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the Montrose Mirror

CANNONBALL!



Cannon Phillips has opened Cannonball Candy and Soda at 14 South Uncompahgre in Montrose.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE—This year, there's no need to wait for Valentine's Day to get a little sweet--just head over to 14 South Uncompahgre in Montrose, where Cannon Phillips has realized his longtime dream of opening a candy store—Cannonball Candy and Soda Shop. From giant jawbreakers and candy necklaces to modern freeze-dried sweets, the little shop has all kinds of fun choices for candy.

"I want to make it fun for everyone!" Phillips said. "We're going to be carrying [Brown Chicken](#), [Brown Cow Ice Cream](#) from Ouray."

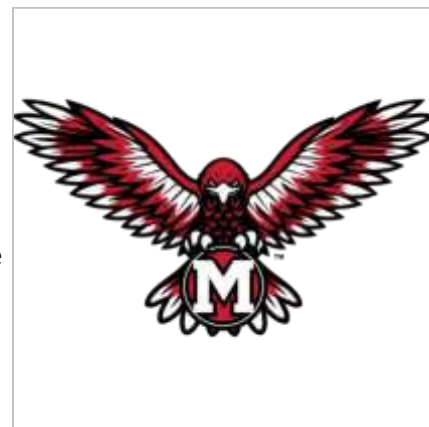
There's soda pop as well, with hard-to-find flavors and popular favorites. Cannonball Candy and Soda Shop opened at the end of October; stop by when you're in the neighborhood! The shop is located at 14 South Uncompahgre and can be reached by phone at 970-209-9252.

RED HAWK BOYS SPLIT ROAD DOUBLEHEADER

By Cliff Dodge

FRUITA-MONUMENT 49, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 34

After a two game home stand the Montrose Red Hawks embarked on a two game road odyssey that began with a trip to Fruita-Monument last Tuesday. The Wildcats prevailed over the Red Hawks 49 to 34. The Red Hawks fell behind by the score of 6 to 2 right out of the game but recovered to tie the score 10 to 10 at the end of the first quarter of play. Things started to go downhill as the speed and athleticism of the Wildcats began to assert itself. The Red Hawks trailed by the score of 25 to 17 at the half way point. The third quarter saw the Red Hawks down by a dozen points and ultimately ended up on the losing end of a 49 to 34. In a conversation last week with head coach Ryan Voehringer, he pointed out that in his estimation the Wildcats were the favorites to control the league due to athleticism, speed, and good coaching. Coach Voehringer was correct, the Wildcats exhibited strength on the boards, an athletic offense and had speed to disrupt the Red Hawks offensive efforts. Eight Red Hawks got their names on the score sheet. Junior Kaleb Ferguson led the Red Hawks in scoring with 10 points and in rebounding with five caroms. Junior Brekin Hutto added 8 points and two rebounds. Sophomore C.J. Rocco chipped in 5 points while senior Jaxon Killen contributed 4 points including a basket from behind the three-point line. Killen also had four rebounds. The Red Hawks passed out four assists, captured nine steals and turned the basketball over to the Wildcats 19 times. The



[Continued pg 8](#)

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MAPA PRESENTS 'DECODING YOUR DOG' ON FEB. 10

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-MAPA (Montrose Animal Protection Agency) will present their 2nd Adult education class of 2024, "Decoding your Dog," on Saturday, Feb. 10th. The class will be held from 9:30-11 AM at the Montrose Animal Shelter, 3383 N. TOWNSEND AVE.

The presenter will be Kerri Haag, Certified Dog Trainer. General tips and guidelines will be given, and there should be time for a question and answer session to address particular problems.

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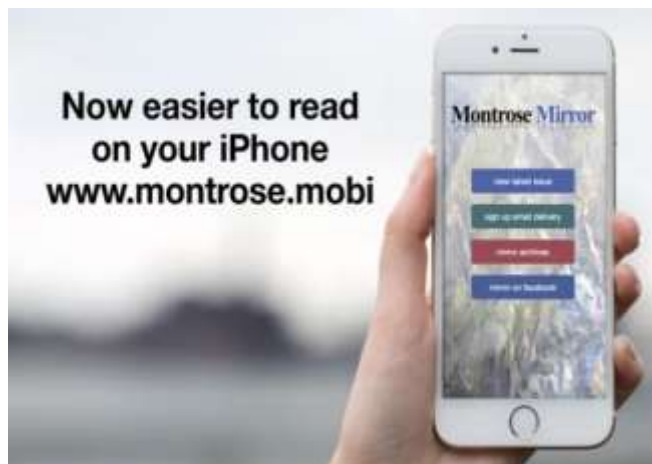
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY TO MEET FEB. 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Monday Feb. 5 at 5pm. Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose Safety Complex mtg rm 434 S 1st. Progress on local Climate Action Plan similar to adjacent counties. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome. info 970-765-9095



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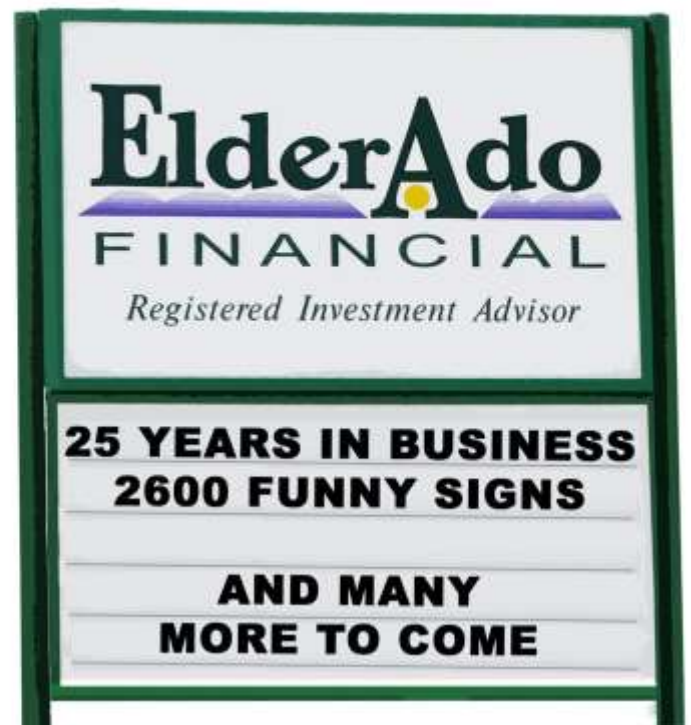
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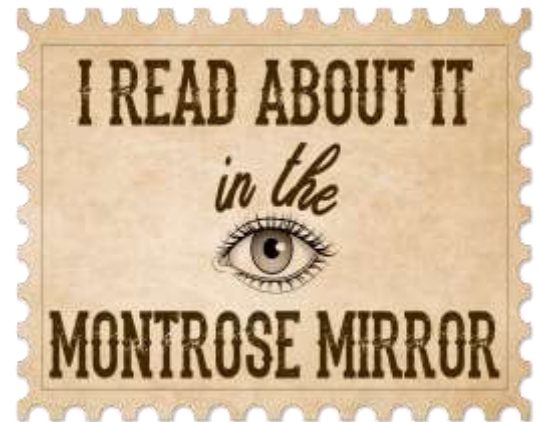


CHARTER CLOSES MONTROSE STORE



Photo by Gail Marvel

MONTROSE-Spectrum has stated that it has officially closed its Montrose store (117 Par Place) on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE ENDORSE SCOTT RIBA FOR MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

To the Citizens of Montrose County:

As citizens of Montrose County we endorse Scott Riba for Montrose County Commissioner District 3. We have known Scott Riba for a long time and respect his straightforward approach and honesty. He tells it like it is.

The Montrose County commissioner race for District 3 is critical. This county needs a commissioner who understands business, who has the best interests of the county and its citizens as his focus and is willing to stand up and dig in his heels to see that decisions made by the county benefit our citizens in the best possible way. He will not be a "yes" man but a voice to be heard. No one can satisfy all the people all the time. But Scott Riba will do his best to represent you in a positive manner.

Please join with us and support Scott Riba in the upcoming election for Montrose County Commissioner District 3.

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Deb Lillard, Montrose

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RED HAWK BOYS SPLIT ROAD DOUBLEHEADER From pg 1

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Red Hawks shot 25 percent from downtown (3 for 12) and 50 percent (11 for 22) from the 2 point area.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 56, DURANGO DEMONS 46

The second half of the two game road trip completely reversed the outcome on Friday evening as the Red Hawks invaded the home of the Durango Demons and came away victorious by the score of 56 to 48. The Red Hawks raced out to a 10 – 0 lead and eventually led 17 to 10 after the first period of play. The Red Hawks kept the pedal to the metal throughout the rest of the contest and led by a wide margin the rest of the way. The Red Hawks offense outscored the Demons by 10 points and 12 points in the second and third quarters. Two juniors, Kaleb Ferguson and Brekin Hutto, led the scoring with 15 and 12 points respectively. The pair also had eight and five rebounds. Junior Brody Cooling and senior Jaxon Kattner added 9 and 8 points to the total. Red Hawk shooters connected on 3 of 10 shots from downtown and managed 15 of 22 shots from two point range (68 percent). The Red Hawks passed out 11 assists, came up with six steals and only turned the basketball over to the opposition 13 times. The Red Hawks stingy man-to-man defense gave the Demons difficulty all evening, the Demons' attempts at pressing the Red Hawks did not work well, and the Red Hawks scored several easy baskets off of their press.

The next action for the Red Hawks will be two home games on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and Friday, Feb. 2. The Grand Junction Central Warriors invade on Tuesday, while the Grand Junction Tigers provide the opposition on Friday. Tip off for both games is scheduled for 7 p.m.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

REP MARC CATLIN MAKES COLORADO HISTORY WITH 4TH APPOINTMENT AS AG VICE-CHAIR

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Monday, January 22, 2024, marked Representative Marc Catlin's first day as Vice-Chair of the House Committee of Reference on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources for the 74th General Assembly's Second Session. The [reappointment](#) was finalized by the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, [Julie McCluskie](#), on January 12, 2024. Representative Catlin is the first member in history, of the minority party, to be appointed to a leadership role for a committee of reference, which is traditionally reserved for the majority party. The honor of being recognized as Vice-Chair has been received under two separate Speakers and

two different Colorado General Assemblies. The House Ag Committee generally considers matters concerning water, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation. The committee also has legislative oversight responsibility for the departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Representative Catlin said, "It is an honor to be reappointed to Vice-Chair of the House Ag Committee. Now, there is work to do for the people of Colorado. This year's session is expected to bring major legislation for water and agriculture. It is important that western Colorado has a voice at the table in these discussions."

Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin represents the eight counties of

Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. Representative Catlin Vice Chairs Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee and is Ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.



