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## AUDITOR COMMENDS RE-1J'S EMILY IMUS AND STAFF FOR 'CLEANEST' AUDIT

*"Your Finance team really, really is a high-functioning department..."*  
- Auditor Paul Backes, McMahan & Associates



All directors were present for the regular meeting of the Montrose RE-1J Board of Education on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education President Sarah Fishing called the regular [board meeting](#) to order on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Also present were Board Vice President Stephen Bush, District A Director Neisha Balleck, District B Director Ted Valerio, District C Director Alice Murphy, District D Director Tom West, and District F Director Jody Hovde. The Board joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and voted to approve the meeting agenda.

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RE-1J Public Information Officer Matt Jenkins introduced the Montrose High School Climbing Team for recognition,

[Continued pg 15](#)

## SKY'S THE LIMIT AS SEASONAL FLIGHTS RETURN TO MRA

By Gunnison Clamp

MONTROSE-Last week, a slough of seasonal commercial flights began for Montrose Regional Airport. At the premier airport for anyone looking to ski in the area or see friends and family for the holidays, all four airlines which service Montrose increase their service in the winter. Most flights began on Saturday Dec. 16, including a Southwest route to Dallas, United route to Los Angeles, and a Delta route to Atlanta. All of these flights are in at least their second consecutive year of service, and a full flight schedule can be found online at [montroseregionalairport.com](http://montroseregionalairport.com) or [coloradoflights.org](http://coloradoflights.org).



Southwest Airlines plane photo by Gunnison Clamp.

These flights are arriving right on the heels of significant steps forward for the Airport, with the first jet bridges in Montrose being installed recently (see photos by David White in this issue), the first usage being on the Dec. 14 by Southwest Airlines. 2023 also saw the completion of the Terminal expansion project, San Juan Coffeehouse and Shelter Distilling moving into new locations in the concourse, and the Tribute to Aviation's successful return after a hiatus in 2022. From now through mid-April, expect more foot traffic in the Airport terminal, and longer lines and wait times at the TSA checkpoint. For questions about your flight, contact the airline you've booked with, and for general Airport questions, contact Airport Administration.

<a href="#">Peter Faen Launches West Slope Classifieds!</a>	<a href="#">Speaker Refuses to Yield Floor During BOCC Meeting!</a>	<a href="#">District Court Denies Review Of Farm Road Source Pit decision!</a>	<a href="#">Red Hawks Sports Coverage by Cliff Dodge!</a>
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## MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – The Museum of the Mountain West’s Founder and Executive Director Richard E. Fike received notification from True West Magazine that he has been selected as “Best Western History Collector” for 2024.

Recognition by the magazine will appear in its January “Best of the West 2024” special collector’s edition available on national newsstands in early January. Museum Founder and Executive Director Richard E. Fike commented, “This is a very special honor for the Museum and for me to be recognized by the magazine since I have been collecting since the age of four and am now in my 80’s. The Museum’s vast artifact collection and focus on historically accurate information and presentations are what keeps visitors fascinated and returning time and again.”

Information on [truwestmagazine.com](http://truwestmagazine.com) notes that the magazine has been published since 1953; it has a vast monthly print and online readership of fascinated history enthusiasts and heritage travelers with articles about the myths, legends, and lore of the American West.

Step back in time at the Museum of the Mountain West “Where History Comes Alive” at 68169 Miami Road, Montrose, Colorado. For additional details, visit [www.museumofthemountainwest.org](http://www.museumofthemountainwest.org) or call 970-240-3400.

# THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## VISIT OUR GARDENS NEXT SPRING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS!

*To the Editor:*

In September, the Montrose Botanical Society received a \$500 mini-grant from the Endangered Species Coalition (ESC) for the purchase of native plants that support native pollinators, including the Monarch butterfly. Before the growing season's end, we hustled to purchase and plant a variety of species – from curl-leaf mountain mahogany to milkweed – to bolster our existing native gardens with pollinator-friendly plants.

The ESC provides these grants to help create habitat across the country for native pollinators. Colorado has the fifth highest bee diversity of any region in the nation, but lately it has also seen the larg-

est decline. Earlier this year, reports in the media pointed to Colorado bee populations declining more than 70% in the past 20 years -- decimated by pesticides, habitat loss and competition with invasive species. The Montrose Botanical Society is committed to nurturing native plant areas in our Gardens.

We send a hearty "thank you" to the ESC, and join that non-profit organization as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on December 28th.

The ESA was signed into law in 1973 by President Nixon to prevent the loss or harm of endangered and threatened species and to preserve the places where they

live. Today, hundreds of species are stable or improving thanks to conservation actions undertaken by governmental agencies, conservation organizations and private citizens.

Visit our Gardens next spring to learn more about native plants and pollinators!  
*Montrose Botanical Society  
Board of Directors*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## LOWLINE FIRE 100 PERCENT CONTAINED

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-The 1,899 acre Lowline Fire, which started July 26 from a lightning strike, is now 100% contained. The fire area continues to receive precipitation from recent storms, diminishing all active fire behavior. Firefighters have finished strengthening and securing all containment lines around the Lowline Fire. All resources and equipment have been released from the incident. A Suppression Repair Plan was prepared this fall. It will be fully implemented in coordination with Gunnison County and private landowners in the coming months. The plan addresses the rehabilitation of dozer and hand lines constructed during the initial attack phase of the incident.

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



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## RED HAWK WRESTLERS SUBDUE OLATHE 49-22

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks wrestling team hit the road on Thursday traveling north to Olathe and dominated the Pirates on the mat 49-22. The Red Hawks and the Pirates sent wrestlers to the mat in all but one weight class, a double forfeit in the 285 pound division. The two teams participated in four extra matches that did not figure in the match scoring, but allowed four athletes from each team to get a taste of varsity experience. The results were as follows:

190 Nick Jennings (Mont) over Gavin Murphy (Olathe) (Fall 00:17)

215 Corbin Wallace (Mont) over Ky Gardner (Olathe) (Fall 1:30)

285 Double Forfeit

105 Chance Culver (Mont) over T. Fitzgerald (Olathe) (Fall 0:06)

113 Jacob Avila (Olathe) over Ricky Olmos (Mont) (Fall 1:46)

120 Trevor Piatt (Olathe) over John Hughes (Mont) (1.25)

125 Luke McCullough (Olathe) over unknown (Forfeit)

132 Holden Putnam (Mont) over T. Westermann (Olathe) (MD 21-9)

138 Monty Yarnell (Olathe) over Lincoln Jones (Mont) (MD 14-0)

144 Austin Zimmer (Mont) over Noah Gray (Olathe) (Dec. 9-3)

150 James Schaefer (Mont) over Beau England (Olathe) (Fall 0:54)

157 Maverick Powers (Mont) over Cash Thomas (Olathe) (Fall 2:25)

165 Trevan Anstine (Mont) over Isrraell Chi (Olathe) (Fall 1:27)

175 Jayce England (Mont) over Eli Mock (Olathe) (Fall 1:47)

Extra 113 Marquez Acosta (Mont) over Brice Good (Olathe) (Fall 127)

Extra 120 Tristen Seevers (Olathe) over Zack Quaid (Mont) (Fall 0:59)

Extra 132 Garrett Keith (Olathe) over Lucas Hesse (Mont) (Fall 3:35)

Extra 132 Moises Najar (Mont) over Timmy Munoz (Olathe) (Fall 4:00)

Next up for the Red Hawk grapplers will be a two day tournament in Grand Junction hosted by the Grand Junction Central Warriors.

Stay tuned.

## MONTROSE WRESTLERS COMPETE IN WARRIOR CLASSIC

*By Cliff Dodge*

GRAND JUNCTION-A total of 41 high school wrestling teams descended on Grand Junction last weekend to participate in the Grand Junction Central High School Warrior Classic wrestling competition. Uintah, Utah took home first place in the team event with the Wildcats of Fruita-Monument and host Grand Junction Central finishing second and third. Cedaredge and North Fork placed 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> while Palisade and Delta finished 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Montrose Red Hawks placed 25<sup>th</sup>, scoring 43 points. The Red Hawks team members are as follows:

106	Ricky Olmos	6 points
126	Aadin Gonzales	6 points
132	Holden Putnam	7 points
144	Austin Zimmer	4 points
150	James Schaefer	13 points
165	Trevan Anstine	3 points
175	Jayce England	4 points
190	Corbin Wallace	6 points

Next up for the Red Hawks will be a dual meet with the Warriors of Grand Junction Central High School in Grand Junction on Dec. 21.



# Heartfelt holiday wishes and a Happy New Year!



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# MONTROSE GIRLS SWEEP DEMONS TOURNAMENT

*By Cliff Dodge*

MONTROSE-The Montrose girls' basketball team ran roughshod over three opponents to sweep the Glenwood Springs basketball tournament last weekend.

The Red Hawks took down the Coal Ridge Titans, the Moffat County Bulldogs, and the Canon City Tigers to improve their overall record to five wins and one loss.

The Red Hawks outdistanced the Titans 26-2 in the first period of the contest and never looked back, defeating Coal Ridge 63-32.

Senior Taygan Rocco led all scorers with 20 points. Two sophomores, Mayce Oberg and Maggie Legg added 17 and 10 points respectively. Junior Brooke Williams

scored 6 points and collected 7 rebounds to lead the Red Hawks in that department. The team dished out 13 assists and turned the ball over 14 times.

The Moffat County Bulldogs fared no better than the Titans as the Red Hawks stormed to a 19-point victory, 51-32. The Red Hawks pulled out to a six-point lead after one period and coasted to the win. Mayce Oberg and Taygan Rocco led the Red Hawks in scoring with 17 and 14 points respectively. Oberg led all rebounders with nine while sophomore Lilly Nelson and Maggie Legg each contributed five caroms to the total. The Red Hawks came up with eight steals while turning the ball over only six times.

In the closest of the three games the Red Hawks prevailed by the score of 43 to 36. The Red Hawks eased out to a 15 to 9 first quarter lead and then kept comfortably ahead throughout the remainder of the contest for the seven point victory. The Red Hawks increased their overall record to 5-1 after the three-game sweep in Glenwood Springs.

Mayce Oberg and Taygan Rocco led all scorers with 13 and 10 points respectively while Maggie Legg tossed in nine points. Oberg led all rebounders with 14 while Lilly Nelson added six. The Red Hawks passed out eight assists while turning the ball over 10 times.

