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the Montrose Mirror

FINAL MHS SCHEMATIC DESIGN PRESENTED TO RE-1J BOARD



Ellington Clark, right, won the 2025 school district Spelling Bee. Clark easily stumped the entire Board of Education on Feb. 11 by asking them to spell 'daguerreotype.' Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- Board President Sarah Fishing called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, as the Montrose County School District RE-J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Present for the meeting were all directors: President Fishing (District E); Vice President Steve Bush (District G), District A Director Neisha Balleck; District B Director Ted Valerio; District C Director Alice Murphy; District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde.

Directors voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT & RECOGNITION

A local champion was present, Cottonwood Elementary School Fourth Grader Ellington Clark. Clark had won the 2025 District Spelling Bee; he easily stumped the entire Board of Education by asking them to spell, "Daguerreotype."

Altrusa Apple Awards for February [were awarded](#) to Oak Grove Fourth Grade Teacher Julie Vigil and to

Continued pg 22

GOP APPOINTS SEAN POND TO SERVE AS DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER FOLLOWING SUDDEN DEATH OF RICK DUNLAP

By Gail Marvel

Background: Colorado State law requires that a new county commissioner be appointed within 10 days to fill the vacancy left by the unexpected death of Montrose County Commissioner Rick Dunlap. Dunlap was a Republican; hence the Republican Central Committee was charged with filling the vacancy. Had the Central Committee failed to make an appointment within the 10-day time period, the appointment would have been made by Democratic Colorado Governor Jared Polis.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the Montrose County Republican (GOP) Central Committee held two meetings. The Vacancy Committee Meeting, which began at 10a.m., was followed by the Reorganization Meeting (election of officers, member appointments).

Continued pg 33



Three of the four candidates nominated to fill the remaining term of Montrose County Commissioner Rick Dunlap were (L to R) Jay Jutten, Sean Pond, and David White (candidate Scott Riba not pictured). Pond was elected Feb. 15 as the District 3 Montrose County Commissioner. Photo by Gail Marvel.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror



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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of over 25,000 across the region.
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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the **Montrose Mirror** or its editorial team.

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Family Game Day

February 18
10am-3pm
Library Meeting Room



Enjoy a little friendly family competition? Looking for a fun way to spend a few hours during Winter Break? Join us for Family Game Day! This game day will offer families a time to play some tried and true classics like Candyland and Sorry, as well as, a chance to try out some new games you might not have heard of like Buildz and Qwirkle. This will be a drop in program in the Meeting Room of the library.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

OPINION/ EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY DON'T WE HAVE EMERGENCY VETERINARY SERVICES HERE IN MONTROSE?

Editor:

Why don't we have Emergency Veterinary Services here in Montrose? Pet owners currently are told to take their pets for emergencies to Grand Junction; a long way to drive when a pet is suffering. Why is that necessary when we have numerous Veterinary offices right here in Montrose.

Surely these Veterinary offices could provide those services right here in Montrose by rotating emergency coverage among all the different offices so one office wouldn't need to carry the load. If one office wanted to "step up" for coverage that would be wonderful too, but we NEED to have emergency veterinary services for our pets right here in Montrose. Let's get this done now; It's long over due.

Carol McBride, Montrose

CORRECTION to MM Issue 624-: Olathe athlete Isaiah Gordan's Milestone video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/SWDQoktFL58?si=f14M-IY00xuQv0Qx>.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL AMERICANS WITH DIFFERENT ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS

Editor:

I just completed a flag rally to celebrate president's day. I have really mixed emotions about how we were accepted today. THE ELECTION IS OVER!

It's time to stand up for America. It's not red or blue, democratic or republican, it's not even Trump/Vance or Biden/Harris! It's all about America, the red, white, and blue, home of the free because of the brave. You know, patriotism! For the most part we were received with thumbs up, honks and waves of approval. Except for a few, and they showed their disapproval. Obviously I can't ask every neigh

sayer why they responded like they did. I really don't know who or what they were giving the thumbs down or the middle finger in response to.

If you value your freedoms then why put the American people down. I fly mostly American flags but today I flew a flag in honor of Rick Dunlap. Were the neighbors giving me negative responses due to the American Flag, the 6 military branch flags or even Rick Dunlap's flag? That really bothers me.

Sure, we all have the right to free speech but with it comes personal responsibility! If you believe in our pledge of allegiance

then you know what I'm referring to. We just came off two years of separation, now is the time to be unified and fight for a better America rather than disrespecting every veteran from 1775 until tomorrow. If you are Italian/American then become American first with Italian heritage. You can choose what ever group you wish but remember we are all Americans with different ethnic backgrounds.

Our next flag rally isn't until March 15 when we focus on Veterans Day. Please come out and support us or better, join us in honoring our veterans.

John Brown, Montrose, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

STRONGLY URGE THE GOP TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION

Editor:

Many of us are alarmed!! Our form of Democracy is based on the constitution. It assures there are checks and balances of

power.

The U.S. Government budgetary decisions are made by Congress and the President. They determine how the government

spends and taxes money. These decisions impact the size of the federal government and its role in the economy.

How budgetary decisions are made? Congress holds hearings questioning administration officials
The House and Senate Budget Committees draft budget resolutions
The House and Senate debate and amend the resolutions
The House and Senate pass identical resolutions
Congress sends the approved funding bills to the President to sign or veto
No one person should assume they can take control with executive orders! WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!
Strongly urge the GOP to uphold the constitution of the United States. If it needs changed, there are proper channels for that too.

Carol Pierce, Montrose CO

FACTS & FICTION



Did you know the City of Montrose is well known around Colorado for having amazing staff who are very well educated and passionate about local government? Please get to know:

Name: Ann Morgenthaler

Position: Deputy City Manager

Background: Born, raised, and educated in Colorado. Ann attended Colorado College where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in art history, and obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Favorite Montrose Community Event: Downtown Halloween Candy Crawl

Known For: Collaboration, optimism, and asking coworkers to stop and smile for a photo

I am proud to serve our community because: I am part of an amazing team that has the opportunity to make positive impacts in Montrose every day.



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

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Who runs this train wreck with your tax dollars and family future dog pile of debt while doling out millions to the elite?

Stay tuned to Montrose Citizens DOGE, Your vote will matter! See Something? Say Something!

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUST COMES FROM FULL DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY

Editor:

For nearly a year, I have taken the liberty of attending various city and county meetings. Years raising family and tending to business matters led me to believe that citizens most impacted by governance had little say from day to day. We/they were working to feed families and raise children to be productive participants in the American Dream and Land of Opportunity. Hence, our representative government elected officials were anointed with sacred votes to take on the role of representing their constituents. I think it circles back to "We the People."

Of course, I am not surprised at what I have witnessed. The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly.

Quick rewind: a mentor gathered thirty to forty well educated peers in a seminar, then "group queried" undergraduate and graduate degree holders. Degrees in management, but no degrees in leadership. He then instantly threw us ALL under the bus, letting us know that we had wasted most of our time and money. WHY would he say such a thing? We were all aghast. I couldn't believe what I had heard from this amazingly successful man. I actually traveled the highway for his insulting presentation?

He then asked if anyone had earned a degree in TRUST. He followed up with a call session focused on building honesty, sincerity, and trust. He noted that every word that came from our mouth either built or eroded trust.

Yes, that day was most pivotal in personal and professional life. Nobody is perfect, yet everything changes when authentic trust is built. Leadership and productivity at any level is magnificently enhanced or eroded with every word. Trust comes from full disclosure and honesty, not patronizing with empty rhetoric. Actions speak.

Look to our leaders to build trust. First with their peers, then with their constituents. The Parent to Child method of scolding witnessed this past year does little to build trust.

Hence the words "Trust, but Verify."

Always thrilled with freedom of speech and freedom of the press.....

Ron Smith, Montrose

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UNITED STATES NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PRESIDENTS' DAY SCHEDULE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – In observance of the Presidents' Day federal holiday, Postal Service facilities will be closed for retail services, and there will be no regular mail deliveries on Monday, February 17, 2025.

Normal retail, delivery, and collection schedules will resume on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

-Stamps are available at most grocery, pharmacy, and convenient stores.

-For 24/7 access to most postal products and services, go to www.usps.com, where you can look up a ZIP Code, track a package, buy stamps, hold mail, print postage online, submit a change of address, schedule a package pickup and find USPS locations including self-service kiosks.

-Get an email preview of mail and packages coming soon to your mailbox. Sign up for Informed Delivery at <https://informedelivery.com>.

For a full list of holiday observances please see the [holiday and events page](#) on our website.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON & PROGRAM AT HAMPTON INN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Republican Women Luncheon & Program will be Friday, Feb. 21 at Noon, at Hampton Inn Montrose. Brown bag lunch. Montrose County Manager Frank Rodriguez will discuss county operations and plans in the works. Bring a friend! Call Kerri - 970-209-5170.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEAN POND SELECTED AS MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Vacancy Committee of the Republican Party has selected Sean Pond to fill the District 3 seat left vacant by Rick Dunlap, who served the county with dedication and honor.

“We are confident that Sean will serve Montrose County in the same spirit that Rick Dunlap did, and will continue to uphold the legacy of leadership, integrity, and service that Rick instilled during his time in office,” said Sue Hansen, Chair of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place at Montrose County Public Works Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 9 AM and all members of the public are invited to attend as we welcome Sean to his new role.

WINE DINNER FOR FOSTER CONNECTIONS MARCH 26

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Help Foster, Kinship, and adoptive families-Attend a wine dinner March 26 at 6 pm in support of Foster Connections. Click here for [reservations link](#).

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March 20, 2025 (Thursday) at the Montrose Pavilion
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**Keynote Speaker:
Jayson E. Street**



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- The author of the "Dissecting the hack: Series"
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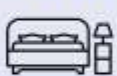
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DISCOVER THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WESTERN MONTROSE COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Are you interested in the archaeology of western Montrose County? Please join us for Archaeologist Rand Greubel's presentation on the Weimar Ranch studies. February 19 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society- Free.

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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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

RATHBONE HOTEL EARNS HISTORY COLORADO'S PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Rathbone Hotel, located in historic Montrose downtown, was recently chosen to receive History Colorado's Peoples Choice Award for the hotel developer's dedication to preserving the building's historical heritage. The award will be presented during History Colorado's Stephen H. Hart Awards celebration on April 2, where only five projects in Colorado will be honored.

The Rathbone Hotel, located at 33 South Cascade Avenue is commonly known as the Knights of Pythias Building, or KP Building. The KP Building, a massive three-story yellow-brick building, featuring a central parapet with a concrete-trimmed "KP Building" name plaque on the west façade, is one of the oldest remaining brick structures in Montrose.

The Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization founded in 1864 by Justus Henry Rathbone in Washington, DC, has had a chapter in Montrose since the 19th century. By 1908, Cascade Lodge No. 33 had purchased property at the corner of South 1st Street and Cascade Avenue for the construction of a new building.

The building was completed in 1909, at a cost of \$24,300. The upper floor held a large lodge hall and four large club rooms. The first story of the building was used as a variety of storefronts over the years. In 1911, the fourth annual convention of the Knights of Pythias of the Western Slope was held in Montrose with more than 400 people attending.

The great lodge room was 50 by 75 feet with a floor made from maple wood. Historical accounts reflect there were elegant parlors in the front of the building, and the community's original Elks Club rented the two rooms on the South First Street corner of the building. Over the years the main floor housed a variety of businesses, including Hupp Furniture, Safeway, and Mash Appliances.

In 2012 a fire broke out in the building when it was used as the Budget Line Fur-



Anthony Russo, a member of the City of Montrose Business Development team, speaks during the grand opening of The Rathbone Hotel in July 2024. Courtesy photo.

niture store. Residents occupying the upstairs apartments were forced to relocate following the fire.

For nearly a decade the building sat empty and unused until developers Clay Bales and Jason Raible saw the potential to turn the building into a new boutique hotel. With the goal to preserve as much of the building's history as possible, Bales named the hotel The Rathbone, in honor of the Knights of Pythias's founder Justus Henry Rathbone.

"Nearly destroyed by fire, heavily altered by previous owners, and near collapse due to failing structural supports, the Knights of Pythias Building was considered by many to be an impossible preservation project," said Dawn DiPrince, Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer for History Colorado. "Your vision to see the building's potential led to the successful transformation from a dilapidated building into an important economic driver and preservation catalyst for downtown Montrose."

The City of Montrose officially added the KP Building to the city's historic register on November 1, 2022, officially cementing the building's history in the Montrose

community.

"Seeing a historic building, thought to have been lost, again becoming a vital part of our downtown is what historic preservation is all about," said Anthony Russo, a member of the City of Montrose Business Development team. "This project was the first step in a renaissance of our Main St. The investments being made today are a direct result of this project."

In 2008 the City of Montrose received the Stephen H. Hart Award for major renovation and preservation of the Elks Civic Building, located just across South First Street from the KP Building at 107 South Cascade Ave.

Since 1986, History Colorado has celebrated the legacy of Stephen H. Hart, Colorado's first State Historic Preservation Officer, by recognizing organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of archaeology and historic preservation in Colorado. The Rathbone Hotel is now part of this proud tradition.

The award will be presented at a special ceremony in April.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

JONATHAN COHEE ELECTED 2025 BOARD PRESIDENT OF ONE DELTA COUNTY

Special to the Mirror

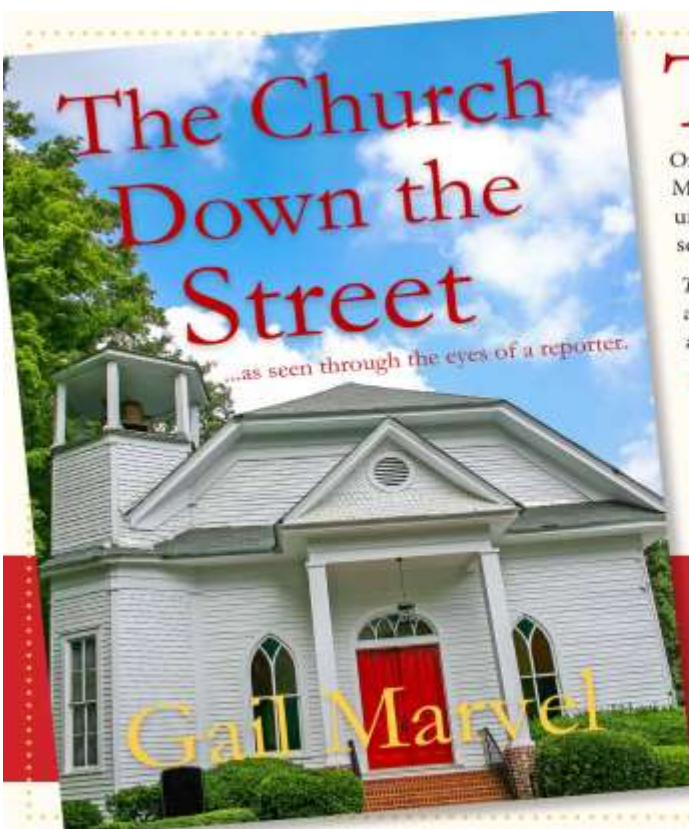
DELTA-One Delta County: An Economic Alliance (ODC) held elections for its 2025 Board of Directors and Officers. Jonathan Cohee, Chief Operating Officer of Delta Health was elected President, and Kent Blackwell, Chief Operating Officer of Delta Montrose Electric / Elevate, will serve a second term as Vice President. The remaining ODC officer team consists of Secretary- Courtney Tribble, Economic Development District Program Manager at Region 10 and Treasurer- Brison Crow, Manager of Alpine Bank Delta. Mike Lahoe, Delta Building Center was elected for a three-year term as a Business Director and Jody Roeber, Homestead Meats, was appointed to fill a one-year term as a Business Director. Dennis Anderson, Editor of the Delta County Independent, was re-elected to serve as the Business Director Representative to the Executive Committee.