*Rep. Marc Catlin
Courtesy photo.*



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE TO HOST ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will be hosting its annual Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) and Taylor Park Vegetation Management (Taylor Park EA) combined stakeholder meeting Thursday, Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event will be hosted at the Pavilion Events Center in Montrose, Colorado, with an option for virtual attendance via Zoom. SBEADMR, a forest wide project and Taylor Park EA, a project located on the Gunnison Ranger District, allows for commercial and non-commercial vegetation treatments. Both projects respond to forest health concerns and strive to increase the forest's ability to respond to multiple and interactive stressors including climate change, drought, insect attack and disease.

All interested members of the public are invited to attend this year's annual stakeholder meeting and interact with personnel from GMUG's Staff and Science Teams. This year's meeting will include a discussion on GMUG insect and disease updates, science team monitoring findings and updates and an overview of future SBEADMR and Taylor Park EA projects.

Following the meeting will be the annual 30-day informal public comment period for both projects. Colorado University will host the virtual meetings at the following Zoom link: <https://western.zoom.us/j/95630071779>. Full event details and agenda will be posted on the [CFRI-SBEADMR website](#) and the [Center for Public Lands website](#).

For more information on SBEADMR, visit <http://bit.ly/GMUGSBEADMR> or <https://cfri.colostate.edu/projects/sbeadmr/>. For more information on the Taylor Park EA, visit <https://www.centerforpubliclands.org/cpl/taylor-park>. For questions, contact Carlyn Perovich, GMUG Ecologist, at carlyn.perovich@usda.gov. For information and updates on current fire restrictions, conditions, and recreation opportunities on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, visit the [forest website](#). Connect with us on social media ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

RED HAWKS DROP OPENER, WIN NIGHTCAP ON TWO GAME ROAD TRIP

By Cliff Dodge

FRUITA-MONUMENT 35, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 22

The Montrose Red Hawks ran into a red hot Fruita-Monument girls' basketball team on Tuesday evening and fell to the home standing Wildcats by the score of 35 to 22. The Wildcats held the lead throughout the contest and did most of their damage in the second and fourth quarters. The Red Hawks trailed by one point after the first canto but were outscored 9-2 in period number two. The two teams played even in period three but were outscored 11 to 6 in the fatal fourth quarter. Senior Taygan Rocco led the Red Hawk scorers with 7 points. She was followed by sophomore Maggie Legg who scored 5 points and collected two rebounds. Sophomore Mayce Oberg tallied 4 points and six rebounds. The Red Hawks had 3 assists and 6 steals to go along with turning the basketball over to the Wild-

cats 22 times.


MONTROSE RED HAWKS 38, DURANGO DEMONS 23

The Montrose Red Hawks jumped back on the winning track on Friday evening as they journeyed to Durango and took apart the Lady Demons 38 to 23. Unlike the Tuesday game the Red Hawks jumped out to a lead in the first period and never relinquished it. The Red Hawks led 10 to 5 after the initial action. The second period was even as both teams scored 3 points. Most of the action occurred in the second half of the game as the Red Hawks dominated the third quarter 13 to 6 and the fourth quarter 12 to 9 which made the final score the Red Hawks 38, the Demons 23. The Red Hawks turned up the heat on defense as their tight-fisted man-to-man defense gave the Demons a good deal of trouble, as the Red Hawks press. Senior Taygan Rocco led the Red Hawks scoring parade with 15 points. She was followed

by Sophomore Mayce Oberg with 12 points. Sophomore Maggie Legg also contributed 5 points to the scoring parade.

Mayce Oberg led the way with six rebounds while 8 other Red Hawks figured in the rebounding statistics. The Red Hawks passed out nine assists, had seven steals and turned the basketball over to the opposition 17 times. The Red Hawks shot 25 percent from behind the 3-point arc and 39 percent from two-point range. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 12 wins against just 4 losses. The Red Hawks evened their league record to 2 wins and 2 losses with the victory over the Demons.

Two home games are on the schedule for this week. On Tuesday the Red Hawks play host to the Grand Junction Central Warriors and then on Friday the opposition will be the Grand Junction Tigers. Tip off time for both games will be at 5:30 p.m.




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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NUVISTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AND BLACK CANYON ROTARY HOST THE 7TH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REALITY FAIR IN MARCH

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On Thursday, March 7 the Montrose School District, NuVista Federal Credit Union, and Black Canyon Rotary will host the 2024 Financial Reality Fair at the Montrose High School gymnasium. This will be the 7th year that this fun and educational event will be held for high school seniors from the Montrose County School District.

The event is expected to bring more than 350 students together from Montrose High School, Olathe High/Middle School, Black Canyon High School, PEAK Academy, and VISTA Charter School.

The Financial Reality Fair is a half-day event which has consistently and effectively taught our community's high school seniors how to handle money in a real-world experiment. Through a safe and interactive App called "Bite of Reality" each student is assigned a hypothetical

life, including a spouse and child, job, income, credit score, and student loan. Each student must then go shopping for their family and choose between pricing options for groceries, furniture, childcare, transportation, housing, utilities, household needs, clothing, personal care, entertainment and more. Once students exceed their budget, they need to visit the credit union to get a loan and receive a lesson on budgeting.

This interactive activity will teach teens how to make financial decisions and give them a better understanding of the challenges of living on a budget. Students will have to deal with a pushy "car salesperson" and a commission-based "realtor," and weigh their wants versus their needs. There's even a "Fickle Finger of Fate" that will give the students unexpected "expenses" or "windfalls"—just like in real life.

In the past, participating students have thoroughly enjoyed the event. They can earn prizes and continue to explore financial education in the hopes of winning one of our \$1,000 scholarships.

Many Montrose businesses and organizations show their support of this event through sponsorships ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

Additionally, the event attracts more than 50 volunteers from the school district and participating sponsors. The event will be held from 9am – Noon at the Montrose High School gym and is free to graduating seniors attending a Montrose County School District school.

The Bite of Reality App is offered exclusively to credit unions by the RMJ Foundation.

More information about the Bite of Reality program can be found at www.rmjfoundation.org.

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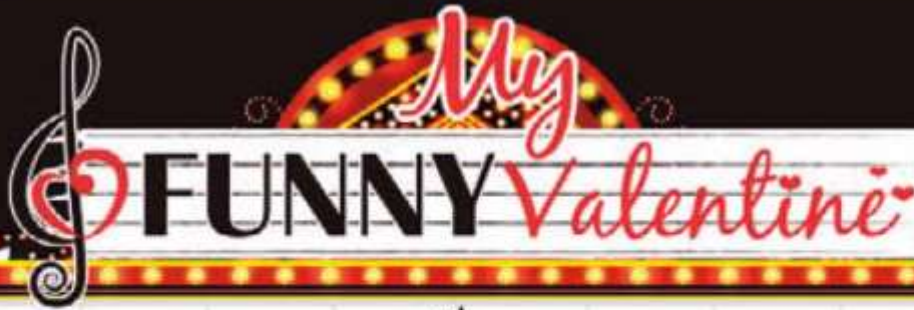
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WEDNESDAY, FEB 7

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

HELP US FILL KEITH STEVENS' SHOES - PORT OF ENTRY IS HIRING - APPLY TODAY

By Trooper Gabriel Moltzer & Sgt. Troy Kessler
COLORADO-Port of Entry Officer Keith Stevens is retiring after 34 years. People don't commit that much of their life to a cause they don't believe in. Keith has served Colorado faithfully since August of 1989. During those years, Keith inspected thousands of trucks between his time at the Loma Port of Entry and during his time on the mobile unit.

One way we know Keith saved lives and is very proud of is when he took drivers operating huge trucks, capable of taking many lives in one swoop, off the road. As Keith put it, "I am proud that over the years I have contacted drivers that were intoxicated, fatigued, or using illegal drugs and getting them off the road, and parking trucks and trailers with serious mechanical issues until they were repaired."

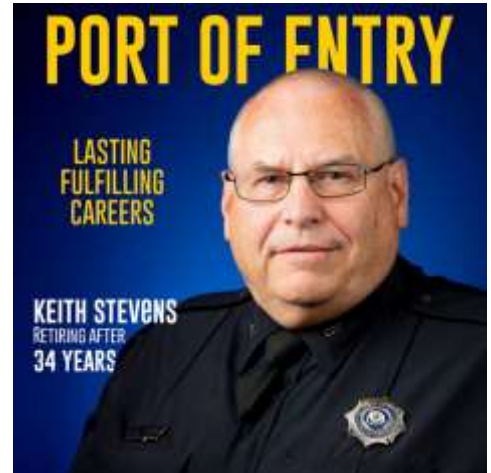
Keith was not just proud of the enforcement actions he was able to take, but he enjoyed and is proud to say he dedicated

extra time to educate drivers and their companies about rules and regulations.

This career is extremely rewarding, and although it may sound cliché, we really save lives. Thank you, Keith, for your faithful and unwavering service to the people of Colorado. We wish you the very best in your retirement.

How about you? Are you or do you have friends or family looking for a change of pace in their career? Are they wanting to make a difference to keep our roads and families safe, just like Keith?

Apply by Jan. 31, 2024 at 5pm to become a Port of Entry Officer! Positions are open in Ft Collins, Ft Morgan, Limon, Lamar, Trinidad, Loma, Dumont, Cortez and Monument. We need you and we want to sweeten the deal. We're offering a hiring bonus of \$1,500 with your final offer, and then another \$1,500 after completing one year of service! And an extra \$3,000 in your pocket is not a bad way to start.



As Smash Mouth said in the late 90's, "Don't delay, act now" as the application closes on January 31, 2024 at 5:00 pm MST. So do or do not, there is no try-ing. Visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado/jobs/4267123/colorado-state-patrol-port-of-entry-officer-intern> for more information.



ELECT RICK DUNLAP

For
MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
District #3

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TO ALL OF MONTROSE COUNTY**

I Need Your Support!

The first step is going through the Montrose County Caucus and Assembly.

1. **Show up to the Republican Caucus** on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 5:30-8:30PM at Montrose High School Cafeteria and become a delegate to the Republican County Assembly.
2. **All delegates need to be present for the County Assembly** on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Centennial Middle School Gym at 8AM-3PM.
3. **Cast your vote for Rick Dunlap**, Montrose County Commissioner for District 3.

NOTE: All delegates will be voting for Districts #1 AND #3.

Thank You!

Professional Service

- 28 years Law Enforcement, Retired (including 3 terms as the Montrose County Sheriff)
- Past President of County Sheriffs of Colorado
- 21 years U.S. Army, Retired - Awarded Bronze Star

Volunteer Service to Montrose Community

- Current President of West Montrose Sanitation District
- Current Board Member for Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans
- Current Board Member of Grace Community Church
- Past Montrose County Fair Board Member
- Past Volunteer Firefighter - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Past Member of Montrose County Sheriff's Posse
- Past Board Member CASA of the 7th Judicial District

More About Rick

- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Married to my wife, Karen, for 52 years
- Proud father of 3 sons, with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren
- Resident of Montrose County for 42 years.

VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP!