Next up the Basalt Longhorn Classic.

## WEEKEND BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD:

### Montrose Red Hawks Boys:

Red Hawks 50

Eagle Valley 38

Red Hawks 50

Rifle 21

Red Hawks 57

Roaring Fork 24

Red Hawks 9 wins, 0 losses

### Montrose Red Hawks Girls:

Red Hawks 50

Rifle 38

Red Hawks 51

Moffat County 32

Kent Denver 52

Red Hawks 37

Red Hawks 7 wins, 2 losses



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# RED HAWK BOYS SWEEP GLENWOOD SPRINGS TOURNAMENT

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose boys' basketball team stretched their unbeaten streak to six games with a sweep of the opposition at the Glenwood Springs tournament last weekend.

The Red Hawks defeated Moffat County, Basalt and Conifer and travel this weekend to Basalt to compete in the Longhorn Tournament.

The Red Hawks opened up with a convincing 65-48 whipping of the Moffat County Bulldogs. The Red Hawks outscored the Bulldogs 14-4 in the first quarter and never took their foot off the gas as they roared to a 17 point victory. Junior Kaleb Ferguson led the Red Hawks with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Jaxon Killen added 18 points and eight rebounds while junior Breken Hutto tallied 13 points and nine rebounds to seal the deal. The Red Hawks dished out 13 assists while only turning the ball over seven times.

Next up for the Red Hawks were the Longhorns from Basalt. The 12 point victory, 57-45, saw the Red Hawks dominate the scoring in each of the four quarters to achieve the victory. Kaleb Ferguson led all scorers with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Brody Cooling tallied 11 points and grabbed four rebounds, while Brekin Hutto scored seven points and eight rebounds. Junior Cooper Ross chipped in with seven points and three caroms. The Red Hawks dished out 12 assists and turned the basketball over 11 times while securing the victory.

The Saturday contest was less of a contest than the previous two games. The Red Hawks pressured the Rocky Mountain Lobos from the opening tip to the final whistle for a 61-31 victory. Eight Red Hawks dented the score sheet with Kaleb Ferguson leading the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Bekin Hutto added 10 points and four caroms. Senior Jaxon Kattner added nine points, while Killen, Ross and sophomore C.J. Rocco scored six points. Sophomore Lane Pressler hit the net with



Red Hawks Boys Basketball photo by Cliff Dodge.

five points. The Red Hawks handed out 18 seven times. assists while turning the ball over only Next up the Longhorn Classic.



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# COACH'S CORNER: NEIL SAMPLES, MONTROSE VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The wrestling teams of Montrose and Delta High Schools hosted the first of its kind major wrestling tournament last weekend. More than 600 wrestlers descended on the Events Center to see 10 wrestling mats covering the entire floor of the facility. In all, 31 varsity wrestling teams, 18 junior varsity wrestling teams, and 11 girls' wrestling teams displayed their skills on the mats. The winners of each varsity weight class were awarded a Black Canyon singlet. Wrestlers who finished in the top six of the weight classes took home plaques shaped like a western belt buckle.

Montrose head man Neil Samples said, "We did pretty well as a team. We ended up third. Cedaredge ended up winning the Southwest Showdown. Aztec New Mexico ended up in second place and Montrose ended up third."

Coach Samples then talked about his wrestling team. He said, "We have about 40 kids in the program that are working out daily and competing for spots on the varsity and junior varsity rosters. With this number of athletes, the Red Hawks should have all of the weights filled so no one gets a walk over."

The Red Hawks' first two dual meets ended up with a win at Gunnison and a tie at North Fork. Samples explained, "Actually after further research, talks and discussion we won one of the dual meets. We tied North Fork but there is a list of criteria and going through the list we actually did end up winning because North Fork gave up more forfeits that Montrose did."

Samples then delved into the athletes who make up his varsity team. "We have a good mix of talent on this team. We are young, old, and in between. We have good seniors this year who have had experience at the state tournament level that will help us as we move to the state tournament in February. We also have a lot of sophomores and freshmen. It's a good mix; we are fairly young, but our seniors with experience will show them the way and lead us."

When asked about the unbalanced schedule of home and away meets, Samples said that Bradd Schafer is already at work to rectify this situation in the future.

"Our new Athletic Director is well aware of the imbalance in scheduling, and they are working on setting up a tournament hosted by Montrose in basketball next season.


"That is why we decided we have to have something here in December, and that is one of the main reasons we came up with the Southwest Showdown--because we are tired of traveling every single weekend and not being home until after the Christmas holidays."

Coach Samples said, "Now that we have this first one in the books, we learned some things that will make next year bigger and better, and hopefully this will become the top wrestling tournament here



Red Hawks Varsity Wrestling Coach Neil Samples. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

on the Western Slope and in all of Colorado."



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# AUDITOR COMMENDS RE-1J FINANCE TEAM From pg 1

along with Coach Aaron Wilcox. Students shared their experiences, and Wilcox answered questions about the team. Climbing is not currently a Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) sport, Wilcox said, so students compete in private gyms.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Jenkins presented Altrusa Apple Awards for December to Olathe Elementary School Teacher Gayle Sofka and to Pomona Elementary School Teacher Liz Neuhardt.

Project PACE Coordinator Allie Freismuth was honored with the KREX Golden Apple Award.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Student of the Month is Columbine Middle School Eighth Grader Sofia (Sofie) Selee.

## DONATIONS

As noted in the [agenda](#), recent donations to RE-1J include the following:

- The San Juan Healthcare Foundation donated \$1,600 for the New Me Program;
- Northside Elementary School has received donations from the Nathan Yip Foundation for the following teachers:
  - Angela Mirecki received \$1100, that will go towards purchasing books to help students with social emotional needs;
  - Jennifer Latham received \$1000 to purchase hygiene supplies for students and their families; Varina Boudreaux received \$675 to purchase more art supplies for the classroom.

## BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Directors Murphy and Balleck attended the District Accountability Committee

(DAC) meeting, and each gave a brief update. There was a Safety Team presentation by RE-1J Operations Manager James Pavlich. Balleck also spoke about a presentation on technology by Teacher Russell Evans, and the possibility of having Evans speak to the DAC.

Board members discussed committee assignments for the coming year; in addition to the District Accountability Committee, committees include the Facilities & Maintenance Committee and Finance Committee. West will continue to serve on the Facilities Committee; West and Valerio will serve on the Finance Committee; and Murphy and Balleck will serve on the District Accountability Committee.

## ENROLLMENT REPORT

Finance Director Emily Imus gave the [Enrollment Report](#) and an update on the [October Count](#). Total enrollment for December is 6,054, which is three students higher than last year; the Official October Count total enrollment was 6,038, with a Funded Pupil Count of 5,690.5. A breakdown of Free and Reduced Lunch status by school is included in the [presentation](#).

Executive Director of Academic Services Jessica Kalb gave a detailed, comprehensive presentation on Title Funding. The [full presentation](#) is included in the meeting packet.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda item No's 1, 2, and 5 were pulled for further discussion at Valerio's request. The remainder of the Consent Agenda items, including [Personnel Report](#), were unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

Following brief discussions, the Board approved Items 1, 2 and 5 as well. At Valerio's suggestion, the Board agreed to have a discussion at the next meeting about the process of nominating officers to the board.

## AUDIT REPORT

Imus introduced the Audit, which was conducted by a [new Auditor](#) this year, [Paul Backes of McMahan & Associates, LLC](#). After discussing the audit at length, Backes said, "This is the cleanest audit I've presented this year. Your Finance team really, really is a high-functioning department..." Finance Director Emily Imus praised her team as well; Fishing thanked Imus and the Finance Department for their work. Following the in-depth presentation, the Board of Education voted unanimously to accept the [Audited Financial Statements](#).

The Board voted to approve Board meeting [Resolution 14-2023](#) and the [meeting schedule](#) for 2024.

## INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Information on the Early Childhood Center (ECC) is in [the meeting packet](#), including Data Dashboards for October and November, 2023 Fall Checkpoints, and Notice of Rulemaking from HeadStart. ECC Director Penny Harris addressed the newly-elected board members, noting that they serve on the governing board of the Early Childhood Center. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The Board of Education will convene for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6:30pm.



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CULTIVATED MEAT: IT'S THE RIGHT THING

To the editor,

I think most people, deep down, know the way we treat farm animals is wrong. What they may not be aware of is nascent technology that makes aligning our values with our gustatory preference much easier. I'm talking about cultivated meat. For those who are unfamiliar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. Though it's currently sold in a few high-end restaurants, the protein is too expensive for widespread adoption. This can be rectified with increased federal funding for cultivated-meat research. Our political leaders should insist money for that purpose is included in the delayed farm bill. It's the right thing to do.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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# FARM ROAD SOURCE PIT PETITION FOR REVIEW DENIED IN MONTROSE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

## Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-A Petition for Review filed by the applicant for a proposed gravel pit expansion that was denied by Montrose County has also been denied. A decision filed in the Montrose County District Court on Dec. 7 brings an end to a process that began in 2022.

## Background-Farm Road Special Use Application to Expand an Existing Gravel Pit

Following well-attended meetings in December of 2022 and January of 2023, the Montrose County Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of the Special Use Application on Jan. 26, based on concerns of dust mitigation, excessive noise, and other safety issues.

The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) then considered the Farm Road Source Pit Special Use [SU22-013] proposal at a special meeting held on Feb. 22. The application was continued until March 6, at which time every chair was taken and people were seated on the floor as the BOCC considered the proposal once more.

On March 27, with approximately 250 citizens in attendance at a third special BOCC meeting at the Montrose County Event Center, the Montrose County Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the special use permit.

Following the BOCC's denial, the special use applicant, Pleasant View Properties, LLC, petitioned the courts for a review. Following that review a decision was released Dec. 7 in the Montrose County District Court regarding Case No, [2023CV30033](#), and the Plaintiff's petition for review was denied.

