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the Montrose Mirror

RE-1J APPROVES CASA FEE WAIVER; CADETS ASK FOR REINSTATEMENT OF AWARD-WINNING NJROTC PROGRAM



The equipment has mostly been sold, and the space, above, has been reassigned for use as another classroom. Still, Olathe NJROTC Cadet William Hyde, who has been running color guards in Olathe with the help of his platoon commander, asked district officials last week to reinstate the award-winning MHS NJROTC program, which would have celebrated its 50th year.

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-The Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Board of Education President Sarah Fishing was present, as were Board Vice President Eric Kelley, District A Director Erik Westesen, District B Director Jacob Suppes, District C Director Alice Murphy, and District D Director Tom West. District G Director Stephen Bush was absent.
Fishing gavelled the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. She thanked the directors who are leaving the board--Eric Kelley, Jake Suppes, and Erik Westesen--for their service. "It's been a pleasure serving with you on the board, and I can't wait to see you in all the other walks of life that we have where we bump into each other."
The Board voted to accept the meeting agenda.

[Continued pg 39](#)

BOCC HEARS 2023 ROAD & BRIDGE SALES & USE TAX REPORT, APPROVES AIRPORT CHANGE ORDERS

By Caitlin Switzer
MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen called the meeting to order; BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash was present; Commissioner Keith Caddy was absent. Retired Montrose County Sheriff Rick Dunlap led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
Pastor Karl Leuthauser of Grace Community Church delivered the invocation. He thanked commissioners for making a difference, and offered some words of scripture, from *Galatians 6:9*, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up," and from *Romans 12:21*, "Do not be overcome by Evil, but overcome evil with good."
Leuthauser also called for a moment of silence for the late Rick Mayer, "One of the ones who served our



On Wednesday, Nov. 15, Montrose County Public Works Director Keith Laube presented a recap of the Montrose County Road and Bridge Sales and Use Tax 2023 projects, with information on projects planned for 2024 and in the future. Courtesy photo Montrose County Road & Bridge Sales & Use Tax Report.

[Continued pg 23](#)

Red Hawks Advance to 4A Football Semi Final- By Cliff Dodge!	City of Montrose approves 2024 Budget on 2nd reading!	Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D: Your Brain on Nature: Gratitude!	Three City Council seats open in 2024!
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CITY OF MONTROSE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— City of Montrose offices, including City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, City Shop, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department, will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Montrose Police Department offices will be closed, however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls. The Black Canyon Golf Course will also be closed.

Trash and recycling schedules will be adjusted for the holiday. For residences with Thursday collection, trash pickup will instead occur on Tuesday, Nov. 21, and Wednesday, Nov. 22. Residences west of Townsend Ave that are normally on the Thursday route will receive collection services on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Residences east of Townsend Ave that are normally served on Thursday will receive service on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Recycling collection for customers scheduled for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 23, will instead receive collection service on Friday, Nov. 24. For more information, contact City Hall at 240.1400.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY MONTROSE IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION WORKING TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

Editor:

Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose is an all-volunteer organization working toward the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) in our atmosphere. Our work over the past year has been focused on educating the public about easy, common-sense solutions to conserve energy in their homes through weatherization, home energy audits, updating electric appliances, and supporting the installation of solar panels on houses, businesses and large-scale solar fields like Garnet Mesa. These efforts we hope will introduce us to our community and at the same time help to reduce greenhouse Gas emissions in the Uncompahgre Valley.

Our current efforts involve attending local government meetings, acknowledging representatives for their efforts related to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These projects include DMEA and Delta Counties' Garnet Mesa solar field, the Montrose Safety Complex parking lot solar, Montrose County revising regulations for utility scale renewable projects, and the City of Delta's microgrid planning grant. Our long-term plan is to stay engaged with local governments.

Our work is done by volunteers, our own donations and we did just receive our first grant! We see ourselves filling an educational gap in our community by providing critical information to help the Uncompahgre Valley respond to the climate change threat. We are happy to serve our community in this beneficial way as we work together to reduce greenhouse gases and limit global warming. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MontroseCCL/>.

Tony Hoag, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CMU MONTROSE PRESENTS DR. GAYLE FRAZZETTA ON WOMEN'S HEALTH: "UNDERSTANDING YOUR BODY: MENOPAUSE, MYTHS, AND MEDICINE"

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-CMU Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents Dr. Gayle Frazzetta, Part III in a series on Women's Health: "Understanding Your Body: Menopause, Myths, and Medicine," 6-7:30 p.m., On Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St., CMU Montrose Campus. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rhonda Claridge at 970.249.7009.

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RED HAWKS ADVANCE TO 4A FOOTBALL SEMI-FINAL



The Red Hawks warm up to play the Windsor Wizards. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The second season of the high school football season is now well underway as all of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA)'s seven classifications are deep into playoff season. The Montrose Red Hawks are still alive in the second season as they hosted the 10-2 Windsor Wizards at Montrose Stadium on Saturday afternoon and thumped the visitors by the score of 26-7. This is a one and done playoff where when you win you move on. Lose and you go home. The Red Hawks are moving on.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and deferred. They kicked off to the Wizards who were unable to do anything with the Red Hawks defense and punted on fourth down. The Red Hawk offense moved 47 yards smartly down the field and Senior Blake Griffin scored the first of his four touchdowns on the afternoon to make the score 6-0. The two-point conversion was no good.

Both teams had additional opportunities to possess the football but neither team was able to dent the scoring column in the initial quarter. The Wizards possessed the football to open the second quarter and ran a fake punt which the Red Hawks sniffed out and stopped. In the process the Wizards fumbled the football and the Red Hawks recovered. The home team saw Blake Griffin, Elijah Womack, and Jaxon Killen run the football close to the goal line, with Griffin scoring touchdown number two of his four. Jaxon Killen scored a two-point conversion to make the score 14-0.

The Wizards then started a 71-yard drive

in 12 plays with quarterback Mike Munn scoring the Wizards' only points of the afternoon. The Red Hawks Senior Austin Zimmer fielded the ensuing kickoff and ran it back 47 yards to about mid-field where the Red

Hawks offense moved into Wizard territory before attempting a 37-yard field goal which drifted wide of the goal posts. The half time score remained the Red Hawks 14, the Windsor Wizards 7.

The Red Hawks received the opening kickoff of the second half and marched down the field with a 10-play drive that saw Blake Griffin score his third touchdown of the afternoon from two yards out. Again, the two-point conversion try was not good and the score stood at 20-7. The Wizards started a drive that moved into Red Hawk territory but an unfortunate fumble by quarterback Mike Munn blunted the effort. With less than two minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Red Hawks drove 63 yards for their fourth touchdown of the afternoon. This was touchdown number four for senior Blake Griffin. The Red Hawks running back committee was very effective in ripping off



Junior Zack Motley warms up kicking field goals prior to the Windsor game. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

large chunks of yardage throughout the second half of the contest.

The air continues to become rarified the farther teams advance into the playoffs. The Red Hawks now have the opportunity to play one of the teams that defeated them early in the season. The Red Hawks will travel to Erie, Colorado and again do battle with the Tigers. Erie came to Montrose early in the season and outlasted the Red Hawks 38-28.

The rest of the bracket looks like this:
Palmer Ridge defeated Heritage 28-7
Broomfield defeated Mesa Ridge 38-6
Erie defeated Dakota Ridge 35-7
Montrose defeated Windsor 26-7

The two semifinal games will be played next weekend, with Montrose traveling to Erie and Broomfield visiting Palmer Ridge. The championship game will be played at the new CSU football stadium in Fort Collins in two weeks. Stay tuned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

BRISON CROW LEADS DELTA BRANCH FOR ALPINE BANK

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Alpine Bank has promoted Brison Crow to serve as manager of Alpine Bank Delta. A Colorado Mesa University alumnus, Crow has spent the last 10 years living and working in Grand Junction. In 2022, he applied for and was accepted into the officer trainee program at Alpine Bank.

“As Delta’s newest resident, Brison is looking forward to getting back to the small-town way of life that he was raised with, where he knows his neighbors and recognizes members of the community at the grocery store,” said Jamie Saff, Alpine Bank senior vice president. “We are excited for Brison’s new leadership role at Alpine Bank in Delta and are confident that he is the right person to take excellent care of our customers in this community.”

Crow is a Colorado native, born and raised in Eads, Colorado. He volunteers his time with the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA), an organization that maintains thousands of miles of trails on the Western Slope. Crow is also an umpire for youth baseball games, it is a sport he played and believes it serves as a great foundation for young people.

“I take so much pride in working at Alpine Bank because we give back to individual communities, communities that make Colorado such a great place to live and work,” said Crow. “I am honored to take on this role and look forward to great opportunities and partnerships in Delta County.”



Manager of Alpine Bank Delta Brison Crow. Courtesy photo.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WESTERN SLOPE AGAINST TRAFFICKING TO HOST TRAINING NOV. 21

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-The November 21 training will include Human Trafficking 101, what to look for in common trafficking situations, how to respond, and a Q & A session with local experts from the task force. Topics to be covered: child sex and labor trafficking, adult sex and labor trafficking, and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP) in Western Colorado. Donations collected at the event will provide additional training opportunities organized and facilitated by WSAT. Registration is encouraged for this FREE event: <https://www.westernslopeagainstrafficking.com/event-details/in-montrose-nov-21-human-trafficking-training>

Dr. Tom Acker and Angela Clark will be co-facilitating this training.

Angela Clark is a lived experience expert of child sex trafficking in a rural area. She's been working professionally in the national movement for 6 years. She is a member of Human Trafficking Leadership Academy, National Survivor Network, and Survivor Alliance. She is working on her memoir and other books.

Tom Acker is a Professor Emeritus of Spanish, Colorado Mesa University and is a founding member of the Western Slope Against Trafficking Task Force. He is a former member of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council. Tom has worked for more than a decade on the issue of immigrant integration, civil rights and H2A visa workers in the western U.S., especially with the shepherders.

*Western Slope Against Trafficking, located in Grand Junction is a multi-disciplinary community task force actively engaged in the collaboration, education, and lived experience perspective as the primary methods to combat human trafficking on the Western Slope. We have provided training at: give a few examples and are available for training onsite or via Zoom. WSAT is comprised of concerned citizens, civic organizations, community leaders, churches, schools, healthcare providers, law-

enforcement officers, and professionals working with vulnerable populations. New members are welcome.

In 2023, WSAT donated books written by sur-

vivors to the Montrose Library to emphasize the importance of education through the lived experience lens and voice in the effort to combat human trafficking.



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WATER BOARD POSITION OPEN

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY is accepting letters of interest to be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The post is open following the recent resignation on longtime SWCD board member, Jenny Russell.

The SWCD was created by the Colorado General Assembly to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River Basins for the welfare of all the inhabitants and safeguard for Colorado all waters to which the state is entitled. The Board of Directors is appointed by the County Commissioners in each county that has all, or part, of its boundaries within SWCD's District. These counties include Montrose County, San Miguel County, Hinsdale County, Mineral County, Montezuma County, La Plata County, and Archuleta County. Directors are appointed for a three-year term.

Please send letters of interest no later than December 7, 2023, by 5 p.m.



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I became an LPN through the Army Nurse Corps in 1991, Graduated from Sanford-Brown College in St. Louis with my ADN in Nursing in 1998. So more than 30 years as nurse total (but I don't like to say it out loud).

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REP. BOEBERT VOTED TO CUT ALL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

To the Editor:

Recently Representative Lauren Boebert voted to cut all funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Not just reduce their budgets but pull all funding from these programs. Ms. Boebert proclaims to be a big supporter of the arts as stated by her campaign manager Drew Sexton; "Congresswoman Lauren Boebert is indeed a supporter of the performing arts (gasp!) and, to the dismay of a select few, enthusiastically enjoyed a weekend performance of 'Beetlejuice.'" We all know that she was somewhat more than enthusiastic during this performance, so much so that she was asked to leave. This is unbecoming behavior and reflects poorly on the State of Colorado and in particular District Three voters who placed her in office. There will be better options in 2024 and we owe it to ourselves to take them. Consider your vote wisely next time around.

