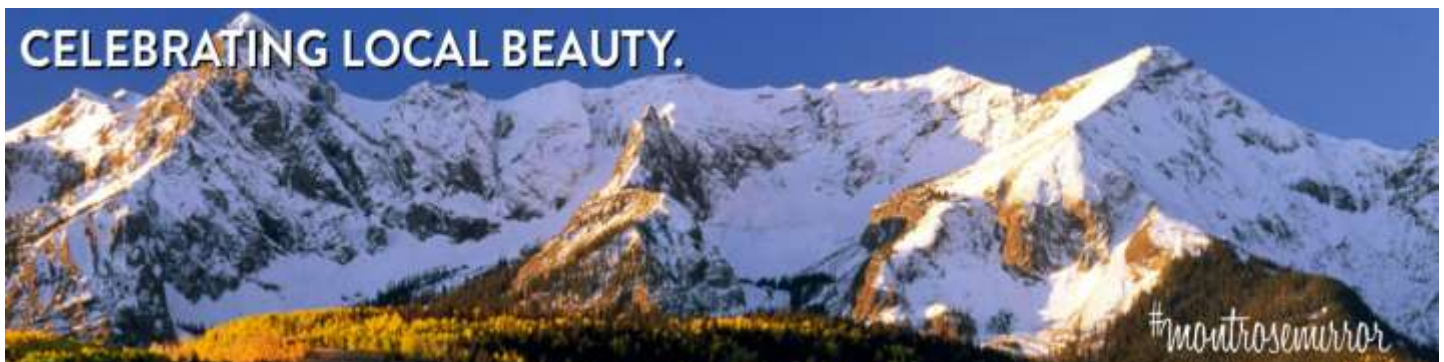
JEAN ANN KLEEVES went to be with her Lord and Savior on February 3, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado at the age of 93.

Born on May 13, 1931 in Denver, Colorado to Merrill R. and Dorothy C. Kidd, she lived in various towns on the Front Range. At age 13, she left Colorado with her mother and brother to attend Bob Jones High School/University in Tennessee after her father was killed in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge. While in school, she met her roommate's brother, Joel, in Michigan and the rest is history. She married Joel at age 19 and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July of 2015.

Jean Ann loved to share her faith in Jesus Christ with everyone and was actively involved in church all her life, including singing in choirs, being a youth group leader, and mentoring. She was one of the first members of Celebration Church in Montrose. Second to Jesus, her family was the most important part of her life. She prayed for her family by name every day. Regularly, she organized family meals and get togethers to keep all the extended family connected.

She was a wonderful homemaker, cook, and baker, and loved to entertain family and friends. Joel and Jean Ann owned and operated a guest ranch, the Double

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



ISSUE 507 Feb. 10, 2025

ART & SOL

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: THE ART OF CLEAR EXPRESSION & MIXED EMOTIONS

By Wendy Videlock
PALISADE—Many years ago, while reminiscing with a cousin I hadn't seen in years, he said something that changed everything about my understanding of family, family dynamics and memory.



Poet Laureate Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

We were talking about his father, and he reached into his pocket, taking a small memento out of his wallet. Carefully unfolding a small document, he explained, *I keep this with me to remind myself what an absolute monster my father could be.*

Just as I was beginning to think that this was a pretty unhealthy thing for a person to do, he reached back into his wallet, producing another tiny memento.

His voice softened as he continued, *and I keep this with me to remind myself what an absolute angel my father could be.*

I was deeply moved by this bit of simple wisdom. I was struck by his awareness that our memories, especially of our families of origin, are complicated — and that mixed emotions are not the exception, but the norm.

And let's be honest — if we've been paying attention we already know most people are a mixed bag of vices and virtues.

This concept of holding "two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time" gives

us the ability to embrace complexity and subtlety, allowing us to consider multiple perspectives.

Of course the poets, artists, philosophers and mystics have been telling us about this for thousands of years.