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT RICK DUNLAP



Meet Scott-

I have never drawn a government paycheck. I am a businessman. My wife Linda and I have owned and operated our own business for 25 years. I have been a part of a management team that ran a \$700,000,000 international company and small, start-up biotech companies. We are farmers and ranchers, growing crops west of Montrose In Shavano Valley. We produce some of the finest Certified Weed Free grass hay on the Western Slope. I own water rights and understand the importance of water rights.

My business philosophy is simple: spend money for the operation and growth of the business and spend someone else's money like it is my money- Cautiously and responsibly.

Montrose County is a business. It should be managed like a business. Ask questions to understand and make fact based decisions.

As your County Commissioner, I will work to provide the needed resources and support to County staff to provide the best possible service to ALL the citizens of Montrose County.

We moved to Montrose in 2001 to escape the burdensome political and social environment of California. We did not bring California here, we escaped! We all live here because it is Colorado, but California policies and politics are coming to Colorado. We must work as a County to preserve the Western Way of Life and our heritage on the Western Slope.

**I will serve you and work tirelessly for you as your
Montrose County Commissioner.**

**Paid for by The Committee to Elect Scott Riba Montrose County Commissioner
970-596-9998**

scott@scottformontrose.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

GUEST OP-ED: MOST POPULAR WOLF NAMES FOR 2024

By Greg Walcher,
Natural Resources Group

COLORADO-The Social Security Administration, ever searching for important tasks, tracks the most popular new names for babies each year (Olivia and Liam, four years straight). Similarly, Rover.com tracks the most popular pet names (Luna and Max). But who is keeping track of the names we give wild animals? Well, nobody, because we don't name wild animals. In Colorado, that's about to change.

In [one of his best Gazette columns](#) to date, my friend Dick Wadhams calls out a group labeling itself the "Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center," which is sponsoring a "naming contest" for middle school students to name the wolves that will be relocated to Colorado. "How sweet," he writes, and I agree. He follows by asking whether students might also name the cows and calves that will be killed by wolves being introduced on the Western Slope following the 2020 ballot initiative, adopted by overwhelming majorities in Denver and Boulder Counties. Or perhaps, he suggests, they might learn the names of the working ranch dogs killed, or the generational ranch families whose livelihoods are threatened.

It's not a bad idea to personalize the issue, as Colorado Parks and Wildlife has now released the first five of what will be 200 gray wolves in northwestern Colorado, despite strong opposition of the people who live there (not CPW's fault, mind you; the ballot initiative is now law). So, I thought I might get a head start on the naming contest. I'm not in middle school, so I can't win a prize. But students are welcome to use any of these, some of which have already been suggested.

There are plenty of popular names for cows and calves available. When I was little, we had a cow named Daisy May. Other common names include Annabelle, Clarabelle, Buttercup, Bessie, Cupcake, Gertie, and Maggie. If students want to be more creative, they could opt for clever names like Cowabunga, Deja-Moo, Holy Cow, Chocolate Malt, Mrs. O'Leary, or

Winnie the Moo. For the bulls, I recommend Dozer, Big Mac, Grillmaster, Angus, Beefcake, or Porterhouse. If they're black and white, like dairy Holsteins, maybe Maggie or Snoopy. Or they could name one after a famous cow like Chatty Belle the "talking cow," Elsie, the Borden mascot, or Molly, one of the Chick-Fil-A cows. For the little calves, how about Yampa Yearling, Steamboat Scarlet, or White River Willow?

Naming the wolves is much easier, because their personalities are so predictable, even when they are puppies. Acknowledging their native habitat where they belong, they might be named Alaska, Yukon, Banff, or Inuit. Foreshadowing their behavior, appropriate names might include Assassin, Baskerville, Blitz, Bully, Butcher, Executioner, Havoc, Hunter, Jaws, Jason, Killer, Mauler, Nightstalker, Phantom, Slasher, or Terminator.

Wolves hunt in packs, often at night, and frequently kill more than they can eat. In other words, they are the animal world's serial killers. So, it might be very catchy to give them names like Alphabet, Bundy, Leatherface, Ripper, Son of Sam, or Zodiac. Or maybe they could be named after other famous alpha males who sought to be at the top of the food chain. Such names might be Vlad, Sadam, Ivan, Caesar, Pharoah, Rommel, Stalin, or Kaiser. Some kids might want to give the wolves names that suggest their physical characteristics, such as Fang, Howler, Scarface, or Wolfgang. Or names that acknowledge they are the dominant creature wherever they stake out territory: Czar, Dictator, Despot, Duke, Sarge, or Tyrant. Wolves are extremely intelligent, so the name Beowulf might fit.

Schoolkids will no doubt enjoy this exercise, but I agree with Wadhams that their stories should include the names of all the players. Perhaps they could draft news articles with clever leads:

"Daisy May, Clarabelle, and Winnie were



Governor Jared Polis releases the first of 200 wolves to be reintroduced into Colorado, December 19, 2023 Courtesy photo.

grazing last night at Serenity Meadows Farm when suddenly a wolf gang appeared, including the famed outlaws Havoc, Slasher, Zodiac, Tyrant, and their leader, Butcher. The females tried to protect their calves, Maverick, Dogie, and Speckles, but the wolves quickly subdued their defenseless victims. There were no bovine survivors."

"Investigators believe the pack was the same one that last week attacked the sheep herd at Whispering Pines Ranch, killing Snowflake, Vanilla, Flannel, Cottonball, and Wooly. Their owners, Old MacDonald and Uncle Henry, have offered a reward but authorities say catching the killers is unlikely."

Nature can be cruel, but this is man-made cruelty. Schools should teach students about wolves. But if the goal is to indoctrinate kids to believe wolves are cute and calves don't matter, then don't expect any of this in the lesson plans.

An edited version of this column originally appeared in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Greg Walcher is president of the Natural Resources Group and author of "Smoking Them Out: The Theft of the Environment and How to Take it Back," now in its second printing. He is a newspaper columnist, former head of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and former President of Club 20. More information: www.GregWalcher.com.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY ARE MCSO'S PERSONNEL COSTS (FOR LAST YEAR) TAKEN FROM 70% OF PSST TAX?

Editor:

For several months in the recent past Montrose County citizens have been questioning the administrative competency and, in fact, the very credibility of our county commissioners regarding their administration of the Public Safety Sales Tax, the funding of which was voted in 2007 for the purpose of AUGMENTING the General Fund of that department. In short, one or more of them do not seem to care for the public scrutiny that they have garnered by their creeping encroachment into a 'bank account' that was sold to the public, 70% of which was to be used solely by and for the MCSO. They pushed-back on transparency and seemed to despise anyone that demanded time to contest their public presentations. In fact on several occasions they, one or more of them, have demonstrated rude behavior toward citizens (the electorate) who have dared to ask pertinent questions of them or made statements opposite to theirs.

TO REGRESS: I spent 21 years in the USMC, an organization never known to be made up of kind and gentle souls either in actions or language. I have never been addressed by my seniors in such a manner. Had I ever presumed to treat a subordinate that way I would have never been chosen for 51 months of command.

That said, let us proceed.....

I will bet that the BOCC and 95% of our county employees, if asked, would claim that they support the MCSO, the deputies, the jailers and the office personnel and are possibly even proud of their part in passing the PSST in 2007. Most of those 95% would NEVER DREAM of doing the

work of a sworn officer. Therefore it is logical to ask, "Why are you (MEANING THE BOCC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF) supporting such behaviors as listed as the WHYs and WHOs below?"

Why are the MCSO's personnel costs (for last year) totally taken from the 70% of the PSST tax collections when there is supposed to be a General Fund contribution from the county for the MCSO and that the General Fund is responsible for ALL other county personnel costs? I can provide a county pie-chart that shows that distribution.

1 Why are over 1.2 million dollars of admin costs and services charged against the 70% PSST (Sheriff's share of the collection) funds and not to the General Fund as in all other county departments for 2023?

2 Who authorized the BOCC to decide the line item assignments for the Sheriff's 70% of the PSST? The pie-chart illustrates how the division was supposed to be made.

3 Read this column next week to find out what more questions will be asked of our transparent leaders regarding these issues.

W. H. Bennett, Montrose



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO MISSING PERSONS OPEN HOUSE – JAN. 31, 2024

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is hosting an open house for families who have missing loved ones who are interested in providing a family reference sample. The event will take place on January 31, 2024 at CBI Headquarters, 690 Kipling St, Denver, CO 80215.

A family reference sample is collected with a cheek swab obtained using a large Q-tip, and used for potential future comparisons. Ideally the CBI would like to collect two (2) family reference samples in each missing person case, from the closest blood relatives, either from the mother and father or siblings if available.

Additionally, if you have photos of your missing loved one and/or medical/dental records that you would like to provide please bring those as well. We will scan those records and send the originals home

with you.

This event is for families who have already reported their loved ones as missing, but have not yet provided a reference sample.

If you have a missing loved one and have not yet reported them to local law enforcement please do that before attending this open

house. Similarly, if a loved one has gone missing in another State, CBI is able to take your reference sample and provide it to that State for you.

If you would like to provide a reference



sample but are unable to attend the open house, or if you have any questions or comments about the event please contact Audrey Simkins via email at audrey.simkins@state.co.us

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING



970-249-8500

ANONYMOUS CALL

MONTROSE REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

Watercolor Class or Tea Painting

Thr. Feb. 8, 5:30 pm



Yes you can
paint with tea!

Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.

Paint with natural teas enhanced by watercolor pencil.

Not a tea person?

Make a WATERCOLOR painting
instead. Plenty of help with either
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\$40 Welcome Back price.



No experience needed.

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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/020824M>

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

INCLUDE MORE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CULTIVATED-MEAT RESEARCH IN UPCOMING FARM BILL

To the editor,

Given the environmental, public health, and animal-welfare concerns associated with factory farms, our legislators should include more federal funding for cultivated-meat research in the upcoming farm bill. For those who don't know, cultivated-meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

The new protein is currently too expensive to mass produce. Further development of the nascent field of cellular agriculture will help bypass this hurdle and others. Any politician interested in reducing our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals should support the effort.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

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This beautiful modular, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, and office has great open floorplan oak cabinetry, vinyl plank flooring and carpet and wonderful windows for light and breathtaking views. The split floor plan shows a spacious main suite with soaker tub and roomy bath. So much storage in this home, even the laundry is spacious. The maintenance free front deck is the perfect entrance and the patio doors lead to a protected mature landscaped back yard. This home continues it's easy maintenance with the Concrete siding and metal roof, beautifully maintained inside and out! The 6+ irrigated acres are currently in pasture grass and irrigation is all set up and ready for you. Live in the country, have animals & toys. This is the perfect blend of country living and modern comfort.

Come home to the way of life you've been looking for.

Peg Evanoika

Broker Associate

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CPW SEEKS PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Every five years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) leads the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), to maintain eligibility for funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to inform investments from other federal, state, local and private programs.

Given the significance of outdoor recreation in Colorado, the SCORP is more than a federal requirement for funding. The plan reflects Colorado outdoor partners' shared vision and commitment to advancing recreation enjoyment and conservation of Colorado's outdoor resources.

