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the Montrose Mirror

PROJECT 7 CONTINUES PLANS FOR RESILIENCY PROJECT

'The cart needs to slow down, and the horse needs to get in front of the cart!' -John McCollum, Chipeta Water District

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- Established on Sept. 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority (Project 7) is a cooperative among seven water entities and provides domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

The Feb. 27, 2025 Project 7 Water Authority Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. All board members were present. Board members have alternates who attend all meetings. The Jan. 23 meeting minutes were approved, there were no changes to the agenda, and there was no public comment.

Project 7's Regional Water Supply & Resilience Program.

Project 7 Water Authority sells treated water to their members; those water districts in turn sell the water to their constituents. Project 7 Authority Manager Adam Turner is accountable to the six entities, not to the constituents who belong

Continued pg 57



The Project 7 Water Authority held their monthly meeting on Feb. 27. (Facing L to R) Chairman Jake Foreman, Mayor of Town of Olathe, David Bries City of Montrose Representative, and John McCollum Chipeta Water District Representative. McCollum continues to be concerned with the affordability of the Resiliency Project, "We don't have a big bubble come in at the end of the rainbow." Photo by Gail Marvel.

A MONUMENTAL PROCLAMATION



By Bob Cox

REGIONAL-Herbert Hoover was not known as a particularly popular president but, on his last day in office, he signed a proclamation that has had a lasting effect on Colorado, and especially on Montrose County.

In 1933 the 20th Amendment passed and changed the date of inauguration to January 20th. Hoover was the last president to leave the presidency on the March 4th date set in the Constitution. President Franklin D. Roosevelt took over on March 4, 1933.

While Hoover was quite literally being moved out of the White House on March 2, 1933, he signed the proclamation which established the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

Owing to the fact that the nation was suffering from a

Continued pg 19

The official photograph, taken by Carol M. Highsmith, accompanies the papers and maps of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument in the National Archives.

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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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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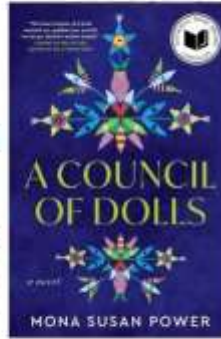


Community Read: *A Council of Dolls*

March 13, 6 PM

Library Meeting Room

Our group book discussion of *The Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power will be held on March 13, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room.



Email Laura at lmclean@montroselibrary.org or sign up at the reference desk to claim your copy of *The Council of Dolls* and secure your spot for the book discussion (30 copies available).

320 S 2nd, www.montroselibrary.org
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MONTROSE REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HELP PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS, MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD MARCH 10

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Want your voice heard in protecting our public lands? Join us for food, friendship, and tips on letter writing to decision makers. We'll provide resources and advice. Snacks provided, BYOB. Join us at the Ridgway Library on March 10 from 1-2:30pm.

Sponsored by Northern San Juan Broadband and Great Old Broads for Wilderness Questions? Contact: northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org

SEE 'THE HANGING FLUME' MARCH 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents, with permission from the Delta County Historical Society, the video "The Hanging Flume." The program addresses the construction and history of the Hanging Flume in the Dolores River Canyon. The public is welcome to attend this free program. Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Light refreshments are provided.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ADOPTED NAMES AND SAVE ACT

Editor:

Since our adopted children were older and could make the decision, we were overjoyed that both chose to legally become a Smith. At each court hearing, I actually cried that two beloved individuals wanted to bear the family name. Decades later, you now propose that the decision to embrace a loving, nurturing home in lieu of the past abusive one may make them unable to vote. You, as their legislative representative who as other adopted children may have even voted for you, state that they cannot vote again because they chose to take their loving family's name? You propose that our Navy veteran who served his country is now unable to exercise his right to vote if he moves and must update his voter registration? You suggest that adopted children, such as my grandchild who was taken away at 2 days old from meth addicts and placed in the loving care of our daughter, will not be able to vote because the name is not the same?

It is not just the countless women who chose to take on the married name but also every adopted person, every person who legally came to the United States and chose an American sounding name to embrace the country (Smith), and every victimized individual who started over by altering their name that are harmed by this ill-founded bill. As re-election is always a concern, it would indeed be wise not to eliminate a vast majority of voters.

Proud to be,

Mrs. Alice Jean Smith

SHAVANO CD ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

March 11, 2025, 6pm

\$20 Adults

\$12 Children

Includes meal provided by Blue Ribbon BBQ

Local Work Group Meeting 4:30-5:30pm

Local producers identifying conservation concerns

GUEST SPEAKER

★ BRODY WILSON "The Gunnison Tunnel - Lessons from the Past, Essential for Today"

CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

★ SOIL HEALTH PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Steve Woodis, Montrose

★ WILDLIFE PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Dave and Zoe Werden, Montrose

★ PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Garvey Brothers Land and Cattle LLC, Centennial Farmers in Nucla

★ TEACHER OF THE YEAR Stephanie Cady, Olathe E.S. 5th Grade



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

'THE GREAT DINOSAUR DISCOVERY' TO BE SCREENED IN DELTA MARCH 18

Special to the Mirror
DELTA-"Keeping History Alive" winter series brought to you by the Delta County

Museum and Historical Society. Tuesday, March 18th, 7pm. "The Great Dinosaur Discovery," a 1973 30-

min documentary about the dinosaurs of Dry Mesa Quarry near Delta, Colorado, found by Ed & Vivian Jones of Delta Co. First released on November 13, 1973, in our local "Egyptian Theater" as a 60-min version. The documentary covered the discovery of the first Supersaurus and Torvosaurus. Aired on American TV Channels, Dry Mesa Quarry was one of the richest dinosaur quarries discovered in North America in the second half of the 20th century.

Bonus 40-min documentary, "Discovering Dinosaurs In Frozen Antarctica". The story of how the dinosaurs migrated. This video explores Antarctica's prehistoric past, revealing a lush, forested continent teeming with life during the early Jurassic period, about 190 million years ago. Please join us at the Delta Library Community Room. Use Meeker Street Entrance, Free admission, Donations Welcome! Doors open 6:30 pm - Delta County Museum OPEN T-F -Sat 10-3 pm, has a great display of the Jones discovery. For more information please call 970 874-8721.



MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ONE DAY PROGRAM

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8:00 am - 5:00 pm
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL LAUNCHES WEEKLY I-70 CHAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—The Colorado State Patrol has consistently implemented chain checks at ports of entry, active chain-up stations, and daily roadside contacts. We are now adding a layer of multi-agency enforcement operations, including proactive chain carry checks, along the I-70 mountain corridor. State Troopers and partnering local agencies from Glenwood Springs to Golden will participate in these operations to enforce dangerous moving violations, especially speed and chain law violations. These operations will be held when weather is not inclement to ensure commercial and private drivers are prepared.

The Colorado State Patrol will share the results of these checks each Friday until Memorial Day (the end of Colorado chain law season) and next week’s check date. In addition, we will post a reminder on our [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages the morning of each event.

Compliance with traction laws for passenger vehicles (3/16-inch tread depth and rated either “all-weather” or “Mud and snow”) and commercial vehicles is paramount to the safety of everyone in the mountain corridor. Failure to comply can cause extended closures of the interstate. With no reasonable way around closures, serious problems can arise quickly.

The Colorado State Patrol aims to continue its efforts to resolve this problem by ensuring compliance before the storms hit to avoid stranded motorists. We also work diligently with our partners in the towing industry to clear the road as fast as possible when motorists become stuck. While enforcement is important, our goal is compliance for safety.





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When our elected officials pose to publicly celebrate their great works, maybe jot down the street to the City Market or Safeway parking lot to witness those living day by day, paying food tax on life's essentials, glamorously collected by the city to fund the Great Facade!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ARROGANCE, EGO AND APATHY

Editor:

Opportunity to Enhance Safety for Children

It has come to the attention of this citizen that the City of Montrose had an opportunity to enhance the safety of our children's daily walk to school on the north side of town for the students who need to cross Townsend Ave each morning and afternoon. However, the city declined what would have been fully funded by federal grant money. Instead, due to the arrogance and ego of the City Manager and the apathy of the City Council, they opted for a less safe alternative that would require cost-sharing. The reason? Our City Manager believed it would allow the county to infringe on the city's jurisdiction.

The "Safe Streets 4 All" Program

The "Safe Streets 4 All" program provides federal grants aimed at creating safer streets through various improvements. This program would allocate between \$45 million and \$55 million to improve US Highway 50, extending from the Montrose Regional Airport to North 4th Street. These improvements are both needed and welcome. Additionally, they will provide local jobs and, most importantly, create a safer environment along US Highway 50, while also beautifying the route with greenery and paved walkways.

Community Gratitude for Federal Funds

We, as a community, are grateful to receive these funds, which will help improve and make our streets safer. This is, in my opinion, an excellent use of available federal funds.

The Proposal for Pedestrian Bridges

However, the issue arises from a discussion during a recent meeting attended by this citizen and others. It was revealed that the original proposal included pedestrian bridges at North 4th and North 9th Streets, crossing North Townsend Avenue. These bridges would have been fully funded by the grant, in contrast to the rest of the grant terms, which call for an 80/20 split (80% covered by the grant, and 20% paid by the receiving jurisdiction, in this case, the city). The pedestrian bridges would not only improve safety, but they could also add beautification, particularly during the holidays, with lights and banners for events.

Opposition to Pedestrian Bridges

However, the City Manager, according to a source I spoke with, opposed the proposal because the city did not want the responsibility of maintaining the bridges. These pedestrian bridges were to be made of structural steel and concrete, materials that require virtually no maintenance. It was later revealed that the real reason for the opposition was the City Manager's belief that the project would "infringe on the city's jurisdiction," which is why, according to my source, the bridges were ultimately rejected.

The City's Alternative Proposal: Smart Crosswalks

Instead, the City, through the City Manager and City Council's consent, opted for crosswalks with smart lights at a cost of approximately \$100,000 each. This is a much less safe alternative for our children, who need to cross these intersections twice daily. The total cost to taxpayers for this alternative is about \$40,000. If the City Manager's arrogance and ego, and the apathy of the City Council had been set aside for just a moment, they might have considered a solution that prioritized logic and common sense. This is especially true given the City Manager and City Council's history of reluctance over the past seven years, evidenced by the sheer fiscal irresponsibility of moving Montrose from debt-free to nearly \$100 million in debt. Shades of USAID?

This is a disgusting display of arrogance, ego and apathy. And most disturbing is that the arrogance, ego and apathy was put before the safety of our local children! The City Manager and the City Council should be ashamed of this finding and I would hope that they would have the decency to amend their position and do the right thing, Ask for the Pedestrian Bridges to be reinstated into the grant proposal and keep our children safe!

Michael J Badagliacco "MJB"

Citizen - Montrose, CO

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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.



LINCOLN DAY DINNER MARCH 22 TO FEATURE WYOMING CONGRESS- WOMAN HARRIETT HAGEMAN

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION- The Mesa County Republican Women are hosting a Lincoln Day Dinner, Saturday, March 22, 5 PM at the Clifton Community Center. Keynote speaker for the event is Congresswoman Harriett Hageman the only elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Wyoming. Hageman, a co-sponsor of a bill recently introduced to permanently move the BLM Headquarters to Grand Junction, will be joined on stage by 3rd CD Congressman Jeff Hurd.

The Lincoln Day Dinner is an annual tradition celebrating Lincoln's enduring principles of unity, freedom, and perseverance. This year's event will reflect on his leadership and impact, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future generations. This event is open to the public and tickets may be purchased at mesacountyrepublicanwomen.com.

Mesa County Republican Women was formed in 1944 and the organization is committed to fostering civic engagement, supporting conservative values, and providing a platform for education and advocacy in the community.

For more information, please contact mesacountyrepublicanwomen@gmail.com.

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

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Celebrating Nature

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister

Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister

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Sunday Gatherings—11:00 am Everyone is welcome

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A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

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March 20, Montrose

DMEA Office, Grand Mesa Community Room
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April 24, Delta

Delta Library Community Room
124 E 6th St., Delta

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To All Senior CommUnity Meals participants,

Senior CommUnity Meals



We are pleased to announce an important update regarding our meal production location for Senior CommUnity Meals (SCM).

Beginning March 24th, 2025, meals for Montrose County will be produced at The Homestead of Montrose, while meals for Delta County will be produced at Horizons Care Center.

Please be assured, there will be no interruption to meal services.

This transition will allow us to streamline operations and continue providing high-quality meals to the seniors in our communities. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in making this project a success.

A special thank you to Brian Dickerson, The Homestead at Montrose resident director and Elisia Blair, Senior CommUnity Meals director for their leadership in coordinating this change. Their efforts ensure that we will continue fulfilling our mission of serving those in need.

If you have any questions or concerns about this update, please do not hesitate to contact us at 970-874-7661 or by email at bdickerson@voa.org or eblair@voa.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Senior CommUnity Meals and the older adults we serve.

Sincerely,

Craig Ammermann
Regional VP Operations
Senior CommUnity Meals
Volunteers of America National Services



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHO IS REALLY ON THE TAKE?

Editor:

Who is really “on the take”?

People who rely on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps are often characterized as lazy, taking advantage of the system, looking for a handout (even

though they may have worked and paid taxes) So what about the billionaires? Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Sundar Pichai, Vivek Ramaswamy, Tim Cook, Bill Ackman, Marc Andreessen, Travis Kalanick? Do they pay

their fair share of taxes and how do we know if they do? Do they get a handout from the government in terms of a tax break? Could they be taking advantage of the system?