The decision reads in part:

*"Plaintiff owns a 130-acre parcel that is zoned General Agricultural and sought approval to operate a gravel pit on 118 acres of the property. The application proposed gravel excavation in phases over a period of 40 to 60 years, with no more than 13 acres under excavation at any one time, with reclamation of each excavated area following completion of each phase, and with the remainder of the property to remain in agricultural use.*

*"The application was initially reviewed by the Planning and Development Director for*



**Applicant Matt Miles spoke during the March 6 special meeting. Photo by Jack Switzer.**

*Montrose County who recommended approval with thirty-one mitigating conditions. The Montrose County Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended denial based on concerns of dust mitigation, excessive noise, and other safety issues.*

*"The BOCC held three public hearings on the application and received testimony and evidence from Plaintiff's representatives and from neighboring landowners and members of the public who opposed the project. The BOCC unanimously voted to deny the SUP based on issues of water use, dust mitigation, excessive noise, traffic impacts, and soil and slope instability. This appeal followed."*

Among the additional findings stated in the court's decision were the following:

*-Plaintiff insists that the BOCC's ruling is arbitrary and not supported by the record. The Court disagrees;*

*-The BOCC found that Plaintiff did not prove that it had a sufficient water supply for the requested use. This finding is based on competent evidence in the record and will not be disturbed on review;*

*-The record also supports the BOCC's finding that the gravel pit operation would create excessive noise;*

*-Likewise, the Court will not disturb the BOCC's findings regarding traffic safety*

*and road impacts;*

*-The record shows that Plaintiff did not alleviate the BOCC's legitimate concerns regarding slope stability. As the sole fact finder, the BOCC reasonably concluded that the gravel pit operation would pose an undue risk to public safety and would have adverse traffic impacts. Therefore, the BOCC did not abuse its discretion in denying Plaintiff's application;*

*- Furthermore, the Court rejects Plaintiff's argument that the BOCC misapplied the law. The Court cannot substitute its judgment for that of the BOCC because the record supports the BOCC's rejection of Plaintiff's mitigation plan. The BOCC properly applied the law based on the evidence in the record;*

*- The BOCC unanimously denied the application and its decision is supported by the record;*

*- There is nothing in the record to place the Commissioners' impartiality in question. Instead, the record shows that the BOCC provided Plaintiff with a fair hearing and carefully considered the evidence. The BOCC was persuaded by the testimony opposing the application and was not persuaded by Plaintiff's testimony. Plaintiff's due process argument lacks merit; Accordingly, Plaintiff's petition for review is denied."*





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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND GUNNISON COUNTY STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION FILE SUIT TO DELAY WOLF INTRODUCTION

### *Special to the Mirror*

LAKEWOOD - The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association (GCSA) have filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado regarding the pending release of gray wolves in Colorado. The lawsuit names U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as defendants. The associations representing ranchers and farmers across Colorado have filed litigation to address concerns about the potential impacts of wolf introduction on livestock and rural communities.

The decision to pursue legal action comes after extensive discussion and consultation with CCA and GCSA members, who are deeply committed to the prosperity of Colorado's agricultural industry and the well-being of their livestock. Both organizations, CCA and GCSA, have opposed wolf introduction since it was a proposed ballot initiative and were involved in every step of the process. CCA and GCSA actively participated in developing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's Wolf Management Plan as members expressed detailed oral and written concerns regarding the scope of impacts associated with the potential release. Those concerns and looming conflicts were not sufficiently

resolved during that public process. The subsequent renewal of the Cooperative Agreement between FWS and CPW authorizing the proposed release is clearly a major federal action that is subject to NEPA requirements. The following very recent quote from CPW personnel underscores the significance of the introduction program:

"I think the whole agency recognizes that there's nothing we've taken on as an agency that's nearly as big and meaningful." Eric Odell, CPW's Species Conservation Program Manager statement to 9NEWS, December 6, 2023.

Andy Spann, 5th generation rancher from Gunnison and GCSA President, stated:

"Impacts of wolf reintroduction, as would any other action of this magnitude, need to be properly reviewed to avoid unintended negative consequences to the natural environment, wildlife, and people of the impacted communities. GCSA put forth our concerns throughout the public process. We believe that much of our input, and that of many others across Western Colorado, was diminished by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission. We regret that a course of litigation on this and other issues seems to be the only recourse left to have these concerns legitimately addressed."

The litigation aims to ensure that the eco-

nomics, ecosystem, and animal welfare concerns of livestock producers are adequately addressed before any further steps are taken in the wolf introduction process. The associations seek to highlight the risks to livestock, wildlife, and the potential economic repercussions for the agriculture sector should the introduction proceed without the proper safeguards and mitigation strategies. The litigation seeks to delay the release of wolves until the proper environmental impact review has been conducted. In the interim, the associations are grateful for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnership and the finalized FWS 10(j) rule, which went into effect on Dec. 8, to provide Colorado producers management flexibility for potential wolf and livestock interactions.

"Throughout the state's wolf introduction processes, Colorado Cattlemen's Association leadership and members dedicated time and effort to ensuring livestock production and rural communities are protected. Today, the association, in partnership with Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, reaffirms its commitment. We regard this path of litigation not out of a desire for conflict, but rather as a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting Colorado's agriculture community and producers of the Western Slope," said Robert Farnam, CCA President.

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## SOFT LAUNCH A SUCCESS FOR PETER J. FAGEN'S WEST SLOPE CLASSIFIEDS WEB SITE

By Gail Marvel

MONTROSE- Two weeks ago, the *Montrose Mirror* announced the soft launch of a new local business, Western Slope Classifieds. Business Owner Peter Fagen said, "The first week was above expectations with more than 500 visitors. In software development, a soft launch allows for a few users to test things out and make sure they are operating correctly.

"Everything has gone smoothly."

Fagen's 40-plus years in digital technology includes serving as Vice President for a major supercomputing company and as business owner of Anthrographica, a 20-year-old graphic design and software engineering company.

A website designer and software engineer, Fagen lived in Montrose for 10 years before he moved to Bountiful, Utah to help with care-giving responsibilities for his mother. He said, "In Montrose I worked for ASAP Payroll services doing payroll for both large and small companies for two years. I have a good relationship with business owners, and I know the business climate on the Western Slope. I also served on subcommittees for the Montrose Chamber of Commerce." Since 2010, Fagen has also provided digital technical support for the *Montrose Mirror*, creating and running the [montrose.mobi](http://montrose.mobi) web site.

Western Slope Classifieds distinguishes itself from other regional platforms. Fagen

said, "On the Western Slope if an individual wants to buy or sell something they have to go to different places [community publications]. We bridge this gap and consolidate buying and selling throughout the region."

Western Slope Classifieds has two main goals. Fagen said, "First, ease of use is a priority. Consumers should be no more than two clicks away from information. Second is affordability, to make it a cheap and cost-effective solution for individuals."

Fagen said, "The classified are straight text ads, but there is a separate service for display ads [photo and graphic design] which is designed for enhanced business presentations. Digital online classifieds have advantages over print. Unlike a printed business directory that has a year life cycle, we can make changes and update immediately, in real time. We facilitate economic development because online is integral to the economic ecosystem."

Fagen continued, "In a way, print media is stuck because they are print focused. With our service, accessibility is superior because it is designed for mobile devices. We are available by email and a human



*Peter J. Fagen, above, has launched West Slope Classifieds. Courtesy photo.*

will review every ad submitted and filter out spam."

Because print newspapers are on the decline, many citizens no longer peruse legal notices. Fagen said, "Although Western Slope Classifieds is not a Newspaper of Record, our consolidation and digital publishing of legal notices makes it easy for attorneys, individuals, and government entities to publish legal notices and reach a broader audience."

**For further information:**

*Peter J. Fagen*

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## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

# GOCO BOARD AWARDS \$33K GRANT FOR RESTORATION EFFORTS ALONG 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 Indi-

an 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](http://GOCO.org) for more information.



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# MIRROR IMAGES: COLD WEATHER, HOT MARKET



*Luxe Boutique Owner Ellena Wenger has continued to expand her business' inventory during the busy holiday season. Luxe is located in Sampler Square in Montrose.*



*Above, Montrose Regional Health offered a tour and sneak peek of the new Ambulatory Care Facility, above, on Dec. 14.*



*Air Bridge photos by David White, "At 9:54AM Friday morning, Southwest Airlines Flight No. 1745 arrived at the Montrose Regional Airport from Denver. The passengers on this flight were the first to deplane from a commercial aircraft in Montrose using the brand-new air bridges installed as a part of the airport's recently completed additions, upgrades, and remodeling of the main terminal building. The addition of the two new jet bridges at gates 6 & 7 mean that passengers no longer have to enplane and deplane through outside stairs and are now protected from the elements," White said.*



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## CITIZEN REFUSES TO YIELD FLOOR DURING BOCC MEETING; COMMISSIONERS VOTE TO APPROVE 2024 BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS



**Citizens discussed the Public Safety Sales Tax and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office, above, on Dec. 13. Jim Anderson refused to stop speaking after his 3 minutes ended.**

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All commissioners were present as the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met for a special meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13 for consideration of the 2024 budget. BOCC Chair Sue Hansen welcomed everybody to the meeting and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hansen also reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the County's Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Ballot Measure, which was passed in 2008 after a citizens group (Montrose County Citizens for Funding Our Future (MC4FF)) put forth a ballot issue for public safety purposes. At the time, the Montrose County Sheriff's Office did not have adequate funds for necessities. That tax rate is .75 percent.

"The ballot language is very specific," Hansen said, "And it directs the Sales Tax to be administered proportionately; that's a 70-30 split."

The Sheriff's Office gets a minimum of 70 percent to spend directly on public safety expenditures. The remainder is to be used by the BOCC for public safety items at their discretion; capital and operational expenditures associated with public safety, public health, and emergency management at the public level are allowed, Hansen said.

Hansen used the 2022 Budget for example, as it has been finalized and independently audited (as all county budgets are) and reviewed the numbers. Seventy percent of the net went directly to the Sheriff's Office, or \$5,850, 784. The Sheriff's Budget for 2022 was \$13,724,897. The MCSO's actual expenditures were \$13,

541,786.

Since the PSST was adopted, 70 percent of the net sales tax totaled \$15.2M. In the same time period, the total expenditures of the MCSO were \$148.4M.

"I hope what you can see is there's no way that the Sheriff's Office can operate on the sales tax," Hansen said. "...It's a direct mathematical computation."

Hard copies of the PowerPoint presentation were also available, Hansen said. Shortly thereafter Hansen opened the floor to public comment, adding that the three-minute rule would be invoked. "We sure hope that everybody would treat each other with respect, no outbursts, no accusations, no anything like that."

