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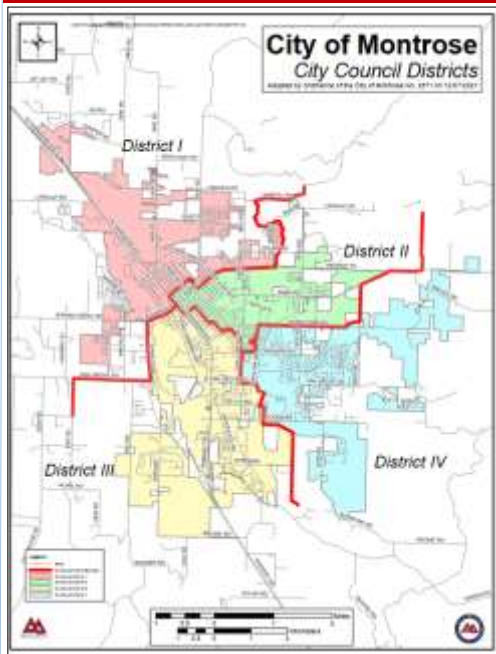
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the Montrose Mirror

THREE SEATS NOW OPEN FOR CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTION; CANDIDATE PACKETS AVAILABLE DEC. 11



Above, City of Montrose Council District Map. Courtesy image City of Montrose.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All councilors were present in Chambers for the [Dec. 5 regular meeting](#) of the Montrose City Council. Mayor Barbara Bynum called the meeting to order. "Good evening," Bynum said, "This is not only our regularly scheduled city council meeting, but our last city council meeting of 2023.

"We will go ahead and start by saying the Pledge of Allegiance; please join me."

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the meeting agenda, although an additional youth council applicant would be considered, Bynum said.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo administered the Oath of Office to new City Attorney Chris Dowsey.

"Congratulations Mr. Dowsey. You have always been a part of our team, previously serving as Assistant City Attorney; welcome to the head table of the team as our City Attorney," Mayor Barbara Bynum said.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Youth Council Coordinator Briceida

[Continued pg 13](#)

MONTROSE COUNTY HEARS PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present for the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) [regular meeting](#) of Wednesday, Dec. 6.

"Welcome everybody," BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said, and called the meeting to order. Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins led all in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Ben Garate of Calvary Chapel delivered the invocation, "...What a privilege it is to invoke your name Lord, to ask you for wisdom for our commissioners...we are grateful for this county Lord, and for the city...we ask Lord that you would continue to lead us..."

Commissioner Keith Caddy asked all to keep the state of Israel in their prayers,

[Continued pg 11](#)



Montrose County Employee Wellness Fair materials are featured on the West Central Public Health Partnership (WCPHP) website at <https://www.wcphp.org/>.

[City Considers Award of Master Plan Contract for Baldrige!](#)

[Cliff Dodge: MHS Red Hawks Sports Roundup!](#)

[Steve Middendorp on Crime Trends & Courts!](#)

[Letters to the Editor! Regional News Briefs!](#)

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3 SEATS OPEN ON CITY COUNCIL

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE — The City of Montrose will hold a municipal election for three city council seats on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The ballot for the 2024 election will include candidates for the District III, District IV, and At Large seats. Candidates elected to the District III and IV seats will serve four-year terms, while the At-Large representative will serve a two-year term. To view a map of Montrose's council districts, candidates can [visit this link](#).

Those interested in running can access the candidate packet via the city website as of Monday, December 11, 2023, or pick up a paper version from the City Clerk's office between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

To qualify as a candidate, individuals must be registered electors, eighteen years of age or older, and have resided within the city and district they wish to represent for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day. While candidates for the At-Large seat can reside anywhere within city limits, they must meet the minimum residency requirement. Candidates may circulate nomination petitions beginning on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and no later than Monday, January 22, 2024. 25 valid signatures are required for a candidate to be included on the ballot. For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 970.240.1430 or cityclerk@cityofmontrose.org.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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Special to the Mirror

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE RED HAWKS BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD ROUNDUP *By Cliff Dodge*

The Glenwood Springs Demon Invitational Basketball Tournament: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec 7th, 8th, 9th

Red Hawk Girls: Montrose 63, Coal Ridge 30
Montrose 51m Moffat County 33
Montrose 43, Canon City 36

Red Hawks: 5 wins, 1 loss

Red Hawk Boys: Montrose 65, Moffat County 48
Montrose 57, Basalt 45
Montrose 61, Conifer 31

Red Hawk Boys: 6 wins, 0 losses

Red Hawks Boys Wrestling: Montrose 42, North Fork 42 (tie)
Red Hawks 1 win, 0 losses, 1 tie

UNCOMPAHGRE ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Road and Bridge Department will close Uncompahgre Road over the South Canal, just east of Pahgre Road. Crews will be replacing the bridge deck and repaving the surface. The closure will begin Monday, Nov. 27, and is scheduled to last until Tuesday, Dec. 12 depending on weather.

The Canal Road on the west side of the bridge will be accessible. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes.

For more information, please visit montrosecounty.net or contact Montrose County Road and Bridge Department at 970-249-5424.



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MHS RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: BASKETBALL

Red Hawks Girls Win 2 of 3 at Wolf Creek Tournament

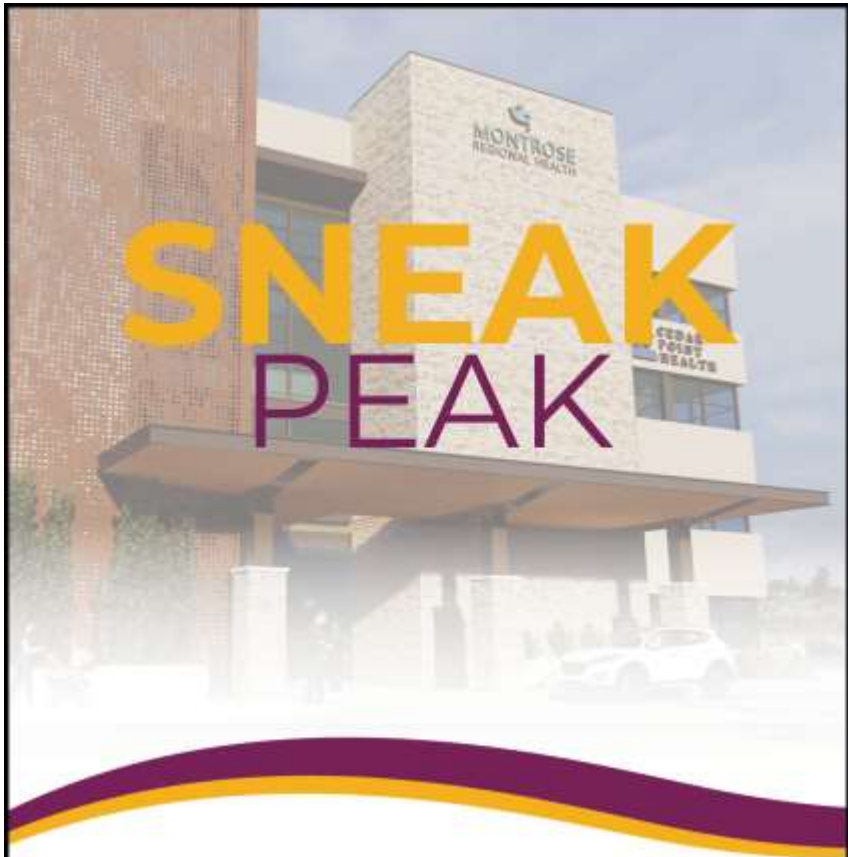
By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks girls' basketball team stepped up in class at the Wolf Creek Classic in Pagosa Springs last weekend as they tangled with the Rocky Mountain Lobos in their first action. The Lobos play in the top classification and defeated the Red Hawks 59 to 43. The Lobo's Senior Sara Chicco poured in 34 points and had eight players hit the scoring column. The Red Hawks Senior Taygen Rocco scored 17 points to lead the Red Hawks while sophomore Mayce Oberg tallied 13 points and Sophomore Kendall Johnson added 8 points. The Red Hawks battled hard on the boards and were out-rebounded by only five caroms, 28-23. Sophomore Mayce Oberg led the Red Hawks with six rebounds and Rocco added five.