Pamela Rule, Montrose

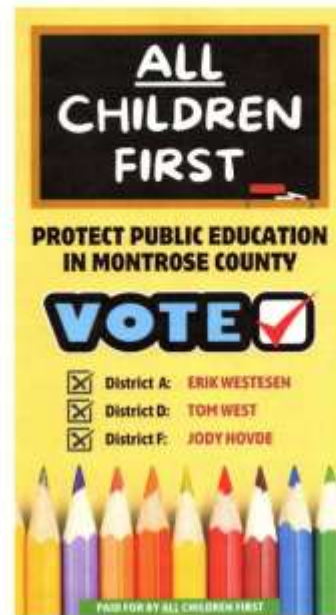
Do Not Be Misled!



This IS ChildrenFirst



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ChildrenFirst (of Montrose) neither endorsed nor funded any candidates running in the recent MCSD school board race, but did encourage the residents of Montrose to carefully research the positions of all the candidates before voting.

ChildrenFirst was founded in 2021 by Montrose citizens concerned about the student scores in reading & math. Events in which ChildrenFirst has participated include Montrose County Fair (2 years), 4th of July Parade, Youth Appreciation Day, and the Festival of the Roses. It has held monthly meetings since its inception and has met with MCSD administration.

In March, 2023, this group received a 'registered tradename' designation from the Colorado Secretary of State.

ChildrenFirst encourages you to view its website for further information and upcoming events.

www.childrenfirstmontrose.org

Paid by Friends of ChildrenFirst, who place children above politics.

Did you find one of these yellow cards hanging on your door during the recent election campaign?

What is All Children First ALL about?? It was registered in September 2023 as an LLC and in October 2023 as a "Political Committee".

From Colorado Secretary of State Website

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KINIKIN ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO SLOPE INSTABILITY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Kinikin Road will be closed to traffic between Q72 Road and R71 Road beginning Monday morning, Nov. 20, due to concerns about the stability of the slope along the west side of Dry Cedar Creek, north of R71 Road.

The decision to close the road was made following a geotechnical engineering analysis that concluded that the slope is not stable and a catastrophic failure could occur. The analysis also found that there is no quick easy fix to stabilize the slope due to the steepness of slope, the numerous slope failures and shifting of soils near the toe of the slope, and the underlying weathered adobe shales. Sudden slope failures are not uncommon in Western Colorado where roads have been cut into hillsides consisting of adobe clay soils.

“Public safety is our top priority,” said Keith Laube, Montrose County Public Works Director. “The geotechnical report clearly indicates that the Kinikin Road slope is not stable and closing the road is the only way to ensure the safety of motorists.”

The county is currently exploring options for relocating the road around the slide area. “We are committed to finding a long-term solution to this problem,” said Laube. “Additional engineering is required when constructing infrastructure in adobe soils on steep grades. A topographic survey will be performed in the coming week that will provide the needed information for a possible new road alignment.”

In the meantime, motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes. Electronic message boards will be posted to pro-

vide motorists with advanced notice of the road closure and detour information. For more information, please contact Mont-

rose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424 or visit montrosecounty.net



Gayle Frazzetta, MD, FAAFP, CCD

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BODY: MENOPAUSE, MYTHS, AND MEDICINE

Tuesday, November 28, 6–7:30pm

Montrose Campus, Cascade Hall
South 3rd and Cascade Avenue • Montrose, Colorado

Until they go through menopause, women are at a lower risk of chronic disease than men. After that, their bodies can go haywire. More than 70% experience not only the notorious hot flashes, but also over 100 other symptoms, such as insomnia and incontinence. In addition, women’s risks of osteoporosis, heart attack, stroke, dementia and other chronic diseases increase. This often-dramatic change is ascribed to a loss of hormones and was treated in the last century with hormone replacement, up until 2002 when a study associated it with incidences of breast cancer. The study, which was misinterpreted, cast a shadow over menopause treatment that remains today.

In the final part of her presentation, Dr. Frazzetta shares her knowledge of hormone optimization, a therapy for menopausal symptoms and preventative against chronic disease.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rhonda Claridge
Instructor of English
Colorado Mesa University, Montrose Campus
rclaridge@coloradomesa.edu • 970.249.7009

Gayle Frazzetta, MD, FAAFP, CCD

Frazzetta is board certified in Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice. She has specialty training in hormone optimization and osteoporosis management. Having graduated with Honors in Nutritional Sciences from Cornell University, she has interests in disease prevention and wellness in relation to nutrition.

She was the team physician for the Colorado Explosion, the women’s professional basketball team based in Denver. She is an Associate Clinical Professor with the University of Colorado School of Medicine and continues to train medical students and Advanced Practice Professionals.

Frazzetta advocates for hormone therapy as an integral part of addressing men’s and women’s health needs. In 2019, she was awarded Humanitarian of the Year for the State of Colorado for her work within the local community on sexuality and relationship education and concussion management of student athletes. She is also a Certified Clinical Densitometrist by the International Society of Clinical Densitometry.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SHEA HONORED AT CCGS ALL-STATE GAME

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—During the past 53 years the CCGS All -State Games have grown into a prestigious event honoring outstanding senior female athletes, such as Sadie Shea participating in volleyball. Only 90 seniors throughout the state of Colorado are honored in all classifications. It truly indicates that Sadie is a quality person and athlete that has been recognized by other coaches. Players are chosen based on talent, dedication, team play and leadership. On Sunday Nov. 19,2023 Sadie was introduced during the opening ceremony at Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins.



CLOSURE LIFTED FOR THE BEAR CREEK NATIONAL TRAIL

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District has announced the lifting of the forest closure for the Bear Creek National Trail Enhancement project. The project, undertaken to improve the trail's sustainability and enhance visitor experience, is funded by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) and a non-motorized trail grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Work for the 2023 season has been completed, including the clearing of the trail corridor and restoration of the trail tread between the Bear Creek Trailhead and the Yellow Jacket Mine. In addition, rock retaining walls were constructed for three low water crossings in the first mile of the trail, which will improve its safety and durability.

"We appreciate the public's patience during the trail closure," said Dana Gardunio, Ouray District Ranger. "The historic mining route is an extremely popular trail. We are excited for the next construction phase and completing the necessary improvements to offer the trail to recreational enthusiasts once again."

The next phase of the project will focus on constructing or reconstructing approximately 20 additional retaining walls and



Bear Creek Wall. Photo credit Kaily Raley.

reinforcing approximately 10 low water stream crossings between the first mile of the trail and the Yellow Jacket Mine. These efforts are integral to ensuring the long-term resilience of the trail, allowing outdoor enthusiasts to continue enjoying the natural beauty of the area. For more information on the trail reconstruction project,

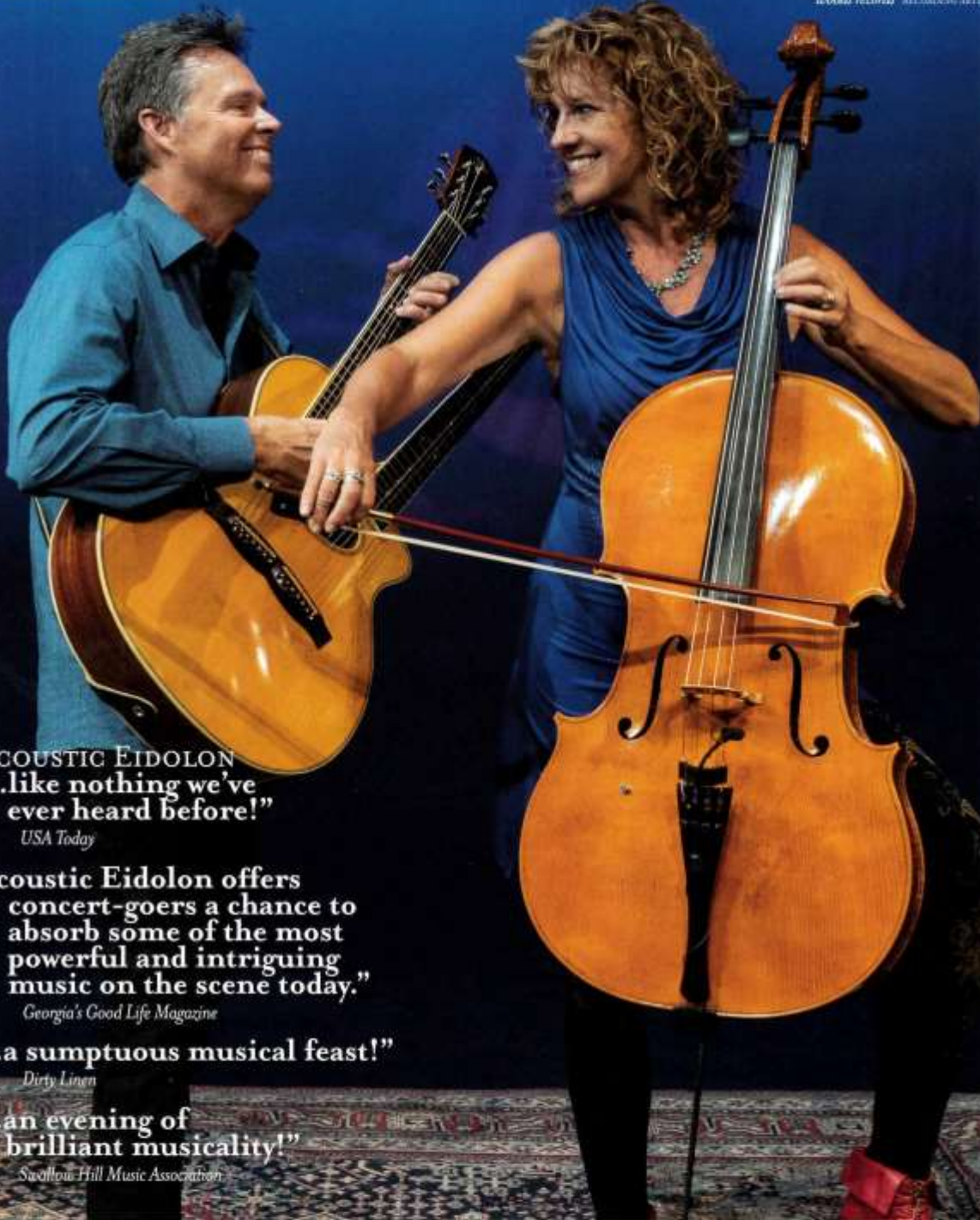
contact the Ouray Ranger District at (970) 240-5300.

For information on current fire restrictions, conditions and recreation opportunities, visit the [forest website](#) or www.westslopefireinformation.com. Connect with us or follow us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

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1200 CENTENNIAL DR. MONTROSE, CO 81401

Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1584 sq. ft. home in quiet location close to hospitals and schools. Large backyard with plenty of room for garden. Hot Tub and Storage Shed included. RV space with dump port. Two gates for easy access to backyard. Easy to maintain with drip system. Lovely deck/patio, both covered and uncovered. Double car heated garage. Family room with rock fireplace and sliding glass door to backyard. Plenty of light with flexible window coverings, which also promotes privacy. Chef's Kitchen with cabinets opens to dining room area, and then opens to living room. Stainless steel refrigerator, washer and dryer, and hot tub included. Pergo flooring for easy care.



PRICE ADJUSTMENT



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

JENNY HUNTER EARNS EXPRESS UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION – Express Employment Professionals of Grand Junction and Montrose is pleased to recognize Jenny Hunter, Staffing Consultant for the Light Industrial and Skilled Trades sectors as a recipient of the Express University (EU) Certification.

Hunter joined the Express team in July 2023. She brings experience in the insurance, logistics, and healthcare industries to support the Express job seekers for light industrial and skilled trades positions. She is driven with a great sense of urgency and dedication to helping good companies find good people.

Express University's purpose is to provide ongoing education to Express franchise offices through a diverse array of learning avenues. A blended learning solution affords individuals the opportunity to follow a curriculum made up of courses for different roles within the organization.

"Part of our culture at Express is a lifelong commitment to learning," said Nina Anderson, owner of the Grand Junction and Montrose offices. "Our staff members are consistently asking for more opportunities to learn because it improves our ability to serve our clients and associates."

The Express University certification program offers classroom instruction, teleseminars, conferences, workshops, and interactive online courses. Courses contain the fundamentals and advanced aspects of the staffing business, including inside sales, outside sales and business management.

The Grand Junction office, located at 725 Pitkin Avenue, is currently accepting applications for the Grand Junction and Montrose companies.