First to speak was Ben Alexander. "When that sales tax was passed, it was never intended to be the full funding of the Sheriff's budget," Alexander said. "...this was a supplement. That was the whole point of that committee that put that together, and the whole point of it being passed, to supplement what the Sheriff's budget was."

Hansen said that the BOCC follows the ballot language and that the ballot language does not clarify that.

Alexander said the measure was not structured properly, but the measure was intended to create a supplement. "I understand the language doesn't say that, but that was the intent."

He suggested the BOCC put together a second ballot issue saying that they will not touch the original sheriff's budget and would use the PSST as a supplement as intended.

Commissioner Keith Caddy said he has spoken with those who were on the board when the measure passed, "You're exactly right...as long as I sit on this board, we're going to fund the Sheriff's office the way they should be funded."

Alexander said that it's fine to say so, but the language needs be put on the ballot so the public is reassured, "...that what you just said is going to be done in the future." BOCC Vice Chair Roger Rash said, "The point that we're all missing is that we have fully funded every budget since Keith and I've been here and Sue's been on this board, what they requested...if the Sheriff

is giving us a full budget and we're funding the full budget, what are we supposed to do? Are we supposed to say oh yeah, we'll fund this thing and give you three or four more million? I mean it doesn't make sense..."

Alexander said, "You're misunderstanding what I'm saying, totally. What I am saying is let's get some certainty...so people know that's the base, the sales tax is a supplement to that, which was the intent when that was passed. If the Sheriff needs additional funds, you can always do a supplemental to add to it..."

Rash said, "I think that you better be careful with that because ballot initiatives with tax increases seem to have issues, and you could have people vote that down. And then where would we be at without that funding?"

"Where we are," Alexander said, "Nothing lost."

Next to offer public comment was Jim Anderson. "I was a public advocate for this, I was there, I was the one that asked a lot of questions...this was passed, and it was never intended for the Board of County Commissioners to ever not increase the budget as far as the general fund goes to fully fund the needs and wants...the public sales tax was never to be an offset or in lieu of the General Fund. It was an enhancement fund... it was not to be administered by the County Commissioners. It was to be administered by the Sheriff's Office...I'm the one that asked the questions and got the commitments...we didn't pass that for the benefit of the county...we did that for the benefit of law enforcement..."

Hansen told Anderson his time was up. Still, Anderson continued to speak. "...I see your presentation but it's half right...it can go back to the public as a language cleanup on how to administer it...I'm the person that asked, how do we keep the commissioners' hands off that 70 percent...what we're going to do...this fight's going to go on and on and on until we get this fixed..."

"Thank you Mr. Anderson I think we've heard enough of that," Hansen said.

Rash said that the county has fully funded every sheriff's budget that has been

*Continued next pg*



# CITIZEN REFUSES TO YIELD FLOOR DURING BOCC MEETING

## From previous pg

put in front of them. "You've made allegations that have been disparaging to this board and our staff that I find absolutely disgusting...what is the number sir...you are making allegations with no proof."

Anderson continued to argue.

"Mr. Anderson, we're done. Please have a seat," Hansen said.

"I'm not done, I'm going to be here long past the time you guys are out..." Anderson said.

Commissioner Rash said, "Mr. Lillard stood up here and asked, 'Where's the \$23 Million?' Like we have absconded with money. I challenge the Sheriff, if he thinks that we've done something nefarious, or if Mr. Anderson thinks we've done something nefarious, why has there not been an investigation? And I challenge him to do the investigation...where is the investigation."

Anderson began to speak again, "...I get a chance to respond! Are you going to allow a rebuttal?"

"No, I'm not," Hansen said. "Please sit down." She brought down the gavel.

Still Anderson kept speaking. "That's the problem with this board...I never said you guys did anything illegal or wrong, I'm just saying it comes down to the management of this program."

Rash said, "It started out \$23 million there's no proof... \$53 million...it went up to \$58 million...but absolutely no facts or proof to prove anything..."

Anderson said, "You guys have been spending that money...you guys have been spending it, not the sheriff..."

Commissioner Keith Caddy said, "We're going to shut this down...both of you, we're done."

"I am tired of your rules, where you guys go on for hours then you give the public three minutes..." Anderson said.

"You're still talking Mr. Anderson," Caddy said, "You got your time,"

"I got my time," Anderson said, and left the podium.

### COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Jon Waschbusch had no changes to the meeting agenda.

### GENERAL BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATIVE

### ITEMS

Commissioners opened a public hearing and considered adopting the 2024 Budget and annual appropriation.

"There's a couple things in this budget I don't agree with," Caddy said, "I think we should follow the CPI on the Sheriff's budget; I truly believe that's where it should be. And I also believe we should get involved in his request for pulling somebody from the jail to go and work in Emergency Management. Saying that, I am not going to vote against a budget that's 100 and some million dollars for two items such as that. I am going to be very curious to see how the presentation goes next week for the PSST from the Sheriff, I'm very interested in that."

Caddy moved to approve [Resolution No. 62-2023](#), adopting [the 2024 Budget Adoption and Annual Appropriation](#).

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

Hansen closed the public hearing; with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING**

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**NO Covenants!** This property is located at the north end of the Log Hill Village. It is approx. 4.73 acres with views of the Cimarron Mountains and overlooks a small valley to the west that yields some spectacular sunsets. This lot is abundant with mature ponderosa pines, which offers excellent privacy and a woody feel. It also backs up to Log Hill Village open space making it feel much larger and provides ease of access to the Log Hill Village trail system. MLS #807553



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# Kate's - Art Classes

## JUST POSTED! Winter/Spring Schedule

**Mosaic**, Thursday evening, 5:30-7:30 pm. Montrose.

**LaNoue DuBois Winery**, Saturday afternoon, 1:30-3:30 pm. Montrose.

**WHAfV**, Saturday afternoon, 1:30-3:30 pm. (dates TBD) Montrose.

**Weehawken**, Ridgway, ARTbar Tuesday evening, 5:30-7:30 pm. Ridgway.  
and Workshops, Saturday afternoon 1:30-3:30 pm. Ridgway.

### JANUARY

Thr. Jan. 11. Paint & Sip. *Pet Portraits.*

**Mosaic**

Thr. Jan. 25. Ink & Drink. *Alcohol Ink & Pen.*

**Mosaic**

### FEBRUARY

Sat. Feb. 3. Wine Time. *Pointillism Rock Painting.*

**LaNoue DuBois Winery**

Thr. Feb. 8. Paint & Sip. *Tea Painting.*

**Mosaic**

### MARCH

Sat. March 3. Wine Time. *Painting with Wine.*

**LaNoue DuBois Winery**

Thr. March 7. Paint & Sip. *Poured Acrylic on Canvas.* **Mosaic**

Sat., March 16. *For the Birds.*  
(birdhouse decorating workshop)

**Weehawken**

Thr. March 21. Paint & Sip. *Painted Patio Pillows.*  
(acrylic on treated fabric)

**Mosaic**

### APRIL

Thr. April 11. Paint & Sip.

*Garden Gnome Houses*

**Mosaic**

Tue., April 16. ARTbar, *Paint Your Pet.*

**Weehawken**

Sat. April 20. *Favorite Horse Potrait.*  
with Allice Billings.

**LaNoue DuBois Winery.**

Thr. April 25. Ink & Drink. *Abstract Alcohol Ink.*

**Mosaic**

### MAY

Thr., May 8. *Bilingual Mother's Day Cards.*  
(mixed media)

**Mosaic**

Tue., May 21. ARTBar,  
*Alcohol Ink Spring Florals*

**Weehawken**

### JUNE

Sat., June 8. *Paint in the Pasture*  
with Alice Billings

**Thunderheart Haven Ranch, Ridgway. 1-4 pm.**

<https://KathrynRBurke.com/Education>

# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## DEMS FEAR TRUMP, WHILE BIDEN DESTROYS AMERICA

*Editor:*

To a logical thinker, it would seem that our news would be saturated with the truth about Biden's presidency. Biden is the weakest president in U.S. history, and the vast majority of Americans know they are worse off today than when Trump was president.

They have seen the serious deterioration in global security on Biden's watch, including the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, increased Chinese military provocation against Taiwan, the Hamas terrorist slaughter of Israeli civilians, the surge in Iran's nuclear weapons program, etc. They are living the effects of the destruction of our economy, steeply increased inflation, high mortgage rates, out of control crime in our cities, the flood of illegal immigrants, and much more. They see the absurdity of mediocre male athletes dominating women's sports and using girls' locker rooms, Colorado teachers' unions denouncing capitalism, university presidents refusing to answer a simple question regarding Jewish genocide, and Democrats celebrating unrestricted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

So, what do Democrats/media do to hide the fact that Biden is destroying all that is free and good in America? Make up a new panic fiction: "Trump will be an authoritarian destroyer of democracy." Even though they destroyed their own credibility with the "Russian collusion" hoax and other falsehoods, Democrats are all in with the new patently absurd narrative. The same

theme appeared in unison within days of each other, repeating the tall tale about Trump's imminent threat to free elections.

Quentin Young leads the charge in the MDP with a lengthy article (12/2) telling us how alarmed we should be about speculation about what Trump might do --- even though under Biden we have witnessed the FBI turning into the enforcement arm of the Democrat party and destroying everyone's civil liberties (hiding evidence of Biden family corruption, colluding with the DNC with the "Russian Collusion" hoax, perjuring before Congress, etc.) Young can only make accusations (Trump "is the most notorious enemy of the government", etc.), but we have seen with our own eyes Biden's continual use of the federal bureaucracy to evade Congress by imposing unpopular policies on Americans through regulations rather than law. Young wants us to be alarmed not because of anything Trump has actually done, but because of what the left has repeatedly said he intends to do.

The main point of Young's article is that they have to destroy Trump before the election because, in Young's words, Trump is a Nazi and his supporters are bigots, conspiracists, liars, and cultists. In other words, we can't possibly let the electorate decide on the candidates because .....

well, because we say so ... or something. Unfortunately for the left, no matter what they do, they can't make most people believe Biden's actions that are destroying their lives are actually good for them.

Those same people look forward to the

things Young and the left fear: Trump will enforce the border walls required by the office and again foster energy independence instead of destroying it. He will not dictatorially use massive amounts of taxpayer money to pay off student debt in order to buy votes. He will make progress in forcing the unelected federal bureaucracy to do its constitutional duty of implementing the policies of the elected officials. He will pursue much needed and legitimate investigations of rogue agencies like the FBI and the Biden family corruption and its ties to China.