The second contest suited the Red Hawks and it showed, as the team defeated the Pagosa Springs Pirates 40 to 28. The Pirates jumped out to a 10-7 lead but it was their last lead as the Red Hawks led 33 to 18 the rest of the way. Mayce Oberg and Taygan Rocco each added 7 points while senior Kenzie Bush chipped in with 5 points. Mayce Oberg led the Red Hawks with eight rebounds while Rocco added five. The Red Hawks passed out eight assists and had nine steals. The Red Hawks turned over the basketball 14 times.

The final game of the three-game Wolf Creek Classic pitted the Delta Panthers against the Montrose Red Hawks. The Red Hawks prevailed by the final score of 47 to 39. The Red Hawks made only two three-point shots out of the 12 they attempted. At the free throw line the Red Hawks made 23 out of the 31 shots attempted. Mayce Oberg and Kenzie Bush had six and four rebounds respectively to lead the team in this department. The Red Hawks had six assists and came up with 10 steals to disrupt the Panthers offense. The Red Hawks did turn the ball over 19 times in the contest, which will be a point of discussion as the team heads to Glenwood Springs.

The Glenwood Demon Tournament looms for the Red Hawks. Coal Ridge will provide the opposition on Thursday afternoon. On Friday the Red Hawks tangle with Moffat County and then on Saturday Canon City will provide the opposition.



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MHS RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP: BASKETBALL

Red Hawks Boys Sweep Pagosa Tournament

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks boys' basketball team traveled to Pagosa Springs and swept all three games they played at the Wolf Creek Classic. The Red Hawks jumped on the Bayfield Wolves early and posted a 74-49 win in their first game. Junior Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 28 points. Junior Brekin Hutto chipped in with 13 points while senior Jaxon Killen added 8 points. The Red Hawks were stout on the glass as Ferguson grabbed 10 rebounds, Hutto 6, and Killen and Junior Cooper Ross each captured 4 rebounds. The Red Hawks handed out 16 assists, eight steals, and only turned the ball over to the opposition eight times.

The Red Hawks ran into tougher competition in the second game as the Pagosa Springs Pirates traded basket for basket with the Red Hawks. The Red Hawks ran out to a 14-9 lead after one period and led 22-18 at the half. At the end of regulation the score was knotted up at 34-34 heading into overtime. The Red Hawks outscored the Pirates in the extra session 6-2 to make the final score 40-36. Ferguson led the Red Hawks in scoring with 14 points and 8 rebounds. Hutto had 8 points while Killen and senior Gage Wareham each

added 6 points to the Red Hawks total. The Red Hawks out rebounded the Pirates 20 to 10 and passed out 7 assists and 6 steals.

The Red Hawks took on the neighboring Delta Panthers in the third and final game of the Classic defeating them 51 to 32. The Red Hawks led by 2 after the first quarter and then built the lead steadily through the fourth quarter to make the final score a 19-point win for the Red Hawks. Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 22 points while Senior Jaxon Kattner added 11 points to the Red Hawks total. Jun-

ior Brody Cooling chipped in with 7 points. In the rebounding department Ferguson had 8 caroms while Hutto added 5 to the total of 20 rebounds. The Red Hawks passed out a dozen assists while creating 14 steals. The Red Hawks turned the ball over 14 times.

The Red Hawks are 3-0 in the early going and will play in the Glenwood Springs tournament next weekend. The Red Hawks will take on Moffat County High School, Basalt High School, and Conifer High School at the Demon Invitational Tournament in Glenwood High School.



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MONTROSE COUNTY HEARS PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

From pg 1

"...I think it has been attacked by a terrorist organization, and I think they need as much help as they can with our prayers...so if you'd join me when you think about it, I would appreciate it."

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch asked to remove item C-9, "Consideration and possible reappointment of Marc Catlin as the Montrose County representative to the Colorado River District Board of Directors for a three-year term expiring January 15, 2027," from the Consent Agenda, due a statutory timing requirement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with the removal of C-9 as requested. Resolution No. 58-2023 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 12, Resolution No. 59-2023 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 13; Resolution No. 60-2023 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 14, and Resolution No. 61-2023 was assigned to Consent Agenda Item 15.

GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Human Services Director Jennifer Sherwood presented for consideration and possible action a Technical Assistance and Transition Planning Support Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Health Management Associates and Montrose County, funding the transition to a Case Management Agency (CMA) effective Nov. 7, 2023 through July 31, 2024, as reviewed by Counsel. This represents a budgeted, reimbursed expense in the amount of \$15,250, "To help us successfully transition from being a single-entry point to being case management agency. This is fully funded by HCFA," Sherwood said.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

Emergency Manager Scott Hawkins presented for consideration and possible action the next item: "Guardian Transport & Security LLC application for secure transport license and permits for a total of

four (4) vehicles, two (2) type 1 partitioned secure transport vehicles and two (2) type 2 non-partitioned secure transport vehicles and a district license to operate within Montrose County; Guardian Transport is Licensed in good standings within their home base, Mesa County and per Montrose County Secure Transport Resolution 89-2022 Article III - 3.3 is granted reciprocity, effective December 6th, 2023 through December 6th, 2024. All Insurance and Mesa County Permits reviewed by council."

Commissioners voted to approve the application.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The BOCC left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Board of Health; Public Health Director Jim Austin presented an update.

Austin discussed the West Central Health Partnership's post-pandemic campaign, "What Now-Ahora Qué." Bar-coded posters and advertisements are being circulated, linking to a comprehensive web site of available health resources in the Region 10 counties (Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Gunnison, and Hinsdale). Also, the county has more COVID-19 antigen test kits, and 400 short-term radon test kits, Austin said. "Every January is Radon Awareness Month."

The State of Colorado has approved an additional \$10,000 to help defray personnel costs, Austin said.

There will be major changes to the State's WIC program. "This is causing a storm of controversy among local agencies like ours and much smaller agencies," Austin said. "There are a lot of details from the State that are still not fleshed out...no county has enough information yet to plan too much."

The State has indicated an unwillingness to fund a WIC director or supervisor for counties with WIC caseloads of less than 2,000 to 2,400 clients. Still, "Montrose, we don't even have 1,000," Austin said, "...It's very uncomfortable upon that particular

issue yet...we've looked at Region 10, the aggregate isn't 2,000—that is a major problem."

BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash suggested that if the situation results in an unfunded mandate, the county could issue cards to people with the Governor's phone number. Austin said that every smaller county shares the same concerns.

BOCC Chair Sue Hansen said that fewer people could be using WIC for other reasons, "We need more details, it sounds like."

"There's only so many unfunded mandates that you can shove onto the counties," Rash said.

Austin said that health departments within Region 10 are ensuring that all staff have a baseline of training for mental health awareness. All staff who have not attended the one-day Mental Health First Aid program will be trained on Dec. 18.

The County will be contracting out the TB scope of work; discussions with the PIC Place are pending.

West Nile cases were the highest in 20 years statewide, Austin said. The latest data as of today, 630 human cases...two of those were in Montrose...49 deaths statewide...well over half out of the 630 were ill enough to be hospitalized..."

Austin discussed updates to the model food code adopted by Colorado.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Director Tallmadge Richmond presented the Thornburgh Estates Minor Subdivision [MI23-019] proposal to divide three lots from 40.79 acres at Parcel 399335100010. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

Continued from the Nov. 15 BOCC meeting for further review, the M&T Nelson Minor Subdivision [MI23-009] proposal to divide a 5.55-acre parcel into two lots at Parcel 372512102003 was also approved. With no further business, "Motion to adjourn?" Hansen said.

"Second," Rash said.

"So moved," said Caddy.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SNEAK A PEEK AT NEW AMBULATORY CARE CENTER DEC. 14

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Health presents a Sneak Peek of new Ambulatory Care Center on Thursday, Dec. 14,. 4-6pm, ACC Construction site near Hobby Lobby.

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3 SEATS NOW OPEN FOR MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL From pg 1

Ortega introduced Youth City Council applicants, including Hunter Barton, Sydney Bell, Maggie Kusar, Shiloh Warthen, Jordyn Simo, Robin Kittell, Reign Icasiano, and Grayson Vidmar. After hearing from applicants, Council voted unanimously to approve all applicants to seats on the 2023-2024 Youth Council.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted unanimously to approve minutes of the November 13, 2023, special City Council meeting and minutes of the November 14, 2023, regular City Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2653 - FIRST READING

Mayor Bynum recused from consideration of Ordinance 2653 and left chambers during the discussion and vote, as it involves her neighborhood. The remaining councilors voted to adopt Ordinance 2653 on First Reading, creating the Otter Pond Circle Utility Relocation Special Improvement District.

APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURES

Council voted unanimously to approve the closure of the 500 block of Main Street and Uncompahgre Avenue from Centennial Plaza to N. First Street on Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. for the Habitat for Humanity Rock the Block event.

RESOLUTION 2023-27

Council voted to adopt Resolution 2023-27 authorizing a mail ballot election for the 2024 [Municipal Election](#) on April 2, 2024.

The following City Council seats are open: **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)

Those interested in running for one of [the open seats](#) can access the candidate packet via the city website as of Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, or pick up a paper version from the City Clerk's office between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Candidates must gather 25 or more signatures, must be 18 years of age or older, and must reside within the city limits.

Background- Election packets are available on Monday, Dec 11, as noted in a memo from DelPiccolo to Council: **"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 on or before Monday, December 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."**

ORDINANCE 2651 - SECOND READING
As previously approved on first reading, Council voted to approve the supplementary budget Ordinance 2651 on Second 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 - SECOND READING
Also approved on Second reading was Ordinance 2652, 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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FOR THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS BUILDING
Following a brief presentation by Planner William Reis, Councilors shared thoughts on the recommendation. Councilor Doug Glaspell praised Reis's work, noting "I'd just like to comment on the work that you've done on it, I think it was great, and some of the uses that building has been used for over the years were quite interesting also."
Reis said Tim Stroh and his team did the bulk of the work for the application. Stroh, the Principal Architect of Springboard Preservation Studio, which has offices in Montrose and Colorado Springs, also spoke briefly to Council. He said of Reis's introduction, "That was awesome. Will did a great job. Hired!"

Bynum responded quickly, "No! He's not available!"
The process so far has been an interesting one, Stroh said. "...We actually had to take a big risk...of getting those window openings back the way they were originally before we could turn this nomination in... thank you for

the support this community has always provided for the project..."

Council voted unanimously to recommend the building's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Stroh said that the review process typically takes around three months.

Background-A memo from Reis to Council notes details of the recommendation, including the following, "As a Certified Local Government, the City of Montrose is expected to review and comment on proposed additions to the National Register of Historic Places that fall within City boundaries. The owner of the Knights of Pythias Building, located at 33 South Cascade Ave, has applied to designate the building on the State and National historic registers. The City of Montrose designated the Knights of Pythias Building on the local register on November 1, 2022."

STAFF REPORTS - COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no staff reports.

Councilor J. David Reed praised staff for doing a great job on the ribbon cutting at Buckley Park Playground and for the 2023 Parade of Lights.

"I think that's the first playground opening I've been at right after a snow-storm...secondly I want to congratulate the entire city staff for the...Parade of Lights Saturday night...Merry Christmas and Happy New year to the entire staff...we've accomplished a lot in 2023, I'm really looking forward to hitting the ground running with you in 2024 to keep the momentum going..."

Mayor Bynum said that the Parade of Lights welcomed 104 Parade entries.

Judges awarded Third Place to M&H Towing and Recovery; Second Place to Western Slope 4wheelers; and First Place to Grace Community Church. Bynum praised the landscaping on the new roundabout and said that the last day for leaf pickup would be Dec. 7. After that date, "We will pivot instead to snow removal...I will wish for a rainy, snowy, winter season so we can replenish our water supply."

Councilor Doug Glaspell praised the cooperation of staff to put on the Parade of Lights. Councilor Ed Ulibarri thanked city staff for helping him learn to navigate information on computers.

Councilor Dave Frank said the 2023 Parade of lights was wonderful and praised police officers for their time and efforts to assist. Frank wished all a joyous holiday season, "But please don't drink and drive."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FARRIS CREEK ROAD TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District announces a proposal to revise the travel management designation for a portion of the National Forest System Road (NFSR) #736—Farris Creek Road. Currently, the 3.7-mile road is open to all vehicles up to the point where the motorized single-track trail, Farris Creek Trail #409, begins.

"The Gunnison Ranger District has seen a significant increase in recreational use over the past decade, leading to a surge in the usage of forest roads, resulting in significant damage to the Farris Creek wetland area," said Dayle Funka, Gunnison District Ranger. "We are proposing this new management change to ensure the

Farris Creek area is protected."

Under the proposed revision, the existing designation of Farris Creek NFSR #736 would remain open to all vehicles for the first 1.7 miles from County Road #738. The remaining 2 miles of the trail would be re-designated as a motorized trail that only vehicles 50 inches or less in width, such as UTVs or ATVs, can access. A size restrictor would be installed at mile point 1.7 to prevent full-size vehicles from accessing the trail beyond the point of re-designation. The trail would remain open for ATVs/UTVs <50" motorcycles, bicycles, horse-back riding and pedestrians.

There are a total of six designated campsites that exist within the project area. Two campsites are located in the proposed redesignation and would not be

accessible with a full-size vehicle after implementation. However, all six campsites would remain at their current locations and can be easily accessed by the prevailing travel management designations.

Comments on the Farris Creek Road Travel Management project will be accepted until Dec. 30, 2023. For more information and how to comment on the project, please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65229>

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FIVE IDEAS RISE TO THE TOP AFTER UNIFY MONTROSE ASSEMBLY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Delegates from the Unify Montrose Assembly deliberating on the local childcare issue met for the final time last week to see the results of their final vote. Unify Montrose Delegates, randomly selected to reflect the demographics of Montrose County, met from August 27 through November 15, 2023. First, the group completed three weeks of orientation, including generating and voting on their

own ground rules. Then the Delegates deliberated eight actions addressing the Montrose childcare problem. Over 60 initial ideas for actions were first generated by the community, childcare experts, and other communities and were then narrowed to 8 Actions by a volunteer team of local leaders and childcare practitioners. While deliberating, Delegates also suggested 52 improvements to those actions and voted on which to adopt. Improvements that were approved by more than 50% of Delegates were then incorporated into the 8 Actions.

“After hearing feedback from Delegates that they wanted to generate ideas to address the problem, we changed the process and dedicated time for them to do so,” explains Sara Drury, Senior VP of Deliberations from Unify America. “Delegates submitted 24 ideas for action, and these were compiled, with like ideas summarized, into 16 Delegate Ideas. Delegates deliberated and then voted on the 16 Delegate Ideas, as well.”

In November 2023, the voting began. Delegates voted on both the eight Delegate-Improved Actions and the 16 Delegate Ideas. Three Actions and two Delegate Ideas received over two-thirds of Delegate support. Here are the Delegate-Improved Actions that received over two-thirds of support at some budget level:

● **Camp Montrose (87% support):** A partnership between Montrose youth program providers, childcare centers, and the school district, where they would bring together their various expertise to provide after-school, no-school day, and summer programming for K-8 students.

● **The Nurture Network (70% support):** Coordinates the efforts of local organizations that support family, friends, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers, help those organizations extend their offerings, and market to the community to encourage more FFN providers to get training, and more residents to become providers themselves.

● **The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center Upgrade (72% support):** Replacing the school district’s trailers with yurts that can serve three- and four-year-olds in Montrose, and would

also add yurts at elementary schools as needed. Drop-off times would be early enough and pick-up times late enough that parents can work a full day. A preschool camp would be available at the newly updated Center during the summer. Here are the Delegate Ideas that received over two-thirds of support that the idea should move forward for further development:

● **Businesses Incentivized to Create On-Site Childcare Options (81% support):** Larger employers (such as the hospital or school district) and groups of businesses in the same location (the Target/Walmart shopping area) would be incentivized to create on-site childcare. These facilities could be physical additions to existing buildings, current spaces in existing buildings, or they could be yurts at a nearby location. The childcare centers could be open to all children in the community, but employees with children from sponsoring employers would receive a discount and could have their tuition automatically deducted from payroll.

● **Comprehensive Montrose Childcare Resources Website (89% support):** Create a single website portal where Montrose residents can

access resources and links to local and state websites (such as CCCAP and Colorado Shines), as well as information on Actions the Assembly may adopt. The portal website should cover a range of childcare needs and include information or links on financial aid, finding childcare, transportation, etc. The website could also advertise trainings for family, friends, and neighbors. While these resources exist across several websites, there is not currently a single location for this information. The website should also include a social media presence. When possible, make use of existing resources.

For the full voting results document, including all Actions and unedited, anonymized comments from Delegates, please visit bit.ly/UnifyMontroseResults.