Jo Clugg Montrose

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Catherine Jimenez, MD

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A MONUMENTAL PROCLAMATION From pg 1

a great depression and maybe even that Colorado was attempting to turn over laws banning the sale of beer, the proclamation did not get a lot of attention. It was announced in local newspapers, but for the most part, those announcements were simply restatements from national press releases. The *Rocky Mountain News* and *The Montrose Daily Press* both pointed out a sense of pride when they printed the following:

Pen Used by President Hoover to Sign Proclamation Will Go to Montrose C. of C. (News Washington Bureau) WASHINGTON, March 3.

President Hoover today signed a proclamation creating a new national monument of the Black Canon (sic) of the Gunnison, and adding 7,000 acres to the Colorado National Monument. The pen with which President Hoover signed the proclamation was given to Rep. Edward Taylor of Colorado, who plans to present it to the Montrose Colo., Chamber of Commerce. By mid-year of 1933 FDR and his cabinet began using the millions of unemployed depression workers on government projects. A survey of the new monument was nearly completed and, in September, crews began working on the roads on both sides of the Black Canyon. The *Montrose Daily Press*, on September 15, 1933 reported:

Fifty-man camps will soon be started on both sides of the Black Canyon National Monument in development work to be started this fall, said T. W. Secrest of the National Park Bureau, who was in the city Monday. The surveying party which has been working on the other side for two weeks surveying a pipe line to bring water from springs to the camp at the rim will move over here next Monday and start surveying.

For some reason, the people of Palisade, Colorado became very interested in the new monument. On November 17, 1933, both the *Montrose Daily Press* and the *Palisade Tribune* printed a small article in

which was a unique description that read: *Workmen in the development work at the Black Canyon National Monument have something for Ripley's Believe It or Not column. When drilling into a big rock to be broken up by dynamite a few days ago, they encountered a cavity filled with a gallon of water. There didn't seem to be any crack or seam by which the water could have entered. How did it get inside the solid rock?*

Early in July of 1934 it was announced in several Colorado newspapers that R.O. Davis, a topographer with the U.S. Geological Service was in the area making the final topographical maps for the monument.

One group that took a special interest in the monument was the Hiking and Outing Club at Western State College in Gunnison. At that time a bridge over the canyon was still being discussed. The club reported in the July 10, 1934 school newspaper that they had planned to go see the site of the proposed bridge on the south rim, but instead, they opted for a different trip. They took the "less familiar route over Black Mesa and visited the canyon from the north rim and the proposed bridge site on that side of the canyon. Their report contained a graphic description of what they saw:

Those who have seen Black Canyon only in the part reached by the railroad can have little idea of the canyon at the proposed bridge site. The opposite rim is very near, and yet this stupendous gash in the earth intervenes, to make it wholly inaccessible.

The interest in the monument by Clinton Martin, the editor of the *Palisade Tribune*, once again became apparent when he and his wife made a special trip. Martin wrote a first-person account that was published in the September 28, 1934 edition. While the article is very lengthy, the first two paragraphs show how interesting their trip was. This is a small part of the article: **Tribune Folks Visit New National Monu-**

ment and Ouray.

Last Sunday being a fine Colorado day we and the Missus and our daughter, Josephine, of Los Angeles, filled the grub box, put in the coffee pot and extra can of smoking tobacco, and hied ourselves for points up the Gunnison river.

But our destination was the Black Canon National Monument by the road eighteen miles east of Montrose, where the government is spending millions of dollars to build roads and bridges so that the public can view with ease the world's greatest bit of canon scenery from the top. The Black Canon, until recently, was little known except to those who live on the western slope, and but too few of them, except hunters and cattle men. It is a wonderland that has never had its deserved share of attention because of its location. Local residents who knew of its wonders simply took it for granted. But, now that Uncle Sam is going to build roads around its rim and a bridge, to be the highest bridge in the world, across the silence of blackness between those two ebony walls, it will now be publicized.

Of course, the bridge was never built. The north rim road was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1935. Funding problems came up annually, actually stretching the development over decades. Largely because of access being built for the east portal of the Gunnison Tunnel, a fairly good road existed to the south rim, but it was in 1939 before the final route along the south rim was established. The Colorado State Highway Department took over the route from the intersection on U.S. 50 to the monument boundary, designating it as Colorado State Highway 347. It was finally paved in 1960. The amazing views from the north rim are accessed off of Colorado Highway 92. That route was established in the 1920s, but was not completely paved until 1975. The Black Canyon National Monument became a national park in 1999, and today hosts more than 300,00 visitors each year.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY NEEDS SENSIBLE, RATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Editor:

I am deeply disappointed by Commissioners Sean Pond and Scott Mijares for issuing a sweeping resolution opposing protective public lands designations, including any potential National Conservation Area for the Dolores River Canyons. Taking a hardline “heck no” stance effectively removes Montrose County from the negotiating table—a shortsighted and counter-productive move.

Protected public lands, such as Black Canyon National Park and the Gunnison National Conservation Area, are vital to our community. These areas, safeguarded from mining and unsustainable recreation, enhance our quality of life and are a major reason many of us choose to call Montrose home.

I want to extend my appreciation to Commissioner Sue Hansen for ensuring Montrose County remains engaged in discussions rather than shutting the door on opportunities for conservation and thoughtful land management. The Dolores River Canyons is a special place that de-

serves meaningful protections.

Commissioners Pond and Mijares should take the time to learn what it means to be effective representatives for all 43,000 residents of Montrose County. Leadership

requires listening, collaboration, and respect for the diverse perspectives of the people they serve.

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Kevin Kuns, Montrose

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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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The Satisfied Woman



By Gia Pirelli. Courtesy photo.

What does it mean to be a satisfied woman? Not so simple a thing, in specific and measurable terms. In fact, female satisfaction is more elusive than the Yeti. (Or so some say.)

Maslow's hierarchy of human needs is a basic blueprint for the general satisfaction and fulfillment of a human being. Food, shelter, safety, companionship/intimacy, recognition / prestige, self-actualization and fulfillment of our highest potential. Ok. But as a culture, and as a gender, and with smart phones, we have drilled deeper.

Satisfaction can be distilled down to subsets of those hierarchical needs. For example: soulmate, financial abundance, a dream home, a dream career, self-care, sex (not just "intercourse," but good sex,) close friends, family, spirituality, fitness, mood, mindset...shoes, a 1982 Bordeaux, matching socks, self-acceptance, vacations, a walk-in closet, the love of a good dog. Depends on the day. But the big ones

are money, sex, spirituality and self-care. Two topics are utterly off limits in polite conversation, the third is superstitious nonsense and the fourth sounds shallow and narcissistic (at least according to Cosmo and your last relationship—who was probably an actual narcissist.)

Let's start with financial abundance. Why just survive if thrive is available? What's that look like? Often, we find ourselves mastering mediocrity and accepting scarcity as a way of life. It becomes so deeply ingrained that we can't see past it, and we repeat the same patterns of behavior to perpetuate what we believe to be "normal." Wealth is for "other people" and when you're actually wealthy, then "enough" is always out of reach. But what if there's more? What if you could have everything you ever wanted? What if your current perspective about money is like walking around the world with an inflated beach ball? You don't fit through doors very easily. So now you have to look for doors to accommodate your beach ball. Which you can find. But what if you deflated your beach ball and allowed it to inflate or deflate depending on each situation? A lot more doors are open to you and you're no longer limited by the boundaries of your beach ball. And, really, you don't always need a beach ball. Point is, allow yourself to let go of the limiting beliefs and big, bloated framework that blocks your path. It's really ok to do that. Whatever we think about is what we see, what we bring into our orbit and what will continue to show up in our life. So, if a barren bank account is your focus, guess what? Yep. You'll be broke and eating canned tuna for all your days. Just like all your friends. (Look up social proximity effect.)

Take time to really analyze your beliefs about money. And then your relationship to money. Where did those come from? Did you grow up with sayings like "money

doesn't grow on trees?" Did you have a relative or friend who made you believe money was gross? Or maybe someone who made you think being broke is noble? Take a hard look. And then let it go. Decide what you want now and how you want to live. Then once you identify, acknowledge and accept that, move toward it with an open mind and a willing heart. You'll actually start to make choices that support that as opposed to ones that hold you back. We tend to prefer known misery to unknown possibility. Open yourself up to possibility. Make one choice each day that supports who and how you want to be. A mere 2-degree course correction, over a long distance, can be the difference between success and failure. Aviation principle states that one degree off course equals one mile off course for every 60 miles flown. So, on a flight from LA to NY, if the pilot is off by a mere two degrees, the plane would likely wind up somewhere over the Atlantic, most likely near the coast of the Azores. What would happen if you shifted your perspective, your course, by two degrees? Where would you end up? And what happens if you stay the same? Which one would bring you the most satisfaction and fulfillment?

Small repeated behaviors become habits, either good or bad, and can have a massive impact on your quality of life. Add one thing per day (or subtract one) to see real changes start to bloom. Whether it's saving money, drinking more water, talking to God, reading to your kids, going for a walk, or having a weekly date night with your significant, make the effort. You'll be glad you did.

Gia Pirelli is a successful businesswoman and jewelry designer. Read more about her [here](https://giovannadesigns.myshopify.com/pages/about-me). <https://giovannadesigns.myshopify.com/pages/about-me>

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- Joyce Loss - Altrusa/Neighborhood Watch
- Mindy Miller - Mindy Miller, MD
- Rosemary Murphy - Montrose County
- Penelope Powell - Valley Food Partnership
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SHOOTING RANGE GRANTS THROUGH APRIL 11

Special to the Mirror

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is now accepting applications for shooting range construction and improvement grants through the Shooting Range Grant Development Program (SRDG). Established in 2009, the program is the largest of its kind in the nation and has supported more than 75 shooting range improvement projects across Colorado.

An estimated \$750,000 will be available in the 2025 grant cycle, although that amount could increase based on available funding. Archery ranges are also eligible for grant funding. Applications are due to CPW by April 11, 2025.

Travis Long, coordinator of the Shooting Range Grant Program, notes that grants have helped develop new shooting ranges, improved safety and upgraded facilities at existing ranges. "Many ranges have utilized the grant program to expand and improve their resources and offerings, leveraging the grant funding to help grow shooting sports by bringing in new participants as well as retaining existing ones."

Some examples of range improvements over just the last few years include taller berms and backstops, better lighting and electrical connections, ADA access, new firing lines and shade structures, development of entirely new ranges and addition-

al recreational shooting opportunities.

Grants will be for a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum to be determined by the review and approval process. Program funds can cover up to 75% of eligible project costs.

"Public access commensurate with funding support is an important consideration," said Long. "CPW is committed to the continued expansion of recreational shooting opportunities for everyone in our state, and this program highlights our commitment to a collaborative approach to achieve that goal."

[Additional eligibility, project and application information is available online.](#)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

“GOLD CARD” FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCY

Dear Editor,

Before the democrats get ahead of the lost media I want to put my positive thoughts on paper.

I listened very closely to what President Trump said about the “gold card” for temporary residency of immigrants during the first cabinet meeting.

Now don't let an idiot like Adam Schiff start lying about a gold credit card for Trump's rich buddies.

The President is clearly talking about a huge upgrade from the “green card” that honest immigrants are given. However, it serves the same purpose for the card carrier.

It will provide a pathway to citizenship for the holders whether they are poor or rich. Every honest immigrant wants nothing

more than a clearly defined and attainable path to citizenship.

The draft proposal that the President spelled out was a cost of \$5 million for a gold card. Now once again, let's understand who would be interested in putting out 5 million for a gold card.

Well there are rich people all over the world who can scrape up the cash to send their super intelligent kids to college in America. In addition there are huge American corporations who would think nothing of paying that kind of investment to keep the most intelligent foreign college graduates in America.

As the race to develop artificial intelligence heats up and our technology increases we need these super brains.

Yes I know that Democrats are going to lie

about how this hurts the poor immigrants but as usual they could not be more wrong. Every poor immigrant who is willing to do it legally and obtain a green card the usual way will still be able. And those green card holders will do what all legal immigrants, including my ancestors, have done for generations and that is build their American dream.

The bottom line for America is that this one idea could solve most, if not all, of our national debt within 12 years because the President said that all funds generated will go toward paying off the national debt. Let's just hope the Democrats don't get ahead of that money.

I am proud of our forward thinking President.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HIGH ROAD? NOPE NOT YET.

Editor:

The Montrose County Republican central committee had the opportunity to take the high road after the Vacancy vote and Chad Dunlap's very impassioned speech. But they did not, instead they sent out an email attacking Chad and tried to justify their poor behavior. And then they attacked Dennis Anderson for an article he wrote. And that article was about what Chad had said at the vacancy meeting. They could have said its time to mend fences and reunite this party. By being more transparent and being more inclusive instead of removing people because they do not support the hand-picked candidates that the central committee elites choose. But then they would also have to follow their very corrupt bylaws. But I do not see any positive changes happening anytime soon. The same corrupted people are still in charge.

There is a reason the central committee used to not participate in the primaries, especially contested primaries. I as chair argued against this. Because I knew that it would deeply divide the party. And now we have devolved into having a local party chair running for office in a contested primary. And why not, we have the state party chair that did the same thing. Anyone who is a voting member who did not speak out against this is someone who should resign. The Republican party here in Colorado is fast becoming irrelevant because of this behavior. The letter that the central committee sent out also bragged about the results of the election as if they had something to do with the results. I remind them, if the state and local central committee elites had, had their way Colorado would only have one Republican congressperson representing the whole state. And president Donald Trump would have a Democrat controlled house to deal with. The state party spent \$60,000.00 campaigning against the three newly elected Republican congressmen. The local and state parties still do not know the difference between an electable candidate and an unelectable candidate. It has become clear that the corrupted Republican Party no longer represents the majority of the republicans in this state or this county. And part of the reason for this is because the party elites do not want the candidates to be vetted. A good vetting process exposes the candidate's weakness and allows the best candidates to move on to the general election. Without this process the democrats will expose the candidate's weakness in the general election and that is how more democrats get elected in this state and country.