Said Cohee, "I am honored to serve as the board President of One Delta County and look forward to working collaboratively to enhance communication across our municipalities and drive meaningful growth. Delta County is rich with opportunity, and in 2025, we will focus on strengthening partnerships, supporting local businesses, and fostering a thriving economy that benefits all. Together we can build a stronger, more connected future for Delta County."

In addition to helping existing businesses grow and expand and attraction of new business to the area, other projects One Delta County is working on include expansion of the industrial park, a workforce housing prototype project and continuing business education programs.



One Delta County President Jonathan Cohee. Courtesy photo.



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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE OFFICES CLOSE FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Supervisor's Office, along with all ranger district offices, will be closed in observance of the Presidents' Day federal holiday, Feb. 17, 2025. Offices will resume regular business hours Tuesday, Feb. 18.

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE ON PRESIDENTS' DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — City of Montrose offices will close in observance of Presidents' Day on Monday, Feb. 17. City Hall, the Downtown Visitor Center, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Montrose Pavilion, and Public Works will all close in observance of the holiday.

Police Department offices will be closed, but officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will remain open, depending on snow. The Pro Shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., while The Rusty Putter restaurant will be closed while the snack bar will be open.

Trash and recycling schedules will be adjusted for the holiday. City residential trash customers who would normally receive service on Monday, Feb. 17, will instead be served on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and Wednesday, Feb. 19.

For trash routes normally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17, residences south of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 will receive trash collection services on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

For residences north of San Juan Avenue and U.S. Highway 50, trash pickup will occur on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Recycling customers who would normally receive collection service on Monday, February 17, will instead be served on Friday, Feb. 21.

Residents with questions about route adjustments are encouraged to call City Hall at 970.240.1400 or visit CityofMontrose.org/Trash

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.



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FINAL MHS SCHEMATIC DESIGN PRESENTED TO RE-1J BOARD From pg 1

Centennial Middle School Special Education Teacher Ami Schmitz.

The KREX Golden Apple Award for February was awarded to the District's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Stacey Musick.

DONATIONS

Donations received recently by the School District include:

-The Edecker Family (Brett and Brooke) collected and donated six large bags of hats, scarves, gloves, mitten/hat sets, handmade purses, and socks to distribute to students in grades PK-5.

The donation is worth more than \$1,000 and this is the 26th year that the Edeckers have donated to RE-1J schools.

William Efird donated \$2,840.30 on behalf of the Montrose High School Climbing Team.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Director Emily Imus reported on Quarterly Financials for the 2nd Quarter of the 2024-2025 Fiscal year, by investment and by fund.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

District Facilities Committee Member Jody Hovde gave an update on the committee's current priorities. The ChildFind program will move to the ECC building and Step Up will move to a new location at Pomona Elementary School, as the City of Montrose intends to use the building the programs were housed in (the former Passage Charter School Building) for a city-owned childcare facility.

There are sewage issues at Olathe Elementary School; the problems are significant and will be addressed this summer. District D Director Tom West, who also serves on the facilities Committee, said something unintelligible about skirting and roofing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board heard a lengthy presentation of the schematic design for a new Montrose High School, led by RE-1J Executive Director of Operations James Pavlich and with

all consultants present to talk about different aspects of the design.

Board President Fishing said, "...This was the final deliverable to the board from the contractors for the design of the high school..."

This phase of schematic design has been completed and is in the Master Capital Plan, RE-1J Superintendent Carrie Stephenson said.

"...We went into this with the intent of making sure that we have this design in our master capital plan, so that if and when the Board chooses to go forward with exploring this, this gives us a great starting point for the next iteration, whatever that might be...this will give us a great start to determine exactly what we need to do to get this project off the ground."

The completed MHS Schematic Design can be viewed here. Next Steps could include a community survey, Superintendent Stephenson said. "We should go back to our community and ask them some key questions," she said. "...about helping us to understand why they voted the way that they did...and then we'll go from there..."

COMMUNITY INPUT

Constituent Leah Vandersluis spoke during the time for community input. "Good evening. First of all, I want to thank you guys, I know you have a job that is very difficult, it's hard to please everybody and I know you don't get paid for what you do --it's something that you're doing out of your heart, and I appreciate that.

"But I also want to remind you that you represent the different districts, you represent parents, you represent students, and I think it's important to remind you that you're here to carry out the desires of these people, and not to follow any agenda or to just do what you're told—and I want to encourage you to do that.

"So that brings me to Montrose Classical

Academy," Vandersluis said. "...The DAC recommended it to be approved; we had the interest of parents, families—they crossed all the t's and they dotted all the i's.

"There were things in the Resolution that were not quite accurate. So I want to encourage you, that as they reapply, that you seriously consider approving the go-ahead of this charter school."

OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted to adopt policies on Second Reading, including Revised Board Policies BCA-E3, BDB, DID, DN, GBA, GBEB, GBJ, GCE/GCF, JB, JE, JICA, JICDA, JICDD, JLCE, KDE, KDB, KDB-R, and KDB-E.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items, including Personnel Report, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board considered revised Board Policy BE, on School Board Meetings, on First Reading.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus presented the February Enrollment Report. Current district enrollment is 5,972, which is two students higher than January and 99 students lower than last year at this time. The decrease is concentrated in the early grades, she noted.

"...That matches up with what we're hearing from the demographer, of our area having lower birth rates and so our lowest grades being affected, we're starting to see that. And so that will work its way up..."

District F Director Jody Hovde asked about Vista Charter School. Imus said that Vista has 210 students, up from 172 last year at this time.

"It's good to see that they're still serving that population," President Fishing said. "I mean, right? There's still a desire for that particular campus and what it serves. That's great." With no further business, the Board of Education voted to adjourn.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP/MUSK CREATE CHAOS FOR RURAL AMERICA

Editor:

Rural America had a significant influence on Trump being elected as in many rural communities across America 75% or more of the voters supported him. Now, Rural America is seeing needed funds being stripped away as his billionaire substitute President is using a wrecking ball to eliminate everything rather than focusing on true waste and overspending. Rural America is already seeing the results of these actions. Although Musk said it's killing the entire weed down to the root so it doesn't come back. But in fact, Trump and Musk are poisoning the entire field even though a small part of it has weeds.

USAID SHUT DOWN: Rural Agriculture Loses \$2 Billion (25% of USAID Budget) While DOGE Brags It Found 0.013% of Waste on USAID Expenditures/ Dating Back to 2005

USAID provides approximately \$8.2 billion each year for foreign humanitarian aid (about 1% of total US spending.) USAID buys and facilitates other humanitarian organizations in buying over \$2 billion annually from US farmers and ranchers. That is 25% of the yearly budget that goes directly to rural America! And upon freezing aid, a USAID inspector general's office identified more than **\$489 million** in food aid at risk of spoiling as it sat at ports and in warehouses around the world.

And what about waste. The White House reported on its website (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/factsheets/2025/02/at-usaid-waste-and-abuse-runs-deep/>) waste they have supposedly found. Fact checkers prove these allegations misleading, often inaccurate and rarely truthful. And, more importantly, they date back as far as 2005 to 2008. Irrespective of these multiple falsehoods, let's say that since 2005, USAID has appropriated \$8.2 billion per year in federal funding for a total of \$160.4 billion in twenty years. These false claims add up to about \$17 million in that twenty-year timeframe. So less than \$1 million per year is spent irresponsibly. That is **00.013% of USAID's yearly budget**. Come on DOGE/Musk and Trump. Can't you do

better than that?

Here are just two examples of these falsehoods noted on the White House website: -The \$2.5 million USAID fund to Vietnam was NOT for EVs but provided awards of up to \$100,000 to organizations promising new products, business models, or financing models in Danang or Ho Chi Minh, the world's fastest-growing per capital greenhouse gas emitters to boost the U.S. brand in green energy

-\$330 million was spent **between 2005 and 2008** to deter farmers and traffickers from cultivating and trafficking opium but was instead used for opium production. The **U.S. Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction** delivered a report on this abuse. Wait, we no longer exist have Inspector Generals to be our watchdogs. With respect to the administrations claim that terrorist organizations receive funding from USAID, two of the 12 largest non-governmental recipients of USAID funds are faith-based: Catholic Relief Services and World Vision. Christian aid groups are suffering from Trump/Musk's actions, and the Vatican charity warns millions will die from "reckless" cuts. <https://nypost.com/2025/02/13/us-news/christian-aid-groups-collapsing-as-trump-freezes-usaid-funds/>

Freezing Funding Puts Ranchers, Farmers and Ag Business on the Hook for Millions While Struggling to Keep Their Family Farms Going

Rural American farmers and ranchers who were assured by Trump that a government overhaul would not impact them are now finding out that he lied to them. Rob Larew, president of the National Farmers Union, said he has been hearing from farmers and ranchers across the country that they have not received expected payments from the USDA on their approved conservation programs. These programs targeted conservation, rural economic development, and small ranch and farm grants under the 409 USDA program. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have been informed them that payments for programs funded in 2022 under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and programs tied to Diver-

sity, Equity, and Inclusion, have been frozen.

The programs affected include the Environmental Quality Incentive Program that helps farmers and ranchers with natural resources, the Rural Energy for America Program which helps farmers and ranchers improve their infrastructure, and the Climate-Smart Commodities program which involves thousands of farms. Colorado alone was approved for 28 projects involving 37 commodities, totaling almost \$9 million which would have gone to rural ag producers! In total 1,254 projects were approved with over \$40 billion in funding allocated to rural America.

Rural agriculture already struggling from the tariffs imposed by Trump during his first term are facing economic uncertainty now and have had funding pulled away from them – funding that had already been approved. Some of them already have invested their own money to start implementing their plan. If they do not receive that money back, they may have to leave their farms. Missouri cattle producer Skylar Holden noted: "I've already done a bunch of work, already paid for the material and the labor, so I'm out all the cost. We are possibly going to lose our farm if USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) doesn't hold up their contract with us." He was awarded \$240,000 for improved water lines, fences, and a well. This is just one of many expressing concerns on TikTok. <https://kbhbradio.com/ranchers-farmers-ag-businesses-on-the-hook-for-millions-as-trump-administration-freezes-funds/>

And what is the future of the Commodity Credit Corporation which assists in domestic farm income, price support and conservation programs (Agricultural Act of 2014); foreign market development and other international activities (Agricultural Trade Act of 1978); and activities under USAID under Title II of the Food for Peace Act. All members of CCC's Board and all officers are USDA officials.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's Census of Agriculture reported that family farms account for almost 96 percent of the 2,204,792 farms in the United

TRUMP/MUSK CREATE CHAOS FOR RURAL AMERICA From previous pg

States. It is important to keep our family farms alive and well. This turmoil can have great consequences on them.

Strained Rural Hospitals Rely on Medicare and Medicaid

Private insurance and Medicare Advantage have strained hospitals' bottom lines as they do not pay enough to cover the cost of the services provided to policyholders.

Medical treatment provided to rural Americans rely heavily on Medicare and Medicaid payments. In the US, over 30% of Americans receive Medicaid benefits. Over 50% of Medicaid spending (\$339 billion in 2021) is on individuals eligible for Medicaid based on old age or disability. Many receiving Medicaid benefits are children. Most adults receiving Medicaid are working. 99.6% of people receiving Medicaid are Americans. So, reductions in Medicaid will have a direct impact on rural access to medical care as hospitals close and medical providers are unable to provide care for underinsured or uninsured residents.

Shutting Down the Department of Education

Rural communities rely on many of the programs offered through the Department of Education as poverty levels are higher in rural America than in urban settings. Without the Department of Education, what will happen to Pell grants, FAFSA, and zero and low interest federal student loans? What will happen to funds channeled to community colleges and technical colleges to update equipment and resources used to educate students? What will happen to disabled children who are provided opportunities to go to

school and be trained to get meaningful jobs after graduation? And, what will happen when grants that today fund research that allows advanced degree students to craft their skills by participating in meaningful research go away?

The rich can afford to send their children to elite universities. At the same time, they are telling us H-1B visas need to be given to highly-skilled foreign professionals to fill our high paying jobs because Americans don't have the skills to do those jobs – **often workers whose education was paid for by their government!** At the same time, we are dismantling programs to help our own rural American students acquire the skills needed for these jobs. The message – get a job since you can't afford an education.

What does Gaza, Canada, Greenland, and the Panama Canal Have to do with Lowering Our Living Expenses

So, Trump wants to take over Gaza, remove war torn debris, and make it the Riviera of the Middle East. You think he'll put a Trump Hotel on the coast? And will you book tickets to spend time on the Riviera your tax dollars were spent to clean it up? Will you live in those beautiful houses he will build for the Palestinians displaced from their homeland?

And how about taking over Canada? Who will pay for that. Well, it might be good for the Democratic party as its citizens would surely not vote to have their benefits taken away from them.

And again, where is the money to purchase Greenland going to come from? Does Trump need a new place to visit?

The Panama Canal – with the ice melting in the Arctic Circle, there is some discus-

sion that it may be the new shipping lane. Who needs the Panama Canal?

As of September 2024, the US debt is \$35.5 trillion. We need to find ways to reduce that debt and international imperialism won't touch that debt but instead will significantly increase it. And if we are going to build houses, shouldn't we focus on our own nation where we face housing shortages and high costs in housing? And what about lowering consumer prices. How would acquiring more citizens help that?

Sidenote – Was It Take Your Child to Work Week When Musk Was Interviewed Last Week?