Colorado's previous 2019-2023 Statewide

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed in close collaboration with a wide range of partners to provide a shared vision for the future of Colorado's outdoors. This plan also looks at current and changing demographics and recreation trends to help the outdoor recreation sector be culturally relevant and respond to future shifts.

The SCORP identifies four top priorities:

- Enhance sustainable access and opportunity to enjoy the outdoors
- Promote stewardship of natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Conserve lands, waters, and wildlife
- Ensure adequate funding to sustain Colorado's outdoors for the future

Currently, CPW is asking for feedback from the public on the relevance and importance of Colorado's outdoor recreation objectives that help achieve the top priorities listed in the 2019-2023 plan. There are nine main objectives listed in the 2019 SCORP, which help prioritize outdoor recreation and conservation projects across the state based on the priority areas. CPW staff want to ensure that the objectives we use to accomplish our outdoor recreation and conservation priorities in the 2024-2028 SCORP reflect the values of our community's diverse interests. Share your feedback with us using the comment form on EngageCPW. Comments on this plan are open now through Feb. 28, 2024

CHANGING NEEDS?

At a certain stage of life- many people are ready to make a change. To downsize their home, or simply choose a community that better suits their new lifestyle, interests, and needs. Sounds familiar? If you're ready to make a move, I invite you to call me today. I specialize in helping folks make the most from the changes and choices they have at all stages of life. I'd love to do the same for you.

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La Noue DuBois Winery Rock Painting

Sat., Feb. 3rd.

1:30-3:30 pm

67289 Trout Road, Monroe

(5 mi. south of Target)



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DUBOIS**

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La Noue DuBois Winery Rock Painting

Sat., Feb. 3rd. 1:30-3:30 pm



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21 N. Cascade Ave.

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Enhanced with
watercolor pencil

Thr. Feb. 8,
5:30-7:30 pm

With Kate Burke



or Watercolor Class



Mosaic Montrose
21 N. Cascade Ave.

Spring Weath Posey Party

All materials and
tools included.
Plus adult beverage
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With Kate Burke

Thr., Feb. 15.
5:30-7:30 pm



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS & WOODWORKERS COMMUNITY SHOW AT MCA



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Center for Arts is hosting a community show for the Montrose Area Woodturners and Woodworkers Guild of Western Colorado, Feb. 1-27, 2024. Works include small and intricate hand-carved items, turned vases, bowls, charcuterie boards, live edge pieces and intarsia wall hangings, as well as larger woodworking pieces. These works deserve close-up inspection to appreciate the craftsmanship and fine details, including inlays and colorful stains. You might even find a beautiful and unique gift for your special Valentine.

This show officially opens during First Friday on Feb. 2, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. which also features the sounds of Mixed Bag, the tastes of Dented Face plus select libations. The show runs through Feb. 27. The MCA is located at 11 S. Park Ave and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Courtesy photo.



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Delta: Pour Ernie's
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS: BUSINESS

NATIVE AMERICAN BANK PRESIDENT BECOMES ICBC BOARD PRESIDENT

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Native American Bank President Tom Ogaard took over as the president of the Independent Community Bankers of Colorado board during its recent convention held in Vail.

Ogaard will lead the association during its 50th "Golden Jubilee" year. ICBC is an advocate for Colorado independent banks on the state and federal level. There are more than 90 community banks in Colorado.

"This is a critical time for independent banks," said Ogaard. "With the volatile market, we play an important role in supporting our local community's economy in ways that larger organizations just can't do."

ICBC has nearly 60 member banks with more than 400 member branches across Colorado. In addition to its advocacy efforts, ICBC provides educational programs, regulatory and compliance resources and a network of services through its more than 70 associate members.

"At the heart of Tom's leadership is a vision for others," said Michael VanNorstrand, executive director of ICBC. "At ICBC, communities are our passion, and as we look toward the future of the organiza-

tion and upcoming challenges, we look forward to Tom being at the helm of our board to guide and lead our members towards success."

In his position, Ogaard brings more than 40 years of banking experience, specifically in regional and community banking. He became president of Native American Bank in 2013, at a time when the bank was struggling. Under his leadership, the bank is now financially stable, with nearly \$10 million in 2022 revenue with more than \$230 million in assets. The bank was instrumental during the pandemic, especially in serving the local community with more than \$62 million in PPP loans, of which 79% were not current bank customers.

"We are the banks that are funding local needs," Ogaard said. "We have the ability to be nimble and flexible in ways that can help small businesses, rural and urban municipalities, assist families with financial needs and all while we are an active neighbor and partner in the very communities where we work."

Native American Bank is a mission-driven bank that is the only national American Indian-owned community development

bank in the country. The bank is owned by 36 shareholders, 31 of whom are Tribal national and Alaska Native Corporations who are bringing opportunity, access and impact to the local and Native American communities they serve.

Ogaard is an industry leader and often looked to as an expert, who has been asked to present at numerous conferences and panels. He is the vice chairman of the American Bankers Association Minority Deposit Institution Advisory Committee, served on the OCC's Minority Deposit Institution Advisory Council and is a past member of the Community Development Bankers Association board based in Washington D.C. In addition to his financial commitments, Ogaard is also an active community leader as an advisory board member for the Tesoro Cultural Center in Morrison, CO. He has been an active participant and served in leadership roles in a number of community organizations including Chambers of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Rotary, March of Dimes, Junior Achievement and many others.

For more information, visit www.nativeamericanbank.com.



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(970) 249-0493 | manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com | cimarroncreekcommunity.com

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: BUSINESS

NATIVE AMERICAN BANK PARTNERS WITH KEYBANK TO DELIVER FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Special to the Mirror

DENVER – Native American Bank will receive a portion of KeyBank's \$50 million in deposits to Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions. The partnership will provide financial services to some of the most economically marginalized communities in the United States.

"As both a Minority Deposit Institution and a Certified Community Development Financial Institution, the relationship we have developed with KeyBank is demonstrative of the support and commitment they have made to assist banks like ours help bring capital to some of the poorest areas of the country," said Tom Ogaard, Native American Bank president and CEO. "We are very appreciative of that support and are a proud to partner with them."

Native American Bank is a nationally chartered bank and CDFI headquartered in Denver. The bank, which is Native-owned, specializes in the unique needs of Indigenous communities across the U.S. These

financial resources provide access to critical funding for business, municipal and entrepreneurial loans in Indian Country. The bank has been a certified CDFI since 2001.

Native American Bank is the only Colorado bank to be selected to partner with KeyBank. Five other financial institutions will also receive deposits from KeyBank. These deposits represent a commitment to empowering historically under-resourced communities in meeting the unique financial needs of their neighborhoods.

Native American Bank will leverage KeyBank's deposit at a 10:1 ratio, providing affordable capital to projects like the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma Behavioral Health Center.

This project, which created construction jobs and permanent positions for Native Americans and low-income residents, will offer clinical and therapy inpatient and outpatient care.

"The unique nature of KeyBank's initiative

and the work of Native American Bank is a perfect fit to have an impact across a wide variety of communities," Ogaard said.

"This investment can make a lasting difference in Indigenous communities."

For more information about Native American Bank's resources, visit www.NativeAmericanBank.com.

About Native American Bank

Native American Bank, with 31 tribal nations and Native corporations among its shareholders, is the first nationally chartered, Native-owned bank and CDFI in the United States. With assets approaching \$300 million, the bank maintains an unwavering commitment to provide access to financial services in communities from Alaska to Florida as the foremost financial institution dedicated to creating economic independence, development and sustainability in Native communities and beyond.

The Bank is headquartered in Denver with offices in Browning, MT and Seattle, WA.

For more information visit

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RADON CAUSES LUNG CANCER: TEST YOUR HOME

Special to the Mirror

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY— Gov. Jared Polis has proclaimed January 2024 National Radon Action Month and encourages Coloradans to reduce their risk of radon-induced lung cancer. San Miguel County Public Health strongly urges Colorado residents to test their homes for radon using a free radon test kit or borrowing the county's radon monitoring device.

In Colorado, nearly half of homes have radon levels above the recommended limit, and more than 500 lung cancer deaths in the state each year are attributed to radon. Children can be especially susceptible to the harmful effects of radon due to their higher respiratory rate and relative proximity to the ground. Even pets can be susceptible to negative health effects from

radon exposure.

The best way to protect against radon is to perform a simple test of your home. SMCPH encourages all residents to test because radon levels can vary from home to home.

"Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas with no color, odor, or taste," explained San Miguel County Public Health Director, Grace Franklin. "Radon can easily enter homes and other buildings through small openings like cracks in foundations, openings around pumps and drains, and crawl spaces. Any home can be affected by elevated levels of radon."

CDPHE officials say that January is a great time to conduct the straight-forward test and remind homeowners to keep doors and windows closed for the duration of

the test. The San Miguel County Public Health Department has a radon monitor residents can borrow for testing.

If your home has high levels of radon, it's important to take action to reduce your risk. Radon mitigation systems can reduce radon levels in any home. For those who cannot afford a mitigation system, Colorado offers a Low Income Radon Mitigation Assistance program to homeowners who qualify through a simple application process. Homeowners who already have radon mitigation systems should retest their homes every two years to make sure the system is working properly. More information is available on the CDPHE website: www.coloradoradon.info.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

IS THE MONTROSE COUNTY GOP CORRUPT?

Editor:

In my opinion yes. But so is the state republican party. They have been corrupted by their single-minded devotion to extreme right wing conspiracy theorist type candidates. In a previous opinion piece, I pointed out Scott Reba's hypocrisy for not resigning from his GOP chair position to run in a contested county commissioner primary which is a clear conflict of interest and a violation of the Montrose GOP bylaws. In the November 30th edition of the Montrose press Scott Reba Stated he would resign so why didn't he? In the January 11th central committee meeting he said he would recuse himself from any decision that effected the other candidate, but an hour and a half later refused to allow two Republican candidates to speak until someone called him out for his hypocrisy. So, what do you call someone who says one thing and then does the opposite? I say they are dishonest at the very least. And especially if they make a habit of contradicting themselves. Scott Riba responded to my opinion piece by saying that my article was inaccurate and misleading. And that I had been disgraced twice by being removed from my position for violating the bylaws. So, what was the violation I was accused of? The first time the claim was that I violated the preprimary neutrality clause of the bylaws of the Montrose GOP, you know those same bylaws that Scott Riba says do not apply to him. I did not feel disgraced, I felt betrayed by a party that claims to support and defend the constitution but violated my right to freedom of speech. So exactly what was it that I did to violate the preprimary neutrality clause? I went to Don Coram's announcement that he was running for congress in CD3 and was quoted in the Daily Press saying, "Don Coram manages to work across the aisle without compromising his principles". That is not an endorsement. So, another words the current Montrose GOP uses the bylaws to punish people who openly voice their opinion

and who do not worship Queen Boebert. But they ignore the same bylaws when it suits their agenda.