As for what comes next, Delegates and community members are leading the way and creating a new nonprofit. In late January, the group, led by Alejandro Salazar and Keith Ob-sheatz, will host a community-wide event to reflect on the deliberation journey, introduce the next steps, and celebrate the many different perspectives that made this process rich and thoughtful.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

GLOBAL WARMING/CLIMATE CHANGE IS A LOT MORE SERIOUS THAN EVEN THE MOST RADICAL PROPONENTS REALIZE

Editor:

Unless you have spent the last few years (decades) under a rock or on a deserted desert island, you have probably heard that we must eliminate fossil fuels for power generation in both the US and the world because it contributes to the increase of green-house gases, and, consequently, they are or will be responsible for warming the planet and eventually destroying it. It is further contended that we must act now or it will soon be too late. Global warming/climate change is a lot more serious than even the most radical proponents realize. It has a potential of wiping out 90% of the population of the United States, or more. It, also, has the potential of enslaving whoever is left. But not the way you think.

Fossil fuels provide 62% of electric power production in the US. Nuclear energy accounts for 8%, hydroelectric 9%, petroleum 2% and renewables 20%.

Cars and trucks account for 27% of the total energy consumed in the US for transportation of people and goods. The source of that energy is broken down further. Ninety percent is provided by petroleum (gasoline and diesel), 6% biofuels (ethanol blended with gasoline), 5% natural gas, and electricity stored in batteries (Tesla and others) provide less than 1%.

Taken together, electricity generation and transportation, fossil fuels provide

75% and renewables 15% of the total energy consumption in the US.

It doesn't take a "rocket surgeon" to understand that if the 75% (that fossil fuels contribute of our total power) is removed, the electrical grid is going down and transportation is going to grind to a halt. Period.

Just think of it. The electricity is going off. The heat sources are going off. The water is going to stop flowing. And the store shelves are going to be bare. Food other than in cans or dry goods is going to spoil and if you had anywhere to go you are going to be taking a bike, a horse or you are going to walk, and you are going to be using the back yard to relieve yourself. And you are going to die.

Well not all of us. You can always join a

roving band of human locusts and take your food by force, but how long is that going to last?

China, on the other hand, has made a pledge to be carbon neutral by 2060. However, they are building the equivalent of two new coal-fired power plants per week. It is pretty self-evident that China does not intend to follow us on our suicidal path. As soon as our society has self-destructed then they won't have to fight their way in, the way is open, and all the survivors will be their slaves.

Oh, and I might add, it will be those that think the government should take care of them that will be the first to go, because why use foresight when you don't have to think for yourself?

Don Hemme, Redvale, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH

To the editor,

The upcoming federal farm bill should provide increased funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically limit our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

The government gives billions of dollars worth of subsidies to factory farms. We should redirect these funds toward the development of a more environmentally-friendly, healthy, and compassionate food system. Our leaders should back this effort by including further money for cellular-agriculture research in the farm bill.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE SKY IS FALLING, THE SKY IS FALLING!

By Richard Harding

Fact #1: Those who personally know me are well aware that I would not defend Commissioner's Rash or Caddy, under any circumstance. As for Bill Bennett, Rash and Caddy may have given Montrose Memorial Hospital away, for free, Bill, in the capacity of both a Hospital Trustee and Director, started the ball rolling. In my opinion, these three have caused more harm to Montrose County and caused the greatest reduction in County assets than any other group in the history of Montrose County. Therein is their legacy!

Fact #2: I am the coauthor of the Public Safety Sales Tax and the Road and Bridge Sales Tax Resolutions. I, along with Dave Laursen, Chairman, Montrose Citizens For Funding Our Future, MC4FF, literally spent days hammering out the language in the Resolutions with a Denver Law Firm, Montrose County Legal Staff, Montrose County Finance Department and Montrose County Administration. This was done to **prevent** the County Commissioners from being able to do anything with the funds, other than as voted by the people.

Fact #3: The Public Safety Sales Tax is not collected by Montrose County. It is collected by the Colorado Department of Revenue and deposited into a separate account to prevent any commingling of the funds.

Fact #4: The total amount the State collected on behalf of Montrose County for the Public Safety Sales Tax in 2022 is

\$8,835,536.

With those FACTS in mind, the suggestion that the Board of County Commissioners have somehow absconded with \$52,000,000 in Public Safety Sales Tax money, (Montrose Mirror November 27th, page 36), is, to put it in simple, understandable, terms, bovine excrement! Pretty much everything stated before and after the \$52,000,000 figure in the same article, falls into the same category!

While Bill Bennett suggests that some "rich constituent" would have to step forward and file a lawsuit to address this "drain" of \$52,000,000 by the Board of County Commissioners, (past, present and future), they are under such legal constraint with a system of checks and balances that if Bill felt strongly enough about this "drain" all he would have to do is pick up the phone or write another letter. Unfortunately, they do require specific FACTS as to the allegations and will not respond to general whining, sniveling, discontent, fairy tales or, "I didn't get my way."

The Colorado Independent Ethics Commission is readily available to look into this type of behavior and it wouldn't cost Bill a dime! Aside from the Colorado Ethics Commission, the Department of Local Affairs, DOLA, requires that all Counties file AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: **Annual Audit Requirement - Colorado Revised Statute 29-1-601 et seq. Local Governments must complete and submit a copy of an audit of their finan-**

cial statements or an application for exemption from audit on an annual basis.

The Board of County Commissioners contract with independent Certified Public Accountants, CPA's, to audit Montrose County on an annual basis and, as part of that audit, ensure that the scope and purpose of both the Public Safety Sales Tax and Road and Bridge Sales Tax, as stated in their respective Resolutions, are strictly adhered to. These Audits are available for FREE on the Montrose County Web Page: <https://www.montrosecounty.net/98/audit>

The Montrose County Treasurer is under Oath to also ensure that the funds are utilized properly, along with the Montrose County Finance Director. To top it off, annually there is a public presentation of both the Public Safety Sales Tax and Road and Bridge Sales Tax to identify how the current years funds were spent and how the next years budget is to be allocated. This requirement is in the respective Resolutions as voted upon by the public.

Perhaps replacing hysterical "Opinion" with "Facts" might give some credibility to your story, Bill. Remember what Sergeant Friday said: "Just the FACTS ma'am."

Finally, to think that the top law enforcement official in Montrose County, the Sheriff, would somehow sit idly by and watch the Board of County Commissioners "drain" \$52,000,000 from its intended purpose, especially since his office is the major specific intended benefactor, once again, bovine excrement!

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



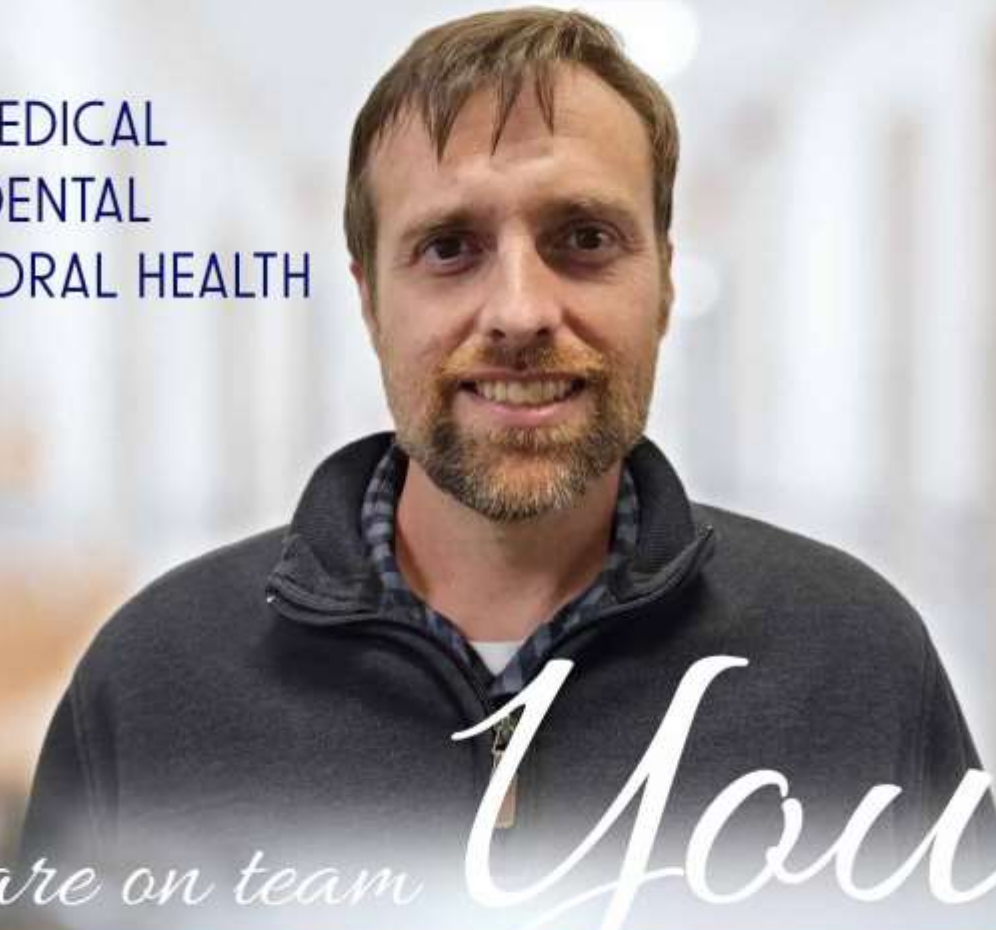
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CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS AWARD OF \$174K MASTER PLAN CONTRACT FOR BALDRIDGE PARK