I watched President Musk present his view of the world in a 30-minute interview the other night. He touted transparency bragging about how he is posting HIS accomplishments on HIS social medial channel, including a DOGE channel on X. Since when does the person responsible for finding fraud and reducing costs post his own stories? Or award himself billions of dollars in contracts? Shouldn't an independent third-party handle that? And I watched as his son picked his nose by the President's desk in the Oval Office and was frequently lifted onto his dad's shoulders as he was obviously bored by the whole press conference.

Was it "Bring Your Child to Work Week?" Doesn't the richest man in the world have a babysitter?

If he can do it, why can't thousands of federal employees who have been ordered to come back to the office bring their children too to save the expense of child care?

Sue Schmidt, Montrose

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MIRROR IMAGES: RICK DUNLAP LAID TO REST



The life of Montrose County Commissioner and three-term Sheriff Rick Dunlap was honored on February 13, with a funeral at the Montrose County Event Center, above, followed by a graveside memorial at Grand View Cemetery. Photo by Jim Elder.



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

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

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

GAIL MARVEL

Montrose Author & Reporter

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





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VILLAGE ON SAN JUAN DEMONSTRATES WHAT CAN BE DONE; CARLTON MASON & TEAM TO GIVE UPDATE MARCH 5 AT THE FORUM

Editor:

I've been hesitant to wade into the homeless/housing conversation for the past few months. I'm not sure I can help, and we don't need to place too much value on my thoughts and opinions, but perhaps this can be part of a broader conversation that gives us an opportunity to listen and learn. Over the past few years we have grown into one of the largest Supportive Housing programs in Western Colorado. Young adults, and now seniors, are being brought in off the streets, out of unsafe environments, and into homes where neighbors care and a community holds a place of safety and support. It is amazing to see!

My thoughts come not only as the CEO of an organization but as a Christian. Christian service is meant to extend grace, foster hope, and offer the assurance of being loved (There are a lot of people not claiming the name of Christ that are also very good at this work). As Christians we are called to serve, not minimally, but wholeheartedly; To serve as if we were doing it for Christ himself! A few statements always seem to surface in conversations about our homeless neighbors.

"A lot of those people want to be homeless?"

That may be true. If you were inclined to walk the streets handing out cookies and ham sandwiches, and we met, and you offered me your food, I wouldn't take it. Being hungry doesn't mean I have to accept what is being offered and not accepting it doesn't mean I want to be hungry. Maybe it just means I don't know

you. The same goes for shelter, desperation doesn't mean I'll take anything offered.

"We enable homelessness by offering tarps, blankets, body bags, or a porta-john?"

I don't think so. It provides a meaningful exchange with minimal expectations from either party. On the other hand, if that is all we do – are we keeping people in a cycle of chaos by providing them only enough to survive but not thrive. If our narrative around homelessness involves a negative perception, then we often respond with a minimal investment.

"Is it my responsibility fix this problem?"

Maybe not, but if no one does, the problem of homelessness will continue to consume an excessive number tax-payer funded medical resources, emergency services, law enforcement time, and the workings of our justice system. Meanwhile, the young adults in question are experiencing isolation, a lack of educational achievements, underemployment, and unable to invest in the systems of this great nation. And as to our "homeless" seniors? They have taught in our schools, entertained us in movies, worked for kings, raised our crops, been employed in our businesses, and contributed to what we call America. These could be our nieces or nephews, our grandchildren, parents or grandparents, and they deserve the best we have to offer. If you don't feel called to engage, that's ok. We can't all mobilize for every worthy cause, just be sure to leave a little space for each of us to choose how we want to contribute.

As we continue to look for solutions, let's make sure our efforts align more with the purpose of a roadway than a parking lot. And who will we be when we don't see the change we hope for? While we can care, connect, and provide resources, what they do with them is largely their decision. While we want to see homelessness resolved, it's the pain, fatigue, & incremental victories in their personal journey that move them from unhoused to housed.

The City of Montrose has been overwhelmingly supportive of our efforts to serve this vulnerable population. I have a tremendous amount of gratitude for Bill Bell and his team. It has been our experience that when we approach the City of Montrose with determination to do our very best for those on the verge of homelessness, Bill Bell, our City Council, and the city staff, are creative, responsive, and willing to help.

There will always be homeless individuals, but let's do what we can do well, and let's make sure it restores dignity, extends respect, and leads to an independent and sustainable destination.

The Village on San Juan demonstrates what is possible when we decide to help our struggling neighbors thrive and not simply survive.

On March 5th, 8am, at The Forum, myself and members of our team will be giving an update on life at The Village. Join us, I think you will enjoy it.

Respectfully,

Carlton Mason

CEO / CASA of the 7th Judicial District



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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
- Linda Prock - Antler Ridge Weddings & Events
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GOP APPOINTS SEAN POND AS DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER From pg 1

Due to the complicated nature of the vacancy appointment, State Parliamentarian Gregory Carlson was asked to preside over the meeting. Carlson, one of 360 members of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), assisted Acting Chair Monty George in adhering to parliamentary procedures.

The Credentials Committee verified that there were 51 members eligible to vote during the Vacancy Committee meeting, and 54 eligible members to vote during the Reorganization Meeting.

Acting Chair Monty George opened the meeting by calling for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chad Dunlap, son of Rick Dunlap, was afforded time to address attendees.

Chad read from a written statement; the Mirror captured snippets from his five-minute narrative. He said, "My dad was a lifelong Republican, serving others. In November 2023 he announced his candidacy [to run for commissioner] and he was given the cold shoulder of the Central Committee throughout his campaign. There were some who publicly gave pre-primary endorsements [to other candidates]. Some on the Republican Central Committee supported the Independent candidate, who was my dad's opponent." Chad noted that despite many Republicans in the Central Committee not supporting his dad, who was the Republican candidate, his dad garnered 63 percent of the vote cast.

Chad continued, "There are two important jobs for my dad's successor. First, set aside biases or personal agendas you have for or against candidates. Listen and hear what they bring to the table. Second, fill vacancies on the executive committee. The Central Committee has a second chance. You will be expected to avoid conflicts of interest, have primary neutrality. You are held to a higher standard. Honesty, integrity, honor. You will be in the public eye. The things you post or "like" on social media reach further than just your friends...Dad was not a perfect man by any means, but he had a strong moral com-

pass. One of the sayings he lived by was, "Do the right thing for the right reasons." The Republican Central Committee can right the ship moving forward." Dunlap received a round of applause.

Acting Chair George said, "We've tried to remain neutral during that difficult time."

In his opening remarks George said, "All discussion should be directed toward me, the chair. It is never appropriate to disparage another member." Standing Rules were approved.

Credential Committee Chair Rosemary Murphy reported that 45 members were in attendance and signed in for the Vacancy Meeting vote.

Four men were nominated as candidates to fill the Montrose District 3 County Commissioner vacancy — Jay Jutten, Sean Pond, Scott Riba, and David White. Each candidate was given five minutes to introduce themselves and address the membership. All candidates acknowledged the Dunlap family loss and offered condolences.

Following the first round of voting, none of the four candidates reached the 23 votes needed for the majority. Jay Jutten and David White, who received the lowest number of votes, withdrew as candidates.

In the second round, one ballot was not counted because it named an ineligible candidate; of the 44 valid votes cast, Sean Pond received 25 votes, and Scott Riba 19 votes.

The Central Committee wasted no time in calling Pond forward to be sworn into office. Laughter rippled through the audience when Pond said, "What? Right now?"

Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes had oversight of Pond's self-affirming oath, which took effect immediately. She said, "There will be an official swearing in on Tuesday."

Pond, a resident of Nucla, has been instrumental in the "Halt the Delores Movement" initiative. His written introduction to the citizens of Montrose County states, "In February 2024, I launched the petition to stop a federal land grab of 400,000

acres. We led the campaign and were successful in halting the proposed Dolores Monument designation, keeping those 400,000 acres open for all of us to recreate and enjoy for multi-use. This victory is a testament to the power of community and advocacy."

Excerpt from Pond's bio:

Written bio states: "As a fifth-generation Colorado native, I bring a strong work ethic and diverse experience to the table. I proudly served as a United States Navy Veteran. I am a father of five and have built my career across multiple industries. My first career was in the nuclear industry, focusing on radiological health and safety. I later transitioned to a successful career as a drilling fluids engineer in the oil and gas industry. In addition to those roles, I have pursued various small business ventures as an entrepreneur. These experiences have equipped me with extensive knowledge in business operations, team building, and bipartisan collaboration."

The Vacancy Committee Meeting adjourned and following a 10-minute break the **Reorganization Meeting** was convened.

Credential Committee Chair Rosemary Murphy reported that 45 members were in attendance and signed in for voting during the meeting. Nominations were taken from the floor, and the newly elected officers are:

Chair – Monty George
 First Vice Chair – Ed Lafferty
 Second Vice Chair – Jodi Woodden
 Secretary – Tammy Jolley
 Events and Fundraising – Lacy Sanchez
 Treasurer – Deb Lillard (appointment)
 Strategy and Planning – David White*
 Public Relations – Josh Sisneros
 Candidate Support - Cortney Lloyd

*There were two candidates for the Planning and Strategy position, David White and Nate Claeys. Following the first ballot count, the two candidates tied. Claeys then withdrew as a candidate noting that White had more experience, but he hoped the two could work together. The meeting was adjourned.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY'S LETTER WAS A GLARING DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE AND CONDESCENSION

Editor:

I thought I could hold my reserve, but sometimes things go so far off the rails that it stops being funny—especially when the rhetoric becomes this egregiously distorted. Take this for example: Can anyone, regardless of political ideology, seriously oppose an honest, systematic effort to cleanse our government of waste and the unconscious (or deliberate) misappropriation of taxpayer money? We're talking trillions of dollars—not just in recent years, but for decades.

The problem is, "We the People" don't have a direct vote on this outrageous pork-barrel fleecing of our treasury because we are not a true democracy. We are a *Democratically Elected Republic*. That means we have to trust those we elect—along with the unelected bureaucracies that wield immense authority and control the purse strings. But here's where it gets messy. Human nature, when given too much unchecked power and financial autonomy, rarely resists temptation. Elected officials and bureaucrats alike are far too often drawn into the trap of influence, financial mismanagement, and, yes, outright corruption. Worse, independent audits of their financial integrity are rare, allowing embezzlement and misuse of office to thrive in the shadows. As of 2025, Americans are acting on "enough is enough".

Which brings me to the Montrose City Council's *Mirror* letter of 2-10-25, titled "City Council Responds to Venom and Personal Attacks." Signed unanimously by the council, the letter was a glaring display of arrogance and condescension. Rather than offering transparency and addressing concerns with integrity, the response veered into juvenile, sophomoric ranting—scolding fact-based criticism while dodging accountability. This is the same condescending, patronizing and oligarchy arrogance that many citizens are being dealt at various "public" venues, especially so called City Council Meetings. The 'King of Montrose' sits on his throne for ten minutes pontificating what can and what cannot be said for your entire three (3) minutes! And don't stray, because you'll be rudely interrupted like a petulant child and NO, you DO NOT get time added back from the "King's" remarks. Add to this public insult the unadulterated diatribe directed at the *Mirror's* Editor as if SHE was also deprived of her First Amendment rights let alone her full legal authority as a Publisher of her own news medium. Interesting how nobody rails on the "in-the-city's-pocket" MDP that never takes a drubbing for their feckless, left-wing, non-journalism while consistently ignoring editorials by Conservatives on, wait for it, conservative viewpoints. I'd wager this same government body would

protest as arrogantly and undeservedly about any criticism of their pet-publication.

Lastly, it is patently outrageous for the council's assertion that Mr. White's fully fact-based observations and statistics FROM THE CITY'S OWN RECORDS (as it seems purposefully made to be near impossible to secure and disseminate), that City checks with numbers (ex: .."No 136355 dated Aug. 3, 2023), city manager City charge card receipts and the like are fabricated when they come from *City Records*. The only thing that is "dangerous, divisive, harmful, personal, vicious, disinformation, et. al. is the City's apparent disregard for Transparency, Fair Dealing and NOT draining the Tax Payers pockets faster than they can earn it! I have much more to say, but I'll end on this note. Folks, as this city body can't begin to defend this tax and spend good-old-boy oligarchy, they have postured to take a formerly debt-free municipality and PLUNGE it into a \$200,000,000 (P & I) Debt Obligation that will cost city residents \$3.6MM per year on the debt service alone. And they never have met a project budget, so the figures can only go up. And that's just ONE Project in their unending Pipeline of "Business Development" or whatever somebody conjures up.

R. L. Michaels, Montrose

THE REAL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY IS BECOMING PAINFULLY CLEAR

Editor:

The landslide election of Donald Trump in November is proving to be a clear repudiation of Democrat liberal policies as well as their propaganda arm, the legacy media. In a short three-week period we have learned that Trump intends to keep his election promises for the betterment of our country and every American citizen.

The Democrat Deep State continues to complain about the expulsion of criminal illegal aliens and DOGE has identified billions of taxpayer dollars lost in corrupt schemes and abuse.

As the curtain is being raised on fraud and abuse we have seen the Democrat Deep State creepy crawlers come out squealing like pigs about the fact that the spigot to their slush fund is in danger of being cut off.

It is becoming painfully clear that the real threat to democracy in our country is embodied by the Democrat party. There is no doubt the Democrat party cares nothing for American citizens or the future of our country.

Those anti-American members of Congress should reflect on who they were elected to work for.

Dee Laird, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

STAY TUNED TO MONTROSE CITIZENS DOGE

Editor:

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\$200,000,000. Yes, TWO HUNDRED MIL-LION \$\$\$\$

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ELECTION OF TRUMP REFLECTS ON THOSE WHO VOTED FOR HIM

Editor:

We live in an amazing country. It is where a person convicted of fraud, convicted of sexual abuse, have their University found to be fraudulent and pay \$25 million dollars, their charitable foundation to be nothing more than a tax free slush fund for the family and barred from any in the future, going bankrupt 6 times ruining lots of small businesses and families and still become PRESIDENT.

I think it says more about the people who voted for him, about their morals, their beliefs and what they think about their neighbors.

I do not think Harris was great, but morally she shined compared to Trump.

