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DMEA APPROVES UNCLAIMED CAPITOL CREDIT DONATIONS TO NORTH FORK AMBULANCE & LFMG MUSIC ACADEMY; APPROVES CEO COMPENSATION



DMEA's District 3 Director Jacob Gray (left) received a certificate for completion of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Program. DMEA Chief Executive Officer Jack Johnston (right) congratulated Gray on his achievement. Photo by Gail Marvel.

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-On March 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.

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

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts. Director Ryan Sedgeley attended by Zoom, Emily Sanchez arrived late

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PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY COSTS SKYROCKET

By Gail Marvel

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

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 March 27 Project 7 Water Authority Board was called to order by Chairman Jake Foreman. All board members were present. Board members have alternates who attend all meetings; for this meeting alternate Kathy Calkins represented the Chipeta Water District. Approximately 30 people, including the board and advisors, were in attendance. The Feb. 27, 2025 minutes were approved; there were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment: All comments revolved around the proposed Resiliency Project, the building of a second water treatment plant. Last names of some individuals

Continued pg 44



Project 7 monthly meeting on March 27. (Center clockwise) Chipeta Water District alternate Kathy Calkins, Menoken Water District Randy Meaker, Financial Advisor Gregg Swartz, Management Team Member Rick Huggins, Management Team Member Miles Graham, Tri-County Water District Conservancy District Vicki Ripp, Project 7 Secretary Tessa, Project 7 Manager Adam Turner, Town of Olathe Jake Foreman, and City of Montrose David Bries. Not pictured, City of Delta Kevin Carlson. Photo by Gail Marvel.

[Terri Leben: Montrose Trailblazer Story!](#)

[Montrose Red Hawks All Sports Roundup: By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[New column for women: by Gia Pirelli!](#)

[Op-Eds & Editorial Cartoon!](#)

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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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CMU MONTROSE CAMPUS LECTURE SERIES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: "Protecting Rainforests with the People Who Live in Them" by CMU Professor of Political Science Timothy Casey, PhD, 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave., CMU Montrose Campus. Free and open to the public



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TERRI LEBEN IS ONE OF MONTROSE'S LEADING CONNECTORS

Originally published on trailblazerstories.com



Image credit: Desiree Roberts Photography

"Each of us must rededicate ourselves to serving the common good. We are a community. Our individual fates are linked; our futures intertwined; and if we act in that knowledge and in that spirit together, as the Bible says: "We can move mountains." Image credit: Desiree Roberts Photography

Special to the Mirror Connections Create Community

There are people in every city who serve as connectors, helping communities grow and thrive. In Montrose, one of those connectors is Terri Leben, owner and head of hospitality at Welcome Western Colorado. Alongside Kim Bowden, she greets new homeowners and residents as they move into Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties.

Building Trust from the Get-Go

Welcome Western Colorado has a unique business model that benefits both newcomers and established local businesses. Terri greets new residents at their homes within two months of their move, offering packets full of gifts, coupons, and information about local businesses. These packets provide business owners a unique opportunity for advertising their local business by getting in front of Montrose's newest residents with Terri's vetting process and friendly face as indicators of trust. The company serves as an intermediary between people who need guidance

in navigating things like new medical and dental providers, real estate agents, internet providers, and printing companies and local businesses who want to make a great first impression on their new neighbors.

"Because it requires more marketing efforts to get people to change their habits, it's essential to target consumers who are not yet anyone's customers—otherwise known as new movers," said Terri.

Through Terri, businesses also get some insight into who new residents are and what services they might be looking for. With that information, companies can get creative with what they include in the welcome package to best serve the new residents.

"The key to success when working with a business like Welcome Western Colorado is to harness their low-cost, rich data to craft a personalized, strategic marketing campaign that maximizes your spend. When you nail down exactly who you're

targeting, you can develop messaging that cuts straight to your customers' core challenges.

Marketing with that level of precision isn't just effective—it's practically a no-brainer," says Rachael DeRossi, Chief Strategy Officer of The Marketing Dept.

Since purchasing Welcome Western Colorado in 2013, the company has greeted over 2,500 families. "New homeowners can trust these businesses to offer exceptional service and great products," said Terri.

Dedicated to the People of Montrose

Since 2013, Terri has been a warm and welcoming face, greeting new Montrose residents, but her involvement with the community doesn't stop there. Since moving to Montrose in 2008, Terri has also served as the director of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce and founded Women's Business Alliance of Colorado.

Terri is also involved in supporting The San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Regional Health. In 2019, she took her passion for entertaining and launched a fundraiser for The San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Regional Health called Boot Stomp Montrose – Stompin' On Cancer! The event, which in past years has featured barbecue, barn dances, live music, and a live auction, has raised over a quarter of a million dollars to help local cancer patients.

"Sadly, I don't know anyone who has not had a family member or friend face cancer," said Terri. "The Montrose community is so blessed to have the San Juan Cancer Center here to care for our family and friends."

Montrose residents can get the chance to see Terri work her connector magic and help raise money for The San Juan Cancer Center at the 2025 Boot Stomp Montrose – Stompin' On Cancer! on June 6.





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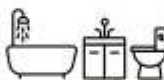
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET AT HAP BUILDING APRIL 8

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Tuesday April 8 at 5pm Hispanic Affairs Project 504 N. 1st, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to forward local efforts to mitigate pollution .Non-partisan, environmental, All Welcome. Info.970-765-9095.

Welcome

Delta Health Adult Primary Care is excited to welcome their newest provider, **SUSAN BROWN, MSN, RN AND DIABETES EDUCATION SPECIALIST** to the Delta Health team.

Susan's experience with diabetes has been shaped both personally and professionally. Her personal journey with Type 1 diabetes has led to a professional passion.

Susan is excited to partner closely with individuals diagnosed with diabetes, utilizing her unique perspective on the complexities of diabetes care—from managing blood sugar levels to addressing the emotional and psychological impact of living with a chronic condition. Her understanding of the disease process, paired with her personal insight, enables Susan to offer empathetic and comprehensive care to those struggling with diabetes, empowering them to take control of their health while navigating the complexities of the condition.



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SAVE THE DATE: TRIBUTE TO AVIATION SEPT. 13-14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport’s signature event, is officially scheduled for September 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft.

“We’re excited to once again showcase a diverse lineup of military and civilian aircraft. This event is a valuable educational experience for our community, and we look forward to welcoming attendees for another memorable and impactful Tribute to Aviation,” said Lloyd Arnold, Director of Aviation.

The Tribute to Aviation is a one-of-a-kind experience where visitors can get up close with aircraft, tour military and civilian planes, and interact with pilots and crew members. Event organizers are actively seeking aircraft participants and sponsors to make this year’s event a success. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com



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March 5, 1950: Dedication day - from N.E. corner, showing concrete driveway to ambulance entrance.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GET READY FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS—A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—"Get Ready for Spring Wildflowers—a Photographic Journey" will take place at the Ute Indian Museum on Saturday April 12, from 10 to 11:15 am.

Join Ute Museum Volunteer Mary Menz and Jim Pisarowicz for an hour of beautiful wildflowers on the big screen, including many used by the Ute People. They will share fun facts and tidbits about the local flora. Mary is a Ridgway writer and Colorado Native Plant Master; Jim is an award-winning photographer from Montrose.

Mary and Jim will sign their books *Wildflowers of Colorado's Western Slope* and *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains* after the presentation.

Books are available in the Ute Indian Museum's gift shop.



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ONE-WAY ALTERNATING TRAFFIC IN PLACE MARCH 31 TO APRIL 4 CO 145 BETWEEN TELLURIDE-PLACERVILLE

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY — Beginning Monday, March 31 the Colorado Department

of Transportation will perform week-long culvert and ditch cleaning operations on Colorado Highway 145 between Tellu-

ride and the junction of CO 62. Motorists should allow for additional travel time and plan for up to 15-minute delays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Work will take place along two separate highway segments. On Monday, crews will begin work in Placerville (Mile Points 84 to 83). Later in the week, crews will perform work on a 2-mile highway segment west of the Society Turn Roundabout (Mile Points 72 to 74). CDOT crews will work as swiftly as possible to complete the ditch and culvert cleaning. Operations are weather dependent.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMEMORATE NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY



A large crowd of veterans--many Vietnam veterans and Vietnam Era vets--and other patriots came out Saturday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. [Courtesy photo and video](#) .

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Veterans Coalition board of directors said they would like to thank everyone for coming out to the site of the future Montrose Veterans Memorial on Saturday, Mar. 29.

A large crowd of veterans--many Vietnam veterans and Vietnam Era vets--and other patriots came out to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

At the memorial site by the Montrose Pavilion at 1800 Pavilion Dr., time was spent reminiscing about the war, and those who did not come home to grow old. And although the memorial is not yet built, the site is already a place of gathering, commemorating and healing.

Local veterans groups including the American Legion, American Legion Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans were in attendance. Montrose County memorial team members Emily Sanchez, assistant county manager; and Phil Rich, veterans service officer, were also there. Rich helped coordinate the event.

Many stories, tears and laughter were exchanged for well over an hour. MVMC board members said thanks to all of those attending and supporters of the Montrose Veterans Memorial www.montrosevmc.us.



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROTECTING OUR ICONIC LANDSCAPES

Editor:

Americans love their National Parks and Monuments. Perhaps you were one of the 332 million people who visited one of the 433 units of the National Park System in 2024? Yet, despite the public’s passion for these iconic landscapes, our Congressman, Jeff Hurd, has sponsored a bill that would take away the President’s authority to create new national monuments (House Bill 521). Talk about being out of touch with his constituents!

In 1972, when I began my love affair with our national parks, the population of the United States was 207 million. You could drive into any of our national parks or monuments without a reservation and find a hotel room or campsite.

Now, with the U.S. population at 342 million people and growing, you need to make your reservation 6 to 12 months in advance—*and there’s still a good chance you will not find a place to stay*. And if you *are* lucky enough to get a hotel or campsite reservation, expect long lines at entrance stations when you arrive, crowded scenic overlooks, and a steady stream of fellow hikers on the trails.

With demand for outdoor recreation growing even more rapidly than our population, one thing is certain—we need to designate *more* publicly-owned lands as national parks and monuments to accommodate the rise in recreational tourism. So, how do we do this?

There are two ways a site can become a part of the National Park System. The first is through a decades-long effort to persuade Congress to pass legislation to create a national park.

The second is by the President of the United States designating an area as a national monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. U.S. presidents have used this authority almost 300 times to protect publicly-owned land. Forty-three percent of our national parks started out as national monuments and were later designated national parks after Congress realized the recreational and economic value of national parks to local communities. National parks and monuments contribute \$55.6 billion to the national economy and support 415,000 jobs. Our national parks and monuments cost U.S. taxpayers just 7/100 of one percent of the entire federal budget but deliver a \$15 boost to the nation’s economy for every dollar invested.

Republican presidents have consistently supported creating new national monuments. Popular national parks like Arches, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Chaco Canyon, Death Valley, Grand Canyon, and Zion were originally protected as national monuments by Republican Presidents.

Colorado has four national parks and seven national monuments. Eight of these were first protected when the President of the United States designated them as national monuments.

Colorado’s Third Congressional District is the home of three national parks (Black Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, and Mesa Verde) and three national monuments (Hovenweep, Yucca House, and Colorado National Monument). With the exception of Mesa Verde, all began their life in the National Park System after first being protected as a national monument by the President.

Colorado National Monument, located next to Jeff Hurd’s hometown of Grand Junction, was originally designated as a national monument in 1933 by Republican President William Taft and later enlarged by Republican Presidents Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower. If Congressman Hurd had his way, these presidents would not have had the authority to protect the spectacular landscape of Colorado National Monument and instead it would be open to logging, mining, and oil and gas drilling. Isn’t it about time Congressman Hurd represented his constituents’ interests rather than the private companies that want to plunder our precious publicly-owned lands? He can start by withdrawing his support for House Bill 521 and instead proposing legislation to create additional national parks and monuments.

Robin Smith, Paonia



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UNISON VS HARMONY

Editor:

Lately, I've been struck by the chatter about how Democrats—the political left—have turned mobilization into an art form. They snap into action with a unity that's almost uncanny, marching in lockstep to a single beat, even if they're not entirely sure what the song's about or where it's headed. It's impressive, no question, and it got me thinking during a recent conversation—one filtered through my years as a professional musician, now repurposed as a lens on today's political stage.

Picture this: Unison is every voice belting out the same note, perfectly aligned. It's crisp, it's predictable—and, let's be honest, it's a little dull. Like a metronome ticking along, it's functional but leaves you craving something richer. Harmony, on the other hand, is a vibrant weave of highs and lows—notes clashing, intertwining, and resolving into something bold and breathtaking. It's the difference between a monotone hum and a symphony that grabs you by the soul.