Ray Langston, Montrose

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DMEA BOARD HEARS CEO REPORT HIGHLIGHTING FUTURE EVENTS, SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS, NEWSLETTER, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE



Photo by Gail Marvel.
The Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) monthly Board of Directors meetings are now held in the Grand Mesa Boardroom. During the Feb. 25 meeting, a dozen staff members (facing) were in attendance to respond to any questions from the Board.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, determination of a quorum, and agenda approval. Director Emily Sanchez was absent, Jacob Gray was in attendance by Zoom, all other directors were present in person.

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

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

Introductions:

Member Joseph McGill was in attendance

by Zoom and Atlasta Solar Center Sales Rep Isaac Ketcham attended in person.

General Business included Membership & Meter Report and approval of the minutes from the January 2025 Regular Meeting and the February 2025 Special Meeting.

Informational Item: Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Damon Lockhart, Chair

Lockhart said, “We did not meet, so I have nothing to report.”

Engineering, Construction & Energy Services – Enno Heuscher, Chair

Heuscher said, “We did not meet.”

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair
 Williams said, “We did not meet. We have a meeting scheduled in May.”

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair
 Cannon said, “We did not meet.”

Informational Item - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston gave a brief overview which included safety efforts, decreases in MEP the last few years, and reliability collection

system improvement.

Johnston said, “We are four weeks out [design/build].” When asked how that is seen in the community Johnston said, “As a whole, it’s a comfort zone. It’s the sweet spot.”

Johnston continued, “Changing out streetlights [city of Montrose] is halfway. Vegetation management is close to having the third crew; it’s a matter of start date. We have some new equipment. Kudos [to the staff] who have a 99.3 percent with the phishing [avoiding scammers]. The Sparks sessions all qualify as a success for our outreach.”

The CEO report highlighted future events, scholarship applications, the DMEA newsletter, and customer service. Johnston said, “Our customer service answer rate experience is solid.”

The subsidiary Elevate is busy with construction. In the areas of administration Johnston said, “There is a lot on the legal side. Revamping policy, safety manual revamped, finalizing Bylaws — that’s the last piece of that. We are inching up a little on full employment and we continue to fill slots. We’re at a place where we can be very selective. Our operating margins are solid.”

Johnston noted that policy changes can be made by the board, but changes to the Articles of Incorporation need membership approval.

Jock Fleming said, “I see that revenue exceeded our budget, but we made less money this year than last year.”

Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer said, “Last year we may have overshot January.”

Johnston said, “There is a \$70,000 net write off on equipment. FYI, we are running hot on depreciation with Elevate. Expenses driven by higher depreciation. We will have an audit on March 3rd. Some board members will have interaction.”

Referencing the upcoming survey Johnston said, “We have had a handful of inputs. We’ll take input until mid-March. Some board members and staff toured the Gunnison Tunnel. That’s all the tours for this year because they will be turning the

DMEA BOARD HEARS CEO REPORT From previous pg

water on.”

Thank you notes received from the community were passed around to the board.

Steve Metheny asked about consumer deposits being down and the terms. Johnston said, “We’re looking at restructuring some fees. [To] make them much more straight forward and fair.”

Informational Item Director Reports.

Western United Electrical Supply Corporation (WUES) Report – Jock Fleming.

Fleming said, “We did not meet.”

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

Lockhart said, “There are a number of materials that I’ll pass around. CREA put on their own Summer School to save money. There are the 2025 Annual Meeting notes, the 2025 legislative piece, a couple of Montrose kids are going to Washington DC. CREA is trying to get out of their current building and expand so that they can host more classes. They are looking at relocating. There are discussions about putting the current building up for sale. There will be negotiations for that.”

Legislatively, CREA is looking at 25 bills out of 200. Lockhart said, “That’s why we are meeting weekly. Things move very quickly.”

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Kevin Williams attended the Uncompahgre Valley Water’s Users Annual

meeting. He not only gave details of the meeting, but offered fun facts related to other items he’d run across.

Lockhart laughed and said, “Who needs AI when you have Kevin!”

Many of the board members attended the CREA Annual Meeting and reported their takeaways on the various classes they attended.

Future Meetings:

Regular Meeting March 25, 2025

Member Comments:

Atlasta Solar Center Sales Rep Isaac Ketcham gave a brief overview of solar activities in the community and with his company. He said, “Sales have dropped. It’s noticeable but not deterring us.”

Executive Session:

-Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters

-Board Policies:

-108: Board Communications

-117: Donations & Contributions

-Strategy Updates

-Confidential Board Governance Matters

Executive Session Summary –Amy Taylor, Chief of Staff.

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

“At 4:30 p.m., upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously entered

Executive Session to receive a confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory update, to review updates to Board Polices 108 (Board Communications) and 117 (Donations & Contributions), to review strategy plan updates, and to address confidential Board governance matters.

Executive Session Board Action:

Unanimously approved updates to Board Policy 108, Board Communications.

Unanimously approved updates to Board Policy 117, Donations & Contributions.

There were no additional items to address. The Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 6:52 p.m.”

Dist. 1 – Ryan Sedgeley, 370-220-6086 ryan.sedgeley@dmea.com

Dist. 2 - Steve Metheny, 970-209-6172, steve.metheny@dmea.com

Dist. 3 – Jacob Gray, 970-778-9512, jacob.gray@dmea.com

Dist. 4 – Emily Sanchez, 970-209-4582, emily.sanchez@dmea.com

Dist. 5 – Kevin Williams, 406-839-1603, kevin.williams@dmea.com

Dist. 6 - Damon Lockhart, 970-314-1071, damon.lockhart@dmea.com

Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523, enno.heuscher@dmea.com

Dist. 8 - (North Region) Stacia Cannon, 920-207-8831, stacia.cannon@dmea.com

Dist. 9 - (South Region) Jock Fleming, 970-275-1808, jock.fleming@dmea.com



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COUNTY NAMES NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR, APPROVES LETTER TO STATE JBC OPPOSING PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SUBSCRIBER SERVICE FEES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as Chair Scott Mijares called a special meeting of the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to order on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Constituent Tom Mathis led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mathis also addressed the BOCC during the time for public comment. "There was a news release dated 7-29-23 regarding updated building codes..."

Mathis read from the release and from the building code and said, "I did some research and found that Montrose County adopted Resolution 20-2016 on 7-5-16. It states that a written foundation completion statement as to its successful installation as per submitted plans must be submitted by the professional engineer prior to the framing inspection and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or a certificate of use."

Mathis said that the resolution violates *R109.4 Approval Required* and *R104.1 General* under the *International Residential Code*. He read portions of the code and said, "Since Resolution 20-2016 was passed, \$241M worth of permitted work has been done in the county. None of this work has been properly approved by the building official if it is on a new foundation..."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares asked for a copy of Mathis' remarks.

COUNTY MANAGER

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

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

TIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve minutes of their January 22 and February 5 meetings.

Resolution Number 15-2025 amending Resolution 6-2025 to fill all other boards and positions that Commissioner Rick Dunlap had been appointed to per Resolution No. 06-2025 was approved.

The BOCC approved Resolution 16-2025, dissolving the Montrose County Board of Adjustment and assigning its duties to the Board of County Commissioners. County Attorney Marti Whitmore discussed the reasons for the resolution prior to approval.

Assistant County Manager Emily Sanchez presented an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between San Miguel County and Montrose County regarding San Miguel Basin Extension, which was approved.

County Manager Frank Rodriguez presented for approval Resolution 17-2025, appointing Dr. Mirza Mashrur Ahmed as Director of Public Health.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares thanked Rodriguez and those who helped bring Dr. Ahmed to Montrose County.

To Dr. Ahmed he said, "...You're very well qualified and we're glad to have you on the team."

The next item was presented by Facilities Director Jennifer Murray, "...the Chair's signature on the fourth amendment to the Montrose County North Campus - Design, Architectural & Engineering Services Project, contract #2022-190, in an amount not to exceed \$589,750. to Wold Architects and Engineers, as reviewed by Coun-

sel. This contract amendment represents a change in the original scope of work, expanding services to include architect and engineering services through the construction phase, a one year warranty period walk-through, and a time extension to September 30, 2026."

Mijares asked for additional time to review the contract amendment, but was outvoted as the item passed in a two-to-one vote.

Commissioners approved the annual Core Services Purchase of Services Agreement with Brain Balance Achievement Centers for Mental Health Services, effective June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025, as reviewed by Counsel, representing a budgeted reimbursed expense, not covered by Medicaid, in the amount of \$4,400. per twelve-week program, not to exceed available funding of approximately \$500,000. per fiscal year.

The final item was approved as well, a letter of opposition to the Colorado Joint Budget Committee, opposing a recommendation of subscriber service fees for the Colorado Statewide Public Safety Communications System (800MHz Radio System).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04am.



Dr. Mirza Mashrur Ahmed is the new Montrose County Director of Public Health. Meeting screen-shot.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND WHERE HAS IT GONE

Editor:

What is President Trump doing making remarks at President Zelensky about him being a dictator, starting the war, and because President Zelensky wouldn't suck up to Trump or Vance he was being disrespectful to them. It is about time someone did that to Trump, his arrogance needs to stop. And then we side with Russia, China, North Korea and all the other countries we consider enemies of the USA on a no vote in the UN to support Ukraine. What has happened to the Republican Party and where has it gone.

Joseph Balet, Montrose

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, JOHN MCCAIN?

Editor:

Whatever happened to the Republican party of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the late John McCain and my late father? I have NEVER been so embarrassed for my country as I was yesterday watching the televised press conference President Trump held in the oval office with President Zelensky of Ukraine and Vice President J.D. Vance. Never, in my wildest dreams did I imagine that the United States of America would side with a KGB agent, who has been a dictator of Russia for two decades.

It was heartening to see that President Zelensky did not back down, even though both President Trump and VP Vance spoke over him almost continuously. I am a proud patriot of this country. Both of my parents served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. My daughter-in-law served as a medic in the U.S. Army on the ground in Iraq. For those who have a different opinion, and invite me to "love it or leave it", I live by the famous words of Patrick Henry, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death". I love this country too much to ever leave, except by God's hand.

Raye Highland, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP IS TRYING TO STAND SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH DICTATORS, KILLERS, AND CRUEL REGIMES

Editor

Three years. Three very long years that Ukraine has been involved in a war for its survival. Contrary to what Donald Trump claims, Ukraine was not the aggressor. Ukraine did not start the war. Russia, under the direction of Vladimir Putin, a dictator, invaded this independent, democratic nation.

Like so many of us, we did not think things could get this bad.

In mid-February, senior U.S. and Russian delegations met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to discuss an end to the war in Ukraine. This followed a private phone call between Putin and Trump. Was a certain party excluded from this meeting? Like for instance, a representative from Ukraine? Or any representative from European nations? None were invited.

People try to blame President Biden on the abandonment of Afghanistan. Trump began the process to withdraw American troops in Afghanistan before Biden. And how did he do it? He brokered meetings between U.S. officials and the Taliban. Who did he omit? The Afghan government. To "sweeten" the pot (remember Trump's book THE ART OF THE DEAL) he allowed for 5,000 Taliban fighters to be released.

So Trump has done it again. When a Ukrainian and European resolution was submitted before the United Nations General Assembly condemning Russia's war against Ukraine, the United States voted NO in solidarity with Russia, Belarus, and North Korea. The United States under Trump, refuses to label Russia or Putin as the aggressor. This is absolutely incomprehensible. I repeat. We sided with dictators and aggressors.

Trump even announced that Ukraine was

the aggressor and started the war. He called Zelenskyy a dictator. When Trump was later confronted, he said he didn't remember saying that.

As a kid I remember practicing, ducking under our school desks for protection, from a nuclear missile attack from the U.S.S.R. Like this would really protect us? I remember Nikita Khrushchev threatening the United States of America during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Russia is not our friend. They definitely are not Ukraine's friend.

Remember I said many of us felt it couldn't get this bad? Then Trump, Vance, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a press conference in the Oval Office. It went horribly bad. I am ashamed of our country.

Trump and Vance berated President Zelenskyy. Kept trying to tell him that he needed to be more thankful. Especially to Trump. All Zelenskyy wanted was an announcement, a verbal acknowledgement, that the United States of America would insure that Russia would no longer try to occupy Ukraine. He wanted a guarantee that Putin would uphold his side of the bargain.

Trump and Vance not only would not commit, but they ridiculed President Zelenskyy. They wanted Ukraine to give up their raw earth minerals and to never become a member of NATO. And never, NEVER say a bad word about Putin.

At the start of the press conference, Trump let right-wing "reporter" Brian Glenn ask President Zelenskyy, "Why don't you wear a suit? You're in the highest level of this country's office, and you refuse to wear a suit?" Just as an aside, Elon Musk never wears a suit in all his meetings with Trump. But why would

Trump even allow that question to be asked at such an important moment? And then at the end of the press conference, when another reporter asked about Russia potentially breaking a ceasefire, Trump snapped back and said, "What if the bomb drops on your head right now?" You know what reporter was not allowed at the press conference. The Associated Press. Why? Because they would not go along with Trump's renaming the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America. So they are banned.