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BOCC HEARS 2023 ROAD & BRIDGE SALES & USE TAX REPORT, APPROVES AIRPORT CHANGE ORDERS *From pg 1*

county so well, he set the tone at the Sheriff's office...and he recently passed away. Father we thank you for Rick and his life, and the way that he always pointed others toward you with his love and care. Lord I thank you for these wonderful commissioners, I thank you for the support staff who really are setting a tone for our county, of life...it really is making a difference..."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Addressing commissioners was Sandy Head, Executive Director of Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Head thanked Montrose County for participating in the MEDC Business Showcase. "We had a 20 percent increase in booths this year...I want to bring praise to Faith Dunlap and her team...that's not an easy job...she is an incredible employee...we greatly appreciate use of the Event Center...if we didn't have your space, especially in November, it wouldn't be doable...we really appreciate your support."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch asked that Item C-19, "Consideration and possible adoption of **RESOLUTION NO. -2023** to a post speed limits on 5880 Road, as reviewed by Counsel. ... based on a speed study, staff recommends a posted speed limit of 35 mph," be moved from the Consent Agenda to D-7 under General Business to allow discussion by the Public Works Director.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with item 19 removed to General Business & Administrative Items. Resolution No. 54-2023 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 16; Resolution No. 55-2023 was assigned to Item 18; and Resolution No. 56-2023 was assigned to Item 20.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Montrose Regional Airport Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold presented two Change Orders for approval.

-Change Order No. 10, in reference to the Federal Grants AIP-56, AIP-59, AIP-60, AIP-61 and AIP-62 for the Terminal Expansion Project. This includes Non-Federal items.

Total cost is \$218,434.35 bringing the total cost of work described from \$33,131,241.45 to \$36,333,008.07; and **-Change Order No. 11** in reference to the Federal Grants AIP-56, AIP-59, AIP-60, AIP-61 and AIP-62 for the Terminal Expansion Project. This includes Non-Federal items for all costs associated with repairing and stabilizing subgrade soils at the existing parking lot due to water erosion north of the sanitary sewer lift station. Total cost is \$101,920.00 bringing the total cost of work described from \$33,131,241.45 to \$36,434,928.07.

Commissioners voted to approve Change Order No. 10 and Change Order No. 11. BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said that work on the airport parking lot would need to be done in any case. He thanked Arnold and staff. "...The Airport is really looking wonderful...a project that has really been managed very well...thank you for a job well done..."

Also approved was an award for professional auditing services to Clifton Larson Allen, LLP for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, as reviewed by Counsel. This award is for a one-year term with an optional four-year extension. This action represents a budgeted expense in the amount of \$ 92,100.

Hansen opened a public hearing; Public Works Director Keith Laube presented a recap of the Montrose County Road and Bridge Sales and Use Tax 2023 projects, with information on projects planned for 2024 and in the future.

Rash said, "Once again you guys knocked it out of the park as you do year after year...I hope the citizens appreciate the effort that you're doing. I know we do..."

Hansen asked whether older culverts are inspected by engineers; Laube said that culverts are inspected by staff, and bridges are inspected by engineers. Hansen asked for a copy of the report, which was not attached to the meeting agenda. "We'd love to have a copy of that."

Commissioners voted to accept the recap, closed the hearing and returned to regular session.

Hansen took time to recognize longtime

employee Becky Lewis, who was attending her final county meeting, "...Wanted to thank you for everything you've done for the county and wish you good luck in your future."

Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins presented the 2023 update to the Montrose County Community Wildfire / Watershed Protection Plan completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants, representing a budgeted expense of \$119,826.60. Commissioners voted to accept the 2023 update to the Montrose County Community Wildfire / Watershed Protection Plan.

Also presented by Hawkins was the Axis Health System application for secure transport license and permits for four type 1 partitioned secure transport vehicles and district license to operate within Montrose County; as reviewed by Counsel, effective November 15, 2023 through November 15, 2024. All Insurance, certifications, policies, application items and inspections have been completed under guidelines pursuant to CRS 25-3.5-309 and County Regulation #89-2022.

"It's a valuable service to our community, this transport," Hawkins said.

"And mandated," Hansen said.

"Yes, and mandated," Hawkins noted.

The Axis Health System application was approved. "We have a secure transport contract," Hansen said.

Commissioners voted to adopt Resolution No. 57-2023, "to post speed limits on 5880 Road, as reviewed by Counsel. 5880 Road is a 22-foot-wide gravel road with no posted speed limit. 5880 Road from Jig Road north to 1,000 feet south of Jasmine Road is a hilly, curvy gravel road that staff recommends a posted speed limit of 25 mph. 5880 Road from 1,000 feet south of Jasmine Road north to Ida Road is a relatively flat, straight road and based on a speed study, staff recommends a posted speed limit of 35 mph."

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented the Vernal 550 Rezone [RZ23-002] from General Agricultural (A) to General Commercial at Parcel 403901105003. Applicant Dee Holman

BOCC HEARS 2023 ROAD & BRIDGE SALES & USE TAX REPORT, APPROVES AIRPORT CHANGE ORDERS From previous pg

was present, as were neighboring property owners. The rezone was granted after a brief hearing and discussion. Hansen commended the applicant and neighbors for working together.

Commissioners opened a hearing on Amendment of Section VII Enforcement of the Montrose County Zoning Regulations. County Attorney Marti Whitmore was present and clarified some of the language for Citizen Scott Riba who asked about agricultural uses. Planner Tallmadge Richmond said that ag uses will not be changed.

Hansen closed the hearing; commission-

ers voted to approve the proposed amendment. The following item, the M&T Nelson Minor Subdivision [MI23-009] proposal to divide a 5.55-acre parcel into two lots at Parcel 372512102003, was moved to the BOCC meeting of Dec. 6 to allow time for further research.

Commissioners voted to approve the Reams Minor Subdivision [MI23-016] proposal to divide three lots from a 67-acre parcel at Parcel 426929200089 and the Holton Minor Subdivision [MI23-022] proposal to divide one lot from a 60-acre parcel at Parcel 372525300007.

The Weaker Brothers Minor Subdivision

[MI23-028] proposal to divide one lot from a 67.307 acre parcel at Parcel 376705200024 was moved to Dec. 20 for further review.

Commissioners voted to approve the West Valley Estates Preliminary Plan [MA23-001] proposal to divide 22.25 acres into eight lots at Parcel 376535112001 and the Reflection Ranch Subdivision Preliminary Plan [MA23-003] proposal to amend the Clear Valley Estates Preliminary Plan to change Outlot A to Lot 1 at Parcel 376731210006.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS OF MONTROSE! STAND UP AND SUPPORT OUR SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Editor:

A well-manned and equipped police force is essential to the wellbeing and day to day safety of our community. The county electorate (that is you and I) voted to provide just that with the passage of the PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX, the PSST, 70% of which was supposed to go to OUR sheriff. Our Board of County Commissioners, the BOCC, have decided that they needed the funds generated FOR THE SHERIFF more than the sheriff does. So the BOCC has unilaterally "TAKEN, MISAPPROPRIATED and SWIPED" most of those funds for other uses. That is, that these politicians KNOW BETTER THAN WE THE CITIZENRY, is best for our community.

WE NEED LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO STEP FORWARD and firmly let these amateur politicians that they WORK FOR US and that after their election their job is to

execute the PUBLIC'S WISHES and not what THEY think is best or that they desire. Contrary to 9 out of 10 politician's belief that their election blesses them with a tremendous education, they are still the same old person as they were before, but now 'with a title'. They work for WE THE PEOPLE and the money we allow them to take from us is to be used as we direct!

The vote in the election said how the PSST was to be distributed.

We, the citizens of Montrose County, intend for that to be so in our county. We do not accept being treated as 'subjects' or 'serfs' or people who can be spoken down to or rudely by this 'hierarchy' of elected PUBLIC SERVANTS self-appointed as 'so-called learned elite'.

Now hear this: "THE GENERAL FUND IS THE PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE. WE

THE PEOPLE VOTED FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX TO BETTER FUND (a most essential service) OUR MCSO. The BOCC then, and the present BOCC, refused to do.

We, the people, demand that these funds, ALL OF THEM, be provided to the MCSO as we were told prior to the public's approval of the PSST.

There is more to come.

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT AND THANK THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP OUR COUNTY SAFE. FURTHER I SUPPORT ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ADEQUATE SALARIES AND BENEFITS AS PROPOSED BY THEIR SHERIFF.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bill Bennett, Montrose

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CITY APPROVES 2024 BUDGET ON 2ND READING



City officials convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Meeting screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE- On Tuesday, Nov. 14 Mayor Barbara Bynum called the regular city council meeting to order at 6pm, with all councilors present. “All join me and rise as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.”

Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed had no changes to the meeting agenda.

Mayor Bynum read a proclamation in support of Colorado Gives/Uncompahgre Gives. Joining Council for the Proclamation was Lisa Paris of the Montrose Community Foundation.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the November 6, 2023, special City Council meeting, and the November 7, 2023, regular City Council meeting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Council voted to appoint applicants Darlene Mora, John Eloie, and Kenn Huff to the City’s Historic Preservation Commission.

RESOLUTION 2023-26

Mayor Bynum recused and left chambers during the discussion of Resolution 2023-26, a Resolution of Intent to create the Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District (SID), as discussed previously in work session. Those present

included Otter Pond Homeowners Association President Christina Files and City Attorney Chris Dowsey. Council voted to approve Resolution 2023-26. Files thanked the city, noting that the special improvements district will make a huge and positive impact for the neighborhood.

2024 BUDGET APPROVAL

Ordinance 2645 - Second Reading: City Council voted to adopt Ordinance 2645 on second reading, providing and appropriating funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024. Councilor Ed Ulibarri had voted against Ordinance 2645 on first reading; Ulibarri voted to approve on second reading, saying that his questions were answered after meeting with the Finance Director and City Manager.

“At the last meeting I voted no on the budget,” Ulibarri said. “I didn’t quite understand where funds that were going to the URA were coming from; I thought they were coming from the budget. But after meeting with the City Manager as well as the Finance Director, I realized that those funds were actually coming from within the MURA itself but the City has to budget and they have to put it on the budget for the years that they’re going to use the funds ... at this time, I’d like to make a recommendation that we approve the budget.” Councilor Frank seconded; all voted to approve Ordinance 2645 as well

as Resolution 2023-25 adopting the 2024 Municipal Budget.

ORDINANCE 2651 - FIRST READING

Council also voted to adopt the Supplemental Budget Ordinance 2651 on first reading, amending Ordinance No. 2599 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the City of Montrose, Colorado, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023; said expenditures of the City of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023.

ORDINANCE 2652 - FIRST READING

As previously discussed in work session, Ordinance 2652 was passed on first reading, updating Title 1 Chapter 14, of the Official Code of the City Of Montrose, Colorado: amending Title 1 Chapter 14 Section 2 (1-14-2), regarding rules of procedure; amending Title 1 Chapter 14 Section 4 (1-14-4), regarding sentencing; Amending Title 1 Chapter 14 Section 5 (1-14-5), regarding enforcement of fines; and repealing and replacing other Code provisions to standardize cross-references in the Official Code of the City Of Montrose regarding sentencing.

ORDINANCE 2646 - SECOND READING

Passed unanimously on second reading was Ordinance 2646, amending Section 11-7-12 of the Official Code of the City of Montrose concerning the zoning of new additions to the City and rezoning parcels already in the City limits.

OSPREY ADDITION

As discussed at length in work session, Council approved Ordinance 2647 on second reading, for the annexation of the Osprey Addition; and Ordinance 2648 on second reading, zoning the Osprey Addition as a P, Public District, R-4, High Density District, and R-3A Medium High-Density District.

ORDINANCE 2649 & ORDINANCE 2650 - SECOND READING

Council approved Ordinance 2649 on second reading, for the annexation of the Bluff Harbor Lot Addition, as well as Ordinance 2650 on second reading, zoning the Bluff Harbor Lot Addition as an MHR, Manufactured Housing Residential District.

Continued next pg

CITY APPROVES 2024 BUDGET ON 2ND READING

From previous pg

PHASE 2 LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS CODE UPDATE SERVICE AGREEMENT

Council voted to approve a professional services contract with Plan Tools, LLC in the amount of \$105,000 for Phase 2 code updates specific to Title 11 of the Montrose Municipal Code.

