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the Montrose Mirror

MONTROSE COUNTY ISSUES PROCLAMATION HONORING RICK DUNLAP, VOTES TO OPPOSE DESIGNATION OF DOLORES NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



On Feb. 19, with Commissioner Sue Hansen voting in opposition, the BOCC approved the appointment of Scott Mijares as Chair and Sean Pond as Vice Chair. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-The regular meeting of Wednesday, Feb. 19 brought change to the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). With a packed agenda, a room full of citizens in attendance, and with Sean Pond of Nucla seated as District 3 Commissioner due to the unexpected death of Commissioner Rick Dunlap, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the meeting to order, "Good morning everybody, welcome..."
Leading the Pledge of Allegiance was Chad Dunlap.
Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel delivered the invocation, "Father we are grateful that you give us the opportunity to discuss...we ask Lord, as you ask and make known to us that when we need wisdom, to seek it from you, so we seek it for our county

Continued pg 20

COUNCIL HEARS FROM CONSTITUENTS, HONORS CROSSING GUARDS

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-After calling the regular Feb. 18 City Council meeting to order and leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Montrose Mayor J. David Reed presented "You Make a Difference Awards" to school crossing guards. Reed asked all of the recipients to come forward. City Youth Councilors Kathryn Jakino and Robin Kittell helped hand out certificates to the three crossing guards.
Carlos Hamm and Deborah Labertew were the only guards present whose names were announced out loud, although a third guard was handed a certificate. All councilors were present for the meeting.
CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
After asking for a show of hands of those who wished to speak, Reed directed the commenters to line up in the back of the room and then read the rules for public comment.
Reed said, "So if you would all line up in the back...public comment is limited

Continued pg 14



Youth Councilors Robin Kittell and Kathryn Jakino helped Mayor Reed award certificates to crossing guards including Carlos Hamm, Deborah Labertew, and one whose name was not announced. Meeting screenshot.

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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Discussion Group

Great Decisions, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, has returned for Spring 2025:



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Tuesday March 4th at 5.Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st. All Welcome Non-partisan, Local support for sustainable energy in our community. info 970-765-9095.

INAUGURAL RIDGWAY RIPPLE ARCTIC PLUNGE, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Meet at the swim beach at Ridgway State Park for a freezin' fun time where brave individuals will get ready and jump in the reservoir to the delight of friends, family and all who come to witness. Free event. Costumes encouraged. Prizes and gift bags will be given out to plungers and lucky spectators. Hot beverages for everyone. After party at Greenwood's restaurant in Ridgway, noon to 2 p.m. Sponsorships and donations will support Ouray Mountain Rescue Team and Ouray County Communities That Care.

Information & registration: <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/inaugural-ridgway-ripple-arctic-plunge>



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THEIR ACTIONS WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED

Editor:

Sean Ponds was sworn in as the new county commissioner. Scott Mijares only assumed office one month ago. Neither has not yet completed the orientation training for county commissioners. Their first act as a team was to remove the only experienced and qualified commissioner from the chairmanship position and elect Scott as the new chair.

Notably, the two new inexperienced commissioners collaborated to intimidate the experienced woman in the group, effectively silencing her and asserting their dominance.

This incident serves as a reminder to both Sean and Scott that they are accountable to all Montrose County citizens, including women. Their actions will be closely monitored.

Bobbie Kuns, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE THE PEOPLE ARE FED UP

Editor:

I read with renewed interest the proceedings in the Montrose Mirror yesterday. What an eye full! I can't believe the bla-

tant disregard for the will of the people this board has. You ignored the people who overwhelmingly supported the Montrose Classic Academy and then extended a

different group from kindergarten to elementary school and made them eligible to expand their curriculum to grade 12. You ignored your constituents! Now I see that you are trying to continue to push the new high school again. You must have thought that the voting public, those you work for and are sworn to represent, said maybe not now. WRONG! We said no we don't want or need a \$200,000,000 30-year mortgage. Granted the high school needs some tweaking but nothing like what was proposed. Our city and county officials work for the public, that's you and me, including the Montrose County School District board. We pay all of our local government officials good wages to do their jobs but it seems that each board, council has created a small kingdom that just happens to be in the city and county of Montrose. A lot of you may be too young but there was a movie a lot of years ago called Network. Everyone walked out of the theaters, yes theaters like the Fox cinema, saying "I am fed up and I/We are not going to take it anymore!". We need to do that again. Only how about this: WE THE PEOPLE ARE FED UP AND NOT GOING TO TOLERATE THIS ANY LONGER. Just remember that all of you who are in a public office are elected and can and will be dethroned by your employers, we the people.

John Brown, Montrose

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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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FRUITA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Special to the Mirror

FRUITA – The Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 5th Annual Women in Business Conference:

C.O.N.N.E.C.T: Elevate Your Impact, set to take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Colorado Mesa University. This premier event continues to empower, inspire, and support women in the business community through insightful discussions, engaging breakout sessions, and empowering networking opportunities.

Timberline Bank, a founding partner of the conference and title sponsor, remains dedicated to fostering leadership and innovation among women professionals. This year also marks the third year of partnership with Colorado Mesa University, further strengthening opportunities for education, collaboration, and professional growth.

Throughout the day, attendees can choose from a variety of breakout sessions tailored to personal development, professional advancement, and business tools. Topics range from overcoming fear in leadership and fostering community collaborations to mastering modern marketing strategies and optimizing work-life balance.

The event will also feature an awards presentation recognizing outstanding contributions by women in business. Nominations for these prestigious awards are open until February 24 at bit.ly/wibaward.

Registration is now open, and space is limited. For full details on the schedule and to secure a spot, visit fruitachamber.org/wibconference/.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Montrose County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Montrose County, in collaboration with local municipalities and special districts, is updating the County's 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.



What is Hazard Mitigation?

The term "Hazard Mitigation" describes actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards, such as wildfires, drought, floods, and severe winter storms. Mitigation is an investment in a community's future safety and sustainability. Recent cost-benefit studies have proven mitigation to be cost effective for communities, with mitigation projects returning **\$6 for every \$1 spent**. Mitigation planning helps communities take action now, before a disaster, to reduce impacts when a disaster occurs.

How to Get Involved

Review the Draft Plan and Let us Know what is Missing!

Are there disaster events not captured? Do you have information on impacts from past disasters? What mitigation projects do you want to see in Montrose County?

Scan the QR code or visit this link: bit.ly/HMPreview to review the draft plan and provide us with your comments and ideas!



For more information contact Scott Hawkins Montrose County Emergency Manager:
shawkins@montrosecounty.net 970.252.4043

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RED HAWKS TAKE 2 OF 3 GAMES – AWAIT PLAYOFFS

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 57, GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 35

The Montrose Red Hawks girls hosted the Grand Junction Tigers at the field house on Tuesday and walked away with a convincing pasting of the visiting Tigers by the score of 57 to 35.

The Red Hawks took the opening tip and never looked back as they outscored the Tigers 18-8 in the first period. The scoring became a bit more balanced as the game progressed, with the Red Hawks outscoring the Tigers in each of the four quarters. The Red Hawks outscored the visitors 39 to 27 over the remainder of the contest.

The game turned into the Mayce Oberg show as the Red Hawks junior was on fire from start to finish. Oberg tallied 9 points in the first half of action and then really caught fire in the second half. She scored 10 points in the third quarter and a dozen more in the fourth quarter for a game high total of 31 points. Junior Maggie Legg added 9 points to the Red Hawks total while Senior Brook Williams chipped in 7 points and Junior London Schafer added 5 more. Junior Lilly Nelson led all Red Hawks in the rebounding department, capturing 7 caroms. Obert added 6 to the total while Williams added 4 including 3 on the offensive glass. The Red Hawks passed out 17 assists, had 15 steals and turned the basketball over 16 times. The Red Hawks shot at a 47 percent clip from the field and made 1 of 6 from behind the 3-point arc.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 49, DURANGO DEMONS 46

After having a weekend game re-scheduled due to bad weather, the Montrose Red Hawks traveled to Durango on Wednesday evening and pulled out a 3-point victory over the Demons on their home court by the score of 49-46.

Both teams got off to slow starts with the Red Hawks outscoring the Demons 8-5. The Demons found their offense in the second period as they outscored the Red Hawks 12-7 to take a 17-15 lead at the halfway mark. The second half was a very tightly contested affair as both teams battled down the stretch. The Demons took a 2-point lead with 6 seconds left on the clock. The Red Hawks called time to set up their final attempt to tie the game.

The ball came in to Mayce Oberg who drove the lane and fired the final shot. The shot missed but Oberg was fouled with less than a second remaining on the scoreboard clock. She calmly stepped to the free throw line and sank both free throws to tie the game at 40-40 and headed into overtime.

The Red Hawks then outscored the Demons 9-6 to win the game by the score of 49-46.

Seven Red Hawks hit the scoring column and contributed to the victory. Junior Mayce Oberg led all scorers with 13 points. Junior Maggie Legg added a dozen points and Junior London Schafer added 8 points. Other scorers included junior Lilly Nelson (5 pts.), senior Brooke Williams (4 pts.), Junior Kendall Johnson (4 pts.) and Junior Maliah Leiba (3 pts.). Lilly Nelson owned the backboards for the Red Hawks in this game. She captured 16 rebounds of the 32 attributed to the Red Hawks, including 3 on the offensive glass. The team passed out 6 assists as well as grabbing 6 steals. The Red Hawks shot 38 percent from the field and 68 percent from the charity stripe.

FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 35, RED HAWKS 27

The road weary Montrose Red Hawks traveled to Fruita-Monument for a southwestern league showdown on Friday evening. The Red Hawks were unable to get their usual offensive game in gear as they lost to the Wildcats by the score of 35 to 27.

The initial quarter saw the Wildcats outscore the Red Hawks 16-13. Then things got unusual in the second stanza as neither team scored a single point and the half time score remained the Wildcats 16, the Red Hawks 13. The third quarter was also strange as both teams scored only 4 points as the Cats maintained their 3-



Senior Brooke Williams captures a rebound and sets to score.
Photo by Cliff Dodge.

point advantage. The Wildcats then controlled the final period as they scored 15 points compared with 10 for the Red Hawks, to win the contest 35-27.

Junior Mayce Oberg led all Red Hawk scorers with 13 points while Junior Maggie Legg tallied 9 points. Junior Lilly Nelson led the rebounders with 5 while Legg, Oberg, Williams and Johnson all contributed to the rebounding totals. The Red Hawks passed out 6 assists, had 8 steals and only turned the basketball over 12 times.

THE PLAYOFFS:

The regular season came to a close with the 8-point loss to the Wildcats at Fruita-Monument. The Red Hawks are well positioned for the playoffs with their regular season record of 19-4. The Red Hawks also have a league record of 7 wins and 3 losses and are ranked in the top 10 of the 5A schools. The top 8 teams receive a first round bye, and the next 16 teams play off with # 9 hosting 16, 8 hosting 15, etc.

The surviving top eight schools qualify for the State Championship. The boys playoff begins on Tuesday, Feb. 25, and the girls on Wednesday, Feb. 26. The surviving eight teams will play the Great Eight Tournament at the Denver Coliseum in early March.

THIS JUST IN: RED HAWK GIRLS WILL HOST 24TH RANKED DISCOVERY CANYON ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT THE FIELD HOUSE. TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SEXIST MANEUVER SENDS A DISTURBING MESSAGE

Editor:

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the recent "reorganization" of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners, specifically, the decision to replace Sue Hansen as chair. Ms. Hansen legitimately held the chair position because of her knowledge and experience on the Board. The two new commissioners

who elected each other as chair and vice chair have virtually no experience; this was Sean Pond's first "official act" on the BOCC. This blatant move undermines our progress toward equitable representation in our local government. Commissioner Hansen is a strong, intelligent, dedicated public servant who has brought valuable experience and perspective to her role.

This obvious power grab disregards her contributions, suggesting a troubling trend of sidelining capable women in favor of less experienced male counterparts.

We deserve leadership that reflects our community's diversity, and this sexist maneuver sends a disturbing message about the county's attitude toward women.

Kim Floyd, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MARKET ON THE PLAZA ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2025

Special to the Mirror

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE— The Town of Mountain Village is currently accepting applications for the 2025 Market on the Plaza. Applications from regional vendors interested in participating in the farmers market are due March 31, 2025.