Of course the left will accuse Trump of "weaponizing the government to punish critics and opponents," --- those blatantly anti-democratic things Democrats have actually been doing since Trump ran for office. Democrats intend to prevent Americans from voting for a presidential candidate they know they cannot defeat at the ballot box. What could be more destructive to our democracy?

When Trump repeatedly says he wants to make America great again, Democrats take that as a dangerous threat.

They are fine with Biden's subverting Congress, weaponizing the DOJ against political enemies, and traveling around the world with his son collecting kickbacks from foreigners.

Their real fear is that in his second term Trump will be even more successful in making life better for all Americans and reversing the failures and weaknesses of the Biden administration.

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*







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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## WILDLIFE SEASONAL CLOSURES REMINDER

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON-The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District an-

nounces the annual seasonal closure of the Almont Triangle, Flat Top Mountain and Steers Gulch/Antelope areas. "The Gunnison Ranger District would like

to send a friendly reminder regarding the seasonal closures enacted to reduce human interactions with wildlife during critical months, said Gunnison District Ranger Dayle Funka. "These dates and locations are identified to protect critical big game winter range and spring and early summer Gunnison sage grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat."

The following areas are closed to protect the critical winter range for big game species, including bighorn sheep, elk and deer, and lekking and nesting habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse.

- Almont Triangle (closed to all public use from Dec. 1 – April 30)
- Flat Top Mountain (closed to all motorized travel from Jan. 1 – June 16)
- Steers Gulch/ Antelope (closed to motorized travel from Dec. 31 – July 1)

Individuals who are found to violate the wildlife closure are subject to citations and fines. Forest closure information is located [here](#). GMUG motorized travel information is located [here](#).

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

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Este proyecto 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 \$500,000.00 con 0% financiado con fondos no gubernamentales. Los contenidos pertenecen a los autores y no representan la visión oficial de la ARSA, del HHS ni del gobierno de EE. UU. ni deben considerarse una aprobación de su parte. Para obtener más información, visite HRA.gov



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## SMPA NUCLA OFFICE LOBBY REMODEL SCHEDULED FOR 2024

*Special to the Mirror*

RIDGWAY-For years, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has had a goal to modernize its front office interiors for the improved health, safety, and convenience of our members and of our front office staff. With the onset of the global pandemic in 2020, and the subsequent price surges of materials, the projects were delayed. Now, SMPA will follow through on its promise to complete the Nucla office project, improving the business space and affirming our commitment to in-person service and community presence. Features of the new office space will include:

-a fresh, updated atmosphere.

-enhanced security and zone delineation.  
-improved ergonomics to alleviate repetitive work fatigue.

Work on the remodel will begin on Jan. 3, 2024 and is scheduled to continue through February. During this time, the lobby will be closed to the public. However, SMPA will remain open for business, routing all foot traffic to a temporary lobby at the front, west entrance. The alternate en-

trance is about 20 feet to the west. Signs will direct all visitors to the correct spot, where Member Service Representatives will be ready to serve, as usual. SMPA recognizes that this will require an adjustment on the part of our members and we appreciate our members' understanding and flexibility. We look forward to welcoming the membership into our improved lobby when it is finished.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS



## VETERANS CELEBRATE LOUIS 'BABE' FAUSSONE'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

*Photo by Paul Marciank*  
 MONTROSE - Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition board members Kellie Green, Les Williams, Amy Eifling and J. Bob Brueske celebrate Louis "Babe" Faussone's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans Warrior Center last Thursday. Faussone was a sergeant in WWII and said he is a supporter of the proposed Montrose Veterans Plaza.



# WINTER Clothing Drive

**Working with Local Organizations to Help Local Families**

Donate your gently used clothing and home goods to help families in need and create space in your closet. Donations taken at CSU Extension office.

List of items:  
 Pants  
 Shirts  
 Jackets  
 Hats/Scarfs  
 New Socks  
 Shoes  
 Blankets  
 etc...

**Donate by January 19th**



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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### GLENDA MAE COLE

***January 11, 1939 – December 7, 2023***

GLENDMAE (BOOTH) COLE of Olathe, CO passed away in the comfort of family and friends at Colorow Care Center on December 7, 2023. Glenda was born January 11th, 1939, in Colorado Springs, CO to Herman and Thelma Booth. She spent her childhood in Norwood, CO where she met the love of her life, Ivan (Butch) Cole. She graduated from Western State College earning a master's degree in music. Shortly after graduating, Glenda taught school and later, spent many years in business. She enjoyed gardening and attending Church. Her love for music was second only to her love for her Family.

Glenda is survived by her sons Ted Cole and wife Drea of Montrose, and Rocky Cole and wife Debra of Munford, TN, brother Clinton Booth wife Shirlene of Salt Lake City, Utah. Ten grandchildren, many great and great-great-grandchildren. Glenda was preceded in death by her husband Theodore Ivan Cole, twin daughters Tina and Virginia Cole, son Christopher Cole, parents Herman and Thelma Booth, and sister LaRue Catlin.

A memorial service celebrating Glenda's life will be held Saturday, January 13th at 10am at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 21028 Uncompahgre Rd, Montrose, CO 81403.



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

## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **DENNIS "DENNY" PUTNAM** ***March 3, 1934-December 12, 2023***



On December 12, 2023, Dennis (Denny) Putnam finished his earthly journey and passed to his heavenly home. He was born March 3, 1934, in Gunnison, Colo. Soon after, Denny and his folks moved to Phoenix, where a sister and brother were born. In '44 they moved to Prescott, Ariz, where they were all baptized Catholic, and four years later the family moved to Grand Junction, Colo. Times were hard. In discerning a possible vocation, Denny attended seminary his senior year - as he put it, "it was an interesting year," but priesthood was not for him.

After starting college, Denny enlisted in the Air Force in '53, getting his wings in June of '54, assigned to a special weapons transport squadron with a world-wide mission. At the Officers' Club, New Years 1957, Denny met Lonnie. His three-day

courtship soared into a 66-yr marriage, with three children over the next five years. Denny said his true loves were Lonnie, those three kids, and flying (Lonnie says his true love was flying, flying, flying!).

After leaving active duty, Denny attended Univ of Ariz while looking for a flying job. With none available, he was hired by the FAA as an air traffic controller in the Los Angeles Center. Western Airlines hit the jackpot & hired Denny, who gave them 100% over his 23-year career, flying the western United States, rising to the position of captain, even becoming involved in pilot contract negotiations. The family lived in the country in Parker, Colo, in the large home Denny designed and built himself.

Once the children were grown and gone, Lonnie and Denny returned to Denny's childhood town, Prescott, Ariz. They enjoyed years of memorable travel. Especially close to his heart were their trips to Molokai, Hawaii, where Lonnie & Denny were especially blessed by a prayer group in Mauna Loa, and Denny made quite the trek down to Kalaupapa - the leper colony. Many trips were in their own plane, from Alaska to Mexico, and he volunteered flights with Lifeline Pilots and Angel Flight. Sadly, due to his own medical issues, Denny hung up his Western Airlines scarf and goggles in 1984, with a lifetime of almost 30,000 flight hours.

With that door closed, God opened a window, and Denny followed God's call to ordination as a permanent deacon in

1993, and acquired a Masters in Theology along the way. A couple years later, Denny and Lonnie settled in Montrose, Colo, where Denny deaconed at St. Mary Catholic Church and Our Lady of Fatima Mission ... again, giving his 100%, assigned as Parish Director, including the responsibilities of building a new church. For Denny's "dedication and service to the Church," he was honored with a papal award by Pope Benedict in 2007. (Even the Pope thought our dad was a special guy!) After several attempts at retirement, Denny and Lonnie moved last year to Chandler, Ariz, enjoying the sunshine and being close to loving family.

Denny is survived by his wife, Lonnie; their three children, Greg (Candace), Suzanne/Suzy (David), and Sally; four grandchildren, Becca (Luz), Nevada, Bob, and Westen; and Denny's brother, Doug Putnam (Sandra). We would be remiss in not adding his beloved numerous granddogs. Preceding him in death are Denny's mother and father (Mildred Garber Putnam and C.J. "Putt" Putnam) and sister (Debra Putnam Nichols).

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church in Montrose, on December 22, 2023, at 10 a.m. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

Denny was a quiet, generous philanthropist. As such, we would encourage you to make contributions to Angel Flight at [www.angelflight.com](http://www.angelflight.com) or Hospice of the Valley at [www.hov.org](http://www.hov.org) in his memory. Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose is assisting Mr. Putnam's family.

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### JERRY KRAMER

**July 31, 1946-December 9, 2023**



GERALD RAY-MOND "JERRY" KRAMER passed away December 9, 2023 at Hope West Care Center in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was

77 years old.

Jerry was born July 31, 1946 to John A Kramer, Jr. and Alice Miller Kramer in Delta, Colorado. He attended Fairview School in Olathe and graduated from Olathe High School in 1964. After graduation, he studied at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado then, transferred to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado where he graduated with a degree in business administration and agronomy. Later he returned to Olathe to work on the Kramer Family Farm and established Kramer's Farm Market in Olathe. He eventually expanded it to serve the Cortez and Durango

areas.

Later Jerry and his wife Margie moved the family to Oregon where he worked in farm management. Jerry was instrumental in developing new vineyards in eastern Washington state. When he returned to Colorado, he was involved in agricultural consulting and especially enjoyed working with young farmers in the area.

One of his greatest pastimes was ATVing with his Olathe Class of '64+ buddies and close friends. If he wasn't riding the ATV, he was enjoying biking or hiking in Colorado or Arizona. In 2013, he obtained his pilot license and often said, "there isn't anything quite as tranquil as flying." His garden at home was always brimming and his salsa was "famous."

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where he served as usher and Eucharistic minister at Saturday evening mass.

Jerry is survived by his wife Margie of 41 years. His children John A Kramer III of North Platte, Nebraska, Connie (Scott)

Barber of Nunn, Colorado, and Tracy (Tom) Koch of Loveland, Colorado. Grandchildren Sarah Barber of Portland, Oregon and Amanda and Trevor Koch of Loveland, Colorado. Also, his brother Randy (Paula) Kramer of Montrose, Colorado.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Stephen Kramer and John "Buddy" Kramer, daughter Gaile Hill and granddaughter Cassandra Hill.