Robert Frost famously said, "Poetry is the clear expression of mixed emotions." My own work is filled with reminders (to myself!) that the world is a disarming blend of seeming contradictions.

Dear Universe,

*In all this calm, in all this mist,
a vague shaped continent
begins to drift.*

*A finger lifts,
falls again.*

*A foghorn sounds,
passionless*

*Do you wonder
what we are in all this calm,
in all this mist?*

Wolf prints.

*Red clay. A slender wrist.
Murder.*

*Magic.
Ballet.*

In a recent Ted Talk I did, ([available here](#)), I found myself saying that being human means navigating a whole host of mixed emotions and mixed observations on the regular — and not just in others, but within ourselves.

*I'm sometimes spring and sometimes
wintress, sometimes earnest,
sometimes impish, sometimes skinny,*

*sometimes blimpish, sometimes vegan,
sometimes steak-ish,
sometimes image, sometimes language,*

*sometimes sorrow, sometimes rapture,
sometimes whole,
sometimes fractured.*

What my cousin was showing me that day was an expanded kind of consciousness, an awareness that his father was not the sum of his worst moments — or even the sum of his best moments but rather a mix, with everything else in-between those two polarities mixed in, too.

I suspect that this particular kind of awareness is not just a result of paying attention, but a mark of emotional intelligence.

According to Wikipedia, Emotional intelligence (EI) refers to the ability to understand, manage, and express one's own emotions, as well as recognize and respond appropriately to the emotions of others, essentially encompassing self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, motivation, and social skills; it's often considered a key factor in building strong relationships and in navigating social situations effectively.

On the other hand, having an all or nothing mentality, (known as dichotomous thinking) is aligned with disorders like narcissism, anxiety, depression, fractured relationships and emotional roller coaster riding.

Continued next pg

THE ART OF CLEAR EXPRESSION & MIXED EMOTIONS From previous pg

Studies show that using extreme terms like *always* and *never*, *perfect* and *failure*, *easy* and *impossible* to describe ordinary things can actually create negative self-talk and result in a fear of trying new things or trusting others. How we talk to ourselves really does matter.

Do not dismiss

*the many gifts
in cliff
and loam
and fellowship,*

*the endless shifts
perspective gives,*

*the unadorned,
the bottom line,
the end rhyme,*

*that little bit
of opening it
takes to make*

*the bigger picture
come alive.*

According to Aimee O’Neil, LMSW, *black*

and white thinkers tend to look for what feels sure rather than what is true. She goes on to say, “Being comfortable with uncertainty (or not knowing) is one of the traits of wise people. Seeing the world in shades of gray allows us to acknowledge that we don’t know everything. The truth is we know relatively little”.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of dichotomous thinking is that it distorts everything we perceive. It creates an overwhelming *love or hate, us and them, with me or against me* paradigm. And of course bigotry and willful ignorance is never far behind those particular things. Thankfully the arts exist to remind us we are not one polarized thing or the other, but rather complex, sentient beings capable of growing, learning and expanding our awareness— mixed emotions, paradoxes, nuances and all.