NIAGARA-HILLCREST ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council voted to approve \$3,209,461.38 in expenditures for construction of the Niagara- Hillcrest Roundabout Project, including award of a construction contract to Oldcastle SW Group, dba United Companies in the amount of \$3,078,461.38; a survey and engineering support contract to Del-Mont Consultants in the amount of \$111,000; and up to \$20,000 in expenditures to Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) for street lighting within the project. Closure is expected to begin in February of 2024 with reopening prior to school resuming in the Fall, City Engineer Scott Murphy said.

Commenting on the project was Ryan Sedgley who said he lives on south 12th

Street and Sunnyside. "We already have a lot of traffic, noise, and speeders coming through our road. I would just ask that as this construction project happens in general, consider ways to slow traffic or enforce speed limits on our street."

Mayor Bynum said that they are aware of traffic problems caused by construction and the city works to try and mitigate those problems for neighbors.

STAFF REPORTS

City Finance Director Shani Wittenberg presented the Sales, Use & Excise Tax Report as well as the Third Quarter Budget review.

Police Chief Blaine Hall said that Emergency Manager Paul Eller hosted a continuity of operations planning introduction training. "I thought it was very good; we had a lot of very productive conversations...we need to formalize a lot of processes...looking forward to identifying essential functions here at the beginning of the year and moving forward with the process."

Councilor Dave Frank said that the City of Montrose has a number of Holiday events

coming up. "...If anyone in our public wants to come and meet Santa and sit on his lap, you have that opportunity--except for some of our bigger people, who might not want to do that...also, we have our Montrose Bucks sale..."

Holiday event information is available in a press release, "City to Host Holly Jolly Holiday Season" which is on the city web site.

Bynum said there will be ads in the daily print edition, and anyone can call City Hall to learn more and to sign up to have a float in the parade.

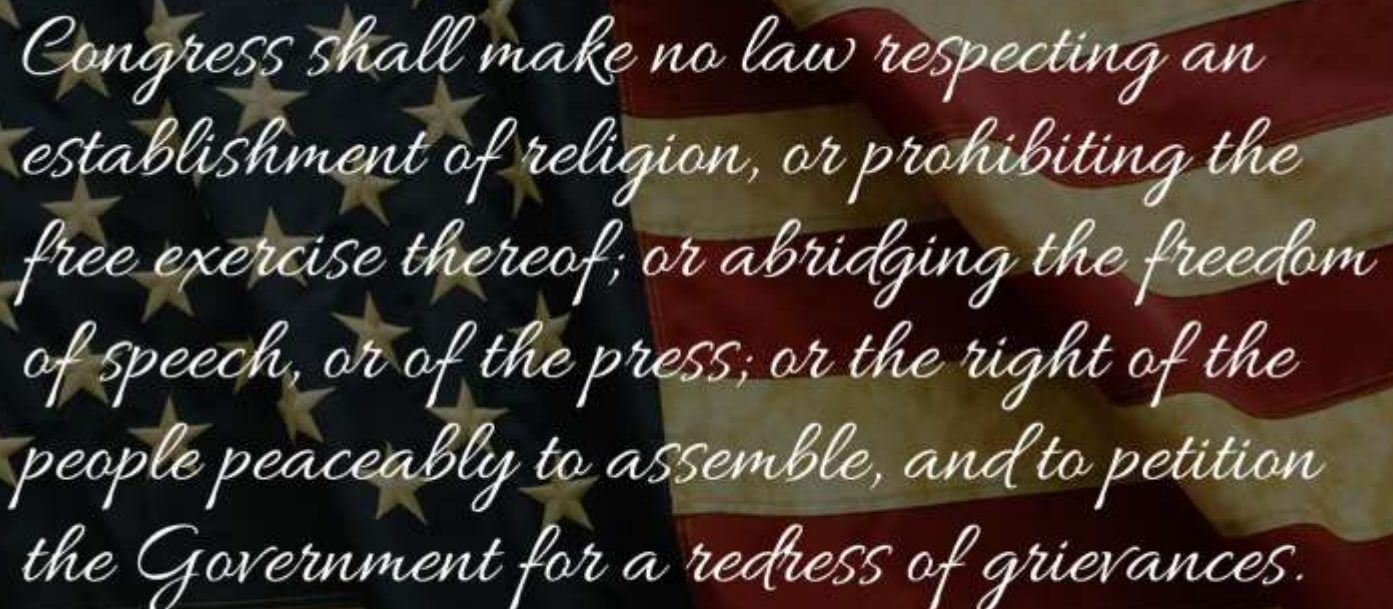
Councilor Doug Glaspell thanked staff for their work on the budget. "Thank you very much for bringing that together."

Councilor Ulibarri said that there are grant funds included in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Reed wished all a happy and safe thanksgiving.

Mayor Bynum said that the Montrose Community Thanksgiving Dinner was still looking for volunteers. "...It is a cool event that our community puts on at the County's Friendship Hall."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THREE TOP HAMAS LEADERS HAVE A PERSONAL COMBINED NET WORTH OF OVER \$11 BILLION, AND LIVE IN QATAR

Editor:

Most liberal opinions are easily refuted without much research. For example, William Brown (MDP 11/11) repeats the oft repeated lie that Republicans (specifically House Speaker Mike Johnson) want to eliminate Social Security. The truth is Social Security is on life support, The money young people are paying into SS today is being used to pay those already on SS, not to some fund they can draw from when they hope to retire. Because Democrats don't want to prevent the impending disaster, they refuse to do anything about it -- at the same time they demonize any Republican with enough gumption to suggest actually addressing the impending catastrophe.

Brown also indicated that House Speaker Johnson wants to "defund the IRS" because he is proposing financing the \$14.3 billion Israel aid package by reducing the \$80 billion increase in the IRS budget provided by the "Inflation Reduction Act." Only a Democrat would call a reduction in an increase "defunding." I put the lie that the \$80 billion increase will only be used to go after billionaire tax cheats in the same category as the lie that the "Inflation Reduction Act will reduce inflation" --- pure fiction. As an aside, I wonder why the IRS has spent over \$10 million on the purchase of weapons and ammunition in the last couple of years?

Addressing the various lies about Israel and Hamas takes a little more effort and research, but the truth is not that difficult to find. Those who accuse Israel of colonialism and being "occupiers" choose to ignore history. Too many of the people making such accusations think of history as what happened last week or last month. Muslims conquered present-day Israel and Gaza in the 600s. When the crusaders reclaimed that land, they humiliated Muslims because it meant that the infidels took back what Muslims then con-

sidered their land --- never mind that Christians had controlled the land for hundreds of years before Islam ever existed. Israel has continually tried to make peace with its Islamic neighbors, but Hamas and others have intentionally eliminated that possibility by conducting jihad against Israel (the supposed colonizers), even though Jews had ruled that land for millennia before Islam existed.

Some accuse Israel of "apartheid" (Wayne Quade MDP 10/28), suggesting that Israel is the reason Gaza residents are impoverished and unemployed, with no hope for the future. That brings to mind the satellite photos comparing North and South Korea at night. South Korea is lit up -- reflecting the robust economy of a free, capitalist democracy. North Korea is completely dark -- reflecting the failed oppressive communist dictatorship that it is. You reap what you sow. If Hamas cared about the Palestinian people and wanted them to thrive, they could achieve that within a very short period of time by simply renouncing their goal of eliminating Israel. That isn't going to happen. From its beginnings, Islam never attempted to convert "non-believers" by friendly persuasion. Instead, they converted by conquest and forcible conversion, or you were slaughtered. Hamas has shown the world the face of evil but Gazans choose to continue in a death cult that keeps them impoverished and brainwashed. Meanwhile, their Hamas leaders live in lavish and safe luxury in Qatar. The three top Hamas leaders have a personal combined net worth of over \$11 billion, and live in Qatar.

Until Hamas is eliminated, Hamas will continue to educate Gaza's children in hatred (often funded by American tax dollars through the UN). Those children will be taught that the best thing they can do with their lives is to kill Jews. Hamas' attack on the Israelis was incredibly sadistic. Most of the Israeli dead, including chil-

dren, were tortured before death. When Hamas attacked, they brought some of their children with them, some as young as ten years old. Not surprisingly, the kids enjoyed the carnage --- having learned their lessons well.

Destroying Hamas will unavoidably include Palestinian "civilian" casualties. Unlike Hamas, who specifically targets civilians, Israel first warns civilians before striking military targets in Gaza. Hamas intentionally places ammunition depots, military headquarters, tunnels, etc. within hospitals and other civilian structures with the express goal of increasing civilian casualties --- knowing the world's anti-Semites will try to equate the planned, unparalleled brutality inflicted on Jewish civilians with the unavoidable Palestinian deaths. You can decide to what degree the average Gaza resident is complicit with Hamas. Certainly not all Gazans are terrorists, but the vast majority are rabidly anti-Semitic and do not recognize Israel's right to exist. Seeing thousands of Palestinians in the streets celebrating war crimes committed against Jewish civilians speaks volumes about Palestinian morality.

The Muslim world, including terrorists Hamas, Hezbollah, and their Iranian masters, are united by one thing and that is the destruction of Israel. To those terrorists, Arab Palestinians exist only in the context of destroying Israel. The welfare of the Palestinian people has never been a concern. "Hatred is enough to burn your neighbor's home but not enough to build a home of your own," (Dr. Michael Widlanski). Israel has tolerated having their homes burned and their people murdered since its inception in 1948. Don't expect that to continue. Never again. Without Hamas, perhaps Arab Palestinians will decide to focus on building a home of their own rather than murdering Jewish civilians?

Ed Henrie, Montrose

THREE SEATS OPEN IN 2024 CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTION

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose City Council met for an interactive citizen work session, a special meeting (executive session), and for a regular work session on Monday, Nov. 13. All councilors were present for both sessions.

Prior to the start of the first work session, the recording captured conversations. Mayor Pro Tem J. David Reed is heard asking City staff about housing for a new Human Resources professional hired by Cedar Point Health.

“Cedar Point Health is hiring a new HR person, and they’re looking for a place for her to live initially,” Reed said. “Do we have any space available?”

“Yeah,” Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler said. There is a dorm, Morgenthaler noted, “We also have our east Oak Grove House...the East Oak Grove house might be a nice spot.”

CITIZEN INTERACTIVE WORK SESSION

Scheduled for 9am, the Citizen Interactive Work Session focused on an in-depth discussion of code enforcement, with Citizen Jim Haugsness joining council and staff. Listen to the [full discussion](#) here.

REGULAR WORK SESSION

The [Regular City Council work session](#) of Monday, Nov. 14 began with a discussion of a Main Street Closure for Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block Event.

Public Works Special Events Manager Jon Sullivan presented information on the closure.

Background-A memo from Sullivan to Council states, “...An application was received from Habitat for Humanity to close the 500 block of Main Street and Uncompahgre Avenue from North First Street to Centennial Plaza for the Rock the Block event on Saturday, June 22, 2024. The application lists 6:30 a.m. as the event set up time, and 5 p.m. as the event end time. Event organizers are required to notify all businesses affected by the closures, and at least 75 percent of those businesses must approve of the closures before the Events Use Permit will be approved by city staff. Local business owners were in support of

Fund #	Fund Name	Original Budget	Final Budget
		Ordinance 2599	Ordinance 2651
100	GENERAL FUND	\$ 35,075,378	\$ 36,696,626
250	CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	\$ -	\$ 245,000
260	MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,627,332
440	SPECIAL IMPROVMENTS REVOLVING	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,298
510	SEWER FUND	\$ 5,407,386	\$ 5,614,653
600	INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS	\$ 7,671,235	\$ 9,151,451
610	HEALTH/DENTAL/VISION BENEFIT FUND	\$ 3,095,600	\$ 3,492,550

Council considered approving the 2023 Supplemental Budget (above).

this event in 2023 and reported positive experiences post-event, and Habitat for Humanity has collected signatures again for the 2024 application. Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club will apply for a Special Events Permit to sell and serve alcohol during this event. The Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club is aware to post notice on premises in compliance with state statute and they will apply within reasonable time prior to the event date. City of Montrose Regulations require City Council approval for street closures exceeding 10 hours in duration and require City Council approval of Special Events Permits to serve alcohol in conjunction with street closures.

Although Human Resources Director Terri Wilcox could not attend as originally planned, City Manager Bill Bell presented a discussion on City of Montrose Employee Benefits. A copy of the 2024 Benefits Enrollment Guide is included in the work session packet.

Council considered 2023 Supplemental Budget Ordinance No. 2651, “amending ordinance no. 2599 which appropriated funds for defraying the expenses and liabilities of the city of Montrose, Colorado during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023; said expenditures of the city of Montrose over and above those anticipated at the time of the adoption of the original budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023.”