That conversation crystallized it for me: the left excels at unison. They're a well-oiled machine, taking their cues with near-military precision. It's effective, like a drill team hitting every mark, but there's something mechanical about it—lifeless, even. When the singers don't fully grasp the purpose of the tune, it's just noise, no matter how loud or coordinated. Where's the heart? The fire? Then there are the Republicans—us, particularly the MAGA Republicans. We're the improvisers, the jazz ensemble of the political world. We don't always land on the same chord. Our ideas bounce off each other, sometimes veering into dissonance with sharp solos and unexpected turns. It's chaotic at times, no doubt, but it's alive. Contrary to the left's caricature, Republicans aren't drones; we're independent thinkers. Those clashing perspectives, those offbeat flourishes—they're what give our sound its depth and flavor.

We don't strive for total agreement, and that's by design. Uniformity isn't the point; richness is. Step back and listen: what emerges is a harmony born from diverse voices, not a single-note chant. It's raw, it's real, and it hits in ways unison can only dream of. The left might march to one drumbeat, but we're crafting something bigger—a sound that resonates because it's not afraid to be messy or bold.

Republicans choose harmony over unison, and that's our strength. We don't all sing from the same sheet, and we shouldn't. A single voice grows stale; it's the blend of unique notes that keeps us vibrant. Supporting our party doesn't mean nodding along to every word—it means backing the core of what we stand for, even as we each bring our own spin. After all, the only one you'll ever agree with 100% is yourself—and let's be real, even that's a stretch some days.

So here's the call: let's pull this together and leave the left's monotone march in the dust.

We need to play our instruments—all of us—play them loud and proud. It doesn't matter that they may clash and cause dissonance; what matters is that they're heard. Our harmony—dissonant, diverse, and dynamic—is the sound of a party that's not just alive but thriving.

Let's play it loud.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

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PROPERTY FEATURES



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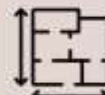
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

\$750K OF FENTANYL POWDER SEIZED DURING TRAFFIC STOP

Mesa County Sheriff's Office

GRAND JUNCTION-On March 24, 2025, around 2:45 p.m., a Deputy with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office initiated a traffic stop on eastbound Interstate 70 after observing a vehicle failing to maintain its lane.

Upon contacting the driver and passenger, the Deputy discovered the vehicle had been rented in another state earlier in the day. The Deputy gained consent from the driver to search the vehicle following inconsistent statements. During the search, the Deputy located six vacuum sealed packages concealed in the car. The contents of the packages were field test-

ed, which showed a presumptive positive result for fentanyl. In total, six kilograms of fentanyl powder were seized.

The street value of the illegal drug is approximately \$750,000. The driver has been identified as Lucina Lopez, a 26-year-old resident of Apple Valley, California. Lopez is being held at the Mesa County Detention Facility on the following charges: Dist/Man/Possession w/Intent >225G Schedule I/II OR >112G Meth, Heroin, Katamine, Cathinone OR > 50G of Flunitrazepam, Drug Felony 1 Special Circumstances Import >14G Schedule I/II or 7G Meth, Heroin, Katamine, Cathinone OR > 10MG of Flunitrazepam, Drug Felony 1.

The passenger has been identified as Vida Arellano, a 24-year-old resident of Apple Valley, California. Arellano is being held at the Mesa County Detention Facility on the following charges: Dist/Man/Possession w/Intent >225G Schedule I/II OR >112G Meth, Heroin, Katamine, Cathinone OR > 50G of Flunitrazepam, Drug Felony 1 Special Circumstances Import >14G Schedule I/II or 7G Meth, Heroin, Katamine, Cathinone OR > 10MG of Flunitrazepam, Drug Felony 1

Sourced via CRIMEWATCH®: <https://crimewatch.net/us/co/mtsa/sheriff/134177/post/750k-fentanyl-powder-seized-during-traffic-stop>



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"We the People"**

<https://montroseDOGE.org>

Dear Editor,

On 3/10/2025 Montrose Citizen's D.O.G.E. Submitted a challenge to Mayor J. David Reed to discuss in a public setting with Mr. David White, to refute the allegations that Mr. David White has made over the past several months raising serious concerns about the operations of the City of Montrose government. As of this date Mr. David White has responded affirmatively to accept the challenge.

However, Mayor Reed has yet to respond to our request to participate in this public event even though within our request it was clear "We anticipate that any individual who declines the invitation is unable to justify their position." So, it appears that Mayor Reed and by extension that the Montrose City Government, as a whole, cannot refute the claims Mr. David White has outlined in his articles and therefore must be true and factual.

We are calling for Mayor Reed once more to respond via email affirmatively to accept the invitation by emailing us at Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E. at info@montroseDOGE.org

We encourage Citizens of Montrose who are interested in attending the forum to email info@montroseDOGE.org to express their interest in hearing the responses from both **Mayor Reed** and **Mr. White** live and unedited.

We encourage readers to monitor *The Montrose Mirror* for further updates on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Montrose Citizens D.O.G.E.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI

Editor:

We, the sovereign People of Colorado, implore your immediate intervention. We demand that you exercise your authority to charge and arrest every member of the Colorado state legislature who have voted to violate the United States Constitution and its 2nd Amendment by passing Colorado's SB25-003, including State Senators, Representatives and Governor Jared Polis, under **18 U.S.C. § 241 and § 242**. These officials have willfully conspired to strip us of our sacred, constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms, as enshrined in the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Their passage of SB25-003, deceitfully branded as an "assault weapons ban," is a blatant assault on our liberties—a conspiracy against rights as defined by **18 U.S.C. § 241** and a deliberate deprivation of rights under color of law as proscribed by **18 U.S.C. § 242**. We will not stand idly by as our freedoms are trampled under the guise of legislative overreach.

The United States Supreme Court, in *Ex parte Milligan*, **71 U.S. 2 (1866)**, issued an unassailable decree: "Neither the legislature nor any executive or judicial officer may disregard the provisions of the Constitution in case of emergency." This ruling stands as a bulwark against tyranny, affirming that no crisis—real or manufactured—can justify the suspension of our God-given rights. Yet, the Colorado legislature and Governor Polis have defied this precedent, enacting a law that mocks the Second Amendment and wages war on the very Constitution they swore to uphold. By their actions, they have violated their oaths of office and forfeited their legitimacy. **Any official—be it governor, legislator, or even the President—who dares to suspend our rights to freely travel, peacefully assemble, earn a living, worship without hindrance, or bear arms in our defense makes themselves an enemy of the People.** Their edicts are null and void, and we, the People, are entitled to disregard them with impunity.

Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law 18 U.S.C. § 242 is unequivocal: it is a federal crime for any person acting under color of law to willfully deprive another of

rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States. This statute encompasses not only acts within an official's lawful authority but also those committed while masquerading as legitimate governance. The Colorado legislature and Governor Polis fall squarely within its scope. Their passage and enforcement of **SB25-003** transcend mere policy disagreement—they constitute a calculated assault on our constitutional liberties, executed under the pretense of public safety. As stated in *Hertado v. California*, **110 U.S. 516**, "The state cannot diminish rights of the people." Yet, this is precisely what they have done. This law requires no proof of animus—only the willful act of deprivation itself. The perpetrators include legislators and executives who cloak their tyranny in the garb of officialdom. The penalties are severe: imprisonment ranging from one year to life, or even death, should their actions result in bodily harm, death, or egregious violations such as kidnapping or attempted murder (Title 18, U.S.C., Section 242). We assert that the harm inflicted here is no less real—a grievous wound to the body politic, threatening the foundation of our Republic. The Supreme Court has affirmed this principle repeatedly: "Where rights as secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which will abrogate them" (*Miranda v. Arizona*, **384 U.S. 436**); "The claim and exercise of a Constitutional right cannot be converted into a crime" (*Miller v. United States*, **230 F. 486, 489**).

Conspiracy Against Rights

The passage of SB25-003 was no solitary act of hubris—it was a collective betrayal. **18 U.S.C. § 241** renders it a crime for two or more persons to conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any individual in the free exercise of their constitutional rights. The Colorado legislature's vote to enact this law fulfills every element of this offense. **Each legislator who raised their hand in favor**, each official who affixed their signature, conspired knowingly to dismantle our Second Amendment protections. Unlike other conspiracy statutes, **§ 241 requires no overt act beyond the agreement itself**—their vote was the crime, their intent the dagger aimed at our

liberties.

The punishment matches the severity: up to ten years' imprisonment, or life—or even death—if their actions yield catastrophic consequences (Title 18, U.S.C., Section 241). We contend that the erosion of our right to self-defense is itself a catastrophe, a slow bleed that imperils the survival of a free people. As the Court declared in *Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham*, **373 U.S. 262**, "If the State converts a right into a privilege, the citizen can ignore the license and fee and engage in the right with impunity." Similarly, *Murdock v. Pennsylvania*, **319 U.S. 105**, holds: "No State shall convert a liberty into a privilege, license it, and charge a fee therefore."

The Weight of Precedent

The judiciary has long upheld these truths. "There can be no sanction or penalty imposed upon one because of this exercise of constitutional rights" (*Sherer v. Cullen*, **481 F. 946**). "Those things which are considered as inalienable rights which all citizens possess cannot be licensed since those acts are not held to be a privilege" (*City of Chicago v. Collins*, **51 N.E. 907, 910**). The Colorado legislature's actions fly in the face of these rulings, transforming a right into a crime—a violation so egregious that "statutes that violate the plain and obvious principles of common right and common reason are null and void" (*Bennett v. Boggs*, **1 Baldw. 60**). Moreover, "the assertion of federal rights, when plainly and reasonably made, is not to be defeated under the name of local practice" (*Davis v. Wechsler*, **263 U.S. 22, 24**).

All such "laws" passed under color of law are void, and we, the People, are under no obligation to obey them. We call upon you—President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, and Attorney General Weiser—to uphold your oaths and enforce the law. Charge and arrest those responsible for this treasonous act. The Second Amendment is not negotiable; our rights are not subject to the whims of petty tyrants. We stand ready to defend our Republic, armed with the Constitution and the unyielding resolve of a free people.

Signed,

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen-Montrose, CO

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The primary bedroom showcasing a vaulted ceiling and five piece en-suite bath with granite counter tops, tile finishes, private water closet and a generous walk-in closet. The guest hallway has an additional double door storage closet and 2 well sized bedrooms along with another full bath. The tandem 3 car garage has 578 sq ft of space and is perfect for your vehicles, recreational toys or even as a workshop. With this home conveniently located near the community's park and not far from downtown it's just waiting for your arrival.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

YOU DON'T GET TO TELL MY STORY

By Sean M. Pond

MONTROSE COUNTY—Most of the people I now serve in Montrose County don't really know me. I was appointed to this position—not elected—so I figured it's time to properly introduce myself.

I'm not a politician. I don't even like politicians. I'm just a fifth-generation Colorado native who's lived the highs and lows of real life. I'm a Navy veteran, a small business owner, a working man, a husband, a father of five, and a grandfather to seven amazing grandchildren.

Politics today is ugly and dark. It's become a place where those who step up to serve are more likely to be attacked than honored. I believe our forefathers intended for those who take the oath of office to be respected, not torn down. But somewhere along the way, we lost that. And now, good people are treated like targets the moment they try to do good.

I'm not writing this because I owe anyone an explanation. I'm writing it because I've learned the hard way that if I don't tell my story, someone else will try to twist it. There are people who would rather destroy you than understand you. There are folks out there who get off on tearing people down, especially if they stand for something. That's just the ugly truth about politics.

So, instead of hiding, I'm putting everything out there—the good, the bad, and the real—so the public hears it straight from me.

A Life Made, Not Given

I grew up all over the place—some years on ranches, others in single-wides or low-income housing. Sometimes we had nice homes. Other times we scraped by. There was no real stability, but what I did have was a strong will to keep going.

Looking back, I know those early days built the foundation for who I am now. They taught me how to adapt, how to stay grounded, and how to fight through uncertainty with faith and grit.

After serving in the Navy, I went to work for the Department of Energy and several contractors in radiological health and

safety. Eventually, I transitioned into the oil and gas industry as a drilling fluids engineer.

Over time, I started and ran multiple businesses—outfitting, landscaping, oilfield services, real estate, RV parks, and a small equipment rental company. I've been the janitor and the CEO. I've worked shoulder-to-shoulder with people just trying to make ends meet.

Some ventures made money. Some didn't. Some grew. Some failed. We had wins. We had setbacks. We paid our dues—just like a lot of you reading this. That's life. That's reality. And I haven't forgotten it.

I grew up poor, dirty, and had to fight and claw for everything I've ever had. I'm nothing special—but I'm real. I understand real life, real struggles, and real values. I know what matters to working people and rural communities.