Wishing Well

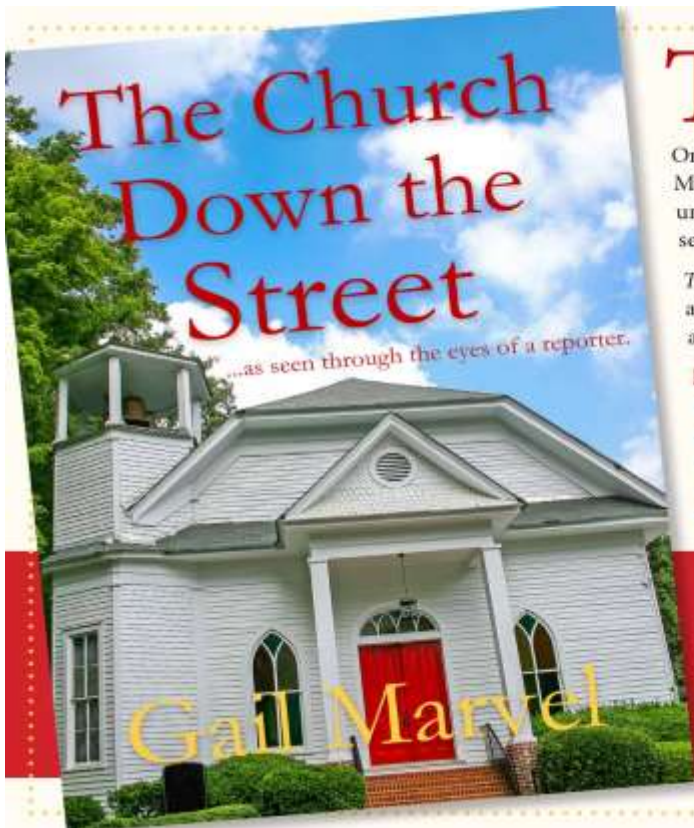
*Of all the ways there are to move
in this world,
may I move between
extremes—
between the sleekest
polished vessel*

*and the old busted raft,
between the silent and
the belly laugh,
between the stars
and the grisly mountain pass,
between a free
association
and meticulous craft,
between the spacious and
the cramped,
between the twin
understandings of
the full
and the half glass.*

Wendy Vidlock of Palisade serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. Her books can be purchased wherever books are sold.

Reach her at westernslopeword@gmail.com

See my Tedx Talk
What You Thought You Lost
Upcoming Events
wendyvidlock.com
Writer, Artist, Teacher, Newspaper Columnist
Poetry Foundation
@wendyvidlock.inklings on Instagram



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: NON-PROFITS

SCENIC MESA CONSERVATION GUARANTEES PROTECTION OF WATER, WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE IN NORTH FORK VALLEY



Scenic Mesa courtesy photo by Hall and Hall.

Special to the Mirror

DELTA COUNTY— Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) is pleased to announce the permanent conservation of Scenic Mesa, a breathtaking 7,419-acre property in Delta County’s North Fork Valley. Thanks to the commitment of landowner Peter Slaugh, this remarkable landscape will remain protected forever—ensuring its rich wildlife habitat, agricultural legacy, and scenic beauty continue to benefit the community for generations to come.

Scenic Mesa Ranch includes miles along the North Fork and mainstem of the Gunnison River. The property borders the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and helps connect lower-elevation public land with the West Elk wilderness. “The property’s scale, high-quality habitat, and strategic location make this an incredibly important conservation achievement,” said Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director of Colorado West Land Trust. “We are grateful to partner with Peter Slaugh to protect this incredibly important piece of Western Colorado’s wildlife and agricultural heritage.”

Diverse Wildlife and Habitat

Scenic Mesa is home to a diverse range of wildlife species, including several protected animals such as the bald eagle, river otter, and northern leopard frog. Its critical habitats also support big game species like elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep,



Colorado West Land Trust (CWLT) is pleased to announce the permanent conservation of Scenic Mesa, a breathtaking 7,419-acre property in Delta County’s North Fork Valley. Courtesy photo by Hall and Hall.

which are vital to the region’s economy through hunting and wildlife tourism. The property’s winter range offers vital forage, cover, and thermal protection for elk and other wildlife during the harsh winter months. In addition to big game, its riparian areas, rock outcrops, and canyons provide habitats for a variety of species—from raptors like golden eagles to waterfowl such as great blue herons and Canada geese. The rugged terrain also supports predators like mountain lions and black bears.

Agricultural Significance & Water

Scenic Mesa plays a role in local agriculture, supporting livestock grazing, irrigated hay production, and dryland pastures. Through this conservation easement, senior water rights are permanently secured, ensuring the land’s continued agricultural productivity and preservation of open

space.