Rosary and Vigil will be held Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7 pm at Crippin Funeral Home and Chapel. Mass will be held Tuesday, December 19th at 10:00 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose, Colorado. Burial immediately following at Delta Cemetery in Delta, Colorado. Following burial a Celebration of Life luncheon will be provided at St. Mary's Church.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Hope West Care Center, 3090 North 12th, Suite B, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506. Crippin Funeral Home & Crematory of Montrose is assisting Mr. Kramers's family. (970) 249-2121

### DESIREE R COLLINS

**August 13, 1972 – December 7, 2023**

DESIREE R. COLLINS age 51 passed away at her home in Montrose after a short illness surrounded by her loving family. Desiree married Dean Collins on April 16, 2009. Desiree has three children Michael Martinez (Lily), Alex Martinez, and Brianna Hernandez. Dean has three children Curtis Bolton, Rebecca Collins and Jennifer Collins. Like the Brady Bunch, three boys and three girls, 11 grandchildren, numerous cousins, as well as aunts and uncles. Desiree is preceded in death by her parents and sister Ciera. Desiree is survived by one sister Summer, brother Mason, and her stepfather Tom Harne of California.

Desiree's sister Ciera's daughter Aspen Willow came to live with her and Dean at age 8. Desiree loved Aspen and all of the kids and grandkids so much. Desiree always had a kind heart and would help anyone that she could. Desiree always liked joking with people, she always spoke her mind, she never minced words. We all loved Desiree so much. She will be missed. The family would like to give a special thanks to Hopewest for their care. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Hopewest, Montrose.



# COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

## MARCUS "KEITH" CATLIN

MARCUS "KEITH" CATLIN, 91 years old of Montrose, passed away the morning of Sunday, December 10, 2023. Keith, a row-crop farmer on Spring Creek Mesa for over 70 years, has been a pillar of the Montrose community since he and his family moved into the area in 1949 with wife Donna. Keith played a vital role in the agricultural community where he was a member and the President of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association and served as Board President of Chipeta Water. Keith took his talents to serve as member and board member of Montrose/Olathe Producers CO-OP, and was active in the water and soil conservation districts. Notably, Keith was a three-time Governor appointee to the Colorado Water Conservation Board. He was elected to the Montrose County School Board.

Keith and Donna were prolific farmers growing corn, beets, onions, pinto beans, and even lettuce. They were instrumental

in bringing Coors Barley to the valley. Catlins raised Olathe Sweet Corn since its inception and also grew sweet corn seed and certified bean seed. Keith Catlin Farms won numerous awards for high quality and high quantity crops.

As a life-time member of the Montrose Elks Lodge, he and Donna enjoyed dancing to live music for years. The couple danced under the stars at the Arcadia Ballroom with country western greats. They enjoyed snowmobiling and skiing on Dallas Divide. Keith was an expert water-skier and enjoyed his time on the waters in Colorado and Lake Powell.

Keith and Donna were married for over 70 years and raised two sons Marc and Greg. The tight-knit family enjoyed work and adventures on the family farm.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents Roy and Mamie Catlin, brothers Verel and Wallace, wife Donna, and son Greg. Keith is survived by son Marc (Kerri),

daughter-in-law Martha, grandchildren Keith, Kelli, Marcus, Meghan (Zach) Watts, Karson (Tate) Brown, Roy (Melanie), and Hannah; nephew Wallace "Bub" Catlin, nieces Barbara (Catlin) Allen, Phyllis (Catlin) Scott, and six great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to the funeral service Wednesday, December 20th at 2pm, Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Road, with graveside service following at Cedar Creek Cemetery, and reception to follow.



## DONALD NICK DEJULIO

**October 8, 1936-December 11, 2023**

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of Donald Nick DeJulio of Montrose, CO. Donald passed away on Monday December 11th, 2023, surrounded by his loved ones.

Donald was born in Montrose, CO to Josephine and James DeJulio on October 8th, 1936. In February 1964 Donald married Elaine Peterson, they were married for 53 wonderful years. Donald was a proud Italian descendant of a hardworking farming family. His first job was selling cars for Perry Flanagan in Montrose, CO. He then moved to Grand Junction, CO and worked at Franks Lounge bartending and was the manager of the Royal Inn. He met his wife Elaine in Grand Junction, CO and later moved back to Montrose, CO where they purchased the Chipeta Café and DeJulio's Restaurant, Lounge and Nightclub. Donald later opened a bakery at Mike's Market in Montrose, CO and was known for his famous breads and coconut macaroons.

Donald and Elaine were active members of the community and always willing to give a hand to those less fortunate. Donald was a devoted and proud family man.

Donald is preceded in death by his wife Elaine DeJulio, his Father James DeJulio, Mother Josephine DeJulio, and brother Bob DeJulio.

Donald is survived by sister Irene Anders. Children Troy DeJulio, Anthony DeJulio, Nicole and husband Mike Johnston, Angelo DeJulio, and wife Kelley DeJulio. Grandchildren Ashley Roberts, and husband Beau Wildenhain, Alana David and husband Jerad David, Sophia DeJulio, Jackson DeJulio and Jessica Minerich, and Grace DeJulio. Great grandchildren Reese Wildenhain, Reagan Wildenhain, Dawson David, Hudson David, Mason David, and Dani Mae DeJulio.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday December 19th from 6pm – 7pm at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel, with a Rosary to

follow.

Funeral services will be held at 10am Wednesday December 20th in Montrose, CO at St Mary's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at the Montrose Cedar Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose.

The family of Donald wish to extend their sincerest gratitude to Hope West Hospice and his dialysis family at DCI. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Hope West.





ISSUE 449 Dec. 18, 2023

# ART & SOL

## ART MATTERS



By Kate Burke

MONTROSE-It's been said that everybody needs a hobby. Maybe so. It's certainly true that everyone wants an outlet for expression, and for many (most?), a way to share their worldview. Often the means and method for both are analogous.

In today's tumultuous world, where divisiveness reigns and everyone strives, sometimes violently, to take sides, the preferred mechanism for communication is an addictive hobby called *Social Media*. The new "art form?" It's a public platform where you can regurgitate your opinion, bully, bitch, spread hate with intention, trumpet misinformation. Or share joy, positivity, and love with family and Facebook "friends" which, unfortunately, is less contagious and therefore more obscure. Social media messaging is often

used to "prove" the unprovable. Is the world really flat? Does that professed dictator really care about anyone but him (her)self? Do we all love babies, puppies, and kittens?

Social media is based on algorithms. The more you click on a subject, or "like" it, the more of that content will be displayed for you. So, take care with your clicks!

Visiting an art museum today is a personal activity, one selected by choice. (You can change what you "like" any time.) Admiring and viewing art, buying, and possessing art, is a personal visual experience. Your views, visitations, and purchases are only tracked if you sign up for a follow-up information trail (call, text, message, email, WhatsApp, Snapchat, FB message, whatever new communication system comes up tomorrow). You choose to

"opt in" or not.

The desire/need for public commentary has been around since the first caveman chiseled a message on a rock—way before the world-wide-web spread the word.

Whatever their origin, communicative art forms sometimes serve as an impetus to war or insurrection, a demand to damn and destroy anyone who is different. (Art is rarely 'Woke'.) Sometimes art, in all its forms, is welcome and informative: a way of documenting history, depicting how and where people lived, even providing travel directions. Native American *Newspaper Rock* (2,000 years ago) and 11<sup>th</sup> Century Medieval Trade Maps come to mind.

Even before written language, human beings shared beliefs, customs, lifestyles religion, and political views by making art.

*Continued next pg*

# ART MATTERS From previous pg

. They sculpted, painted, drew, and have continued to do so through the ages. Some of artwork is heartwarming and joyous, especially evident during this holiday season. (Sistine Chapel frescos, Michelangelo, 1500s.) *The Birth of Christ* by Paul Gauguin, 1896.) Some of it is frightening, meant to depict horrible punishment for not converting to a certain belief or way of thinking. (*Prometheus Bound* by Peter Paul Rubens, ca 1611).

Art can be pastoral, a pretty story of love and romance, happy people (or cherubs or angels) frolicking in a sunny landscape, picking and eating golden fruit. (Sandro Botticelli, 1400s.) Art can also be a call to arms (*America Wants You*, 1917 poster) or subversive, as in a dictator's (or wannabe dictator's) threat of extreme retribution. Art can be funky, a unique way of looking at something. (Cubism, Surrealism, Impressionism, Pointillism. Works by Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Van Gogh, and others.) Art can be fun, comedy on canvas, cartoons, and today, memes and Bitmojis. Some art, whatever the method, can be disingenuous—a warning for the unprovable, the ship sailing off the edge of the world? (Really? People are still claiming this bogus story is true!) Panhandling misinformation depends on inferior intelligence and lockstep insistence on one opinion only. Great if you're the dictator. Not so great if you're the gullible follower,

whose head could roll at his whim.

Whatever the method and intent, art is an evolving road map—a visual form of storytelling to compel and chronicle. Art history is part fiction, a visual interpretation told from the perspective of the storyteller. Believing the story is in the eye of the beholder. Egyptian art focused on the afterlife, much of it found in tombs. Medieval art was mostly religious and concerned with conveying Christian beliefs and values. Renaissance art, which followed, focused on biblical scenes and contemporary life, often depicting joy and discovery.

Art gives us a detailed picture of how people lived in the past and exist in the present. Art, in drawings, paintings, journals, and more recently, photography, has long been used to document new discoveries, share science, geography, geology, and lifestyle changes. Art mirrors the times in which it was created, and the lives and beliefs of the people who made it. Unlike today's pervasive social media (where artistic creativity and truth in rendering is often suspect), historical art does not force us to view it, we do so by choice...even when its reality is questionable.

Besides viewing and owning it, making art is good for you. Art is a healthy form of creative expression. And while you are making it, an addictive way to escape from

the world. When you pick up a brush, squeeze paint from a tube, splash paint on a canvas, or drop ink onto paper, you lose yourself in the moment. I teach art classes. I see this every day; it's a cosmic experience for many.