Work Session Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONDAY—On Monday, Dec. 4, Montrose City Councilors gathered at Council Chambers for a regular work session. Mayor Barbara Bynum called the session to order. All councilors were present; City Manager Bill Bell was absent. Background information pertaining to all discussion items is included in the work session packet.

Bynum said, "...This is the City Council regularly scheduled work session. We hold work sessions as a way to discuss items that will be coming to us in the future for a decision...we don't take any formal action in work sessions, we don't vote on anything, and we don't do public comment because we're not voting on anything, and when and if we have something in front of us we always take public comment and that would be our regularly scheduled council meetings where we do that.

"But we do record work sessions and they're really usually quite interesting," Bynum said, "...we really dig into some of the issues...we jump right in and get started with work sessions., we have quite a few items this morning."

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council considered the annual update to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Montrose Recreation District. Mayor Bynum welcomed Deputy City Manager Ann Morgenthaler to present updates to the IGA. Bynum said, "I just will add a little context. This is a fantastic agree-

ment...this was started when the rec district was about to open the new rec center...I think it has been in place since about 2016...I am excited to see it still going strong.

"Let's hear the current iteration."

Among the changes to the agreement, which is included in the work session packet, are:

-The City will provide asphalt patching or crack sealing services to the District for any facilities they designate up to a cost of \$4,000. Additional services will be provided pursuant to the rates in the agreement;

-Other public spaces in the Baldrige Park Regional Park Complex are identified in addition to the Cerise fields and the Rotary Amphitheater;

-The new Flex Park in Colorado Outdoors is identified and associated maintenance-responsibilities are specified;

-The City will provide a free Black Canyon Card to full time MRD employees instead of discounted annual passes;

-Trash, recycle, and other fees were updated with current rates.

Additional discussion items included the following:

Council discussed entering into a utility service agreement with Chipeta Water District and Weststar Development LLC, to provide City of Montrose water service to the Cobble Creek West Addition.

Council considered the North Woodgate Extension Project Memorandum of Agreement, a memorandum of agreement with the Marketplace West Condominium Association to create the framework for right-of-way acquisition and completion of the North Woodgate Extension Project's second phase.

City Attorney Chris Dowsey and Public Works Manager David Bries presented information on the Suburban Water Dis-solution. Customer payments will be based on the current city standards, Bries said.

Public Works Director Jim Scheid discussed the 2024 Asphalt Crushing Award Recommendation to award a professional service agreement to Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC for asphalt crushing at the City's Material Storage Yard in the amount not-to-exceed

\$200,000. Bid information is included in the work session packet. "We're getting some contracts set up for winter work, and this is one of them," Scheid said.

Also considered was award of the Baldrige Park Master Plan contract to Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC (BDM&P) of Portland, Maine in the amount of \$174,048.

"This is our largest park in our system...these parks included many amenities in our town," Scheid said, "Like dog parks, water sports park, skate park, pump track, disc golf course, Montrose Rotary Amphitheater, soft surface trails, and concrete trails...it is, I would say, a centerpiece..."

Recent updates include the restroom in Riverbottom and the amphitheater at Cerise. Other amenities have reached the end of their useful life and may involve future changes of use and park design, Scheid said. There will be a large portion of the project devoted to community engagement. Staff recommended approval of the award. The Rec District is a partner on the project, Scheid said. Mayor Bynum said that the park is well used and well loved.

"Our residents will want to weigh in." City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo presented the official designated posting locations for 2024. Ongoing practice is to post agendas for all public meetings on the Public Portal of the website and to post a physical copy of the agenda on the bulletin board at City Hall. Official posting locations will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the first Council meeting in January of 2024.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Councilor J. David Reed commended Scheid and Public Works staff and police for the ribbon cutting for the new Buckley Park Playground.

He also thanked staff for their work on the parade of lights.

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that leaves are blocking the Bridge at Cedar Cemetery.

He asked whether the pipe was going out and whether a replacement was planned. City Engineer Scott Murphy said that the pipe is scheduled for replacement in the fourth quarter of 2024. Councilor Doug

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS AWARD OF MASTER PLAN CONTRACT FOR BALDRIDGE PARK *From previous pg*

Glaspell complimented staff and police for the 2023 Parade of Lights, and for the planning that went into the event.

Bynum gave kudos to staff for their work over the weekend.

Scheid said that solar panel installation is complete on the parking structure at the new public safety complex and will be activated in the next couple of weeks.

The Buckley Park Playground was well received despite the snow, Scheid said, thanking those who worked on it, especially Daniel Payne. "Even though there

was snow on the ground it didn't slow anybody down."

The Ogden-Woodgate Roundabout landscaping was completed the week prior. There is a sculpture. "We will be naming him Eddie," Scheid said. A veterans' group has withdrawn from a Memorandum of Understanding with the City, he said. "We don't really know the reason why, or the plan moving forward," Scheid said.

"I want to circle back to the roundabout and playground," Bynum said, noting that both projects had public participation.

"You gave a number of options to a large roomful of people...I think that's really cool." Public Works Manager Jim Scheid said that the fence around the new Buckley Park Playground was a suggestion from members of the public.

Community engagement is really valuable, Mayor Bynum said. "...We are always welcoming that community engagement...we always appreciate it. It makes our plans better."

With no further business, the final council work session of 2023 was adjourned.



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STATISTICS REVEAL CRIME TRENDS AS JUDGES' DISCRETION LEADS TO UNEQUAL JUSTICE IN THE COURTS

By Steve Middendorp

REGIONAL-In a region with few daily newspapers, crime statistics can be a valuable tool when assessing the safety of a community. Montrose Police Department statistics for the third quarter (July-September) of this year show an increase in assaults and sexual assault reports compared to the third quarter of 2022. The number of assaults rose from 54 to 79, while the number of sexual assaults rose from 22 last year to 33 this year. Conversely, there was a large decrease in commercial burglaries, from 12 incidents last year to only four incidents this quarter. Theft, residential burglary, and motor vehicle theft all saw slight decreases from the previous year's numbers.

The Montrose Police Department had 856 traffic interactions in the third quarter of this year compared to 571 contacts in the third quarter of 2022, which is a 50-percent increase. There were five Driving Under the Influence (DUI) accidents compared to one in the previous year. Still, these statistics do not reflect the number of convictions.

While the third quarter crime stats were provided within the city council work session packet on Nov. 6, local law enforcement agencies have also been sending monthly reports to the state of Colorado. The most recent reports can be viewed at coloradocrimestats.state.co.us

Montrose County violent crime statistics for 2022 show 25.1 violent crimes per 10,000 people, which is the combined data set from the Montrose County Sheriff and City of Montrose police. The Olathe Police Department has no crime statistics uploaded to the Colorado state website since 2019. The state of Colorado has a violent crime incidence of 55.7 per 10,000 in 2022. The current year's statistics are on pace to be about the same for the county and the state. However, the Montrose Police are on pace to have 52 violent crime incidents for 2023, which would be a 40.5 percent increase from 2022 for the city. The violent crime incidence would still

be 16 percent lower than the five-year high of 61 incidents in 2021.