Peter Slaugh, the landowner, highlighted the importance of securing the property’s water rights, “We live in a dry climate where water is key to promoting healthy habitats,” he said. “We feel honored to act as stewards of this ranch with a rich history,” Peter said. “While raising cattle, we are equally committed to managing the health and survival of wildlife and their habitats. It’s important to us that this land remains a wildlife preserve and avoids development.”

Restoration Work

Peter Slaugh plans to partner with CWLT on a series of restoration projects to improve aquatic and upland habitats. These efforts include river restoration work with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps and potential habitat enhancement projects.

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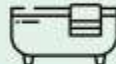
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

ELYANA POLLARD OF MONTROSE NAMED TO FALL DEANS' LIST AT NEBRASKA

Special to the Mirror

LINCOLN, NE—Elyana Pollard of Montrose has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

Pollard, a junior majoring in fisheries and wildlife, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Qualification for the Deans' List varies among the eight undergraduate colleges and the Explore Center. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each entity and the name of its respective dean or director. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale and a minimum number of graded semester hours. Students can be on the Deans' List for more than one college.

For the full Deans' List, visit <https://go.unl.edu/deanslist-fall24>.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Special to the Mirror

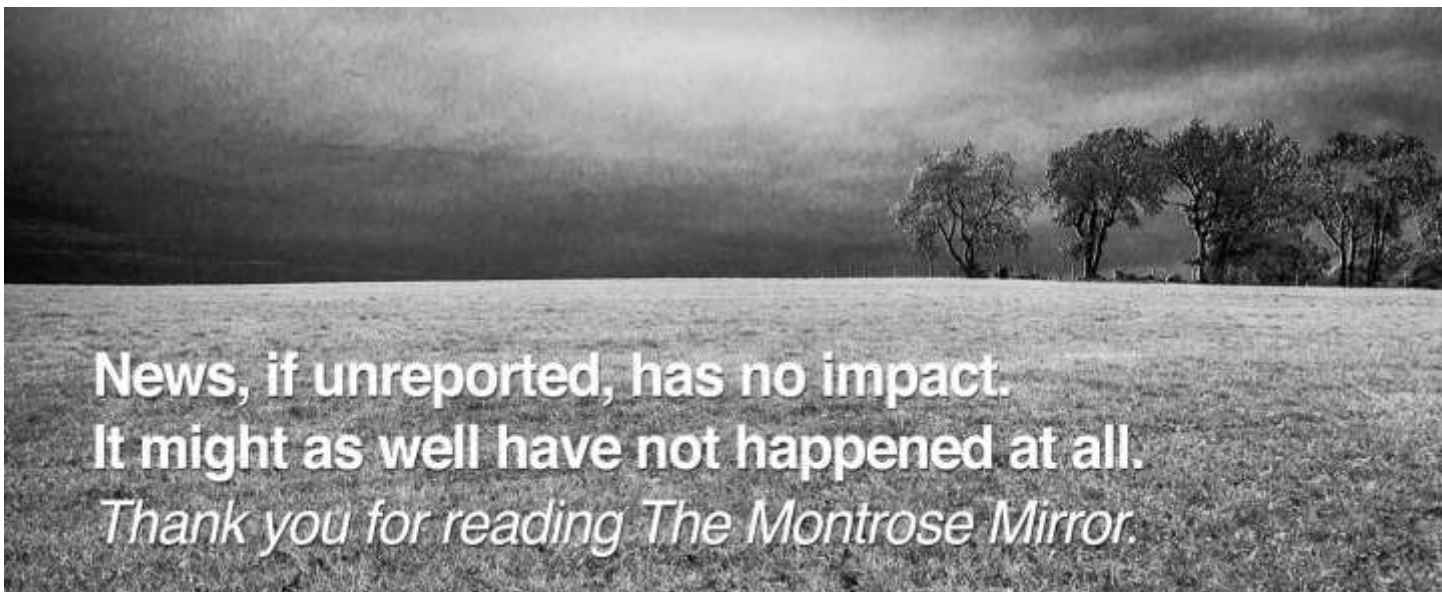
MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is accepting applications for a vacancy on its [Historic Preservation Commission](#). Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply.