Market on the Plaza is held throughout the summer in Heritage Plaza, the center of Mountain Village.

Vendors set up just steps from the free gondola, connecting the towns of Mountain Village and Telluride. Mountain Village is home to the Telluride Ski and Golf bike park and canopy tours and is the adventure home base for visitors and residents alike.

In addition to hosting high-quality vendors, the Market on the Plaza hosts entertainment each week, including musicians, theater and face painting.

"The Village Center comes alive every Wednesday during the summer, with 40 diverse vendors creating a vibrant marketplace that both locals and visitors eagerly anticipate," said Mountain Village Business Development & Market Manager Molly Norton. "The 2024 season brought an exciting blend of beloved returning vendors alongside fresh faces who introduced entirely new offerings to our market community."

The Market will run every Wednesday, June 11 through Sept. 10, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"What sets Market on the Plaza apart is our exceptional vendor experience," Norton explained. "Our dedicated support staff, convenient plaza-side unloading, and one of Colorado's most competitive seasonal booth fees – with no commission on sales – make this one of the most vendor-friendly markets in the region."

The Market on the plaza is held at 9,545 feet, surrounded by the stunning San Juan Mountains, the temperate mountain summer and stunning fall make Mountain Village the perfect home for an open-air

market.

To learn more about Market on the Plaza and to apply, please visit marketontheplaza.com by March 31, 2025.

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COUNCIL HEARS FROM CONSTITUENTS, HONORS CROSSING GUARDS From pg 1

to three minutes each, and I will notify you when you have 30 seconds left so you can wrap up and not get caught in the middle of your presentation.”

First to speak was John Brown. Brown said that the ICE has been very active in Colorado. “I hope that our community will respond favorably to the legal laws of the Federal government...the states and towns that are ignoring Federal law, the loss of government funds is going to be starting to happen. I hope that Montrose is not going to be one of those communities where we lose funds for our taxpaying citizens because of the inaction that has happened over this board since March of last year.”

Brown said that he is tired of sending emails to the city that are never answered. “I also called, and I never received any calls back.”

Brown said he still believes that the Council has an obligation to declare the City to be non-sanctuary. “The longer we delay on it the harder it will be to correct any things that are starting to happen...We need to do something about it. So please, vote non-sanctuary for the community. Put your own personal opinions aside...”

Leah Vanderluis spoke next. “I’ve been observing and involved with council meetings for over a year. And unfortunately, my observation and feelings are that we are not listened to as your constituents. We have a chance to stand up here and speak but I feel like it’s not taken seriously, no action is taken upon it ...I don’t see why the public doesn’t have an opportunity to ask questions maybe in another venue and interact with the council and talk to them about things...the city is spending a lot of money and we’re getting in debt. They’re apparently looking at a \$100 or \$200 Million bond that will put us in debt even more.

“All the more (reason) the constituents need input in this, and not allow the City Manager or the Council to determine stuff like this—we elected you. Thank you,”

Next to speak was an unidentified young woman who said, “Good evening, for those who don’t know, I used to sit here

as a former Montrose Youth City Council member, but I’m back from Los Angeles from college. The reason I came here mainly was to propose an Uncompahgre Valley Arts Festival in order to unite people from inner city and rural Colorado. I’ll be speaking to the Montrose Youth City Council Coordinator for more details, but I would just like to put that on your agenda as something I would like support with from the city.

“Hopefully it will be in conjunction with the Olathe Sweet Corn Festival, but...what I would like to do is remind you guys of Colorado history...during World War II Colorado was going through tons of famine. We had grasshopper plagues, dust-bowl, so many things. The Governor of Colorado was the only governor in the United States at that time who said we would do our duty as a state and invite the people of the West Coast if our nation needs us to.”

The unknown woman continued. “And so, the reason I’m bringing that up is because Montrose was founded by, one the miners, two by the people who came to feed the miners--the ranchers, and three, by immigrants. So, regarding sanctuary cities, that is actually above our city’s jurisdiction. If you really care it does make sense to, you know, speak to your people who are local, but if anything, you should go speak to Polis, Bennet, Hurd, and everyone else in our Federal Government.

“I’m glad to be back home, you guys will see me around a lot, doing random initiatives here and there. Thank you,” the young woman said.

Next to speak was Linda Zieman, who said she had attended the meeting where the City Council was asked to declare Montrose to be a non-sanctuary city. Zieman said she is fairly new to Montrose. “I want to echo what John Brown said...there’s a school of thought that if you leave your door open it doesn’t matter if a burglar’s coming by because they’re going to break in anyway. I think that’s a real fallacy, and I think it’s analogous to not declaring Montrose a non-sanctuary city...I second what Brown said

and what many people voiced in the meeting, that we really should be back to that stand. Particularly now when we see ICE working very hard to clean up our cities and protect our citizens...”

Mayor Reed said, “Next!”

Jim Haugsness spoke next, representing CASA of the 7th Judicial District. Haugsness thanked the city for providing essential services on behalf of CASA’s supportive housing projects and singled out City Manager Bill Bell for praise. “I think that we are probably one of the most fortunate cities in the state to have him.

“I asked Bill one time, I said Bill, what really gets your juices flowing? And he told me that leveraging the city assets, the city’s capabilities, to work with non-profits and other organizations to make them better and make ‘em successful, and I think that really is what the city is about and what the city government is about, is helping people become successful in what they’re trying to do. Over at First Place on Second, we have eight units over there that are full....and we now have 15 units for 18 to 25-year olds who are at risk of being homeless and we have 15 units for those folks who are at 55 and above, seniors who are at risk of being homeless...one group helps the other...I think that if we all work together we’ll have a lot of success dealing with homelessness, it’s very much on everybody’s mind.”

Next to speak was Tom Mathis, a retired union carpenter who again called attention to a lack of adherence to code requirements regarding the inspection of foundations. Mathis read from a prepared handout, including inspection requirements for residential construction in Montrose.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council voted unanimously to enact Consent Agenda items.

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2025-02, authorizing the Montrose Police Department to file a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant through the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice for the total of \$56,003, to cover a portion of

COUNCIL HEARS FROM CONSTITUENTS, HONORS CROSSING GUARDS *From previous pg*

both the current Victim Advocate’s Salary and a new Victim Advocates salary, authorizing the Chief of Police to act in connection with the application, and authorizing the City Manager, Chief of Police and Finance Director to sign the grant application and reporting documents.

ORDINANCE 2680 - FIRST READING

Ordinance 2680 was passed on First reading, amending the zoning district designation of Spruce Point Subdivision from R-3A, Medium High Density District with conditions to R-3A, Medium High Density District without conditions.

ORDINANCE 2681 - FIRST READING

Council approved Ordinance 2681 on First Reading, amending Title 3 Chapter 5 Sec-

tions 12, 13, and 19 regarding the City water and sewer systems.

CRACK SEAL MATERIAL PURCHASE AND SOLE SOURCE WAIVER

Council approved the purchase of crack seal material from DISSCO (Denver Industrial Sales) for use by the City’s Streets crew for the total purchase amount of \$105,000.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leanne Whittaker presented the December Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report and Area Report.

Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Fourth Quarter Budget Review. Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler

said that the City of Montrose will host the State of the City event on Monday, Feb. 24. She provided an overview, “...so we hope to see members of the public there.”

Youth Councilor Kathryn Jakino said that the Youth Council will host a non-profit showcase at the Montrose Pavilion. Youth Councilor Robin Kittell said that they have reached out to many non-profits to let them know. Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said he is very proud of the Youth Council and its efforts. “...I’m very proud of you, I would assume the other members of our city council are proud of you as well.”

With no further comments, Mayor J. David Reed said, “We will stand adjourned.”






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Did you Know?

Personal golf tournament fees paid with your taxpayer dollars for direct family of the City Manager. **\$295 per yr**

Did you Know?

How many "family relatives" of our City Council, City Manager, and Finance Director conveniently received "seasonal employment" at our Black Canyon Golf Course?

Did you Know? Coming soon!!

Housing Partners of Montrose, LLC (a Wyoming LLC) frothing for more taxpayer funding of 402 units of private enterprise profits.

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- He was proud to be chosen as one of Time's persons of the year for 2006.

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5:00 PM

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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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SEAN POND SWORN IN AS NEW COMMISSIONER FOR MONTROSE COUNTY DISTRICT 3

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Sean Pond was officially sworn in Tuesday as the new Montrose County Commissioner for District 3, following the passing of Rick Dunlap. The vacancy in the position was filled by the Republican Party’s Vacancy Committee, who selected Pond to continue the legacy of leadership, dedication, and service that Dunlap established during his time in office.

During the swearing-in ceremony at Montrose County Public Works, Pond expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community and shared his vision for the future.

“It is an incredible honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your County Commissioner,” Pond said. “My goal is to continue the work that benefits every resident of Montrose County, focusing on collaboration, thoughtful growth, and strengthening our community ties.”

In addition to the appointment of Sean Pond, the Montrose County Board of Commissioners also announced a reorganization of the board, electing Scott Mijares as Chair and Sean Pond as Vice-Chair.

“We are excited to welcome Sean Pond to the board and look forward to working



Sean Pond (center) was officially sworn in Tuesday as Montrose County Commissioner for District 3. Also pictured are BOCC Chair Scott Mijares and Commissioner Sue Hansen. Courtesy photo.

alongside him to serve the residents of Montrose County,” Mijares said. “I’m confident that his dedication and leadership will be a great asset to our team as we

continue working for our community.” For more information about Montrose County, please visit www.montrosecounty.net.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

see something, say something

MONTROSE COUNTY ISSUES PROCLAMATION HONORING RICK DUNLAP From pg 1

commissioners. We are grateful Lord, for Rick's welcome in the sky, just grateful for that Lord..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Speaking on behalf of Commissioner Rick Dunlap's family, Chad Dunlap expressed thanks to all of County staff for honoring the family's wishes. "...truly took a village."

Dunlap gave special thanks to "shining stars," County Manager Frank Rodriguez, Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez, and Communications Director Erika Story. "Five days was not a long time to pull off our wishes," Dunlap said. "Not only did they pull it off, they knocked it out of the park...in those three people you have leaders...They're outstanding professionals, and outstanding individuals, and we're forever thankful."

Constituent Jim Anderson spoke next. Anderson said that out of respect for the agenda, he would come back at a later date to seek clarification on the hiring of Janet Rowland to the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council. "...How that came to be, and ask the commissioners if they might review that, because there seems to be little bit of concern about that hiring, and ask you if you would take a look at that, who initiated and what happened there and see if that was the best choice for Montrose County..."

Anderson said that commissioners may want to review transparency procedures, "To improve that and get more public involvement..." Anderson also said that he had many questions and concerns about the recent presentation regarding the South Campus.

"...After that presentation...I can tell you I had a lot of questions, I had a lot of concerns...it was closest to a full Broadway production as what I've seen in a long time...there's certainly a different point of view..."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Frank Rodriguez said that Commissioner Mijares had asked to remove Item 9 from the Agenda, "Consideration, discussion, and possible 45-day freeze of all construction activities of the proposed North Campus Project."

Mijares said he had learned from the contractor that the proposed freeze would cause the county to risk \$2,219,000.

"Which is a risk we can't afford to take..."

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first General Business item was the ratification of a proclamation as a lasting tribute to Commissioner Rick Dunlap's extraordinary contributions to Montrose County.

Upon hearing the proclamation, BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, "While it was short it was a pleasure to serve with Commissioner Dunlap. His ability to disarm people and to be calm and honest and forthright, I'll miss that and I'll miss...the future of what we could have done together...big shoes to fill...I'm going to miss him terribly."

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proclamation.

Next, commissioners voted to amend the previously approved Resolution 6-2025, which appoints a chair and vice chair as well as other annual appointments. With Hansen voting in opposition, the BOCC approved the appointment of Scott Mijares as Chair and Sean Pond as Vice Chair.

"So you are now the chair," Hansen said, and she and Mijares switched seats.

After hearing from Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood, Commissioners voted to approve the annual Core Services Purchase of Services Agreement with Family First Forensic Consultants, LLC for Life Skills Services, effective June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025, as reviewed by Counsel; this represents a budgeted reimbursed expense, not covered by Medicaid, in the amount of \$40 - \$100 per hour based on the service provided or \$250 per home inspection not to exceed available funding of approximately \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Also approved was the State of Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) contract number C24-188032A3, effective April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025 extending original contract C24-188032 for the next State Fiscal Year; as reviewed by counsel; this represents a budgeted 100 percent reimbursed ex-

pense.