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo discussed the 2024 Election Plan. Three seats will be open this spring, those currently held by Bynum, Frank, and Reed.

Background-A memo from DelPiccolo to Council notes that “in accordance with the City Charter, the 2024 Municipal Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The following City Council seats will be included on the 2024 ballot:

- District III - four-year term (currently held by J. David Reed)
 - District IV - four-year term (Currently held by Dave Frank)
 - At-Large - two-year term (Currently held by Barbara Bynum)
- The procedures and timelines for the 2024 election are unchanged from 2022 with the exception of minor amendments to campaign finance procedures that were adopted with Ordinance 2643 on November 7. Candidate information will be available on the City website beginning Monday, Dec. 11. The City is planning to contract with the Montrose County Elections Office for production of the ballot packets and tabulation of the election results as in previous years. An election plan and calendar are attached. Adoption of a resolution authorizing a mail ballot election is requested.” Bynum reminded all of the Development and Revitalization Team (DART) meeting the following morning at 8am.

SPECIAL MEETING

Following a brief recess, Council convened for a special meeting at Noon, “An executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(2)(f); and the following additional details are provided for identification purposes: City Manager mid-cycle informal review.”

NEXT MONDAY, NOV. 27, 1pm



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Western History with Kate Burke
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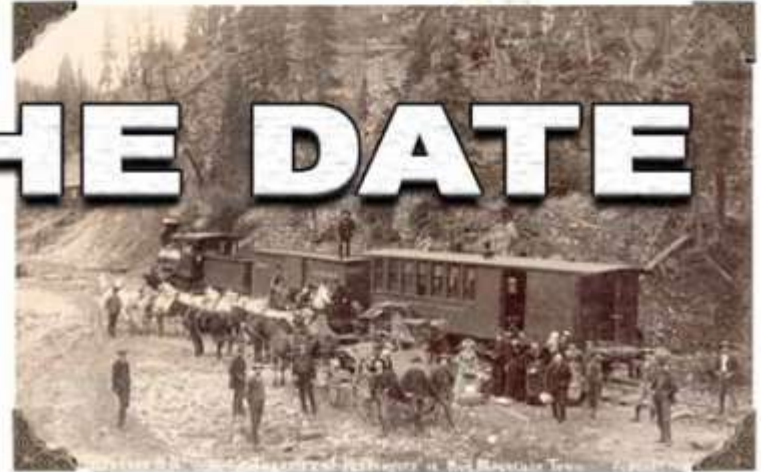
1 pm. Mon., Nov. 27, 2023 | Montrose Senior Center, Montrose Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 8am



FREE Program

Western History with Kate Burke
The Silverton Train & Red Mountain Mining District



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Related story, <https://kathrynrburke.com/silverton-railroad/>

8 am. WED., DEC. 06, 2023 | THE FORUM. Cascade Hall, Montrose.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECUTES HOMICIDE SEARCH WARRANT

DELTA — On Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at approximately 2:30 p.m. the Delta Police Department, in conjunction with Colorado Bureau of Investigations, conducted a search warrant at 1450 Bluff Street for Chelsea Herrera (25). Herrera had outstanding warrants for the following:

- Fugitive from Justice - Vehicular Eluding
- Fugitive from Justice - Vehicular Homicide.

Herrera was determined to be inside the residence upon execution of the search warrant. Herrera refused to exit the residence at first but did come out a short time later. A Shelter-in-place order was issued through the reverse 911 system covering a three-block radius while the search warrant was executed. The Shelter in Place was lifted approximately 15 minutes later.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CHILDREN FIRST SUPPORTS TEACHING ACADEMICS VS. POLITICS

Dear Editor,

After reading the letter from Kevin Kuns on 11/13/23, I wanted to make a few corrections so the locals here in Montrose can get accurate information. There is a group in Montrose called Children First and they support schools teaching academics vs. politics. It seemed intentionally confusing that some Democrats funded another group calling themselves All Children First just before the school board elections.

Children First is hardly supported by "dark monies" as KK asserts, mostly just private donors like me. There were some unaffiliated groups who must've liked the candidates and the message so they found some ways to voice their support, such as mailers. KK claims that "tens of thousands of dollars" could've been injected into the

school system instead of being spent on campaigns. KK, can you please provide documentation of how much All Children First and the local Democrats spent on this election as well as where you got the "specific" figures of "tens of thousands of dollars?" And I'd also be interested in knowing what this great influx of cash into the schools would do that millions hasn't done over years and years...

I do agree with KK that all kids have a right to free public education. It's such a shame that most families don't want the public education that's available now. I love all children but failing to prepare kids for the next grade let alone adult life/jobs because the focus is on the beliefs and lifestyles of LBGT and transgenders is failing all of them! Children are vulnerable and this is traumatizing. Parents are pull-

ing their kids out of these environments at a never before seen rate. The current superintendent accepted funding from the state in exchange for teaching curriculum focused on the accomplishments of the gay community over history. How vital is someone's sexuality to mainstream history? Why the obsession with this minority? Let's see if the school board, which is supposed to be supervising HER, instead of the current dynamic, can move things in a better direction. The only way from the bottom is to move UP. KK, until you have something better to offer than all this, you might want to leave Children First alone. At least their focus on academics and an accountable administration within the schools is something the rest of us can feel proud of...

Lisa Reynolds

INCREASE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

The delayed federal farm bill should include increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce the suffering we inflict on animals, as well as our greenhouse-gas emissions and pandemic risk.

The Department of Agriculture has provided billions of dollars of subsidies to livestock producers. Surely, it can offer some assistance to the nascent cultivated-meat industry, which holds so much promise. Forward-thinking legislators should make certain this happens, by including more government money for cellular-agriculture research in the farm bill.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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carolann@montrose.net



TERRI FLETCHER

Broker Associate
C: (970) 275-4679
terrifletcher1980@gmail.com



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RE-1J APPROVES CASA FEE WAIVER, CADETS ASK FOR NJROTC REINSTATEMENT From pg 1

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J PIO Matt Jenkins welcomed Academic Services Coordinator John Steele and Sandy Head of the Montrose Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), who spoke about the commercials created for local businesses by students at the 2023 Manufacturers Expo at the Montrose County Event Center.

"You guys have some incredible students," Head said, as students stepped forward to answer questions and talk about the experience.

Fishing praised the students, "Congratulations on presenting yourselves in such a professional way...well done, and so proud of you. I hope you're really proud of yourselves." She asked how they planned to use their skills in the future, and one student responded that the experience had increased social skills.

Students from Peak Academy were present to speak about the Trout in the Classroom program. The aquarium is placed at the Outer Range Campus, while Peak students remotely monitor the fish. Fish will be reared in the tank until mid-March; young rainbow trout will then be released into the Uncompahgre River in town.

RECOGNITION & DONATIONS

Montrose Police Sergeant Courtney Jones was present on behalf of the RE-1J School Resource Officer (SRO) team, to present a new honor, the SRO Award. "...We want to highlight some of those students, to bring more attention to some of the great things that students are doing in our district," Jones said, noting that the qualities of honesty, trustworthiness, compassion, diligence, respect, and responsibility are worthy of recognition. She read comments from Montrose High School Resource Officer Trevis Booth, who nominated the first SRO Award Winner Carter Hughes, a senior at Montrose High School. "...Carter stands out for his outstanding academic achievements and exceptional kindness towards his peers and staff...it's his consistent kindness and respect for others that truly distinguishes him..."

The November Altrusa Apple Awards went to Johnson Elementary School Teacher Valerie Hansen and Northside Elementary School Teacher Rachel Arreachea. The KREX Golden Apple Award for November

was presented to Peak Academy Teacher Jamie Gann.

Finally, the Montrose Community Foundation/Montrose Hardware Community Builds grant has donated \$4,000 to Peak Academy for Teacher Doug Eccher's classes.

CASA LAND USE FEE PRESENTATION

Carlton Mason Sr. of CASA of the 7th Judicial District was present to make a request. CASA is constructing a 45-unit intergenerational supportive housing community north of the bypass, for young adults 18-24 and seniors 60+. Mason asked that the district waive the land use fees related to schools on behalf of the project; directors noted that the request would come up for a vote later in the meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus presented financial updates for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year, both funds and investments.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

District C Director Alice Murphy discussed some of the school events which she had attended in past weeks, from a goat kissing event at Pomona Elementary; to a Kindergarten Fall Festival at Cottonwood Elementary; Trick or Treat Street at District Offices; a Halloween Carnival at Olathe Elementary; a Special Education Town Hall, the MEDC Manufacturer's Expo at the Montrose County Event Center; the ABC Club Awards at Northside Elementary; a leadership event held at Grace Church; a career pathways presentation; an Oak Grove Elementary "Cereal Box Thing," a Master Capital Plan presentation on the ECC, and others.

"It's nice to be invited into the schools and see all of the activities going on," Murphy said. Also, "Lots of sports things going on. Man, those teams are good."

District D Director Tom West gave an update on the facilities committee; portables are not yet in place. "...We're working on that."

COMMUNITY INPUT

First to speak was Kari Keller, who has taught in Olathe for more than 35 years. She thanked the outgoing board members for their hard work and commitment to students and the school district, and for

their support of the Uncompahgre Valley Education Association (UVEA).

She thanked Westesen for stepping up to serve, "I'm really going to miss you, you did a great job," she said. And to Jacob Suppes, Keller said, "I'm going to miss our drives...I appreciate that I got a chance to teach your kids and grow up with you...thank you for the time that you give and for your support of the Olathe Community."

Keller expressed concern as a Blue Star parent that RE-1J is losing the award-winning NJROTC program at Montrose High School....I am pleading with the school board to find a way to bring that program back for our students."

Next to speak was former RE-1J Board of Education Director Phoebe Benziger. She handed out flyers for the Montrose Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and asked directors to share them. Benziger congratulated Suppes on his years of service, and mentioned seeing Alice Murphy on Main Street one morning at 6:30am. The band was leaving for a competition in Colorado Springs, she said, and Murphy talked Benziger into getting out of her car and joining her to wait in the freezing cold. "Alice had her cowbell," she said. "...kudos to you Alice!"

Benziger thanked the MHS Soccer team for helping to facilitate meal delivery every year at the annual Montrose Community Thanksgiving Dinner. She commended RE-1J Director Stephen Bush and his family for regularly volunteering at the annual dinner. 2,500 meals will be served and delivered on Thanksgiving, she said. "...170 turkeys," she said.

Next to speak was William Hyde. He thanked Keller for talking about the cancellation of the NJROTC program. As an NJROTC Cadet from Olathe, "...I've been running all color guards down at the school with the help of my platoon commander...our biggest thing so far has been the Veterans Day Assembly," Hyde said. "We wanted to do the veterans Day Assembly to show that even with the shutdown of the NJROTC, we still have some hope left...with the lack of an NJROTC program, it has affected not only the lives of the student body but of veterans and community members, not seeing an ROTC

RE-1J APPROVES CASA FEE WAIVER, CADETS ASK FOR NJROTC REINSTATEMENT From previous pg

for parades or Veterans Day Assemblies has really affected the people that usually see them, usually the veterans.

"This year it would have been 50 years since our NJROTC program first started," Hyde said. "And we would have loved to celebrate that 50 years." Everything has instead been sold in the Montrose School, he said, and the classroom is being used for another class.

"We'd like to see it start back up again," Hyde said. "We'd also like to see competitions come back, where we do an armed drill team...we understand that we need a teacher and a bunch of students...we'd just really like to see it come back. We'd like the program up and running. We'd like to see how far we can go after a year."

Fishing said that she respected Hyde for taking time to speak to the board. "I don't want you to think that you haven't been heard."

Next to speak was former county commissioner Ron Henderson. "My heart and soul support that young man who just spoke," Henderson said. "It is a great program." The recent school board election was a real eye opener, he said. "I am really surprised at how little the public knows about you and what you do and how you do it...what I would like to do is come myself and find out what is the truth..."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-AVID PRESENTATION

John Steele of Academic Services presented an Olathe Middle/High School AVID presentation. The meeting agenda includes links:

"We are excited to already see results from the implementation of AVID at OMHS. The power of AVID Secondary is the ability to impact students in the AVID Elective class and all students throughout the campus. AVID Secondary can have an effect on the entire school by providing classroom activities, teaching practices, and academic behaviors that can be incorporated into any classroom to improve engagement and success for all students. Teachers can take what they've learned at AVID training back to any classroom to help all students, not just those in AVID, to become more college- and career-ready. OMHS is piloting a 6th grade AVID Elective course and implementing strategies to improve student organization, goal-setting

and strong academic habits through WIC-OR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading).