As statistics focus on changes to crime trends, a BOCC work session with District Attorney Seth Ryan in September revealed concerns about criminal justice policy in the 7th Judicial District, which includes Montrose, Ouray, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, and San Miguel counties. Citizens have been noticing continued warrants for the same suspects for failure to appear. DA Ryan indicated that judges are increasingly operating on the basis of social justice principles, and increasingly giving more personal recognizance (PR) bonds rather than cash bonds.

Illinois recently passed a law to end cash bonds altogether. This means that the judge will determine at his or her discretion if a suspect poses a flight risk or a danger to the community. If that is not proven by the prosecuting team, then the suspect is likely to be released on a personal recognizance bond. Meanwhile, New York just removed language requiring that judges use the "least restrictive means" to make sure suspects arrive for their scheduled court dates.

The New York Post has published several examples of perceivably and allegedly dangerous suspects who were released on their own recognizance. This includes a man who strangled his stepson to death. Most recently, it includes two suspects who beat up a cop who asked them to put out their cigarettes. In a similar case of brutalizing an officer, a different NYC judge handed down a \$40,000 bail to a pair of suspects. This demonstrates the concern of releasing suspects on their own recognizance with just a signature. It also shows the amount of discretion that an individual judge has in determining whether a potentially dangerous suspect will be held with a high cash bond or released on a PR bond.

The increase of PR bonds has been a statewide issue in Colorado according to DA Ryan. In the BOCC work session meeting in September, he provided some examples. "We have a county court judge here in Montrose who basically let a wom-

an out on a \$250 cash bond after she shot her daughter in the back," Ryan said. "We vehemently fought hard to prevent that from happening, but she (the judge) had her idea of the criminal justice system and didn't think this woman who shot herself in the back and almost killed her should have to pay a bondsman.

"We had a judge in Gunnison on a sex assault case that basically was going to let someone who brutally raped a woman out on bond. We asked the judge, 'if you're going to let this person out they need to report immediately, get GPS monitoring and sobriety monitoring.' She said, 'Well I think because they said they're going to Texas we don't need to do that stuff' and let him out without any conditions. The victim ended up killing herself, because she was so afraid of him getting out."

In the same meeting, Ryan talked about the growing pains the DA's office is going through and the struggle to get enough attorneys to handle the increasingly high case load. Ryan said the 7th district office is becoming more like a metropolitan DA's office. The current population of the 7th judicial district is 106,000 across six counties. DA Ryan had concerns about the disbandment of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), a committee that was tasked with providing suggestions for judicial legislative action in Colorado. Since the Montrose Mirror spoke with DA Ryan in September, Governor Jared Polis has signed an executive order to create a new committee to replace the CCJJ. A late October crime study examining statistics across 50 states listed Colorado as the 43rd safest state and listed 50th in the category of personal and residential safety. Denver is in the top 10 among cities for auto theft, property crime and rape. According to the crime statistics for Montrose and the surrounding counties, there is no concern about a crime surge. However, with the offering of pre-trial services and releasing of criminal suspects on PR bonds, there are concerns about a potential increase in violent crimes in the 7th Judicial District.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IN MONTROSE THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT GOVERN

Editor:

FROM WHERE I SIT: This is a taxpayer ALERT! Fellow voters, It is my opinion that the current Board of County Commissars (sp?) have lost the trust and respect of citizens of Montrose County concerning the administration of the 2008 implementation of the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST). Our Commissars have lost their 'moral compass.' The vote to assess this tax was to be used 70% for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office and the remainder of 30% was to go to the Commissars for their use in IMPROVING public safety as they saw the need.

When passed in 2007 and implemented in 2008 it was understood by the electorate that the PSST tax was an ENHANCEMENT fund for public safety, not as a substitute for the General Fund and its annual in-

crease for the maintenance and operation of the Sheriff's Department of the County Government. In other words the BOCC was to continue to fund the MCSO as they had done historically with annual increases FROM THE GENERAL FUND. The PSST was to be in addition to General Fund funding, not a substitute for and only IF the PSST funds were not needed (as determined by the Sheriff) was the PSST money to 'go back to the County (the BOCC) for their use.

THE PSST WAS NOT, I REPEAT NOT, TO BE USED BY THE BOCC AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE GENERAL FUND SUPPORT OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NOR WAS IT TO BE USED AS A POOL OF MONEY IN ORDER THAT THE COMMISSARS NOT NEED TO PROPOSE AND BACK INCREASES IN GENERAL FUND TAXES.

I should explain that I compare our BOCC to the Russian Commissars because as we can see from recent history that the Russian Commissars 'eat steak' (have yachts and luxury) while the people 'eat cabbage' (and live in the mud of the battlefield) while in Montrose the sheriff's people are the last to be funded with their money granted by their 'people' to them for their benefit).

Again, in my opinion and the opinion of many others, in Montrose the vote of the electorate NO LONGER MEANS SQUAT.

To paraphrase a great philosopher, 'Money absolutely corrupts while lots of money (\$58 million) corrupts ABSOLUTELY.' On this issue this quotation has definitely found a home.

Bill Bennett, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SEEK PUBLIC INPUT ON THOMPSON DIVIDE WITHDRAWAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS— The USDA Forest Service, in coordination with the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land

Management, has released a draft environmental assessment for the requested Thompson Divide Withdrawal in Garfield, Gunnison, and Pitkin counties for a 30-day

public comment period.

“This comment period offers the public an important opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this requested withdrawal,” said Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Frank Beum. “This requested withdrawal of the Thompson Divide area is in response to a strong interest from a diverse stakeholder group, including hunters, ranchers, conservation groups, and local governments.”

On Oct. 12, 2022, the Biden-Harris administration announced steps to conserve the Thompson Divide area in response to broad concerns about its important wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, grazing lands, and clean air and water. If approved, the requested action would withdraw 224,713 acres of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management-managed lands from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the public land laws, location and entry under the United States mining laws, and leasing under the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws for up to 20 years, subject to valid existing rights.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will host a virtual public meeting from 6-7 p.m. MST on Dec. 18. The meeting will include a short presentation explaining the requested withdrawal and draft environmental assessment, a question-and-answer session, and information on how to submit public comments.

Register for the virtual public meeting at <https://bit.ly/4878ZfV>.

To request accommodations or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Olivia Blake at 970-200-6195 or olivia.blake@usda.gov. More information about the requested withdrawal and how to submit comments is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63679>. Comments on the draft environmental assessment should be directed to the Forest Service and will be accepted through Jan. 8, 2024.

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Este programa recibió el respaldo de la Administración de Recursos y Servicios de Salud (ARSA) del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) de EE. UU. como parte de un premio total de \$348,888.251 con D.S. financiado con fondos no gubernamentales. Los participantes pertenecen a las audiencias y no representan la visión oficial de la HHS, del HHS o del gobierno de EE. UU. ni deben considerarse una operación de su parte. Para obtener más información, visite HHSX.gov.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY RECEIVES \$515,000 GRANT FROM COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION TO REVITALIZE FAIRGROUNDS PLAYGROUND

Special to the Mirror

DELTA - Delta County proudly announces the acquisition of a transformative \$515,000 grant from the esteemed Colorado Health Foundation. This substantial grant will be dedicated to the re-imagining and development of a vibrant, multi-generational space at the County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, Colorado. The comprehensive redevelopment project, slated for completion in 2024, represents a significant milestone in Delta County's commitment to fostering community engagement and well-being.

This generous grant builds upon a previous award received by Delta County from the Colorado Health Foundation in the fall of 2022, which initiated the comprehensive reimagining process of the Fairgrounds playground. Using these funds, the county prioritized community engagement, utilizing equitable development and building environment planning tools provided by The Colorado Health Foundation. Working in collaboration with local organizations such as The Nature Connection, Delta County Libraries, Partners of Delta County, and Delta County Human Services, Delta County engaged a diverse group of residents to contribute their time over multiple meetings this past summer to share invaluable insights into the design of the new playground area. This inclusive approach ensures that the space will cater to the diverse needs and preferences of Delta County's varied population.

"Receiving this grant from the Colorado Health Foundation is a testament to our commitment to creating inclusive and engaging spaces within our community," remarked Delta County Commissioner Wendell A. Koontz. "The collaborative effort between Delta County and our residents, along with the support of local partner organizations, underscores our dedication to ensuring that the new playground space at the Fairgrounds reflects the desires and values of our diverse community."

The redevelopment of the playground will feature modern amenities, carefully crafted play structures, and innovative equipment aimed at fostering physical activity, creativity, and social interaction among individuals of all ages and abilities.