The GOP? They are cowards. They are afraid to denounce Trump and Vance. Hours before the Oval Office meeting Senators like Lindsay Graham were praising President Zelenskyy. After the press meeting they were stating how rude Trump was treated. It was Trump and Vance who were rude.

So yes. It has gotten far worse than we ever imagined. The United States is now a country siding with the likes of Russia and North Korea. Trump is trying to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with dictators, killers, and cruel regimes. We have a president who wants to be treated with respect and accolades, yet he calls Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, "Governor".

Immediately following Trump's pre-planned attack on President Zelenskyy, my wife and I made a donation to White Stork. They furnish medical kits to the Ukrainian soldiers. I'm afraid their soldiers will be needing these for a while yet.

One last thought. It'll always be the Gulf of Mexico and our highest mountain will remain forever Denali.

Jon Sering

Clallam County, WA

(former Montrose resident 30+ yrs)

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY OF MONTROSE – NOT JUST A FAMILY AFFAIR (PART 3) *Conflicts of Interest & Easy Access to the Company Credit Card – Wow!*

By David White

As has been written on these pages over that last couple of weeks, the incestuous goings on at the City of Montrose just never seem to have an ending. In spite of being presented with information that comes from their very own sources, the ongoing coverup of what is and has been presented on these pages as factual information and known to be so by our City Council continues in earnest.

Just this last week, we saw the Mayor Pro Tem (Vice Mayor), Dave Frank, during a “State of the City” presentation at the Tuesday February 25th Rotary Club meeting (the original Montrose Rotary Club, not the City bankrolled Black Canyon Rotary Club) once again come after yours truly by stating that “a certain person” in a “certain publication”, spreads lies about the City. Really Mr. Frank? Stop the charade and the temper tantrums and come clean with the citizens, or better yet, just resign, which all of you on City Council should do given the financial malfeasance and violation of your oaths of office that you have so blatantly chosen to ignore. But no, just keep putting lipstick on the pig and maybe things will get better.

The seasonal employment of City employee’s family members such as occurred in the summer of 2023 when all of the City’s Finance Director’s immediate family worked for the City (her department oversees the payroll functions at the City) in different areas of City operations as well as other employees such as the City Manager’s wife and children, who, presumably, had foreknowledge of these openings at the City, have worked seasonally in the Visitor’s Center, City owned Black Canyon Golf Course, etc. City employees, especially upper management, could and have directed relatives to apply for and be hired for these positions. While legal, once again there’s the appearance of a conflict of interest with the City’s stated policies on such matters.

Given the factual reports of the City Manager paying for a variety of goods, services, memberships, etc. with his “company credit card” for personal or family use, it should come as no surprise to find that there’s an egregious and on-going misuse of City credit cards issued to various City employees in several different departments for purchases that are beyond excusable in any business or governmental entity for personal reasons. These are not accidental purchases, which can certainly occur with anyone carrying multiple credit cards, but deliberate charges that may or may not be reimbursed by the employee to the City in spite of what City notations suggest when referring to said purchases.

Here are some examples of what I’m referring to taken directly from the City’s ledger:

-Ref. No. 1292501 dated 1/29/2025 to US Bank for \$1,600 for “10 Telluride Discounted Lift Tickets for Employees to Purchase” - bought from Telluride Ski & Golf – Paid from the City’s Human Resources Operating Account. Really? Why can’t they buy their own tickets directly rather than the City doing so?

-Ref. No. 1292503 dated 1/29/2025 to US Bank for \$3,540 for “SHELTER CATERING - MAGIC CIRCLE 100-5040490-000– Paid from the City’s Human Resources Operating Account. No explanation given for this large purchase, but it must have been a heck of a party!

-Ref. No. 12302404 dated 12/30/2024 to US Bank for \$1,375 for “Colorado Flights Alliance – Bo Nerlin (attorney for the Municipal Court) ski pass via Flight Alliance – Reimbursed by Bo” – Paid from the General Fund Administrative Account and the Municipal Court’s Operating Account. Why? Was it paid back as stated on the memo line of the check register?

-Ref. No. 12302404 dated 12/30/2024 to US Bank for \$1,375 for “Colorado Flights Alliance – Kendall Delp ski pass via Flight

Alliance – Reimbursed by Kendall” – Paid from the Water Fund – Water Distribution & Maintenance Operating Account. Why? Was it paid back?

-Ref. No. 11252401 dated 11/25/2024 to US Bank for \$1,840.32 for “Universal Studios Orlando – tickets for 9 youth counselors and 3 chaperones – to be reimbursed by private donations” – Paid from the General Fund’s Youth Council Operating Account. Why? Was it paid back? Not likely I’ve been told.

-Ref. No. 11252401 dated 11/25/2024 to US Bank for \$80.28 for “Rathbone Hotel – B. Bell & A. Russo dinner at Rathbone soft opening event” from the City Manager’s Operating Account (this after the City, at both the urging and backroom deals with the developers of this downtown hotel by the City Manager (Bell) and City Business Development Director (Russo), convinced the City Council to dump over \$1.5 million dollars of taxpayer money into this PRIVATE HOTEL which sold just weeks later to an investor group, is simply a slap in the face of the average working person in this City.)

-Ref. No. 10302401 dated 10/30/2024 to US Bank for \$118.77 for “Holiday Inn Express – W. Bell’s hotel stay – Personal – will be Reimbursing the City” – No account listed where the funds were paid out of nor is there any indication that the expenditure was reimbursed to the City.

-Check No. 141101 dated 8/8/2024 to Magic Circle Players for “Employee Event 12/12/2024” - “Murder Mystery” – Royalties, costumes and clean up.” Again, what the heck is going on here with tax dollars?

-Ref. No. 2292401 dated 2/29/2024 to US Bank showing a “credit” for the purchase of Mayor Bynum’s Ski Pass in the amount of \$1,275.00 was being deducted from the check. Obviously, a ski pass was purchased on the “Company Credit Card” to begin with but there’s no explanation as to why the purchase was refunded, however, on 12/29/2022, Check No. 12292206 was

CITY OF MONTROSE – NOT JUST A FAMILY AFFAIR (PART 3)

issued to US Bank for \$2,500 for, according to the memo line, "Colorado Flights Alliance merchant passes for Barbara Bynum and Bo Nerlin" paid for from the Human Resources Operating Account. -Ref. No. 1272204 to dated 1/27/2022 to US Bank for \$550 for the purchase from Magic Circle Players "W. Bell Membership dues 2022" paid from the City Manager's Operating Account. How nice! NOT!

There are NUMEROUS instances in the City's records of charges being placed on City issued credit cards for such things as meals, coffee, tips to theater actors, beauty salons, hotel rooms, airline baggage fees, donations and other charges that are listed as "errors", "mistakenly used", "wrong card used", "will be reimbursed" and other such wording that I doubt is generally accepted in the accounting world, especially for a governmental agency.

As I've written in the past, it is high time for an investigation to be conducted by the citizens of the City of Montrose into what is going on with taxpayer funds. The City officials are quick to label these and

other indiscretions as lies yet it's all on the record. Where's the City's auditors in this? Of course they're silent. They work for the Management of the City. Maybe the Attorney General needs to get involved. Citizens, such as the Montrose D.O.G.E. group, are standing by and need to get community support to look into our local governments.

Tax revenue and the expenditures of it are poorly accounted for by most accounts. The giveaway programs, such as commercial kitchen grants, façade grants, "horizontal improvement" projects like parking lots, lighting, landscaping, etc. of private property and the Colorado Outdoors project totaling millions of dollars are unbelievable and will be documented in upcoming articles with more crazy spending coming for the Manager's budgets and their "affordable housing" schemes that aren't affordable at all.

The "new" City Hall project was undertaken because the City Manager didn't want to see a large building sitting vacant on Main Street, so over \$6,000,000 later, what do we have? A public building with

no parking for employees who only work 4 days a week. And there's more coming. Yes, he's feeling the heat and there are infrastructure projects now starting to get done, but the cost and the time wasted with pet "lipstick on the pig projects", by the City Council and Manager must stop. Priorities need to be realigned. You, the citizen, need to make your voice heard. Now is the time.

The next City Council election is just over a year away – 3 seats are open. If this current City Council doesn't wake up and act, then you, the reader, better. Step up folks!

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.

PROJECT 7 – RESILIENCY OR LIQUIDATION

By David White

I attended the Project 7 Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, and came away quite perplexed, again, as this Board of Directors struggles to justify an undertaking that would create a back up water treatment plant just south of Colona in Ouray County.

Grant funding isn't coming through at this point. The project's costs are rising back up to the almost \$200,000,000 number that was discussed just a few months ago for a water treatment plant that, will, at most, treat 6,000,000 gallons of drinking water per day vs. the current plants 27,000,000 million gallon daily capacity.

While all participants in Project 7 have raised water rates again by .50 per 1,000 gallons, the numbers coming into Project 7 just aren't looking good. The use of treated water is down. Project costs for the second plant are rising. The financing for the treatment plant looks to be on shaky ground or worse. There isn't much of a plan in place right now. Construction of the second plant and pipelines to feed it and to move treated water to end users are still being ironed out, but three years appears to be normal. Member entities are looking worried about the cost of this project as are many members of the public familiar with the situation.

If all 6 member entities don't buy into this plant, it's not going to happen. Does Project 7 take the plunge and face liquidation if members can't pay the price for an entity that doesn't have a very good credit history or do they pull the plug now before getting in deeper. I'm thinking that the latter is the most sane solution for the time being.

Attend the next Board meeting on March 27 to find out more.

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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RED HAWKS BOYS INTO SWEET SIXTEEN

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 46, THORNTON TROJANS 39



Josh Hawks fights for a rebound vs the Thornton Trojans. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-It's February 28. It's cold outside of the field house. A stiff breeze is further making things feel even colder. However, inside the field house things are starting to heat up. The award-winning Montrose Pep Band is in the stands keeping the Red Hawks faithful entertained. The opposition are on the floor warming to the task of knocking off the Red Hawks and eliminating the home team from further competition. But that was not to be.

As both teams would soon learn the Trojans plan was excellent but the execution left much to be desired as the Red Hawks ended the Trojan's upset bid with a 46-39 win, punching the Red Hawks ticket to the Sweet Sixteen.

The visitors outscored the Red Hawks 11-10 in the opening period. Suffocating de-

fenses ruled the second period as the teams tied at 15-15 at the half-way point. The Red Hawks seemingly awakened from their 2nd period siesta and poured in 15 points to lead 30-22 heading into the final canto. The Trojans threw everything they had left at the Red Hawks but were unable to overcome the deficit. The Trojans had to foul repeatedly, putting the Red Hawks on the charity stripe 21 times in the last quarter.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by senior Kaleb Ferguson who tallied 19 points and also added 8 rebounds to his stat line. Junior C. J. Rocco added 13 points and 4 rebounds to the scoresheet. Junior Lane Pressler scored 6 points and led all rebounders for the Red Hawks with 10 caroms which included 3 on the offensive board.

The Red Hawks shot 42 percent from the field but made only 13 of the 29 free throws. The Red Hawks passed out 8 assists, had 11 steals and turned the basketball over only 10 times.

The Red Hawks host their Southwest League rivals, the Durango Demons on Tuesday, March 4 at the field house with the first tip scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Red Hawks have a tall order on their menu as they attempt to defeat the Demons for the third time this season. The Red Hawks won on Jan. 24 at home by the score of 46-38. The Red Hawks traveled to Durango on Feb. 19 and won again, this time by a score of 37-26 The Elite Eight awaits the winner of Tuesday's game. The Red Hawks will continue to keep home court advantage with a win over the Demons.



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MONTROSE RED HAWKS 61, DISCOVERY CANYON 50



Senior Brooke Williams goes up for a shot vs the Discovery Canyon Thunder. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls basketball team continued their winning ways on Saturday afternoon at the field house with a decisive beat down of the visiting Discovery Canyon Thunder by the score of 61 to 50 before a partisan home crowd which was spurred on by the award-winning Montrose High School Pep Band.

The Red Hawks pushed the gas pedal to the floor right out of the starting gate and zoomed out to a 17-9 lead after the initial period of play. As usual Junior Mayce Oberg led all scorers with 7 of the first 17 points. Things got no better for the Thunder as the Red Hawks put 13 points on the board and settled into a comfortable 30-19 advantage at the halfway point.

The teams then played dead even through the final 16 minutes of action. Both teams scored 18 points in the third quarter and 13 points in the fourth and final quarter. The Red Hawks substituted freely throughout the game and saw eight Red Hawks dent the scoring column. Junior Mayce Oberg was unstoppable as she scored 34 points to lead all scorers. Oberg was the beneficiary of a number of outstanding assists from her team mates. Junior Maggie Legg added 7 points to the mix while Junior Lilly Nelson pumped in 6 points and was a stand-out on the backboards. Seniors Brooke Williams and Haven Johnson each put in 4 points while London Schafer added 3 to the Red Hawks total. Things get much more difficult as the Sweet Sixteen puts

the Red Hawks on the road. The Red Hawks will travel to Durango on Wednesday, March 5 for a 7pm tip off with the home-standing Durango Demons. One of the most difficult tasks for any team is to defeat your opponent three times in the same season. The Red Hawks defeated the Demons 43-38 on Jan. 24, and again 49-46 in overtime on Feb. 19. They say the third time is a charm, and the Red Hawks will test that theory to the max. The Red Hawks currently have a 20-4 record with a berth in the Elite Eight awaiting them if and when they can move past the Demons. Awaiting the Red Hawks will either be the Air Academy Kadets or Northridge. Here's hoping playoff basketball brings out the best for the Red Hawks.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DR. MIRZA MASHRUR AHMED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose County is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mirza Mashrur Ahmed as the new Director of Public Health, effective immediately. Dr. Ahmed brings over 24 years of experience in global public health leadership, having worked in some of the most complex and high-need regions, including Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, and Somalia.