Joseph Balet, Montrose



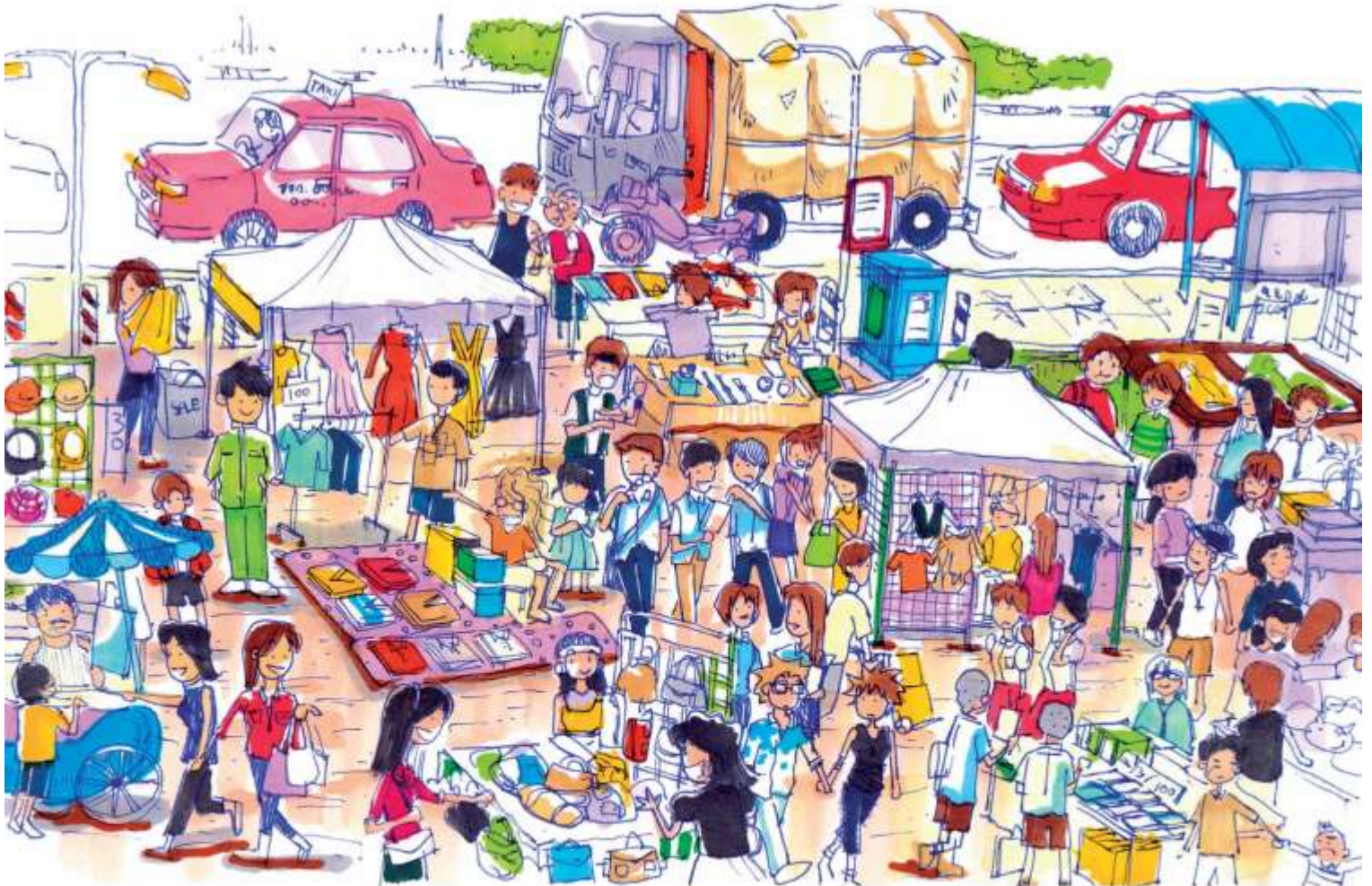
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP IS DOING EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS ELECTED TO DO

Editor:

Democrats seem to be doubling down on standing up for insanity contrary to the wishes of the American people. To better understand why Democrats rally around government waste, illegal immigration, and corruption, you have to understand Marxism. Any party infected with Marxism does not seek to help those in need or solve problems --- on the contrary, it seeks to do the opposite. The Democrat party seeks out people who have never seen themselves as victims and tries to convince them otherwise. Their growth depends on misery, and fixing things in society only reduces the number of potential "victims" (Dem voters). By design, Democrats cultivate grievance and conflict. A prime example is Barack Obama's presidency. Following race relations steadily improving since the 1960s, Obama had the opportunity to be a transformational figure in American history by framing his election as vivid proof that Martin Luther King, Jr's dream was a reality. Instead, Obama and his attorney general intentionally inflamed racial tensions. They deconstructed a half-century of racial progress by routinely injecting racial controversy into matters having nothing to do with race. After eight years of trying to make every dispute a racial dispute, race relations severely deteriorated. That is progress to a Marxist. Second example: It's not rocket science to observe that absolutely nothing Biden "accomplished" during "his" presidency was remotely beneficial to the American people. It's a great thing that we finally have the various federal bureaucracies being credibly audited. The amount of fraud, waste, and corruption that has been shown the light of day in just a few days is astounding. Some new examples: Our taxpayer dollars have been covertly funneled to some of the nation's leading anti-gun organizations to infringe on our right to bear arms. The American Bar Association has released a "blistering statement" about

dismantling the USAID slush fund. Guess what. That association of wealthy lawyers has received so many American taxpayer dollars from USAID and the State Department it would be hard to list them all. It's not surprising that when Israel recently raided a Hezbollah weapons cache, among the rifles and explosives, they found USAID care packages. At the end of the Biden administration, when Hurricane Helene ravaged North Carolina, there was much concern about FEMA's response, especially when FEMA relief funds went to illegal immigrants. While the administration and its press secretary insisted that was not true, those lies are now resurfacing with the DOGE audits. Four FEMA managers, including the CFO, were just fired for violating President Trump's orders and sending \$59 million to NYC for illegals, \$19 million of which went to luxury hotel accommodations at twice the normal rates.

What's not so great is the response of Democrats to the revelations of how seriously corrupt, wasteful, and out-of-control our federal government has become. While the DOGE auditors expose many billions of dollars in waste, fraud, and criminal abuse, the left is rallying around waste, fraud, and abuse. No one on the left -- not a single Democrat -- stood up for the American taxpayer to object to the utter abuse of taxpayers' dollars. No Democrat was concerned whether U.S. foreign policy somehow hinged on spending taxpayers' money for trans comic books in Peru? Pottery classes in Morocco? Atheism in Nepal? How about more serious matters like a biological weapons research lab in Wuhan, China financed by USAID? Why are there no Democrats who object to the idea that the federal government must remain fully intact -- even grow further -- on its present destructive path, with no meaningful oversight or change? Why are Democrats, who hired 87,000 additional IRS agents to audit you, so

afraid of all of this truth coming out? Liberals are losing their minds because all their hidden slush funds and pet projects are being exposed to daylight. Maxine Waters just accidentally spoke the truth about why Dems are so scared of DOGE: "We don't know what all they have on us." DOGE really stands for "Democrats Officially Getting Exposed. Say you are part of an organization with money in the bank and auditors discovered some of those funds were being embezzled. You would probably scream at the embezzler and not the auditors, right? Unless you were the embezzler of course. Washington bureaucrats are terrified because they realize the American people are learning about all their ridiculous spending being generously funded with their hard-earned money. Despite the unhinged screaming from the left, Trump is doing exactly what he was elected to do: secure the border, deal with the illegal immigration invasion, remove leftist identity politics from the federal government, and expose and eliminate government fraud and waste. Not surprisingly, a strong majority of Americans support Trump's actions, and his popularity is at an all-time high. Taxpayers now understand how their government bureaucracy is bilking them and they are not happy. They are also not too happy with the left's corporate media joining in the left's desperate attempt to keep the graft machine intact, knowing that same media surreptitiously siphoned many millions from their taxes. Just one chuckle this week. Our illustrious governor Polis wants us all to think he has a record of saving us money. After all, he created an entirely new (taxpayer-funded) government bureaucracy with the Orwellian name, "Office of Saving People Money," which is supposed to save us money on healthcare. Here's part of the joke: Polis "saved us money" by almost doubling the Lt. Governor's salary to act as the head of this new agency.
Ed Henrie, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNDERSTANDING THE VACANCY VOTE

Editor:

The Montrose GOP had their vacancy and reorganization meeting Saturday February 15th. Four candidates were vying for the coveted county commissioner seat district three vacated by the untimely passing of commissioner Rick Dunlap. Sean Pond came out as the winner and now is the appointed county commissioner district three. Sean Pond won with twenty-five votes. Of all the things republican central committees do this is by far the most important. When a county commissioner seat is vacated a party vacancy committee must temporarily appoint someone to fill that vacancy or after ten days the governor will appoint someone. An actual election takes place in November of the next general election, so all county citizens have an opportunity to fill this position for

the remainder of the four-year term. This is why more people should get involved in party politics so you can be one of the twenty-five people to help fill a vacancy. I was part of the vacancy committee that put commissioner Sue Hansen in office after Glen Davis resigned. I was also part of the vacancy committee that elevated Don Coram from state legislature to state senate and appointed Marc Catlin to fill the HD 58 seat vacated by Don Coram. And this is why I have been so concerned about corrupt individuals in the GOP central committee managing this appointment. And handing that commissioner seat to a corrupt individual such as Scott Riba who got nineteen votes. A six-vote differential.

But the saddest thing that took place was at the beginning of the vacancy meeting

when Chad Dunlap (son of Rick Dunlap). Gave a very impassioned speech about the obstacles and corruption his father Rick Dunlap faced from Scott Riba and the central committee during the 2024 primary and general election. I have posted those videos to my FACEBOOK page as well as to the Montrose message board unfiltered and Montrose political message board. And it is no surprise that preprimary neutrality no longer exists when the state party chair Dave Williams as well as Scott Riba ran for office while being chair which is a violation of the bylaws. And nothing has changed because the same people on the central committee that tolerated Riba's corruption is still in power. And Dave Williams is still the state party chair.

Ray Langston, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCIL'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS REAL ISSUES DUE TO THEIR BLIND ALLEGIANCE TO THE CITY MANAGER!

Editor:

In Montrose, the focus has shifted away from what truly matters: the ethical lapses and glaring conflicts of interest tied to our City Manager. Instead, it seems that our City Council is more concerned with attacking the messenger, David White, rather than addressing the serious concerns he's raised about the city's financial management. This is a troubling pattern that deserves serious scrutiny.

Let's start with the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority (MURA). The fact that our City Manager holds the position of Executive Director of MURA—while also overseeing the city's financial decisions—raises an immediate red flag. As David White has pointed out in his articles for the *Montrose Mirror*, this dual role creates a clear conflict of interest. White uncovered that the City Council authorized a \$6 million "loan" to MURA at an unusually favorable rate, raising questions about whether these financial decisions are being made with the best interests of taxpayers in mind.

While the MURA "loan" was authorized by the City Council, moving money from the city's reserves to MURA at a favorable rate benefited MURA, but not the Citizens and Residents of the City. The city could have received at least the same rate that MURA was supposed to provide in return for this loan. Instead, we see no return on this "investment" at this time. Show us the receipts for interest payments that are supposed to be made and make them available to the public. This raises serious questions about the transparency of this transaction and the accountability of those who authorized it.

This is a scenario where the City Council should be taking a closer look at the City Manager's dual roles. Yet, they seem to be doing everything in their power to deflect attention away from the issue. Why is that?

Instead of addressing the apparent conflicts of interest head-on, the City Council has launched a full-blown attack on David White for highlighting these discrepancies. Why? Is it easier to shoot the messenger

than to explain why taxpayer dollars are being funneled into a system that benefits the City Manager and certain private entities? This move only reinforces the notion that there's something more to the situation than meets the eye. If the City Council truly had nothing to hide, wouldn't they focus on disarming the accusations with transparency?

But the situation doesn't end with MURA. The City Manager's handling of Montrose's finances over the years has been nothing short of irresponsible. Under his leadership, we've gone from a debt-free city to one facing tens of millions of dollars in debt. Let's be clear: the new public works facility, the water treatment plant, the wastewater plant, and the new City Building should not have required this much debt. These are large capital expenditures that should have been planned for in advance, not through emergency funding that burdens taxpayers. Instead, funds that could have been used to mitigate debt—like those from the water fund—were loaned to MURA, leaving us in a far more precarious financial position.

It's important to note that while I'm not inherently opposed to financing these types of projects over time, the approach taken by the City Manager and City Council has been reckless. The lack of foresight, the failure to set aside money for future needs, and the continued reliance on borrowing in ways that benefit specific interests rather than the community as a whole is, frankly, unacceptable.

Let's not ignore the sheer scale of the growing debt. Prior to 2017, the City had virtually no debt. However, in 2017, the City authorized \$10 million in debt. By 2020, that number had ballooned to \$22 million. Now, the City is proposing to add another \$3.3 million in interest payments, which will result in a near \$100 million repayment on a \$58.8 million debt they are asking taxpayers to shoulder. And this does not account for the funds that will be requested for additional projects shared by Project 7. As White has pointed out in his reporting, this is an appalling trajectory. Yet, the City Council continues to push

it forward without any meaningful public discussion or pushback.

At the heart of this issue is the City Council's inability—or unwillingness—to take responsibility. They are spending like drunken sailors rather than exercising financial restraint. There's no public dissent allowed, and no transparent discussions about the long-term financial health of Montrose.

Worse still, the City Council has demonstrated a stunning lack of understanding regarding the types of debt they are incurring and the long-term consequences of these decisions. They move forward blindly, without a single question about how these financial mechanisms work or how they could negatively impact taxpayers in the future. According to financial experts who have inquired, the Council does not have the knowledge necessary to comprehend the full ramifications of the debt they are piling on, nor do they show any interest in understanding it. This ignorance, paired with their inability to ask critical questions, makes their actions even more irresponsible.

This silence is deafening, and it raises serious questions about whether the Council is complicit in the City Manager's actions or simply too out of touch to care. They are strapping the city's residents with a potential burden that will be felt for many years to come.

And more, the City's bonding capacity will be severely restricted for many years to come with all of this extravagant spending. The City's so-called economic development efforts aren't necessarily going to generate enough revenue to pay for all of this spending. Backroom deals abound, as David White's information has exposed. Who's benefiting from all of this?

People are already struggling to live in Montrose with one of the highest sales and use tax rates in the State. The City's policies are driving people away, and as borrowing capacity shrinks, the City may find itself unable to respond to emergencies requiring borrowing, whether for short-term or long-term needs. This could create an economic disaster for Montrose,

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CITY COUNCIL'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS REAL ISSUES From previous pg

leaving residents to bear the consequences.

To be clear, this is not about being against progress. The projects the City is pushing forward may very well benefit Montrose in the long run. But this process—overspending, borrowing excessively, and failing to plan responsibly for the future—does not serve the interests of taxpayers. It serves those who stand to gain from the current system, and that's where the problem lies.

As a community, we deserve better. We deserve elected officials who prioritize the welfare of their constituents over special interests and who hold public servants accountable for their actions. The City Council should be confronting these ethical questions head-on, not deflecting, hiding, or shooting down anyone who dares to point them out.