The county GOP is supposed to openly welcome any republican who wants to run for office. And aid such as "candidate support" to any republican candidate who might need assistance in navigating the complexities of running for office. So, since Scott Riba closed out his rebuttal of my article with, "anyone who has questions can call him. My suggestion is to contact Rick Dunlap and ask him if he felt like he was welcome there and was he being treated fairly. You might also ask when did the central committee vote at a meeting to change their process that any candidate running for office must first contact the chair before they would be allowed to speak and where are the meeting minutes of that meeting? And where is that written so that a candidate who does not normally attend the meetings would know that? Back when I was chair, I closed every meeting with "Is there any other business that needs to come before the central committee before we adjourn." And that was the opportunity for any new candidate to announce their candidacy. Or for anyone else to bring attention to a subject that the central committee might need to know about. So, Scott Riba's assertion that only things on the agenda will be addressed is just his way of saying "present yourself to the king and kiss the ring." And even Roberts rules of order suggest that if you want strict adherence to the agenda then at the beginning of the meeting the agenda should be voted on and approved. And that would create an opportunity to amend, add or subtract items to the agenda.

So why did so many people in the central committee willingly violate my first amendment right to freedom of speech? Because I am not a fan of Lauren Boebert. As chair when Lauren first announced I did my due diligence and looked up all the information I could find about her. And I

did not like what I saw. She had not finished high school and had not made any attempt at further education. She had a couple of brushes with law enforcement that led to her arrest for failure to appear. The only good thing I could find in her background was when she confronted Beto O'Rourke. A very thin resume for someone who wanted to run for congress. As a county republican chair, I was bound by the bylaws. But the bylaws at that time did not include federal elections in the preprimary neutrality clause. So, I was free to personally endorse the candidate of my choice. So, at a central committee meeting I let the committee know that I would be personally endorsing Scott Tip-ton and the bylaws allowed me that freedom. The bylaws have since been changed. And who changed the bylaws? Scott Riba, that's who. So, the very bylaws that he was instrumental in changing, he no longer feels compelled to obey. So, Scott Riba can play games all he wants with how the state bylaws read but that does not explain why the current Montrose CC bylaws do not reflect those changes? Those bylaws are in every PCP handbook and are the only guidance for PCPs (precinct committee person). Now Riba stated that I Filed an appeal with the state party and the state party agreed with the Montrose central committee. Of course, Kristy Burton Brown, the then state party chair would agree, she was working as an integral part of Lauren Boeberts campaign. When my attorney and I attended the appeal via zoom, we could see a poster of Lauren Boebert on the wall behind Kristy Burton Brown. So there again, rules for thee but not for me. So why didn't I file a lawsuit? Short answer there is not any money in it. The only remedy in a lawsuit is monetary. The central committee never has more than \$15,000. And it was going to cost me more than \$20,000 just to start the lawsuit and then I would have to hand it off to the ACLU to finish. While I do have that sum of money, I will not give

Continued next pg

IS THE MONTROSE COUNTY GOP CORRUPT?

From previous pg

it to a bunch of blood sucking attorneys. The second verse similar to the first. My second removal was again for something that I said to a reporter that was miss quoted in the Denver Post and directed at Lauren Boebert. Except this time, I was a PCP and there was no provision in the bylaws to remove me for that. So, they removed me anyway and then amended the bylaws two months later to reflect the infraction. This is known in the constitution as post facto law and is a violation of the constitution. And therefore, a violation of my constitutional rights. And I videoed both removals so I can prove every word of this.

So, I do have a history with Riba. And I know him to be a dishonest deceitful man who in a position of power will wield that power very recklessly. And that is not someone who should ever be county

commissioner or hold any other position of importance. Rick Dunlap is a man of high moral character who will be an excellent county commissioner.

So how has the turmoil in the republican party effected elections here in Colorado? After each of the last two election cycles we have fewer Republicans holding office. No republican holds any of the six statewide elected offices here in Colorado. Out of eight congressional seats we republicans hold three seats and all three of those republicans are not running for reelection, which includes Lauren Boebert who threw CD3 under the buss and decided to go play in someone else's sand box. And I fear we may lose two of those seats. In the state legislature in 2022 we lost five republican seats. In the state senate we lost two seats. You would think that the republican party would change their strat-

egy after the butt kicking, we have taken in the last two elections. This is the report card for the republican party. We need all new leadership in our party from bottom to top.

And that starts at caucus. Either get involved or get run over by the Democrats. That means stop running far right conspiracy theory candidates. In Montrose County in 2022 we had a 72% republican turnout. That is down from 83% in the 2018 midterm. That is an indication of a republican party that is not doing its job to turn out the vote. The mission of the republican party is to help elect republicans. In order to elect republicans, you must first vet the candidates to insure that they are of good moral character. And you cannot do that if you cannot question their character.

Ray Langston, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PSST ADMINISTRATION, RESOLUTION, AND BALLOT REWRITE IS NOW IN SHERIFF LILLARD'S HANDS

Editor:

NOTE: Apologies for an unusually long opinion letter from me, but the subject matter should concern every Montrose taxpayer.

The Public Safety Sales Tax [PSST] that was passed by voters in 2007 has been front and center in the news for the last year, and rightly so. BOCC members and MC4FF members involved in proposing that tax as a supplemental funding mechanism for our Sheriff Department have come out publicly to point out that it is not being administered according to the intent of the proposed tax. Several events including my recent interaction with county government described below have sadly eroded my trust in county government both politically and administratively!

In December the BOCC acknowledged publicly that the "intent" of the 2007 ballot language was not clear and that the 70% of that tax was exclusively for the benefit of the Sheriff Department. Recently I decided to research the funding and expenditure history of the Sheriff Department from 2008 through 2023. In years past it was a simple matter of going to the county website and perusing financial history, but the current state of my Advanced Macular Degeneration [AMD] posed a big problem. Even with a computer zoom function and a magnifying glass I was no longer able to decipher financial numbers. In order to accomplish my research I decided the simplest answer was to request assistance from the county in determining MCSO approved budgets and final expenditures for the MCSO for the period the PSST has been in effect. Since I was only asking for two numbers for each of the 15 years in question it seemed to be a simple matter the county finance department could easily answer.

Consequently, I contacted Emily Sanchez, Assistant County Manager, with my request and was informed that Katie Yergensen would be assisting me. I explained clearly that my AMD prevented me from searching on my own and requested her assistance in finding budget and expenditure numbers for each year. She suggested screen shots and sent a sample of one year but I was unable to read a picture from a financial page and told her that would not work. I reiterated that I was only seeking two numbers for each year, a simple matter for the finance department. Then I was invited to her office so she could assist in finding the numbers I

was seeking, but before that could happen I was told that the "lawyers" had said a CORA request was needed. It was puzzling why a CORA was needed for a simple taxpayer request for specific numbers from recorded financials, but Katie agreed to put in the CORA on my behalf, asking for MCSO budgets and expenses for the years noted.

A full week later I received an email from an Assistant County attorney with 2 attachments of 29 financial documents taken from financial pages, none of which I could read and certainly not what I requested. Five days later I got a letter from a different county attorney explaining they couldn't answer my simple question because they "couldn't create a record," so they spent many hours of staff time researching records I had not requested and certainly couldn't read. In my opinion whoever ordered this waste of manpower to hide behind a CORA request should plain and simply be terminated from county employment!

So much for expecting some help from the county for a visually impaired taxpayer! HUMMMM?? One might begin to wonder what's hidden there that staff doesn't want the light of day on???? Why an answer from two attorneys instead of the finance department? Hiding behind attorneys is clearly a new low for the transparency and open government professed by the county.

To begin to understand, one must go back to 2007 when the then BOCC and MC4FF were developing the PSST. The ballot measure did not give clear instructions on how to administer and account for those funds and the Finance Department was left to it's own devices to do that. In my opinion, therein lies the problem we have today. The original intention was for the full 70% to be a stand alone supplemental fund for the MCSO over and above the General Fund allocation, but in practice the General Fund has been commingled with the PSST fund.

If you have ever perused county financials you will see transfers of funds in and out of budgets with no clear indication of where it went or came from, kind of like a carnival shell game. AND WITH MY CORA REQUEST I learned that over the years methods of accounting PSST funds were changed. For 15 years it seems the finance department has woven a financial Gordian Knot around the PSST, not easy to unravel. And it is becoming clearer daily that the finance department is

not happy with that increased public scrutiny.

With over \$55 million having accrued to the benefit of the Sheriff Department since inception of that tax, it's not beyond the realm of possibilities that the temptation exists to utilize some of it for unintended purposes. This past year over \$1.3 million in "administrative fees" were charged against the PSST, many of which were quite obviously not intended by the PSST founders.

The simple facts that according to the founders of the PSST, ONLY the MCSO can make a determination of when and for what purpose PSST funds can be utilized. The previous sheriff failed to completely understand the intended purpose of the PSST, but thanks to Sheriff Lillard it is now front and center.

So the question arises, what changes are needed to protect the PSST in the future? The best suggestion was made by former State Representative Ben Alexander in a BOCC meeting last fall. That entailed consideration of a ballot measure for next November to delineate specific methods on how the PSST is to be accounted for. That suggestion was echoed by Sheriff Lillard at a BOCC meeting in December and his teams are already working on a draft of ballot language for consideration.

As noted last week by Mr. Bennet in this publication, this is a taxpayer issue that will not fade away absent positive action and it will be important to have all discussions recorded in public meetings strictly between the Sheriff, BOCC, and interested taxpayers. Closed door discussions do nothing for full transparency on this issue.

Unfortunately, with the county's unreasonable denial of my CORA request, I sense a clear reluctance on the part of management to proceed down that road. Commissioners have come and gone since the PSST was implemented. but those in county management have mostly remained in place and I'm seeing a great reluctance to change the status quo. But, maintaining the status quo fails to protect the Sheriff Department and PSST in the future. The entire PSST administration, resolution, and ballot rewrite is now in Sheriff Lillard's hands. All citizens I know support the Sheriff as he fulfills his responsibility to his office, personnel, and the voters of 2007 who do not want their vote nullified.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

THEDUS ADELL CASTLE (BROWN) *September 12, 1932—January 21, 2024*

THEDUS ADELL CASTLE (BROWN) from Montrose, Colorado passed away January 21, 2024 peacefully at her son and daughter-in-law's home in Olathe. She was born on September 12, 1932 in Montrose, Colorado to Lloyd W. and Adele M. (Gibson) Brown.

Thedus grew up in Montrose on a farm on Spring Creek. She talked of the memories helping her dad in the fields hoeing onions and potatoes. Thedus was the second oldest of eight children. She was sixteen years old and was left with the responsibilities of raising six sisters, one of which was a newborn, after her mother passed away during childbirth.

Thedus married Emmitt Castle on September 15, 1952, after Emmitt went and asked her father for her hand in marriage out in the middle of an onion field. She loved animals, tending the livestock and working outside. Thedus had the greenest thumb in the valley, she loved flowers and rock gardens. She could get anything to grow.