Public Works Director Rick Nichols presented for consideration and possible approval the award of the 2025 Kinikin Road Gravel Crushing Contract to Rocky Mountain Aggregate of Montrose. Rocky Mountain Aggregate submitted the lowest, responsible, and responsive bid in the amount of \$441,235. This amount represents a budgeted expense. The BOCC voted to approve.

Three items were approved for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, including:

- Submittal of an application to the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council for funding for the Pretrial Service Program through the Montrose County Sheriff's Office;

- Submittal of an application to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice for the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program to provide grant funding for the Pretrial Service Program through the Montrose County Sheriff's Office; and

- The Chair's signature on a Grant Application with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice for a grant award of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program.

The final action item on the agenda was the Consideration and possible adoption of Resolution 14-2025 and Statement of Intent, opposing the designation of the Dolores National Conservation Area.

Commissioners spoke amongst themselves, with Pond and Mijares expressing support for the Resolution, and Hansen arguing for the item to be tabled for further discussion. "I'm just asking for a delay, and a conversation," Hansen said.

Commissioners spoke with County Attorney Marti Whitmore, and also heard from Montrose County Ecological Services Director Justin Musser, who spoke in support of Hansen's request for a delay, "...I think it's important to have options on the table...Montrose County's not committed at this point...my concern with the resolution would be that we're inviting NGO's and other entities to have these discussions without us...they will look for opportunities to go around us and go around the residents of those areas..."

MONTROSE COUNTY ISSUES PROCLAMATION HONORING RICK DUNLAP

From previous pg

Other speakers who supported Hansen’s argument for continuing the discussion included Ralph Files, Dennis Murphy, and Jim Haugsness.

The BOCC heard from constituent Jim Anderson, as well as from past county commissioners Ron Henderson and David White, all of whom spoke in support of passing the resolution. White said, “...The restrictions that any designation could put in place...you don’t have to necessarily

pull away from the table...the examples are out there, as time has gone on, a smile on the face and yes we agree, I don’t care if it’s logging if it’s mining if it’s tourism, if it’s water recreation, where does it stop...the resources that we have there are potentially in jeopardy. Strategic minerals for the country are a real thing. We’ve been buying all this stuff from China--we’ve got to stop...”

After all had spoken, Chair Scott Mijares

called for a vote. Resolution 14-2025 was approved in a two to one vote, with Hansen voting to oppose. The Board of County Commissioners left regular session to enter Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (f) for legal advice pertaining to a pending special use permit and to discuss personnel policy items. No action was taken during or after the session, which was recorded. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH RECOGNIZED AS TOP 100 RURAL & COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



Montrose Regional Health has been recognized by the Chartis Center for Rural Health as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital for the ninth time. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – For the ninth time, Montrose Regional Health has been recognized among the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals by the Chartis Center for Rural Health. Chartis’ annual Top 100 award program honors outstanding performance among the nation’s rural hospitals based

on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®.

“Being recognized as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital is a great honor,” said Jeff Mengershausen, CEO of MRH.

“This recognition reflects the unwavering dedication of our caregivers, whose commitment to our values and *Caring for you*

like family ensures that our communities continue to receive excellent care.”

“The Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals award program elevates the very best performers and helps create a roadmap for those seeking to improve financial and operational performance while continuing to care for the communities they serve,” said Michael Topchik, Executive Director, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. “This is our 10th year recognizing the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals and we’re thrilled to be able to celebrate this milestone with this year’s winners.” The INDEX is the industry’s most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Leveraging publicly available data, the INDEX is utilized nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance. Montrose Regional Health was chosen as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital based on the results of this assessment. Metrics assessed include 36 independent indicators across eight pillars of performance including market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and financial efficiency.

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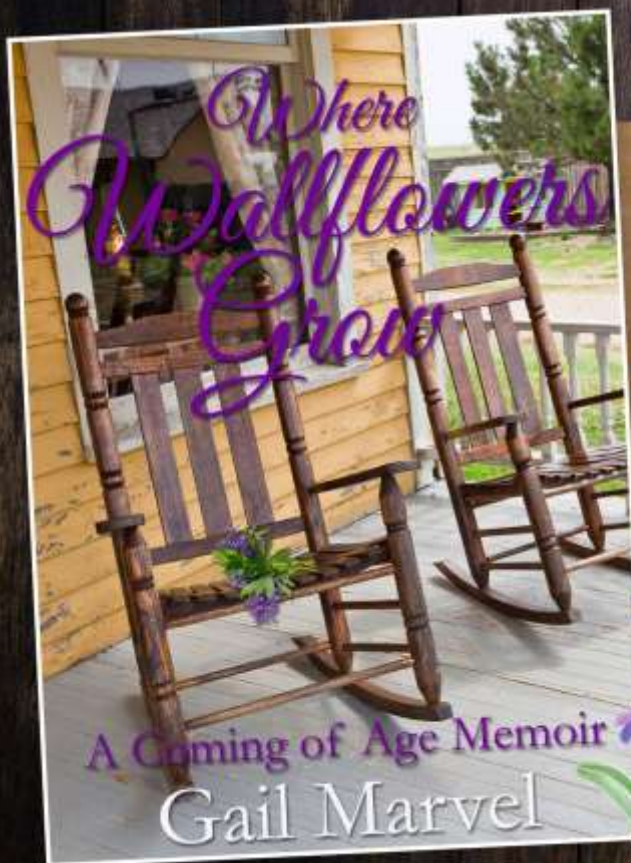
REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS & PHOTOS



Sunshine peak and Mt. Wilson. Photo by B. Switzer.

Submitted by Kevin Kuns

Musk Or Us-350 folks showed up Saturday in Grand Junction , Hurd was a no show. He was hanging out in the San Luis Valley chilling. His office was made aware of this meeting 10 days ago and contacted multiple times. Folks wanted to hear from Hurd on: You claimed to be fiscally responsible, so why are you supporting handouts for billionaires? - Do you believe Trump should be able to override Congress and control federal spending himself? - Do you support an investigation into how Musk gained access to the US Treasury's payment system? - If you're proud of your service in Congress so far, why won't you hold a public town hall to defend it? Courtesy photo.



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).



CITY CONSIDERS ART FOR NEW CITY HALL AT COUNCIL WORK SESSION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present as Mayor J. David Reed opened the regular work session of Tuesday, Feb. 18. Reed shared the “rules of conduct” for work sessions, reminding those present that Council does not engage with the citizenry during work sessions, but is considering matters that will come before council at an upcoming meeting.

Reed said, “...This is a time for council and staff to get together and talk about upcoming matters...this is a time for staff to present issues to the council prior to them coming up on a regular city council agenda...but again, we do always welcome the public to attend these meetings...”

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox introduced new members of staff to the City team, including:

- Utilities Division Worker Dillon Bailey;
- Utilities Division Worker Kenzie Larson;
- Trash & Recycle Operator Joe Tatar;
- WWTP Worker Leif Betancourt-Ege;
- Deputy City Clerk Abarrane Rojas.

“Welcome to all of you and I hope you have a great career with the City of Montrose,” Mayor Reed said.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was one discussion item, an update on the Townsend and East Oak Grove Intersection Widening Right-of-Way Application. There is no action to be taken, City Engineer Scott Murphy said. He presented Council with information on the intersection, which has been a subject of past concerns raised by Mayor Pro Tem David Frank due to its irregular alignment from one side of Townsend to the other.

Murphy said that the intersection does not have a high accident rate despite its inexact alignment.

Background-A letter from Murphy to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montrose Field Office states, “The City of Montrose is currently working on civil design for the widening of East Oak Grove at its intersection with Townsend Avenue (US-550). The proposed widening is in response to continued traffic growth in the area, a lack of pedestrian accommoda-

tions, and aims to realign offset turning lanes that have contributed to numerous collisions in the area. To accommodate this widening, the City is seeking to formalize rights of way with the Bureau of Land Management on the southern side of East Oak Grove... Construction of the project is not scheduled at this time. If widening of East Oak Grove is approved through the SF-299 process, the City would proceed with finishing the civil design for final review by the BLM. Once detailed plans are approved, we would then hope to fund construction within the next five years pending authorization from the Montrose City Council.”

STAFF REPORTS

Art and Community Programs Coordinator Michelle Wingfield reported on plans for artwork to adorn the new City Hall.

Background-A memo from Wingfield to Council states, “...The City of Montrose is proceeding with an artwork installation on the southwest exterior wall of City Hall. This installation may consist of a mural, metalwork, or both. This project is intended to be a lasting piece of public art funded as part of the City Hall facade project. Funding has already been allocated in the capital fund within the approved 2025 budget. The total project budget is \$50,000...The community will be invited to vote on three potential themes: *Interactive, Local Shout Out, and Botanical*. A community-wide survey will launch in early March to gather input, with outreach conducted through City communication channels and community partners. No public meeting is planned...A project team will oversee the selection process. This group will review artist submissions, shortlist finalists, and select the final design. The team will include:

- Bill Bell (City Staff)
- Michelle Wingfield (City Staff)
- Ann Morgenthaler (City Staff)
- Jim Scheid (City Staff)
- (1) Representative from the Montrose Center for Arts
- (2) Downtown Business Owners
- (2) Youth City Council Members
- (2) City Council Members

Timeline

- Early March: Community survey for

theme selection

- March – Mid-April: Call for Entry open to artists

- End of April/Early May: Project team reviews submissions and selects a design

-May: Final design refinement with the selected artist

-Summer 2025: Installation and public celebration.”

Mayor Pro Tem David Frank said the project is planned, and the DART design team has gone through a formalized process and has done a lot of hard work. “It really gave us a good framework to build something like this and to include artwork that makes Montrose a more appealing and much better place and draws tourists to our Downtown,” Frank said.

Frank said he will be attending the upcoming Colorado Municipal League (CML) Legislative Workshop as a representative of Montrose. “It just gives you a real deep insight into the issues that are facing municipalities on the legislative session on the state level, and it gives us a great opportunity to have a voice over there...to interact with some of the legislators and kind of whisper in their ear a little bit on some of the issues that are trying to impinge on the sovereignty of home rule municipalities...” City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on Ogden Road. The targeted opening is mid-March, he said. Once Ogden Road is open, East Oak Grove Road will be closed.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that the Police Department receives complaints about drag racing and is conducting special enforcement. Colorado State patrol has moved back to its own offices on North Townsend after sharing space with Montrose Police for 15 months due to mold mitigation at their North Townsend offices.

With no further business, Mayor Reed adjourned the work session. Council took a recess before reconvening for a special meeting, “to discuss the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of real, personal, or other property interest under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a), and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: property acquisitions.”

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

FECKLESS, WEAK AND THIN SKINNED “LEADERS”

Editor:

After reviewing the Montrose City Council's rebuttal to Mr. David White's thoroughly researched and well-sourced article in the [Montrose Mirror \(2/10/25 edition\)](#), I was struck by two revealing and troubling realities concerning the Council's response.

1. There was no actual rebuttal to the allegations in David White's article.

While not entirely surprising, it is concerning that the Montrose City Council made no attempt to address the specific issues raised by David. Instead, their response resembled that of someone caught cheating, lashing out at the person who exposed them, rather than acknowledging their wrongdoing. It was the kind of defensive reaction one might expect from leaders who are more focused on protecting their egos than addressing legitimate concerns.

Rather than addressing the factual points David presented, the response resorted to deflection, innuendo, and even veiled threats. It's particularly troubling because these threats came not from private citizens but from City Officials who should have known better. In fact, their actions may be in violation of 18 USC, § 241, which prohibits attempts to suppress an individual's First Amendment right to free speech.

The Council accused David of spreading falsehoods, but not one specific allegation was addressed. Instead, they chose to attack David's character, further deflecting from the real issues at hand.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTION 241

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same;... They shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both..." Unlike most conspiracy statutes, Section 241 does not require that one of the conspirators commit an overt act prior to the conspiracy becoming a crime. The offense is punishable by a range of imprisonment up to a life term or the death penalty, depending upon the circumstances of the crime, and the resulting injury, if any.