AVID OMHS Video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i2z6oWYcUXktyzmu-Uvnu_voigGfd8Nu/view

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DISTRICT SAFETY PRESENTATION

Directors heard a [presentation on Safety](#) by Director of Operations James Pavlich and Megan Farley of the district safety team.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board voted to approve revised board policies on second reading:

-[BC-R, School Board Member Financial Disclosure](#) - adjustment of gift ban dollar limit;

-[IC/ICA, School Year/School Calendar/Instruction Time](#) - remote learning flexibility ended;

-[IHBIB, Primary/Preprimary Education](#) - deleted Colorado Preschool Program sections; added informational note; technical edits;

-[KDB-R, Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information](#) - added new requirements regarding CORA requests; technical edits.

-[Directors voted to delete BDFC, Preschool Counsel](#) - policy repealed due to the Colorado Preschool Program repeal.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 5 was pulled for further review at the request of District B Director Jacob Suppes. The Item reads, *"MHS/ECC Programming and Options Study. This purchase is for [architectural services](#) with RTA Architects that are a continuation of the Facility Master Planning services completed in 2022 and will seek to build upon the work already completed not to exceed \$99,500. This project will be funded from the Capital Reserve budget."*

The remainder of Consent Agenda items, including [Personnel Report](#), were approved, with Item 5 approved separately following a brief discussion.

Suppes asked, "Are they coming back to do more?"

Pavlich responded in the affirmative and in detail; Item 5 was approved.

CASA LAND USE FEE WAIVER REQUEST

The Board of Education voted to approve the requested waiver of Land Use Fees for CASA.

Fishing noted the "unique" situation and said that the waiver does not set a precedent.

NEW BUSINESS

Directors approved revised Board policies JK, JKA, JKD/JKE and JKD/JKE-R as listed with agenda notes:

-[JK, Student Discipline](#) - during the 2023 legislative session, HB23-1191, Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children, was passed. As a result, this policy has been updated to reflect the definition of corporal punishment;

-[JKA, Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint](#) - during the 2023 legislative session, HB23-1191, Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children, was passed. As a result, this policy has been updated to reflect the definition of corporal punishment and the restrict on corporal punishment by district staff and volunteers;

-[JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students](#) - HB23-1291 and SB23-029 were passed in the 2023 legislative session that impact procedures for suspending, expelling, or denying admission to a student. Changes to JKD/JKE are edits regarding consideration of factors in determining to suspend or expel a student and added training provisions and technical edits;

-[JKD/JKE-R, Suspension/Expulsion of Students](#) - also related to HB23-1291 and SB23-029, edits regarding hearing procedure including records, conflicts of interest, legal standard and technical edits.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

RE-1J Finance Director Emily Imus presented the [Enrollment report](#). Current enrollment is 6,054 and the number does not reflect the official October funded count.

Suppes thanked those who helped him during his time on the board, including Melanie Hall, Tom West, and Gail Johnson. Montrose Schools are headed in the right direction, Suppes said, noting that he had learned a lot over the past six years, "Don't forget about Olathe."

Suppes moved to adjourn; the motion was approved.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

THE NATURE FIX: NATURE'S WELLNESS GIFT TO OUR YOUTH



Fourth grade students spent a morning on the Grand Mesa National Forest learning to cross-country ski. It isn't as easy as it looks with very different levels of physical coordination, but the kids had a great time and learned some endurance skills! Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) promote these types of outings to get more youth outside in Delta, Montrose, Mesa and Ouray counties. (Photo Credit: Anne Janik)

By Anne Janik,

Friends of Youth and Nature

MONTROSE-What impact does an early introduction to the outdoors have on who a child will become as an adult, and how they are affected physically, mentally, emotionally—and even morally as they grow up? As it turns out, we can directly connect childhood exposure to outdoor activities with positive long-term outcomes. Time spent outdoors, whether in play, outdoor education, recreation, or even gardening can play a crucial role in building resiliency and have a positive impact on the mental and physical well-being in our youth.

Playing outside helps children use their imaginations to develop creative thinking and problem solving skills. Many outdoor activities require kids to work together and communicate in order for everyone to have fun or to accomplish a common goal. It has also been discovered that a bacterium in the soil increases serotonin in the brain and improves mood. Who knew that

getting dirty is a good thing!

The more outdoor time children have the more physical activity they get. Outdoor play promotes physical coordination, strength, endurance, attributes necessary to develop a healthy body and mind. It is an easy and natural way of encouraging physical activity in young people.

As adults, many of us have learned an escape to a special place in nature helps us relax. A visit to our nearby public lands to exercise, walk with a friend, or enjoy the beautiful weather certainly helps us recharge and re-set mentally and emotionally. Our kids need that too! The more time children spend in nature and the greater sense of connection they personally feel with nature, the less likely they are to experience symptoms such as irritability, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, headache, and other physical afflictions. Nature's fix helps them build mental and physical resiliency.

It has been shown that the more time we can get younger generations to spend in

the outdoors, the greater sense of connection they will feel with nature, and the more likely they will become involved with environmental stewardship and preservation. We want the next generation to feel ownership towards our public lands and care for our natural resources. After all, we are part of nature. Simple actions such as conserving water, turning out lights, recycling, establishing native plants, talking about the environment, and picking up litter is a great start.

At Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN), we believe strongly in both the individual impacts that activities in nature have on each young person, as well as the broader long-term goal of creating another generation who feel strongly about the importance of maintaining and safeguarding our public lands for the benefit of all.

Our goal is to continue supporting programs that have both a personal and philosophical impact on the future of our natural areas, in order that future generations may enjoy these spaces for many years to come.

We would like your support to help FOYAN continue to provide a variety of outdoor experiences for our local youth. In our sixth year as a nonprofit, we have served over 8,000 youth and their families with outdoor activities and environmental learning opportunities. Please consider donating to FOYAN through Colorado Gives on or before December 5th, where your donations will be boosted through the incentive fund. Give Where You Live and donate here to help us make the biggest impact:

www.coloradogives.org/organization/friendsofyouthandnature

Friends of Youth and Nature is a non-profit that promotes opportunities for youth and families to get outside, experience outdoor activities, and explore nature. Follow our outdoor news blog and receive monthly tips on connecting your children to nature. Learn more, visit

www.friendsofyouthandnature.org

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MEDITATION SPACES ART GALLERY & STUDIO OPENS IN MONTROSE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-A new fine art gallery and meditation studio has opened in the middle of historic downtown Montrose, Colorado. Some call it the 'feel good' place because the first thing that greets you is a feeling of peace and harmony. The shop offers special items that have been carefully chosen to enhance any meditation or sacred space. There are oil paintings, glass art, prayer beads, meditation cushions, all natural incense, books and other special items. Meditation Spaces is a place to come when you are seeking a way to introduce some peace into your life: and who doesn't want that?

The current art show, "Painted Desert Revealed" is a collection of fine art oil paintings by studio owner Sangdrol Blanchard. These 22 renderings capture the peaceful shapes of the ancient, colorful mounds of the Painted Desert on the Navajo reservation in northern Arizona.

Meditation Spaces also offers consultation service to individuals and businesses who would like to create a dedicated meditation space in their home or office. Workshops, demonstrations and recommendations are offered to all who are interested in knowing more about what a sacred space is and how it can support your meditation, prayer or practice.

"In a busy world where technology has accelerated our reality to such a high speed, meditation or peaceful contemplation can help quiet our minds and bring calm back into our lives." says studio owner Sangdrol Blanchard.

Visit www.meditationspaces.org to learn more



Studio owner Sangdrol Blanchard, above.

Courtesy photo.



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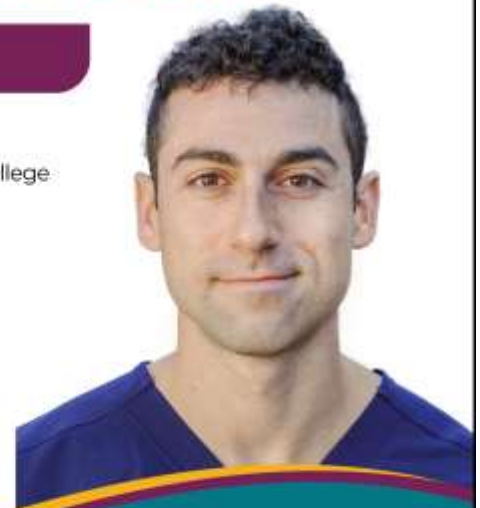
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LINK TO UNOFFICIAL 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-As results of the Nov. 7 election are finalized by the Secretary of State's office, unofficial results [for local contests can be found here](#). For statewide unofficial results visit the [Clarity Elections](#) site.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: CARTOONS BY JIM COX

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SENIOR COMMUNITY CARE CO PACE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Senior Community Care of Colorado (SCCCO) PACE is pleased to announce the newest awardees of the SCCC O PACE Outstanding Service Awards. PACE staff were given the opportunity to nominate their peers in four categories: Teamwork, Customer Service, Mission Focus, Innovation, and Leadership based on the SCCC O fundamentals. They also had to share a specific example and the impact of the co-worker on participants and co-workers. SCCC O is pleased to announce four SCCC O PACE employees who have received one of the service awards.

We congratulate the following recipients: Melody Marta, Eligibility Specialist, Debbie Brown, C.N.A., and Theresa Baca, Nursing Secretary.

The purpose of these awards is to support and recognize employees for their exceptional performance, dedication, and contribution to the SCCC O PACE organization, mission, peers, participants, and community. Overall, the service awards motivate individuals and our team while promoting a culture of excellence, continuous improvement, and employee engagement within the organization and community.

The Outstanding Teamwork Service Award went to Debbie Brown, C.N.A. in Montrose. Debbie exemplifies the SCCC O fundamentals of “Bring It” Everyday, Assume Positive Intent, Find a Way, Walk in My Participants’ Shoes and Work Smart. Debbie consistently comes in every day with a positive attitude, always checking to make sure everything is ready for the day. She never complains about the work she does and she treats all participants with dignity and respect. Debbie is always ready to help when needed no matter what the circumstance. She is what PACE is all about. Congratulations Debbie!

The Customer Service Outstanding Award went to Melody Marta, Eligibility Specialist. Melody embraces the fundamentals of Care for the “Whole” Person, Deliver Legendary Experiences, Do the Right Thing in the Right Way, Always Find a Way, and Make Quality Personal. Melody puts the needs and satisfaction of our participants first. She displays genuine empathy and

compassion towards participants and is proactive in resolving participant concerns. Melody has worn many hats within the SCCC O organization and has taken on challenges with professionalism and a positive attitude. Congratulations Melody!

Theresa Baca, Nursing Secretary in Eckert, was awarded the Mission Focus Outstanding Service Award. The fundamentals Theresa embodies are Do the Right Thing For the Right Reason in the Right Way, Always Focus on Our Purpose, Think Safe, Work Safe, and Work Smart. She goes above and beyond for the participants, ensuring they have the right care in the appropriate amount of time. She works smart, using her time very efficiently and effectively. She focuses on the purpose of our mission, adapting to change and implementing these changes to work safe. She is always thinking of our participants and ensuring the clinic runs smoothly to provide the best care to our participants and the mission of PACE. Congratulations Theresa!

SCCCO’s Executive Director, Keith Howell, said, “We are extremely proud of our employee’s exceptional dedication, unwavering commitment, and outstanding contributions to our organization. Their hard work, passion, and relentless pursuit of excellence have not only achieved remarkable results but have also set a shining example for others to follow. Our employees’ commitment to delivering exceptional service and their ability to go above and beyond expectations makes me proud to be a part of this team.”

Senior Community Care of Colorado is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for



Above, Theresa Baca, Melody Marta, and Debbie Brown. Courtesy photos.

the Elderly (PACE) and has been serving qualified older adults in Delta and Montrose County since 2008. Senior Community Care is a program of Volunteers of America National Services, a non-profit, faith-based organization founded in 1896 and dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe, and productive lives. Volunteers of America National Services has been a Great Place to Work certified employer since 2018. For more information please visit www.seniorcommunitycare.org

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CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

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970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Pahgre's
970-249-6442



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Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Amelias Hacienda Restaurante
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Delta: Pour Ernie's
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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ETHEL MAE BLAIR

April 10, 1923 – November 6, 2023



ETHEL MAE (VOELLER) BLAIR, passed away at the age of 100 on November 6th, 2023, at Willow Tree Nursing Home.