"The Colorado Health Foundation fundamentally believes that community members must be at the center of every public space vision in our state," said Sean Dollard, program officer at the Colorado Health Foundation.

This project exemplifies community members and young people being in the driver's seat at every step along the way, materializing in a vision that is wholly and truly community-driven. We couldn't be prouder to help fuel the next steps in the community's vision coming to life."

The County is eager to embark on the construction phase of this transformative project in 2024, guided by the invaluable input received from the community. This reimagined

space is poised to become a central hub for recreation, fostering community connections and creating lasting memories for generations to come.

For further information or inquiries regarding the County Fairgrounds' redevelopment project, please visit

www.DeltaCountyCO.gov/255/Fairgrounds

For more information about the Colorado Health Foundation, please visit coloradohealth.org

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE MORE THAN 500 WREATHS FOR VETERANS' GRAVESITES

Photos by Connie Williams

MONTROSE—More than 50 volunteers worked diligently to put together more than 500 wreaths for the laying of Wreaths Across Montrose on veterans' gravesites Saturday at local cemeteries.

Fred Schaefer, retired Army veteran pictured at left, led the volunteer effort with Camelot Gardens owner Sheree Wanner, general manager Trina Donahue, and greenhouse gal Kayla Salonek.

Kathy Vergamini, left, and Paula Worthington, right, helped cut ribbons and assemble wreaths that would soon adorn the veterans' gravesites. For the two weeks prior to Saturday's event, members of the local American Legion, American Legion Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled Veterans of America chapters visited the local cemeteries to locate and prepare gravesites for the laying of the wreaths.



Above, Fred Schaefer, retired Army veteran pictured at left, led the volunteer effort with Camelot Gardens owner Sheree Wanner, general manager Trina Donahue, and greenhouse gal Kayla Salonek.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

GOCO BOARD AWARDS \$33K GRANT FOR RESTORATION EFFORTS ALONG THE DOLORES RIVER

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board has awarded \$33,300 to help Montrose County partner with Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to continue restoration efforts along the Dolores River.

The area has a large infestation of tamarisk. Crews will spend three weeks removing the invasive species from approximately eight acres. The area contains many cottonwood trees that provide cover for native plant species to thrive. Rivers Edge West will support WCCC with mapping, monitoring, retreatments, and revegetation to the site once this removal project concludes.

The grant is part of GOCO's Conservation Service Corps program. GOCO partners with Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) to employ conservation service corps crews across the state on outdoor recreation and stewardship projects. CYCA represents a statewide coalition of eight accredited corps that train youth, young adults, and veterans to complete land and water conservation work and gain professional skills.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$7.7 million in projects in Montrose County and partnered to conserve 5,367 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported the naturescape playground at History Colorado's Ute Indian Museum, Naturita Town Park, and Holly Park, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,600 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit [GOCO.org](https://www.goco.org) for more information.



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THOMAS DALE ROBERTS *May 1, 1956 – December 3, 2023*

Lifelong Montrose resident Tom Roberts, age 67, passed away on December 3, 2023. Tom was born to Gary and Shirley (Saunders) Roberts on May 1st, 1956. After Gary's death, Shirley married Kenneth Wing, who became a strong role model in Tom's life. Tom spent his childhood years in Olathe and graduated from Olathe High School.

Tom married Faye Stehle in 1983. She came as a package deal, and following Ken's lead, he was quick to accept his "bonus blessings" of daughters Amy and Mandy, and son Chris into his heart. In 1985, the family became complete with the addition of son Todd.

Tom's lifelong career was with the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users, retiring in February 2023 after 38 years of service providing irrigation water to the community both as a ditch rider and heavy equipment operator.

He loved the sport of rodeo, both as a team roper and as a rodeo announcer. He worked as an announcer for several years, traveling throughout Colorado and surrounding states. He especially enjoyed announcing for the National Little Britches

finals and other sporting events. Much of Tom's life involved helping kids. He volunteered as a youth basketball and football coach and was active in assisting with the high school FFA program and 4-H. Spending time with his children and grandchildren and following their endeavors was his greatest joy. He also held a long-standing love/hate relationship with the Denver Broncos, and never missed watching the NFR finals, either in person or on TV. Though most of his traveling was done in a truck and hauling a horse trailer, he and Faye enjoyed various ports on cruises, especially St. Thomas.

Tom was willing to help anyone in need, and believed a strong faith in God, a hard work ethic, honesty, and a sense of humor were the core values for living a good life. The kids and grandkids learned those values by his example.

Tom is survived by his wife Faye, daughters Amy (Tad) Rowan, Mandy (Tommy) Grimes, sons Chris (Jana) Stehle, Todd Roberts, and grandchildren Daniel and Stephanie Rowan, Austin and Riley Willis, Hannah and Gage Grimes, Darren (Johnna) Gleason, Kaley (Isaac) Richmond,

Lexi Stehle, Andrea Angelo, Tripp and Travis Roberts, great grandgirls Hanley and Sawyer Gleason and Everly Richmond, sisters Brenda (Danny) Castle, Karla (Brent) Young, and Staci (TeeJay) Rose, and numerous nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Tom's family is grateful to his caregivers from Hope West whose professionalism and compassion were a comfort during his final month. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope West Montrose, 725 S. 4th St, Montrose, CO 81401

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. A Celebration of Life service will be held on December 21st, 1 p.m., at Calvary Chapel located at 2201 S. Townsend in Montrose. A reception at the Elks Lodge will follow.



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THE MONTROSE MIRROR

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ANN C HAGGARD

September 26, 1938- December 3, 2023



ANN C HAGGARD passed away with family by her side at her home in Montrose on December 3, 2023 at the age of 85.

Ann was born on September 26, 1938, to William and Lillian

(Taylor) Collins in San Benito, Texas. She grew up surrounded by family that included aunts, uncles, and cousins, with whom she remained close all of her life.

Ann graduated from North Texas University with a teaching degree. On June 4, 1960, she married the love of her life, Tom D Haggard. She and Tom taught in San Benito, Texas for a couple of years before moving to Tacoma, Washington while Tom was serving with the National Guard. From there they moved to

Laramie, Wyoming while Tom got his master's degree at the University of Wyoming. They also lived in Jackson Hole and Cody, Wyoming before moving to Colorado.

They moved to Montrose, Colorado with their two daughters, DeeAnn and Teresa, in 1970. Ann designed her dream house and together she and Tom built that home on Spring Creek Mesa in 1972. She and Tom have been members of Montrose Christian Church since 1972.

Ann's fondest memories were those of growing up in the Rio Grande Valley as well as the many summers she and Tom spent in Silverton, Colorado, and the friends that they had there. However, nothing was more important to Ann than her family. She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She had the most beautiful smile. Even in her final days on earth, she was quick to smile. She never said an unkind word to anyone. Ann was one of the sweetest people God has ever

created.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, William (Bill) and Lillian Collins, and her brother, Dean Collins. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Tom Haggard of Montrose; daughter DeeAnn (Jesse) Harrington of Montrose; daughter Teresa (Peter) Vorrias of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; Grandchildren Chelsey (Joseph) Bucciarelli of Clarksville, Tennessee; Justin (Kara Ratliff) Harrington of Montrose; and Nico Vorrias currently stationed in Iwakuni, Japan with the United States Marine Corps; and one great-granddaughter, Kallie Good.

Ann never wanted a fuss to be made over her, so there will be no funeral. Her immediate family will, however, celebrate her life every time they get together. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in honor of Ann to Hope West.

Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

DANIEL JOEL DE FREVAL

August 8, 1938- December 1st, 2023

DANIEL JOEL DE FREVAL was born August 8, 1938, in Le Harve, France. He lived with his family in occupied France throughout the war, moving to Rouen, France, for his dual bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology.

His father spoke highly of the United States after working as a ship steward, and Daniel immigrated in 1964, becoming a US Citizen in 1975. During this era, he worked in NYC for a catering company, and taught English at the University of Texas (Austin), Dickson War College, the International School in Switzerland, and on the Objibway Reservation in Red Lake, Ontario. He developed his skills to become an exceptional interpreter and translator, being able to do phrase-by-phrase and simultaneous translation. He also became fluent in Spanish, and spoke some German, Italian, and Latin. He worked in the State De-

partment as a professional translator for visiting dignitaries until he found his career in the CIA in Psychological Operations and Counter-Terrorism from 1982 until his retirement in 2005. He then contracted with various organizations, including the US State Department and Blackwater, for the next ten years. His time of service included dangerous missions undercover, and he worked for several Kings and Presidents overseas. Daniel and Jamie met in Ouray, CO, at The Assembly of God Church, marrying in 1984, and had one son, Dan. They lived in the Republic of the Congo and Washington D.C. after their tour abroad with Daniel's work.