2. There was no response from the City Manager

The Council felt compelled to defend the City Manager in their letter, despite the fact that, based on the information presented in David White's original article, the City Manager's actions are clearly indefensible.

This lack of a direct response should raise serious concerns for everyone in Montrose. The claims made in Mr. White's article were based on facts—not conjecture, not innuendo, but verifiable facts. While the Council was quick to defend the City Manager and his indefensible actions, it's clear that their true focus was on attacking Mr. White instead. Meanwhile, the City Manager has once again retreated

into the shadows, leaving the Council to do his bidding for him.

Shouldn't the Council be more concerned about the character of someone they continue to allow to hold a position of authority and the appearance of impropriety, rather than defending the indefensible? What leverage does the City Manager have over the Council members that compels them to extend his contract, despite what appears to be a mountain of questionable information? Moreover, why is it that the Council seems to operate as if they are the City Manager's employees, when the opposite is true? This citizen recently discovered that the City Manager even requires Council members to undergo personality profile testing at his direction. This is a very strange situation as the City Manager works for the Council, not the inverse.

I expect stronger leadership and accountability from our public officials—and so should every citizen. Weak, feckless, and thin-skinned leaders are never beneficial for the community. Such leadership opens the door for others to manipulate and push their own agendas, undermining the will of the people. Ultimately, it is "We the People" who should be guiding those in government, not the other way around.

"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the People, there is Liberty!"

~ Thomas Jefferson

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AS ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE PAID BY THE TAXPAYERS WE OWE YOU OUR TIME

Editor:

It has been 6 weeks since myself and Commissioner Rick Dunlap were sworn in as Montrose County Commissioners for Districts 1 and 3 respectively. On February 8th we all received the tragic news that commissioner Dunlap suddenly passed away. This sudden and unexpected event sent shock waves throughout our county and beyond. Not only were we faced with the reality that one of our finest citizens was no longer with us but Rick's untimely passing left our BOCC with only 2 of 3 members to conduct the county's business. According to Colorado State Statute we are required to fill this vacancy within 10 days or Governor Polis would do it for us.

That is why I am so grateful that our Montrose County Republican Central Committee was able to balance the loss of our commissioner with the duty to fill the vacancy within the required time.

Over the ensuing days registered republican candidates submitted their names to be considered as the next Montrose County Commissioner for District 3. This appointment would seat the new commissioner who's term would run until the November 2026 election. Chair Monty George swiftly put his executive board to work making sure that the process was fair, unbiased, and in accordance with Colorado Law and Republican Party by-laws. As an added and un-required step, Mr. George solicited the assistance of Gregory Carlson. Mr. Carlson is one of approximately 360 Professionally Registered Parliamentarians in the world. He has been hired to by Corporations, Non-Profits, Political Organizations, and Governments to advise on conducting critical meetings in accordance with Parliamen-

tary procedures.

<https://gregorycarlson.com/>

As reported, the vacancy committee meeting went off without a hitch. We began with four candidates and quickly moved to two. After just 3 rounds of voting candidate Sean Pond was elected by his fellow Republicans as Montrose County's newest Commissioner for District 3. Commissioner Dunlap's passing left some huge shoes to fill but I feel Commissioner Pond is up for the challenge and I look forward to working with him. He is a 5th generation Coloradan who brings a wealth of experience in business and public advocacy. As the founder of the "Halt the Dolores" movement he launched a campaign that informed our community of a proposed National Monument that could have locked up over 400,000 acres of public lands through the use of the Antiquities Act of 1906. He is fierce defender of the U.S Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

As one of our first substantive orders of business Commissioner Pond submitted for consideration and possible adoption of a resolution. "The Montrose County Board of Commissioners Opposing the Designation of the Dolores National Conservation Area"

Text of Resolution

This resolution was brought to the floor by Commissioner Pond and seconded by Commissioner Mijares. As Chair I invited my fellow commissioners, members of staff, and members of the community to offer their testimony in favor of, or in opposition to, the Proposed Resolution. Commissioner Hansen argued that we needed more discussion and this resolution might endanger our "seat at the table" with NGO's and environmental

groups. Commissioner Pond argued that we have had a year of discussion with the majority of residents in opposition of a Monument or National Conservation Area (NCA). He pointed out that he was prohibited from discussion with the Working Group lead by Commissioner Hansen despite his vast knowledge on the subject. Speaking for myself, as a commissioner elect, I too was denied participation and discussion as a member of the Working Group despite my request.

After 50 minutes of respectful debate and testimony the board voted to adopt the resolution with a vote of two in favor and one against with Commissioner Hansen voting against.

In Wednesdays BOCC Meeting the conversation was never stopped for time and everyone in the room was given multiple opportunities to have their voices heard in this open forum. You can view the meeting on video at this Montrose County link. [Link to Meeting](#)

As the Chair of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners I am dedicated to transparency in our county government. As public servants that serve you we appreciate your input when it comes to important decisions that affect the lives of you and your families. We encourage you to look at our agendas and participate in the discussion. [Link to Agendas](#)

Some critics have said that in doing so our meetings could last 5 hours or more. I think that is a good thing. As elected officials that are paid by the taxpayers we owe you our time. If I have anything to say about it you will most certainly get it.

Yours truly,

Scott Mijares, Chair,

Montrose Board of County Commissioners

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ISN'T IT TIME FOR BILL BELL TO STEP DOWN AND HANG HIS SHINGLE SOMEWHERE ELSE?

Editor:

Here I am again!

Why do we put time limits on all our elected officials but not on those who are supposedly running our city on a day-to-day basis? Could it be to prevent our elected officials from becoming career politicians but allowing these operators of our city to create their little kingdoms? The longest continuous tenure of our city councilors, our county commissioners and our school board members is limited to two four-year terms. That's eight years. We even make our local elected officials of our community take a one-year break. We even limit our governor to two terms. Bill Bell has been our city manager for almost fourteen years. Isn't it time for Bill Bell to step down and hang his shingle somewhere else? Bill Bell is the tail wagging the doggie (the city council). We need to change the city council with councilors who will represent us, WE THE PEOPLE. Not recycling councilors but having councilors who really care about the people of Montrose.

Enough is enough.

John Brown, Montrose



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RED HAWKS BOYS DROP 2 OF FINAL 3 GAMES, AWAIT PLAYOFFS



Senior Brody Cooling rebounds and scores. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 32, RED HAWKS 30

The Montrose Red Hawks played host to the Grand Junction Tigers at the Field House on Tuesday evening and came away with a crucial 2 point loss 32-30. The loss was stunning given the Red Hawks earlier successes against the Tigers. The Red Hawks prevailed in December 62-36 and in February 59-25.

The Red Hawks struggled from the opening tip as they were unable to get their high-powered offense into forward-moving gear. It seemed as if the Red Hawks were either tied or a point or two behind. Neither team had any luck shooting the basketball and both teams turned the basketball over several times. The pace of the game was much slower than usual. The Red Hawks had a dozen games where they scored at least 50 points.

Two seniors, Brekin Hutto and Kaleb Ferguson, led the Red Hawks in scoring with each racking up 9 points. Junior C. J. Roc-

co added 6 points and Senior Brody Cooling along with Sophomore Josh Hawks each had 3 points. Hutto and Ferguson each added 3 rebounds to the stat sheet. The Red Hawks passed out 8 assists and had 10 steals while turning the basketball over 13 times. The Red Hawks shot 43 percent from the field and made 2 of 8 shots from behind the 3-point line.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 37, DURANGO DEMONS 26

The Montrose Red Hawks boys' basketball team traveled to Durango on Wednesday evening to play Saturday's game that was postponed due to bad weather. The Red Hawks played their usual game with the Demons, keeping the score close and not letting either team stretch their lead.

The Red Hawks were led by their senior leader, Kaleb Ferguson, who threw down 16 points. He was followed by Junior C. J. Rocco who contributed 11 points to the Red Hawks total.

Senior Brekin Hutto added 6 points to the Red Hawks total. The shooting stats were somewhat odd as the Red Hawks shot a

gaudy 58 percent from the field, but 18 percent from 3-point range and then only 3 of 9 from the charity stripe.

The Red Hawks had four players contribute heavily to the rebounding statistics. Brekin Hutto led the Red Hawks with 10 caroms, while Ferguson and Rocco each added 7 rebounds while Junior Lane Pressler had 5 rebounds. The Red Hawks had 7 assists and 4 steals to go along with 15 turnovers.

FRUITA-MONUMENT WILDCATS 58, RED HAWKS 28

The Montrose Red Hawks boys' team had high hopes as they traveled to Fruita-Monument to take on the Wildcats. One needs only to look back to Jan. 28 at the Montrose Field House and remember the Red Hawks double overtime win, 47-45, over the Wildcats.

The victorious feelings melted away very quickly as the Wildcats put their offense into high gear and out raced, outplayed and outscored the Red Hawks 58-28.

The regular season was most successful for the Red Hawks, holding a 17-6 overall record and a 6-4 league record and now poised for the playoffs. The Red Hawks have been ranked inside the top 10 the entire season and will qualify for the playoffs. The question to be answered deals with whether the Red Hawks qualify for a bye in the first round and a home game, or will they be on the road.

THIS JUST IN: THE RED HAWKS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM RECEIVED A FIRST ROUND BYE IN THE 5A PLAYOFFS. THE RED HAWKS WILL PLAY THE WINNER OF RAMPART VS DURANGO ON FEBRUARY 25TH. THE RED HAWKS WILL PLAY THE WINNER AT THE FIELD HOUSE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT TRUMP'S COMMONSENSE ACTIONS AND DIRECTION

Editor:

It is amazing that Trump has delivered on so many campaign promises in such a short period of time. Thus far, he has effectively sealed the southern border, deported thousands of criminal illegal immigrants, eliminated DEI programs in the federal government, protected female athletes from competing against males and sharing their locker rooms, started the process of unleashing the American energy sector, and exposed just how rotten and corrupt the federal bureaucracy has become. Unsurprisingly, the American people support Trump's commonsense actions and direction. Oddly, Democrats have decided to defend the indefensible and hitch their wagon to government bureaucracies. Logically, eliminating blatant examples of waste, fraud, and criminal abuse would be welcomed by both sides of the political aisle. After all, it is difficult to defend spending \$1.2 million to help the African Methodist Episcopal Church Service Agency in Washington, D.C., build "a state-of-the-art 440 seat auditorium," or Biden's EPA in 2024 setting aside \$2 billion for a brand new nonprofit linked to perennial failed Georgia Democrat candidate Stacey Abrams – an organization that reported just \$100 in revenue the year prior to that. Today's Democrats should look back to the Clinton years, when the Democrats and Republicans worked together to downsize the government, balance the budget, reform welfare, and cut wasteful spending. It can be done.

The Democrats' reaction and their faux sense of outrage highlight the fundamental difference between today's Democrat party and conservative Republicans. The MAGA crowd's goal is to keep government as small, localized, and limited as possible because they recognize that as government power and control increase, fundamental freedoms shrink. They see the federal government as a necessary evil. In contrast, the left sees the government as their magic solution to every problem known to mankind – as long as they can extract enough taxes or print enough money to force their solution on everyone

else. Today's Democrat sees government as a way to transform society into their vision of perfection by expanding government reach into every possible aspect of our lives. They've spent years taking our hard-earned taxes – that they think they are entitled to – and doling them out to their pet projects and their own pockets. Trump is shrinking the budget and going after the fraud directly, hitting them where they live. When trillions of dollars go missing under the federal government's "stewardship," the money doesn't just go into some mysterious black hole – the money goes into peoples' bank accounts. The bureaucracies simply disguise the graft and theft of taxpayer dollars. Many NGOs and foundations under the umbrellas of George Soros and others gorge themselves at the taxpayers' trough as they "partner" with the bureaucrats to advance far-left initiatives that were never approved by voters. Our illustrious media (Politico, PBS, NY Times, etc.) meanwhile cover for the fraud on the American taxpayer because they are also getting rich off the taxpayer slush funds. One big happy family that has to ensure that decades of graft and government corruption continue untouched and undisturbed.