Dr. Ahmed has held critical positions with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, including his most recent role as the Team Lead for the Health Emergency Program in Somalia.

His extensive career in public health has been marked by his successful leadership in emergency response, disease prevention, and health systems strengthening. His work has directly impacted millions of lives, particularly in vulnerable populations, by providing critical healthcare services and innovative solutions to public health challenges.

As Director of Public Health, Dr. Ahmed will oversee Montrose County’s public health programs, ensuring the continued

advancement of the county’s healthcare services and initiatives. His vast experience in strategic planning, program development, and health equity will be invaluable in addressing both current and future public health needs in the county. His ability to lead large teams, build partnerships, and secure funding for health projects will further strengthen Montrose County’s commitment to promoting the health and well-being of its residents.

Dr. Ahmed’s accomplishments include managing multi-million-dollar public health programs, leading COVID-19 responses, and advancing maternal and child health initiatives in fragile settings. His innovative work in real-time data collection and information management has transformed public health monitoring, improving decision-making and resource allocation in humanitarian emergencies. “Dr. Ahmed’s remarkable track record in global public health makes him an outstanding addition to our team,” said Montrose County Manager Frank Rodriguez. “His leadership will be instrumental as we continue to build a healthier and

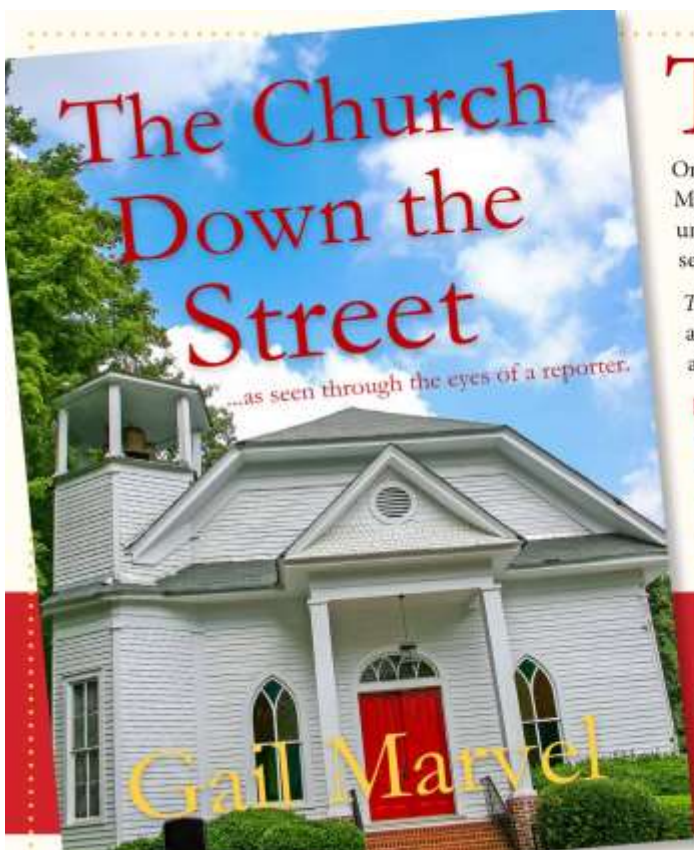
more resilient community.”

Dr. Ahmed holds a Master’s in Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Public Health Management and Development, and a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) with a focus on Management of Information Systems.

He is also a co-author of several influential publications on global health and disease prevention, further underscoring his expertise and dedication to advancing the public health sector.

“I am honored to join Montrose County as its new Director of Public Health,” Dr. Ahmed said. “I look forward to working with the county’s dedicated team and community partners to strengthen our public health infrastructure, promote health equity, and ensure all residents have access to the healthcare services they need.”

Dr. Ahmed’s appointment marks a new chapter in Montrose County’s commitment to public health, and his leadership is expected to bring both innovation and strategic direction to the county’s health initiatives.



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

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

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

Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
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- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
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- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CULTIVATED MEAT? TRANSPARENCY WOULD REVEAL AN AWFUL TRUTH

Editor;

Poor Jon Hochschartner was so mad last week about Trump and Republicans winning the elections that he had to resort to the usual childish Democrat name-calling i.e. fascist, fascist, fascist. In fact he's so mad that he's partially blaming his buddies, Schumer and Jeffries for the big loss. Never mind that the voters gladly made their choices to rid America of the massive destruction of civility, invasion of our borders, inflation, the hate America syndrome and the destroy Israel riots across the nation without any consequences. He complained that Republicans don't plan on allowing "completely free and fair elections going forward". Oh?? Well Jon, how about the admission Biden stupidly made to the news media just before the 2020 election that, "We have put together, I think, the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics." Is that your definition of free and fair elections? Hmmm? And Democrats keep screaming even up to this very day there was no voter fraud in the 2020 election!! Ya just can't have it both ways!

Jon stated Schumer and Jeffries need to "gum up" the works of government 'in every manner possible'. Jon, is that allowing a "free and fair" election to prosper? Apparently he'd like to stymie President Trump's efforts to repair the Democrat destruction of America under his babbling, unqualified defeated president this time under a free and fair election! And yet he leans on the word "democracy" to deflect attention away from his anti-democracy radicalism. His association of democracy with his sick love for his party creating one constitutional crisis after another is an insult to democracy. Oh how Democrats love that word, "democracy" when they are trying to cover their hate for America and falsely convincing the people they are patriotic. Their insincerity is staggering.

Jon stated his "anti-fascist" coalition has a wide variety of goals (heaven forbid!). He

wants a "massive" infusion of public funding (your taxes) into cultivated meat research. He states that's the most promising means of advancing "animal welfare". But of particular concern of the Center For Food Safety, is the genetic engineering of animal cells and their potential cancer-promoting properties. Presently there are 29 companies planning to bring lab-cultured "meat" to market in the form of chicken, beef, pork, seafood, pet food and beyond. Much more information is needed on how the cells are engineered and kept growing. Many companies are claiming this information is confidential and a business secret. Hmmm I wonder why? Even the FDA guidelines are not applicable because cell culturing is not designed for food.

To produce lab-cultured meat many producers extract animal cells from living animals. This is done typically via biopsy, a painful and uncomfortable procedure that uses large needles. Is that Jon's definition of "animal welfare"? If a company could scale up with this method, it would require a consistent supply of animals from which to acquire cells and innumerable painful extractions. And to make the cell-based product more consistent, the producer may biopsy the same animal many times for the cells that growing "meat" requires. If that's "animal welfare", then what would animal cruelty be? When lab-cultured "meat" first began, companies depended on fetal bovine serum (FBS) as a growth medium which involves extracting blood from the fetus of a pregnant cow when the cow is slaughtered.

While the FDA has previously reviewed enzymes, oils, algal, fungal, and bacterial products grown in microorganisms, these new animal cell-cultured products are much more complicated in structure and require a more thorough review. The scale required for making lab-cultured "meat" feasible for mass consumption will be the largest form of tissue engineering to exist and could introduce new kinds of genetically engineered cells into our diets.

That would require more research on various potential safety issues.

Of concern is the safety of ingesting rapidly growing genetically-modified cell lines as these lines exhibit the characteristics of a cancerous cell. A Memphis Meats patent on the creation of modified cell lines involves the activation or inactivation of various proteins responsible for tumor suppression. Another patent from JUST Inc. describes the utilization of growth factors as part of its growth medium. This process could promote the development of cancer-like cells in lab-cultured "meat" products.

Cancer-causing additives are prohibited in our food supply under the Delaney Clauses in the 1958 Food Additive Amendments and the 1960 Color Additive Amendments. These new rapidly growing cell lines might be considered color additives under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act if they are being used to produce the color in the "meat". Federal statutes regulating meat also prohibit the selling of animals with symptoms of illness such as cancerous cells in the meat. All of these new ways of making cells that continue to grow should require a safety assessment to determine if they contain any cancerous cells before they can be sold. Another major issue associated with processing methods using cell lines is contamination. Unlike animals, cells do not have a fully functioning immune system, so there is a high likelihood of bacterial or fungal growth, mycoplasma, and other human pathogens growing in vats of cells. There is a suggestion of using antibiotics in the "meat", but that would expose humans to unlimited antibiotics.

The massive information available on this subject is endless and it's not good.

What was printed here is just a scant outline of the risks and dangers of lab-cultured "meat" partially due to the lack of transparency from the companies involved about the potential health dangers. Transparency would reveal an awful truth.
Jerry Bartholome, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

02/28/25 OPINION RESPONSE - THE TRUTH ABOUT BLACK CANYON ROTARY

Editor:

Montrose Black Canyon Rotary Club was officially chartered on February 9, 2019, after being a morning satellite club of Montrose Rotary Club for over two-plus years. Our satellite club started as a small group of people who wanted to add some leadership development/book club style meetings shortly after Montrose Rotary Club had their Year of the Healthy Child campaign, and the committee that helped organize that initiative were already meeting with knowledge and consent of the Montrose Rotary Club (noon lunch club).

Around this same time, the former Montrose Chamber of Commerce disbanded its Montrose Young Professionals (MYP) group, and there was a group of active and engaged MYP members who saw a need for leadership development to continue in Montrose, and Mark Plantz was instrumental in gathering these people and inviting them to Thursday morning coffee and chats at Coffee Trader. Leadership books, hot topics in our community, and networking were the primary focus of these original meetings, which were held by 8-10 people.

We officially became a satellite club of Montrose Rotary Club, and members were offered a discounted club membership with the understanding that we would be primarily attending as a Thursday morning group. However, we were always welcome and encouraged to attend the Tuesday lunch meetings if we were able. We hosted our inductions to the Montrose Rotary Club outside of the Downtown Coffee Trader, with members from the noon club pinning and swearing us in. As our group continued to dive deeper into leadership development and hot topics in our community, we found ourselves rapidly outgrowing our small space upstairs at Coffee Trader. We started looking for a new meeting space and really started exploring what it would look like to form our own club.

Mark Plantz, along with a small group of 5-6 satellite club members, spent countless hours pouring into what it means to be a

Rotary Club and what it would look like to form a secondary club in Montrose. We also spent a significant amount of time with the leaders of the current Montrose Rotary Club, making sure that we would not be overlapping services to our community and that while we would still work in partnership, we each had a clear vision of services that we would offer to the Montrose & surrounding communities. Our club was never here to replace or remove the current Montrose Rotary Club but to complement what they were already doing and bring to life some of the other visions that our community had and needed at the time- focusing on leadership development for our business community and also coming alongside our youth leaders (middle and high school) and helping them.

Montrose Black Canyon Rotary was formed and chartered with the following mission and vision:

Mission: Black Canyon Rotary impacts our community by accomplishing effective service projects while developing service-oriented leaders.

Vision: Black Canyon Rotary creates positive impact both locally and globally within communities we serve.

We also brought in a decision making model that is new and unique to Rotary International. Each member of our club has an EQUAL voice and we vote as a group, vs being led by a board directive. We continue to have a sitting president, president elect, treasurer, and secretary to uphold the bylaws of Rotary International, but every member within our club has the same vote and voice when deciding on the direction of our club. Our club meetings are open to all community members, with no visitor fees at any time. We encourage potential new members to visit both our club and the Montrose Rotary Club before being inducted with either club to make sure they are finding the best fit for their personal needs and wants for service within the Montrose community. We continue to have a relationship with Montrose Rotary Club and regularly have their members visit our

meetings and vice versa, and partner together on various programs and projects both locally, regionally, and internationally to make an even greater impact than either club would be able to do on their own.

When we chartered, Mark Plantz (DWC CPAS & Advisors) was our President, Ashley (Pietak) Freeburg (Holiday Inn Express now Tempest Interactive Media) was our secretary, and Kevin Johnson (Timberline Bank now DWC CPAS & Advisors) was our treasurer.

One of our first club projects was finding a way to offer scholarships to high school students in our community. As a new club, we lacked the funding so we applied for a Rotary District grant and were awarded \$10,000 to give out in scholarships to our high school youth. A scholarship committee was formed with Kathy Gaber (MHS High School Teacher) as the coordinator to ensure fairness in scholarship selection. In future years, the club will conduct community fundraisers at local events to fund these scholarship awards. Fundraising by our club is hard work but worth the effort. Donors are private business owners, government entities, and individuals focused on this one worthy goal. It can't be understated how important these scholarships are for our students in the Montrose and Olathe high schools. Unless you've had a child who's applied for a scholarship, you don't realize that the monetary amount is little in comparison to being recognized by a service organization like the Black Canyon Rotary Club because it opens the doors to being selected for larger scholarships. These scholarships have an impact in turning local youth into community leaders by and through a college education.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Interact Club in Montrose and Bryant Hunter, Black Canyon Rotary Club Interact Committee Chair, spearheaded a fundraiser to provide much-needed shade structures for the area. Recognizing the importance of safe outdoor spaces for students, the Interact students raised over \$30,000, which allowed them to purchase

THE TRUTH ABOUT BLACK CANYON ROTARY *From previous pg*

six weather port structures for the Elementary schools and the early childhood center. This impressive accomplishment was made possible through collaboration with multiple Rotary clubs, including Rotary District 5470, as well as the Montrose County School District, the City of Montrose, and the Montrose Community Foundation. Their combined efforts demonstrated a remarkable sense of community, ensuring that students had safe, shaded areas for outdoor learning during an incredibly challenging time.