The time has come to demand transparency. The City Council must answer for the mounting debt and the questionable

actions of the City Manager. It's time for them to choose: will they continue to hide behind their silence and defend an increasingly indefensible system, or will they step up and put the people of Montrose first? Right now, the choice is painfully clear, and the future of our city depends on it.

It's time for accountability. It's time for change.

Michael J Badagliacco "MJB"
Citizen, Montrose, CO

SOCIALIZE TRUMP AND MUSK'S ASSETS

Editor:

Eventually, the current fascist moment will pass. Perhaps it will take two years. Perhaps it will take twenty. How long the moment lasts will be determined by the ferocity with which liberty-loving Americans fight the ongoing Republican power grab. But, at some point, this phony right-wing populism will exhaust itself.

When that day comes, Democrats must replace this vile outlook with a genuine, left-wing populism. We need a populism which doesn't blame the weak and the marginalized for society's ills. Because it's not transgender people or immigrants who are causing the public economic pain. It's the ultra rich.

After returning to power, in a demonstration of this new populist approach, Democrats should socialize the assets of President Donald Trump and his oligarch accomplice, Elon Musk. Maybe one or both of them will have died by then. That's not a problem. The property can be recovered from the fascists' heirs.

I'll be honest. I'm fundamentally an egalitarian. The existence of billionaires in a country where people are struggling and

in a world where people are starving is a moral affront to me.

That said, there is a non-socialist case for confiscating the wealth of these right-wing gangsters who presently control the government.

I shudder to imagine the damage Trump and Musk will have done to our country and democratic system by the time they are finished. Some kind of punishment will be necessary. Taking away their grotesque fortunes is the very least Democrats could do. And just consider how that cash might benefit so many others.

Trump is reportedly worth almost \$6 billion. Meanwhile, Musk, the richest man on Earth, is believed to be hoarding more than \$421 billion. The amount of good those riches could do in this nation and around the globe is hard to overestimate. We could build new hospitals, schools, libraries, roads and bridges.

We could expand our social-safety net to better care for children, the disabled and elderly. We could provide free college tuition, forgive medical debts, or send out large stimulus checks. We could expand foreign aid to save countless lives

amongst the poorest of the poor. We could invest in scientific development.

Animal welfare is a priority for me, so I'd love to see a portion of such funds go to cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. The revolutionary protein offers a number of environmental and public-health benefits as well.

The only limit to the variety of productive purposes — which we, as a society, could put Trump and Musk's wealth — is our imagination. Socializing the assets of this pair would be the right course of action, regardless of their behavior. However, the duo's fascist criminality should make it an easy call for Democrats.

In the here and now, we must stop Trump and Musk. But, in the aftermath, Democrats have to impose consequences of some sort.

At the very minimum, these should include confiscation of the pair's outrageous fortunes. We can build a better future. Money taken from fascist billionaires will help with this.

Jon Hochschartner, Connecticut



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL 1ST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

The following students were named to the Honor Roll for the 1st Semester 2024-2025 School year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes and earn a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

9th Grade

Benjamin Abbott, Elena Aretz, Maxx Bahn-Ricker, Zuri Balleck, Mya Bernal, Aubrey Blacker, Emma Chavez, Paul Davit, Jordyn Dew, Laura Enrique, Rush Galvan, Byron Gaxiola-Avila, Chance Graves, Esther Greear, Sadie Hafen, Peyton Hess, Isabella Inda, Aubree Johnson, Tristan Justus, Dillon Kay, Mackenzie King, Lance Krohn, Lesly Lopez, Gaike Lovato, Siena Magnani, Isabella McCants, Korey Metzger, Angelo Moore, Anayeli Navarro-Corona, Juan Nieves-Chavez, Annabelle Otto, Lily Padilla, Izabelle Pearson, Ashly Portillo-Hernandez, Joel Ramos-Chavez, Jadyen Robertson, Bodhi Schafer, Zayden Songer, Elizabeth Tanner, Bryn Trenda, Julia Witte, Everett Wouters and Haile Ybarra.

10th Grade

Ayla Adamson, Lilah Bahn-Ricker, Aryanna Baugh, Caden Beard, Emma Braaten, Kayla Braaten, Wesleigh Brown, Autumn Cerise, Reina Contreras-Padilla, Violeta Cortez, James Dumit, Jade Garretson, Chase Gleason, Gentry Godbey, Erica Haddock, Seiji Kaneta, Madison Kilby, Cody Kuhlman-Branson, Brayden Leu, Evan Marshall, Keeley McCartney-Wurtz, Jylliane Meiners, Abbey Neary, Camila Nunez, Keira Oldroyd, Noah Osorio, Tatiana Perez, Diego Renteria, Dane Roberts, Aubrie Scott, Ridge Smith, Trent Sondergard, Gavin Sulzen, Mason Swallow, Carissa Tabor, Caylie Velasquez, and Zachary Wilkes.

11th Grade

Anessia Alvarez, Jazmin Avila, Donovan Bolton, Alyxandra Bray, Gretchen Brumley, Rylie Cohick, Madison Collin, Ayla Gross, Jazmin Gutierrez-Hernandez, Emry Hall, McKenna Holman, Kendall Johnson, Jaxon Keep, Eli Kelley, Mackenzie Kontour, Carter Miller, Andrew Nutter, Isabel Ortega-Leon, Willem Plumhoff, Lane Pressler, Tayler Risner, Chad Rocco, Melvyn Suedekum, Gabriel Troncoso, Damian Wilson, and Elijah Womack.

12th Grade

Fernanda Almanza-Garcia, Carolina Are-

chiga, Paige Beretta, Valeria Castillo, Bailey Christie, Kali Culver, Abbott Dietrich, Gabriel Dominguez, Braiden Duensing, Maya Frasier, Genesis Gaxiola-Avila, Aidan Grijalva-Castro, Abigail Hines, Kalahan Jewell, Kaston Kail, Bailey, Labertew, Ashlin Mitchum, Jack Pankey, Indiana Rowan, Kaden Shumway, Raymond Spradling, Aprielle Trujillo, and Victoria Valdez-Chavez.

The following students were named to the Principal's Honor Roll for the 1st Semester 2024-2025 school year at Montrose High School. To be eligible for the Principal's Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in at least five classes, excluding pass/fail classes, and earn a grade point average of 3.75 and above. An asterisk denotes all A's.

9th Grade

Elliot Andress, Kevin Ball, Patton Berry, Avery Berry*, Tanner Bielak*, Wyatt Campbell*, Cyan Casselberry, Esther Christensen*, Pailin Cooper, Shiloh Cox, Colter Davis*, Ryder Dykstra, Marissa Francis*, Adele Howe*, Jaslyn Hunter*, Gavin Jessop*, Kylee Jones, Reo Kato, Laila Keep*, Heidi Kulbeth, Caroline Latham, Alfonsina Lopez-Cruz, Samuel Luskin*, Sanora Mulkey*, Ruby Noel, Nicasio Ortega, Kale Pressler*, Samantha Rickey, Mae Scriffiny, Alaina Smethurst*, Ryan Soucy, Zachary Spencer*, Holly Thompson, Tyler Tobler*, William Townsend, Charlotte VanArsdale*, Lucille Waschbusch*, Emerson Wesner*, Elizabeth Whitcomb, and Mica Withee*.

10th Grade

Lilana Almanza-Mendez, Sophia Benner, Dyllan Blair, Maya Blake*, Bailee Broyles, Anna Countryman*, Chance Culver, Sheylen Downs, Riley Embrey*, Jasmine Garcia*, Isabelle Giroir*, Wyatt Gleason*, Fernando Gonzalez*, Jaylee Good, Trevin Hatch*, Samantha Jennings*, Gracelynn Jones, Katelyn King, Karah Kohout, Conner Luttrell*, Logen Mantos, Benjamin Meaker*, Chazz Miller*, Isabella Miller*, Lauren Neubaum*, Deagan Pelham, Logan Plumb, Amaya Potter, Gavin Ranstrom, Eli Rodriguez*, Cade Saunders*, Namgyal Sherpa, Eli Stephens, Saunder Stock, Clorinda Townsend*, Alejandro Vargas-Nunez, Graysen Vidmar, and California Ybarra*.

11th Grade

Evelen Baltazar-Figuero, Joshua Bayless,

Sydney Bell*, Elizabeth Birchem*, Brandon Blacker, Bailey Blackford*, Charles Boschen*, Jaiden Bresett, Faith Breshears, Trejan Brown, Gabryella Browning, Misty Castle, Madison Coop, Taylor Cooper, Caitlin Cowley*, Camille Crane, Cameron Culver, Presley Davis, Cade Godbe, Zoe Greear, Nyah Green*, Kinsey Hadlock*, Anika Harris*, Harry Harrison, Reign Icasiano, Kathryn Jakino, Olivia Jenkins, Robin Kittell, Teagan Kulbeth*, Layla Lambert, Maliah Leiba, Kailana Lewis, Marisha Lutz, Brooklyn Martinez, Karlie Mejia, Ally Metzger*, Jace Mitchell, Mayce Oberg, Joelle Potts, Trevor Prock, Hannah Rehard, Olivia Rosentreter, Analicia Ruedas, Olivia Schmidt*, Evie Sherman*, Addison Shipley, Jackson Shumway, Jordyn Simo*, Darinka Skybova, Kacy Stewart*, Hannah Sulzen, Abigail Svacha*, Carissa Trask*, Shea Vincent*, Maiya Wagner*, Sadie Wareham, Shiloh Warthen, Mya Wilcox, Rachel Williams, and Jaylee Wilson.

12th Grade

Yuliana Almanza-Mendez, Brylee Baines, Emily Barker, Jolisa Bryson, Meredith Cervantes, Jose Chavez-Alvarez*, Maggie Cline, Paola Cortez-Suarez*, Caroline Countryman, Amberly Craft, Maggie Cross, Olivia Dillon, Ellie Duncan*, Ethan Efir, Osmar Encarnacion, Aretxy Espinosa-Quintana, Vivian Ficco, Georgia Ficco, Nadya Forest, Hayden Fox*, Taylor Gibson*, Aimy Granier*, Connor Gregory-Clutts, Avjanna Gross, Hunter Gurule, Diego Gutierrez-Garcia*, Matthew Hafin, Charlotte Hellyer*, Hayden Hensley, Adriel Heredia, Emily Huffman, Paxton Hughes, Brekin Hutto, Victor Ibarra-Sanchez, Maria Jayme*, Skyler Key, Avery Kingsbury, Andrew Kistler, Elizabeth Kistler, Isabella Lewis, Aidenne Ludwig, Cole Luttrell*, Joshua Maddox, Parker Maestas, Dayanara Marquez, Emily Miller, Baeli Minerich*, Christopher Mock, Joseph Montonati, Sienna Mora, Will Neuman*, Ryan Nichols, Ethan Osorio*, Leslie Owens, Jacqueline Padilla, Katie Pariseau*, Gabrielle Parkison*, Jakai Pfifer, Grace Piquette, Elliotte Poore*, Landon Potter, Elizabeth Reed, Audrey Righter*, Macayla Roberts, Shayla Saunders, Ava Silverberg*, Porter Smith*, Dathan Stewart, Geovana Terrazas-Corona, Eleanor Waldon, Ariana Wilkes, and Brooke Williams.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY OF MONTROSE – A FAMILY AFFAIR (PART 1)?

Nepotism & Conflicts of Interest at the Highest Levels – Acceptable or Not? You Decide!

By David White

While speculation swirls around questionable expenditures of tax dollars by Montrose City Manager Bill Bell, by all accounts, your elected officials on the Montrose City Council led by Mayor J. David Reed and Mayor Pro Tem David Frank have stormed to the defense of Mr. Bell with slanderous comments being hurled at this writer, a private citizen, by City Officials for my publicizing said spending and decision making by Bell. Words such as “criminal, hateful, mean spirited, venomous, inaccurate, bullying, harassment” and many others are used to gaslight and defend Mr. Bell from public scrutiny with the usual threat of taking legal action put into play if I don’t shut up. And what communist country are we living in?

And it doesn’t seem to end there. Last week’s Letter to the Editor in the Montrose Mirror was nothing but a temper tantrum being thrown by petulant elected officials. Informing the public through readily available information in the public domain is apparently on the list of forbidden activities in some unwritten and unseen “Citizens of Montrose Handbook.” How Orwellian! One must wonder if disclosures made to date are getting too close to the truth of what is going on at City Hall to elicit such a response from our elected officials.

Regardless, let’s continue to pull back the curtains that cover the windows of Montrose City government. Peeking through one of the windows at City Hall has us finding a trail of more than just coincidental decisions related to Mr. Bell, his family members and perhaps those of friends, employees, and acquaintances.

Having presented the manipulation that Manager Bell has exercised over City Government these last 13 ½ years in an opinion piece in the February 3, 2025 edition of the *Montrose Mirror* ([MM623.pdf](#)), is it any wonder that most members of the City Council’s that have overseen him are either complicit or oblivious to his actions? For the sake of arguing the point(s), let’s stitch together the latest questionable

actions that, while they can be linked directly to Mr. Bell, could only have occurred with the blessing of the City Council and for which, you the citizen voter must demand answers from them WITHOUT the gaslighting that seems to drive virtually every excuse that emanates from City Hall these days when questions arise as to the legitimacy of the information I and others present to the public on this platform. Perhaps we need to place a soap box in front of City Hall for citizens to publicly voice their message to their elected officials.

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

While there is most likely more to today’s information drop coming, I want to say that the material about to be presented is in no way to be an indictment of Mr. Bell’s family, all of whom most likely don’t understand the advantages that can come their way from their father/husband’s position when used to benefit them over what is available to the average parent or family unit here in Montrose. Shades of the Biden’s? Shades of the Trump kids (not likely, given their father is a billionaire and Biden wasn’t). But shades of something for sure.

So, let’s look at a few things that might be interpreted as more than just a coincidental convergence of events.

For the years 2021, 2022 & 2023, the City of Montrose spent, from their Office of Business & Tourism’s Operating Fund for “Sports Tourism” (a category that has been used for a variety of “sports” activities) and a separate “Community Events” budget category, over \$80,000 to “sponsor” an American Junior Golf Association tournament at The Bridges Golf &

Country Club with additional costs for swag, City staffers, etc. which swings the cost for this 3-year taxpayer funded event thousands of dollars higher than has been reported on the City’s books. (Here’s a link to the 2023 AJGA Tournament web page for informational purposes: [AJGA Junior Open at The Bridges presented by City of Montrose](#))

According to Ty Jennings in 2022, (he’s now the new owner of The Bridges Golf & Country Club), the first year of the tournament (2021) “almost \$300,000 was generated from the 2021 event, tax money from lodging, restaurant, and retail sales.” ([AJGA golf returns to Bridges, city Aug. 1-4 | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)) The tournaments were apparently an economic success for our area. I don’t see an issue with the return on the “investment” (so to speak).