She was born April 10th, 1923, in Saint Frances KS, the daughter of Huber Voeller and Hazel (Amack) Voeller.

Ethel Mae married Charles E. Blair on April 7, 1944. They have one daughter Norma Jean. In 1960 they moved to Montrose where they called home for the rest of their days.

Ethel Mae and Charles E. had been married 57 years at the time of his passing.

Ethel enjoyed daily car rides with Charles, listening to old country music and bartering candy for chores from her Great Grandkids

In death she is reunited with her Parents, brothers Phillip and Kenneth, Sister Gretrude, Husband, Great Granddaughter Jessica Mae, And Great-Great Grandson Emmitt Rhys.

Ethel Mae will be dearly Missed by Daughter Norma Jean, Granddaughter Danialle Mae, Great grandchildren Lacy Jean, Tyler Joe, Timberly Mae, Brice Jewel, Great-Great Grandchildren Trinity Shay, Josslyn Mae, and best friend Sissy Girl.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Mrs. Blair's family. 970-249-2121.

DAVID J. KUNKE

April 6, 1961 - November 9, 2023

DAVID J. KUNKE, a dedicated husband, loving father, and esteemed Master Electrician, passed away on November 9, 2023, in Telluride, Colorado, at the age of 62. Born in Joliet, IL, Dave was a man of remarkable talents. On February 28, 1987, he married the love of his life, Lynne, on the slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain in Marquette, MI. Together, they nurtured a beautiful family. Dave is survived by his cherished wife, Lynne (Legan), his daughters, and their families: Ami (Brant) Collofello with grandchildren Celia, Samuel, and Dalian; Ashley (Kunke) Bates with grandchildren Parker and Kayden. He is also survived by his parents, Norbert and Phyllis (Francisco) Kunke, his brother, Don Kunke, and sisters Karen (Kunke) Aguilar and Pam (Kunke) Lieser.

Dave's life was a tapestry woven with multifaceted interests. An adventurous spirit led him to delve into various passions, from racing cars to skiing, from the joy of music to the serene company of horses. He was a leader of the 'ghoul crew,' creating some of the most chilling haunted houses and assembling an impressive zombie army every Halloween.

His active participation in various school and community activities, alongside owning a business, showcased his diverse talents and commitment to serving his community. A true jack of all trades, he was known as the man who could make anything happen.

Dave's unwavering work ethic and steadfast dedication in every facet of his life served as a shining example to all who knew him. His impact wasn't limited to his bustling activity but rather emanated from his inherent kindness and selflessness. His spirit for problem-solving wasn't confined to circuits or wires; he was an expert at untangling life's knotty puzzles. His actions were a testament to the depth of his character, leaving an enduring impression on everyone fortunate enough to cross his path.

As a pillar of his family, Dave's quiet influence reverberated far beyond his immediate kin, touching the lives of those in his community. His boundless enthusiasm for realizing grand ideas, love for the outdoors, and appreciation for life's simple joys shaped countless shared experiences within his circle of family and friends.



His legacy, a perfect harmony of laughter, love, and adventure, resonates in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations toward the expenses.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DR. SARAH PHYLLIS COMBS

Oct 21, 1950- Oct 29, 2023

DR. SARAH PHYLLIS COMBS, born Oct 21, 1950 in Newark Ohio, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Oct 29, 2023 surrounded by loved ones and with serenity and peace. The day before she passed away, she said she felt that she was "floating on a raft of love."

Sarah enjoyed travel and loved people. From Seattle to Saudi Arabia to Sri Lanka she stitched together a beautiful blanket of dear ones she loved. Once woven into the fabric, they remained connected for life.

During her adult lifetime Dr. Combs had a highly varied career in public health that took her from being a visiting nurse in the slums of Baltimore to being a featured lecturer at the central headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva

As preparation for this work Sarah had a sound educational foundation that included a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. in public health administration from the University of Colorado in Denver.

Early in her career Sarah enlisted in the US Navy and served for two years at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. She was always proud of her service.

Near the end of her career she had another job in which she found great satisfaction - working at the Rocky Mountain Survivor Center in Denver for eight years (2000 -2008).

The Survivor Center provided comprehensive medical and settlement support to survivors of torture and their families who have somehow escaped and found their way to Denver from countries all around the world.

During Sarah's time most of the clients came from countries in Africa.

Sarah moved to Montrose in late 2011. For a while she continued to teach advanced nursing classes online for Regis University in Denver, but declining health later led her to let that go.

In her civilian mode in Montrose Sarah became involved with a number of local clubs and organizations.

In her daily life Sarah read voraciously, laughed infectiously, loved deeply, and appreciated the beauty in the expected and the unexpected.

She loved poetry, dancing, funny cat videos, opera, and her friends.

She will be missed.

Sarah Combs is survived by her life partner Rod Britten (in Montrose) and by her



surviving family members (in various locations).

These relatives include her sisters, Carol Pike and Suzy Congee, her brother Tim Combs, her nieces Andrea Witherill, Kiyas Dimmer, and her nephews Chris Combs and Joey Zbegner.

The late departed Sarah also embodied the title Great Aunt to Sarah, Omar and Safia Mounadi as well as to Aiden Combs. Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose is assisting Dr. Combs' family.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 445 Nov. 20, 2023

ART & SOL

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE - GRATITUDE



By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D
Greetings Mirrorites!

This contribution comes to you at a time of harvest and slowing down, a time for friends and family gatherings and reflection. A time to prepare for shorter days and interesting weather, regardless of where you live.

At this time of the year, we often begin to plan holiday trips or house preparations for visitors of all ages. This can either be delightful, or stressful and result in feelings of overwhelm. The content of this column may assist with achieving the personal, social, and professional balance that can get tricky right about now and result in unpleasant moods, thoughts and attributions.

Gratitude is something we hear a lot about in November. The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which

means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways, gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, being grateful also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals — whether

to other people, nature, or a higher power.

Study participants in a 2021 inquiry of attitudes toward nature (DeVillie et al, 2021) found that people who report high levels of gratitude also reported higher scores on connection with nature and greater willingness to engage in environmental protection and sacrifice for the environment. That was attributed to gratitude being a 'self-transcendence' emotion, which is associated with greater care for both nature *and* humans. Gratitude is

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – GRATITUDE From previous pg

package deal that benefits both the vessel and the outer world, of which other people are certainly part. A recent Chinese study confirmed that pro-environmental behaviors are indeed linked to prosocial behavior and attitudes (Lu et al, 2021).

The point of this review of current research is to encourage readers to make time for outdoor activities in pleasant landscapes where meditation upon life's blessings can occur. Taking your kids to soccer doesn't count, because even though being in the grip of the game's exciting progress (fun and stimulating, especially if your team wins) has benefits of a certain kind, it nevertheless precludes benefits of a different kind. Quiet walking alone or with silent others is the best way to contemplate the blessings of life, the beauty of nature, and the goodness of individual people and even humanity itself. Acknowledgements of gratitude toward people, the natural environment, or fortunate life circumstances can lower the stress hormone cortisol by almost 25 percent. So instead of slaving away to make everything perfect for everyone but yourself, permit yourself to bow out from the holiday flurry for 30 minutes alone in nature at least three days a week this month (five will yield better results). This will help gird your loins for Uncle Alfred's dinner table tirades on politics, or Cousin Cecilia's ADHD twins and how to cope with them graciously.

Further advice... in addition to getting yourself outside for three consecutive days before company or travel take place in order to keep yourself grounded in a state of gratitude, when they descend on you or you on them, try to get those folks



Above, courtesy photo.

outside with you after enjoying meals together. Ask them what they are most grateful for at this season of thanksgiving. Speaking these thoughts out loud has immediate benefits. Gratitude reduces a multitude of toxic emotions, from envy and resentment to frustration and regret. Robert Emmons, a leading gratitude researcher, has conducted multiple studies on the link between gratitude and well-being and his research confirms that gratitude effectively increases happiness and empathy and reduces depression and aggression. My family took walks regularly right after Thanksgiving dinner and before the pumpkin pie could be served. I never understood until recently why that was such a peace-

promoting experience, with special effect on my father, who could give anybody's fractious uncle Alfred-type person a run for their money when it came to pontificating. Dinners could be pretty stimulating, true, but dessert was congenial and refreshing. I credit the post-dinner time spent in a very green and naturally lovely neighborhood for that change.

For each reader, getting outside for self-care using self-transcendent thoughts and emotions will look different. Gentle nature may be right out your front door or in your backyard garden, or it may require you to drive to a salubrious natural spot that you enjoy. Make the time for this religiously, and your brain, your friends and family will thank you for it!

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
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 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-
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 music is a combination of traditional
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We invite kids preschool and up to join
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 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
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www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com
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 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, Montrose,
 CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scripture,
 discipleship, community, service, prayer,
 love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational
Celebration Kids: Nursery (Birth-4 years
 old) 8am, 9:30am & 11am
 Celebration Kids (Ages 5 – 10) 9:30am &
 11am

Discipleship: Students (Ages 11-
 18) 9:30am Sundays

Adult D2 Classes: 9:30am & 11am Sun-
 days

Other Discipleship Opportunities:

Youth Night: First & Third Wednesdays of
 month 6pm
 Celebration Groups (all ages): Sundays –
 Fridays various times & locations
 Seasons Young Adult (Ages 18-26) Celebra-
 tion Group: Thursdays @ 5:30pm off cam-
 pus location
 Celebrate Recovery: Friday nights @
 6:30pm

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.

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 old-
 er 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, [in-](mailto:in-

 form@fpcmontrose.com)

form@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,
 Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-
 courage, challenge and support one anoth-*

*er 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 minis-
 tries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

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 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.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith
Address: Meeting 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.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. 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, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair. 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).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: John DeSario

Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 am followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Summit Church has frequent Bible studies and other events for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.

Summit Church Montrose is a new church plant that preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the

Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!

We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals.

During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp.

We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study.

We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.

Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers

Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.

Questions? Call (970) 252-5011



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CONEY ISLAND CHRISTMAS -- A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR YOU!

By Lisa Rediger. Magic Circle Players
MONTROSE-In these uncertain times, help yourself to a sumptuous serving of good old fashioned American holiday nostalgia presented in "Readers' Theatre" format by the Magic Circle Players!

Coney Island Christmas was written by Donald Margulies. He based his holiday-themed play on a short story titled "The Loudest Voice" by Grace Paley. The story is set in Depression-era New York City, and is about a Jewish girl named Shirley Abramowitz who is chosen by her drama teacher to play Jesus in the school play because she has the loudest voice. Not surprisingly, her first-generation immigrant parents are aghast by the situation they perceive to be an unacceptable rejection of their heritage and faith.

Is it possible to write a school pageant that celebrates Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and Christmas in a single rough-and-tumble comedy with a heart? Can the reminiscences of a nostalgic great-

grandmother teach a 21st Century ear bud-wearing pre-teen to honor her parents even as she follows her own aptitudes and desires?

Imagine with us the riotous mixture of flavors of the melting pot that was south Brooklyn in the 1930s. Envision the crowded streets with shops like Shapiro the Barber crammed against Goldstein the Shoemaker, nestled between Needleman the Tailor and Feiganbaum the Pawnbroker. And backed up against the Atlantic Ocean—the boardwalk and carnival attractions of the Coney Island Amusement Park.

Against this imagined backdrop of disparate cultures, families assemble their lives—falling in love, marrying, agreeing, and arguing. Becoming Americans. It's a process wherein even a child's nightmare about a Coney Island carousel can help her reach out and find her future self by accepting the present. Happy Holidays!

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READERS' THEATRE

CONEY ISLAND
Christmas
Directed by Renee Lee and Ginny Spaven

By Don Margulies, based on the story "The Loudest Voice" by Grace Paley

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DECEMBER 10 @ 2PM
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Courtesy image Magic Circle Theatre.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

35TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRAIN SHOW AT CROSS ORCHARD HISTORIC SITE

Special to Art & Sol

GRAND JUNCTION-Bring the whole family to Cross Orchards for the Grand Valley Model Railroad Club's 35th annual Christmas Train Show. Explore the rich railroad history of the Grand Valley. You can view the model trains both indoors and outdoors, tour our historic trains and ride the ride-on-train. Be sure to stop by our Bridal Suite to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and Christmas cookies.
December 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 2023

10am- 4pm.