I'm a redneck kid from western Colorado—and now I'm a man with tattoos and scars from a life that's tested me, shaped me, and sometimes tried to break me. Back in the day, the only people who had tattoos were bikers and sailors. I'm not a biker—but I served my country in the Navy, and I wear those marks just like I wear everything else I've lived through: honestly.

What I've earned, I've earned the hard way.

Lessons from the Hard Times

I've made mistakes. I've stumbled. I've been knocked down more than once. But I've always learned and kept moving forward.

As a teenager—before the Navy—I got a speeding ticket for drag racing down North Avenue in Grand Junction. I had a muscle car, and like any red-blooded American kid with a fast car... I drove it like it was meant to be driven.

The ticket ended up unpaid—probably overlooked by me or my parents. I moved on, joined the Navy, served my country, and years later, after getting out, I was pulled over. The officer ran my license and—boom—I had a warrant for con-

tempt of court because of that old ticket. I was arrested, paid the fine, and went home. It was over in an hour.

I called my mom and asked why she never paid it. She shot back, "Why didn't you tell me you got one?" That was the end of the conversation—and the lesson stuck. Later on, my wife and I discovered we had accidentally purchased the wrong class of hunting license. We self-reported, paid the fines, and made it right. No excuses.

In my late 20s, I owned an outfitting business. Then the state changed the laws, and a wave of complaints came in—most of them baseless. One even claimed I stole an elk. That's complete garbage. I've never stolen anything in my life. These were angry individuals who had a place to vent. I didn't respond then, but I will now:

None of the complaints were ever investigated in court. No charges were ever filed. No one proved a single thing. But the State of Colorado used those allegations—never verified—to revoke my license. At the same time, I was going through a divorce and had to declare bankruptcy. I lost everything I had built.

But I didn't stay down. I picked myself up, went back to work, and rebuilt my life. That's what you do when life punches you in the mouth. You get up and go again.

Service Above Self—Even When It Hurts

My wife and I most recently ran a small equipment rental business. It was growing, and we had expansion plans. Then came the threat of the Dolores National Monument. We had a choice: protect our financial future or hit pause and fight for land access, liberty, and the freedoms we believe in.

We chose to fight—knowing full well it could cost us everything.

On February 20, 2024, I started a petition to halt the Dolores National Monument proposal. That one act thrust us into the spotlight. Suddenly, we were at the front of a battle to keep land open for multi-use. We had massive support from Western Colorado, but also intense opposition from environmental activists, NGOs, and

YOU DON'T GET TO TELL MY STORY *From previous pg*

special interest groups.

Even with all the support, no one else stepped up with the same conviction. Most voices were focused on compromise. But I don't believe liberty and freedom are up for negotiation. The Constitution doesn't bend. And because I wouldn't bend, I often stood alone.

We carried the burden because we knew if we stepped down, no one else would step up.

It drained our time, money, and energy. But we don't quit.

We thought the fight was over when President Trump was elected and Biden left the designation alone. We finally caught our breath—until two days later, a new threat emerged: a push to turn the region into a National Conservation Area (NCA).

Turns out, some of the same people who pushed for the monument were behind the NCA—and they were actively working to push me out of the way. That's when everything changed.

Then, Commissioner Rick Dunlap passed away. I was still trying to figure out how to stay in the fight for public lands, liberty, and the freedoms I care about. I threw my name in the hat—not expecting to be chosen, but knowing I had to try. It was the

only way to keep going.

To my surprise, I was appointed. Humbled. Grateful. I'm still not sure if it was a blessing or a curse. All I know is this: I didn't step up for a title. I stepped up because the fight is real—and it matters.

Now we're shutting down our business, selling equipment, and dealing with the financial fallout. But we went into this with open eyes. We're leaning on faith, working hard, and taking it one step at a time.

Stepping Out of the Shadows

Over the last several weeks, I've been attacked, slandered, lied about, and dragged through the mud. Flyers with my name on them plastered around town. Smear campaigns. Ugly looks at public meetings. Constant attempts to humiliate and isolate me.

And I'll be honest—there were moments where it started to work.

I stepped into the shadows. I stopped posting. I stopped speaking. I stopped showing up the way I should have. I was afraid that if I said the wrong thing—or even the right thing—someone would twist it. I deleted my social media. I avoided phone calls. I didn't want to be around people, because frankly, people have been cruel. And politics—it's uglier than I

ever imagined.

I took the oath of office to serve—and I meant it. But I hate the political game. I hate what this environment does to good people. And for a while, I let it break me down. I started hiding. But that's not who I am.

So this is me saying: no more.

I'm done hiding. I'm done flinching. I'm done letting the cowards with keyboards, the whisper campaigns, and the media hit jobs define me. I'm getting back on social media. I'm answering the phone. I'll shake hands. I'll stand on the stage. I'll face the noise. I'm going to serve this county my way—unapologetically.

I didn't ask for this fight. But now that I'm in it, I'm not backing down. You want to know who I am? Here I am.

I am a man of faith. A man who keeps his word. A man who fights for what's right—even when it costs him. I may hate politics. I may hate the lies. But I'll carry the weight of this job with everything I've got, because I believe Montrose County is worth it.

If you're with me, let's get to work. If you're not—step aside.

Either way, I'm not going anywhere.

Sean M. Pond

Montrose County Commissioner, District 3



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A person or family is food insecure when they lack regular access to nutritious food for an active and healthy life or are not sure where their next meal is coming from. There are different levels of food insecurity. Hunger is challenging and many times silent. Unfortunately, many of our families are struggling to meet their basic needs, which increases the risk of food insecurity. *Causes of food insecurity are complex and include; lack of affordable housing, fixed incomes, chronic health issues, poverty, unemployment, lay-offs, unexpected car maintenance, and something like a car accident or fire can suddenly force a family to choose between buying food or paying bills.*

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The blankets were created by some residents and Anciano Tower gives thanks to all residents who have participated in any way.

We were able to give away 12 blankets sets to Montrose Police Department, 18 to Dolphin House, 12 to Cancer Center and 12 to the Montrose County Sheriff's Department.

We appreciate you. Darlene Mora, Social Service Coordinator.



From the Montrose Police Department:

Thank you so much for your donation. Please pass on our thanks, MPD



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

“THOU SHALT NOT SPEAK ILL OF THY FELLOW REPUBLICAN IN PUBLIC”

Editor:

Reading the Mirror, from afar, I feel fortunate I am in another zip code. It seems there are so many projectiles being thrown during BOCC and City Council meetings. I would have thought the GOPers were an oppressed minority, not the prevailing political brand by all the ruckus and rantings.

Opinions are similar to anal orifices- everyone has one and they all stink.

Perhaps it would do good for the Republicans to recall Ronaldus Maximus’ (Ronald Reagan) 11th Commandment- “thou shalt not speak ill of thy fellow Republican in public”

Optics and perceptions are elements of governing. GOP, we need you. Grow up, settle your differences in private and govern for the good of all citizens.

Robert Franco

Part-time

Montrose County

“There’s no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn’t mind who gets the credit” -Ronald Reagan

TO THE MONTROSE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE MONTROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Editor:

I have two Grandchildren that go to Montrose High School. My oldest Grandson plays varsity baseball for Montrose. The ball field is a nice one. The facilities are not great but they serve the purpose. The restrooms, for men and women are not great but they serve the purpose. My complaint is with the Girls softball field. Again, the field is nice and serves the purpose. There are no facilities at all. If you want a snack, you better bring your own. Having no restrooms is NOT acceptable. I asked the school board last year to please address this issue. A port-a-potty would be great! Two would be better. There are a lot of seniors that go to these games. We are required to walk 100 yards to use the restroom. I myself am a senior citizen and I can tell you that’s not acceptable. It makes me wonder if the Girls that play on that field and the folks that go to watch them are less worthy! It would also be nice if we could buy a bottle of water and a snack. Maybe you could find a vendor that could come and set up. There are usually 2 games and that might make it worthwhile. If not, please allow me to bring some drinks and snacks to the games and I will supplement my Social Security!!!! I would love to get a response to this issue.

*Regards, James Abney
Concerned Grandpa*



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS & CARTOONS

CULTIVATED PORK FAT NEARING MARKET

By Jon Hochschartner

GRANBY, CT-I was pleased to learn cultivated pork fat produced by American company Mission Barns has gained the approval of the Food and Drug Administration. For those who don't know, cultivated pork fat, like other cultivated products, is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Once the offering gets the go-ahead from the Department of Agriculture, Mission Barns will introduce it at select restaurants and stores.

"First and foremost, consumers won't eat food that isn't absolutely delicious — which is why we chose to pursue a fat-first approach," said Eitan Fischer, founder and CEO of Mission Barns. "Not only is fat the main driver of flavor and juiciness, but it is also less costly and faster to produce than lean meat... By advancing cultivated meat production, we are helping to create a more resilient and reliable food system."

Mission Barns' cultivated pork fat will be mixed with plant-based meatballs and bacon. These will be sold at Fiorella restaurants and Sprouts Farmers Market stores. At the current stage of technological development, cultivated products are prohibitively expensive to mass produce. Mixing them with plant-based offerings is a way to bring down costs and make the products more accessible in the here and now.

"The vulnerability of our global food supply chain impacts every aspect of my business," said Brandon Gillis, co-founder at Fiorella, a leading Italian restaurant group in the San Francisco area. "I've been keeping tabs on the cultivated meat industry as a potential solution, and after meeting with Mission Barns and tasting its products, I wanted to make sure we created a partnership for this historic moment."

This is an important step for the nascent field of cellular agriculture. Still, Mission Barns' need to mix their cultivated pork fat with plant-based offerings, to make the former economically viable, underlines how much further technological pro-



gress is required. This can and should be accelerated with a massive infusion of public funding into cultivated-meat research. It's the right thing to do for a variety of reasons.

The scale of our violence against animals boggles the mind. There simply is no human equivalent that comes close to matching it. The development of cellular agriculture can help end this. We can create a better world, without batteries, cages, gestation crates and livestock trucks. Someday, our descendants will look back with shock and shame that humanity ever relied on such a horrific food system. Similarly, widespread adoption of cultivated meat could help dramatically lower our pandemic risk. Such catastrophic events are frequently traced back to animal agriculture, where humans come into close contact with sick livestock. Of course, since cellular agriculture removes the need for this contact, there would be significantly fewer opportunities for zoonotic viruses to make the jump to our species.

Finally, while the technology is still being

developed, scientists expect cultivated meat will require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions to produce that slaughtered meat does. Many people aren't aware that animal agriculture is one of the leading contributors to climate change. A serious environmentalism must deal with this inconvenient truth. Cellular agriculture provides a way of doing so without sacrifice.

So, while I'm very excited about the impending release of Mission Barns' cultivated pork fat, the fact it can't be sold as part of a wholly cultivated product demonstrates the need for more research in the field. Our political leaders, at the both the federal and state level, should direct government money toward cellular agriculture development, for the sake of animal welfare, public health, and the environment.

Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Animals' Freedom Fighter: A Biography of Ronnie Lee, Founder of the Animal Liberation Front*. Visit his blog at SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com.



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DMEA APPROVES UNCLAIMED CAPITOL CREDIT DONATIONS , CEO COMPENSATION *From pg 1*

but prior to votes taken on action items. All other directors were present in person. **Introductions:** With a large contingency of DMEA staff in attendance, Board President Stacia Cannon asked that they, as well as each board member, introduce themselves and give their titles/ departments. There were no guest attendees.

General Business included Membership & Meter Report and approval of the minutes from the February 2025 Regular Meeting and the March 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, “Nothing to report, no meeting.”

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair

Williams said, “No meeting.”

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair

Cannon said, “We met [conference call] on the 23rd, it was a Sunday. We talked about the CEO Review and the CEO self-evaluation.”

Informational Item - CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston highlighted safety training, winter training (snowcat tracks, side by side), and fire department inspection. He said, “Systems Design is four weeks out. There is not much movement on the Energy Service side. There is a new crew for tree trimming and they are utilizing new equipment. They are great new team members.”

Cannon said, “The DMEA crews are crushing it.”

Johnston continued with brief comments on cyber security, phishing activity, and the south hydro being online. He said, “There is a lot of activity and construction going on. We are expanding ourselves out again with local softball and leagues. Logos on shirts, revised code of conduct so our brands are present. [We want to] expand our exposure with events leading up to the annual meeting.”

Williams asked if social media chatter was positive. Cannon noted that some people have voiced concern about service networks going down. Johnston said, “Concerns mostly relate to the type of system. The copper system rarely goes down. People are sensitive to lines going down.”