However, interestingly enough and buried within the payments to the AJGA for these tournaments, for at least two (2) of the three (3) years it was held in Montrose, we find that Mr. Bell’s son played in the tournaments and that we, the taxpayers, paid his entry fee of \$295.00 in 2021 & 2023 through checks written to his father by the City from the City’s General Fund as well as the Office of Business & Tourism fund. What the heck!

So why is the City of Montrose paying for young Mr. Bell’s entry fees in these golf tournaments which, interestingly enough, coincided with his Sophomore, Junior and Senior high school years? I suspect the answer won’t surprise anyone.

Before we get to that, there’s more. We find that the City funded Rotary Club of Montrose Black Canyon (see the *Mirror* article from February 3rd - [MM623.pdf](#) - wherein it’s detailed how this Rotary Club – a PRIVATE CLUB, is financed by the City of Montrose to the tune of thousands of dollars per year and which their principle place of business is listed as Montrose City Hall on the Secretary of State’s website) gives scholarships to youth in the community through funds it obtains through fundraisers for the scholarships,

CITY OF MONTROSE – A FAMILY AFFAIR From previous pg

such as the “club’s annual golf tournament” (see this article for details: [Black Canyon Rotary awards scholarships | Local News Stories | montrosepress.com](#)).

Interestingly, the Black Canyon Rotary “annual golf tournament,” according to City records, obtains much of its funding from the City through entry fees for City golf teams paid for from City administration funds and the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund as well as the use of the City’s (aka, taxpayer owned) Black Canyon Golf Course.

As you might expect, we find that young Mr. Bell received a scholarship in 2023 from this Rotary Club with funds, although diluted, in part, that came from taxpayers. What the heck? And no, Rotarian Emily Schneider, who, in a gaslighting commentary last week, defended Mr. Bell’s actions and City funding for the club by saying that Bell’s volunteer hours with this club were “worth a few cups of coffee” (paid for by you), I say that his efforts are NOT worth a few cups of taxpayer funded coffee. It’s a conflict of interest, so shame on you for thinking otherwise. On top of it, as a 501(c)(3) organization, this non-profit is required to file an IRS Form 990-N and never have in their 6 years of existence, causing one to wonder if they aren’t being reported under the City of Montrose’s filings with the IRS ([Exemption requirements - 501\(c\)\(3\) organizations | Internal Revenue Service](#)). Hummmm! Yet another rabbit hole to dig through.

While young Mr. Bell is, by all accounts, a talented young man with excellent grades and athletic abilities, having a father with connections and keys to the kingdom, can’t hurt your chances in life of becoming successful at something. Combined with his own efforts and his father’s, an athletic scholarship appeared to be the end goal in mind for young Mr. Bell. Apparently, success was had with him landing on the golf team in Meadville, PA at a prestigious liberal arts college founded in 1815 with annual tuition, fees and mandatory room and board charges totaling almost \$70,650 plus incidental expenses for just this school year.

The college’s web site states that “need-based and academic scholarships are available for student-athletes. Athletic scholarships are available for NCAA Divi-

sion I, NCAA Division II, NAIA and NJCAA. On average, 34% of all student-athletes receive athletic scholarships.” A scholarship would certainly help lighten the financial load on parents and students if achieved, otherwise, that’s a house payment every month of the year for 4 years.

The college’s Statement of Community reveals something else that might lend some insight into the Bell family’s mindset that belies the conservative mantra often espoused by Mr. Bell senior in public meetings: ***“....students and employees are committed to creating an inclusive, respectful, and safe residential learning community that will actively confront and challenge racism, sexism, heterosexism, religious bigotry, and other forms of harassment and discrimination. We encourage individual growth by promoting a free exchange of ideas in a setting that values diversity, trust, and equality.”***

They also throttle free speech which is another part of their mission statement that focuses on DEI theory.

But you see, it doesn’t end there. On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, there appeared a job opening with the City of Montrose for a Business Analyst Intern ([Job Bulletin](#)) who, according to the job description, would ***“Work under the general direction and guidance of the City Manager’s Office while providing day-to-day support to City Departments. Must be able to work under minimal supervision and exercise sound independent judgment.”***

Since Monday of that week was Memorial Day, the City was closed on that day and again on Friday as the City employees only work four (4) days a week leaving only that Wednesday and Thursday for applicants to apply for the position. Amazingly (**NOT**), the job was filled and the new hire on-boarded with the job starting on Monday, June 3, 2024. Yep! You guessed it. The job was given to young Mr. Bell. What the heck?

An open records request by me had the City of Montrose produce information showing the date of hire as June 3, 2024, with a “projected end date” of Thursday, August 1, 2024 which coincided with a required student athlete return date at his college of Thursday, August 15, 2024. The direct report for this position was Assistant City Manager Ann Morgenthaler

who along with Mr. Bell senior would be young Mr. Bell’s summer bosses. What the heck?

In the summer of 2023, young Mr. Bell was employed at the Black Canyon Golf Course as a “seasonal cart runner and Pro Shop Attendant, a job right up his alley as a soon to be member of his college’s golf team. Golfing privileges at the City owned golf course are a part of the compensation package. Perfect.

Clearly, something is wrong here. But it’s not just young Mr. Bell who’s in play. Nepotism, conflicts of interest and more. All par for the course at the City of Montrose’s highest levels (pun intended). Stay tuned for more as we keep peeling the onion. Today’s article is small potatoes compared to what’s coming.

A thorough review of City finances with the establishment of a private sector citizen’s panel along the lines of an Elon Musk’s “Department of Government Efficiency – DOGE” is most likely going to be needed to get to the bottom of and expose what has been happening at City Hall for the last several years. I wouldn’t rule out citizens needing to take legal action to effect a true housecleaning that most likely will need to occur starting with the elected City Council.

In my opinion, as a former elected official, Mayor and citizen of the City of Montrose, what has been going on for far too long constitutes malfeasance and a dereliction of duty to the community at large. Simply put, if I wasn’t over the proverbial target, they wouldn’t be protesting so much. Remember that one of the tenants in any battle is to deflect your attention away from the target at hand. Hence the City’s attempts to paint me as the bad guy as they seek to justify their positions. I’ve got news for them...it isn’t working!

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



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INTERPOL WASHINGTON AND CANADA SIGN HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT TREN DE ARAGUA

Special to the Mirror

LYON, FRANCE — INTERPOL Washington Director Jeffrey A. Grimming and National Central Bureau Ottawa Director Marie-Josée Homsy have signed a historic Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to strengthen cross-border law enforcement collaboration against Tren de Aragua (TdA), one of the world’s most dangerous transnational criminal organizations. Exploiting recent migration patterns, TdA has expanded its presence in North America and is now in cities and communities across both countries. This landmark agreement enhances the ability of INTERPOL Washington and NCB Ottawa to combat TdA through robust information sharing, coordinated law enforcement support, and strengthened border security efforts. “Today, we have taken a great leap forward in our fight to eradicate TdA in the United States,” said Director Grimming. “By bringing our combined law en-

forcement resources to bear, the United States and Canada have ensured that TdA will find no safe harbor in either of our nations. Together, as partners, we will work in lockstep to disrupt and dismantle TdA and remove their violent criminal operatives from our communities.” “Tackling Transnational Criminal Organizations like TdA requires transnational cooperation,” said Director Homsy. “These groups threaten security and stability across the Americas. This signing is an example of the strong collaboration that takes place between Canadian and American authorities every day – as well as the power and reach of INTERPOL capabilities. By working together, we can dismantle criminal networks, protect our communities, and reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law.” According to the MOC, both countries have agreed to take concrete actions within the INTERPOL framework to im-

prove police coordination, information sharing, and operational support against TdA in the United States and Canada. This includes enhancing the timely and secure exchange of criminal intelligence, operational data, and best practices regarding efforts against TdA; coordinating joint investigations and activities targeting TdA; and strengthening mechanisms to detect, prevent, and respond to illicit cross-border TdA activities. This agreement was signed during Director Grimming’s participation in the INTERPOL Heads of National Central Bureaus Conference in Lyon, France. In addition to the signing, INTERPOL Washington engaged in high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings with key partners in the fight against TdA. Director Grimming also delivered a keynote presentation on U.S. efforts to dismantle TdA, sharing strategies and best practices with law enforcement leaders from over 140 countries.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RICKI DUNLAP

February 19, 1951 — February 8, 2025



March 14, 1969. Rick served as a combat veteran in the Vietnam War with the 101st Airborne Division, where he was a door gunner. During his tours, Rick earned the Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and the Bronze Star with Valor. After returning to the United States in the summer of 1971, Rick was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he met the love of his life, Karen Starbuck.

Rick and Karen married November 26, 1971. Together, they had three sons: Gregory, Chad, and Joshua. In 1981, the family moved to Montrose, Karen's hometown. Rick continued his military career as a recruiter for the Army National Guard unit in Montrose. He also dedicated his time as a volunteer firefighter and member of the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse.

Upon his retirement from the Army in 1990, Rick attended the police academy at the Delta-Montrose Vo-tech. Upon graduation, Rick was hired by the Montrose County Sheriff's Office where he worked his way through the ranks. In 2006, Rick was elected Montrose County Sheriff where he proudly served three terms. Rick retired from the Sheriff's

Office in 2018. In November 2024, Rick was elected Montrose County Commissioner for District 1.

Rick was a remarkable man - devoted husband, father and Pa Paw - who loved God, his country, his community, his friends and most of all, his family. Rick enjoyed classic cars, gardening, hunting, fishing and off-roading.

Rick is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years Karen; sons Gregory; Chad (Cindy), and Joshua (Amanda); his grandchildren Kristina (Cory), Curtis (Faith), Dylan (Kara), Makayla, Kaci, Emily, Spencer, and Micah; his great grandchildren Hadleigh, Conrad, Rowyn and Tiago (and two others on the way); and his brother, Donnie. Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Jake and Bernice; his brothers, Curtis and Harold; and his sisters, Phylis and Teresa.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, located at 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose, CO 81401. Donations may be made on their website <https://www.whafv.org/donate.html> with a tribute donation marked "In Honor of Rick Dunlap".

RICKI (RICK) DUNLAP passed away on February 8, 2025. Rick was born to Jake Dunlap and Patricia "Bernice" O'Neal Dunlap on February 19, 1951 in Friendsville, Tennessee. Born into poverty, Rick was raised by Charlie "Buck" and Lovell Crisp, his beloved aunt and uncle. At the age of 12, Rick returned to live with his parents.

At the age of 17, Rick enlisted in the US Army in 1968. He completed his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JIM LONGWELL

February 24, 1933 — February 7, 2025



JIM LONGWELL, 91, of Montrose, passed away Friday, February 7, 2025, at Elk Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center. Jim was born February 24, 1933 in Mont-

rose, Colorado to James O. and Lottie Longwell in Shavano Valley. He attended Oak Grove Elementary School and graduated from Montrose High School in 1950. He married Barbara Sanburg and they were married for 67 years. They have two children, David and Debra. They lived in Shavano Valley and farmed and raised cattle. They had a grazing permit "between the Reds" in Hank's Valley. Jim was the first State 4-H President in 1947. He was also a 10-year 4-H member and 4-H leader, FFA member and FFA Father sponsor.

Jim was always active in his community. He was a Sheriff's Posse member, President of Jaycees, Montrose Chamber president in 1979, and a member of the Elks Lodge, to name a few. He was very involved helping his kids in 4-H with their steers. He worked for Co-op 4 years, managed it for 10 years and was on the Coop

board several years. He coached Co-op's women's softball team 10-12 years.

He was the manager of Four Corners Weed Control.

Jim enjoyed riding 4-wheelers with Barb and, of course, Brandy. She had a special platform on the back of his 4-wheeler.

He is survived by his children, David (Lori) Longwell and Debra (Roger) Hayward. He has 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

He was in Elk Ridge for three years and they took excellent care of him. He was also under the care of Hospice towards the end.

He was a member and retired Deacon of the Rosemont Baptist Church.

A memorial service is planned on March 1, 2025 at 1 p.m. at the Rosemont Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, you can donate to Hope West, 725 South 4th St., Montrose, CO 81401.

SUSAN MARY KING

March 28, 1936 — February 8, 2025

SUSAN MARY KING of Montrose, passed away on Saturday, February 8, at the age of 88. Sue was a retired educator, who impacted countless families in her community as a kindergarten teacher at Oak Grove Elementary for 29 years and was a Montrose resident for 58 years.

Sue was born on March 28, 1936, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Henry and Anita Conroy. She graduated from St. Katherine's College in Minneapolis and soon after married John W. King on October 4, 1958.

Sue loved to read and engage with her community. She treasured her role as an educator, and her influence continues on in the lives of every child she taught.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Anita Conroy; her husband, John W. King; and her grandson, Douglas King.

Sue is survived by her four children, Mary Ansell (Robert) of Las Vegas, NV; Stephanie Stone (Gary) of Colorado Springs, CO; Linda Brownlee (Eric) of Pasadena, MD; and John King (Tina) of Las Vegas, NV; ten grandchildren, and seventeen great grandchildren.

Services will be scheduled at a later time.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JUAN B. MAYBOCA ESPARZA ***August 8, 1963 — February 6, 2025***

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Juan B. Mayboca Esparza who entered eternal rest on February 6, 2025, at the age of 61. Juan was a loving husband, father, brother and passionate enthusiast of music and cars.

Juan was born August 8, 1963, in Tepupa Sonora Mexico. He was a man of strong values, unwavering faith and a kind heart. His love for music filled his days, whether it was through playing in a band, listening or sharing his favorite tunes with his family and friends. Just as he found harmony in melodies, he also found joy in the beauty of automobiles. Working on them, admiring their craftsmanship and the freedom they represent.

Juan was a devoted member of the catholic church, his faith guided him through life, and he always sought to extend kindness and love to those around him.

Juan is survived by his beloved wife Christina, his four children, Rick (Angela), Felipe (Melissa), Maria (Chase), and Marco, with four grandchildren Alycia (Xiana), Rylan, Easton, Na'Variah, one great grandson Greyson, brother and sister in-laws, His siblings Martin (Elsa), Jacinto (Aurea), Abelardo (Silvia), Nelly, Angel (Betty), and Rosa Marina (Jesus), Jose (Martina) and numerous nieces and nephews who all reside in Mexico, along with many cherished friends.