As Trump does exactly what he was elected to do, including initiating oversight and efficiency to the federal bureaucracies, Democrats suddenly decry balancing the budget as "wrecking ball" politics. In their minds, and in their minds only, we suddenly have a "constitutional crisis." Yet they totally supported Biden laying waste to the economy and our energy independence. No Democrat talked about a constitutional crisis when Biden happily transferred billions in student loan debt to taxpayers with money no one had authorized – in utter defiance of the Supreme Court ruling. They didn't call it a wrecking ball when Biden opened the border and filled America with millions of illegals – including known terrorists and gang members. They didn't call it a wrecking ball when Biden drastically increased the number of federal workers in spite of massive and incomprehensible debt. They didn't mention the Constitution when Biden weapon-

ized the Justice department against his political opponents. Somehow, a wrecking ball wasn't mentioned regarding the historical scandal of Democrats lying about Biden being mentally incapacitated and someone else running the show.

Bureaucracies grow by taking bigger chunks of your tax dollars under penalty of law. Unfortunately, eventually the bureaucracy's focus is no longer providing a public service but maintaining its existence by any means necessary. We are well beyond that point. Our federal bureaucracy is so big, so broad, so powerful, and so deeply entrenched that no amount of incremental change will succeed in getting it back to actually serving the American people. The American people, especially the working-class poor and the middle class, must be protected long term from having to fund the absurdities being exposed by the DOGE auditors, and from inflation resulting from unbalanced budgets and deficit spending. A much smaller federal government is mandatory. Those taxpayers shouldn't have to work for 50 years and learn that half those working years were strictly to pay taxes – not for any mediocre government service rendered, but so unproductive government workers can coast and retire wealthy at an early age.

More importantly, those taxpayers and business owners shouldn't have to deal with those highly paid government employees writing and enforcing destructive and onerous regulations that in most cases should not exist at all. And yes, those federal employees losing their jobs should be treated fairly and sympathetically – unlike the thousands of truck drivers and construction workers fired by Biden on day one who worked on the border wall construction and the Keystone Pipeline. They will be treated more compassionately than the millions of retail workers, manufacturing workers, entrepreneurs, farmers, and small businessmen who were driven out of business or had their standard of living crippled by decades of ever-growing government growth and destructive overregulation.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ELECTRIC VEHICLES, BUY OR LEASE?

Editor:

On a local trip I took recently visiting four auto dealers here in Montrose I came across a fact known by many people in the auto sales industry- people just are not buying EVs in Montrose. Although I have seen many EVs around Montrose many of them must have been purchased out of the Uncompahgre Valley. Why is that and what can be done to increase EV sales here?

The four dealerships I visited in Montrose had 0-3 EVs for sale or lease on the lot. Leasing has become a very attractive way for dealers to move some of their EVs, but the lease terms vary and change all the time. The person who leases the vehicle gets to feel like they own the vehicle, but when it breaks down the dealer is responsible for it. Pretty good deal eh? The cost of the lease varies from \$19/month to upwards of \$450/month. The upfront costs add up to \$1500-\$2000 and then it is the monthly payment for two years or more. When the lease is done you have the option to buy the vehicle at the residual price or just hand the keys back.

Sales of EVs in the Uncompahgre Valley have been very slow. There are a few factors that play into the slow sales of EVs. -The charging infrastructure is not sufficiently built.

-The distance a car go on a charge make people worry they may be stranded

-Many people here in this Valley just don't like EVs and prefer internal combustion vehicles.

-Many people don't know much about EVs.

-EVs cost a lot of money

We have 38 charging posts at nine sites across the city of Montrose. EV owners that have travelled across the state have found charging stations that can charge their car in 20-30 minutes- just a little longer than a normal stop to fuel up for gas. It is true if a person is driving in the back country of Montrose County it may be difficult to get a charge as the industry will need to continue to build more infrastructure. Colorado did just complete a large project installing charging stations

on major highways across the state decreasing the worry of not finding a charging station substantially.

EVs average mileage per charge has been steadily increasing from an average 80 miles in 2010 to 300 miles in 2025. Many auto companies are predicting even greater distances in the near future, even up to 700 miles per charge. Also, the State of Colorado recognizes that most cars are driven around towns and average less than 60 miles per day- mileage a newer EV can easily go on a charge. I can drive to town and back twice in winter on one charge.

It is true many people in the Uncompahgre Valley do not like EVs. The same thing can be said about computers when they first came out, or cell phones or even cars when they replaced horses.

People have preferences and that is OK. Some people can continue to drive internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, but the car industry is changing and the price of gas may not remain low or stable for long.

EVs overall have far fewer repairs than ICE vehicles as they have substantially fewer parts. An EV does not have a traditional internal combustion engine, fuel injectors, fuel pump, fuel tank, exhaust system (catalytic converter, muffler), and a complex multi-gear transmission, all of which are essential components in an ICE vehicle; essentially, any part directly related to burning gasoline is not present in an EV.

The average EV has around 20 to 25 moving parts in its drivetrain, including the electric motor and bearings. ICE vehicles have over 2000 moving parts. EVs also have a large battery that stores energy for the electric motor. EVs require less frequent maintenance and may have lower routine maintenance costs than ICE vehicles. Unfortunately, the complex electric systems in EVs have had some problems and repairs for EVs typically cost more. My 8 year old plug-in hybrid, a Chevrolet Volt, has had zero repair problems and its battery is maintaining 95% of its original estimated miles per charge in winter and summer.

The average cost of an EV is generally thought to be \$10-15,000 more than ICE vehicles, but that difference is changing as more lower cost vehicles like the 2025 Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Bolt, around \$28,000, are being offered. Another factor influencing EV prices is the government subsidies offered. In Colorado if you and your car qualify you can get a \$19,000 rebate at the point of purchase of a new EV or PHEV. The IRS has its Federal requirements of a vehicle being built in the US (\$3750) and the source of the battery materials from the US (\$3750). The State of Colorado contributes \$6000 with income qualifications. The State of Colorado also offers \$6000 if you trade in your 12 year old ICE vehicle. This would have mean you could buy a \$28,000 vehicle for \$9,000 at the point of purchase at the dealer and not have to wait and get the tax break later.

2025 is a different year and some of the rebates are less, but many dealerships are also recognizing they can lease EVs to people for short terms and get the government subsidies with it. In my adventure around Montrose at one dealer you could lease a vehicle and get \$18,000 in rebates. After the lease is over you can buy the car at the agreed residual value or turn the keys back in.

Automotive dealers around the state are offering a myriad of options to lease or buy a new EV. The best option I've seen in 2025 is to lease a Nissan Leaf for \$19/month. Many other lease and purchase opportunities have drawn people to EVs making Colorado one of the top sellers/leasers of EVs in the Country.

The charging infrastructure has improved, more people are introduced to EVs, people realize maintenance costs are much lower in EVs, and due to subsidies, EVs can be leased or purchased for a much lower price than an ICE vehicle. As 85% of all miles driven are in the town you live in, and EVs charging is ½ the cost of a gasoline fill-up why would anybody hesitate in test driving, and then leasing or buying a new EV?

Tony Hoag

Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE MONTROSE PRESS AND THEIR DECLINE

Montrose Press Publisher Struggles for Relevance as Readership Evaporates

By David White

Last week, the publisher of the Montrose Press, Dennis Anderson, issued two lengthy opinion pieces wherein he attempts to take on the Montrose Republican Party, the newly elected and appointed Montrose County Commissioners and former elected officials and concerned citizens with what can, at best, be described, as an attempt to rewrite history into something that it wasn't. Stirring discord with the public with accusations related to the recent passing of County Commissioner Rick Dunlap and the GOP as well as his attempts at trying to defend actions by our local governments wherein he states in a February 18th rant that "our local government wastes time having to respond" to these fact based disclosures by this author and others, is beyond the pale coming from a supposed professional journalist who should be advocating for the Constitutional right to free speech but is instead attempting to squelch it.

In a land far, far, FAR away, there once existed a concept known as journalistic integrity where the facts, although abbreviated for the sake of the message, were still the facts and could be verified by the reader though cited sources and not just because the writer said they were, in fact, facts.

Today, there exists in our local news market three primary sources for the public to learn about the goings on in our area... social media, The Montrose Mirror (an online news and digital media source) and the Montrose Press (MP), a printed (twice weekly) and digital media outlet owned by privately controlled Wick Communications of Sierra Vista, Arizona as one of 18 local newspapers and 10 specialty publications under their control. ([Wick Communications - Wikiwand](#))

Outside of the Montrose area, Grand Junction based talk radio continues to be a viable source of mostly syndicated national news as is the case with KVNF, a community radio station broadcasting

local and Colorado Public Radio (CPR) generated content from Paonia, CO. Local talk radio, once available in Montrose, disappeared several years ago with the demise of KUBC (580AM) which held to a talk format and which was rebranded into a contemporary music radio station with prerecorded news and music from various sources replacing local media persons who gave local residents a daily voice.

As most reading this opinion piece know, the Montrose Press has been in decline for years. Declining readership led to significant cost cutting measures and reduced the paper to publishing a printed edition just two times weekly. Bleeding profits off to fund the Wick family's trust fund, established for the company's heirs in order to allow them to keep their comfortable lifestyles, didn't help the Press' bottom-line either.

Now, it's reached the point that their flagship building located just north of the Montrose Regional Airport on N. Townsend Avenue is in the process of being prepared for sale. They'll keep their printing operations, which are housed in a separate building, for the time being. Office space has been leased in the Citizens State Bank building directly across the street from the new Montrose City Hall (formerly Wells Fargo Bank) in downtown Montrose to accommodate their few remaining staff members.

Such is the sad state of affairs with our local legacy media empire. Overseen by the current publisher, Dennis Anderson, the MP survives largely as a result of its printing business, some digital media and of course governmental advertising (they receive tens of thousands of dollars in advertising, public notices and printing from the City of Montrose as an example, hence nary a word from them on their pages regarding the City's misuse of your tax dollars as often reported here, but I digress.

Many locals know that as a former purveyor of nuts and bolts, paint, duplicate

keys and the like while employed at Abel's True Value (now Ace Hardware), Mr. Anderson, who, after hanging up his hardware store apron, arrived at the MP in 2004 and rose through the ranks to become the Advertising Director for it and, after being shipped off to Alaska as publisher for the Wick owned Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman in Wasilla, Alaska in 2016, returned to Montrose in the Spring of 2019 to work his magic as publisher of the MP. I guess too many foul balls and strikes (to use one of his recent baseball analogies while describing a former County Commissioner – yours truly - in an editorial he wrote last week) have put things in perspective given the revelations about the sinking ship that is the Montrose Press.

A progressive and left leaning publication, which the Montrose Press has become, along with recent swipes at former and current elected officials based upon public meetings he never attended from someone who sold advertising for a living and who now proclaims through his editorial writings as publisher, that such Kamala Harris-like word salads describing this writer as someone who exercises "flexibility with the facts" amongst other meaningless statements, is to now be recognized as the voice of Montrose? Really Mr. Anderson? It is interesting that it seems to most folks that documented facts with sources cited are in fact, facts. Maybe that's why the days of the generational, mainstream media, are over. Facts are left behind in order to spin an agenda that fits an ideology that most Americans have had enough of these last few years. Best of luck to you as you inflate your life jacket for a final go at relevance while your ship sinks.

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE DESIGNATION OF DOLORES NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose County Board of Commissioners has officially expressed its opposition to the proposed designation of the Dolores National Conservation Area (NCA) in the Dolores River region, citing concerns over its potential negative impact on local industries, economic prosperity, and public land access.

In a resolution passed earlier this week, the Board raised concerns that the federal designation of the Dolores NCA would impose unnecessary restrictions on land use and management, limiting opportunities for multiple-use access such as grazing, mining, energy development, and motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Board emphasized that Montrose County's public lands have historically been managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, which balance the needs of local communities and industries with the protection of ecological and cultural resources. "Montrose County has support-

ed responsible, sustainable land management that allows for economic development while preserving the natural beauty of our area," said Scott Mijares, Chair of the Montrose County Board of Commissioners. "The proposed NCA designation would introduce federal oversight that limits local control, restricts access, and could be damaging to key industries such as agriculture, mining, energy, and outdoor recreation."

The Board also highlighted that the proposed NCA would create bureaucratic barriers, and reduce the availability of public lands for traditional uses that local communities rely on for economic and

recreational activities. The resolution points out that the economic impact of these limitations could severely harm Montrose County's businesses and industries.