The Historic Preservation Commission serves as the evaluative body for historic properties in the City of Montrose, providing recommendations to the City Council on historic property designations, assisting with public education regarding municipal history and historic preservation, and reviewing best practices for designation standards and preservation efforts throughout the community.

Historic Preservation commissioners are appointed by the City Council. At least 60% of the Commission's members are residents of the city, and at least 40% of them are professionals or individuals with extensive expertise in a preservation-related discipline, including but not limited to history, architecture, landscape architecture, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, planning, or archaeology.

To learn more about the Commission, please visit www.cityofmontrose.org/History.

Applications are available at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, at www.CityofMontrose.org/History, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 970.240.1430.



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

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 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

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

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 5th 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

Website: 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

Email: 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

Website: 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,

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, 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, 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

Website: 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, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

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

email: 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, 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., 2nd 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

rose@yahoo.com
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

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; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

<p>Church Directory <i>Mirror Editorial Staff</i> MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following</p>	<p>information to the Montrose Mirror: Name of church Denomination affiliation Address Office hours Contact information (phone number, email address, website) Name of current Senior Pastor Worship service times</p>	<p>Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community. Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles). Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?</p>
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DOO-WAH RIDERS TAKE THE STAGE IN DELTA FEB. 18

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to present an evening of toe-tapping fun as the Doo-Wah Riders take the stage on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 at 7 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, CO. Doors open at 6 PM.

The Doo-Wah Riders define their sound as “high energy country with a Cajun twist.” They have been based in Southern California for more than 40 years, bringing a rare combination of many years of experience with youthful energy, fired by a love for what they do. Showcasing ultra-light musicianship and powerful arrangements of classic and original songs, The Doo-Wah Riders are great showmen.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob at 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com



The Doo-Wah Riders. Courtesy photo.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

970-249-8500
ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS

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STORIES & POEMS NATURITA CANCELLED FOR FEB. 16

Special to Art & Sol

NATURITA -Due to a funeral, Leslie Ament won't be able to make the Feb. 16th Stories & Poems gathering at the Naturita Public Library at 11 am. So, we are going to skip the Feb. session and gather again on March 16th at 11 am MST to talk about “Tales of Old Nucla.”

Stories & Poems follows a simple format. The morning begins with a passing of the gourd to introduce everyone in the group. Then those present will be invited to tell a personal story, perform a poem (an original or a favorite written by someone else), read a short section of prose having to do with the month's theme.

A collaboration of the Naturita Community Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, *Stories & Poems*, is free and open to all ages -- thanks to the generosity of the library, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.

The Naturita Community Library is located at 107 W. 1st Ave. in Naturita and can be contacted at 907-787-2270.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org. Or visit our website:

www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds

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- Community Center

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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!

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

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: FAITH

POWER AND LOVE IS COMING TO MONTROSE APRIL 4& 5

Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-Power and Love is coming to Montrose! We just wanted to give you some information about our event as well as what this can look like, should you choose to have your church or ministry participate in this community impacting experience!

Power and Love is a two-day equipping and training event hosted by Lifestyle Christianity in cities across America for believers of all ages and backgrounds.

Each training is composed of worship, teaching, and includes four outreaches where attendees become the hands and feet of Jesus and share the gospel everywhere they go!

People are saved, healed, and delivered in public spaces! Lives are forever changed when they discover the God-designed adventure of living fully dependent on the Holy Spirit!