Indoor Model Trains Admission: Family: \$10 Adult: \$5 Child: \$2.

Ride-on-train: Adult: \$3 Child: \$2

For more information visit:

www.mowc.co Instagram:

@museumsfwesternco Facebook:

@MuseumsofWesternCo Twitter:

@museumsfowc YouTube: Museums of Western Colorado.

About: Museums of Western Colorado includes three museums: Cross Orchards

Historic Site, Dinosaur Journey Museum, and Museum of the West. The Museums of Western Colorado inspires and connects our community by championing the scientific and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau. The Grand Valley Model Railroad Club is an organization that preserves the history of Colorado's Western Slope through its model train layout at Cross Orchards Historic Site. We make it our mission to preserve, publicize, and teach as much of our history as possible.

LET IGNITE MONTROSE SPARK YOUR INTEREST THIS TUESDAY!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Come enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities this Tuesday, Nov. 21. Ignite begins at 7 pm in the upstairs ballroom at The Temple, 511 E. Main Street, Montrose. Beverage service will be available beginning at 6:30.

As always, we have a varied and fun lineup of speakers. Topics will include solar eclipses (Bryan Cashion), birding in Australia (Bruce Ackerman), yoga (Don Sudmeier), navigating the medicare system

(Glenda O'Halloran) and a few more. Pique your interest? Join us – maybe learn something new or just be entertained! Ignite Montrose has been hosting events three or four times a year since 2012 and is part of a worldwide network of over 350 other Ignites.

"We are always looking for presenters willing to share their ideas and enthusiasm for their topics," stated Nancy Zaenger, event organizer. The next Ignite event will be in late February.

To learn more about Ignite Montrose or find out how to sign up as a speaker, visit the Ignite Montrose (Colorado) Facebook page, or call 970-209-2175.



Birding in Australia is one of the featured presentations for Ignite Montrose, Nov 21, 7 pm at the Temple in Montrose. Courtesy photo.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

RIDGWAY STUDENTS WIN \$575 IN SPIRIT OF THE RIVER YOUTH ART & POETRY CONTEST



Julia and Michael Coburn won 3rd place for their watercolor painting of evening in the watershed, above.

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY-The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) is awarding a total of \$575 to student winners in the Spirit of the River Youth Art & Poetry Contest. The contest was part of UWP's celebrations of its 10th year as a nonprofit in Ouray County, dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural, scenic, and economic assets of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed.

Ridgway 8th grader Ariel Hessler, 13, won first place, \$200, a certificate, and a ribbon for her painting with a quote from Norman Maclean. Judges' comments included: "Any image that simultaneously reminds me of Vincent Van Gogh & Katsushika Hokusai is a powerful work of art. The quotation is also perfectly apt, summarizing why watershed protection is such a vital pursuit." And, "this piece beautifully showcases the movement of water and reminds us that all things merge with our rivers – a beautiful reason to protect them!"

Ridgway 5th grader Emma Birck, 10, won second place, \$100, a certificate, and a ribbon for her poem titled "Our Shared Watershed." Judges' comments included: "This poem has a strong message for readers about the importance of a healthy river and holds our attention with some rhyming, too." "The lines of this poem are beautiful



Ariel Hessler won first place for her painting with a quote from Norman Maclean., above, while 2nd place went to Emma Birck for her poem titled "Our Shared Watershed."

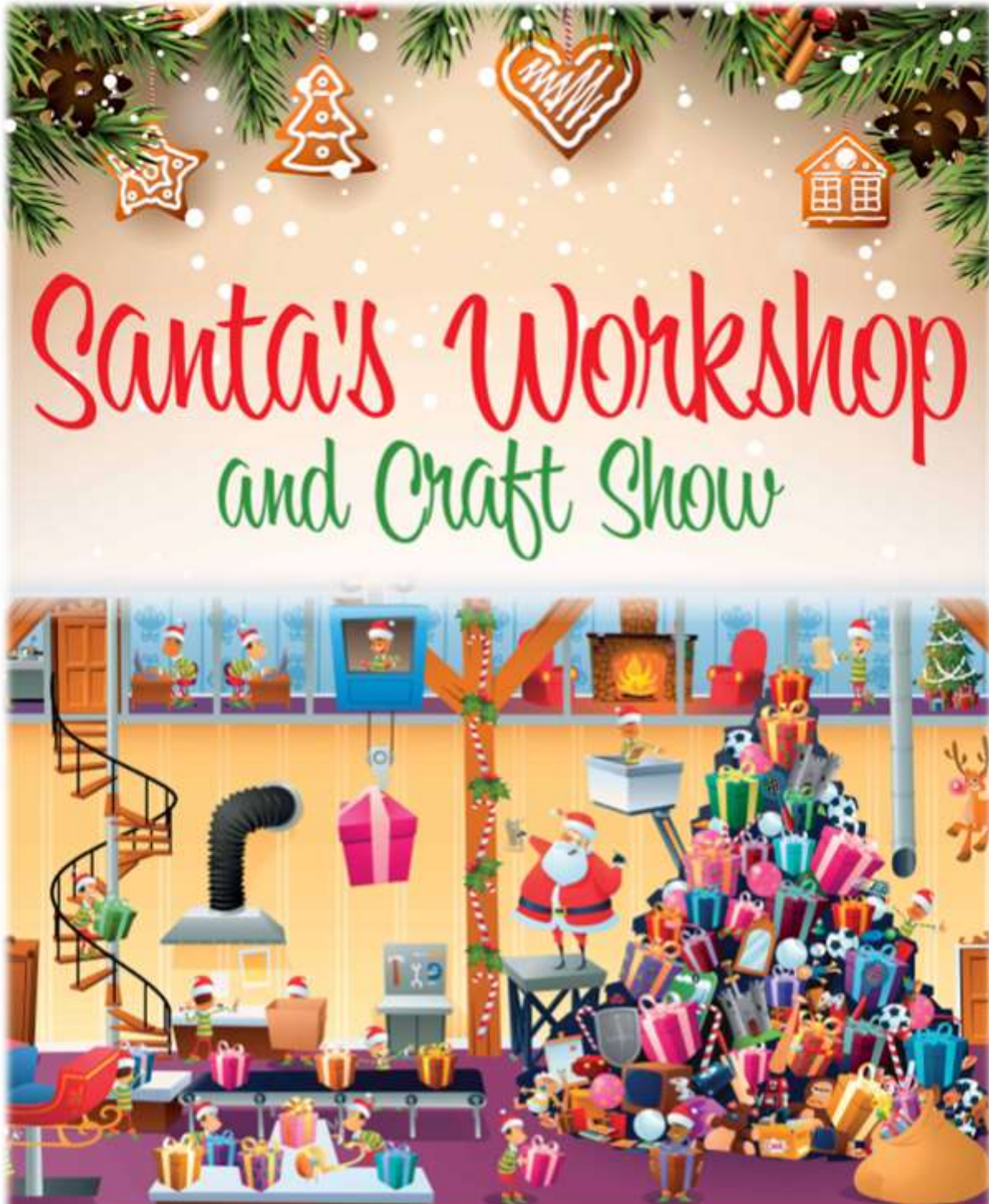
but the structure also resembles the flowing of a river. A great example of incorporating structure into the meaning of a poem!" "This poem is unique in presentation and thorough in addressing the problems of water pollution and the solutions we can do to help. It creates a complete image of an ecosystem that relies on healthy rivers."

Ridgway sister and brother Julia Coburn (5th grade, 10) and Michael Coburn (2nd grade, 7) won third place, \$50, a certificate, and a ribbon for their watercolor painting of evening in the watershed. Judges' comments included: "I love the simplicity and emotion this painting evokes. Clean like the spirit of a river deserves to be. Nostalgic like an evening hike in the moonlight." And, "I love the images of the happy, healthy fish occupying the entire river run. It reminded me of the goal some people are pursuing to re-establish healthy trout runs further up the Uncompahgre River."

The winning art and poems were displayed at UWP's 10th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Ouray Community Center, as well as at Citizens State Bank in Ridgway from Nov. 20 to Dec. 19. The contest submissions will also be shared on UWP's website.

The contest was open to students from kindergarten through 12th grade in the seven-

county area within the Uncompahgre River Watershed. Contest judges were Ridgway Secondary School Science Teacher Amber Smith, Ridgway resident and Animas Environmental Services project manager Angela Todd, Ouray resident and award-winning, published poet Beth Paulson, Ridgway Real Estate Broker/Associate Charles Mueller, and Ridgway artist and owner of Wishing Star Pottery and Mountain Girl Gallery Deidra Krois. Receiving honorable mentions are: Sadie McCracken (poem), Emily Thompson (art), Julia Coburn (poem), Jonah Hepp (poem), Tate Lockwood (art), Brielle Haag (art), Emma Birck (art), Sadie McCracken (art), and Isabel Kamm (art). Each of these students will receive \$25, a certificate, and a ribbon. The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership engages in activities focused on monitoring conditions to better understand watershed health and evaluate changes, and maintaining, enhancing, and improving ecosystem functions, water quality, and water quantity necessary for overall watershed health. To achieve these objectives, the nonprofit develops diverse collaborations and promotes best practices and awareness of science and watershed conditions to ensure ongoing stewardship of the watershed and its many uses. For more information go to uncompahgrewatershed.org.



Friday, Dec. 1st • 9:30am to 6pm
Saturday, Dec. 2nd • 9am to 4pm
Sunday, Dec. 3rd • 11am to 4pm

Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall

**For Vendor Information call
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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP For anyone who has lost a loved one. Join at any time. Meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30pm for 13 weeks beginning Aug. 1st. (Aug. 1 thru Oct. 24) at Rosemont Baptist Church 1598 E. Niagara Rd. Montrose, CO 81401

Register at: RosemontBaptist.org/events/griefshare or call at (970)249-4887

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 second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: 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.

THE HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO welcomes local practitioners, who focus on healing the whole being. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and both are from Noon-1 pm, upstairs at the Mother Earth store on Main Street . We support one another with our practices, business, and personal needs. For more information please contact Erin Easton at ErinKEaston@gmail.com

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research." (The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

MONTHLY

Oct. 6-Dec. 1-Starting at First Friday on October 6, Montrose Center for Arts is selling corks for \$10 each. Each cork purchased between October 6 and First Friday on December 1 will receive a bottle of wine plus a chance to win an original Bob DeJulio painting. First Friday @ MCA from 4:30pm Montrose Center for Arts @ 11 S Park Avenue.

Nov. 24-The annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 24, at 5:30 p.m. on South First Street in between the historic Montrose County Courthouse and the U.S. Post Office.

Nov. 25-The Montrose Bucks sale begins Saturday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m. at the Montrose Visitor Center located at 107 South Cascade Avenue. The promotion is limited to \$400 cash (\$480 Montrose Bucks) per household. For more information about the Montrose Bucks program and to see a list of participating businesses visit <https://www.cityofmontrose.org/510/Montrose-Bucks>.

Dec. 2-The annual Parade of Lights is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. Please dress in warm clothing.



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A LOOK BACK... MHS NJROTC 2017 STATE TITLE

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE-As cadets ask RE-1J schools to reinstate the 50 year old NJROTC program, here is a look back, from Dec. 8, 2017 when

Four Cadets from the MHS NJROTC Marksmanship Team traveled to Colorado Springs to compete against 53 Marksmanship Teams. 212 marksmen were present at the 2017-2018

state marksmanship championships held at Fountain/Ft Carson High school. The teams were from the Army JROTC, Marine Corps JROTC and Navy JROTC through out the state.



The Montrose High School NJROTC placed 1st in the two person team category and 2nd place in the 4 person category. This is the second time that Montrose High School NJROTC has achieved a State Championship Title in the two person team category. Also Derrick Archuleta placed 2nd overall best shooter.

The Team consisted of, Derrick Archuleta, Team Captain and Senior

Kori Drye, Senior

Bethanie Boutwell, Junior

Hayden Trumble, Sophomore

The Two Person State Championship team consisted of,

Derrick Archuleta

Kori Drye

L to R: Derrick Archuleta, Bethanie Boutwell, Kori Drye & Hayden Trumble

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