Emmitt and Thedus had four sons; Richard, Paul, Danny and Randy. They had a daughter, Janet Adell, who was born between Paul and Danny, but died shortly after birth.

Emmitt and Thedus owned and operated Castle Auto Sales from April 15, 1974 to November 1, 2022. When asked about the experiences of owning their own business Thedus said, "It wasn't easy. When we

started my husband and I had no experience in owning a business. We kind of just went along and learned as we went." In February of 1990, Emmitt passed away, Thedus and her son Danny continued to operate the business.

Thedus not only suffered the loss of her mother and father, the loss of her newborn daughter, her husband, and brother and sisters; but she suffered the loss of her granddaughter, January 30, 2008, whom she was very close with. Her and "Chandie" shared a special bond. They used to talk about the doves cooing Chandie's name, and after the loss of her, Thedus always loved watching the doves.

A few years after the loss of her granddaughter, Thedus lost her son, Richard.

That amount of loss throughout an entire life could lead anyone to be cold and question their faith; but not Thedus. Thedus remained strong and steadfast in her savior, Jesus Christ. Thedus spent the last six years living with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson Zach. She was the center of all the family functions. Zach and her three youngest great-granddaughters Evelyn Rae, Danica Marie, and Emory Grace were what kept her going strong through the years. She found so much joy, friendship, adventure, excitement, and grace in the years spent with them.

Thedus was preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Adele, daughter Janet, husband Emmitt, brother Lyle, sisters Doris,



Lois, Judy and Carra Gean, granddaughter Chandra Rae, and son Richard.

Thedus is survived by sisters, Thelma Smith and Joyce Wedeward, both of Montrose; sons, Paul (Beverly) of Montrose, Danny (Brenda) and Randy (Rhonda) Castle both from Olathe; and numerous grandchildren and great-children, nieces and nephews.

The memorial service will be held at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Rd, Montrose, Colorado. A graveside service will follow at the Grand View Cemetery. There will be a lunch at the church afterwards. In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to HopeWest, 725 South 4th Street, Montrose, Colorado.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BEVERLY J. MILLER

July 26, 1934 – January 22, 2024, Age 89

It is with great sorrow that we announce that Beverly J. Miller passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her home in Montrose, Colorado, on Monday, January 22, 2024, after a period of declining health.

Beverly June Hale was born in Agra, Oklahoma to Homer S. Hale and Nancy Esther (Nation) Hale on July 26, 1934. She was the 3rd child, and only girl, of seven children. At the age of two her family moved to Delta, Colorado where she grew to adulthood and graduated from Delta High School with the class of 1952. While in school she was active in athletics and performed in class plays. She was a class officer, a recipient of the DAR award, a member of the student council, and National Honor Society. She was also a 4-H club member and earned all of her bars as a Rainbow Girl.

After graduation she moved to Montrose to work as a telephone operator for two years and then started work at First National Bank. She quit that job to become a homemaker and raise her two children, Terri and Larry. After they both were in school, she returned to work at the bank where she worked for 26½ years until she retired.

She met Duane Miller at a high school basketball tournament in Delta in 1949, but they didn't start dating until early 1953 after she moved to Montrose. They

were married on March 14, 1954, in the Delta Christian Church and enjoyed 61½ years together before his death in 2015. They enjoyed camping, fishing, hiking, gardening, and dancing; she enjoyed baking, crocheting, reading and spending time with her many friends and family. She very much enjoyed hanging out with her friends, visiting while water walking and exercising in the pool at Montrose Rec. Center. Beverly had a big, beautiful heart and a beautiful, radiant soul and she made friends wherever she went. She was a firm but gentle loving mother, who instilled good values and ethics. She was the epitome of unconditional love and generosity, especially when it came to her family. She was a member of Montrose Christian Church (previously First Christian Church of Montrose) for many years and participated in the Senior Saints activities and ministries.

She is survived by: her two children, Terri Miller and Larry (Christy) Miller of Montrose, CO; three grandchildren, Cody Miller of Olathe, CO, Amanda (Rick) Marchini of Merced, CA, and Belinda (Tamara) Nunes of Atwater, CA; five great-grandchildren, Isabella, Noah, and Amelia June Alvarez of Atwater, CA, and Hannah and Mila Marchini of Merced, CA; and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins and three sisters-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her par-



ents; her husband, Duane Miller; and her brothers Homer Hale, Leonard "LB" Hale, Nathan Eugene Hale, Troy Hale, James E Hale, and Fred Parsons.

Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Montrose Christian Church (Sunnyside Rd.) and will be officiated by her nephew, Merle Miller. Interment will follow immediately at Grand View Cemetery (Hogback Rd.). A Viewing will be held from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. on Friday, February 2 at Crippin Funeral Home. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting Beverly's family with the arrangements. 970-249-2121.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KENNETH (KEN) ELDON STOY *January 22, 1957- January 12, 2024*



KENNETH (KEN) ELDON STOY completed his final journey home to his Lord on January 12, 2024. A memorial service to celebrate his full life will be held February 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Service will be at Victory

Baptist Church, 2890 North Townsend Ave, Montrose, Colorado.

Ken was born January 22, 1957 in St. Charles, MO. to Kurt and Bernice (Mueller) Stoy. He graduated from Francis Howell High School in 1975. Ken then moved to Montrose, Colorado. He had worked for his dad's water well drilling and pump business in St. Charles since he was fourteen, and he knew that was what he wanted to do in life.

Ken started his own business at age eighteen with just a few hand tools, meters and a green Datsun pickup truck. He would go anywhere there were water wells and ask the owners if he could do a free pressure tank inspection. This got his foot in the door for future repairs and new installations. He also put his business cards in ziplock baggies and would staple them to the entrance of driveways where there were wells. In 1978, he bought a cable tool drilling rig and started drilling wells.

Eventually Valley Drilling Co. grew. The business invested in new rotary rigs and employed many men, one of which would become his son-in-law, Jason Kastendieck. After seven years of training, Ken encouraged Jason to start his own pump business, San Juan Pump. Ken's grand-son-in-law, Kievit, is now learning from Jason. That makes four generations God has blessed in the business.

A life changing gift was given to Ken on February 14, 1977. He accepted the free gift of salvation and put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Ken and his wife Faith have worshiped at Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church since 1985. Ken served faithfully as an elder and Sunday school teacher. He also took the youth of the church on a mission trip to Yakima, WA. where he refurbished a well. Ken also refurbished a well for an eye clinic in Mexico.

Ken and Faith were married Feb. 25, 1979. Ken treasured his wife of almost forty-five years. Faith stood by his side through their many adventures which included: raising their precious daughter, Jessica, Ken's road bike racing, running a well drilling business for forty-seven years, drilling wells in Haiti, helping a struggling water well drilling ministry in Tanzania, Africa get on the right track by training the African men to drill the wells, and many hospital visits due to dangerous work and play injuries. Faith always nursed him back to health.

He deeply loved his daughter Jessica, son-in-law Jason and five grandchildren. They brought such joy and laughter to his life. So many family times were spent at their cabin or on the lakes. These are the memories Ken hopes are told to his great-grandchildren. His greatest desire was for them to love the Lord and walk faithfully with Him through every stage of life. He knew that this was the key to real success in life. All of them are doing that today. Ken's genuine, caring heart-attitude toward his family mirrored our Heavenly Father's heart toward each of us. Ken loved camping, hunting, biking, hiking, boating, and fishing. It brought him joy to share these blessings with friends and family.

Those who knew Ken immediately saw a humble and sensitive man who was so grateful to God for the salvation he had in

Christ. His faith was fully integrated into his life and his personal relationship with God was represented in his words, deeds, and concern for others. His desire for everyone reading this obituary would be that you too would trust your life into God's hands, and place your faith in Jesus Christ. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." We were not made to go through this challenging life separated from God. He has a better way.

Through tears near the end, Ken told Faith he had two desires upon reaching Heaven. One was to follow Jesus around and hold the aborted babies in his arms. The second was to teach them how to work as they grew older. Scripture talks about work in heaven, and Ken always loved to work.

Ken is survived by his wife, Faith, daughter, Jessica (Jason Kastendieck), and five grandchildren: Ivy of Homer, AK, Jewel (Kievit) Vandenhoeck, Emmert, Gunner, and Serena Kastendieck all of Montrose. Ken is also survived by his sisters Donna Stepanovic (Doug) of Flagstaff, AZ. and Karen (Eric) Backer of Durango, CO. Nieces, Janice and Anne and nephews Bruce and Adam.

Our family would like to thank Hope West Hospice for their loving, expert care of Ken during his fight with metastatic colon cancer.

Thanks also to the many friends and family near and far that prayed, communicated their love, ran errands, made meals, did lawn work, and comforted and supported our family.

In support of Ken's heart for clean drinking water for the children of Africa, please, in lieu of flowers, donate to: TRPC 2705 Sunnyside Rd Montrose, CO. 81401. Put "Wells for Africa" in the memo.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DOLORES JUNE POWELL *July 18, 1930- January 13, 2024*



DOLORES JUNE POWELL left us on January 13, 2024 at the age of 93. Born Dolores June Hayes on July 18, 1930 to Dorothy and Ralph Hayes, Dolores was the oldest of four siblings: Dolores, Janice, Darrell and Sandra. She loved her sisters and brother dearly all of her life.

After completing high school and secretarial training, she worked in downtown Pittsburgh for a real estate attorney (imagine her riding the bus downtown in her high heels). Her law career was interrupted when she married Ira Frank Huey, Jr. (Frank) The couple had three children, Brian, Janine and Kimberly. The family moved often but eventually came to Salisbury, Maryland. After getting the Eastern

Shore sand between her toes, Dolores enjoyed living in Salisbury for 37 years.

When her 25-year marriage to Frank ended, a whole new life was opened to her. Dolores was working at Salisbury State University as an administrative aide and eventually was promoted to Administrative Aide to the Dean of the School of Science and Technology.

After Dolores began taking art classes at the University in 1980, watercolor painting became her new vocation. Dolores loved the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the majority of her art pieces reflected that love. She continued to paint for 40 years, showing her work in various galleries and art shows around Maryland. On 11/8/96 The *Daily Times* interview highlighted her 13th annual watercolor exhibit at the Wicomico County Free Library. She was quoted: "Watercolor is my favorite medium - painting landscapes of the beaches, lighthouses of the eastern United States, sailing vessels, farms and waterfowl. I enjoy capturing the beauty and mystery of a place - the sky, the light, water and wildlife." Inspiration? "Nature, the play of light and shadows, sky and water. I enjoy stretching my horizons: trying new and different things with my art. I am inspired by the pleasure my art brings to others."

One night in the late 70's, Dolores put on her red dress and went to a dance where she met William Allen Powell (Bill), the "Love of her Life". Bill had two children: Bill, Jr. and Pam whose families became a

part of Dolores' growing family including three grandchildren: Sean, Jake and Lily. Bill and Dolores enjoyed their 27-year marriage, especially after they both retired.