In retirement, Daniel was very active in the Montrose Prison Ministry, local churches as an elder, and the Ouray County Sheriff's Advisory Board. He also studied to become a professional minister and

performed weddings and burials locally. "Licensed to Marry and Bury," as he liked to say.

Daniel quietly passed in his home in Ouray on December 1st, 2023. He will be greatly missed by his family. He is survived by his wife Jamie, son Dan, daughter-in-law Melissa, as well as his treasured grandchildren Elise, Cesc, and Niels, and his vast multitude of local friends. He is also survived by his two sisters in France, Vonette, and Christianne, as well as many nieces and nephews, who fondly remember him as "Uncle Cowboy." Crippin Funeral Home & Crematory of Montrose is assisting the family.



ISSUE 448 Dec. 11, 2023

ART & SOL

ROBERT MCKEEVER TO BE TELLING STORIES



Robert McKeever. Courtesy photo.

Special to Art & Sol

NORWOOD-The Stories & Poems series at the Lone Cone Library Dec. 20th features Norwood local Robert McKeever "Telling Stories."

"Bob is a great storyteller," said Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. "He has seen many many changes on Wrights Mesa and has led a fascinating life. Come hear him share some of the things that have happened here that you probably never read about in the papers. And because it gets dark so early, we've moved the event up to 6 pm."

The fourth generation of the McKeever family, Bob attended the Norwood schools as a youngster. His family has worked in the timber industry here since the 1890s, supporting the mines in Telluride, Ouray, Silverton, and later the uranium mines in the West End. Their operation closed in the mid-1990s.

During his youth, Bob would travel with his family to Sanborn Park, where they had a large sawmill. And in the winters, they would return to Norwood, where his two brothers and sister were able to go to school. He desperately did not want to go to school in Sanborn Park because their school schedule was during the summer. So, the night of his graduation in 1971, Bob up and joined the Army.

His folks weren't pleased, but Bob's plan to get assigned to Germany by enlisting, instead of being drafted and sent to Vietnam, was successful. "It turned out to be a really good choice," he explained, "because I got to travel in Europe extensively and was able to spend two winters in the Alps on ski patrol for the military."

Honorably discharged in 1974, he returned to Norwood and worked with his brother Mick in the timber industry and with his father Popcorn building houses. In 1976 he decided to take advantage of the G.I. Bill, and attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, getting a degree in archaeology and a minor in geology and education.

While working as an archaeologist, he soon found that he couldn't support a

wife and two young boys on the salary he was receiving from the BLM. So, he returned to Norwood and went back to work in the timber industry and helping build houses.

In 1985 he took the job as Public Works Director for the Town of Norwood. That job really didn't fit him well, so in 1990 he landed a job with the US Forest Service, working as an archaeologist, firefighter engineer and horse packer. He retired in 2017, having spent a majority of his career in Western Colorado.

Since his retirement, he has channeled his energies into restoring old family houses -- with many trips to Mexico and Alaska.

Stories & Poems follows a simple format. There will be a performance of a featured storyteller or poet, followed by a question & answer session and then a Gourd Circle. At that point, everyone present will be invited to tell a story, perform a poem (an original or a favorite written by someone else), read a short section of prose or simply pass the gourd on to the next person.

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program, *Stories & Poems* is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of private donors and the Fischer Cantor poetry contests.

For more information, text 970-729-0220 or email Goodtimes at

[<shroompa@gmail.com>](mailto:shroompa@gmail.com).

www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds.

YEAR-END GIVING GETS KIDS OUTSIDE

by Abram Herman,
Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL—As the end of the year approaches, many households are starting to consider where to direct year-end giving dollars. There are many crucial needs in our community that deserve support; in a perfect world, we would be able to fund every cause, but in the real world you'll need to make choices about where to contribute your year-end donations in a way that aligns with your values and your hopes for the future.

If youth mental health, resiliency, and public lands are important to you, then supporting programs to get Western Slope kids into outdoor educational and recreational programs provides a long-term solution for those issues facing our youth, and our community at large.

What impact does an early introduction to the outdoors have on who a child will become as an adult, and how are they affected physically, mentally, and emotionally as they grow up? As it turns out, childhood exposure to outdoor activities can be directly connected to positive long-term outcomes in these areas.

Physical Wellness

Children are increasingly neglecting outdoor play in favor of the digital world—reducing kids' screen time is often a major struggle for parents. Computers, mobile devices, and video games are passive forms of entertainment, and they don't call for physical coordination, strength, endurance, or any of the other attributes necessary for a healthy body. Outdoor play, on the other hand, promotes all of these things, and is a natural method of encouraging physical activity in young people.

A 2015 meta-analysis of studies regarding the effects of time spent outdoors on children found, "outdoor time is positively related to physical activity and negatively related to sedentary behavior in children aged 3–12 years" (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/12/6/6455>). The more outdoor time children have, the more physical activity they take part in

and, conversely, the less sedentary behavior they display.

Mental Health & Resiliency

Many people spend time outdoors because it brings them a sense of happiness and well-being. If adults need to get away to nature every now and then to stay happy, surely children must benefit from these quieter natural spaces as well.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, a 2018 study showed that 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 psychosomatic symptoms such as irritability, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, headache, stomachache, backache, and other maladies. The benefits start with as little as 30 minutes of outdoor activity per week (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29679604/>).

As we consider ways to address the increasing prevalence of mental health challenges in young people, including a disproportionately high suicide rate in our area, outdoor activities can play a crucial role in building resiliency and promoting mental well-being in our youth.

Stewardship of Public Lands

Physical activity, cognitive development, and emotional well-being are relatively easy to quantify in research. But what about something like the desire to preserve our natural areas, or an understanding of the importance of good stewardship practices for our public lands—can we quantify these outcomes?

Though it's more difficult to show a correlation between time spent outdoors during childhood and an individual's likelihood to become a good environmental steward, it has been shown that the amount of time spent outdoors has a direct correlation with a child's feelings of connection with nature. This sense of con-



Courtesy photo Friends of Youth and Nature.

nection with the natural world then has a direct influence on behaviors related to environmental stewardship in children such as, "conserving water, turning out lights, recycling, talking about the environment, and picking up litter" (<https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=nerr>).

The more time young people spend in the outdoors, the more likely they will become involved with environmental stewardship and preservation of our public lands.

As you consider how to distribute year-end donations in our community in a way that most aligns with your values, know that when you donate to organizations that provide opportunities for local kids to get outdoors for science education and recreational field trips, you're not only directly contributing to their physical and mental well-being—you're also helping to raise a generation that will value our natural environment and ensure the preservation of public lands for years to come.

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a non-profit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. To contribute through Colorado Gives Day and multiply the impact of your donation, please visit <https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/friendsofyouthandnature>

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451

[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-
don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,
Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-

week prayer and communion, Wednes-
day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
nity Prayer Hour.

Dec 20-6pm: Advent Service of Lament &
Hope

Dec 24-4pm & 11:30pm: Christmas Eve
Services

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
Anglican Church committed to the minis-
try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our

music is a combination of traditional
hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.
We invite kids preschool and up to join
our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-
day service.

We would love to welcome you here.
Following the service, join us for snacks
and conversation. On the third Sunday of
the month we celebrate a potluck meal
together.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist

112Main St.

P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021

www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, 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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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.

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

Dec. 11-Monday, Dec. 11 from 5-6 Citizens Climate Lobby meets in new location Community rm in Safety Complex (enter police entrance across from Centennial Plaza) Non-partisan, national, environmental. All welcome, info 970-765-9095.

Dec. 14-Montrose Regional Health presents a Sneak Peek of new Ambulatory Care Center. 4-6pm, ACC Construction site near Hobby Lobby.

Dec 17-3pm- **Home for Christmas**, Free Christmas Concert by the Montrose Community Band at the Pavilion. Enjoy favorites new and old. Admission is free. Sponsored by Montrose Regional Health.

Dec. 20-All Saints Anglican Church presents Advent Service of Lament & Hope on Dec 20, 6pm.

Dec 24-All Saints Anglican Church —Christmas Eve Services at 4pm & 11:30pm

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The Montrose Community Band
21st annual Christmas concert

Home for Christmas

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