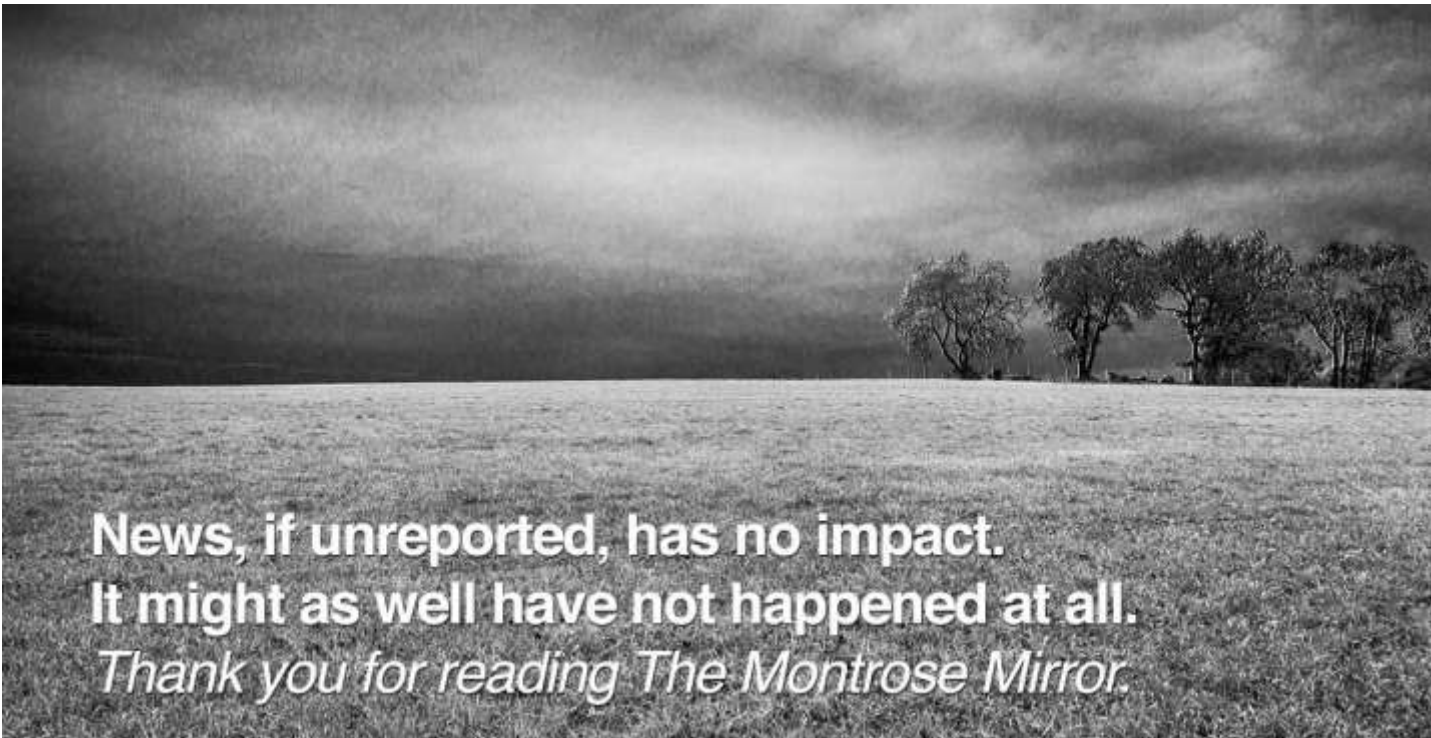
He is now reunited in heaven with – Father Jacinto, Mother Rosa, sister Rosalva, brother Melchor and brothers-in-law Fransico and Zaragoza.

He is missed dearly with many cherished memories.

To all that knew him and his kind and gracious heart this is not a goodbye, but an until we meet again. As his soul rests in



peace, may his love for family, music and cars continue to inspire us all.



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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LOWELL "BILL" DALE MCCLANAHAN JR.

March 24, 1942-February 11, 2025

LOWELL "BILL" DALE MCCLANAHAN JR. died on February 11th, 2025, at Charter Memory Care of Moline, Illinois.

Born March 24, 1942, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Bill was the son of Lowell D. McClanahan Sr. and Berniece (King) McClanahan.

He grew up in Albion, Indiana, where he worked on his uncle Juder's farm, excelled in basketball and baseball, and performed in school plays, bringing joy to his classmates with his natural wit and showmanship.

A talented athlete, Bill earned a baseball scholarship to Western Michigan University. When an arm injury ended his pitching career, he redirected his path to dentistry at Indiana University Dental School in Indianapolis.

There, he distinguished himself through exceptional technical skill and craftsmanship that would be the hallmark of his career, earning respect from colleagues across the Midwest.

From 1967-69, he served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Taiwan during the Vietnam era. During that time, he volunteered extensively, providing free dental care to children in surrounding villages. Upon returning to the U.S., he es-

tablished his family dental practice. In 1970, he met Margaret "Helen" Walters, who was the love of his life. They married in 1972 and raised three children.

Bill will be remembered as joyous, raucous, complicated and kind, with countless stories remembered by his numerous friends and extended family. Life took him on various adventures between Indiana and Montrose, Colorado, where he moved in 1991, sometimes creating distance from his immediate family for years at a time. With great joy, he eventually rejoined Helen in Fort Wayne, where they lived until her death in 2018.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his sister, Bonnie Cardin. He is survived by his children Michael McClanahan of Fort Wayne, Angela McClanahan of Rock Island, IL, and Jennifer McClanahan (Jesse) of Montrose, Colorado; his sister Carmona (Robert) Adams of Salt Lake City, Utah; one granddaughter; his beloved granddogs Edison, Dexter, and Buddy; several nieces and nephews across the country; and numerous beloved cousins and friends across the Midwest, Colorado and Arizona. The family wishes to thank the staff at Charter



Memory Care of Moline for their faithful care since 2021, becoming a second family to Bill. Special thanks to Hospice Compassus for their attentiveness to his needs at the end of his life.

We also express our gratitude to the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Colorado, who provided excellent physical and mental health care throughout his life.

There will be no public service. Arrangements are being made by Rafferty Funeral Home in Moline, with interment at Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOSEPH KENNETH SCRIFFINY *March 14, 1932-February 5, 2025*

JOSEPH KENNETH SCRIFFINY, 92, died at home on February 5, 2025, in Olathe, Colorado.

Joseph Scriffiny was born March 14, 1932, to Anthony and Linda Zioni Scriffiny. Joseph had two younger siblings, James and Donna.

Joe was fond of saying that he would not exchange the time in which he lived with any other time in history – which is what many have said over time eternal. Joe's generation, the Silent Generation, has a stronger claim than most. The generation known for making the complex, simple; a few words, profound. Joe's first car was a Model T with a crank starter, gravity in lieu of a fuel pump, yet as reliable as any modern automobile, as long you had a wrench and pair of pliers. One of Joe's favorite meals was Chicken Cacciatore, made from chickens raised on his family's farm, an USDA recall never in sight. As a child, he loved sitting with his dad and grandfather and their friends, drinking homemade wine made from grapes bought in downtown Denver, actually knowing the pleasure of a first wine. As a young adult, he was a guard on a state football championship team, playing both ways at all of 5' 8" and 140 lbs, no growth hormones, steroids or specialty players. Known as a bit of a troublemaker with his good friend Dick Biella, they "safely" drove 100+ MPH down Baseline Road, locked the Principal in his house by surrounding it with old lockers and set off M-80's in front of the Boulder Court House, a time that let boys be boys as a step in their journey to manhood. Picking up hitchhikers was common practice, kept safe by his ability to quickly glean intentions from the look in their eye, eyes being the window to the soul, not background, religion, nationality. Joe invest-



ed directly in people, in private, doing right when no one was looking. His charity was quiet, direct, personable – intended to inspire, get over the hump, especially with children, who had a special place in his heart. Joe, always the deal maker, was able to squeeze two lives out of one – one laying tile, raising his family in Louisville, the second, ranching, farming and grandfather, enjoying the slice of heaven below the San Juan Mountain range. One of his greatest pleasures was seeing the daily change in the San Juans on his back patio, overlooking a farm he would never have imagined owning as a Depression-era miner's son in a one room schoolhouse in Superior.

Joe kept his life simple, in his control, being of a generation had the freedom to truly choose their destiny. An open canvas to paint a life and Joe's was a masterpiece – colorful, meaningful, honorable, successful. Words were few and soft, his



example, a deafening thunderclap. The man for time: a time, like the man, which we will never see again and are all lessor for it. God-speed to a silent legend.

Family members saw Joe as the loving husband, the playful dad, the demanding father, as the teasing grandfather, the supporting brother and uncle, but most of all, as the mentor. Joe continued to teach us, up to the moment the Good Lord called him home. Joseph is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Mary (Kurtz) Scriffiny. His four children will miss him deeply, Mark (Patricia) Scriffiny, Lisa (Matt) Goetsch, Kurt (Patricia) Scriffiny, and Paul (Becky) Scriffiny. His grandchildren, Luke, John, and Jacob (Mark), Kellen and Samantha (Lisa), Amy, Mae, and Sophia (Paul).

Joseph was preceded in death by his first wife, Janice (Verlinden) Scriffiny, his wife of 11 months who passed shortly after Mark's birth, his sister, Donna Sitz Arthun, his brother, James Scriffiny, and his parents Anthony and Linda Scriffiny.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 21st, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 1855 St. Mary's Drive, Montrose, Colorado. Graveside services will be held in a separate private event for family. A reception will be held immediately afterwards at the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that memorials are sent to Mrs. Claus for a Cause (<https://mrsclausforacause.org>) or the Dolphin House (<https://dolphinhousecolorado.org>).

ISSUE 508 Feb. 17, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – PATIENCE



By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.



Pepper seedling photo courtesy of M. Spiske

Greetings Mirrorites!

When I was a freshman in high school there was a joke going around that I thoroughly fell for. It starts with the joketeller describing a dialogue between a camel and a donkey. The camel is spinning out a really long yarn with all sorts of irrelevancies that are getting on the nerves of the donkey, who just wants to know the punchline, sooner rather than later. He interrupts the camel constantly, who responds calmly, “Patience, jack ass, patience.” After listening to the joketeller, another freshman, going on and on, I interrupted and asked the jokester to get to the point. You guessed it, the jokester responded to me, “Patience, jack ass, patience”. I use that line on myself to this very day.

Gardeners know that peppers of all kinds can be infuriatingly slow to germinate,

even indoors. After over two weeks of patiently waiting and chiding myself with those four pithy words, I was finally rewarded with tiny ornamental pepper seedlings. I was inordinately delighted and simultaneously amused at myself. There had been days when the wait was nearly painful, and it was all I could do not to replant the pots, as if doing something, anything, would make magic and ease the emotional distress my impatience was causing me. I have since pondered the nature of patience as a form of self-regulation.

Patience as a form of self-regulation is

the propensity (or not) of a person to wait calmly in the face of frustration, adversity, or suffering and is particularly focused on the regulation of a person’s internal states. The manifestation of genuine patience depends on both behavioral (i.e., waiting) and emotional (i.e., low arousal positive affect and notable absence of high arousal negative affect) components. Many of the regulatory processes that allow individuals to exert self-control may also increase patience. Some people are better at this than others. And it can be cognitively costly, which is why I perceived the wait as almost painful. I may

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – PATIENCE From previous pg

have been experiencing a form of ego-depletion fueled by gardener angst.

Ego-depletion theory holds that exerting self-control in one task can temporarily decrease the capacity for self-regulation on a subsequent task. A variety of self-regulatory behaviors have been found prone to depletion, including, for instance controlling impulses, resisting temptation, and focusing attention. Some researchers hold that this occurs through depletion of glycogen (brain sugar).

Others believe that it's a matter of attention allocation. A series of papers provided compelling evidence that self-regulatory ability may not actually be limited, arguing that engaging in self-regulation triggers a shift in motivation and attention that makes self-regulatory failure more likely in a subsequent task. Specifically, engaging in self-regulation on Task 1 reduces motivation to exert self-regulation on Task 2 and increases motivation to act on impulse; likewise, there is reduced attention to cues signaling control and increased attention to reward following self-regulatory exertion. I stand with a foot in both camps and I see them as inter-related. But since understanding attention is my jam, I tend to slightly favor theory #2.

Tasks requiring self-control can be as diverse as physical stamina, not thinking of a white bear or unsprouting pepper plants, refraining from eating tempting food, or solving difficult math problems while being distracted by noise. Baumeis-

ter (1998) postulated that these types of seemingly unrelated behaviors deplete one commonly shared resource. The strength model builds on the assumption of self-regulation depending on a limited resource, using a muscle as a metaphor for self-control. Instead of loss of ATP in muscle exhaustion, it may be it is the loss or re-allocation of a resource such as glycogen that causes either initial or secondary effects of impatience.

Impatience is a hallmark of teenage brain development and while it has downsides such as dangerous impulsivity, it is nevertheless considered to be a normal and even healthy part of adolescent development. Young adults over the age of 25 have an inherent brain capacity to be less impulsive and less impatient, should they choose to be. Delay discounting is more pronounced for teens than adults. This simply means that to teens there is inherent value in seizing some perceived reward immediately rather than delaying gratification and achieving a greater reward in the future. Teens are more 'carpe diem' than adults, it seems. They go with 'a bird in the hand...' strategies, tending to say yes to \$50 gained today rather than waiting for \$100 in 30 days. It is a form of impatience and also a product of a less developed ability to envision future outcomes than they will have in their twenties.

I don't know which parts of my inner village were expressing themselves through the highly anticipated germination pro-

cess. My teen self wanted immediate validation that the seeds were viable. My adult self was overjoyed at FINALLY seeing proof that indeed, they were. In reflection, I now acknowledge that when distracted by the computer, gratification was indeed delayed but felt like an itch I couldn't scratch at the very back of my mind. When I distracted myself with outdoor scenes and activities, the itch vanished, at least for the rest of the day. I believe that the difference was that time outdoors engaged the default mode network (DMN), whereas the internet did not.

The default mode network is a group of brain regions highly associated with self-referential thought. It plays a significant role in self-regulation by facilitating internal reflection and the ability to monitor one's own thoughts and emotions. Patience is a form of self-regulation and is therefore enhanced by time in nature that kicks the brain into the DMN. It is when perspective and humor have returned thanks to time in restorative settings that I can scold myself gently with my 4-word joke and not get worked up about vegetable futures.

Patience is indeed a virtue and one that pleasant time outdoors can foster. As we wait for sun or snow, rain or shine, whatever we are jonesing for will be all that much sweeter when the day arrives and we can plant outdoors, hike, play soccer, raft, bike or do whatever winter has kept us from. Until then, patience, jack ass, patience.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

KEVIN FITZGERALD RELEASES 'IT STARTED WITH A TURTLE'



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Special to Art & Sol

DENVER – Amid the stillness of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kevin Fitzgerald, a familiar voice in the comedy scene, seasoned veterinarian, and former rock and roll bouncer, took a moment to reflect on his journey through life. The result is his debut memoir, “It Started With a Turtle” ([published by Archway Publishing](#)), a collection of stories spanning decades of adventure, humor and heart.