The couple boarded two cruise ships to the Caribbean and they traveled to Texas, Utah, Idaho, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Bill was her partner in her art business. He made the frames for her artwork and helped her transport paintings and set up shows.

A few years after Bill died, Dolores moved to Austin, Texas to be near her daughter, Janine. She lived there for four years before moving with Janine and her husband, William Gwaltney to Montrose, Colorado where she lived for eight years.

Dolores had many friends and many people loved her. She was known for her outgoing personality, her love of cooking and entertaining, and her African Violets.

No biography of Dolores could be complete without mention of her love of cards, especially bridge. Bridge was a lifetime passion of hers that spanned 70 years. Her skill with cards was legend and she loved the comradery that went with the game.

Dolores is survived by her children: Brian Huey and wife Patricia, Janine Gwaltney and husband William and Kimberly Purnell and husband Leonard. Her siblings: Darrell Hayes, Janice Collin and Sandra Campbell. Her daughter in law: Beth Powell and Her grandchildren: Sean Huey, Jake Taylor and husband Louis, and Lily Powell.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BERTA ULIBARRI LUCERO

January 3, 1935- January 16, 2024



With great sorrow and deep gratitude, the

Lucero, Ventura, Arellano, Davis, Conant, and Nowalk families announce the passing of our kind, brave, caring, and unimaginably generous mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, Berta Ulibarri Lucero. Berta passed into the hands of our Lord on January 16, 2024. Born to Max and Cleofas Ulibarri on the 3rd of January 1935 in Levy, New Mexico, she received her education in Wagon Mound, New Mexico where she lived on the family farm until moving to Colorado in 1945. Berta had two brothers and five sisters. She married Sifredo (Alfred) Lucero on October 22, 1951, at St.



Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose. She is survived by her nine children, 28 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

Berta was a kind and loving soul who served her community and church for over 20 years as a religious class teacher and volunteer. She was active in Stevens Ministry and volunteered at Montrose Memorial Hospital where she was also a Eucharistic minister. She loved

children and operated a private daycare business for over 25 years. She was often called grandma by many of the children she provided care for. She enjoyed her flower garden, western movies, and spending time with family. Above all, Berta loved the Lord and was comforted daily by her savior.

Berta loved her family and her community with her whole heart. Berta delighted in her children and their children. Her gentle, loving, and accepting demeanor made her a special light. She truly lived for her family and was grateful for each moment she

was able to spend with her family and friends. Berta was known by her family for her incredible home-cooked meals, especially tortillas, beans, and green chile. Many members of her family learned to cook with Berta, and her recipes will continue to remind the family of her presence.

She led by example by having compassion for all living things. She loved the dogs she had over her lifetime and even cared for the birds that would visit her feeders. Berta was ahead of her time as a steward to the Earth and re-used all she could, walked everywhere she went, as well as shared the beauty of nature with her family. Heaven is truly lucky to have such a kind soul among their angels.

She is survived by her sister Mary A. Buckley, Salt Lake City and her children Alfred D. Lucero, Alaska; Bridget (Pablo) Ventura, Utah; Cleo (Ron) Arellano, Denver; Ralph (Susan) Lucero, Montrose; Ray (Melissa) Lucero, Montrose; Gabriel (Vicki) Lucero, Montrose; Carmen (Hozy) Davis, Grand Junction; Laurie (Jason) Conant, Montrose; Cathy (David) Nowalk, Denver; and her 28 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

SHIRLEY LABERTEW

November 28, 1931- December 25, 2023

SHIRLEY LABERTEW passed away on December 25, 2023, at the age of 92.

She was born to Athur and Esther Gausman on November 28, 1931, in Kimball, Nebraska. She was an only child. On July 8, 1951, she married her high school sweetheart, Morris, and they spent the next 64 years together. In their retirement years, they spent the winters in Mesa, AZ, where they loved to play golf and have "happy hour" with their many friends. She also was an avid bridge player.

She is survived by two sons, Mark (Debbie) Labertew, Michael Labertew, and son-in-law Steve Cadez. Her daughter preceded her in death in 2009, as did her husband, Morris, in 2015. She has four grandchildren, Nicole (Robert) Quintana, Trevor Labertew, Kortney Labertew, Jeremy Labertew and three step grandchildren, Chris Mclean, Stacey (Erby) Rocha and Anna Cadez. Plus, seven great grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

A memorial service will be held on March 23, 2024, at 11 AM at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel followed by a celebration of her life at The Montrose Elks Lodge.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Shephard's Hand in Shirley's name.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JAMES DALE JENNINGS

October 2, 1937- January 18, 2024



On January 18, 2024, James Dale Jennings of Montrose, Colorado passed away at the age of 86 after a long illness.

Jim was born to Harry and Anna Jennings in Weston, Colorado on October 2, 1937. His childhood years were spent in Missouri after his family returned there shortly after his birth. He returned to Colorado when he joined the US Army at age 17, where he served from 1954 to 1958. There he married Rose Marie DeSalvo, deceased. He is survived by three children born to this marriage, James Jennings Jr. and wife Jodi, Chelle McDaniel, and D'Anne Rockwell.

In 1971 he married Cheryl, his wife for 53 years. He is survived by his wife Cheryl and their three children, Genia Jennings and husband Steve Roddy, Tanya Vecchiarelli and husband Tony, Ted Jennings and his wife Lisa. Many grandchildren and great grandchildren were his pride and joy though out his life. Great family memories were created with trips to Hawaii, Disney World, and trips to the mountain cabin.

Sears was where he worked for 35 years. He would tell you that the best thing about his career with Sears was the friendships that were developed. It was not all work and no play as Jim loved the game of golf, found time to do some fishing, served as an elder for the Green Valley Presbyterian church in Arizona where he and Cheryl lived in retirement for over 15 years.

Jim was always ready to travel. Especially enjoyable to him were the trips with Cheryl's sister Vicki and her husband Clayton.

There was an "open door" policy at the Jennings home. Whether it was family or a friend, many found they were welcome to come and stay a day, a month or until they were able to move on.

Not afraid to tackle anything, he managed to build our mountain cabin in Colorado, and the home of his and Cheryl's dreams in Southern Arizona.

Jim's friends and family have described his character with these words. Such a kind and compassionate soul, one of the GREAT ONES, such a talented man, a very special person, hardworking, one of the best, a wonderfully contagious smile, incredible work ethic. And lastly "We were all blessed for having him in our lives".

Family, friends, and others whose lives Jim touched are invited to the Bridges Country Club, Montrose, Co. at 2pm on Sunday May 5th to celebrate Jim's life.

Contributions can be made to: Nurse's Memory Care Education Fund, Gunnison Valley Health Foundation, 711 N. Taylor St., Gunnison, CO., 81230 (In memory of James D. Jennings)



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DAVID PRESTON ANDERSON *March 24, 1945-January 9, 2024*

DAVID PRESTON ANDERSON made his transition from this life into heaven in the presence of Jesus on January 9, 2024. He was 78 years old, and struggled with dementia the last few years of his life.

He was born in Colfax, WA to Earl and Marion Preston Anderson on March 24, 1945. His childhood years were spent in Hawaii. There he attended Punahou School (barefooted), was active in the first Boy Scout troop in Hawaii, which his father started. In high school, he was on the production team for school plays, was an avid photographer, and enjoyed exploring the island of Oahu with his friends, who dubbed themselves "Jeeps Hawaii". He traveled abroad with his parents to the Phillipines and Australia.

At 18 he went to Stanford University in CA, attended film school in San Francisco, and then entered the doctoral program at UMass Amherst. He was active in the yo-

ga organization 3HO. There he met and fell in love with Sandy Hahn. They were married, and began their family and their life adventures together.

David had a number of jobs, including social worker, driller's helper, chiropractic assistant, manager of Burger King, Regional Planner, and fish delivery. He had an abiding interest in the supernatural and in healing. He received Jesus as his Savior as an adult, and was baptized.

He loved the outdoors and was a real adventurer. He and his family, now including their two sons Mark and Shane, were active in hiking, camping, rafting, biking, skiing, and traveling. He got involved with his sons' soccer teams, and coached and refereed soccer for many years.

He is survived by his wife Sandy, and their sons and their families. Mark and Norma have one child Kai (Natalia); Shane and



Stacy have two children Adelyn and Ethan. A memorial service will be held. The date will be determined at a later date.

Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

ISSUE 454 Jan. 29, 2024

ART & SOL

The Barefoot Laureate with Wendy Videlock

THE POETRY OF SNOW: THIRTEEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE WINTER

By Wendy Videlock

PALISADE—Although I grew up in Tucson I've lived in Western Colorado nearly thirty years now, and the winter always makes me feel simultaneously like a little kid and a wizened old elder.

Here at the base of the Grand Mesa, on the eastern edge of Palisade, where the peaches grow and generous slopes of vineyards overflow into the valley, the snow is always at the center of our conversation this time of year.

The poets, too, have long been captivated by winter. Consider this little fragment by Linda Pastan:

*snow drifts...shaping itself
to the wish of
any object it touches*

I just love that little touch of personification, offering a remarkable image of snow-drifts as beings of surrender. Billy Collins gives us an entirely different take on surrender:

*Today we woke up to a revolution of
snow,
its white flag waving over everything,
the landscape vanished...*

Donald Hall has a more modern take on the first snow:

Snow fell in the night.

*At five-fifteen I woke to a bluish
mounded softness where
the Honda was...*

Derek Walcott describes the same phenomenon this way:

*Against thin woods, Siberian snow
steadily erases objects from their names...*

Emily Dickinson offers a more active image of falling snow:

*It reaches to the fence,
It wraps it, rail by rail,
Till it is lost in fleeces;
It flings a crystal veil...*

In another stunning winter poem, Dickinson describes falling flakes of snow as "the white souls of the autumn leaves," which "come back, drifting, drifting."

This is the kind of metaphor that sneaks up from behind and can forever change the way we see things. This is something Emily Dickinson does over and over again in her work— a feat which makes her one of our most beloved American poets.

In yet another of her winter poems, she famously begins:

*There's a certain slant of light,
Winter afternoons—
That oppresses, like the Heft
of Cathedral tunes...*

Here she gives us a powerful rendering of that harsh, diminishing light, especially if we consider it in contrast with the exquisitely forgiving and soft Autumn light which precedes winter's stark light.

The time of flying snow and winter's dark certainly has its shadow side — most of us experience both the quiet joy of the season and the darker, oppressive nature of winter in turns— and everything in between.

Sylvia Plath gives us these harsh lines:

*Winter dawn is the
color of metal,
The trees stiffen into
place like burnt
nerves...*

Yikes! I can feel that one in my bones, in my gut, in my own nerves.

This is one of the reasons I find poetry a real guiding star in my life — it has no interest in presenting or ascribing to just one side of things— if offers us instead the full spectrum of experience, sensation and perception, reminding us we needn't land on one emotion and stick to it like glue. As sentient, mindful beings, we're allowed to feel it all.

As Auden said, "poetry might be defined as the clear expression of mixed emotions."