Last year, our club conducted several other local service projects. The club assisted Hope West by hanging their memorial leaves; returning them to the Hope West fence after they were vandalized. We've boxed food at Sharing Ministries and helped a local woman clear her yard of debris. Last year, we partnered with the Montrose High School Rotary Interact Club, which is a youth led Rotary club within Montrose High School. The Interact club raised money for a blood drive for the country of Belize through their fundraising efforts and with help from a Rotary

District grant. The Black Canyon Rotary Club also partnered with the Interact Club to host the Montrose Mud Run, bringing a fun event to the Montrose community with proceeds going to the Interact Club. We also sent three Interact club students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) in Leadville in a sponsor partnership with the Montrose Rotary Club and intend to do so again in 2025.

Yearly, we partner with club member Kathy Gaber, Montrose High School, and Grace Community Church to host the Young Adult Leadership Experience (YALE). This event gathers over two hundred high school youth leaders from Montrose and Olathe to learn about leadership from community members who have a passion for teaching leadership. In 2024, our keynote speaker was County Manager Frank Rodriguez, who passed on his experiences with leading men and women into combat and possessing courage under fire.

Our focus is to build community leaders and grow as an organization. Membership is not our goal, but attracting positive

community members to enhance the club's leadership development priorities, service missions, and youth Rotary Interact support is a priority. The signatures at the end of this letter represent past, current, and future presidents of our club, who are business owners, entrepreneurs, and working professionals. All are community leaders who have a passion and ability to lead their organizations to positive community outcomes. Finally, our members all have one thing in common. A heart of service for our community and a desire to develop youth and adult leaders who are committed to the service of our community. We hope this sets the record straight by providing the truth about our club's formation and mission.

Thank you,
Past President Mark Plantz
Past President Ashley Freeburg
Past President Amanda Waltrip
Past President Bill Bell
Past President Bryant Hunter
President Blaine Hall
President-Elect Martin Lutz



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GAIL MARVEL
 Montrose Author & Reporter

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PROJECT 7 CONTINUES PLANS FOR RESILIENCY PROJECT From pg 1

to the entities.

A second water source has been discussed for years and in the 2000's it was determined that the most cost-effective and long-term solution would be to add a second water source, treatment, and distribution system to serve all Project 7 members. The proposed new water treatment facility will be located at 35679 US - 550 and will have direct access to the Ridgway Reservoir.

Still, on their own, Project 7 does not have the capital, or the credit rating needed to finance the proposed second water treatment facility.

An excerpt from the Project 7 website concerning funding for the Resiliency Project states, *"Depending on the ultimate design and construction cost, the actual revenue increases from wholesale water rates will be determined by the amount of outside grant funding and low-interest loans secured for the project."* To date Project 7 has secured one \$1M grant.

Resiliency Update - Members of the project team include Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham and [Rick Huggins](#) of Garver. Topics:

- Funding Strategy, Cost Allocation Study and Financial Models
- Updated 2025 Rate Study – Member Agencies and Peer Communities
- Permitting and Communications
- Process Control
- Design/Build Process

Graham said, "The approval of the new Communication Policy makes us more accountable to the public. We are linked to Zoom now. Attorney James (no last name given) on Zoom said, "There can be public participation, and you can raise your hand [to speak during public comment]. This gives visibility for you [the board] to hear back from your constituents."

The management team provided a separate agenda which corresponded to their PowerPoint presentation.

Graham presented a chart showing the management team under the purview of Project 7. Referencing the denial of the recent Title XVI Grant application Graham said, "We were not selected in the first

round. There were 16 applications and 11 awards. We debriefed with the Bureau of Reclamation. It's not unusual to have to have multiple applications. No Colorado projects were awarded, and no headwater projects were awarded. They did not question our eligibility, but there is some opportunity to improve the score. Another [grant] round this spring or summer. Round two scoring can be increased." Noting other grant possibilities Graham said, "We will present to DOLA [Colorado Department of Local Affairs] next week. There is a \$1 M opportunity."

Greg Swartz (D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane- full-service investments services) said, "Out of the six members [entities], four are eligible to the US Department of Agriculture for loans and grants." It is unclear if Swartz has asked the entities to seek grants and loans for the project.

Graham said, "Twenty percent [funding] of the project is the goal."

Swartz presented a calendar/timeline that he will send out prior to each monthly meeting. He said, "More than half [of the board] is worried about cost allocation. We'll have a firm response by March 14th and make recommendations to the board by March 27th. Once firm, it will take two to three months to complete. I'm more worried about consensus than I am about timing."

Rick Huggins gave data and rate structures that compared Project 7 to other water providers across the State. Under the assumption the project goes through as planned, he said, "Collectibles will be above average. In the State we won't be the most expensive, but we will be more expensive."

John McCollum said, "How would it be to have information on the median household income with the studies? As the model can further [show] what percent users are paying."

Swartz suggested a county average for median household incomes.

Referring to permitting, Graham said, "There's not a lot to report. The process is still ongoing and is taking longer than we expected. We are meeting with entities."

The management team highlighted that

they are meeting with entities and a lot of those conversations are on common ground and partnerships. No decision is being rushed and they are taking direction from the board. Any action taken would be an action item on the agenda and would require a First and Second reading.

Members of the Design and Build team determined that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is \$156M. They feel they are in a critical position and in order to take full advantage of the 75 percent already allocated, they want the board to consider additional funding. A Limited Notice to Proceed would give them another six more weeks of work.

Two options were suggested. Option A – Would allow them to advance the design and the cost, "just north of \$5M." Option B – Would get them to the June board meeting at a cost of \$1M. The team would recommend Option A.

McCollum said, "The total [project] gets increased to \$169M. Then we'd have to address the Garver, DA Davidson, and the outside attorney. In my mind I'm seeing \$190 - \$200M. It takes three years to build, and Garver would stay on. We've already had \$17M in expenditures. We don't have a big bubble come in at the end of the rainbow."

McCollum wanted to know the cost of the project; plus, future expenses associated with the project until construction is complete. He said, "What is it going to cost to have you do oversight for three years?" Huggins estimated 10 percent for Garver, which does not include DA Davidson, attorneys, etc.

McCollum said, "All of the finance needs to be vetted before we tie ourselves to a contract. DA Davidson needs to figure out financing. The cart needs to slow down, and the horse needs to get in front of the cart!"

Swartz said, "Yes, we need a financing piece. We need grants to make it affordable. DA Davidson and the entities talking [to government agencies]. It's more than just the hired guns. We need to make sure you [the entities] are visibly connected to the project."

McCollum said,

Continued next pg

PROJECT 7 CONTINUES PLANS FOR RESILIENCY PROJECT *From previous pg*

“What’s the typical timeline? Are we looking at June, September, or a year from now?”

It was noted that there could be some action on grant awards from the Bureau of Reclamation in June.

An unidentified team member from CDM Smith noted that additional funding in the form of grants can be found throughout the life of the project.

As in previous meetings, Swartz continued to ask for more access to the financial departments of each entity. He said, “The only thing I would ask, these communications should include financial advisors. A wider group conversation has to include member agencies.”

Authority Manager’s Report – Manager Adam Turner.

- Consumption Report – Jan. 2025
- Cash Flow Report – Jan. 2025
- Process Control – Jan. 2025
- Updates

Turner said, “Consumption over all is down from last year. Cash flow for water sales is up, but there was a 50 cent per 1,000 increase. Interest income is down a little. Flow is a little down for January. Raw hardness is 40 points, up from 35, which is normal. Lately they are forgetting to flush out the flows and it’s [the hardness of] the natural water that comes out of the tunnel.” Turner gave an update on the local snowpack.

Undecided about whether he should attend the DOLA meeting in person, or virtually, Turner said, “It’s a six-hour drive for a seven-minute presentation.”

Vicki Ripp said, “It’s a million dollars [possible grant]”.

David Bries suggested other board members consider carpooling to the meeting to show support or attend by Zoom. He said, “Every million dollars counts. We’ve got to do whatever we can do to get money from somewhere other than rate payers.”

Legal Update:

Attorney James said, “I asked that this [legal update] be a standing item [on the agenda]. Three and a half months ago we [his law firm] became outside legal. I’m up to speed.”

James said, I’ll have a check in period at each board meeting; working on “as needed.” [Congressman] Jeff Hurd was with our law firm. We’ll try to get him on site [tour].”

Describing his position in the chart structure, James said, “We function as staff for the Authority. I’m not the board’s attorney, but Project 7 attorney. Outside general counsel...at the next meeting I’ll be on vacation and a different attorney will be with you, but I’ll be back in April.”

Old Business: San Miguel Power Transformer Procurement (Action) Manager Turner would like to order a new transformer that will be needed for the second water treatment facility. The cost for the transformer with installation is \$227,971.

Indicating he feels the transformer is not needed at this time, McCollum said, “That’s getting the cart before the horse.”

Ripp said, “It only improves, it’s not the cart before the horse. We have already decided that we are going to move forward. It will only improve our property.”

The purchase of the transformer was

approved in a four-to-two vote, with Chipeta Water District’s John McCollum and City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson voting against the expenditure.

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

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

Project 7 Background:

Project 7 Board meetings, the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m., are now available to the public on Zoom. Citizens can contact the office/web site for login ID or call 888-475-4449.

The seven entities that represent Project 7 Water Authority are:

The City of Montrose David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org

The City of Delta Mayor Kevin Carlson 970 874-7566 kevin@cityofdeltanet

The Town of Olathe Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323-5601 jacob.foreman@geocities.com

The Tri-County Water Conservancy District Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 info@tricitywater.org

The Chipeta Water District John McCollum 970 209-5137 jmc-

collum@rvemontrose.com

The Menoken Water District Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

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





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP'S POPULARITY IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH AND CONTINUALLY IMPROVING

Editor:

I just read a great article by Sean O'Brien, president of the Teamsters union subtitled "The American people want leaders who hear them, not tell them what to think." He points out that even after Trump thrashed them in the last election, Democrats continue the delusion that they lost because of "messaging" without exploring the root causes of their defeat. They continue to think their "narratives" are more important than what they actually do or what they stand for. Of particular interest to me was O'Brien's comment that "The mainstream media continues to fade into irrelevancy because no one believes them anymore. The networks are tanking and print news subscriptions are shrinking. Why? Because they offer exactly what the beltway insiders serve up and ignore the political realities of everyday voters."

DOGE revealed that much of the mainstream media is bought and paid for with taxpayer money and they are little more than lapdogs for Democrats. I have long struggled to understand everyday Democrats. They said nothing when Biden's declining mental health was hidden. They said nothing when an incompetent and totally unlikeable Kamala was implanted as the presidential nominee without getting a single primary vote. When Jews were openly accosted on their college campuses, they said nothing. When billionaire and anti-American George Soros funded dozens of AG elections, they said nothing. When their party let men dominate women's sports and share their locker rooms, they said nothing. When 50 intelligence agents all lied to bury Hunter's laptop as Russian disinformation, they said nothing. When Fauci peddled covid virus lies and covered up the origins, they said nothing. When inflation crushed the poor and middle class, they said nothing. When it was open season on law enforcement and criminals reigned, they said nothing. When DEI weakened our military and put our national security at risk, they said nothing. You get the picture. Democrats saw the corruption, the lies, and the anti-American agenda and

they were OK with all that. Now that the Democrat propaganda machine has zero credibility, perhaps more Democrat voters will wake up to the truth: Democrats are clearly defending their own interests rather than the interests of the American public. They are totally exposed as the party of the entitled, and without the media propaganda cover, Democrats are now either being ignored or ridiculed by most people.

DOGE is exposing absurdities and Americans totally support the audits. The auditors uncovering decades of waste, fraud, and corruption are more popular with the American people than the corrupt and aging politicians who created lives of luxury for themselves by initiating and protecting that waste, fraud, and corruption. Trump's popularity is at an all-time high and continually improving. The Democrats polling is at an all-time low and getting worse. The federal government's spending has grown 600% since 1990 from around \$1 trillion to around \$7 trillion while inflation has only increased 140%. The Democrats' response to Trump's efforts to regain a semblance of control over that bloating? Other than lawfare, which they know they are going to lose, their response has been to go back to the only thing they know: false narratives. Einstein is credited with defining insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." An article by Mike McDaniell concisely addressed some of Democrats' failed narratives: "No one elected Elon Musk!" The only elected people in DC are the President, Vice President, and Congress. Everyone else working there is appointed and loaned authority from their elected boss. "Musk is a billionaire!" So? He, like Trump, is saving American taxpayers billions. Both went into government service filthy rich, unlike career politicians that somehow went into politics poor but inexplicably came out filthy rich. "Trump can't let them have access to executive branch data!" Of course he can. Article II of the constitution vests all executive authority in the President. He can delegate that authority to his appointees to do the work

of the Executive Branch. "Trump can't just fire people!" Yes, he can, particularly if they are Executive branch employees. He's the boss, beholden to the American people who elected him. "Trump's destroying the government!" This narrative is based on the false premise that any reduction in government is somehow illegitimate. The Founders would disagree. "Trump is staging a coup!" Against himself? Against Americans who elected him via the Electoral College and the popular vote? He is reducing the size and power of the government, which increases individual wealth and liberty. He is not taking power from the people; he is giving it back to them.