Johnston said, “Our call rate is high and that’s the way we like it. A lot of positive responses from Delta for our presence there. With legal, there’s a lot of work—we have a new employee handbook out, personnel policies, records management, and revision of the safety manual. “Revision of the By-laws will go to the Executive Committee.”

DMEA has 144 employees; however, the co-op is not yet fully staffed. Johnston said, “Open positions are lagging, but starting to creep up. Some are [result of] backfill promotions. We want to be closer to full employment. A lot has to do with the opportunities available in the organization.”

Staff reported that open Customer Service Representative (CSR) positions resulted in 120 applications, and the tree-trimmer positions received 30-40 applications. The majority of the applicants are local. Johnston said, “Some people [applicants] are willing to take pay cuts to get the CSR position.”

Johnston said, “Financial indicators are all positive. The subsidiary [Elevate] is doing better than budgeted. February revenues do not match weather trending. We’re trying to do more accurate forecasting. Purchased power on the transmission side is up slightly.”

Board discussion turned to projections and the subsidiary loss being less than what was budgeted for last year. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Bob Farmer said, “There is a lagging lease. For last year we projected a loss, but it proved to be a positive. We budget from a conservative perspective.”

It was noted that depreciation/ amortization runs hot throughout the year. Laughter rippled throughout the room when CEO Johnston chose to refer to changing interest rates as an

“emotional time,” and CFO Farmer deemed it “uncertain times.” Farmer said, “There’s a lot of fluctuation.”

Informational Item Director Reports/ Recognition.

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

Fleming said, “No meeting.”

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

Lockhart said, “We have a meeting in two days, and I’ll be going to a couple of executive sessions. Each of you can get a legislative login password to track bills with the ones we are monitoring or opposing. One of the bills, we were successful getting the co-ops out of the bill that had an effect on us. I don’t see anything [bills] on wildfires. There are 47 days left in the session. Nuclear will be a renewable and is on [Governor] Polis’s desk now. There is a lot of deregulation with nuclear.” Lockhart updated the board on the prospect of CREA getting a larger facility. He said, “It might amount to \$2,000 a year for us, but I think it could be paid off in four to five years. They still have to sell the old building.”

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings

Williams reported on meetings with auditors, Operation Round-Up Trustees, and attending the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) annual meeting.

Sedgeley informed the board about a new round of funding from Colorado’s Energy Office.

Cannon gave highlights from a webinar about geopolitical risks and how to mitigate those risks.

Director Certification

Director Jacob Gray was awarded a certificate for his completion of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Program.

Action Items:

Operation Round-Up Trustee Service Acknowledgement

A certificate of appreciation was signed for Operation Round-Up Trustee Janice Graham for her six years of service.

Resolution 2025-2 regarding Deferred

DMEA APPROVES UNCLAIMED CAPITOL CREDIT DONATIONS, CEO COMPENSATION

From previous pg

Revenue

After a lengthy discussion the Resolution was amended and action postponed while the staff rewrote portions of the document.

Resolution 2025-3 regarding Readoption of a Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan

Action postponed until the April meeting.

Future Meetings:

Regular Meeting April 22, 2025
 September meeting moved to the fifth Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Member Comments:

LFMG Music Academy Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request

Love Family Motivate Greatness (LFMG) Executive Director Edgar Quiroz gave a PowerPoint presentation to request \$50,000 from the Unclaimed Capital Credit Funds. Quiroz said, "We are a new non-profit here to inspire youth for music. We were founded in 2022. In 2024 we served 130 students from Montrose and Delta. We are looking for building capital sponsorship. We are located on East Main, next to McDonalds."

The \$50,000 budget request was for:
 \$28,000 facility improvements
 \$15,000 Equipment and technology
 \$7,000 program

North Fork Ambulance Auxiliary Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request

Grant writer Kathy Steckel and EMT Kimber Hendrix gave a brief presentation to ask for funding for a Handtevy System, which helps healthcare professionals to modernize emergency care for pediatrics and adults, as well as funds to update technology (laptop computers, cyber security). Steckel said, "We have about

1,100 calls a year to transport patients to the Delta hospital." The request was for \$22,786.

Executive Session:

- Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters
- LFMG Music Academy Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request
- North Fork Ambulance Auxiliary Unclaimed Capital Credit Donation Request
- Board Policy Updates
- 114: Equal Opportunity Employer & Non-Discrimination
- 115: Whistleblower

Confidential Board Governance Matters
 CEO Compensation

Executive Session Summary –Amy Taylor, Chief of Staff.

In an email Taylor summarized the action taken by the board after exiting the executive session: She said, "Chief Engineering & Energy Resources Officer, Pena, was not present for discussion on the North Fork Ambulance Auxiliary request as he is a part-time EMT with the organization.

Executive Session Board Action:

- Review of the proposed updates to Board Polices 114 (Equal Opportunity Employer & Non-Discrimination) and 115 (Whistleblower) was deferred to the April Regular Board Meeting.
- The Board approved a \$15,000 unclaimed capital credit fund donation to the LFMG Music Academy. Director Sanchez abstained from voting. Director Lockhart cast a dissenting vote.
- The Board unanimously approved a \$22,786 unclaimed capital credit fund donation to the North Fork Ambulance Auxiliary.

CEO Compensation:

Upon motion from Director Lockhart, seconded by Director Metheny, the Board unanimously approved the following adjustments to the CEO offer letter:

- Base compensation at \$414,790 (retro-active to January 1, 2025)
- A one-time bonus of \$85,000
- Vehicle allowance of \$15,000 (retro-active to January 1, 2025)
- A one-time 457(b) plan contribution of \$11,625

President Cannon is authorized by the Board to sign the amended offer letter as drafted by Board Counsel. The amendments will not take effect until the amended offer letter is finalized and signed by President Cannon and CEO Johnston.

Having no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its Regular Meeting at 9:16 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, ja-**
cob.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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CO 141 MESA CREEK BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT TRAFFIC UPDATE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Bridge repair work has begun along Colorado Highway 141 in Southwest Colorado. Repair work is taking place approximately 24 miles north of Naturita and 26 miles south of Gateway at Mile Point 85.5, where the Mesa Creek Bridge is located adjacent to the Dolores River.

The bridge repair project consists of work to stabilize and reinforce the south bridge pier and abutment, including riprap placement, streambank stabilization, and grading operations. Riprap is loose stone used to protect the bridge foundation. The bridge deck will receive additional bridge preventative maintenance measures along with a final pavement overlay.

Motorists Should Plan For:

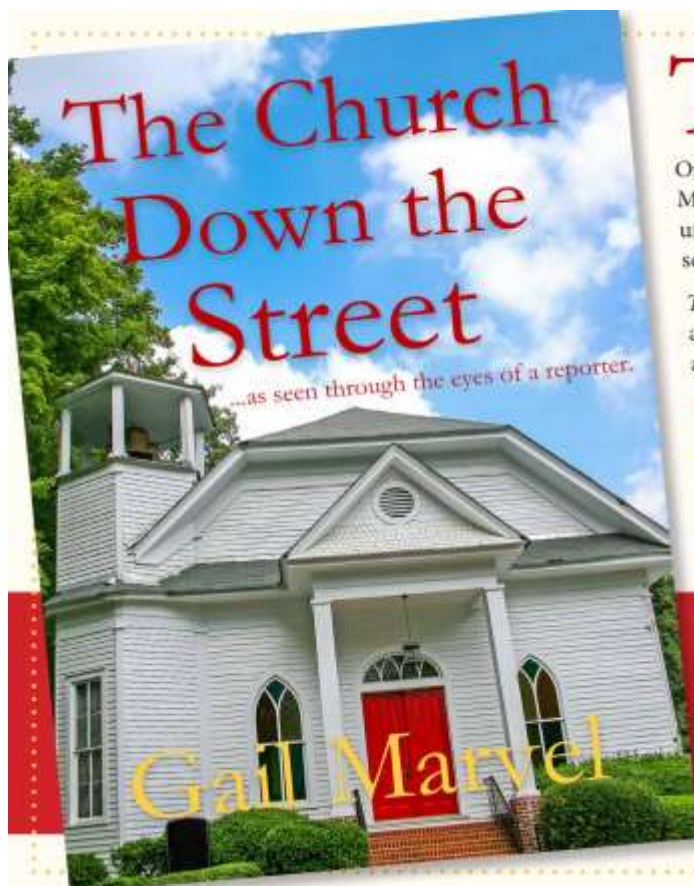
- Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Work will vary from 5 to 7 days per week depending on weather and the work activity
- Vehicles will be reduced to a single-lane, alternating traffic guided by a portable light signal 24/7.
- 10' width limit in effect
- 80,000 lb weight limit in effect
- Project completion is anticipated for July

Motorists should use caution when traveling through this area. Contact Information

For more information or to be added to the project update list, please contact us. Phone: 970.765.7515

Email: bridgerepairproject@gmail.com

Project Webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/co141mesacreekbridge



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TOWNSEND FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST DONATES OVER \$125,000 TOWARD NEW MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS-RECEPTION PLANNED FOR APRIL 11 TO CELEBRATE GENEROUS GIFT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County School District (MCSD) is honored to announce a generous \$125,279 donation from the Townsend Family Charitable Trust to support the construction of a new Montrose High School campus. This significant contribution highlights the Townsend Family’s enduring legacy of supporting public education and investing in the future of Montrose County.

“This incredible act of generosity from the Townsend Family Charitable Trust reflects the very best of our community,” said Dr. Carrie Stephenson, Superintendent of Montrose County School District. “Their support underscores our shared dedication to students and will benefit Montrose County children and families for generations to come.”

To celebrate and formally thank the Townsend Family Charitable Trust, the district will host a Townsend Family Donation Reception on Thursday, April 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Montrose High School. The invitation-only event will feature remarks from school and district leaders, students, and spirited performances by student groups.

The new Montrose High School campus is a priority for the district and is designed to address aging infrastructure, enhance student safety, and support modern academic and career pathways. For more information and for media inquiries, please contact MCSD Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins at thomas.jenkins@mcsd.org and (970) 252-7901.

WESTERN SLOPE ACTIVISTS ORGANIZE MARCH AND RALLY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Indivisible activists have organized a march and rally in Montrose that is in partnership with other national and local organizations such as the Montrose Women’s March and the League of Women Voters. This event is **1 of 950 rallies** occurring across the country on the same day for a large mobilization called “Hands OFF!”.

200 plus attendees are estimated to gather at the Centennial plaza in Montrose prior to the march, and a rally on April 5, 2025. The rally will feature speakers pertinent to the Federal, State and local services that are being slashed and threatened. Confirmed speakers will speak

about the attacks on : Medicaid, the climate, education funding, the Bill of Rights and what Americans can do.

“Donald Trump and Elon Musk think that everything belongs to them and it doesn’t! The services and jobs that they’re slashing aren’t theirs- they’re ours. It’s money for our Veterans, kids, seniors, farmers, etc. ... It is our neighbor’s jobs, our local tourism!” said Holly Speaks, the Leader of Montrose and Ouray Indivisible group.

WHAT: Western Slope activists march and rally

WHO: Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible

WHEN: Saturday, April 5, at 1-2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Centennial Plaza, [14 S. Uncompahgre, Montrose, CO](#)

CONTACT: Holly Speaks, montrose-ouraycoindivisible@gmail.com, 970-901-2450

The nationwide actions are being organized by the Indivisible Project as part of the FIRST OF its kind campaign called “Hands OFF!”

This campaign is a MASS mobilization of national and local groups like the Women’s March and League of Women’s Voters, coming together across the country in defiance of the Trump-Musk billionaire takeover and the Republican assault on our freedoms and our communities. <https://handsoff2025.com/>



MONTROSE RED HAWKS ALL SPORTS ROUNDUP



The Red Hawks boys lacrosse team prepares to take the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

RED HAWKS VARSITY BASEBALL:

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ 9, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 4

Life has not been easy for the Montrose Red Hawks baseball team this spring as the home team has struggled to a record of 3 wins against 6 losses. The latest was a two-game set vs the Panthers of Montezuma-Cortez.

The first game with the Panthers started slowly as the Red Hawks gave up 4 runs in the second inning to set the tone for the game. The Panthers added 4 additional runs in the next two innings to put the contest out of reach. The Red Hawks fought back with 4 runs in the top of the fourth inning to close the game but were unable to stem the tide as the Panthers added a ninth and final run to secure the 9-4 victory.

The Red Hawks managed only 4 base hits in the game with Joey Benitez and Ryan Pankey with a two-base hit and a run batted in. The defense was not up to par as the Red Hawks committed 6 errors in the contest. Kaeden Clair, Cade Heiber and Brekin Hutto all pitched for the Red Hawks.

MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ 13, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2

The second of the Red Hawks two-game set vs the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Tuesday did not improve for the struggling Red Hawks. The Red Hawks pushed across one run in their half of the first inning to take the early lead. It was, however, a short-lived advantage as the Panthers tallied three runs in the third inning to erase the Red Hawks' advantage. The Panthers then scored four runs in the fourth inning and six more in the fifth inning to top off the 13-2 margin of victory.

Chase Gleason and Ryan Pankey each had a base knock and each drove in one of the Red Hawks runs. On the defensive side the Red Hawks had difficulty with the leather as they committed 8 errors. Brekin Hutto and Porter Smith did the pitching for the Red Hawks.

DELTA PANTHERS 10, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0

Playing any sport on the road and away from your home territory is very difficult. This lesson was realized once again as the Red Hawks traveled to Delta to take on the Panthers, who prevailed by the score of 10-0 on Friday afternoon.

The Panthers pushed across single runs in each of the first two innings and added a two-spot in the third inning to really set the tone for the contest. The home team then erupted for six runs in the fourth inning to stretch the lead to 10-0. The Red Hawks were unable to score in their half of the fifth inning and the 10 run rule shortened the game to 5 innings.

The Red Hawks could muster virtually no offense as only Joey Benitez was able to scratch out the only base hit in the game, a triple, but unfortunately the Red Hawks were unable to score the run. The threesome of Kaeden Clair, Garrett Wolfe and Cade Heiber pitched for the Red Hawks.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS ALL SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg

RED HAWKS GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, GRAND JUNCTION TIGERS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks hosted the Grand Junction Tigers last week at the Red Hawks home pitch and came away with their fourth victory of the young season by the score of 3-0. The Red Hawks led 1-0 at the halfway point and then added two more goals in the second half of the contest to salt away the victory.

The Red Hawks goals were scored by Senior Eli Duncan who put two markers on the scoreboard. The third goal was scored by Junior Rylie Cohick. Assists were credited to Seniors Taylor Gibson, Rylie Cohick and the third assist was credited to Sophomore Goal Keeper Angelina Alcazar.

In addition to assisting on one of the goals, Alcazar also stopped nine shots on goal to preserve the shutout victory.

RED HAWKS BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE:

TELLURIDE MINERS 16, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3

Expectations were high after the 7-6 victory over Crested Butte. The Telluride Miners, always a tough contest, proved to be more than the Red Hawks could handle last Saturday on their home pitch. The Miners came storming out of the game and never looked back as they defeated the Red Hawks 16-3.

The Red Hawks Senior Zack Motley scored one of the Red Hawks' 3 goals. The other two goals were scored by Senior Eli Sauer and Sophomore Lincoln Jones. Red Hawk assists were credited to Sauer, Jones, and Junior Mason Hall. The Red Hawks put 19 shots on goal in the loss. Motley and Senior Will Neuman each had 5 shots on goal. Lincoln Jones won 7 of his 10 faceoffs. Goal Keeper junior Patrick Alvarez stopped 26 of the more than 40 shots on goal by the Miners.



The Red Hawks attack the Coal Ridge Titans goal. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

TELLURIDE MINERS 15, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2

The Montrose Red Hawks traveled to Telluride last Wednesday for a re-match with the Miners and things pretty much stayed the same as the Miners sprinted away from the Red Hawks and won by 12 goals. The Red Hawks next action will be a home contest vs the Durango Demons on Tuesday, April 1 with first face off slated for 4 p.m.

The Red Hawks overall record stands at 1-4 and the identical record of 1-4 in league action.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS GIRLS LACROSSE DURANGO DEMONS 15, RED HAWKS 2

The Montrose Red Hawks have played the Durango Demons twice in this young season and lost both times, once on the road and once at home. The Demons hit the ground running and were never threatened as they piled up their 13-goal lead. The Red Hawks overall record stands at 2 wins and 3 losses having defeated Eagle Valley twice, 5-4 and 9-1. The Red Hawks league record stands at 0 wins and 2 losses.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS CO-ED TRACK AND FIELD:

NORTH FORK INVITATIONAL:

The Montrose Red Hawks Co-ed Track/Field team did well at the North Fork Invitational meet last week in Hotchkiss. The boys amassed 46 points while the girls piled up 70 points.

The Red Hawk girls finished in second place behind the Coal Ridge Titans. The top five finishers included North Fork, Ridgway and Cedaredge.

The Coal Ridge boys took top honors in

Continued next pg

MONTROSE RED HAWKS ALL SPORTS ROUNDUP From previous pg

their division. The top finishers included Palisade, North Fork, Delta and Ce-daredge. The Red Hawks boys finished in 6th place. Here are the individual places and times.

- Girls 100 meter dash – Emarie Simpson 5th
- Girls 200 meter dash – Emarie Simpson 5th
- Girls 400 meter dash – Bella Johnson 9th
- Girls 800 meter run - Georgia Ficco -3rd
- Millie Crane – 5th
- Girls 1600 meter run – Naomi McGarry –

- 10th
- Girls 3200 meter run – Lucy Waschbusch – 8th
- Girls 4x100 meter relay – 1st
- Girls 4x200 meter relay – 5th
- Girls 4x400 meter relay – 2nd
- Girls 4x800 meter relay – 1st
- Girls High Jump – Brooke Williams – 2nd
- Girls Triple Jump – McKenna Cline – 8th
- Girls Discus – McKenna Cline – 6th
- Girl ShotPut – Tanner Bielak – 11th

- Boys 100 meter dash – Cutter Travers – 6th
- Boys 200 meter dash – Cutter Travers – 8th
- Boys 400 meter dash – Josiah Graff – 6th
- Boys 800 meter run – Jose Chavez – 3rd
- Boys 3200 meter run – Zach Quaid – 10th
- Boys 4x200 meter relay – 4th
- Boys 4x400 meter relay – 3rd
- Boys 4x800 meter relay – 3rd
- Boys High Jump – Liam Evans – 10th
- Boys Long Jump – Cutter Travers – 1st
- Boys Shot Put – Kayden Huggett – 6th

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES 'THE NEST': A LOW-INTERVENTION BIRTH ROOM

Special to the Mirror

DELTA—Delta Health Hospital is proud to announce the opening of its new low-intervention birth room called 'The Nest' at Stork's Landing in the Labor and Delivery Department. The spacious room allows families to experience a home-like birth within the hospital setting. The Nest provides a closer option for families looking for a low-intervention birthing center experience near them. "At Delta Health we recognize how important the birth experience is for families, and we are thrilled to expand our services to offer this low-intervention birth room to support parents through this journey," said Jan Humphrey, Director of Stork's Landing. "At The Nest, patients can enjoy an empowering birth experience that is comfortable and patient-centered with the support of Delta Health's experienced medical team." Some of the features at The Nest include:

- Queen size bed for family comfort**
- Aroma-therapy**
- Birth combs**
- Scalp massager**
- Blue-tooth speaker**
- Galaxy projector with white noise and other sounds**
- LED candles**
- Jacuzzi tub**
- Floor mat for hands and knee positioning**
- Peanut ball and labor ball**
- Nitrous gas**
- Possibility of early discharge for families meeting criteria**
- Mini-fridge, microwave and coffee pot**



Delta Health courtesy photo.

Delta Health's labor and delivery unit, Stork's Landing, is a Baby-Friendly Designated birth facility (2023-2028) and is globally designated by the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which recognizes the optimal level of care provided by staff for all mothers and their babies. Stork's Landing is also recognized as a Maternal and Infant Care Quality Champion by the Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative. This recognition means that Delta Health is helping ensure that every pregnant and

postpartum person, infant and their families in Colorado has access to and receives safe, equitable, high-quality care. Choosing where to give birth is an important decision, and Delta Health provides a variety of birth-experience options for families so that they can choose what is right for them. For those with a low-risk pregnancy, contact your Obstetrics provider today to learn if The Nest at Stork's Landing is the right place for your delivery. More information can be found by calling 970.874.2255 or online at <https://deltahealthco.org/storks-landing/>.



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PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY COSTS SKYROCKET From pg 1



The Project 7 Water Authority held their monthly meeting on March 27. (Center clockwise) Chipeta Water District alternate Kathy Calkins, Menoken Water District Randy Meaker, Financial Advisor Gregg Swartz, Management Team Member Rick Huggins, Management Team Member Miles Graham, Tri-County Water District Conservancy District Vicki Ripp, Project 7 Secretary Tessa, Project 7 Manager Adam Turner, Town of Olathe Jake Foreman, and City of Montrose David Bries. Not pictured, City of Delta Kevin Carlson. Photo by Gail Marvel.

making comments were not captured for this report.

Brian White said, "I've lived here almost 40 years. I wish you would have started 40 years ago setting money aside. You maybe have one grant of a million. A long time ago you could have saved some funds to do the project. As a homeowner I just use city water for my home, but you need to think about the people you are impacting [farmers/ranchers]. You are \$27M in debt already and 50 cents more a gallon [recent rate increase]. I suggest you start putting money back."

Rick Hill said, "Way too much money involved. I will call people in Tri County that I know to make this a "no" vote."

Ron Henderson noted that he has delt with water boards in the past. He said, "With all water, one of the things they had was cost-benefit ratio. There's no other way to take care of it. I've listened to various ways. This is three times the amount of money. You're not making

practical or rational sense. [Where's] the justification for the \$27 M you've already spent. I really would like to see you respond as to why you think this is the right thing to do. I appreciate all of you, but I think you are disillusioned."

Patty Phillips said, "I think the project seems to be missing the mark. There's very little for the price. Everyone I've talked to, no one knows about it! If this goes through there will be a huge backlash. There are a lot of retirees. This will really affect people."

Janet said, "I'm asking who appointed all of you? Who's in charge of it? How is it being paid for as it progresses? Is it a tax? How are people going to pay for it? To ask the people without a voice [vote] to pay for this..."

David White said, "One of the reason [given] for the resiliency [project] is the terrorism threat and fire. Has there ever been a threat assessment done?"

Manager Adam Turner said, "In 2014 a

study was done. There were five proposed improvements...[resiliency] showed more value."

David White said, "Has that been updated?"

Turner said, "No." It was noted that the study did not include the dam at Ridgway.

Brian White asked to be recognized again. Chair Jake Foreman said, "I'll give it to you this time, but you've already had your three minutes."

Brian White said, "2014, that's 11 years ago. Why weren't you putting money aside?"

Turner said, "People said we are a not-for-profit, so we couldn't build up funds. We serve at the direction of the board." Turner stated that previous boards did not want their constituents to foot the bill for future generations and they did not direct Project 7 to save for building a new treatment plant.

Carol said, "Each entity appoints through their board?"

The board members introduced themselves, the entity they represented, and they stated how they were selected to serve on the Project 7 Board.

Henderson asked financial funding questions and financial advisor Greg Swartz explained the Colorado statute to operate the water treatment facility. Swartz said, "They are eligible for some funding sources, or they have to go to each entity and ask them to apply."

Henderson's follow-up question was not taken. Chair Foreman said, "I said we are moving on."

Resiliency Project Update

Background:

The Project 7 Board hired Advisor Garver in 2019. CDM Smith and builder McCarthy Constructors, a Design/Build contractor joint venture, were hired in early 2023. It has been previously reported that Project 7 had its own financial advisors (Rafteis) and Municipal Advisors D.A. Davidson/Spencer Fane (full service investments services) who were hired in the first quarter of 2024. However, it has come to light that D.A. Davidson was contracted by Garver, not Project 7. That situation has since been rectified and D.A. Davidson is now a direct advisor to Project 7.

PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY COSTS SKYROCKET From previous pg

During Project 7's monthly board meetings, updates, direction, and information on the proposed Resiliency Project come through, and are managed by advisors (Garver, CDM Smith McCarthy Constructors, D.A. Davidson). Following the Resiliency Project updates, the Project 7 board takes up their regular business.

Members of the Garver team include Deputy Project Manager for Project 7 Miles Graham, and Rick Huggins.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Huggins noted the challenges over the last three to six months. He said, "The program design might not be the best on the project at this time. The design-build construction Phase I is wrapped up. We're moving forward differently. A notice of termination has been sent. This is the challenge of managing something with a big scope of work. We are recommending looking at more bite size pieces of work. We'll talk about some ideas, but we want directions from the board. In April we'll recommend a path forward."

Note: In a sidebar conversation with Graham and Huggins following the meeting, the *Mirror* was told that the contract with CDM Smith and builder McCarthy Constructors, the Design/Build contractor joint venture, will be allowed to expire. Their construction proposal was not accepted, and construction on their proposal will not move forward. The organization chart as of March 27 puts Project 7 in charge of the project. Graham said, "Project 7 will take the wheel."

Even though the proposed construction is not moving forward, Huggins suggested the board keep the JHL Contractors full waterline package in place, and that they develop a plan to implement the WTP (Water Treatment Plant) construction package.