"The designation of a National Conservation Area is a federal overreach that would hurt the local economy and limit the freedoms of our residents," said Commissioner Sean Pond. "We reject any attempts to restrict access to public lands under the guise of conservation, especially when it threatens our way of life and economic stability."

For more information, please visit www.montrosecounty.net.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GATHERING AT NEW MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL SITE: REMEMBERING IWO JIMA



At the new memorial site veterans representing their services, from left: Scott Atwood, Rick Bresett and J. Bob Brueske, Army; Les Williams and Joe Kusar, Marines; and Dave Powers, Army, stand tall. The banner, located south of the Pavilion, displays the design, team and partners in the memorial including the MVMC, City of Montrose, Montrose County, Del-Mont Consultants and Big Horn Consulting. (Commercial Contractor Stryker and Company also attended the Feb. 12 Montrose Veterans Memorial team workshop, and the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans provides meeting space and support.) Photo by Brett Weiser, Sons of the American Legion.



The San Juan Mountains make a beautiful backdrop at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial site. Courtesy Photo.

Special to The Mirror

Reportedly 75,000 U.S. marines landed on the small Japanese island of Iwo Jima Feb. 19 through Mar. 26, 1945 in what was called Operational Detachment. Last Wednesday marked the 80th anniversary of the first wave, and area veterans from several military services gathered at the new memorial site near The Montrose Pavilion and Montrose Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Dr., to remember the historic event.

"On Aug. 1, 1945, Iwo Jima was declared secure," Les Williams, president of the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition, said to the small group at the event, "A total of 6,871 KIA (killed in action) and 19,217 wounded in action were reported in the first 36 days.

"There were medals of honor awarded to 14 marines and five Navy personnel," he said, "14 of them posthumously."

A key event of the operation was the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi, Williams said. It took place just five days after the first landing, on Feb. 23, and was little noticed. But a second flag raising was captured by photographer Joe Rosenthal and has become the most iconic image of World War II.

Williams, citing sources from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, went on to say that about 22,000 Japanese troops were killed, and 216 failed to surrender

until Aug. 1.

There are thousands of stories surrounding the operation, Williams said, but he found one particularly interesting and heartwarming.

"Jack Lucas was a young boy who enlisted in the marines at age 14, and was found out about a year later. He was stationed in Hawaii, but because he was unwilling to stay in the rear, he later on hid in a Navy ship bound for Iwo Jima."

According to museum documents, Lucas impressed his 26th Marines shipmates and they took him ashore. The second day on Iwo Jima found him in a Japanese counter attack when two grenades landed near him and others in his platoon.

He rolled on top of one of the grenades and pulled the other one under him, saving the platoon but resulting in massive injuries. After 26 surgeries, endless physical therapy and recovery, he lived on to later join the Army, where he was a paratrooper. One jump his parachute failed to open and he "plummeted" to the earth. Yet he survived. He was the youngest recipient of the Medal of Honor, and he lived until 2008.

Williams said there are stories to tell about Montrose area veterans, and the Montrose Veterans Memorial will be a place where the storytelling will take place. Stories about local WWII veteran Louis "Babe" Faussone and Betty Hayes,

who is Montrose's own Rosie the Riveter. J. Bob Brueske, MVMC chairman, said, "We need to remember these stories and pass them on to future generations," and the Montrose Veterans Memorial will be a central point for that to happen.

The memorial team, consisting of representatives of the MVMC, City of Montrose and Montrose County, meet frequently, Brueske said, and design modifications are being made at this time by Motley Architecture & Design. Williams said the team will meet for a work session again Mar. 4 at the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Warrior Center.

The MVMC continues to raise funds for the memorial and has placed a large down payment on the engraved black granite panels that will bring U.S. military history to life.

"We were hoping for bids on the memorial construction to go out the first of the year," Williams said, but there have been delays. He says the city has not committed to a time when bids will be sent out.

Donations continue to come in, he said, particularly for the granite panels and also tribute bricks through their website at montrosevmc.us. Donations also can be dropped off at the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans Warrior Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose Co 81401. Call 970-765-2210 for information or email Les Williams at boodawglkw@gmail.com.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REMEMBER THE CODE OF THE WEST

Editor:

Our Colorado government has done it again only in spades with SB 25-003. Support NRA. They seem to be our only hope under 2A rights. Since we have only 12 state senators and only 22 representatives out of 100 collectively that are republican we will never be able to be true Americans in Colorado. We need to depend on the SCOTUS and NRA for their support. I hope everyone remembers who has voted for this bill when re-election time comes. We need to return to the conservative values that Coloradans used to adhere to. As John Wayne would say "The Code of the West".

John Brown, Montrose

REPLACE SCHUMER AND JEFFRIES

Editor:

I began President Donald Trump's second term deeply skeptical of the willingness and ability of Democratic minority leaders in the Senate and House to stand up to the fascist Republican. Since that time, Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries have shown I wasn't worried nearly enough. Democrats must replace them with leaders willing to fight.

As Trump rapidly destroys what's left of American democracy, Schumer and Jeffries are telling the press they're picking their battles and waiting for the president to make a mistake. While the Republican provokes one constitutional crisis after another, without consequence, the Democratic leaders are sending out generic press releases about inflation.

Trump and his gang of fascist criminals are playing for all the marbles right now. It's clear from their actions, which are constantly and brazenly in violation of the law, this group doesn't believe they will ever face any kind of accountability. Their confidence suggests to me Republicans don't plan on allowing completely free-and-fair elections going forward.

I hope I'm wrong, but recent history has shown the most alarmist view of Trump

and his cohort to be the most predictive. Schumer and Jeffries need to be acting with a fierce urgency, like the window of electoral resistance to fascism is closing. The pair's defenders frequently blame the media for not giving proper weight to Trump's threat.

This is a justifiable criticism. On the other hand, it's hard to condemn the press too harshly when leaders of the nominal opposition party are acting, in many ways, as if we are in the midst of politics as usual. Schumer and Jeffries need to be screaming from the rooftops. They should be throwing everything at the wall to see what sticks.

Confronted about their quietism, the Democratic leaders throw up their hands and ask what voters expect of them, given Republican control of all three branches of the federal government. Notably, when former Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell faced these circumstances in 2009, he didn't whine and give up.

Instead, McConnell launched a wildly successful strategy of obstruction. Schumer and Jeffries should be doing the same on a far greater scale. They wouldn't be able to stop all of Trump's power grabs.

But if they showed up, and behaved like they were in the midst of a five-alarm fire, the pair might at least stop some of them.

Schumer and Jeffries need to gum up the works of government in every manner possible. Stalling the fascist agenda is a kind of victory. The more Democrats can run out the clock until the midterms — when they have a chance to regain the Senate and House, and exercise more control over this renegade White House — the better. The anti-fascist coalition has a wide variety of goals. For instance, I want to see a massive infusion of public funding into cultivated-meat research, which I view as the most promising means of advancing animal welfare. However, none of our aims can be achieved under a right-wing authoritarian state. We must defeat Trump. The Democratic Party needs leaders who are willing to fight. Schumer and Jeffries have made very clear they are not up to the task.

We don't have time to wait and see if they can turn things around. Too much is at stake. The pair should stand aside or be removed by their colleagues in favor of leadership better suited for this perilous moment.

Jon Hochschartner, CT



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY OF MONTROSE – A FAMILY AFFAIR (PART 2)? NEPOTISM & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS TRAIL TO FOLLOW

By David White

In last week's installment of "A Family Affair", we learned about the City Manager's penchant for living vicariously through his son as well as his penchant for golf and unchecked access to the City's checkbook with little to no oversight of the temper tantrum throwing City Council who just don't like being criticized for their gross negligence when it comes to their direct hire, Bill Bell taking liberties that he shouldn't with taxpayer dollars.

This week we'll continue with some interesting and seemingly disconnected events involving the disbursement of large amounts of your money to, by connecting some pretty obvious dots, help yet another family member (his daughter) build a favorable resume as well as to assist her in greasing the skids for admission to a college or future job opportunity which he just spent the last week touring higher ed schools with her in Oregon and perhaps elsewhere.

As stated in last week's opinion piece, Mr. Bell and his wife have some very intelligent and successful offspring, who, in their own right, are standup examples to the community and their peers. What has been discovered regarding the actions of their father in no way diminishes them as successful young people. **This isn't about them.** It's about an unfair advantage being created for their benefit (over which they have no control) yet reflects an abuse of power by a parent who should know better given his role as a public official.

With the above said, how does the expenditure of \$25,000 or so for a junket by the Montrose Youth Council fit into the innocuous mission of educating our future political or business leaders? Or sponsoring or paying for registration fees for the Montrose High School girl's golf team benefit the same crowd? How about a \$60,000+ gift to the Magic Circle Theater? Was there an ulterior motive?

It turns out that Mr. Bell's daughter is,

like her brother, and apparently, the rest of the family, a golf enthusiast and a pretty good player at that. Her profile page on the NCSA college athletes recruiting site ([Get Recruited | NCSA College Recruiting](#)) as well as her brother's, is replete with awards and activities earned in school or through extracurricular activities. The rub though, for we taxpayers, is that organizations funded by taxpayers have been used by their father to strengthen these family members by giving them, surreptitiously, advantages not available to most of our community's young people.

Let's look at the Montrose Youth Council ([City of Montrose Youth Council | Montrose, CO - Official Website](#)). As their web page describes them, "*The Montrose Youth City Council provides a strong link to the community's youth and gives younger citizens a voice in policy and program decisions. It also provides youth with opportunities to give back to their community in the form of community service projects.*"

This is an admirable objective for our youth and a model program for the community, but how many of you know about this group?

For this school year (2024-2025), it turns out that Mr. Bell's daughter is the "Mayor" of the Youth Council. In an unprecedented move, it was decided last summer by City Staff to take the entire Youth Council along with three (3) City employees (Deputy City Clerk Briceida Ortega and two others) as chaperones for the teens to the "National League of Cities City Summit Conference for Youth Councilors" which was held in Tampa Bay, FL November 13-14, 2024 prior to and in conjunction with the National League of Cities 100th City Summit Conference which took place November 13-16, 2024. Students convened to discuss topics ranging from "Immersing Youth into Dialogue," "The Power of Fostering Dialogue," "Cities Tackling Disaster," etc. and were allowed to register for the main con-

ference where topics such as "Moving the Needle on NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) and Housing"; "Meeting the Momentum on Immigration: Roundtable Discussions"; "The New Downtown: Dynamic, Inclusive & Creative" and many others were available for conference attendees to sit in on. Corporate sponsors of this conference included Verizon, Amazon, Starbucks and Act Blue, a left-wing, Progressive Democrat organization as well other recognizable corporations.

While the merits of attending this conference are questionable, the roughly \$20,000 cost to the taxpayers for conference registration fees, airfare, hotels, rental cars, fuel, meals, paid City Staff salaries, etc. was topped with a side trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, a 2.5 hour drive from Tampa where, on the City's U.S. Bank credit card was charged \$1,840.32 for tickets to the attraction for students and chaperones. Per notes in the City's check register, these monies were to be reimbursed through "private donations" that may, or most likely, were never received by the City to reimburse the taxpayers. Meals and other associated expenses brought the total expenses for this roughly weeklong junket to close to \$25,000 based upon information available to the public at this time. If you want a copy of the disbursements (there are many), I'm happy to provide you with them. Payments for these expenses were made from multiple pots of money in the City's accounting system to include the Youth Council's account, the City Manager's operating account, the City Clerk's operating account and others. All I can say, is what the heck??

While the Tampa trip last year appears to be the most extravagant and questionable of the approved expenditures that directly benefited his daughter and perhaps others who attended, Mr. Bell's use of the public purse was found in payment other likely family benefits such as payments for "Montrose High School Girl's Golf Team

CITY OF MONTROSE – A FAMILY AFFAIR (PART 2) From previous pg

registration” (City check No. 136859 dated 9/14/2023 for \$325.00 paid to Bell personally out of the City Manager’s operating account) and other events in which young Ms. Bell participated; her involvement in the Rotary Interact High School Club (sponsored by Mr. Bell’s City funded Black Canyon Rotary Club, the origins of which have been discussed in previous articles); a \$50.00 payment on check No. 138714 dated 2/13/2024 directly to Ms. Bell for “Playing during Christmas Tree Lighting Event Downtown” in December of 2023 (not sure if “playing” was for a musical performance or a theatrical one); trips to other taxpayer funded conferences and who knows what else that’s buried within the books of the City’s Finance Department.