Everyday Democrats might want to ask themselves what their party stands for. Deficit spending? DEI? Victimhood? Hiding evidence? Open borders? Lawfare? Opposing prosecuting crime? Hiding corruption? Racial division? Anti-Semitism? Are they going to just continue tuning out and assume their party is still the party of their youth? (You know, the party that at least pretended it was for the working class?)

They might want to ask themselves who is the face of today's Democrat party? Do they identify with the likes of MSNBC's Joy Reid, who constantly attacked Americans, particularly white Americans, as she defended illegals and other criminals? How about anti-Semitic Democrat representative Ilhan Omar who just complained that Americans are "idiots" who are too "stupid" to be "allowed" to hold their political views. (Those Americans are "idiots" because they believe silly things like borders and government accountability.) How long will Democrats tolerate people like Omar, Ocasio-Cortez, Elizabeth Warren, and the rest of the far-left extremists setting the tone in the Democrat party?

One quick chuckle: CNN's Jake Tapper is publishing a book that chronicles President Biden's cognitive decline and the scandalous cover-up --- after he spent years participating in said coverup. No hubris or irony there folks.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CHRISTY YOUNG

August 1, 1972 — February 21, 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Christy Young, who left this world peacefully on February 21, 2025, at the age of 52. Christy was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, known for her unwavering strength, deep faith, and boundless love for those around her.

Christy is survived by her loving husband,

Thomas Young, and their three sons: Patrick Young, Alec Young, and Kyle Vanbrunschot. Her legacy of love, kindness, and resilience will continue to shine through her children, who were the light of her life. She was the daughter of Bruce and Roni Grigsby and leaves behind her siblings Shannon and (Patrick) Cordova and Patrick Grigsby and (Anthony Pilny), with whom she shared a bond that transcended time and distance. Her sister and brother-in-law, Keely and Robert Svacha, and father and mother-in-law, Charlie and Suzie Young, were all an important part of her life, offering support and laughter in all their years together. She will be fondly remembered by her nieces, Abby, Jamie, and Ashley, who brought immense joy to her heart.

Christy was a woman of deep faith, guided by her strong belief in God. Her faith was a source of strength for her, and she approached every challenge in life with grace, never wavering from her trust in God.

One of her defining qualities was her love for animals. She found great comfort in caring for them and cherishing their companionship. Christy was also an avid adventurer, particularly enjoying the beauty

and serenity of the San Juan Mountains. Hiking among the peaks and trails brought her a sense of peace, and she reveled in the adventures that nature provided.

Christy's life was a vivid tapestry of adventure, laughter, and boundless energy—there was truly never a dull moment when she was around. Whether on the pickleball court, hitting the links for a round of golf, exploring new hiking trails, camping under the stars, or biking through rugged mountain trails, Christy approached each day with a sense of enthusiasm that was infectious to those around her.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Christy was a passionate runner and completed numerous half-marathons such as Imogene and Kendall Mountain. Despite the obstacles, she never gave up and always pushed herself further, inspiring all who knew her with her perseverance and determination.

Christy's life was a testament to the power of love, faith, and tenacity. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Rest in peace, Christy. Your spirit will live on in the hearts of all who loved you.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RONALD CRAIG MEINERS

July 11, 1946 — February 16, 2025

RONALD CRAIG MEINERS, age 78, passed away peacefully early Sunday morning, February 16, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Ron was born on July 11, 1946, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Richard Meiners, Sr. and Helen (Joergens) Meiners. He was the youngest of three children. His sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Jean Griebat, preceded him in death in 2021. His brother, Richard Meiners Jr., survives him.

In 1968, Ron married the love of his life, Sandra (Sandy) June Meiners (Hochstetler). Shortly after, he was deployed to Vietnam as a member of the Army National Guard. Stationed in a bunker that had previously been attacked, Ron sent cassette tape recordings home to Sandy, his voice filled with love and longing, even as bombs echoed in the background. His service in Vietnam was cut short when he received the heart-breaking news that his father was on his deathbed. The Army flew him home on a nearly empty cargo plane, accompanied only by the pilot.

After his military service, Ron and Sandy moved to Auburn, Nebraska, where he began working at Hinky Dinky, a small grocery chain.

Through dedication and perseverance, he worked his way up to owning the Auburn store, expanding and relocating it to a larger space within a small strip mall, which they also purchased. Under his

leadership, the store thrived until the chain was eventually sold to SunMart, at which point Ron retired and moved to Montrose, Colorado.

Never one to sit still, Ron embarked on a new venture with his son Chris, founding You Sell Auto, a successful used car dealership in Montrose that continues to operate today. A tireless worker and a dedicated businessman, Ron took pride in every endeavor he pursued.

Above all else, Ron was a devoted husband, father, and family man. He was known for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to his loved ones. He grew up in the Roman Catholic faith but later attended the First Baptist Church with Sandy, ensuring that faith and family remained at the center of their lives.

Ron also had a passion for traveling, and he and his family made many wonderful memories on vacations together every year. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed riding 4-wheelers and jeeping in the mountains, always seeking new trails and adventure. Whether it was a road trip, exploring nature, or simply spending time with family, those moments were cherished and will be remembered forever. His love and guidance shaped the lives of his children, and they couldn't have asked for a better dad. He will be missed every single day.

Ron is survived by his loving wife of 56



years, Sandy; his four sons and their wives:

- Ronald Meiners Jr. (Ronnie)
 - Chris Meiners and his wife, Valerie
 - Kevin Meiners and his wife, Jessica
 - Mark Meiners and his wife, Eunice
- He was a proud grandfather to Ethan, Desiree, Ashley, A.J., Derek, Kadin, Jylliane, Jorja, and Evelyn. He is also survived by his brother, Richard Meiners Jr., and many cherished friends and extended family members.

Ron's legacy of love, perseverance, and dedication will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BRENT STEVAN STOGDILL

February 20, 1973 — February 21, 2025



BRENT STEVAN STOGDILL was a son, a grandson, a nephew, a cousin, an older brother, a husband, a father, an uncle, a papa, and a friend to many. Brent was born in 1973 in Clarinda, Iowa to his loving mother and father, Stevan and Dianna Stogdill. He later became the oldest brother to four siblings- Jenny, Christy, Andy, and Matt. Some of Brent's favorite memories growing up were of times spent with his cousins playing outside in the warmth of summer, going to youth group at Hillside Missionary Church on Wednesday nights, the freedom of riding his bike all around the small town of Clarinda with a blue raspberry slushy from the gas station in each hand, running a lawn mowing business with his friends, box sliding down hills of fallen leaves, and playing high school football. In a rare stroke of blessing, at the young age of fourteen Brent and his lifelong love began dating. They grew up together and got married at eighteen years old on August 17th, 1991. Together Brent and Shannon began the next step in their life. They went to college together at Iowa Western. Two short years later in 1993 they welcomed their son Mark into the world, and less than two years after that in 1995 they wel-

comed their daughter Maggie. In 1996 Brent was inspired to pursue a career as a pharmacist. He worked hard in various construction jobs, went to school full time, and in 2000 earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from University of Nebraska Medical Center with the love and support of his wife and family. In 2000 Brent and Shannon moved their family from Nebraska to Montrose, Colorado, and for the last twenty-four years Montrose has been their home. Some of Brent's favorite ways to enjoy their home in western Colorado involved basking in the beauty and majesty within the mountains and riding his dirt bike on every trail from Montrose to Silverton and as far west as Utah. Brent's passion in life was helping people. Through his work as a pharmacist caring for people's health, to the light and love of Jesus shining through him as he used his handiwork skills to, both fix and build, never asking for anything in return. Friends and strangers, Brent's generosity touched many lives and cannot adequately be expressed in words.

Brent's life had a purpose, and he lived to fulfil it. He was a loving husband who took care of Shannon in every way he possibly could. He and Shannon's marriage and love for one another was a wonderful example to many. He was a loving, dependable father to Mark, Maggie, and Maggie's husband Yash, always willing to help them with anything they needed whether it was a listening ear, a broken-down car, good advice, or just a hug. He helped his friends, he helped his church family, and he helped strangers. He was never more than a phone call away. Brent left behind a legacy of caring for others with no limitations. Brent's grandsons were his pride and joy. He thought they were perfect, and as far as they're concerned, he was a perfect Papa. He longed to instill a love of the outdoors in them, and his favorite way to spend time was playing outside with Paxton (9), Asah (7),

Ezrah (3), and Eli (1). Some of the things he taught Paxton and Asah were how to ride a dirt bike, how to throw a football, how to hit a baseball, how to shoot off fireworks, and how to finish a vanilla ice cream cone in record time.

In everything Brent did his dedication to the Lord was evident. His desire to share with others the truth of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness His life, death, and resurrection offers to all who believe in Him guided Brent's decisions. He lived the life of a servant for the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus calls His people to be.

Brent is survived by his wife, Shannon Stogdill, son Mark Stogdill, daughter Maggie (Yashaal) Dyer, grandsons Paxton, Asah, Ezrah, and Elias, his father and mother Stevan and Dianna Stogdill, brothers Andrew (Kara) and Matthew (Tara) Stogdill, sister Christy Stogdill, grandmother Ruby Thompson, mother-in-law Cindi Webb, father-in-law Bob (Gail) Webb, many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He is preceded in death by his infant sister Jenny Stogdill, grandparents Bert and Beda Stogdill, his grandpa Ray Thompson, Aunts Porcia and Pamela Stogdill in infancy, Uncle Stephen Thompson, Uncle Larry Richardson, Aunt Terri Brown, Uncle Ray Shields, Aunt and Uncle Judy and Bill Caskey, and cousin Aaron Clark.

Because he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior his loved ones are deeply comforted knowing Brent is experiencing no loss, no sadness, no tears, and no pain. The struggles of this world are behind him, and Brent is safely in the arms of his Heavenly Father.

Revelation 21:3-4

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.' "

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN H. MCCOY

January 5, 1929 — February 22, 2025

JOHN H. MCCOY, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, and went to live with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

John was born January 5, 1929 to William Boyce Mccoy and Mary Edna Ray (Mccoy). He was the oldest of four children. He was born and raised in Bertram, Texas and graduated from Bertram High School in 1946.

John served in the Army from 1951 to 1953. That is where he met Jesus and forever changed the course of his life. He was sitting at a church meeting and the preacher preached on acts 16:30-31. "And brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved and thy house."

John told, himself that day, " I believe." After that, he went to college to become a preacher and a teacher, where he met the love of his life, Patricia Ann Mays. They got married August 11, 1955. They had three kids together, John David

Mccoy, Susan McCoy (Meders) and Sandra Mccoy.

He was a preacher from 1954 to 1975, and a teacher from 1961 to 1987. He never could stay retired though, he loved working. When he finished teaching, he sold shoes, mowed lawns, he was a carpenter, an electrician and a plumber. He also loved his garden and canning with his wife. John was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He loved kids, and was always smiling and laughing. He was very accepting and would take you just how you were, and tell you all about Jesus.

John was preceded in death by his parents William Boyce Mccoy, and Mary Edna Mccoy and his brother Billy Mccoy. He is survived by his wife Patricia, his brother Hugh B. , his sister Mary Joe, his children John David Mccoy, Susan Meders, and Sandra McCoy. Five grandchildren, Casey Daniels, Brittany Daniels, Jessica Smithy, T'Anni, Meders and Addie Meders, and by his eight Great Grand-



children, Ayden, Cloe, Jason, Hunter, Ryder, Brody, Emma, and Koy.

We love you Grandpa, so so much, Thank you, for all you have done for us, and for all you have taught us, Thank You, for giving to the lord.

WALLACE "WALLY" E. SHEATS

June 27, 1932 — February 20, 2025



WALLACE E. SHEATS (WALLY) passed away at the age of 92 on February 20, 2025, at Colorow Care Center. His love, Karen Erickson, was by his side. Wally was many things to many people. He was a successful businessman and an avid street rod enthusiast; but he was also a fun-loving jokester, master pot stirrer, stubborn as a mule, an ornery ole GOAT, the rock of our lives, and now our guardian angel — Papa Wally!!

Wally was born the eldest son of Benjamin L. Sheats and Pauline E. Barnett on June 27, 1932, in Dawson Springs, Kentucky. He was the eldest of five and the last living of his siblings.

He is survived by his five children: Wallace E. Sheats Jr. and his wife Gerry Sheats, L. Diane Hurst and her husband Charles Hurst, Cynthia June, Brenda Cirbo and Christie Emerson; his seven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

Wally is also survived by his second family: his partner in love, Karen Erickson; her daughter Lisa Suppes and her husband Jim Suppes, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Wally was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Gloris Sheats, his parents and his siblings. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hope West Hospice, in the name of Wallace E. Sheats.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MICHAEL JOHN BROWN

November 22, 1946 — February 24, 2025

MICHAEL JOHN BROWN was born in Denver, Colorado on November 22, 1946. He was the only son of Kenneth and Lucille Brown.

Mike spent an idyllic childhood on the family farm on California Mesa in Delta Colorado, surrounded by his grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and sister. He grew up driving tractors and attending St. Michael's Catholic School. Mike graduated from Delta High School in 1964. After a couple of semesters at Western State College, he joined the United States Air Force, where he became a crew chief for B-52 bombers.

Before he left for basic training, Mike attended a Delta High School football game where he met the love of his life, Vicki Dickson. On April 6, 1968, the two were married and shortly after, moved to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan, where they started their family. Their son, Steven, was born in Okinawa. After moving home to Colorado, Mike was hired as a splicer/lineman for Mountain Bell in Montrose and was very proud to work in that profession for 30 years. They added

their daughter, Dana, to complete their family.