Randy Meaker said, "Can you explain how we got here. We have explained it to you, but local news media has taken it out of context."

The board was reminded of their shared values, that they speak for the whole, it was suggested a retreat might solidify their shared values, and that they should look for places to say they agree on

things.

In a funding update, the project received a grant award of \$500,000 from DOLA (Colorado Department of Local Affairs).

Swartz reviewed funding sources. He said, "\$500,000 is a lot for DOLA, a lot for Colorado. There is about \$30 M [available in grants], but member agencies have to apply for it, not the Project Authority. To be clear we are going to ask some of the agencies to apply. It's not going to happen overnight. I ask you to think about it. Olathe is eligible. [Last meeting we] talked about putting the cart before the horse — the project is the cart; the horse is the funding package. [The city of] Montrose has the highest credit rating and needs to be there. My job is to make the project affordable."

Providing the group with a handout of member agency's Financial Impact for 2030, Swartz said, "This is for discussion purposes only. If you are the media, give me a chance to add to the quotes before you misquote me!"

Referring to Huggin's suggestion that the board move forward and put in the raw waterline, Kevin Carlson said, "How can we apply [for a loan] for a raw waterline that doesn't go anywhere? You say fund for raw water [because it's] a lower interest rate?"

Huggins said, "You build with a plan that will help in the future. It matters that you have a credible plan."

Swartz said, "It's [the raw waterline] got to be part of a larger plan, a larger project."

Special Reports

Presentation of 2024 Annual Water Quality Report – Manager (to be distributed)

Authority Manager's Report: Adam Turner

Turner said, "February 2025 is normal consumption. Above Blue Mesa snowpack is really good, above Ridgway it's really good. The \$500,000 DOLA grant is not a game changer, but a moral victory."

Calkins said, "Where does that money go?"

Turner said, "Not for expenditures, but for future cost. We have to have a use for it. It can go toward the \$20M raw water-

line."

Referring to the Garver design-build team Turner said, "We need to pay for January, February, and March. It will be billed, but they are not under contract after that. We need to pay Greg [Swartz] someday." Calkins asked if there was a termination fee associated with cancelling the Design/Build contract, but no response was forthcoming.

In the last four meetings (October, December, January, and February), Chipeta Water District has repeatedly requested financial information. Calkins said, "You have paid more than you invoiced. We need to see a balance sheet. We can't explain [Project 7's expenditures] to our board. Chipeta is still asking about details and costs." Turner noted that Project 7 uses QuickBooks; however, Calkins highlighted that the financial figures given by Project 7 and Garver do not match. Calkins said, "We have to have a balance sheet that shows accounts payable."

Chair Foreman said, "I don't think that we need to show our bank ledger to the entities."

Turner said, "What we are actually paying [CDM Smith] is about two months in arrears. We're also getting a bill from Garver. To date the design team has been paid \$17.4 M, not \$27 M."

New Business:

CORA Request

In order to obtain financial documents, Chipeta Water District filed a CORA request (Colorado Open Records Act). Attorney Tim Flynn, filling in for vacationing attorney James Silvestro, noted that the large number of financial documents requested in the CORA will take more time. His date for completing the CORA will get the information to Chipeta before their next board meeting.

The board will hold a retreat on Thursday, April 17, 5:30 p.m. at the Project 7 office. Attorney Flynn reminded the board that since there will be a quorum, the retreat is considered a public meeting; however, no decisions can be made.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 24, 4:30 p.m.

Consumption Report – Cash Flow Report

PROJECT 7 RESILIENCY COSTS SKYROCKET From previous pg

Report – Process Control Feb. 2025 Adam Turner.

Election Officers:

The board voted to retain all current officers in their positions.

Old Business:

Delegate Manager to engage Cost Allocation Study Vendor Recommendation – Approved.

New Business: Individuals requesting meeting materials or individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aid(s) may request assistance by contacting: Project7@Montrose.net at least two business days prior to the meeting date so arrangements may be made.

Prior to adjourning, alternate board member Calkins asked if the JHL Contractors recommendation and information

packet would be on the April agenda as an action item.

She said, “I need to pass this information on to John.”

Chair Foreman said, “No, it’s not an action item. It’s not going on the agenda. It’s just information you can pass on.”

Huggins corrected Foreman and stated that it is in fact an action item. By all appearances, the recommendation and the packet information put forth by Huggins is a First Reading and when it appears on a future agenda it would be considered a Second Reading and action could be taken.

Foreman shrugged and called for a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

Project 7 Background:

The seven entities that represent the 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@cityofdelta.net

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

HE CAN DO ANYTHING

Editor:

We've seen everything now from Trumpworld. He can say or do anything, and his cult members justify it, because, as he says, and they believe: "... I was saved by God to save America".

Anyone who knows Trump is aware that there are four ways to get on his good side: One - Give him money, Two - Praise him on bended knees, Three - Defend him in court, and Four - Be a young, busty blonde refugee from a former communist country.

The once Grand Old Party is now the Party of Trump (POT); a party of cowards living in fear of one man. They know, in private, that he is a corrupt bully who will do literally anything to increase his own power and wealth; but don't have the decency or patriotism to do the right thing, and call him out for the damage that he is doing to our country. To them, anything Trump says is law, and, if you're a POT politician, you damned well worship him, or Musk will give your primary opponent as much money as needed to ensure you lose the next election. If you're a billionaire, and you're willing to debase yourself in public and genuflect to him, you have a hot line to Trump. Ordinary people have nothing to offer to Trump, so they are ignored; except for the lip service he gives his poor, deluded followers at his rallies, where they are so marinated in his lies and anger, that they momentarily feel on top of the world. They give him their unconditional and undying support ... and their money ... and he gives them NOTHING in return. The reality is ... billionaires now control our country like no time since the Gilded Age; and perhaps even more than then (and, if not, they soon will as Trump gives them ever more control). What's left of our government, from this point on, exists primarily to protect their interests ... not yours or mine.

Soon (if not already), we will each learn that someone we know has lost their job. Others will have parents who will lose their Medicare; or disabled kids who will lose Medicaid ... many of whom will die. Eventually, Social Security and pension and 401K checks may not arrive, since the oversight they once had will be gone. Folks will have nowhere to turn if they've been scammed, or their credit card company has jacked up their rates. Many will no longer afford the cost of materials for a planned renovation, electricity bill, or a new car, or their wages will be so low that they have to get a second job. If you face these, or hundreds more situations that our government had previously offered protection from, or at least a safety net to see people through hard times, you'll be on your own. Who will protect us then? Trump? Show me a single case in his entire life when he did something to help anyone but himself.

Inflation will increase under the Trump Tariffs and unnecessary trade wars. Food safety, public health, and justice systems will

break under the corruption that he spreads via toadies like RFK, Jr and Bondi. Eventually, income inequality will become such that you and I won't be able to afford trips to some former national parks and public lands; which will become the playgrounds for the uber rich.

Finally, corruption will eventually filter, top down, through government to the point that you will have to bribe officials to get anything done.

That's how life is under a kleptocratic dictatorship. I happen to know this firsthand, since I have lived and worked in such countries.

We will all pay the price for those who granted Putin's "friend" the Dictatorship of the USA; but if you're a billionaire, no worries, you'll be just fine! Also, hundreds of thousands of brave Ukrainians who died trying to save their country from falling to a brutal dictatorship will have lost their lives in vain, but at least we will now have a friend in Moscow. Just think of it ... we'll all be able to vacation in Russia; and enjoy the beaches of Crimea!

David Congour
Montrose, Colorado

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS TODAY ARE THE PARTY OF RAGE AND ANGER

Editor:

I was disappointed to read about the "BOCC Meeting Descending Into Name-calling and Taunts." During the public comment period at the recent Montrose county commissioners' meeting a speaker apparently thought it was OK to personally attack one of our elected commissioners, resulting in his being escorted out by a sheriff's deputy. That was followed by another audience member jeering loudly. I expected something better from our local Democrats, but it appears Ben Alexander was right when he stated, "When Democrats don't get their way, they act like petulant children." After being soundly rejected at the ballot box, Democrats nationally have given up any pretense of wanting to govern for the benefit of the American people. They have one goal – to do everything possible to prevent those who were elected from governing. As Alexander said it is "time to grow up and let our new commissioners do their job."

Democrats today are the party of rage and anger. After four years of failures, that is all they have left. They thought it was a great idea to throw open the border and let over ten million unvetted illegals waltz into the country. When the optics of that stampede looked bad, they flew illegals over the border and dropped them in towns across the country. Democrats set in motion the hiring of tens of thousands of additional IRS agents and started putting taxpayers' bank transactions over 600 bucks under a microscope. However, when Musk hired an additional 40 people to identify rampant waste and theft of taxpayer money, Dems went absolutely berserk – suddenly hating the man who exposed the fraud. Prior to abandoning the Democrat party and joining Trump, Musk was a bona fide hero to liberals. They loved Tesla and hated those evil gas-guzzlers that were destroying the planet. Exposing their extensive fraud and the laundering of stolen taxpayer money unleashed their rage. Saving the planet became secondary to protecting the bottomless slush funds for Democrat special interest groups.

The firebombing and other attacks against Tesla, its employees, and Tesla owners is terrorism, which is defined as the use of violence to achieve one's goals. Unfortunately, this seems to have become the

Democrat Party's playbook. Not too many years ago, after active solicitation of violence by various Democrats, a deranged Bernie Sanders supporter nearly massacred multiple members of Congress as they practiced for a charity baseball game. Greenpeace, an NGO that bills itself as an organization protecting the environment, was just ordered by a jury to pay \$660 million for illegal property destruction and violence against a pipeline company. During the "summer of love" the "mostly peaceful" Black Lives Matter riots burned down homes and looted businesses at a cost of over \$1 billion. Oh, did I mention the assassination attempt on President Trump? What we are seeing from Democrats with the attempts to put the highly successful Tesla out of business is pathetic, but entirely expected. Rather than condemn the domestic terrorism, they actually encourage it. Pelosi is "too busy" to condemn the violence. House Minority Leader Jeffries refused to comment as well. How many seconds does it take to say "Violence is not the answer"? Tim Walz actually celebrated the negative impact on Tesla stock. Congresswomen Jasmine Crockett encouraged more violence, even calling for Musk to be taken out. The self-proclaimed leader of the Democrat party Jasmine Crockett denigrated and mocked the governor of Texas because he has a disability and is in a wheelchair. In an laughable attempt to justify her comments, she declared "I am totally against violence" – but followed that up the same day with a declaration to knock Ted Cruz over the head and punch your opponents.

Attendees at the AOC and Bernie Sanders rally in Denver last week openly called for the murder of Trump, apparently abandoning their "Joy" message of the 2024 election. The moderate, everyday Democrat must be wondering when and how their party left them. The current self-appointed leadership of their party appears to be the far-left extremists that are responsible for the sorry state of the Democrat party. Rather than showing some sanity and becoming less extreme, the radical factions of the party are going even further to the socialist/communist left. The Democrats new "plan" is to wheel out the dynamic duo of AOC and Bernie Sanders, their most radical socialists. AOC replayed the worn-out com-

munist mantra of the working class ("the proletariat") being abused by the capitalist overlords ("the bourgeoisie".) Sanders blasted our society because fewer people can aspire to home ownership and because credit card debt is skyrocketing. He railed against billionaires and oligarchs, but carefully avoided mentioning numerous left-wing oligarchs like George Soros. Neither mentioned Biden's extraordinary inflation that devastated the working class, the crushing national debt from wasteful leftist-driven spending, or how much better off the working class was during Trump's first term versus Biden's four-year debacle. Nor did they give gratitude for DOGE uncovering and remedying the theft of billions of dollars of the "proletariats'" tax money. They somehow forgot to mention Trump's pledges to eliminate taxes on tips, Social Security, and anyone making less than \$150,000 per year. Bottom line: The Democrat Party isn't really the Democrat Party anymore. Unless they make major reversals, most people will continue to see them for what they are: Marxists / socialists / communists masquerading as a party that cares about the common worker. All they clearly care about is big government and power for themselves. They will continue to embrace the wrong side of every issue important to Americans and keep failing. Meanwhile, our Colorado Democrats are trying to keep up with the insanity. They are promoting Senate Bill 183 to use taxpayer funds for abortions. According to the prime sponsor of the bill, the use of taxpayer funds to kill babies will save the state money, because killing them is less expensive than caring for them. Per the Democrat: "... a birth is more expensive than an abortion" "the savings from averted births outweigh the costs of covering reproductive health care..." In other words, paying for abortions ("averted births") for low-income women will save Colorado millions of dollars. So, what's next Democrats? The Netherlands is now euthanizing minors. How much money can Colorado save by euthanizing children with autism? You could call it "averted childhood." You could then go after old people and call it "averted old age." You make the Nazi doctors of WWII Germany proud.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

WATER, PROJECT 7 AND MONTROSE HAPPENINGS

A reprieve for ratepayers? Yes and no. Things have to be paid for, by you!