"But I'm not creative at all," is a common refrain I hear from my students. Oh, but you are! Everyone has a talent, no matter how obvious or obscure. Embrace it. Open up and let go! Grab a paintbrush, a cookie cutter, bolt of fabric, or a chainsaw and chunk of wood. Make a painting, a cake, a table cover, a wood tree gnome. Make something, and who cares how it turns out. Play with no fear of reprisal or unacceptance. You are not forcing anyone to look at or experience what you made. If they like and admire it, that's wonderful. But bottom line, making art is a personal form of creative expression. It's a "for me" process, a chance to immerse yourself in an activity that can provide joy in the doing regardless of the outcome. You gotta love that!

We are all artists, in once sense or another, and we can all benefit from unleashing the artist within. So, yes, absolutely, art matters. Even more, today, when we need to escape from the mean and dip into the joy that making art gives.

Kate Burke is an artist, art teacher, and publisher of art books. More info on her website <https://kathrynburke.com/>





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# YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – MINDFULNESS VS. MIND-WANDERING



*By Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D.*

*Greetings Mirrorites!*

MONTROSE-These days any internet search for comparing one product with another will have an “A vs B” tags. There may be dozens of them. The idea that pops into the reader's mind is that the reviewer will gauge one to be superior to the other. Sometimes it falls out that way, but sometimes they are equal in value, but for different purposes and different reasons. Such is the case with mindfulness as opposed to mind wandering.

It is tempting to immediately assign a negative value to mind wandering that harkens back to our school days. Paying attention was demanded, and mind wandering disapproved of, corrected, or even punished. In that particular venue, mind wandering is not ideal. But there are other life situations where it is just the ticket, and even the best modality, at least for a while.

Mind-wandering that makes it hard to read a book or that results in abandoning a task in favor of ruminating upon some life situation is not what I will be referring to here, but rather the non-self focused type that results in creative thinking and new insights. Mindfulness meditation tends to activate certain parts of the brain, while mind wandering involves others. Both processes are dependent upon connectivity traffic between the central executive network (CEN) and the default mode network (DMN). I've written about the DMN a great deal in this column because



*Photo courtesy of Canadian photographer Jad. M.*

of the beneficial effects of nature on this particular brain function.

In true A vs. B fashion, mind wandering and mindfulness are somewhat opposed to each other. When adherence to a thought or task is required, we need to engage the CEN. This is the process that helps keep us on track, but can exclude insights and outside-the-box problem solving. Mind wandering of a useful, inspiring sort has been shown to be what brain geeks call ‘anti-correlation’ with the CEN. It's sort of like a teeter totter. When the DMN is up, the CEN is down, and visa versa. A balanced daily brain drain requires both for optimal functioning.

So one is not inherently better than the other, but one may be more necessary under certain circumstances than the other. For instance, folks with ADHD might need to be cautious with activities that encourage too much activity in the DMN. Their brains already tend to spend too little time and energy in the CEN, which is what makes adherence to tasks and personal self-regulation challenging. Activities that engage, but do not exhaust, the CEN, are advised. In this case, time relaxing in nature may not be the best option, but rather adventure sports in nature such as

climbing, backcountry skiing, or even vigorous downhill skiing will provide more balance. The number of Bear Grylls type of thrill seekers I have met while associated with hang gliding groups (which I have never actually done, but I was an awesome driver, meteorologist, and navigator for those flitting above the ground) far outnumbers those who also enjoyed seeking quiet contemplation on a park bench feeding the squirrels. In fact, there is a fun article in Outside Magazine entitled [“ADHD Is Fuel for Adventure”](#) by fellow nature writer Florence Williams that parents of home-bound winter holiday break kids may find enlightening. Once the physically challenging, risky, and stimulating adventure has been concluded, the neurodiverse adventurer may find mindfulness meditation to be the answer for the greatest productivity for the day.

Conversely, people with symptoms of dementia, Parkinson's, certain types of epilepsy, and anyone under chronic stress need to consider plenty of the sort of time in nature that ques the processes involved in the DMN. In each of these conditions, it now appears to researchers that it's not the activity of the DMN itself that is most important, but the coupling.

*Continued next pg*



# MINDFULNESS VS. MIND-WANDERING From previous pg

OK, now get your mind out of the gutter. In this context, coupling refers to neural connectivity. The most recent research in this area has indicated that it is connectivity, rather than activity, that makes the difference in beneficial brain change.

Time in nature with natural sights and sounds seems to increase the DMN connectivity with certain other regions, one of which is responsible for how we perceive touch. This may be why natural wood and stone haptic elements in the home to invoke a sense of 'hygge' (see previous *Mirror* article) is important. Mind wandering during this process of DMN reaching out

and touching other regions, also strengthens contacts with attentional and visual brain regions.

It seems that time in nature doesn't prevent us from paying attention, we just pay attention to different things in different ways than the executive part of our brains has evolved for.

At this point in winter when we may be getting a little stressed or bored or depressed, listening to the sounds of nature, even indoors via recordings, and letting the mind wander to sunnier times, can be very beneficial.

It's not wise nor productive to dwell on

whether fussy Aunt Milly will criticize your choice of dessert yet again, but rather let the mind wander into the vast expanses of international flavors that will really blow her mind next year if she does, the old bag.

But if that isn't *your* bag, and you really need some action to keep from clocking a socially inept relative or co-worker, then get out the snowshoes, skis, or climbing gear and hang a sign on your departing back that tells people you will be back when you mindfully well feel like it!

Happy and relaxed holidays to you,  
LHR



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**Lighthouse Eatery**  
970-964-7570

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970-249-0433

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970-249-7427

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970-240-8899

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970-249-0616

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970-765-0129

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**Loretta B.**

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Thank you for making it a  
nice place to live.





# 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-<br/>don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

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

week prayer and communion, Wednesday, Noon, Multi-denominational Community 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 ministry 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 Sunday 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](http://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](mailto:celebrationmontrose@gmail.com)

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Pastor Brandon Mathis

**Church Description/Mission:** Celebration Church makes disciples that make disciples. 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 Sundays

**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) Celebration Group: Thursdays @ 5:30pm off campus location

Celebrate Recovery: Friday nights @ 6:30pm

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Denomination:** Christ Lutheran Montrose

**Affiliation:** Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

**Address:** 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

**Contact:** 970-633-0226

**Website:** [www.montroselutheran.org](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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 welcoming environment being comforted and encouraged 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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com), [www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)

**Pastor:** Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.*

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

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian

**Address:** 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.

81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM -

12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, [\[form@fpcmontrose.com\]\(mailto:form@fpcmontrose.com\),](mailto:in-</a></p>
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[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)

**Pastor:** Jesse Mabanglo

**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to encourage, challenge and support one another*

*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 ministries.*

# 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](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

[roseumc.org](http://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 den-*

*tures. 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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
 email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto: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](mailto:arlyn@spiritaware.org),  
[www.spiritaware.org](http://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](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com)

website: [www.summitchurchmontrose.org](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org);

website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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](http://www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations) for updated information on immunization providers.

**Questions? Call (970) 252-5011**

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## YES, V, THERE IS STILL LOVE, DEVOTION, GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS

by CB Williams

MONTROSE—On Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1897, *The Sun* of New York, published a beautiful editorial written by then-anonymous Francis P. Church, according to Library of Congress records.

The rather short editorial was a response to a question offered by eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, "Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

In his response, Church assured Virginia (she would probably be called just V today) that Santa Claus exists "...as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

Nobody sees Santa, he said, but that is no sign that there is no Santa, so this writer set out to see what usual and unusual evidence there is that these great qualities attributed to Santa still exist in Montrose today.

**To start: An abundance of kindness, goodness shared by churches this season** Love, devotion, generosity and kindness abound in the more than 70 churches in Montrose which have been spreading these messages throughout the year. But because of the secularization of Santa, it is often forgotten that he is based on the Greek Bishop St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas, according to [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org), was raised by wealthy parents as a devout Christian, and when his parents died, he obeyed Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor."

He used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering and was known for his generosity to those in need and his love for children.

So, what are some usual and unusual happenings in our churches this wondrous season?

There are services—many services—all day long on Christmas Eve. There are early services like 9 a.m. at [Summit Church](#), 10997 6075 Rd, and [St. Mary Catholic Church](#), as well as 4 p.m. services.

St. Mary, at 1855 St. Mary's Dr. (off Niagara), will also have a Midnight Mass.

Four services will be offered at [Grace](#)

[Community Church](#) on Sunday—11 a.m., and 2, 4 and 6 p.m. Unusual? Grace will have trolley rides!

Also unusual...Wonderful blessings of light, healing and hope will be shared at the Service of the Longest night at [First Presbyterian Church](#), 1840 E Niagara, on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m. As the church shares, "For many people the Christmas season is a time of joy and celebration. But for others this season is bittersweet due to a loss of a loved one, loneliness, financial difficulties, family being far away or life being overwhelming." This service is open to the whole community.

On Dec. 22 the Abundant Life Church, 2430 Niagara Rd., will host a Christmas Harps and Hammers Ensemble Concert at 3 p.m. That sounds unusual. Who knew there is a whole website—[harpshammers.com](http://harpshammers.com)—on dulcimer and such performances in Montrose? Contact [robinreed@harpshammers.com](mailto:robinreed@harpshammers.com) for more information.

Also check out Facebook pages and websites of other churches for their many, many Christmas offerings.

**Meanwhile, over at The Shepherd's Hand, V...**

At The Shepherd's Hand, 505 S. Second St., the entire mission is assisting those who need a helping hand. It is usual for them to feed about 50 participants for lunch and 30 for breakfast, according to Abbie Brewer, executive director, as well as provide clothing, hygiene supplies and a link to their partner Montrose Light-house, an emergency overnight shelter. Participants are mostly the homeless of Montrose, she said.

Although every day brings something new at Shepherd's Hand, Brewer said lately they are working on something quite unusual.

"One thing we see is that our participants have pets," she said, "because they are often alone these pets (often a dog) are



their support people." Because they cannot let the pets into The Shepherd's Hand while they are serving meals, the pets are often left outside with a friend.

One of The Shepherd's Hand volunteers, Jan Waterman, began looking into ways to help care for the pets who visit the facility, Brewer said. This sent them on a mission.

The kind people at Chow Down Pet Supplies, Brewer said, donated some kennels to house the pets while their people are inside eating. The Shepherd's Hand is working out how to use the kennels.

Brewer said they are also looking into installing a camera outside so the participants can see their pets while they are enjoying food and companionship inside.