This one-of-a-kind book offers readers an unblinking glimpse at a life well-lived. Told in five parts, “It Started With a Turtle” traces Fitzgerald’s journey from his Irish Catholic upbringing in 1950s Colorado; to his exhilarating adventures working concert security for iconic rock bands during the 1960s and ’70s; to the joys and challenges of over 40 years in veterinary practice; to his comedic journey on stage, where he shares the spotlight with legends such as Joan Rivers and George Lopez; and finally, his wildlife conservation work in the Arctic, Antarctica, the Everglades, and Mongolia.

“As my generation of ‘boomers’ fades, and new ones come to the fore, this book gives a glimpse into our time, our culture, our music, our humor, all through the eyes of someone who experienced it.,” Fitzgerald states. “I would like readers to see that our lives are not one-dimensional, and that we can do many different things. I would like them to see the importance of humor in our lives, the urgent importance of conservation and their role in it, and help them recognize the massive beauty of the natural world around us.”

“It Started With a Turtle” is not just a memoir; it is an exploration of life’s richness, with entertaining anecdotes woven alongside thoughtful reflections on the importance of music, humor, and protecting biodiversity. The book is now available for purchase at major retailers and online platforms. For interviews, appearances, or review copies, please contact pressreleases@archwaypublishing.com or drkevinfitzgerald@gmail.com.

“It Started With a Turtle”

By Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald

Hardcover | 6 x 9in | 486 pages | ISBN 9781665764162

Softcover | 6 x 9in | 486 pages | ISBN 9781665764186

E-Book | 486 pages | ISBN 9781665764179

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For more information, visit his website, www.DrKevinFitzgerald.com, or find him on Facebook ([Kevin T Fitzgerald](#)) and YouTube ([Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald](#)).

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: NON-PROFITS

7TH ANNUAL MONTROSE'S GOT TALENT COMPETITION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Montrose Education Foundation (MEF) hosted its 7th annual Montrose's Got Talent Competition Fund-raiser. Held at the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium. To participate in the final competition acts were required to audition on Thursday, Jan. 16. The top 15 acts from 25 acts were selected to advance to the final competition on February 8th. The competition is for school age performers and all varieties of acts are welcome. All top 5 acts receive a cash prize with the grand prize act receiving \$1,000.

The 15 semi-finalists acts and their talents:

- 1-Dylan Box •Rubik's Cubes/Speedcubing
- 2-Kayla Braaten •Vocal•Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again from The Phantom of the Opera
- 3-Lucas Vogt & Jeremy Brailsford •Hip Hop Dance•Darling, I / Thrillin Mashup
- 4-Maria Sharman •Vocal•Enchanted by Taylor Swift
- 5-Marcela Velasquez & Ricardo Velasquez •Vocal •Die with a Smile by Bruno Mars ft. Lady Gaga
- 6-LaNae Tamarcaz & Giselle Theodore •Dance•Champions by Carrie Underwood
- 7-Audrieanna Sisneros •Vocal•I Don't Wanna Be You Anymore by Billie Eilish
- 8-Scarlet Sky Verstraete •Vocal & Dance•On the Good Ship Lollipop by Shirley Temple
- 9-Marin Barnett & Layne Galvan •Lyrical/Jazz Dance Duet•Confident by Demi Lovato
- 10-Sawyer McCall •Color Guard•Dancing Through Life by Jonathan Bailey
- 11-Analise Williams •Vocal•Iris by The Goo Goo Dolls
- 12-Olathe Mixtapes Acapella Choir •Vocal•If I Fell by The Beatles;

Kelcee Budde, Marlee Fenske, Sebastian Gonzalez, Isabella Haywood, Kiera Iversen & Zoe Ripley

13-Wren Malloy & Sienna Comstock •Lyrical Dance•Unsteady by X Ambassadors

14-Isabella Vigil •Arabian Hip Hop Flexibility Routine•Arabian Nights Remix by Will Smith

15-Thomas Dullea •Vocal•Fly Me to the Moon by Frank Sinatra

All 15 acts performed during the first half of the show on Feb. 8. During intermission the judges deliberated and the audience enjoyed the MCS D student art exhibit in the lobby. At the beginning of the second half of the show, the top 5 acts were announced and they performed again. Laurel Wilkerson, the 2024 winner, entertained the audience while the judges deliberated for top 5 placement. The scores were very close. They choose the Olathe Mixtapes Acapella Choir as this year's grand prize winners.

The top 5 acts were:

- 5th place – Marcela Velasquez & Ricardo Velasquez won \$100
- 4th place – Kayla Braaten won \$150
- 3rd place – Lucas Vogt & Jeremy Brailsford won \$250
- 2nd place – Audrieanna Sisneros won \$500
- 1st place – Olathe Mixtapes Acapella Choir won \$1,000

MEF wishes to thank all of the acts who shared their talents to make this a show great and to all of their generous sponsors. Sponsors: Platinum – City of Montrose, Buck & Marsha Miller, Blythe Group + Co and the Montrose Business Times; Gold – Mike & Suzi King; Silver – The Montrose Mirror, The Montrose Daily Press, DWC CPA Advisors and DMEA; Bronze - Montrose County, Montrose County School District, Timberline Bank,



All 15 Semifinalists. Courtesy photo Montrose Education Foundation.

Mike & Phoebe Benziger, NuVista Credit Union, Alpine Bank, Scott's Printing & Design, Deann Balash & John Boughton, Allen & Sandy Head, Montrose Ford Nissan Inc, Hartman Brothers, Stryker & Company, Inc and Alexander Orthodontics.

The money raised by this competition is reinvested in the RE-1J school district's teachers and students. It supports the Teacher of the Year Programs, Appreciation Events and a \$10,000 annual Impact Award that the teachers are eligible to apply for.

The MEF board is composed of community members who want to make a positive impact in the community's education system. Their mission statement is: Education is Our Future. The board members are: Sandy Head, President; Deann Balash, Vice President and the Montrose's Got Talent Producer/Director; Buck Miller, Secretary/Treasurer; Melissa Byrnes; Patricia Cummings; Kathy Flower; Matt Jenkins; and Carrie Stephenson. For more information about the Montrose Education Foundation, the programs they sponsor, become a board member or to make a donation (and a difference), visit MontroseEducationFoundation.org.

MONTROSE'S GOT TALENT 2025 COMPETITION

WINNER
CONGRATULATIONS!

Olathe Mixtapes Acapella Choir

Kelcee Budde, Marlee Fenske, Sebastian Gonzalez, Isabella Haywood, Kiera Iversen and Zoe Ripley

1st place



2nd



Audrianna Sisneros

3rd



Jeremy Brailsford & Lucas Vogt

4th



Kayla Braaten

5th



Ricardo & Marcela Velasquez



Congratulations to all our semi-finalists & thank you!

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
 Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 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 Center

Most Homes Include

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



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

MEET MONTROSE

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



LA TAPATIA IN DELTA WORTH THE TRIP

By Carole Ann McKelvey

DELTA--Now, with all the Mexican restaurants to choose from in Montrose why on earth would one go to Delta to eat?

Well, recently I visited one of my favorites there to meet a girlfriend for lunch. La Tapitia in Montrose is great, and so it appears is the one in Delta.

My friend is always late! So, I ordered a house margarita – no salt, on the rocks please – and enjoyed myself.

I had plenty of time to look the menu over. But, hey, no need. I go to La Tapitia in Montrose all the time so pretty much have the menu memorized.

Now today, I wasn't all that hungry, so looked at the "lighter eaters" menu to see what I could quickly have when my friend showed up. Yep, plenty of inexpensive choices here.

It was lunchtime, but I hadn't had any breakfast, so that sounded good.

Traditional Mexican Breakfast is served all day and comes with rice, beans and tortillas.

Hmm what to have?

My usual, Huevos Ranchero is two eggs served on a corn tortilla topped with cheese and slowly simmered with a choice of chile verde or chile Colorado.

Yep, when my girlfriend arrived that's what I ordered.

And so did she!

So there goes my plan of reviewing two dishes. Oh well, huevos rancheros were delicious – as I knew they would be.

Breakfast at El Tapitia runs from \$8.95-6.50.

What's your favorite? Menudo; Tex Mex Breakfast; Chierian Con Huevo, Machoca; Chiliqualas; Spanish Omelet; Chorizo or Breakfast burrito?

Or how about La Tapatia Lunch and Dinner Special served from 11 a.m to 3 p.m. served with rice and beans?

Have one item for \$6.95-8.95. Choices are: taco; chicken or beef chile relleno tamale; pork chicken, red enchilada; cheese chicken, tostada; ground beef, chicken burrito; or ground beef, chicken, pork or cheese quesadilla.

Or, you can go over the top and order a Combination meal including rice and beans for \$9.25-11.95 and choose from: Enchilada Dinner; Enchilada and Taco; Enchilada and Chile Relleno; Enchilada and Tamale; Taco and Chile Relleno; Taco Iced Tamale; Tamale and Chile Relleno; Taco, Enchilada, and Chile Relleno; Taco, Enchilada and Tamale; Taco, Enchilada, Chile Colorado or Chile Verde; Taco Enchilada and Steak Ranchero; Burrito with One Item; Chimichanga with One Item; Tostada with One Item; or Three Mini Burritos Bf, Ck, and Pk
There is also a choice of:



Dishes From the Heart of Mexico, served with rice, beans (add soup or salad for \$1.95); prices from \$9.95-12.95, including: Carnitas dinner; Chile Colorado; Chile Verde; Chile Relleno; Carne Asada; New York Grilled Steak; Steak Ranchero; Chimichanga; Burrito; Enchilada Ranchero; Enchilada Verde; Ranchero Taquito; Flautas; Tamale; or Chicken Mole dinner. Now, if those aren't enough choices, you still can order:

Sizzling Fajitas from \$12.95-24.95: either pick La Tapatia fajitas or combination fajitas.

Oh, and then there is dessert from \$2.75-4.25. And, A La Carte; and kids meals.

La Tapatia in Delta is located at 353 Main St, Delta, CO 81416-1815; call 970-874-4100.

249 8500 *ANONYMOUS*

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**MONTROSE REGIONAL
CRIME STOPPERS**

see something, say something

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
 lifestyle CHRISTIANITY
COLORADO
 APRIL 4-5

USE CODE: **LOCAL50**
 TO GET \$50 ADMISSION

SCAN THE QR CODE & REGISTER TODAY!


TODD WHITE
 HOST SPEAKER


PATRICIA KING
 GUEST SPEAKER


ENIOLA ABIOYE
 CIRCUIT RIDERS


ZACH WEBB
 CIRCUIT RIDERS



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE'S LOYD SELECTED TO RECEIVE OUTSTANDING PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATOR AWARD

News Release

INDIANAPOLIS - The [NFHS](#) has announced a total of 59 individuals across the country who have been selected to receive Outstanding Performing Arts Educator Awards, with two state recipients coming from Colorado. Montrose's Sheridan Monroe Loyd has been named a state recipient for the Outstanding Music Educator Award and Widefield's Stephanie Owen a state recipient for the Outstanding Speech and Debate Educator Award.

Loyd is a respected music educator and conductor in Colorado, known for her ability to elevate student musicianship. She currently serves as the Director of Bands at Montrose High School, where she teaches two concert bands, two jazz bands and the "Pride of Montrose" marching band. Her leadership pushes the boundaries of what rural area band students can achieve, while her dedication to fostering inclusive and innovative music programs has made her a leader in the field.

"Sheridan Monroe Loyd exemplifies the kind of dedication, passion, and leadership that elevate not only her students but the entire Colorado high school activities community," said CHSAA Assistant Commissioner Rashaan Davis, who oversees student activities at the state level.

Under Loyd's direction, Montrose's marching bands have placed fourth and sixth in the state the past two years after winning regional championships. Meanwhile, her ensembles have set several new school records, including a record high score and placement for marching band, a first-ever performance at the Colorado Music Educators' Association state conference selected by blind audition, and a bronze medal winter guard performance at the Rocky Mountain Color Guard Association state competition in class Scholastic A. In addition, her Advanced Jazz Ensemble was named the Outstanding High



School Jazz Band in 2022 and 2024, earning straight superior ratings and "Outstanding Soloist" awards each year.

Prior to this appointment, Loyd was the Director of Bands for the Estes Park School District, where she taught the 5th-12th grade bands, jazz band and marching band. She increased the middle school band participation by 57 percent over three years while her high school marching band won the Colorado 1A State Marching Band Championship three years in a row, (2015-17).

An active guest conductor and clinician across Colorado, she has served as guest conductor with the CSU Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. She also performed as a clarinetist in the Wild Symphony in 2018-19. Since 2019, she's served as the Colorado Chair for the National Band Association, promoting programs that improve the level of excellence and educational significance of bands in Colorado. She's also served as the Recording Secretary for the Colorado Bandmasters Association since 2017 and was the Small School Representative for the CBA Marching Band Committee prior to that.

A graduate of Miami University (Ohio), Loyd received a Bachelor of Music in both

music education and clarinet performance. She entered college a National Merit Scholar, completed the University's Honors Program with distinction, graduated summa cum laude and was named the Presser Scholar – Miami University's most prestigious award in music. She was also the principal clarinet in the Miami University Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, and as drum major for the Marching Band, she led the band's nationally televised performance in the 2013 Presidential Inauguration Parade. She also performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2011.

Sheridan's contributions to state and regional music organizations reflect her commitment to excellence in music education.

Since 1988 when the first Outstanding Speech/Debate/Theatre Educator Awards were presented, 262 individuals have received section awards and 428 have been honored with state awards. The Outstanding Music Educator Awards began a year later in 1989, and 221 individuals have received section awards and another 411 have been honored with state awards.

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Justin Covington.....970-275-4189	Cheryl Larsen.....970-596-8801
Nicole Goza.....970-209-2548	Vicki Jones.....970-209-3018
Mark Covington.....970-209-1956	Office.....970-249-6658

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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. 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.

Feb. 19-Are you interested in the archaeology of western Montrose County? Please join us for Archaeologist Rand Greubel's presentation on the Weimar Ranch studies. February 19 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church 19 S Park Avenue Montrose. Chipeta Archaeology Society- Free.

March 18- 7pm, Delta Library Community Room. "The Great Dinosaur Discovery." is a 1976 documentary about the dinosaurs of Dry Mesa Quarry in Delta, Colorado. The film was produced by Brigham Young University (BYU) and aired on public television stations across the United States.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: OUT & ABOUT



Above, Judy Kinyon captured this photo of the full moon.



Montrose Center for Arts has moved to 205 East Main Street, and a ribbon cutting was held Feb. 12. Board President Pat Chaloupek said, "We invite you stop by during gallery hours (Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.) to learn more about our re-imagined HEART of the art in Montrose." Courtesy photos.



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