By David White

As readers may recall, Project 7 (this is the quasi-governmental agency that processes our drinking water) has proposed building a second treatment plant just south of Colona off of Highway 550 South just inside the Ouray County line.

This past Thursday, March 27th, the Project 7 Board of Directors met at 4:30PM to discuss this plan (again), and as it turns out, decided to back away, for now, from the construction of this proposed back up water treatment plant that would have caused the 6 water agencies that deliver treated water to all of us to potentially take on up to \$500,000,000 in principal and interest debt for a facility that would produce 1/4th the volume of treated water being produced today for the next 40 or so years.

Based upon what was a premise that our one and only water treatment plant might be subject to a terrorist attack, forest fires and, although unlikely, the collapse of the Gunnison Tunnel that brings water into the Uncompahgre Valley (all scenarios found in a 2014 "threat assessment" put together for Project 7), millions of ratepayer dollars have been spent to push forward the construction of a second facility, apparently to the financial detriment of the individual entities that make up Project 7 which would have put maintenance and upgrades to their respective infrastructures in jeopardy while having to pay the debt service for the new plant.

While I've covered Project 7 in previous letters and opinion pieces and expressed my concerns about where this treatment plant might be taking the organization, I'm relieved that clearer thinking has prevailed. It is quite apparent that Project 7 is due for an organizational upgrade to a more robust management and governance structure. What started out as a unified approach by member entities is still a viable model, however, the utilization of QuickBooks for their accounting system

and overall inability to, seemingly, manage their financial and management situation has been called into question.

Greg Swartz, with the financial counseling firm of D.A. Davidson and Company, who has been advising them on this project, has also been very clear that a change is needed in order to bring the organization up to the management and professional business level that is needed to take on a large project like the proposed resiliency or back up treatment plant or any other large endeavor. Not having your financial house in order as well as spending millions of dollars on something that didn't have a final price tag is a fool's errand. Let's regroup and restructure. It's time.

As if Project 7's financial woes weren't enough of an indicator of where things are within our local government structures, we find that Montrose County is proceeding with the construction of their "North Campus", a project approved by the then outgoing Board of County Commissioners made up of Roger Rash, Keith Caddy and Sue Hansen two meetings before the end of their terms of office with a vote cast in December of 2024.

Draining down their reserves and, according to Commissioner Hansen at the time of the decision, not having final financing in place until June of this year, begs the question that new Commissioner Scott Mijares has been asking and that is to slow down and/or put this project on hiatus until the final costs of financing it have been determined. Efforts by him to find other solutions short of spending \$25-30 million dollars have been made difficult by previous BOCC decisions as well as legal advice coming from the County's attorney warning of lawsuits in spite of there being no penalty clause in the contract for stopping or delaying the project. I guess when it's other people's money, it doesn't matter that better but maybe not totally palatable alternatives might have made more sense.

Over at the City of Montrose, the debt wheel is spinning faster than ever before as they've now taken on \$55 million dollars in new debt along with having spent millions of dollars more on land acquisition, design and engineering, etc. for a new public works facility that will end up costing well into the \$80-85 million dollar range when all sunk costs and other over-rides are considered (in spite of already having purchased a 35 acre site north of the City to build this facility on 20 years ago). Add to this the debt for the Colorado Outdoors Project, the Police Operations Center and other outstanding loans they've made and you're pushing \$100 million dollars that has to be paid back. God forbid we have an economic crash that drives our largely tourist and service-based economy in the ground.

All the while this spending spree is taking place, questionable expenditures by the City Manager and others in City Government that have been brought to light continue on. Requests for funds from the City for environmental site assessments for a non-profit group seeking to launch a "Food Hall/Incubator and Bar" are on deck this coming week for the City Council to vote on as well as yet another "affordable housing" study to be conducted and of course the already approved \$600,000 for a City of Montrose employee daycare center to be housed in the former Passage Charter School building that the City took over a few years ago after the school closed.

And speaking of schools...the idea of resurrecting the failed plan to replace Montrose High School with a new school that was on last Fall's November ballot, a question that was overwhelmingly defeated last year that would have pushed property taxes through the roof along with obligating the School District to almost \$400 million dollars in debt for the school, is said to be back in the discussion phase of how to make such a project appealing to

WATER, PROJECT 7 AND MONTROSE HAPPENINGS From previous pg

the voters. Having dumped a large District owned property east of town on 6725 Road and Ogden Road that was planned for a new school last year is a sign that coffers are being filled for a purpose. Whether or not it's for another run at the voters for a new high school remains to be seen, but don't worry, large public projects like this one have a way of coming back time and time again until the weary voters cave in and vote for whatever it is. While I recognize that running any public organization is challenging, priorities seem to have slipped from the tried-and-true governance models of providing for the

PUBLIC'S health, safety and welfare and have been turned inward to providing for the government's health safety and welfare as evidenced by so many of these expenditures. A refocus is on the public's needs should be a priority. Again, you, the reader and the public at large, need to wake up to all of what is taking place in the areas of where your tax dollars are being spent. No wonder there will never be a tax holiday on the City and County's sales tax on food. They can't afford to give you a break because they don't want one fouling up their spending plans. As always, elections do have conse-

quences. Remember that when you vote later this year for your RE-1J School Board candidates as well as the in the City Council races next April. It matters!

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.

*Save a tree –
Read the Mirror!*

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MARLENE (EACRET) WESSELS *May 4, 1934 — March 20, 2025*

MARLENE (EACRET) WESSELS, age 90, quietly slipped away on the first day of spring, March 20, 2025, at Valley Manor Nursing Home with her devoted husband close by. Married for 72 years, she is survived by her husband Lyle S. Wessels.

They were married June 22, 1952, in Fairbury, IL. She is survived by a daughter, Rae Ellyn (Stan) Bennett of Hamilton, MT and two sons, Dennis (Sheila) of Truth or Consequences, NM and Bryan (Jennifer) of Rio Rancho, NM. She was blessed with six grandchildren: Kelly, Patrick, Ryan, Michael, Travis and Trenton; seven great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She loved her family deeply.

Marlene was born May 4, 1934, to Gail (Lambeth) and James B. Eacret in Pontiac, IL. They preceded her in death as did her brothers LeRoy, Jay, Robert and a sister, Jean who had celebrated her 100th birthday August 2024. Other family members who preceded her in death were three nephews and one niece.

She attended elementary school in Piper City, IL and graduated in 1952 from Fairbury-Cropsey High School, Fairbury, IL. She resided in Lawton, OK during which time her husband was stationed at Ft. Sill. During his teaching career they resided in Wyanet, Ohio, Maple Park, Kaneville and Montgomery, all in IL and returned to Fairbury upon Lyle's retirement; then

their final home in Montrose, CO where they have resided for 24 years. Many winters were spent in residence in Harlingen, TX where she enjoyed square dancing and building friendships with other seasonal residents.

She was first and foremost a wife and mother; she held several part-time jobs, especially enjoying her final one as a Library Assistant at Dominy Memorial Library, Fairbury. She loved to read, needlepoint, travel and had various other hobbies. She had a very creative mind that was clearly evident in her sewing, crafting, baking, and even painting a fanciful dragon on a wall of her family room. She was enchanted with cats, and those she had as pets over the years were precious to her. Marlene had a circle of great friends with whom she'd enjoy birthday outings to Grand Junction, CO to shop in the morning, play Bingo in the afternoon and complete their celebrations at Red Lobster. She had always had a deep love for the western mountains, since first visiting them at age 13 and felt she had truly come home when she and her husband moved to CO in 2001. They enjoyed their daily drives into the countryside to view deer, bald eagles and other local wildlife.

She attended the United Methodist Church and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary John Jodi Post #54,



Fairbury, IL.

Interment will be at Grand View Cemetery in Montrose, CO at a future date with a mixing of her ashes and those of her husband.

A private celebration of life with her beloved family members and friends will take place then. Crippin Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Because Marlene was such an avid reader all her life, memorial contributions may be made to Dominy Memorial Library, 201 S 3rd St, Fairbury, IL 61739, or via its website: dominyemoriallibrary.org.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LEONARD SCOTT HUBBARD *July 24, 1961 — March 20, 2025*

Following an extended illness, Leonard Scott Hubbard of Olathe passed away at the Delta County Hospital on Thursday, March 20, 2025. He was born in Delta, July 24, 1961, to Leonard and Donna Hubbard and grew up in the Olathe area. He had one brother Steven Hubbard (JoAnn) of Grand Junction. He graduated from Olathe High School in 1979. Growing up he attended the First Baptist Church of Olathe and was baptized there.

Scott worked for Skyland Foods out of high school until it closed and later at Betz Transformers. When his father passed away, he took over the family cattle farm. He loved working outside and taking care of the cows and his black Lab dogs. He enjoyed fishing and hunting in the mountains. During his high school years, he ran a trap line and trapped muskrats for spending money.

Scott was the father of Dustin Hubbard of Olathe, Kalie Hubbard of Grand Junction and Justus Hubbard of Montrose. He had one grandchild, Harper Hubbard of Olathe and two nieces Sophia Hubbard and Sadie Hubbard of Grand Junction.

Cremation has taken place. A family service will be held at their cabin and rangeland on Surface Creek later this summer.

Graveside service pending at a later date.



DONALD ARTHUR MOSS *October 16, 1934 — March 24, 2025*



DONALD ARTHUR MOSS, 90, of Montrose Colorado passed away peacefully at home on March 24, 2025 surrounded by family. Don was born in West Creek Colorado to Weldon and Ruby Moss on October 16, 1934. The family moved to the Truckton area of El Paso County when he was a young child. He graduated from Edison High School in 1952 where he met and later married his high school sweetheart, Mitzi Lee Weissenfluh, on December 26, 1956. Don received a B.S. Degree in Animal Husbandry from Colorado State University in 1956 where he was a member of the AGR Fraternity and the CSU Rodeo Club.

He served in the Colorado National Guard and Army Reserve 1958 – 1964.

Don began work with the U.S.D.A.'s Soil Conservation Service in 1956 at Pueblo, Colorado and worked in several locations across Colorado with a tour in Honolulu, HI. He finished his 31-year career in 1987 as Assistant State Conservationist in Denver. After growing up on a farm and ranch, he spent a lifetime sharing what he learned from the land and the people who work it.

Don and Mitzi lived in Greeley Colorado for over 30 years before moving to Montrose Colorado in 2014. They enjoyed spending time with friends and family and traveling across the U.S. and the world.

Don didn't know a stranger, and treasured seeing newborn calves in the spring....

Don is survived by his wife Mitzi Lee Moss of Montrose, CO; son Sterling (Sarah) Moss of Bayfield, CO; daughter Shana (Jeff) Murray of Green River, WY; and four grandchildren, Tyler, Mikayla, Trena and Peyton.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, sister Phyllis Berry, brother Charles Moss, and daughter Tanya.

No services are planned at this time. Burial will take place at Memorial Gardens in Colorado Springs.

Memorial donations can be made to the Sharing Ministries Food Bank in Montrose Colorado. <https://sharingministries.com/>

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RICHARD NEIL PERCIVAL

November 02, 1942 — March 19, 2025

Rich, 82, died peacefully at his home in Olathe, Colorado on March 19, 2025. Rich was born in Olathe as the third child to Dallas and Helen Percival. Rich grew up in Olathe, CO and graduated from high school in 1960. After serving in the Air Force as a Medic, Rich returned and married the love of his life, Bonnie Percival (Raine) and they were married for 55 years and had three boys together, Roger, Lany, and Tommy.

Growing up, Rich helped on their family farm, driving tractors and tending to the pigs, horses, and dairy cows. He was an all-star athlete and competed in football, basketball, and baseball.

Rich, a true outdoorsman, found peace in the mountains hunting on his favorite land at Powderhorn, along the shorelines of Blue Mesa fishing, and in the fields hunting birds. He was a constant presence in the stands—first cheering on his sons as they competed in sports, then watching them coach, and later proudly supporting his grandkids in sports and 4-H.

Over the years, Rich held various jobs, highlighting his natural leadership. He served on the school and fair boards, was a dedicated 4-H leader for many years, and coached youth sports. He worked in the tire shop at Olathe Producer’s Coop, eventually becoming general manager. Later, Rich and Bonnie would buy North Delta Market and run their own business for 13 years.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents Dallas and Helen Percival, and his wife Bonnie Percival. He is survived by his dog Ivy, sisters, Ladean (Daryl) Swank, Deb Fuentes (Chuck Gonzales), and brother Ron Percival, sons Roger and Brenda Percival of Olathe, CO; Lany and Denise Percival of Gunnison, CO; Tom and Shonda Percival of Gunnison, CO. nine Grandchildren; Cassie (Dennis) Hammond, Jessica (Jeff) Kadlubar Riley (Kristen) Percival, Andrea (Matt) Smith, Amanda (Chase McAnlis) Kinterknecht, Tyler (Madi) Percival, Chase (Aspen Auer) Percival, Trey Percival (AriAna), Shay (Dustin Cadwell)



Percival and 15 Great Grand Children. Rich was an icon in the community, deeply loved by his friends, family and all who knew him.