Our schedule typically looks just like this: Friday

Doors Open 8 AM

Session 1 9 AM

Outreach 11:30 AM

Session 2 2 PM

Outreach 4 PM

Session 3 7 PM

Saturday

Vision Breakfast 7:00 AM

Session 1 9 AM

Outreach 11:30 AM

Session 2 2 PM

Outreach 4 PM

Session 3 7 PM

During outreach, this is not a scheduled time to DO outreach but rather BE love to those around you.

We will send attendees out to go about your day as normal. Attendees are encouraged to share the love of Christ in the surrounding community at places you might go in your everyday life. i.e shopping centers, malls, restaurants, local parks, etc.; and as you go, you love people through prayer, paying for meals, ministering the gospel etc.

We have more information about the event on our [Power + Love website](#) and our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

If your Church, Ministry, Organization, or Business would like to partner with us in any way to see God's Kingdom advanced in our Region, we will send you a media

kit. This kit includes slides with information about the event.

There's also information for your church congregations to register for the discounted 50% off admission.

We ask that you show these slides at your services to really capture your congregation's attention and gain their interest!

We also would ask that you make announcements on stage and/or give information about the event from the stage!

These steps are crucial to making sure your members understand how impactful this event will be!

We also would offer 5 members of your senior leadership team free admission to our event!

For additional info: Contact Shane at shane@970vip.com or Lenni Jo at lenni-jo@hotmail.com

Additional donations may be made by check through Solid Rock Foundation Ministries or simply SRFM. PO Box 2149 Montrose, CO 81402 Include a sticky note designating the funds for the Power + Love conference. This money will be used for the event center rental, chairs, sound system and security.

Power + Love



COLORADO APRIL 4-5

USE CODE:
LOCAL50
TO GET \$50 ADMISSION



TODD WHITE
HOST SPEAKER



PATRICIA KING
GUEST SPEAKER



ENIOLA ABIOYE
CIRCUIT RIDERS



ZACH WEBB
CIRCUIT RIDERS

SCAN THE QR CODE
& REGISTER TODAY!



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

BOB MCKEEVER AND ELLE METRICK TO WEAVE STORIES AND POEMS AT THE LONE CONE LIBRARY IN NORWOOD FEB. 19 AT 6 PM



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Special to the Mirror
NORWOOD-Both storyteller Bob Mckeever and poet Elle Metrick have entranced audiences at separate events, but after their first successful combo show in December at Telluride Arts, the two decided to work together to weave their outdoor tales into a fireside experience to be shared at the February 19 Stories & Poems in Norwood, at Lone Cone Library.



Storyteller Bob Mckeever.
Courtesy photo.

“After their collaborative story and poem night in Telluride in December, we’re excited to bring these two Norwood adventurers together at home, at the Lone Cone Library,” said Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes.

The theme this month for storytellers and poets this month, if you would like a prompt, it’s “Darkness.”

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

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

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at <art@tellurideinstitute.org>. To visit the website: <www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds>



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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. 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

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

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

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. 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. 12th 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 phoebebeniziger@gmail.com.

Feb. 18-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to present an evening of toe-tapping fun as the Doo-Wah Riders take the stage on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 at 7 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, CO.

Doors open at 6 PM. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the performance, \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information please contact Bob at 970-835-4480 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

Feb. 18-Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 7pm, Delta Library Community Room.

"The Hanging Flume," the best kept secret of the wild west! 60-min video. Travel back to 1891 when the flume carried water 10-miles and, designed, powered hydraulic cannon at the Montrose Placer Mining (gold) Company Claims Down Stream. Today the Hanging Flume is the longest historic structure in the state of Colorado. The flume took three years to construct and three years to fail.

MHS FEBRUARY DIVISION AWARD WINNERS



L-R, MHS February Division Award Winners are Mykal Woodden, Lauren Neubaum, Morgan Brown, Laura Enrique, Maya Frasier and Elizabeth Bircham. Not pictured are Rick Olmos and Andres Prado Lugo. Courtesy photo



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