Waterman has been instrumental in setting this up and Brewer said donations for [The Shepherd's Hand](#) Pet Fund can be made online or in person. There are a lot of needs in this area, such as vet bills, food, and more.

A bit unusual, dinner will be served at The Shepherd's Hand on Christmas from 11-2 p.m., Brewer said. Founder and former executive director Garey Martinez will be cooking, she said, and there will be a number of volunteers serving. If you look around The Shepherd's Hand, you will find the Bible verses Matthew 25:35-37 being carried out on a daily basis.

**Providing a place of giving and receiving kindness...**

Not far away from The Shepherd's Hand is another organization brimming with

*Continued next pg*

## YES, THERE IS STILL LOVE, DEVOTION, GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS From previous pg



**Tina Lemus, US Army veteran, helps Babe Faussonne celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last Thursday at the Warrior Resource Center. Photo by Paul Marciank.**

love, devotion, generosity and kindness. It is even mentioned in the Montrose Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, mission statement: "... provides a place of giving and receiving kindness, where anyone can 'support the troops' in whatever way they can."

Whether that is hosting a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Louis "Babe" Faussonne, who served as a sergeant in the US Army during WWII (unusual) or—as usual—serving coffee to dozens of veterans every Thursday morning, WHAFV is there to help.

April Heard, US Army veteran and executive director of the WHAFV, said something unusual happens there every day, along with so many acts of random kindness.

One story that stood out from others was a "regular" attendee who recently had a stroke and the WHAFV was there to help him with assistance to move to a Denver-area assisted living facility.

"We helped him obtain his birth certificate, and with rent supplement, household fees, including cell phone reconnection and a rent deposit," Heard said. Those were not that unusual—the WHAFV often helps with those types of things—but Heard inferred it was a bit of an effort in this case.

What was quite unusual in this circum-



**April Heard, Amy Eifling and Kellie Green, staff of WHAFV, with Babe Faussonne. Courtesy Photo.**

stance was that the veteran's brother donated \$5,000 back to the WHAFV to help others in that type of situation.

"That's a gift," she said. Unexpected.

Earlier this year, Heard said a veteran from the Cortez area was traveling through and ended up needing a hand up. "He's building some type of engine museum in his barn," Heard said. Unusual.

"He traveled to Delta to pick up an engine from a shutdown power plant," she continued, "and he had picked it up and was headed back when his truck broke down around Montrose." He had no funds to cover the repair or other expenses.

She said he somehow got the vehicle to Turner Chevrolet and the driver there knew about the WHAFV and brought him to the Warrior Resource Center. Turner and other shops about town are well known for the kindness shown by this service—many times needed in times of distress. (This writer has had several kindnesses shown by the driver from Turner Toyota.)

After being dropped off at the WHAFV, the veteran walked in and started to tell his story at the front desk. Another veteran nearby heard part of the story and just reached in his wallet and pulled out \$20. He handed the veteran in need the money and just went on his way.

The WHAFV worked with the Cortez chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and helped the Cortez vet with a place to stay for five days, vehicle repair fees, meals, etc., Heard said. (Did I mention there is a

local woman who drops off 10-15 Mac-Donald's gift cards every year at the WHAFV and the Elk's Club gives them City Market gift cards for just this type of situation?)

Heard, other staff members and volunteers at the WHAFV hear words of gratitude often. Usual. What stood out to Heard about this veteran's story and the impact it made, she said, was when he said to her, "Your kindness has helped keep me out of a very dark place and you have no idea how grateful I am."

"You never know what someone is going through or what they have been through," she continued, "It is not that hard to show kindness to each other. Just a little kindness could make such a huge difference in someone's life."

Heard suggests all of us pay special attention this season to those who are alone this time of year, and show a little extra kindness.

"Adopt a lonely veteran, or take gifts to a veteran's children." She said the WHAFV has a list of needs and folks can call (970) 765-2210 to learn more. Donations can be made to this kind and giving organization at <https://www.whafv.org/>

### And more...

It is usual that [Cobble Creek Angel Tree](#) has been providing clothing, shoes, coats, toys, games, etc. for children at Christmas time. They have been doing that for approximately 20 years. It is maybe not unusual but heart-warming that the Montrose High School Track Team sent out messages raising funds this year for the project. Young people all over Montrose are doing kind and good things.

There also are real stories—signs of love and generosity and devotion—from all walks of life around the area that often are not heard, and the sights often are not seen. Like the story of volunteers who give rides to cancer patients from Gunnison to facilities in Montrose because they cannot get the treatments they need in Gunnison. So, yes, V, in the words of Francis Church, "The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see..." Goodness lives on.



# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## A NEW THERAPY DOG TEAM QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL CERTIFICATION THROUGH ALLIANCE OF THERAPY DOGS

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Sue Schmidt, tester for Alliance of Therapy Dogs, congratulates Berni Cassidy and her Labradoodle Lacy on their successful completion of the "handling test" required before they can become nationally certified through Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Once all paperwork is filed and approved, the newly-certified team will be able to visit nursing homes, the library, the hospital, area schools, and other facilities in the Montrose area to "share smiles and joy."

If you are interested in learning more about the rewarding volunteer opportunity of doing therapy work with your dog, Morningstar Therapy Dogs (a local Montrose group), can help you get started. Contact Vanessa 970-729-2528, Paula 970-201-6369, or Joy 970-240-1561.



## AND THE WINNER IS...



*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-The friends of the Ute Indian Museum would like to announce and congratulate Dennis Erickson, the winner of the "Spirit Bear Fishing Vessel" raffle drawing.

Dennis grew up in Montrose and has many fond memories of the museum over the years. Dennis has supported and shopped at the museum. He was attending the annual art show on December 3rd when he bought his raffle tickets and was surprised that he had won this fabulous prize. Dennis and his wife Mary have decided that the perfect placement for the Spirit Vessel will be at their mountain cabin where they do have many bears in the area.

Robert Behr and Leah Rollins were the artist/sculptor that created this piece of art valued at approximately \$6,000.

The family that donated the "Spirit Bear Fishing Vessel" had a desire to help the friends of the Ute raise money for some of their special programming. The money raised will go towards cultural programs, the ethnobotany gardens located on the opposite side of Chipeta Road, partial scholarship money for children to attend day-camps and special programs for the community appreciation day to name just a few.

We would like to sincerely thank the community and everybody involved, especially all of those who bought tickets that made this a successful raffle drawing and again offer our congratulations to the Ericksons.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## NATHAN PULLIAM NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S LIST AT BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

*Special to Art & Sol*

GREENVILLE, SC-- Nathan Pulliam, a Junior Christian Ministries major from Montrose, was among approximately 680 Bob Jones University students named to the Fall 2023 President's List.

The President's List recognizes students who earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average for the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, [Bob Jones University](#) provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business. BJU has over 3,000 students from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. We are committed to the truth of Scripture and to pursuing excellence in all we do.

## TAYSHEN AUTOMOTIVE DONATES MORE THAN \$3000 TO VETERAN'S ORGANIZATIONS



*Special to Art & Sol*

**MONTROSE**-The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 784, the American Legion Post 73 and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17 would like to thank Tayshen Automotive in Delta for their most generous donation of over \$3000. The owner of Tayshen Automotive, Jami Taylor, is a true patriot and a Blue Star Mom. Not only did Tayshen donate to the three national organizations, they also asked their consumers to sign a card for a Veteran and gave a gift bag to all their Veteran customers. The VFW, American Legion and the DAV would like to express our sincere appreciation and full praise for services rendered to the community and for their unwavering support for Veterans.

Left to right Dave Vergamini American Legion Commander, Fred Schafer DAV representative, Jami Taylor owner Tayshen Automotive, J. Bob Brueske VFW Commander

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### DELTA HEALTH AWARDED RURAL PROVIDER GRANT FOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM UPGRADE

#### *Special to Art & Sol*

DELTA— Delta Health is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$650,000 grant through the State of Colorado's Rural Provider Access and Affordability Stimulus Grant Program. The grant is allocated to support the enhancement of Delta Health's electronic health record (EHR) system by adding an oncology module, a hospital-wide scheduling module, and a blood bank module. These upgrades will address critical issues in care coordination by facilitating real-time information sharing across various departments and care settings.

"This grant will be pivotal in advancing patient safety and the quality of care we provide by improving the capabilities of our electronic health record," stated Julie Huffman, Interim CEO and Chief Legal Officer. "By integrating these modules into our current EHR system, we will enhance patient care and outcomes by eliminating existing paper-based processes."

The scheduling and blood bank modules will extend their benefits hospital-wide,

providing shared analytics and care coordination platforms. The software module will have improved lab workflow and efficiency.

The scheduling module will bring operational efficiency to Delta Health, streamlining check-in processes, and facilitating cross-departmental scheduling. This enhancement is vital for managing care, allowing Delta Health to process patients more efficiently and create a more cohesive care model.

"The implementation of an Oncology module will provide our Oncology and Infusion departments with one streamlined system. It will deliver a comprehensive scheduling module while integrating the key departments to provide the exclusive care for the unique needs of our patient population," stated Nysha Wilson, RN Director of Oncology and Hematology and Infusion. "With these enhancements, we will quickly be able to address care coordination concerns."

The Rural Provider Access and Affordability Stimulus Grant Program, a crucial initia-

tive to improve healthcare access and affordability in rural areas, recognizes the importance of supporting qualified hospitals.

Delta Health expresses its gratitude to State Representative and Delta Health Board member, Matt Soper, a key figure in the creation of this grant opportunity. Serving as a prime sponsor to the Bill that allocated funds for rural healthcare, Soper's dedication to the well-being of our community has been instrumental.

"I was proud to be a prime sponsor of the Bill that created the Rural Provider Access and Affordability Stimulus Grant Program in 2020 and very pleased to have successfully added an amendment to the Long Bill which provided an additional \$1 million to the Program to help rural hospitals like Delta Health," said Soper.

Delta Health remains committed to advancing healthcare in the region and believes that these upgrades will significantly contribute to the overall improvement of patient care, accessibility, and affordability.

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# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING-

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

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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

**Dec. 24**-Hillcrest Congregational United Church of Christ presents Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 7pm 611 South Hillcrest Drive.





## READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



*PARADOX VALLEY, UTAH-Deb Reimann snapped this photo of Utah's beautiful La Sal Mountains from Paradox Valley. The name of this range dates to Spanish times meaning the 'Salt Mountains,' Reimann said.*

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