He will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Olathe High School Athletics.

An independent metaphysical spiritual community coming together to share our diversity in unity



Spiritual Awareness Center

April 6—11:00 am, Monthly Drumming Service. Drumming and Prayers for the Healing of Mother Earth.

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister

Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister

Pathway of Spirituality—Nature—Finding Our Place

Sunday Gatherings—11:00 am Everyone is welcome

www.spiritaware.org Meeting at Lions Park Comm. Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose 970-252-0908

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ELAINE M. BIELLA

October 6, 1933 — March 15, 2025



ELAINE M. BIELLA passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025, in Montrose Colorado where she lived for the past 26 years. She was born October 6, 1933, in her family home in Louisville, Colorado to her parents, Adeline (La Salle) and Anthony De-

Santis.

She grew up in Louisville with her five siblings, whom she loved dearly.

She attended school in Louisville, graduated from Louisville High School in 1951. She was a member of the "Commercial Honors" society, Head Girl of the Student Council. Member, and cheerleader of the Pep Club. Also, a member of Future Homemakers of America, Mixed Chorus, and School Newspaper staff.

She worked for Boulder Valley Schools, as a secretary for the principal at Louisville Jr., Sr., High School, and Centaurus High School until her retirement in 1989. She was a founding member of the of the Louisville "Society of Italian Americas."

On May 23, 1954, she married the love of her life, Richard F. Biella. They were married at the St. Louis Catholic Church in Louisville, Colorado. They built their first home together on the Biella family farm in Superior Colorado, where they raised their four children. She loved to cook, bake, and enjoyed knitting and sewing.

She loved to travel and got to see many parts of the world. She loved to read, and play the piano.

Elaine is survived by her sister Doris De-Santis of Louisville, CO. Her children Kathi (Jeff) Creamer, and Christine Biella of Montrose, CO, Richard (Linda) Biella of Boulder CO., and Jenny (Rocky) Grilli, of Erie CO. Her grandchildren, Mandy Grilli, Zack (Xiaohan) Grilli, Landon Biella, Brandon Creamer, and Britney Creamer. Great grandchildren, Aden Biella, Addisyn Grilli, Anthony, Michael, and Isabelle Grilli. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard F. Biella, and grandson Travis Biella.

Elaine was a kind, loving, quiet person. She found great joy in her life with her family and being surrounded by god's beauty.

"The song has ended, but the melody lingers on."- Irving Berlin

In Loving Memory Of
Elaine Mary Biella

October 6, 1933 – March 15, 2025

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 514 March 31, 2025

ART & SOL

TRISH HOPKINSON FEATURED AT APRIL 1 BARDIC TRAILS

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- Trish Hopkinson of Palisade will be the featured poet at the monthly first Tuesday Bardic Trails virtual poetry reading, April 1, at 7 pm MST.

Hopkinson is a veteran poet and strong advocate for the literary arts. You can find her online at SelfishPoet.com and in western Colorado where she runs the regional poetry group Rock Canyon Poets and is a board member of the International Women's Writing Guild.

Her poetry has been published in several lit mags and journals, including *Sugar House Review*, *TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics*, *Cultural Daily*, and *The Penn Review*. Hopkinson's full length book *A Godless Ascends* was published by Lithic Press in March 2024. Her fourth e-chapbook *Almost Famous* was published by Yavanika Press in 2019 and her third chapbook *Footnote* was published by Lithic Press in 2017.

Hopkinson happily answers to labels such as atheist, feminist, and empty nester; and she enjoys traveling, live music, and craft beer.

For those that like prompts, this month's will be the "Mountains." Virtual attendees

are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share each month after the featured reader -- their own work or someone else's, about the prompt or not.

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

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

Other Talking Gourds projects include the Stories & Poems Norwood live reading series in collaboration with the Lone Cone Library on the third Wednesday of every month, the Stories & Poems Naturita in collaboration with the Naturita Community Library on the third Sunday of every

month, the national Fischer Poetry Prize contest and the state/national Cantor Poetry Prize contest, the Western Slope Poet

Laureate award in collaboration with Grand Junction's Center of the Arts (given every two years), the San Miguel County Poet Laureate collaboration (given every two years), the annual Karen Chamberlain lifetime achievement award given in collaboration with the Mountain Words Festival of Crested Butte, and the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show in conjunction with the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival.



Trish Hopkinson of Palisade will be the featured poet at the monthly first Tuesday Bardic Trails virtual poetry reading, April 1, at 7 pm MST. Courtesy photo.



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Community EASTER SONRISE SERVICE

Sunday April 20th 6:30am

“The So-What of Easter”

Everyone is welcome! Join us at the Montrose Pavilion South Lawn for an Easter service.

Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

Refreshments will be available.

Outside event - please dress warmly

Speaker



PASTOR
LARRY CHELL

Live Music



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1800 E Pavilion Pl Montrose, CO 81401

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WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Trattoria de Sofia
970-249-0433

Rib City
970-249-7427



Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
970-249-1881

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

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

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

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

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

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

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose

Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

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

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

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

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am- Noon and by Appointment

Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249 -9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook

Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

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

Contact: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM, *We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

roseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service.
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
 Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
 Office hours: Varies
 Contact information:
[email:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)
 website:

www.summitchurchmontrose.org
 Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor
 Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Feb. 23 we will have a family Bible study, "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kindergarten, in a kid-friendly room called Base Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet following services for a potluck brunch.
 Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events>

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist
Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org
Current Pastor: Roland Kassales
Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

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

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Church Directory 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</p> | <p>information to the Montrose Mirror: Name of church Denomination affiliation Address Office hours Contact information (phone number, email address, website) Name of current Senior Pastor Worship service times</p> | <p>Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community. Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles). Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?</p> |
|---|--|---|

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The Satisfied Woman

10 WAYS TO DESTROY INTIMACY IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1. Avoid communication
2. Withhold affection
3. Invalidate
4. Disengage
5. Shut down
6. Complain
7. Prioritize other things
8. Take for granted
9. Constant distractions
10. Self-protection

One of my greatest teachers was Wayne Dyer, a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, author, speaker, spiritual guide and truth seeker. He said, "It is better to be kind than to be right." Sit with that for a minute. That may be the most important piece of relationship advice you ever get. This applies to any and every relationship. When we try to force our opinion or position on someone, we speak from a place of emotion rather than logic. The need to be right is pure ego. And the only way to override ego is through letting go of the need to win. Now obviously in certain situations that could result in harm to another, or expensive bail, then, by all means, push. But when it comes to the everyday stuff, how important is it, really, to be "right?" Ask yourself this every single time you experience conflict and something magical happens: releasing attachment to victory removes the ego from the equation and frees you from emotional upheaval. It allows you to engage with curiosity rather than condemnation. It allows you to actually communicate.

Most couples fight because they're not communicating, someone feels angry and wants to be heard, maybe seeks validation or appreciation, or maybe just a little comfort. Pause and reflect during your next conflict and really consider, how important is it to be right? Is it worth fighting for? What if, instead of pressing your opinion, you offered a simple, "You're right....I had not considered that."

Or, my personal favorite is something author Brene Brown says, "Say more." Try that one. In any situation those words will invite the other person to more fully explain their feelings. Coming from curiosity lowers defenses. You both explore truth and honesty rather than reactive attachments. Also...It's really hard to be nasty to someone who is being nice. Pretty much deflates the fight.

Lack of communication often leads to feelings of bitterness, resentment and bottled-up anger. A spectacularly unhealthy response is the passive aggressive need to punish the other person for perceived injustices. Consider this, Neuroscience tells us the lifespan of an emotion is 90 seconds. That's it. So any festering or rumination is yours alone. Essentially, you're the architect of your own misery. Creating a narrative around your hurt and then withholding affection as a means of expressing your feelings is cowardly. Beyond open and honest communication is the need to physically connect. A simple touch can say so much. Touch is essential to our mental health and well-being and vitally important to the healthy sustenance of all our relationships. Withholding affection hurts you both. It makes your partner feel rejected, insecure, adrift and alone. This, over time, destroys those warm feelings of connection.

On the same plane as withholding affection is invalidation. We invalidate others when we fail to listen, when we directly challenge someone's feelings, or belittle their opinions, thoughts and ambitions. Invalidation is a silent killer. Over time, repeated acts of invalidation result in lack of trust, emotional insecurity, and chips away at your bond until there's nothing left. Be aware of yourself and the impact your words have on others.

Words of invalidation lead both parties to disengage. No longer do you fondly recall memories or stories, now you search for

opportunities to be offended or justified in your anger. Now you're score-keeping. Disengaging with your partner also means shutting down sexually. Sometimes this is an extension of withholding affection, sometimes it is genuine disinterest as a result of violated trust. You become the couple who has "hallway sex." And not the fun kind. One walks past the other in the hallway and says f*** you.

Sex without trust is emotionally uncomfortable. Sex without desire is like three day old Chinese food. It might make you sick, but if it's all you've got, you'll probably still have it.

A surefire way to smother your sexiness is to complain. Whining and complaining, about your partner, about your life, about your job, the kids, your weight, the bills, the weather, the war in Ukraine, just stop, it's super off-putting. Read a book, go for a walk, check your attitude. Mindset is the bedrock of your quality of life. The *Bible* says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (*Proverbs 4:23*). Well, not to be a blasphemer, but building upon that is guarding your thoughts, because from those you build your reality. Stop complaining and looking for the negative. Wayne Dyer also famously said, "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

Cultivating a healthy mindset requires prioritizing the things that matter the most, and then expressing gratitude for them. This includes your relationship.



By Gia Pirelli. Courtesy photo.

10 WAYS TO DESTROY INTIMACY IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

From previous pg

Your partner deserves top priority and genuine gratitude. Ignoring your partner in favor of the TV or your phone or other distractions is harmless once in a while, but on the whole it damages your connection until it's too corroded to spark. Don't take your partner for granted, thank them for what they do, thank them for being there, thank them for sharing your life. Tell them. Prioritize the time you spend with them, even if it's watch-

ing TV, as long as you're engaging and sitting together without scrolling on your phone.

Unhealthy relationships are characterized by lack of respect, lack of trust, and lack of healthy communication; they often involve controlling behaviors, emotional manipulation, and/or abuse. Release control and the need to be right, or vindicated. Treat your partner how you wish to be treated, speak to

them how you wish to be spoken to. Offer kindness, support, understanding, grace and respect. Do this not because of who they are, but because of who you are. Joseph Campbell says, "Love is a friendship set to music." Johnny Cash or Ed Sheeran. It's up to you.

Gia Pirelli is a successful business woman, entrepreneur, and jewelry designer. Read more about her here: <https://giovannadesigns.myshopify.com/>

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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.

April 1--CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: "Protecting Rainforests with the People Who Live in Them" by CMU Professor of Political Science Timothy Casey, PhD, 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave., CMU Montrose Campus. Free and open to the public

April 4--The Montrose Center for Arts (MCA) invites the public to support the arts in Western Colorado and fill up on a fantastic spaghetti dinner. The event will take place Friday, April 4, from 5 – 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge (801 S. Hillcrest in Montrose). Tickets are \$18 (\$20 at the door), while children under age 6 eat for free. There will be a cash bar provided by the Elks Lodge. Tickets may be purchased at the MCA at 205 E Main St Tuesday – Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

APRIL 8-Tuesday April 8 at 5 Hispanic Affairs 504 N. 1st, Citizens' Climate Lobby meets to forward local efforts to mitigate pollution .Non-partisan, environmental, All Welcome. Info.970-765-9095.

April 12-Ute Indian Museum. From 10 to 11:15 am, join Ute Museum volunteer Mary Menz and Jim Pisarowicz for an hour of beautiful wildflowers on the big screen, including many used by the Ute People. They will share fun facts and tidbits about the local flora. Mary is a Ridgway writer and Colorado Native Plant Master. Jim is an award-winning photographer from Montrose. They will sign their books *Wildflowers of Colorado's Western Slope* and *Common Wildflowers of the San Juan Mountains* after the presentation. Books are available in the Ute Indian Museum's gift shop.

Sept. 13-14-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport's signature event, is officially scheduled for Sept. 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft. For more information, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com

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The Red Hawks listen to the coaching staff prior to taking the field. Photo by Cliff Dodge.



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