Coincidentally or not, we know that Mr. Bell and his daughter are avid thespians (they enjoy the theater and act in local plays as produced through the Magic Circle Players). Both are somewhat frequent participants, and as is their family’s love of golf, they too have a love for theater.

Noticing in the January 2025 Magic Circle Players newsletter the following information, my interest was piqued especially knowing of Mr. Bell’s involvement with this almost 66-year-old Montrose cultural icon:

Our exterior remodel is complete! The project including a new façade, new roof, digital mar-

quee and restriped parking lot, is completely paid for. The generosity of the City of Montrose, DMEA/Elevate, The Gates Family Foundation, Tom Chamberlain, Mark Smith, The Mize Family, Linda Bjelland, Kim Santich, James Lee Family, Montrose Signs, and El Pomar Foundation laid the foundation that the entire community built on to create the MAGIC that is now visible for all to see. Now we launch the Sequel. Through the generosity of the CL Werner Foundation, a \$50,000 matching grant has resulted in unprecedented year end giving, and we are well on our way to new bathrooms! THANK YOU! (January-2025-Teaser.pdf)

According to an article in the Montrose Press on July 20, 2023, the Magic Circle Theater was going to be receiving a remodel (Facelift will bring a little more mystique to Magic Circle | Arts & Entertainment | montrosepress.com), which, unbeknownst to most City residents, the City would be paying for a chunk of the project.

Found within the City’s records were payments to Stryker Construction Co. for \$16,499.19 (Ck. No. 142099 dated 10/17/2024) for the cost of the new monument sign in front of the theater. Other payments to Stryker included \$42,681.30 for façade improvements, asphalt repairs, new sidewalks, etc. All of this came about as a result of a “façade grant” through the City’s DART Program (Development & Revitalization Team) on behalf of the

Magic Circle for a building they don’t own. Volunteers of America Care Facilities is the owner. (DART-Board-Meeting-Packet--July-11-2023) (County Tax Assessor Act. No. R0060159)

Like most things’ government, it’s a “who you know” vs. “a “what you know” when it comes to getting things done. While, as with young Ms. Bell, I have no arguments with the wonderful work that Magic Circle Players brings to our community and the cultural benefits they offer, I am simply questioning the linkage that comes with Mr. Bell’s domineering hand at the helm of Montrose City Government as to who is blessed with checks written for pet projects or other interests that are in the Friends of Bill’s (FOBS) Club for which there appear to be many.

Stay tuned for more next week as we continue to examine questionable expenditures of taxpayer dollars all occurring under the watch of this City Manager and without the accountability and oversight that should be coming from his bosses, your elected leaders on the Montrose City Council.

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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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DONALD DENNEY MCKENDRY

June 3, 1958- February 6, 2025

In Loving Memory of Donald Denney McKendry

DONALD DENNEY MCKENDRY was born on June 3, 1958, to Judith Whiteis and Andrew McKendry. He grew up alongside his sisters, Shannon Debus and Joani Purdy (Barry Purdy), spending time in Arizona, Greeley, Gunnison, and Arvada, Colorado. On February 6, 2025, Don sadly passed away in Montrose, Colorado, after a battle with cancer. He had a deep love for adventure and cherished time spent in the woods, exploring, hunting, and fishing.

After high school and starting his career, Don married Phyllis Preiskorn (later divorced) and became a devoted father to three children: Michelle Pottorff (Eric Pottorff), Matthew McKendry, and Kevin McKendry (1984-2021) (Heather McKendry). Of all his passions, none compared to his love for his granddaughters.

Don built a respected career as a Master Electrician. In 2016, with some gentle persuasion, Don moved to Montrose, Colorado where he remained until his passing. Don's love for the outdoors never waned. He spent countless hours fishing, camping and hunting with family and friends. One of his greatest dreams was to harvest an elk, a goal he finally achieved in 2023, surrounded by friends and family. That hunt remained one of his all-time favorites. Don's presence was a gift to all who knew him, and his memory will forever be cherished.



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

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LINDA KAY BELL

November 24, 1948 — February 12, 2025

LINDA KAY BELL, 76 of Grand Junction, passed away on Wednesday February 12, 2025, at Hope West Ferris Care Center in Grand Junction as result of natural causes. Born in Montrose CO to Zeno and Zelma (Tulip) Inman on November 24, 1948.

Linda loved working in hospitality as a cook in hospitals and care centers, she also enjoyed working with her family at the DeVries Farm Market in Orchard Mesa. She also loved camping and fishing at Silver Jack Lake. Her hobbies were spending time crafting and collecting antiques. Her passion was loving and caring for animals as well as flower gardening at her home.

Linda is survived by her two sons Jason W Richmond and his wife Janet L Richmond of Sun City AZ and Randy A Haumont and his wife Kristin N Twilley of Gilbert AZ. Linda had three grandchildren Kimberly Richmond, Robert Richmond and Joshua Richmond. Linda also has three great-grandchildren Kainan Richmond, Khaleesi Richmond, Harley Durlin and one future great grandchild Hendricks Fulkerson; two sisters Leeyla DeVries and her husband Bill DeVries and Charlene Shavonis and her husband Butch Shavonis. Linda was preceded in death by her sister Connie Burt and her husband E.C. Burt.



ESTHER PEGGY PHILLIPS

March 7, 1939 — February 6, 2025



On the morning of February 6, 2025, Peggy went home to be with her Lord and Saviour. Peggy was born to Ben & Esther Smith in Denver CO and raised in Silver Plume until the family moved to Panaca Nevada, where she attended middle school and graduated from Panaca high. She eventually returned to Delta CO where she met and married Robert Phillips. For a brief time, they lived in New Mexico before settling in OK. Peggy enjoyed being a mother and driving a cab. She went on to over the road truck driving with her longtime best friend Wynona Romero. In 1993 she returned to CO. Peggy is preceded in death by her parents Ben & Esther Smith, her husband Robert Sr., her sister JoAnn Romero, and two sons; Marvin Jones & Ben Phillips. She is survived by a daughter Lois Phillips (Roque Lasher), Robert Jr., Anthony Martinez (Sine), grandchildren Dustin Trimmer (Kenzi), Joshua Martinez (Autumn), and Teona Martinez (Jackson Hamby), all of CO. Also survived are grandchildren Sarah Phillips (Braxton), Tyler Phillips, and Samantha Phillips all of OK. She also leaves behind four great grandkids and four nephews.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

EDWARD DAVID GREENE

April 5, 1944 — February 11, 2025



EDWARD DAVID GREENE passed away on February 11, 2025 at the age of 80 in Montrose, CO after an 18-month battle with cancer.

Ed was born to Edward and Harriet Greene in 1944, was raised in Detroit, Michigan and was a lifelong fan of the Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons and Lions. He

enlisted in the US Coast Guard in 1965 and was stationed at The Great Lakes and in Alaska. He loved Alaska and spoke about his time there often. While living in Alaska, he began a DJ career and was a natural on the microphone.

Ed met his wife of 54 years, Sherrie Greene on a blind date in 1970. They married two months later and welcomed four beloved children between 1971-1976. Their life together and Ed's job in sales with the yellow pages took them to Boise, Idaho; Bristol, Connecticut; Loveland, Colorado; Camp Hill, Pennsylvania; Denver, Colorado and Montrose, Colorado.

While living in Montrose for the past 14 years, Ed was a member of Grace Community Church and volunteered with their Gym's Diner Ministry every Wednesday, a member of the Warrior Resource Center and a weekly men's Bible study.

Ed loved watching his favorite Detroit sports teams and the TV was always tuned to one of their games. He also was his grandson's biggest cheerleader and spent a lot of time at a variety of baseball

fields, ice rinks, golf courses and football fields.

Ed loved bowling and playing golf and played both in all the states he lived in.

Ed began each and every one of his days with a smile on his face, love in his heart and a positive attitude.

Ed is survived by his wife, Sherrie Greene; his daughter Jennifer Greene and her three sons- Dante, Nico and Rocky Marchitelli; his daughter Becca Edwards and her husband Jeff; his son Josh Greene and his wife Terri and his daughter Amanda Katt, her husband Lance and their sons- Dakota and Blake. In addition to his immediate family, he is survived by many nieces and nephews. While he will be deeply missed, Ed's family is comforted in knowing that he is now out of pain and at peace.

A celebration of life will be held June 14th at Grace Community Church in Montrose, CO.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Disabled Veterans of America or Hope West Hospice in Montrose, CO.

PEGGY NELL MOSS

January 24, 1952 — February 15, 2025

PEGGY NELL MOSS, passed peacefully on February 15th at 10:35 pm at Foresight Rehab and Hospice facility in Grand Junction, Colorado with her husband at her side.

Peggy was born to Haram and Myrtle (Lucas) Funderburg on January 24, 1952 in Marks, Mississippi.

Peggy married Norman (Moose) Moss on May 14, 1988 in West Memphis, Arkansas. They resided in Arkansas until 2021, they moved to Bedrock Colorado to fulfill their retirement dream. Peggy retired from her career as a Special Education teacher after 15 years, in her retirement she enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandkids, cooking, traveling, camping, fishing, outdoors, and she was heavily involved in many Community projects. Devout Christian and church goer.

She is survived by her husband Norman, 6 children, 24 grandkids, over 30 great grandkids, and a multitude of Friends

Preceded in death by her parents, all of her siblings, son Michael Manes, and grandson Micheal Moss

In lieu of flowers she asked for donations to Paradox Community Center. 21665 600 Rd Paradox Colorado, 81428



ISSUE 509 Feb. 24, 2025

ART & SOL

THE PURPOSE OF THE HEART

By Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald

MONTROSE-We all know that the purpose of the physical heart is to keep the physical body going. It beats about 60-80 times per minute, 100,000 times a day. That's about 3 billion beats in a lifetime. The heart is a remarkable physical organ. If your heart beats 100,000 times per day, just think about how much Love can pulsate from your spiritual heart out into the world.

Our spiritual heart is intelligent and intuitive. According to the HeartMath Institute, "Heart intelligence is the flow of awareness, understanding and intuition we experience when the mind and emotions are brought into coherent alignment with the heart." I believe we are in harmony and balance when that coherent alignment connects with the Divine Spirit.

There is an ancient Jewish teaching that says our hearts on earth are a reflection of the Heart of Heaven. Before God created the universe, He had to make a place for the world. God withdrew Himself to the sides, leaving an empty space in the center of His light. In this space all the worlds exist. God created the universe at the center of His Infinite Being -that is - in His very Heart. There it is nurtured and there it grows.

The teachings go on to explain that the heart knows the place of everything in the world because it is the place of everything in the world. The heart knows where everything belongs because everything belongs within it. So, the purpose of the Heart is to return all things to their proper place, where they can grow and love. Isn't

that what we wish to do to resolve arguments? Isn't that what we want when we are feeling out of sorts and out of balance? Our hearts want to return all things to their proper place, back to harmony, in the Heart of God.

One of my favorite poets, the great Sufi poet, Rumi, wrote, "God doesn't pay attention to your outer form; so, in your improvising, seek the owner of the Heart...the owner of the Heart becomes a six-faced mirror; through him God looks out upon all the six directions. Those with mirror-like hearts do not depend on fragrance and color; they've cracked open the shell of knowledge and raised the banner of the eye of certainty."

It is not the outer form that is important, but the inner form, the heart, the core, the essence. It is through the heart that God looks out from your essence. And God made your heart to expand. Some spiritual teachers tell us that we are here to break our hearts, to break them open to revel the core of our existence - Divine Love, and then to share that Love with others. Rumi said the same thing, "they've cracked open the shell of knowledge." When we break our hearts, knowledge comes rushing out, the knowledge of Divine Love. The purpose of the heart is to break open, to expand, and share the Love with ourselves and others. We only have to look within to find it.

Rumi also said, "That which God said to the rose, and caused it to laugh in full-blown beauty, He said to my heart, and made it a hundred times more beautiful." You have been laughed into full-blown



"That which God said to the rose, and caused it to laugh in full-blown beauty, He said to my heart, and made it a hundred times more beautiful." -Rumi

beauty by God. God said something to you, whispered in your tiny ear, made you laugh, and you burst into being. You are that rose and you are a hundred times more beautiful because you dwell in the Heart of God.