High desert snow often melts within a day or so; nevertheless it is snow— and first snow, across cultures, is often seen as spiritually relevant. It's certainly long captured the attention and imagination of the poets.

*In winter
all the singing is in
the tops of the trees...*

— Mary Oliver

Wendell Berry reminds us that the winter is a time of reflection, introspection and



Wendy Videlock,
Western Slope Poet
Laureate.

Continued next pg

THE POETRY OF SNOW: THIRTEEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE WINTER

From previous pg

retreat.

*To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,
and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,
and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.*

Not only does snow brighten the landscape, it also silences it, deepening our sense of tranquility, calm and mystery. *How is it that the snow amplifies the silence,
slathers the black bark on limbs...*

— Robert Haight

Perhaps one of my favorite snow poems is magical and philosophic and descriptive all at once. I

It comes by way of Wallace Stevens, whose poem, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" casts an unforgettable spell while exploring silence, movement and perception. I encourage you to seek out if you don't know it. It begins:
*Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the blackbird...*

Wendy Videlock of Palisade is poet laureate of the Western Slope. She hosts Lit Radio on KAFM and advocates for the arts in schools and public spaces. Her poems and essays appear in O Magazine, Best American Poetry, The New York Times, Poetry Magazine and other venues. Her books are available where books are sold and her visual art is featured in galleries across the Grand Valley. Wendy believes that language is the invisible influence that informs our thoughts, our actions and the ways we move in the world. Reach her at westernslopedword@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

EMPIRE TRIO TO PERFORM SUNDAY, FEB. 4 IN DELTA



Empire Trio courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to present the Empire Trio at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Del-

ta, Colorado on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m.

Please note that this is a matinee performance. In celebration of our 75th anniversary, there will be a reception following the performance.

Blending the sights and sounds of Hollywood, Empire Trio will perform the most beloved and famous songs of Hollywood from the 1930s to the 1990s. Performing songs from Casablanca, James Bond,

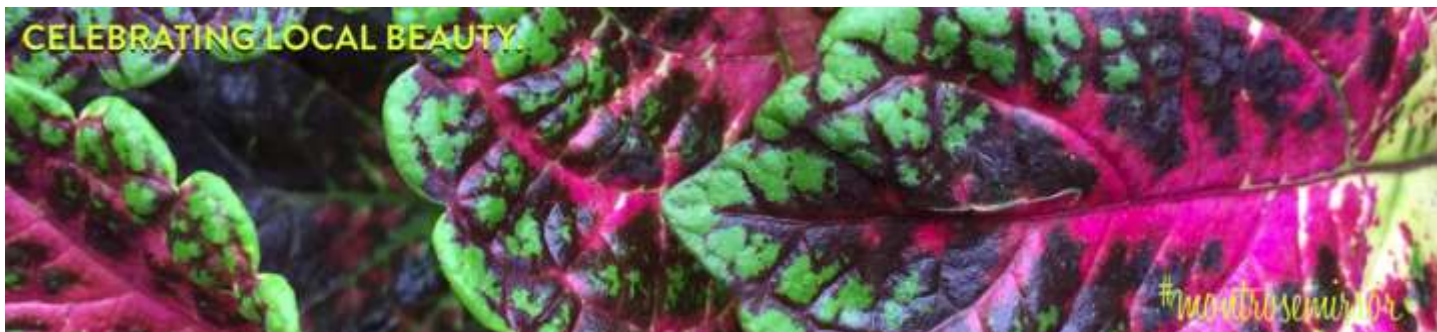
Titanic, The Wizard of Oz, and sharing stories about the great singers who performed them, from Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra to Céline Dion and Barbra Streisand. You will be taken back and giv-

en a highly entertaining show with this uniquely talented classical crossover ensemble, featuring piano, violin, and three vocalists.

From deliciously witty to incredibly moving, Empire Trio's shows have it all; they breathe new life into familiar toe-tapping favorites with their unique and innovative arrangements. NYC based Empire Trio (formerly known as O Sole Trio) has been taking concert halls by storm all over the world, from Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, to The Redlands Cowl, CA and Ronnie Scott's, London. This show is not to be missed and definitely will not be forgotten.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the afternoon of the performance, \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY



#montrosemirror

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Olathe, Co 81425

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

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

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

Demographics: Multi-generational

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

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

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

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

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

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

Pastor: Buddy Cook

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

Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM

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

*disciples in Montrose Colorado and around
 the world.*

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian

Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO.

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

12PM **Contact:** 970-249-4732, in-

form@fpcmontrose.com,

www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Jesse Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM,

Student Worship at 6PM. *We strive to en-
 courage, challenge and support one 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 minis-
 tries.*

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

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

on life's journey.

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

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

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

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

montroseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

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

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

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

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

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

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

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

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

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

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

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

matter what stage of life they are in.

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

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

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Interfaith

Address: Meeting at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose

Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, **Home**

Office – 970-252-0908

Contact information:

Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald,

970-252-0908,

arlyn@spiritaware.org,

www.spiritaware.org

Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available. **Worship service times:** In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Montrose; Thursday Empowerment Circle at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Everyone is

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

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)

Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868

Contact: [ststephensmont-](http://ststephensmontrose.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: John DeSario

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

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

Lord. Summit Church has people of all ages!

We have families with children (babies, school aged, recent high school and college graduates) up to retired individuals. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to Kindergarten, in a kid friendly room called Base Camp. We also have a children's activity during our Monday night adult Bible study. We meet for prayer at the church every Wed. at 6:30.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

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

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

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

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

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?

Local Immunization Providers



Visit www.montrosecounty.net/immunizations for updated information on immunization providers.
Questions? Call (970) 252-5011

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SAN MIGUEL, MESA, AND
SURROUNDING COUNTIES



MONTROSE AUTHOR TAKES READERS WHERE WALLFLOWERS GROW



Author Gail Marvel. Courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-With her latest release, *Where Wallflowers Grow: A Coming of Age Memoir*, (Winged Publications, 2023) Montrose Author Gail Marvel takes readers to the canyonlands south of La Junta, where her grandparents homesteaded in 1926 and where her grandmother Belle Shelly operated a boarding house from the 1950's to the 1970's. At age 12, the author went to live with her grandmother for three years, attending a one-room school while there. She remained with her grandmother until she finished the ninth grade and returned to Montrose to attend high school, eventually going on to serve in the U.S. Navy and Colorado National Guard. The story of those three years at the boarding house is told in detail, from the never-ending chores to the personalities and idiosyncrasies of the boarders. *Where Wallflowers Grow* is more than a coming-of-age story, it is a tale of hard work and tenacity, as well as a reminder of how much has changed since electricity reached remote Southeastern Colorado. "Seldom do kids grow up in a perfect home, but all of the people who interact with them as they

grow can have an immeasurable impact on their lives," Marvel said. She has dedicated her latest book, "To grandmothers everywhere, whose example and actions help Wallflowers bloom."

At 118 pages, this is an engaging read that will have you turning the pages and wanting more. Find *Where Wallflowers Grow: A Coming of Age Memoir* on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and at Winged Publications.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: EDUCATION

JULIA BESHOAR NAMED TO FALL 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Special to Art & Sol

IRVING, TX -- Julia Beshoar of Montrose, CO, was named to the fall 2023 dean's list at the University of Dallas for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Beshoar is a Junior Undeclared major. Undergraduate students at the University of Dallas must complete two years of fundamental

coursework in the humanities, sciences, politics, mathematics and fine arts. Students must also complete coursework in Ancient Greek, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish. **About the University** The University of Dallas is the premier Catholic liberal arts university in the country, known for its rigorous undergraduate

Core Curriculum and robust graduate and professional programs in business, ministry, education and the humanities.

With campuses in Texas and Italy, UD stands apart as a thriving community of lifelong learners committed to an education that forms students intellectually, socially and spiritually for a life well-lived.

KENNETH GIFFORD NAMED TO MSOE DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL SEMESTER 2023 WITH HIGH HONORS

Special to Art & Sol

MILWAUKEE, WI-- Kenneth Gifford, from Montrose, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Dean's List with High Honors for the 2023 Fall Semester. Gifford is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

MSOE encourages excellence in academic achievement and, as a result, publishes the Dean's List and Honors List each fall and spring semester. Students taking undergraduate courses who have earned at least 12 credits in residence at MSOE, are in good academic standing, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher are on

the Dean's List. Students on that list who have maintained a 3.70 or higher receive "high honors." Students with a term GPA of 3.20 or higher, who are not on the Dean's List, are on the Honors List. Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msOE.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow.

The independent, non-profit university has about 2,800 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, actuarial

science, business, computer science, machine learning, nursing, perfusion and user experience.

Faculty are student-focused experts who bring real-world experience into the classroom. This approach to learning makes students ready now as well as prepared for the future. Longstanding partnerships with business and industry leaders enable students to learn alongside professional mentors, and challenge them to go beyond what's possible. MSOE graduates are leaders of character, responsible professionals, passionate learners and value creators.



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

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

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

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

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

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS second Saturdays 9 am. 17800 - 6400 Rd in Montrose. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Information: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Feb. 4-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association is excited to present the Empire Trio at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta, Colorado on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. Please note that this is a matinee performance. In celebration of our 75th anniversary, there will be a reception following the performance. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the afternoon of the performance, \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.

For more information please contact Connie at 970-249-4308 or Bob at 970-835-4480 or visit our website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

Feb. 5-On Monday Feb. 5 at 5pm. Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose Safety Complex mtg rm 434 S 1st. Progress on local Climate Action Plan similar to adjacent counties. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome. info 970-765-9095.

Feb. 8-The Women's Giving Club is moving their meetings to Thursdays! Join us for our next meeting on Feb. 8 at 5:30PM at the Bridges as we kick off our 8th year. We have already contributed \$330,000 to local non-profits, and we're always welcoming new members. Plus, we're waiving the \$100 voting fee for those who would like to come and observe. Please come on the 8th of February (Thursday) and be a part of our impactful community.

Feb. 1-April 12-AARP Foundation Tax-aide in Montrose – Feb. 1 - April 12, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 2pm at the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center. Free income tax preparation for anyone, free of charge, focused on individuals over 50 or low/moderate income. Appointments are required, call 970-252-4889, M-F 9-2. More information about the program is available at: taxaide.aarpfoundation.org

Feb. 10-MONTROSE-MAPA (Montrose Animal Protection Agency) will present their 2nd Adult education class of 2024, "Decoding your Dog," on Saturday, Feb. 10th. The class will be held from 9:30-11 AM at the Montrose Animal Shelter, 3383 N. TOWNSEND AVE. The presenter will be Kerri Haag, Certified Dog Trainer. General tips and guidelines will be given, and there should be time for a question and answer session to address particular problems.

DO NOT BRING YOUR DOG!

See you on the 10th!

March 2-3-The Colorado West Performing Arts Ballet Company will be performing The Little Mermaid Ballet in Montrose at the Montrose Pavilion, on March 2 at 2 and 7pm, and on March 3 at 2pm. For more information visit <https://www.coloradowestpac.org/>



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