Mike enjoyed living in Colorado his whole life and all the outdoor activities that provided, such as hunting, fishing, camping, cutting firewood for the winter, and four-wheeling in the summer.

Papa Mike was famous for his milkshakes which all the grandchildren begged for, and he happily made for them.

He never knew a stranger and made friends everywhere he went. His teasing was legendary, and his one-liners were infamous. Unbeknownst to a lot of people, he was a beautiful pianist and played by ear.

Mike loved his wife, his children, family and friends. He loved airplanes, John Deere tractors, John Elway, and John Wayne — on any given day, not necessarily in that order.

Mike passed away peacefully on February 24th with his family by his side.

Mike is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Vicki; son, Steve (Kathleen) Brown; daughter, Dana (Dean) Baumgardner; grandson, Brett; granddaughters, Sara,



Lauren, Hanna, and Mara; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Lucille Brown, and his sister, Mary Jo Rich.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Montrose Christian Church on Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 am.

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

ISSUE 510 March 3, 2025

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – DIRT



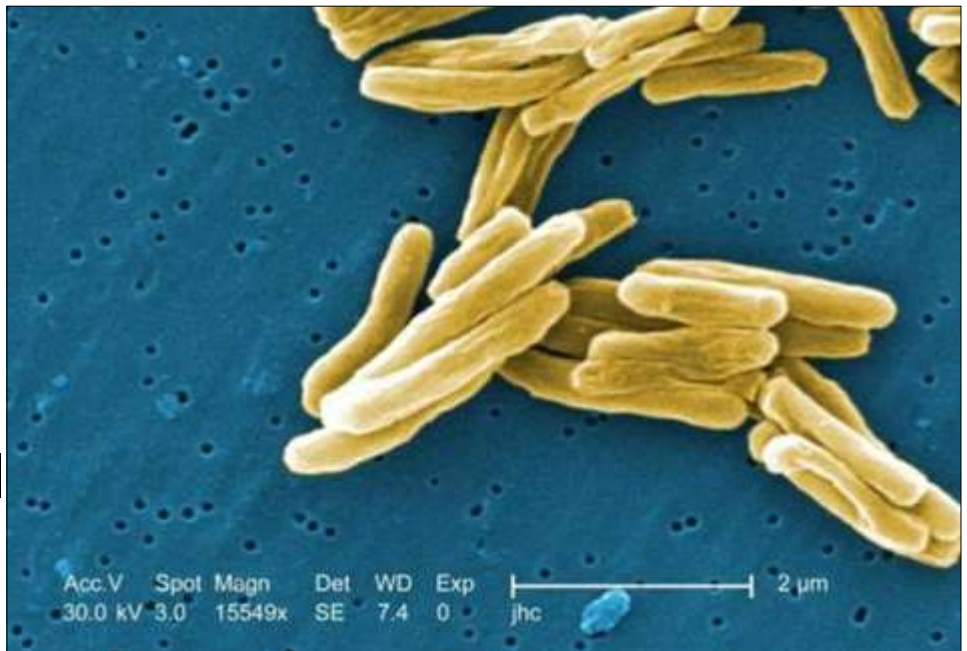
By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph. D.

Greetings Mirrorites!

The recent sunny weather has given me a much-needed chance to get my hands into unfrozen soil. Getting good quality, rich with humus garden soil all over your hands doesn't just evoke childhood, it increases your physical and mental health. But it's just dirt, you say, and isn't dirt, well, dirty? And dirty is bad and germ, which can make you sick, right?

The answer is sometimes yes, but when it comes to well-nourished, fluffy, and biologically active soil, the answer is usually no. What is well-nourished soil, anyway?

My awareness of the many answers to this question has been boosted in the last few years by online resources and in-person expertise. I was blown away to learn from an expert at the 2024 Food, Farm, and Soil Conference in Montrose that healthy soil is extremely biodiverse. A teaspoon of topsoil often contains around



M. vaccae...get some into your hands and your brain now! Photo courtesy of iNaturalist.

close to a million bacterium. I don't know how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, but 40 million bacteria can do so. That is numbers of individuals and is truly impressive (or perhaps a little creepy to clean freaks). But I think the real jaw-dropper is the number of species. Average soil that is neither terribly impoverished nor tremendously healthy can contain around 10,000 species per gram of soil. Some extraordinarily well-nourished and undisturbed soils can contain 5 times as many species. There are more soil microbes in a teaspoonful of soil than there

are people on the earth. It is with good reason that one of the conference speakers quipped that we humans 'walk on the roof of the world.'

These groovy microbes include yeasts, algae, protozoa, bacteria, nematodes, and fungi that process soil into rich, dark, stable humus. All of these organisms contribute to plant health and eventually human well-being in the form of calories, nutrients, shade, and other goods and services, but it is bacteria that may have the strangest and most immediate applications for human health.

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – DIRT From previous pg

In this article, I will discuss one of humanity's best 'old friends' and why it can cheer a dirty person up considerably.

There are some microbes that are believed to have existed throughout human and proto-human history, with evidence of their having been around in hunter-gatherer times, and thus having been present before and during the evolution of the human immune system. The microbes that evolved alongside our immune systems, known as "old friends," are thought to have been intricately involved with human immune defense development. Thus, humans and these microbes depend on each other to function properly. This may be why nice, clean, and sanitary cities cause their denizens to experience asthma, allergies, and inflammatory bowel diseases in record numbers, not to mention anxiety and depression. Dirty rural folks often have fewer troubles with these ailments.

The Old Friends Hypothesis postulates that a broad failure of immunoregulation is due to inadequate exposure to the microorganisms that drive development of the immune system and impair the development of plenty of the regulatory T cells that mediate immunoregulatory mechanisms. An evolutionary approach helps us to identify which soil microbes we evolved with and depend on to protect and boost these functions. Most of the organisms that drive the regulatory arm of the immune system come from our mothers, family, pets, livestock, and just generally from the natural environment. One old friend in particular has been in the news lately.

In Uganda a couple of decades ago, researchers found that indigenous peoples in certain areas had an unexpected re-

sistance to tuberculosis. Fascinated by this, Dr. Christopher Lowry began investigation of the most likely mechanism, tactile exposure to *Mycobacterium vaccae*. His early work was not an overnight hit, but Dr. Lowry, now a professor at CU Boulder School of Medicine, is enjoying some mood-lifting validation. "As human societies have migrated to urban environments, we have lost touch with a host of bacterial species that play a role in regulating our immune system, and this is helping to fuel an epidemic of inflammatory disease," says Lowry. "I want to know: What are the impacts on mental health?" Good question, and there definitely are some. For instance, studies using the microbe were conducted on cancer patients who reported a better quality of life and less stress as a result. Lack of serotonin has been linked with anxiety as well as other similar disorders. The microbe in soil appears to boost serotonin and act as a natural antidote to stress and, fortunately, has no adverse health effects. It didn't help the patients with the cancer itself, but it did help with the emotions involved in the coping and healing processes. Other studies with rats and mice injected with killed *M. vaccae* cells made them more emotionally capable of coping with social stressors, such as the approach of a specially selected aggressive male conspecific. Instead of falling apart in overt displays of abject submission, or unwisely attacking a larger and more experienced adversary, the treated rodents were able to avoid the conflict through upright, 'prosocial' postures intended to derail the aggression through calmness and the appearance of gentle strength. Us humans can certainly use a bit more of that capacity these days!

M. vaccae appears to stimulate serotonin,

that feel-good hormone, but also has a beneficial effect on the hippocampus. Injected rats and mice can navigate food reward cues from memory better than control groups. So mood and memory are measurably improved, according to some South Korean research teams. After only five minutes of bare-handed soil mixing fun, human participants experienced mood and memory benefits that were still evident 24 hours later before all effects were extinguished.

Daily dirt play may be helpful to human thriving for other reasons. Human contact with good soil benefits the diversity of human gut microbiota and therefore, gut health. Speaking about a recent report published by the Save Soil organization outlining the relationship between human health and soil health, Director of NHS Foundation Trust Board Sumita Hutchinson stated: "From nutrition to gut health to mental well-being—human well-being and soil health are intertwined. This analysis is important because it underscores how connected our health is to our natural environment."

This week I plan on working compost made by my walking digestors (goats) into the garden soil that needs a bit of a boost to get ready for this year's growing season. Some of it will be by trowel and by shovel, but given the benefits outlined in this article, I plan some daily dirt 'under the fingernails' interactions with my land. Here little *vaccae*, come to mama!

Questions and comments from readers wanting more information on gardening, goats, and beginning homesteading tips and tricks can contact me at agescapesnow@gmail.com. Best regards, gentle readers, from The Mindful Naturalist.

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OUT & ABOUT WITH B. SWITZER

Top, tulips breaking ground. Below, Amanita Muscaria. Photos by B. Switzer.



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WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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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



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
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970-787-9021

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970-964-4999

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Burgers & Beer
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Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



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.

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



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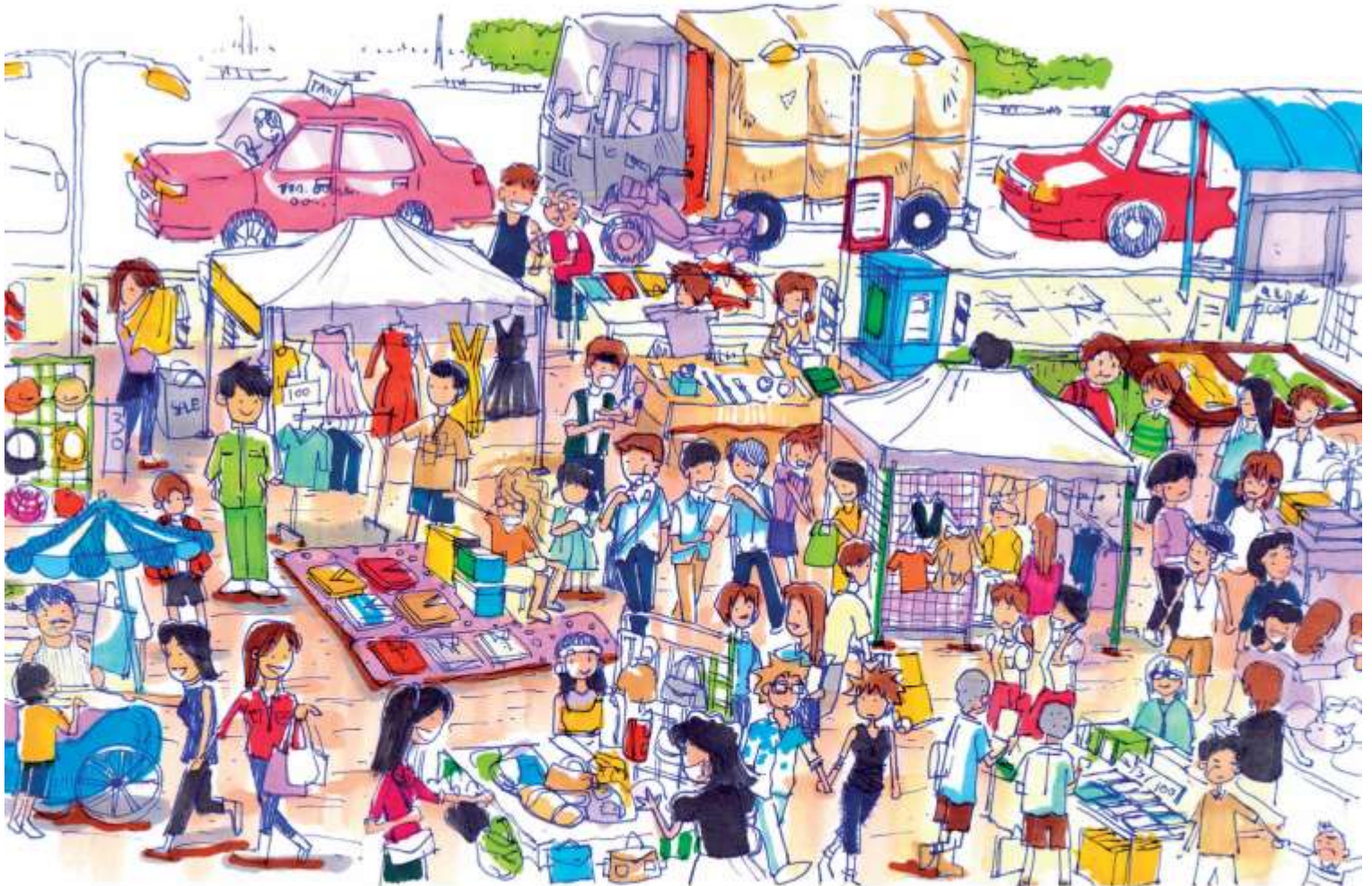


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Saturday March 29th | 9am-4pm

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or info@mc4arts.com

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

MONTHLY

Feb. 4-April 11--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am - 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.

March 5-The Montrose County Historical Society presents. with permission from the Delta County Historical Society, the video "The Hanging Flume. The program addresses the construction and history of the Hanging Flume in the Dolores River Canyon. The public is welcome to attend this free program. Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Light refreshments are provided.

March 10-Want your voice heard in protecting our public lands? Join us for food, friendship, and tips on letter writing to decision makers. We'll provide resources and advice. Snacks provided, BYOB. Join us at the Ridgway Library on March 10 from 1-2:30pm. Sponsored by Northern San Juan Broadband and Great Old Broads for Wilderness Questions? Contact: northernsanjuan@greatoldbroads.org

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](#).

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Photographer Deb Reimann captured this view of the Black Canyon. "How lucky we all are to have this gem in our Montrose backyard!"



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