The purpose of the Heart is to share its beauty and its love with self and with others. It is to be joyful and to laugh things into being. When we reach out to another person from our heart, something special happens. That person's heart begins to open up and love flows out. When we use our heart intelligence to bring the presence of God's Love to each moment, wherever we are, everyone and everything experiences that Love. We are living our heart-centered purpose. We are living from our Divine Heart.

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald is the Senior Minister of the Spiritual Awareness Center, Dean of the Spiritual Development Institute, and author and speaker.



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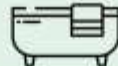
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CONTACT DETAILS

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www.cimarroncreekcommunity.com

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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MontroseHealth.com

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Special to Art & Sol

MONTROSE-We are thrilled to invite you to an unforgettable evening of fine dining and philanthropy at the **2nd Annual Wine Dinner Fundraiser** benefiting **Foster Connections!** Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 26, at 6 PM**, and join us at **The Stone House Restaurant in Montrose** for a night of exquisite flavors, exceptional wines, and meaningful impact.

Supporting Kids in Foster, Kinship, and Adoptive Care

Foster Connections is dedicated to supporting families who open their hearts and homes to children in **foster, kinship, and adoptive care**. Through this fundraiser, we can continue providing much-needed resources such as **beds, bedding, clothing, school supplies, and access to vital support services**. Additionally, proceeds from this special event will help fund **pro-social activities** like **music lessons, sports fees, and extracurricular opportunities**, ensuring that children in care have the same enriching experiences as their peers. These kind of activities are where the skills to make successful adults are developed.

An Evening of Wine & Cuisine

Guests will indulge in a **four-course gourmet dinner**, each course thoughtfully paired with **exceptional wines** that elevate the dining experience. Whether you are a wine enthusiast or simply enjoy a fine meal, this event promises to delight your taste buds while making a difference in the lives of local children.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, March 26th

Time: 6 PM

Location: The Stone House Restaurant

Cost: \$65 per person

Tickets: RSVP No later than March 20th!

A Special Thanks to TEI Rock Drills, our media sponsor, for their generous support in making this event possible. Their commitment to our mission is helping to create brighter futures for children in care.

Reserve Your Seat Today!

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to enjoy a luxurious dining experience while supporting a cause that truly matters. **Seats are limited**, so be sure to secure your tickets early!

For more information, visit [Foster Connections](#) website. Together, we can make a lasting impact —one meal, one child, and one connection at a time. We can't wait to see you there!

Ryan McKee

Frontline Marketing
(254)383-9465

CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
 970-249-0705

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
 970-249-2460

El Jimador
 970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
 970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
 970-399-3570

Alpen Confections
 970-648-0609

Crash Burger
 970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
 970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
 970-964-4999

Pahgre's
 970-249-6442



Lighthouse Eatery
 970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
 970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
 970-249-0433

Rib City
 970-249-7427



Stone House
 970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
 970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
 970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
 970-546-0074

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
<https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/> Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-
 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-
 try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our
 music is a combination of traditional
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-
 day service. We would love to welcome
 you here. Following the service, join us for
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck
 meal together.

Vision: We see Jesus Christ restoring
 hope: in us and in our world.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 112Main St.
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: [https://
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, discipleship, community, service,
 prayer, love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

Adult -Discipleship classes 8am and
 10:45am.

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young
 children and teenagers.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am- Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook
Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.
 Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
 Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.
Demographics: Our church consists of older and younger people. We have younger families with children and young teens and older adults as well. We also support the work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its addiction recovery ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, *We strive to encourage, challenge and*

support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries.

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ
Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401
Office hours: By appointment
Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047
 Email address: office@montroseucc.org
 Website: montroseucc.org
Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd
Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.
 Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.
 Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)
 We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information:
 Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, Home Office – 970-252-0908
Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908, arlyn@spiritaware.org, www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn

Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.
Worship service times: In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.
There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://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 Feb. 23 we will have a family Bible study, "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," 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 kindergarten, 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>

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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HEALTHY RHYTHM ART GALLERY

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER ACROSS DENOMINATION

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION— Face to Face Ministries is hosting their fourth annual women's conference, an event designed to

bring together women of faith from across denominations.

This year's theme, "Fishes n' Loaves: Trusting God with all we Have", emphasizes

unity in Christ and the incredible power of collaboration by highlighting some amazing women in our community.

Event Details:

- **Date:** March 7 & 8, 2025
- **Location:** Jubilee Family Church 483 30 Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81504

The conference will serve as a platform to celebrate and honor the extraordinary contributions of women in our local community. Through inspiring keynote addresses, panel discussions, and heartfelt worship sessions, and creative breakout sessions attendees will have the opportunity to deepen their faith, forge new relationships, and find renewed purpose.

"Our goal is to create a space where women can connect, support one another, and grow spiritually," said Kathy McCoy, Event Organizer. "This conference is about more than coming together as the body of Christ, despite differences."

Registration: Tickets are available now at www.facetofaceministries.net Early registration is encouraged, as spaces are limited.

Join us for this empowering and uplifting day of faith, fellowship, and celebration. Together, we can inspire one another and strengthen our communities through Christ.



Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227



Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899



Beer Barn II
970-249-5550



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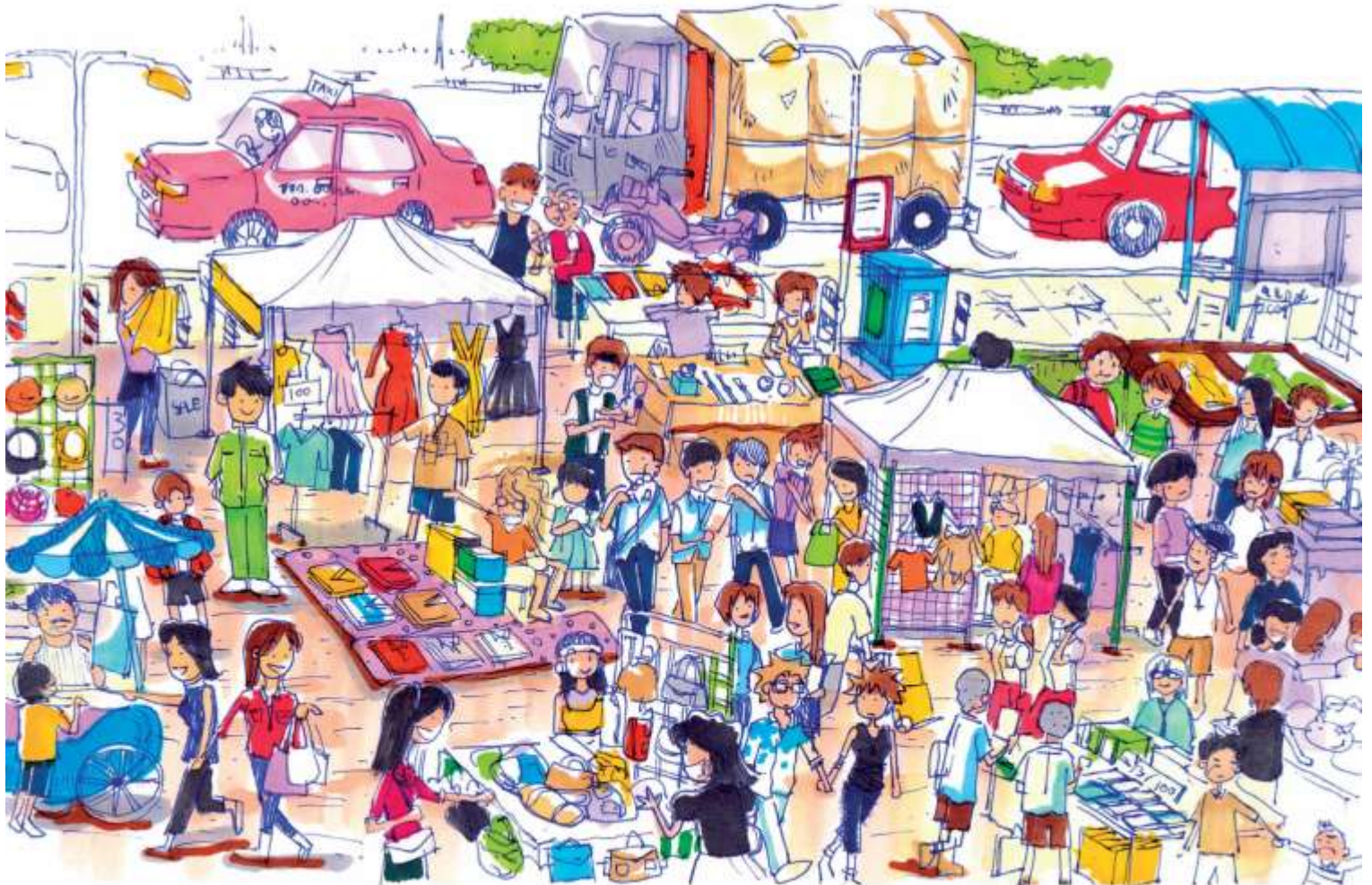
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DENVER'S TEOW LIM GOH FEATURED AT MARCH BARDIC TRAILS



Denver Poet Teow Lim Goh.
Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE - Denver's Teow Lim Goh will be the featured poet at the monthly, first Tuesday Bardic Trails virtual poetry reading, March 4 at 7 pm MST.

"As my oldest daughter has married into a Chinese-American family, and my grandmother -- who was born and raised in Japan -- had many friends incarcerated at Angel Island and I've had the pleasure of reading Goh's excellent *Islanders*," notes Art Goodtimes, Talking Gourds director, "I'm extra pleased that Bardic Trails is hosting Teow."

Poet, essayist, and critic, Goh writes from the nexus of people and place. She is the author of three poetry collections: *Islanders* (2016), *Faraway Places* (2021), and *Bitter Creek* (2025). Her essay collection *Western Journeys* (2022) was

a finalist for the 2023 Colorado Book Awards in Creative Nonfiction. In her first book *Islanders*, she writes into the history of Chinese exclusion and detention at California's Angel Island Immigration Station between 1910 and 1940.

"One of my projects is to recover the stories of Chinese immigrants in the American West," she explains on her website <teowlimgoh.com>. "I also write about art, nature, politics, and environmental issues."

For those that like prompts, this month's will be "China." Virtual attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader -- their own work or someone else's, about the prompt or not.

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

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

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest (both now closed until April), the Western Slope Poet Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: FAITH

DATES AND TIMES-MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS 'YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU'

Magic Circle Players

Mar 14, 2025 - Mar 29, 2025

The winner of a Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award, *You Can't Take it With You* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, is a quirky, fun, old fashioned comedy served with a clash of the classes. Tony Kirby, the son of a snobbish Wall Street banker, falls madly in love with Alice Sycamore, a beautiful young woman from a good natured, loving family who teeter on the edge of eccentric. Can these two families, who couldn't be more different, survive a dinner party?

Tons of laughs, surprises, and a few "BOOMS" will leave you wanting more! Directed by Michelle Terry.

Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com.

Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Friday, March 14, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Saturday, March 15, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Sunday, March 16, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST

Friday, March 21, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Saturday, March 22, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Sunday, March 23, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST

Friday, March 28, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

Saturday, March 29, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST

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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.

March 2-Ridgway Ripple Arctic Plunge. Meet at the swim beach at Ridgway State Park. Free event. Costumes encouraged. Prizes and gift bags will be given out to plungers and lucky spectators. Hot beverages for everyone. After party at Greenwood's restaurant in Ridgway, noon to 2 p.m. Sponsorships and donations will support Ouray Mountain Rescue Team and Ouray County Communities That Care. Information & registration: <https://ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/inaugural-ridgway-ripple-arctic-plunge>

March 4--On Tuesday March 4 at 5.Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st. All Welcome Non-partisan, Local support for sustainable energy in our community. info 970-765-9095.

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.

March 26-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](#).

JOINING FORCES, RAISING FUNDS FOR FURRY FRIENDS



The Montrose Environmental Club & CTC held a Bake Sale on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Chow Down. All the proceeds from the sale went to the Montrose Animal Shelter. We raised over \$200 on that cold, snowy day. Courtesy photo.



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